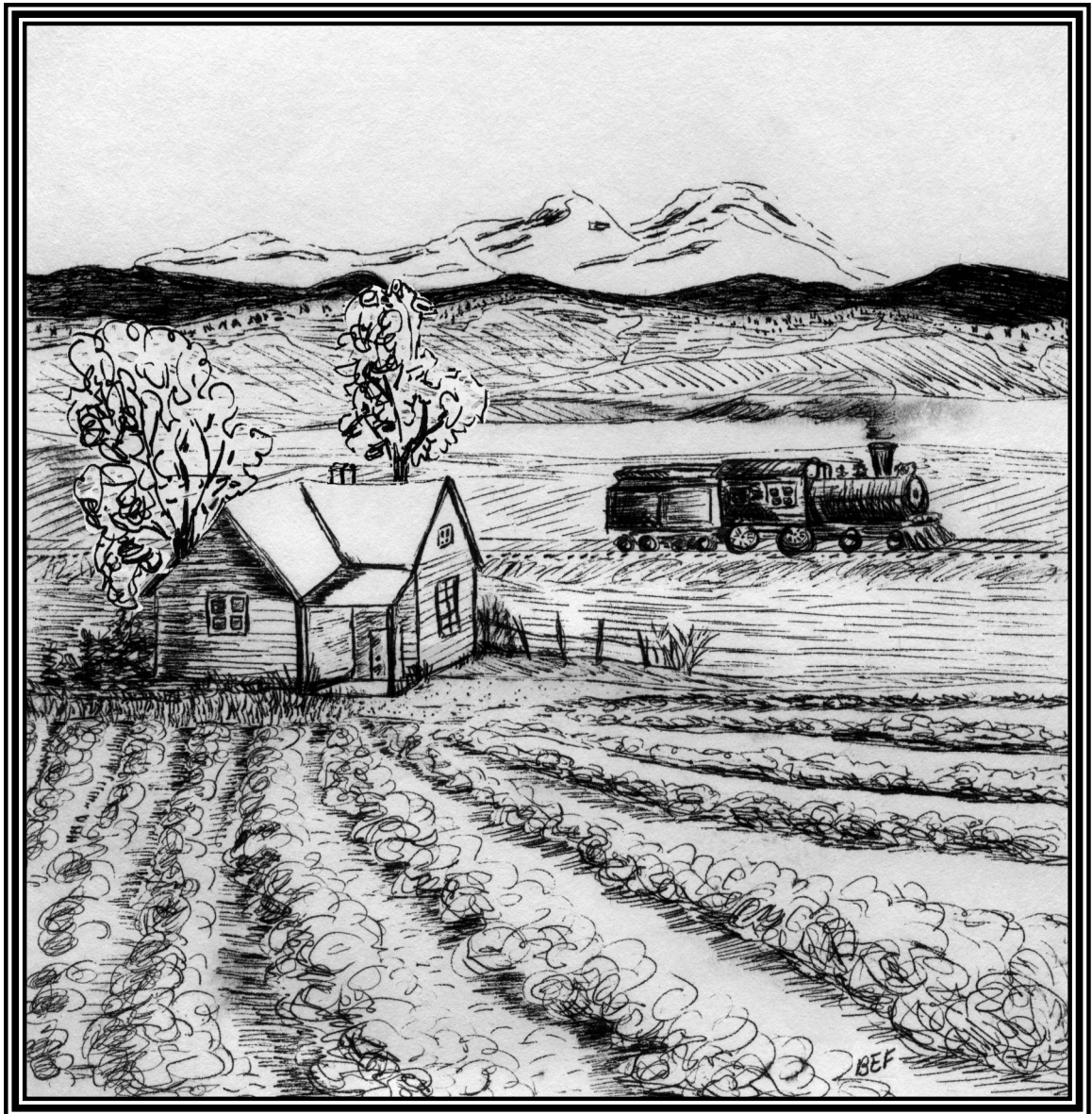


# A History of Milliken, Colorado

As Told to and Researched by  
Helen and Elmer Stroh





# **History of Milliken, Colorado**

**As Told to and Researched by  
Helen and Elmer Stroh**

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# INTRODUCTION



Helen Marshall Stroh and Elmer (Eddie) Stroh

The Stroh family has lived in the Milliken community since 1907, and the Marshall family since 1927. A very special part of any family includes shared stories, and the Stroh and Marshall households were no exceptions. Conrad Stroh was an avid storyteller and some of the information for this book was gleaned from memories of events shared by "Coonie" and other family members. Long-time residents of the community, including Hazel (Snider) Summers, Milliken's first postmistress, and Mrs. Mike (Kathrine) Krieger, neighbor of the Marshalls, were family friends who shared stories throughout their youth. It is almost impossible to avoid becoming an avid history buff when being engulfed in fascinating bits and pieces of information since childhood. The collection of historical information and memorabilia began over forty years ago as part of a family genealogy research and was later compiled entirely as a hobby. As the authors carried out their research, they became aware of the interest in history throughout the community and were periodically afforded the opportunity to present historical slide programs to community schools, churches and local organizations. This book is offered as a collection of information that they have found to be very interesting. It is their hope that there is information of interest to others and they would like to share their years of researching and collecting with friends in the community.

## *ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS*

This project would not have been possible without the help of many wonderful people. Our deepest appreciation goes to the descendants of families of those who built Milliken for sharing their family stories. Their memories and thoughts provide the lifeblood of a community. The specialized knowledge and efficient skills of Joanna Stull and Peggy Ford, staff members of The City of Greeley Museum, were very important in gathering information and answering our numerous questions. We would like to thank Pam Murphy and our daughter, Jan Mauch, for their crucial help in the editing. We greatly appreciate the artistic skills of Beth Ferdinand whose pen and ink drawing on the cover aptly portrays the theme of the book. The final formatting for publication was the product of the technical expertise of our son-in-law, Jon Mauch. We wish to express appreciation to Jo Anne Hagen, Esq., LLC for her friendship and advice during the final stages of preparation. A special thank you is extended to Alan and Ginell Stroh, our son and daughter-in-law, for their assistance throughout this project. Even with little notice they were available to provide invaluable support and assistance. In addition, we would like to extend a very personal thank you to Mrs. Velma Wakeman, who was born in Milliken and holds the distinction of residing in Milliken longer than any other citizen. Her friendship and support, as well as sharing of information from her own scrapbook collection, is greatly appreciated.

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# THE CALL OF THE WEST

Many succumbing to the lure of the broad rolling prairies and tales from frontiersmen, caught the western fever and headed beyond the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to the land of promise. Several colonies from the East came to Colorado during the 1860's and settled in western Weld and eastern Larimer counties. A colony from Chicago, Illinois, founded Burlington, which was the beginning of present-day Longmont. Another, Union Colony, founded Greeley. A St. Louis colony became Loveland. Other pioneers congregated in unnamed settlements. One of these later became Hillsboro, which was on the western edge of present-day Milliken, Colorado. Among the men who helped develop this area of Weld County were George Sanderson Hill, Bruce F. Johnson, Jared Conry, Jared L. Brush, John M. Brush and William Wesley Brush.

George Sanderson Hill and his family left Iowa in 1861 and arrived in the Big Thompson Valley in 1864. Traveling in a prairie schooner, they probably were part of a wagon train as was usual for that time. One account told of a wagon train that consisted of twenty-two ox teams loaded with provisions, bedding and cooking utensils, with each wagon carrying from four to five people. A guard of men rode ahead and at the sides of the wagons in the daytime as protection from the Indians. At night, for protection, the wagons were arranged in a circle to form a corral and the cattle placed inside. This was the method used when the Brush brothers left Ohio in 1859 and crossed the Missouri River to reach Fort Laramie, Wyoming.

The Brush brothers, Jared L., John M., and William Wesley, came to Colorado in 1859 and moved to Weld County in 1860. They owned land along the Big Thompson and South Platte River Basin, and east of Greeley to an area which later became Brush, Colorado.

The Hill family settled on a ranch northwest of Johnstown which soon grew to be a stopping place for travelers and became known as Hillsborough. George W. Foote and V.W. Stoddard operated a stage line that ran between Greeley and Loveland, stopping at Hillsborough. Two round trips a week were made. Bruce F. Johnson had been a schoolteacher in New York when he joined an emigrant train and came to Colorado in the spring of 1859. He settled on a ranch south of the one belonging to the Hill family.

The Brush brothers were involved in area politics and on October 25, 1877, Brush, Colorado, was named after Jared L. Brush. He served as Lieutenant Governor of Colorado from 1894 to 1898. The Brush brothers obtained land by a Homestead Patent north of Milliken along Highway 257 and County Road 48 1/2.

William Wesley Brush was killed August 23, 1868, by Sioux Indians who were led by Chief Swift Bird. The Chief had made a Peace Treaty in Denver with Governor Hunt and then traveled down the Platte River. William and a cousin, Jared Conry, and a hired man were cutting hay near the mouth of Crow Creek east of present-day Greeley. At noon they fed the Indians. When William and the two men returned to work the Indians killed and scalped them and took their horses. A posse from Greeley, Colorado fought the Indians who were overtaken near present-day Hardin, Colorado. A few Indians were killed and the horses belonging to the Brushes were recovered. The three men were put in

a hayrack and taken to their ranch north of present-day Johnstown where they were buried. This was the last Indian outbreak in Weld County.

William Wesley and Martha M. Brush were the parents of a daughter, Minnie Bell Brush. In the settlement of the estate she became the owner of a parcel of land east of Highway 257 and north of Milliken. Later she and her husband, Alva J., made their home there and were involved in affairs of the new town of Milliken.

Jarad L. Brush and his family lost their home when the house and barn along the Thompson River were struck by lightning. The family was away in Greeley, Colorado at the time attending Greeley's first 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. On the way home they saw the flames but everything was destroyed by the time they arrived. In 1870, following the loss of their home, Jared L. Brush became a member of the Union Colony, now Greeley, Colorado.

The Hill & Brush and Hillsboro Ditch Companies were developed incorporating the names of the individuals involved, Hill and Brush. Bruce Johnson's involvement was as a civil engineer and in partnership with George Sanderson Hill, formed the Hillsboro Ditch Company which holds one of the earliest River Water Rights in the Big Thompson River. All three were close friends, arriving in Weld County at approximately the same time. Hillsboro Ditch Company serves farms south, west and east of Milliken, while Hill & Brush serves areas mostly north of Johnstown, Colorado.

In the early days a post office and stagecoach stop were either owned by the Stage Company or contracted by individuals and usually existed on the same line. Post offices were highly mobile and were the focus of early communities. An application for the post office at Hillsborough with George Sanderson Hill as Postmaster was signed April 7, 1871, and granted June 15, 1871. This was the first Hillsborough Post Office and was in Sec. 30. Twp. 5N Range 67W. In succeeding years the location changed several times. One application asked that the name be shortened. On August 1, 1876, the official spelling was changed to "Hillsboro" when it became a State of Colorado Post Office

The last application for the Hillsboro Post Office was filed by John W. Tilby, proposed Postmaster, for the establishment of a post office at the NW 1/4 of Sec. 11 Twp. 4N Range 67 of Weld County to serve fifty families. This was on July 10, 1898, and signed July 26, 1898, by J.P. Herrott, Postmaster at Evans, Colorado. The facility was to serve patrons in and near a settlement that became known as Hillsboro when the post office was granted to the community. This Hillsboro was on the west edge of present-day Milliken.

Postmasters serving this Hillsboro:

September 17, 1898 John W. Tilby

September 6, 1899 Clara Bartlow

January 3, 1902 Albert T. Gilkey

The Post Office was discontinued November 4, 1903, and mail was delivered via Platteville, Colorado.

Be careful to designate the post offices by their true official names; and answer the subjoined queries fully and accurately, or the case will not be acted upon.

*Give full names*

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

*J. W. Marshall*

GEORGE EARLE,

First Assistant Postmaster General.

H

To Mr. *G. S. Hill*  
Care of the Postmaster of *Big Thompson Col*, who will please forward to him

*ch. n. to "Hillsboro"*

STATEMENT.

The proposed office will be called *Hillsboro*

[The name of the candidate for postmaster should not be applied as the name of a post office. It is preferable to have some LOCAL or PERMANENT name, which must not be the name of any other office in the State; and you should aim to select a name not appropriated to any office in the United States.]

It will be situated in the *N. E.* quarter of Section *thirty (30)*, Township *five (5)*

Range *Sixty (60)* of the County of *Weld*, State of *Colorado*

It will be on route No. *170.5*, being the route from *Greeley*

to *H. Collins*, on which the mail is now carried *2* times per week.

The contractor's name is *Johnathan Shinn*

Will it be directly on this route?—Ans. *Yes*

If not, how far from and on which side of it?—Ans. *—*

How much will it INCREASE the travel of the mail one way each trip?—Ans. *00*

Where will the mail leave the present route to supply the proposed office?—Ans. *—*

Where intersect the route again?—Ans. *—*

What post office will be left out by this change?—Ans. *00*

The name of the nearest office to the proposed one, on the same route, is *Big Thompson*

its distance is *8 1/4* miles, in a *Westerly* direction from the proposed office.

The name of the nearest office on the same route, on the other side, is *Greeley*

its distance is *13 1/4* miles, in a *North Easterly* direction from the proposed office.

The name of the nearest office to the proposed one, is *Big Thompson*

distance by the most direct road is *0 1/4* miles, in a *North Easterly* direction from the proposed office.

The name of the most prominent river near it is *Platte River*

The name of the nearest creek is *Big Thompson*

The proposed office will be *8* miles from said river, on the *West*

side of it, and will be *00* miles from said nearest creek, on the *West* side of it.

If it be a village, state the number of inhabitants.—Ans. *—*

If not, state the number of families within two miles.—Ans. *None (9)*

Also, the number of families within one-half the distance to the next office.—Ans. *None (19)*

A diagram, or sketch from a map, showing the position of the proposed new office, with neighboring river or creek, roads, and other post offices, towns, or villages near it, will be useful, and is therefore desired.

A correct map of the locality might be furnished by the county surveyor, but this must be without expense to the Post Office Department.

ALL WHICH I CERTIFY to be correct and true, according to the best of my knowledge and belief,

this *7th* day of *April*, 18*77*.

*Lunge, Sandersow, Hill*

I CERTIFY, That I have examined the foregoing statement, and that it is correct and true, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

*A. H. Goumit* Postmaster of

*Big Thompson Larimer Co Col Tex*

Source: Postal Department

# Post Office Department,

OFFICE OF THE FOURTH ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION,

WASHINGTON, D. C. Jan 22, 1896.

SIR: Before the Postmaster General decides upon the application for the establishment of a post office at Hillsboro County of Weld State of Colo it will be necessary for you to carefully answer the subjoined questions, get a neighboring postmaster to certify to the correctness of the answers, and return the location paper to the Department, addressed to me. If the site selected for the proposed office should not be on any mail route now under contract, only a "Special Office" can be established there, to be supplied with mail from some convenient point on the nearest mail route by a special carrier (see section 702, Postal Laws and Regulations of 1893), for which service a sum equal to two-thirds of the amount of the salary of the postmaster at such office will be paid by the Department.

You should inform the contractor, or person performing service for him, of this application, and require him to execute the inclosed certificate as to the practicability of supplying the proposed office with mail, and return the same to the Department.

Very respectfully,

Fourth Assistant Postmaster General.

To Miss Florence M. Kee

care of the Postmaster of \_\_\_\_\_, who will please forward to him.

## STATEMENT.

Hillsboro

The proposed office to be called

Select a short name for the proposed office, which, when written, will not resemble the name of any other post office in the State.

It will be situated in the S.W. quarter of Section twenty, 2256 Township Five. (North or South), Range 167. (East or West), in the County of Hills State of Colorado

It will be on or near route No. \_\_\_\_\_, being the route from W. W. W. W. to Hillsboro, on which the mail is not carried \_\_\_\_\_ times per week.

Will it be directly on this route? Ans. Yes, it is. South of Hillsboro from W. W. W. W. If not, how far from it? Ans. Not on any regular road. 1/2 mile

If not on any route, is a "Special Office" wanted? Ans. Yes. To be supplied from W. W. W. W.

The name of the nearest office to the proposed one, on one side, is W. W. W. W. its distance is (8) eight miles in a North direction from the proposed office.

The name of the nearest office, on the other side, is W. W. W. W. its distance is thirteen miles in a South East direction from the proposed office.

The name of the other nearest office to the proposed one is W. W. W. W. its distance by the most direct road is thirteen miles in a West direction from the proposed office.

The name of the most prominent river near it is Platte

The name of the nearest creek is Big Thompson

The proposed office will be 8 1/2 miles from said river, on the North West side of it, and will be one miles from said nearest creek, on the South side of it.

The name of the nearest railroad is Denver and Gulf on the line of or near a railroad, on which side will the office be located; how far from the track; and what is, or will be, the name of the station? Ans.

If it be a village, state the number of inhabitants. Ans.

Give the population to be supplied by the proposed office. Ans.

If it be a village, state the number of inhabitants. Ans.

A diagram, or sketch from a map, showing the position of the proposed new office, with neighboring river or creek, road and other post offices, towns, or villages near it, will be useful, and is therefore desired.

A correct map of the locality might be furnished by the county surveyor, but this must be without expense to the Post Office Department.

ALL WHICH I CERTIFY TO BE correct and true, according to the best of my knowledge and belief, this 28 day of January, 1896.

(Sign full name.) Florence M. Kee Proposed P. M.

I CERTIFY THAT I have examined the foregoing statement, and that it is correct and true, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(This must be signed by Postmaster at nearest office.)

Postmaster at Hillsboro Colorado

Be careful to answer the inquiries fully and accurately, or the case will not be acted upon.

Applications for post offices should be accompanied by petitions of the citizens interested.

# Post Office Department,

OFFICE OF THE FOURTH ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL,  
APPOINTMENT DIVISION,

WASHINGTON, D. C., JUL 19 1898

Sir: Before the Postmaster General decides upon the application for the establishment of a post office at \_\_\_\_\_, County of Weld, State

of Colorado, it will be necessary for you to carefully answer the subjoined questions, get a neighboring postmaster to certify to the correctness of the answers, and return the location paper to the Department, addressed to me. If the site selected for the proposed office should not be on any mail route now under contract, only a "Special Office" can be established there, to be supplied with mail from some convenient point on the nearest mail route by a special carrier (see section 702, Postal Laws and Regulations of 1893), for which service a sum equal to two-thirds of the amount of the salary of the postmaster at such office will be paid by the Department.

You should inform the contractor, or person performing service for him, of this application, and require him to execute the inclosed certificate as to the practicability of supplying the proposed office with mail, and return the same to the Department.

Very respectfully,

*J. A. Ristow*  
Fourth Assistant Postmaster General.

To Mr. J. W. Tiley  
care of the Postmaster of Evans, who will please forward to him.

## STATEMENT. Hillsboro

The proposed office to be called Maiden

Select a short name for the proposed office, which, when written, will not resemble the name of any other post office in the State.

It will be situated in the SE 1/4 quarter of Section 11, Township 4 (North of South), Range 67 (East of West), in the County of Weld, State of Colorado.  
It will be on or near route No. \_\_\_\_\_, being the route from Day's Hill to Greely, on which the mail is now carried 5 times per week.  
Will it be directly on this route?—Ans. no  
If not, how far from it?—Ans. 13 miles  
If not on any route, is a "Special Office" wanted?—Ans. Yes to be supplied from Hill Station  
The name of the nearest office to the proposed one, on one side, is Platteville its distance is 10 miles in a South East direction from the proposed office.  
The name of the nearest office, on the other side, is Weidens its distance is 12 miles in a North direction from the proposed office.  
The name of the other nearest office to the proposed one is Bethoua its distance by the most direct road is 12 miles in a West direction from the proposed office.  
The name of the most prominent river near it is Little Thompson  
The name of the nearest creek is Four  
The proposed office will be four miles from said river on the North West side of it, and will be \_\_\_\_\_ miles from said nearest creek on the North side of it.  
The name of the nearest railroad is Union Pacific if on the \_\_\_\_\_ railroad, on which side will the office be located; how far from the track; and what is, or will be, the name of the station?—Ans.  
Give the population to be supplied by the proposed office.—Ans. 50 families  
If it be a village, state the number of inhabitants.—Ans. Country road  
A diagram, or sketch from a map, showing the position of the proposed new office, with neighboring river or creek, roads and other post offices, towns, or villages near it, will be useful, and is therefore desired.  
A correct map of the locality might be furnished by the county surveyor, but this must be without expense to the Post Office Department.

ALL WHICH I CERTIFY to be correct and true, according to the best of my knowledge and belief, this 19 day of July, 18 98

(Sign full name.) John N. Tiley Proposed P. M.

I CERTIFY that I have examined the foregoing statement, and that it is correct and true, to the best of my knowledge and belief. (This must be signed by Postmaster at nearest office.)

*J. P. Robertson*  
Postmaster at Evans

Be careful to answer the inquiries fully and accurately, or the case will not be acted upon.

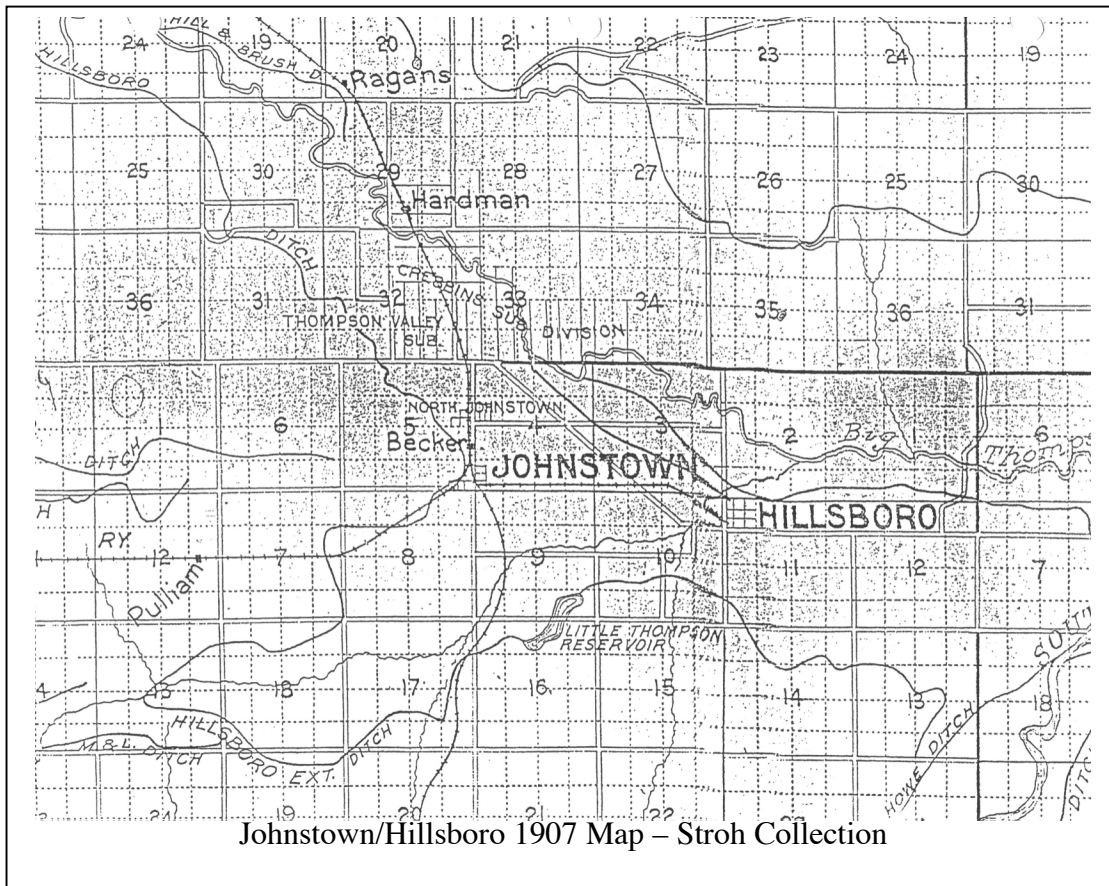
Applications for post offices should be accompanied by petitions of the citizens interested.

(OVER.)

# HILLSBORO

A Homestead Patent dated January 6, 1873, granted the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 and the N 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of Sec. 11 Twp. 4N Range 67 W along with other lands, to J.M. Wolaver who was the Sheriff of Weld County Territory and also a Justice of the Peace. This grant consisted of 160 acres. Some later became part of Milliken. President U.S. Grant signed the Patent with S.D. Williamson Secretary, and C.B. Boyton Recorder of the General Land Office.

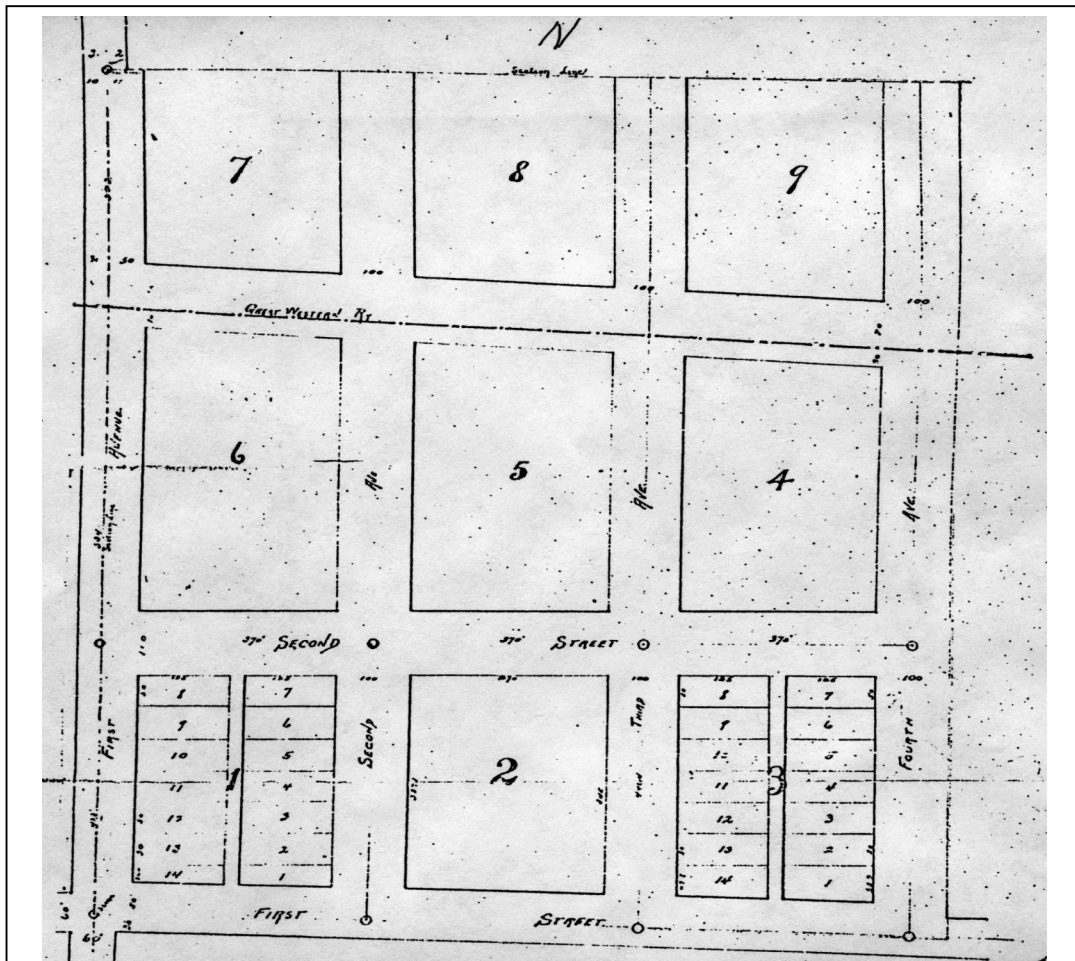
Within the next thirty-one years this land changed owners many times: July 18, 1874 - August 30, 1876 - March 9, 1889 - July 7, 1890 - December 17, 1890 - March 18, 1891 - July 27, 1891 - April 15, 1901 - August 11, 1902. On June 9, 1904, Charles A. Robinson and wife, Mary, sold this area to Mary T. Knowlton. On June 29, 1904, a warranty deed from Mary T. Knowlton to the Great Western Railway Company was recorded. She conveyed a strip of land 100-ft. in width to the Great Western Railway Company for the use of a right-of-way for the line, to be confined to uses incident to construction, maintenance and operation of the railway. This line was a spur leading from Johnstown, Colorado, to Hillsboro, serving as a passenger line from Hillsboro to Loveland, Colorado, and going through Johnstown.



A beet receiving station (beet dump) was erected later at the northeast corner lots of State Highway 257 and Highway 60. Sugar beets were delivered to this station then transported along the railroad line to the Loveland Sugar Factory.

On November 4, 1905, Mary T. Knowlton set aside a portion of her land, the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 11 Twp 4N Range 67W, to be known as the **Town of Hillsboro**, dedicating streets and alleys to the public. On November 20, 1905, she sold all of Block 2 in the newly platted Town of Hillsboro to School District No. 64 of Weld County exclusively for school purposes. This is Block 47 in the present Town of Milliken. On January 5, 1909, she conveyed to Clarence L. Wight, Assistant Secretary of the Northwestern Land & Iron Company, the area platted as the Town of Hillsboro.

The Northwestern Land & Iron Company was formed as a holding company for non-issued stock of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railway Company and the Denver, Laramie Realty Company. On November 22, 1909, Hillsboro was vacated as a town by the Northwestern Land & Iron Company, the sole owners, and became part of the Town of Milliken. The town plat for Milliken had been filed on July 10, 1909, and the Denver, Laramie Realty Company was ready to sell building lots.



Plat of Hillsboro – Stroh Collection - Includes Blocks 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 46, 47, and 48 of present day Milliken

No. 106032

MAP OF THE TOWN OF HILLSBORO, WELD COUNTY, COLORADO.

D E D I C A T I O N .

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That I, Mary T. Knowlton, of the County of Winnebago and State of Illinois, being the sole owner in fee of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 11, in Township 4 North, Range 67 West of the 6th P.M., in Weld County, Colorado, excepting the strip of land as shown on the annexed plat as the right of way of the Great Western Railway, the same being 100 feet wide, 30 feet on the south and 70 feet on the North of the center line of said railway, described as follows: Beginning on the West line of Section 11 above described, 372 ft. South of the Northwest Corner and running thence South 86° 12' E. across the above described parcel of land, do hereby set aside that portion of the above described parcel of land shown on the annexed plat as enclosed with the heavy brown exterior lines thereon (red lines on this copy) and

designate the same as "The Town of Hillsboro," and further do hereby dedicate the streets and alleys named, designated and shown on said plat, to the public.

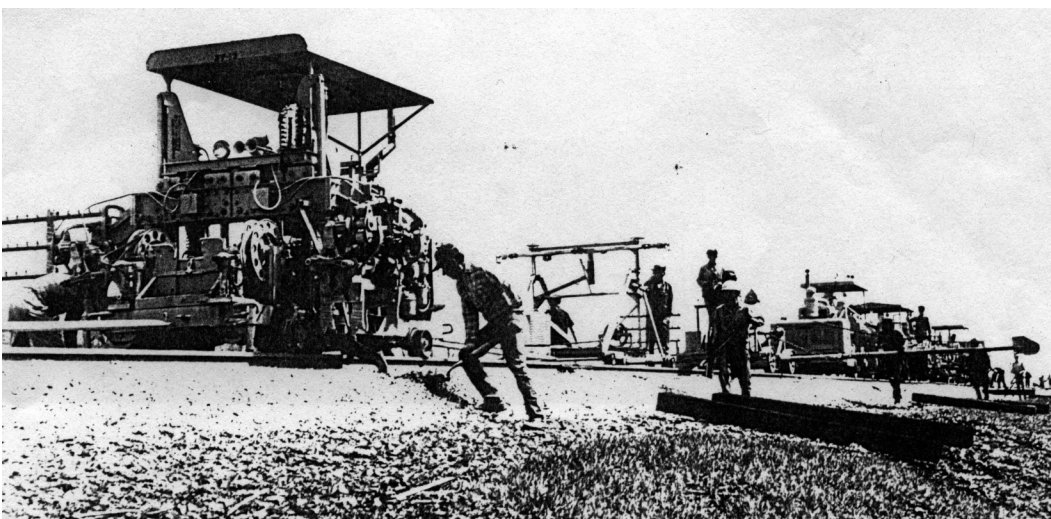
Dated November 4th, 1905.

(Signed) Mary T. Knowlton.

Acknowledged November 4th, 1905, before Morris E. Baker, N. P. Seal, Winnebago County, Illinois.

Recorded November 22nd, 1905, at 1:40 P. M., in Book 4 of Maps, Page 5, Weld County Records.

Dedication of Hillsboro – Stroh Collection



Building the railroad in the early 1900's. Pictures from the Greeley Museum.



No. 143901

VACATION OF THE TOWN OF HILLSBORO, WELD COUNTY, COLORADO.

VACATION CERTIFICATE.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That Northwestern Land and Iron Company, a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Territory of Arizona, being sole owners in fee simple of the NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of the NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of Section 11, Township 4 North, of Range 67 West of the 6th P. M. in Weld County, Colorado, except a strip of land through said NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> 100 feet wide, being the right of way of the Great Western Railway Company; also except Block 2 of the Town of Hillsboro, which has been conveyed to School District No. 64, to be used for school purposes, as shown by the map of said town; does hereby set aside and vacate the "town of Hillsboro", as shown by the map thereof, filed with the County Clerk and Recorder of Weld County, on

the 22nd day of November, 1905, and recorded at page 5 of Book 4 of Maps in the official records of said County, and the dedication of said Town of Hillsboro, and the streets and alleys as shown by the above-mentioned map of said town, to the public is hereby withdrawn, set aside, vacated, and held for naught. (All of the town of Hillsboro as shown by the said map filed for record with the County Clerk and Recorder of Weld County, Colorado, is replatted and covered by "the town of Milliken".)

A true copy of the plat of said town of Hillsboro, which is hereby vacated, is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Instrument not dated.

(Signed) Northwestern Land and Iron Company, by John D. Milliken, President. Attest: C. L. Wight, Asst. Secretary, (Corporate Seal).

Acknowledged by John D. Millikan and Clarence L. Wight, as president and Assistant Secretary, respectively, of Northwestern Land and Iron Company, July 21st, 1909, before John R. Hutchison, N. P. Seal, City and County of

Vacation Certificate – Stroh Collection



Building the railroad in the early 1900's. Pictures from the Greeley Museum.

# RAILROADS, LAND AND OPPORTUNITY

## DENVER, LARAMIE & NORTHWESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY

The Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railway Company incorporated in Wyoming on February 19, 1906, and opened offices in Denver, Colorado. A small group of businessmen from Laramie, Wyoming were instrumental in starting the railway line. Among them were Charles Scott Johnson of New York City and Judge John D. Milliken formerly of McPherson, Kansas. Charles Scott Johnson had a background in life insurance and was elected president of the new railroad.

John D. Milliken was born December 3, 1846, in Pennsylvania. In 1879, he moved to McPherson, Kansas, where he started the practice of law and was legal representative of the Union Pacific Railroad for twenty years. He then held the same position with the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Company for twelve years. After moving to Denver in 1905, he became one of the organizers of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railway Company and was chosen General Counsel of the Legal Department.

The following were the officers of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railway Company

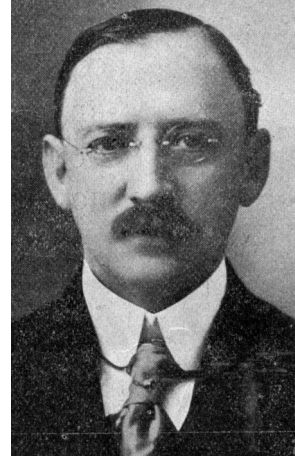
Charles Scott Johnson	President
Arthur E. Welby (deceased)	
W.E. Green	Vice President
Zeph Chas. Felt	Secretary
C.M. Day	Asst. Secretary
William E. Skinner	Treasurer
J.L. Terry	Asst. Treasurer
E.L. Buck	Chief Engineer
D.L. Hutchinson	Asst. Chief Engineer

### Board of Trustees:

Arthur E. Welby, Chairman	Charles Scott Johnson
John D. Milliken	Zeph Charles Felt
William E. Skinner	C.M. Day
W.L. Clayton	E.A. Buck

### Legal Department:

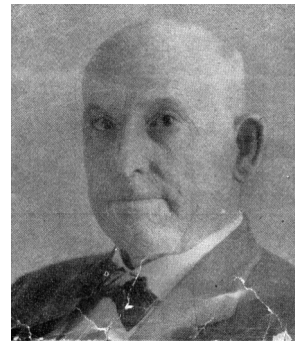
John D. Milliken	General Counsel
John R. Hutchinson	Auditor



Charles Scott Johnson



John D. Milliken



W. E. Green

All Three Pictures  
from the Milliken Mail  
Souvenir Edition  
Dec. 28, 1909

The plan was for the railroad to connect Denver, Colorado, with Seattle, Washington. Leaving from the Moffat Station in downtown Denver, the proposed route was to go north along the Platte River to Milliken's present location. At a point near Milliken the line was to split. One line was to lead to Greeley and the other was to continue northwest to Fort Collins, Colorado. From there it was to run to Laramie, Wyoming, through the coal fields in Carbon County, cross the southwest corner of Yellowstone National Park, west to Lewiston, Idaho, and on to Seattle, Washington. The roadbed built for the proposed line to Fort Collins, is visible in a pasture at the northwest intersection of Highway 257 and Road 48 1/2, north of Milliken.

A lease had been secured with Northwestern Terminal Railway Company for trackage rights into Moffat Station at 15th and Basset Streets in downtown Denver, and for the use of the round house, shops and terminal facilities there. The beginning of construction was celebrated in Denver. A parade of officials and guests began at the Brown Palace Hotel and proceeded to Union Station. There they boarded a special train and were taken to Utah Junction about three miles north of Denver where the rest of the celebration was held.

Some of the speakers that May day included Mayor R.W. Speer of Denver, President B.O. Aylesworth of the State Agricultural College in Fort Collins, Colorado, and Governor of Colorado Henry A. Buchtel. President, Charles Scott Johnson and John D. Milliken promised stockholders that the tracks would reach the Pacific Ocean and the line would be built to Fort Collins by November of 1908. Neither promise was kept.

James Bradley Orman and Frederick B. Orman, owners of Orman Construction Company were the contractors for laying the ties and rails for the line. James B. Orman, born in 1849, had been the twelfth Governor of Colorado, serving from 1901 - 1903. He died in 1919. The Roberts track-laying machine used by the Orman Construction Company was capable of putting down over two miles of track a day. By July of 1909 only twenty-two miles of track had been laid. Two years later only 54 miles had been completed, largely due to frequent cash shortages.

**DENVER, LARAMIE REALTY COMPANY  
and the  
NORTHWESTERN LAND & IRON COMPANY**

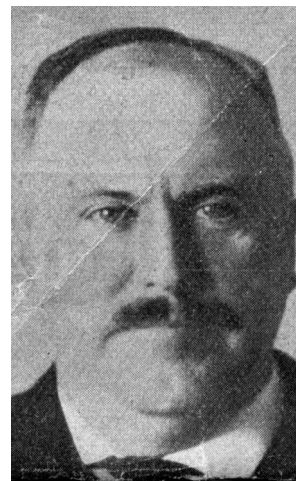
A plan was needed to raise the necessary funds to continue building the railroad. The Denver, Laramie Realty Company was formed to acquire real estate along the proposed route, then promote the sale of the real estate to the public. The promotional scheme consisted of a special train of flat cars that transported prospective stockholders along the route promoting ownership of land along the route and at townsites.

The following served as officers of the Denver, Laramie Realty Company

W.E. Skinner, President	W.A. Harris (deceased)
C.L. Wight, Secretary	A.J. Spengel, Treasurer
O.D. Berroth, Assistant Treasurer	

The Northwestern Land & Iron Company was formed as a holding company for non-issued stock of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railway Company and the Denver, Laramie Realty Company. The following were officers of the Northwestern Land & Iron Company

John D. Milliken	President
W.R. Tucker	Vice President
Sidney J. Kent	Secretary and General Manager
Clarence L. Wight	Assistant Secretary
A.J. Spengel	Treasurer
O.D. Berroth	Assistant Treasurer
T.D. Robinson	Chief Engineer
Seth K. Martin	General Pass. and Freight Agent
R.M. Wilburt	Supt. of Sales Agents
H. B. Holcomb	Asst. to Pres. of Railway Co.
W.H. Olin	Industrial Agent
R.A. Eaton	Townsite Agent
J.U. Mock	Purchasing Agent
A.D. Dodd	Acting Auditor



W. E. Skinner -  
Milliken Mail  
Souvenir Edition  
Dec. 28. 1909

THE WELD COUNTY ABSTRACT AND INVESTMENT COMPANY, GREELEY, COLO.	SHEET NO. <b>120</b>
<p style="margin: 0;">No.160140.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">CERTIFIED COPY OF ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE DENVER-LARAMIE REALTY COMPANY</p>	
<p>By Phillip Hoffman, W. E. Skinner, John D. Milliken, C. L. Wight and A. J. Spengel. Dated October 23, 1909. Acknowledged October 23, 1909, before Maitland Milliken, N.P. Seal, City and County of Denver, Colorado. Incorporated under the laws of the State of Colorado. Corporate Name: The Denver-Laramie Realty Company. Objects: (with others) To buy, sell, exchange, lease and improve real estate; to acquire all kinds of lands and interests in lands and dispose of the same; to borrow money for any corporate purposes when deemed necessary or expedient, and to secure the payment of the same by deed of trust or mortgage on any or all of the corporate property and franchises; and generally to do all things necessary incident, proper or relating to the aforesaid objects</p>	
THE WELD COUNTY ABSTRACT AND INVESTMENT COMPANY, GREELEY, COLO.	SHEET NO. <b>121</b>
<p>and purposes or any of them. Capital Stock: \$6,000,000. divided into 45,000 shares of Common and 15,000 shares of Preferred stock of the par value of \$100. each. Term of existence of company, 20 years. Principal business to be carried on in the Counties of Adams, Boulder, Weld and Larimer in the State of Colorado, and in such other counties within the State as its Directors may deem advisable (and in other states of the United States) and principal business office to be located in the City and County of Denver, Colorado. Certified to on November 16, 1909, by James B. Pearce, Secretary of State of the State of Colorado, By Thomas F. Dillon, Jr., Deputy (Official Seal) as a full, true and complete transcript of the Articles of Incorporation of "The Denver-Laramie Realty Company" which was filed in his office October 26, 1909, at 2:15 o'clock P.M. Filed in office of County Clerk and Recorder of Weld County, Colorado, October 25, 1910, at 9 A.M.</p>	
<p>(Stroh Collection)</p>	

No. 600239

Certified Copy.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE WYOMING COAL AND IRON COMPANY.

By Sidney J. Kent, Joseph T. West and John D. Milliken.

Dated March 29, 1906.

Acknowledged March 29, 1906 by Sidney J. Kent, Joseph T. West and John D. Milliken before Robert H. Rubidge, N. P. (Seal) City and County of Denver, Colorado.

Incorporated under the laws of the Territory of Arizona.

Corporate name: Wyoming Coal and Iron Company.

General nature of the business proposed to be transacted is as follows, to-wit:

To make contracts, to purchase, lease, bond, locate or otherwise acquire, own, exchange, sell or otherwise dispose of, pledge, mortgage, hypothecate and deal in timber lands and any and all other kinds of real estate, also in bonds, stocks and securities of other corporations and any and all other kinds of personal property, mines, mining claims, oil lands, coal lands, mineral lands, oil, gas, coal, shale, asphaltum, petroleum, asbestos, salt, plaster, cement, water and water rights and machinery, and to work, mine, explore, operate and develop the same; and to carry on any other occupation or business which said company may deem to be conducive to its best interests, and in general to do all things deemed necessary or expedient to the proper conduct of the business of this corporation in the Territory or elsewhere, not inconsistent with the laws of the United States and the Territory of Arizona.

Capital stock: \$5,000,000. divided into 50,000 shares of the par value of \$100. each.

The time of the commencement of this Corporation shall be the date of the filing of a certified copy of these Articles of Incorporation according

to law, and the termination thereof shall be twenty-five years thereafter, with privilege of renewal as provided by law.

The principal place within the Territory of Arizona in which the business of said Corporation is to be transacted is Phoenix, Maricopa County, Arizona, and the Corporation may establish branch offices either within or without the Territory of Arizona where meetings of the Board of Directors may be held.

The highest amount of indebtedness or liability, direct or contingent, to which this Corporation is at any time subject shall be \$3,333,333.33, which amount does not exceed two-thirds the amount of capital stock.

The private property of the stockholders of this Corporation shall be exempt from corporate debts of any kind whatsoever.

Certified to April 19, 1906 by C. F. Leonard, County Recorder, Maricopa County, Territory of Arizona (Seal) that he has compared the foregoing copy with the original Articles of Incorporation of the Wyoming Coal and

(Stroh Collection)

Iron Company filed and recorded in his office on the 19th day of April 1906, in Book No.----- of Incorporations, at Page --- and that the same is a full, true and correct copy of such original and of the whole thereof.

Filed in the office of the Territorial Auditor of the Territory of Arizona, this 19 day of April, 1906, at 10:30 A.M. at request of T. J. Prescott, whose post office address is Phoenix, Arizona.

John H. Page, Territorial Auditor.

Certified to May 31, 1906 by John H. Page, Territorial Auditor of the Territory of Arizona, United States of America (Official Seal) as a true and complete transcript of the ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION of the Wyoming Coal and Iron Company which were filed in said office on the Nineteenth day of April 1906 at 10:30 o'clock a.m. as provided by law.

AMENDMENT  
to the

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF WYOMING COAL AND IRON COMPANY. (over)

THE WELD COUNTY ABSTRACT AND INVESTMENT COMPANY, GREELEY, COLO. SHEET NO. 60

Recites: "That the name of this corporation be changed from that of WYOMING COAL & IRON COMPANY to NORTH WESTERN LAND AND IRON COMPANY. That the capital stock of this corporation be increased from \$5,000,000. to \$7,000,000."

Dated May 24, 1907.

Filed for record in the office of the Secretary of State of the State of Colorado on the 8 day of May, 1908 at 12:40 o'clock P. M.

Timothy O'Conner, Secretary of State.  
John E. Ramer, Deputy.

Certified to July 15, 1930 by Chas. M. Armstrong, Secretary of State of the State of Colorado, By A. G. Snedeker, Deputy (Official Seal) as a full true and complete copy of CERTIFIED COPY OF CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION OF WYOMING COAL AND IRON COMPANY and AMENDMENT THERETO CHANGING ITS NAME TO NORTHWESTERN LAND AND IRON COMPANY (a foreign corporation existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Arizona) which were filed in said

THE WELD COUNTY ABSTRACT AND INVESTMENT COMPANY, GREELEY, COLO. SHEET NO. 61

office on the eighth day of May, 1908, at 12:40 o'clock P. M.

Filed in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder, Weld County, Colorado, September 2, 1930 at 11 A. M.

( Stroh Collection)

The following comprised the Board of Directors of the Northwestern Land & Iron Company:

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| A.J. Spengel, Chairman | John D. Milliken |
| W.R. Tucker            | Sidney J. Kent   |
| Phillip Hoffman        | E.A. Buck        |
| Charles S. Johnson     | W.A. Harris      |
| O.E. Webb              |                  |

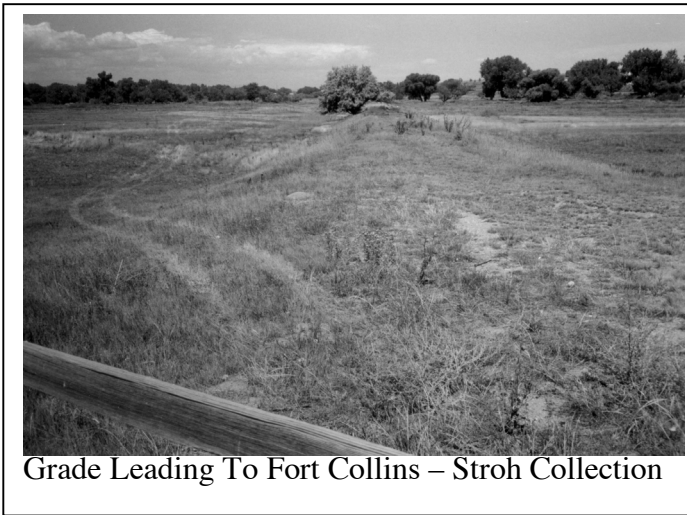
The Legal Department for all three companies consisted of three people.

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| John D. Milliken | General Counsel   |
| Joseph C. Helm   | Legal Advisor     |
| A.D. Quaintance  | Assistant Auditor |

## Railroad Disputes

The Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railway Company was continually short of funds. Most had been used buying land for speculation and for right-of-ways along the line. At the time Milliken was being developed President Johnson needed a source for cash if he was to continue the line which was projected to reach Fort Collins.

President Johnson approached Fort Collins and asked for \$200,000 in exchange for Denver, Laramie & Northwestern stock and the promise that the line would go through the town. The plan was rejected. Work was being done on the Milliken site in 1909 while President Johnson was trying to convince Fort Collins of the advantage of his idea.



Upon the refusal, President Johnson abandoned the idea of a rail leading to Fort Collins and turned his sights toward Greeley. The grade leading to Fort Collins is still visible in a pasture northwest of Milliken at the northwest corner of the intersection of Highway 257 and Weld County Road 48 1/2.

Influential friends were cultivated in Greeley. These were people who either owned land along the projected right-of-way or were businessmen who

could benefit from the use of a railroad line. Finally bonds were sold secured on Greeley property, to raise the necessary funds for building the line to and through Greeley, Colorado.

Disputes arose between the various railway systems in lawsuits over right-of-ways in Greeley. These were eventually settled, and the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern line was allowed to continue into Greeley.

The Northwestern Land & Iron Company, originally the Wyoming Coal & Iron Company, had purchased coal deposits in Wyoming along the original proposed line to Seattle, Washington. The company established the town of Kent that was named for Sidney J. Kent, Secretary of the Northwestern Land & Iron Company. Records showed that much of the land was owned by individuals and members of the Kent family, not the Northwestern Land & Iron Company. Animosity arose between stockholders and officials of the companies that resulted in litigation.

The following appeared in the Greeley Tribune, dated April 1,1909:

### DENVER, LARAMIE OFFICIALS TIED UP IN BIG LITIGATION

Denver, April 1, 1909. -What, officers of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railroad believe to be a continuation of the alleged conspiracy to discredit the company and obtain control of its holdings through a petition for a receiver in the local courts was brought to light yesterday through the filing of a suit by the government in Cheyenne to recover title to 1,280 acres of coal lands in Carbon County, Wyoming. The lands are believed to be worth several million dollars. They are held by officers and directors of the Northwestern Land & Iron Companies promoting the construction of the railroad.

Almost coincidental with the filing of the suit, a subpoena was served in Denver upon O.D. Berroth, Assistant Treasurer of the Land & Iron Company, to appear before a special federal grand jury in Cheyenne next Monday and produce the books of the company in connection with an investigation on the part of the owners of the land to obtain possession of it for the benefit of the company.

The civil suit charges that John D. Milliken, President of the Northwestern Land & Iron Company; Charles S. Johnson, President of the railroad; S.J. Kent, Secretary of the railroad, and five other men interested in both companies, obtained 160 acres of government coal lands each for the purpose of transferring it to the Land & Iron Company. It is charged that dummy entrymen were used in making the entries.

A first mortgage of the Denver, Laramie Railway Company to the International Trust Company of Denver for \$3,330,000 was made July 1, 1909 and released October 31, 1910. Again there was a shortage of cash if the line was to continue. This forced the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railway Company to reorganize to allow for an increase in capitalization. Now the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railway became the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railroad Company. Articles of incorporation were filed February 9, 1910, in Wyoming.

### **Towns along the Railroad**

This area was considered one of the richest agricultural districts of the state. Therefore, towns were established at key locations to become trade centers and promote the sale and transportation of agricultural produce. The towns of Welby, Patron (or Clem), Poor Farm, Celeryvale (near Brighton), Wattenberg, Ady, Traceyville (near Fort Lupton), Vollmar, Moore (near Platteville), Hodeson, Fort St. Vrain and Milliken grew along the northern railroad line from Denver.



Welby was named for a former Denver & Rio Grande superintendent, A.E. Welby, who became a vice-president of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railway Company. It was under his supervision that the railroad was built. He died in the summer of 1909.

Wattenberg, three miles west of Brighton, Colorado, and twenty-five miles north of Denver, was named after Frederick Von Wattenberg, an immigrant from Germany. He obtained several sections of land west of the South Platte River and was a friend of the Indians who lived in the area. When he planned to build a house near the river, he was advised by the Chief to build on higher ground to avoid the "big water" in the spring. This he did, building his ranch house within 150 yards of the Arapahoe Indian village. Frederick Sr. died in 1897 and left a farm to each of his sons. Christian Wattenberg, the youngest son, born in 1874, inherited the home place. In the early 1900's Christian established Wattenberg on his land near the location of the Arapahoe Indian village. The town was dedicated on August 27, 1909.

Vollmar was named after a pioneer family of the Platte Valley.

The most picturesque town of the Denver, Laramie and Northwestern was built on the site of the old Fort St. Vrain, thirty-eight miles north of Denver. There, Ceran St. Vrain and Charles Bent built a fort for the American Fur Company. In 1862 it became a U.S. Fort and from this point mail was carried to Fort Bent, below Trinidad, by the original pony express of the United States. Many Indian tales were brought to Fort St. Vrain after a trip with the Pony Express from Fort Bent. The first Weld County Court House was built at Fort St. Vrain and later moved to Latham.

**The Denver, Laramie & Northwestern R. R.**

The "Laramie Route," under construction from Denver to the Tidewater of the Northwest, opened the first 56 miles of its track for traffic May 29th of this year. The completion of this new road will place many new towns along its line in direct traffic arrangements with Northwest Coast Ports, as well as Gulf Coast Ports, thus affording an export market for its grain and potatoes.

The road runs Northwest from Denver through the most productive and finest irrigated land in the West. On the line just completed, there are located several new towns which offer splendid inducements to all lines of business and to all professions and trades. The road, in a short time, will tap the extensive coal fields of Southwestern Wyoming, and passing through the mountains of Northern Colorado, it will then offer to the tourist as fine mountain scenery, and to the sportsman as fine hunting and fishing as there is in the West.

**Trains Leave D. L. & N. W. ("Meiffat") Depot, 15th and Bassett Sts.**

NORTHBOUND			Miles from Denver	STATIONS	SOUTHBOUND		
No. 5	No. 3	No. 1			No. 2	No. 4	No. 6.
Sunday Only P. M.	Daily Except Sunday P. M.	Daily A. M.			Daily Except Sunday A. M.	Daily P. M.	Sunday Only A. M.
6.40	4.40	7.50	0.00	Lv. . . . . DENVER . . . . Ar.	9.20	5.45	8.55
6.52	4.52	8.02	3.25	Utah Junction . . . .	9.08	5.33	8.43
6.59	4.59	8.08	7.20	Welby . . . . .	9.01	5.25	8.34
7.06	5.05	8.14	10.90	Patron . . . . .	8.54	5.19	8.27
7.13	5.13	8.20	14.70	Poor Farm . . . . .	8.47	5.13	8.20
7.22	5.22	8.28	19.10	Celeryvale . . . . .	8.38	5.05	8.11
7.27	5.27	8.33	22.05	Wattenberg . . . . .	8.33	5.00	8.06
7.34	5.34	8.40	25.80	Traceyville . . . . .	8.25	4.54	7.59
7.40	5.40	8.46	29.25	Vollmar . . . . .	8.17	4.48	7.53
7.48	5.48	8.53	33.30	Moore . . . . .	8.09	4.41	7.45
7.51	5.51	8.56	34.80	Hodgson . . . . .	8.00	4.38	7.42
7.58	5.58	9.03	39.30	Fort St. Vrain . . . .	7.58	4.31	7.34
8.07	6.06	9.11	43.40	Milliken . . . . .	7.49	4.23	7.26
8.15	6.14	9.19	47.60	Elm . . . . .	7.40	4.15	7.16
8.20	6.19	9.24	50.30	Blandin . . . . .	7.35	4.10	7.11
8.24	6.23	9.28	52.30	Evans . . . . .	7.31	4.06	7.07
8.28	6.28	9.33	54.80	Normal . . . . .	7.27	4.02	7.02
8.30	6.30	9.35	56.00	Ar. . . . . GREELEY . . . . Lv.	7.25	4.00	7.00

f Trains stops on signal.      s Regular stop.

New and elegant equipment, combined with a perfect roadbed, straight and smooth track, makes traveling exceptionally pleasant on this new road to Northern Colorado towns.

**WELBY**  
Is located seven miles from Denver, in the heart of the truck garden section. The nearness to Denver affords a good market for all varieties of garden products.

**CELERYVALE**  
nineteen miles from Denver, produces and ships more celery in carload lots than any one station in Colorado, besides cabbage, cauliflower and tomatoes.

**WATTENBERG**  
twenty-two miles from Denver, in the center of a very rich and productive agricultural section, offers many good openings for farmers and dairymen.

**TRACEYVILLE**  
is another new town, 26 miles from Denver, with three of the main cross country roads passing through it. This town is in the best cabbage belt of the West.

**Time Table – from the Greeley Museum**

# Map of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railway

Through the Center of the Irrigated District of Northern Colorado



**NEW TOWNS** On a New Railroad Offer the Best Openings for Business in All Lines, and Assure Quick Returns on Money Invested in Lots. This is YOUR Opportunity.

**We Own All Townsites on This Railroad**

WELBY, WATTENBERG, FORT ST. VRAIN and MILLIKEN are New Towns in the Richest Agricultural Section in Colorado. Lots from \$15 to \$450. We Own

**GARDEN TRACTS With Full Water Rights Adjoining these Towns and the Railroad.**

Stroh Collection

# MILLIKEN, "CAPITOL" OF THE DENVER, LARAMIE AND NORTHWESTERN REALM

## The Milliken Plan

Farmers in the Hillsboro area were able to produce large quantities of crops thanks to the vital water supply provided by the Hillsboro and the Thompson, Platte and BeeLine Ditch Companies. However, lack of transportation restricted their profits. The farmers in the area were overjoyed with the announcement that the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railway would build a line from Denver, Colorado, to Laramie, Wyoming, through Hillsboro. The agents of the railroad found that Hillsboro was not the most convenient place for a station on the rail line, so a new townsite was chosen on the edge of the old village, near enough to give residents advantages of the coming railroad.

On a cold day in early March of 1909, several members of the Board of Directors of the Realty Company visited the present site of Milliken. The site consisted of three farms with the customary farm buildings and fences. Part of this land was in alfalfa, part in wheat, and some had been in sugar beets the previous season. Two dwellings and the Hillsboro School House were also in the site of the proposed new town.

Orders were issued for the purchase of the three farms, and as soon as this was accomplished surveyors were sent to the townsite, arriving March 15, 1909. On April 1, 1909, the town site agent, Raymond A. Eaton, aided in laying out the unnamed town that was alluded to as Hillsboro. The area for the town was one mile from east to west and one-half mile from north to south, comprising three hundred twenty acres that included the platted area called Hillsboro.

According to town folklore, the agent and chief engineer were only told to "give us a town we'll be proud of and a town that will reflect credit on our stockholders." This townsite became known as Milliken. Judge John D. Milliken as General Counsel for the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern earlier had named some of the towns along the line. Later after returning from a trip to the East he is rumored to have remarked, "Somebody named the town of Milliken behind my back."

A fairly standard town plan was developed and is still evident today. Broad Street runs through the center of town from east to west and is the main thoroughfare. It was originally designed to be eighty feet in width and graded to fifty-six feet from curb to curb, affording sidewalks of twelve feet. Next to Broad Street, the alleys are east and west. Telephone poles were put in these alleys to relieve obstruction on Broad Street. Streets were determined by plowing furrows on each side. Six miles were nicely graded before winter stopped the work. The expense of plowing, grading, and spreading gravel was nearly three thousand dollars.

Irene Avenue, in the center of town, north to south and eighty feet in width, terminates in Lola Park on Milliken's southern boundary. This park comprises two blocks and was named for the daughter of Judge Milliken, Lola Vida.

Two avenues which measured forty feet from curb to curb were on the east and west sides of Irene Avenue. All other thoroughfares were sixty feet in width. This system

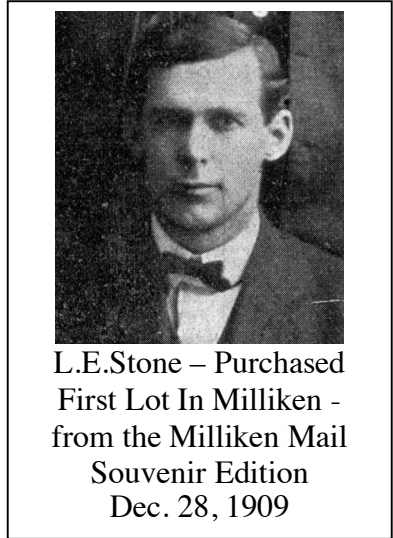
allowed for sidewalks of four feet in width, with a parking of five and one-half feet in width on both sides.

The plan of the town may have been fairly typical, but the naming of the streets was anything but common. The main street was named Broad Street and streets running north and south were called avenues and given the names of girls in alphabetical order from Alice to Quentine: Alice, Buelah, Cora, Dorothy, Ethel, Frances, Grace, Harriett, Irene, Josephine, Katheleen, Laura, Marjorie, Norma, Olive, Pauline and Quentine. One account stated that they were named for the wives of the officials of the Northwestern Land & Iron Company.

Thoroughfares extending east and west were designated as streets and named in alphabetical order for trees: Ash, Birch, Cherry, Broad, Elm, and Forest. Alleys were twenty feet wide. A larger park was platted in the northwest part of town, on the banks of the Little Thompson River.

Several months were spent platting the land and setting stakes defining the boundary of every lot in the townsite. Ninety-six squares were laid out into nearly three thousand lots selling at fifty dollars to six hundred dollars per lot. Adjoining tracts of land were made into truck farms of from one to twenty acres each.

All this had taken place before a lot had been offered for sale. The town plat was filed July 10, 1909 and late in the summer of 1909, the Land Company was ready to begin selling lots, and building started. Blocks 1 through 26 were reserved for the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railway Company. L.E. Stone purchased the first town lot on August 1, 1909.



### Promotional Campaign

An aggressive promotional campaign began. In the brochure extolling the merits of the new town was the promise of water rights available for every lot for irrigation and for watering the park.

\*\*\*\*\*

The towns and lands of this company are in the center of the rush. Less than a year old, our towns show how rapid has been the growth of Colorado and the growth of the surrounding country caused by the building of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railroad. Now is the time to make your land selection. In order to show you these lands that make the great wealth of Northern Colorado and Town of Milliken, as well as other hustling towns along the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern, we will run our SPECIAL EXCURSION, October 13, (next Thursday) leaving the Laramie (Moffat) Depot at 9:15 A.M. and returning at 4:20 P.M. The fare is \$1.50 for the round trip, including dinner at Milliken. This is your opportunity of reaching the independence of the farm, of

being your own master. Come in and talk it over with us Let us tell you on what easy terms you can own your own home.

DON'T FORGET THE DAY, NEXT THURSDAY, 9 A.M. MOFFAT DEPOT

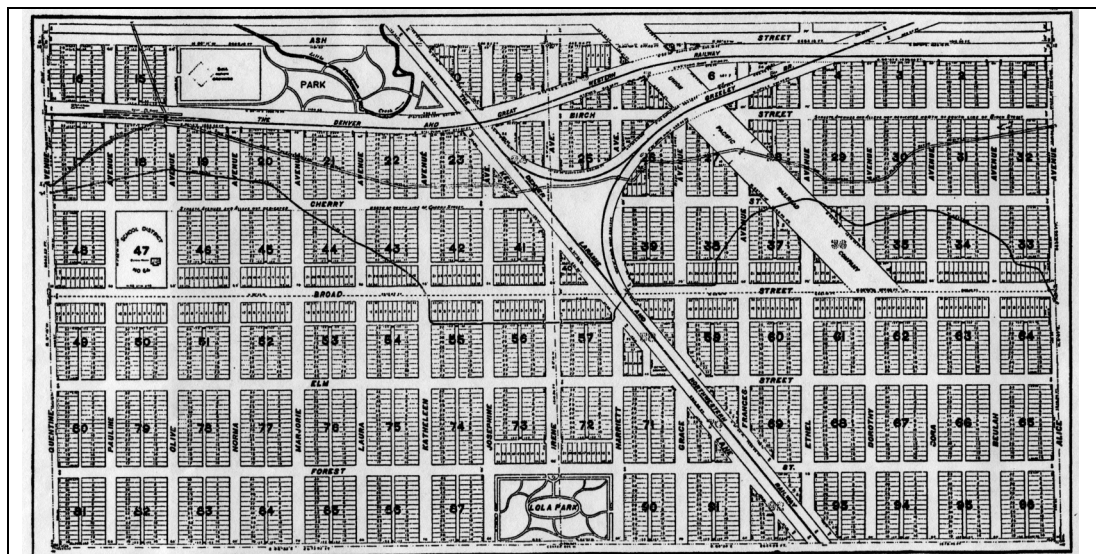
TOWN LOTS            FARM LANDS            ACRE TRACTS  
WATTENBERG        VOLLMAR                MILLIKEN

THE DENVER, LARAMIE REALTY CO. THE DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY

915-919 17th St. Denver, Colo. Phone Main 3105

Milliken, near the old Town of Hillsboro, 41 miles north of Denver, will be the real "capitol" of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern realm and has progressed farther than any of the other projected cities. There the town is laid out and street signs are up.

Source: *Scrapbook, Prelude to the Milliken Mail, December 1909*



PLAT OF THE TOWN OF MILLIKEN, WELD COUNTY, COLO.

No. 143902.

DEDICATION: Know all men by these presents, that the Northwestern Land and Iron Company, a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Territory of Arizona, has subdivided and platted into Blocks, Lots and Parks, Streets, Avenues and Alleys, the  $N\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 11 and the South 110 feet of Section 2, Township 4 North of Range 67 West of the 6th P. M., in Weld County, and State of Colorado, excepting the strips of land owned in fee by The Denver and Great Western Railway, The Denver, Laramie and Northwestern Railway and Union Pacific Railroad Companies, as shown upon the above plat, and designate same as the "Town of Milliken", and does hereby dedicate to the public the Streets, Avenues and Alleys shown hereon excepting those Streets, Avenues and Alleys, or portions thereof, within the following boundaries: Beginning at the Northeast corner of Section 11, thence South along the East line of said Section 11 to the South line of Birch Street, thence West along the South line of Birch Street to the West line of Grace Avenue, thence South along the West line of Grace Avenue to the South line of Cherry Street, thence West along the South line of Cherry Street to the East line of Quentine Avenue, thence North along the East line of Quentine Avenue to the North line of the Townsite, thence East along the North line of the Townsite to the East line of Section 2, thence South along the East line of Section 2 to the place of beginning.

Dated July 10th, 1909.

(Signed) Northwestern Land and Iron Company.

By John D. Milliken, President.

Attest: S. J. Kent, Secretary.

(Corporate Seal.)

Acknowledged July 10th, 1909, before John R. Hutchison, N. P. Seal, City and County of Denver, Colorado.

Stroh Collection

The rails had not been laid into Milliken. Prospective investors rode in flat and observation railroad cars as far as the rails had been laid. From there they were taken to the townsite by any means available.

"Chickens in the vicinity of Milliken are hiding out because of the Thursday excursions of the Denver, Laramie Realty Company, owners of that townsite."

Source: *Scrapbook*, prelude to the *Milliken Mail*, December 17, 1909

The fare of \$1.50 mentioned in the brochure included a complete chicken dinner that normally was priced at twenty-five cents. If one invested in property after an excursion, the \$1.50 was refunded.

There is a rush on to the garden where a man can have a few chickens and a cow, and raise aside from those for his own use, vegetables sufficient to give him a good income. Those are the people we are after and they are the ones who are taking up with us and locating on our irrigated acres.

Source: *Scrapbook*, prelude to the *Milliken Mail*, December 17, 1909

Milliken is to be the only town of importance on the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railway in this state. This new road is being built to develop a section of rich mining and agricultural country in the northwest and Milliken is selected as the center or base of operations. It is the intention to establish here several big industrial institutions, all of which will give employment to a vast number of men.

Source: *Scrapbook*, prelude to the *Milliken Mail*, December 17, 1909

The Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railway and the Denver, Laramie Realty Company sustained a heavy loss when former U.S. Senator W.A. Harris of Lawrence, Kansas, suddenly passed away in Chicago, Illinois, of heart failure. Senator Harris was greatly interested in the above companies, serving as Vice-President of the Denver, Laramie Realty Company. He was among the men who chose the site of the Town of Milliken. Within a year, Senator Harris was the second of the Denver, Laramie officials to die. A.E. Welby died in the summer of 1909.



143902.

PLAT OF THE TOWN OF MILLIKEN, WELD COUNTY, COLO., A SUBDIVISION OF (WITH OTHER LANDS) THE N $\frac{1}{2}$  OF THE N $\frac{1}{2}$  OF SECTION 11, TP.4 N.R. 67 W.OF THE 6th P.M.

D E D I C A T I O N .

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That the Northwestern Land and Iron Company, a Corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Territory of Arizona, has subdivided and platted into Blocks, Lots and Parks, Streets, Avenues and Alleys, The N $\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 11 and the South 110 feet of Section 11, Township 4 North, of Range 67 West of the 6th P. M. in Weld County, and State of Colorado, excepting the strips of land owned in fee by The Denver and Great Western Railway, The Denver Laramie and Northwestern Railway and Union Pacific Railroad Companies, as shown on the above plat, and designate the same as the "Town of Milliken," and does hereby dedicate to the pub-

lic the Streets, Avenues and Alleys shown hereon, excepting those Streets, Avenues and Alleys, or portions thereof, within the following boundaries: Beginning at the Northeast corner of said Section 11; thence South along the East line of said Section 11 to the South line of Birch Street; thence West along the South line of Birch Street to the West line of Grace Avenue; thence South along the West line of Grace Avenue to the South line of Cherry Street; thence West along the South line of Cherry Street to the east line of Quentine Avenue; thence North along the east line of Quentine Avenue to the North line of the Townsite; thence East along the North line of the Townsite to the East line of Section 2; thence South along the East line of Section 2 to the place of beginning.

Dated July 10th, 1909.

(Signed) Northwestern Land and Iron Company, by John D. Milliken, President. Attest: S. J. Kent, Secretary (Corporate Seal).

Acknowledged July 10th, 1909, before John R. Hutchison, N. P. Seal, City

and County of Denver, Colorado.

Recorded July 23rd, 1909, at 3:30 P. M. in Book 5 of Maps, Page 7, Weld County Records.

Plat shows 90 Blocks numbered (Among Others) 17 and 18

Blocks 17 and 18 consists of 32 lots each, numbered from 1 to 32 inclusive.

(Stroh Collection)

**Building Milliken in 1909**

The town experienced a flurry of activity in response to the aggressive promotional campaign. The Realty Company did not erect buildings or furnish any for occupancy. Therefore, the town was open to contractors and investors to construct business buildings and residences for sale or rent in any part of the platted area. Building progressed rapidly in spite of the lack of direction in the form of a town government or a municipal water system. Both came later. In May of 1910, the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railroad Company dug an artesian well, and the first municipal election was held in October 1910.





View of Milliken Sept. 1, 1909 when the town was one month old. Presbyterian church and the Hillsboro School are in the distance. – Milliken Mail

- By early October of 1909 articles of incorporation were filed for a State Bank with a capitalization of \$10,000. Incorporators were James H. Gafford of Colorado Springs, Colorado, R.M. Benton of Kiowa, Kansas, and O.L. Cully of Claffin, Kansas. After the charter was secured, J.H. Gafford was named President and R.M. Benton became Cashier. Capital stock was increased to \$25,000. In the first two and one-half months of business, fifty-nine accounts were opened.
- Stewart Fielding was acting as Special Constable for the Milliken district. He began the erection of a frame building to be a Real Estate office with a living room in the rear. The same house is located at 108 South Grace Avenue.
- G.W. Snider, contractor and carpenter who moved to Milliken from Greeley, began building a frame house on his lots at the northeast corner of Katheleen Avenue and Elm Street. During construction the family lived in a tent house at the rear of the property. The tent house measured 14 x 24 feet. This house is at 119 South Katheleen Avenue and was the first house built in Milliken.



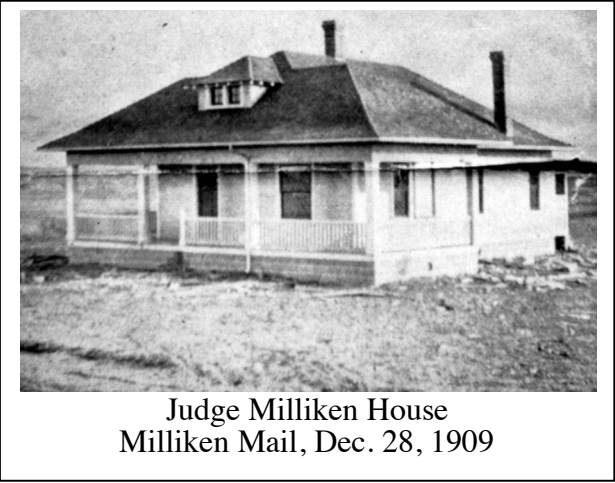
Snider Tent House – 1909



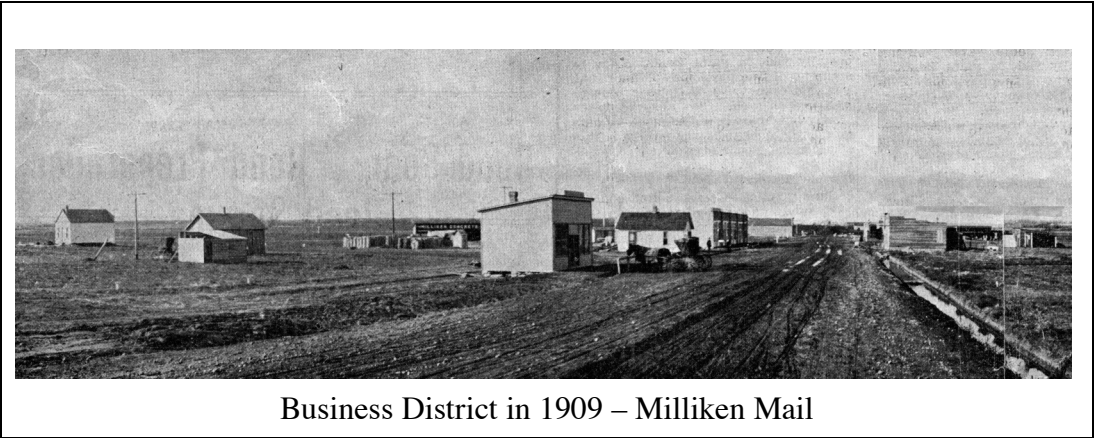
Snider House erected in front of the Tent House - 1909

Gifts from Hazel Snider Summers to Strohs

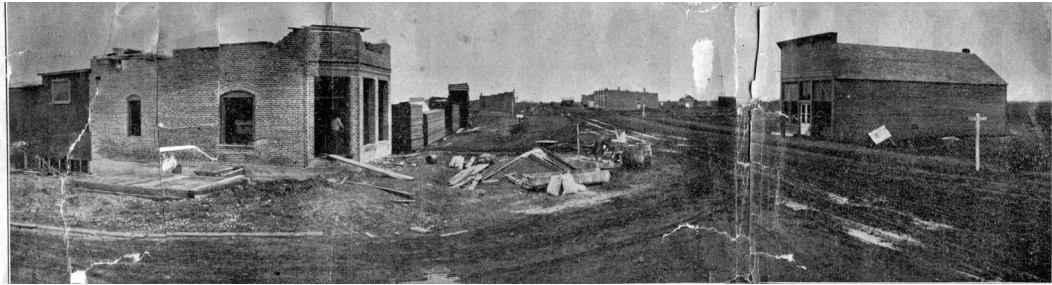
- During this time the Dougherty family rented two tent houses on Frances Avenue to railroad workers. Tent houses were a common sight offering temporary shelter until permanent housing was available. Another tent was erected and used as a restaurant.
- A contractor and crew were at work on the cellar and foundation of a frame house for Judge John D. Milliken. The same house is located at 119 South Frances Avenue. However, Judge Milliken never lived in the house as he always stayed in Denver.



- R.M. Benton, Cashier of the First State Bank, purchased lots and started building a dwelling and a private garage. Today the same house is still in the original location, 120 South Frances Avenue.
- Residences for Joe Clugston, liveryman formerly from Johnstown, Colorado and Sam Griffith were going up rapidly. The Judge Riker building was ready for occupancy. This was built on the southeast corner of Grace Avenue and Broad Street.
- The Orman room in the Cement Block Building was to be occupied by a general merchandise establishment. The "Republican", October 2, 1909, stated that the cement blocks used for the building were made of material taken from "down on the creek," which may have meant one of the Thompson Rivers north of town. The Orman Cement Company was located behind and south, of the Cement Block Building, where the blocks might have been made, as it was called a Cement Factory. The original Cement Block Building is located at 1004 Broad Street.



- James Bradley Orman, of Orman Construction Company, was the contractor for laying the ties and rails for the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern, as well as being Governor of Colorado from 1901-1903.



Broad Street, looking east – gift from Hazel Snider Summers to Strohs

- J.D. Geiser began constructing a building to be 14 x 24 ft. on the northwest corner of Grace Avenue and Broad Street for E.J. Wilcox. This became a Meat Market owned and managed by Charles (Charlie) Stroh. The Market at about 1009 Broad Street opened for business January 1, 1910. The original building is gone.
- R.S. Anderson opened a restaurant, called the Commercial Cafe. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were from Canada. The remodeled building is at the original location, 1015 Broad Street.
- O.G. Jones, a hardware merchant from Oklahoma, constructed a store building and was in business November 15, 1909. The same brick building is at 910 Broad Street.
- The First State Bank occupied the east room of the Cement Block Building and the drug store was in an adjoining room. Cashier and Mrs. Benton occupied rooms in the rear until their home was completed. (behind old building and bank)



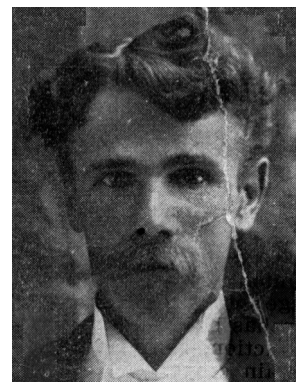
Cement Block Building and the First State Bank - Souvenir Edition, Milliken Mail, Dec. 28, 1909

- The Western Lumber & Supply Company was the first business established in Milliken and later had the first phone which was installed in town. The call was Rose 491, 1 ring. The same building is at the original location, 105 North Irene Avenue.



Western Lumber Company, the first business established in Milliken - Souvenir Edition, Milliken Mail, Dec. 28, 1909

- H.B. Crawford came with his family from Canada to Denver, Colorado, in 1889, living there until moving to Milliken in 1909. Mr. Crawford operated a grocery store in part of the Jones building, then later purchased three lots on the north side of Broad Street. He built a barn on the rear lots to stable horses. The same brick building is at 1005 Broad Street.
- H.A. Rowe, from Berthoud, Colorado, manager of the Western Lumber & Supply Company, had an addition added to his office, 14-x 24-ft. containing two rooms. The Rowe family used these as living quarters.
- Bricks for the office of the Clayton Lumber Company arrived and work progressed rapidly. The Manager was M.A. Dorman who came from Greeley, Colorado. The address at that time was 901 Broad Street or it could be called 901 North Irene Avenue.
- Construction started in October 1909, on a two-story frame building on three lots at the corner of Harriett Avenue and Broad Street. It was 48 x 48 ft, contained a large office and dining room and about twenty bedrooms. The hotel, called the Antlers was at 914 Broad Street, and was destroyed by fire March 11, 1924.
- Farmers were working early and late delivering siloed sugar beets. Beets were dug earlier in the fall before the ground was frozen and stored in small piles covered with straw in the fields. Whenever railroad cars were available to haul the beets to the Great Western Sugar Factory the beets were loaded in wagons, driven to the receiving stations (dumps) and loaded into railroad cars.
- Hoeft Brothers Grocery & Feed Store was nearly completed at this time. The location was 1007 Broad Street. It was one of three buildings destroyed by fire May 11, 1911.




H.A. Rowe, first man to establish a Business in Milliken - Souvenir Edition, Milliken Mail, Dec. 28, 1909

- The building belonging to the Western Lumber & Supply Company which had been at the rear of a Hillsboro store, was moved to a lot belonging to Mr. Heskett. He was from Wichita, Kansas, was an agent for the Realty Company, and was very active in affairs involving the town. This building, which no longer exists, was located at 1020 Broad Street.



Heskett Realty Office - Souvenir Edition, Milliken Mail, Dec. 28, 1909

- Geisler & Barlow installed a cistern and filter on the property belonging to Judge Milliken at 119 South Frances Avenue.
- The Milliken livery barn owned by Joe Clugston was turned to face Harriett Avenue and an addition doubled its capacity. The location was on North Harriett Avenue between Broad Street and 98 North Harriett Avenue.
- In December 1909 fire was averted in Hoeft Brothers Grocery. A box filled with hot ashes was left on the floor, burning through the bottom of the box, setting the floor afire. The timely arrival of Mr. Hoeft with a few pails of water saved the building. The store was located at about 1007 Broad Street.
- A new check desk was added to the bank for the convenience of patrons.

NO. _____		DATE _____ 19 _____		TO _____		FOR _____		 <b>THE FIRST STATE BANK</b> 82-275 MILLIKEN, COLO., _____ 19 _____ No. _____	
BAL. BROT. FORD	DOLLARS	CENTS	PAY TO THE ORDER OF _____		\$ _____		DOLLARS		
AMT. DEPOSITED			FOR _____		10				
TOTAL									
AMT. THIS CHECK									
BAL. CARD. FORD	THIS CHECK IS INSURED (SEE UPPER CORNER) ANY ALTERATION INVALIDATES THIS CHECK IF MISTAKE IS MADE WRITE NEW CHECK								

Stroh Collection

- J.K. Elliott had a crew of men building a barn for Charles Swink, who lived east of town.
- Dances were popular entertainment. and a dance held in the Fielding building was considered a success. The crowd was not large, owing to the extremely cold winter weather, but enough attended to pay all expenses.

- Dr. George W. Sibbold was the first physician to practice in Milliken. Coming from Denver, Colorado, he arrived in Milliken in 1909, and moved into the house built for Judge Milliken at 119 South Frances Avenue. Dr. Sibbold was appointed physician for the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railway (became Railroad in 1910). Several accidents occurred his first week. In the construction gang William Francos suffered a dislocated ankle and a crushed foot. Sam Collins had a badly crushed hand and a sprained wrist. Bud Reed developed a bad attack of pneumonia which caused him to be sent to the hospital. Dr. Sibbold stayed only a couple of months and returned to Denver in February 1910.
- Lots sold in Milliken, Colorado, at the close of business, September 1, 1909: Refer to Map Reference section for lot locations.

Lot 17, Block 34

Lot 10, Block 61

Lots 12, 17, 18, 19, 21, in Block 37

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, in Block 60

Lots 9, 10, 11, 13, 20, 21, in Block 38

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, in Block 59

Lot 12 in Block 39

Lot 10 in Block 57

All of Block 40

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 17, 18, 21, in Block 41

Lots 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 20, in Block 56

Lot 21, in Block 72

Lots 1, 2, in Block 87

Lot 18, 19, 20, 21, in Block 52

Lots 12, 13, 14, in Block 45

Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 32, in Block 70

Some citizens as of December 28, 1909:

Stewart Fielding from Guthrie, Oklahoma

O.G. Jones, hardware merchant from Oklahoma

H.B. Crawford, grocer from Denver

J.E. Wolfe blacksmith, an old resident of Gilcrest, Colorado

J.D. Clugston, liveryman from Johnstown

Lee K. Auten, Real Estate dealer from California

Dr. J.A. Gafford, banker from Shawnee, Oklahoma

R.M. Benton, banker from Ellis, Kansas

Mr. and Mrs. Stacy Anderson, restaurant owners from Canada

G.W. Snider, contractor from Jewell, Kansas

M.A. Dorman, Manager of the Clayton Lumber Co. from Greeley

H.S. Rowe, Manager of Western Lumber Co. from Berthoud, Colo.

George Gray, pool room and cigars, old resident of this area

Edward D. Riker, Justice of the Peace and Postmaster, an old resident of this area

J.W. Heskett, agent for the Realty Company from Wichita, Kansas

Advertisements December 29, 1909 in Milliken Mail:

Clayton Lumber Company, had received 25 cars of lumber  
 Charles W. Beer and Co., Real Estate agents from Greeley, Co.  
 O.G. Jones and Company, general hardware  
 Lee K. Auten, Real Estate  
 H.B. Crawford, grocery  
 Western Lumber & Supply  
 Clayton Lumber Company, M.A. Dorman Manager  
 Dorman & Jones, Insurance  
 Hoeft Brothers, grocery and feed store  
 G. Harrison, painter and decorator  
 J.D. Geisler, contractor and builder  
 E.C. Munn, contractor and builder  
 First State Bank, J.A. Gafford, Pres., R.M. Benton, Cashier  
 Commercial Cafe, Stacy Anderson  
 Milliken Livery & Feed, Joe Clugston, Proprietor

**MEATS**  
 All Kinds of it at Right Prices  
**Milliken Meat Market**

**Local Time Card D. L. & N. W.**

Mixed Train No. 1	Mixed Train No. 2
5:00 p m Lv Denver	Ar 11:25 am
5:15 Utah Jet	11:31
5:35 Welby	10:54
5:46 Glen	10:43
5:59 Four Falls	10:30
6:12 Celeryvale	10:17
6:24 Wattenberg	10:05
6:34 Tracyville	9:53
6:43 Yellmar	9:40
6:57 Moore	9:30
7:02 Hodgson	9:25
7:15 Ft. St. Vrain	9:12
7:30 Ar Milliken	Lv 9:00

Daily except Sunday  
 Standard - Mountain time

**E. D. Riker**  
 Real Estate and Insurance,  
 MILLIKEN, COLORADO.  
 See me for information and prices of property in and adjacent to Milliken, Colorado.

**H. B. CRAWFORD**  
 formerly of Denver, wishes to announce that he has opened a first-class Grocery in Milliken. Everything sold with a guarantee as to quality and price. A square deal and good service to all. Give us the first order and WE will get the next.

**J. K. Elliott**  
 CARPENTER AND BUILDER  
 Estimates furnished  
 and contracts taken  
 Headquarters at Western  
 Lumber & Supply Co.  
 MILLIKEN, COLORADO

**BUILD**  
 We will supply your wants and satisfy you on prices  
**Western Lumber & Supply Co.**  
 (The Pioneers)  
 H. A. ROWE, President and Manager  
 MILLIKEN, COLORADO

**Watches, Clocks  
 and Jewelry**  
 Promptly and Efficiently Repaired  
 Watch Work a Specialty  
 All Work and Material Guaranteed  
**ETHAN L. ALLEN**  
 Pioneer Jeweler  
 Located in Lee K. Auten's Real Estate Office

**Hoeft Bros.'**  
**Grocery and Feed Store**  
 We can supply your needs in anything in our line  
 MILLIKEN, COLORADO

**Dorman & Jones**  
INSURANCE  
Fire and Marine  
Investment and Surety

**COAL**  
THAT BURNS  
AT  
*The*  
**Clayton Lumber  
Company**  
ALWAYS ON TOP

With the largest stock of Building Material at your Command. Lowest prices, prompt service and liberal discounts.

**J. D. GESLER**  
CONTRACTOR  
&  
BUILDER  
Phone and Estimates  
Furnished

**Builders'  
Hardware**  
Milliken, Colo.

**E. C. HUNN**  
CONTRACTOR  
&  
BUILDER  
Phone and Estimates  
Furnished upon Request

**MILLIKEN LIVERY AND  
FEED STABLES**  
JOE CLUGSTON, Proprietor.

Livery, Dray and Transfer.

MILLIKEN - - - - COLORADO.

**The FIRST STATE BANK  
OF MILLIKEN, COLORADO**

Our aim is to keep in close personal touch with each of our customers. We will appreciate your account whether it is large or small.

**Start a Bank Account  
T O D A Y**

In two weeks ten thousand people will know that I am the pioneer resident of Milliken; that I have been here working and talking for the town since the 9th of last June; that I've helped make it what it is; that I am commissioned by the company to sell lots; that I want to sell you lots and then act as your agent to re-sell for you at an advance. Think of this. Write or call and see me at my office in the "Advance" block.

**Lee K. Auten**  
Real Estate & Insurance  
MILLIKEN, COLORADO

**O. G. JONES & CO.**  
GENERAL HARDWARE

We come as strangers, hope to stay as friends. We want your trade and will do our best, by courteous treatment and right prices, to keep you a customer of ours. Give us a trial and then tell your friends. The place to trade is in Milliken, with

**O. G. JONES & CO.**

**Presentation of Milliken**

Formal presentation of Milliken was Thursday, January 6, 1910. This had been planned for December 18, 1909, but due to extremely cold and snowy weather, construction of the railroad had progressed slowly, and the celebration was postponed. Milliken boasted the following business establishments on that day:

- State Bank with R. M. Benton Cashier
- Livery Stable operated by William Franks
- Meat Market owned by Charles (Charlie) Stroh
- Restaurant owned by Mr. and Mrs. Stacy Anderson
- Barber Shop, C.A. Kuenhle from Cherokee, Oklahoma
- Justice of the Peace, Edward D. Riker
- Hardware Store, O. G. Jones and Company
- Grocery & Feed Store, Hoeft Brothers
- Blacksmith and Wagon Shop, J.E. Wolfe
- Cement Block Plant, James Bradley Orman, Owner
- Real Estate, E.D. Riker
- J.W. Heskett, agent for the Realty Company
- Pool Room and Cigars, George Gray
- Painter and Decorator, G. Harrison
- Contractor and Builder, J.D. Geisler



Real Estate and Insurance, Lee K. Auten from California  
 Clayton Lumber Company, M.A. Dorman manager  
 Post Office had been granted and E.D. Riker named Postmaster.  
 Presbyterian Church  
 United Brethern Church  
 Public School with 80 children enrolled  
 Newspaper, Milliken Mail, Herman M. Porter Editor  
 Several homes under construction  
 Grocery Store, H.B. Crawford  
 Western Lumber & Supply Company, H.A. Rowe Manager  
 Contractor and Builder, E.C. Munn  
 Milliken Livery & Feed, Joe Clugston

January 6, 1910 was clear and cold, near the zero mark, and the ground was completely covered with snow. This did not, however, dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd. Early in the day teams and autos began to appear. and by noon a large crowd had gathered.

Engine No. 2 was the first train scheduled to leave Denver's Moffat Station at 9 A.M. January 6, 1910, and consisted of engine, baggage coach and ten "elegantly" appointed coaches. Approximately six hundred people were aboard as guests of the Realty Company. Among them were officers of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railway Company and Denver, Laramie Realty Company and their associates, representatives of the Denver Chamber of Commerce, manufacturers associations and State Commercial associations,

**Opening of the Town of Milliken  
 and Inauguration of Train Service of  
 The Denver, Laramie & Northwestern  
 Railway: January the sixth, 1910**

*Compliments of the Officers*

---

**The Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railway Co.**

C. S. Johnson . . . . .	President
W. E. Green . . . . .	Vice President
Zeph Chas. Felt . . . . .	Secretary
C. M. Day . . . . .	Asst. Secretary
W. E. Skinner . . . . .	Treasurer
E. A. Buck . . . . .	Chief Engineer
D. L. Hutchison . . . . .	Asst. Chief Engineer

**The Denver-Laramie Realty Company**

W. E. Skinner . . . . .	President
Vacant—W. A. Harris, deceased . . . . .	Vice-President
C. L. Wight . . . . .	Secretary
A. J. Spengel . . . . .	Treasurer
O. D. Berroth . . . . .	Asst. Treasurer

**Northwestern Land and Iron Company**

John D. Milliken . . . . .	President
W. R. Tucker . . . . .	Vice-President
Sidney J. Kent . . . . .	Secretary
A. J. Spengel . . . . .	Treasurer
T. D. Robinson . . . . .	Chief Engineer

**Gen. Pass. & Frt. Agent**

Seth K. Martin . . . . .	Gen. Pass. & Frt. Agent
R. M. Wilbur . . . . .	Supt. Sales Agents
H. B. Holeomb . . . . .	Asst. to Pres. Ry. Co.
W. H. Olin . . . . .	Industrial Agent
R. A. Eaton . . . . .	Townsite Agent
J. U. Mock . . . . .	Purchasing Agent
A. F. Dodd . . . . .	Acting Auditor

**Legal Department**

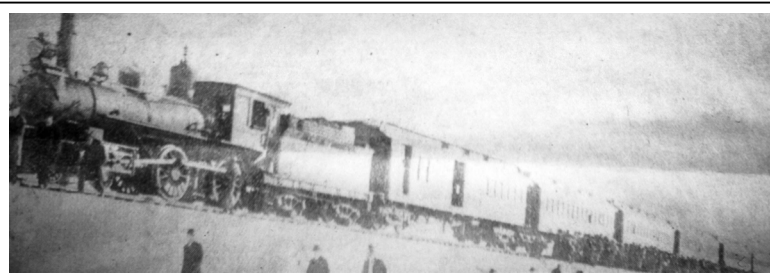
John D. Milliken . . . . .	General Counsel
Joseph C. Helm . . . . .	Legal Adviser
A. D. Quaintance . . . . .	Assistant Auditor

*"Twixt optimist and pessimist the difference is droll;  
 The optimist sees the doughnut, the pessimist the hole."*

The opening day souvenirs distributed were the original idea of Judge Milliken – Stroh Collection

prominent citizens and state officials. The train was in the hands of Conductor Derrig, Engineer J.A. Lampaugh and Fireman John Callahan.

One passenger said that before leaving Moffat Station. the band tooted and kept tooting all the way to Milliken and back again. John W. Kennedy, G.E. Turner, J.A. Spengel, Frank Sample and Colonel



People leaving the train, walking to the celebration Jan. 6, 1910 – Milliken Mail

Hunter, officials of the various companies, went from car to car telling funny stories and rousing choruses. A Platteville citizen said, "Them townsite people are certainly alright. We went down here to the river bridge and waited for the train. They came along with bands playing and banners flying. They had brand new coaches and took us to Milliken and back again free." The train made stops at all stations and crossings taking along anyone who wanted to go to Milliken.

The train arrived at 12:20 P.M., later than scheduled due to a delay in leaving Denver. It overtook the Roberts tracklaying machine that had been adding a mile a day to the length of the new road. The track was not completed into Milliken, and the rails stopped about three-fourths to a mile south of town. About five hundred people met the train as it arrived.

As the passengers unloaded from the train, Santriano's band from Denver played, "We're Here Because We're Here." School children under the direction of Mrs. Edna Heskett and Miss Ethel Tucker waved flags and cheered. School had been dismissed for the day. Buggies, buckboards, wagons and a few automobiles transported the guests into town. The crowd led by the officers of the Realty Company, the band and school children, marched from the train to a large tent at the center of town, just east of Harriett Avenue and south of Broad Street. Coal stoves heated the tent.

Short talks by prominent men and singing was interspersed with music from the band. After vocal selections by Mrs. Fern Whiteman Smith of Denver, "I Hid My Love" by Dardelot and "My Rosary," Charles Perkins of New York sang "Dio Possente Dio D'Amour" by Gownod and one encore. Miss Ray Jones accompanied both singers.

Invocation was by Parson Thomas Uzzill and then lunch was served. Part of the invocation was "Help us to be on the dead square and bless the men who are developing this empire with their brains, muscle and money."

Sandwiches and steaming hot coffee was provided for lunch. Mrs. Mike (Katherine) Kreiger lived in Milliken at that time and told of how hard the women worked to feed the visitors. She helped that day and said about three hundred additional meals were served by the restaurant.

All marched to Lola Park where a large pole had been erected for hoisting the American flag and the banner presented to the town by Judge Milliken. Mrs. Katherine A. Cook, State Superintendent of Public Instruction presented the flag.

As the band played "The Star Spangled Banner" the crowd joined in the chorus. Miss Helen Skinner, daughter of Colonel W.E. Skinner, President of the Denver, Laramie Realty Company slowly hoisted the flag to wave for the first time over the new town of Milliken.

One speaker was Professor Ollin, former agronomist at the Agricultural College in Fort Collins, Colorado, and Industrial Commissioner for the Realty Company. In his talk he provided reasons to support his expectation for Milliken to surpass any city in Colorado in its rate of growth.

Judge Edward D. Riker came to the vicinity of Milliken in 1869 from New York, traveling to Cheyenne, Wyoming, by rail and walking most of the remaining distance. He



Judge Milliken and Mrs. Katherine Cook – Milliken Mail, 1910

took a homestead patent on land that was part of the present site of Milliken and later purchased other land in the vicinity. He railroaded, raised cattle and prospected but held on to the land. In December of 1909 he received his commission as Postmaster and as the oldest citizen of Milliken presented a town lot to the first child born on the town site. Roy and Jennie Tromble, who then lived near Longmont, were among the first couples to make their home in Milliken and claimed the property on behalf of their daughter, Evelyn Myrtle, who was born in Milliken on July 6, 1909. She was presented Lot 6 in Block 94. Price of the lot was \$65.00. A quote from the Milliken Mail said, "while the lot is a valuable one and will give the little miss a good start in life, the pair of pretty pink stockings attached to the papers attracted attention at the presentation."

Dr. Z.Y. Snyder, President of State Normal School at Greeley, read a dedicatory poem written by Mrs. Hattie Horner Louthan. It paid tribute to the town and Judge John D. Milliken:

That man is great who changes Nature's mind  
Whose onward path no obstacle can find;

To whom all obstacles are but the sum  
Of things to be ignored or overcome;  
Who, strong of zeal to reach his changeless goal,

Who dauntless, irresistible of soul,  
Sees cities where the stone is yet unhewn,  
Sees harvest while the year is yet at June;  
Who, piercing mountain, balking untamed stream,  
Makes adverse Nature realize his Dream.

Aye, great is he, above his common kind,  
Whose will can change unfriendly Nature's mind;

But greater he who changes mind of man;  
Whose eyes the Future, naught but Future scan;  
Who first is sure he's right, then goes ahead,  
In face of all that's written, done or said;  
Who, strong of zeal to reach his changeless goal,  
Who, dauntless, irresistible of soul,  
Sees service in unfriendly plotting brains,  
Sees method where chaotic madness reigns;  
Who, piercing Falsehood, balking Envy's scheme,  
Compels his foes to realize his Dream.

Yes, greater he, above his thoughtless clan,  
Whose will can change the adverse mind of Man.

Of thee I sing, whose will to mould, to bend,  
Has changed his very foe to steadfast friend;  
Of one, to whom obstacles were naught,  
Whose Dream with Wisdom's foresight had been wrought,  
Of him who conquers Nature. Men affairs--  
Of him whose name this city proudly wears!

Source: *Milliken Mail*, January, 1910

Lola Vida Milliken, daughter of John D. Milliken, for whom Lola Park was named, was in attendance that day, as she had been at the celebration at Utah Junction several months previously. She had turned the first spadeful of dirt to begin construction of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railway.

Entertainment was fast and varied, and no one was permitted to grow weary. Time was limited but there was something to do every minute. Visitors were given an opportunity to look over the town, and many became interested. Officials of the Realty Company reported sales amounting to \$20,000 with prospective sales of many times that amount.

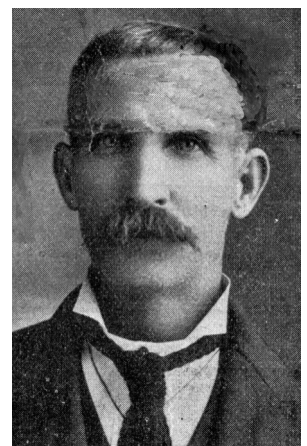
A number of special deputy sheriffs had been sworn in for the occasion and a temporary jail improvised. Little crime was reported. However, someone entered Lee K. Auten's Real Estate Office on opening day and removed a \$30 overcoat and a revolver was stolen from a grip in the Fielding Building.

Not willing to take chances on losing business, the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railway took A.M. Smith, the first station agent, along on the train from Denver to Milliken. His salary started at noon, January 6, 1910.

## DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY

Developing a community government was the next step. The groundwork had been laid by the Realty and Land companies. Internal problems of the companies did not dampen the enthusiasm of residents of Milliken nor hamper their ability to go forward. More lots were sold and building continued. During 1910, a town government was formed, a water system was developed and other comforts needed by the residents were added.

- A station for the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern was set up in Mr. Heskett's office in the building at 1020 Broad Street. Contractor Elliott and crew were constructing the hotel building on three lots at the corner of Harriett Avenue and Broad Street.
- J.M. Morris prepared a map for a rural route to take in the country northeast of Milliken and needed signers for the petition.
- The Union Pacific Railroad started proceedings toward keeping the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern and the Burlington railroads out of the city of Greeley.
- Manager Rowe of the Western Lumber Company met with an expensive accident one night while driving his auto to Berthoud. He was returning to the road after going around a team when he collided with a horse and buggy. The horse's legs were broken, and the buggy wrecked, but no one was injured.
- Lee K. Auten was the first resident of Milliken, had been in the area since 1908, and was in the Real Estate business.
- The first gas lights to be installed in town were in the Commercial Cafe and Hoeft Brothers Grocery Store.
- C.A. Laughlin, from Denver, opened a drug store in the Orman building at 1004 Broad Street.
- Ernest P. Wyss, of Johnstown, opened the Milliken Pharmacy.
- Attorney B.F. Hill rented a room in the Fielding Castle for a law office. "Castle" was used to describe the Fielding home at 108 South Grace Avenue.
- Charles Stroh purchased an ice box and Stimson meat scales in Denver to aid in his meat market business.
- Special trains made trips every Wednesday from Denver bringing investors who wanted to see what had been accomplished in the new town.



Lee K. Auten, first resident of Milliken –  
Souvenir Edition,  
Milliken Mail

- H.B. Crawford purchased the hardware stock belonging to O.G. Jones and added it to his inventory. His business occupied the entire room of the brick building at 910 Broad Street, which was opposite the Clayton Lumber Company. The Clayton Lumber Company was at approximately 903 Broad Street.

- In February of 1910, plans were made for a \$5,000 two-story building to be erected on three lots between the Antlers Hotel and Crawford's store. Charles Stroh, C.A.Kuehnle, George Gray and Stewart Fielding were the owners of the lots. Plans were for three rooms on the ground floor,



Prospective investors in 1910 – Milliken Mail

three suites of office rooms in the front of the second floor with the remainder made into an all purpose hall. The brick building is still standing at 910 and 912 Broad Street.

- The Milliken Post Office opened for business February 15, 1910, with Edward D. Riker as Postmaster. Mr. Riker had received his commission as Postmaster in December 1909, but the necessary supplies did not arrive then, causing a delay in the opening and Milliken continued to be served by a rural carrier from Platteville, Colorado.

PORTION OF THE BUSINESS DISTRICT AT MILLIKEN

**THE RUSH TO THE COUNTRY IS ON AGAIN**

And the towns and lands of this company are in the center of the rush. Less than a year old, our towns show how rapid has been the growth of Colorado and the growth of the surrounding country caused by the building of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railroad. The elevator at Milliken is busy shipping wheat, and the movement of potatoes and sugar beets is on the hum. It all means wealth. Why don't you get a part of this wealth next year? Now is the time to make your land selection. In order to show you these lands that make the great wealth of Northern Colorado and the town of Milliken, as well as other hustling towns along the D., L. & N. W., we will run our

**SPECIAL EXCURSION**

ARRIVING AT NEW VERNON

Ad in Milliken Mail in 1909

- Men were erecting a depot near Harriett Avenue for the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern under the leadership of E.C. Munn. The depot was to be 24 x 60 ft, with two waiting rooms, a wardroom, and an office. In March the depot was used by both the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern and the Great Western railroads. They used the same office with Mr. Smith as joint agent. In 1918 this was the depot for the Great Western, and by 1956 the Great Western discontinued

its agency in Milliken. The depot was sold to the agent, Dave Gaw, and moved to a residential area. Now it is at 116 South Kathleen Avenue.



Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Depot –  
Stroh Collection

- Well drillers struck a strong flow of artesian water at a depth of 450 ft. in the well that was dug for the railroad. Analysis of the water showed it to contain a large percentage of soda, making it unfit for use in steam engines. The water was a good quality for domestic use. The drillers dug on to a depth of 650 feet and cased the well for use.
- The town continued to grow and expand.
  - A Milliken Club was formed.
  - A Milliken band was organized.
  - A baseball team was organized.
  - Revival meetings were held in the schoolhouse.
  - S.A. St. John rented the building occupied by the poolhall and started a tin shop.
  - Eddy Mercantile Store opened with H.G. Pollock as manager.
  - Judge Milliken property was purchased by Thomas Lowe from Jewell, Kansas.
  - Wilkie & Huey erected a planing mill on Grace Avenue and installed various kinds of wood working machinery and a gasoline engine.
  - Young people of the surrounding country held a "comet" dance in Antlers Hall, the first dance in the new hall.
- Dr. E.H. Bidwell arrived from Connecticut in March 1910 to be a physician for the town.
- Wilkie & Huey were the contractors for the First State Bank Building being built on the northwest corner of the intersection of Broad Street and Irene Avenue. The building was to be constructed of brick, 60 x 80 feet, and two stories high. During construction forms on the west side of the foundation collapsed causing more work. The building was completed and occupied by the bank, post office, telephone office, Dr. Fuson's office, I.O.O.F. lodge, and office for C.H. Baker and living quarters when it was destroyed by fire in January 1913.
- Dr. Grantham was a medical doctor in town in 1910.
- A large brick building was almost completed in May 1910 for Madam Berrick. She lived in Denver and made trips to Milliken to oversee the renting of the building when it was finished. This was used as a rooming house, extra schoolrooms, a storage building, a doctor's office, a dentist's office, and other businesses. In 1997 the Colorado Community Bank opened in the remodeled brick building at 107 South Irene Avenue.
- The first train over the new rail line from Denver, Colorado, to Greeley, Colorado, arrived in Milliken in May 1910. Approximately 150 guests from Nebraska, Kansas,

Oklahoma, and adjoining states were aboard. About thirty residents of Milliken joined them for the honor of riding the first passenger train over this road, the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern, to Greeley. The trip took almost an hour as the last few miles were over rails that were not spiked. A rough estimate of 500 Greeley residents met the train and gave the visitors a free automobile tour of Greeley.

- The School Board election of District No. 64 was held with M.A. Dorman receiving all fifteen votes cast. Voting a tax levy for the following year was discussed at the meeting following the election and a 12-mill levy was set. M.A. Dorman succeeded Link Miner on the board.
- In May ground was broken for the erection of a building to be called the Rogers Garage. This building on Harriett Avenue was built of pressed brick, 50 x 50 feet, and was two stories high. D.W. Rogers and Walter Phillips were the principal stockholders. Mr. Phillips handled the auto repair part of the business and Mr. Rogers was the salesman for autos.



Rogers Garage, later owned by James Flood –  
Milliken Mail 1909

- Children of the White Hall School that was located two miles south of Johnstown came to Milliken in two hayrack loads to see the new town.
- Schoolteachers for the year 1910 were Miss Anna Johnson, Miss Meyer of Pierce, Colorado, and Miss Bragg of Greeley, Colorado.
- A large crowd was present at the water meeting held in the Bank Building. It was unanimously decided to form a stock company and purchase the well from the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railroad Company. Plans called for lots to be purchased, a water storage tower erected and water mains to be laid.
- Dr. C.C. Fuson from Denver, Colorado, arrived in June 1910 and established an office for the practice of medicine in the Antlers Hotel. One month later he and his family moved into the R.M. Benton house at 120 South Frances Avenue. Mrs. Fuson was a nurse and aided Dr. Fuson. In July the office was moved to rooms in the First State Bank Building and in November was moved into his home.
- Workmen under the supervision of H.J. Gilbreath were in town wiring houses in preparation for the arrival of the Northern Power Electric Company.
- Also in 1910, E.T. Lister installed the track scales for the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railroad.
- In July 1910, citizens became interested in the inventions of blacksmith W.K. Lewis, the Baby Beet Puller and the Yankee Beet Topper. Colorado Beet Harvester Company purchased the patent and Mr. Lewis received controlling interest in the company. The Beet Puller became well known and universally used in the beet



industry. Later Mr. Lewis was selling two-horse Baby Beet Pullers for forty dollars each.

- Workmen erected a water tank for the railroad at the corner of Broad Street and Harriett Avenue. A shallow well 15-ft. deep was dug to supply water for the engines of the railroad. The water was treated to rid it of the alkali.
- A gaslight was installed in the United Brethren Church located at 1300 Elm Street, and a gas lighting system was installed in the Eddy-Pollack building.
- Dances by the Milliken Band and wrestling matches were held in Antlers Hall.
- Accidents with horses were quite common. The Milliken Mail reported that "a team belonging to William Franks furnished some excitement by running away. They became frightened of the train and ran a mile before running into a tree which stopped them. Damage was done to the wagon, and the horses had cuts and bruises on their legs."
- More relocations were noted:

Mr. and Mrs. G.R. Harrison moved into the Snider tent house at 119 South Katheleen Avenue

The Heskett building at the corner of Grace Avenue and Broad Street was remodeled and occupied as a barbershop by L.W. Bonnie.

Mrs. Clugston moved into her new house in the southeast part of town.

Stacy Anderson rented the room formerly occupied by the drug store in the Cement Block Building for use as a bakery.

The McCausland Jewelry Store was moved into the Antlers building.

- The Hillside ditch ran through town and the Realty Company had part of the ditch covered. The ditch ran behind the 900 Block of Broad Street, went under Broad Street and the railroad tracks, and surfaced into an open ditch which ran in front of the business houses on the north side of the 1000 Block of Broad Street. This open ditch was the part covered. The Realty Company spent \$1,500 for labor and materials in putting in concrete walls and using heavy planking to span the top. In later years the ditch was rerouted.
- In July 1910, S.K. Martin, General Freight and Passenger Agent of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railroad announced that a new grain elevator would be erected at the connection of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern and Great Western tracks. The elevator would be completed in time for grain handling in the fall.



The Denver Elevator – gift from Hazel Snider Summers to Strohs

- A telephone exchange was located in Milliken by the Colorado Telephone Company. The exchange was housed in the First State Bank Building at the northwest corner of Irene Avenue and Broad Street.
- An election was held in September 1910, for a decision to be made upon incorporation of Milliken. Forty-six ballots were cast for the proposition and none against.

<p><b>HODGSON</b> 35 miles from Denver, on the South Platte River. The soil is a sandy loam adapted to the raising of very early potatoes, wheat, oats, hay and all garden produce, and is in the best sugar beet belt in Northern Colorado.</p> <p><b>FORT SAINT VRAIN</b> is located 39 miles from Denver, on the South Platte River, and situated in one of the richest farming sections, and all under irrigation. The country adjacent is destined to be one of the greatest truck garden sections in the State.</p> <p><b>MILLIKEN</b> the rustic city of Northern Colorado, located 43 miles from Denver in the Big Thompson Valley, in the best sugar beet belt in Colorado. It is the hub of an irrigated section, where the water rights are the richest in the state, and where a crop failure is never known. There is no richer agricultural section in the United States than that adjacent to the town. Milliken offers the best inducements for business and pro-</p>	<p>essional men, home builders and working men, of any new town in Colorado.</p> <p><b>GREELEY</b> the oldest town in Colorado, founded by Horace Greeley. This town has churches, banks, public library, electric railway system, water works owned by the City and the finest schools in the state, being the home of the State Normal School. Greeley is known the world over for the quality and quantity of its potatoes, cabbages and onions.</p> <p>—</p> <p>Address W. H. Olin, Industrial Agent, Denver, for information regarding the wonderful opportunities along this new road.</p>	<p><b>THE DENVER, LARAMIE &amp; NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD</b> "Laramie Route"</p> <p>—</p> <p>For additional information in regard to rates, etc., call on or address any agent of this Company, or</p> <p><b>S. K. MARTIN</b> General Freight and Passenger Agent 919 Seventeenth St. Denver, Colo.</p>	<p><b>THE DENVER, LARAMIE &amp; NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD</b> "Laramie Route"</p> <p>—</p> <p><b>TIME TABLE</b></p> <p>—</p> <p>THIS COMPANY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO VARY FROM TIME SHOWN WITHOUT NOTICE</p> <p>JULY, 1910</p> <p><small>THE C. F. HOSKEL B. B. CO. DENVER</small></p>
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Time Table for Denver, Laramie & Northwestern R.R. – Greeley Museum

- During the month of August, 1910, a cellar 24-x 40-ft. was dug on a lot owned by N.W. Gower on the north side of Broad Street between Grace Avenue and Frances Avenue. A building was erected there and is thought to have been the first city hall in Milliken. In 1996 the City Complex was erected at that site.
- The Town Council agreed to close the alley on Kent Lane to give additional land for the new flour mill. By closing Kent Lane and the alley in Block 70, ground was available for trackage. The location was just south of the Laramie depot.
- The Greeley Degree team and three of the officers of Grand Lodge instituted a local Odd Fellows Lodge in December 1910, to be known as Milliken Lodge No. 97. The lodge started with a membership of thirty-five. The following officers were elected: C.A. Kuehnle, H.M. Porter, Fred Lohry, W. Mc Causland, W.T. Lowe, W.A. Purvis, Stanley Garner, J.T. Messick, G.W. Snider, S.A. St. John, Chas. Vetter, C.C. Fuson, G.R. Harrison, G. Ferguson, William Franks, Walter Hoelt and Benjamin Stevens.
- Postmaster E.D. Riker was notified that beginning August 29, 1910, the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern would carry mail.
- On September 26, 1910, the Milliken Mail reported that in Washington, "John D. Milliken, William L. Clayton, Zeph Charles Felt, W.T. Lowe and W.A. Williams filed an application with the comptroller of the currency for authority to organize the First National Bank of Milliken at Milliken, Colorado. The proposed bank will employ a capital of \$25,000." The building was never erected, but for years the foundation was visible at the southwest corner of Irene Avenue and Broad Street, the site of the present fire department building.

- Milliken's first municipal election was held October 10, 1910, in Antlers Hall. Two tickets were running. Citizens (C) and Peoples (P). The following is the result of the counting of the ballots and the number each candidate received:

For Mayor:

R. M. Benton (C) 39 votes

W. McCausland (P) 36 votes

For Trustees:

H.B. Crawford (C) 42 votes

H.G. Richmond (C) 36 votes

M.A. Dorman (C) 35 votes

George Gray (P) 38 votes

J.T. Messick (P) 42 votes

C.J. Mather (C) 37 votes

H.G. Pollock (P) 37 votes

E.D. Riker (C) 30 votes

G.W. Snider (C) 35 votes

J.E. Wolf (P) 39 votes

H.L. Townsend (P) 36 votes

H.M. Porter (P) 30 votes

At the city limits of the new town of Milliken, there is a sign of warning to automobile drivers, that no doubt is not duplicated in any part of the world. Many a golden smile has been caused to flash upon the faces of automobile speeders when greeted by this Milliken announcement. Generally when reaching a town or village, one is greeted with notices that cause a shiver of apprehension and visions of the county jail. On rural trips the signs most frequently read, "\$25 Fine for speeds greater than eight miles per hour within city limits." Not so with the sign at Milliken. Standing out in bold lettering is the proclamation, "Speed Limit Fifty Miles an Hour. A Fine of \$25 will be imposed upon anyone not able to make it."

Motor Field, August 1, 1910,  
Reprint from the Milliken Mail, 1910



**C. D. Bechtol**  
 City Dray  
 Excavating and  
 General Teaming  
 Leave orders at Clayton  
 Lumber Co.  
 Milliken, Colorado

**ELKHORN LIVERY**  
 WM. FRANKS, Proprietor  
**Livery, Feed and Sale Stable**  
 Auto For Rent By Hour or Trip  
 First-class Turnouts and Courteous Treatment

**Wilkie & Huey**  
 Contractors and Builders  
 Plans Drawn & Estimates Furnished  
 MILLIKEN - COLORADO

**Milliken  
 Tin Shop**  
 S. A. St. John, Propr.  
 We have opened a tin shop  
 in the pool hall building and  
 are prepared to do anything  
 in the way of tinwork.  
 GIVE US A CALL.

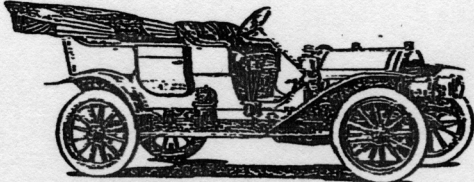
**Benjamin F. Hill**  
 Attorney-at-Law  
 General Practice in all State  
 and Federal Courts  
 Milliken, Colorado

**Dr. C. C. Fuson**  
 PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON  
 Office in Bank Building  
 Milliken, Colorado  
 Phone Cambridge 191

**Bakery and Confectionery**  
 Confectionery, Cigars, Bakery  
 Goods and Fresh Fruit  
**Lee's Confectionery**

**An Open Confession  
 is Good for the Soul**  
**WE WANT YOUR MONEY**  
 But in return propose to give you the best mer-  
 chandise on the market at a little lower  
 price than you are used to paying.  
 AND IT IS THE LITTLE THINGS THAT COUNT  
 Our stock of everyday requirements is complete and  
 we submit it to your intelligent judg-  
 ment as to quality and price.  
 Dry Goods, Notions, Ladies' and Gents'  
 Furnishings and Shoes  
 A new stock of Rubber Boots just arrived  
**The Eddy-Pollock Merc. Co.**

**J. E. Wolf**  
 Blacksmithing, Horseshoeing and  
 Wood Work  
**Everything Guaranteed First-class**



**REGAL 30**

**ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PUBLIC**  
 We have secured the local agency for the above make automobiles, which  
 are proving their superior merits every day. We will have one or more of  
 these cars in our shop all the time for demonstration purposes, and will be  
 pleased to talk auto with you if you are interested. We also intend to put in a  
 complete auto repair shop soon as our building is completed. AUTOS TO LET

**THE ROGERS MOTOR COMPANY**

**The Milliken Pharmacy**  
 ERNEST P. WYSS, Proprietor  
 DRUGS, STATINERY, CIGARS  
 AND SOFT DRINKS  
**CARLSON'S ICE CREAM**  
 You will find the Current Denver Dailies on our news-  
 stand at all times.

Adds from 1910

IN THE MATTER OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILLIKEN

A subdivision of the N $\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 11, and the South 60 feet of Section 2, Township 4 North, of Range 67 West of the 6th P.M., Weld County, Colorado.

Petition filed in the County Court, Weld County, Colorado, August 18, 1910, asking that the following described property be incorporated as the Town of Milliken: "Beginning at the Northwest corner of Section 11, Township 4 North, of Range 67 West; thence south 0° 19' west along the west line of said section, a distance of 2647.57 feet to the west quarter section corner thereof; thence south 88° 35' east along the east and west center line of said section, a distance of 5330 feet to the east quarter section corner thereof; thence north 0° 27' east along the east line of said section, a distance of 2638.08 feet to the northeast corner of Section 11; thence north 0°

31' east along the east line of Section 2, a distance of 60 feet; thence north 88° 47' west parallel with and 60 feet distant from the north line of Section 11, a distance of 2669.21 feet to the west line of said Section 2; thence north 88° 47' west parallel with and 60 feet distant from the north line of Section 11, a distance of 2669.21 feet to the west line of said Section 2; thence south 0° 33' east along the west line of Section 2, a distance of 60 feet to the northwest corner of said Section 11, the place of beginning."

Order entered by the County Judge of Weld County, Colorado, approving all matters in connection with the incorporation of said Town and declaring the property above enumerated to be included within the Town of Milliken, and "that the Town of Milliken will be declared a municipal corporation of less than 2000 inhabitants, and will be and hereby is designated, denominated and classed an incorporated town."

Order dated September 17, 1910, and signed by G. H. Bradfield, Judge and Ex-Officio Clerk of the County Court, County of Weld and State of Colo-

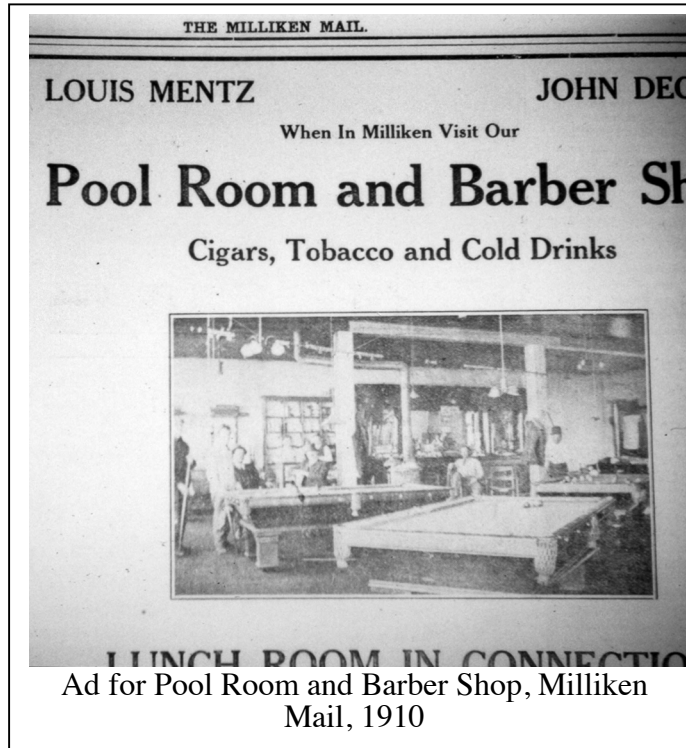
rado.  
Filed in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder of Weld County, Colorado, September 24, 1910, at 2:45 o'clock P.M.

Incorporation of Town of Milliken – Stroh Collection

- As a result of the election in Milliken efforts were made by the Anti-Saloon League in Greeley to circulate a petition making the entire county dry. It was believed that with the men elected, a saloon would soon be established in Milliken.
- The first municipal meeting was held on October 10, 1910, in the Antler's Hall with Mayor R.M. Benton presiding: Five of the trustees were present; George Gray, H.G. Pollock, J.T. Messick, H.B. Crawford and C.J. Mather. The first meeting was held to organize a city government and the following appointments were made: J.R. Miller, Clerk; C.A. Kuehnle, Marshal; Mrs. G.R. Harrison, Treasurer. A committee on ordinances was approved and was to report at the next meeting.
- At the next Town Council meeting the work of constructing and passing ordinances was discussed. With the assistance of Attorney Allen from Loveland, Colorado, six ordinances were read and passed. Ordinance No. 1 was a Herd Law. The Herd Law read in part: that all horses, mules, asses, cattle, swine, or sheep running at large

within the corporate limits of the town are declared to be nuisances, and anyone being the owners of the animals, who allows them to run at large within the corporate limits of the town shall, upon conviction, be fined not less than three dollars for each offense.

- Ordinance No. 2 concerned gambling, No. 3 concerned dogs, No. 4 was the licensing of games, No. 5 concerned liquor licensing and No. 6 pertained to disorderly conduct. E.D. Riker was appointed Police Magistrate, and the bonds of he and Marshal Kuehnle were approved.
- Three applications for saloon licenses were received from Camnitzer & Lucas, William Daniels, and I. Forcade. The council discussed the appropriateness of making a decision on them and was advised by Attorney Allen that they had the power to issue the licenses. The question was put to a vote that resulted in a vote of 4 to 2 in favor of granting all three licenses which permitted the sale of intoxicating liquors in Milliken. The license fee was set at \$1,500 per year.
- Isadore Forcade opened his saloon in the Mentz building located on a lot at the corner of Broad Street and Harriett Avenue, the first of the three to be ready for business. His business was called the Kentucky Family Liquor House, and he imported all liquors from



Kentucky distilleries. William Daniels opened his saloon on the north side of Broad Street in the Benton Building and advertised Jim Baker Whiskey and Crystal Springs Beer.

- People came from everywhere to attend the first Harvest Jubilee held Saturday, November 29, 1910. Some came from Denver, and some were from Greeley. Farmers from miles around also came to town. One of the most interesting features of the day was the agricultural exhibit held in the Rogers Garage on Harriett Avenue. Premiums were awarded to the following:
  - Spuds: Charles Swink, 1st, S.D. Griffith, 2nd.
  - Wheat: C.H. Tromble, 1st
  - Apples: J.M. Morris, 1st, C.E. Mellon, 2nd
  - Squash and pumpkins: Mrs. J.M. Morris, 1stAlso a prize was awarded for sugar beets.
- After judging of the exhibits and awarding premiums, the Denver, Laramie Realty Company proceeded to sell town lots at auction, and thirty lots were sold. The day was judged a success as the Realty Company made money and the Milliken district had effective advertising.

Milliken is still having all kinds of trouble with its jail. There is a lovely new one in course of erection, but that will not be ready until Saturday night. Meanwhile any old thing that will answer the purpose of city strong box is being used.

The City Marshal captured a couple of tramps recently, both of whom were so drunk that they could not tell their names, whence they came nor why. The new jail not being in shape, the Marshal utilized a Denver, Laramie & Northwestern box car that was standing on the side track not doing anything except remaining empty.

The Marshal locked the pair in the car and left them, feeling that they would be safe until being brought to court.

But there was one contingency he failed to note. He knew the men could not break out of the boxcar, but he forgot to warn the engineer of the switch engine of the human freight enclosed in the empties. The engineer happened to spy the car looking so lonesome on the sidetrack and thought that there might be more business for it in Denver. Without further investigation he backed up his engine, bounced the car a lick or two and started gaily toward Denver with it.

The City Marshal happened to catch a glimpse of the car as it was being dragged from the sidetrack.

Hey there," he yelled to the engineer, "bring that back."

The engineer didn't understand, but the vigorous signaling caused him to stop to investigate what the trouble might be.

You've got my jail there and all the prisoners," explained the arm of the law. "You can have the jail if you will leave me the prisoners."

The proposition looked all right to the engineer. Being a believer in preserving the peace of Milliken he left the jail and the hoboos until Saturday when the new calaboose will be in working order.

Source: *Milliken Mail*, August 1910

The Greeley papers published a sensational story in relating that 17 gamblers were arrested at Milliken, taken to county court and fined. It is only just to the men in question to state that none of them were, nor are, of the professional gamblers class, as might have been construed from the Greeley accounts but that they are working and business men who it is said were in the habit of playing a social game of cards for the price of cigars to the crowd, merely for pastime, and not with the intention of gambling in the usual sense. Their fines were just as high as had they been playing for larger stakes. It seems these minor offenders were dealt with rather severely under the name of law and justice

Source: *Milliken Mail*, October 1910

Milliken's town jail, city bastille, home for the homeless or those who cannot find their way home, has reached completion and is now awaiting its first tenant. It is not a large building but is quite strong, being of re-enforced concrete, floor, roof and all. The ceiling is low and the windows small. It is not a pretty structure viewed from either side of the door, but has been the means of columns of free advertising for our town the past few weeks.



George Griffith and W.H. Parsons in front of the jail, *Milliken Mail*, 1910

Source: *Milliken Mail*, November 18, 1910

The jail was constructed in the area of the City Complex now, about one hundred feet north of Broad Street, near the alley.

- The same issue of *Milliken Mail* contained an account of N.W. Gower's walk along the railroad tracks. "He stepped in a hole which caused him to fall striking his nose on a rail. The bridge of the nose was caved in and the frontal bone was fractured which required delicate surgery with local anesthesia. Two weeks will probably see the injury healed."
- City Clerk Miller began collecting a dog tax in November 1910.
- Attorney B.F. Hill planned to sue the Town of Milliken to secure payment for professional services rendered during the incorporation of the town. A meeting was



held in Antlers Hall for the purpose of recommending to the Town Council disposal of certain bills presented as expense in the corporation. Some were recommended to be allowed while others were deemed exorbitant.

- The Denver, Laramie Railroad Company pulled off two of the passenger cars, Nos. 1 and 4, replacing them with a new McKeen motor car. This ran by gasoline and made better time than the steam cars.



- The town continued to grow and expand. Under the name of Bechtol & Mellon, C.F. Bechtol and C.R. Mellon opened a restaurant and short order house in the building previously occupied by Johnson's harness shop.
- J.D. Dunn became the owner of the Western Lumber Yard & Supply Company and the name was changed to the Milliken Lumber Yards. The motto: A square deal to all. This was at 105 North Irene Avenue.
- J.D. Eddy formed a co-op of mercantile stores as it was cheaper by group buying, and stockholders would receive a share of the profits.
- An advertisement placed in the Milliken Mail offered a two-room house and one lot on a good location for sale at a bargain price of \$325.
- Coal was selling at five dollars for 2,500 pounds.
- The Home Bakery owned by Mrs. Barney Westfall offered homemade bread, pies and cakes for sale.
- Crews employed by the Colorado Telephone Company and the Northern Colorado Power Company were working in Milliken in December 1910. The local telephone exchange was expected to be completed early in 1911.
- Catholic Church services were held the first and third Sundays of each month in the Antlers Hall under the leadership of The Reverend Father Casey of Greeley.

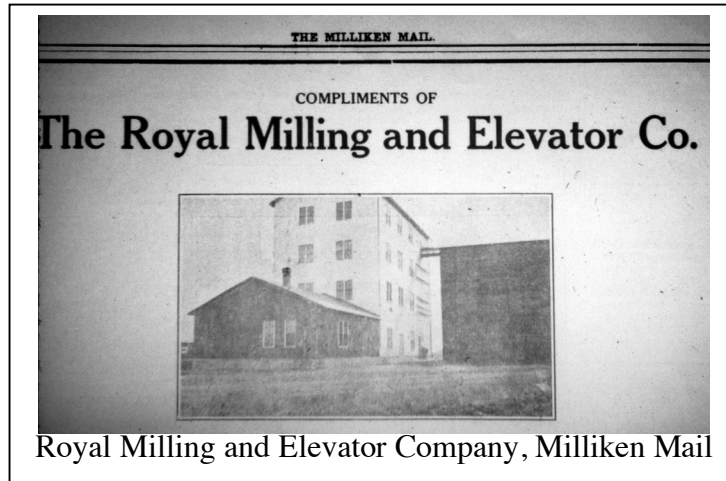
## 1911 - First Well - First Major Fire

- Growth throughout 1911 involved the addition of new businesses and services.
- George N. Holmes opened a shoe repairing shop in the room at the rear of J.W. Heskett's office that was at 1020 Broad Street.
- William Dingle moved his drug store to the west room of the new Hoeft Building which was about 1005 Broad Street.
- Mr. Berkheimer, the manager of the Farmers Lumber Company, moved into the Wesley Adams house.
- Don Wolfe sold his blacksmith shop to Mr. Wright who came from Evans, Colorado.
- Residents were promised to soon be able to use telephones as the switchboard had been installed in rooms in the Bank Building, and most of the town was wired for the use of the phones. Mrs. Hattie Evans was in charge of the office.
- A fire at noon, in January, was discovered in a pile of hay at the south end of Chas. Bechtol's barn. Neighbors aided the family and succeeded in extinguishing the blaze.
- Incorporation papers for the organization of the Royal Milling & Elevator Company, with a capitalization of \$250,000 were filed March 3, 1911. The Incorporators were farmers and businessmen of northern Colorado mostly in the vicinity of Milliken.

George A. Hodgson was named President of the \$80,000 elevator that was to have a capacity of 500 barrels of flour per day. David Roberts was Vice-President and General Manager, and R.M. Benton was Secretary-Treasurer. Other directors were George B. Long of Denver and J.W. Heskett of Milliken.

Construction was started in August 1911, and the mill was destroyed by fire in July 1920.

The Royal Milling & Elevator Company was



**SPECIAL  
VALUES----**

**International Suits and  
Overcoats—**  
Made to measure at very  
low prices, with the usual  
quality, style and work-  
manship.  
Suits ..... \$17.50 to \$36.00  
O'coats .. \$17.50 to \$34.00

**Men's Suede Leather  
Jackets—**  
Very serviceable .... \$5.25

**Ladies' Rollins Run-Stop  
Silk Hose—**  
Chiffon or service weight,  
at ..... 75c and \$1.00

**Men's Leather and Sheep  
Lined Coats—**  
At very reasonable prices.

**Ladies' Rayon Bloomers--**  
Popular shades ..... 39c

**ELAM'S**

**Where Quality Tells and  
Price Sells**

situated along the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern railroad tracks south of the Milliken business district. It was south of the Denver, Laramie, & Northwestern and Great Western depot and east of the ball field of the present Milliken Middle School.

- A formal opening of the Colorado Telephone Company was March 4, 1911. Light refreshments were served, and the ladies received flowers; men were given cigars. A feature of the day was a free toll call to any part of the state for each visitor.
- Farmers of the state were holding meetings concerning the grasshopper problem. Paris Green, a grasshopper poison, was shipped into northern Colorado in anticipation of the big hatches of grasshoppers expected in the spring.
- Freight traffic on the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern was rapidly increasing. Daily shipments for Johnstown were transferred over the railroad spur that ran between Milliken and Johnstown.
- At the Town Council meeting, an order was issued to Marshal Kuehnle to see that all curtains in the saloons were not more than four feet high at all times and that windows would be uncovered on Sundays, as complaints had been made regarding Sunday business.
- In January 1911, Holmquist & Kuehster were awarded the contract for drilling a water well for the town. Within sixty days the use by the town of the well owned by the railroad company was to cease. On March 11, 1911, at 8 A.M., the whistle of the well drilling engine rang out. All in hearing distance knew the meaning of the signal and a crowd soon gathered at the well site. The first to arrive were in time to witness the flow of water boiling over the top of the well casing, two and one-half feet above the surface of the ground. The well was drilled a little deeper than 445 1/2 feet. In 1937 a stone building was erected over this well. Presently the stone building houses the City Police Department.
- The track-laying machine of the Union Pacific Railroad arrived at Broad Street March 23, 1911. Work was temporarily halted while the camp and headquarters of the workers was moved from La Salle, Colorado, to Dent to be nearer the work.
- A report from the town treasurer for the six months ending March 15, 1911, showed the town had cash on hand of \$1795.93.
- The first burglary in Milliken was to Billings & Harper by three strangers who had been "hanging around." Thirty-five dollars in merchandise was taken, and they soon disappeared.

A strong wind happened Monday night. It blew down many signs and some of the smaller buildings in town were capsized and wrecked. Every house was filled with the sifting sands.

Source: *Milliken Mail*, March 1911

Those attending the moving picture show in the Antlers Hall Wednesday evening say it was good. We are not in a position to say, since our critic was not there, owing to the fact that the management failed to come through with any comps. Source: *Milliken Mail*

- James M. Hanby, an old time trapper, displayed a silver fox fur skin valued at \$1,000. The animal was captured in the hills to the west. Hanby, at seventy years of age, is in vigorous health and smiled at the idea that there are no fur bearing animals left in the Colorado mountains. (Taken from the *Milliken Mail*, March 1911)
- The dreaded word FIRE was heard again in May 1911. Smaller fires attributed to hot ashes had occurred, but this was the first fire of a major consequence. The buildings on the north side of Broad Street burned. Two buildings were owned by Hoeft Brothers and occupied by William Dingle's Drug Store, Hoeft Brothers Floral and Feed Store and a grocery department. The other building, owned by R.M. Benton was used as a grocery and meat market. The burned out section was on the north side of Broad Street and east of the Denver, Laramie railroad tracks. Across the street, at 1004 Broad Street, all the glass was broken in the Cement Block Building by heat and water. The losses were as follows as reported by the *Milliken Mail* May 1911:

R.M. Benton building, \$1,000, insured for \$1,000

Hoeft Bros. building and stock, \$8,600, insured for \$4,600

Wm. Dingle Drug Store and household goods, \$3,000, no insurance

Billings & Harper grocery and meat stock, \$3,000, \$1,000 insurance

H.E. Tucker household effects, \$1,400, no insurance

Plate glass and glass fronts, \$1,000, partially insured

John and Rose Isaac's personal effects, \$400, no insurance

Mr. Tucker recently sold his property to Hoeft Brothers and stored household goods in the cellar of the drug store in preparation for a trip to California. The fire left Wm. Dingle penniless.

Members of an automobile party returning from Johnstown about midnight discovered the fire. It started in the rear of the Hoeft Brothers grocery store and quickly spread. An alarm was sounded but owing to the lack of fire fighting facilities efforts were concentrated on saving all possible with the use of a bucket brigade.

- Although granted a license for another year, W.H. Daniels closed his bar feeling that four saloons were too many for Milliken. Several months earlier L.E. Mentz was granted a license to operate a saloon in his new corner building at 1000 Broad Street called the Edelweiss Bar.
- Milliken Clay Products Company, for the manufacture of glazed brick and tile out of shale dug from the Milliken area, was incorporated in May 1911. Five acres of shale land were purchased from Joe Morris. Officers were W.R. Adams, President; J.P. Vane, Vice-President and General Manager; and Mr. Kirk, Treasurer. It was located on the riverbank about a mile northeast of town. To reach the area, follow Alice

Avenue north out of town to the Big Thompson River. This was never completed, and some of the structure was visible for years.

Orders have been issued from the superintendent's office of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railroad Company that those near sports who come over from Greeley and attempt to run the train after getting a few drinks of joy water, will be refunded their car fare, and allowed to walk home from any point along the route hereafter, when they try their railroading stunt. This order became necessary owing to the actions of some of the young smart alecks of the county seat.

Source: *Milliken Mail*, May 19, 1911

Over in Greeley the mayor has issued orders to policemen that persons returning from Milliken, who can walk "straight" are not to be molested, holding that the mere fact that they came from Milliken is not sufficient evidence of intoxication. Over here we maintain that so long as a man can lay on the ground without falling off he is not unduly inebriated.

Source: *Milliken Mail*, May 19, 1911

- Earlier in the year, work had started on the foundation and cellar of the canning factory. The Realty Company donated the site for the factory that was to have a capacity of canning 12,000 cans daily. This was through the efforts of J.A. Law of 1241 Lincoln Street, Denver, Colorado. The location was the northeast corner of the intersection of Cherry Street and Josephine Avenue along the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern railroad tracks.

On May 10, articles of incorporation were filed for the Milliken Canning Company with the Secretary of State. The company was financed by local businessmen and farmers and capitalized for \$50,000 in shares of \$100 each. Officers were J.D. Dunn, President and R.M. Benton, Secretary-Treasurer. Directors were R.M. Benton, W.T. Lowe, C.E. Mellon, J.M. Morris, J.D. Dunn and O.E. Webb. Early in June the factory was completed and tested.

The Canning Factory was a failure due to the scarcity of tomatoes caused by crop failures. It was used as a glove factory, then converted into a storehouse. When it was destroyed by fire August 1, 1924, tons of hay were stored in it.

- Three arc lights were installed on Broad Street. One was at the corner of Grace Avenue, one at the railroad crossing and one at the corner of Irene Avenue. All were ready for electricity.
- In June 1911, a new business headed by E.J. Elam from Kansas City moved into the Dunn building, which formerly housed the Townsend Mercantile Company. The firm handled groceries, dry goods and fresh meats. Al Hudson of Denver handled the meat cutting and Miss Ona Horn presided over the dry goods inventory.
- Residents began planning for a Fourth of July celebration in June 1911. It had been a dry spring and crops did not look good, but they were encouraged to aid in

preparations for the celebration and O.L. Hockett's pool hall was selected as the meeting place to formulate plans.

At this meeting O.L. Hockett was appointed chairman and J.M. Porter was appointed secretary. Following is the list of committees formed: Marshal of the day, C.F. Griffith; Finance, Louis Mentz, H.M. Porter, Fred Randall; Baseball, Louis Mentz; Amusement and Program, J.T. Messick, J.W. Heskett, W.T. Lowe, S.A. St. John, E.D. Munn; Speaker, W.T. Lowe, G.M. Noonan, J.C. Flood; Advertising, H.M. Porter, G. R. Harrison, C.F. Griffith; Grounds, Fred Randall, R.E. Lee, Walter Beeman; Transportation, R.M. Benton, E.D. Munn, Louis Mentz.

The Fourth of July celebration here was pulled off according to schedule. The weather for the entire day was ideal and every event was a success. From the time the music started with the arrival of the Loveland band until the time the orchestra played "Home, Sweet Home" at the dance, everyone made merry and enjoyed the day perfectly.

As early as five o'clock rigs began coming to town and by ten o'clock the biggest portion of the crowd, estimated at two thousand, had arrived.

The band led the way to Lola Park where an interesting program was carried out, lasting until dinnertime. Mayor Benton delivered the address of welcome, and then Attorney Garwood held the attention of the crowd with a masterly oration appropriate to the occasion.

The town was decorated with flags and bunting and presented a gay appearance. The hotel, restaurants and lunch stands did a thriving business.

A baseball game between Fort Logan 9th Inf. and Milliken was the first attraction after dinner. The soldier boys easily won the game. Then came the novelty races that were highly enjoyed by all.

While the rains of the day before made everything look better, it also made the racetrack rather heavy, but the horse racing events were pulled off in pretty fair time.

Interspersed throughout the program was music by the band and a concert of excellent music after supper. At 9 o'clock the dance started in Antler's Hall and lasted until 2:30 A.M. The crowd was perfectly orderly.

Source: *Milliken Mail*, July 7, 1911

- In 1910, several farmers from the Milliken area were appearing in courts in Greeley as a result of condemnation suits for right-of-ways through their land, brought by the Union Pacific Railroad Company.
- Upon settling the suits, Union Pacific surveyors began work at the Dent site working north toward Milliken, to build a railroad line for the Union Pacific Railroad Company. Men and teams were used on the grading work at a wage of seven dollars per day for a man and his team.

- By May of 1910, a pile driving crew was building a bridge north of Milliken and in the fall the roadbed from Dent to Fort Collins was completed with the bridge nearing completion.
- The track-laying machine of the Union Pacific Railroad Company arrived at Broad Street in Milliken in March 1911. Within a month a crew of men were making a grade and laying track for a connection of the Great Western and Union Pacific north of Milliken.
- On June 29, 1904, Mary T. Knowlton conveyed a 100-foot wide strip of land to the Great Western Railway Company for the use of a rail line to be built from Johnstown to the Hillsboro beet receiving station (dump). The site of the beet receiving station was the northeast corner of Highway 257 and Highway 60. In October 1911 the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railroad Company and the Great Western Railroad Company built a transfer track for the convenience of the companies. This merger north of Milliken also resulted in a transfer arrangement with the Union Pacific Railroad Company.
- On a Saturday morning at 8:10 in July 1911, the shrill engine whistle of a passenger train announced the inauguration of a regular passenger service on the Union Pacific line. A regular freight service was also provided. Two trains a day passed through Milliken.
- Milliken obtained a chemical fire cart in July 1911. And on August 19, 1911, the first Volunteer Fire Company was organized, the meeting being held in the Antlers Hall.
- C.J. Mathers and H.W. Richmond were the carpenters erecting the Daniels School House east of Milliken. In August they were doing the masonry work on the building.
- Gingham was for sale at Elam's Mercantile Store for 12 1/2 cents per yard.
- A cesspool and lavatory were recent improvements at the Edelweiss Bar run by Louis Mentz. This was the first of this type of plumbing installed in Milliken.
- Twenty-five dollars bought the Famous Old Reliable Sewing Machine at Crawford's store.
- L.R. Henry opened a novelty store in Heskett's building that previously had been a photography gallery.
- H.W. Richmond constructed a home for his own use at 313 Kathleen Avenue that is still there.

**MILLIKEN MEAT MARKET**

**C. J. LEMBKE, Proprietor**

**Quality Meats is our specialty**

**Fresh and cured meats  
of every description**

**Fresh fish every Friday**

**We want your meat business and  
are in a position to give satisfaction**

- In July 1911 contractors were in town to begin constructing the Union Pacific depot and sidetracks. The next month AF. Weidman became the local agent for the Union Pacific and used boxcars for an office until the depot was completed.
- With the arrival of workmen, a tent village developed in the east part of town for housing. The depot was located near the intersection of the Union Pacific line and Broad Street. Milliken now had three railroads, Denver, Laramie & Northwestern, Great Western and Union Pacific.
- Construction of the stockyards was in progress. Pens were located near the Union Pacific railroad line for holding cattle prior to loading into box cars for shipment to Denver. Or they were shipped to Milliken and held in the pens, then driven on foot to their destination. The first shipment was twelve railroad cars of cattle shipped from Milliken to Denver by Melnich & Pepper.
- Antlers Hall was the center for shows and entertainment in 1911.
- A balance was owed to the Denver Music Company for the instruments purchased several months ago for the Milliken Band and a representative of the company was in town searching for the instruments. He issued an ultimatum that if a settlement was not made by December 15, he would return for the instruments.
- Hoeft Brothers began filling an icehouse with natural ice from the Hillsboro reservoir two miles west of town. Ice was cut in blocks from lakes and packed in straw in storage buildings to be used for refrigeration during the summer months.
- The Kentucky Bar ran by Mr. Shaw was under new management. Alfred Rescher was acting as trustee for the creditors. B.J. Timlin of Denver was installed as manager.
- The new Hoeft Building on Broad Street was a definite improvement. It was built on the site of a previous fire during the early part of the year that destroyed a one-story building. The new building was of pressed brick and two stories high. The lower portion had two well-equipped rooms, one being occupied by the owners and the other by Royal McCleod who moved his stock of general merchandise from Hillsboro. The upper portion was divided into sixteen rooms suitable for office or living quarters. Years later the second story was remodeled and used by the I.O.O.F. lodge for their meetings. The brick building is still standing at 1005 Broad Street.

<b>The Mails.</b>	
Arrive...	10:55 a.m. ... 3:40 p. m.
Depart...	9:32 a. m. ... 5:55 p.m.
Sunday mail 10:55; open til 12:00	
<b>U. P. Time Card.</b>	
<b>DENT LINE</b>	
Passenger—going south.	
LaSalle.....	7:55 a. m.
Dent.....	8:18 a. m.
Denver.....	10:15 a. m.
Going north.	
Denver.....	4:50 p. m.
Dent.....	6:47 p. m.
Mixed Train—going south.	
Lv Dent.....	1:30 p. m.
Ar Denver.....	5:35 p. m.
Going north.	
Lv Denver.....	7:00 a. m.
Ar Dent.....	11:25 a. m.
Milliken stops on Dent-Ft. Collins line:	
Going north	9:45 a.m. 6:10 p.m.
Going south	8:05 a.m. 4:30 p.m.

<b>D. L. &amp; N. W. Time Card.</b>	
Going North, daily	
No. 1	No. 3
Lv Denver 8:10 a.m.	1:00 p.m.
Lv Milliken 9:32 a.m.	2:25 p.m.
Ar Greeley 10:05 a.m.	2:55 p.m.
Going North, daily ex. Sunday	
No. 5	
Lv Denver.....	4:30 p.m.
Lv Milliken.....	5:55 p.m.
Ar Greeley.....	6:25 p.m.
Going South, daily	
No. 4	
Lv Greeley.....	10:30 a.m.
Lv Milliken.....	10:55 a.m.
Ar Denver.....	12:25 p.m.
Going South, daily ex Sunday	
No. 2 No. 6	
Lv Greeley 8:00 a.m.	3:15 p.m.
Lv Milliken 8:25 a.m.	3:40 p.m.
Ar Denver 9:40 a.m.	5:15 p.m.
Beet harvest is practically ended and the farmers are now enjoying the earnings of the summer's labor.	



- People from surrounding towns were attracted to Milliken's saloons and the possibility of purchasing intoxicating liquors. This did not add to a peaceful environment and disruptions were common, especially on weekends. At times extra police protection was needed to control the rowdiness. This sometimes wrought havoc at Town Council meetings and some became quite volatile. At one meeting a gun was drawn in an attempt to stress a point. This resulted in a charge of incompetence and malfeasance of office and Fred Randall was discharged as Marshal. Charles Stroh was hired as the new Marshal in December 1911.

Charles Stroh became the new Town Marshall following the meeting of the Town Council as reported in the *Milliken Mail*.

Near riot wrought havoc to the peace and dignity of the Milliken Council chamber last Monday night. There were a number of citizens present, reports having been circulated that there would probably be trouble brewing at the meeting. The curious did not have long to wait.

The mayor asked the marshal, Fred Randall, for his resignation, which he refused to make, uttering a heated talk in his refusal.

Louis Mentz was granted the floor to make a statement to the council, and in his remarks stated that he had been arrested and "kangarooed" by the local court, which aroused the ire of Magistrate Kuehnle to a point where he attempted to take the floor from Mr. Mentz, in his own defense.

The mayor called Charles Stroh to come forward, presumably to restore order, and then the big mix-ups started. Marshal Randall and Stroh clinched for a time, then when the marshal could get a chance he broke a billiard cue over Stroh's head. Excitement followed, and the Marshal drew a gun, maintaining a threatening attitude toward Mr. Stroh, who took refuge behind the rotund body of the mayor. Finally the participants cooled down, and Mayor Benton adjourned the meeting to rooms in the bank, where the council sat in executive session and business was resumed. Charges of malfeasance of office and incompetence were preferred against Marshal Randall, and the trial set for Tuesday evening, December 5.

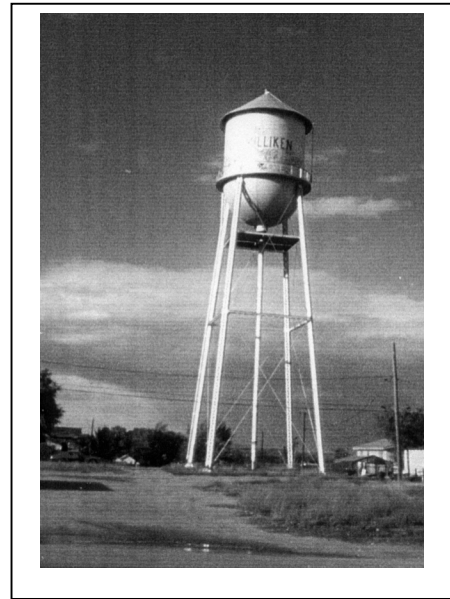
The business at the special meeting of the Council on Tuesday evening was the hearing and trial of Marshal Randall on charges preferred, and started about 8 o'clock P.M. and consumed almost two hours. After arguments by Randall and Magistrate Kuehnle for the defense and Fuson and Benton for the prosecution, the Mayor called for a vote. Motion was made to the effect that the Marshal be suspended for a period of fifteen days and the case continued.

Source: *Milliken Mail*, December 8, 1911

## 1912 - Water Tank Erected

- Postmaster E.D. Riker resigned and moved to Greeley, Colorado, where he entered the Realty business. His assistant, Mrs. Rose Clugston, was temporarily put in charge of the post office. Later it was revealed that upon a visit by the postal inspector a shortage of \$200 was found. The post office was moved to the Bank Building in the room formerly occupied by Eddy-Pollock. This was the northwest corner of Irene Avenue and Broad Street.
- W.K. Lewis, for years the Hillsboro blacksmith, moved his equipment to Milliken in the building originally erected by Wilkie & Huey for a carpenter shop.
- The Milliken Woman's Club was formed April 12, 1912. Two women, one a farmer's wife, Mrs. S.D. (Mary) Griffith, and the other a new bride who had been teaching school, Mrs. H.B. (Mina) Crawford were the originators. These two women called together a group of women for the purpose of organizing a club with the object being to make Milliken a more suitable place to live. The club was organized with nine members enrolled and is still active.
- In May 1912, a crew led by Lee Otney began grading down Tromble Hill north of Milliken, which now is known as Highway 257. The Mad Russian is located at the top of this hill. The improvement had long been needed because the road was steep for those north of town.
- Ladies' Ironclad silk hose sold for fifty cents a pair at Elams.
- The Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company purchased the Northern Telephone Company in April 1912, for \$5,460.
- An ordinance was passed requiring the removal of all hitching posts from Broad Street to keep the street in a more sanitary condition. Posts were allowed on the side streets.
- At a Town Council meeting a vote was taken to buy sufficient trees at town expense to be planted in the park. Residents were encouraged to plant trees on their residence lots.
- Better mail service was needed. The Commercial Club that was responsible for such improvements applied pressure. As a result two mail deliveries were granted. Money order transactions began June 1, 1912.
- M. Camnitzer closed the Camnitzer & Lucas saloon and moved the stock to Evans, Colorado, as his license in Milliken expired.
- C.A. Smith was awarded a contract for \$12,985; to construct a water works system. Work was to begin immediately and be completed within ninety days.
- The Dunn Building formerly occupied by Mrs. Henry was purchased by Mrs. Westfall and moved to lots on the northeast corner of Harriett Avenue and Broad Street where she used it for a bakery. Her advertisement listed the address as North Harriett Avenue. Years later a shoe repair shop owned by Deobald Rotharmel occupied the building.

- Jacob "Jake" T. Messick, a well-liked businessman in Milliken died at his home November 19, 1912. He was born in Synthanna, Kentucky, March 19, 1867, and came to Colorado with his parents in 1879. He and Mrs. Franc Seeley Doherty were married August 25, 1904.
- In the years before the Great Western Sugar factory was built near Johnstown, the company had discard molasses that could not be processed into sugar. This was donated, as an experiment, to surface dusty streets in Milliken. Diluted with water it was sprinkled on streets. A hard rain later showed that moisture would not harm the "syruped" streets and the dust problem was lessened.
- C.W. Woodmansee was the editor of the "Scrapbook" which preceded the "Milliken Mail". Herman M. Porter became editor of the Milliken Mail in 1909. Elmer E. Woods was the editor and publisher in 1912.
- In August 1912, Milliken purchased fifty square feet from Fred Randall from the rear of the lots where his shop was situated. This was to be the site for the city's water works tank.



J.T.R. Miller supervised construction of the tank. The foundation for the tower consisted of four cement piers sunken five feet in the ground each eight feet square at the base and contained in all 945 cubic feet of concrete.

About half of the 75,000 gallon tank was in place August 23, 1912, and the metal workers riveting the tank expected to have it completed soon. This was north of Broad Street in the 1200 block.

- The Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railroad had been riding on its notoriety and prestige of establishing a new railroad line and creating towns along the line, but problems existed. Poor management and the continual lack of funds plagued the railroad and threatened its existence.

Income received from the passenger service did not meet the fixed expenses and mortgage bonds had been received from the Manhattan Trust Company April 1, 1910. Heavy losses occurred, and stockholders, in order to save their investment forced a change in management.

William E. Green who had been the Vice-President replaced Charles Scott Johnson, President of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern. John D. Milliken was forced to resign as President of the Northwestern Land & Iron Company. Both companies were forced into bankruptcy.

September 5, 1911, the Denver, Laramie Realty Company with W.E. Skinner President, and C.L. Wight Secretary, mortgaged to the Stephens Investment & Trust Company for \$15,000 several lots in Milliken. These lots were in Blocks 41 through 48, 28 through 33, 62 through 66 and some in Block 96. Lots 1, 2, and 3 in Block 86

and lots 1, 2, and 3 in Block 87 were included along with the four houses erected in Blocks 86 and 87. Previously it was noted that Company President W.E. Skinner owned four houses in Blocks 86 and 87.

In District Court in Denver on June 13, 1912, Harry C. Riddle presiding Judge, directed that the Continental Trust Company and Marshall B. Smith, both of Denver, be receivers of all property owned by the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railroad. Marshall B. Smith was bailiff of the Denver Court and had no previous experience in railroads.

Receivers were authorized to immediately take possession, continue the operation of the railroad, and conduct business of the railroad. All officers, agents and employers were directed to turn over to the receivers everything in their possession pertaining to the railroad. The receivers also were ordered to report all actions to the court. Within twenty days they were to post bond of \$10,000 with the court.

James B. Orman and Frederick B. Orman, owners of the Orman Construction Company that laid the ties and rails for the railroad line filed a lien against the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railroad, the Continental Trust Company and Marshall B. Smith on August 5, 1912. The co-partners performed the labor and furnished the materials for which the lien was claimed. Balance of the debt was \$6,946.81 plus added interest of eight per cent.

Marshal B. Smith and his brother, Clinton, kept the line going for five years through hard work and reducing expenses. This included reducing personnel and salaries that resulted in making enemies. President William E. Green dissatisfied with the Smith tactics, traveled to Chicago in November 1912, trying to enlist the support of Chicago and New York stockholders in an application for a change in receivership, but was not successful.

- Despite financial woes, Milliken's first annual fall festival was held September 21, 1912. Several prizes were offered: Agricultural exhibit, \$15; Junior baseball game, \$10 to the winning team; Senior baseball game, \$45 to the winning team; Quarter dash horse race, \$15 prize, and \$1 entry fee; Half mile horse race, \$15 prize, \$1 entry fee; Free for all trot and pace, \$30, \$2 entry fee. A merry-go-round was provided as well as free watermelon and cantaloupe.
- Other towns in the area held celebrations in September of 1912: Biscuit Day was held in Erie on September 11<sup>th</sup>; Corn Roast Day was held in Loveland on September 13<sup>th</sup>; Pumpkin Pie Day was held in Longmont; and Potato Day was held in Greeley on September 26<sup>th</sup>.
- In October of 1912, the city was paying rent for a room in the Antlers Hotel where town business was conducted. Around town the question was asked, "Why not take the rent money and build a city hall of our own?"
- George W. Snider, who came to Milliken in September 1909, was appointed Postmaster October 15, 1912. His daughter, Hazel, was his assistant until she became Postmistress in 1914. A great benefit to Milliken postal patrons was the establishment of Rural Route No. 1, which began operation November 1, 1912, with over one hundred patrons.

- Workers started digging ditches and laying water mains in October 1912. Residents soon had the opportunity of having water piped into their homes.
- At a Town Council meeting in October 1912, an ordinance was passed which compelled saloons to close at 11 P.M. Saturday nights and remain closed until 6 A.M. Monday.
- In December 1912, a watering trough was constructed of cement on land east of the Antlers Hotel, to be a convenience to those who desired to water their stock while in town.
- Clyde R. Wilcox purchased the Mozart Cafe, owned by Minor & Schroeder, and in 1913 he sold the cafe and a cleaning establishment.



Hazel Snider, Postmistress, and Dixie Marsh, Telephone Operator, 1914 – gift from Hazel Snider Summers to the Strohs

- Other changes during 1912 included the following:
  - The Gilbert Drug Store moved into the Bank Building.
  - A new saloon, McClusky & Co. began business.
  - The Walter Hoeft family moved to the H.E. Tucker property.
  - William Childers was building a house.
  - J.D. Geiser was building for L.K. Porter.
  - The Sam Crowley family moved from Lawson, Missouri.
  - C.E. Mellon, a teacher, arrived from Lawson, Missouri.
  - L.A. Clancy, farmer north of town, purchased 30 acres at \$150 per acre.
  - E.W. Cox, a carpenter, arrived from Kansas.
  - Oliver Eshe, from Denver, purchased 10 acres on Ethel Avenue north of town, for a poultry business.
  - The O.G. Wheaton family moved from Greeley to Milliken.
  - Jess Stansberry was employed at Frank's Livery Barn.
  - F. Archuletta erected an adobe home in the east part of town.
  - J.A. Geller was in the shoe repairing business.
  - A new coal and grain company was started under the name of Hoeft & Lee, and located near the Union Pacific railroad tracks.
  - Zen Greenlee married Olga McCoy. He had resided in Milliken for the last nine years. She was a schoolteacher.
  - J.M. Morris was building on a claim north of town.
  - J.W. Moore from Larned, Kansas, replaced R.M. Benton as Cashier at the bank.
  - J.A. Daniels lived east of town.

S.T. Wilson purchased the J.D. Dunn residence for \$2,250.

Some other families in this area at the time included the Rhodes, C.E. March, Aaron Bechtol, O.L. Altvater, A.O. Smith, Mossman, William Shable, Boyd, Stroh, Wilburt, Rix, Minor, Sauter, Binder, Joe Hamilton, Lee, Goracke, and Lynch.

### 1913 - Fire Destroyed the Bank Building

- Fire gutted the Bank Building on the northwest corner of the intersection of Broad Street and Irene Avenue January 4, 1913. The two story building was owned by Benton & Cully and occupied by the First State Bank, Gilbert Drug Store, and the Post Office on the first floor and the Telephone Office, Dr. Fuson's office, C. H. Baker's office, Benton & Cully's office, Mr. and Mrs. Benton's living rooms, and the Odd Fellow's Hall on the second floor.

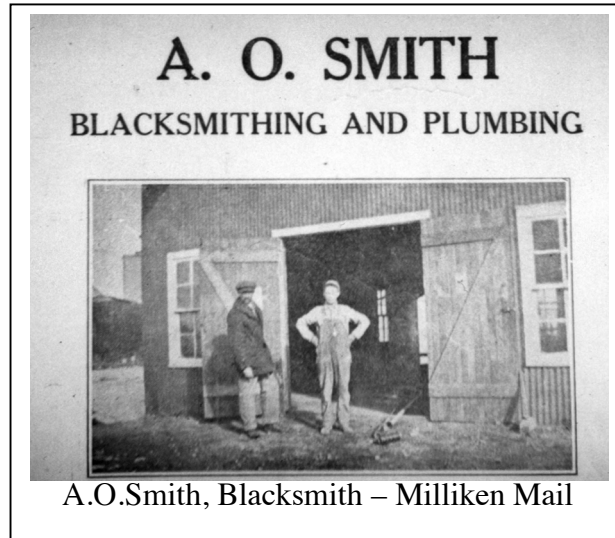
Those who escaped were Howard Farran, Mrs. Ada M. Eller, Manager of the Telephone Exchange on the second floor and her ten-year-old daughter, Thelma, and her sister Miss Adeline Cooper, who was the assistant to Mrs. Eller. All four were forced to flee from the building in their nightclothes. The fire started from defective electric light wiring and spread rapidly. Farran who occupied a room on the second floor near the Telephone Exchange, discovered the fire. He ran to the telephone office, pounded on the door and woke the others. Then all fled to the street.

Another version: Conductor Cross first discovered the fire, whose origin is unknown He ran from the station, leaving his train and broke in the door of the bank, but the flames had such a start that he could do nothing to check them. His alarm brought a quick response, which was able to prevent the spread of the blaze to adjoining buildings. The recent completion of the new water system for the town aided in saving other buildings. After the fire the Bank and the Post Office moved temporarily to the Berrick Building.

- In February 1913, work was started on the foundation for the alfalfa mill that was located across the railroad track south and east from the flourmill. The cost was to be about \$6,000. Also electricians were installing the motor to be used to furnish power for the new flourmill.
- The death of J.A. Daniels was reported in May 1913. He was an early settler of this area and had acquired his land east of Milliken under the Homestead Act.



- Arlie O. Smith erected a building on Irene Avenue opposite the Berrick Building to be used for a blacksmith shop.
- A fire bell was placed at the northwest corner of Harriett Avenue and Broad Street in July 1913.
- The Presbyterian Church invited all to a picnic held in the Loveland Grove west of town, at the southwest corner of the intersection of Broad Street and Quentine Avenue.



- Pat Flynn and family from Cheyenne, Wyoming, moved into the William Childers property.
- Again, George Gray purchased the pool hall that he had owned several times the past two years.
- C.E. March purchased the lumberyard from J.D. Dunn.
- In August 1913, Milliken had the following businesses: One livery barn, one restaurant, one hotel, one bakery, one lumber yard, two coal dealers, one bank, one drug store, three general stores, one telephone exchange, one plumbing and tin shop, two blacksmith shops, three saloons, two pool halls and barbershops, one flour and feed mill, one alfalfa mill, one elevator, two meat markets, one dray line and one auto livery service.
- Early in August 1913, Commissioner Levis supervised a crew of men, managed by Pete Daven, working on the road going east from Broad Street into the country. The intention was to make a good road from Milliken to Twin Bridges. Twin Bridges is east of Milliken on Highway 60. Originally identical bridges were built side by side there.
- A lawyer was once asked by the president of a railroad to suggest a sign that could be posted at railroad crossings, something that would prevent accidents and would also be effective in defending damage suits when accidents occurred. He suggested the three words, Stop! Look! Listen! and for this received \$10,000.
- Crowded conditions in the grammar and primary rooms at the school were not conducive to receiving a good education. An article stated that the light was poor, ventilation was poor and the old school building was hard to heat. Around town remarks were made about spending a little money to have a healthful and suitable place for school duties.
- The Milliken Mail reported December 11, 1913 that J.K. Elliott had invented a useful article for the housewife, an attachment for the sewing machine. "This attachment will work buttonholes in any thickness of cloth without any adjustments needed. It will also do whipping, hemming, patching, hemstitching, quilting, embroider work, or

any work on any part of a garment where a zigzag stitch or wide seam is desired. Several eastern manufacturers are figuring with him in regard to securing it."

- The first week in December 1913 saw the worst snowstorm in many years. The Milliken area received twenty-eight to thirty inches of snow, and all traffic was stopped. Telephone and electric lights were not working. From a Thursday until Saturday afternoon, trains could not get through. Then a snowplow on the Union Pacific Railroad opened the line, and regular mail service continued into Milliken. The Denver, Laramie & Northwestern was also opened for travel. The Great Western Railroad had not cleared the snow as far as Johnstown, and as it was the only line furnishing Johnstown, two of her citizens volunteered to walk to Loveland and return with the mail sacks.
- Bobsleds were appropriate then. Ranchers used them to come to town for supplies. Heavy snow on the roof of the Alfalfa Mill caused the north end of the building to collapse. The storage room was in this area.

#### **1914 - Denver, Laramie Realty Company and Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railroad Bankruptcy Proceedings - Milliken Precinct Voted Dry**

- In January 1914, Louis Mentz constructed an icehouse on his five-acre tract in the southeast part of town. William Vetter had the contract for putting up ice for B.J. Timlin and rented the icehouse belonging to Hoeft Brothers for storage. He constructed a large sled to use in hauling 150 tons of ice to be stored there.
- With Robert E. Lewis as presiding Judge in District Court in Denver, February 10, 1914, bankruptcy proceedings began against the Denver, Laramie Realty Company.

March 11, 1914, with Judge Robert E. Lewis as District Judge and Judge John A. Riner for Wyoming, proceedings continued. Other creditors were heard, among them was George C. Blount appearing for the State Bank of Kansas City, Kansas. This time a different Notary Republic was used. In all previous transactions Maitland Milliken, son of John D. Milliken, was Notary Public.

Before William B. Harrison, referee in bankruptcy in District Court in Denver March 14, 1914, Fermor J. Spencer was appointed receiver for bankruptcy of the Denver, Laramie Realty Company and was required to give bond of \$2,500. The final court hearing on April 13, 1914 judged the Realty Company bankrupt.

- Businesses and construction projects continued to flourish. Andy Koon purchased the restaurant that was next door to McCleod's store from Mr. Pittman. Charles Binder built a small house close to his residence.
- William Shable who lived east of town built a barn. Jake Stroh purchased the C.E. Mellon ranch west of town and built a house there. Jim Briggs built a cow barn. Ed Sappington, who lived southeast of town, erected a barn. William Schmaljohn built a cement silo.
- Mrs. Jennie Curley purchased from Andy Koon the restaurant on the north side of east Broad Street and called it the Cosy Cafe.



- Work on the foundation for the residence of Arch Mellon was in progress at 319 South Kathleen Avenue.
- J.M. Henderson and J.A. Boyd started a glove factory in September 1914 in the upper floor of the canning factory. One of the first orders placed was for ten dozen pairs of canvas gloves.
- W.H. Parsons became Marshal at a salary of \$65 per month, in March 1914. The salary of J.T.R. Miller, City Clerk, was ten dollars per month. J.H. Wilson was Treasurer at a salary of twenty-five dollars per month. C.H. Baker, Police Magistrate was paid eight dollars per month and a fee of \$1.50 for each case brought before him.
- A June 4, 1914, account from the Johnstown Breeze told of a right-of-way secured for a new and shorter road between Milliken and Johnstown. In June 1912 a petition had been circulated about this road. It was to parallel the railroad tracks on the south side, and use land from the W.A. Purvis, Charles Binder and W.K. Lewis farms. A bridge was being built over the Little Thompson River.

The road being used between Milliken and Johnstown at that time led from what is now South Parish Avenue in Johnstown, south to County Road 17, then east on County Road 46 1/2 and on into Milliken. The new road was to be 3/4 of a mile shorter and avoid two bad hills and two corners. Construction of this new road was not started until the beet crops on the land for the right-of-way were harvested.

- Prices to attend the Motion Picture show in Antlers Hall in October 1914 were fifteen cents for adults and ten cents for children. Shows were shown Wednesdays and each Saturday night by Mr. Williams.
- November 1914 Milliken precinct voted "dry" by a vote of 2 to 1.
- Fire destroyed the Lewis Blacksmith shop in November 1914.
- The issue published Thursday, December 10, 1914, marked the beginning of the seventh year of the Milliken Mail and was published under the name of a new editor and owner, Otto L. Altvater, who came from Denver, Colorado. The former owner was Elmer E. Woods.
- A number of young men of Milliken and vicinity organized a young men's club, The Union Club, solely for promoting amusements in town.

### **1915 - Lola Park Almost Lost**

- Parker Lynch and family moved into the Shelton house.
- H.B. Crawford rented the west side of the Hoeft Building and moved his stock of merchandise there. R. McCleod had disposed of his stock that was in the building. The same brick building is at 1005 Broad Street.

Weld County is to have a new courthouse after years of putting up with a building that is too small for the natural growth of the county. It will occupy the same site as the present one and will be Grecian in design. W.N. Bowman is the architect and from all reports has incorporated all the

latest devices in the plans. Bids are soon to be let for the razing of the old building.

Bids on the new courthouse were opened. Sixteen bids were presented with a difference of \$50,000 in quoted prices. The lowest bid was from Seeire and Varnum of Denver who received the contract for \$138,567. This amount included extra for a Colorado granite base and trimmings and was for the enclosed building, floors and roof to be ready to plaster and furnish. The contractor was to have possession of the ground on April 10, and agreed to have the work completed by March 22, 1916.

Source: *Milliken Mail*, January 1915

- A Public Trustee's sale for the Canning Factory brought \$1,000 payable to George Gray. The factory was in Block 24, north of Broad Street on Josephine Avenue in a triangular area bordered by Cherry Street, Josephine Avenue and the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern railroad right-of-way.
- In District Court in Denver, April 24, 1915, the Bankers Trust Company, a successor of the Manhattan Trust Company, which since April 1, 1910, held a mortgage of \$22,500,000 on the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern was judged as having a valid lien against the property of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railroad. By court order the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern was given five days to pay the sum of \$1,772,153.57 or be foreclosed upon and all the property sold.

The claim of the Orman Construction Company, dating back to August 5, 1912 was allowed, \$9,696.34, and secured by a mechanics lien upon the right-of-way of the railroad company. George W. Allen was the presiding judge.

- Jones & Burd had water piped into their pool hall and barbershop and added a public bathroom.
- The Denver, Laramie & Northwestern carried mail between Milliken and Greeley twice a day. The Union Pacific carried mail between Denver and Fort Collins twice a day, stopping in Milliken.
- By order of the court the Antlers Hotel was sold at public auction. The Greeley Building & Loan Association bid \$2,200 for the hotel, and J.B. Herod bid sixty dollars for the furniture. In 1916 the Antlers Hotel was under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Herod with Mrs. Herod being the cook.



Antlers Hotel – gift from Hazel Snider Summers to the Strohs

- From the Milliken Mail, June 24, 1915: "Mr. and Mrs. Arch Mellon were visiting in Loveland Sunday. Mr. Mellon says he has the best jumping horse in the country. It seems that the couple was too interested in each other to watch the road, and as they were going along at a good clip suddenly came upon a calf sleeping in the road. The horse made a neat jump clearing the calf nicely. Mrs. Mellon landed behind the horse with the baby in her arms, while Mr. Mellon had the presence of mind to keep hold of the lines stopping the horse immediately, which saved Mrs. Mellon and daughter, Velma, from perhaps serious injury."
- The Elliott Manufacturing Company was continually advertising new inventions: July 1914 an advertisement listed an oscillating attachment for the sewing machine for sale for \$3.75; In 1915 another invention was a hot pan lifter which was to make it easy for the housewife to lift pans out of the oven without danger of being burned.
- George Griffith was acting Marshal while Marshal W.H. Parsons was out of town and discovered a new way to get rid of hoboes. He noticed that they were congregating in a building owned by Stewart Fielding, called Fielding's Castle, during the evening. Late one evening he decided a raid was necessary and as he thought a gun or club would be too brutal, the city fire hose was attached to a fireplug and thrust through a window. The result was that several hoboes got a soaking and the Castle was soon empty.
- A grain storage elevator 32 x 48 ft. and 55 ft. high was built on the west side of the Royal Milling & Elevator Company in August 1915. Storage capacity was 65,000 bushels of grain. This in addition to the storage room in the mill gave the company storage capacity of over 100,000 bushels.
- Later a warehouse 40-x 60-ft. was erected on the south side of the mill and used to store flour, etc.
- In September 1915, the fire bell rang one evening. The building occupied by the Elliott Manufacturing Company was afire, and immediately the chemical engine was rushed to the scene. The hose was unwound, the crank turned that starts the chemicals fizzing, and the second story door was broken in, ready for the fluid to issue from the hose. All that came from the hose was a cloud of smoke that choked the firefighters. The engine refused to work. Upon retreating from the stairway, the firefighters met J.M. Henderson, the druggist, carrying a fire extinguisher that worked. A second trip was made to the firehouse, and two hose carts were brought to the scene. Soon a good stream of water put out the fire. The second story walls and roof were ruined, and a large hole had burned through the floor. An estimation of damages was \$800 to \$1,000 to the building. Approximately one hundred dollars damage was done by water to the goods stored on the ground floor. (Milliken Mail, September 1915)
- Four stacks of wheat on the Charles Binder farm were burned to the ground representing a loss of approximately 1,600 bushels of wheat. Threshers were preparing to thresh the wheat when a spark from the engine ignited the straw. Mr. Binder owned the farm and Conrad Stroh farmed it. Losses were \$800 to each.
- The first fatal accident to occur on the Great Western Railroad since its completion twelve years ago was that of Lee O'Harren, brakeman for the company. The accident

occurred about a mile west of Milliken when he was coupling sugar beet cars and was pinned between two cars.

- The license of the Union Athletic Club was revoked, and there was to be no more boxing matches held in Milliken. The reason was that the town was given an undesirable name.
- November 8, 1915, Fermor J. Spencer, Trustee of the Denver, Laramie Realty Company bankruptcy, filed with W.B. Harrison the referee, to sell and dispose of Realty property. Then November 30, 1915, in District Court in Denver the Trustee appeared with attorneys Frank England and J.D. Robinson. Those appearing in opposition of the petition to dispose of the property were the receivers of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railroad Company represented by W.W. Garwood, Josepha Barta and attorney Bert Martin, Alfred H. Tufford and attorney D.A. Maloney, Rogirea Archuletta and attorney L.P. McGuire, R.C. Moser and attorney S.H. Howe, Christian and Caroline Wattenberg and Elmer Freeland with attorney D.E. Carpenter.

Also appearing in opposition was the Town of Milliken represented by its mayor, E.J. Elam and attorney John D. Milliken, John Funk and Roy Freeland and attorney E.E. Freeland, John W. Lee, S.D. Griffith, James Morris, Patrick E. Flynn, Andrew Kinsfather, W.H. Parsons, William F. Schultz and C.W. Beer.

The decision was that the trustee dispose of all Realty property in a just and proper way, but no release could be given until a report was made to the referee and was approved. The trustee was to keep a record of each lot sold, the price received, and to whom it was sold.

- Milliken almost lost Lola Park. When the Denver, Laramie Realty Company dedicated the streets, alleys and other public ground to the Town of Milliken, it failed to place in the deed the name of Lola Park. This was discovered when the trustee of the defunct Denver, Laramie Realty Company was going over the records and titles. The town was notified, and upon discussion with John D. Milliken, he offered his services, drew up a petition and presented it to the court. The court granted the request due to the fact that Milliken had spent considerable funds on the park, and the general public understood that this had been dedicated to the town.
- H.W. Richmond constructed a 12 x 25-ft. Brick office building for Dr. Fuson, located west of Crawford's store. It had an office and an operating room. Now it is a barbershop owned by Clyde Bejarano at 904 Broad Street.

### **1916 - Saloons Closed - Hillsboro School House Sold**

- Saloons closed early in 1916. The buildings were being cleared of all fixtures and signs pertaining to them. Pat Flynn shipped his surplus to Cheyenne, Wyoming. Barney Timlin sold everything. L.C. Mentz gave away all but his private collection.

The last week of the saloons here was a banner week for the proprietors as liquor of all descriptions went in a hurry. Sales were estimated at \$3,000 per day.

Local people stocked up considerably, but the largest amount went to neighboring cities, being hauled in wagons and autos right up to the last minute. It was a common sight to see a dozen or more autos on Broad Street loaded to the top with boxes and barrels. One man had a spring wagon with seven barrels of whiskey representing a sum of \$400. Several autos made two or three trips a day. At one time there were 63 autos and rigs in town and at least 50 of these were after the liquid that inebriates.

Saturday night was quieter than it had been for months. Three men were charged with selling liquor to minors. One left town before the sheriff arrived. Two others were arrested but were out on bond soon.

Source: *Milliken Mail*

- The old Mentz saloon was being remodeled for a pool room and soft drink establishment. A new floor was put in and C.F. Bechtol sold his pool room fixtures to L.C. Mentz.

Pat Flynn was driving a few friends up Tromble Hill, Highway 257 now. He tried to go up the hill as far as he could when he decided to "throw her in low". The idea was all right, but the execution was a little slow. The result was that Pat got the lever into neutral or halfway between high and low and the car started back down the hill. Pat tried using the brakes but they wouldn't hold and the car went into the ditch at the side of the road. Luckily no one was hurt but "hair stood on end on several of the occupant's heads.

Source: *Milliken Mail*

- H.B. Crawford, grocer, had a door cut into the store room formerly occupied by E.H. Cunningham and put his hardware inventory there. By doing this he had four display windows and more floor space to use.
- Charles Beer, of Greeley, Colorado, bought a number of tax titles. In February of 1916, he informed the Town Council that he held a deed to the ground occupied by the city jail and the water pumping station, making him the owner of the lots and buildings on them. The trustees thought the town held a clear title, but agreed to pay the expenses if Mr. Beer would give a quitclaim deed to the town for the lots. He deeded Lot 7 of Block 38 and the east half of Lot 23 of Block 37 to Milliken. The water tank, the town well and the jail were on these lots.
- In 1916 Milliken had a school, three general mercantile stores, one bank, a hay business, one coal dealer, one newspaper, one hotel, two blacksmith shops, one drug store, two livery stables, one flour mill, one alfalfa meal mill, one shoemaker, one restaurant, one garage, one lumber company, several pool halls, one Real Estate dealer, and one moving picture house.

- Movies were held every Saturday night and were well attended. H. Williams was employed by the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern and also was manager of the movie house.

- After much hard work, the ladies of the Woman's Club erected and paid for a library. The building is still standing at the southwest corner of the intersection of Frances Avenue and Broad Street. It has been remodeled into a home.



Library – gift from Hazel Snider Summers to the Strohs

- Parcel three of the bankruptcy sale of the Denver, Laramie Realty Company contained 200 lots in Milliken and was offered for sale at public auction for cash at the Stout Street entrance of the new Federal Building, Denver, Thursday October 12 at 2 P.M.
- Complaints were made about chickens being allowed to run at will in Milliken. The Town Council drew up an ordinance to prohibit residents from allowing chickens, ducks, geese, or any other fowls to run at will over the neighborhood. A penalty was attached to the ordinance of from three to ten dollars for each offense.
- J.J. Owens, a heavy investor in the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern, ended his life in his room in the Antlers Hotel in March 1916. Estimates were that he lost \$10,000, all that he had. He had been taking care of holdings of the defunct Denver, Laramie Realty Company and working at Real Estate and Insurance business on the side.
- The road through Milliken and on to Loveland was designated as a state highway. Now it was surfaced and graveled from Twin Bridges to Loveland by a convict gang. The camp housing the convicts was west of Milliken in the Hillsboro area.
- The Hillsboro School House was sold to Pat Flynn for \$305 and he planned to move it into Milliken and make two four-room residences from it. It cannot be confirmed, but speculation is that the two houses made from the Hillsboro schoolhouse are at 110 and 114 South Ethel Avenue. Except for slight alterations they are mirror images and resemble what the schoolhouse might look like if it was split in half.
- Richmond & Peterson, carpenters, built residences for Carl Vetter, Mr. Mackey, W.D. Conlon, Louis Mentz and John Erickson. They also erected barns for Charles Binder and R.E. Hall, and the Daniels School House.
- The Denver, Laramie office was in the charge of Mr. Van Brunt. J.G. Mann was the section foreman and Roy Mann was a worker.
- R.S. Rhodes and H. F. Orthman were contractors and builders of the Royal Milling & Elevator Company, a house for Walter Daniels, and barns for Jim Briggs, John Spomer and C.L. Montgomery.

- James Morris erected the Schmaljohn barn and concrete silo, the residence and barn for Father La Juenessee, houses for John Dorcy and William Setzer, and the grainery and barn for C.B. Goodein.
- John Roberts, manager of the Alfalfa Mill, built a residence beside the mill.
- Construction and relocation continued at a rapid pace:
  - J.M. Henderson, druggist, was building a residence.
  - J.B. Mann finished his residence in the south part of town.
  - J.K. Elliott added rooms to his residence.
  - J.H. Wilson moved into his own home.
  - G.W. Snider purchased the Antlers Hotel, moved into it and reopened for business.
  - Fred Sauter and James Lynch purchased the Milliken Livery Stable, then sold it to F.M. Goracke.
  - Frank Mellon became the owner of the W.K. Lewis farm, west of Milliken in the old Hillsboro area.
  - S. Mendelsohn purchased the O.G. Jones building for a dry goods store and named it the Mendelsohn Bargain Store.
  - H.B. Crawford purchased the house in the west part of town which had belonged to his father.
  - G.W. Goracke purchased the garage building and business formerly operated by William Jones.
- Not a residence in town was for rent. People were looking for lots, as the only way a family could live in Milliken was to build a structure.
- A decision was made at the Town Council meeting in December 1916 to put the water system on a paying basis. A special tax of one cent per foot frontage was placed on each lot in town and the domestic water rate for water users was placed at \$1.50.
- Chicken meals were served by the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railroad in 1910 to perspective residents of Milliken and continued to be cheap meals served by the hotel and restaurants through the years.
- Chicken thievery occurred quite often. Many residents raised chickens, as they were a source of meat and eggs, so consequently thieves appeared. In 1916 several persons were arrested and charged with grand larceny of chickens and vegetables from Milliken and surrounding areas. Some chickens were taken from houses in the Evans area and before they could be taken to Greeley for sale, as planned, the wagon hauling them broke down. The A.A. Taylors operated a restaurant in Milliken and not knowing the ownership of the chickens offered to house them in their chicken house. During the twenty-four hours in this coop they supplied the Taylors with 165 eggs. Later the owners retrieved the chickens from County Jail.

### **1917 - Disposition of Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Property**

- A new restaurant opened in the former location of the Kentucky Bar, to be managed by Mabel Robinson and Mrs. Ed Hoeft.

- Mr. and Mrs. Pete Mercer who were married in September 1916 purchased the bakery business, the building and the residence behind the bakery building from Mrs. Westfall. They both had been residents of Milliken for years. The house is still at 200 South Ethel Avenue.
- The Town Council passed two ordinances. Number 42 forbid the operation of gambling devices in town, and Number 43 pertained to closing business houses on Sundays. Each offense had a penalty of from \$10 to \$25.
- Miss Dixie Marsh became the new telephone operator.
- The Union Pacific sidetracked a car of cinders at the depot for the town of Milliken. This was unloaded by residents and used to make sidewalks in the east part of town, near the depot.
- Ed Cox bought the milk route owned by Jim Brown.
- Dewey C. Bailey, Ex-officio Sheriff of Denver was directed to conduct a sale of all the Denver, Laramie and Northwestern Railroad following a verdict in a Denver Court on June 4, 1917. Judge Henry C. Smiley found that neither the owners of the railroad company nor anyone in its behalf paid the amount owed the Bankers Trust Company.

D.C. Bailey, the Sheriff, sold all of the property to M.S. Radetsky for \$215,000 at public auction after advertisement of details of the foreclosure sale as required by the decree of April 24, 1915. M.S. Radetsky, a dealer in junk, immediately signed a mortgage deed to A.E. Carlton on all the property of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern that he purchased under foreclosure.

The mortgage was in the form of four promissory notes totaling \$165,000. Three were to be repaid to A.E. Carlton. The fourth for \$50,000 payable to the First National Bank of Denver was to be paid six months later, with seven percent interest added until paid. Interest on the above three notes was eight percent. These mortgages were released August 29, 1917.



- A new doctor arrived in town. Dr. G.N. Towers and wife moved into the Mentz house on Broad Street. He took over the practice of Dr. C.C. Fuson who was in the army and stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas. Dr. Towers stayed in town two months.

The Great Western Sugar Company, owning the Great Western Railroad, which connects all towns in northern Colorado, except Brighton, that have sugar factories, completed a deal by which it will take over that part of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern railroad between Milliken and a point one mile north of Celeryvale, twenty-two miles, and continue



operation of that particular stretch as part of the Great Western. Celeryvale was near present-day Brighton, Colorado.

The price paid was made on a junk basis of \$50 per ton and amounted to \$229,000. The sugar company paid an additional \$25,000 for the two Laramie gasoline motor cars, which is one-half their cost when new.

The Public Utilities Commission in an order handed down, which compels the present owners to operate the road as a whole until September 2, confirmed the sale, and at the same time informed Sam Radetsky, Denver junk dealer, that if no orders to the contrary are forthcoming before September 3, he may begin the work of junking that part of the road between Denver and a point one mile north of Celeryvale, and that part of the road between Milliken and Greeley.

Vogel & Whitehead, representing the petitioners who appeared before the Utilities Commission protesting against dismantling the railroad, stated that it would not be possible to say whether an appeal would be taken to the courts.

Commissioner A.P. Anderson, railroad expert, in a report said that in his opinion the territory between Denver and Greeley would be well served under the new arrangement as it has been with the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern operating it. It developed at the session before the Utilities Commission that A.E. Carlton of Colorado Springs, holds an option on all rails Radetsky junks at a price of \$33 per ton.

Carlton let Radetsky have the first \$150,000 payment that the junk dealer made on the line. For the use of this amount for thirty days Radetsky paid Carlton \$15,000 and gave him the rail option. As the market price of relaying rails is \$50, Carlton in addition to the \$15,000 will reap a profit of \$17 per ton on approximately 4,000 tons of rails or \$68,000 as his share of the transaction.

Source: *Denver Times*

The Denver, Laramie dies a suicide's death Monday when the Great Western Sugar Company takes it over. The road came into being by grafting of the innocent investors, more suicides directly happening from the loss of fortunes in this road than any other known, and now finishes in the same grave.

Source: *Milliken Mail*, August 30, 1917

- A.O. Smith leased his blacksmith shop to C.F. Gimple and sold his interest in the Goracke Garage to the Chambers Brothers. Mr. Smith then opened a plumbing business in the old Royal Restaurant building.
- The Farmers Union Milling & Elevator Company purchased the Royal Milling & Elevator Company.

- J.B. Johnson of Fort Collins took over management of the Antlers Hotel from the Snider family. In January 1917, an electric stove was installed in a room in the Antlers Hotel. A slot arrangement on a wall next to the stove was for necessary money to be inserted. Travelers asking for a heated room were given this room at the former price and heat cost extra. Electricity was fed from the street lighting system into the room. A quarter dropped into the slot caused the stove to immediately become hot and keep heating for twelve hours.

- Milliken has always had water problems. The pump broke down several times in 1916 and 1917, and the casing caved in. But this time in 1917 the pump didn't want to start.

The town pump and G.W. Snider had a wrangle Tuesday A.M. The pump didn't want to start and Mr. Snider wanted it to, so there was some hard straining both of muscle and mind, and the pump in some way jumped back and hit the Marshal in the eye, bruising it considerably and breaking his glasses.

Source: *Milliken Mail*, May 3, 1917

- J.M. Morris installed a bean cleaner in the Northern Colorado Elevator Company's warehouse. So many beans came in to be cleaned that he was forced to seek help and hired boys and women of the community to help. After going through the cleaner once to remove the big dirt, the beans were turned over to others to sort them for seed beans. The pay was two cents per pound and a swift boy was expected to do 100 pounds a day. The elevator was on the northeast corner of the intersection of Broad Street and Ethel Avenue.

Members of the Baby Beet Puller Company were in town trying to purchase the patent from the Farm Machinery Company. Stockholders are W.A. Purvis, John and Tom Wailes, J.B. Zeiler, J.M. Ferris and C.P. Goddard.

The patent, of which Mr. Goddard is the originator, is the famous two-way plow. So far only a working model had been made, but it is hoped to revolutionize tractor plowing. The machine plows at each end of a powerful engine and after making one furrow, all the operator must do is to reverse his seat, pull the reverse lever and start back without turning his machine.

Source: *Milliken Mail*, 1917

**1918 - Court Ordered Disposal of Denver, Laramie Realty Company Property -  
Local War Committee Sponsored a Liberty Loan Drive - Flu**

- On January 3, 1918, in District Court in Denver, Fermor J. Spencer as Trustee of the Denver, Laramie Realty Company, reported that pursuant of the order made by the referee October 5, 1914, he had sold at public auction to the Stephens Investment & Trust Company of Denver Lots 1-32 inclusive in Block 17, Lots 1-32 inclusive in Block 18, and 6 shares of Bee Line Ditch Company stock for \$8540.36. Blocks 17 and 18 were in the old Hillsboro territory. The BeeLine Ditch enters Milliken on the northwest edge and runs through town on the south side of Highway 60, then crosses under the highway to the north side and continues east. Accounting for \$8540.36 was as follows:

Stephens Investment & Trust Co, including interest	8261.75
Fermor J. Spencer, referee commission	85.40
Wm. B. Harrison, referee commission	82.61
J.E. Robinson, attorney for trustee	75.00
Fermor J. Spencer, trustee expense	
Postage	3.10
Printing slips	3.25
Railroad fare and expense	3.55
Making sale	9.90
Advertising Tribune-Republican	14.70
M.L. Etchen, stenographer	<u>11.00</u>
	8540.36

The Stephens Investment & Trust Company bid was \$8261.75 that was allowed and a balance of \$278.61 cash was given.

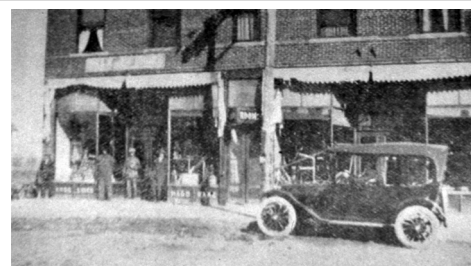
- C.F. Gimple sold his blacksmith shop to Mack Seymour, formerly of Oklahoma, in April 1918.
- The adjoining buildings, the Pat Flynn saloon and the Curley restaurant, were rented and remodeled for a blacksmith shop, wagon shop and machine shop.
- Four houses known as the Adams Addition were sold and moved. The Adams Addition was east of Milliken, on the east side of Alice Avenue, in the area south of the location of the Numero Uno Apartments. Arch Mellon purchased one and moved it to the west part of Milliken. E.J. Elam purchased one and it was moved to his vacant lots in Milliken. The other was purchased by Jacob Betz and William Hart and moved to a farm southeast of Milliken.
- Concern grew about spreading the flu. Customers were requested to hasten purchases in stores. All Pool halls were closed. Barbershops limited customers waiting a turn. Churches and all public gatherings were prohibited.
- The local War Committee sponsored a Liberty Loan Drive, in 1918. The quota for the Milliken precinct was \$15,000 but \$24,000 was subscribed. Residents of Milliken were patriotic and supportive of any effort to aid in World War I.

Teams were appointed to cover the Milliken precinct, and most of them were not turned down, an exception was the team taking the southern end of the precinct. One family refused to consider taking a bond and one citizen gave unsatisfactory answers to the committee members. After a long discussion, a crowd gathered and someone yelled, "Paint him yellow." The citizen was drenched from head to foot with yellow paint and some was daubed on his car.

There was talk of closing the German Congregational Church until the war was over. "We believe this would be a good thing, but we would like to add a little more to do, and that is to close it to any foreign language indefinitely. Anyone who cannot understand the U.S. language or learn to understand it enough to listen to an American talk, ought to be bundled up and shipped back to where he came from. If our language isn't good enough for these people, they ought not to try to live here.

Source: *Milliken Mail*, April 25, 1918

- The Town Council had the old flag pole in Lola Park moved and erected in the center of the intersection of Irene Avenue and Broad Street. The purpose was to remind people to keep to the right while driving.
- Lester March died June 8, 1918, in a hospital in France from wounds received in World War I. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus E. March of Milliken. Lester March Post #70 of the American Legion was named in recognition of his sacrifice.
- In November 1918, H.B. Crawford purchased the Hoeft Building on Broad Street. For the last two years, he had been renting the building. Plans called for remodeling the second floor into rooming areas. This building is still at 1005 Broad Street.
- The Town Council hired a nurse to aid Dr. Wilson and School was closed because of the flu epidemic.
- Dr. G.N. Towers and family moved to Milliken in August 1917, in the Mentz house at 100 South Frances Avenue. He planned to take over the practice of Dr. Fuson who was in the Armed Forces. For some reason Dr. W.B. Wilson became the doctor for Milliken in October 1917, just two months later. He took over the practice for Dr. Fuson while he served as a Major in the Armed Forces in France and England.
- R.B. Rhodes and H.F. Orthman were the contractors and builders of the new barn on the James Briggs farm east of Milliken. The address of the farm today is 22434 Highway 60. Upon completion the barn was dedicated in February 1916 with a dance and meal for the public. Dancers came from Milliken, Greeley, Platteville, La Salle and Johnstown. The crowd enjoyed dancing to a four-piece orchestra and then was treated to a supper served by Mr. Williams of the Cosy Cafe.



H.B.Crawford Grocery – Stroh Collection

## 1919 - Irrigation System Installed

- The first Boy Scout Troop of Milliken was organized during the month of April 1919.
- An irrigation system was planned for Milliken in 1919. The Town Council planned to float a \$17,000 bond issue to install an additional water plant. Three shallow wells were to be sunk in the draw in Lola Park and connected so that water could be pumped from all three at the same time. A large centrifugal pump was to be connected to a fifteen horsepower motor, allowing enough water to be pumped to irrigate from 80 to 100 acres.

The machinery was installed in a cement building. When the switch was turned on, water was forced into pipes that were to be connected to every lot in town to those who desired irrigation water.

J.D. Basset secured the contract for digging the ditches for the irrigation water lines, one for domestic water and one for irrigation water. Fees were paid to Milliken for each.

This irrigation system did an excellent job to alleviate the necessity of using domestic water to irrigate lawns and gardens. However, the delivery pipes deteriorated to the point that the system had to be abandoned in the 1950's.

The Town Council met to decide what to do with wastewater coming from the Letford and Stroh farms which were south and west of town. Drainage tile was being installed on these farms forcing the wastewater toward town. The decision was for Milliken to continue the tile past the pump house and install a gate for the wastewater to drain into the irrigation wells if needed. Later a holding pond was built to contain the water so the residents could pump it out for use.

That drink out of the jug was good (?). The natural attraction of a jug was almost the undoing of a number of prominent citizens, and it was really funny to a degree.

One of our farmers was out shopping and was in front of one of the stores. His auto was loaded with fruit and there were two jugs on the floor of the car.

A prominent doctor was looking over the cargo when he suddenly spied the jugs. He asked what was in them and the farmer said, "apple juice."

Enough, the jug was up to his lips and several good swigs taken. He was game and didn't whimper. A banker then came along, a wink and again the jug went up and the liquid down. A grocery clerk was the next one to bite, then a couple of farmers. All took the drink and remarked on its fine flavor, with the exception of the last farmer who spit it out and exclaimed, "vinegar".

Yes," said the owner, "I bottled extra fine two-year old apple vinegar.

Source: *Milliken Mail*, September 18, 1919

- C.E. Gray became the new druggist in July 1919. The former one was J.M. Henderson.

C.E. Gray, the local druggist is installing an iceless soda fountain in his store. It is a thing of beauty. For the wall case there is a big mirror, big enough for a bevy of young misses to stand in front and primp. This has electric fixtures with cabinets below and show doors on the side. The workbench is the front of the affair, and is arranged so that being in contact through coils with the ice cools the water, as is also the soda water. There are several compartments for ice cream, a refrigerator for bottled goods, milk, etc. Separate compartments are in place for the different syrups and juices, with all these resting in the cooling compartment. The whole affair is covered with marble and it makes a most pleasing appearance, besides being a most valuable addition to the store.

Source: *Milliken Mail*, July 3, 1919

- In January 1919, J.W. Goracke purchased the old blacksmith shop belonging to A.O. Smith and moved it to the rear of the Milliken garage to be fixed up as a workshop. The little building behind the garage was purchased by Pete Mercer and moved to his lot.

### **1920 - Farmer's Union Milling and Elevator Company Destroyed by Fire - New bridge at Twin Bridges**

- County workers were placing planks on the bridge over the Thompson River northwest of Milliken in April 1920.
- In early April 1920, the Milliken Commercial Club formed a committee to work with a similar committee from Johnstown to pick a site for the new sugar factory. Ones named were E.J. Elam, J.H. Wilson, W.G. Brown, S.D. Griffith and Mrs. Minnie Mayne. The Commercial Club was formed by interested residents or homeowners for the purpose of promoting the needs of the town.
- By May 1920 the Great Western Sugar Company had definitely decided to build the factory between Milliken and Johnstown, and engineers were surveying the site.
- On Saturday morning July 23, 1920, the city fire bell wakened residents, and immediately residents and the volunteer fire department responded. All efforts were in vain, and within one hour the entire mill and elevator building of the Farmer's Union Milling & Elevator Company was engulfed in flames and afterwards a pile of ruin as the entire building burned. Formerly this was the Royal Milling & Elevator Company. The fire started during a heavy thunderstorm and as the mill was operated by electric power, it was believed that lightning struck the wires.

A few minutes before 12 o'clock the watchman, Stanley Lassa, made his regular rounds to the top of the building. He then had other duties to perform and with the

foreman was on the first floor when suddenly they heard an explosion. They found the entire second floor on fire.

Connections with the fire hose of the building were made, and the two men began fighting the flames. By then Marshal Parsons saw the flames from down town and sounded the alarm. The hose cart was soon on the scene, and water was used on the flames, making no impression on the fire.

The irrigation plant was started and another hose was strung to the building and just as this added force of water was to be aimed at the fire, the electricity went off. A fuse was blown out at the sub-station at Wildcat. The intense heat made the firefighters helpless as no one could get near the building.

The mill was capable of producing 2,000 barrels of flour daily and was almost ready to start a double shift for the fall and winter run. It was sixty-five feet high and covered fifty by seventy-five feet of ground.

The elevator had a storage capacity of 100,000 bushels of grain. The flour warehouse was 40 x 40 feet. A new flour warehouse and coal bins which were being constructed would have doubled the storage capacity, and all this burned. A Union Pacific freight car loaded with wheat was on the track at the unloading station. Fire prevented it being moved so it burned also.

Water was used on the alfalfa mill over 200 feet away, and as it held little hay was saved. About 200 ties belonging to the Great Western Railway were entirely destroyed. The wind was not strong enough to cause other structures to catch fire, and the rain that preceded the fire was an asset.

The buildings were insured for \$50,000, about half the valuation, and contents were insured for \$30,000 which covered the loss. At the time negotiations were being made to add \$6,000 more insurance to cover the new additions which were under construction. Wheat and flour were stored in the mill along with some oats and other feed. A large supply of unused sacks was burned. The loss of these ran into the thousands of dollars. Insurance adjusters deemed it a complete loss. Heat made all the machinery worthless so salvage was not possible. Books and records were in a fireproof vault that withstood the heat. Files and a filing cabinet were saved from the office.

The loss of this mill was a financial blow to Milliken. Under the management of David Roberts the company had earned a reputation for marketing a quality product and had contracts with large firms. One contract was with the Linquist Cracker Company in Denver which used several carloads of flour a month. The flour was becoming increasingly popular and some thought was being given to expansion of the mill.

At that time rebuilding was anticipated. Bills due the company amounted to almost \$36,000 and insurance of \$80,000 would be a good start in rebuilding. An office was opened in the old drug store building west of the bank to conduct business until a decision was made. It was never rebuilt.

- Housing was so acute in Milliken that Mrs. Ella Wilburt rented the entire second floor of the Crawford building and prepared it for renting. In the summer of 1920, five to ten families a week were denied residence in the town because of the lack of

accommodations for them. A few businessmen formed the Milliken Building Association. The object was to build residences and sell or rent them. Arrangements were made with outside Building & Loan companies to handle the houses after completion.

- Construction was started on a residence for the Building Association at 104 South Kathleen Avenue. This residence was used as a Telephone office in later years.
- The Town Council passed an ordinance to prohibit the building of anything less than a \$2,000 building on Broad Street and the blocks west of the schoolhouse and south of Broad Street. The schoolhouse Block 72 was included.
- The population of Milliken in 1920 was 372.

- John W. Wortham, the County Engineer, had a budget of \$413,725 for roadwork in 1921. Of importance to residents in Milliken was the four and one-half miles of concrete to be used on the Greeley-Brighton road. Among the bridges contemplated was a bridge of concrete to be built where the Twin



New Bridge which replaced the two old ones – Pat  
Burger

Bridges were, east of Milliken, on Highway 60. The bridge was to be 400 feet long and span the Platte River, eliminating the two bridges then used.

This improvement will be appreciated by everyone who is compelled to go over the old, rotten wooden structures.

Source: *Milliken Mail*, December 16, 1920

- Other changes during 1920 included the following:
  - Griff Garner's house was ready for the plasterers.
  - The Woods family completed a garage and coalhouse in which they lived until the house was completed.
  - D. Basett purchased a lot from W.H. Parsons one block west of Elam's store to erect a carpenter shop, near 607 Broad Street.
  - H.B. Crawford erected a fireproof building on the lot next to his store to be used as a storage room for implements.
  - C.E. Bimson purchased the McClosky building across from the Milliken Mail office and remodeled for a vulcanizing plant.
  - E.J. Elam moved his stock of dry goods into the old drug store building next to his store and cut an archway between the two rooms.
  - C.E. March disposed of most of his property in Milliken. The lumberyard was sold to the Mawson Lumber Company.



## 1921 - Property Changed Ownership

- A wire fence replaced the old board fence around the Mawson-Deffenbaugh Lumber Company with iron gates at 901 Broad Street.
- A contract for building the schoolhouse and teacherage (a house for teachers) for District No. 111 (Fairview) was awarded to J.D. Bassett.
- The meat market owned by George Mossman was sold to A. Thacker from Eaton, Colorado. This was at 912 Broad Street.
- J.W. Bently, from St. Louis, was stocking the old store building of S. Mendelsohn with a line of groceries and dry goods. This building had a history of being in the grocery business. It first belonged to O.G. Jones; then was used by H.B. Crawford; then by S. Mendelsohn as the Mendelsohn Bargain Store. The building is at 910 Broad Street.
- M.C. Seymour purchased the Heskett Building formerly occupied by the local newspaper, the Milliken Mail, and remodeled it for a residence for his family. The white building was at 1020 Broad Street, on the corner.



Fairview School

- Businesses in the Cement Block Building at 1004 Broad Street changed many times since it was the First State Bank in 1909. In 1917 O.O. and Jesse Morris sold their interest in the Combs & Morris garage to Mathew Brown. A few months later, W. Combs sold his interest to T.C. and C.M. Chambers.



First State Bank in the Cement Block Building – Milliken Mail

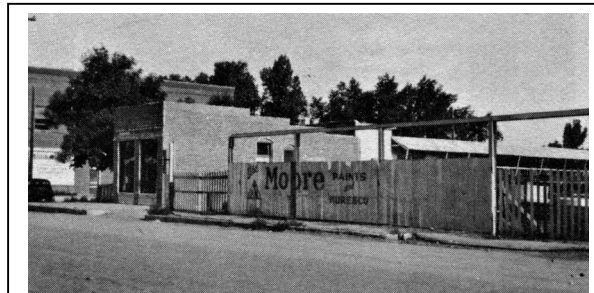
In the fall of 1921, owner Earl Gould sold the business located in that building to Roy James. At that time it was called the Dunn Cement Block Building. Mr. James

extended the building to the alley in the rear making more space to operate and installed a cement floor.

In 1924 Matthew Brown and A.S. White purchased the business and stock from Roy James. In 1925 Mr. White sold his interest to Mr. Brown.

### **1922 - Property Changed Ownership**

- A. Thacker had been the manager of the Meat Market belonging to W. H. Parsons. In January 1922 he rented the old bakery building and prepared it for a meat market. Mr. Parsons took over the management of his shop and restocked it as a meat market.
- A new business was a vulcanizing shop managed by Clair Koch from Illinois.
- Workers of the Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph Company moved the local exchange into the company house at 104 South Kathleen Avenue. The change was made because of poor living quarters for the operators in the old house, but it was fine for an office. The new house had been constructed by the Milliken Building Association in 1920 and is still standing. A phone booth for the convenience of the public was placed downtown.
- L.W. Deffenbaugh became the sole owner of the Mawson-Deffenbaugh Lumber Company in 1922 at 901 Broad Street.
- The Mellon house was rented by Mrs. Wilburt to be used as a rooming house for schoolteachers. During those years teachers roomed in homes in the community.



Deffenbaugh Lumber Company – Service Record Book

### **1923 - Destruction by Fire and Flood**

- A.O. Smith rented the building at the rear of the Goracke Garage and equipped it for a blacksmith shop. The Goracke Garage was on the southeast corner of Broad Street and Irene Avenue, and the blacksmith shop was just south of the garage on Irene Avenue.
- A radio set was placed in the Antlers Hotel and was receiving from New York and California.
- A fire was discovered at the rear of A. Thacker's market. An old icebox and dry weeds piled against the outside of the building were on fire, and the fire traveled up the back of the building and onto the roof.

The flood of 1921 was almost repeated and rivers overflowed their banks. Every bridge between Loveland and Milliken on the Big and Little

Thompson Rivers was washed out. The bridge at the foot of Tromble Hill was completely washed from its moorings, and the approaches to the bridge up Swink Hill were badly washed.

Source: *Milliken Mail*, June 14, 1923

- The Mutual Oil Company installed a visible gasoline pump at the garage that was owned by Roy James, at 1004 Broad Street. When gasoline was purchased, one could see it as it was put into the car. Electric light bulbs were installed to attract business after dark.
- In September 1923 the new mill and elevator which was just preparing for the winter's run burned to the ground, a complete loss. The site had been selected in December 1920 to be the home of the Milliken Marvel Milling & Elevator Company that was at the northeast corner of the intersection of Broad Street and Ethel Avenue. H.B. Crawford was President, and J.D. Dunn was Secretary of the Board of Directors.

In January 1923 machinery arrived ready to be installed, and the mill was almost completed. Plans were that the mill would be ready to operate within thirty days.

Mr. Simms, one of the owners of the mill stated that he had no idea of the cause of the fire as the mill was only occasionally grinding feed while waiting for the new crop of grain to come in. The fire started in a grain bin, which held little grain. The building and machinery were partially covered by insurance.

At about 9 p.m. two men were in front of Crawford's Store talking when one noticed a light in a window of the mill. As they watched, they saw more light (fire) and sounded the alarm. Upon driving the two blocks to the area they found the entire interior in flames.

The chemical engine and hose cart were there within a few minutes, but the fire seemed to be burning over the entire building. Within an hour the entire structure was completely destroyed.

Soon after the arrival of firefighters there seemed to be an explosion or the sound of heavy machinery falling from the second floor and the windows burst, allowing draughts to fan the fire.

The interior of the mill was of wood but the outside was covered with metal that held the fire inside for a time. Firefighters could only work through the doors and windows and because of the intense heat could not get close to the structure.

Local businessmen and farmers had provided the \$14,000 for the original building and equipping of the mill. After the fire, it was rebuilt.

- Harry March started an establishment called the Milliken Cash and Carry Store on Broad Street.
- William Caldwell was Marshall in 1923.

## 1924 - Fire - Bus Line Started

- In 1924 residents received word of the death of E.D. Riker, of Denver, on January 16. Mr. Riker was well known in Milliken and was one of the pioneers of the town. He had a homestead claim southeast of town and was the first postmaster of Milliken. His office was in the building on the southwest corner of the intersection of Broad Street and Grace Avenue.
- A fire occurred at the L.W. Deffenbaugh Lumber Company office on Broad Street. Employee, Art Goracke, after starting the fire in the morning, placed a can of oil on the stove to warm up. The oil had been drained from the truck the night before and was to be warmed before being returned to the truck. He went outside for a pail of water and while he was gone the stove evidently smothered and gave a big puff, upsetting the oil, which caught fire. Smoke billowed from the door and a window that had been broken during the explosion. Sacks and rags soon extinguished flames and the only damage was the discoloration of walls and merchandise.
- Another fire occurred in March 1924. Early one morning, about 6 A.M., people passing through town discovered the Antlers Hotel at 914 Broad Street on fire. After sounding the alarm they left town. By the time residents were roused the fire had gained headway. The fire fighting hose and chemical engine were found frozen. Soon the fire was beyond control and the hotel was in ruins.

The fire hose was thawed and a good stream of water saved the adjoining buildings. Those arriving first stated that the fire seemed to have started in the basement or the floor of the kitchen, but no one was in the hotel at the time, and no fire had been in the kitchen the day before.

Mrs. Mabel Robertson, the owner, had closed the hotel the week before when she was called to Oklahoma to be with her sister who was ill. The hotel was to remain closed until her return. W.H. Parsons, her father, and Luther Parsons had been sleeping there but were out of town and did not return until after the fire. The building and contents were partially covered by insurance.

A Great Western freight train backed across the main crossing in town the morning after the fire and cut a new fire hose belonging to the town.

- In April 1924, organization of Refulgent Rebekah Lodge # 98 was completed; the culmination of plans started January first. Rebekah Lodge was an auxiliary to the I.O.O.F. Lodge and worked in conjunction with that lodge for the dissemination of Friendship, Love and Truth in the community. The charter was relinquished and the lodge disbanded on January 1, 1999, due to poor attendance.
- The cry "FIRE" was heard again at about nine o'clock in July of 1924. The Alfalfa Elevator was burning. The elevator was located east and south of the Farmer's Union Milling & Elevator that burned in July 1920.

The fire spread throughout the elevator quickly. The conveyor was torn away by firefighters, which stopped the spread of fire to other buildings. The irrigation pump was used to supply water and worked well.

Twelve loads of new hay had been stored in the building the day of the fire, and all was destroyed. John Roberts, the manager, said it was partly covered by insurance and hoped a replacement would be made.

- Another fire occurred in August 1924 when the structure erected as a canning factory, and later used as a glove factory, burned to the ground. It had been sold to J.K. Mullen who sold the machinery and converted the building to a storehouse. Hay stored in the building was destroyed. Milliken firefighters responded, but as the chemical tank turned the corner of Frances Avenue and Broad Street, a wheel came off and the tank was useless. This was the second time the old building was afire. The first time flames were extinguished before damage was done.
- Frank Monahan purchased James Miner's interest in the pool hall.
- Andy Malik was appointed Town Marshall.
- M. Seymour sold the blacksmith shop to W.A. Hunt who sold it to C.G. Redlings.
- Anderson A. Webb became editor and publisher of the Milliken Mail for a couple of months then left without informing anyone of his resignation.
- A well-used motor cycle racetrack was located in the northeast area of Milliken, south of the Great Western railroad tracks and east of Ethel Avenue.
- A bus line started operation in August 1924. The car made daily trips to accommodate passengers wishing to go either to Johnstown or Greeley. The car arrived in Milliken from Greeley at 8:45 A.M. and went to Johnstown. The return trip to Greeley left Milliken at 9:30 A.M. In the afternoon the car left Greeley at 5:30 P.M. arriving in Milliken at 6:15 P.M., then went to Johnstown. The return to Greeley left Milliken at 7 P.M., arriving in Greeley at 7:45 P.M. Express packages were also transported. The fare from Greeley to Milliken was fifty-five cents.

### 1925 - Fire

- John Knapp, who lived near Hillsboro, purchased the John Goracke property at 209 South Katheleen Avenue. This was one of the

**SATURDAY SPECIALS**

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**Halibut  
Pound, 35c**

---

**Fresh Ham  
Pound, 10c**

---

**Premium Crackers  
2 lb. Box, 25c**

---

**No. 2 1/2 Can Y. B. Pine-  
apple  
19c**

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**H. K. MARCH**

**The Best Feed on the Market Today**

**PURINA**

- Chicken Chowder
- Chicken Fat Chow
- Bulky-las for Cattle
- Fatena Molasses for Cattle
- Calf Chow
- O-Molene for Horses

**We have all the above Purina  
Feed in stock. Feed it to your  
stock and you'll use no other.**

---

**The Milliken Grain, Feed &  
Bean Elevator**

Frank Stevenson, Prop.

houses on the town site when the Denver, Laramie Realty Company purchased the town in 1910. At that time Ernest Heflebower owned it. The same house is still there.

- O.L. Altvater operated a drug store in 1925.
- G.C. Griffin of Nebraska bought the J.D.Dunn coal yards.
- J.E. Humphrey moved into the Elam house.
- In April of 1925, a new oil station on Broad Street was started for Frank Goracke. Now it is a vacant lot at the southeast corner of the intersection of Broad Street and Irene Avenue.
- Frank Goracke sold the Milliken Service Station to D.D. Wyatt and Blair Miller of Wyoming. Mr. Wyatt moved into the house east of the library. The library was on the southwest corner of Frances Avenue and Broad Street. Later it was made into a private home and is still at the site.
- Floyd L. Humphrey, from Chicago, was the new editor of the Milliken Mail.
- Frank Goracke purchased the P-I-X Theater from O.L. Altvater in August 1924. By April 1925 repairs were made. The roof was recovered, holes in plastering were filled, and the entire hall and stairway renovated.
- Frank Stevenson purchased the Marvel Mill & Elevator site in July 1925. This was at the northeast corner of Broad Street and Ethel Avenue on the Union Pacific railroad tracks. The new elevator when finished had a bean cleaner and warehouse and furnished employment for women to hand clean beans and for men to handle sacks.

**RUBBER GOODS**  
Just received some **GOODRICH BOTTLES**  
and other Rubber Goods.

**POWDER**  
Armand's, Black and White, Golden Peacock  
and others.

**See Our Supply of Assorted Nuts**

Some girls may be artists but they seldom draw the line.  
You don't have to be an artist to use Kissproof rouge.

He called her his main support because she always stood him up.

How about a magazine to pass away an evening at home?

A modern gold digger marries a man who is made of money so she can change him.  
Try our service—You won't want to change.

Many a sincere flirtation ends in faithless marriage.  
Come in and hear our Sonora Phonograph. Sonora Records for sale.

**The Milliken Drug Store**  
O. L. ALTVATER, Prop.

**TRY THE DRUG STORE FIRST**

A grand opening was held at the Bean Elevator in August. A large crowd enjoyed the dance and refreshments. Music was by an orchestra from Greeley. For several months dances were enjoyed there.

- H.K. March erected a new store building on the site of the Antlers Hotel in the fall of 1925.

- The community and Presbyterian Sunday School sponsored a picnic in Lola Park that was a huge success in August of 1925. Almost 250 people attended.

### 1926 - Ku Klux Klan - First State Bank Closed - Great Western Sugar Refinery Formal Opening

- Mrs. Minnie Humphrey was appointed Postmistress to succeed Marie Spomer who resigned.
- R. Dickenson and E. Stanton leased the George Gray pool hall. A separate room on one side of the hall was used as a barbershop making it more agreeable for the ladies.
- The Ku Klux Klan was active in Milliken. Monday night was the regular meeting night and in February 1926, visitors from other towns came to Milliken. A band from Loveland furnished music for the parade, and two crosses were burned. Approximately 150 persons were in attendance and after the parade the entire crowd went to Johnstown where a demonstration was held.

The Klan was active in this area into the 1940's. One site used for burning crosses was in a gully on the south side of Tromble Hill, where it was quite visible from Milliken.

- The death of W.H. Parsons was reported. He was well known in the community, having lived in Milliken during the Denver, Laramie era and for years was Town Marshall.
- The First State Bank was closed voluntarily by its stockholders on February 18, 1926. Frank Horan, Special Deputy State Bank Commissioner, requested that all claims against the bank be filed with him.

**GEO. W. CASE**  
 General Blacksmithing  
 Repair Work  
 Pipe Fitting . Milliken

The bank had \$55,982.81 total resources, \$49,106.05 was in loans and discounts, \$1800 furniture and fixtures, \$648.83 cash, \$322.46 in cash items, \$1190.05 in other stocks and bonds, and \$2050 in Liberty Bonds. Among the liabilities was \$30,161.55 in deposits, \$5,000 in bills payable, \$4,900 in rediscounts and \$128.64 in cashier's checks. The capital of the bank was \$10,000 and the surplus \$5,500.

- Ernest Stanton, a barber, purchased the building known as the "Old Meat Market" from Butch Thacker and remodeled it into a barbershop. This was in the brick building at 912 Broad Street.
- The George Gray Pool Hall was sold again to J.L. Redman who remodeled it into a store known as the Square Deal Market & Grocery. George Mossman was the meat cutter.
- The first issue of the Milliken Mail in October

Thursday, November 17, 1927

## Sunday Menu!

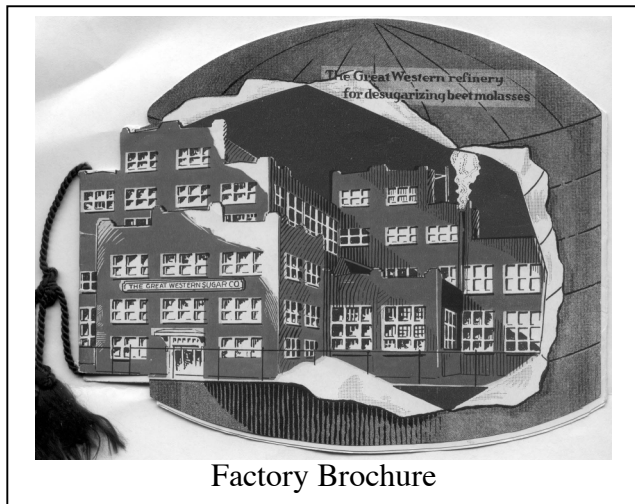
Soup	Roast Chicken	Wafers
Dressing	Gravy	Mashed Spuds
	Peas and Carrots	
	Banana Salad	
Pickles	Apple or Pumpkin Pie	Jelly
Coffee	Milk	Tea

**50c**

**THE MILLIKEN CAFE**

1926 was under the management of Cedric W. Damewood who came from Sterling, Colorado.

- C.F. Griffith, another old timer of Milliken, died October 4, 1926. He came to this vicinity in 1901 and owned the farm where the Letford beet dump was located, southeast of Milliken on the east side of South Alice Avenue. He left the farm in 1910 and was part owner with Jake Messick in the Antlers Hotel.



Factory Brochure

A giant pile of brick, mortar, concrete and steel touched by the mechanical genius of men, is taking on life at the new Great Western Sugar Refinery to treat beet molasses, and is located between Johnstown and Milliken.

On Thursday, October 28, it will be dedicated to the service of the intermountain beet sugar industry. Communities for miles around

have been invited to attend the ceremony and lunch with citizens of Milliken, Johnstown and Mead, and officials of the sugar company.

Most of the thousands of visitors will see for the first time the only plant in the world to use beet molasses in the manufacture of pure, white sugar. It is the largest beet molasses treating plant in the world.

Its `sugar house` towers 68 feet high, with a width of 64 feet and length of 182 feet.

The `kiln house`, containing the largest single pieces of machinery of any sugar refinery, is 96 feet by 208 feet.

Another of the main units, called the 'sulfate building,' is 32 by 143 feet. There is a 'sugar warehouse' 100 feet by 160 feet; a `boiler house` 45 by 35; a 'pump and power house' 91 by 48; 'machine shop and store room' 48 by 65; a 'bone char' building 32 by 48; 'cashier's building' 35 by 70; and storage facilities for 8,000 tons of coal, 6,000 tons of molasses and 4,000 barrels of fuel oil.

Twelve hundred tons of structural steel entered into the erection of the plant. More than 7,000 cubic yards of gravel went into the concrete. And the factory, when in full operation, will use upwards of 1,500 gallons of water every minute.

The Great Western Sugar Company engineers and research chemists designed the new plant. It follows in general outline a much smaller experimental factory operated in Denver several years ago by the



company's research men. Problems encountered in that test carried some of the company's technicians to Europe on repeated trips for further investigations. And years were spent in combing the scientific literature for more light on the puzzling chemical and engineering details of the process.

Sugar is being recovered in this plant from the discard molasses produced by the Colorado and Nebraska factories of the Great Western Sugar Company. "Discard" molasses is the term used to designate the final syrup remaining after the initial beet molasses has been worked up to its economic limit with the use of the Steffen lime process. The Steffen process has been in use at some of the factories for many years but by this method it is impossible to recover all the sugar from the molasses. This is due to the accumulation of certain non-sugars which make it unprofitable further to work the molasses in a Steffen house.

Sugar beets contain in addition to sucrose a large percentage of impurities or non-sugars, the proportion being about eighty-five pounds of sugar to fifteen pounds of non-sugars. In the ordinary beet sugar factory, a large part of these non-sugars are removed by various purifying and refining methods, but those which cannot be removed stay in combination with sugar as beet molasses. This syrup is then shipped to a factory equipped with the Steffen lime process, and here another portion of the original non-sugars is removed and further sugar recovered. However we still have left certain difficult intractable non-sugars, amounting to about ten percent of the quantity with which we started. Discard molasses, the raw material for our new sugar refinery, is composed of a mixture of sugar and these particular non-sugars.

For many years our company has sought a profitable method of recovering sugar from discard molasses. It seemed uneconomic that many tons of sugar each year should be fed to cattle or used for yeast or industrial alcohol manufacture, when higher values were to be found in making this sugar available for feeding human beings. Various processes had been tried in Europe for the recovery of sugar from ordinary beet molasses, but due to the peculiar quality of our final product they would not meet our requirements.

After much thought had been given to the best method of attacking the problem, the company instituted and built a miniature molasses desugarizing plant. This was operated for about four months, and much valuable experience was gained.

These early investigations developed the fact that the possible margin of profit was small, and the problem could be solved only by finding the cheapest way of producing certain chemical agents which play a large part in the operation of the present plant. Research extended to Europe. No less than five distinct processes for the production of one reagent were studied. Many difficulties were encountered. And it can be said that the new plant

is the culmination of hopes and disappointments on the part of the Great Western organization as well as of the people of the community.

This factory, designed by our own engineering department, will operate the year around if sufficient molasses is available. Its rated capacity is 100 tons of molasses per day, or an estimated 250,000 bags of sugar per year, (25 million pounds). The sugar will be of the highest quality.

Approximately 140 men will be employed throughout the year.

The factory is almost completely electrified, the main power unit being a 1,250 K.V.A. direct-connected turbo-generator. To operate the plant 133 electric motors are required.

Fuel oil fires have been started in the big rotary kilns. Coal will be used in the boiler house, and the CO<sub>2</sub> gases off the boilers will be used for carbonation. These and many other interesting points of design and operation are being explained to the visitors today by competent guides. After that admittance to the plant will be by card only.

The estimated cost of the plant is one million dollars. It has been under construction since the summer of 1925. More than 500 men have been engaged at one time on the job. The plant will start operating immediately following the dedication exercises.

A luncheon at noon will be spread for the crowds. Inspection of the factory will be made between the hours of 10 A.M. and 5 P.M. At 1:45 brief formal exercises will be held in the large sugar warehouse, with speakers representing the community, the sugar company and the State of Colorado in the person of Governor Morley. An orchestra and vocalists will aid in providing visitors a pleasant day. H. Scilley, manager of the company's Loveland plant, will be in charge of the ceremony. A souvenir booklet is to be issued by the Company.

Greetings to visitors from merchants:

L.W. Deffenbaugh, Lumber, Hardware  
Milliken Drug Store, O.L. Altvater  
Apex Pool Hall, Quick lunches  
H.K. March, Drygoods, Groceries  
Taylor's Cafe, Charles Leeper, Prop.  
H.B. Crawford, Groceries, Hardware  
Milliken Meat Market, A. Thacker, Prop.  
G.C. Griffin, The Coal Man  
Milliken Service Station, Gas, Oil, Accessories  
C.E. Bimson, Vulcanizing, Tire-tube repairing, Lawn Mowers  
sharpened  
Stanton Barber Shop, E. Stanton, Prop.  
E.J. Elam, Groceries, Drygoods  
Milliken Garage, M.J. Brown, Prop.  
E.G. Redlings, Blacksmith

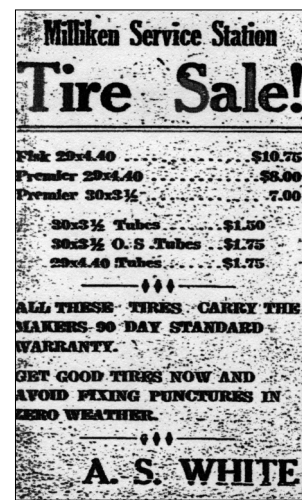
J.F. Monaghan, Barber Shop, Pool  
Square-Deal Market, J.L. Redman & Son

The following Milliken residents assisted in the packing of lunch boxes at the Great Western Sugar Factory in preparation for the dedication: Mesdames Ericsson, Mellon, Elam, Griffin, Koob, Redeling, Damewood, Monaghan, Dean, Crawford, Bassett and Miss Grace Curtis.  
Great Western article quoted from *Milliken Mail*, October 28, 1926

### 1927 - Second Annual "Bean Day" - Telephone Line Installed

- The P-I-X Theater opened again April 9, 1927 with a good attendance. This time the owner was Frank Goracke.
- Claude E. Grisham became the Editor of the Milliken Mail with Mrs. Grisham as assistant in early April 1927.
- The following businesses were active in May of 1927:

Grocery & Mercantile, E.J. Elam  
Lumber & Hardware, L.W. Deffenbaugh  
The Milliken Mail  
Shoe & Harness Shop  
Morris Barber Shop  
Milliken Garage, M.J. Brown  
Blacksmith Shop, George W. Case  
Gasoline Service Station, A.S. White  
Milliken Alfalfa Mill  
Grocery & Farm Equipment, H.B. Crawford  
Swope Repair Shop  
Milliken Drug Store, O.L. Altvater  
Grocery & Market, J.L. Redman  
Milliken Feed Yard, Frank Stevenson  
Milliken Cafe  
Coal Yard, G.C. Griffin  
Pool Hall, Jimmie Morris



- The second annual Bean Day celebration was a grand success. Early in the morning of August 17, 1927, cars loaded with people began arriving in town. By afternoon 2,500 people were taking advantage of the occasion to have a good time.

The newly formed Platteville forty-two-piece band furnished music for the day. Their new uniforms attracted attention and were white trimmed in blue.

Promptly at 10 o'clock races started and were of various kinds involving all ages. The horseshoe pitching contest between Milliken and Platteville was next, with Platteville winning by a score of 9 games to 7. Another feature of the day was a lecture on poultry culling conducted by E.O. Johnson, Weld County Club Leader. This was planned to become a main feature in future Bean Day celebrations.

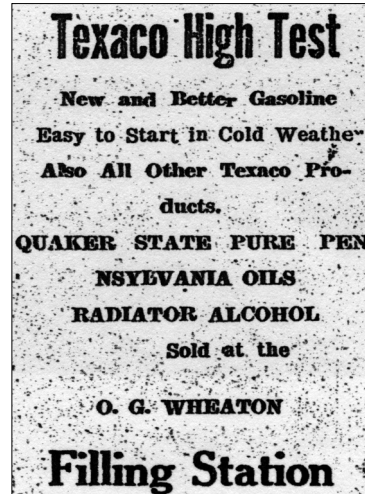
At noon hot baked beans and coffee were served to be added to the basket lunches brought from home. Approximately thirty dozen cans of beans and eighty gallons of coffee with sugar and cream were served.

After lunch the horse races started, followed by a baseball game between Windsor and Platteville. Platteville won by a score of 5 to 3. The next event was a watermelon-eating contest for males only. Several women wanted to compete but were only allowed to be spectators. The tug-o-war between teams from Platteville and Milliken resulted in Milliken winning. The Milliken team consisted of H.K. March, Joe Hamilton, Fritz Fritzpatrick, Frank Stevenson, Charles Binder and Lorenzo White.

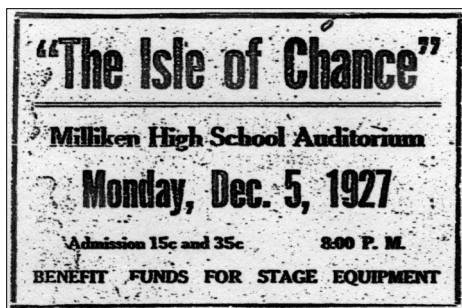
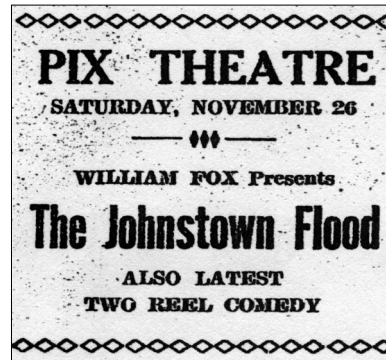
The Forsythe Amusement Company had a merry-go-round and ferris wheel on the grounds to the enjoyment of all ages.

Another attraction was the airplane rides by the Alexander Eaglerock plane from Denver, handled by Don Diegel and George Brinckeroff. Reasonable rates were charged and passengers received a thrill while in the air. An interesting feature of the day was the agricultural exhibit. Participants came from miles around. Prizes were awarded for premium garden and farm produce.

One event was the dance in the evening in the new high school gym with the vagabonds of the Greeley Amusement Park playing.



- The fire bell, blown down during a storm, was erected on a new steel tower in August 1927. It was placed on the northwest corner of Broad Street and Harriett Avenue.
- Residents of Milliken were surprised in October 1927 when local station dealers lowered the price of gasoline for autos four cents a gallon from twenty cents to sixteen cents a gallon.
- On October 13, 1927, Mrs. John Lee and Mrs. G. C. Griffin entertained a group of women at the Lee home. The ten ladies decided to organize an embroidery club and name it the Nimble Thimble Club. This club is still active with a membership of thirteen ladies.



- In November of 1927, the county road crew widened the road between Milliken and Johnstown and completed grading and graveling. In addition, the road from the Hillsboro beet dump north to the hill was graded and graveled. This is present-day Highway 257.
- A direct telephone line to Greeley from

Milliken was completed in November 1927.

- On Saturday, December 17, the P-I-X Theater presented Buck Jones in "The Timber Wolf".
- At this time Milliken had a Community Club which worked for issues benefiting the town. Issues discussed at the meeting in December pertained to the comparison of electric rates between nearby towns and the fact that Milliken needed more streetlights.
- Milliken still had an active baseball team.
- Deobald Rotharmel was operating a Harness & Shoe Repair Shop in 1927.

### 1928 - Street Lights Installed - Third Annual "Bean Day"

- O.G. Wheaton opened a service station January 1, 1928, on Broad Street. The address was near 508 Broad Street.
- Hunters from Milliken and surrounding territory held annual rabbit hunts. In 1928 the hunt was held in the area of Gill, Colorado, where 175 rabbits were killed. In 1927, 800 rabbits were killed.
- The Schaer & Onorato Garage, Schaer and Onorato proprietors opened for business in January in the building west of the Great Western depot, on Harriett Avenue. Both were from Greeley. Later in the year J.V. Onorato purchased the interest of his partner, Charles Schaer. This had been a garage operated by James Flood. Through the years it was a church, then became the Senior Center on South Harriett Avenue.
- D.L. Patrie of Washington, Kansas, purchased the drug store from O.L. Altwater in January 1928. This was in the brick building at 910 Broad Street.
- George W. Case sold his blacksmith shop located on Irene Avenue to H.B. Crawford. A.O. Smith began operation of the business in February. Mr. Case planned to return to farming.
- The Town Council held a meeting in February and voted to enforce the ordinance requiring a dog tax. Owners were to immediately buy a dog tag; this money would be used to equip and beautify the park. Also at this meeting a flat rate of \$10 per year was set for using irrigation water.
- The P-I-X Theater was showing John Gilbert in "St Elmo."
- Deobald Rotharmel sold the building housing his shoe



repairing business and remodeled the building west of the Library, to be used for a shoe and harness business. This was on the southeast corner of the intersection of Broad Street and Grace Avenue.

- Elmer L. Brooks from Berthoud, purchased the pool hall and barbershop owned by Jimmie Morris. In addition he purchased lots west of the Wilson property from Mrs. J. Flood and erected a home there. The house is still at 103 South Ethel Avenue.
- A crew of men working for the Colorado Central Power Company installed new streetlights in the business and residential sections of town.
- In the fall of 1928 W.C. Tyner purchased the Milliken Cafe from Mrs. A.A. Taylor. Remodeling was done in time for the opening on September 17
- A long time lease was secured by the I.O.O.F. Lodge for the second floor of the Crawford building. This had been used as apartments but was remodeled to fit the needs of the lodge. Dave Bassett and Jess Stansberry did carpentry work. Orval Morris did the plastering. Joe Hamilton and Z.R. Greenlee were the painters.
- The third annual Bean Day was in August 1928. An estimated 3,000 people were in town for the celebration.

One attraction was the George T. Scott's Greater Show that spent the week in town. It consisted of three rides, merry-go-round, ferris wheel, merry mix-up, and six shows.

The wrestling match proved to be a good entertainer. On Bean Day a local townsman, J.L. Redman, threw the young wrestler in less than a minute.

Foot races were held in the morning, and at noon lots of hot beans and coffee were served. The committee reported that 54 gallons of beans and 90 gallons of Bluhill coffee were consumed. Many families brought lunches and enjoyed the addition of the beans and coffee at noon.

In the afternoon the horse races were held. During the cowpony race, the horse ridden by Henry Stroh fell and died on the track, but the rider was not injured. In family records it was noted that the horse was owned by Conrad Stroh and named Colonel. The cause of death was a heart attack.

A baseball game between Johnstown and Platteville with Johnstown winning by a score of 7 to 0 followed the races.

Slow auto races for the ladies drew attention. Rules of the race were that the cars start in low gear, shift into high, and then proceed at a snail's pace to the finishing line. The last car over the finish line was the winner. It was necessary to run the race three times to determine the winner. Miss Frankie Goracke won driving a Star coupe.

Teams from Johnstown and Milliken had a water fight with all taking punishment as the contest placed contestants very near each other. The Milliken team won.

Garden and field products were displayed on long tables in the park and awards were given for the best. In the evening a dance was held in the high school gym and the Spanish dance was held in the I.O.O.F. hall.

## 1929 - Union Pacific Scheduled Six Trains Daily Through Milliken

- Management of the local Telephone Exchange was transferred in the spring of 1929. Mrs. Grace Abbott of Fort Collins, became the new manager. Mrs. Mary Curtis who had been the operator with her daughter Grace, resigned because of ill health and moved to Berthoud, Colorado.
- Frank Goracke sold the P-I-X Theater and equipment to Ralph Roush.
- Six trains a day were going through Milliken:
  - No. 560 from Fort Collins arrived at Milliken at 8:22 A.M.
  - No. 562 from La Salle arrived at Milliken at 9:38 A, M.
  - No. 561 from Fort Collins arrived at Milliken at 2:07 P.M.
  - No. 566 from La Salle arrived at Milliken at 3:08 P.M.
  - No. 567 from Fort Collins arrived at Milliken at 4:37 P.M.
  - No. 563 from Denver arrived at Milliken at 7:30 P.M.
- A.O. Smith sold his interest in the Milliken Blacksmith Shop to A.G. Stout, in July.
- A fire occurred in the J. Clemmens living quarters. They were living in the Bank Building in rooms above the Post Office. A kerosene stove exploded spraying flames throughout the room. Ellis Morris who lived nearby rang the fire bell to summon help. Meanwhile Mrs. Clemmens doused the flames with water. By the time help arrived, the fire was out.
- A week later, in August, fire from spontaneous combustion started in materials stored in the loft of the barn belonging to Grant McCulloch. It was extinguished before much damage was done.
- There was excitement at school in September 1929 when fire was discovered in a pile of coal stored in the basement of the schoolhouse. High school boys working furiously succeeded in throwing the coal from the basement before damage occurred. It was fortunate that the fire broke out in the daytime instead of at night when no one was around.
- E.L. Brooks, Mrs. Pearl Brooks and Fred I. Nicholl established a new insurance company, the Service Mutual Aid Association of Colorado, in October. The office was located in the Brooks home. The house is still at 103 South Ethel Avenue.
- G.O. Post of Pasadena, California sold the building known as the Bank Block to G.W. Boss of Johnstown in 1930. In the deal dry land near Briggsdale was exchanged. Included in this building was the east room of the Elam store and the Post Office. After remodeling the upper floor was used as a dance hall and a



Milliken Dance Hall and Café – Service  
Record Book

roller skating rink. The lower floor included a lunchroom and soda fountain. This building was on the northwest corner of the intersection of Broad Street and Irene Avenue and was destroyed by fire in 1954.

- 1929 ends the first twenty years of the existence of Milliken. The history so far has been a listing of structures and names of those involved in the formation of Milliken. However Milliken appears to be slowing in growth.

**MIDGET MINIATURE  
GOLF CLUB**

City Park  
Milliken, Colorado

**SCORE CARD**

Date.....

—THANK YOU  
—PLAY AGAIN

Hole	Name of Hole	Par
1	Trumble Hill	2
2	Thompson Canon	2
3	Loveland Heights	3
4	Estes Park	2
5	Milner Pass	3
6	Divide	3
7	Grand Lake	2
8	Colorado River	3
9	Airway	3
10	Forest	3
11	Tunnel	3
12	Twin Lakes	3
13	Detour	5
14	Indian Hills	3
15	Long's Peak	2
16	Lone Pine	3
17	The Mesa	3
18	Trails End	2
Total		50

MILLIKEN, COLO., to  
**DENVER**  
by TELEPHONE

**40c**

After 8:30 P. M. Only

**35c**  
(Station-to-Station rates)  
Plus Federal tax on  
amounts over 50c.

**TELEPHONE**

**Tailoring Shop**

Now located in the old Brook  
Barber Shop.

CLEANING, PRESSING, RE-  
PAIRING—TAILORING NEW  
CLOTHES  
JIM BASQUE, Mgr.

To get acquainted YOU quote your  
own price for work during the  
month of July.

**MILLIKEN FARM DAIRY**  
W. G. BROWN, Prop.  
Phone 38 J. 11

**Kaiser Service Station**  
BEN KAISER, Prop.  
GAS  
OIL  
TIRES

Standard Gas, Iso Vis  
and Polarine Oil

We appreciate your business

Phone, Milliken 29

- Adverse conditions affected Milliken. Businesses destroyed by fire were not rebuilt. The drought of the 1930's caused hardships for everyone, and jobs were scarce. This, in turn, caused some businesses to close and no new ones to open in town. The Great Western Sugar Company was one source of employment, but that was seasonal, requiring some of the workers to seek employment elsewhere in the summer. The



Milliken Mail admonished the citizens of Milliken "to take charge of the future and not give up." This they did and Milliken survived.

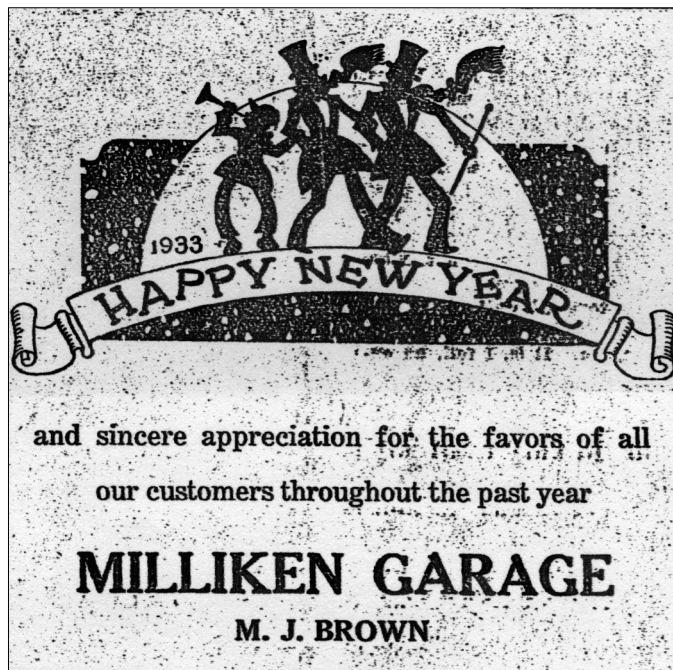
### 1932 - Fire

- Fire was discovered in the basement of the home owned by H.B. Crawford but occupied by the Ray Lawson family. They had banked fires in the kitchen range and heating stove before going to bed in the evening. About 4 A.M. they were wakened by suffocating smoke.

Help was summoned, and the fire bell sounded. The town pump was not working so fire extinguishers were used until additional aid was received from the Great Western Sugar Factory and the Milk Condensery at Johnstown.

The cause was spontaneous combustion in a pile of excelsior and burlap left in a pile on the floor when furniture had been uncrated. Damage was slight.

- Adrian Altvater became editor of the Milliken Mail as Claude Grisham resigned. The Grisham family moved to Denver.



### 1933 - Milliken Voted DRY

- The death of G.W. Snider in Brighton, Colorado was announced. He was one of the earliest citizens of Milliken and helped in the formation of the town.
- More businesses were changing in March. R.O. Ball became the new manager of the Milliken Service Station. Jim Morris opened a barbershop in the building west of the

Crawford store. E.C. Case moved his shoe repairing shop into a room just east of the E.L. Brooks Barber Shop.

- A letter read at the Town Council meeting in July announced that the Reconstruction Finance Corporation passed favorably on the claim from Milliken for \$5,000. This was to be used for drilling a new well, installing a pump and building a pump house over the well. The new well was to be drilled in the cement foundation south of the town well that caved in several years ago. A casing was to be installed and lead to the water tank. Capability of the pump was thirty to one hundred gallons of water per minute. A suitable building was to be erected over the well.

The plan at that time was for Milliken to rent water from the railroad well situated nearby until the new well could be drilled. In the winter of 1932 when the temperature was low, water was hauled into town for the residents.

Both of these wells were located near the southeast corner of South Grace Avenue and Elm Street.

- Milliken was voted "dry" in a statewide vote for the repeal of the 18th amendment.
- Final organization of the new Volunteer Fire Department was completed in October 1933. The first volunteer organization was organized August 19, 1911. Committees were appointed and by-laws written. A Fire Chief was in charge of the fire team and meetings. An assistant, a secretary, a treasurer and an entertainment committee aided him. Also named were a Hose Cart Crew, a Ladder and Police Duty Crew, a Chemical Wagon Crew and an Official Bell Ringer.

### **1934 - Water**

- The Town Council voted for a change in plans for drilling the new well for domestic use. They voted to continue drilling until the second soft water vein was found which was estimated to be between 800 and 900 ft. Residents were using water from the first vein that contained soda. This was good for domestic use, but the soda was not good for vegetation and had a tendency to cause rust, resulting in leaks in the water mains. The driller, E.G. Goodrich, presented a proposition to the Council and guaranteed finding water.

Drilling of the new well was completed in 1935. Water sufficient for the use of Milliken was not found, so the casing that had been set at the 450-ft. level was lifted allowing water to flow in from the old well. With the mixture it was believed that the soda would be diminished when pumping started. A month later the new Pumona pump was installed and the pumping capacity was forty to sixty gallons a minute.

- In 1934 citizens realized the need for a sewer system to serve the town. A grant was secured from the Civil Works Administration to proceed with the project.

The Federal Unemployment Bureau provided labor needed to install the system. Ditches planned to contain the drainage tiles were dug in the alleys, and the hook-ups to houses were made from them. Residue from the sewer system was discharged into the Little Thompson River through a drainage tile which ran along the north edge of town.

- The Town Council voted to force the School Board of Directors to pay for the sewer which was installed at the schoolhouse. There had been dissention among the School Board members about paying for the tap and as a result the bill was unpaid.
- Leonard Armfield purchased the Milliken Service Station which was at the southeast corner of Irene Avenue and Broad Street. The family moved into the Louis Mentz property that was on the southeast corner of Broad Street and Frances Avenue.
- It was obvious that the drought of the 1930's was causing a water shortage in Milliken as well as at neighboring farms. Individuals were forced to drill wells to augment the supply of irrigation water. Many wells were drilled in this area as it had a renewable aquifer that furnished ample water at reasonable depths.
- Traveling medicine shows provided annual entertainment during the summer months in the 1930's. Enjoyable shows were presented on temporary stages erected in available lots in town. During the evening small boxes of candy and some "cure-all medicines" were sold to the crowd of onlookers. Then the stage show was presented. The crowning finale after a week of shows was the announcement of the "queen of the week," who had been chosen by ballots from the audience.
- Speedball was the accepted form of competitive sport in the local school. In 1934 the high school sport was changed to touchball, which was similar to regular football. This game did not require the players to wear special clothing and did not allow tackling. In 1938 tackle football was introduced as the competitive sport.

**SHOE REPAIRING**

Men's sewed half soles 75c pr.  
 Ladies' heel caps .....20c  
 Ladies' half soles .....65c  
 Leave orders at the house.

**E. C. CASE**

**SATURDAY SPECIALS**

Figs, 1/2 lb. Package  
 2 for .....15c

Matches, Blue & White,  
 6 Boxes .....19c

Macaroni, ..... 6 for 25c

No. 2 Can Peas .....10c

Live Better for Less

**GREENLEE'S  
 RED & WHITE**

**Our Fifth Anniversary  
 of Business In  
 Milliken!**

We wish to thank our many customers and friends for making these years so happy and successful for us, and trust that we will merit your continued friendship and patronage.

\* \* \* \* \*

**A FEW SPECIALS**

\$1.00 Vougay Paris Powder .....38c  
 \$1.00 Tre Jur Powder .....38c  
 \$1.25 Wright's Condensed Smoke .....\$1.00  
 70c Wright's Condensed Smoke .....59c  
 85c Wright's Ham Pickle .....59c  
 \$1.00 Morton Smoke Salt, 10 lbs. ....75c  
 Assortment of 10c articles 3 for .....25c  
 Cigarettes and Tobacco, 2 for .....25c  
 Crema Cigars, 3 for .....10c

**Patrie Drug Co.**  
 PRESCRIPTION DRUGGISTS

## 1935 - Town Hall Constructed - Volunteer Fire Department

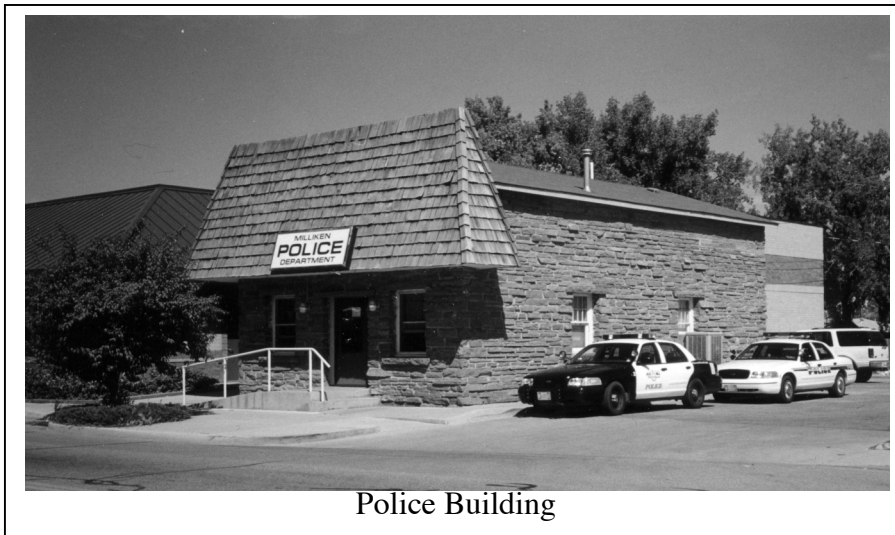
- In 1935 many complaints were made concerning the odor permeating Milliken and the countryside. This was the result of discharge that the Great Western Sugar Company released into the Little Thompson River that flowed north of town.
- Mr. Armfield sold the Milliken Service Station to R.O. Ball in April 1935. Previous to the sale, Mr. Ball had been the manager.
- A tree-planting project was instigated by the Community Club to improve the appearance of Milliken. Four hundred, 10 to 14 ft. trees were purchased from a nursery in Denver and planted in town. Both sides of many streets and vacant lots were planted in trees. Homeowners living near the trees were expected to provide irrigation for them.
- The Barber Shop operated by E.M. Stanton was gutted by fire May 27, 1935. A leak in a gas line leading to a burner used for heating water was thought to be the cause. The hose cart and chemical wagon arrived, and soon the fire was under control. The fire burned through the ceiling of the barbershop but did no damage to the living quarters on the second floor of the brick building at 910 and 912 Broad Street. Windows were broken in the Post Office and some of the rooms on the second floor were damaged by the heat.
- Milliken was allotted \$1495 of PWA funds to be used for the construction of a town hall. The building was to be constructed of natural red stone taken from the mountains near Lyons, Colorado. Plans were for a structure 25-x 40-ft. to be placed on the foundation that enclosed the town well on the north side of Broad Street.

Nothing further was accomplished on erecting a town hall until March 1937. Meetings were held concerning the possibility of securing labor through the Public Works Administration. An agreement was made for the P.W.A. to furnish men to start the building on April 1, 1937, provided the town secure overseers of the work.

Before the project was started, local men built a cement flume in front of the proposed site to relocate the irrigation ditch which flowed along the north side of Broad Street.

This was re-routed to the alley north of the buildings in the 1000 Block of Broad Street.

The rest of the foundation was poured the week of April 15, 1937, with

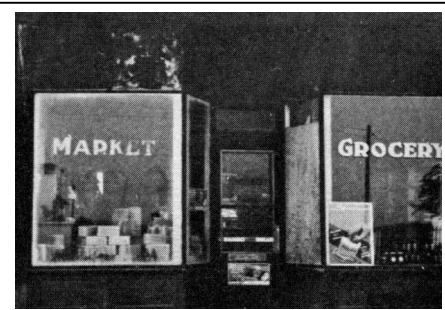


George W. Case, a resident of Milliken, as overseer. Mr. Case also did the masonry work on the building. The police department used this structure after the new Town Complex was finished in 1996.

- L.W. Deffenbaugh moved to Golden, Colorado, to operate a lumberyard there, after owning the one in Milliken for fifteen years. Art Goracke became the new manager of the lumberyard in Milliken. The Walter Brown family moved into the house vacated by the Deffenbaugh family. The house is at 801 Forest Avenue.
- Z.R. Greenlee sold the Red & White Grocery store to F.C. Eberle who came from Loveland, Colorado.

### 1936 - Property Transfers

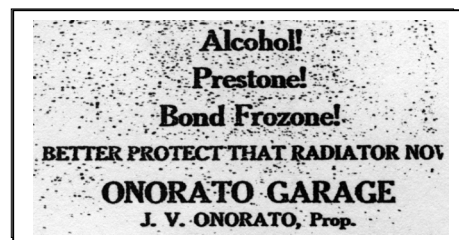
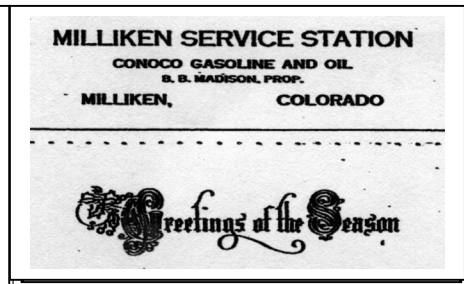
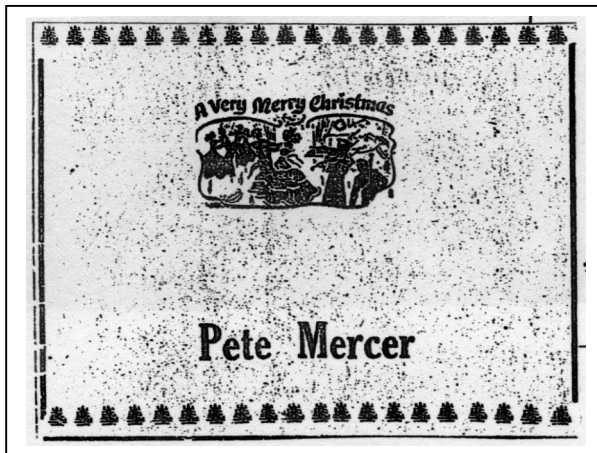
- Pete Mercer, who had been a resident of Milliken for many years and had worked for the Great Western Sugar Company, purchased the stock and fixtures of the H.K. March grocery store.
- The Harry Mills family moved into the Mendelsohn property at 118 South Frances Avenue. The house is still at the site.



Pete Mercer Grocery – Service Record Book

### 1937 - License Fee For Dances

- At the July meeting, the Town Council passed an ordinance controlling dances held in town. This was meant to restrict dances that had not been up to past standards. A license fee of five dollars was placed on each public dance and a fee of \$25 was charged for dances held on special holidays.



- Mr. and Mrs. F.B Conley sold the pool hall and barbershop to John Conley, a nephew.
- Elmer Ward purchased the Conoco Service Station from Frank Goracke. Mr. and Mrs. Barney B. Madison subsequently purchased the station in December of 1938.

### 1941 - Milliken Potato Receiving Docks

- M.A. Osborn from Eaton, Colorado, purchased the blacksmith shop and equipment from L.W. Deffenbaugh. This was located on the south side of Broad Street in the 1000 block. After extensive remodeling was done and up-to-date equipment added, the shop opened for business in 1941. It operated from this location until 1947 when Mr. Osborn moved his family to Fort Collins, Colorado.
- During past years the Community Club sponsored Christmas parties for all youngsters living within the school district. Santa provided treats for all youngsters due to the generosity of residents and local businessmen.
- Articles of Incorporation for the Milliken Early Potato Co-Operative Association were filed after a meeting of farmers held in Milliken in July. The new association planned to market early potatoes for growers in the Milliken area. Plans were made for the erection of a modern grading and washing plant and facilities for packing a high quality product. The first "Potato Dock" was erected at Gilcrest, Colorado, then a similar one was built in Milliken, east of the Union Pacific railroad tracks on the south side of Broad Street.
- A similar operation called the Gerry Potato Dock was operating in Milliken at the same time. It was located at the southeast corner of South Grace Avenue and Elm Street.
- The Williams Grain Company was in business in 1941 at the northeast corner of Ethel Avenue and Broad Street.

### 1942 - Civilian Support During World War II

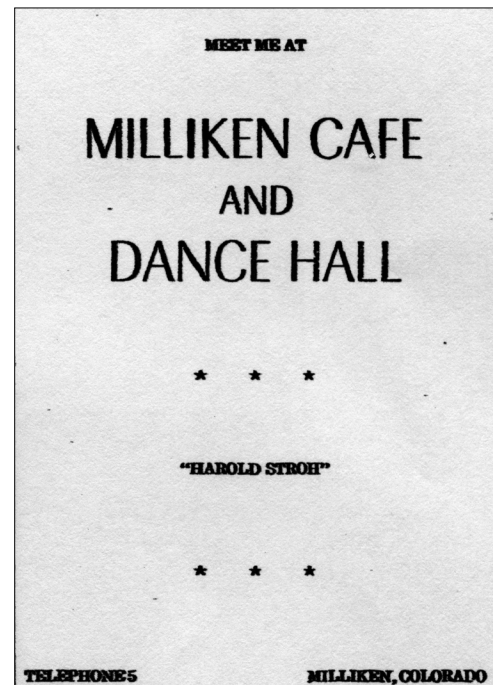
- Jack Williams was promoted to manager of the Deffenbaugh Lumber Yard. He had been working for the business for several years. In early 1943 Ray Hildreth became manager.
- "The Town Board finally tired of the continuing disturbance at the Long Restaurant & Beer Hall and ordered the place closed. Now Milliken has one less beer hall". (Milliken Mail, February 5, 1942).



- During World War II, many young men from Milliken and the surrounding area served in the Armed Forces. The community was very responsive to the war effort. The Red Cross Drive went over its quota. Ed Murphee, a local dealer, collected rubber and scrap iron and stored it in an area near town hall until it was shipped out of town to be used by the government. A house to house campaign promoting the buying of defense bonds and stamps was held with great success. Residents were encouraged to mail "Bundles for America" kits to the service men. The kits included comfort items possibly needed. Mayor Patrie appointed local defense committees, which included Road Watcher, Street Lights & Siren, Fire Truck, and Air Raid Warden and Fire Spotters.
- On May 4, 1942 the Daniels and Milliken schools closed to permit teachers to issue War Ration Book One, one book to each individual. Each book contained 28 stamps to be used when purchasing rationed items within a specified time. Among items rationed were tires, coffee, sugar, gasoline, canned food, meat, shoes, etc. For example, each of the first four stamps in the sugar section could be used when purchasing one pound of sugar from May 5 to June 27. Sugar stamp No. 5 could be used when purchasing two pounds of sugar from June 28 to July 25.
- Area service stations closed on Sundays due to the national emergency. Stations in Milliken were Hoeft Brothers Texaco, Edward Flynn Standard Service, and B.B. Madison Conoco.
- A haystack behind the Post Office burned and threatened a nearby shed. An out of control weed burning on a windy day was the cause of the fire. The Ravithis family lived at 105 North Irene Avenue and the Post Office was in the brick Bank Building located at the northwest corner of Irene Avenue and Broad Street.

### 1943 - Fire

- A fire at the local barbershop started from a stove used for heating water. An ordinary stovepipe led from the stove along the wall partition, through the ceiling, and on up through the roof. No chimney had been added. William Fields had purchased the barbershop from Mr. Kirby.
- D.R. Gaw took over the duties as agent for the Great Western Railroad. Louis Beeten, the former agent, was transferred to the Longmont depot.
- As mentioned earlier, the Milliken Early Potato Co-Operative Association erected a potato dock in the east part of Milliken for the convenience of local potato farmers. The Association purchased the Deffenbaugh Lumber Yard located at 903 Broad Street, and Ray Hildreth remained as manager. Gordon Cook became bookkeeper for the



lumberyard in September 1952. This was in operation until an early morning fire in 1959 destroyed the building and contents. It was rebuilt and operated as a lumberyard until purchased by J.V. Onorato in 1964.

### **1946 - Milliken Mail Ceased Operation**

- The owner and editor of the Milliken Mail, O.L. Altvater, ceased printing the weekly newspaper in 1946.

### **1951 - Milliken Junk Yard**

- Mervin Martin bought the building and site at 105 North Irene Avenue from John Ravithis and Jack Babbit. The Milliken Junk Yard was opened on this site. The Martins (Mervin, Lila and family) lived in a home at this site and conducted business from here until 1959. Before Milliken existed the building was situated at the rear of a store in Hillsboro. In 1909 it was moved into what later became Milliken and used by one of the first businesses in town, the Western Lumber & Coal Company, operated by H.A. Rowe. In 1910 it was sold to J.D. Dunn and the name was changed to Milliken Lumber Yard. Then in 1913 C.E. March purchased it and operated it as the Farmers Lumber Company. In later years it was used as a home.

In 1959 the family moved the business, renamed the Martin Supply & Salvage, to 8405 Highway 34. Later it became the Martin Supply Inc. operated by Charles Martin, Carroll Martin, and Shirley Gardner.

In 1970 Mervin Martin established a trailer court, called the Martin Trailer Court, on the site of the Milliken Junk Yard.

As of the year 2000, Mr. and Mrs. Martin live in the home on North Irene Avenue.

### **1954 - Heavy Rainstorm, Bank Building Destroyed by Fire**

- Milliken and surrounding territory received a heavy rainstorm August 5, 1954. Water runoff west of Milliken collected in low lands, finally running through drainage areas on farms west and south of town and into east Milliken. There it was blocked by the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. Homes west of the tracks were flooded. A few years later a grant was received to aid in creating a flood control system through that area.
- January 1913, fire gutted the brick building that was on the northwest corner of Broad Street and Irene Avenue. A bank, drug store, post office, telephone office, doctor's office, Odd Fellows Hall, and living rooms occupied it. The interior was rebuilt and occupied in following years. In 1930 the Bank Block, as it was known, was sold to G.W. Boss. After remodeling, the upper floor was used as a dance hall and roller skating rink. Use of the lower floor included a lunchroom and soda fountain. In 1954 the building was destroyed by fire. Mervin Martin then purchased the lots.



### **1960 - Highway 60 Rerouted Through Milliken**

- In 1960, the State Highway Department rerouted Highway 60 to enter Milliken diagonally from the west edge of town to join Highway 60 (Broad Street) at Josephine Avenue. With this improvement the dangerous right angle known as Christy's Corner was eliminated; now this is the intersection of Quentine Avenue and Broad Street.

### **1961 - Contract Signed with Little Thompson Water District**

- Directors of the Little Thompson Valley Water District and members of the Milliken Town Board signed a contract November 15, 1961. This agreement allowed the town to buy water for domestic use from the Water District and have it piped to town.

### **1968 - Milliken Sanitation Board**

- Ruby and Reuben Ehrlich founded Ehrlich's Frontier Village, located at 9659 Weld County Road 44 in 1968. The plan was to restore sights and memorabilia of the Old West.
- The Milliken Sanitation Board was formed in 1968 with five members on the board. The forced aerated plant built at that time was one of the better-designed sewage disposal plants in the state, according to the Colorado Health Department. It was designed to carry 800 taps but in 1968 approximately 175 taps were in use.

Flood in east Milliken 1954



**1969 - New Post Office**

- The new post office dedication was October 27, 1969. This was a 3rd class post office offering one in-coming and one out-going mail delivery, and one rural delivery six days a week.

**1970 - Sale of Union Pacific Depot - Martin Trailer Court**

- The Union Pacific depot in east Milliken closed May 6, 1970, and was purchased by Pedro G. Quiroz of Platteville, Colorado, for \$200. Passenger service had declined with the increased use of automobiles and planes, reducing the need for passenger trains. Computers and other machinery in key locations eliminated the need for small depots.

**Change of Ownership**  
 Formerly E&R Texaco, Milliken  
**NOW CHESNUT TEXACO SERVICE**  
 NEW OWNER IS GERALD CHESNUT  
 We appreciate your patronage

**1971 - First Annual "Beef and Bean" Day - Sanitation District - Planning Commission**

- Milliken's first annual Beef and Bean Day was held Saturday, August 7, 1971. The last one, a Bean Day, was held in 1935. The name in 1935 was "Bean Day," but the name was changed in 1971 to "Beef and Bean Day," and referred to as the first annual "Beef and Bean Day." Sponsors for the event were Milliken businessmen, Town of Milliken, Johnstown-Milliken Lions Club, and several residents of the area.

Festivities began in the afternoon with a pet and doll parade, and prizes were awarded in each category. Numerous games and concession stands were open during the afternoon for the use of the public. Games for the men were horseshoe

**PLAN TO ATTEND MILLIKEN'S FIRST ANNUAL**  
**Beef & Bean Day**  
 Co-Sponsored by Milliken Business Firms and the  
 Milliken-Johnstown Lions Club  
**Saturday, August 7**  
 LOLA PARK - MILLIKEN

**PET AND DOLL PARADE**      **Game, Concession Stands**  
 JUDGING 1:30 — PARADE 2:00      **Bingo Games**  
 Participants will parade around Lola Park      **Horseshoe Pitching**  
 Mariners of Presbyterian Church are in charge of parade      **Pitch Games**

**Prizes to the Winners**      **Dance, 8 p.m., Fire House**  
 All Ages — \$1.00 Couple, 75c Stag

**Free Barbecue - 5-7 p.m.**  
**Barbecued Beef Sandwich, Beans, Potato Chips, Drink**  
 Free Drawing for Numerous Prizes Following Barbecue - Winners Must Be Present To Win

**8 Carnival Rides Thur.-Fri.-Sat.**  
 SCHOOL PARKING LOT

**Free Barbecue Tickets Available From The Following Sponsoring Merchants:**

Christy's Grocery	Oscarate TV and Appliances	A & W Sales
Milliken Barber Shop	Martin Supply	E and E Texaco Service
Kilgore Supply	Ed Kusab Seeds	Ehrlich Feedlots
Oscarate Auto Parts	Velma Walkman - Avon	Chapin Grocery

pitching contests and card games.

A carnival of eight rides was located on the school parking lot Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The barbecue held in the park from 5 to 7 P.M. was a highlight of the day. Free tickets for the meal were obtained from business houses or purchased for fifty cents in the evening. During the two-hour period, a barbecue sandwich, baked beans, potato chips and a drink were served to 1300 people.

About 350 pounds of 10-pound beef chunks were donated by Ehrlick Feedlots and cooked on spits all day. Reuben Ehrlich donated beans, and others contributed commodities to be served. A dance was held in the firehouse for all ages at the end of the day. Admission was one dollar per couple and 75 cents stag.



**KEEP THE BUGS  
OFF YOUR  
WINDSHIELD**

With An Invisible  $\frac{1}{8}$ " Plexiglass Deflecta-Shield.  
Custom Built for  
Each Model Car. **11.35**

**New Boss Man of The Glass Packs**  
Cherry Bomb High Performance Sport  
Mufflers For All Model Cars **8.36**

S. T. P. 65c  
CHAMPION AND AUTOLITE SPARK  
PLUGS 65c  
Delta Tires — Check Our Prices

**ONORATO AUTO PARTS**  
JIM and BOB  
Milliken, Colo.  
Phone 588-4333 **1967**

- The Milliken Sanitation District ordered that all homes were to be connected to the sewer system by June 1, 1971.
- The Milliken Planning Commission was in existence since the summer of 1971. Five members made up the board. Since its inception the board completely zoned the town and studied water facilities, streets and alleys.
- Reuben Ehrlich purchased the Milliken Texaco Service Station from Lester Schropp in 1971. The name was changed to E & R Texaco Service Station and operated by Dick Rouse.



**THE MAD  
RUSSIAN**

FINE DINING WITH A MILLION DOLLAR VIEW

**GOURMET FOOD AT REASONABLE PRICES**  
Saturday Live Entertainment  
Sunday Brunch - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
DINNER Friday-Saturday - 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Reservations 587-5155  
Located 1 Mile North of Milliken on Highway 257

### 1972 - Wheeler Realty Development

- A grand opening of The Hair Hut at 1116 Broad Street was held December 1 and 2, 1972. Judy Rouse was the owner and operator.
- Consultations on erecting new houses in Milliken were started in the fall of 1972. This was a co-ordinated effort by the Weld County Lumber Company of La Salle, Colorado, and Wheeler Realty Company of Greeley, Colorado. Weld County Lumber Company was the developer and Wheeler Realty was the agent for selling the houses. The plan was to construct houses, first on existing vacant lots in the community and

then develop other land as the need for new housing increased. Prices started at \$19,450 and ranged upward depending on the style and size of the home.

In 1972 twenty-six homesites were ready for development in the town. By February 1973 the Milliken Planning Commission granted approval for Wheeler Realty Company to build houses on lots on North Nora Avenue, North Olive Avenue and North Pauline Avenue. Before this was done, the Realty Company was requested to grant easements to the town to build cul-de-sacs at the north of the three avenues. These were necessary to avoid opening the avenues onto State Highway 60.

- Lyndon B. Johnson proposed a plan for achieving "A Great Society" in his State-of-The Union address in 1965. The Housing and Urban Development Act was one proposal approved by Congress. The Wheeler Development north of Broad Street on Nora, Olive, and Pauline Avenues came under this Act.

### **1973 - Wal-Mar Annexation - Fire Claims Lives**

- Walter and Mary Kay Seele started the Wal-Mar Annexation on the west edge of Milliken. The sub-division was formed in three stages and the agreement for Stage I was signed February 14, 1973. Some lots were replatted the following year.

The agreement for Stage II was signed in 1991. The Town Board unanimously approved the development agreement and final plat for the Wal-Mar Sub-division Stage III at a meeting held January 22, 1997. Wal-Mar III is now known as Milliken Meadows.

- Mrs. Jack (Edna) William's rug weaving hobby was a benefit to many residents. She did custom weaving on two Union Custom looms, which had belonged to her mother, Mrs. G.W. (Teresa) Boss. Mrs. Boss started weaving in 1917 and Mrs. Williams started weaving in about 1926. In 1973 an article was published in a local newspaper telling of her accomplishments.
- Ted and Sondra Blehm purchased the Mad Russian restaurant, golf course and revolving round house north of Milliken along Highway 257. At the October 1973 Town Board meeting, the driving range at the Blehm Waterway Estates was zoned and annexed to the City of Milliken.
- The Milliken Planning Committee approved a plan for the forming of a trailer court at a January meeting in 1973. In October 1973 Jay Bonde, owner of the court, presented an improvement plan for the Willow Glen Trailer Court. This was the first Trailer Court in Milliken and was the site where the present one is located.
- A crowd of 2,000 people devoured 500 pounds of beef donated by Monfort Packing Plant of Greeley to the Beef and Bean Day celebration in 1973. The beef was prepared in a special rotisserie that had been constructed by Mervin Martin and was placed along Josephine Avenue on the west side of Lola Park. Gordon Cook, Rex Wakeman and Howard Crouse started the barbecuing on Friday, the day before Beef and Bean Day. Several volunteered to keep the fire going all night and into the next day, but as Gordon lived across from the park he kept an eye on the process all night.

Thirty women, Milliken residents, prepared the 150 pounds of beans which were served with the barbecued sandwiches.

- A fire at 912 Broad Street in June of 1973 was caused by a cigarette falling onto a mattress. The apartment was occupied by Oscar Brown and owned by Clyde Bejarano. The 3:30 A.M. fire damaged three apartments. Most of the damage was to the lower half of the building and was caused by the large amount of water used to extinguish the blaze.
- Mr. and Mrs. Elmer (Doris) Kaiser who lived at 211 Kathleen Avenue succumbed to a fire that engulfed their home in March 1973. Initial findings indicated the flames started in and around the furnace under the floor of the home and spread. Both were long time Milliken area residents.

### **1974 - Fire**

- An early morning fire at the Colorado Alfalfa Products Hay Mill at the northeast intersection of Colorado 60 and State Highway 257 caused several thousand dollars damage in 1974. Stored pellets had been smoldering for a few weeks in a bin, and employees were auguring pellets out of the bin in an attempt to halt the smoldering, but winds caused the pellets to flame. Only a few tons of pellets were destroyed in the fire, but more were damaged by smoke.

### **1975 - Colorado Rural Housing Development**

- The shop building on the Tom Chesnut farm south of Milliken was destroyed by fire in January 1975. Milliken volunteer firefighters responded to the early afternoon fire but were unsuccessful in saving the building or its contents. An estimate of the loss was \$20,000.
- Construction since December 16, 1974, in the area of the old Milliken Potato Dock resulted in three apartment buildings containing a total of 28 units. Roche Contractors Inc. of Greeley, Colorado built the units for the Colorado Rural Housing Development Corporation of Brighton, Colorado. Ray Finney, Housing Specialist with the Housing Development Corporation, said that the units were designed to attract low-moderate income families, and rental fees were to be based on family income. Later single family homes were erected on lots parallel to the railroad tracks.
- The Milliken Town Council in December 1975 approved an ordinance to establish overlapping terms of office for the trustees. Under the new system, half of the council members would be up for re-election at a time.

### **1976 Auto Parts Business**

- The fifth annual Beef and Bean Day celebration was Saturday, August 7, 1976. Approximately 1,200 persons attended.

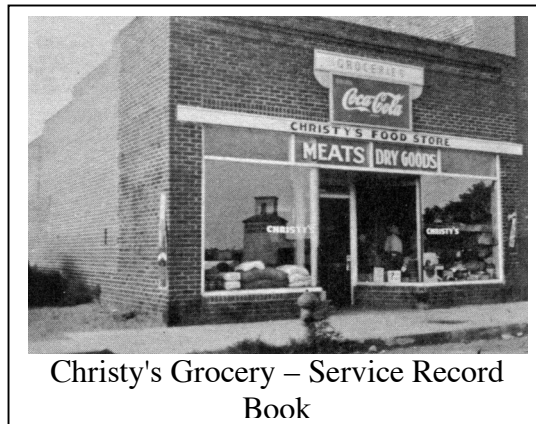
- Charles Martin opened an Auto Body Repair business on Broad Street, east of the Town Hall.

### 1978 - Broad Street Beauties

- The barbecue at Lola Park in Milliken on Beef and Bean Day August 5, 1978 attracted 1,400 people.
- Broad Street Beauties, an antique shop, opened for business at 811 Broad Street in 1978. Owners Jim and Shirley Gardner were involved in antiques, both in the shop and by traveling to shows around the country. Buying and selling estate sales comprised part of their business. A later enterprise was the establishment of the Two Rivers Coffin Company. Mr. Gardner constructed the wooden coffins that were for sale by the company.

### 1979 - Martinez Grocery

- Dave Martinez and his mother, Virginia Martinez purchased Christy's Store at 914 Broad Street in 1979. Both were long time residents of Milliken. The building had been used continuously as a grocery store since construction in 1925 by Harry K. March. It was constructed on the site of the Antlers Hotel that was destroyed by fire in March 1924. After the Martinez family closed the grocery store several cafes operated in the building.



Christy's Grocery – Service Record Book

### 1981 - Heavy Rainstorm

- Two inches of rain fell in twenty minutes in Milliken and surrounding area in June 1981. Residents in some areas of town waded through high water. Damage of \$5,000 was reported to land and property.
- In 1982 Milliken received another violent rainstorm. Water five feet deep caused damage to 50 houses and businesses.

### 1984 Transfers of Land

- The Town Council approved the annexation petition presented by Joe Sauter for two parcels of land to be annexed to Milliken at the January 1984 meeting. One was a 38-

acre parcel east of Highway 257, and the other a 36-acre parcel west of the highway, both north of Milliken.

- The Hitching Post Liquor Store was erected and opened for business in 1984 on the west side of Highway 257, a short distance north of the intersection of Highway 60 and Highway 257.

### **1985 Horseshoes**

- Ed Knaub built an indoor horseshoe pitching shed south of Milliken for the use of the public.

### **1986 - Industrial Park**

- The Mad Russian restaurant and complex closed in 1983 and filed for bankruptcy in 1984. Bob Ehrlich purchased the complete unit at the auction held May 31, 1986. This included the restaurant, housing development area, and the golf course.

Annexations of land by the Ehrlich family were approved in June, July, and September 1984. The annexations included the following:

1. An Industrial Park consisting of 80 acres southeast of Milliken,
2. The CAP Farm Annexation of 140 acres at the intersection of Highway 60 and Highway 257
3. Hillsboro Annexation of 280 acres adjacent to the Industrial Park,
4. Wildcat Area Sub-division Annexation southeast of Milliken along Weld County Road 21.

### **1987 - Street Improvement Districts**

- The Mad Russian Golf Course reopened in the summer of 1987. This included the restaurant and housing development area. The Town Council approved the issuance of a license to the Mad Russian Restaurant for the sale of liquor by drink in 1987. All forms of liquor had been voted out in the 1950's. The sale of 3.2 percent beer was allowed in the 1970's and voters approved the sales of packaged liquor over 3.2 percent in 1984. Liquor to be sold by drink was approved April 7, 1987.
- The Town Council at a meeting held December 12, 1984, passed a resolution of intent to form a street improvement district. Several meetings were held to present information to the residents of a street paving proposal, but the voters defeated the proposal in 1985. More meetings and discussions were held.

Jeff Couch, President of Redpeak Engineering Company, presented plans for street improvement districts to the Town Council May 28, 1986. This company had received a contract for drawing plans for street design and other improvements. .

Voters approved the proposals which were called Improvement Districts I, II, and III, at an election in April 1986. This included the \$1.54 million dollar street paving district in 1986, which provided for the paving of all of the graveled streets in town, added storm sewer improvements, and the replacement of all traffic signs, etc. Property owners were assessed \$49.94 per linear feet of frontage.

An agreement was signed in July 1986 with the Great Western on the removal of the railroad tracks crossing Broad Street near Harriett and Grace Avenues. The Great Western would remove the tracks and retain ownership of the land. Milliken was to replat the railroad property and square up the diagonal streets so the Great Western could sell lots.

Various improvements were made in Milliken during 1986 and 87 as a result of the meetings and agreements signed. The residential streets were prepared for paving and paved. The railroad tracks were removed and the area was made ready for building to start. This became the Iron Horse Sub-Division. The water tank that was erected in 1912 and had not been used since Milliken began receiving domestic water from the Central Weld Water District was dismantled. Broad Street was lowered, as it was too high to allow for proper drainage. New Sidewalks, curbs and gutters, and landscaping were added to the downtown area. The irrigation ditch, which ran through town, was piped. Best Way Paving Company of Greeley was awarded the contract to pave the streets, a bid of \$1,159,668.25.

### **1988 - New Sewer System**

- The Salt & Pepper Cafe opened in 1988 at 914 Broad St.
- The Town Board eliminated the position of Town Manager for economic reasons.
- A MIK program, called Milliken Cares for Kids, was launched in the spring of 1988. Weekends the Community Center was transformed into a dance club and haven for social gatherings for the youth of Milliken.
- A retirement celebration for Gordon Cook was held in January 1988. Gordon became Postmaster in Milliken in 1954 and retired at the end of 1987. He was the eighteenth postmaster to serve Milliken since the establishment of a post office in 1909.
- Milliken's sewer plant was over capacity and in violation of Environmental Protection Agency standards. This caused the Health Department to issue a cease and desist order on the district in 1984 and employ a moratorium on the issuance of new sewer hookups.

The old plant was built in the late 1960's for a population of 700. During the years since the sewer system had been installed untreated sewage drained into the Little Thompson River north of town. This was creating problems and a solution was necessary.

The Sanitation District was formed in 1968 when Milliken obtained Federal funds to build a treatment plant northeast of town. Then the treated sewage was released into the Thompson River.



By 1988 a larger system was necessary, and construction of a 1.4 million-dollar lagoon system was started. A Community Development Block grant was awarded by the Department of Local Affairs to bring the sewer to compliance with state regulations. It had been installed during the WPA days of the 1930's. In addition, Milliken received two grants totaling \$419,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency to aid in the construction of the system.

Completion of construction was delayed by inaccurate soil testing which increased the cost by \$125,000. The new sewer plant was half finished in December 1989.

### **1989 - Mobile Home Park**

- Eugene Manigold sold the Mobile Home Park to Bjorne Nylund. This was in the same location as the initial park. .

### **1992 Colorado Big Thompson Project Water**

- In 1992 the Town Council approved the expenditure of \$52,500 for the purchase of Colorado Big Thompson Project water to serve the needs of the community.
- Rosa Rico opened Rosa's Cafe at 1005 Broad Street in August 1992. She had lived in Milliken about twenty years.

### **1993 - Avila Park**

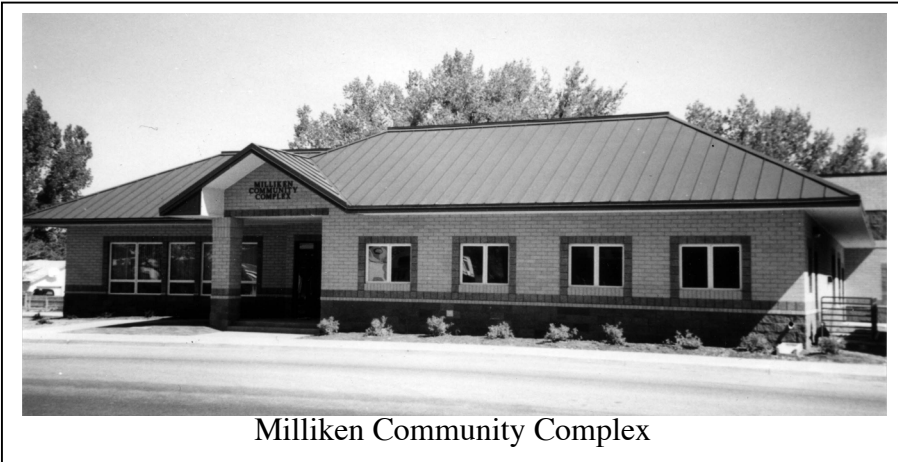
- A fire May 7, 1993 destroyed a garage and damaged four vehicles. A teenager working on an engine in the garage decided to light the woodstove with the aid of gasoline. The gas ignited, and the fire quickly spread, destroying the structure.
- Members of the Avila family informed the Town Council of their willingness to donate to the town, land just north of the Milliken Complex. The park formerly known as Lolita Park was renamed Avila Park.

A bridge was built across the drainage ditch in Lola Park in July of 1994. Blocks used in the construction were purchased from Valley Block of Loveland, Colorado.

### **1996 - Iron Horse Subdivision - Town Complex**

- Gus Skowron was given approval at a Town Council meeting April 24, 1996, to build a group of town homes north of Broad Street between Harriett and Irene Avenues. This project was part of an effort underway in the Iron Horse Sub-Division.
- In August 1996 a costly fire at the Tom Dunn farm north of town destroyed a shed and workshop.

- The \$600,000 Town Complex was finished. A Federal Community Development Block Grant for \$330,000 was received. A \$175,000 loan from the First National Bank of Johnstown and \$50,000 received from the sale of the old Community Center helped the Complex become a reality. Fundraiser activities by residents netted \$15,000. The grand opening was held in May 1996.



Milliken Community Complex

- The Eloy Mares "Auto and Tire Repair" business started in 1988 in a building east of the Town Hall on Broad Street. After eight years at that location, a new building was erected at 1000 Broad Street and the business moved to the new location.
- In 1996 Milliken received \$28,000 in State Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance funds to aid in developing a comprehensive plan for the town.

**1997 - Colorado Community Bank - Mill Iron Five Annexation**

- The Luna Heating and Air building at 911 Broad Street was erected in 1997.
- The Community Bank of Milliken, a branch of the First National Bank of Yuma, Colorado, began operation in June 1997 at 107 South Irene Avenue in the brick structure known as the Madam Berrick Building. A grand opening celebration was held Friday, June 20, 1997.



The Community Bank of Milliken in the Berrick Building

The Berrick Building was among the first completed

buildings in town, erected in early 1910 and ready for occupancy the last of May 1910. Through the years it was used as temporary housing for businesses, an apartment house, storage rooms, extra schoolrooms and a doctor's office.

The first bank in town, The First State Bank, opened October 1, 1909, in the Cement Block Building on the south side of Broad Street. The bank and other businesses moved several times and in January, were located in a brick building on the northwest corner of Irene Avenue and Broad Street. Fire gutted this building February 6, 1913, and the First State Bank of Milliken moved temporarily into the Berrick Building. This bank was closed voluntarily by its stockholders on February 18, 1926.

- In July 1997, a movement was started to have the town act as administrator of the Sanitation District. It was dissolved December 31, 1998. Board members at that time were: Jim Gardner, Chairman; Lois Onorato, Vice-chairman; Charles Nelson, Treasurer, and board members were Tom Adkisson and Dick Brown.
- The Town Council approved the Mill Iron Five Annexation, north of Milliken, in November 1997. The area is north of the Mad Russian Golf Course, west of Highway 257.

### **1998 - Milliken Logo**

- Michelle Waddell of Silhouette Expressions in Johnstown, Colorado designed the logo adopted by the town in February of 1998.
- Ken and Connie Spooner, after owning Ken's Market for two decades, sold it to Pat Onorato, effective November 23, 1998. The store at 903 Broad Street was renamed Hometown Market & Deli. Pat operated the Easy Clean Laundromat next door to the Deli since 1994. Spooners founded Ken's Market in 1978 in the Crawford building, 1005 Broad Street, and moved from there in 1985.

### **1999 - Greeley Water Agreement - Future Developments Planned - Town Government**

- The organization of Refulgent Rebekah Lodge No. 98, took place on the evening of April 11, 1924. Many state officers of the I.O.O.F. attended the afternoon and evening festivities.

The lodge continued holding meetings and acquiring new members until 1999.

Several years ago the membership was approximately eighty people but gradually dwindled. The Platteville Rebekah Lodge disbanded, and part of that membership joined the Milliken Lodge; however, a larger membership was needed.

On January 1, 1999, Refulgent Rebekah Lodge No.98 relinquished the charter and disbanded.

- In 1999 Greeley City leaders supported the July 14, agreement with Milliken to treat domestic water and to allow Milliken to buy at least twenty million gallons of treated

water per year. Milliken is to be responsible for providing untreated water to Greeley, which will treat the water and transport it via pipeline to Milliken. Under the twenty-year agreement, Milliken will pay all costs plus a ten- percent fee.

- J.C.R. Automotive, an automotive and truck maintenance business at 911 Broad Street opened in August 1999. The business is family owned by Rich and James Wakeman, and Craig Eidson.
- Developments that were approved in 1999 and are expected to be developed in 2000 include:
  1. Prairie View Estates, a residential area, in the southeast corner of the original city limits of Milliken. Dieter Skowron and Jerry Colvin plan quality homes.
  2. Frank Farms development will be along Weld County Road 21 on the west side of Milliken. The developer, Don Marostica, expects to build 320 homes there.
  3. The Villas, adjacent to the golf course at the Mad Russian north of Milliken, is to be the final phase of the Mad Russian developments. Contractor, Hall-Irwin, expects to erect 149 homes on the site.
  4. Centennial, another Hall-Irwin project, will be east of Milliken. Approximately 2200 Acres are to be used for residential and commercial purposes. Many public facilities are expected to be erected there.
- The first municipal election was held October 10, 1910, and a mayor and six trustees were elected. At the organizational meeting of the Town Council, appointments were made for a Clerk, Marshal, and Treasurer. A committee to study ordinances was approved. As a contrast, the following governed the town of Milliken in 1999.

Ted Chavez, Mayor	Elroy Mares, Trustee
Richard Bejarano, Trustee	Charles Martin, Trustee
Jim Gardner, Trustee	Pat Onorato, Trustee
Linda Maesner, Trustee	

The Planning Commission:

David John Watson, Chairman	Manny Trevino
Ted Chavez	Pat Onorato
Geri Baker	Milt Tokunaga
Linda Maesner	

Employees in 1999:

J.R. Schnelzer, Town Administrator	Jane Burdick, Administrative Aide
Nanette Fornof, Town Clerk	Michael Lenihan, Meter Reader
Bob Beikler, Finance Manager	Gary Paxton, Chief of Police
Gina Janett, Manager of Water Utilities	Jon Holiday, Patrol Sergeant
Leroy Martinez, Public Works Director	Benito Garcia, Investigator
Lois Onorato, Senior Coordinator	Mike Ermentraut, Officer

Dale Smith, Building Official  
Cheryl Powell, Accounting Clerk  
Joe Leija, Utilities  
Ted Trujillo, Utilities  
Johnny Martinez, Utilities  
Joan Swanson, Court/Building Clerk

Scott Dodenhoeft, Officer  
Laverne Ganaway, Officer  
James Albee, Officer  
Anthony Riley, Reserve Officer  
Deanna Cotter, Reserve Officer  
Keith Balltrip, Reserve Officer

Businesses in 1999:

Broad Street Beauties  
Convenience Plus #17  
Colorado Community Bank  
Classical Gas  
Easy Clean Laundromat  
Hometown Market and Deli  
JCR Automotive  
Joey's Taco Factory  
Jollie's Accounting and Tax Prep.  
Kielian Construction  
Kilgore Supply  
Lee's Towing  
Luna Heating & Air, Inc.

Maggie's Custom Draperies  
Mares Auto and Tire Repair  
Nichols Hardware  
Martin Supply  
Milliken Barber Shop  
Mad Russian Golf and Restaurant  
Onorato Auto Parts  
Rosa's Cafe  
Sports Zone LLC  
Two Rivers Casket Company  
Western International Grain  
South Grace Hair Studio

- The population in 1920 was 372 and by 1999 the approximate population was 2800 to 3000 people.
- The first mayor to serve Milliken was R. M. Benton, who was elected October 13, 1910. He served until April 7, 1913. Succeeding mayors have been O.L. Cully, H.B. Crawford, E.J. Elam, J. D. Dunn, C.J. Morey, S.T. Wilson, J. D. Bassett, L.W. Deffenbaugh, Z.R. Greenlee, D.L. Patrie, J.V. Onorato, J.D. Christy, Lester Schropp, Ralph Christy, O.L. Altvater, Rex Wakeman, Richard Mann, Mervin Martin, Don Kreiger, Glen Wertz, Steve Mullally and David Watson. The present Mayor, Ted Chavez has served since 1994.

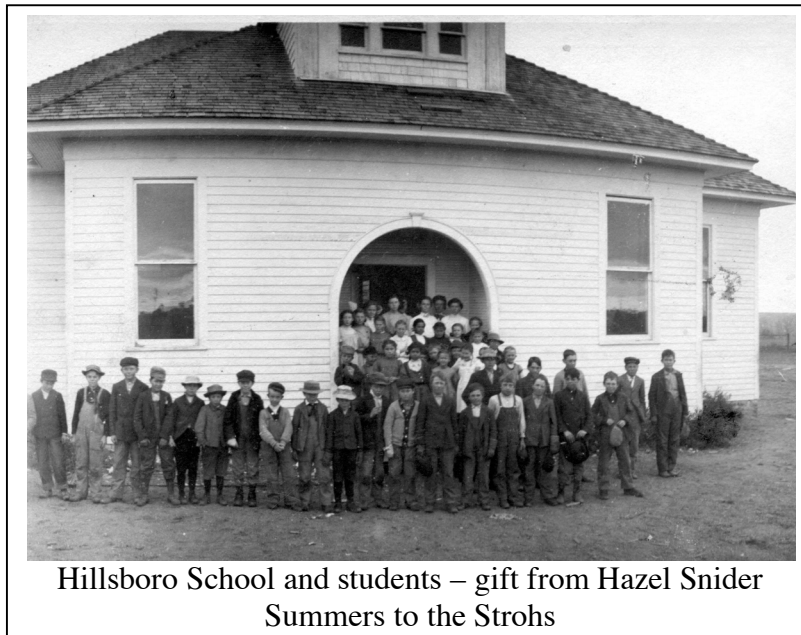
# ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT

## Schools

The first school in District No. 64 was called the Brush School and was located 1/2 mile west of the intersection of State Highway 257 and Weld County Road 48 1/2. For years the foundation was visible on the north side of County Road 48 1/2. This land had been part of a Homestead claimed by the Brush Brothers: Jared L., John M., and William Wesley. William Wesley was killed by Indians in 1868 and was survived by his widow, Martha M., and a daughter, Minnie Bell, who was eight months old.

January 4, 1871, Minnie Bell Brush petitioned the court through her guardian, John Mechling, for a division of the property. She received, with other lands, the N 1/4 of Sec.3, Twp.4 N, Range 67 W. On November 12, 1886, she deeded land to be used for school purposes in this area and a structure known as the Brush School District No. 64 was erected on the site. Community meetings were also held in the building in addition to education of the community youth.

Mary T. Knowlton, on November 20, 1905, sold all of Block 2 in the newly platted town of Hillsboro to School District No. 64 of Weld County to be used exclusively for school purposes. A two-room frame schoolhouse was built on that site in 1906 and District No. 64 was relocated to the site. This also was used as a community meeting center. Joe Miller and Charles Mellon were the first instructors.



Hillsboro School and students – gift from Hazel Snider Summers to the Strohs

Hillsboro was vacated as a town November 22, 1909, and became part of Milliken. The schoolhouse now was in Milliken on the northwest corner of the townsite.

Milliken prospered, and on opening day January 6, 1910, the Hillsboro School had eighty pupils enrolled. Among the first teachers were Ethel Tucker and Edna Hesket. In 1910 Anna Johnson, Miss Meyer and Miss Bragg were hired for the fall term.

At the School Board election in 1910 M.A. Dorman was elected secretary to succeed Link Miner. Also at that time, the tax levy was set at 12 mills.

J.F. Redman became Principal for the fall term in 1911. Miss Gladys Presley taught the intermediate grades, and Miss Anna Johnson taught the primary class.

Meanwhile, another district was being developed east of Milliken. James A. Daniels, in 1863, added a squatters claim to a quarter section of his ranch east of Milliken and occupied it under the Homestead Act. Later he aided in organizing School District No. 21, named Daniels, and gave land to be used for school purposes.



Daniels School House

In August 1911, C.J. Mathers and H.W. Richmond, contractors from Milliken, were doing the masonry work on the new Daniels schoolhouse. A delay in delivery of needed materials forced a change in plans for the fall school term. Because of this school started in the old building.

By 1913 the Milliken schoolhouse was overcrowded. Enrollment swelled due to the increase in homes in Milliken and surrounding countryside. The primary room had an enrollment of fifty-four students with capacity rated as thirty-four students. Three students were placed in single seats. The grammar room had an enrollment of twenty-three students and only room for sixteen

Health of the students was a concern as this building was poorly constructed. Lighting, ventilation and heating were problems.

By December 1913, the school board had rented the lower floor of the Berrick Building where part of the primary group was placed. Enrollment in the primary was sixty-seven, too many for one teacher to handle so an additional teacher was hired.

The total enrollment in the fall of 1913 was one hundred fifty-three students in eight grades. The first grade had sixty-seven students; second, eleven; third, sixteen; fourth, eight; fifth, fourteen; sixth, thirteen; seventh, fifteen; and eighth grade had nine students. Programs were frequently held at the Presbyterian Church due to the overcrowded conditions at the school.

A July 2, 1914, article in the Milliken Mail mentioned the formation of School District No.111, from the north part of District No.64. Residents preferred to have their own school district and successfully petitioned for the formation of a new district. This became Fairview District No.111, located just north of Milliken, Colorado.

In January of 1914, a petition was signed and presented to the Milliken School Board asking for an election to decide whether or not District No.64 should have a new schoolhouse. At the February election the bond issue was defeated. Voters called a \$15,000 referendum extravagant.

Some of the teachers mentioned in records for 1914 were Miss Johnson, Miss Moser and Miss Lulu Lowe. Mrs. Charles Mellon was a substitute teacher in 1914. Miss Lowe taught the second primary room.

A school meeting held March 4, 1915 was well attended. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss erection of a new schoolhouse. The vote taken showed that twenty persons wanted a \$10,000 building to be erected, five wanted a \$5,000 building, one didn't want a new building, one wanted a \$15,000 building and one wanted a \$12,000 building to be erected.

Another meeting was held one week later in the I.O.O.F. hall on the school question. The vote this time showed that a six-room structure costing around \$10,000 was preferred. The clerk of the meeting was asked to petition the school board for a bond election for \$10,000 to build and equip a six-room schoolhouse.

At the election in May 1915, J.D. Boyd was elected President of the School Board and Charles Binder was elected Treasurer. The hotly debated question of where to erect the new school building was discussed with the decision made to build in Block 72. The contract for building the new schoolhouse was awarded to Architect John J. Huddard in June 1915. His plans called for a square building with two identical entrances, front and back.

The schoolhouse was completed on November 18, 1915, On Friday evening, December 10, 1915, the new schoolhouse in Block 72 was formally dedicated. School children had been preparing for this event for weeks and an interesting program was presented. There were recitations, dialogues, singing and three act charades presented. Members of the School Board gave speeches along with Banker, S.T. Wilson, Mayor, E.J. Elam, and Architect, J.J. Huddard. The work of contractor R.H. Kaster was praised. The Women's Club served refreshments cafeteria style and visitors had an opportunity to inspect the schoolhouse.

There were two entrances to the building, east and west. On the ground floor the four rooms were equipped with the latest blackboards. Individual seats were provided for each child and the teacher's desk was in front of the room. Windows in the rooms were all on one side, either east or west. Each room had two entrances, both leading into spacious halls.



Two drinking fountains of white porcelain were located in the halls. Two stairways led to the incomplete interior of the second floor, which was to be finished in the future as needed.

The basement, four feet under the ground, contained a heating plant in the boiler room. An automatic arrangement and a safety valve regulated the steam boiler. Water was automatically pumped from city pipes to provide needed steam. A playroom was at



the northeast end of the basement and on the northwest end was a public library under the auspices of the Woman's Club. Lavatories were also in the basement.

On Saturday, March 4, 1916, at 3 P.M. an auction was held of the old Hillsboro School House, all out buildings, one bell and four large heating stoves. Bids were received to be opened later.

A violent windstorm occurred the last of March 1916, when a storm swept through Milliken all day and did considerable damage. The most recorded damage was to the new schoolhouse where the entire roof was lifted off and dropped to one side without damaging the walls. This was Elaterite roofing which was installed by Hendrie Boltoff Company of Denver and guaranteed installation. The roof was poorly installed and had always leaked.

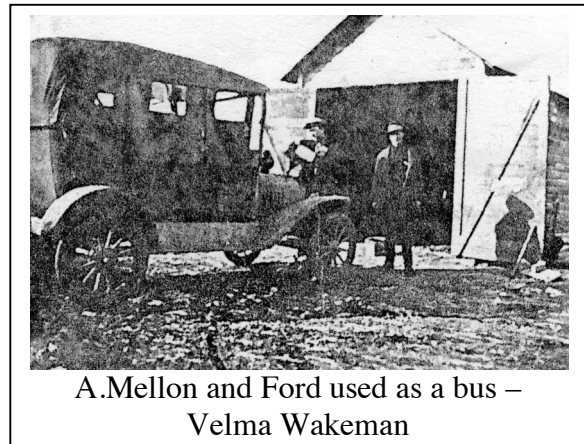
At a regular school board meeting in August 1916, bids that were presented in March for the old Hillsboro building were opened. After discussion the highest bid of \$350 from P.E. Flynn was accepted. Mr. Flynn planned to move the building into town and remodel it into two residences.

At the same meeting Arch Mellon was hired as janitor and to transport students to and from school. His bid of \$80 was \$10 lower than the other bids. Mr. Mellon then purchased a Ford touring car to use in transporting students.

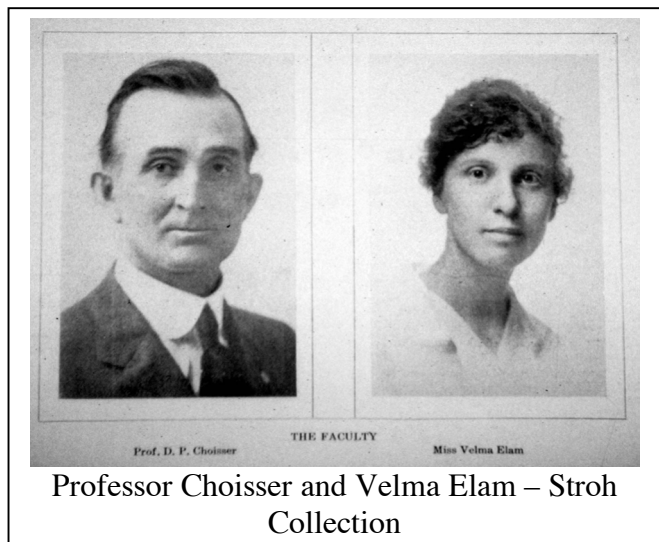
Plastering was being done in August 1917 in the schoolhouse. The west part of the second floor was being finished, to be completed in time for the beginning of the fall term.

The school had offered a tenth grade education until the time the building was completed. After completion of the new building a grade was added each year until the first high school twelfth grade graduation was held in the spring of 1918. In the fall a fourth year was added to the high school course to meet University requirements.

As early as 1910 Milliken had the beginning of a high school in the Hillsboro schoolhouse. Ninth and tenth grades were under the supervision of the Principal, Edna Heskett. The first graduating class of Milliken High School started as freshmen in 1914, under the



A.Mellon and Ford used as a bus –  
Velma Wakeman

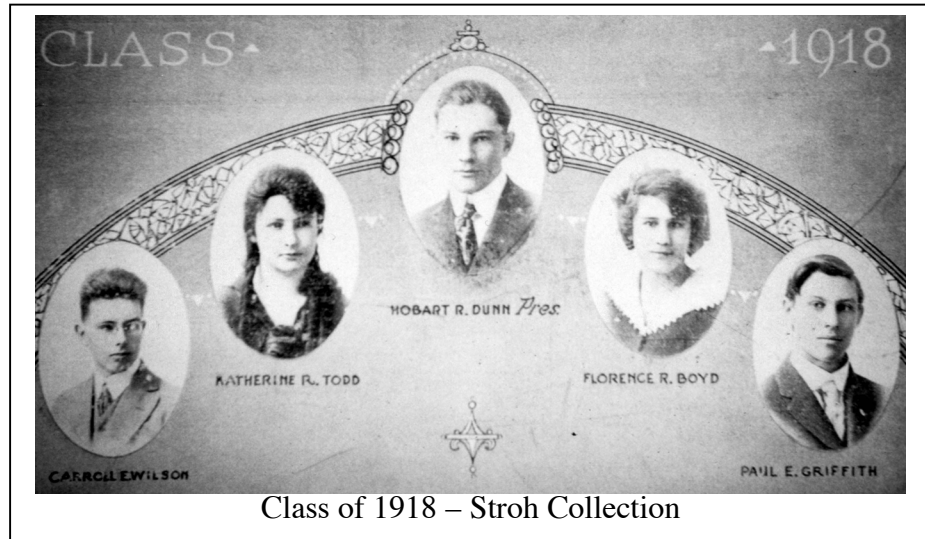


Professor Choisser and Velma Elam – Stroh  
Collection

supervision of Professor B.L. Hueber. Mr. Walker succeeded Professor Hueber. Then Mr. Choisser became Principal with Miss Velma Elam as his assistant.

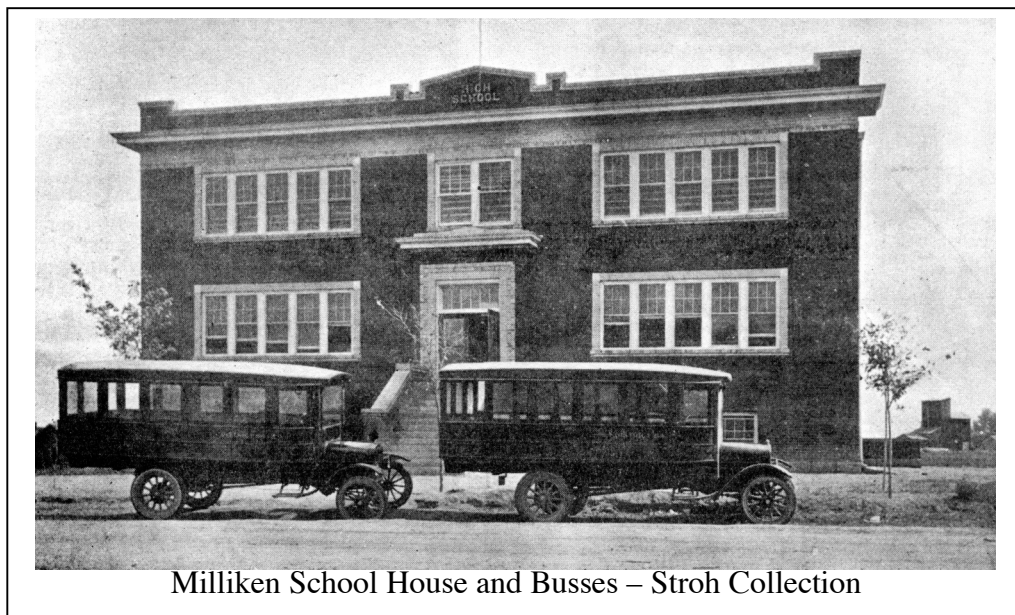
In 1918 graduates of the first graduation class from Milliken High School were Carrol E. Wilson, Katherine R. Todd, Hobart R. Dunn, Florence R. Boyd and Paul E. Griffith. School Board members in 1918 were S.D. Griffith, President; E.J. Elam, Secretary; and G.C. Binder, Treasurer

Residents of Daniels School District No.21, in June 1919, voted on the question of consolidation with District No.64. Those living on the west boundary of the district advocated joining District No.64. Those opposed to the consolidation won by a vote of thirty-eight to fifteen.



The next month those living on the west side of District No.21 petitioned to be removed from that district and added to District No.64. This was done and new boundaries drawn. Some students attended high school in Milliken.

Two busses, called trucks, were necessary to transport students as the enrollment increased. Twenty-five students and \$300,000 assessed valuation was added to District



No.64 for the next year. In July 1919 District No.64 held an election to determine if the board should issue warrants of \$2,500 to purchase two school busses, and complete the interior of the second story of the schoolhouse. Only eighteen people voted, and all were in favor of spending the money. The busses had pneumatic tires of a larger size, instead of the solid tires formerly used, and also had a door in front.

The Milliken Mail reported January 17, 1921, that J.D. Bassett of Milliken was awarded the contract to build the schoolhouse and teacherage for Fairview District No.111. School was being held in a frame building. When the new brick structure was finished, living quarters were at the rear of the structure, and a large room in front was used as a school.

The old Fairview schoolhouse was purchased at an auction sale held on the school grounds December 12, 1921. The structure sold for \$175 to John Sauter, was remodeled, and presently (1999) is east of the main house at the northeast corner of the intersection of State Highway 257 and Weld County Road 52.

Years later some students from Fairview attended high school in District No.64 at Milliken.

In January 1922 a school "truck" driven by Reverend Purdy ran into a Ford at the corner of Irene Avenue and Broad Street pushing the Ford into the base of the cement flagpole which had been erected in the middle of the intersection. The "truck" was loaded with school children but only one was injured. He received cuts on his face caused by flying glass. Windows on the truck were broken and wheels on the Ford were damaged.

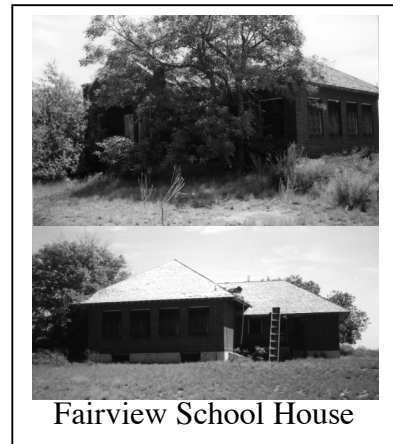
The driver of the Ford said that the truck ignored road rules and made a left turn at the corner. But witnesses said that Mr. Page had a lap robe, or blanket, thrown over his windshield which was partly broken out and that he could not see the road as he should.

Playground equipment was installed in November 1922. This had been planned for some time. The purchase was made possible through efforts of grade school teachers and pupils who presented an operetta. High school students helped raise money and the Woman's Club donated funds. A definite sum had been set aside by the School Board.

Another election was called in March 1927 for a decision to bond District No.64 for \$24,000 to pay for an addition to add a gymnasium to the present schoolhouse. The vote was 102 in favor and 20 against. Bids were received at 7 P.M. April 15, 1927, and each bidder was required to furnish a certified check equal to three percent of the total bid.

Work was started in May 1927 on the \$24,000 addition to add a gymnasium with gallery seats, an auditorium with a stage and classrooms for Domestic Science and a Science Laboratory. George F. Johnson of Fort Collins prepared plans. The general contract was awarded to C.H. Young & Son to be finished by August 15.

Prior to the construction of the new gymnasium athletic activities had been held in a frame building affectionately called "The Barn" located east of the school building.



Fairview School House

Stoves in each end of the building supplied heat. A former student who participated in sports there said that it was a cold building.

On April 25, 1928, the curtain made by Graham Brothers of Denver for the stage was received. It was dark blue velvet velour with a gold fringe across the top. The letters "M H S" in gold were the only decorations added.

The school and school house continued without major changes until a regular sized gymnasium was added in 1952, south of the main structure. The next change occurred when Milliken and Johnstown schools were reorganized and became District Re 5J in 1961. Districts 21 and 111 were included in Re 5J. Members of the last Board of Education of District No.64 were Elmer Stroh, President; Rex Wakeman, Secretary; and Ben Bernhardt, Treasurer. Members of the first Board of Education of Re 5J were Don Davis, Elmer Stroh, Robert Lebsack, Albert Stroh and John Shultz.

Fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students attended the new Milliken Middle School the fall of 1968. High school students attended the new Re 5J building at Johnstown. Elementary students of both communities attended Letford School in Johnstown.

The Milliken School House was demolished in July 1968 to make room for a playground for the new Milliken Middle School. The gymnasium erected in 1952 remained as part of the Middle School.

Elementary students attended school in Johnstown until Milliken Elementary School was built in 1976. As of 2000, both Milliken and Johnstown have elementary schools. Kindergarten through second grade students attend Milliken Elementary. Third, fourth, and fifth grades are at Letford School in Johnstown. Sixth, seventh and eighth grades are at Milliken Middle School and high school (Roosevelt High) is held in Johnstown.

## **POSTAL DEPARTMENT**

E.D. Riker received his commission as Postmaster November 10, 1909, and was to open a post office as soon as an inspector arrived with the necessary supplies.

Milliken Mail, February 11, 1910, reported, "After a delay of months the necessary supplies were received by Postmaster Riker Tuesday, and the post office opened for business Thursday. This makes things more convenient for Milliken has grown too big to be served individually by the rural carrier, though he will continue to bring mail to us via Platteville, Colorado, for the present."

Postmaster E.D. Riker received notice from the Postal Department that starting August 29, 1910, the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railroad would begin carrying mail for Milliken, eliminating the Platteville deliveries.

On June 12, 1912, Postmaster Riker was found to be over \$200 short in postal funds when an inspector arrived and audited the books. Bondsmen made good the shortage, and Mrs. Rose Clugston was temporarily put in charge of the post office. Rikers moved to Greeley. G.W. Snider, who lived in one of the first tent houses in town, became the next Postmaster, in 1912.

Hazel Snider, daughter of George Snider, became Post Mistress in 1914.

In February of 1918, it was reported that Hazel Snider had a netting extended from the petition to the ceiling in the post office, in compliance with postal requirements, in order to leave the door open Sundays and at the noon hour. This was to accommodate patrons in getting mail at their convenience.

In July of 1920, residents of the northern section of Rural Route I changed the route following petition. Changes were made to the system of mail arriving and leaving Milliken. In the 1930's and 1940's mail was delivered to Milliken by a railroad car on the Union Pacific railroad tracks, going to Fort Collins from Denver. In the afternoon this same car returned from Fort Collins on the way back to Denver. Both times it brought mail to Milliken. Mail was prepared by the postmaster and delivered to the train by a carrier (not the rural). In the 1930's and 1940's, the carrier was Deobald Rotharmel, a local cobbler.

The post office has been in five locations, all along or near Broad Street since its initial establishment. The last location was 1009 Broad



U.S. Post Office

Street where a new Post Office was built in 1969 and dedicated October 30, 1969. Over 200 people attended the flag raising ceremony and toured the new facility in 1969. Postmaster, I.G. Cook, in the opening ceremonies, welcomed all to the flag raising led by Milliken Boy Scout Troop No.235. Preceding the flag raising the Roosevelt High School Band played "The Star Spangled Banner."

Employees at the Post Office were Matt Martinez, Rural Carrier, and Velma Wakeman, Assistant Carrier, and Clerks Miss Nola Rogers and Mrs. James Newcomb.

The post office was originally owned by J.A. Baker but was purchased by I.G. (Gordon) Cook in 1974 who remains its owner.

Postmasters

Edward D. Riker	November 10, 1909
George W. Snider	October 15, 1912
Hazel J. Snider	September 15, 1914
Lois F. Griffith	June 15, 1920
Inez E. Hupp	September 11, 1920
William H. Klinsick	April 23, 1923
Inez E. Hupp	September 8, 1923
Marie Spomer	November 7, 1924
Irene Humphrey	February 3, 1926
Minnie Humphrey	May 25, 1926
Wilma Hoeft	November 2, 1937

Wilma Hoeft Palmateer	June 21, 1938
Eileen E. Palmateer	July 7, 1943
Merle Warner	July 1, 1948
Gene Morris	November 12, 1949
Matthew Martinez	April 1, 1951 - March 1953
Lynn Taylor	April 1, 1953 - October 31, 1954
I.G. Cook	November 1, 1956 - December 31, 1987
Isabel Hronchek Franklin	March 25, 1988 - fall of 1991
Cathy Solko	May 1, 1992

## **FIRE PROTECTION**

Milliken suffered, as did many communities, from the villain "fire" until 1913. During those early years, residents voluntarily responded when a fire alarm was sounded and a bucket brigade quickly formed.

One of the first recorded fires occurred in December 1909 at Hoeft Bros. Grocery Store. A box filled with hot ashes left on the floor burned through the bottom of the box setting the floor afire. Mr. Hoeft arrived in time, and a few pails of water put out the fire. Carelessness in handling hot ashes caused many fires.

Another common cause was spontaneous combustion. This occurred in April 1910 when flames were seen coming from the Wolf Blacksmith Shop. A pile of coal stored in the building caused the fire but again pails of water extinguished the blaze.

A destructive fire in early 1910 destroyed baled hay that was stored in a barn belonging to Chas. Bechtol. Neighbors aided the family in trying to extinguish the blaze and succeeded in saving the barn,

Three buildings on the north side of Broad Street were destroyed May 11, 1911. One brick structure and one frame building belonged to Hoeft Bros. R.M. Benton owned the other frame building. Businesses in these buildings included a drug store, floral and feed store, grocery store and a meat market. Part of one building was rented for living quarters. An alarm was sounded but because of the lack of effective fire fighting equipment efforts were directed toward saving stock in the building and protect the cement block buildings across Broad Street. The bucket brigade worked faithfully.

A chemical cart was purchased in August 1911 but could not be used, as parts were lost in transit. Within a week the lost parts were found, and a meeting was scheduled to be held in the Antlers Hotel. The object was to organize a volunteer fire company.

The Bank Building, a brick structure owned by Benton & Cully was gutted by fire on January 4, 1913 at 5 a.m. This was the largest structure in town, located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Broad Street and Irene Avenue. A bank, a drug store and a post office occupied the first floor. The telephone office, Dr. Fuson's office, C.H. Baker's office, the office of Benton & Cully, living quarters and the Odd Fellows Hall occupied the second floor.

A new water works system had recently been completed and residents were given the opportunity to have water piped into their homes. It was believed that had it not been for the new system the fire could have swept the town.

The Lewis Blacksmith Shop was destroyed by fire in November 1914.

On Monday night, September 20, 1915, the fire bell rang again. Responding residents discovered the building occupied by the Elliott Manufacturing Company was afire and immediately the chemical engine was rushed to the scene. The hose was unwound and the crank turned to start the chemical action. The only response was the appearance of a cloud of smoke. The engine refused to start. Another hose cart was obtained and aided in putting out the fire, but the delay was costly. An estimation of damages was \$800 to \$1,000.

Four wheat stacks on the Chas. Binder farm burned to the ground October 5, 1915. While preparing to start threshing a spark from the engine ignited the straw. The loss was approximately 1,600 bushels of wheat and shared equally by Conrad Stroh, who farmed the land, and Chas. Binder, owner of the farm. This was a common occurrence as steam engines were used to power threshing machines and emitted sparks that sometimes caused fires.

The fire bell wakened residents early Saturday A.M. July 23, 1920, and response by the volunteer fire department and citizens was immediate. The community was on the scene at the Farmers Union Milling & Elevator Company which was a mass of flames and then a pile of ashes. Use of the hose cart was not effective, so the irrigation plant was started, and a hose was attached. Just as the added force of water was to be aimed at the structure, the electricity went off.

Investigation found that a fuse blew at the sub-station at Wildcat. Besides the loss of the elevator and flour warehouse construction was underway for a new flour warehouse and coal bin to double the capacity. This also burned. Fire prevented the moving of a Union Pacific freight car loaded with wheat, which was at the unloading station, so it burned. The nearby Alfalfa Mill was saved. Lightning was believed to have been the cause.

Fire was discovered April 10, 1923, at the rear of A. Thacker's Meat Market. Weeds, etc., piled against the outside of the building ignited and fire crept to the roof of the store. Little damage was done.

Yesterday morning as Art Goracke finished building the fire in the L.W. Deffenbaugh Lumber office, he placed a can of oil which he had drained from the truck the night before, on the stove to warm before starting the machine. He also wanted some water so went outside to get a bucketful. While he was gone the stove evidently smothered and gave a big puff, upsetting the oil, which caught on fire. In a few seconds great clouds of smoke belched forth from the doors and a window which was broken during the explosion. Assistance was immediately secured and with sacks and rags the flames were soon out. About the only damage was the discoloration of the walls and merchandise.

Source: *Milliken Mail*, January 3, 1924

Another fire September 1, 1923 destroyed the Marvel Milling & Elevator Company that was preparing for the winters run. The mill occasionally ground feed while waiting for the new harvested grain to come in. Fire started in the bins where little grain was stored, so the cause was unknown.

The interior walls were constructed of wood and completely covered by metal. This prevented firefighters from applying water where it was needed as they could only work through the doors and windows. Intense heat from the metal kept them from getting close to the building. Damage was estimated at \$14,000.

March 11, 1924, at about 6 A.M. people passing through Milliken discovered the Antlers Hotel on fire. After sounding the alarm they left town. Residents immediately responded, but the fire fighting hose and chemical wagon were frozen and useless. By this time the fire was out of control and the building soon was in ruins.

The fire hose was thawed and a stream of water was aimed at the adjoining building, which probably saved it. The same morning a Great Western freight train backed across the main crossing at Broad Street and cut one of the new fire hoses in several pieces. Loss to the town was almost \$50.

About 9 P.M. Friday night there was a cry of fire and people rushed toward the Alfalfa Elevator, where the hay storage building was afire. It was only a few minutes from the time the fire was first discovered until the entire building was in flames, even to the carrier that led to the main building. The volunteer firemen quickly tore the conveyor away and stopped the spread of fire to other buildings. The irrigation pump was soon started and this proved a wonderful source of water. Twelve loads of new hay had been put in the building the day of the fire and all was destroyed.

Source: *Milliken Mail*, July 17, 1924

Jim Roberts, manager stated it would be rebuilt, but it never was.

Another old building burned. It was built to be used as a canning factory, later was a glove factory, then sold to J.K. Mullen who disposed of the machinery and converted the building into a storehouse. About two tons of hay stored in the building was destroyed in the fire which occurred Saturday, August 1, 1924.

The Milliken Fire Department was not successful in saving the building. As the chemical tank turned the corner of Frances Avenue and Broad Street a wheel came off and rendered the tank useless. This was the second time the old building had been afire. Flames were extinguished in the first fire before much damage was done.

Source: *Milliken Mail*, August 7, 1924



Other typical fires involved chicken houses. A fire in the chicken house belonging to C.W. Delver in March 1928 resulted in severe losses. The Delvers family lived in the Judge Milliken house at 119 South Frances Avenue.

The Ray Lawson family lived in the house owned by H.B. Crawford. Slight damage resulted from a fire in 1932. The Great Western Sugar factory and the Milk Condensery at Johnstown provided assistance in extinguishing the fire.

The Parker Lynch home was destroyed by fire in 1936 and the fire was fanned by strong winds. Some furniture was saved. The Z.R. Greenlee home at 221 South Josephine Avenue also sustained fire damage in 1930.

Fire at the Ben Wren home in 1937 destroyed a garage and 1933 Chevrolet car parked inside. The garage belonged to Mrs. R.C. Schmaljohn. The property, 605 Elm Street, was formerly the H.K. March residence and rented by Ben Wren, a local teacher.

Fire at the C.H. Tromble home in the 1930's destroyed the house within thirty minutes. The Mad Russian is located on this site. The farm was owned by Dr. McNaught of Denver, Colorado, and farmed by Mr. and Mrs. Alex Stiley. After the fire started from a kitchen oil stove, Mrs. Stiley ran to the Sauter home for aid. Milliken's chemical wagon was out of order so water was hauled in buckets from the lake north of the house. The efforts were in vain. An ice storage building filled with sawdust, which hadn't been used for quite some time also burned.

Typical of the misfortunes throughout years in fighting fires occurred while fighting a garage fire at the Hoeft residence northeast of Milliken on north Ethel Avenue in the 1930's. The old fire alarm bell was to have been torn down when the new fire siren was installed. This had not yet been done. When the switch was thrown to sound the alarm, nothing happened, so the fuse box was opened. There was no fuse in the box. A new fuse was installed, and still no sound was made. In the meantime the old fire bell was used and people responded.

First steps had been taken toward organizing a Volunteer Fire Department in February 1913, but destructive fires continued to plague the community. Ultimately, organization of the Milliken Volunteer Fire Department was completed in 1933. Still an apparent lack of interest and organization contributed to the high fire losses.

A fire chief was put in charge of the fire team and meetings at the organization in 1933. An assistant, a secretary, a treasurer, and an entertainment committee aided him. Also named were a Hose Cart Crew, a Ladder and Police Duty Crew, a Chemical Wagon Crew and an official Bell Ringer.

In 1954, the structure known as the Bank Building that had been rebuilt after a destructive fire in January 1913, burned. The building had been remodeled and the upper floor was used as a dance hall and roller skating rink. A lunchroom and soda fountain occupied part of the lower floor.

Another Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1949. Apparently the first ones ceased to exist. After the organization, the problem of raising funds to purchase equipment surfaced. At that time the town had an adequate supply of water for fire fighting, so efforts were made to finance and purchase equipment.

A two-wheeled trailer was donated to the department by one of its members and donations were received to purchase equipment. This was used until a new truck arrived, a 1934 Model "B" Ford. A Barton Pump capable of pumping 250 gallons of water per minute and a 375-gallon storage tank were mounted on the truck. Other additions were 150 feet of one-inch rubber hose and nozzle, and small fire extinguishers. The purchase price of \$1,200 was collected within two weeks by donations from citizens.

This organization and equipment served the Milliken area until April of 1963, when the Milliken Fire Protection District was formed. At this time a Board of Directors was elected.

In August 1964, a fully equipped 1964 Ford Pumper truck was purchased. At the same time a Fire Department building was erected at the southwest corner of Irene Avenue and Broad Street where trucks and equipment are stored.

Volunteers for the Fire Department increased to twenty-five by July of 1965. With Robert Onorato serving as fire chief, the department met twice a month for business and training. Members were also trained in Red Cross first aid classes.

The wives of the firemen formed the "Fireflies", an auxiliary to the Department in 1967. The purpose was to be of service to the Fire Department.

In the fall of 1971, a 1,600-gallon tank truck was purchased.

The Milliken Fire Protection District, formed in 1963, served the area east of Milliken and west of Greeley. Milliken Fire Station No.2, Hill and Park, was erected in 1974. A few years later an addition was added to Milliken Station No.1, the one in Milliken.

Eight units serve the two stations: two tankers, three engines, two rescue, and one brush truck. Five units are stored at Milliken Station No.1, and three units are stored at Hill and Park, which is Milliken Station No.2. The units can be used wherever needed.

In 1999, six Emergency Medical Technicians, a Board of Directors, a Fire Chief and two Assistant Fire Chiefs, and 32 volunteer firefighters serve the district.

Kevin Knaub is Fire Chief. The two Assistant Fire Chiefs are Tom Schroeder and Chuck Ashbaugh. The Board of Directors consists of Roy Watson, Jerry Kilgore, Robert Onorato, Buddy Prather and Bud Jenniges. They are assisted by 32 volunteer Firefighters.

Residents living within the Milliken Fire Protection District can feel more secure with the protection offered by the above mentioned units and personnel who manage the units. It is quite an improvement over the bucket brigade and the chemical cart used in Milliken's formative years.

## **RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS**

### **UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH**

On Wednesday J.K. Elliot was awarded the contract for building the United Brethren Church. Work will begin soon.

The building of the First United Brethren Church of Milliken will be dedicated Sunday, April 3, 1910, at 11 A.M. Reverend L.S. Cornell will preach the sermon, and the Berthoud male quarter will sing. This is the first church in this new and rapidly growing town.

Source: *Milliken Mail*, February 4, 1910

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Presbyterian Church of Milliken was the result of efforts by William H. Schureman of Peoria, Illinois. He was commissioned by the Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as Sabbath Missionary for Boulder Presbytery on July 15, 1898. The Presbytery at that time was composed of seven of the north counties of Colorado and the State of Wyoming with headquarters at Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Mr. Schureman began his duties under the direction of Reverend C.K. Powell, then Synodical Superintendent for the board and spent most of the first year traveling over the southern and eastern portions of the state with a horse and open buggy as conveyance. He depended entirely on the generosity of the people with whom he mingled for shelter and food for himself and horse. In all these journeys, he could remember only one instance when he was refused a night's lodging.

In 1902, Wyoming was set apart as the Presbytery of Wyoming and Boulder Presbytery was then composed of the seven north counties of Colorado where Mr. Schureman continued his work. This region provided an open and inviting field for pioneer Sabbath School missionary efforts.

At this time Hillsboro was a trading point one-half mile west of present-day Milliken. A struggling Sunday School was held in the Brush schoolhouse located about a mile north of the village.

In passing through the community in February 1901, Mr. Schureman became interested in an attempt to organize a church for these of different denominations.

In March after making a thorough canvass of the community, Reverend C.K. Powell, Synodical Superintendent was invited to conduct a series of evangelistic meetings in the old school house.

As a result a petition for a church organization was



Presbyterian Church in Hillsboro, situated in Loveland Grove – gift from Hazel Snider to Strohs

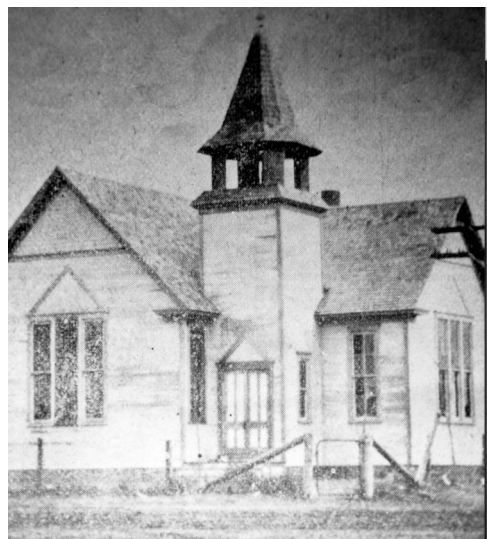
circulated and sixteen persons signed. This petition was presented to Boulder Presbytery that was meeting April 17 and 18 in Laramie, Wyoming. A committee was formed to "visit the field and if conditions justified, organize the church." The committee as named was Reverend W.A Hunter of Fort Collins, Reverend R.J. Hunter of Greeley, Elders C.H. Welch of La Salle and W.H. Schureman of Fort Collins, Colorado. This committee visited the Hillsboro community on May 2, 1901, and the organization of the First Presbyterian Church of Hillsboro was completed, this taking place in the Brush schoolhouse.

Building a home for the newly formed church came under discussion and committees were formed. Contributions from the surrounding area were "liberal." Approximately \$700 was collected and R. Loveland gave a lot at the "corner of the main road at Hillsboro" as a church site. This was at the southwest corner of the intersection of what later became Quentine Avenue and Broad Street. A contract was signed with R.B. Leonard of Fort Collins to construct a frame building for \$1450.00, exclusive of hauling, excavating and furnishing of foundation stone.

The cornerstone was laid January 26, 1902. The structure was completed May 1, 1902. The church was dedicated possibly on May 25 or June 1, 1902; the exact date is unknown. At this time this was considered a community church, and people of different denominations aided and attended the services.

When the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railway Company began planning the line from Denver north towards Wyoming, the decision was made to build a new town along the railroad. This would replace Hillsboro. After the boundaries in the new town had been set, the Denver, Laramie Realty Company offered lots 30, 31, and 32 in Block 74 to the congregation if the church was moved to that location.

The congregation approved of moving the church in March of 1910 and on April 22, 1910, the task began under the direction of Reverend Harrison Clarke. By May 10, 1910, through the cooperation of many, the church was situated on the southeast corner of Elm Street and Katheleen Avenue in Milliken. A re-dedication service was held June 19, 1910.



Presbyterian Church in Milliken – Stroh Collection



Manse – gift from Hazel Snider Summers to Strohs

This was the first Presbyterian Church building in Milliken.

A decision was made to build a manse and secure a resident minister at a congregational meeting on December 9, 1915. As a result three lots north and across the street from the church were selected as a site and one-fourth payment was made immediately. Expenses above the donated work and materials were \$1211.57. The first occupant was Reverend Dametz who moved there in June or July 1916.

Membership grew and many fellowship groups were organized under the leadership of several ministers. The original building was altered in response to the changes.

In April 1975, a new manse was built on a site donated by Walter and Mary K. Seele. The old manse was sold and became a private home.

Due to growth in membership, the decision was made early in the 1980's, to build a new church home. Ninety thousand dollars was raised to purchase a full block in the Wal-Mar subdivision, sufficient for the needs of a new church, to provide ample parking area and allow for future growth. Ground breaking for the new church was held July 1, 1984, and construction soon started. Many people gave time and effort for the church to become a reality. The congregation moved into the new church early in January 1985, and Reverend C. Emerson McBane held the first service January 6, 1985.



Presbyterian Church in Milliken - 1977

This was the second church building in Milliken of the First Presbyterian Church; the address was 201 South Olive Street. A time capsule was found in the cornerstone of the first church, which contained historical documents from 1902, and more insertions from the move in 1910. These along with additions were sealed in the cornerstone of the new church.



Presbyterian Church - 1985

The old church building at the southeast corner of the intersection of Elm Street and South Kathleen Avenue was sold and the original part was demolished. The new owner remodeled the remaining portion into a private home. The first manse, across the street, was also sold and is now a private residence. Many ministers have served the church since 1902. The Reverend Curtis Hill is the present minister.



## METHODIST CHURCH

In January 1911, Dr. R.A. Chase, the presiding elder of the Methodist Church, was in town consulting with the Methodist people in the matter of church organization and the meeting was held in the Presbyterian Church.

The Odd Fellows Hall was rented for five months beginning in Mary of 1911 to hold services. The pastor was R. Arthur Basham.

Pastor Basham resigned in June 1911. Two months later, August 1911, a meeting was held by the members to discuss building a church that was to cost \$1,000.

Nothing further was recorded in the local newspaper so it is unknown what, if any, action was taken.

## THE GERMAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

After World War I many German citizens migrated to the United States. Some of them settled in the Milliken area and many of the families worked in the sugar beet fields. At that time land was inexpensive and some saved and bought farms.

In 1918 and 1919, a group of dedicated Christians decided to organize and purchase a small church in Milliken from the United Brethren Church in Christ, located at 1300 Elm Street. Money was scarce, but they managed to buy this small church for \$400.

The first church in Milliken, the First United Brethren Church was dedicated Sunday, April 3, 1910, at 11 A.M. The Reverend L.C. Cornell delivered the sermon and a male quartet from Berthoud furnished music for the service.

Charter members of the German Evangelical Church included these families:

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Betz	Mr. and Mrs. Beckel
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Betz	Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Hergenreder
Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Helzer	Mr. Carl Stroh
Mr. and Mrs. John Fuerstein	Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Wilsonoff
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kreiger	Mr. and Mrs. William Lohringel
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kaiser	Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Estreich
Mr. and Mrs. Jacob J. Betz	Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hart
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schlager	

To these dedicated people their greatest pride and joy was to have a place of worship and to be able to have a Sunday school for their children.

Organization was started in 1918, and the deed was signed January 30, 1919. Ministers present at the organization and dedication were Rev. Carl Stahl of Windsor, Colorado; Rev. J.G. Schmidt of Fort Collins, Colorado; Rev. John Helzer of Loveland, Colorado and Rev. Dittmar of Greeley, Colorado

The first minister to serve this congregation was Reverend Schlitzcus.

In 1920, more Germans moved in the vicinity and the membership rose to seventy. A few cars and many horse and buggies provided transportation to and from church.

Many children were baptized, confirmed, and married there. By 1940 the building needed to be enlarged due to increased membership. It was doubled in size and a basement added. A gas furnace was installed to replace the coal heater. A church in Eaton donated pews, which was quite an improvement.

Rev. August Schiller served the church from 1958 to 1963. The name of Evangelical Church of Milliken was changed and the church became a member of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Hugo Becker began serving the church in 1967. His last service was held July 3, 1977, due to illness, He passed away a few months later. This was the last service held in the church and it was closed November 6, 1977.

The record books are being stored at the Colorado Conference Center in Denver, Colorado. The piano and bookcase were given to St. John's Church in Greeley, and the pulpit was given to the Presbyterian Church in Milliken. Those who wanted them took books and the clock was given to a member of the church.

In an issue of the Greeley Tribune dated October 1, 1987, were pictures and an article about the former church. The building was 1800 square feet and sold for \$14,000. It has been remodeled into a residence.

*Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bernhardt and the City of Greeley Museum furnished the above information on the German Evangelical Church*

#### SPANISH ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

The Spanish Assembly of God Church was organized in 1930 by the Rev. Carrie Kitts McCormick, a resident of Berthoud, Colorado, who founded several Bible schools and churches for Spanish speaking people in northern Colorado. The structure that became the church had been the home of the Isadore Garcia family who came to the United States in September 1916. It was thought to have been an early depot as it was the same bright yellow as the newer Union Pacific depot, erected on railroad land, and purchased from the Union Pacific Railroad Company. In 1923 after Garcias prepared a cellar and foundation on lots owned by them on north Harriett Avenue, the Union Pacific aided in moving the building. There, Garcias lived and raised the family.

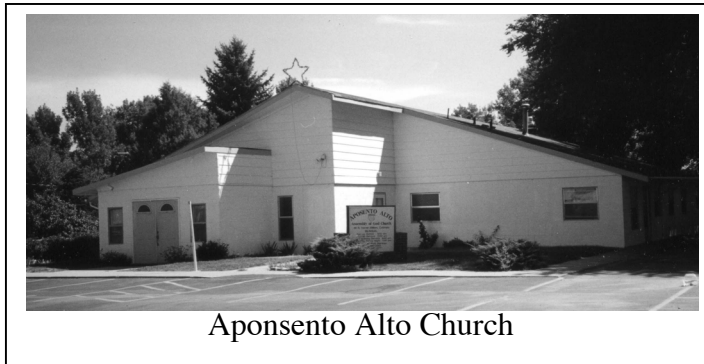
After the death of Mr. and Mrs. I. Garcia, the house became the property of a daughter, Lucy. Lucy Garcia Jamiez gave the house and lots to Rev. Carrie Kitts McCormick to be used as a church. She, in turn, donated the church to the congregation in Milliken. At that time it was known as the Foursquare Gospel Church.

Changes were made. One was the addition of an adobe front and bell, giving it the appearance of a church. In 1953 the congregation became the Spanish Assembly of God Church and the first pastor was the Rev. Elias Espinoza.

The congregation was small but dedicated and eventually plans were made to rebuild or remodel.

The last service held in the Church as it was constructed was on August 24, 1977. The congregation immediately began demolishing part of the former mission church in preparation for rebuilding.

Members of the church did the work of demolition and with the aid of friends and neighbors spent evenings and weekends for three years rebuilding the church, reported the Pastor, the Rev. Zeke Leija. Church services were still held in the remaining area while rebuilding continued. A dedication service was held November 1, 1980. The Church houses a sanctuary, classrooms, a dining area and a kitchen. Living quarters for the pastor are included.



Aposento Alto Church

Rev. Leija reported that although members of the Milliken Spanish Assembly of God Church are Hispanic, "our doors are open to whoever wishes to come." Attendance increases in the summer months when people from Texas come to the Milliken area to work and attend services.

Mrs. Lucy Garcia commented that the courage of the Spanish Assembly of God Church impressed her. "It's really the courage to go on, even if we are a small group."

*The above information on the Spanish Assembly of God Church was taken from the Loveland Reporter Herald, September 1980, and Margaret Garcia Salamanca*

Services have continued in the Church under the leadership of several Pastors. Presently, 1999, the Church is served by Pastor Alvin Martinez.

### MILLIKEN ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

Milliken Assembly of God Church was organized in March 1936 with Rev. and Mrs. George Slonaker as pastors. It began in a storefront building on Broad Street and within a year the members bought a larger building on South Harriett Avenue.

At first the church was called, "Full Gospel Tabernacle", and one of their missionary challenges was to help clothe and feed the poor in and around the community.



Milliken Assembly of God Church – Stroh Collection



Later they became affiliated with the Assemblies of God and changed the name to the Milliken First Assembly. The church held services until 1982. After forty-six years of church fellowship, the doors closed.

## SOCIAL AND SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

### LODGES

The Greeley Degree team and three of the officers of Grand Lodge instituted a local Odd Fellows Lodge in December 1910, to be known as Milliken Lodge No.97. The lodge started with a membership of 35. The following officers were elected: C.A. Kuehnle, H.M. Porter, Fred Lohry, W. McCausland, W.T. Lowe, W.A. Purvis, Stanley Garner, J.T. Messick, G.W. Snider, S.A. St.John, Chas. Vetter, C.C. Fuson, G.R. Harrison, G. Ferguson, William Franks, Walter Hoeft and Benjamin Stevens.

In 1928 a long time lease was secured by the I.O.O.F. Lodge for the second floor of the Crawford building. This had been used as apartments, and now was remodeled to fit the needs of the lodge. Dave Bassett and Jess Stansberry provided the carpentry work and Orval Morris did the plastering. Joe Hamilton and Z.R. Greenlee were the painters.

In April 1924 organization of Refulgent Rebekah Lodge No.98 was completed, as a culmination of plans started January 1. Rebekah Lodge was an auxiliary to the I.O.O.F. Lodge and worked in conjunction with that lodge for the dissemination of Friendship, Love, and Truth in the community. The charter was relinquished and the lodge disbanded on January 1, 1999, due to poor attendance.

### LIONS CLUB

The Milliken-Johnstown Lions Club celebrated its fiftieth anniversary May 24, 1999, at the Mad Russian north of Milliken. An organizational meeting was held on June 1, 1949 to establish a Lions Club in Milliken. Officers elected were Leon Fuller, President; Robert Hilker, Vice-President; Gordon Kilgore, Secretary; Merle Warner, Tail Twister; H.D. Snedden, Treasurer; and H.E. Roberts, Lion Tamer. A decision was made to hold meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, which is still followed, and dues were set at \$2.50 per month. Toastmaster that evening was Wayne Norman of the La Salle Lions Club, the sponsoring club. In September 1968 it became the Milliken-Johnstown Lions Club.

Charter members included the following

O.L. Altvater	Cecil Knox	Ernest Anderton
B.B. Madison	Delbert Babbit	Matthew Martinez
Carl Betz, Sr.	Robert Rhodes	Curtis Boss
H.E. Roberts	Peter Brandt	Lester Schropp
W.G. Brown	H.D. Snedden	Clyde Chapin

Walter Sundquist	Ralph Christy	A.J. Tatman
Melvin Evans	Rex Wakeman	Leon Fuller
Merle Warner	David Gaw	Rev.O. Zdunek
Ted Grott	Dale Hanna	Robert Harris
H.E. Hightower	Robert Hilker	Ben Kaiser
Wilbur Huchinson	Gordon Kilgore	

The Lion's Club has sponsored a variety of projects throughout the years; a Cub Scout Troop, a Faculty Night to honor teachers, erecting street signs, furnishing and erecting park play equipment and tables, baseball teams, Christmas baskets, a Youth in Action award at Honors Night at Roosevelt High School, cleaning Highway 60 of trash, equipment for Colorado Lions Camp and sending disabled youth to Lions Camp in Woodland Park, Colorado, as well as many smaller projects. A continuing project of furnishing glasses for needy school children was started in October 1950.

In order to fund important projects, money making efforts were conducted which have included pancake suppers, and selling brooms, Christmas trees and light bulbs, white elephant sales, concession stands, bingo games and serving food at farm sales. Members currently take tickets at RHS athletic events.

The regular meeting nights have been held at the Milliken Presbyterian Church and currently at the Johnstown Methodist Church. School cooks, parents of 4-Hers, a local caterer, Karen Ehrlich, and ladies from local churches, have prepared meals.

Officers for 1998-99 were:

President	Harlan Hankins
Vice-President	Paul Cackowski
2nd V.President	Murrey McKinnon
3rd V.President	Mike Wilder
Secretary	Ron Blackmer
Treasurer	Mike Engrav
Tail Twister	Jim Young
Lion Tamer	Randall Hess

#### THE AMERICAN LEGION

The American Legion was formed November 29, 1920, and named the Lester March Post No.70 in honor of Lester March, who was killed in France during World War I. Charter members included sixteen local residents:

Ray Branaman	J.A. Grantman
Roy M. Gorder	K.W. Lloyd
Vern Shwartz	James Crowell
Fred Wyss	R.F. Carlson
Clyde Rowden	Guy Taylor
Henry Geisler	John W. Parish
George Wailes	Jay R. Lee
Wm. H. Wailes	Martin E. Nelson

## THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW)

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Post No.2585, was organized October 11, 1945, and known as the J-M (Johnstown-Milliken) Post. Meetings were held in the second story of the brick building which at that time was located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Irene Avenue and Broad Street in Milliken. Presently the meetings are held in the V.F.W. building located in Johnstown. Charter members still living in this area are Trellis Mitchell, Clarence Osborn and Calvin Schwalm.

## MILLIKEN WOMAN'S CLUB

A group of energetic ladies met at the home of Mrs. Mina Crawford on April 12, 1912, for the purpose of organizing a Woman's Club. Officers elected were President, Mrs. Mina Crawford; Vice-President, Mrs. Minnie Wakefield; Secretary, Mrs. J.T. Messick.

Charter members were Mesdames Mina Crawford, Lewis Clancy, Ed Cox, S.P. Crowley, O.L. Cully, E.A. Cully, C.C. Fuson, Wm. Franks, S.W. Griffith, A. Knehule, and Chas. Mellon, Frank Mellon, H. W. Moore, S. Mossman, Hettie McDonald, Sophie Roberts, Sallie Welch, Joe Wilson, S.T. Wilson, E.E. Woods, B.F. Hill, Minnie Wakefield, A.O. Smith, Arch Mellon, J.T. Messick, and J.F. Redmond.

The first order of business was to decide whether the club should be for pleasure or for civic improvement. The focus was to become a civic improvement club with the construction of a public library as it's first goal.

Constitution, Article I, Name: The name of this Club shall be The Woman's Club of Milliken.

Object: The object of this Club is to stimulate intellectual and moral development; promote good fellowship among its members and entire community; to secure and encourage matters relating to the home, domestic relations, education and literature; To build a club house and public library and in connection with this, acquire by purchase, donation or the issuance of bonds, real estate of any kind, and to lease, convey or otherwise dispose of the same whenever in judgment of its members it may seem expedient to do so. All the above objects are not for pecuniary profit.

Arrangements were made for a temporary library room until sufficient funds were available to construct a building. Early in July of 1912, the members were disappointed in not securing a room in the Bank Building, which had been used for school purposes. Then the original post office building was rented as a library. Ed Riker, the first Postmaster of Milliken, owned the building, which was on the southwest corner of the intersection of Broad Street and Grace Avenue.

Membership grew as the club met in homes and took pride in presenting interesting and educational programs.

Stocking the library was a priority. Members asked for donations of good books, current magazines or money with which to buy books. They gave from their own collections, and the Town Board gave \$100. The Colorado Traveling Library Commission loaned boxes of books. In 1915 the price of a yearly ticket to check out books was fifty cents.

In keeping with the Object in the Constitution of the Club the first open meeting for the public was held November 28, 1913, in the Antlers Hall. The subject was Co-operation as a Factor in the Community Interests in Milliken. Several papers written by members were read and an open discussion followed.

Time and effort was spent in development of interesting and educational programs and meetings, as well as seeking methods of earning money to buy books. During this time someone wrote the following:

Come out all ye members,  
Be loyal and true.  
If you want good live meetings,  
It's all up to you.

In 1913 discussions began on the pros and cons of joining the Federation.

A quote from Mrs. Cox, "We did almost everything to raise money, except stealing. We took a contract to hoe fifteen acres of corn and came near having to leave our happy homes for the doing. We planted our city park to beans, with the understanding we were to keep the spaces between trees, which were just switches then, clean and free from weeds and grass. We gave food sales and made people buy the food, gave entertainment and tormented them with ticket sellers until they bought to get rid of us."

Fielding Castle, the home of Stewart Fielding at 108 South Grace Avenue, was offered to the Club for \$250, to be used for a library at a meeting on February 11, 1916. On March 10, 1916 the members met at the home of Mrs. John Lee and authorized the Building Committee to purchase Lot I in Block 59 for \$50 as a site for the new library. The building fund had grown to two hundred and eighty-five dollars and a building loan of \$300 was taken from W.D. Letford of Johnstown without security.

Incorporation was discussed in June 1916 and members voted in favor.

Progress was slow in erecting the Library as the ladies did much of the construction work themselves. Women were seen hauling sand, unloading brick, lathing and decorating the walls. Very little work was paid for. In spite of trials and tribulations, a lovely library was completed in November 1916. The cost was approximately eight hundred dollars. Dedication services were held in the spring of 1917.

Loan payment became an issue. Again the ladies proved equal to the task with many moneymaking projects such as home talent plays, pie and box suppers. In less than two years the loan was liquidated.

Many books were added to the shelves, and each member took her turn keeping library hours, three days a week.

In addition to library expenses, the members found funds to donate to many worthy causes in Milliken.

In 1937 the following was written:

An insignificant small town club are we  
Trying a little help to others to be,  
Doing a little here and a little there worthwhile  
By a kindly word, a friendly deed, or a sunny smile.

Sometimes we've been discouraged and awfully blue  
But we didn't give up just started anew.  
Its true we've never quite reached our goal  
But why should we worry, if we have helped one soul?

We've labored twenty-five years through all kinds of weather  
Shoulder to shoulder, all pulling together,  
Often the load was heavy and the way seemed rough.  
We felt we were abused, had done enough,  
We didn't lay down on the job, for long  
For we're a member of the General Federation of  
Women's Clubs that's more than a million strong.

In 1952 another verse was added:

And now fifteen more years have come and gone,  
And the Woman's Club keeps moving on.  
Our work is more needed now than then, so much to do  
So let's put our shoulder to the plow, and see it through

The Library closed in 1952. Books were donated to the Milliken School and money from the sale of the building was given to the Presbyterian Church. The building, a brick structure, is on the southwest corner of the intersection of Broad Street and South Frances Avenue.

The club has continued as a civic improvement club but is no longer affiliated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

#### NIMBLE THIMBLE CLUB

Mrs. John Lee and Mrs. G.C. Griffin entertained a group of women at the Lee home in Milliken on October 13, 1927.

The ten women in attendance decided to organize an embroidery club and name it the Nimble Thimble Club. At the first meeting a decision was made to limit membership to

ten ladies. The red rose was selected as the club flower and for the motto "Smile" was adopted.

Officers elected at the end of the first year were President, Mrs. John Lee; Vice-president, Mrs. Charlie Redman; Secretary, Mrs. Pete Mercer; Treasurer and Flower Chairman, Mrs. Herman Welch.

The original idea of a needlework group was maintained. Members brought "fancy work" to do while visiting with each other. Gradually this changed and no longer was a requirement. The membership was increased to fifteen members at a time. No special programs are planned and meetings are held the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Members take turns entertaining the group. Bingo is played at each meeting before the selected hostess serves refreshments.

The club is a social group enjoying the friendships formed through the years. Present members are from Milliken, Johnstown, and La Salle, Colorado. Some have been members for over fifty years.

On October 13, 1999, the Nimble Thimble Club celebrated seventy-two years of existence.

## EXTENSION CLUBS

In the 1930's two extension clubs were in Milliken, the Milliken Extension Club and the Milliken East Side Extension Club. About one hundred women gathered at the Milliken High School auditorium May 23, 1939, for the first Achievement Day of the Milliken-Johnstown district.

Eight clubs were represented through educational exhibits as well as individual member entries in the baking contest. First, second, and third place awards were presented to several women from the Milliken area.

At noon a covered dish luncheon was enjoyed by all. The afternoon program, planned and announced by Mrs. Gus Schmick of the Milliken Extension Club included community singing and stunts given by each of the participating clubs. Speakers included Mrs. Geo. Mosher, County Treasurer of Extension Clubs, and Mrs. Anna Spomer, County President, who spoke on extension work and aims. Later in the afternoon Mrs. Frank Mellon of Milliken presided at the attractively set tea table. Opal Malik, Dorothy Taylor, and Dorothy Lynch's small daughters of East Side club members assisted her. Mrs. M.P. Ryan, District Chairman, Miss Thelma Bear, Weld County Extension Agent and their committees were credited for a successful day.

Committee chairmen were Mrs. M.P. Ryan, District Chairman, Mrs. Rex Wakeman, Music Chairman, Mrs. Gus Schmick, Program Chairman and Mrs. Carl Watson, Baking Exhibits Chairman.

## CHEERFUL LEARNERS

Written by Helen Chesnut

Cheerful Learners Home Demonstration Club was organized in April 1953. One of the main reasons for forming this club with members from Milliken, Colorado, and Johnstown, Colorado, was to help small towns overcome their differences. This is 1999 and we have 46 years behind us.

Lois Thompson was the first president. Other charter members were: Mrs. Larry (Ruth) Barrows, Mrs. Richard (Evelyn) Finch, Mrs. Harry (Carmelita) Koch, Mrs. Lee Lindecrantz, Mrs. Robert Moldenhower, Mrs. Lynn (Pauline) Taylor, Mrs. Merle (Lois) Thompson, Mrs. Dave (Elma) Gaw, Mrs. Chester (Etta) Conklin, Mrs. Robert (Ada) Bennett, Mrs. Al (Elaine) Umstead, Mrs. Eddie (Mildred) Kerbs, Mrs. James (Helen) Keesey, and Mrs. Cecil (Helen) Shern.

Becoming a Home Demonstration Club was a plus because of the instruction and help received from Colorado State University Extension Service through Weld County. Lessons were on nutrition, sewing, gardening, canning and home improvements.

In the last 20 years lessons have changed, such as defensive driving, parenting skills, character building, community service and human relations.

Receiving and giving these lessons have helped us learn how to show the information which has made our Cheerful Learners Club known in both communities.

Our two moneymaking projects over the years have been selling pies at Johnstown Barbecue Days and the Milliken Beef and Bean Day. With this money we have assisted the local and Weld County 4-H Clubs, Roosevelt Prom Party, both new town halls, libraries, Northern Colorado Medical Center Auxiliary and the cleaning and repair of a small cemetery.

Our monthly sunshine projects are cards and or a basket for anyone in need. We are very active during the Weld County Fair.

Over the years members became 4-H leaders, Sunday school teachers, and Scout leaders. About 1960 many members began working outside their homes.

A special project for several years was the payment for a monthly house cleaning for a member who was diagnosed with MS. Two members took meals once a week to this family. Our social activities over the years were baby showers, house warmings, husband parties and an annual family picnic.

We celebrated 25th wedding anniversaries and are now celebrating 50th.

For a time our club became an Extension Club and recently became FCE, Family Community Education. One of the best benefits has been the special friendships formed and kept through the years.

Some members have moved from these two communities but still retain membership and attend meetings. Current members are from Milliken, Johnstown, Fort Collins, Loveland and Greeley.

## MILLIKEN SENIOR CENTER

1976 - 2000

The Area Agency on Aging started the Senior Nutrition Program in 1975 and Milliken began participating in 1976. Edith Schropp, a retired schoolteacher, was the first coordinator in Milliken. She had been hired through the new CEDA Program. The Program paid for her first year of employment and then the Town of Milliken began paying her salary. All Senior Coordinators were hired through the CEDA Program.

Seniors at the beginning of the program were Irene Chesnut, Henry and Iva Cook, Cora and George Hessler, Kathryn Rooker, Alma Hildreth, Katherine Hilker, Oma Kingham, Emma McGill, Lester and Edith Schropp, Velma Wakeman and Anna Serrano.

The first Senior Center was located in the Agricultural building north of the Milliken School on Irene Avenue. Meetings were held and lunches were served. At that time one meal a week was served on Mondays.

In 1983 the Town of Milliken, with encouragement from Mayor Mervin Martin, purchased the Assembly of God Church. This was used as a community and meeting center for the Senior citizens, at 105 South Harriett Avenue.

Edith Schropp continued as coordinator until May of 1986 when she became ill and passed away. Lois Ann Onorato became Senior Coordinator of twelve active seniors and the membership increased to sixty participating seniors. Due to this interest, one more meal day was added, on Fridays in 1988. The group was kept busy participating in two meal days, day trips, playing cards, a craft afternoon, holding a Christmas Boutique, etc.

On August 11, 1994, fire broke out in the Community Center on Harriett Avenue. An electrical short caused by water seeping through the roof after a rainstorm was the cause. The building was declared beyond repair and the Seniors were forced to abandon the building. Members of the Presbyterian Church generously allowed the use of their church for senior meals.

The office for Coordinator, Lois Ann Onorato, was moved into the firehouse.

Town officials began planning for a Town Complex to be built near the stone Town Hall that was erected in 1937. A Federal Community Development Block Grant for \$330,000, a \$175,000 loan from the First National Bank and \$50,000 received from the sale of the old Community Center helped in their plans.

The Police Department building west of the stone Town Hall was torn down. By using this area and the site of Lolita Park, room was secured to erect a Community Building/Town Hall. The Police Department was moved into the stone building, the old Town Hall. Twenty-two months after the fire in the old Community Building, the Seniors moved into the new Community Complex on Broad Street. At the first meal 120 persons were served. Presently 135 seniors comprise the membership.

Information provided by Lois Ann Chesnut Onorato



# FARM RELATED BUSINESSES

## CONVENIENCE PLUS LTD.

A small building called the Heskett Building was located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Broad Street and Grace Avenue. This building had been at the rear of a store in Hillsboro and in 1909 was moved to this location. The lot belonged to Mr. Heskett.

Mr. Heskett, who suffered from skin cancer, was a "pioneer" then and quite involved in affairs of the town. In later years this building was used by various businesses. A restaurant was there for a short time and Deobald Rotharmel had a shoe repair shop in the building. In the 1930's, the correct date is unknown; a gas service station was erected on this corner.

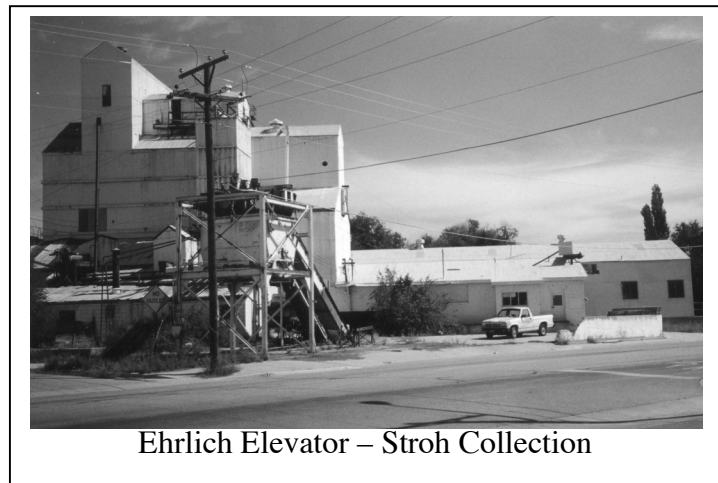
Owners and operators have included Lowell Hoeft, Burger Bros, Lester Schropp, Reuben Ehrlich and Dick Rouse, Gerald Chesnut, Graves, Thomas & Taylor, Paul and Darlene Wray, Ram Petroleum and Convenience Plus LTD. During the 1990's the early service station was rebuilt into a modern facility.

## EHRlich ELEVATOR

In 1923 the new mill and elevator called the Marvel Milling Company which was preparing for the winter's run, burned to the ground, a complete loss. Mr. Simms, one of the owners of the mill had no idea of the cause. Occasionally feed was ground, but there was little grain in the bins where the fire started. The interior of the mill was made of wood, but was covered with metal. This made the efforts of the firefighters useless. The only access to the fire was through doors and windows, and the intense heat prevented the firefighters from getting close.

The building and machinery represented a cost of about \$14,000. Local businessmen and farmers had financed the business.

In July 1925, Frank Stevenson purchased the site of the mill, the northeast corner of the intersection of Broad Street and Ethel Avenue, along the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. The Stevenson family had moved to Milliken in 1923, and lived on Josephine Avenue.



Ehrlich Elevator – Stroh Collection

Mr. Stevenson rebuilt the elevator and added a facility to handle beans, adding a bean cleaner and warehouse. He and Carl Betz, Jr. worked at the elevator during harvest

season, then dug wells in the slack times. Mr. Stevenson died as the result of a well accident in Wellington, Colorado in 1937.

Successive owners were the Dannen Mills Division of the Farmers Union Co-operative Marketing Association and the Ehrlich family.

In the early 1960's Otto Ehrlich purchased the feed lots east of town and the elevator from Dannen Mills, Inc. Both were used in conjunction with his cattle feeding operation and are presently owned by the Ehrlich family.

## **WESTERN INTERNATIONAL GRAIN**

The former site of the Hillsboro beet receiving station (dump) in early Milliken became the location of the bean dealing facility. Western International Grain purchased the site at 23000 Highway 257 on June 29, 1989. Carl Showalter and C.M. Harmon erected an alfalfa products handling facility at that location in 1950 and called it the Colorado Alfalfa Products Company.

Mr. Showalter was interested in politics and left the business to become a Representative of the State of Colorado. A cattle feeding company named the Milliken Feeding Company was formed in 1957. At this time the big tanks and elevators were added. In 1962 they began processing pinto beans. Robert Graves, owner of a dairy in Fort Collins, Colorado, became the new owner in 1968.

In 1989 the facility was purchased by Western International Grain.

# GOLD STAR SERVICEMEN

## A COMMUNITY'S SACRIFICE

Milliken, as almost every community in the United States, sent their young people off to wars and conflicts in other parts of the world. Throughout World War I and World War II, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam war, residents in Milliken worried for their young people in far away places. All families of service people made sacrifices. However, the ultimate sacrifice was made by a few in every American community.

Four young men from Milliken served in the military during World Wars I and II did not survive: Lester March, Ralph Stroh, Charles Woods and John Belo.

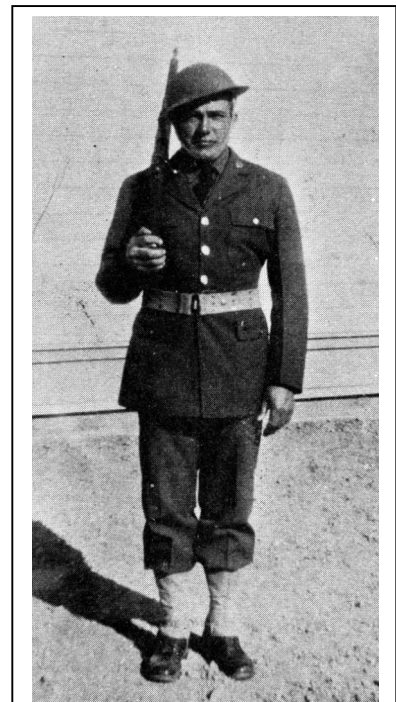
Lester March died June 8, 1918, in a hospital in France from wounds received in World War I. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus E. March of Milliken. Lester March Post #70 of the American Legion was named in recognition of his sacrifice.

Ralph Carl Stroh, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Stroh, was inducted January 5, 1942, in the army and immediately was sent to Camp Roberts in California for training. In April 1942, he was sent to Australia to serve in the South Pacific. His engagements were in New Guinea, and he was killed in action November 26, 1942, while attacking a Japanese position on the west of the Sanananda Track in the Gona-Buna area of New Guinea. He had served eleven months.



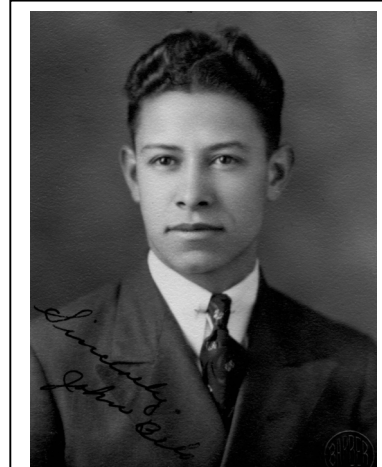
Charles Woods – Service Record Book

Charles Woods entered the Marines in September 1942 and received training at San Diego, California. In July 1943, he was sent to the South Pacific as a Private First Class. He was killed in action on Solomon Islands in October 1943, after serving thirteen months.



Ralph Stroh – Stroh Collection

John Belo, son of Mr. and Mrs. Levi Belo, enlisted in the Navy in 1942 soon after graduating from high school in Milliken. He was sent to San Diego, California, for training in communications and finished a few months later in 1942. John was lost at sea in the South Pacific in November 1943 while serving as a radio operator in the tail section of a plane. As the plane was taking off from an aircraft carrier, a problem developed with a wing of the plane, and it crashed into the sea. No one was recovered. He had served approximately sixteen months.



John Belo – Stroh  
Collection

## FAMILY HISTORIES

The Family Histories that follow are supplied by descendants of the pioneers of the community. They are presented in alphabetical order by last name.

### ALTVATER

Otto L. Altvater was born in Central City, Colorado, January 14, 1883, to Henry and Lena (Mack) Altvater. Henry and Lena were natives of Germany who settled in St. Louis, Missouri, and later moved to Central City. Henry was a plasterer and miner and died in 1907.

Otto was reared and educated in Central City, where he learned the printer's trade and applied the trade there for several years. Later he spent ten years at the trade in Chicago, Illinois, Denver, Colorado, Fort Morgan, Colorado, and Greeley, Colorado.

C.W. Woodmansee was editor of the "Scrapbook" in 1909, which was the first weekly newspaper published in Milliken. In 1910 Herman M. Porter became editor of the newspaper called the "Milliken Mail." The next editor, in 1912, was Benjamin Hill, followed later in 1912 by Elmer E. Woods. The issue of the Milliken Mail published Thursday, December 10, 1914, was the first one published by the new owner and editor, Otto L. Altvater who had purchased the weekly newspaper from Elmer E. Woods.

Claude E. Grisham became the editor in April 1927 with Mrs. Grisham as assistant. They published the Milliken Mail until the early 1930's then moved to Denver where they continued in the printing business. Mr. Altvater published the Milliken Mail until 1946 when it was discontinued.

Otto L. Altvater and Lillian Floss Maughan were married in February 1909. They became parents to three children: Adrian who was born in April 1911; Vivian Floss, who was almost three days old when she died in April 1922; and Bill.

Mr. Altvater was active in public affairs in Milliken, serving as City Clerk, Secretary of the Commercial Club, and as a member of the School Board of Trustees. In addition to his newspaper business, he owned and operated a drug store and the P-I-X Theater in the 1920's. He also was rural mail carrier in the 1940's.

## ASHCRAFT

Information courtesy Betty Ashcraft Jacoby

James Daniel and Evelyn Josephine (Wilkes) Ashcraft moved to Milliken, Colorado in 1936 and lived their entire lives at 228 South Dorothy Avenue. Before moving into Milliken they farmed at two different areas. One was north of Milliken; the other was south of Milliken. After Mr. Ashcraft gave up farming he was employed at the elevator in Johnstown, Colorado.

In the fall of 1934, before moving to the Milliken area, Jim was drilling wheat on the farm. As he reached to pick up a sack of wheat a rattlesnake struck his shoe. He got on the tractor, hurried home, and burned his shoes. They were new and had cost \$1.98.

Four children were in the family, Betty, Leonard, Lucille, and Billy. Betty married Reuben Jacoby and lives in Johnstown, Colorado. Leonard married Maxine Lucas and lives in Pueblo, Colorado. Lucille married Bob Schmick and lives in Fort Collins, Colorado. Billy worked for Martin Marietta in Denver, Colorado, and lived there until his death.

Betty Jacoby recalled a snowstorm in March 1931 when they lived near Matheson, Colorado. During a terrible blizzard, snow came into the house through the keyhole and a crack in a door, drifting across the kitchen to ceiling height. She said that the kitchen was half full of snow.

Another recollection was of a playhouse Betty and Leonard made in an old grainery on the farm. They were very small at the time. One day it rained and soaked old clothing they had found. The two youngsters decided to dye eggs using the wet material. Not wanting to waste the eggs after dyeing them, the eggs were returned to the chicken house. Upon finding the eggs their father was amazed, thought he had a chicken that laid colored eggs and one that he could take to the World's Fair. When he learned the truth Betty and Leonard "were in deep trouble."

Another early memory was of an event that occurred when Betty, age five, and Leonard, age three, were found a half mile from home. They had tried to catch a jackrabbit. They would run after the rabbit, the rabbit would run, stop, sit and wait until they got close, then run again, leading them farther from home.

When Betty was in the first grade in school in Milliken, she had to wear long black stockings. She disliked them so much she cut holes in them and told her mother that they were worn out. Her mother made her patch the holes and continue wearing them.

Betty was visiting a friend on Sunday afternoon years ago, and they made taffy. As Betty was trying to remove it from the platter, the knife slipped and went through her wrist. Luckily it missed both bones and the artery.

One summer Billy and friends were swimming in a lake. Billy got cramps and without the intervention of Roger Mellon would have drowned. Roger pulled him to safety.

William (Billy) Ashcraft died May 14, 1960,  
James Daniel Ashcraft died May 18, 1983.  
Evelyn Josephine Ashcraft died July 9, 1989.

## **BELO**

Information courtesy of Virginia Belo

Mr. and Mrs. Levi (Gertrude) Belo moved to Milliken in 1938 and lived on South Ethel Avenue. They previously lived in Keensburg, Colorado, where they were involved in farming. Gertrude Belo was born in San Acacio, Colorado, which was in the San Luis Valley, and a short distance from the New Mexico border. A few years ago, a daughter visited the area and discovered that the town was almost non-existent by then.

Levi Belo was born in La Veta, Colorado, in the San Luis Valley. Parents of Gertrude and Levi lived in the San Luis Valley area and also were involved in farming. All the children of the Levi Belo family grew up in Milliken and attended school there.

Adolph, Edward, Ernest, Ray and John served in World War II. John was lost at sea in November 1943 while serving as a Radio Operator. Ernest, Adolph, Ray, Eugene and Solomon are deceased.

Edward resides in Denver, where he worked for thirty years for the Postal Department after serving in World War II. Bernice lives in Denver, Colorado; Mary lives in Fort Collins, Colorado; Virginia lives in Windsor, Colorado.

## **BEJARANO**

Information courtesy of Rose Garcia Bejarano

Prejedes C. Bejarano (Clyde) and his family came to Milliken in 1951 and lived at 100 North Harriett Avenue. Clyde started his business as a barber in Milliken with equipment purchased from William Fields, the former barber. The house that the fields lived in at 209 South Katheleen Avenue had originally belonged to Ernest Hefelbowerer when it was located in a potato field.

Clyde rented space for his shop in the area of 912 Broad Street from P.W. Randolph who owned the building at that time. He kept his business there for about seven years. In 1958 he purchased Dr. Fuson's brick building where he started the barbershop which continues to operate in 1999. This brick building, the barbershop, was constructed by

H.W. Richmond. He had received a contract to construct a 12 x 25-ft. brick building for Dr. C.C. Fuson in December of 1915. In January of 1916 an article published in the Milliken Mail stated that Dr. Fuson would soon be in his new office, that the plasterer was finished and the finishing work was being done.

July 29, 1958, the Bejaranos purchased the large brick building which now is 910 and 912 Broad Street from P.R. Byers and Cecil O.Byers. Then in 1959 they made their home in the western side of 910 Broad Street where they still reside. At the time of the purchase the structure was unoccupied, the businesses were closed and the building was rundown. Clyde worked diligently restoring the building. Several businesses started operating but did not prosper and were forced to close. Finally, the Bejarano family used all of the building except the living quarters as rental property.

Clyde has been a barber in Milliken for forty-eight years. Clyde and Rose raised their family in Milliken where they all attended school, in Milliken and the Re 5J District. The Bejarano family includes Richard and family who live in Milliken, David and family who live in Johnstown, Colorado; Phyllis Lucero and family who live in Greeley, Colorado; Victor and family who live in Fort Collins, Colorado, and Vivian Andrade and family who live in Greeley, Colorado.

## **BERNHARDT**

Information courtesy of Marilyn Bernhardt Schneider

George Bernhardt, Sr. was from Frank, Russia. He had been in the Russian army for about five years. When he came home, the Communists were gaining in power. George's wife's (Anna Margaret Bauer) brother, John, sent them money to come to America. They left everything in Russia and arrived in Denver, Colorado, July 4, 1907.

They worked beets in Delta, Colorado, the first year they were in America. Then they lived in Globeville (near or now part of Denver). George worked in a brickyard and at the Globeville Smelter, and hauled trash and ashes. Several children were born to them while living in Denver: George Jr. in 1907, Jacob in 1908, Martha in 1910, Benjamin in 1912, Marie in 1915, and Margaret in 1917.

They bought a farm near La Salle, Colorado and farmed there for about two years. Then they purchased a farm east of Milliken and moved there. Another son, Reuben, was born in 1922. Reuben now lives on the farm that is the Barnhardt Dairy.

George Sr. purchased another farm in 1932, southwest of their home farm and George Jr. and Jacob moved there sharing the house until another farm was purchased in 1939 by Jacob, east of that farm. George Jr. moved to Wiggins, Colorado, in 1948. Benjamin then farmed the land that George Jr. had farmed.

George Bernhardt Sr. lived in the Milliken area and town until he passed away in 1957. His wife, Anna, passed away in 1966.

Jacob had attended Daniels School, east of Milliken. He owned the farms directly south of the school and farmed until retiring in 1990. He was Milliken's Honored Senior Citizen in 1980. Jacob passed away in November 1997.

Benjamin attended Daniels School and graduated from Milliken High School. He passed away in April 1987. He had farmed in the Milliken area all his life.

Reuben still is active in farming with two of his sons, David and Tim, running the Bernhardt Dairy east of Milliken.

Jacob and his family attended the Milliken Congregational Church. Benjamin and Reuben attended the Assembly of God Church in Milliken for many years until both of the churches closed.

## **BINDER**

Submitted by Carol J. Binder Sauer

Godfrey Charles Binder was born May 25, 1877, to Colonel Adam and Katherine (Schoeneman) Binder in Wittenberg, Germany. Growing up Charlie helped about his father's farm until the age of fifteen. Even though Adam had served in the German army for fifteen years, he was sympathetic with the desires of his sons, and other young men of the village to escape military service by immigrating to America. In June 1893, Charlie and childhood friend and neighbor, Carl Vetter, started on their journey to America. Waving goodbye to his parents, Charlie never realized this would be the last time he would see them.

After crossing the rough seas of the Atlantic, the pair arrived in New York City. Within an hour the young friends were hustled from the boat to the train and were soon clicking along the rails to Chicago where Charlie's older brother William and sister Lena lived. Arriving in Chicago they were welcomed into the home of Charlie's uncle, Gottlieb Schoeneman, his mother's brother. Charlie found employment in his uncle's butcher shop and later in the butcher shop of his older brother William.

Oddly enough, Carl Vetter had found exactly the same kind of work at a butcher shop not far away. After work the two spent time together exploring Chicago and attending the World's Fair under way in Chicago. The marvels of the fair were only a part of the magic America held for the two young men.

Come spring Charlie and Carl began talking about going west to Colorado where Carl's uncle lived. They had not saved much money, but figured they could get there somehow. Collecting ten dollars in wages owed Charlie by his brother, the two left Chicago riding the rods of the Union Pacific Railroad. Three weeks later the tired and hungry pair arrived in Cheyenne, Wyoming. After hearing the young men's plight, a kind jailer at the Cheyenne City Hall provided them a place to sleep and a hearty breakfast. Failing to catch a southbound train Charlie and Carl walked down the railroad tracks arriving in Greeley about dusk. The next day they made their way to Carl's uncle, William Vetter, who had been a schoolmate of Charlie's father in Germany.

A little more than a year after leaving Germany, and at the age of sixteen, the two had reached their destination in the Johnstown-Milliken area. Charlie found employment with area farmers including H.J. Parish, plowing the fields that are present day Johnstown.



On August 28, 1903, Charlie married Mary Stroh of Denver. Charlie and Mary had six children, Marie (Spaur), Dorothy (Langenbahn), Charles Jr., Floyd R., Florence (Oster) and Howard.

Charlie went into farming for himself, by purchasing the Joe Sauter farm located between Johnstown and Milliken on the Little Thompson River. Later he purchased the Allen Swink farm, added forty acres that he obtained from Link Miner and sixty acres comprising what was known as the old Hillsboro place and finally he purchased 160 acres from John Arndt. He pioneered in cattle feeding and farming and was one of the first to raise potatoes in the area. Charlie farmed his property until his retirement.

The pioneer resident was among the leading citizens who worked for a number of years to get Great Western or some other sugar company to build a factory at Johnstown. He was also involved in working with Great Western in locating its monosodium glutamate plant here. Other contributions to Johnstown included construction of the building that housed Hay's Market until their recent relocation.

G.C. Binder was president of the Johnstown Bank for about sixteen years and served on its Board of Directors for many years prior to becoming president. Charlie served as president of the Hillsboro Ditch Co., a member of Milliken School Board, a member of the Masons, Blue Lodge at Johnstown and the Consistory and Shrine of Denver and was also a member of the Lutheran Church.

Most of Charles' properties are still owned and farmed by his grandsons and great grandsons.

## **BRIGGS**

Submitted by Pat Burger

James William Briggs and Eva Lena (Nelson) Briggs lived on a farm southeast of Milliken until their deaths. The farm was built in the early 1900's, and was called "Twin Bridges Dairy Farm," although it was better known as the "yellow farm."

Lee W. Briggs (Buster) was the only son of James and Eva Lena, and helped his parents with the many responsibilities of farming and milking. They purchased a threshing machine, and with their crew traveled the area threshing wheat. Buster also did welding and machine repair for farmers in the area.

James and Eva Lena had three daughters, Mary, Thelma, and Dorothy. Mary married Tony Sauter and lived in the Milliken area until her death. Thelma married George Tye and moved to California. Dorothy married Lambert Burger and lived in Johnstown. The family spent their winters in southern California, but when spring came, they had to get back to Milliken.

James worked part time planning roads in the Windsor area, and Eva Lena enjoyed writing. She worked part time for the Milliken Mail and was also on the Daniels School Board.

The four children walked to Daniel's School, and received a good education in the one room schoolhouse.

Summers were spent with everyone working hard. The family went to Milliken for dances and other entertainment. A trip to Denver would truly be an exciting trip for the family.

My mother, Dorothy Briggs Burger, has told of her good times growing up near Milliken and of the many and lasting friendships made. Those days gone by were so different than today, but the memories remain.

### **E.C.CASE**

Information courtesy of Doris Case Stroh

In 1902 E.C. Case, from Kansas, came to La Salle, Colorado, where he worked for the Union Pacific Railroad. Then he moved to north Johnstown, Colorado, and worked for the Johnstown Milk Condensery until the Great Western Sugar Company began operation of the new factory in 1926. While employed by the Great Western Sugar Company, he built a home in Milliken for his family at 218 South Katheleen Avenue.

Children in the family were Ivan who married Maxine Taylor, Audrey who married Millard Kahm, Inez who married George Call, and Doris who married Charles Stroh.

Mr. Case also was in the shoe repair business. He had a business in his home, then built a shoe repair shop on Broad Street between Dr. Fuson's office and the Drug Store between 904 and 910 Broad Street.

Some of the entertainment in the late 1920's and 1930's in town took place over the drug store where there was a stage. The curtain was covered with business advertisements. We were able to go to the movies in an old building between Dr. Fuson's office and the corner service station. The owner's daughter played the piano between events.

I remember the changes in ownership of the service station at the corner, Frank Goracke, Bob Ball and the Wards. Farther east on the north side of Broad Street was another station owned by Ben Kaiser that was later owned and operated by Pat Flynn.

### **GEORGE CASE**

Information courtesy of Loyal Case

George Withrow and Hattie Belle (Fox) Case moved to Milliken, Colorado in 1926 and lived their entire lives in Milliken. They came from Logan, Kansas. As children they attended one-room schools in Kansas and Nebraska.

George was a farmer and general neighborhood "fixer" while a young man in Kansas. After moving to Milliken he was employed at the Great Western Sugar factory, and in 1927, purchased the blacksmith shop from C.G. Redeling. The next year, 1928, he sold the shop planning to go into farming.

The farm was on North Alice Avenue near the Thompson River where their children were raised. George and Hattie enjoyed children and often helped entertain them. During

the winter months, he furnished ice skates for children not having them and allowed them to skate on a pond on his farm.

Their last residence was the present site of the Numero Uno Apartments. A recollection of youngsters and adults involved the sharing of quantities of watermelons raised at that location.

The foundation for the "New Town Hall" was poured the week of April 15, 1937, and George W. Case was hired to do the masonry work on the building. The Police Department presently occupies the building.

The Cases sometimes bought wild horses at sale yards intending to break them to work. Many runaways occurred. Some were amusing. An incident published in the Milliken Mail in 1937 told of an accident that could have been more serious. George was driving a team which was pulling a wagon through town. The pin that held the doubletree broke and the horses began to run. George, determined to not let the horses get a taste of running away, held on to the reins and was dragged over the dash of the wagon. Upon regaining consciousness he discovered that he was being pulled up Broad Street by the horses minus some of his clothing which had been torn off. He could have been seriously injured.

Children in the family:

Laura Jane who married Chester C. Taylor. Both are deceased

Barbara Belle married Fred Dontje. Fred is deceased.

Eleanor Elizabeth married Calvin Elwood Shern. Eleanor is deceased.

Eldon George married Ila Mae Lewis. Eldon is deceased.

Loyal Ozias married Norma Faye Wilcox.

Loretta Mae married Lincoln Everette Wilcox.

## **HENRY CASE**

Henry Case and part of his family moved to Milliken from Phillipsburg, Kansas, in 1935. While living in Kansas, he was a blacksmith and continued that occupation after moving to Milliken. His blacksmith shop was at the northeast corner of Dorothy Avenue and Broad Street. Henry passed away February 15, 1944.

A son, Clark Case, came to Milliken in 1936, and worked for the railroad as a track patrolman until 1944. Then he was employed at the Great Western Sugar Factory. The family home is at 314 South Dorothy Avenue.

## **CHAPIN**

Written by Don Tate

C.W. Chapin purchased the grocery store and building at 1005 Broad Street from H.B. Crawford early in 1948. He bought the store with the intention that I, Don Tate, would operate the business.

He had worked many years at the Great Western Sugar Company in Johnstown, Colorado, as a salaried employee and would retire in five years.

We operated the store as Mr. Crawford had. At that time about 90 percent of the business was credit and everyone knew each other, pets, etc. We had few people who were problems credit wise. The farm families were the biggest buyers and with beet help in season the business did well.

Milliken was good to Dad and he was generous and honest in all his dealings.

The situation in 1948 became unsettled in Korea and the draft was to be re-activated. Ivan Willis and I decided to enlist in the Air Force, which we did. Dad had to take over the store full time. He operated the store until selling it to Ken Spooner. While I was in the service he sold the entire building to the Odd Fellows Lodge with a clause that the store would remain in the building until he needed to sell it.

## **CHAVEZ**

Information courtesy of Ted Chavez

The Guillermo (William) and Jesucita Chavez family came to Northern Colorado in 1926. For about two years they found farm work in the Johnstown/Mead area where they lived.

Guillermo was a widower with five children when he married Jesucita Duran, a widow with two daughters, Elmira and Doris. Only his youngest daughter, Nestora, settled in Milliken when she married Jesus Espinoza. The blended family increased by three with the birth of Josie, Luciano and Frances. It grew larger when Jesucita's sister died and they took in her children, Cecil, Isadore and Lucy.

Their most vivid recollection of living in Mead was the tornado that hit near their home in 1928. Luckily all escaped unharmed.

The family moved to a farm in the Milliken area in 1929 where they remained for a few years. Shopping in Milliken was done at Elam's Mercantile Store and the Milliken Drug Store, where they stopped for treats. Then, as now, they went to surrounding cities for major shopping, movies and dances.

Guillermo retired and moved his family into Milliken where they purchased a house. The younger children all attended school in Milliken.

Guillermo passed away in 1954 and Jesucita in 1975.

Doris Duran married Louis Trujillo. They lived in Wyoming, then moved to Milliken where their family was raised.

Josie married Gil Serrano and they made their home in Kansas.

Cecil and Isadore were in the army during World War II and served four years in Europe. Upon his return to Milliken Cecil married Mary Maestas. Isadore, after a few years of bachelorhood married Mary Tafoya. Lucy married John Lobato and they live in Greeley.

Luciano joined the army a year after graduating from Milliken High School and was stationed in Germany for four and a half years during World War II. He returned with a bride, Alida, who was from Amsterdam, Holland. He became a plumber. and they live in Boulder, Colorado.

Frances married Ernie Cordova, and they live in Greeley.

Roman Chavez Jr. came to Milliken in 1929 with his family. After working on various farms in the area the family, with the exception of Roman, returned to New Mexico.

Elmira Duran married Roman Chavez in 1931.

Roman worked as a farmhand a few years then went into construction work. They purchased a house in Milliken and moved there. He changed occupations and began working for the Great Western Railroad Company, remaining there until retiring at the age of 65.

Roman was a skilled carpenter and after retiring he, with the aid of a nephew Luciano, built and sold three houses. The houses were erected on lots adjacent to his property on Grace Avenue.

Elmira and Roman were the parents of five children. The first were twins born prematurely who did not survive. Susan and Lily were next. Then in 1951 Teodoro (Ted) was born. Susan and Lily attended school in Milliken. Ted graduated from the newly formed Re 5J District.

Roman and Elmira were Grand Marshals at the Milliken Beef and Bean Day in 1989 and it was a proud day for them. Roman died in 1992, and Elmira still resides in Milliken.

Susan married Jose Fabian Ortega and is a retired schoolteacher. They live in Modesto, California.

Lily married Felix Martinez, is a retired x-ray technician and lives in Denver, Colorado. Felix died in 1994.

Ted is married to Dr. Maria Puig. He is a photographer and owns Photographic Dimensions in Greeley, Colorado. He is the present Mayor of Milliken and has served Milliken for eight years.

## **CHRISTY**

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Christy (Evelyn) were descendants or relatives of several families who lived in or near Milliken around 1900.

- Mrs. Anna Arndt Schmaling, born February 25, 1847, died September 21, 1925, at her home six miles northwest of Platteville, Colorado, at the age of 78 years, 6 months, and 27 days. She was born and raised in Essen Germany. In 1866 at the age of nineteen, she was married to Robert Schmaling.

In 1867, they came to America and settled in New Jersey, later moving to Illinois and Kansas. They settled in Evans, Colorado, in 1884. Her husband, Robert, passed away in 1912, at the age of 72. Thirteen children were born to them. Two surviving children, Anna Flood and Minnie Christy, were residents of Milliken.

- James C. Flood, in February 1911, purchased the garage formerly known as the Rogers Motor Company at 105 South Harriett Avenue from Dan W. Rogers and Walter Phillips and renamed it the Flood Motor Company. He moved his family into the living quarters above the garage. W.K. Lewis joined J.C. Flood in the auto business in June 1912. His blacksmithing outfit was moved into the Flood garage, and auto repairing was added to the business of selling cars.

In May 1913, the Flood Motor Company closed and "Jim," as he was called, moved his family to the Briggs farm east of Milliken. The reason given was that he couldn't make money in town and he preferred going back to the farm where money could be made. He was still on the farm in 1916, but had moved back into Milliken by September 1918 as at that time he was building an addition to his home in Milliken.

Anna Schmaling Williams and James C. Flood were married October 29, 1918, and lived in west Milliken. Both had previous marriages.

- The Cyrus E. March family was also among the early residents of Milliken. The name was mentioned in the January 1912 issue of the Milliken Mail. Mr. March purchased the Milliken Lumber and Coal Company from Jerry Dunn in July 1913, and renamed it the Farmers Lumber Company. This was at 105 North Irene Avenue. The building had been a Hillsboro store in 1909 and was moved into Milliken.

A son of Mr. and Mrs. C.E. March, Lester, 18 years old, died June 8, 1918, in a hospital in France of wounds received in World War I. Lester March Post #70 of the American Legion was named in recognition of his sacrifice. Another son, Harry K., grew up in Milliken.

In October of 1921, J.A. Ledger purchased the general mercantile store owned by J.W. Bentley and leased the coal yard. Harry K. March became the driver of the coal truck for Mr. Ledger.

- The Henry W. Richmond family also was residents in the early years of Milliken. They and their daughter, Beatrice Bryan, were mentioned in Presbyterian records in 1911. Perhaps they were in Milliken earlier.

Mr. Richmond was a carpenter and built many structures in and around Milliken. He constructed his own home at 313 South Katheleen Avenue in 1911, which is still standing. He also erected the building that houses the Bejarano Barber Shop now, at 904 Broad Street, in 1915. This originally was the office of Dr. C.C. Fuson. Residences for Carl Vetter (north of Milliken), Mr. Mackey, W.D. Conlin, and John Erickson, and barns for C. Binder and R.E. Hall were structures erected by H. W. Richmond and O.S. Pearson.

Mr. Richmond worked on construction of the Great Western Sugar factory in August 1925.

Harry K. March and Lolo Beatrice Bryan were married February 12, 1918.

The Ledger family mentioned earlier was related to Mrs. H.W. (Pearl) Richmond. Pearl and Mrs. Ledger (Myrtle) were sisters.

- John D. and Minnie Schmaling Christy farmed near Platteville, Colorado, until 1920, then farmed in the Wild Cat area south of Milliken until 1925. In 1925 they moved to

a farm which was a quarter mile west of Milliken. Presently, this farm is part of Milliken and is on the northeast corner of Quentine Avenue and Broad Street. The corner at that time was called Christy's Corner and was considered to be dangerous as many accidents occurred there.

The same house is on the north side of Broad Street opposite the Elementary School building in Milliken.

John D. was born in 1883 in Platteville, Colorado, and Minnie was born in 1889 at Evans, Colorado to Anna and Robert Schmaling. Mr. and Mrs. Christy sold the farm in 1956. They were the parents of a son, Ralph, who stayed in this area.

- Harry K. March was born in 1898 in South Dakota, to Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus E. March. Lolo Beatrice Bryan was born in 1898 in Iola, Kansas. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Richmond. Harry and Beatrice were married February 12, 1918.

A grocery and dry goods store, Milliken Cash & Carry Store opened for business in November 1923, in the old Mendelsohn building at 910 Broad Street. The owners Harry and Beatrice were longtime residents of Milliken. There they operated the business until the fall of 1925 when workers constructed a new store building on the site of the Antlers Hotel which was destroyed by fire in March 1924. The address was 914 Broad Street.

The March family operated the business at this location until August 25, 1936, when Pete Mercer purchased the store. Pete also was a long time resident of Milliken and had been employed at the Great Western Sugar Company near Johnstown, Colorado.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry March had two children, Evelyn and Kenneth. Kenneth, an outstanding athlete seventeen years old, was killed in an auto accident January 4, 1939. He had eloped with Beverly Lloyd, also seventeen years old, and they were returning home when the accident occurred on a curve near Platteville, Colorado. Bob McCullough who had accompanied them was injured. The March family moved to a farm north of Milliken on the southeast corner of the intersection of Highway 257 and Weld County Road 48 1/2. They again were in the grocery business, in Loveland, Colorado, in 1943 and again in the 1950's. During this interval Harry constructed housing in Greeley and Johnstown.

- The daughter of Harry and Beatrice, Evelyn, married Ralph Christy, the son of John D. and Minnie Christy.

Ralph Christy had been fieldman for the Carnation Condensery in Johnstown, Colorado, where he and his wife, Evelyn, lived. Ralph was offered a change in jobs within the company but decided to move to Milliken and operate a grocery store. The building previously occupied by his father-in-law, Harry March, was available and the Ralph Christys moved their stock of goods there in 1947.

It became a family operation until Ralph's death October 31, 1978 and Mrs. Christy continued to manage the store. In 1979, Dave Martinez and his mother, Virginia, who continued to operate it as a grocery store for a few years, purchased the store. Since then several cafes have operated from this building.

Ralph and Evelyn were the parents of two daughters, Pat and Shirley. Pat is married to Ron Huwa and lives in the Denver area. Shirley married Ed Kammerzell and lives on a farm east of Milliken.

## COOK

Information courtesy of Gordon and Mary Ann Cook

Mr. and Mrs. I.G. Cook, Gordon and Mary Ann moved to Milliken from Platteville, Colorado, in the early 1950's. Twins, Becky and Barry, were fourteen months old and Rick was five years old. Mr. Cook had worked seven years as a meat cutter for Ace Campbell in Platteville, Colorado. He started working at the Milliken Co-op Lumber Yard in September 1952. They purchased the home of Carl Betz at 309 South Josephine Avenue in Milliken in July of 1953.

In 1954 there was a vacancy at the Milliken Post Office for a Postmaster and in November Gordon was appointed Acting Postmaster. Later President Dwight David Eisenhower appointed him Postmaster. Employees at that time were Matt Martinez and Nola Rogers. Matt was the rural mail carrier, and Nola was part-time clerk. Other employees have been Sherry Alexander, Norma Kilgore, Barbara Newcomb, Mary Egloff, Karen Hamlin and Velma Wakeman. "There were many more employees," said Gordon, "as I was like a training office. I could only give them a few hours of work a week. When they worked a while here, they could go to a larger post office and perhaps work full time."

Mrs. Cook, Mary Ann, attended a class at Aims College in Greeley, Colorado, in 1971. This led to baking and decorating cakes, and catering to weddings and parties. While growing up in Platteville, she attended the Methodist Church. A lady there presented each child a birthday cake that had been baked in a one pound coffee can. After seeing the happiness of the children who received the cakes, she decided to bake birthday cakes for the children attending the Presbyterian Church in Milliken. Each child received on his birthday a cake made and decorated especially for him. Some still call her the Cake Lady.

For many years after the Christmas Program was presented at the Presbyterian Church, a birthday celebration for Jesus was held. Mrs. Cook baked a large cake to be served at the occasion and the top was presented to someone for outstanding service for the church.

Most of the cakes were white cakes made using the whites of eggs, leaving the egg yolks unused. The left over egg yolks were used to make noodles. Mary said that their greatest helper was their son Barry. As they would dirty a bowl or table, he would wash and clean the area. Once a year Gordon and Mary, with the aid of some seniors make noodles to be sold at the Christmas Boutique held by the Senior Citizens of Milliken. Usually seventy-five dozen eggs are used which makes over one hundred bags of noodles to be sold.

Mary discontinued her activities involving catering and baking wedding cakes in 1991 when the Cooks purchased a motor home and began to travel on weekends.



Rick, Brenda, and twins Barry and Becky, were raised at 309 South Josephine Avenue in Milliken. Mr. and Mrs. Cook and Barry still live there. Becky lives in Milliken, Rick lives in South Carolina, and Brenda lives in Lakewood, Colorado.

## DANIELS

Source: *Milliken Mail*

The following articles about Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Daniels are shortened versions of ones printed in the Milliken Mail in 1910 and 1913:

Fannie Squire Daniels, wife of J.A. Daniels, was born in St. Neots, Huntingdonshire, England, March 4, 1849, and died at the home near Milliken June 15, 1910. She was the oldest of seven children born to Mr. and Mrs. John Denniss, and the second sister of four brothers still living.

At the age of nine years, she went with her mother and brothers to India to meet her father, who was employed by the British government as a civil engineer. She returned to England in 1861, then crossed the ocean again with her mother and two younger brothers for America on the 15th day of May 1873. She arrived in Rock Island on Decoration Day of the same year.

A few years later, she married Mr. Edward Beer and became the mother of one daughter and two sons. With her mother she came west about the year 1886, and resided with her mother near New Windsor, Colorado. She married Mr. James A. Daniels on April 2, 1887 and resided on the ranch until her death. Survivors besides Mr. Daniels are the daughter, Mrs. Nellie Young of Denver and son, E.J. Beer, who is farming the Daniels ranch.

The youngest son, Alfred A. Beer, served in the Spanish-American War under Admiral Dewey, and was at the Battle of Manila Bay. He was killed while coupling cars at Verdun, Illinois, and is buried in Platteville Cemetery.

Her brothers are J.L. Denniss of Platteville, Colorado, R.S. Denniss of Eaton, Colorado, F.W. Denniss of Denver, Colorado and A.H. Denniss of Maurice, Indiana. One brother, Alfred, is buried in England. Her father died in India May 15, 1866. Her mother, Mrs. M.O. Menke, is buried in Eaton Cemetery.

Our community was greatly surprised last Friday morning when the sad and unexpected report of the death of James A. Daniels was being circulated.

Mr. Daniels was born in Gloucestershire, England, August 17, 1838, being 74 years, 8 months, and 23 days old.

In 1857 with his brother, Henry, who died six years ago at the home of the deceased, James sailed for America. He went to Quebec, Canada, and then to Wisconsin, remaining there until the spring of 1859, when he went to Kansas.

Upon reaching the Missouri River, the gold excitement carried him away and with a party of about twenty men, one wagon and three yoke of cattle,

using the wagon for provisions only, walked the entire distance across the plains, reaching Denver June 1st. Only ten or twelve cabins were there at that time.

He journeyed from there to Clear Creek Valley, near present Black Hawk, finding encamped there and living in their wagons, some four hundred men who like himself were interested in mining operations.

Prospecting with great success that season, he went on to Russell Gulch spending the fall and winter there. He was one of the first miners in the Buckskin Joe mines in 1861, and actively engaged in working the Gregory mines some time later.

In 1863 he added a squatters claim to a quarter section of his present ranch and occupied it under the Homestead Act. The place was wild land, the only improvement being a rudely constructed log cabin.

He engaged in the dairy business, disposing of his supplies in Denver. He continued this business until 1865, when he sold his cattle, and went to Iowa to buy more, but returned without purchasing any.

About this time he and a few other farmers organized the Big Thompson & Platte River Ditch Company and with the aid of shovels only, they dug the lateral. Progress was slow, as it was seven miles in length and four feet wide on the bottom. It was not large enough and ten years later its width was doubled. He was President of the above company for more than twelve years.

Mr. Daniels aided in organizing School District No.21 and donated the land on which to erect the building in 1879, besides serving as a director most of the time since.

He was married to Mrs. Fannie S. Beer, widow of Edward Beer, on April 2, 1889. She died June 15, 1910.

Survivors are Mrs. Nellie Young, a stepdaughter living in Denver, Edward Beer, a stepson living in San Francisco, California, and three nephews, George, Walter, and William Daniels. Two reside on the Thompson River.

The funeral service was conducted by Mr. R.H. Rhodes, an old-time friend and bosom friend of the deceased, at the J.A. Daniels home east of town. After the ceremony the remains were escorted to Platteville and buried beside his wife.

Source: *Milliken Mail*, June 24, 1910

## **EHRlich**

Information courtesy of Reuben Ehrlich

Reuben Ehrlich came to Milliken in January 1950, with his wife and three children, Ted, Judy and Joyce. They lived on the George Kammerzell farm that was four miles east of Milliken. At that time Ted was in the first grade at Daniels School. The children later

attended school in Milliken then attended Re 5J when Milliken and Johnstown schools consolidated.

In August 1971 Reuben purchased the Texaco Service Station from Lester Schropp and with the aid of Dick Rouse, operated the business under the name of E & R Texaco. In a few years, the station was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Chesnut and operated by their son, Gerald.

As a hobby in 1968, Mr. and Mrs., Reuben Ehrlich (Ruby) started building a Frontier Village on their farm two miles south of Milliken, at 9659 Weld County Road 44, which they still operate. This is open to the public. They started with one team of mules and a wagon. This grew to include six teams of horses and Shetland ponies and twenty-six wagons. The collection contained stagecoaches, chuck wagons, buggies and a circus wagon. The horses and wagons have been used in parades for years in this area. Mr. and Mrs. Ehrlich have taken them to Larimer Square in Denver for eight years, to Cheyenne Frontier Days in Wyoming for eighteen years and to many parades, races, shows and community events in northern Colorado. Usually they have six or seven units in a parade, which require fifteen helpers.

The Village consists of a blacksmith shop, saddle shop, museum, a hardware store, a chapel and a "feed bunk" which is a cafe. Old types of equipment dating to the 1900's have been collected and are on display as are animals such as buffalo, peacocks, geese and chickens.

Reuben has seen many changes since coming to the Milliken area and remembers the location of buildings and businesses during the development of the town of Milliken. His interest in Milliken has lead to community service in the form of serving as a member of the Town Council for two years. In addition, he and Ruby remain very active in Beef and Bean Day Celebrations. Rubeben stated, "We hope to continue as long as the good Lord gives us the strength and health."

## **ELAM**

Written by Virginia Elam Morris

Ed Elam and Sarah Ericsson were married in Kansas City, Missouri in 1908 where Ed worked in a men's clothing store. In 1911 they moved to Milliken, Colorado, along with one of Ed's uncles. They settled in a small house with no running water or electricity and became early residents of Milliken.

An article published in the Milliken Mail June 30, 1911 announced the fact that a new business firm came to Milliken. "E.J. Elam is the name under which this firm will do business, and the location is the Dunn building, formerly occupied by the Townsend Mercantile Company on Broad Street."

Ed and his uncle started the General Mercantile Store but Ed bought out his uncle within a short time. At that time the business occupied two buildings with an opening between them. In the one on the east they carried many items for farmers such as dam canvas, shovels and hoes, irrigation boots, etc. In the west side were groceries, dry goods and shoes for sale. Many items, such as kerosene and vinegar were sold in bulk. These

were stored in barrels in the basement. Customers brought their containers, and a clerk would go to the basement and fill them.

A gas pump was in front and awnings were on the front of both stores. Awnings were lowered, each summer day to control heat and sun inside. These were rolled up at night.

A huge candy showcase containing many penny goodies was the first thing one viewed upon entering. Next was a case containing tobacco which customers could have cut to their specification. An oak counter was next with the glass fronts displaying contents consisting of beans, dried peas, sugar, and rice. Many times a customer would want a dime's worth of one of these. It would be weighed on the scale, put in a brown bag, and tied with a string.

Every order was written on a pad that had two duplicates. The customer was always given the pink copy.

A meat counter that held lunchmeats and cheeses was in the back. Meats were kept in an icebox and when a customer placed an order the meat was sliced with a hand turned slicer.

On the other side of the west store were round racks of women's and children's clothing. Men's suits were shown by catalog and if one was ordered and didn't fit when received, Sarah's mother, Florence Ericsson, would alter it.

Then came the fabrics, which was a popular item along with all the sewing notions. The spool rack held a variety of colors. Shoes, overshoes, boots, and overalls were found on a platform in the back of the store. Ed kept his books on the back of the platform.

In 1913, Ed fell from the truck and broke his neck while making a delivery. This left him paralyzed. At this time Florence Ericsson, Sarah's mother, came to help. She took Ed by train to Idaho Springs, Colorado, where he was given hot spring baths. This helped him tremendously and he regained the use of his body, but his neck remained rigid.

Sarah worked at the store daily and continued through much of her life. Florence Ericsson continued to make her home with them and helped care for their family; Florence, E.J. Jr., and Virginia. They moved into their home at 215 South Josephine Avenue in 1926.

Clarence Wallace was a clerk who worked in the store during the early days. Later Clarence worked for Morey Mercantile Company in Denver, and called on the Elam family store for years selling them the Solitaire food line. Ed purchased his clothing from Hilb & Company of Denver and Harry Hilb called on him.

Ed was a firm believer that there was good in everyone and extended credit to all. Most did pay him, but one year after the beans were cut, wind blew them away. As a result, farmer after farmer came in saying that they could not pay him. There were other disasters and he was left with unpaid bills.

Ed was public spirited and served on the Town Board and School Board. He was a Mason and Rotarian.

In 1942 the doctor diagnosed him with a bad heart and sent him south for the winter. On his way home he had a heart attack and died. After Sarah ran the store that winter and spring she thought it best to sell out. She rented the building for several years until it was destroyed by fire in 1953.

## FLYNN

Submitted by Vera Flynn

Patrick (Pat) Flynn, the son of Thomas and Bridget Flynn, at the age of sixteen came to America from Ireland in 1898, with his cousin, John Cosgrove. He was the oldest child in a family of twenty-one children, which included three sets of twins. Patrick's family in Ireland had subsisted on the proceeds from a one-acre farm, so America seemed to be the land of plenty.

His journey led from a small farm in Derrygellia, County Fermanaugh, Ireland to Cheyenne, Wyoming. A McClusky cousin from Ireland had preceded Pat to Cheyenne. McClusky worked for the Union Pacific Railroad and was able to get Pat a job in the machine shop of the railroad in Cheyenne.

When Pat arrived in Cheyenne, Margaret (Maggie) Bracket was living in Cheyenne working as a housekeeper for the parish priest. She had emigrated from Port Loise, County Loise, Ireland, where she as an orphan had lived with the Daley family. While Pat and Maggie both came from Ireland, they met for the first time while residing in Cheyenne.

Pat and Maggie were married in Cheyenne, Wyoming in 1903. Three children were born to Pat and Maggie: Agnes, Edward, little Pat later to be known as Pat, and Helen. Having preceded the family to Milliken, the May 8, 1913 issue of the Milliken Mail reported that Pat was wearing a smile that wouldn't come off, as on May 4, his wife and children arrived from Cheyenne.

After their arrival in Milliken Pat purchased and operated a saloon in town. During this same period he purchased a farm northeast of town. Pat was active in affairs of Milliken as evidenced by frequent articles about him in the *Milliken Mail*.

The Flynns moved to 118 South Frances Avenue and at the death of Maggie in 1915, Pat and the children moved to the previously purchased farm northeast of Milliken. The Flynns lived on the farm until Little Pat and Helen finished high school in Milliken. After his mother passed away in 1915



Flynn Saloon – Vera Flynn

Agnes saw that that Pat and Helen finished school. Pat graduated in 1926 from Milliken High School. The children went their own way and Pat senior moved to Ault, Colorado, where he operated a service station. Patrick Flynn was born in 1872 and died in 1947.

"Little" Pat moved to Milliken in 1913 and spent his entire life there. In 1934 Pat and Alex Rotharmel, in partnership, rented the gas service station on east Broad Street from Ben Kaiser. Ben had erected the station a few years earlier. Alex was badly burned when

he lit a torch in the pit of the station, and it exploded. After his recovery he moved to California and sold his part of the business to Pat. After renting for several years, Pat erected a new service station east of the old one, on Broad Street. Pat was in the service station business in Milliken fifty-three years.

Agnes married Walter Nesom, and they lived in the Gilcrest area. Agnes and Walter had one daughter, Patricia. Agnes died in 1998. Patricia has five children and still lives in the Gilcrest area. Helen married Joe Bihain, and they lived in Boulder and Greeley while he worked for the State Highway Department. They had no children. Helen died in 1995.

Pat Flynn and Vera Garrett were married in 1937 and lived all of their married life in Milliken, the majority at 100 South Frances Avenue. Vera was born in Brush, Colorado and grew up in Johnstown. She graduated from Johnstown High School in 1934. Vera was a housewife and raised their two children.

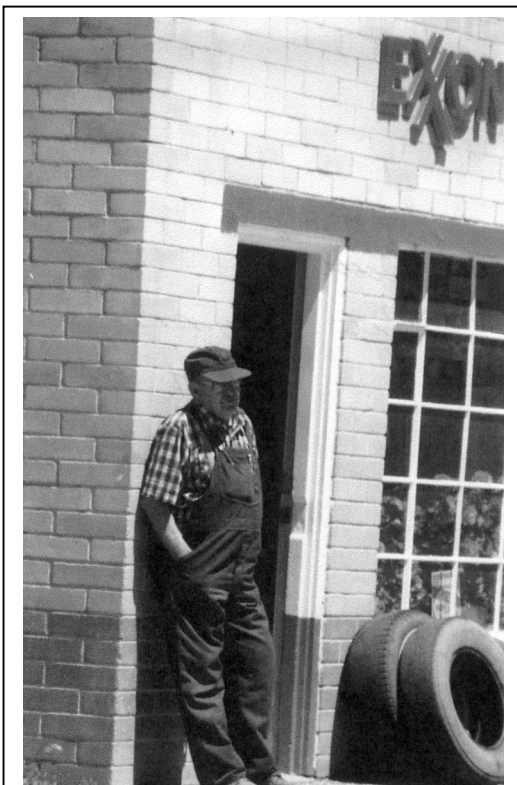
Pat and Vera had two children, Michael (Mick) and Karen. Mick graduated from Milliken High School in 1958 and from Colorado State University in 1962. He was in the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) in college and upon graduation entered the Air Force and was on active duty until 1966. Mick now works for the Government, in the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. He and his wife Sherlyn (Sherry Bechard) live in

Maryland.

Karen graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1966 and from the University of Northern Colorado in 1970. She married Russell (Jack) Farmer in 1969. They have four children, Ryan, Cody, Erin and Beau. Upon completion of Karen and Jack's education, they moved to Broomfield, Colorado in 1972.

Vera remains in Milliken at the family home at 100 South Frances Avenue. She stays active at the senior center, playing cards, taking family trips and keeping up with the grandchildren.

After working most of his adult life Pat passed away at the age of 89 years and 11 months. Friends will remember his sense of humor and fair treatment of his customers. His service station was a meeting place for friends who had a few moments and others who stayed for hours. He personified the hardworking, easygoing immigrants from Ireland.



"Little" Pat Flynn and his Exxon Service Station – Vera Flynn

## **FUSON**

Dr. C.C. Fuson and his wife, Grace, came to Milliken in 1910 and established a medical practice in the Antlers Hotel. They moved into the R.M. Benton house in July 1910. The same house is at 120 South Frances Avenue.

Dr. Fuson was born in Clear Creek County, Colorado, near Georgetown November 21, 1879, and spent his boyhood there. He graduated from the Denver Goss Medical School that now is Denver University School of Medicine and served as an intern at Steele Hospital in Denver, Colorado.

He and Grace Banks were married in Denver May 29, 1907. After coming to Milliken they established a private hospital in their home on South Frances Avenue. Mrs. Fuson was a nurse and aided her husband in his practice. After a few years, they moved to 301 Laura Avenue and moved the hospital into this home.

During World War I, Dr. Fuson served as a major in the U.S. Army, serving in France and England. While he was in the army, his practice was handled by Dr. W.B. Wilson. After his tour of duty he returned to his practice in Milliken.

Dr. Fuson's medical practice had been located in several buildings in town. First it was in the Antlers Hotel, then in the First State Bank Building on Broad Street. The last office was at 904 Broad Street and was erected in 1915. He spent forty seven years as a physician in Milliken.

Mrs. Fuson passed away in September 1944 and Dr. Fuson passed away in July 1958. Three children survive them, Dr. Horace S. Fuson of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, Mrs. Jessie Siebert of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Mrs. Jane Williams of Portland, Oregon.

## **GARCIA**

Submitted by Margaret Garcia Salamanca

In writing this article, I was able to relive so many beautiful and yet some sad memories regarding my family history. I'm Margaret Garcia Salamanca, the oldest child of Pastor and Lucy Garcia of 100 North Harriett Avenue, Milliken, Colorado.

My grandfather Isidoro Garcia worked for the railroad here in the United States for years. In September 1916, he sent for my grandmother Josephina, my father Pastor along with his brother, two nieces and his brother-in-law. My father was born in Guanajuato, Mexico, in 1907, and was nine years old when they joined my grandfather in St. Louis, Missouri.

In 1918 the family came to the Milliken area. My grandfather still worked for the Union Pacific Railroad.

My Uncle Andrew, my father's older brother, started working for local farmers. He had an accident that left his leg badly injured. When my grandma saw that he was having trouble walking and working, she told my grandpa that they needed to find a permanent home.

They started looking and someone told them about a two-room building that was in back of the new train depot along the railroad tracks. This was the area where years later the potato dock was built. My Aunt Lucy, the only living sister of my father, says she always thought it might have been the first depot in Milliken as it was painted the same bright yellow as the new depot.

My grandparents talked to the Union Pacific representatives about this building and were told that all they needed to do was to find the land, and they would move it for them. When my grandpa told my grandmother they didn't have any money to buy land, my grandmother replied, "Oh yes, we do." She opened a box and in it were numerous paychecks belonging to my grandpa and uncle. It seems that grandma only cashed checks to pay bills, etc. and saved the rest. The only problem was that the checks were all outdated. So once again the Union Pacific representative stepped in and took my grandparents to the Johnstown Bank. The bank honored all the checks, opened an account for them, and explained to grandma that she couldn't keep checks more than thirty days.

They bought the building and seven lots which were on North Harriett Avenue. The Union Pacific moved the building onto a foundation and cellar that had been made by my grandpa, uncle and dad. This was in 1923.

My Uncle Andrew died in that house in 1924 from the leg injury where gangrene had set in. He was only twenty years old.

Soon my Aunt Lupe died in Denver leaving four daughters. They came to Milliken and were raised with my Aunt Lucy by my grandparents. They were Mary, Angie, Delfina, and Mercy. Mary and Angie are deceased. Delfina lives in Mexico and Mercy lives in California.

My mother, Lucy, was born in Mexico and came to the Loveland area with her parents when she was nine years old. My parents met and were married in 1927. Grandpa and Dad divided the lots, and my parents built our home next door to our grandparents' home. I was born in that house in 1928 and lived on Harriett Avenue until I was thirteen years old.

My grandmother passed away in 1932 and my grandfather followed her five years later.

My father, Pastor, started farming on his own by leasing farmland. It was very hard times, but we made it. In the 1950's Dad bought the family farm which my brother, Art, now owns.

I was already married and living in Platteville when I went to visit my parents on the farm one evening. Dad was trying to bring the cows into the corral as it was milking time. They were standing in a straight line looking towards a small hill next to the corral and shaking in fear of something they saw. My Dad stated that it happened every evening and that it was spooky, that he had checked everything and everywhere and couldn't find a reason for it. When the boys would start driving the cows, they would move in single file and hug the fence so close they would tear their hides and hair. Dad ended up taking them a different way.

Later he dug a pit silo, and in that hill they discovered human skeletons, lots of them. Indian arrowheads were found on the skeletons. It was said that it could have been an



Indian massacre. The Historical Society took the remains, and the cows never were frightened again.

Milliken was small but the people who lived there had big hearts. So many of them touched our lives, too many to mention, but they are not forgotten. People took time to listen even if you were just a child.

I'll never forget Mr. and Mrs. Mercer. I remember going to the store for something my Mom needed. We would visit until I would hear Mom calling my name and then knew I had visited too long. I remember the Kaisers. I remember picking cucumbers on their farm one day and Grandma Kaiser was picking berries. She didn't speak English very well but when we asked her what she was going to do with them she said, "make a pie". It wasn't much later when she came with a pie for us.

Mrs. Crawford dressed me as an Indian girl for a parade in the town, and we became friends. After she moved to Oakland, California she wrote to me.

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart were a very kind and loving couple. We would go to their home after Sunday school and read the comics. She would always have a treat for us. They were very talented. Mr. Stewart would ask us for a subject so he could make up a song, and like magic he would tap his feet, clap his hands and start singing and Mrs. Stewart would harmonize. They were the only black residents in Milliken then.

Mr. and Mrs. Kinsfather were friends of our family. Mother and Mrs. Kinsfather would exchange recipes and food. She made the best potato bread.

Who could forget Mr. and Mrs. Henry Martinez? When the church, the Spanish Assembly of God, was made out of the old house he would go early to start the coal heater which was in the middle of the church. Sometimes when we got there it smelled of smoke, coal and burning wood. I remember standing by that heater until Sunday school started and we always tried to sit close to it in order to stay warm. He swept snow from the entrance and would make a path to the outhouse. Mrs. Martinez would dust and set out the song and textbooks. She always greeted you with a "God bless you".

I remember the train passing in front of the house and the brakeman who used to leave pennies on the sidetracks for us. A penny would buy a lot of candy in those days.

Christmas was great. The town would place a decorated Christmas tree in the middle of the street.

Our father passed away in 1971, and Mom passed away in 1988. They along with our paternal and maternal grandparents, our uncle and aunt, and our sister Elizabeth, are buried in the family plot in Elwell Cemetery. Other family members are there, too.

There are seven living children. Three who live in Milliken are Rose Bejarano, Art Garcia, and Richard Garcia. Mary Louise Padilla and Jennie Treacle live in Denver. My parents raised one grandchild, my sister's son, Frank Garcia of Loveland. My Dad's sister, Lucy James, also lives in Denver, and I live in Platteville, Colorado.

## SPECIAL THANK YOU

To all of you who touched our lives, we thank you for the memories,  
To our grandparents who loved us so and who we will never forget,  
To our parents who made us what we are and Aunt Lucy for sharing.

## GRIFFITH

Information courtesy of William George Griffith

George Francis Griffith was born March 4, 1880, in South Dakota Territory and died August 8, 1954, at his farm southwest of Milliken where he had lived for many years.

His father, Joseph, was of Irish and European descent. During the Civil War, Joe was a civilian scout for the Union and used a mule as a method of transportation. The mule was staked out when not being ridden. During the silence after one battle he heard, "Hey Joe, here's your mule." He then knew that the Union had won, emerged from cover and claimed his mule. This quote is mentioned in the book "Cimarron".

His mother, who was part Ponca Indian, was an Indian interpreter which required much traveling. George Francis had a sister, Mary, who was "bonded out" to work for her living and worked very hard. After she married her name became Gardner, and they settled along the Missouri River at Hamburg, Iowa, where they raised a large family.

George lived on the same reservation as Sitting Bull, the Indian Medicine Man (1831-1890). Indian policemen killed sitting Bull in 1890. George was almost ten years of age at that time. He told of how he and the other Indian boys played as boys will do and would look in Sitting Bull's teepee door. Sitting Bull would yell "Boo" at them and they would run away laughing only to do it again later. He played and trained with the other Indian boys learning skills that were never forgotten and also learned the Indian dialect.

Asthma bothered George when he was young. One day he was lying in a wagon having an attack. An Indian Medicine Man looked at him, grunted and left, only to return later. The Indian lifted him up and made George drink a bad tasting concoction. George said that he never had asthma again and would like to know what he was given.

As he grew up, he had a myriad of jobs. One was working with a circus watering and feeding elephants. Another was running a ferryboat across the "Spavinaw Creek" in eastern Oklahoma Territory. He told how he would take the outlaws across on his boat, return and get the lawmen. No questions were asked, as "it could get you killed."

He was in the Spanish American War. ID "dog tags" were not used then and identification was by initials tattooed on the inside of the forearm. July 1, 1898, when he was eighteen years old, he was shot in the lower leg with a poison bullet that went through the leg. He regained use of the leg after surgery was done to remove tissue around the wound, then was discharged.

Later he worked for ranches in Texas, Montana, and Oklahoma. "One job was riding fence line when it was a day's ride down one fence line." Lodging consisted of one-room shacks. He remarked that you went to bed and didn't know who else might move in for the night. One time there was a pair of pants with pockets full of money hanging on a wall peg. The code was - leave it alone if it wasn't yours.

One day while riding and working during a very hot day in Texas, he decided he had enough of the heat. He sold his horse, hopped a freight train and rode north to cooler weather, which happened to be the vicinity of Longmont, Colorado.

One of his earlier jobs in Colorado was working for a construction outfit building an irrigating system. His working with a construction company in Oklahoma had taught him how to handle explosives, which was necessary in this work.

After the construction work, he began farming. A flock of sheep with a herder and dogs were driven by his farm, and the herder gave George one of the pups. This was a very smart shepherd, easily trained that became his constant companion. He named it "Gyp".

About this time, 1915-1916, he became Marshal of Milliken with a deputy by the name of W.H. (Skip) Parsons. Milliken had a flour mill and three saloons, among other businesses. The patrol was a figure eight through the saloons and businesses and down by the jail, which was a cement walled building with an iron door and small window. One day George discovered his billfold was missing from his pocket and told Gyp to find it. The dog took off around the area and down by the jail. One fellow said, "Stupid dog, you haven't even been down there today." That is where Gyp picked up the billfold and brought it to his master.

A July 8, 1915, issue of the Milliken Mail reported a new way to rid the area of hoboes. George, as the Town Marshal, noticed that they were congregating in "Stewart's Castle" during the evening, so late one evening he decided a raid was necessary. As a gun or a club would be too brutal, he thought, the city fire hose was attached to a fire plug and thrust through a window, with the result that seven hoboes got a thorough bath, and the "Castle" was soon empty.

On December 1919, George Francis Griffith and Miss Nancy Avery Crosson were married at the home of Mrs. S.T. Wilson. She was one of the local teachers and had come to Milliken from the east. They made their home on the farm southwest of Milliken and she gave up her teaching position.

In 1925 George was working at Redling's blacksmith shop while Mr. Redling was absent due to illness. His earlier training mastered while working on construction was helpful. An article in the Milliken Mail on September 24, 1925 tells of George buying a new threshing machine. "This will be a big help to the community."

Mr. and Mrs. Griffith had two children, Mariam and George William who grew up on the family farm near Milliken. Both attended Milliken school and took part in the typical youth activities and graduated from Milliken High School.

George William was married to Marjorie Evans who grew up near Johnstown, Colorado. She passed away August 31, 1998, in Texas where they had been living since retiring. They have three sons, Jerry, Billy and Mike, who are married and have children.

Mariam worked in the medical profession and is retired, living in Texas.

"One of George's attributes was extreme honesty. A handshake was a contract. When you gave your word, that was it." Mr. and Mrs. George Francis Griffith are buried at Sunset Memorial Gardens, Greeley, Colorado.

George Francis Griffith	March 4, 1880 - August 8, 1954
Nannie C. Griffith	June 20, 1887 - April 14, 1959

## **KAMMERZELL**

Submitted by John and Ruth Kammerzell

George and Anna Margaret (Bernhardt) Kammerzell and their two sons, George and Carl, settled in Denver after arriving in the United States. John and Annie were born in Denver.

In the spring and summer, the family would come to Milliken to work on the Winkler farm. Mom raised a garden along with helping in the field. Mom told of how Carl, George, and Bob Winkler plugged watermelons in the garden. The boys were spanked including Bob. He often mentioned it when we saw him.

After the harvest the family went to their home in Denver, where Dad worked through the winter. After a few years, they bought a farm east of Milliken and did their own work. Jake, Henry, Marie and Freida were born on the farm east of Milliken.

All the children attended the Daniels School. Henry, Marie, and Freida graduated from Milliken High School.

Carl married Christina Sterkel, George married Anna Wamboldt, and John took Ruth Lebsock as his wife. These couples bought and farmed east of Milliken.

Annie married a farmer, Reuben Wiedersphan. Jake and Juanita Weber and Henry and Mildred Ulrich were married, and the couples moved to Wiggins, Colorado, where they purchased farms.

All the couples were married in the Congregational Church at Milliken, except for Marie, who became Mrs. Robert Stroh, and Freida who chose Reinhardt Rosin as her life mate.

The Rosins have a painting business in Greeley. The Strohs are farmers.

After forty years of hard work on the farm, John and Ruth purchased a home in Greeley and moved there. John is still farming. The saying goes, "you can take the man off the farm but you can't take farming out of the man."

We've been serving the Lord for many years. He has been so good to us. Both of us, having been disabled for a while, are now enjoying fairly good health. We give God the glory.

## **KERBS**

Information courtesy of Mildred Kerbs prior to her death in 1999

Eddie Kerbs became the Union Pacific Railroad Depot Agent in Milliken in January 1953. His family, wife Mildred, daughter Patricia age five and son Michael age four, moved to Milliken July 3, 1953. A daughter, Deborah, was born in November 1954 and a son, Timothy, was born February 19, 1957.

They lived in the living quarters of the depot until January 1958 when the family purchased the Fuson home at 301 Laura Avenue. A builder who used this method of paying doctor fees that had accumulated for several years had built the house for the

Fuson family in 1920. It was used as a family home by the Fusons and as a maternity hospital in the 1930's. The house had large rooms, a full basement, coal room and stand-up attic. Each of the four bedrooms had walk-in closets.

Eddie Kerbs was agent from 1953 to 1971 when the depot was closed. The potato docks, telegraph key, and holding pens for cattle were used until about 1965.

The family members belonged to the Milliken Presbyterian Church. Mr. Kerbs served on the Town Board in the 1960's. Mildred Kerbs was a 4-H leader for sixteen years, worked as a bookkeeper and accountant, was president of the PTA in 1960 and was a member of the Cheerful Learners Extension Club.

The children attended the Milliken School. Upon consolidation of Milliken and Johnstown schools, they continued their education and graduated from Roosevelt High School, Patricia in 1966, Michael in 1968, Deborah in 1972, and Timothy in 1975. They all live in Colorado.

Eddie Kerbs passed away January 11, 1982.

## **KILGORE**

Information provided by Marlys Mitchell

The Kilgore family arrived in Milliken from Denver in 1949. Gordon Kilgore, a blacksmith, operated a blacksmith shop on Broad Street. Later a shop was erected at 1020 Broad Street, east of the blacksmith shop.

The Kilgore Supply Company was founded in 1959. The company sold hardware and shop supplies to farmers, homeowners, farm stores, lumberyards, hardware stores and industrial welding shops. G.H. Kilgore and sons, Jerry, Don and Ray operated this.

Don quit the business in 1972. Gordon retired in 1976, and Jerry and Ray became the owners and operators of the business. In late 1999 the business was in the process of being sold.

The family home was at 105 South Marjorie Avenue.

## **KINGHAM**

Information courtesy of Emma Kingham Windnagel

In 1925 Mr. and Mrs. Lewis (Oma) Kingham and baby Lewis Lee, left Albuquerque, New Mexico to come to Colorado. They settled in Elizabeth. As he had previously done, Lewis found work at a dairy. That winter was especially harsh, and Oma was sure they would all freeze. After Lee was seriously ill with pneumonia, the family decided to find a warmer climate, and the next stop was Milliken.

Lewis found employment at the Sam Crowley farm south of town. A daughter was born there in 1926. Life was good, and the family grew fond of the Crowley family. However, they missed their New Mexico home and decided to return. They remained there several years where a daughter, Viola, was born.

In the 1930's the family returned to Colorado and after a brief stop came back to Milliken. Lewis was employed by Mr. Binder then worked for Mr. Sappington.

Lee and Emma started third and fourth grades in Milliken, and Viola followed in a few years. All graduated from Milliken High School.

Oma and Lewis enjoyed being involved in the community. Oma helped with caring for newborns. Two of her favorites were the Schropp twins, Marilyn and Caroline. She also worked at the school cafeteria, belonged to the Rebekah Lodge, and was active in the Presbyterian Church.

Lewis enjoyed the Odd Fellows Lodge, American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He spent his later years working for the Great Western Sugar Company.

In 1944 a son, Ronald David, was born. He graduated from Roosevelt High School and has remained in the area.

Emma married Donald Windnagel, who had moved from Longmont to Milliken in 1942. Most of their family years were spent in the service as Don spent twenty-two active duty years in the Air Force and three in Reserves. They had three children, Peggy, Terry and Thomas. After retirement they settled in Colorado and remained there. Donald died in 1993, and Emma lives in Longmont.

Lee married Ramona Knox, also of Milliken. For a time they lived in Milliken, then moved to Peetz and Haxton where Lee coached. Then they made their home in Coquille and Forest Grove, Oregon. Lee retired from teaching there. They had four children, Laura Jean, Claudia, Steve, and Deanna. All the family is living in Oregon.

Viola married William Chandler, who was from Loveland, Colorado. He was in the army and served in the Korean conflict. Most of their years were spent in Colorado except for a short time in Alaska. William died in 1989 and Viola in 1992. They had six children, Judy, Paul, Alberta, Rose, Debbe, and Lewis.

Ronald married Christine Smaw, who was from the Mead area. They had two children, Cathy and Noah. Both graduated from Roosevelt High School. The family resides in Johnstown. Ron worked many years at Honeywell in Denver, Colorado.

Lewis died in 1964 at the age of sixty-seven. Oma lives in a care facility in Longmont, Colorado.

## **MALIK**

Submitted by Opal Malik Wetzberger

One of the long time residents of the town of Milliken certainly had to be the family of Ruth and Andy Malik.

Ruth was born in the area in 1902 to James and Maude Morris. She was born in what in later years became known as the "old brick house" which was about three miles north of town on highway 257. She grew up in the area and attended the Hillsboro School. Miss Anna Johnson, who later became Mrs. Walter Daniels, was her teacher.

James and Maude came to Colorado from Iowa. A son and daughter were born in Iowa, but the others were born here. The two brothers best known in this area were

Jimmy and Roy. Jimmy was a barber and ran a shop in town for many years. Roy, being the youngest did odd jobs as well as taking care of his parents in later life.

Grandma and Grandpa Morris moved to Kremmling Colorado for several years after Ruth was grown and later moved back to Milliken. Ruth lived here all her life.

Andy came to the area as a young man looking for work. His parents had homesteaded dry land east of Denver, in the Fort Morgan-Wiggins area. He had been in the army in World War I and after being discharged came to this area and found work on local farms. It was while here that he met Ruth, and they were married in Greeley, Colorado, in May 1921.

They purchased a home at 120 South Frances Avenue, which previously had been the residence and hospital of Dr. C.C. Fuson. The house was paid for by Ruth doing washing and ironing for the doctor's family and by cleaning the medical office.

All the Malik children were born here. Grace now lives in Wheatland, Wyoming. Delbert is in Denver. Opal lives in Clifton, Colorado. Norma is in Platteville, Lois in Eaton and Ivan in Loveland. Two children are deceased; "Buddy" in infancy, and Leo was killed in a car accident.

All children attended the Milliken School. Ruth worked at the school for several years as a cook. She and Mrs. Fields, along with occasional help from Mrs. Kingham, fed many of the children in the area. Ruth finally retired from the school district.

Andy was the Town Marshal for many years. He also worked at the Great Western Sugar factory. At times he did both. One of his duties as Town Marshal, as well as keeping things calm and peaceful, was caring for the water system. He knew the water system so well he was often called for help for many years after he no longer held the job. He also worked as a night watchman at the local potato dock and helped farmers as needed.

In 1944 the original home was sold and another was purchased one block east, at 104 South Ethel Avenue. It was known as the Wilson place and had been vacant for a long time and needed a lot of work done which Andy could do.

Ruth belonged to several organizations including Woman's Club, Ladies' Aid and the Rebekah Lodge. Andy was a member of the Odd Fellows and the American Legion.

Perhaps the child best remembered would be Opal, as she worked at the post office with Eileen Palmateer Winkler from 1944 to 1948.

"At one time my folks, my grandparents, and my great grandparents, the Greenlees, all lived in Milliken at the same time".

Andy passed away in September 1977 in Windsor, and Ruth passed away in January 1988 in Greeley, Colorado.

"Although none of the children now live in the Milliken area, it will always have a warm spot in our hearts. We all grew up in this little town where we made many friends and hold many memories that we will always hold dear."

**YES INDEED, WE ALL FEEL WE ARE A PART OF MILLIKEN HISTORY!**

## MARSHALL

Ray Marshall was born August 18, 1899, while the family was living near Phillipsburg, Phillips County, Kansas. When he was a young boy, the family moved in a covered wagon to the Sand Hills of Nebraska where his father had a homestead at Halsey. His father, Sheldon (Shelly), farmed and raised horses there. After the farm was sold they returned to Phillipsburg where Ray attended school.

As a young man, Ray was employed as a farm laborer and worked for his future father-in-law, and became known for his speed in corn shucking.

Edna Agnes Pennington was born January 23, 1902, in Greenwood Township, Kansas. She was raised there, attending a rural school, then high school in Phillipsburg. After graduating from high school in 1920, she taught one term at a rural school where all grades were taught in one room, then married Ray in 1921.

They lived in Phillipsburg six years while Ray worked for the Rock Island Railroad. He began as a coal chute operator and advanced to machinist's helper and was an engine inspector by the time he resigned. Edna continued teaching those years.

On August 10, 1927, Ray resigned from the Rock Island Railroad, went to Colorado and found work at the Great Western Sugar Company near Johnstown. With the help of Tom Showers, he began construction of a home in Milliken in September 1927. The house was on the lot east of the Mentz property, which was east of the library - 1204 Broad Street.

The week of October 13, 1927, Edna and two daughters, Helen and Donna, came to Milliken by train. She later remarked of what a chore it was to prepare a household for moving with one child almost four years old and one child nine months old. Arriving at the train depot in Milliken she asked for a taxi and was told that there wasn't one. Living in Milliken was much different than in Phillipsburg, Kansas.

Ray continued working at the Great Western Sugar Company until retiring as sugar boiler at age sixty-five. During the early years, when the Great Western would close down in the summers for repair work, he worked for area farmers. Eventually he was employed at the company all year.

Ray enjoyed creating and repairing items and had a talent for gardening. During his later years, he collected maple seeds from a neighbor's tree, raised seedlings and gave them away. Several trees in Milliken are from his seedlings.

During the years in Milliken, Edna served three terms as Secretary of the School Board and also was Treasurer of the Town of Milliken. This was in addition to raising two daughters, being involved in school activities, etc. Her hobbies were sewing for the family and crocheting.

The children of Ray and Edna Marshall are Helen Marshall Stroh and Donna Marshall Shable. Grandchildren are Janice Stroh Mauch, Alan Stroh, Raenette Shable Hamman and Duane Shable.

Edna died August 5, 1980; Ray died December 2, 1987. Both are buried at Linn Grove Cemetery in Greeley, Colorado.



## MARTINEZ

Henry Martinez was born in 1888 in Mexico and came to the United States when he was nine years old. He held a variety of jobs including working for the Rock Island Railroad as a Steam Shovel Operator, herding sheep in Pachebello Idaho and working in Denver for the Swift Packing Company.

In 1917, he and Nestora were married and in 1919 moved to Milliken. While living in Milliken he worked thirty-three years for the Great Western Railroad. They both worked part time at various places.

The couple had two children, Matthew and Henrietta.

## MELLON

Submitted by William Grove, Jr.

James Franklin Mellon was born March 11, 1880, in Lawson, Missouri. In 1902, James (Frank) Mellon went to Colorado hoping to receive higher wages for his farm labor. In 1903, his brothers Charles, Edward and Arch Lee went west to join him.

In 1904, Frank and his brother, Charles, batched and farmed one hundred sixty acres of land located seven miles south and east of Loveland, Colorado. They were expecting to make a fortune quickly, but potatoes sold for thirty cents a hundred pounds that year. They received forty-five cents for them if they were sacked and loaded into freight cars. Alfalfa hay sold for as low as three dollars per ton. The following year a reservoir broke and water swept away their entire crop.

Frank returned to Lawson, Missouri in 1905, and married Thankful Crowley. Thankful was born April 3, 1887, the daughter of General B. and Nancy J (Luther) Crowley. The day after the wedding, they returned to Hillsboro and lived in the Hillsboro/Milliken area the remainder of their lives, except for two or three years spent in Greeley, when he was employed there.

Mr. Mellon saw the first building erected in Johnstown, While he and a group of young people were enjoying a sleigh ride party one night, they stopped and danced on the floor of the new unfinished building which, when completed, was the Bintener Lumber Yard.

Mr. Mellon was Deputy Assessor for the Milliken/Johnstown area for more than fifteen years and was ditch rider for the Hillsboro Ditch Company. He worked at Crawford's store intermittently as well as maintaining his small truck farm west of Milliken (the Hillsboro area).

The Mellon family retained ownership of the truck farm until their death. Frank won many prizes for the outstanding quality and beauty of his garden products.

Thankful was an outstanding seamstress. For many years she conducted a hemstitching business from her home.

Frank and Thankful were the parents of a daughter, Joyce, who was born February 5, 1906. On June 16, 1928, she married William F. Grove who lived in Greeley, Colorado.

Both were schoolteachers, and Joyce taught for many years in Estes Park, Colorado. She and her husband owned and operated a general merchandise store in Estes Park for years.

Joyce and Bill were the parents of William F.Jr., born June 14,1932 and Nancy Joan, born July 2, 1934.

Thankful died July 23, 1960. James Franklin died February 22, 1975 in the Kenton Nursing Home in Greeley, Colorado. Both are buried in Sunset Memorial Gardens in Greeley.

## **MELLON AND WAKEMAN**

Information courtesy of Velma Mellon Wakeman

The five Mellon brothers came to Colorado from Lawson, Missouri, in the early 1900's. Frank, the oldest brother, came in 1902 to seek higher wages for his farm labor. In 1903, brothers Charles, Edward and Arch Lee came west, and John William arrived a few years later. In 1916 the youngest brother, Alva, came to this area. He and his wife, Flora, worked for Art Kibby and Ed Cox. They were brothers-in-law of Frank Mellon's wife, Thankful.

Arch Mellon went back to Missouri in 1904. In 1906 he and Laura Nancy Rosetta Knutter were married there. A daughter was born while they were living in Missouri, but died at birth. They came back to Milliken in 1912 and lived in a tent house on farm ground south of the present Middle School.

Mr. Mellon worked at various occupations through the years. At the first annual fall festival, September 21, 1912 he was awarded \$5 for showing the five best sugar beets. During the sugar beet harvest, he worked at the Hillsboro beet receiving station (dump) north of Milliken. Also he was hired for part time farm work.

One tale he told involved a horse he owned. The horse would not cross the bridge north of town so he would have to back the horse across the bridge, then turn it around so he could continue on to his work.

In December 1913 Mr. Mellon purchased lots 7,8, and 9 in Block 86. The next spring H.W. Richmond built a house on these lots for him; the address was 313 Katheleen Avenue. The house was ready for occupancy by May 1914 and is still at the same location. That year a daughter, Velma, was born on September 2, 1914.

In 1916 Arch Mellon was contracted to transport students to and from school and also became janitor at the school. His bid was \$80, \$10 less than other bids presented. In August 1916, Mr. Mellon purchased a new Ford touring car in Berthoud, Colorado to use in transporting students. The school directors in 1919 purchased two Ford school busses so Mr. Mellon no longer hauled the students.

He continued as school custodian until retiring in 1949 at the age of sixty-five, spending 32 years as custodian at the school. He enjoyed his work and the children as they grew up.

Mrs. Mellon, Laura, was a charter member of the Women's Club, the Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian Church and the Nimble Thimble Club. In 1925 after a gallstone attack she had surgery at the Longmont hospital. In July 1931 she had another gallstone attack and more surgery at a Greeley hospital. She came home, then was readmitted to the hospital a week later. She died July 9, 1931. Gangrene had set in. Their daughter, Velma, was to start her senior year in high school that fall, and Archie Jr. was to start the eighth grade.

In 1927 the family had moved into a new home at 319 South Katheleen Avenue. In those days teachers lived in the community and usually boarded somewhere in town. A schoolteacher boarded with them for a year or two.

On January 9, 1937, Mr. Mellon married Letha Sloan who lived in Johnstown, Colorado. In October 1939 Letha died after a tumor operation at a Loveland hospital.

Velma Wakeman and Rex Wakeman were married May 27, 1937 and lived on North Josephine Avenue. Their children are Janice Lou born April 18, 1940, Richard Lee born July 27, 1947, and Larry Allen born March 28, 1951.

Arch Mellon married Mae Polly February 4, 1941, who lived in Johnstown and worked at the First National Bank. They lived at 319 South Katheleen Avenue.

Arch Mellon died April 2, 1972 and Mae Polley Mellon died November 15, 1974.

Rex and Velma lived in Milliken except for spending a few years in Wichita, Kansas during World War II. Their children were raised in Milliken where Janice and husband, Ken Williams, live. Larry and wife, Cindy, live in Greeley. Richard and wife, Peggy, reside in Milliken.

Rex passed away, and Velma lives in Milliken at 319 South Katheleen Avenue. She sold Avon products for twenty years and also was the Assistant Rural Mail Carrier in Milliken for ten years.

## **MORRIS AND LYNCH**

Submitted by Elaine Lynch Gesick

It all started in 1840 with Richard Morris. He was born in England, but was living in Iowa when he married Roxanna Varner of Ohio in 1846. Richard and Roxanna had six children.

- James married Maude Greenlee and they had six children.

Jesse had no children of his own, but he married a lady who had four children. They lived in Milliken until their deaths.

Roy had no children of his own but lived in Milliken until the death of his parents and brother, Orval, who lived in Greeley.

Ruth married Andy Malik May 21, 1921. They raised all seven of their children in Milliken.

- Irvin was married to Belvie Seymore and lived all of his life in Milliken. They had three children but later were divorced. Belvie was a sister of Helen Watson and was the housekeeper for Dr. Fuson until his death.
- Joseph married Amy Greenlee who was a sister to Maude Greenlee. Notice, two Morris brothers married two Greenlee sisters. Amy and Joseph had six children, so Joseph raised eight children in all. One of the boys, Earl, died in 1939 when he touched a live wire in an alley in Greeley. His wife, Anna Mae Adkisson, who was raised in Milliken was badly injured but lived, and later moved from Milliken. Another one of the boys, Ellis, was struck by lightning while in a field east of La Salle, resulting in his death.
- Lucy married Parker Lynch, Sr. and they had eight children.
  - Effie married Henry Walker in December 1927 and lived in Johnstown until her death.
  - Alveretta married Fred Sauter and lived a short time in Milliken and then moved to Greeley where they raised their family. They were divorced.
  - Ray lived in Iowa and other places.
  - Elmer and Arnum lived in Johnstown most of the time.
  - Jamie died at an early age.
  - Parker Jr. married Martha May Gregory, who had lived with her family at Hillsboro. They had four children and lived most of their lives in Milliken.
  - Forest died when he was twenty-three years old.
  - Roxanna moved to California.
  - Hazel married Alex Rotharmel of Milliken. He was the son of Deobald Rotharmel, a cobbler in Milliken who originally was from Russia. They moved to California where they raised their three children. Hazel died last year at the age of 80.
  - Margaret married Clyde Rogers of Milliken. The family called Margaret "Tootie" and she lived all her life in Milliken. She and Clyde had three children. Clyde was the brother of June Rogers Watson, who still lives in Milliken.
- Albert was born in Iowa in 1899 and came to Milliken with his parents and grandparents at the age of three. His parents and grandparents are buried in Greeley and the Johnstown Cemeteries.
- In 1917 Albert married Zenith Gregory, who was born in 1902 in Iowa. She came to Hillsboro at the age of one year. She had one sister, Martha May. Her father was James Gregory who died at the age of twenty-three when she was only three years old. Her mother, Amy Greenlee, then married Joseph Morris, brother of Lucy Morris who was married to Parker Lynch Sr.
- Martha and Zenith were the only children who lived all their lives in Milliken. They also married brothers Parker Jr. and Albert Lynch. Zenith was fifteen when she married Albert Lynch.
- Zenith told many stories about her life when she was a child and about all the houses they lived in and why, as well as the long walks to school from the top of the hill.

- Albert and Zenith worked for various farmers in the area, Albert in the fields, and Zenith in the kitchen. He worked for the Great Western Sugar Factory when it opened and worked in the Prisoner of War Camp during World War II. He made friends with the prisoners and received many letters from them. He returned to the factory until an illness forced him to retire. Albert died in 1961 at the age of sixty-two and Zenith died at the age of eighty-seven. They had nine children. Eight were born in Milliken and one was born in Loveland. They raised eight of the kids in Milliken and they all went to high school there.

Harry lives in California.

Ralph lives in California

Orval "Corky" lived in Ault and died last year.

Dorothy lived the last nine years of her life in Milliken. She died last year.

Dorothy has a daughter, Jill Schraeder, who returned to live in Milliken when her husband returned from the Air Force.

Cecil lives in the house where Albert and Zenith lived until their deaths. Cecil has one son, Greg Lynch, who lives in Milliken.

Pearl lives in Greeley.

Marvin married Nancy Chesnut of Milliken and lives in Wyoming.

Teddy died a few days after birth.

Elaine lives next door to the family home place.
- I, Elaine Lynch, was born and have lived all my life in Milliken. I attended Milliken School and was married in 1956 to Daniel Gesick who was from Platteville, Colorado. After serving in the Navy he worked for the Great Western Sugar Company for twenty-three years, followed by fifteen years at Rocky Flats. I worked at the Milliken Middle School for nineteen years. We raised our family of four children in Milliken.

Brenda married Rodney Watson, son of June and Roy Watson of Milliken.

Brenda and Rodney have a son Jesse, and daughter Brandy, and live in Longmont. The brother of Rodney's mother June, Clyde, married my cousin Margaret Lynch, and she became an aunt and cousin to Brenda and Rodney.

Gary married Tammy White, daughter of Ray and Liz White from Johnstown.

Gary and Tammy live outside of Johnstown and have a daughter named Aspen.

Loren married Kate Tucker from Nebraska. They have two daughters, Holly and Amanda, and live in Greeley.

Darrell married Esther Smith of Johnstown. Esther's parents are Dale and Jana Smith. Dale is the building official for Milliken.
- We have five grandchildren at this time. I've lived in Milliken for 63 years and hope to be here a little longer.

## ONORATO

Submitted by Lena Onorato

A long-time resident, Lena Onorato, recalls the move to Milliken from Greeley with her husband, Jim, in 1928. Jim was raised in Purcell, Colorado, where his family farmed. Lena, maiden name Neureuter, was raised southwest of La Salle where her father farmed. Jim completed study at the Rahe Auto and Tractor School located in Kansas City, Missouri. He was only fifteen years old when he finished at the top of his class training in auto and tractor repair service.

In 1926 Jim and Lena were married and resided in Greeley. In 1928 they moved to Milliken. Jim started an auto repair shop at 105 South Harriett Avenue and they lived upstairs in the building. The business provided auto repair service, school bus maintenance and sold gasoline.

In 1930 Jim and Lena started their family with the birth of daughter Dora. The family eventually grew to include eight more children: Jim, Bob, Ray, Ed, Sarah, Rose, Pat and Mary Lou. The Onoratos lived above the shop on Harriett Avenue until moving to a home at 100 South Grace Avenue. In 1936 they made their third and final move to a home at 305 South Katheleen Avenue.

In 1939 Jim and Lena bought an auto service garage at 1004 Broad Street. The business provided auto repair service and later branched out into appliance and radio sales and service within the same building.

In 1964 Jim purchased the old co-op building at 903 Broad Street. It was at this location that Jim and his son, Ray, sold and repaired appliances, televisions and radios. Sons Jim and Bob continued to operate the auto garage where they remain.

In 1980 the appliance business was relocated to Greeley. In the same year, the building at 903 Broad Street was rented by Mr. and Mrs. Ken Spooner from Jim and Lena and opened as Ken's Market. Presently at this location Jim and Lena's son, Pat, owns and operates Hometown Market and Deli

In 1984 Jim passed away of cancer at the age of 78. Since that year Lena has continued to live in the home where she and her husband raised their children.

Lena has seen many changes in the town she has called home for over 71 years. As she recalled, the population upon her arrival in Milliken in 1928 was approximately 300 persons. Although boasting a small population Milliken had many services to provide residents. Among other establishments was a blacksmith shop, a tire repair shop, a shoe cobbler, a drug store, a butcher shop owned by Thackers and two grocery stores. One of the markets was Crawford's Grocery Store and the other was the Red and White Grocery Store owned by Zen Greenlee. There was a railroad depot, a lumber yard (located where the Laundromat stands today, also owned and operated by Pat Onorato), a coal yard and a grain elevator which was located behind the present-day Hometown Market. Altvaters operated the town's newspaper. The two churches were the German Congregational and the Presbyterian.

Several establishments provided entertainment for the residents. There was a roller skating rink, a dance hall and a couple of bars/pool halls. One of the pool halls provided barber services. At that time a schoolteacher, Mrs. A.A. Taylor operated a restaurant.

Lena recalls that the fire department consisted of a two-wheeled cart that was pulled by volunteer firemen to a fire's location.

Dr.C.C. Fuson whose practice was at 904 Broad Street provided medical services. In the upper level of his home on South Laura Avenue he treated maternity patients and those who needed extended care. Later when he wife became ill and could no longer help with these patients, Dr.Fuson was invited to continue providing care to long-term and maternity patients out of the home of Mrs. Nazareus who lived on Marjorie Avenue. Mrs. Nazareus helped to care for these patients.

There were few organizations in town. Among them were the Modern Woodsman and the Lion's Club, both of which Jim Onorato was a member.

At the time Lena first came to Milliken, there was only one road that connected to Greeley. This road as she remembers, was lined with trees the entire length of the road. Lena recalls that almost all of the homes in Milliken had gardens and raised chickens. Also a large number of homes had outhouses. Most of the residents commuted by auto, but a few horse-drawn buggies could be seen.

Beef and Bean Day was called Bean Day when they first came to Milliken. She recalled that the gallon cans of beans used for the dinner were heated in hot water, then opened and served.

Over the years Lena and her husband Jim have contributed a great deal to the town of Milliken. Jim served as mayor of Milliken as well as several years on the Board of Education and the Town Board. She has watched her family grow to include twenty-two grandchildren and twenty-five great-grandchildren. Lena continues to be, as in the years with her husband, a fine citizen who is a great asset to this community. Through her memories of the past, newcomers are able to realize the contributions of Lena and Jim and the many others like them who helped build the Town of Milliken.

## **PARKER**

Submitted by Eve Faye Parker York

Ardie Parker was born in 1884 in Fountain Green, Illinois. When just a young boy, his parents along with him and his other siblings left Illinois in a covered wagon for Kansas. After months of traveling, they settled near Phillipsburg, Kansas, where their livelihood was farming.

In 1907 Ardie married Cora Elliott and they continued to farm and raise horses. In 1909 a daughter Edith was born. In about 1911 the family moved to Burlington, Colorado, where he was employed by the Santa Fe Railroad. While living there a son Floyd was born in 1912.

Around 1915 they moved to Johnstown, then to Severance, Colorado. In July 1919 they moved to Milliken where Ardie was transferred by the Great Western Railroad as the section foreman. He retired in 1953.

In 1920 another daughter, Eva Faye, was born in Milliken. In 1922 a son, Delbert, also was born in Milliken. Three of the Parker children graduated from Milliken High School.

When the Parker family arrived in Milliken in 1919, the town was new and "booming." The town had three grocery stores, a butcher shop, dry goods store, hardware store, two garages, livery stable, welding shop, restaurant, two barber shops, drug store, bank, flour mill, ice house, shoe repair shop, filling station, two doctors offices, hospital, two churches, two depots and two railroads, post office, a saloon, movie theater, a pool hall, library, dance hall and a skating rink.

Mr. Parker served on the Milliken Town Board and was a member of the Modern Woodmen lodge. Mrs. Parker was a member of the Ladies Aid Society and the Woman's Club for many years. They were members of the Milliken Assembly of God Church.

The Parker family purchased and resided in a house on Katheleen Avenue that was the first house erected in Milliken. They lived there until their deaths; Ardie in March 1955, and Cora in February 1965.

The house remained as family property for sixty years and was sold in 1995.

## **RHODES**

Information courtesy of Faye Trimble Adkisson

The Reverend Robert H. Rhodes and his wife, Rachel, came to Colorado from Indiana probably in the 1870's. They were seeking a dry climate as Rachel was suffering from asthma. Reverend Rhodes was the organizing minister of the Wheat Ridge Methodist Church in Colorado. The Sunday School was started in 1873 with thirteen in attendance and the church was organized January 11, 1874.

They lived in Arvada, then in 1898 moved to Fort Lupton. The next move was in 1903 to a farm east of Milliken. They were considered pioneers of the Milliken district as this country was sparsely settled at that time.

A notice in the History of the Milliken Presbyterian Church indicated that The Reverend R.H.Rhodes was a trustee in 1910. Another article stated that Reverend Father Rhodes would occupy the pulpit, substituting for another minister. Although he was a Methodist minister, evidently he aided other churches.

Mrs. R.H. Rhodes (Rachel) died of pneumonia in December 1918. Several weeks previously she had fallen and fractured a hip. She was seventy-nine years old and Robert was in his 80's.

Reverend Rhodes lived on the farm east of Milliken until 1919. He was almost 92 years old when he died in 1922 at the home of a daughter in Denver.

Robert B. Rhodes, a son of R.H. and Rachel, and Goldie Clark were married in Denver, Colorado. After the death of her mother Goldie, their daughter Gertrude moved to the farm and was raised by her grandfather Robert. B.



Gertrude had attended school in Arvada so completed grade school at the Daniels School east of Milliken a short distance from the farm. She returned to Arvada where she completed high school. She then returned to the Daniels School where she taught for one year.

Robert B. (Bob) in addition to farming was a carpenter. In June 1915 he was doing the carpenter work on the five-room house being built northeast of Milliken for Walter Daniels.

Gertrude Rhodes married James Trimble who died in 1954. She lived in the Greeley area until 1937 when she and her children returned to the farm and lived with her father. When the farm was sold, they moved into Milliken. Gertrude married Vearl Cottrill in 1950. He died in September 1975 and Gertrude died December 21, 1986.

Children born to Gertrude and James Trimble were Mrs. Dale (Maxine) Premer of Greeley, Mrs. Garland (Marie) Premer of Thornton, Mrs. Grundy (Faye) Adkisson of Milliken, James G. Trimble of Morrisville, North Carolina, and Kenneth Trimble of Firestone, Colorado. They all attended school in Milliken.

A prized possession of the family is a hand made crazy quilt, which belonged to Reverend and Mrs. Rhodes. It was made by ladies of the church who individually made blocks containing their names and the date when the block was made. The quilt was presented to them over 103 years ago.

## **ROGERS**

Information courtesy of June Rogers Watson

Jesse Rogers and Sylvia Herring attended schools in Kansas and Iowa where they were living as youngsters. Jesse and Sylvia were married in 1909, and the family moved to Denver, Colorado from Sharon Springs, Kansas in 1920. In 1925 the family moved to Milliken and resided at 111 South Ethel Avenue. Then a few years later, they moved to 311 South Dorothy Avenue.

After coming to Milliken Mr. Rogers was employed as a farm laborer. Then he worked at the Great Western Sugar factory at Johnstown until retiring.

Children of the family were Goldie, Clyde, Glen, Wilfred, Ruby, Bert, Hazel, Nola, June and Darrel. A daughter Edna Faye 14 months old, died suddenly of heart trouble in March 1928.

Goldie Hacker lived in the Boulder area.

Clyde, his wife Margaret, and children lived in Milliken. Clyde served thirty-three months in the European Theater during World War II and was discharged as a disabled veteran, Private First Class.

Wilfred served in World War II in the European Theater and Asiatic-Pacific area. He was discharged as a Gunner's Mate First Class. He was a plumber and lived in Milliken in the family home.

Glen served in World War II. He retired from working at a Medical Supply Company in Denver, then lived in Johnstown.

Ruby lived in Denver and worked for the Gates Rubber Company.

Bert served forty months in World War II in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and was discharged as a Technician 4th Grade. He, his wife, Barbara and family lived in Arvada where he was in farm maintenance at the Craig Rehabilitation Hospital.

Hazel Russell lived in Denver and worked at the Gates Rubber Company.

Nola lived in the family home in Milliken and worked at the local post office.

June married Roy Watson who also served in World War II. They live in Milliken where their family was raised.

Darrel lived in Denver and worked for the government.

Bert, Ruby, and June were the only children living in 1999.

## **SAPPINGTON**

Submitted by Lois Chesnut Onorato

Edward H. Sappington was born in Springfield, Missouri, February 7, 1876. He left home when he was very young and traveled to Kansas where he worked at odd jobs for several years. One day he put his bicycle on a train (rode the rails) and came to Colorado. Ed started farming the John Howell farm west of Johnstown in 1902.

On November 24, 1903, he married Matilda Finger, who was born May 13, 1875. To this union three children were born. November 10, 1904 Irene Lavonne was born. January 31, 1906 Charles Everette was born and on March 10, 1914 Elsie Ruth was born.

In 1905 the Sappington family moved one mile south of Milliken, on County Road 23 and 44. Ed farmed a few years at Milliken then moved to Basin, Wyoming to homestead. After a couple of years, he returned to his farm at Milliken.

Farming was good, and he used some of his Missouri ideas, doing very well. He raised beets, potatoes, grain, hay, and corn, with rye planted along the roadside. He also had dairy cows and pigs and bought and sold cattle.

When he started building his house, they lived in the basement until the second and third floors were added. He also built the hayloft and the dairy barn. Ed continued to buy land and soon owned the section across from his house, adjoining Highway 60 to the south. He purchased 80 acres south and east of Twin Bridges where he raised pigs and cows. This land was often flooded and many crops were lost so he built a dike along the river. The area was ideal hunting grounds for the grandchildren.

Irene Lavonne married Frank Chesnut, and they had eleven children. Tom married Helen McNeil. Eddie married Lola Roubidoux. Vern died at age six months from the flu. Dorothy Ellen died as the result of burns. Wayne married Mary White. Ruth married John Uhrich. Twyla married Glen Wertz. Lois Ann married Bob Onorato. Virginia married Bob Larson. Barbara married Milton Heinsen. Nancy married Marvin Lynch.

Everette married Maude Becker, and they had two children, Neva Ruth (Jacoby, Lichner), and Bob (Sandra).

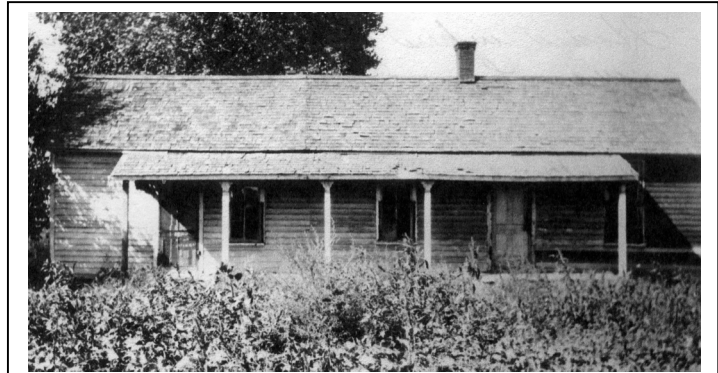
Elsie Ruth married Irving Markham, and they had two sons, Gale (Marilyn), and J.D (Marsha). They moved to California in 1951.

Matilda Sappington died November 29, 1948. Edward died June 19, 1961. Everette died in September 1978. Ruth died in February 1981, and Irene died in December 1996.

## SAUTER

Submitted by Mary Sauter Nelson

Joseph and Katherine Sauter came from St. Joseph, Missouri about 1885 and settled on what is known now as the Binder farm. Anthony (Tony) Sauter was born on that farm in 1886, the sixth child of the Sauters. Two of the older girls died of diphtheria and were buried on the family farm. They were later moved to a Catholic Cemetery at Boulder, Colorado.



Sauter Home in the 1880's – Mary Sauter Nelson

The Sauters sold the farm to Charles Binder and bought a farm north of town (Hillsboro)

and lived there the rest of their lives. Joseph passed away in 1906, and Katherine passed away in 1944.

Anthony (Tony) Sauter owned the farm across from the Mad Russian gold course. He bought it about 1913. He married Mary Ellen Briggs in 1915. He owned that farm for the rest of his life. The family sold the farm to settle the estate. Gary Schneider now owns the farm.

## SCOTT

Submitted by George Scott

David Scott was born in Tyrone County, Ireland, near Drumquin in 1874, to John Scott and his wife. I do not know what her name was. He had three sisters and four brothers.

David Scott came to the United States in 1892 at the age of seventeen and lived in New York until 1898. He had a sister who was already living in Lima, New York. While living in New York, he worked on a farm for a banker who owned the farm.

David Scott came to Berthoud in 1898 and worked for the Farburn Lumber Yard. He also helped dig the ditch to the Ish Reservoir. In 1902 he started farming the Bien farm. The Beins were from Berthoud, and the farm was located four miles west of Johnstown.

In 1906 David moved to the Dr. McCarty farm four and one half miles southwest of Milliken.

David hired Effie May Aleen Bromm of Denver as a housekeeper in 1910 or 1911. They were married in 1912 when David was thirty-six years old.

Effie had a daughter when she and David were married. Her name was Ethel May Foley, "but even though she was our half sister, we always considered her just a sister." She was born in 1907.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott had eight children: David Clayton who was born in 1914, Virginia Elizabeth who was born in 1915, George Andrew who was born in 1916, Rebecca Jane who was born in 1920, Rebecca's twin, a boy, was stillborn, William was born in 1922, Harvey Edward (Pat) was born in 1924, and Walter was born in 1927.

My father made two trips back to Ireland, the first one in 1898 and the second trip in 1910. On that trip home his father died. I remember he told me that his brother, Andy, made the coffin for their father. He never returned to Ireland but always loved his native country.

My mother died in childbirth in 1930. That same year was the beginning of the depression and Dad lost 160 acres near Wild Cat and two farms.

Sheep that he purchased for \$14.50 a pound sold for \$9.50 a pound. We fed about 2500 head of sheep in the winter time. My father said he never wanted to feed sheep again, but he did.

My father loved horses, and we had thirty-two head of registered Percheron. Dad had hired a man from Scotland, Alex Duncan, to take care of the horses. He would leave in August or September and show the horses at all the fairs. We had many beautiful ribbons and trophies from these showings. The horses had beautiful harnesses like the horses (Belgium or Budweiser) driven in parades today. One time Mr. Duncan became mad at my dad. He left the farm and never returned taking with him the trunk of ribbons and trophies. Dad didn't go after him, and we never got them back. Dad never bothered about a lot of things. I think he just didn't care about things after the loss of my mother.

My brother David Clayton died of scarlet fever in 1936. He left a wife and child.

My half sister Ethel May died of cancer in 1942.

My father David Scott died in December 1954 at the age of 81.

My sister Virginia (Sis) died of cancer in 1990.

My brother William died as a small child.

My brother, Rebecca's twin, was stillborn in 1920.

I, George Scott, live in Greeley and am eighty-two years of age.

Rebecca lives in Libertyville, Illinois and is seventy-eight years old.

Harvey Edward (Pat) lives in a nursing home in Sterling. He is 73 years old.

Walter lives in Salinas, California . and is seventy-one years old.

There were Scott children in the Milliken school system from the time it started until consolidation with the Johnstown district. There still are great-great grandchildren of David Scott that attend the Re 5J consolidated school district.

## SHABLE

Submitted by Donna Marshall Shable

Anthony Shable, one of the early settlers in the Milliken area, was a native of Germany, born January 8, 1831, near Wurtenberg, Germany, to Xafera and Barbara Burnhardt Shable. His father was a farmer and Justice of the Peace. Until Anthony was twenty years old, he worked at farming with his father on their homestead and at times worked at a nearby brewery.

Anthony decided to come to the United States and reached New York City August 26, 1852. He went to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and worked for a farmer for a couple of years. In the spring of 1856, he traveled to Audubon County, Iowa, where he rented farm ground and operated a sawmill. In 1860 he came west and mined at Central City, Colorado.

The mining business wasn't profitable so he gave it up and went to the Big Thompson Valley and purchased one hundred and sixty acres for \$300. He lived in a cave he had dug until 1865 when he sold this property and homesteaded two hundred acres two and one half miles east of Milliken. His mailing address was Evans, Colorado.

The homestead was irrigated from the Big Thompson and Platte River Ditch Company. Anthony helped organize the ditch and served as president for four years.

In 1868 he left his Homestead for others to care for and as foreman helped build the Union Pacific Railway from Cheyenne, Wyoming into Utah. Later he returned to his farm in the Big Thompson, continued working and living there until his death October 26, 1909.

About 1865 he had become the owner, through patent, of eighty acres of land located southwest of Greeley, near the Elm beet dump. Anthony decided five years later he needed a span of mules more than the eighty acres and traded the 80 acres to Samuel Hockman for the mules.

Anthony Shable, Henry and J.A. Daniels were the first white men in the Big Thompson Valley and had many thrilling stories to tell of living with Indians nearby.

When Henry Daniels passed away and his property was probated, it was in Anthony's name. Several years before Anthony and Henry had traded the farm for a team of mules. Neither had the property changed into Henry's name. Anthony came forward and told of his transaction with Henry and had the property changed into the Daniels name.

November 9, 1876 Anthony married Mary Elizabeth Kimsey of Evans. They had two children, Jenny born October 18, 1877 who died April 24, 1894, and William Anthony born August 2, 1880.

There were six sons and three daughters in Xafera and Barbara's family. As far as the family knows, Anthony is the only one who came to the United States

William married Maude Edith Warner November 25, 1908 and had Henry Richmond, a carpenter from Milliken, build a two-story house south of his parent's home.

William and Maude had four children, Guy, Delbert, Alva and Genevieve.

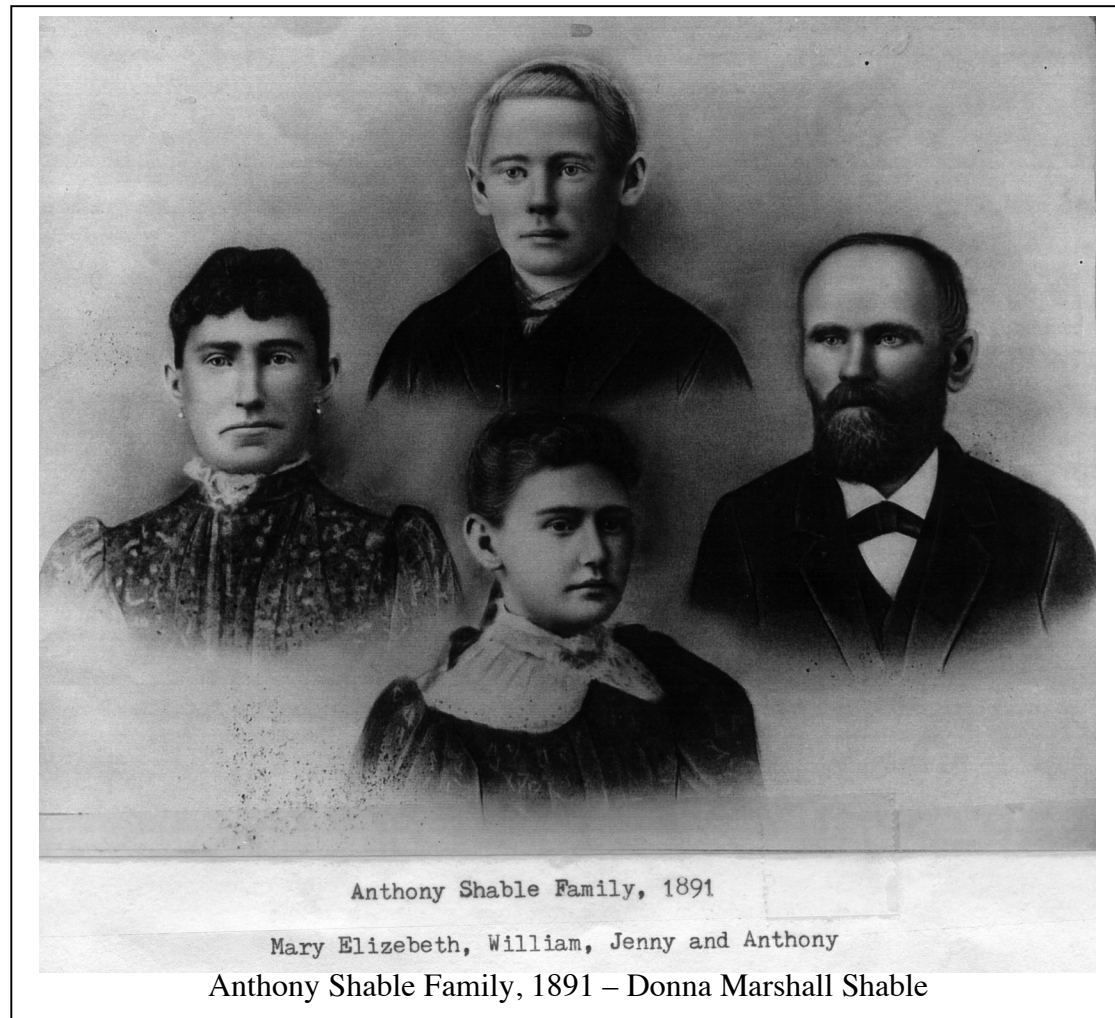
After Anthony's death in 1909, William continued the farming operation with his mother until her death August 31, 1921.

Maude passed away January 22, 1925 leaving William with the young children to raise. He continued living and working the homestead until his death February 4, 1958. His son Alva and wife Donna Marshall Shable purchased the homestead from the William Shable estate and added it to their present operation.

Alva Shable married Donna Marshall September 11, 1949, at the Presbyterian Church in Milliken. They had two children, Raenette and Duane.

Raenette lives in Denver, is a registered dietitian, and works for the City of Denver as a consumer protection inspector. Her husband, Gary, also works for the City of Denver as a Technical Service Manager at Denver International Airport.

Duane, Debra, and children Delane, Devin, and Daniel live on the homestead, in the house Henry Richmond built for Maude and William. Duane was farming with his father at the time of Alva's death April 12, 1993, and continues with his mother. Duane and Debra own and operate Excellent Images Photography.



## STROH

Carl Stroh was born in Frank, Russia, December 22, 1863, to Christoph Stroh and Katherine Elisabeth Schafer Stroh. Frank was a settlement of Germans from Hesse, Germany, who at the request of Catherine, The Great, moved to Russia to aid that country in farming.

Carl began the immigration to America with his wife, parents, brothers and sisters when he was twenty-nine years old. The passport is stamped 27 March, 1893, at Saratov, Russia, the originating point for the trip. The route is not clear but the consulate at "Belgiqui Libou" (Belgium) signs another reference in the passport.

After reaching North America they traveled down the St. Lawrence River going to Chicago, Illinois, then on to Globeville in Denver. There Carl worked at the American Smelting and Refining Company until moving to the Milliken area in 1907. He bought a farm one-mile north of the future site of Milliken. Later the address was 23344 Weld County Road 21 3/4.

While in Frank, Saratov, Russia, Carl and Maria Dorothea Schafer were married. She was born in Frank May 2, 1865, the daughter of Henry Schafer and Katherine Margaret Fahrenbruch Schafer. Maria died March 2, 1916, at the farm home near Milliken of a sudden heart attack when she was almost fifty-one years old.

Seven children of Carl and Maria Dorothea settled in this area:

Maria Dorothy who married Charles Binder,  
Carl "Charlie" who married Rose Sauter,  
Jacob "Jake" who married Charlotte "Lottie" Uhrich,  
Henry who married Louise Bachman,  
John who married Lydia Stroh (from a different family),  
Mabel Barbara who married Tom Norton,  
Conrad who married Katherine Hoff.

Conrad was in a group of workers who came from Denver to work in the sugar beet fields on the Mayne farm. The Brush brothers who were prominent in the history of this area had owned this farm. Then Minnie Brush who married Alva J. Mayne inherited it.

Conrad Stroh and Katherine Hoff of Loveland were married December 16, 1913 in Loveland, Colorado. She, too, was from Frank, Saratov, Russia, coming to North America with her family in 1906 through Ellis Island. She was the daughter of Jacob Hoff and Maria Dorothea Trupp Hoff.

Eventually Conrad and Katherine purchased a farm from the Carl Stroh estate north of Milliken. Seven children were raised on this farm:

Conrad Raymond who married Ethel Mae Rehmer.  
Ralph Carl who was killed in action November 26, 1942, while attacking a Japanese position on the west of the Sanananda track in the Gona-Buna area of New Guinea during World War II.  
Mildred Katherine who married Dr.L.L.Anderson.  
Jacob John who died in infancy.

Marjorie Dorothy who married Les Webb,  
Frances Lucille who married Daniel Farnsworth.  
Elmer Edward (Eddie) who married Helen Marshall.

The farm was a meeting place for young people, and they were made to feel welcome and could engage in fun activities. One activity involved the swimming hole on the Thompson River, which was also used by kids from town. A footbridge across the Thompson River south of the farm home afforded access to the farm and Milliken. Many times a misstep caused a dip in the river but usually the water level was not dangerous. Bluffs on the farm offered opportunities for exploration of secret trails, digging for artifacts and just having fun. Katy's homemade bread was another attraction.

Conrad was a strong advocate of a good education. He was a member of the Milliken School Board of Education and served as president for twelve years. His name is mentioned often in old issues of the Milliken Mail as taking part in events of the town.

In 1957 Conrad and Katherine purchased a home in Milliken at 221 Josephine Avenue.

Katherine Schafer Stroh died in 1894 in Globeville (Denver) and is buried at Riverside Cemetery, Denver, Colorado. Christoph Stroh died October 10, 1921 and is buried at Fort Morgan, Colorado.

Maria Dorothea Stroh died March 2, 1916 and is buried at Linn Grove, Greeley. Carl Stroh died February 28, 1940 and is buried at Linn Grove in Greeley, Colorado

Katherine Hoff Stroh died February 28, 1964 and Conrad Stroh died April 3, 1971. Both are buried at Linn Grove Cemetery, Greeley.

Elmer Edward (Eddie) Stroh and Helen Marshall were married September 14, 1945, and lived for a few months at 207 South Dorothy Avenue in Milliken. Elmer was employed at the Great Western Sugar Company and also worked on the farm for his father. They farmed in the Fairview district, then moved to the Conrad Stroh farm. The couple purchased the farms belonging to Conrad Stroh, Alex Lasnoski, and Peter Brandt (the Brush farm along Highway 257) and consolidated them into one unit. They lived there until moving to Johnstown in 1981.

Through the years Helen worked at the local post office under Postmistress Wilma Hoeft Palmateer, clerked in the Crawford Grocery store and was bookkeeper at the Gerry Potato Dock and the Onorato Auto Parts store.

Elmer (Eddie) besides farming, was interested in school administration and served on the Boards of Education of the Fairview District No. 111, Milliken District No.64, and the Re5J District. His interest in state and local irrigation water concerns lead to serving on boards of the Greeley, Loveland Irrigation Company, the Thompson Water Users Association, the Seven Lakes, and the South Platte Coalition.

Elmer and Helen had three children: Janice Edna married Jon Mauch. They have a daughter, Jennifer Lynn; Dale Edward died in infancy. Alan Keith married Ginell Kay Meier. They have a daughter Melissa Marie who married Charles Rolater, and a son Michael Cullen.

Eddie and Helen sold the farm and in December 1981 moved to Johnstown.



## WAILES - MELLON

Information courtesy of Virginia Mellon

In 1998 the Wailes - Mellon farm northeast of Johnstown was placed in the State Historical Record with a Centennial Farm Designation Award at the Colorado State Fair in Pueblo, Colorado. To receive the award documentation must show that a farm has been in the same family at least one hundred years.

Thomas Wailes, an immigrant Scottish miner, put portions of the 160-acre farm that runs north from Weld County Road 52 to Weld County Road 54 into production in 1891. Knowing nothing of farming or the use of horses, he acquired knowledge by following methods of neighboring farmers. This way he learned of farm life and succeeded in raising good crops of alfalfa, corn and barley.

Caroline Wailes, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wailes (Annie) married John William Mellon, Wednesday, November 30, 1910. They eventually became owners of the farm and built the house, which is still standing on the eastern boundary of the farm along Weld County Road 17 1/2.

William Roscoe "Jack", son of Caroline and John William Mellon, attended school in Johnstown and then worked with his father on the family farm north of Johnstown. During World War II, he served in the Marine Corps and was decorated for service in the South Pacific Theatre, having served in British Samoa, Wallis Island, American Samoa, Maui, and the Marshall Islands. He served in the Marines from January 19, 1942, until August 21, 1945.

"Jack" and Mary Virginia Hubbard Garrett were married February 14, 1945. She was the daughter of Wilhemina Alta Wright and Ralph Preston Hubbard.

Another son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mellon was Thomas John. After Jack's return from the service he and his brother, Thomas John, and their father farmed the home place.

After the death of his father, John William Mellon, Jack and Virginia purchased the farm. Jack was aided in farming it by his son Marvin, and brother Roger. Later Jack and his two sons farmed the land.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Mellon (Geri) had two sons and a daughter, Troy, Tim and Teri. In 1998 Troy remarked, "we moved here in the late 1960's. By the time I was nine or ten I was driving a tractor."

Source: *Johnstown Breeze*, August 27, 1998

Mr. and Mrs. Monte Mellon (Louella) now live in Coronada, California. Monte graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder, majoring in pre-medicine. He received his Doctorate of Medicine from Washington University at St. Louis, Missouri while studying under a U.S. Navy scholarship. He served as a Navy doctor in Jacksonville, Florida for seven years, then was transferred to the San Diego Navy Hospital in 1983. He also served as Emergency Medical Specialty Advisor to both the Navy Surgeon General and the Under-secretary of Health Service in the Department of

Defense. Before retiring after twenty years of Navy service, he established the Navy's only Emergency Medical Training program at Balboa Hospital in California.

Marvin Mellon and his father, Jack, gave up farming after a hail storm destroyed the crops. They liquidated all their equipment in 1985.

Marvin was employed at Teledyne and then at Metal Container Corporation where he has been for eleven years. He also raises cattle on the home farm.

Jack Mellon passed away October 17, 1996. His ashes were scattered on the land where he worked most of his life.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Mellon live in the family home, and Virginia Mellon resides in a home on the southern end of the farm.

## WHEATON

Submitted by Rose Ellen Warner Goble

Dr. O.E. Webb, brother of Rose (Mrs. O.G.) Wheaton, came to Colorado from Hutchinson, Kansas. He became interested in Colorado in 1907 through an investment in the allied companies of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railroad becoming vice-president of the Denver, Laramie Realty Company and a member of the Board of Directors of the Northwestern Land & Iron Company. He moved to Colorado in 1910.



O.G. Wheaton Home, built in 1910. The Hillsboro schoolhouse can be seen in the background.

Dr. Webb contacted O.G. Wheaton asking him to come to Colorado and build them a home, as Mr. Wheaton was a carpenter by trade. Wheatons came to Colorado and farmed west of present day Milliken. Mr. Wheaton built a house and barn on the farm in the spring of 1910. A few years later he sold the farmland to Jake Stroh, keeping the house, barn and some lots in Milliken. The address of the house is 105 South Marjorie Avenue.

He moved the barn 1/2 block east of his home and remodeled it into a home for his second daughter, Mertie Wheaton Warner, as her husband, Carey Warner, died in 1918 in the flu epidemic. That address in 508 Broad Street.

Mr. Wheaton built a service station east of his home, on the south east corner of the intersection of Broad Street and Marjorie Avenue and operated it until he retired.

Mertie Warner and four children, Kenneth, Merle, Guy and Rose Ellen lived in the remodeled house until the children graduated from high school and went separate ways. Then Mr. Wheaton made an apartment out of the second floor of 508 Broad Street and kept the house rented until selling it and the service station.

Kenneth Warner and family moved into the Wheaton home and kept house for his grandfather after his grandmother passed away and until his grandfather died. Then the house was sold.

Guy Warner of Ruskin, Florida and Rose Ellen Goble of Evans, Colorado are the two surviving grandchildren.

## DENT: A WINDOW TO PREHISTORY

A branch of the Union Pacific Railroad was located at Dent, two miles south of Milliken. The line ran from Denver, Colorado, through La Salle leading to Dent. From there it traversed north to Fort Collins, Colorado via Milliken. A spur from Dent went south to the coal mine areas.

A home base for the "section crews," as they were called, was at Dent. Equipment the crew needed to service the rails was stored there, and some workers lived in homes along the railroad tracks. The homes originally were railroad cabooses that had been remodeled.

In 1932, an important archaeological discovery was made at Dent. After a flood on the Platte and St.Vrain rivers masses of large, old bones were seen in the banks of a gully about 500 ft. south of the railroad station. Frank Garner, who was section foreman of the railroad, reported this to Father Conrad Bilgery of Regis College in Denver, Colorado. Upon investigation Father Bilgery determined that the bones were those of pre-historic mammoths. Father Bilgery, his students and Jessee Figgins of the Denver Museum began excavating.

Father Bilgery found a large fluted Clovis Indian spear point under the pelvis of one of the mammoths. A dozen mammoth remains were found and removed. One was larger and presumed to be a male. The others were smaller and thought to be females or immature mammoths. A second fluted Clovis Indian spear point was found imbedded in the matrix surrounding a bone.

Mr. Garner visited the site each day at the close of the day's excavations. In 1955 he gave the Denver Museum a third Clovis Indian spear point which he had found near the teeth of one mammoth in 1932.

Mammoths were the predominate animal hunted by Colorado's earliest inhabitants until they became extinct a few thousand years after man's arrival. Usually Colorado's mammoth hunters used the terrain to aid in making the animals easier targets for poison-dipped spears. Bows and arrows were not developed for another 10,000 years. It was believed that the mammoths were wounded by hunters then tracked for miles until they fell.

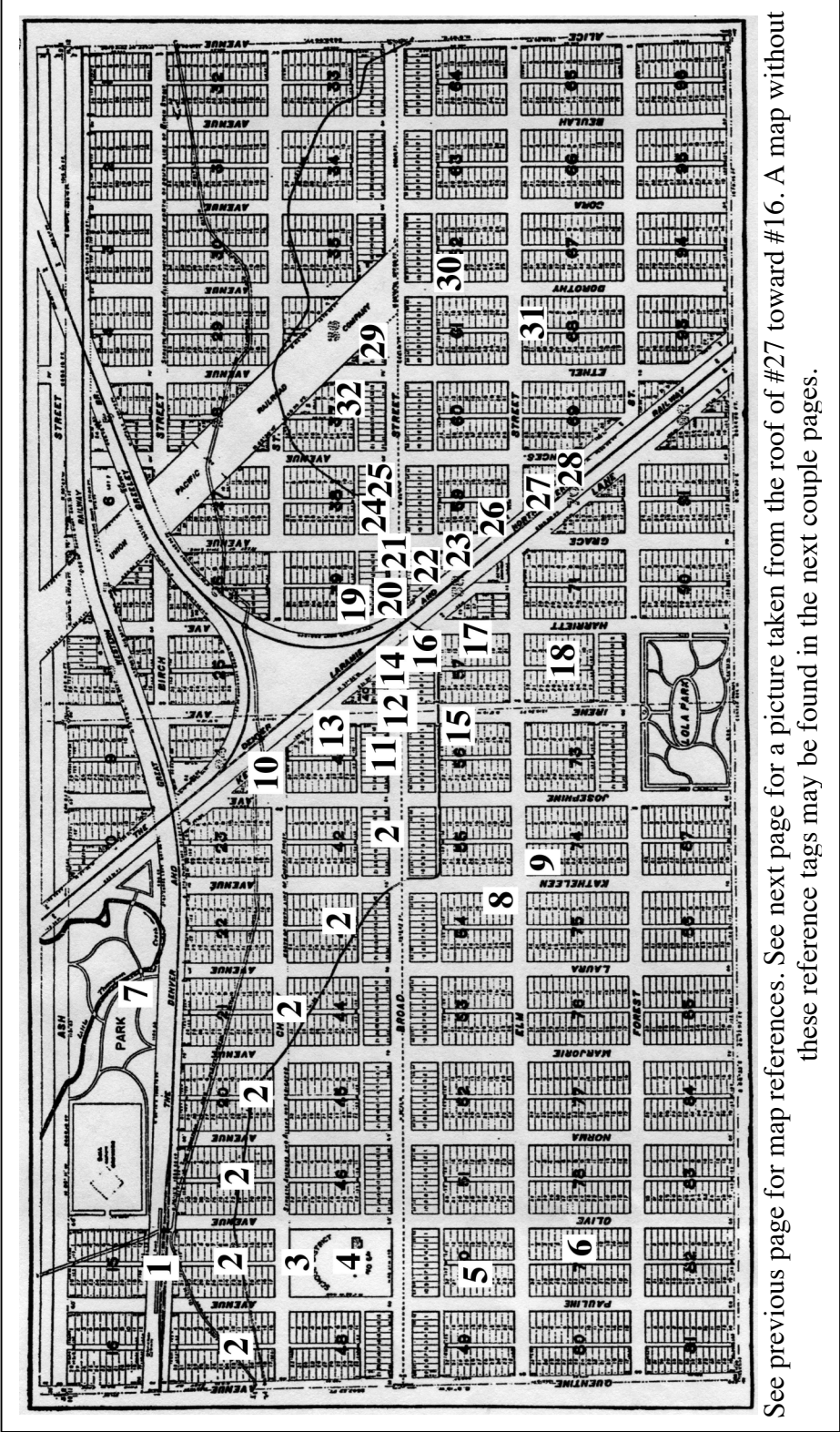
"No clear signs were found that the animals were actually killed at the site although the discovery represented the first connection between mammoths and man in the New World. Some sources suspect that the spear points wound up at Dent as the aftermath of wounds the mammoths had suffered in previous brushes with hunters.".... *Denver Post*, November 26, 1987.

The Dent site was the first site discovered in the United States where mammoths and Clovis Indian spear points were associated. The Clovis spear points found appeared to be 11,000-12,000 years old, older than Folsom points and absolutely proved that Paleo-Indians and mammoths existed at the same time.

Source: *Ancient Man in North America*, by H.M. Wormington  
*The Denver Post*, November 26, 1987  
The City of Greeley Museum

## MAP REFERENCES

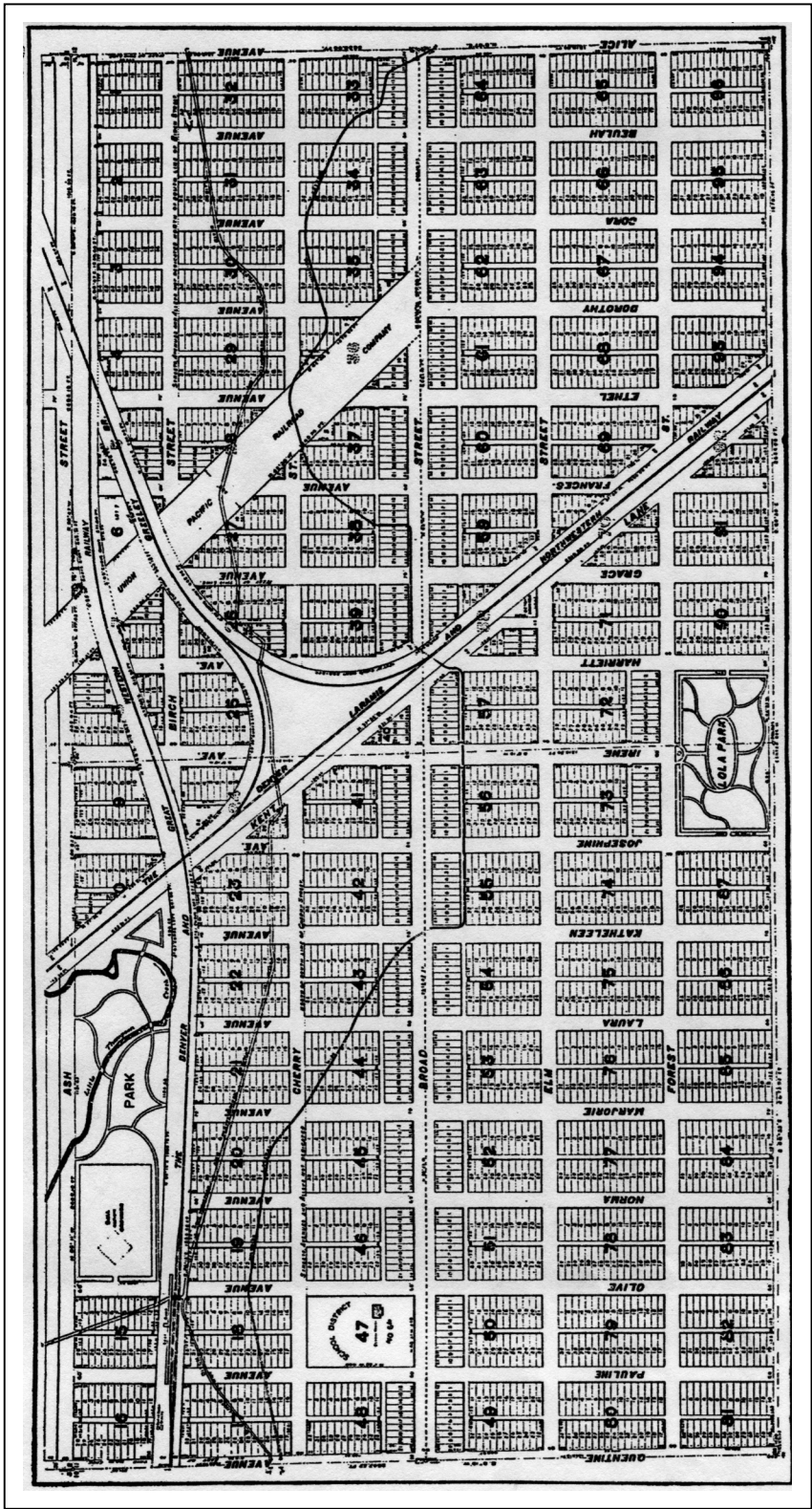
1. Great Western Beet Dump built in 1914, present site of Western International Grain.
2. Path of Highway 60 through Milliken in 1960.
3. Town of Hillsboro, dedicated in 1905, became part of Milliken in 1909.
4. Hillsboro School House, District No. 64.
5. Present grade school.
6. Presbyterian Church.
7. Platted park, never developed.
8. First house built in Milliken.
9. Presbyterian Church moved into Milliken in 1910, part was demolished and the remainder is a residence.
10. Canning Factory erected in 1911, was converted into a glove factory and burned Aug. 1, 1924, while being used for hay storage.
11. E.J. Elam Mercantile Store.
12. Bank Building destroyed by fire in 1913, was rebuilt and used by many businesses. When it burned in 1954 the 2nd floor was used as a dance hall and skating rink. The lower floor was used as a soda fountain and lunch room.
13. Western Lumber Company, one of the first businesses, now is a residence.
14. Denver Elevator.
15. Berrick Building, had many uses, now is the Colorado Community Bank.
16. Antlers Hotel erected in 1909, burned March 11, 1924.
17. Rogers Garage built in 1910, became the Flood Motor Co., Onorato Garage, Church and Senior Center.
18. Grade school built in 1915, replaced Hillsboro school, upper floor was finished as needed for high school rooms.
19. Frank Livery Stable.
20. H.B. Crawford Hardware and Grocery Store.
21. Restaurant, later became the Milliken Mail office.
22. Cement Block Building built in 1909, contained the First State Bank, the first drug store, a real estate office, saloons, garages and blacksmith shops.
23. Milliken Concrete Company, blocks for the Cement Building were made here.
24. Jail constructed in 1910.
25. Present Community Complex.
26. Denver, Laramie & Northwestern and Great Western depot built in 1910.
27. Royal Milling & Elevator Co. erected in 1911, burned in 1920.
28. Alfalfa Mill, erected in February 1913, burned in July 1924.
29. Marvel Milling & Elevator built in 1920, burned in 1923, and was rebuilt by Frank Stevenson in 1925. Present owners are the Ehrlich family.
30. Union Pacific Depot built in 1911, sold to Pedro G. Quiroz and moved from town.
31. First United Brethern Church of Christ built in 1910, was purchased by members of the German Evangelical Church in 1918. Building was sold in 1987 and remodeled into a residence.
32. Water Works Tank erected in August 1912 and dismantled in 1987.



See previous page for map references. See next page for a picture taken from the roof of #27 toward #16. A map without these reference tags may be found in the next couple pages.

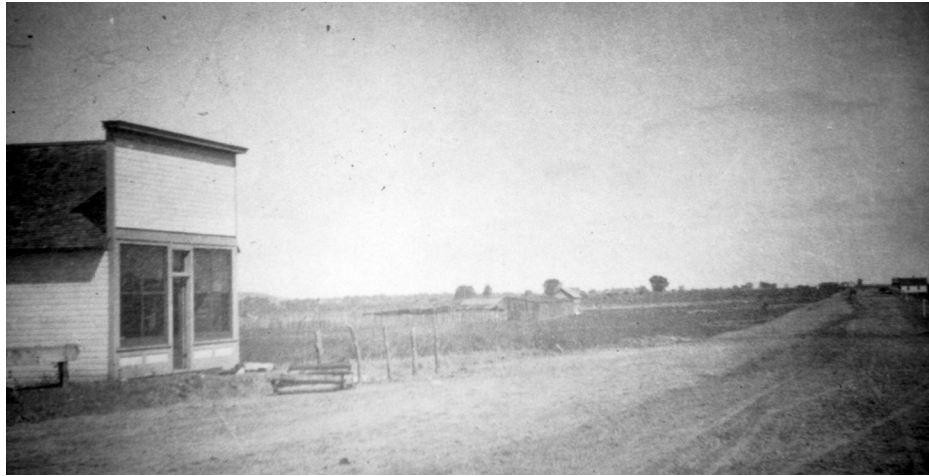


Milliken, taken from the top of the Royal Milling and Elevator Company (map ref.#27) which was on the railroad tracks east of the school athletic field. Looking north is the Antlers Hotel (#16) which was built in 1909, burned in 1924, Antlers Block Building which was built in 1910, Berrick Building (#15) which was built in 1910, Rogers Garage (#17) built in 1910, Orman Building, etc. The small piles in the field on the left were beets dug in the fall before the ground was frozen and stored covered with straw until they could be delivered to the receiving stations. Can you find the cow?





## SCENES FROM THE PAST



A Lonely Building in a New Town



Milliken Meat Market owned by Charles Stroh. The site was near 1015 Broad Street on the rear of the lot. The men are looking at an artesian well which was struck at 450 feet soon after the founding of Milliken. Water gushed from the pipe and was allowed to run for about an hour.



Milliken Concrete Company owned and operated by James B. Orman who was Governor of Colorado from 1901 - 1903. The blocks for the Cement Block Building were made there from sand and clay taken near the Thompson River.



The Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Depot which was built in 1910. It was 24 ft x 60 ft., had two waiting rooms, a storage room and an office.



The Madam Berrick Oaks Building which was erected in 1910 and had many uses during the years.



Entrance to the Farmers Lumber Company



Interior of the Farmers Lumber Company



Water station at the corner of Harriett and Broad in July 1911, work started on the erection of a railroad water tank there.



Headstones at the Brush-Daniels Cemetery northeast of Johnstown, Colo. The marker in the foreground is for William Wesley Brush who with his cousin, Jared Conry, and a hired man, were killed August 23, 1868, by Sioux Indians. – Greeley Tribune.

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