

# Broomfield History....

Ed's note: The following is another installment of the history of Broomfield by Lou Walther and Laura Spitler.

If you turn left off Highway 287, going west, then go south on Teller Street to a dead end, you will see a large, neat white frame, three story house, with a winding lane going over a bridge, and leading up to the home.

Tall cottonwoods and black walnut trees surround the house. Birds sing cheerily and the bright sunshine touches the gently rolling slopes that stretch away to the distant, snow spotted mountains.

Mrs. Esther Davis Olson, a carpenter and farmer, came here from Rawlins Co., Kans. The following "Memoirs" by Mrs. Olson, relate some incidents of her pioneer life before coming to Colorado, as well as a trip to Colorado by covered wagon when she was about seven years old.

The place was homesteaded in 1896 by a man named Raggner. Mrs. Olson said that the original deed allowed for 180 acres, but when they bought the property, it included 80 acres, bounded by Pierce St. on the east and 120th on the north. The land adjoins that of Sauers' and later on, 35 additional acres were purchased from a neighbor.

This is now Harold Olson's land. The first Olson property was purchased from a man called Blunn, who lived in Broomfield and had a line of eating houses on the order of the A & W's. He had three sons, and the family now resides north of Golden. Mr. Emmet Olson says his mother and Mrs. Blunn have often attended Merry Mixers together, and the Blunns now live on Ralston.

Among the old timers Mrs. Olson remembered hearing about are Mr. Crews who owned a grocery store and later became a state patrolman, August Nissen who owned a creamery in a small white building next to the grain elevator, and Edgar Jones who operated a mercantile store. Mr. Ernest Mitze came here in 1884, she has been told, when his father took up a homestead. Mr. Mitze says he can remember when "the antelope ran all around here." The Sauers' (William) lived straight west, close to the old Methodist Church. In 1955, much of the Olsons' land was sold, some to Mr. Hoskinson, later a county commissioner in Arvada.

When Esther Olson first came to Broomfield, the present Shoppig Center was all in farmland. Apple orchards and fruit trees

(continued on page 16)