

Mrs. R. Vaughn

621 S. Walnut

Anaheim, Calif.

92802

March 10, 1979

Dear Ms. McGuire,

In answer to your letter of inquiry about the Broomfield Depot we have tried to remember the approximate dates and a little of the history as follows:

The original color was yellow with brown trim. In about 1930 it was painted "boxcar" red and no trim. The colors of the rooms were tan with brown trim.

To our knowledge the only family except ours who lived in the depot were Mr. and Mrs. Ira Tanner. They did not have any children. They moved away in 1925 or 1926. Our family – Richard Vaughan, Margaret and two children, Robert and Margaret lived there from 1930 until 1932. No one else lived there after 1932.

In about 1926 three brothers, John, Clarence and Richard Vaughan worked the three shifts at the depot, and all lived in Broomfield with their families. In about 1930 the 3rd shift was taken off and John worked in other towns. Because of this Richard was required to live in the depot and be on call when a train needed orders. In 1932 the first shift was taken off and Richard Vaughan was the only operator working at the depot. He worked 5:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. Clarence moved to Loveland. In 1935 Richard moved to Ft. Warren, Wyoming, and Clarence returned to Broomfield and worked there until his retirement. We think he retired around 1957.

As for our family history – except for about 1 ½ years we lived in Broomfield from 1926 until 1942. Both children attended Broomfield elementary schools and we were members of the Methodist Church. Robert was a World War II casualty in 1942.

The main job of the operators was to write orders for the freight trains as they received them on the phone. If the trains did not stop to pick up these orders, they were handed to them on the "hoops" as they passed by. Some grain was shipped from the mills and occasionally carloads of lumber were received, but that is about the extent of shipping from the Broomfield office. The railroad was, for many years, the only transportation used for mail, and when the operator was taken off the day shift the railroads hired a custodian to meet the mail trains.

The depot was twice threatened by fire when restaurants next door burned down. During one fire a steam engine was sent out to wet the roof with water from their boiler.

Water for residents of the depot was shipped in and stored in a cistern.

We do hope this will be of some help to you. Many of our memories are “fuzzy” and it is difficult to remember dates. The only pictures we have are not revealing about the buildings, but maybe they will help.

Did you find any pictures in the attic? When we moved we left some framed pictures of family members and if you have them, please let us know so we can identify them for you.

We have a copy of the Station Agent’s Blue Book of 1925. If you are interested in having it let us know and we will try to send it.

Please return the pictures to us.

Sincerely,

Margaret Vaughan Boston

(Dtr. Of Richard and Margaret Vaughan)

and Margaret Vaughan