

BROOMFIELD, COLORADO

This portion of Colorado was obtained from France, by the United States, in 1803 as part of the Louisiana Purchase. Until the white man came west, this area, known as Boulder Valley, was the home of the Colorado Ute Indians. With the arrival of the white men came the fighting for control of the land. These various wars of attrition culminated with the Meeker Massacre in 1879 and led to the Indians being placed on a reservation in southwester Colorado. This left the land open for settlement and developing by the white man.

To encourage this development, large areas of the west were given to railroad companies by the United States Government. The Union Pacific Railroad was given the area where modern Broomfield is now located. The area is mostly within Range 69 West, Township 1, Section 35. In 1885 Mr A.W. Zang and two other men acquired this and adjacent land from the railroad. Ten years later in 1895 Mr. Zang became the sole owner of the largest share of this area.

Broomfield has been a community for over seventy-five years but was originally know as Zang's Spur. This first community was actually located approximately one mile east and one-fourth mile north of existing "old" Broomfield. It was served by the narrow gauge railroad that ran from Denver to Erie and Lyons. The present lake south of Spallon's Addition is in the vicinity of the site and this is where the railroad took on water for their engines. The first United States Post Office serving this area was begun in July 1887 and located here.

Progress brought the standard gauge railroad and a new track, located where we see it today, caused abandonment of the old narrow gauge route. This change resulted in the Post Office being moved in 1889. The new Post Office was on the Mathews property just west of the existing Broomfield Lumber Yard. This was the approximate hub of existing "old" Broomfield. During the relocation, there was talk of calling the new community Zang's Spur but the name of Broomfield was decided upon because of the vast fields of broom corn grown in the area.

Broomfield continued to grow around the new standard gauge railroad. In 1906 the Post Office was moved to the Jones Building. This is the green trimmed, white building east of the railroad on 120th Street. Mr. E.J. Jones was the Post-master from 1906 to 1941. During this period and continuing until 1951, all mail in the area arrived and departed via rail. Since 1951 it has been trucked in and out.

During the early nineteen twenties, Broomfield was a very lively place. The community consisted of a pool hall, Grange hall, barber shop, grocery store, hotel with general store, flour mill and cheese factory. In addition, there was a bank, lumber yard, filling station, two garages or blacksmith shops, the depot and nearby was a beet dump and pickle factory. Besides the business district Broomfield had about a dozen homes.

Zang's Ranch adjacent to this small unincorporated community of Broomfield was held in the family for over sixty years and at one time consisted of 1,195 acres. Here the family raised many beautiful horses and kept a herd of cattle besides growing wheat, oats, barley, beets and corn. Zang acquired early water rights to bring water to the ranch for irrigation purposes making it one of the most prosperous in the valley. To store

This irrigation water, Zang built the Great WEstern Reservior, starting in 1903 and completing the dam in 1911. Some of these same water rights and the Grest WEstern Reservior are modern Broomfield's domestic water supply.

In 1947, a Mr. L.A. Biddle from Holyoke, Colorado, pruchased the property which sold several times thereafter until 1955. At this time, Turnpike Land Company, composed of several Colorado business men, purchased the porperty still know as Zang's Ranch. A large scale housing development was started and this new area became known as Broomfield Heights. By June 1961 the community had grown to a population of 6,000. At this time Broomfield Heights and the portion of "old" Broomfield within Boulder County became an incorporated city named Broomfield. This city encompasses an area of about one and on-half square miles at an elevation of 5,400 feet above sea level.

Many interesting side lights developed during the founding and growth of the community. These are added to give additional information in the life of Broomfield.

Mr. H.C. Mitze, who lives south of Highway U.S. 287 just east of Broomfield, is the present owner of this land that has been in his family for nearly 80 years. His grandfather pruchased this property from the Union Pacific Railroad in 1883. At that time the land sold for an outstanding price of \$7.00 per acre.

The original Broomfield school house, built in the 1890's was located immediately east of the old cemetery on Tenth Avenue at Main Street. When Turnpike Land Company started their development, this school house was demolished and replaced by modern cottage type schools. Our present high school property was at one time owned by the father of Mr. D.M. Bell who resides in Broomfield today.

Prior to the building of a church, services were held in the old school house. The first church, built in 1906, was a Community Church that later became the Methodist Church. Later this church was torn down and replaced by the present Methodist Church. Much of the labor in the building of this latest church was donated by the local members.

The present day office of the Broomfield Lumber Company was the original Broomfield Bank Building. In 1920, Mr. Walter Hogsett started the Broomfield Lumber Company which he sold to Mr. Reese. In 1924 Mr. Joseph Huddart purchased the company. The land on which the lumber yard is located at one time was a part of A.J. ZAng's holdings. Other areas in his holdings included the Broomfield Country Club area, the Jefferson County Airport, as well as 480 acres north of the airport. It is estimated that these holdings contained over 3,600 acres.

The Miles Crawford family have been in Broomfield for many years. Mr. Crawford has been Postmaster for eighteen years and his father was also Postmaster in the Broomfield Post Office.

The home as 680 Poppy Way, now woned by the W.N. Vogel family, was one of the original Zang Ranch houses built in the late 1920's. When Broomfield Heights was started the Turnpike Land Company used this residence for an office until six years ago when it was sold to the Vogels. The original Zang bedroom furniture from this home is now on display in the Teller House in Central City.

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The lush fields and three lakes which furnished very good fishing to Zang and his friends during the early years of the community have given way to winding streets, beautiful homes and many people which combine to make modern Broomfield, Colorado.