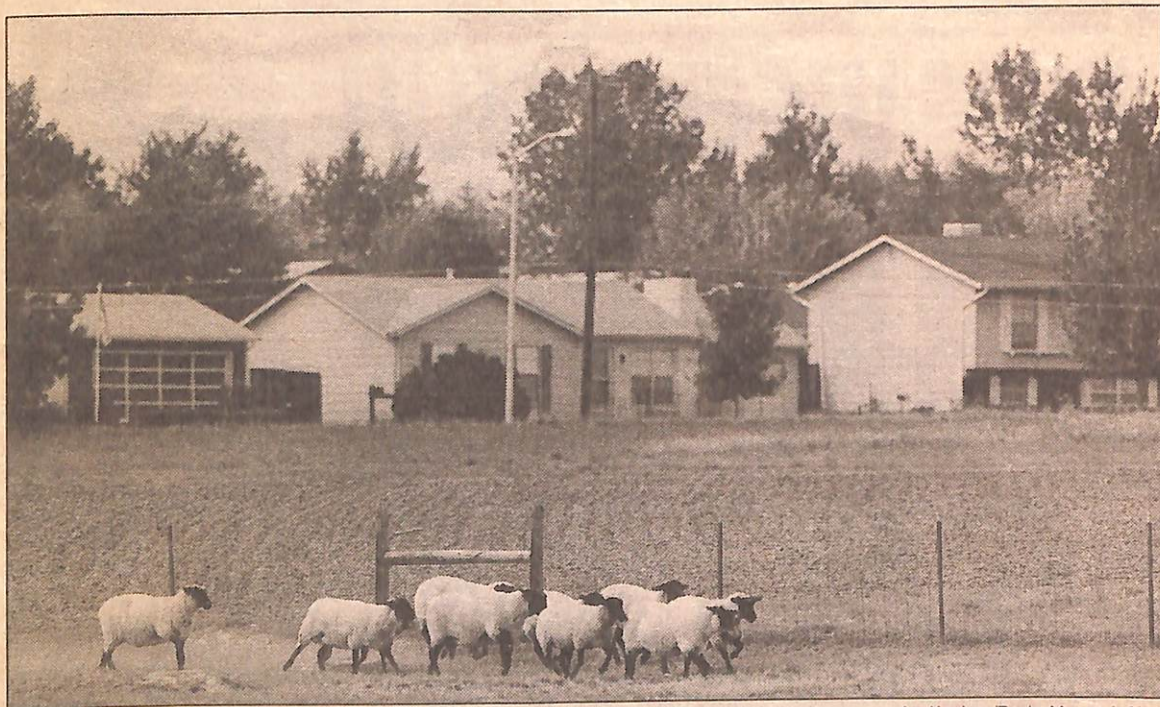


METRO SUBURBS

Well, Assistant City Editor ■ 892-2744



Jay Koelzer/Rocky Mountain News

Sheep graze on Adams County land that is bordered by Broomfield and eyed hungrily by both Broomfield and Westminster for possible annexation.

Young 4-county town mixes working, residential flavors

Broomfield Days trumpets tradition

By Mike Patty

Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

Broomfield. What a tradition! What a treasure!

That's the theme of this year's Broomfield Days celebration, which begins today and runs through the weekend, and the corny slogan seems to fit the city.

If any city has a right to an identity crisis, it's Broomfield.

The big/little, young/old, rural/suburban, residential/manufacturing center of 25,500 lies in four counties: Boulder, Adams, Jefferson and Weld.

"It's the only town in the state that's part of four counties, and

as far as we know it may be the only one in the country," said Broomfield public information officer Rosann Doran.

About two-thirds of Broomfield's population lives in Boulder County, and most of the balance resides in Adams County. Only a few Broomfield residents live south of West 120th Avenue and west of Sheridan Boulevard in Jefferson County and only four Broomfield residents are in Weld County.

In keeping with its dual nature, Broomfield has two populations, day and night.

"We're not just a bedroom community," said planning director Kirk Oglesby. "We have a

pretty good job base, but most people who work in Broomfield don't live here. Many of our residents commute to jobs in Boulder or Denver, and people who work in Broomfield drive here from other cities. It's almost as if everybody changes places."

Broomfield, named for the broom corn that once was grown in the area, sprang up along the Union Pacific railroad tracks in the late 1800s. It later became part of the old A.J. Zang ranch.

In the mid-1950s, developers started building one of the first planned communities in Colora-

'50s yuppies settled area

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do. Houses sold like hotcakes, and by 1961, Broomfield's population had grown to 4,500 and the city was incorporated.

"In many ways, those who came here were the yuppies of the 1950s," Oglesby said. "They were young families with a lot of children and a lot of commitment to community."

Broomfield still thinks of itself as young.

"We are a very young community," said Clif Harald, executive director of the Broomfield Economic Development Corp. "We incorporated only 30 years ago, and we are young in physical maturity. We have roughly 24 square miles or 15,000 acres, nearly the same land area as Boulder and Westminster, but only about 3,000 acres are developed."

It may be undeveloped, but Broomfield is definitely growing.

Up with People, an international youth musical organization is establishing its world headquarters in Broomfield, a move from Tucson. Manufacturing and industrial space is at 94% occupancy, and housing starts are nearly double the number of this time last year.

With plenty of room to grow and a plan calling for open space in the city, there is no danger that Broomfield will become wall-to-wall houses.

"There is a big interest here in preserving natural areas within the city," Oglesby said.

George DiCiero, Broomfield's city manager since 1968, said the mind set of maintaining growth along with a feeling of openness has been one of the community's traditional values.

The bottom line with any city, DiCiero said, is what type of place it is to live in.

"Broomfield really is a great place to live," he said.

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