

History

Growth here reaches 16,000

by Lou Walther

From "Zang's Spur" to "Booming Broomfield!" From \$7.00 an acre in 1895 to from \$7,500 to \$10,000 for a city lot in 1974! From no schools to a mod high school, a junior high school, three elementary schools and parochial school boasting a total of some 1800 students, from a population of 25 or 30 families with a total population of 120 persons in 1910, to round figures of 16,000 inhabitants in 1974 — these are typical of the strides Broomfield, Colorado, has made in the last 60 to 80 years.

Broomfield has been a community for almost 90 years. Originally it was part of the large area of the West given to railroad companies by the United States Government, and present Broomfield then belonged to the Union Pacific Railroad.

In 1885, A. J. Zang and two other men bought this and adjacent land from the realroad. Ten years later Mr. Zang took full possession of the Broomfield area and it became known as "Zang's Spur," a name it kept for five years.

The first post office serving the community was begun in July, 1887, and stood in the community located one mile east and one fourth mile north of "old Broomfield." This settlement was reached by a narrow gauge railroad running from Denver to Erie and Lyons. In 1889 the post office was moved to the Matthew's property west of the Broomfield Lumber Yard. This was the center of existing "old Broomfield." Miss Dreueella Coulson was the first post office head. In 1906, the post office was moved to the Jones Building. In 1971, this building burned down. Since then the post office has had three locations. First, at 7502 W. Hwy. 287 where Blair Electric is now, then on Midway where the Chamber of Commerce and a real estate office are located, then to its present site, December 31, 1972.



BROOMFIELD, COLORADO.

Mamie Doud Eisenhower
Public Library
12 Gordon Court
Broomfield, CO 80020

CAN YOU IMAGINE the muffled clomp of hooves on dirt streets, or the bubbling trill of meadowlarks in fields that stretch to the front range? Can you imagine, or even remember, the dignity and peace of bringing in the crops, one-cent candy jars,

neighborliness, jawing about a government that was situated in far off Washington? That's the way it was back then in Broomfield. We've come a long way, friends. But, in what direction?

lumber yard, filling station, two garages or blacksmith shops, a depot and a barber shop in the early '20's. Nearby was a beet dump and a pickle factory. In addition to the business district it boasted a dozen residences.

In 1947, Mr. L. A. Biddle from Holyoke, Colo., was the next buyer for the property which was sold again several times until 1955. From 1900 until 1957 only approximately 100 people lived on the farm land.

In 1935, things began to change, and the first hints of the boom that was to metamorphosize Broomfield began with the construction

double that of 1972 and quadrauples 1971.

Population projections — approved master plan done by professional consulting firm: 1970-7261 (actual); 1975-14,100; 1980-30,000 and 1985-50,000. If present rate continues, these figures will be surpassed.

Within the last ten years, Broomfield has suffered the growing pains common to all upcoming and expanding

communities — a probably change in city government to home rule, zoning complications, recreation and green belt problems, adequate and wise education, water difficulties. Yet through it all, the community emerges as a most desirable one in which to live. Its hopes for the future are legion, its spirit is one of conquest and durability, and its potential is infinite.

According to a historical account (1972) Zang had acquired 1200 acres which he bought for \$7 an acre in 1895. His ranch was held in the family for over sixty years and was adjacent to the small unincorporated community of Broomfield.

Broomfield itself had a pool hall, Grange Hall, grocery store, hotel with general store, flour mill, cheese factory, bank,

of the renowned "Turnpike," one of the first paved roads in the country, constructed between Denver and Boulder.

In 1955, construction of Broomfield's "first filing" was begun. Soon the "Model City" began to develop, after the land had been purchased by the Turnpike Land Company, made up of several business men. Six years later, the population had mushroomed to 6,000. This same year "Broomfield Heights" and the portion of "Ole Broomfield" within Boulder County became the incorporated city called "Broomfield."

According to the Broomfield Fact Sheet for July of 1974, Broomfield now has a city assessed valuation of \$25,580,250.