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# ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

HISTORICAL

BACKGROUND

DATA



March 1971

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# ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND DATA

by

F. Ross Holland, Jr.



Office of History and Historic Architecture  
Western Service Center  
March 1971





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## PREFACE

This study was undertaken to furnish historical background information on Rocky Mountain National Park for master planning purposes. I have not attempted to duplicate the efforts of two previous reports on the park that were wholly or in part sponsored by the National Park Service: H. E. Rensch, *Historical Background for Rocky Mountain National Park* (1935) which deals primarily with historical activities that occurred outside the park, and Lloyd Keith Musselman, "Rocky Mountain National Park, 1915-1965: An Administrative History" (1969).

In preparing a historical background data study for Rocky Mountain, one is quickly struck by the fact that historical preservation has never been an over-riding concern of the park. Through the years the policy generally has been to return the park to its natural condition, either by direct obliteration of structures or by letting structures rot and slowly disappear. For example, when many of the resort structures were finally turned over to the park, park administration quickly destroyed the buildings to restore the natural scene. On the other hand, in remoter areas, such as Lulu City, Eugenia mine, and the Shipler cabins, the administrators simply ignored the buildings and left them to the vandals and the weather.

The last remaining historic structures still in restorable condition are being lost through the neglect process now. The Fern Lake Lodge, with its unique and unusual features, is slowly deteriorating, and in 10 or 15 years will be represented by a few courses of logs, half hidden by weeds, outlining the shape of the structure. Whether this building should be saved now will have to be determined by management who will have to weigh historical preservation against the remoteness of the site and visitor use to decide the fate of the last of the out-of-the-way lodges. Practical considerations will probably rule against preservation of the structure.

The other deteriorating site is the Harbison Ranch. The three cabins there are approaching the point of no return, and the park now uses one in which to store signs. Adjacent to these structures is a modern maintenance yard, and this intrusion on the historic scene alone would bring into serious question the wisdom of any decision to preserve this ranch now.

In the recent past the park has made two commendable efforts at historical preservation, but neither was done solely for historical reasons. The old Moraine Lodge was saved to become a natural history museum, and the Old Fall River Road was restored for an historical automobile nature trail.

The result of this general lack of concern for historical preservation, of course, will be that in time the only tangible things remaining to illustrate man's use of the area will be the old lodge, which only approximates its original appearance and lacks a historical setting, and the old road, which is a good job of restoration, perhaps revealing more history than was envisioned. Seldom have I experienced anything that transported me more effectively back in time than did the hairpin turns, precipitous edges, and the twisting climbs of that old dirt road.

The above remarks are not intended to be critical or to take to task past park policies. Indeed, the natural beauties of Rocky Mountain National Park and the exhilarating experience of hiking its trails leaves one devoid of any emotion other than contentment transgressions. Rather, the points mentioned are made to indicate past and a willingness to forgive any past park attitude, because past attitudes have a way of carrying over into the future. And the park will most likely have a new historical preservation decision to make in the not too distant future.

Probably within the next few years the National Park Service will have the opportunity to acquire the William Allen White property in Moraine Park, and hopefully the Service will continue to maintain its present desire to obtain the property which has on it a house, two sleeping cabins, a privy, and a small detached log cabin White used for writing.

This property, because of White's prominence on the national scene, is the only historic site within the park that borders on being of national significance. The property was important to White, and its role in his life is discussed in the main body of the report. In view of these factors, I strongly urge and recommend that the park break with the past and undertake a policy of preservation for the sake of historical preservation and restore and/or rehabilitate the five structures on the White property, refurnish them to period, and interpret William Allen White and the role of Moraine Park in his life, particularly its effect through the years in restoring his flagging spirits and renewing his determination. White's sojourns here not only illustrate a type of historic use of the park, but, more important, they exemplify the importance of nature to man.

A number of people have been helpful in the progress of this study. I am grateful to Miss Virginia Starkey of the Colorado Historical Society and Mrs. Kay Kane of the Western History Room of the Denver Public Library for their help in locating useful research materials. So many gave of their time and assistance at Rocky Mountain National Park that I can't list them all here. But I especially want to thank Chief Park Naturalist Tom Thomas, Assistant

Chief Park Naturalist Wayne Alcorn, Park Naturalists Bob Haines and Emma Potts, and Park Librarian Anna Muller. Regretfully, I did not meet seasonal Park Naturalist Ferrel Atkins, but the past work he has done on historic sites in the park, in the form of both completed manuscript and research materials, was extremely helpful and reduced research time considerably. The number of citations to him in this report reflect only a part of his overall contribution.

I want to thank especially Miss Dorothy Junkin for her usual fine job of typing this report and for the work she did, over and above that normally expected, in getting this study into its final form and ready for reproduction.



## CHAPTER I

### The Indians

Although Indians were present in the vicinity of Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park before the arrival of the white man, they seemed to have used the area only as summering grounds. Moreover, their use of the area seems to have ended before the arrival of the first European settlers in the area. When Joel Estes and his son in 1859 first explored the park that was later given their name, they reported seeing remains of Indian use of the area, but these remains they identified as being old.<sup>1</sup>

Two prominent groups of Indians can be identified as having used the area of the park: the Utes and the Arapahoes. The Utes generally roamed the land west of the Continental Divide, and the Arapahoes, along with the Cheyennes, occupied the eastern portion of Colorado. Both groups ranged into the mountains of Colorado.<sup>2</sup>

Short, hardy, and muscular people with dark skin and a culture representative of the Great Basin, the Utes had a reputation for

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1. Milton Estes, "Memoirs of Estes Park," *The Colorado Magazine*, v. XVI, No. 4. (July 1939), pp. 123-125.

2. Wilson Rockwell, *The Utes, a Forgotten People* (Denver: Sage Books, c. 1956), pp. 11-12.

being war-like and aggressive. This trait apparently came into being with the introduction of the horse into their economic life. The horse permitted them to hunt buffalo more successfully and, consequently, became most important to them. The Ute turned to stealing horses from those tribes, such as the Arapahoes and Kiowas, who were well endowed with them.<sup>3</sup>

Naturally an enmity arose between the Utes and the Arapahoes, and tradition has this animosity evidenced in clashes between the two groups at several places in or near the park. In one instance, according to Ute legend, a party of Arapahoes and Cheyennes surprised a group of Utes at Grand Lake. In an effort to protect their women and children the Utes hastily built a large raft on which they placed these non-combatants. The men shoved the raft out onto the safety of the broad expanse of water. Unfortunately, a strong wind unexpectedly swept the lake, upsetting the raft, and all the women and children drowned.

On another occasion, and this time according to Arapaho tradition, a band of Arapahoes, guided by a white trapper, made

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3. Ibid, pp. 15-16; John R. Swanton, *The Indian Tribes of North America*, BAE Bulletin No. 145 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1952), p. 375; Ralph L. Beals, *Ethnology of Rocky Mountain National Park* (Berkeley: National Park Service, 1935), pp. 1-2.

a surprise attack upon a group of Utes encamped near Grand Lake. Driven southward to the lake and up the slope of Shadow Mountain, the Utes finally beat off the attackers with the loss of one man, two women, and a baby. The baby had been left hanging in a tree by an exhausted squaw. Having no way to care for the papoose, the Arapahoes killed him.<sup>4</sup>

Originally the Arapahoes occupied the Red River Valley of northern Minnesota. Known as the "'Cloud men,' or 'Blue-skymen'" by their allies, the Cheyenne, the Arapahoes during the nineteenth century divided into northern and southern units. The southern group continued its movement southward to the Arkansas, while the northern Arapaho lived around the headwaters of the Platte along the base of the mountains. This latter group eventually wound up on the Wind River Reservation, in Wyoming.<sup>5</sup>

The northern group of Arapahoes summered in the area now comprising Rock Mountain National Park at least as late as the 1850s. Their last use of the area, it would seem, almost coincided with the arrival of the first settlers in Estes Park, for a group of Indians visited the park in 1914 and at least one of them recalled

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4. Rockwell, *The Utes*, pp. 20-21.

5. Swanton, *The Indian Tribes of North America*, pp. 385-386; Frederick W. Hodge, ed., *Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico*, BAF Bulletin 30, Part I, (Washington: GPO, 1907), p. 22.

witnessing a battle in the 1850s near what was later the Hondius Ranch.

Much of the historical information known about the activities of the Arapahoes in the region of Rocky Mountain National Park stems from this 1914 visit which, incidentally, was associated with the establishment of the park. The prime mover of this visit was Miss Harriett W. Vaille, Chairwoman of the Nomenclature Committee of the Colorado Mountain Club. Miss Vaille at the time was being pressed by the Chief Geographer of the Geological Survey to come up with names for features of the area that was to comprise Rocky Mountain National Park. She felt that aboriginal use of the area should be recognized. To further this noble objective she journeyed to the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming where the Arapahoes lived. She induced two elderly, and prominent, Arapahoes, who, as children, had spent time in the area of Estes Park, to return to the scene of their early youth and point out features the Arapahoe knew and the names by which they were known. Miss Vaille was also able to secure the services of Tom Crispin, a 38 year old reservation resident who was a prospering rancher. Crispin served as interpreter, and, perhaps because he was half white, half Indian, Crispin performed effectively in bridging the gap between the two cultures.<sup>6</sup>

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6. Correspondence of Miss Harriett W. Vaille, in Rocky Mountain National Park file, Library of the Colorado Historical Society.

The two informants Miss Vaille enlisted were Gun Griswold, a 73 year old judge, and Sherman Sage, the reservation's 63 year old chief of police. Accompanied by Crispin, the two elderly gentlemen arrived at the Longmont train station on July 14, 1914, and were met by Oliver W. Toll, a cousin of Miss Vaille who had agreed to ramrod the expedition. Arriving at Estes Park the four were joined by Shep Husted, who was to serve as guide, and David Hawkins, a young Princeton student.

At Estes Park the group picked up camping equipment and horses and began a two week tour of the proposed national park. They spent the first night in the barn at the Pieter Hondius Ranch, which was near the present Fall River Entrance Station. While there they visited the nearby Indian fort and a mound. From here they rode up Windy Gulch, past Poudre Lakes, and by Monday night they were on the North Fork of the Colorado at Squeaky Bob's place, where they spent the night. From here Toll and his group continued up the headwaters of the Colorado to Lulu City and Lulu Pass. Retracing their steps, the party followed the Colorado to Grand Lake then rode back across the Continental Divide to Estes Park by way of Flat Top and Hallets Peak. The party broke up July 29, and Toll

and the three Arapahoes went to the Agricultural College at Fort Collins to make dictaphone recordings of Indian terms.<sup>7</sup>

Toll and the Arapahoes had covered a large amount of territory and Toll had gleaned considerable lore from the Indians. Sage and Griswold had indicated many features with the names the Arapahoes knew them by. It is not necessary to mention all these places here since Louisa Ward Arps and Elinor E. Kingery covered them quite well in their commendable *High Country Names*.

The elderly Arapahoes pointed out certain man-made features that, however, should be gone into here. The most prominent of these was a line of rocks on a rather steep hill west of the Hondius Ranch. The local residents had long called it Indian fort, but the Arapahoes termed it Apache Fort. Sage said that when he was about four years old, which would have been around 1855, his family and their tribe were encamped on the west side of Moraine Park. A party of about 50 Apaches arrived in the area and clashed with the Arapahoes in Beaver Park. The Arapahoes drove their enemy back along the path they had come, with the Apaches making a determined, but short, stand near Glacier Peaks. The Apaches fell back further and made their last stand, which lasted over a day, at the Indian

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7. Oliver W. Toll, "Report on Visit of Arapaho Indians to Estes Park, 1914," in Rocky Mountain National Park file in Library of the Colorado Historical Society.

fort near the Hondius Ranch. The fort consisted of walls composed of stones the Indians piled up. Husted and Hondius said that when they came to the area the walls were three or four feet high. But over the years small boys and Hondius, who used the stone for the foundation of his house, reduced the pile to where by 1914 only a low broken wall remained.<sup>8</sup>

The two Arapahoes pointed out several trails their tribe had used. One of these was Big Trail which went past Bierstadt Lake and dropped down to Grand Lake by way of Big Meadows Park. It followed, Toll noted, "practically the route of the present Flat Top Trail." Child's Trail followed quite closely "the course of Trail Ridge," while Dog Trail, so named because the Indians used dogs to carry their belongings along this path, followed the trail up Fall River. Deer Trail split from Child's Trail at Poudre Lakes, traversed Milner Pass and dropped down along Deer Creek to the North Fork of the Colorado.<sup>9</sup>

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8. Ibid, pp. 44-47. Sage recounted the events of the battle, and he said he read them from little and big piles of stones that the Indians left. He said it was customary for the Indians to so mark important battles.

9. Ibid, pp. 67-70. Sage and Griswold reported that Old Man Friday, an Indian interpreter, guided the first party of prospectors across the mountains from Estes Park to Grand Lake over Dog Trail. They didn't say when this event occurred, and one wonders if it antedated the reputed departure of the Arapahoes from the area in the 1850s.

The party noted monuments (piles of stones) along the trails which Sage and Griswold said were placed by the Indians, and they saw circles of stones indicating where Indian camps had once been. From these remains and what the two Arapahoes reported, one can assume that the Indians used the park fairly extensively. Sage and Griswold even reported that Gun Griswold's father, who was a noted warrior and hunter and great medicine man, had many times captured eagles for their feathers on Longs Peak. He used a stuffed coyote to lure eagles close to the ground, and when an eagle swooped down, he grabbed its feet. His trap, they said, was on the summit of Longs Peak, and the elder Griswold used it at least as early as 1858,<sup>10</sup> which, if true, places the Indian on Longs Peak before the earliest claims by white man.

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10. Ibid, pp. 29-30.

## CHAPTER II

### Explorers and Fur Trappers

As mentioned in the preceding chapter, except for Indian use the area now comprising Rocky Mountain National Park was virtually a virgin territory when the first settler of the area arrived there in 1859. By then explorers and trappers of several nationalities had penetrated and hunted the Rocky Mountains, but only one trapper can be documented reasonably well as having set foot in the land now within the boundaries of the park.

Undoubtedly trappers worked the streams of the park for beaver, but these men left no record, either in the form of written work or marks on the land. Claims have been made that Kit Carson trapped in the Estes Park area in 1840, and in 1851 built a cabin there. This contention is apparently based on an account by William F. Drannan<sup>1</sup> who claimed to have been, when in his teens, very close

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1. William F. Drannan, *Thirty-one Years on the Plains and in the Mountains* (Chicago: Rhodes & McClure Publishing Co., 1900). Enos Mills, *The Story of Estes Park, Grand Lake and Rocky Mountain National Park* (Estes Park: published by the author, 1917), makes both claims about Carson visiting Estes Park. I can find no evidence either in the famed mountainman's autobiography or in what is considered the most complete biography of him to indicate that Carson was in Estes Park, the present national park or their immediate vicinity. See Blanche C. Grant, ed., *Kit Carson's Own Story of His Life* (Taos, N.M.: 1926); Milo Milton Quaife, ed., *Kit Carson's Autobiography* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1935); and Edwin L. Sabin,

to Carson, hunting with him and calling him Uncle Kit. The spuriousness of Drannan's association with Carson has been established beyond question;<sup>2</sup> so, the evidence supporting a cabin in Estes Park before the arrival of the first settlers is based on nothing more substantial than a wisp of smoke.

The first non-Indian to visit Estes Park and the area of the national park about whom there is reasonably decent documentation is a mountainman by the name of Rufus B. Sage.<sup>3</sup> Sage, a man of some education and training, had gone west to hunt in 1841. While there he engaged in various hunting enterprises both as a member of a group and as a "free trapper." In 1843, near the end of his career as a mountainman, Sage was hunting out of Fort Lancaster, now the town of Fort Lupton. In September he left

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*Kit Carson Days, 1809-1868* (New York: The Press of the Pioneers, 1935), v. II.

2. W. N. Bate, *Frontier Legend; Texas Finale of Capt. William F. Drannan Pseudo Frontier Comrade of Kit Carson* (New Bern, N.C.: Owen G. Dunn Co., Publishers, c. 1954).

3. One historian has suggested that James O. Pattie, another mountainman, hunted the headwaters of the Colorado (then called the Grand) River in 1826-27. Consequently, Pattie and the other hunters with him may have touched the western and southern edges of the park. This journey, however, is generally regarded skeptically by historians. See William H. Goetzman, *Exploration and Empire* (New York: Alfred Knopf, 1967), pp. 73-74 fn. Pattie mentioned sighting Longs Peak. See James O. Pattie, *The Personal Narrative of James O. Pattie of Kentucky* (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1962), p. 91.

the fort and followed St. Vrain Creek, "heading at the base of Long's Peak." After entering the mountains he established a base camp and spent several days exploring the area. He then climbed what he called "the main chain of the mountains left of Long's Peak." After this activity he broke camp and travelled as he said, "ten or twelve miles, through a broad opening between two mountain ridges, bearing a northwesterly direction, to a large valley skirting a tributary of Thompson's creek, where, finding an abundance of deer, I passed the interval till my return to the Fort." Sage rhapsodized about the site:

The locality of my encampment presented numerous and varied attractions. It seemed, indeed, like a concentration of beautiful lateral valleys, intersected by meandering water courses, ridged by lofty ledges of precipitous rock, and hemmed in upon the west by vast piles of mountains climbing beyond the clouds, and upon the north, south, and east, by sharp lines of hills that skirted the prairies; while occasional openings, like gateways, pointed to the far-spreading domains of silence and loneliness.

Unquestionably, Sage was in the vicinity of Estes Park, but where? He said that east of his camp was a wall of red sandstone and slate that extended for several miles north and south. The "counterscarp," he reported, "spread to view a broad and gentle declivity . . . at the foot of which a lake of several miles in circumference occupies the center of a basin-like valley,

bounded in every direction by verdant hills, that smile upon the bright gem embosomed among them." The lake, he said, was covered with geese, brants, ducks, and gulls. Perhaps the lake Sage referred to is today's Marys Lake and he was camped on Fish Creek below Kruger Rock. "Four miles further north," he noted, "the traveller is brought to one of the main branches of Thompson's creek . . . ." <sup>4</sup> Actually Big Thompson River at about the present Lake Estes is two and a half miles north of where the East Fork of Fish Creek joins Fish Creek. Sage's descriptions and distances do not fit precisely the valley containing Marys Lake, but this area is offered as a tentative location for his base of operations, since the features of this site fit better than any other.

In November Sage leading a small group of men returned to the area of Estes Park, but apparently not to his old camp site. The group remained there six weeks hunting sheep, and in the process Sage roamed widely over the area. At one point in his wanderings he came across "a large valley immured by lateral hills, that had been occupied a short time previous by a party of Indians, for

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4. Rufus B. Sage, *Rocky Mountain Life* (Wentworth, Hewes & Co., 1859), pp. 343-345; LeRoy R. Hafen and Ann W. Hafen, *Rufus B. Sage: His Letters and Papers*, Far West and Rockies Series, v. V (Glendale: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1956), pp. 17-19, 276-277.

the purpose of eagle-catching." Leaving this camp the hunters journeyed 35 miles southward where they set up camp on Clear Creek at the present site of Golden.<sup>5</sup>

Explorers, too, seemed to have avoided the area of the Rocky Mountains that was subsequently included within the park. The first of the army explorers in the vicinity was Maj. Stephen H. Long in 1820, and he left the most indelible print on the park area when the most prominent peak in the park was named for him. The closest Long got to the peak, however, was St. Vrain's Fort, some forty miles away.<sup>6</sup>

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This writer suggests that Sage's first base camp when he arrived in the vicinity of Longs Peak was possibly southeast of Twin Sisters Mountain in a place shown on a 1913 map of the general vicinity of Estes Park and came to be included in Rocky Mountain National Park as Big Elk Park. The map shows a trail running in a northwest direction from that place to the junction of the East Fork of Fish Creek with Fish Creek. See Dean Babcock, "Road and Trail Map of Estes Park and Vicinity, Colorado" (Copyright 1913 by F. P. Clatworthy, Estes Park) in illustrations. Interestingly enough, Sage virtually predicted the future of this area when he wrote:

What a charming retreat for some one of the world-hating Literati! He might here hold daily converse with himself, nature, and his God, far removed from the annoyance of man.

See Hafen and Hafen, p. 278.

5. Hafen and Hafen, *Rufus B. Sage*, pp. 282-285.

6. Reuben Gold Thwaites, *A Brief History of Rocky Mountain Exploration* (New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1904), p. 213.

Subsequent government explorers failed to penetrate the Rockies at this point. Colonel Henry Dodge in 1835 led an expedition that followed roughly Long's route, and he described the front range of the Rockies, but failed even to mention Long's Peak. Colonel Stephen W. Kearny followed a similar path in 1845. John C. Fremont made five journeys to Colorado in the 1840s, and on most of these trips he penetrated the Rocky Mountains, but never into that section now in the national park. In 1843, he crossed the mountains from east to west via the Cache la Poudre, and his return journey the following year carried him down through North, Middle, and South Parks and back across the Continental Divide by way of the Arkansas River. In 1845 he went from east to west via the Arkansas again. In 1848 he again crossed the Rockies, but this time south of the Arkansas . . . . Although Fremont never got into the area that now comprises the national park, he, on his first trip to Colorado in 1842, visited Fort St. Vrain and noted Long's Peak in the distance, estimating that it was but a few miles away.<sup>7</sup>

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7. Thwaites, *A Brief History of Rocky Mountain Exploration*, p. 236; Goetzman, *Exploration and Empire*, pp. 246-252; H. E. Rensch, *Historical Background for the Rocky Mountain National Park* (Berkeley: National Park Service, 1935), pp. 21-23. Gertrude Barnes, "Following Fremont's Trail Through Northern Colorado," *The Colorado Magazine*, v. XIX, No. 5 (Sept. 1942), pp. 185-189, contends that Fremont followed a course roughly approximating Highway 287 across the Rockies in his 1843 crossing and that he did not enter Poudre Canyon. This route is even farther north of the park than the one along the Poudre River.

Looking for overland routes to the beaver country with the object of getting supplies to trappers and furs back to St. Louis, William Henry Ashley in 1825 approached the Rocky Mountains. In February he was camped on what he called a small branch of the Platt, but which was probably the Cache la Poudre. From this point he saw a "conspicuous peak" which he figured was Longs Peak. To him it appeared to be but six or eight miles away; actually it was about 35 miles distant.<sup>8</sup> The rarefied Colorado atmosphere deceived him as it later did Fremont. Although Ashley's trail did not carry his party even near the park, it is interesting to note that less than five years after Major Long's expedition the peak named in his honor had become firmly imprinted in the public mind.

Since known hunters and trappers worked all around the acreage now comprising the national park, it is hard to believe that some of them did not actually penetrate the area and hunt its streams and rivers for beaver. Indeed, there is an indication from Rufus Sage that the area was known since he mentioned that reportedly there were passes to the Grand (now North Fork of the Colorado) River from where he camped and hunted.<sup>9</sup>

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8. Harrison Clifford Dale, *The Ashley-Smith Explorations and the Discovery of a Central Route to the Pacific, 1822-1829* (Glendale: The Arthur H. Clark Co., 1941), pp. 125-128.

9. Sage, *Rocky Mountain Life*, pp. 343-344.

Nevertheless, despite all this activity around the area, the documentary evidence is frustratingly meagre of white man's activity in the present Rocky Mountain National Park prior to the arrival of the Estes family.

## CHAPTER III

### Settlers

In October 1859 Joel Estes and his son Milton were hunting up the headwaters of the Big Thompson and came upon the area that was to be called Estes Park. They were impressed with the area and looked around for several days. They saw no signs of white men or that any had been there. The only human remnants were those left by Indians. They found lodgepoles in two different places, but they had no way of knowing how long the poles had been there.

Joel and Milton left after a few days, but they returned the next year and built, according to Milton, two houses and corrals for the stock. Although Milton said later that he and his father moved their families into the park in 1863, in all likelihood at least part of the family stayed in the area during the winter of 1860-61.

After moving to the park the Estes family supplemented its income by killing elk, deer, and sheep and by selling the dressed skins and hindquarters of these animals in Denver. In addition, the family continued to raise cattle.<sup>1</sup>

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1. Estes, "Memoirs of Estes Park," pp. 123-125. This article was also reprinted as Library Bulletin 6, Colorado State College Library (Fort Collins: 1939).

In 1864 a party from Denver came to the area with the intention of climbing Longs Peak. Consisting of William N. Byers, Professors J. W. Velie and C. C. Parry, and George Nichols, the party was hospitably received by the Estes family. Byers, who was editor of the *Rocky Mountain News* later, wrote in his newspaper of the trip and of the Estes family. He called the place where Joel and his family lived in Estes Park, and the name stuck, but the Estes family didn't.

The hard winter of 1864-65 was tough on the cattle and Joel, and soon the family head's thoughts turned to warmer climates. The elder Estes arranged to sell his interest in the park to Michael Hollinbeck and a person called "Buck" for a yoke of oxen. On April 15, 1866, Estes hitched up the oxen, and he, his family, and their meager possessions departed Estes Park.<sup>2</sup>

By 1868 Griffith Evans and James Nugent were living in Estes Park. Evans, a Welshman, and his family had come the previous year. He raised cattle and in time became the founder of the resort industry of the area. Nugent, better known as Rocky Mountain Jim, had a wide and mixed reputation. When sober he was a kindly and considerate soul, but when drunk he exhibited a mean and vicious

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2. June E. Carothers, *Estes Park: Past and Present* ([Denver]: University of Denver, c. 1951), pp. 21-22. Joel wandered about some more before he settled in New Mexico where he died. *Ibid*, p. 22.

streak. Generally he was well liked, but yet his image was used by mothers to frighten their children into better behavior.

Rocky Mountain Jim lived in a shanty in Muggins Gulch and made his living hunting and trapping. During the last few years of his life he tangled with a bear who left his face horribly disfigured on one side.<sup>3</sup>

Later Jim and Griff were to meet in the classic western shoot-out, and Rocky Mountain Jim the steely-eyed hunter and fur trapper was to come out second best to Griff the inn keeper, an outcome that is at variance with the typical results in the western shoot-out of the popular imagination.

Meanwhile, Estes Park was beginning to attain fame as a delightful place to visit. One who came to visit, and later to settle, was Abner E. Sprague. He visited Estes Park first in 1868 on a camping trip. Exhilarated by this experience he came at other times, and in May 1875 he and a school mate, Clarence Chubbuck, laid claim to Moraine Park, or Willow Park as it was then called. He put up a claim with a "peat" roof. He said his "cabin was low,

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3. Ansel Watrous, *History of Larimer County, Colorado* (Fort Collins: Courier Printing and Publishing Company, 1911), p. 177; Isabella L. Bird, *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains* (Norman: University of Oklahoma, c. 1960), p. 79; Dorothy Middleton, *Victorian Lady Travellers* (New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1965), pp. 34-35.

and the logs stuck out at the corners, making a very good ladder." The first snow came, and when it ceased two feet of the white stuff lay on the ground. It was a warm day and the snow began to melt rapidly. Sprague said, "I knew that our peat roof would not hold all the water from so much melting snow, and we would be drowned out if it were not removed." So he furiously shoveled the snow off the sod roof. During the winter he watched the elk come down from the high feeding grounds, and with dismay he watched the hunters come in and slaughter the animals for the Denver market. He later lamented, "It was a crime the way our big game was slaughtered in those days for market, and with only slight returns to the hunter for his trouble. In fact, the meat of our wild animals became so cheap in the valley markets, that it did not pay for the haul." Sprague and his brother caught fish, froze them and sold their product to hotels and restaurants in Denver for 50 cents per pound.<sup>4</sup>

Others came and settled in Estes Park. The Joneses, the Hupps, the Fergusons, and the Jameses established homes, and later catered to the tourists. All substantial people looking for a place to put

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4. Abner E. Sprague, "My First Winter in Estes Park," *The Colorado Magazine*, v. XV, No. 4 (July 1938), pp. 154-156; Abner E. Sprague, "Pioneering on the Big Thompson and in Estes Park," *The Colorado Magazine*, v. XII, No. 3 (May 1935), pp. 96-97.

down roots and earn a living. Rev. E. J. Lamb brought his family and chopped a road through to the present site of Longs Peak Inn.<sup>5</sup>

And the selfish came, too. The Earl of Dunraven, of the Irish peerage, hunted in the area of Estes Park, and he was much taken with the place, so much so that he tried to take all the park for his own enjoyment and that of his friends.

Dunraven first visited Estes Park in 1872. He found the hunting so good and pleasurable that he returned in 1873 and 1874. By 1875 he had decided to establish the area as a private hunting preserve, and through his agent, Theodore Whyte, he began to lay plans to acquire the necessary land. Using the Homestead Act, whereby an individual could acquire 160 acres of land, Whyte brought in ranch hands who filed on the land, and as soon as they proved up the land the hands turned their claims over to Dunraven. At the same time Dunraven bought out the land of settlers already in the park, including that of Griff Evans. In time the Earl laid claim to 15,000 acres; however, he never effectively controlled more than 10,000.

The Denver newspapers learned of Dunraven's scheme and put the glare of publicity on it. They castigated the Earl for attempting

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5. Watrous, *History of Larimer County*, p. 179.

to lock up the land. Knowing that he now had formidable opposition, he began pre-empting the land at \$1.25 per acre.

Meanwhile, settlers began to come into the area in greater numbers, and they fought the Earl. They gradually won, and in 1907 when Dunraven sold his holdings he had only 6,600 acres to dispose of.<sup>6</sup>

Despite the vicissitudes he faced, the Irish earl continued to enjoy visiting Estes Park and hunting in the area. He built a hotel for his friends and a cottage nearby for himself. Located on Fish Creek and known as English Hotel, it was the first real tourist hotel in the area.

In addition, he built a hunting lodge in Dunraven Glade on the North Fork of the Big Thompson. He liked hunting the wild country of the area. The site of his cabin was upstream of the present North Fork Ranger Station. The earl has left his mark on the area in such place names as Lake Dunraven, Mount Dunraven, Dunraven Trail, and Dunraven Park, all in the North Fork country.<sup>7</sup> Perhaps the most important mark he left, both intentional and

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6. Carothers, *Estes Park*, pp. 35-38.

7. Ibid., pp. 39-40; Louisa Ward Arps and Elinor Eppich Kingery, *High Country Place Names: Rocky Mountain National Park* (Denver: The Colorado Mountain Club, 1966), pp. 54-56.

inadvertent, was the impetus he gave to the resort industry of the area by his activities and his writings.

By the late 1880s the earl lost interest in the area and departed. He leased the resort company to Whyte who continued there until 1896 when he declared bankruptcy and returned to England.<sup>8</sup>

By the time Whyte departed the area's economic pattern of development had been well set. The beauty of the area and the summer recreational opportunities it afforded were well known, publicized by government reports and writers in popular magazines, among the latter, of course, being the Earl of Dunraven. The area had moved into the third stage: economic development.

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8. Carothers, *Estes Park*, p. 41; Arps and Kingery, *High Country Place Names*, p. 56.

## CHAPTER IV

### Attractions of the Area

Perhaps the single greatest attraction to the area in the past, as well as the present, was Long's Peak. Many who came to the area, whether as an individual seeking a vacation or as a member of a scientific party, felt compelled to climb the peak.

For many years before white man climbed Long's Peak it was a prominent landmark. Within a few years after Major Long's expedition the peak's name was firmly set in the popular mind. Fur trappers called it Long's Peak. One of the first views miners enroute to the gold fields had of the Rockies was Long's Peak, and it told them the end of their journey was not far off. Travel writers searched it out, and staid scientists were moved to the verge of poetry by the mountain. "Long's Peak," a Deputy U.S. Mineral Surveyor wrote, "rises before us a monument of greatness, its summit touching the very clouds; a cool delightful health-giving breeze blows from off these snow capped peaks, which in conjunction with this elevated atmosphere, is exhilarating in the extreme . . ."<sup>1</sup>

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1. Ovando J. Hollister, *The Mines of Colorado* (Springfield, Mass.: Samuel Bowles & Co., 1867), pp. 12-13; G. Thomas Ingham, *Digging Gold Among the Rockies* (Philadelphia: Hubbard Bros., c. 1880), p. 319; Maurice O'Connor Morris, *Rambles in the Rocky Mountains: With a Visit to the Gold Fields of Colorado* (London: Smith, Elder & Co., 1864), p. 74.

The ones generally given credit for being the first to reach the summit of the mountain were the members of the Powell scientific party who explored the area in 1868. This was John Wesley Powell's second expedition to the west, and one of its main purposes was to climb Longs Peak and to obtain specimens from that area.<sup>2</sup>

The expedition assembled in Chicago and journeyed by train and horse to Denver. From there the members travelled to Empire City where William N. Byers, editor of the *Rocky Mountain News*, and his wife joined them. Their next destination was Hot Sulphur Springs where they remained for three months collecting. In Middle Park they met the Schuyler Colfax party which was on a western swing for electioneering purposes. Colfax was speaker of the House of Representatives and later vice president under Grant.

Wanting to carry out one of the chief objectives of the expedition--that is, the "study of high altitudes and mountain structures"--Powell led the group to Grand Lake where they could begin their assault on Longs Peak. All they found at Grand Lake at the time was a trapper's cabin.

On August 20, 1868, a group consisting of Major Powell, Byers, W. H. Powell, L. W. Keplinger, Samuel Garman, Ned E. Farrell, and

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2. William Culp Darrah, *Powell of the Colorado* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1951), p. 94.

John C. Sumner pointed its horses east toward the peak. Two days of arduous travel brought them to the base of Mount McHenry. Here the following morning they left their horses and proceeded on foot. About midafternoon they camped below the peak on the south side and the next morning began the final ascent.

On August 23, 1868, the members of the party attained their objective and found the top to be a flat surface some five or six acres in size. After looking about and taking temperature and barometric readings they placed these measurements in a tin can along with an account of the ascent. They erected a stone monument to hold the can and crowned it with an American flag. After admiring their handiwork they started their descent to their camp.<sup>3</sup>

Although the Powell party is generally accepted as the first to ascend Long's Peak, others claim to have trod the summit before them. Powell and his group, however, reported finding no evidence that anyone else had been there before them.

An article in the Golden City *Western Mountaineer* claimed that a Mr. Cromer climbed Long's Peak in September 1860, but there is no other evidence to corroborate this assertion.<sup>4</sup>

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3. Ibid., pp. 99-101; L. W. Keplinger, "The First Ascent of Long's Peak," *Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society, 1915-1918*, v. XIV (Topeka: Kansas State Printing Plant,) pp. 130-136, typescript bound in "Historical Data, Rocky Mountain National Park," in Library, Rocky Mountain National Park.

4. Carothers, *Estes Park*, p. 64.

E. W. Andree in 1922 at the age of 83 published an account of a climb he and two companions made of Longs Peak in August 1861. Andree said they did some prospecting in the Boulder district and headed for the mountains. The three climbed the mountain through thick woods and came to a lake surrounded by high cliffs, picturesque rocks and flowers. They continued the ascent and reached one peak and realized they had no other one to climb. They reached "the highest dome," he said, from the south side. Afterwards, the trio camped below the summit "at an elevation of 13,350 feet." They attained their goal on August 21, 1861.<sup>5</sup>

Several years after publication of Andree's claim, Roger W. Toll, superintendent of the park, analyzed the story and felt that the details of the route from the mining district did not coincide with the details given in the article. Furthermore, details of the climb, he said, do not match precisely the actual situation. "In conclusion," Toll wrote, "the claim to having climbed Longs Peak in 1861 does not seem to be satisfactorily substantiated by details of route, length of time required, or any landmarks that can be identified as being in the vicinity of Longs Peak. Such details as are given are inconsistent rather than consistent." Toll believed

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5. E. W. Dandree, *Traveling in the Sunset Trail With an Ox Team to the Rocky Mountains* (Milwaukee: Trade Press Publishing Co., 1922), pp. 20-21.

that the trio had climbed either James Peak or Arapaho Peak which in altitude he noted as being close to Longs Peak.<sup>6</sup>

In subsequent years others climbed the peak, including Henry Adams, Clarence King, and Arnold Hague in 1871. In 1873 the first woman toiled her way up the trail that led to the top of the mountain. She had been invited by the Hayden Survey party to make the trip. F. V. Hayden, U.S. Surveyor General, led a party to gather data and specimens to gain greater knowledge of the natural resources of Colorado and to obtain geographical information to prepare a map of the state. Apparently, in an effort to enlist support for their surveying activities, the party asked Anna E. Dickinson, who was visiting in Estes Park, to join them in the climb. Miss Dickinson, a lecturer, actress, and writer, had powerful friends with New York newspapers and conceivably, the leaders of the party reasoned, could be expected to use her influence to swing those newspapers behind the work of the Geological Survey. The group made the ascent on September 23, 1873, and Anna Dickinson became the first woman to reach the top of Longs Peak. She was completely thrilled by the experience and was much impressed with Hayden and James T. Gardiner, the principal

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6. Roger W. Toll, "Mining and Mountain Climbing in Colorado, 1860-62," *The Colorado Magazine*, v. IV, no. 3 (May 1927), pp. 110-112. Despite his disagreement with Andree's contention of having climbed Longs Peak, Toll felt that over all the article was a contribution to Colorado history.

members of the survey. She wrote glowingly of them, devoting more space in her book to them than to the actual ascent.<sup>7</sup> This account, undoubtedly, harmed them or the work of the survey little in the public mind or with Congress.

The area's one great romance involves a climb to the summit of Longs Peak. The principals were a middle aged, physically unattractive, frail woman and a disfigured, vile tempered holdover from an era long dead.

Isabella Bird was an English woman who travelled and wrote commercially of her adventures. She arrived first in Estes Park in late September 1873. Travelling via horseback from Longmont had made her thirsty, and when she and her two companions, young men of the area on a vacation, came across what was obviously a trapper's cabin she stopped to ask for a drink of water. The barking of the dog brought from the house her future lover. He was, as she described him,

a broad, thickset man, about the middle height, with an old cap on his head, and wearing a grey hunting shirt much the worse for wear (almost falling to pieces, in fact), a diggers scarf knotted round his waist, a knife in his belt, and 'a bosom friend,' a revolver, sticking out of the breast pocket of his coat; his feet, which were very small, were bare, except for some dilapidated moccasins made of horsehide."

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7. Anna E. Dickinson, *A Ragged Register* (New York: Harper & Bros., 1879), p. 268; Roger W. Toll, ed., "The Hayden Survey in Colorado in 1873 and 1874; Letters from James T. Gardiner," *The Colorado Magazine*, v. VI, no. 4 (July 1929), pp. 149-150; Arps and Kingery, *High Country Place Names*, p. 52.

This rather picturesquely clad child of nature, then about 45 years of age, had, according to Miss Bird, a "remarkable" face. She said,

He . . . must have been strikingly handsome. He has large grey-blue eyes, deeply set, with well-marked eyebrows, a handsome aquiline nose, and a very handsome mouth. His face was smooth shaven except for a dense mustache and imperial. Tawny hair, in thin uncared-for curls fell from under his hunter's cap and over his collar. One eye was entirely gone, and the loss made one side of the face repulsive, while the other might have been modeled in marble. 'Desperado' was written in large letters all over him.

She had encountered Rocky Mountain Jim Nugent, a man whom she had heard was a fine fellow when sober, but a "most awful ruffian" when drunk, which apparently was much of the time. But Mountain Jim was a deceptive fellow "for his manner was that of a chivalrous gentleman, his accent refined, and his language easy and elegant."<sup>8</sup>

This maiden lady was completely taken by the colorful character. Perhaps Mountain Jim's appearance and manner, a mixture of gentility, savoir faire, and hard times, appealed to her female instincts, and she saw what might have been or what possibly could still be. But whatever her motivation she spent quite a bit of time with Mountain Jim,

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8. Isabella L. Bird, *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, c.1960), p. 79.

and he acted as her guide up Fall River Canyon to see the beauties of the area and up Black Canyon to see the beaver dams.

It would appear their romance blossomed, and reached one of its climaxes on a climb of Longs Peak when Mountain Jim in a moment of weakness recounted his "lawless" past in all its wickedness, and probably color. The Victorian lady was properly shocked and intrigued by the confessions of this tarnished soul.<sup>9</sup>

This encounter occurred late at night around the campfire while their two companions, the young men with whom Miss Bird had travelled to the park, slept. These two chaperones were S. S. Downer, later a judge in Boulder, and Platt Rogers who was to achieve fame as mayor of Denver.

Rogers later wrote of the trip, and said he and Downer took a somewhat cynical view of Mountain Jim. He said Isabella resented "our want of faith in him and the jollying we felt compelled to give him."

The journey consumed three days, and at night Mountain Jim entertained the lady and the two young men with tales of his encounter with the bear that took his eye. He also recited his poetry which was mostly about himself, and was "varied by reference to a fair maiden,

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9. Ibid., pp. 204, 210; Middleton, *Victorian Lady Travellers* pp. 28-29, 34-35.

of whom he seemed to be enamored . . . ." Perhaps Isabella thought the poetry alluded to her.

On the second day the group began the final leg of the ascent. When they reached Keyhole they had a dispute over the better course. The young boys wanted to take a direct but more difficult, route, while Rocky Mountain Jim felt the climbers should drop lower and climb back up by an easier path. The group split and Platt and Downer followed their route, made it safely, and had to wait a long time for Jim and Isabella to toil their way to the top.

Isabella was not in good physical shape. Rogers said "when they finally came up with us she was so fagged that she was unable to make her way unaided up the last slope to the peak. By alternately pulling and pushing her and stimulating her with snow soaked with Jamaica ginger, we got her to the top."

Miss Bird has left a similar but more romantic version of this last phase. She said,

My fatigue, giddiness, and pain from bruised ankles, and arms half pulled out of their sockets, were so great that I should never have gone half-way had not 'Jim,' nolens volens, dragged me along with a patience and skill, and withal a determination that I should ascend the Peak, which never failed."<sup>10</sup>

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10. Bird, *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains*, p. 95; Enos A. Mills, *The Story of Estes Park, Grand Lake and Rocky Mountain National Park* (Estes Park: published by the author, 1917), pp. 60-62.

In subsequent years Rogers came to alter his opinion of Isabella. "Downer and I," he said many years later, "looked upon her somewhat in the light of an encumbrance, though when her book was published we realized that we had had the great good fortune to travel with a woman whose ability to describe the manifold beauties of Estes Park has never been excelled."

After the trip Isabella returned to Griff Evans ranch where she had been staying. And from here she continued to enjoy the wonders of the area and to get better acquainted with Rocky Mountain Jim. She departed in December to tour the Rockies south of Denver, but Estes Park and Jim had a pull on her, and she returned.

The Evanses were away but were expected to return soon; so, she took up residence in their cabin. Two men were also staying there, and the three divided the work of the house among themselves.

Jim came to call, and when he was alone with Isabella, he professed his ardor for the Victorian lady. In a scene of high emotion he told her that her absence only stoked the fire of love that burned in him. He again recounted his wicked past, most of which was a rehash of his Longs Peak confession. He did, however, include a few new, and more salacious, items that raised the

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11. Mills, *The Story of Estes Park*, pp. 62-63.

eyebrows of the proper maiden lady. This encounter left the poor woman in a quandary, and on their next meeting her uncommunicativeness struck Jim as indifference, and the lovers quarrelled. But as in all good love stories, the two made up, and Jim continued to act as guide to Isabella on her tours of the area.

At one point Jim proposed marriage, but Isabella, past forty and therefore more balanced in her outlook, than a younger, more innocent damsel, concluded that Mountain Jim was "a man any woman might love, but no sane woman would marry." Despite this rebuff, Jim continued to see the Victorian lady, and let her, as she said, ride his beautiful white Arabian mare. Enos Mills, writing several years later, said that the inhabitants of that area who knew Jim reported he had a white mule. Ah, love is a potent device; it can turn long-eared mules into frisky Arabian steeds.

Later Isabella had to leave and Jim rode down to the plains with her to bring back to the Evans ranch the horse she was riding and had used on her stay. Their parting was sedate and mannerly, and Isabella continued her travels.<sup>12</sup>

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12. Bird, *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains*, pp. 205-207, 246; Middleton, *Victorian Lady Travellers*, pp. 29-37; Enos A. Mills, *The Rocky Mountain National Park* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1932), p. 12.

During Isabella's visit Mountain Jim must have been on his best behavior, but when she left he returned to his vile and wicked ways, and ultimately they led to a violent and painful death.

One day in 1874 Mountain Jim appeared at Griff Evans' ranch and called Evans out. Evans went out, but with a shotgun in his hand. Pretty soon the two men were firing at each other, and when the shooting ceased Jim lay on the ground with "one bullet in his skull and his brains oozing out," and other "slugs . . . embedded in various parts of his person." Jim refused aid from his enemy and swore that the shooting had been "sheer murder." But Jim was gotten back to his cabin and after a couple of weeks he was packed down to Fort Collins where several months elapsed before he died.<sup>13</sup>

On the day of his death Isabella Bird in a hotel room in Switzerland had a vision of Jim. The apparition didn't speak, but bowed to her.<sup>14</sup>

Why the feud between Mountain Jim and Evans? Jim gave out a newspaper story claiming that the Earl of Dunraven had ordered the

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13. Earl of Dunraven, *Past Times and Pastimes* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, c1922), pp. 140-141.

14. Middleton, *Victorian Lady Travellers*, p. 38. In 1881, when she was 50 years old, Isabella married Dr. John Bishop, the family physician. *Ibid.*, p. 39.

murder because he wanted Jim's land and cabin. Evans stated that he and Jim had quarreled over the fact that Evans did not favor Jim's attraction to his 17-year-old daughter. But whatever the reason, Evans was tried and acquitted of murdering Mountain Jim.<sup>15</sup>

About the time of the great romance, Longs Peak was becoming a feature that attracted vacationers to the area and climbing it was a challenge.<sup>16</sup> And as the area grew in popularity, more people toiled their way to the top of the mountain, and in time a local hostelry provided facilities to make the ascent less arduous.

There were other attractions that the early visitors also found enjoyable. Isabella Bird mentioned the pleasures of Black Canyon and Fall River. Platt Rogers recounted the enjoyment of horseback riding "along the streams and over the hills," and other travellers mentioned the natural features of the area. Still others came to hunt and took particular delight in a one-sided encounter with an elk, or wapiti.<sup>17</sup>

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15. Carother, *Estes Park*, p. 31. In view of the Earl's subsequent activities in Estes Park and in view of the fact that he was in Evans' cabin at the time of the shooting, Jim's charges cannot be ignored.

16. [Eliza Greateorex], *Summering in Colorado* (Denver: Richards & Co., 1874), p. 40.

17. *Ibid.*, Mills, *Story of Estes Park*, p. 60; A. Pendarves Vivian, *Wanderings in the Western Land* (London: Sampson, Low, Marston, Searle and Rivington, 1880), pp. 139-151.

But whatever a person's interest, the fact remains that the Estes Park area was increasing in popularity, and the resort industry was becoming the economic base for those who lived in the town and around it.

## CHAPTER V

### The Resort Industry

Technically the resort industry of Estes Park had its genesis with the Estes family, for they were the first to provide services to visitors to the area. When William N. Byers and his party visited Estes Park in 1864 with the intention of climbing Longs Peak, they were hospitably received and provided with some meals by Mrs. Estes. In addition the party spent two nights with the Esteses. The following year Reverend Richardson and his wife visited Estes Park and were entertained in the Estes home, holding, on at least one occasion, church services there.<sup>1</sup>

Griff Evans continued to provide shelter and services to tourists to Estes Park. In 1871 he contemplated building a cheap hotel, but finally decided upon building sleeping cabins and letting the tourists eat and live with the Evans family. It was this arrangement that Isabella Bird found on her stay in Estes Park in 1873.<sup>2</sup>

Evans continued to cater to tourists, and when the Earl of Dunraven established his accommodations Evans' operation was

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1. Carothers, *Estes Park*, pp. 21-22.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 25; Bird, *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains*, p. 81.

incorporated into the Earl's. In the later 1870s a visitor to the park recorded that he was put up at the Evans' place by Dunraven's representative.<sup>3</sup>

Although the main tourist development occurred in and around Estes Park, there were inns, lodges, and restaurants in the area now comprising Rocky Mountain National Park. Abner E. Sprague and his family settled in Moraine Park, or Willow Park as it was then known, in 1875. They ranched, but soon, like the Esteses, the Sprague family eased into the tourist accommodation business by serving meals that the elder Mrs. Sprague prepared. In time the Spragues began to build cabins to house visitors. By 1887 a visitor reported that the Spragues were the only ones living in Moraine Park and that in addition to the ranch there were a few cabins for summer visitors. One visitor to Moraine Park about the mid-1880s mentioned that their party stopped by the Sprague's place and obtained a glass of milk. In the spring house they found that the "water from a fine spring which was harnessed to do the churning by means of wheel and shaft."<sup>4</sup>

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3. Vivian, *Wanderings in the Western Land*, p. 139.

4. Frederick H. Chapin, *Mountaineering in Colorado* (Boston: W. B. Clarke Co., 1890), p. 131; Carrie Adell Strahorn, *Fifteen Thousand Miles by Stage* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1911), p. 68; Don Rickey, Jr., and Charles Pope, "Historic Structures Report, Part I, Sprague Cabin, Rocky Mountain National Park," September 1966, Division of

Sprague guided parties over the mountains, and around 1887 he built a trail from Moraine Park to the Boulder Field where it connected with a trail the Lambs had laid out to the summit of Longs Peak.<sup>5</sup>

In time the Sprague resort consisted of a main lodge, dining room, kitchen, and a number of small cabins for guests. By 1904 the resort could accommodate 100 guests.

In the meantime Sprague had taken J. D. Stead into partnership, and in 1904 Stead bought out Sprague. Stead and his wife continued to operate what now became Stead's Ranch until the early 1930s when they died. They left the Ranch to Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Lewis who ran the place for 17 years. In 1950 Edgar M. Stopher, nephew of Abner Sprague, purchased Stead's Ranch from the Lewises. The National Park Service in 1962 bought the ranch and 560 acres of land for \$750,000, and within two years removed all improvements.<sup>6</sup>

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History Studies, copy in Division of History, National Park Service, Washington, p. 3-6. The so-called Sprague homestead cabin was on this property. The cabin's authenticity is discussed in the Rickey-Pope report.

5. D. Ferrel Atkins, "The Sprague Cabin," in "Historic Structures and Sites of Rocky Mountain National Park," typescript in Library of Rocky Mountain National Park; Chapin, *Mountaineering in Colorado*, p. 32.

6. Donald K. Guiton, "Steads Ranch and Hotel," typescript in Library of Rocky Mountain National Park; Colorado Promotion and Publicity Committee, Colorado, *Its Hotels and Resorts* (Denver, 1904), p. 43.

Abner Sprague did not stay out of the resort business very long. In 1910 he opened Sprague's Lodge on Bear Lake Road near Sprague Lake. Sprague added an annex to the main lodge in 1916, and eleven years later built additional sleeping rooms. The National Park Service acquired the property in 1932 and gave a 20-year concession contract to the operation. In 1939 Edgar Stopher, Sprague's nephew, bought the concession lease. Two extensions ran the contract to December 1958, but a year prior to the end of the second extension, the owner asked that the contract be terminated. The Park Service agreed, took charge of the property, and some time prior to 1960 removed all the buildings there.<sup>7</sup>

In time other tourist operations appeared in the area of Moraine Park. The Brinwood, located about a mile west of Stead's Lodge, had its own lodge built in 1910. By 1938 the facilities consisted of 29 log and frame structures that included sleeping cabins, dormitories, and outhouses. It could accommodate 90 guests. The National Park Service acquired the property in 1932 for \$56,585, but gave the owner a 20-year concession contract. Because of lack of adequate facilities outside the park, the concession agreement was extended twice to

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7. Donald Guiton, "Sprague's Lodge," typescript in Library of Rocky Mountain National Park; Atkins, "The Sprague Cabin," in "Historic Structures and Sites of Rocky Mountain National Park."

December 31, 1958. The Service removed the buildings some time between then and 1960.<sup>8</sup>

About the time the Brinwood Lodge was going up, Dr. William Jacob Workman was putting up a lodge, and in a much more isolated place. Situated on Fern Lake, the lodge had several unique features. The roof was made of logs hollowed out and laid in the same manner as a Spanish tile roof. The floor consisted of short pieces of logs sawed off and placed round end up. The space between the ends was filled with dirt. The dining room table was circular and above it, of smaller diameter, was a lazy susan on which the dishes of food rested. Generally, the structure was rather primitive. Furniture was made of logs, oil cloth covered the windows, and blankets hung over the doorway.<sup>9</sup>

These features reflected the imaginative mind of Workman, a mind that had interests other than the practice of medicine. In his native state of Kansas he was regarded as a visionary and dreamer. His biography credits him with being the first to see the value of gypsum in making plaster, the first person in the world to build

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8. Donald K. Guiton, "Brinwood Ranch-Hotel, Inc.," typescript in Library of Rocky Mountain National Park; National Park Service, *Rocky Mountain National Park Colorado* (Washington: G.P.O., 1929), p. 47.

9. "Notes--H. Raymond Gregg," dated November 14, 1941, in file labelled Historical Notes, Rocky Mountain National Park, in Library of Rocky Mountain National Park.

a poured concrete house, and the first person in Kansas to plant alfalfa and "Red Kafir corn." He enjoyed fishing, and devoted about as much time to his resort as to his medical practice.

Workmen started the lodge in 1910, apparently completed it in 1911, and in 1912 advertised for guests. He sold it to Higby Brothers in 1915. Two years later they sold it to F. W. Byerly who incorporated it into Front Range Lodges, Inc., in 1924. Byerly departed, and his wife, who resumed her former name of Mrs. Edna Bishop, kept the place until 1952 when she turned it over to her son, James O. Bishop.

Fern Lake lodge soon became a winter sports center, and in 1917 a winter sports carnival held there was quite successful. For many years the Colorado Mountain Club held its annual winter outing at Fern Lake. In 1930, however, the club found Grand Lake to be a more desirable place, and Fern Lake Lodge declined. By 1938 the lodge was open for summer business only. The decline continued and in the 1950s the lodge was open only for noontime snacks, and then sporadically. In 1958 the lodge's concession permit expired, and all activity ceased there.<sup>10</sup>

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10. D. Ferrel Atkins, "Fern Lake Lodge," in "Historic Structures and Sites of Rocky Mountain National Park," Typescript in Library of Rocky Mountain National Park.

Below Fern Lake at "The Pool" the Higby Brothers operated the Forest Inn. Apparently begun just before the National Park came into being in 1915, the operation was sold to Rogers and Byerly by the Higbys at the time they sold Fern Lake Lodge. In 1917 Mr. and Mrs. Frank D. Tecker acquired an interest in the small resort. In June 1919 a fire destroyed the recently completed lodge there. The Teckers for several years used a cabin as a kitchen and accommodated guests in about a dozen tents. In 1925-26 the Teckers added two guest cabins to the complex, and two years later erected the main building. In subsequent years they added other cabins. By 1948 the resort complex consisted of a lodge, eight cabins, seven tents, four rooms with bath, four cabins without baths, and seven tents. The resort could accommodate 70 guests. In 1953 Tecker gave up the operation and sold the buildings to the National Park Service.<sup>11</sup>

The main building at Fall River Lodge went up in 1915. Cottages were added in 1921, and other structures, including wranglers' cabins and barns, after 1941. Founded by Mr. and Mrs. M. E. March and later owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. J. Russell McKelvey, the resort

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11. Anonymous, "Forest Inn," and Marjory Busse, "A Concise History of Forest Inn, Rocky Mountain National Park," typescripts, both in Historical Files, Chief Naturalist's Office, Rocky Mountain National Park.

was located on the south side of old Fall River Road below Horseshoe Falls. The National Park Service purchased the plant in 1955, removed all buildings in 1960, and restored the site to its original natural state.<sup>12</sup>

Other resort operations that were located within the bounds of the park include Deer Ridge Chalets (25 guests) east of Deer Mountain, Horseshoe Inn (115 guests) about a mile southeast of Fall River Lodge and designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1907, Bear Lake Lodge (125 guests), Spragues Hotel (50 guests) in Glacier Basin, and Moraine Lodge in Moraine Park about a mile southeast of Steads Ranch.

In addition to the resorts, F. H. Cheley, reportedly a noted camp director and writer on boys camping, started the Bear Lake Trail School at Bear Lake. A boys summer camp located "In the heart of Rocky Mountain National Park," its promoters promised to teach the boys nature study and to take them on overnight hikes, all for \$225 for a four week term.<sup>13</sup>

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12. Donald K. Guiton, "Fall River Lodge," typescript in Library of Rocky Mountain National Park; National Park Service, *Rocky Mountain National Park Colorado*, p. 46; Harold Marion Dunning, *History of Estes Park* (Boulder: Johnson Publishing Co., c.1967), p. 25; Missouri Pacific RR, *Rocky Mountain National Park*, c1921, folder in historical files of Library of the Colorado State Historical Society.

13. Advertising brochure entitled *The Bear Lake Trail School*, in Estes Park file in the Library of the Colorado State Historical Society.

Another summer camp that operated in the park was the Rocky Mountain Boys Camp. In operation during the 1920s and under the direction of D. C. Primrose, this riding camp was for boys aged 12 to 18. It could accommodate 50 boys.<sup>14</sup>

Through the years many people visited the area of the park, brought their own tents and camped out. One visitor in the 1880s commented on the number of tenting tourists she saw.<sup>15</sup> Many of these people returned year after year for their summer outing, as did those who sought the more substantial quarters of a log cabin at one of the resorts. In time some of these tourists acquired land in the area and built a cabin of their own--the quality of the cabin depending usually upon the affluence of the individual. One of these people, and perhaps the best known nationally, was William Allen White, newspaper publisher and writer, novelist, advisor of presidents, reformer, political liberal, and a prime mover in Theodore Roosevelt's Progressive Party.

White first came to Estes Park in 1889 as a young man still in college. He and several friends from school stayed in a cabin in Moraine Park. For two months he and his companions roamed

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14. National Park Service, *Rocky Mountain National Park Colorado* (Washington: G.P.O., 1929), p. 45; Missouri Pacific RR, *Rocky Mountain National Park*.

the area, explored the woods, and climbed Longs Peak. White later termed his stay "the most profitable two months I had ever spent in my life, for I learned to live with others . . . . If I ever grew up and became a man, it was in the summer of 1889, in Colorado in a little cabin filled with a dozen boys on the Big Thompson River."<sup>16</sup>

Over the years White visited the park from time to time. In 1893 he and his wife spent their honeymoon in "a log cabin on the banks of the Big Thompson River, far up in a canyon a mile and a half from any human habitation, in the heart of what became, many years later, Rocky Mountain National Park." In 1911 he and his family, now including two children, journeyed to Estes Park for their summer vacation. White at the time was working on his second novel, so he set up a tent on a hill above the cabin he rented and spent his mornings there writing.<sup>17</sup> Apparently, this was the first time he used this method to achieve privacy for his writing. He was later to build a more substantial structure at his permanent summer cabin.

In 1912 White purchased a cabin in Moraine Park, but in the hassle of the political conventions of that year, particularly

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16. William Allen White, *Autobiography* (New York: The MacMillan Co., 1946), pp. 172-175.

17. *Ibid*, pp. 245, 445-446.

since he was an active and important "Bullmooser," he was able to spend only two weeks there that summer. But those two weeks, he said, "filled the cisterns of my spiritual and physical energy, and I came back to Kansas full of a dozen maturing plans, mostly political."<sup>18</sup>

In the summer of 1913, the Whites added to their holdings in Moraine Park. They built a 14-foot porch on three sides of the main cabin, erected two small bedroom cabins behind the house, and constructed a log cabin 100 feet up the hill behind the house. White retreated to the small cabin to work on his novels and write articles for magazines.<sup>19</sup>

On the front porch of his cabin in Moraine Park the great and the near great sat and discussed world and national affairs. In the summer of 1915 with Europe tearing itself apart in war and the fortunes of Roosevelt's Progressive Party slowly declining, William Jennings Bryan and Clarence Darrow were among those who relaxed in informal conversation surrounded by the splendors of the Rockies and the beauties of Moraine Park.<sup>20</sup>

And White and Republican candidate Charles Evans Hughes sought a quiet place up Fall River in the summer of 1916 to discuss the

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18. Ibid, p. 476.

19. Ibid, p. 500.

20. Ibid, pp. 506-511.

presidential campaign. In the summer of 1920 the Whites gave a tea at their Moraine Park cabin for Jane Addams.<sup>21</sup>

Through the years the Moraine Park summer home was important to White and it played a significant role in his life. Here he carried on many of the activities that established his stature on the American scene, not only as a writer but also as a participant in reform. His summers in Moraine Park--totalling 30 between 1913 and 1943--refreshed him and renewed the well° springs of his spirits--spirits that would be sorely tried and depleted in the continuing struggle against selfish economic interests.

The last photograph of William Allen White was taken in 1943, and it shows him and his wife before the summer cabin's picture window overlooking Moraine Park.<sup>22</sup>

The main cabin, the work cabin, and the two sleeping cabins remain, and the property continues in the ownership of William L. White, the son of William Allen White. The National Park Service contacts White from time to time to see if he is interested in selling the place, but he had not been so inclined. He does indicate, however, that he might want to sell the place in a few

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21. Ibid, pp. 529-530, 592.

22. Ibid, facing p. 371.

years. White has assured the Park Service that when he does get rid of the property the National Park Service will have first chance at it.<sup>23</sup>

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23. Tract 235, William L. White, in Tract Files, Rocky Mountain National Park.

## CHAPTER VI

### Fall River Road and West of the Continental Divide

At the time of the establishment of the park only trails crossed the Continental Divide from the east side of the park to the west. Almost from the day of establishment park officials envisioned extending Fall River Road, which ran for about two miles into the park, to connect with the recently completed Grand County Road that penetrated less than two miles into the park's western boundary.<sup>1</sup> Indeed as early as 1913 the Larimer County commissioners reached an agreement with the State Highway Department to build a road along the Fall River to connect Estes Park and Grand Lake. By 1915, the year of the park's establishment, the road reached the vicinity of Chasm Falls. Work on the road had been accomplished with convict labor, and living quarters for these workers took the form of tents and log cabins. Today a few logs remain from these cabins to mark the site of the work camp.<sup>2</sup>

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1. Lloyd Keith Musselman, "Rocky Mountain National Park, 1915-1965; An Administrative History," Ph. D. dissertation, University of Denver, March 1969, p. 112.

2. D. Ferrel Atkins, "The Fall River Road" and "Convict Cabins," both in "Historic Structures and Sites of Rocky Mountains National Park," typescript in Library of Rocky Mountain National Park; *The Old Fall River Road* (Rocky Mountain Nature Assn., n. d.), p. 1.

Even during its building the Fall River Road was a popular drive, so popular that the local tourist newspaper had to carry an article asking those who travelled the road to refrain from asking questions of the convicts because it held them up from their labor. Tourists could direct their queries to two supervisors on the scene.<sup>3</sup> The convicts, undoubtedly, didn't mind the questions, but the local businessmen probably were anxious that another tourist attraction be completed as rapidly as possible.

During the next five years, under contract labor, work progressed fitfully on the road across the Continental Divide. In 1918 the park and the State agreed the road should go by way of Fall River Pass, and in September 1920 there was a road from Estes Park to Grand Lake.

This road was largely replaced by the Trail Ridge Road which was finished in 1932. Over the next twenty years the road deteriorated, and in 1953 the Park Service converted it to a trail. Closed by a rock slide in 1963, the dirt road received extensive repairs,

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3. *The Estes Park Trail*, v. III, no. 9 (Aug. 15, 1914).

and in July 1968 the Old Fall River Road was once again opened to automobile traffic.<sup>4</sup>

One of the eyesores on the Fall River Road that the Park Service tried for years to do away with was the cabin of Miner Bill. His real name was Bill Currence, and in the 1920s he prospected in the Fall River Canyon. "He only had squatters rights," reported Jack Moomaw, a retired park ranger, "but he defied the National Park Service and got away with it till he died." Moomaw described Miner Bill's place:

His log hut was set against the base of the mountain, and was half dugout and half cabin. There was an almost-level front yard of several hundred square feet, which he had cleared of all but a few trees, and enclosed with an old fashioned log fence. In this yard he later built a guest house. The architecture of this structure was unique. I don't think that Bill knew it, but it resembled the log dwellings that have been made by primitive men back through the ages.<sup>5</sup>

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4. Atkins, "The Fall River Road"; Musselman, "Rocky Mountain National Park, 1915-1965," pp. 117-118. In 1924, the National Park Service erected a stone building, known as Timberline Road Camp, just east of Fall River Pass to provide shelter for road repair crews that might get caught in a "freak" late snow storm. It is now used on occasion as a ranger patrol cabin. See Musselman, p. 124, and *The Old Fall River Road*, p. 12.

5. Jack C. Moomaw, *Recollections of a Rocky Mountain Ranger* (Longmont, Colo.: Times-Call Publishing Co., c.1963), p. 127.

All evidence of his cabin has disappeared, and standing on the site today one has difficulty imagining what it must have looked like when Miner Bill lived there.

There were several tourist facilities in use on the west side of the park. One of the best known was Squeaky Bob's place, called Camp Wheeler by some and Hotel de Hardscrabble by the owner, Robert L. Wheeler.

Wheeler, or Squeaky Bob as he was better known because of a high-pitched voice that reportedly came about as the result of a throat infection in his youth, came to the Grand Lake country, according to that area's historian, in 1885. He settled for a time in the vicinity of Lulu, and then departed for North Park where he remained until 1902 when he returned to the Grand Lake area. Five years later he homesteaded 160 acres on the North Fork of the Colorado and started Camp Wheeler.<sup>6</sup>

Another biographer has Wheeler homesteading the west end of Milner Pass. After proving up the land he departed. During the Spanish-American War he served in the army, stationed in

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6. Mary L. Cairns, *Grand Lake: The Pioneers* (Denver: World Press, 1946), pp. 157-159; Mary L. Cairns, *The Olden Days* (Denver: World Press, 1954), p. 119; Robert C. Black, III, *Island in the Rockies: The History of Grand County Colorado to 1930* (Boulder: Grand County Pioneer Society, c1969), p. 337.

Florida. He returned to the area in 1900 and homesteaded in Phantom Valley.<sup>7</sup>

Whatever his previous career, the fact remains that around 1908 he began, on a modest scale, a summer resort. He had only four tents to start his first season, but his place quickly caught on and by the end of the year he had added 20 tents. In time he built cabins and his resort grew in popularity, despite the fact that access was by only horseback or wagon over a rough road. He achieved a reputation as an immaculate housekeeper and an excellent cook. These factors plus his geniality and fund of stories and jokes were the ingredients that contributed to the success of Camp Wheeler and made it the best known hostelry in the Grand Lake region. The famous and the ordinary stayed at Squeaky Bob's. The well known included Theodore Roosevelt, Charles Evans Hughes, Otis Skinner, Stephen T. Mather, and Albert B. Fall.

Wheeler married in 1924, and two years later he developed a heart condition that forced him to seek the lower altitude of Denver. He died there in 1945 at the age of 80.

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7. Mr. and Mrs. James Rose Harvey, "'Squeaky' Bob Wheeler's Hunting and Ranch Life in the North Park Country," *The Colorado Magazine*, v. XXIV, No. 4 (July 1947), pp. 153-154.

When he departed the North Fork of the Colorado River, he sold his resort, and for some years it was operated as the Phantom Valley Ranch. In 1929 it was listed as a dude ranch that could accommodate 50 guests.<sup>8</sup>

The other place to achieve fame was the Harbison Ranch, run by two sisters. The two, Annie and Kitty, were born in Nebraska respectively in 1868 and 1872. They came to the Grand Lake area in the summer of 1896. Before they departed Denver, however, they filed on adjoining homestead tracts. When they arrived at their land they cleared the meadow and fenced it for a cattle pasture.

In the first year they built a cabin on Annie's land, and the following year they built another one nearby on Kitty's land. And in 1898 they erected a large cabin, containing two bedrooms and a living room, that straddled their property line. One witness reported the sisters used Annie's cabin as the kitchen and Kitty's cabin for sleeping.

The girls eased into the resort business by working at first at the Kauffman House in Grand Lake and then leasing it in 1898.

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8. Harvey, "'Squeaky' Bob Wheeler's Hunting and Ranch Life in the North Park Country," pp. 154-156; Cairns, *Grand Lake*, pp. 157-161; Cairns, *The Olden Days*, pp. 119-120; Black, *Island in the Rockies*, p. 337; *Rocky Mountain National Park Colorado*, p. 46.

At the same time the girls began a dairy at the ranch. Their herd soon grew from several to 30 or 40 head. The girls did all the work at the dairy, including milking, and relied upon a younger brother to deliver the milk to their customers.

In 1905 the industrious Harbison girls began to take in tourists at their ranch. They added cabins and could accommodate about 12 tourists. Also about this time they began serving Sunday dinners. These dinners became famous both for the quality and quantity of the food.

On November 8, 1938, Kitty died of pneumonia, and five days later Annie died. Both were buried on November 14. A few months before they died the girls sold to the National Park Service a right of way and a small parcel of land. To obtain the land the Service had to use an intermediary since the sisters did not trust the Service's representatives whom they considered "city slickers." Later the National Park Service purchased from the girls' heir two parcels of the Harbison land, acquiring 226 acres in 1940 and 130 acres in 1952.<sup>9</sup>

Today the three cabins, all in very dilapidated condition, still stand. They are behind the park's Grand Lake maintenance area and are used to store signs and other paraphenalia.

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9. The above is based on D. Ferrel Atkins, "The Harbison Ranch," in "Historic Structures and Sites of Rocky Mountain National Park," typescript in Library of Rocky Mountain National Park.

In addition to these two, there was a more conventional lodge in the form of Grand Lake Lodge, located near Grand Lake about a mile north of the park boundary on Tonahutu Creek. The lodge by 1929 could accommodate 280 guests.<sup>10</sup>

Two projects were undertaken on the west side of the mountains to equalize nature. The western slope of Colorado is mountainous and has water--more than the farms of that region need--while the eastern side is prairie with rich soil and inadequate water. One of the first major efforts to get water from the west to the east side of the Rockies occurred in 1890 when a group known as the Larimer County Ditch Co. began the Lake Chambers project. This project was to divert water from the headwaters of the Laramie River to the prairie farms to the east. In 1892 the Water Supply and Storage Company succeeded to control of the project, but it wasn't until six years later that water was diverted in any appreciable amount.

Later the Grand Ditch, which carried water from the headwaters of the Colorado River to Long Draw Reservoir, was dug out. Chinese, Japanese, and Mexican laborers, working at an elevation of 10,000 feet or more and using mostly picks, shovels, wheelbarrows, and

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10. *Rocky Mountain National Park Colorado*, p. 46.

copious quantities of black powder, hewed the ditch out of the mountainside. By 1908 the ditch reached Dutch Creek. Additional extensions moved it to Lost Creek in 1934, and to Baker Gulch, its present head, in 1937. A 38-mile long distribution canal from Long Draw Reservoir brings the water to the prairie farmers. From the head of Grand Ditch to the most easterly farm is 75 miles as the proverbial crow flies.

The ditch was not originally in the park, but a boundary extension in 1930 took in all but three miles of the Grand River Ditch.<sup>11</sup> Taken in, too, was the site of the Ditch Camp where the workmen lived and stored their materials during the construction phase. Remains of the camp are visible today.

South of the Grand Ditch was a more ambitious and, perhaps, more difficult water diversion project. Although the idea had long been thought feasible to divert water from the headwaters of the Colorado River in the vicinity of Grand Lake through a tunnel beneath the Continental Divide to a point near Estes Park, legislation for such a project did not appear in Congress until 1936, and then as an amendment to the Interior appropriation bill.

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11. George J. Bancroft, "Diversion of Water from the Western Slope," *The Colorado Magazine*, v. XXI, no. 5 (Sept. 1944), pp. 178-179; "Resume of the Small Reclamation Project Application Report for the Long Draw Reservoir Enlargement Project of the Water Supply and Storage Company, Fort Collins, Colorado," in Water Rights file, Rocky Mountain National Park.

The amendment provided for the tunnel to empty water into the Big Thompson River where it would flow on to the South Platte River and be available to the farms of the valley.

Resistance to the project came from conservationists who felt the tunnel--specifically the debris from it--would damage the scenic values of the park and the towns of Grand Lake and Estes Park. Moreover, the taking of water, they contended, would cause a great fluctuation in the level of Grand Lake, leaving an unsightly waterline mark around the lake.

The legislation failed to pass, but it was reintroduced the following year and this time it received the approval of Congress.<sup>12</sup>

Work on the 13-mile tunnel under the park began in the summer of 1940 with workers digging from both ends. The tunnel was dedicated and put into service on June 23, 1947. Today several power plants take advantage of the flow of water to generate electricity. Lines run from these plants through the tunnel to power the machines that pump the water. Canals from the east portal distribute water to the Big Thompson by which it is carried to the farms of the South Platte Valley.

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12. Musselman, "Rocky Mountain National Park, 1915-1965," pp. 159-174; Donald Barnard Cole, "Transmountain Water Diversion in Colorado," *The Colorado Magazine*, no. 2 (March 1948), pp. 61-62.

To maintain the level of Grand Lake, and thus protect its beauty, the Bureau of Reclamation built Shadow Mountain Lake on the same level with Grand Lake. Water is siphoned from these two lakes to the tunnel. Below them is Lake Granby and when needed water is pumped from there to the two smaller lakes.<sup>13</sup>

All of these activities, as varied as they are, cannot hold a candle, as far as interest is concerned, to gold mining on the nether side of the mountain.

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13. Musselman, "Rocky Mountain National Park, 1915-1965," p. 175; Cole, "Transmountain Water Diversion in Colorado," pp. 61-65; Harold M. Dunning, *Over Hill and Vale* (Boulder: Johnson Publishing Co., c1956), v. I, pp. 193-196.

## CHAPTER VII

### Gold Mining and Ghost Towns

In the early 1880s there was a bustling of activity on the headwaters of the Colorado River below Specimen Mountain as miners searched for gold and silver lodes and dreamed of striking the big one.

How it all began is not perfectly clear, but the evidence indicates that J. E. Shipler prospected the area as early as 1873 and by 1880 he, or so he said, had located seventeen lodes in the Lead Mountain Mining District between Michigan and Jack Creeks. In 1878 or 1879 Benjamin Burnett of Fort Collins heard of a silver strike Shipler had made in the vicinity of what became Lulu City, and dispatched an old prospector friend, John Rigdon, to look the area over for precious metals. Rigdon found a good vein, and when he had the ore assayed, Burnett decided he would visit the site and look it over. Burnett was pleased with what he saw, and, according to his son who was with him at the time, began to lay out a town that he named Lulu City.<sup>1</sup>

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1. J. S. Pesky, *Homes In and Near the Rocky Mountains* (Fort Collins: Courier Publishing Co., 1880), p. 17; Frank Jones Burnett, *Golden Memories of Colorado* (New York: Vantage Press, c1965), p. 155.

About this same time William B. Baker and J. E. Howard reportedly established a ranch at Lulu City and built a cabin there.

Although several people figure prominently in the history of Lulu City, the prime mover appears to be Burnett. The town Burnett laid out had 19 streets crossed by four avenues. The streets were named by their numbers (First, Second, etc.), and the avenues were designated Ward, Mountain, Riverside, and Trout. The town, which had 100 blocks with 16 lots per block, was named by Burnett for his daughter.<sup>2</sup>

The town grew rapidly. By the beginning of the 1880 season there were four cabins and a blacksmith shop in Lulu. In July a reporter stated that Lulu City was bustling with lots selling for \$20 to \$50 each, and the town had about 20 dwellings and a number of businesses, including a butcher shop (run by Burnett Bros.), a real estate agency and mining exchange (H. F. Sturdevant), a general store (Stots, Houston, and Ramer), and a hotel. A sawmill was on the way, and a number of other dwellings were under construction.<sup>3</sup> A post office came into being in 1880, and D. M. Harris

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2. J. S. Pesky, *Colorado, Larimer County, 1880, Homes and Mines* (Ft. Collins: Courier Publishing Co., 1880), p. 19; Burnett, *Golden Memories of Colorado*, pp. 155-156; Dunning, *Over Hill and Vale*, p. 175; Cairns, *Grand Lake*, p. 167.

3. *Rocky Mountain News*, July 10, 15, 1880; Pesky, *Homes In and Near the Rocky Mountains*, p. 21.

received his appointment as postmaster at least by August of that year.<sup>4</sup>

Lulu in 1880 was booming. In addition to the construction activity, a road was opened to Lulu about the middle of August. The news of the strikes on the headwaters of the Colorado River drew miners from North Park and by July a reported 200 miners were busily staking out claims in the hills around Lulu City. By September they were very active and noisy. One correspondent said at the time, "Blasts can be heard at any hour of the day from mines in hearing of Lulu."<sup>5</sup>

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4. *Rocky Mountain News*, August 12, 1880; Black, *Island in the Rockies*, p. 154.

5. *Georgetown Colorado Miner*, July 17, July 31, Sept. 18, 1880. Newspaper accounts are frustratingly vague on the building of roads to Lulu. They indicate that a road to Livermore was completed in 1880. Indeed, the July 31 *Colorado Miner* stated, "A wagon road will soon be open from Livermore, in Larimer county, to Lulu City." There are fairly strong indications that at the same time there was a road from Grand Lake to Lulu, although a newspaper report in September 1880 said that a road had been authorized from Lulu City to Grand Lake, thus indicating none was there at that time. That some line of communication existed cannot be doubted, since there was twice-a-week mail delivery from Grand Lake to Lulu in 1880, and daily delivery from Grand Lake to Lulu in 1881. See *Rocky Mountain News*, August 12, 1880, *Georgetown Colorado Miner*, September 18, 1880, and the well researched Black, *Island in the Rockies*, p. 167. In 1881 S. B. Stewart built a toll road from Fort Collins to Lulu City. See *Rocky Mountain News*, July 15, 1880, and April 21, 1881, and *Georgetown Colorado Miner*, May 21, 1881.

During the first winter, that of 1879-80, only ten or twelve miners remained at Lulu to carry on their activities, and these men had their problems, not the least of which was running out of food in February and having to snowshoe over the mountain to Estes Park. The following winter men remained behind, but this time roads had been laid out and the miners made arrangements to have food sledded into Lulu.<sup>6</sup>

The new season opened in the spring of 1881 with high hopes and the smell of riches in the air. Prospectors roamed the hills around Lulu and dug holes in the mountain sides. They gave their mines such names as Wild Rose, Rustic, Friday Night, Reindeer, Tiger, Bonanza, and Pioneer. One of the most promising was the Southern Cross owned by Ben Dunshe. It received considerable publicity from the local reporter of the *Colorado Miner*, and the *Rocky Mountain News* carried a story that a new type of ore was found at that mine. A miner, the story went, held an ore-bearing rock over a campfire and the silver melted out.<sup>7</sup>

Lulu kept pace of the increased mining activity. Lots sold rapidly and by the end of the year, according to one reporter, the

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6. *Rocky Mountain News*, July 15, 1880; *Georgetown Colorado Miner*, February 12, 1881.

7. *Georgetown Colorado Miner*, May 21, 1881; *Rocky Mountain News*, May 27, 1881.

town had about 40 houses. Additional businesses began operation. E. J. Buxton opened a store that carried groceries and "a full stock of liquors, cigars and tobacco." Parker and Godsmark opened a hotel and restaurant. Two sawmills buzzed frantically night and day, trying to keep up with the building demand. By July Lulu City had an assay office run by W. E. Blankensto, and a clothing store operated by B. F. Burnett. Gleason and Myers were getting a barber shop ready, and Snell and Larosh were laying plans to open a grocery and hardware store. Three stages a week ran to Lulu from Fort Collins and three from Grand Lake.<sup>8</sup>

During the latter part of August, one of the mine owners reported that 75 miners were working the mines at Lulu. Sales of mines were taking place sporadically, and two prospectors sold their mine to "eastern interests" for \$30,000, thus striking the real bonanza at Lulu.<sup>9</sup>

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8. *Rocky Mountain News*, June 10, July 15, 1881; *Georgetown Colorado Miner*, June 11, 1881. Godsmark and Parker operated the hotel which was a structure 25 feet wide and 50 feet long. A long tent served as the town's hostelry while the log hotel was being finished. Other structures in Lulu were "nothing out of the ordinary style of a new camp." See *Fort Collins Express*, July 21, 1881. According to Cairns, *Grand Lake: The Pioneers*, p. 168, the hotel's dining room had "fine linen, lovely silverware, and sparkling glassware," and the hotel's kitchen had a cellar under it.

9. *Georgetown Colorado Miner*, August 20, September 17, 1881.

Miners continued to work about ten mines around Lulu during the winter of 1881-82. Snell kept his store open, perhaps because by now he was also the town's postmaster. He celebrated New Year's Day with a huge dinner for his friends "which took in all the people of Lulu."<sup>10</sup>

One of those who worked a mine throughout this winter was the local inn keeper, Godsmark. He and his brother struck the Greensboro lode sometime prior to January, and it held out great promise. By March they were on Sheep Mountain working Battle Creek lode, apparently having sold the Greensboro to Pierce, Sanders & Co. Two months later the two were working the Triumph mine. They continued at this site at least until the end of 1883.<sup>11</sup>

During the main working season of 1881 and the following winter many miners spent their time developing those mines that looked promising. By May of 1882 the Carbonate mine had a 400-foot drift, the Southern Cross had one of 125 feet, the Triumph of 115 feet, and the Greensboro 85 feet.<sup>12</sup>

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10. *Georgetown Colorado Miner*, Dec. 17, 31, 1881, Jan. 14, 1882.

11. *Georgetown Colorado Miner*, Feb. 18, March 25, 1882, Dec. 15, 1883; *Rocky Mountain News*, May 12, 1882.

12. *Rocky Mountain News*, May 12, 1882.

In the spring of 1882 the miners and prospectors began returning to Lulu, and confidence in its future seemed to pervade the place. In April Boyd and Harrington were readying their sawmill to resume operations. Around the first of June the hotel, now known as the Park, opened for the season, moreover, the community received, according to one newspaper reporter, a spurt of building, mostly new businesses. One of those reportedly putting up a store was William Dognay. He planned to carry drugs and hardware. And the Episcopal Society of Fort Collins was contemplating building a church in Lulu.<sup>13</sup>

But confidence did not last long, and Lulu received a severe blow in September when Snell, who was known as the ex-officio mayor of the mining camp, packed up the goods of his general merchandise and miner supply store and moved to Gaskill where he went into business with the Larosh brothers.<sup>14</sup>

Lulu City was on the decline. At least one of the sawmill operators, Hiram Churchill, left Lulu by the end of the year and went into a new business in Gaskill. And during the winter most

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13. *Georgetown Colorado Miner*, April 15, May 6, 1882; *Rocky Mountain News*, June 5, 26, 1882.

14. *Georgetown Colorado Miner*, March 25 and September 16, 1882.

of the miners left--they did not have the necessary capital to work their claims.<sup>15</sup>

The gold and silver deposits were only in pockets, and the ore for the most part was low grade. Although there was talk off and on about bringing a smelter into the area, one never was set up, and the miners had no way of extracting the metal from the ore. In the absence of a smelter the only alternative the mine owner has is to transport the ore to the nearest smelter, but there were no railroads near the Lead Mining District, and wagon transportation was not economically feasible for such low grade ore. Consequently, Lulu City remained an elusive promise without hope of fulfillment.

There was activity at Lulu during 1883, but the feverish pitch of the previous years was gone. In the spring a few of the miners and prospectors began to drift back to the diggings, but their time was spent primarily in assessing their holdings and contemplating their prospects. In August, when Lulu City should have been in full swing, the local reporter, who was the

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15. Georgetown *Colorado Miner*, Jan. 27, 1883.

16. Georgetown *Colorado Miner*, Aug. 11, Sept. 15, Dec. 1, 1883, Sept. 20, 1884; *Rocky Mountain News*, Sept. 20, 1884.

prime promoter of the area, wrote:

Lulu is beginning to liven up some as the old boys get in, and many of them are now at work doing their assessments--showing that much faith in them anyway. It is a great pity that the boys are too poor to develop their mines as they wish to.

Lulu City was sputtering to a halt. By the first of December everyone had left, even the Godsmarks, and Joseph Godsmark began talking of opening a store in Grand Lake. Also in December an announcement was issued that the post office in Lulu had been discontinued.

There was some activity in the Lulu area in 1884, but it was fitful and weak.<sup>16</sup> And Lulu died. The log buildings began the slow process of wearing away to go back into the ground from which they had originally come, and grass and seedlings began to grow in the streets and avenues of the planned town. Today, nature has almost completed its work of obliterating the site, for now only a few logs remain to show where some of the buildings stood and the streets of the town are no longer discernible. Only the rippling of the North Fork of the Colorado or the rustling of leaves in the wind disturbs the silence that once was shattered by the boom of a dynamite blast at a nearby mine site.

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16. *Georgetown Colorado Miner*, Aug. 11, Sept. 15, Dec. 1, 1883, Sept. 20, 1884; *Rocky Mountain News*, Sept. 20, 1884.

But before Lulu died it spawned a community. Known as Dutchtown and located above and west of Lulu beyond the treeline, this community was populated by some seven or eight Germans who settled there around 1883 as exiles from Lulu. One evening when these Germans lived in Lulu, they returned from Grand Lake filled with spirits and a strong desire to assert their superiority. Unfortunately for them, they found the task to be more difficult than the euphoria of alcohol led them to believe. In the ensuing melee a number of Lulu's inhabitants received serious injuries before the Germans were subdued, and the people were infuriated. The remainder of the cool Rocky Mountain night did not reduce the heat of anger, and the next morning the townspeople ordered the Germans to leave and not come back. The malefactors departed and went up Hitchins Gulch down which Big Dutch Creek flows, on past timberline and located a site where they built cabins. They continued their mining and prospecting, despite occasional harassment from some citizens of Lulu. The Dutchmen held on for about a half a year after Lulu City folded.<sup>17</sup>

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17. Cloyd Redburn to Raymond Gregg, Grand Lake, Colorado, June 8, 1940, in file labelled Historical Notes, Rocky Mountain National Park, in the Library of Colorado State Historical Society; Atkins, "Historic Sites and Structures of Rocky Mountain National Park"; Arps and Kingery, *High Country Names*, pp. 56-57.

As the fortunes of Lulu City declined, those of Gaskill, about 10 miles to the south, prospered. Located at the mouth of Bowen Gulch and below Wolverine mine which was situated up the gulch about timberline, Gaskill came into being in August 1880 when Al G. Warner established a liquor store there. His customers were the miners of Bowen and Baker Gulches. By the spring of the following year a post office had been established with John K. Mowrey as postmaster, and Gaskill consisted of a post office, a saloon, and a few storehouses belonging to the Grand Lake Mining and Smelting Company.

Impetus to the growth of the town was given when the mining company spread the word that it was bringing a smelter to the place and its use would be available also to the mines in the vicinity of Lulu. By the end of 1881 the town had added a store and a hotel, the latter apparently started by the town's postmaster. Not long afterwards the two-story hotel was taken over by Horatio and Emma Rogerson who named it the Rogerson House.<sup>18</sup>

In 1882 the town grew further and according to one historian it occupied 60 acres of ground and had 100 inhabitants. New

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18. Georgetown *Colorado Miner*, March 19, December 31, 1881; *Denver Republican*, June 2, 1881; *Rocky Mountain News*, June 10, 1881; Black, *Island in the Rockies*, pp. 152-153; Robert B. Rogerson and Nell Pauly, *The Last of the Rogersons* (Privately printed, 1964).

additions included the Larosh livery service, a general store operated by P. J. Wade, Dewey and Martin's survey office, and Mrs. John Simes' boarding house.

With an eye toward real estate profits, E. P. Weber, head of Grand Lake Mining and Smelting Company, laid out a larger town which embraced Gaskill. He named the town Auburn in honor of mine foreman L. D. C. Gaskill's hometown in New York. The town plat called for eleven numbered avenues and fifteen named streets. Each block, 400' x 270', was to have 32 lots. Also, there was to be one public square equal in size to two city blocks. But the new town did not catch on, and the post office retained the Gaskill name.<sup>19</sup>

In 1883 Gaskill continued to grow as Lulu declined. In January of that year Hiram Churchill opened a new store, and several months later brought his family over from Iowa. The closing in May 1883 of the Wolverine mine, the principal one of the area, seemed to have no immediate effect on the town. Any effect that might have resulted from the closing was undoubtedly mitigated by the fading of Lulu and the increasing reliance on Gaskill for supplies by the miners of that area. By January 1884

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19. Black, *Island in the Rockies*, p. 153.

Gaskill was recognized as the principal source of supplies for those working the mines of the Rabbit Ear range.<sup>20</sup>

Gaskill, reports Grand County's most reliable historian, lasted for six years, probably kept alive by the dwindling corps of miners in the Rabbit Ear range. Some of the old timers remember Gaskill as one of the toughest mining towns in the west, being well endowed with the lawless type.<sup>21</sup>

Today Gaskill is just a site and little but its memory remains to call attention to the fact that people once lived here and hoped, laughed and wept, labored and played, dreamed and bragged, and did the thousands of other things that go to make up daily life. The town grew and eventually died, making no significant contribution to the course of human development. At best it was a way station for people who coalesced for a period of time and then went on to better or worse things.

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20. Georgetown *Colorado Miner*, Jan. 27, May 5, 1883; Jan. 5, 1884.

21. Ibid., p. 153; Notes on the early history of Grand Lake, Colorado, from four pioneers, dated August 9, 1930, in file labelled Historical Notes, Rocky Mountain National Park, in Library of the Colorado State Historical Society. Some of the desperados mentioned as having been there include Joe Allans, George Pops, Patty Burns, Prince Dow, and Lew Dow. None of them seem to have made the all time badmen hall of fame.

Mining activities of the park were almost exclusively on the west side of the continental divide. The literature contains vague references to prospecting on the east side, but the only prospecting site or mine that can be identified is the old Eugenia mine above the present Longs Peak Ranger Station.

Eugenia mine had been discovered in 1905 by Edward A Cudahy and Carl P. Norwall who continued to file on it until 1919. Harold M. Dunning, who has written several books and booklets on the Estes Park region, worked for Enos Mills at Longs Peak Inn and visited the mine on several occasions in 1911 and 1912. He said that Mr. and Mrs. Norwall and their two daughters lived at the site in a well furnished and comfortable home. "The mine," Dunning remembered, "was tunnelled back into Battle Mountain over a thousand feet. Many times we went on excursions to the end of the tunnel. There was a narrow track and cars that went to the end of the tunnel."

How long the claim was active is not known. In 1918 the superintendent of the park found no one there and the mine apparently abandoned. A subsequent inspection of the site by a representative of the General Land Office in 1922 revealed the mine to be obviously abandoned with trees growing in the

road.<sup>22</sup> Today the mine has been caved in at its mouth and there are a few remains of the operation, such as the boiler tank, littered about. The Norwall cabin has all but fallen in completely.

The present evidence indicates the Eugenia mine, like its counterparts on the west side of the divide, promised more than it delivered.

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22. Dunning, *Over Hill and Vale*, pp. 241-242; Atkins, "Eugenia Mine," in "Historic Structures and Sites of Rocky Mountain National Park."

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Colorado</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Larimer</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER:	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Moraine Park Visitor Center**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Moraine Lodge**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Moraine Park, Rocky Mountain National Park**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Estes Park**

STATE: **Colorado**      CODE:      COUNTY: **Larimer**      CODE:

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Federal Government (National Park Service)**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Rocky Mountain National Park**

CITY OR TOWN: **Estes Park**      STATE: **Colorado**      CODE:

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Larimer County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Fort Collins, Colorado**

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The lodge is a two-story log structure.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**4. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	osophy	<u>Recreation</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built about 1922, the building served as a recreation center for the resort known as Moraine Lodge. Dances and other social activities were held here. The building was never used as formal sleeping quarters for guests visiting the resort. This structure is the last building remaining that was associated with the resorts of Moraine Park, for many years the main center of resorts in Rocky Mountain National Park before and after 1915.

The lodge has been converted to a natural history museum by the National Park Service.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

F. R. Holland, Jr., "Rocky Mountain National Park Basic Historical Data."

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40°	21'	20"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		105°	35'	0"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Colorado		Larimer County	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
F. R. Holland, Jr., Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Park Service DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Western Service Center

CITY OR TOWN: San Francisco STATE: California CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Colorado	
COUNTY: Larimer	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Old Fall River Road

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Fall River Road

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Rocky Mountain National Park

CITY OR TOWN:  
Estes Park

STATE: Colorado      CODE:      COUNTY: Larimer      CODE:     

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Nature</u> <u>Auto-road</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Federal Government (National Park Service)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Rocky Mountain National Park

CITY OR TOWN: Estes Park      STATE: Colorado      CODE:     

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Larimer County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Fort Collins, Colorado

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:     

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:     

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This old road was originally laid out across the mountains, following at times along the sides of the mountains with precipitous dropoffs and hairpin turns. It was originally a gravel road. In 1968 the road was restored to its original condition and now serves as a motor nature trail. Part of the road, about the first third of it, has been surfaced.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Begun in 1913, this road was to cross the Rockies, so as to make a loop road permitting autoists to start at Denver, cross the mountains and recross them further south and return to the starting place. It fell into disrepair with the opening of the Trail Ridge Road, which also crossed the mountains. Restored recently as an auto-nature trail, the road today passes a number of scenic attractions in Rocky Mountain National Park.

The road branches off from the newer Trail Ridge Road near Sheep Lakes and follows the Fall River past Chasm Falls, through Chapin Pass, on to Fall River Pass.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

F. R. Holland, Jr., "Rocky Mountain National Park Basic Historical Data."  
 D. Ferrel Atkins, *The Old Fall River Road Motor Nature Trail*  
 (Rocky Mountain Nature Assn., n.d.)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	40° 24' 43"	105° 37' 25"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	40° 24' 05"	105° 37' 40"				
SE	40° 26' 48"	105° 45' 02"				
SW	40° 26' 12"	105° 45' 06"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Colorado		Larimer	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 F. R. Holland, Jr., Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Park Service DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Western Service Center

CITY OR TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

APPENDIX

Names of Reputed Mines in the Lulu City--Gaskill Area

OWNER	NAME OF MINE	LOCATION	SOURCE
Burnett, Burgess, and Illinois capitalists	Lulu Crystal Silver Star	"At Lulu City and on or near Lead Mountain."	<i>Pesky, Colorado, Larimer County, 1888 Homes and Mines, p. 19, 21</i>
Burnett, Patton, Burgess, and Jewett	Fair Play Reindeer Pioneer Galena Mountain Gorge Rocky Falls Snow Flake Bonanza No. 1 Bonanza No. 2 Eureka Baker	Same as above.	Same as above.
M. V. Gillette and Co.	Carbonate		Same as above, p. 21
	Toponas	Near Wolverine mine	
Stuart & Co.	Rustic		
Grand Lake Mining and Smelting Co.	Wolverine	Up Bowen Gulch about timberline	
Ben Dunshee	Southern Cross		<i>Colorado Miner, March 19, 1881</i>
	Hidden Treasure	Baker Gulch	Notes on Grand Lake from four pioneers, Aug. 9, 1930, CSHS
Coan, Shipler & Co.	Tiger Eureka	Shipler Mt.	<i>Colorado Miner, Sept. 18, 1880</i>

OWNER	NAME OF MINE	LOCATION	SOURCE
Henderson & Co.	The Bonanza Raindeer (sic)		<i>Rocky Mt. News,</i> July 15, 1880
Sturdevani, Baker & Co.	Pioneer		
Lierstead & Egbert	Wild Rose Ella		<i>Colorado Miner,</i> May 21, 1881
Dunshee & Smith	Robinson Mine		Same as above
	Friday Night		Same as above
	Last Chance	Shipler Mt.	Fort Collins <i>Express,</i> July 21, 1881
George Golden & Co. President	Shipler Mt.		<i>Colorado Miner,</i> Dec. 17, 1881
	Park		<i>Colorado Miner,</i> Jan. 14, 1882
Godsmark & Bro.	Greensboro		<i>Colorado Miner,</i> Feb. 18, 1882
Same	Battle Creek		<i>Colorado Miner,</i> March 25, 1882
Same	Triumph		<i>Rocky Mt. News,</i> May 12, 1882
Gillette & Co. Same	Eureka Silver Heels		<i>Colorado Miner,</i> Dec. 15, 1883
Garden City Co. of Chicago	Garden City		Same as above
A. F. Howes & Co.	Georgiana		Same as above
Vasler, Keys & Co.	The Rattler		Same as above
	Grand View		<i>Rocky Mt. News,</i> June 26, 1882

OWNER

NAME OF MINE

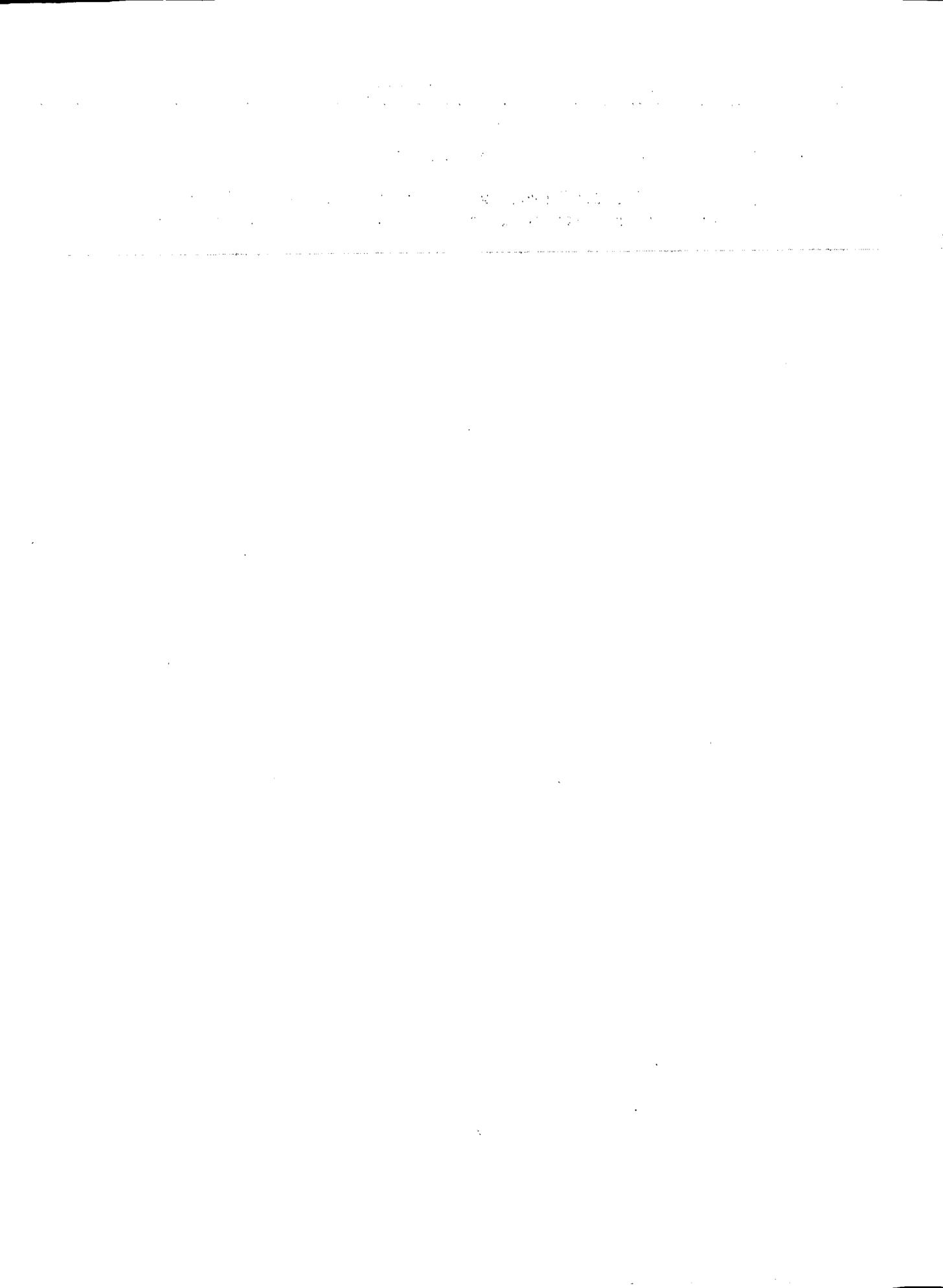
LOCATION

SOURCE

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The mines of Lulu City were included in the Lead Mountain Mining District.

The repetition of names under different owners probably reflects changes in ownership and an imperfect understanding of who owned what by the recorders.



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#### Newspapers

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*Estes Park Trail*

*Rocky Mountain News*

*Fort Collins Express*

*Georgetown Colorado Miner*

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ILLUSTRATIONS

Illustration No. 1--Map of general vicinity of  
Rocky Mountain National Park in 1913. From  
historical files of Colorado State Historical  
Society

ROAD AND TRAIL  
MAP  
OF  
ESTES PARK AND VICINITY  
COLORADO

Copyright 1913 by F.P. Clatworthy, Estes Park  
Drawn by Dean Dakcock

— Main Roads (Automobile roads)  
 - - - - Private or Secondary Roads      - - - - Trails  
 ▲ Mountain summits    ■ Hotels, Resorts, Ranches, etc.  
 Numbers denote Altitudes, in feet, according to  
 Government surveys.      Scale 1/2 inch = 1 mile

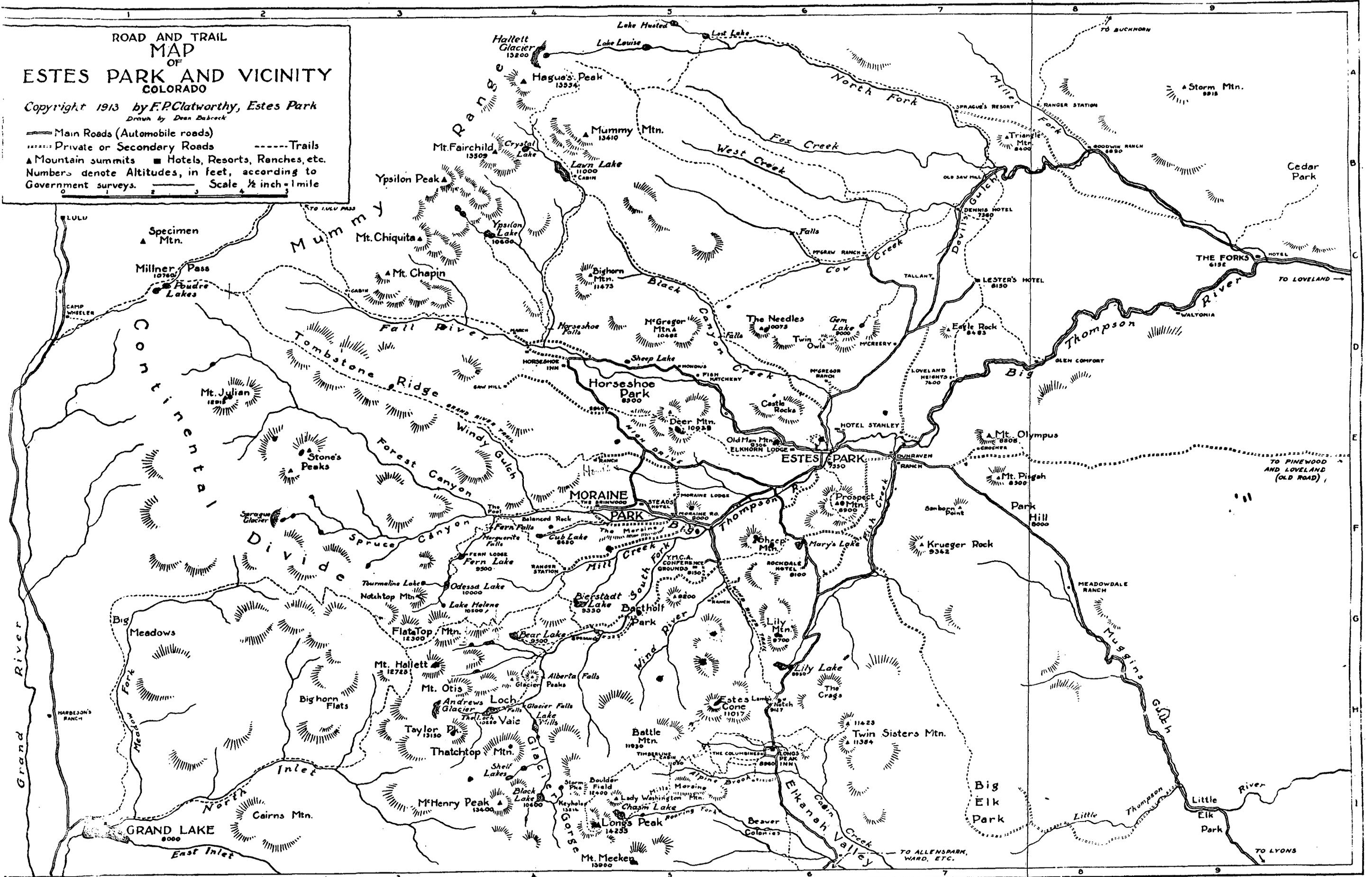


Illustration No. 2--Haying in Moraine Park  
in the 1890s. From photo collection of  
R.M.N.P.



Illustration No. 3--Harbison Ranch, c1910.  
From photo collection in R.M.N.P. Left  
insert shows the Kitty Harbison homestead  
cabin today. Right insert shows the big  
cabin today.



Illustration No. 4--The Annie Harbison homestead cabin, Harbison Ranch, Jan. 10, 1960. From photo collection in R.M.N.P. Insert shows the cabin today.



Illustration No. 5--Rear view of Annie Harbison  
homestead cabin, 1964. From photo collection  
in R.M.N.P.



Illustration No. 6--Deserted Lulu City, July 28, 1889.  
Photo from Denver Public Library western collection.



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Illustration No. 7--Three views of Lulu City today.



Illustration No. 8--Shipler Cabins in 1938. Insert  
shows Shipler cabins as they appear today.

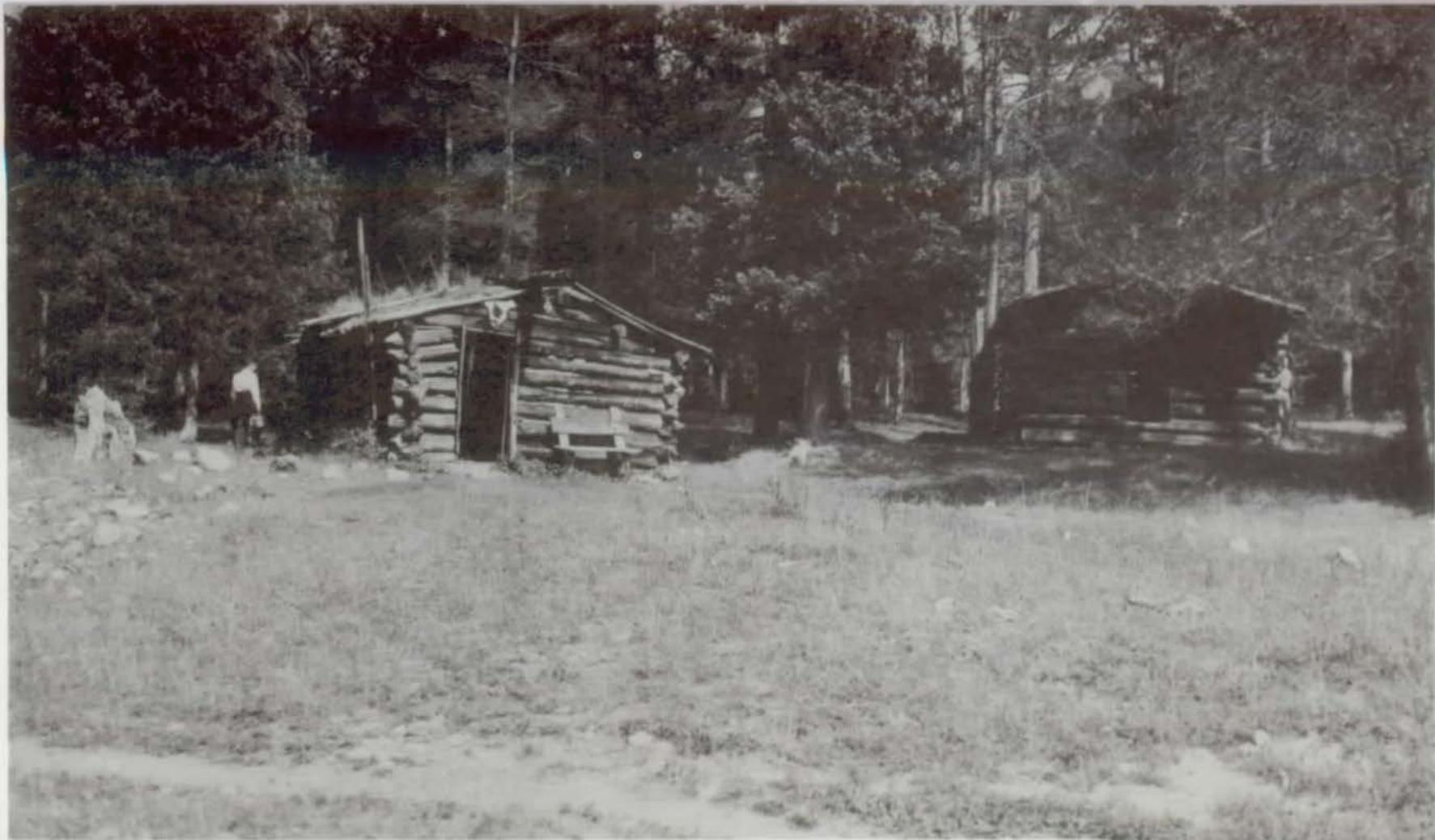


Illustration No. 9--Remains of Norwal cabin at Eugenia Mine today. Many have carved their initials on the interior and exterior walls of the cabin. Note the fire ring which permits the user to take advantage of the logs of the deteriorating cabin.



Illustration No. 10--Upper view shows remains of boiler and boiler shed at Eugenia mine. Lower picture is of the Eugenia mine which has been, for visitor safety, caved in by the National Park Service. The mine is a steep climb of about 100 yards above the boiler site.



Illustration No. 11--Six-horse stage at Sprague's resort  
in Moraine Park. R.M.N.P. photo collection.



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Illustration No. 12--First Sprague Hotel in Moraine Park.  
From W. T. Parke Collection, R.M.N.P.



Illustration No. 13--Main building of Sprague's Hotel,  
October 23, 1924. From photo collection in R.M.N.P.



Illustration No. 14--Tent cabins in Moraine Park, perhaps  
at Stead's Ranch, c1920. From W. T. Parke Collection, R.M.N.P.



Illustration No. 15--Stead's Ranch, Moraine Park,  
c1920. From W. T. Parke Collection, R.M.N.P.



Illustration No. 16--Interior of Stead's Ranch in Moraine  
Park, c1915. From W. T. Parke Collection in R.M.N.P.



Illustration No. 17--Longs Peak with Longs Peak  
in the background. From W. T. Parke Collection  
in R.M.N.P.



Illustration No. 18--Interior of lodge in vicinity of  
Rocky Mountain National Park. From photo collection  
of R.M.N.P.



Illustration No. 19--F. H. Cheley's Bear Lake Trail School  
camp at Bear Lake sometime prior to 1915. From W. T. Parke  
Collection, R.M.N.P.



Illustration No. 20--Fern Lake Lodge, c1920. From  
W. T. Parke Collection in R.M.N.P. Right insert shows  
front view of Fern Lake Lodge today. Left insert shows  
rear view of the lodge today.



Illustration No. 21--Fern Lake Lodge, c1915. From W. T. Parke  
Collection in R.M.N.P. Insert shows Fern Lake Lodge today.



Illustration No. 22--Moraine Lodge, Moraine Park, c1932.  
From R.M.N.P. photo collection. Insert shows Moraine  
Lodge in use today as a visitor center.



Illustration No. 23--Mr. and Mrs. William Allen White in  
their Moraine Park home, 1943. From William Allen White,  
*Autobiography*.



Illustration No. 24--William Allen White study today. The views are of the front, a side, and a close-up of exterior deterioration of bathroom extension. This study is just up the hillside from the White cabin.



Illustration No. 25--Two views today of front of William Allen White cabin in Moraine Park, and one of the sleeping cabins White built behind the main cabin. All three structures are basically of board and batten construction, and all are now in need of rehabilitation.



Illustration No. 26--Constructing Fall River Road,  
c1915. From W. T. Parke Collection, Rocky Mountain  
National Park.



Illustration No. 27--Construction Camp on Fall River  
Road, probably at site of convict cabins, c1915.  
From W. T. Parke Collection, R.M.N.P.



Illustration No. 28--Construction camp on Fall River  
Road, c1915. Cabins that were apparently used to  
house convicts during early days of construction.  
From W. T. Parke Collection, R.M.N.P.



Illustration No. 29--Fall River Road, c1920, with  
Horseshoe Park in background. From W. T. Parke  
Collection, R.M.N.P.



Illustration No. 30--Fall River Road, c1920. From  
W. T. Parke Collection, R.M.N.P.



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Illustration No. 31--Convict cabin on Fall River Road,  
1940. Insert shows cabin today.



Illustration No. 32--Two views of the Old Fall River Road today, and one of Timberline cabin near the summit of the old road.



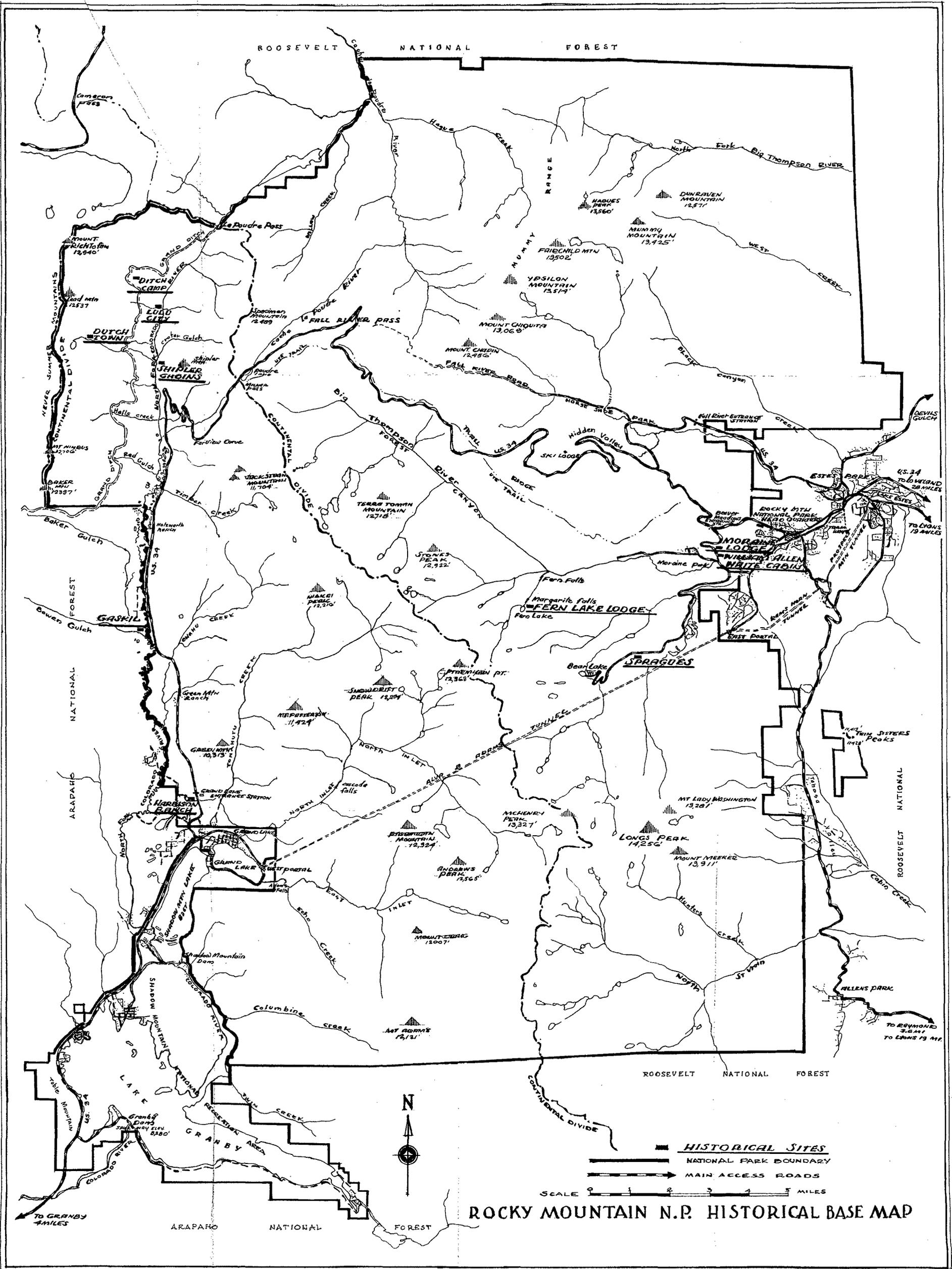
Illustration No. 33--Fall River Entrance Station,  
Rocky Mountain National Park, c1920. From W. T.  
Parke Collection, R.M.N.P.



Illustration No. 34--Dedication of Rocky Mountain National Park, September 4, 1915. From left to right in foreground: Robert Sterling Yore, Enos Mills, F. O. Stanley, Congressman Ed Taylor, Mrs. John Sherman, Governor George Carlson. From photo collection in R.M.N.P.







ROCKY MOUNTAIN N.P. HISTORICAL BASE MAP

