

A Brief History of the Bailey Country Store by Pat Mauro

The Bailey Country Store as it has been known for approximately 30 years, has been in existence for 128 years!

Edward and Blanche McGraw came to the town of Bailey in 1878. At that time, William Bailey was planning on moving out to California, disgusted with the arrival of the Denver South Park and Pacific Railroad, now running right through his ranch (The present day Farmers Union) !

William Morrow. William and Blanche were married in 1888. Morrow Mountain across from McGraw Park is named after William. William died in 1892 from a suspected suicide.

Blanche once again was back to running the store and the cabins she rented out by herself. A very successful lady in her enterprises within Bailey, Blanche had an addition added to her false fronted store on Main St.! This more than doubled her space in the store. She had this done in approximately 1900. This added a second story to the building, which



Ed and Blanche worked a deal with William, and ended up with the land that's now the present day town of Bailey. They built the first section of the store in 1878. This is the section with the two windows above the door of the store. Ed passed on in 1880, losing a fight to tuberculosis. Blanche carried on with her two babies (Alanson and Edna) and, in 1885, met

has seen numerous uses throughout its history, including a theater, hotel, and apartments. The store also served as the Bailey Post Office for many years. Blanche continued running the store, until her death in 1918.

In the 1920's, the Ku Klux Klan burned a cross in front of the store, and a posse was called in to quell the

riotous crowd. Blanche's children continued running the store, now named the Morrow Store Co., until the early 1940's, when they sold the building to the Burgess family. Burgess renamed the store Burgess Mercantile. The store had always sold hardware, dry goods, sporting goods, hay and grain, auto supplies, boots and shoes, and film throughout the years. Burgess started selling off inventory for some of these items, and that is how Moore Lumber and The Knotty Pine started selling hardware, dry goods, sporting goods, etc. Burgess ran the store until 1957, when he sold the store to Howard and Freda Mason. Howard and Freda renamed the store 'Mason Mercantile' which it was called until 1975, when it was leased to Jerry Agee.

Jerry changed the name of the store to the present day 'Bailey Country Store'. In 1985, Glenn Raymond bought the store from the Masons. Glenn came up with the Santa Maria roast recipe, which is an original from the store. Glenn ran the store until 2002 when he sold it to Lewis and Julie Hemion. Lewis repainted the store to it's present décor, including the new log counter fixtures at the checkout. In 2005, Eric and Barbara Keto bought the store from Lewis. Eric removed the shutters from the windows, opening up the view people saw in the earlier days of the store! He is constantly improving the store, in many aspects. Many nice items, only found in Bailey have been added. So, let's hope for many more great years for the Bailey Country Store! A staple to our community, and the forefathers/ mothers of our Town!