

# COLORADO FARMERS & RANCHERS – MARKET & SUPPLY TOWNS

## Businesses

What do these photos tell you about the kind of businesses that were in these towns?

### A Greeley Lumber Yard (1870's)

This is a photo of the W. F. Thompson lumber store in Greeley. The photo was taken in the 1870s, when the town was less than 10 years old.



*Greeley lumberyard*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

**More About This Topic**

The rural areas of Colorado had towns as well as farms and ranches. The towns supplied the farmers and ranchers with goods that they needed. They bought most of their supplies at the general store. However, larger towns like Greeley also had specialty stores such as Thompson's lumber store. Saturday afternoons were a popular shopping time.

### **Their Own Words**

"In September, 1885, I came to Akron, Colorado. The town had been laid out by the Lincoln Land Company, which was connected with the Burlington Railroad, but there were no houses built as yet. The first building put up in the town was a structure about 16 by 24 feet . . . the Yeaman brothers . . . rented it and started a hardware store in the fall of 1885. The next building . . . became a general merchandise store. The Hallack-Howard Lumber Company of Denver was about the next concern to establish a business here. . . ."

"A post office was established in about December, 1884, and was located in the railroad depot. . . . The growth of the town was rapid in 1886-88. Those were wet years, everything looked promising, and everyone was hopeful."

*Source: Millard Fillmore Vance, "Pioneering at Akron, Colorado," Colorado Magazine, 8 (September 1931): 175.*

### **Forks General Store**

The Forks General Store was located in Larimer County. The sign above the door states the Post Office also was located in this building.



*Forks General Store in Larimer County*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Every farm community had at least one general store. General stores sold all kinds of goods. This general store served farmers and ranchers in Larimer County. It sold hay and grain as well as food and other items.

### **Their Own Words**

“The shopping trips to Orchard—four miles away from our second house—were events of important and an interesting break in the everyday routine of the farm. . . . The clapping of the shot feet of the horses and the iron rims of the wheels made a kind of music, . . . and on up the wide, dusty street to the hitching bars before the Eli Etchison store. . . . We clambered out of the buggy to climb upon the covered porch, which ran the length of the store front and hid the great, high, false front that rose above the porch and announced the general store even at a distance. . . . When we entered the store . . . now began our slow inspection of everything in the store.”

“We went slowly from one counter to another admiring, commenting, and hugely enjoying ourselves. Meanwhile our parents were talking prices and quality of the staples that must be secured at the store

since they were not produced on the farm. Sugar came in hundred-pound sacks as did the flour, which was always brought several sacks at a time. . . . Rice was bought in bulk and eaten with sugar and milk. . . . The dry goods shelves were special pleasure—all those charming calico patterns. . . . Last of all the kerosene for the lamp was bought. One of us was sent running back to the buggy to bring in the ‘oil can,’ and we watched it being carefully filled with this precious fluid.”

*Source: Clara H. Ehrlich, “My Childhood on the Prairie,” Colorado Magazine, 51 (Spring 1974): 137, 138, 139.*

## Bank Building In Elizabeth

This photo was taken in Elizabeth, Colorado, a town in Elbert County. It shows three of the buildings on the town’s main street.



*Bank in Elizabeth, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### More About This Topic

Most towns had specialty stores and businesses as well as a general store. The buildings in this photo include a bank and real estate office (right) and a furniture store (left). The building in the center may have been a hotel.

## **Their Own Words**

"For some time plans have been formulating for the purchase of the stock, fixtures, business and good will of the Bank of Akron, and this week the deal was [completed] whereby the old bank will be changed from a state or private bank to a national bank. . . . 'In union is strength' . . . and for this reason a company of leading business men and ranchmen of Akron and Washington county organized and took over the old property and will infuse new life into it and make it a helpful medium for the advancement of our town and county."

"The history of the old bank dates back nearly 25 years when in 1887 some of the townspeople realized the necessity of a bank for our young town. They builded [sic] it better than they knew and laid the foundation deep and solid, making it one of the financial institutions that weathered panics, droughts and other drawbacks that beset the homesteader, the cattleman, and the businessman of our town as well. . . ."

*Source: Akron Weekly Pioneer Press, February 3, 1911.*

## **Burbank's Ice Wagon**

The ice delivery wagon in this photo was owned by a man in Longmont.



*Ice delivery wagon in Longmont, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Large towns like Longmont had many specialty businesses. It even had an ice dealer who delivered ice to people's houses. Ice dealers cut the ice from ponds during the winter. They packed it in sawdust sheds to keep it from melting and sold it the next summer. They usually sold ice to homes in 25 pound blocks. People placed the blocks in their kitchen iceboxes to keep food from spoiling during the summer.

### **Their Own Words**

"There was a big ice plant . . . called the Hygienic Ice Company. They made ice in big chunks, and then they sold them from these wagons that went around town. You had a sign that you'd put in your front window if you wanted ice, and [the iceman] would drive up and down the street. If you needed some ice, you would have a sign that said 'ice,' and you had a place where you put '25' or '50' pounds. They were in blocks and then he would stop on the street. . . . I think a chunk of ice like that would last two or three days, maybe a week. I think it was ten cents for big block of ice."

*Source: Pete Franklin quoted Maria M. Rogers, ed., In Other Words: Oral Histories of the Colorado Frontier (Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing, 1996): 90.*

### **A Greeley Clothing Store**

This is a photo of Fred Bernstein's clothing store in Greeley. The owner is standing in the doorway.



*Greeley clothing store*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

By the early 1900s, large towns had men's clothing stores that sold factory-made clothes. Women's clothing was still largely made at home or by seamstresses who made dresses for a living.

### **Their Own Words**

"Miss Turner also made my clothes. They were well made, but the pants were so short in the leg that they did not suit me. One Saturday my mother took me to town with her and looked at some overalls for boys. How I did want them, but the fool clerk nearly upset the sale, for Mother noticed a watch pocket on the right hand side and asked him what that was for, and he answered, 'To keep his tobacco in.' I thought for a while that I was to continue in short pants, for she did hate the weed, but she relented and bought them."

*Source: James K. Hastings, "Boyhood in the Trinidad Region," Colorado Magazine, 30 (April 1953): 107.*

### **A Loveland Livery Stable (1885)**

This is a photo of Foote & Stoddard's livery stable in Loveland, Colorado. The sign says Livery, Feed & Sale Stable. The photo was taken in 1885.



*Loveland Livery Stable in Loveland, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Most towns had livery stables. These stables rented horses. Livery stables were needed because many families living in town did not own a horse. The stables also kept and fed horses for visitors who rode into town. The livery stable in this photo also sold horses.

### **Their Own Words**

“The townsite of La Jara [in the San Luis Valley] was just being surveyed, and that country was booming; I helped with the surveying, and then built my first business—I called it the Pioneer Livery Barn. . . . I began to branch out a little, as my livery barn prospered. . . . For it had become apparent to me that one of the crying needs of our community was a market for the live stock and products of the farm, for those who did not produce in sufficient quantities to shop in carload lots.”

“I announced that I would be in the market at all times for the purchase of hogs, sheep, cattle, potatoes, grains, etc. In fact, I was soon buying everything the farmers raised except children. It proved very beneficial to the grower to have a ready market for his surplus, and besides it was extremely remunerative to me.”

*Source: Irma S. Harvey, “Early Days in the San Luis Valley,” Colorado Magazine, 21 (March 1944): 45.*

### **Huffsmith’s Implement House**

The building in this photo is a farm implement store. It was owned by Peter Huffsmith of Greeley.





*Huffsmith farm implement store in Greeley, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Farmers also came to town to buy new farm implements. The implement store in this photo sold wagons, carriages, harvesting machines, and plows.

### **Their Own Words**

“[As] that country [the San Luis Valley] was booming . . . It seemed to me that there would soon be a good demand in the Valley for implements, furniture, and hardware. So I opened up a store and began selling these items, and lots of others. On the list were: hay presses, barbed wire, wagon and carriage material, threshing machines, building material, hardwood and eastern lumber, buggies, and farm implements. I bought, traded, and sold.”

*Source: Irma S. Harvey, “Early Days in the San Luis Valley,” Colorado Magazine, 21 (March 1944): 45.*

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## **Interiors**

What do these photos tell you about how store interiors looked like?

## General Store In Gillett

This is the interior of Woodruff's general store in the town of Gillett, Colorado. The photo shows brooms standing in a wooden box, canned food on the shelves, and boxes of cigars in a glass display case. The white bags stacked in the back of the store may contain flour.



*General Store in Gillett, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### More About This Topic

General stores provided one-stop shopping for the early settlers of Colorado. These stores sold a wide variety of goods. People shopped there for groceries, hardware, cloth, thread, lamps, and other household items.

### Their Own Words

"Usually we found other farm teams with their wagons or buggies already tied to the [hitching] bars [in front of the store].... Our parents scanned these horses and cried out to each other, if they recognized the team of someone known to them, and their faces lighted up at the thought of seeing some friend again, for a shopping trip was a true social occasion and was always leisurely and deliberate . . . . When we entered the store, the storekeeper. . . would greet us all cordially . . . and ask if we were good children and did well in school--if we said yes, as was usually true, he would give us each a bit of candy. . . ."

"Now began our slow inspection of everything in the store. . . . there was jelly in its wooden pail with the wire handle. . . . The great stalk of bananas, suspended from the ceiling. . . . Sometimes shoes were tried on. . . . If it was late summer, some of this splendid yard goods would be measured off on the counter's edge, yard by yard, for our school dresses. . . . On the way home [father] would entertain us with an account of all the news he had gleaned [from the other farmers], of the birth of a new baby or of the birth of an especially lively colt, of a family moving away or a new one moving in. . . ."

*Source: Clara Hilderman Ehrlich, "My Childhood on the Prairie," The Colorado Magazine, 51 (Spring 1974): 137-139.*

## General Store In Walden

This photo shows the interior of a general store in Walden, Colorado. The woman standing at the left is Mrs. C. E. Mosman, who owned the store.



## *General Store in Walden, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

General stores also sold canned goods, gloves, and clothing. The store in this photo also sold long poles. The poles probably were used as buggy whips.

### **Their Own Words**

“Now it’s Saturday afternoon and time to take the cream and eggs to Richard’s [store]. After visiting with other neighbors, you would buy what few staple groceries your family would need for the next week. That could be any of all of the following: soda, salt, baking powder, bucket of syrup, either white or dark, depending on how much the cream or eggs brought. . . . A spool of #50 black thread, a package of needles. Perhaps some dried fruit, of peaches, apricots, raisins, or prunes. Sometimes we would need a 50 lb. sack of flour, a 100 lb. sack of sugar or a sack of potatoes.

*Source: Ike Osteen, A Place Called Baca (Chicago: Adams Press, 1980): 141.*

## **Hardware Store In Greeley**

This photo shows the interior of a hardware store in Greeley, Colorado.



*Inside a hardware store in Greeley, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Larger towns had specialty stores, including hardware stores. The store in this photo sold iron stoves, kerosene lanterns and lamps, and cans of paint. Other specialty stores included harness and saddle stores, lumber stores, and farm machinery stores.

### **Their Own Words**

"When I was a small lad, every little town had its harness maker. He was important. The farmer depended on him. Henry Wiskow was the harness maker in Hugo.... Most important, he knew how to fit a collar to a horse. That's the most important part of a harness: the collar."

*Source: Keith A. Cook, "A Whiskey Train and a Doughnut Day: Coming of Age on the Eastern Colorado Plains," Colorado Heritage (Spring 1998): 11.*

### **Greeley Post Office**

This is a photo of the interior of the Post Office in Greeley, Colorado. The man at the right is placing mail into mail slots or boxes. Customers open the boxes from the other side to get their mail. The window with a grill above the counter on the left is where customers stand to buy stamps or have packages mailed.



*Inside the Greeley Post office*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Every town had a post office. Large towns had a separate office where several people worked. In smaller towns the post office often was located in the general store. The owner of the store served both as storekeeper and as the town's postmaster.

### **Their Own Words**

"When I first went to Cripple Creek I carried Special Delivery letters. Business was so brisk in town and goods were moving so rapidly that merchants wanted their mail by Special Delivery. As the post office building had burned in the fires [of 1896], its affairs were conducted in a small building back of Johnny Nolan's saloon and gambling parlors, at the corner of Third and Bennett."

"There were no postmen or letter carriers, and people had to come to the post office to get the mail at the General Delivery window or from a box. The number of boxes was limited, so people would form a long line several times a day when mail came in. This would require standing in line quite some time. They often paid boys to do this for them. Eight or ten of us boys had the privilege of carrying Special Delivery letters."

*Source: William W. Wardell, "Cripple Creek Memories," Colorado Magazine, 37 (January 1960): 31.*

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## **Fruit Packing**

What do these photos tell you about how fruit packing was done?

### **Picking Strawberries**

This is a photo of a strawberry field. The field was on the West Lake Ranch, probably in Adams County, Colorado. Many men and women are picking the strawberries. Wooden baskets held pint-size containers into which the people put the fruit as they picked it.



*Picking strawberries on the West Lake Ranch*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Notice that most of them are wearing broad-brimmed hats. Such hats kept the sun off their faces and necks. This photo was taken about 1910. Colorado localities that grew strawberries hosted festivals to advertise their fruit.

### **Their Own Words**

“. . . About a hundred people came down from the mountains, and 260 came down on the train from the north, and between 1,600 and 1,800 people came up from Denver. . . . A large number of tables were spread, and strawberries, cream, cake, etc., were served. There was a great abundance of eatables, so that the visitors had more than they wanted. Many Boulder people were treated after the guests had been supplied.”

*Source: Denver Republican, June 24, 1898, quoted in in Therese S. Westermeier, “Colorado Festivals (Part III),” Colorado Magazine, 30 (July 1953): 207.*

### **Picking Peaches Near Clifton (1910)**

This photo shows six men picking peaches. They were working on the Red Cross Ranch near Clifton, Colorado. Clifton is on the western slope of Colorado. The pickers were standing on ladders and each many had a canvas bag with straps around the men's shoulders or necks.



*Men picking peaches near Clifton, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

As they picked the fruit, they put it into the canvas bags. When the bags were full, they climbed down the ladders and emptied them into the wooden crates you see in the photo. This photo was taken about 1910.

### **Their Own Words**

“Orchards are being planted in every direction. The tablelands or mesas . . . seem to be best for fruit. They are extremely well adapted to all kinds of deciduous fruit. The peach, apricot, and all the deciduous fruits were bearing profusely. No insect enemies were seen or heard of in this vicinity.”

*Source: North Fork Times, August 1899, quoted in Wilson M. Rockwell, “The Fruit Utopia of the North Fork of the Gunnison,” Colorado Magazine, 15 (May 1938): 91.*



## Packing Peaches Near Palisade

This photo was taken at a peach orchard in Palisade, Colorado. The men and women in the canvas-covered shelter are packing peaches into boxes.



*Packing peaches at a peach orchard in Palisade, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### More About This Topic

The fruit produced on the Western Slope mostly came from small farms of 50 to 100 acres. The farmers hired extra help during the late summer to help them pick the fruit and pack it into boxes. These peaches were being packed into boxes at the orchard.

### Their Own Words

“Palisade is the peach orchard of Colorado. . . . The district is so small the little town might be compared to the office of packing house of one orchard, in which some 3,000 people find employment at this time. . . . It contains practically all of the peach crop of Colorado. It is the only section of Colorado, if not of the United States, which has never had a failure of peach crop. All fruits succeed equally well there. Pears are profitable, apples are good. . . . Peaches average the best profit, in some cases netting \$1,200 to the acre. . . . Most of the orchards are from five to ten acres in size.”

*Source: Grand Junction News, December 30, 1905, quoted in Mary Rait, "Development of the Peach Industry in the Colorado River Valley," Colorado Magazine, 22 (November 1945): 250.*

## **Fruit Packing Warehouse (1910)**

This photo shows an interior view of a fruit-packing warehouse. It was in the Grand Valley, near Grand Junction, Colorado. Women workers are wrapping individual peaches and pears and then packing them in wooden crates. Can you read the names of the fruit growers on the crates?



*Women packing fruit in a fruit-packing warehouse near Grand Junction, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

After the fruit was packed this way, it was shipped by Colorado Midland railroad to Denver and other places far away. This photo was taken about 1910.

### **Their Own Words**

“... Yesterday afternoon I went to the offices and storerooms of the Grand Junction Fruit Grower’s Association, where I was shown something about the way the fruit is packed and handled. Certainly the members of the association do know how to pack their fruit! I notice that apples particularly. They are put up in 3 different grades—Fancy, Choice, and Standard. The Fancy apples are supposed to perfect, though you can find certain imperfections. However, they are carefully selected and graded and very

carefully packed, so that the bottom and cover bulge out about half an inch. This it is almost impossible for an apply to move in the box. . . .”

*Source: D. W. Working to Grace Working, Grand Junction, Oct. 1, 1911; Working Papers, Colorado Historical Society.*

## **Paonia Apple Packing Plant**

This is an apple packing shed near the town of Paonia. The photo shows workers standing in front of the building. The apples were shipped out in railroad boxcars. Part of a boxcar can be seen at the left end of the building.



*Apple packing shed in Paonia, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Apples were hauled in to packing sheds like the one in this photo. There they were graded for quality. The best apples were carefully packed in boxes to be shipped to markets across the United States.

## **Their Own Words**

"In the [railroad] cars the boxes are laid on their sides in regular tiers. These tiers are stripped with wooden cleats reaching entirely across the car. And then another tier laid on and stripped; and so on till the car is loaded, when a strong frame is placed in the narrow alley left across the middle of the car. Thus a well-loaded car will reach the end of its journey without a single box being shaken out of its place. At the same time, the air can circulate around every box."

*Source: D. W. Working to Grace Working, Grand Junction, Oct. 1, 1911; Working Papers, Colorado Historical Society.*

## **Fruit Packing On a Red Cross Ranch**

This photo shows the fruit packing warehouse on the Red Cross Ranch. This ranch was near Clifton, Colorado. Notice the mule-drawn wagons near the building. Both are packed with crates of fruit. There is another unhitched wagon inside the warehouse building. This photo was taken about 1910.



*Fruit packing warehouse on the Red Cross Ranch in Clifton, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

## More About This Topic

Fruit growing was an important part of the economy of the Western Slope. It provided a cash-crop for farmers and full-time and part-time jobs for hundreds of other people.

## Their Own Words

[The Colorado Midland Railway and the Fruit Growers Association of Palisade introduced a way to advertise Palisade peaches—they introduced an annual day to distribute peaches in Denver. The day was advertised as follows.] “WANTED—5,000 people to receive the gift of 5,000 peaches—the very best on earth—at the office of the Colorado Midland railway, at Seventeenth and California streets, Wednesday.”

*Source: Denver Republican, September 15, 1908, quoted in Therese S. Westermeier, “Colorado Festivals (Part III),” Colorado Magazine, 30 (July 1953): 198.*

## Buying Fruit Near Westlake (1909)

This is a photo of part of a fruit-packing operation. This canvas tent was set up near West Lake Orchard in either Adams or Larimer County, Colorado. In the tent are many crates of apples.



*Buying fruit near West Lake Orchard*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

## **More About This Topic**

Because of the way that most of the people are dressed, this photo appears to show these people browsing and buying the apples. This photo was taken in October 1909.

## **Their Own Words**

[September 16, 1891, was the first Peach Day in Grand Junction.] “‘The Western Slope’ was the text which greeted the visitors’ eyes upon entrance in the building. ‘Mesa County’ appeared in raised letters over the entrance. . . . Peaches were everywhere. On the long tables were grouped 1,000 plates of peaches, each relieved with a bunch of purple grapes. At one end was a star neatly executed in peaches, at the other the new moon in the luscious golden fruit.”

*Source: Denver Republican, September 16, 1891, quoted in Therese S. Westermeier, “Colorado Festivals (Part III),” Colorado Magazine, 30 (July 1953): 197.*

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## **Factories and Mills**

What do these photos tell you about the kinds of factories and mills that were in these towns?

### **Longmont Sugar Factory**

The building in the background is a sugar factory. The horse-drawn wagons are loaded with sugar beet pulp. The pulp was what was left of the beets after the sugar was removed. The photo was taken in Longmont, Colorado about 1910.



*Longmont sugar factory*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Many factories in Colorado turned field crops into food products. Most were located near small towns where farmers came to buy supplies and sell their crops. Among the largest were the sugar factories like the one in this photo. The beet pulp was hauled away to be used as cattle feed.

### **Their Own Words**

"The Experiments with irrigation in the last quarter of the nineteenth century laid the basis for the introduction of new crops--grain, potatoes, and then the sugar beet. . . . One year during the early plowing two men arrived from the city. . . . [When these] visitors left . . . our father came into the house, with his team still in the field, to tell Mother of the new crop these men wished him to test out--the sugar beet. Nothing more important can happen to a farmer than to be offered a sure cash crop. . . . Here were these men from the city holding out this alluring prospect of a crop that would always be bought by the sugar company, and my father agreed to plant four acres."

"The occasion was momentous for my father and other farmers like him because it gave them a new status in the scheme of things. They were no longer appendages to the cattlemen, producers of winter fodder for the men who fattened steers for market, nor were they only subsistence families, supplying their own needs and a little over. They were tied now to the Great Western Sugar Company, and belonged to a commercial enterprise and the high destiny of their country."

*Source: Clara Hilderman Ehrlich, "My Childhood on the Prairie," Colorado Magazine, 60 (2): 123-24.*

## Holly Sugar Factory

This photo shows the six-story brick buildings of the sugar refinery in Holly, Colorado. Holly is located in Prowers County, in the southeastern part of Colorado. The smoke from the tall chimney shows that the plant was operating. Notice that sugar beets are piled outside the factory. The location of the factory in Holly indicated that sugar beets were an important crop for farmers in many part of the Colorado plains. This photo was taken about 1900.



*Holly sugar refinery in Prowers County*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### More About This Topic

Sugar beet growing provided jobs for many people in Colorado. Farmers made money raising the beets. People in the towns worked in the sugar factories during the beet harvest season. The railroads made money shipping bags of sugar to eastern markets. Finally, the cattle raisers who brought the beet pulp made money from the cattle they fed and fattened.

### Their Own Words

“Potatoes grew and yielded very well at that time. These gave way to sugar beets, which were introduced to this section [Weld County] late in the nineteenth century. My father was among the first to grow them. A factory for making beet sugar was first built at Loveland. A railroad was built around through the beet-growing section and beets were loaded onto cars at ‘dumps’ and hauled to the factory. The growing of sugar beets required a great deal of hand labor so our first immigrants were German-Russian from the Ukraine in Russia.”



Source: Hazel Webb Dalziel, "The Way It Was," *Colorado Magazine*, 45 (Spring 1968): 105.

## Unloading Sugar Beets In Brighton

This photo shows farmers unloading sugar beets outside a sugar refinery in Brighton, Colorado. Two trucks are unloading sugar beets next to a machine that lifts them into tall piles for storage.



*Unloading sugar beets in Brighton, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### More About This Topic

Sugar beets are usually harvested after the first frost in the fall. Most sugar beet farmers harvest their beets at about the same time. The beets are then stored near the factory to be used when needed in the refinery. This photo was probably taken about 1910.

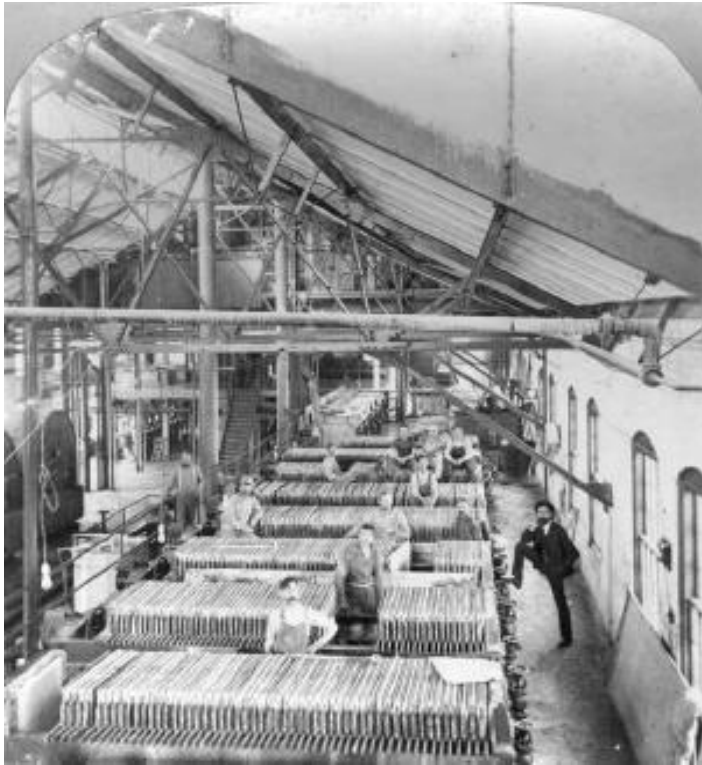
### Their Own Words

"[Farmers] would come in with their wagons, their trucks, weigh the trucks full, dump their [sugar] beets in a hopper. There was a funneled hopper. It had a belt, and it would take [the sugar beets] up to the top of the little house on the top where they would be screened. The beets would go out the side and drop into a railroad car. . . . Then all the dirt that was on 'em would fall in another little hopper underneath this building, so when you dumped your beets you waited till they went up the belt, over the screen into the car, and then you pulled underneath this little building, pulled another lever and you got your dirt back. . . . All you were selling was the beets!"

*Source: Charles Waneka quoted in Maria M. Rogers, ed., In Other Words: Oral Histories of the Colorado Frontier (Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing, 1996): 26.*

## **Inside Greeley Sugar Factory**

This photo shows factory workers standing among sugar beets presses. This factory was Great Western sugar refinery in Greeley, Colorado. These presses were used to filter the sugar beet pulp and make it more pure.



*Great Western sugar refinery in Greeley, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Notice the man in the suit with his leg up against one of the presses. He was probably one of the managers of the factory. This photo was taken about 1890.

### **Their Own Words**

“Bout all the farmers had to have a little cash crop to help pay for their places. That’s what my dad figured on. Beets. ‘Course he had milk cows but his cash crop to pay the interest on his payments . . . was beets. My Dad . . . claimed he’d never got the place paid for it he didn’t have beets. He even figured

that he could make money by havin' less hay and goin' out and buy hay so he could have the cash crop from the beets to make his payments."

*Source: Elden Hodgson quoted in Maria M. Rogers, ed., In Other Words: Oral Histories of the Colorado Frontier (Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing, 1996): 26.*

## **Kuner's Pickle Factory**

This photo shows the Kuner Company Pickle plant in Brighton, Colorado. Brighton is in Adams County, just north of Denver. Notice that the factory building is of wooden frame construction. You may also see a water tower, a smokestack, and stacks of crates. The crates were used to carry the produce to the factory.



*Kuner Company Pickle plant in Brighton, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

What kind of vegetable do you think farmers brought to this pickle factory? The Kuner Company canned all sorts of vegetables, which were raised by nearby farmers. This photo was taken in 1910.

### **Their Own Words**

"My father, the late O. E. Frink, . . . my mother . . . and family moved from Denver to Fort Lupton in 1895. . . . In 1904, with his usual wisdom and courage, he decided to start a canning factory in connection with his creamery. The necessary additions to the creamery buildings were made, second

hand canning machinery gathered from here and yon, together with such new machinery as was needed and father, with no experience, started the Silver State Canning and Produce Company."

*Source: Marguerite Frink Counter, "Pioneer Canning Industry in Colorado," Colorado Magazine, 30 (January 1953): 45-46.*

## **Inside Kuner's Pickle Factory**

This photo shows a part of the inside of the Kuner Company pickle plant in Brighton, Colorado. The men and women are processing cabbages. This photo was taken about 1912.



*Inside Kuner Company pickle plant*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

Many towns in farming areas of Colorado had factories that processed food. They prepared pickles, sauerkraut, beans, and other vegetables, which were canned or sealed in glass jars.

### **Their Own Words**

"[My father] canned tomatoes, catsup, and corn, adding gradually snap beans, peas, pickles, pumpkin, and squash. . . . The Silver State Canning and Produce Company grew like the proverbial Topsy. My

father made many experiments in lima beans, asparagus, strawberries, spinach, and succotash. . . . Thus a small enterprise grew, expanded, and became of vital interest to the community—not only to the farmers but to the large number of town people to whom it gave employment.”

*Source: Marguerite Frink Counter, “Pioneer Canning Industry in Colorado,” Colorado Magazine, 30 (January 1953): 46.*

## **A Hygiene Creamery**

This is a photo of a cheese factory at Hygiene, Colorado. The carts and wagons outside the factory are loaded with milk cans. This photo was taken about 1896.



*Cheese factory in Hygiene, Colorado*

*Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection*

### **More About This Topic**

The farming areas of Colorado also had dairies and cheese factories. Farmers who owned cows made money by selling milk there.

### **Their Own Words**

"It may surprise some to learn that there was once a cheese factory in Jefferson [in South Park]. It was formed by several of the ranchers, and the product was known as South Park Full Cream Cheese. Father

also was agent for this company. He supervised production, shipping, and finances. The ranch members of the company supplied him with milk for the factory. A regular cheese maker was employed to run the factory. If I remember right, the factory started production in 1892. But something went wrong, and in about two years the factory folded up. The equipment was sold and shipped away."

*Source: George W. Champion, "Remembrances of South Park," Colorado Magazine, 40 (January 1963): 19.*