

FRIENDS OF RAYMER

New Raymer, Colorado

February 1, 2019



Photo 2: Elias Seldin in Front of the Store, circa 1924
(Photo Courtesy of Sonia ImMasche)

Congratulations, old building, mercantile, general store, and sturdy structure of yesteryear—you have been awarded your first grant!! You are like an old reliable ally, our first structure in the town, just standing by and waiting for someone to rescue your old skeleton and wipe off the cobwebs and restore you to your glory days! Thanks to the State Historical Fund grant just awarded, we are on your doorstep to begin the process! Thanks to all those who helped us get here!



Merritt Gneiserr & Irene Feyerherm

An amendment to the Homestead Act of 1862, the Enlarged Homestead Act, was passed in 1909 and doubled the allotted acreage from 160 to 320 acres. The Town of Raymer started to rebuild in 1909 and 1910 with many settlers arriving by train.

Millie Storz is sharing her family's history; both her parents' families were settlers in New Raymer. Her father, Merritt Gneiser, married Irene Feyerherm in 1940. The Feyerherm family came from Nebraska, as did many of these families arriving at the time. Merritt is Paul and Bertha Gneiser's son. Bertha's maiden name was Nickerson. The photo below is Merritt at his family farm southwest of New Raymer that he would come back and visit. The Gneiser farm is also shown. Merritt passed away in 2010.

A copy of Irene's sixth grade certificate is attached, showing she attended school in New Raymer. Their wedding in 1940 was at the New Raymer community building.



Merritt Gneiser visiting his family farm



Paul Gneiser Farm—1921



NEW RAYMER OR RAYMER??

This Weld County town has 100 people and two names









Is it Raymer or New Raymer? The journalists of Next with Kyle Clark sought to find out.

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It's a Weld County town with a population of about 100 people. But, what it lacks up in size, it makes up for in history ... and in names.

So ... is it Raymer or New Raymer? We asked Friends of Raymer – a nonprofit dedicated to preserving the town's history – to settle the debate.

"The town of Raymer is what it was incorporated as," said Talia Siens, the secretary of Friends of Raymer. "The post office opened in 1909 and they're the ones that insisted on it being the town of New Raymer to distinguish it from the town of Ramah, which is in El Paso County."

-  **Trina Kauk** Thank you, Talia, for that concise explanation!
Like · Reply · 4w · 2
-  **Patricia Hoffman** When I went to school their it was called NEW RAYMER.
Like · Reply · 4w · 1
-  **Janice Oestereick** I say New Raymer. I heard they started that name when it was rebuilt after so much burned.
Like · Reply · 4w · 2
-  **Patricia Hoffman** Janice Oestereick when did it burn. Never heard that.
Like · Reply · 4w
-  **Patricia Hoffman** Sorry meant to say, I say New Raymer sill today. 😊
Like · Reply · 4w
- [View more replies](#)
-
-  **Martin Schachterle** We always called it New Raymer. Now I sometimes call it Raymer.
Like · Reply · 4w · 1
-  **Patricia Hoffman** [Martin Schachterle](#) I will always call it New Raymer.
Like · Reply · 4w
-
-  **Trina Kauk** I found this in the New Raymer Booster Club minutes. It lends credence to the name being changed by the Post Office. The town wasn't pleased apparently but it was done so that Ramah in southern Colorado was not confused with Raymer—thus our Post Office became New Raymer back before 1920.

willingness to sustain her purpose. The year 1919 was held at the Powell Hotel with twenty-seven members present and an oyster supper given by the hostess for the ladies and their husbands.

YEAR 1920

Roll call was answered by thirty-six ladies at the Jan. meeting. Committees were appointed for the coming year. Booster dinner was held Febr. 22nd. At the Nov. meeting, Rev. Ingraham gave the ladies a talk on changing the Post Office New Raymer to Raymer. He then read to them the following resolutions to be sent in: "Whereas, our town has suffered annoyance and inconvenience and sometimes financial loss that it is known by two names, and whereas, a movement is now on foot to change the name of the Post Office to conform to the name of the railway station." Our hearty endorsement is given to the movement and are calling on all our friends of the community to lend their encouragement and aid. The resolution was sent in.

YEAR 1921

Beginning the year 1921 there were forty-three members answering roll call. Had the annual Booster Banquet in Febr. In March, the ladies had been called upon to mourn the death of another member, friend and co-worker, Mrs. J. W. Hobbs. In June of 1921, they procured a doctor for New Raymer. They had a Hallowe'en party in Oct. for the new doctor and his wife at the home of Mrs. Frantz. Had election of officers in Dec.

YEAR 1922

1922 approached with fifty-three members answering roll call. In May of this year a bill of \$12.00 was presented to the club for the school curtain. A new swimming pool was discussed. They provided handkerchiefs for the school children who didn't have them. The ladies attended a Mothers Day Tea at the High School auditorium in May. The ladies were extended the invitation by Rev. Wood. The ladies also put up new shades in the High School auditorium. They purchased \$10.00 worth of books for the library. Election of officers was held at the Dec. meeting.

New Raymer Booster Club Minutes regarding changing the name of the Post Office from New Raymer to Raymer