

FRIENDS OF RAYMER

New Raymer, Colorado

May 1, 2021

The Denver Post, Regional Book Recommendations, 12/22/2020

"A Prairie Season," by William Wylie (Flood Editions)

In the dying towns of northeast Colorado, high schools are so small that boys play six-man football. To be eligible for the league, a school must have no more than 75 students. Thirty schools in Colorado qualify.

Rules are different. A first down requires 15 yards, and a field goal counts for four points. Games are high-scoring and often lopsided. If one team is 45 points ahead, officials simply let the clock run.

Photographer William Wylie chose one of those schools, the Prairie School near New Raymer, for his photographic essay on a season of high plains football. He photographs the team, starting with early practice, through its eight-game season and one playoff game. The photographs include portraits of each of the Prairie School Mustangs, wholesome boys, shirtless or in football uniforms.

He photographs the Friday night games, often played under lights, showing the joy the players feel at winning and the disappointment of losing. He also shows the agony of the star player who suffers a dislocated shoulder in the last game of the regular season. Heavily bandaged, the boy soldiers on to participate in the playoff game.

Wylie's photographs of a season of small-town football on the Colorado prairie are a moving tribute to an American tradition.



A Prairie Season (Flood Editions)

Friends of Raymer
CAR SHOW
September 11, 2021

Friends of Raymer Inc. Membership Form

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Return to: Friends of Raymer Inc.
P.O. Box 82
New Raymer, CO 80742

☐ Check enclosed payable to: Friends of Raymer Inc.

☐ Cash enclosed.



"A Colorado Endangered Place"

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

**Annual Membership
\$20 per Family**

***Membership expires September 30 of each year.

Preference for communications from "Friends of Raymer": (Check any or all)

☐ Written ☐ Email ☐ Phone/Text

How did you hear about Friends of Raymer?

☐ I would be willing to volunteer to help with projects, activities, fundraisers, etc., that "Friends of Raymer" may plan.



Friends of Raymer

February 12 · 🌐

On Thursday morning, February 11, 2021, we got the news of the passing of a dear friend and one of our founding board members-- Arnie Fiscus. He had suddenly and unexpectedly passed away. We share his family's notes and photos below. Please keep them in your prayers along with Arnie's brothers and sisters, Gerald, Ralph, Bonnie, Sherril, Bernice, and Marsha. Arnie's littlest brother, Merle, predeceased him. Arnie grew up on the farm west of town. He always spoke fondly of his Mom and Dad, Dorothy and Glen (Tex). He reminisced with us about his dad playing fiddle at home, and how his dad and his dad's brother, Mick, would travel around and play in a band. The 2020 Friends of Raymer car show honored Tex and Mick in the Dash Plaque. The photo is shown here. I'm so happy we did that for Arnie; also happy that he was able to celebrate his family farm as it was honored as a Centennial farm two years ago. Arnie's family was more important to him than anything--he prioritized his babysitting the grandkids over anything else. We will miss Arnie's smile and sense of humor. He never failed with his one-liners. He always wore his Friends of Raymer hat and many times when we were talking about our logo we all turned to look at Arnie because sure enough he was wearing his hat. Arnie was also a wealth of historical information on the area and as we talked about recording stories of folks we will regret not having Arnie's. We will fondly remember them as we think of him, and as we gather next Friday to reminisce. Burial will be at the Raymer Cemetery on Friday, February 19th at 1:00 p.m., and service and meal to follow at the community building in Raymer. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ADD PHOTOS & MEMORIES HERE.

We will be honoring him Friday, the 19th. Burial will take place at 1:00 at the New Raymer Cemetery with a service and meal to follow at the community center, probably about 1:30. Please bring some memories to share with us.

Arnie on the right helping clean out the mercantile along with Cary Lambert and Lee Fritz



Ceri Fiscus Middlemist

Thank you for this beautiful tribute. Dad really enjoyed this group and he did always have that hat on. He Loved New Raymer.

Like · Reply · Share · 11w



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Mandi Marshall Lindsey

Ceri Fiscus Middlemist I'm so sorry to hear about your dad. He was always so kind and always asked about Shawn's dad and family. He truly was an integral part of this community, and Friends of Raymer.

Like · Reply · Share · 11w



2

Renda Collins

So sorry to hear this, prayers to family & friends, xoxo

Like · Reply · Share · 11w



2

Zac Breazeale

We are sure gonna miss him.

Like · Reply · Share · 11w



2

Lee Ruth Fritz

He will be greatly missed.

Like · Reply · Share · 11w



2

Lindsey Jones

Thank you so much for honoring him with this beautiful tribute. This group and the entire community of New Raymer was very near and dear to his heart. One of his Friends or Raymer hats hangs by my front door from the last time he was babysitting ❤️



Trina Kauk shared a link.

Admin · February 20 · 🌐

Looking forward to John Fielder's book featuring photos of northern Colorado.

This photo is from Hereford, Colorado. He includes interesting history of the areas he photographs, which will make for an interesting read when he publishes it in September.

1952 Chevy deLuxe, Hereford

Weld County



The explosive growth of farming in the late 19th century spawned dozens of towns in Weld County, often with just a store and post office. The evolution of dryland farming in the early 20th century, along with the expansion of railroads, highways and byways, accelerated this trend.

Hereford, barely two miles south of Wyoming, began as a section house and flag station on the Sterling to Cheyenne branch of the Colorado-Wyoming division of the Burlington Missouri River Railroad. It got its name in 1888 from the thousands of Hereford cattle raised and shipped from the station by the J. W. Iliff Land and Cattle Company. Chicagoan Fredrick Findeisen, a successful designer of a flush toilet and the Rayburn carburetor, developed Hereford. He owned nearly every business and his family members managed them. Drought and depression took their toll on the town in the 1930s. Hereford School was abandoned in 1940 and the few remaining students were bused south to Grover.

I made this image on March 20, 2020 while exploring the plains during a blizzard. I am a car buff, and recognized a classic when I saw it with or without the powder blue paint job! When I see anomalies (dominant features) in the landscape, my heart races. I've learned that single conspicuous objects can attract the viewer's eye faster than many subjects in a photo. I photographed the car from many angles, but this one was my favorite.

— From the book project Weld County: 4,000 Square Miles of Grandeur, Greatness & Yesterdays by John Fielder to be published in September.

Book profits will benefit Weld Community Foundation. Find more information at www.johnfielder.com and weldcommunityfoundation.org

JOHN FIELDER / SPECIAL TO THE GREELEY TRIBUNE



Elizabeth Schlosser

Once upon a by a time



4



Jim Anderson

Hereford Community Building



Like · Reply · Share · 9w



Nell Coffey

The Herford School was still in existence by at least 1945. I would have been 6 years old then and I remember going there. We went down to the Tavern and our Aunt Charlotte Hauer would make lunch for my older brother, sister and myself along with her own children.

Care · Reply · Share · 10w



Janice Sorensen

The Hereford School closed in 1951, as did Keota

Like · Reply · Share · 9w



Jim Anderson



Like · Reply · Share · 9w



Jim Anderson



1



Zac Breazeale

That car sits next to the old store, the front of the store had the post office and my Grandma was postmaster. I remember when they moved the post office from there into the old Hereford state bank building.



Like · Reply · Share · 10w



Bob Thompson

Zac Breazeale Great picture and history!

Like · Reply · Share · 10w



Zac Breazeale

Bob Thompson yep, fond memories. We used to walk a path from their house up over the old railroad track bed to see her at the old store. Lots of weekends we'd walk along where the tracks once were and collect old spikes and tie plates.

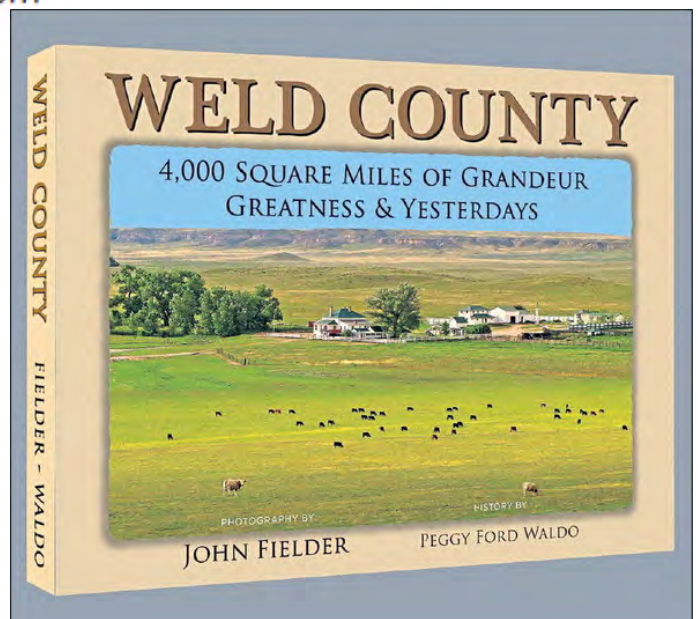
eagle Rock Ranch

Weld County: 4,000 Square Miles of Grandeur, Greatness & Yesterdays

Eagle Rock Ranch is tucked up against the Wyoming/Colorado border 20 miles southeast of Cheyenne in northern Weld County. It lies in and around the majestic Chalk Bluffs with their sheltered canyons, grassy meadows, and spring-fed streams. In January 1872, a fierce blizzard swept across the high plains of Wyoming and Colorado. Cattle lost their bearings in the white-out, and many drifted away from their home ranges. Benjamin Franklin "Frank" Ketcham was one of the ranchers who lost livestock. By April, he received word that two cowboys had spotted cows grazing in the Chalk Bluffs south of Cheyenne. Frank rode to the bluffs and miraculously found his entire herd alive and thriving. In the years that followed, Frank Ketcham and his children established homesteads to raise cattle and horses in the Chalk Bluffs. The current, larger, Eagle Rock Ranch was assembled in the 1940s by Mark T. Cox III, a grandson of Frank Ketcham, and his wife, Betty. The Coxes were early breeders in Weld County of registered Black Aberdeen Angus. Their herd of 1,200 pedigreed mother cows grazed year-round on Eagle Rock.

Descendants of these cows were the foundation of Angus herds throughout the West. Today, Beverly Cox Black, daughter of Mark and Betty, and her husband Gordon Black live at the ranch and continue to raise cattle.

Depicted is the book, "Weld County: 4,000 Square Miles of Grandeur, Greatness & Yesterdays", to be published in September, but it is available for pre-purchase beginning April 1. The print run is limited, therefore, pre-purchase is the best way to guarantee that you get your copies. Purchase now and we will ship to you in September. Book profits benefit Weld Community Foundation. Information and to purchase beginning April 1 at www.johnfielder.com

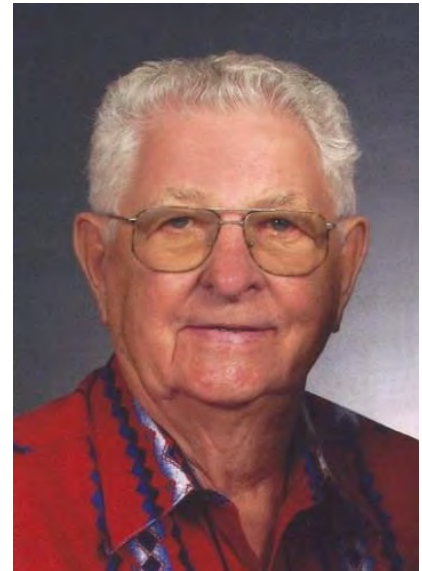


Joseph L. Samber, 94, was born on January 28, 1927, at the farm near Stoneham, CO to Julius and Eliza Samber who were immigrants from Belgium. Joe attended school in Stoneham graduating as Valedictorian in 1945. After graduation he worked in the Stoneham Schools as janitor and coach. He also drove the school bus to games for several years. On June 10, 1950, he married "Kitty" Catherine Holthusen at St. John's Church in Stoneham. He spent a lifetime of farming and ranching. He was President of the Stoneham Men's Club and New Raymer Lions, a member of the Northeast Weld County Drylanders, served as a 4-H leader, and held several offices on the Stoneham Alumni Committee. He was a lifetime member of the B.P.O.E. #1336 in Sterling. For three years, he served as President of the Stoneham School Board and was instrumental in the re-organization of school districts to create the new Prairie School at New Raymer. They moved to Sterling in 1980, but Joe enjoyed commuting back and forth to the farm for many years. He served on the Highland Park Sanitation Board for 30 years. Joe sold cars for Larson Ford and Schmidt Subaru and also real estate with Kindt Realty. Joe enjoyed many sports, especially watching his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren participate. He liked playing cards, dancing, traveling, attending livestock sales, farm sales, and county fairs. Joe and Kitty enjoyed traveling together, visiting almost every state including Alaska, and Hawaii. Seven times they crossed the ocean visiting family in Belgium and touring Europe. On their 50th Anniversary they got to celebrate with Joe's cousins in Belgium with children and grandchildren accompanying them to Europe. Joe was especially proud of his faith, his family, and his friends. Joe is survived by his wife, Kitty, of 70 years; sons Rocky (Marilyn) of Sterling and Tracy (Susan) of Akron; grandchildren Ashley Lynch (Jon) of Yuma, Austin Samber (Megan) of Stoneham, Sierra (Shea) Mireles of Akron and Riley Samber of Fort Collins; great-grandchildren Cayden, Conner, and Carson Lynch of Yuma, Reid and Aislyn Samber of Stoneham, Jensen and Lincoln Mireles of Akron; brother-in-law/sister-in-law Chris and Eunice Holthusen of Loveland; numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his son, Monte Samber; his parents Julius and Eliza Samber; brothers Albert, Frank and George; sisters Alice Mari and Philomena Sewald. Joe passed away on Monday, April 5, 2021. Visitation will be from 3 pm to 6 pm Friday, April 9 at Tennant Funeral Home with Vigil and Rosary services following at 6 pm. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 am Saturday, April 10 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church with Father Michael Bodzioch celebrating. Interment will follow at Prairie View Cemetery, Stoneham. Memorials may be made in Joe's name to St. John's Catholic Church care of Tennant Funeral Home, PO Box 1547, Sterling, CO 80751.

*Thoughts and
Prayers for*

Family and Friends

Joseph
Samber

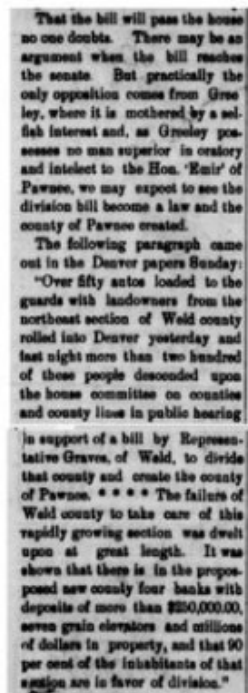
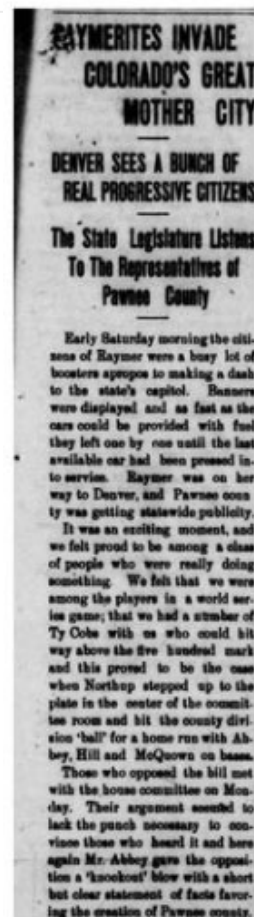


Friends of Raymer

April 15 at 4:32 PM · 🌐

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Just the other day I was wishing we had a county separate from Weld that represents its needs separate from the front range communities. Looks like back in March 1, 1917 they had similar thoughts. We could have been the county seat of Pawnee County!





Friends of Raymer shared a post.

March 6 · 🌐



The Friends of Raymer is committed to preserving the history of the Raymer area. Historic brands are an important part of that history. As part of the museum we are putting together we would love to include a beautiful display of those historic brands, and we have had great interest from the community so far! We are eager to make sure that we are including all of the historic brands from the area in our display. If you would like to be involved please let us know or find out more on our website!

<https://friendsofraymer.com/brand-project/>



Friends of Raymer is in New Raymer, Colorado.

Published by Talia Siens · March 6 · 🌐

Get more information at www.friendsofraymer.com.

Friends of Raymer, 25265 Rd. T-5, Brush, CO 80723



LIVESTOCK BRAND FORM

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Email

Please draw brand on 8 1/2 x 11 paper.

Include the name of the brand. Give us a history of the family and brand.

Where did they homestead? When? Who? Was it for cattle, sheep, etc.?

Return form with \$50 donation to Friends of Raymer,

25265 County Rd. T-5, Brush, CO 80723.

