



## Upcoming Events

- **Looking Back for a Vision Forward, “Water”** Aug. 4, 2022, 6:30-8 p.m., hybrid session (Depot Museum and Zoom)
- **Broomfield Artisan Exhibition and Vintage Baseball Game**, Sept. 10, 2022
- **Broomfield Historic Sites Tour**, Oct. 8, 2022
- **Looking Back for a Vision Forward, “Public Health”** Oct. 6, 2022, 6:30-8 p.m., hybrid session (Depot Museum and Zoom)



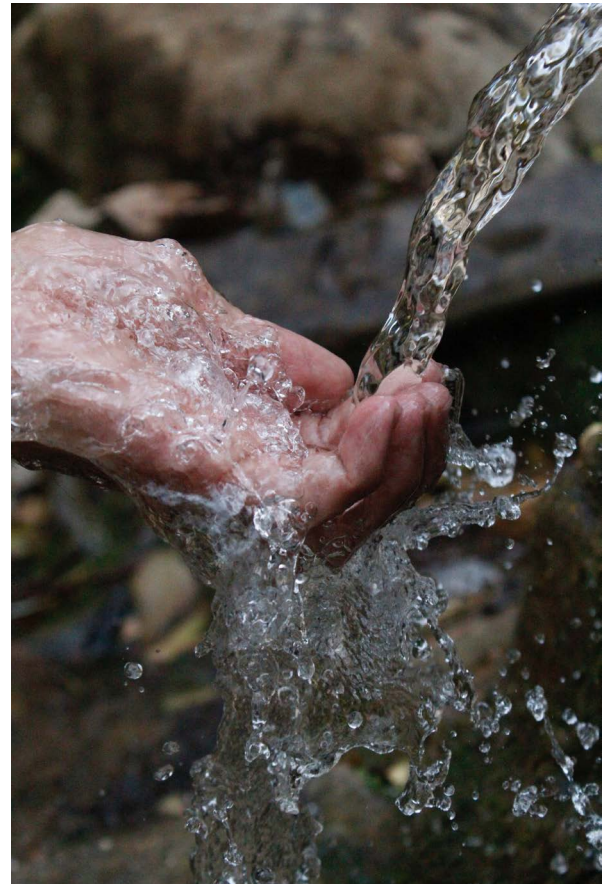
*Friends of Broomfield History Presents*

## Looking Back for a Vision Forward: Water

In the parched western state of Colorado, we recognize the essential nature of water. After a short presentation on the history of irrigation ditches, reservoirs, and water rights in this area, we'll explore the topic of water use in Broomfield today.

On August 4, 6:30 p.m.,  
join the conversation at  
the Broomfield Depot Museum  
or via Zoom

Register for this free event at  
[FriendsofBroomfieldHistory.org](https://friendsofbroomfieldhistory.org)



# Oh Wow! Summer!

## A letter from the President, Annie Lessem

Ah, summer—that time of year when the grass is growing, the kids are playing, people are biking and hiking, and the wildlife is thriving. Or, from a different perspective, that time of year when sprinklers are working overtime, swimming pools are crowded, and people, plants, and wildlife are thirsty. In other words, that time of year when our most precious resource—water—is in great demand. For years now we have been warned that we must conserve our water. We're told to water our lawns in the morning or evening because that is when the water evaporation is slowest; to take showers rather than baths because showers use less water; to install low-flow toilets; to do whatever we can to use water sparingly. And in order to do that successfully, it is important to know exactly how our water is being used and who is using it.

So let's start at home. We use large amounts of water every day and for several different purposes. We use water to drink, do the dishes/laundry, take showers, flush the toilet, cook dinner, etc. For those who like to “see the numbers,” the Water Research Foundation



Photo by Juan Salamanca: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/2-girl-s-swimming-during-daytime-61129/>

tells us that daily average household water usage in the United States falls into the following categories: toilet - 24%; shower - 20%; faucet - 19%; washing machine - 17%; Leakage - 12%; and other - 8%.

But wait—we aren't the only ones using water. It's pretty common for us to focus on water use for those things we see daily, but water is also being used for things we don't always see or think about. The experts tell us that our personal use of water at home is relatively small compared to overall water use. Seametrics, a water flow meter and sensor manufacturer, says that one of the largest water users is agriculture. After all, we do need to eat. Agriculture worldwide uses about 70% of the fresh water supply. In the United States we do a much better job, but even then, up to 40% of our fresh water withdrawals are for agricultural purposes. Fruits, vegetables grains, and production crops like cotton are very thirsty. In addition, industrial meat production accounts for almost a third of the water used for agriculture.

Then there are those things we buy. The manufacturing process also requires water. For instance, it takes approximately 39,000 gallons of water to produce a car, about 2,900 gallons to produce a pair of jeans, about 2,100 gallons to produce a pair of leather shoes, and about 700 gallons to produce a cotton shirt (Seametrics). And just think how much water must go into production of beverages like soft drinks, juices, beer, etc.

And we must not forget energy—that invisible something that allows us to turn on the lights, use our appliances and electronics, heat and cool our homes, and power the equipment that makes those things we buy, eat, etc. Energy production is the second largest consumer of freshwater resources in the world, and the U.S. energy production process uses over 58 trillion gallons of water annually (Knutson). The International Energy Agency estimates that by 2035, water used for energy production will increase by 15%.

*Continued on page 3*

## Oh Wow! Continued from page 2

And because I was curious and thought you might be too, below is Seametrics' full list of water users (in alphabetical order):

- o Agriculture
- o Aquaculture
- o Domestic
- o Industrial
- o Irrigation
- o Livestock
- o Mining
- o Public supply
- o Thermoelectric Power

So let's take a big sigh as we are at the beginning of summer and increasing our water use. The two—summer and water—seem to go hand in hand. And because of that, it is relevant right now to think about the big questions as well as the small questions related to water. What can I do at home? Will it really have an impact? What can I do about water use beyond my home and personal control? What is my city/county/state/country/world doing to make sure water is being used wisely? How might my thinking evolve because of the August Friends of Broomfield History Community Conversation about the history, present, and future of water in Broomfield? And I'm sure you can think of even more and better questions than these. It all reminds me of that line from Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *Ancient Mariner* poem, "water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink." However, I hope we are smart enough and concerned enough that we can soon change it to "water, water, everywhere and always plenty to drink." §

## Sources

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# Working with the Cheyenne and Arapaho in Broomfield

—David Allison, History Coordinator

I am excited to share a little bit about my recent trip to Oklahoma to visit with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Nation. It was an unforgettable experience, and it helped me to reframe my understanding of the history of land upon which Broomfield sits.

## Background to the Trip

Confluence is a monthly working group that meets at [The Refuge in Broomfield](#). An offshoot of [Right Relationship Boulder](#), the Confluence group saw that the City of Longmont became the Sister City to the Northern Arapaho (who primarily live on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming) in 2021 after years of relationship-building.

In mid-2021, Confluence member Tim Harnos met one of Sister City International's board members Carol Robertson Lopez at the ceremony to establish the relationship in Longmont. Lopez mentioned that having more cities create sister city relationships with indigenous nations was one of the organization's goals.

The Confluence group discussed the idea of developing relationships with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Nation in Oklahoma with the goal of having Broomfield become the sister city to this nation. The Confluence group unanimously approved pursuing this idea.

## Only the Earth and the Mountains Film and Panel Discussion

On Dec. 1, 2021 the Arts & History division of the City and County of Broomfield gave me the opportunity to lead very successful program with members of the Arapaho and Cheyenne nations. Ryan Ortiz, Gail Ridgely, Chief Elvin Kenrick, Eugene Black Bear, Elleni Sclavenitis, and Conrad Fisher were all present for the panel discussion after the *Only the Earth and the Mountains* film screening. 90 people were in attendance, and the audience was engaged throughout. We also had the chance to meet with Chief Elvin Kenrick for longer conversations separately with members of the Open Space and Trails group and Friends of Broomfield History.

## New Directions for Sister Cities and Visit to Concho, Canton, Clinton, and Washita in Oklahoma

Through the early part of 2022, the Library, Arts, and History team discussed the idea of creating one umbrella Sister City organization and combining the efforts of the City and County of Broomfield and of the various non-profit groups in an effort to support the relationship with the nascent C-A of Oklahoma as well as our connection with the extant Ueda, Japan sister city.

Concurrently, the Confluence group had been working with Fred Mosqueda, the Language and Cultural

Coordinator for the C-A of Oklahoma, on a plan to visit tribal lands and meet with leaders of the C-A nation in Oklahoma. I joined representatives from Confluence—Tim Harnos, Aleitta Remillard, and Lori Lane—on a trip to Oklahoma between May 6 and May 8, 2022.

Fred Mosqueda and other leaders of the Cheyenne and Arapaho in Oklahoma were fantastic hosts—they warmly welcomed our group. We had the opportunity to see their large bison herd, and we were privileged to have many meetings and discussions about how we might work



Graveyard near Fort Reno, courtesy of David Allison

*Working with the Cheyenne, continued from page 4*

together with the Cheyenne and Arapaho of Oklahoma. Building trusting and supportive relationships is absolutely key to this work. As we learned more about the culture and history of the Cheyenne and Arapaho, we also discovered how much more we still need to learn and how a foundation of mutual respect and understanding is essential.



Bison herd near Concho, courtesy of David Allison

Here are just a few of the many new revelations for me from our trip:

The Cheyenne and Arapaho would welcome the opportunity to see open space and waterways in Broomfield to learn more about the flora in the area. They believe Spotted Wolf was the chief who may have camped and lived in the Broomfield area and may be able to identify places in Broomfield that had been used by their ancestors.

The history of the US government enforcing boarding schools for native peoples is particularly heartbreaking. Concho's boarding school is still standing, though it is falling apart. Murals on some of the old walls depict Cheyenne and Arapaho heroes from the past.

Tribal leaders are hoping to revitalize the Arapaho language and would also be interested in working with us on school curricula about their people in the past and today.

The US government under Sheridan and Custer attacked a peaceful village in 1868 in Oklahoma in a way that was similar to the attack at Sand Creek in 1864. The Cheyenne peace chief Black Kettle and his wife (who had survived Sand Creek) were killed at Washita.

There is a strong connection between the labor movement and native rights for city-dwelling indigenous people. Frank Medicine Water (one of our hosts) was part of union organizing in Washington State in the 1980s. He is half Cheyenne and half Arapaho and also lived in Denver prior to moving to Washington State. He only moved to Oklahoma three years ago, but is enjoying reconnecting with his heritage through his role as a language and culture coordinator.

The state of Oklahoma built a dam in Roman Nose State Park (Lake Canton) and displaced the graves of many Arapaho chiefs. Some individuals were reburied and name plates were added. Others are likely underwater or are still buried throughout the area. The Arapaho dug shallow graves for their dead, the Cheyenne placed them on a small, raised platform wrapped in cloth.

## *Working with the Cheyenne, continued from page 5*

Some of the next steps in continuing to develop relationships with the Cheyenne and Arapaho of Oklahoma include considering how we might continue to pursue a Sister (or Friendship) City arrangement with them, working collaboratively to develop programs and public events here in Broomfield, and meeting with them to talk with them about how their ancestors might have used this land.

For more information about how you can get involved in this reconciliation and restoration work, contact David Allison at [dallison@broomfield.org](mailto:dallison@broomfield.org).



Our group from Broomfield (center) with Cheyenne and Arapaho leaders, courtesy of David Allison

## Broomfield School Memories

—Edward Smith (Used with permission of the author and edited for length by Roberta Depp)

I grew up at 7795 West 120th Avenue in Broomfield just East of Crescent Grange #136. During that timeframe before Broomfield became a city and county, West 120th Avenue was the southern boundary of Boulder County. Across the street was Jefferson County where I had three cousins that lived only a couple of blocks away from my home at 11905 North Wadsworth. Jefferson County was another jurisdiction as far as schools went, and even though we all lived in Broomfield, they went to school in Jefferson County and I went to school in Boulder County. Their school was located on 119th Place. It was Lorraine school, a one room school with a swing set, basketball hoop, and a shed for horses for those who rode to horses to school. By the time we started school, no one rode horses to school so the shed was not used. Even though I could see the school from where I lived, I had to go to school almost two miles away.

My school career started at age six in 1952 in Boulder County School District 43, Broomfield Colorado. I was told there were thirty-six students in the eight grades in the two-room school I attended. There was no kindergarten in our school. One had to be six years of age when school started in September to be

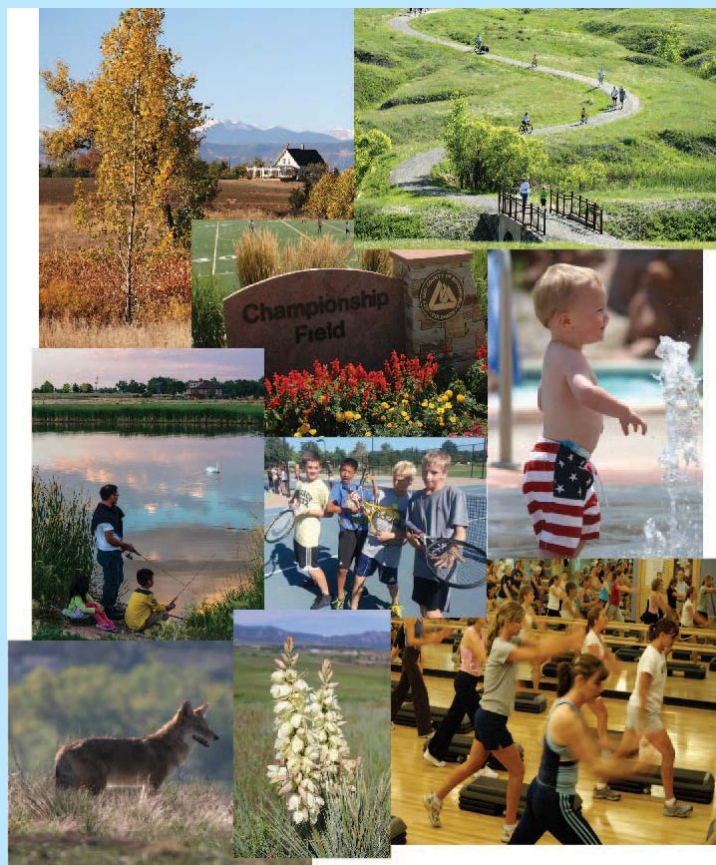


Broomfield School 1921 Class, courtesy of the Broomfield Depot Museum

# Open Space

The City and County of Broomfield is refreshing the Open Space, Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan. This research will build upon the 2005 version of the Master Plan and will reflect, enhance, and refine the 2016 Comprehensive Plan goals for Open Space, Parks, Recreation and Trails. The strategy is to offer fast, fun, and convenient ways for residents to contribute their feedback.

Your comments will inform the Master Plan results! Please take the OSPRT Plan survey at [BroomfieldVoice.com/OSPRTMasterPlan](http://BroomfieldVoice.com/OSPRTMasterPlan). The survey is available in English, Spanish, Mandarin Hmong, and Vitenamese. The survey closes on June 25.



## *Broomfield School, continued from page 6*

able to attend first grade. My birthday was at the end of July, so I qualified. Classes started after Labor Day and ended before Memorial Day with breaks for three days during the annual teachers' convention, a longer break from before Christmas to after New Year's Day and one more break on Good Friday. The sons whose fathers hunted liked the break for the teachers' convention since it always fell during the big game hunting season which allowed them to go hunting without missing school. The teachers never missed a day of school. I don't remember ever having a substitute. The school was a two-room brick and stucco, building at what is now 925 Main Street. I think it had coal fired forced air heat in winter that the older boys would stoke. The entry to the school was located in the middle of the building between the two classrooms. Once inside the entryway there was a set of stairs going down to the furnace room and another set going up to a landing where there was a water dispenser that held a five-gallon water jug and a cup dispenser which dispensed cone shaped paper water cups to use for getting a drink. When the jug was empty the older boys would replace it with a full water jug. Turning left at the top of the stairs led to a coat room on the left, then into the classroom for the first four grades. Turning right would lead to the fifth through eighth grades. A stage to the right was used for programs. There was no indoor plumbing. We had two outhouses—one for boys and one for girls. I'm fairly certain we had electric lights as some school programs were in the evening.

There were two teachers. Mrs. Lundberg taught grades one through four, and the other teacher, Mrs. Musselman, taught grades five through eight. By the time I got to fourth grade there were four teachers with the addition of Ruby Rosenberger and Miles Elo. I believe Miles Elo was hired to become the superintendent. After eighth grade students transferred to either Louisville or Lafayette high schools. As I remember, Arvada High School was another option, but I'm not sure. My Dad, Edward D. Smith, completed his elementary studies in

## *Broomfield School, continued from page 7*

1928 in the same two room school where I attended and graduated from Lafayette High School in 1932. He was the only one of the six boys in his family to graduate. My Dad served as the treasurer on the school board from 1950 until 1957 when he lost the school board election to a newcomer in the new Broomfield Heights subdivision.

When I started school, I had no concept of the alphabet or numbers. My teacher, Mrs. Lundberg, asked us to introduce ourselves. When it came to my turn, I said my name was Eddie. She asked me what my last name was. I had no idea what my last name was, in fact I didn't know if I had one. Talk about not being prepared for school!

School supplies in those days were simple. Items needed were a Big Chief tablet, pencil, eight pack of Crayola crayons, and LePage's glue with the rubber tip. Older students would also get bottles of Sheaffer Skrip Ink in black or blue for the ink well and a fountain pen. Some students would get sets of Crayolas in packages up to 24 crayons. My mom always pur-

chased the 8 pack with red, yellow, orange, green, blue, violet, brown, and black for me. I was jealous of the students that had more crayons.

I learned the pledge of allegiance right off as it was said every day. We would stand put our right hand over our heart and pledge allegiance to the US flag. The superintendent of schools for boulder County, Glenn Wildman Pennock, would visit our school on occasion and give us some religious training. I learned the Lord's Prayer and some other verses and earned a Bible for my efforts, which I still have today. Lunches were not provided by the school. My mom made my lunches and put them in my plain blue metal rectangular lunch box that also had a thermos. Some of the other students had fancy lunch boxes with paintings of Roy Rodgers on his horse or other popular celebrities. Lunch included a sandwich, usually of some kind of lunch meat wrapped in wax paper, a fruit such as apple, orange, banana, and whatever she put in the thermos.

Springtime was my favorite time of year, not because the school year was over, but because there were two events during May that I really enjoyed. The first one was going the University of Colorado football stadi-



The Broomfield School c. 1956, courtesy of the Broomfield Depot Museum



um and participating in the field days for all the school districts in Boulder County where everyone participated in various track and field events. My specialty was the high jump. At home, I made two standards that would support a crossbar and put a nail in the standards every inch. I would practice every day after school. The other activity I enjoyed was going to on a field trip to Denver to the Museum of Natural History, Denver Zoo, the State Capitol, and the Colorado history museum. One time we even visited the Duffy's soda bottling plant.

When I was in third grade on September 14, 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower visited the National Bureau of Standards, now known as the National Institute of Standards and Technology, in Boulder Colorado and gave a speech. The entire school went to the event. I remember going, but I was so young and far away from the podium that I didn't get anything out of the event other than knowing the President of the United States was speaking, and that it was a big deal.

During May of 1956 at the end of my fourth grade, Broomfield Heights Subdivision had grown enough to require more classrooms for the growing student population. The developer built a few homes at 400, 420, and 450 West First Avenue to be used for schools temporarily until a new school could be built. They were called cottage schools and were given names of trees. I remember there were three schools, each with a name: Aspen, Birch, and Cedar. There were two rooms on the first floor and two in the basement. Once the old two room school was closed, the contents of the school and playground equipment were auctioned off. My dad ended up with one of the slate blackboards. I remember the slide went to the Brunner's home on 120th avenue. I really wanted that slide, but it wasn't to be. Every time my family drove by their house, I would check it out and wish it was in my yard instead. §

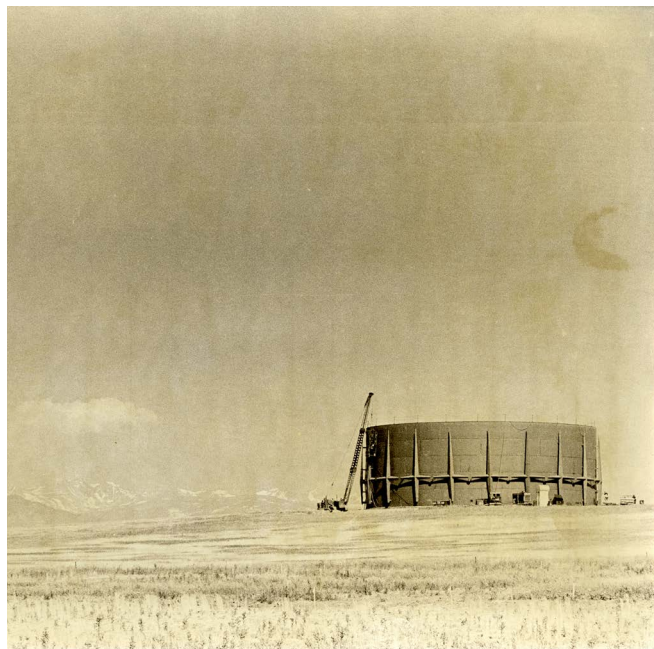
*The Broomfield School at 10th and Main Streets served Broomfield students from 1921 – 1955.*

## From the Archive: View from the Water Tank at 136th and Kohl, c. 1971

—Elizabeth Beaudoin

We often talk about the preservation or loss of historic structures, but not so much about a loss of a view. Often I will hear from those who have spent many years in Broomfield about how “empty” the landscape was when they first moved here, or how there used to be nothing built along 287 or 120th. Yet sometimes these sweeping views of “nothing” never get recorded in photos, or donated to an archive. While digitizing a slew of 1970's photos this past year, we came upon two photos from our collection that show the large expanse of openness that long-time residents often speak of.

These are two photos, likely taken in the early 1970s, of the water tank at the top of the hill where Kohl and W. 136th meet, which can still be seen when traveling south on 287 from Lafayette to Broomfield. There are now two



Broomfield Water Tank, c. 1970, courtesy of the Broomfield Depot Museum

*From the Archive, continued from page 9*

of these water tanks, the second being built sometime in the 1980s as the city grew. These photos of the tank when it as new demonstrate how the tank was a visual beacon when first built, surrounded by prairie and visible for miles.

This hill has long been a visual apex in the landscape. Unfortunately in the 1920s it is documented that the Klu Klux Klan used this spot to burn crosses: a frightening display of hatred upon the landscape. It is unfortunate that such a terrible act happened in what is otherwise one of the most scenic spots in Broomfield, even today.

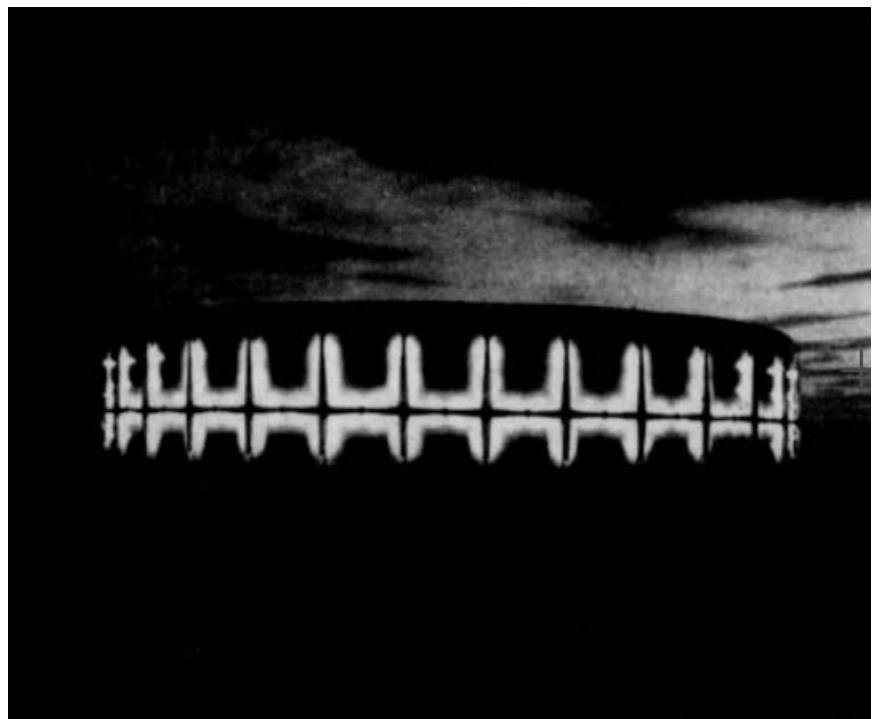
At the end of the day, make time to travel up there for some of the most stunning sunsets over the Front Range.

City officials were aware of the very visible site that the water tower would occupy, touting in the January 14, 1971 Broomfield Star that the approved design was to be “aesthetically pleasing” and illuminated at night. The artist’s rendering of the approved design makes the modern tank look a little like a spaceship at night. Unfortunately the illumination would be short-lived, as the lights were shut off following the 1973 Energy Crisis.

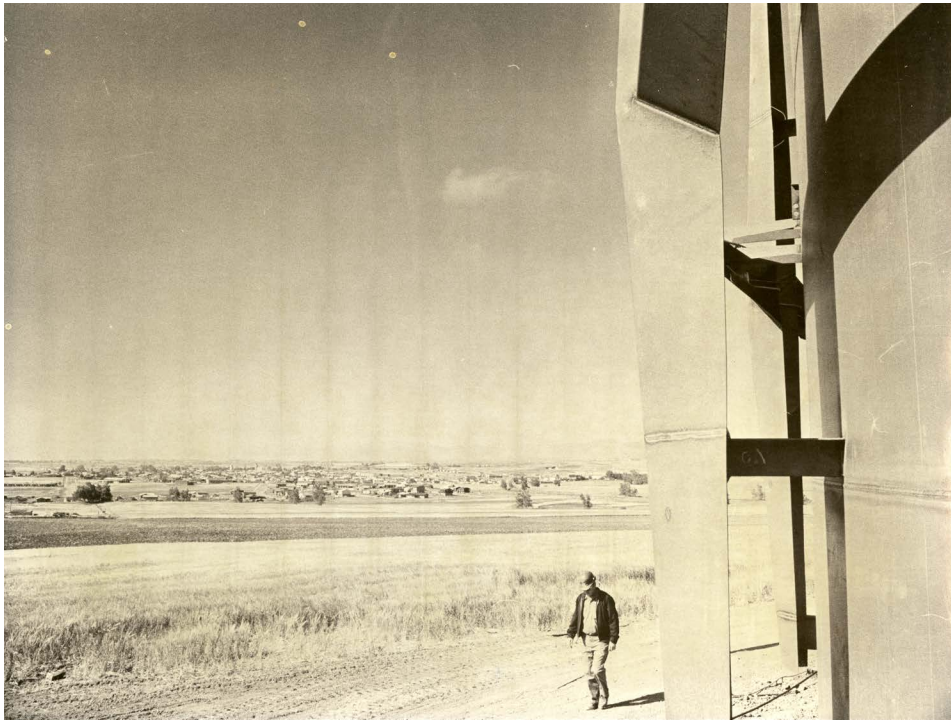
Putting a water tank on a hill also had some functional aspects, as the higher elevation aids in creating water pressure. This is why many water tanks are water “towers” rather than low tanks, so Broomfield’s tank was probably a cost-effective design.

The photo at the beginning of this article shows the tank viewed from the east, looking west towards the mountains—a view still mostly accessible today due to the Ruth Roberts and Carolyn Holmberg Preserves to the northwest. The area on the western side of the tanks is the lovely Anne Crouse Park, named after the former city councilwoman, longtime resident, and Heart of Broomfield recipient. This is where to see those stunning sunsets, and a plaque in the park indicates each of the peaks that can be seen from this vantage point.

The second photo is a view of the tank from the north looking south towards 120th. If you look closely, near the center of the photo, you can see the two grain silos in Old Town Broomfield. The houses closest to the camera are likely part of Miramonte, a new neighborhood at that time. The wide expanse of fields in between would be filled with homes in the 70s, 80s, and 90s. This view encompassed the majority of the city in 1971, viewed practically from end-to-end. Today, the view shown in this photo is no longer possible, not only because houses are blocking the view, but also because trees have been planted around the tanks on their south side in order to screen them from the view of neighboring homes. §



1971 rendering of proposed water tank design from Jan 14 1971 Enterprise, Courtesy of the Broomfield Depot Museum



Broomfield Water Tank, c. 1970, courtesy of the Broomfield Depot Museum



Anne Crouse Park in 2022, courtesy of the Broomfield Depot Museum

*If you have any photographs that show how Broomfield has grown and developed over the years, we would love to add them to our Broomfield Depot Museum archive.*



140 Agate Way, Broomfield, Courtesy of the author

## Walk this Way

—Sallie Diamond

### 140 Agate Way

If you walk over to 140 Agate Way in Broomfield, you will find the city's first residential historic landmark. The home was constructed in 1957 as part of Broomfield's first planned development called the First Filing, and it consists of post-World War II prefabricated architecture following a specific set of guidelines. To be approved, the property had to meet certain criteria including exemplifying specific elements of an architectural style or period. The designation also protects the home's current architectural integrity from any future modifications. The designation will not affect adjacent property owners or any other homes within the neighborhood. So if you get a chance, drive by this historic landmark! §





Great Western Reservoir c. 1979, courtesy of the Broomfield Depot Museum

## The Big Switch

—Sandra Roberts

*The Turnpike Land Co. launched development on Broomfield Heights, a precursor to incorporated Broomfield, in 1955 along the north side of the recently built Denver-Boulder Turnpike, completed in 1952. The city's water originally came from a pair of lakes on the family farm land of Adolph Zang, ditch water rights and three large wells, according to local historian Silvia Pettem's 2001 book, *Broomfield: Changes Through Time*. - Joe Rubino for the Broomfield Enterprise*

When Broomfield outgrew their water rights and wells in the mid-1950s, the city invested in a much larger water source, Great Western Reservoir, which was “fed by Clear Creek through the Church Ditch. It would be Broomfield’s main source of water for its first decade as a city” (Rubino).

By 1970, Broomfield’s population topped 7,000, and they purchased a Denver Water allotment for

\$11 million. Great Western Reservoir was supposed to be “all the water [Broomfield] will ever need,” (Rubino) but within three years, inspectors discovered that Rocky Flats operations had released plutonium into the water.

When I moved to Broomfield in 1987, I noticed that people were pushing through with more bravado than bottled water; their initial concerns had dissipated over the years. My neighbors declared offhandedly that plutonium was so heavy that it sank to the bottom of the reservoir and wouldn’t get into our drinking water. They said that Great Western was probably still safe—we shouldn’t panic. I didn’t like my landlord’s joke about the pig with three heads, but I could see that he wasn’t packing his suitcase; Broomfield was his home, and it was my home, too.

In 1989, Broomfield made an attempt to divert Rocky Flats run-off from seeping into Great Western, but in 1992, inspectors found more plutonium in the reservoir. In 1992, a U.S. Geological Survey compared Great Western plutonium levels to levels detected in 1983 and reported that levels had dropped (Clow and Johncox). However, their explanation for the drop was inconvenient: higher levels of plutonium had been buried

under additional layers of sediment (Clow and Johncox). Clearly, the plutonium was still a concern, so it was time for a new water source.

According to Rubino, “After that, with the support of Colorado Rep. David Skaggs and \$52 million from Rocky Flats manager, the U.S. Department of Energy, Broomfield sold some of its water rights and bought an allotment of Windy Gap water from Boulder. After the construction of a pipeline from Windy Gap storage spot Carter Lake and a new water treatment facility near West 144th Avenue and Lowell Boulevard, Broomfield at last had a clean, safe water supply.”

In 1993, my firstborn became a brand-new Broomfield resident while workers were breaking ground on the new pipeline from Carter Lake to Broomfield. Erring on the side of caution, I dedicated a precious square foot of space in our tiny house to a distilled water cooler, but I’d temporarily left Broomfield by the time “the last 41-mile section from Platteville to Morgan County was finished in 1999. Total project construction costs were \$68 million” (“First Phase”).

Today the Northern Colorado Conservancy District is involved with water storage projects such as the Windy Gap Firming Project, which is expected to increase the reliability of water on the Front Range, and Broomfield is “by far the largest stakeholder” in this long-range, ambitious project that is expected to “provide dedicated storage to supply 30,000 acre-feet of water each year for future generations....[In 2022,] 60% of Broomfield’s water supply comes from the Colorado-Big Thompson and Windy Gap projects,” and the rest is purchased from Denver Water (“Boulder County region”).

Brennan Middleton, a water manager, told the Daily Camera that “Broomfield’s current population is slightly more than 75,000, and its latest forecast for buildout by 2040 or 2050 is 115,000” (“Boulder County region”). Our water projects are focused on the future, but our conservation efforts today are even more important as we face decreased rainfall in Colorado. The city conserves water by irrigating our parks with recycled wastewater; what will you do to help conserve one of our most precious natural resources? §

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The Friends of Broomfield History is dedicated to sustaining the history and heritage of Broomfield through our relationship with the Broomfield Museum, our members and other community partners. Your membership or contribution bolsters all our work, and we greatly appreciate your support.

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