

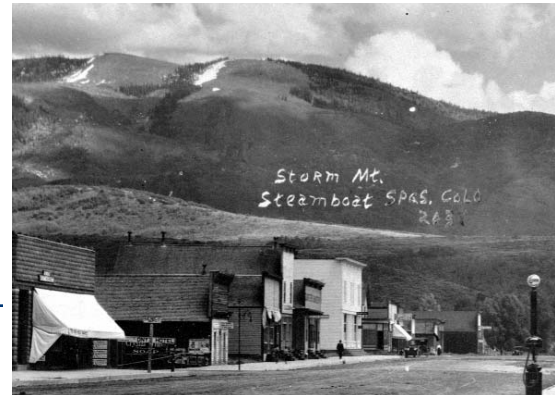
For Immediate Release:

Media Contact: Riley Polumbus ✪ 970-879-0882 ext. 207 ✪ riley@steamboatchamber.com

Real Town Story Ideas



The City of Steamboat Springs was incorporated in 1900, but its trappers, hunters, and explorers date back to the early 1800s. The Utes spent summers here prior to that. The first homestead was built in 1875 by James Crawford, the town's founding father, who also built the first bathhouse on the same site as the downtown hot springs (Steamboat Springs Health & Recreation Association). Below are a few snippets of some stories that tell the tale of Steamboat Springs. There's more where these come from.



©Tread of Pioneers Museum



103rd Cowboys' Roundup Days Fourth of July Celebration

Steamboat Springs' oldest tradition is its Fourth of July Celebration. No one knows for sure when the first rodeo competition in Steamboat Springs took place, however as long as we've been keeping track, it has been a part of the town's Fourth of July Celebration. The celebration includes many events characteristic of a small town: a flapjack feed, parade down main street, block parties and fireworks. In Steamboat Springs we also celebrate our Western Heritage with a cattle drive down our main street, Lincoln Avenue, a ranch rodeo and tours of area ranches.

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From Cowtown to Culture Town

Steamboat Springs Depot welcomed its first freight train in December 1908 and the first passenger train arrived in January 1909. The railroad from Denver toward Salt Lake City was originally built to open access to Routt County's coal mines. However it also opened up opportunity for two of Steamboat's industries, cattle/sheep ranching and tourism. During the height of exportation, 1920-1950, more cattle were shipped from Steamboat Springs than anywhere in the country. Cattle were driven down Steamboat's streets including its main street, Lincoln Avenue, until city officials in the early 1970s declared them no longer suitable for the town's image and the tourists who visited the town. Ironically, an annual cattle drive was brought back in 2000, as part of the City's Centennial Celebration, to enhance our "western image" and entertain the tourists. The Depot is now the home of the Steamboat Springs Arts Council and the Eleanor Bliss Center for the Arts. Within its gallery visitors enjoy a wide array of exhibits year round.



©Tread of Pioneers Museum

Steamboat Springs shows its age:

Year	Who/What	Year	Who/What
1875	First homestead, James Crawford & family	1905	Routt National Forest designated
1884	First bathhouse built by Crawford at the Heart Spring	1907	Steamboat Springs Chamber of Commerce founded
1885	The Steamboat Pilot Newspaper founded	1908	Steamboat Springs Depot completed, first freight train arrived
1889	First Hotel erected, The Sheridan Hotel on Lincoln Ave		Mad Creek to Swamp Park Trail built
1897	First Rodeo held in Steamboat Springs	1909	First passenger train arrived
1900	City of Steamboat Springs incorporated	1914	First Steamboat Springs Winter Carnival
1903	First Cowboys' Roundup Days Fourth of July Celebration		Perry Mansfield Performing Arts Camp established
1904	Old Town Pub building built, 600 Lincoln Ave.		First Routt County Fair & Rodeo held in Hayden
1905	F.M. Light & Sons opened for business, 830 Lincoln Av.		Rabbit Ears Pass Built
		1915	Howelsen Hill Ski Area opened
		1927	Rodeo Grounds built
		1963	Steamboat Ski Area opened

Preserving its Heritage, Preserving the West

Steamboat Springs has nearly eighty sites on its Country Register of Historic Properties. Twelve of these are on the National Register of Historic Properties and four are on the Colorado State Register. This is made possible by groups such as Historic Routt County! who work to preserve the county's heritage. Steamboat Springs' history museum, Tread of Pioneers, also hosts a wealth of information and artifacts featuring Native Americans, the early pioneers and the area's rich ski history. They also possess over 4000 historic photos stored in their digital library which are available for the public to purchase.



Preserving the Routt National Forest for over 100 years

President Teddy Roosevelt visited the forests surrounding Steamboat Springs on hunting and fishing trips in the 1890s. With the vast beauty and unique landscapes, it's no wonder President Roosevelt felt the National Forest Service was a necessity and thus we have these open areas to enjoy today. In 1905 he established the National Forest Service and along with it, the Routt National Forest, which today contains 1,126,346 acres or nearly 1,760 square miles of forest land around Steamboat Springs.



©Routt National Forest

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1914 was a good year in Routt County

Telephone wires were strung along the Yampa River, a Gold Mill at the Royal Flush Mine in Hahns Peak opened, the Sarvis Timber Company opened a new camp and mill, the Colorado-Utah coal company began constructing new homes in Mt. Harris, the highway over Rabbit Ears Pass opened, Strawberry Park's strawberry crop produced 20,000 crates, Carl Howelsen organized the first Winter Carnival, Charlotte Perry and Portia Mansfield opened the Perry Mansfield Performing Arts School, and the first Routt County Fair and Rodeo was held in Hayden.



©Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts Camp



Sibling Rivalry

Charlotte and Marjorie Perry, daughters of mining entrepreneur Samuel M. Perry. Charlotte, the actress, and Marjorie, the athlete, both left behind important legacies in Steamboat Springs. Marjorie introduced Norwegian ski jumper, Carl Howelsen, to Steamboat Springs and encouraged him to organize the first Steamboat Springs Winter Carnival. Charlotte Perry along with her friend Portia Mansfield found the Strawberry Park area a perfect place to inspire the artists who attended Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts Camp, the first of its kind in the country. The Steamboat Springs Winter Carnival is the oldest west of the Mississippi and Perry-Mansfield is the oldest performing arts camp in the country.

©Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts Camp

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