



FUN FACTS AND HISTORY

There are more than **150 springs in the area**. Some are hot enough to cook eggs in the water, which is what the Crawford family and other early settlers did.

Legend has it that **Steamboat Springs got its name around 1865** when French Trappers, traveling through the area approached the Yampa River and heard a "chug chug" sound that they thought was an old paddle wheel steamer. They excitedly called out "A Steamboat, a Steamboat is comin".

Steamboat Springs' first settler and town founder **James Crawford** moved his family here in 1875. He was impressed by the many springs, the beauty of the mountains, and was the first family to stay the winter in Steamboat.

The **Ute Indians** were summer residents of the area until they were moved to a reservation in Utah. The Aspen grove behind Old Town Hot Springs was an old Ute Indian burial ground. Yampa Valley is named after the Yampa plant, a staple of the Indian diet. (A cross between a carrot and an onion).

Cowboys have always played an important role in Steamboat's western heritage. In its heyday Steamboat was one of the largest cattle shipping centers of the west.

Brooklyn was the red light district with one unnamed street, 5 saloons, brothels and the like. Any drinking or carrying on was confined to the south side of the river.

The first skis were used as transportation and were called snowshoes even though they didn't resemble traditional snowshoes, which were inadequate for travel in the deep snows. They were usually homemade and measured 8 to 12 feet long!

In 1913 Carl Howelsen the "Flying Norseman" of Barnum & Bailey fame arrived in Steamboat and showed people how to ski jump and cross country race. During the 1917 Winter Carnival the town honored the man who brought recreational skiing to the area by renaming "Elk Pasture" to "Howelsen Hill."

Steamboat Springs has produced **more Olympic athletes than anywhere else in the World!** In 2002, Steamboat sent more athletes to the Olympics than any other town in the world.

Buddy Werner was the first American skier to pose a threat to the European ski racers of the time. Buddy was tragically killed in an avalanche in Switzerland. It took an act of Congress to change the name of the Ski area from Storm Mountain to Mt. Werner in his honor.

1968 Olympian, **Jim "Moose" Barrows**, is famous for his crash in the Downhill which aired on the ABC Wide World of Sports introduction for years. The crash was spectacular and the narration said the "thrill of victory and the agony of defeat".

Steamboat Springs was dubbed "**Ski Town USA**" in 1947 when the Associated Press ran an article describing the marching band on skis and the enthusiastic local ski community under the headline that proclaimed Steamboat Springs "Ski Town." It was later that Mayor Bob Smith tagged "USA" onto the moniker in 1950 as a promotion for the Ski Bands' trip to Chicago. The band paraded down Chicago's Michigan Avenue on July 17th representing the Colorado Lions Club at the International Lions Club convention. 58 skiers were equipped with specially designed skis with four rollers, which allowed the band to slide forward on pavement, but locked into a no-roll back position. **Universal Studios** made an 18 minute movie by that name in 1957 using local skiers.