

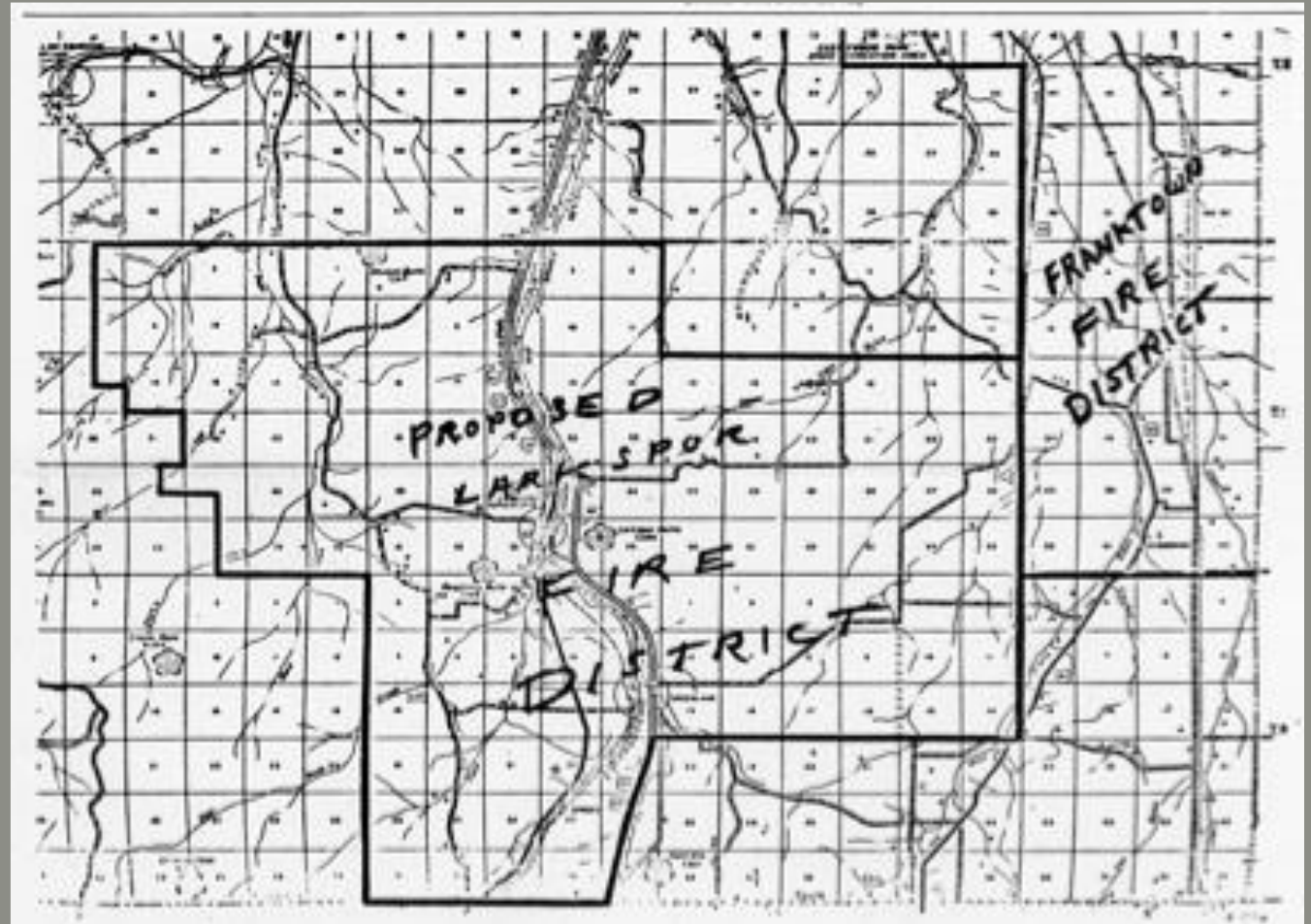
History of the Larkspur Fire Protection District



Larkspur Historical Society

Rodger Greer

April 10, 2025



Outline

01

Antecedents

02

Tomah Fire

03

Formation of a Fire District

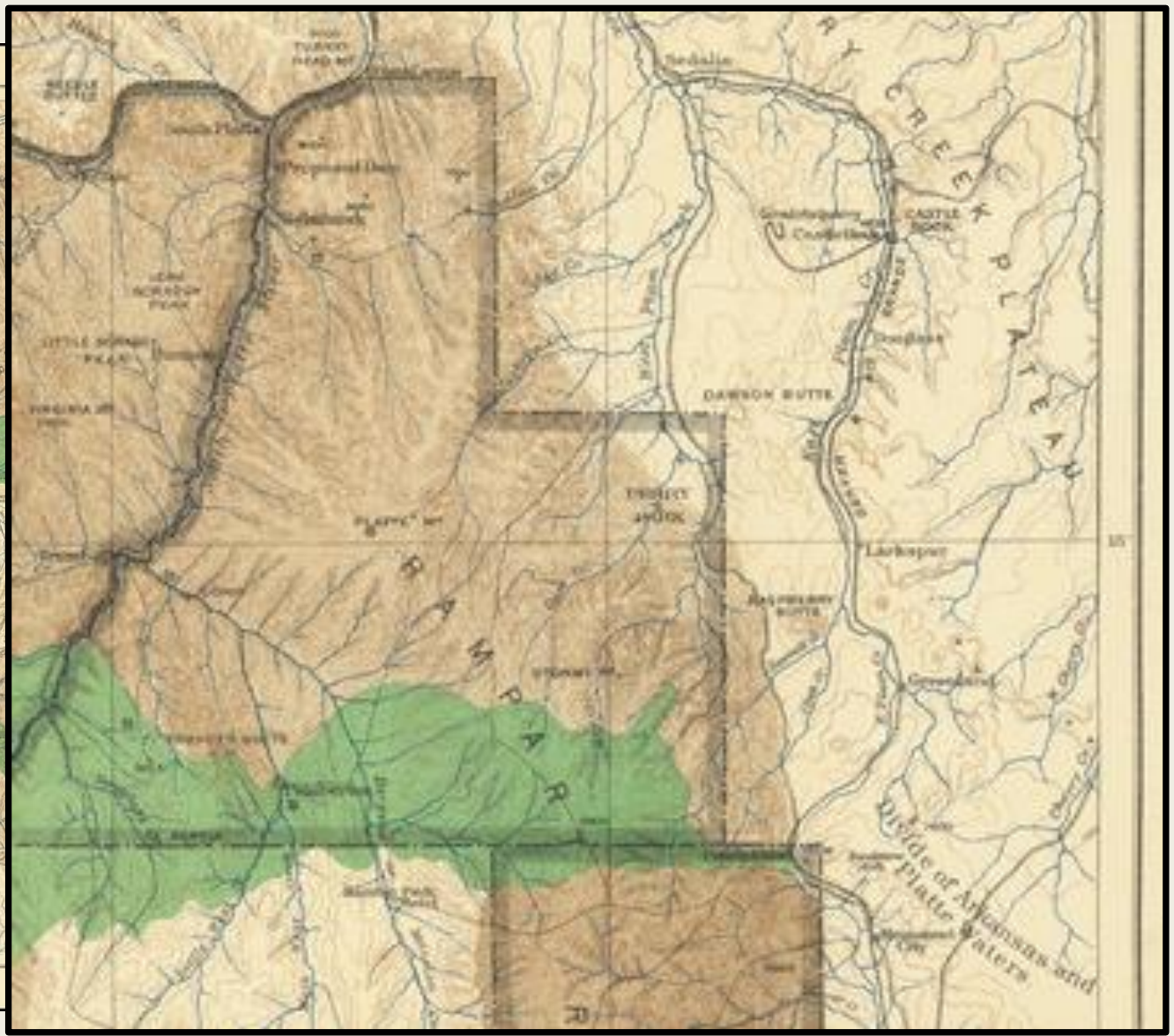
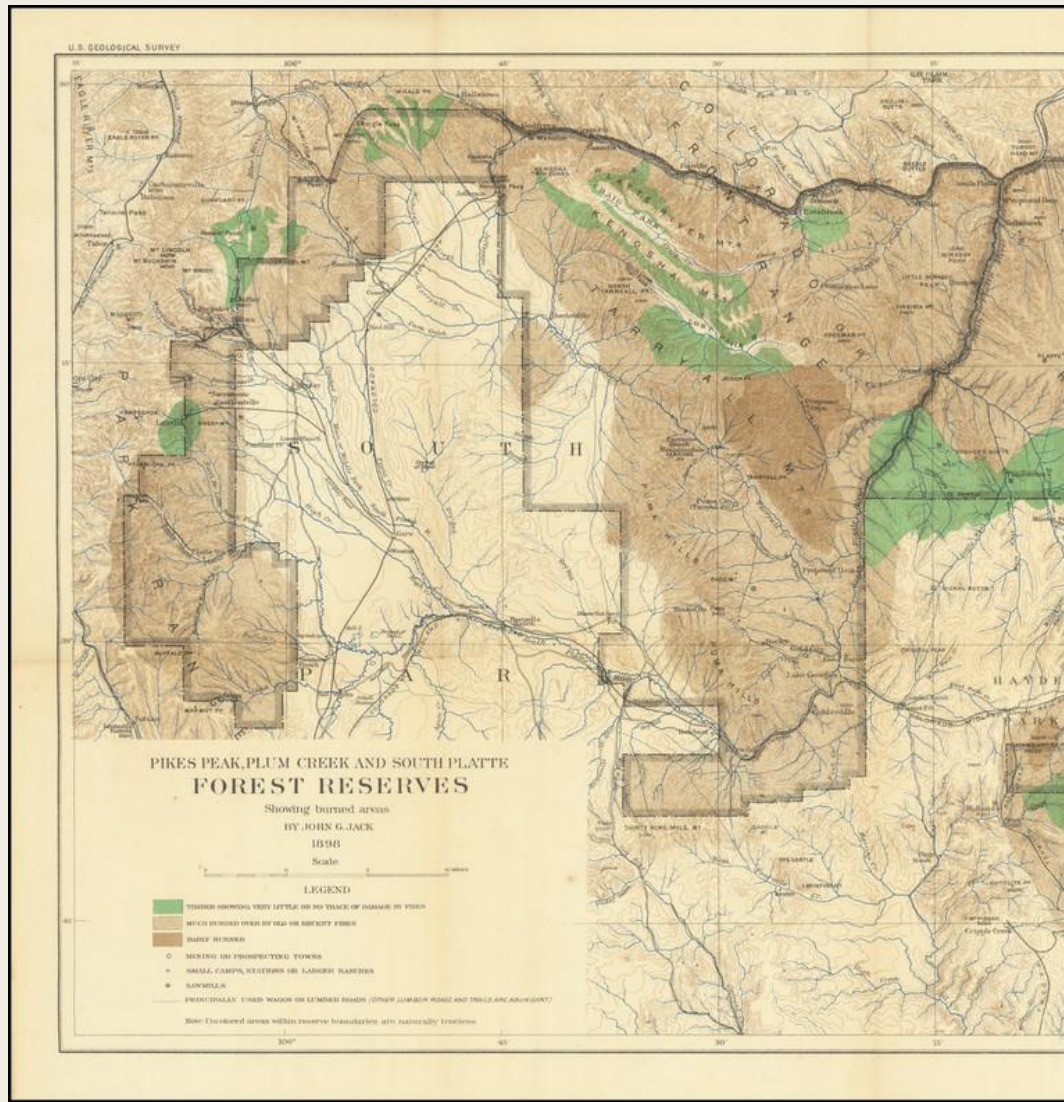
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Bald Mountain Fire

05

Evolution of the district

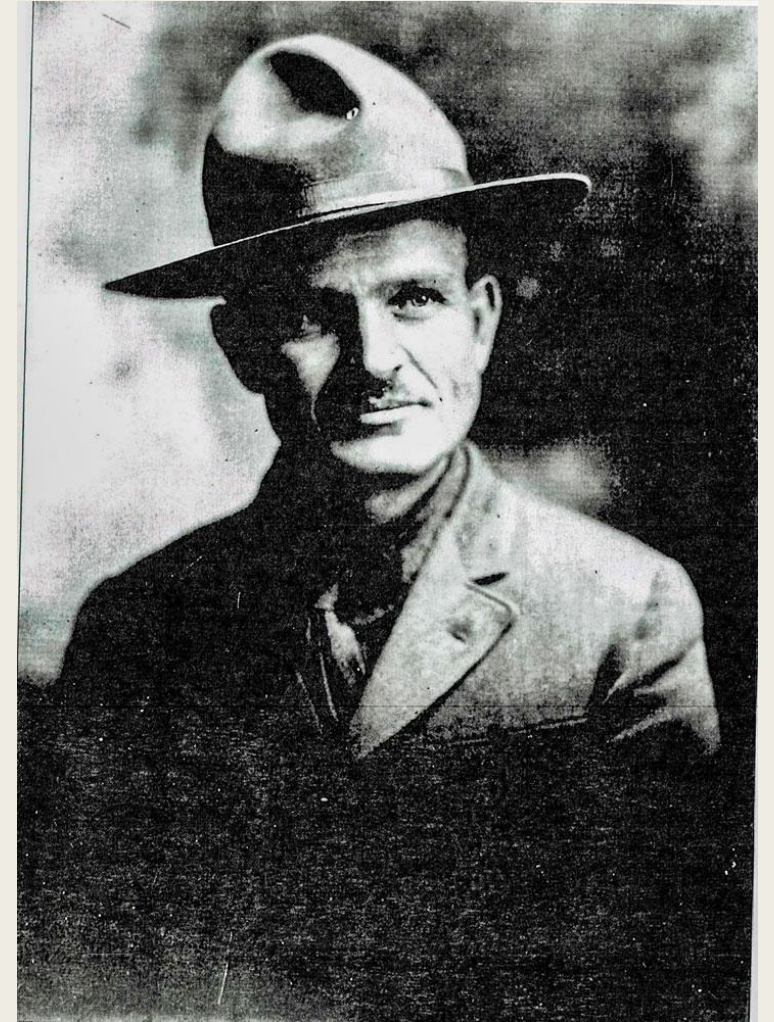
Forest Reserves Burned Areas By John G. Jack. 1898.



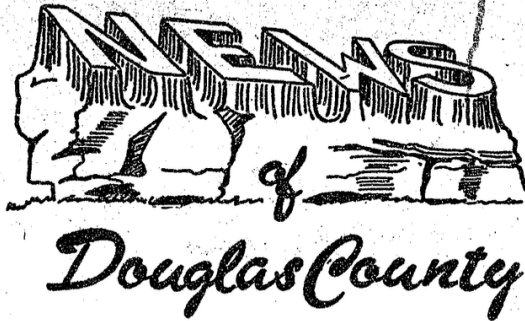
Billy Kreutzer

- His Father was Edward Kreuzter
 - Bavarian Forester
 - Settled in Jarre Canyon in 1880
 - Cigar Maker for a short time...
- Billy worked for HH Metcalf on a ranch near Sedalia
- Rode into Denver to interview for what was a political appointment, unbeknownst to 20-year-old Billy
- *Political endorsements be damned. I will hire who I want as a Ranger. A person who is in the hills and not tied to the job by political apron-strings, he will be a ranger free to do the things that ought to be done as he found them.*

Colonel W. T. S. May, the Forestry Superintendent for Colorado
- \$50/month, and the employee had to provide their own horse, housing, food, and equipment.



Tomah Fire, Oct 13, 1962



10c Per Copy — or mailed \$3.50 per year
Vol. 13 Castle Rock, Colo., Thurs., Oct. 18, 1962 No. 1

Sleeping driver awakes and crashes

Walt Hinkle of Glover Subdivision, Castle Rock, Colo., recently retired from the Marine Corps, was coming home Oct. 14th about 10:45 p.m. 1½ mile south of Blakeland on Hiway 65, traveling south. Jerry Lee Davis, 23, Pueblo, Colo., was traveling north at the same time, apparently fell asleep and went into Hinkle's southbound traffic lane.

When Hinkle saw Davis coming at him in the wrong lane he swerved to the other, northbound, lane — at this point Davis apparently awoke, swerved back into his correct lane and the two cars met head-on.

Walt received a broken right leg, badly bruised rib cage and head and face abrasions. Davis received a lacerated right knee and abrasions on head and face. Both men were taken to the Swedish Hospital. Hinkle's car was judged a total loss and Davis' car damaged an estimated \$125, according to Colorado Patrolman Joe Pascoe from the Denver Division of the Patrol.

Punt, pass and kick entrants signing up

Burgess Motor Company in

PROPERTY OWNERS — Please read ad this issue "Vote Yes on Amendment 5." Note the present laws authorize you County Assessor to assess you personal and real estate property 100% of cash value. Amendment No. 5, if voted in, will change this situation, according to sponsors of this amendment.

4 DCNS students to all-state choir

Auditions were held Oct. 16 at Douglas County High School to select four choir students to attend All-State choir during the Colorado Education Association convention Oct. 26 and 27 in Denver. Those selected are: Donna Light, soprano; Nora Dahberg, alto; Judy Ann Stair, alto, and Dan Englen, bass.

The Colorado All-State Chorus and Madrigal Festival, organized by Dr. Roger Dexter, PE director of the University of Denver Lamont School of Music, was first sponsored by the University of Denver in October, 1945. From this beginning the Festival has been a special event on the Colorado high school calendar. By tradition the festival coincides with the annual meeting of the Colorado Education Association. It ends with a public concert at the University of Denver.

Thanks extended to "Candy Buyers"

The Douglas County Lions Club wish to take this opportunity to thank each of you

15 Volunteer Fire Dept. Firemen Controlled Fire

"The Castle Rock Fire Dept. looking forward to seeing you

12-DOUGLAS COUNTY NEWS
Castle Rock, Colorado
Thursday, October 18, 1962

WEST PLUM CREEK

Mrs. Floyd Turner: 628-4243

The main topic of conversation also of work over the week-end was the very destructive timber and brush fire that started just north of the John Hammond ranch buildings progressing at a very rapid rate almost to the Chapman Young, Jr. ranch home. There was a lot of fire fighting equipment there to try and keep it in check and then the wind shifted slightly and it took a north-east direction and they managed to bring it under control. Men and equipment arrived on the scene as fast as humanly possible and the praise was mutual from everyone for the help of the other fellow. The Palm brothers were very grateful for all the help in try-

ing to keep their cattle ahead of the fire. They are not sure whether any were lost or not. Some did break back and their fate was not determined. Perhaps you noticed the picture in the Post of the two men fighting the fire. Floyd said, well that looks like us but know it isn't as was no one else in where we were until Rich Stevens went through with the dozer and know there wasn't any one out there taking pictures. The boys thought they were doing real well and looked around to find that Wallace's pick-up was almost surrounded. The boys back-fired in one of the bad spots after the dozer went through which kept the fire from spreading farther west and endangering the Reginald Sinclair home even more. And also a few more men came in after the dozer went through and that helped. Everything is so tinder

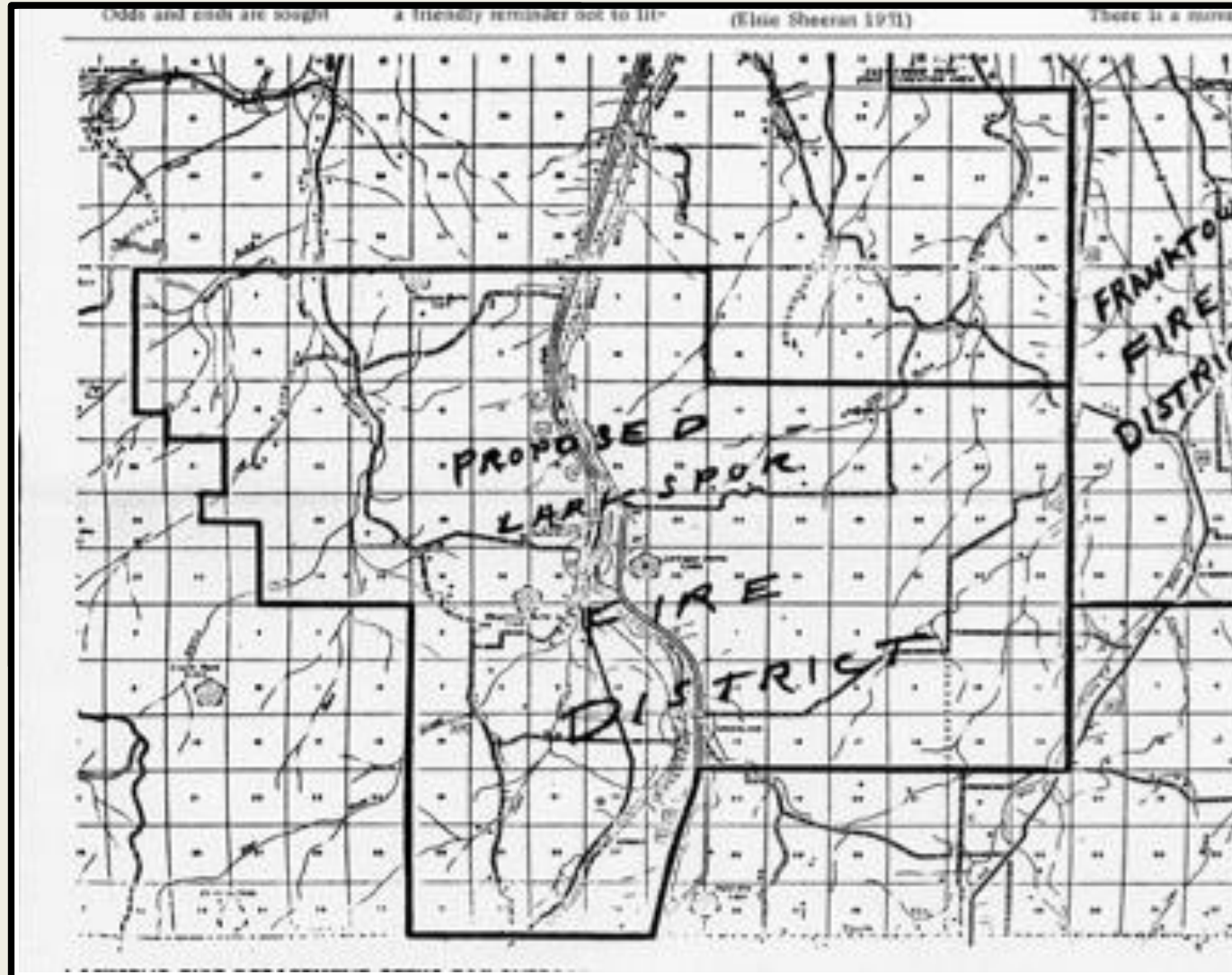
What started out to be another one of the many "grass fire calls" last Saturday turned out to be the hardest to control grass fire in the history of the county. The fire started about 5 miles south of Castle Rock just off the west side of Hiway 85-87 and could have been started from a cigarette or match. The tinder-dry grass burned at a rate of 30 miles per hour. The leaves traveled a mile away. Ponies and trees after burning would literally explode and reached a hot temperature sending sparks in all directions. Smoke was as thick as fog and seen from Denver north and Colorado Springs south.

Some were burned, no doubt lost due to quick action of hundreds of volunteers and neighbors, estimated burned out area ranging from 100 to 5000 acres. The fire kept busy Sunday putting out the members that were involved in the winds.

Birth of the Volunteer Fire Department

- In 1964 a determined group of citizens laid the groundwork for the Larkspur Volunteer Fire Department, which began operations.
- Initially, the department relied entirely on community donations, operating on a meager budget. The equipment was humble
 - *A chemical tank on a cart, pulled by hand*
 - *A surplus military forestry truck donated by Fort Collins*
 - The journey to retrieve this truck from Fort Collins was arduous, with the vehicle breaking down repeatedly on its way to Larkspur.
 - The first firehouse, built on donated land, was a modest 3-bay structure funded by loans. Over time, it grew to 6 bays with a second-story meeting room, becoming the heart of the community's fire protection efforts.

Larkspur Fire Protection District



LARKSPUR FIRE DEPARTMENT SEEKS TAX SUPPORT

Fellow Douglas Countians:

The members of the Larkspur Volunteer Fire Department are desirous of setting up a tax supported fire protection district in Douglas County. Since 1964 the Larkspur Volunteer Fire Department has operated on donations from the Community. It is now felt that a greater service can be rendered through the establishment of a tax district.

We feel that the community will benefit in the following ways from such a district formation:

1. The Larkspur Volunteer Fire Department will gain a larger income from which to secure better training and better equipment, and hence can provide better fire protection.
2. It will provide a more equitable means of cost sharing fire protection. Our present fund drives are not received equally well by all members of the community.

There is, of course, one disadvantage to the formation of a district and that is the tax increase. Although Colorado law allows a maximum taxation of 8 mills for a fire district, this is not expected to occur in Douglas County; at least not in the foreseeable future. The highest fire tax assessment presently in Douglas County is at Franktown, where they have a 2.75 mill levy. The County Commissioners indicate that the Larkspur Fire District, if approved, will have a tax levy of 1 to 2 mills. This should not work a real hardship on anyone.

Before presenting our petition to the court, we wish to make known our desires to those in the County who will be effected, and to request their cooperation and concurrence in our endeavor. It is our desire to serve the community in which we live. From the analysis and research performed to date by our members, we feel that a tax supported district will best help us serve that purpose. We therefore request your support and cooperation.

An open meeting is to be held on Tuesday, October 1st, at 8:00 p. m., at the Larkspur School. Further information will be presented at this time, and members of the Larkspur Volunteer Fire Department will be available to answer questions concerning the

Stan Trueblood, First Chief Wes Trueblood, Last Elected Chief Keith Mathena, First Paid Chief

LARKSPUR VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS
The Larkspur Volunteer Fire
Department, Inc., met on
Thursday evening, May 4, 1965

In its early years, the Larkspur Volunteer Fire Department relied heavily on its residents. During the day, when most men worked outside the area, local women stepped in as primary first responders. In fact, it was a group of women and one elderly gentleman who first put the department's new fire truck to use battling a blaze.

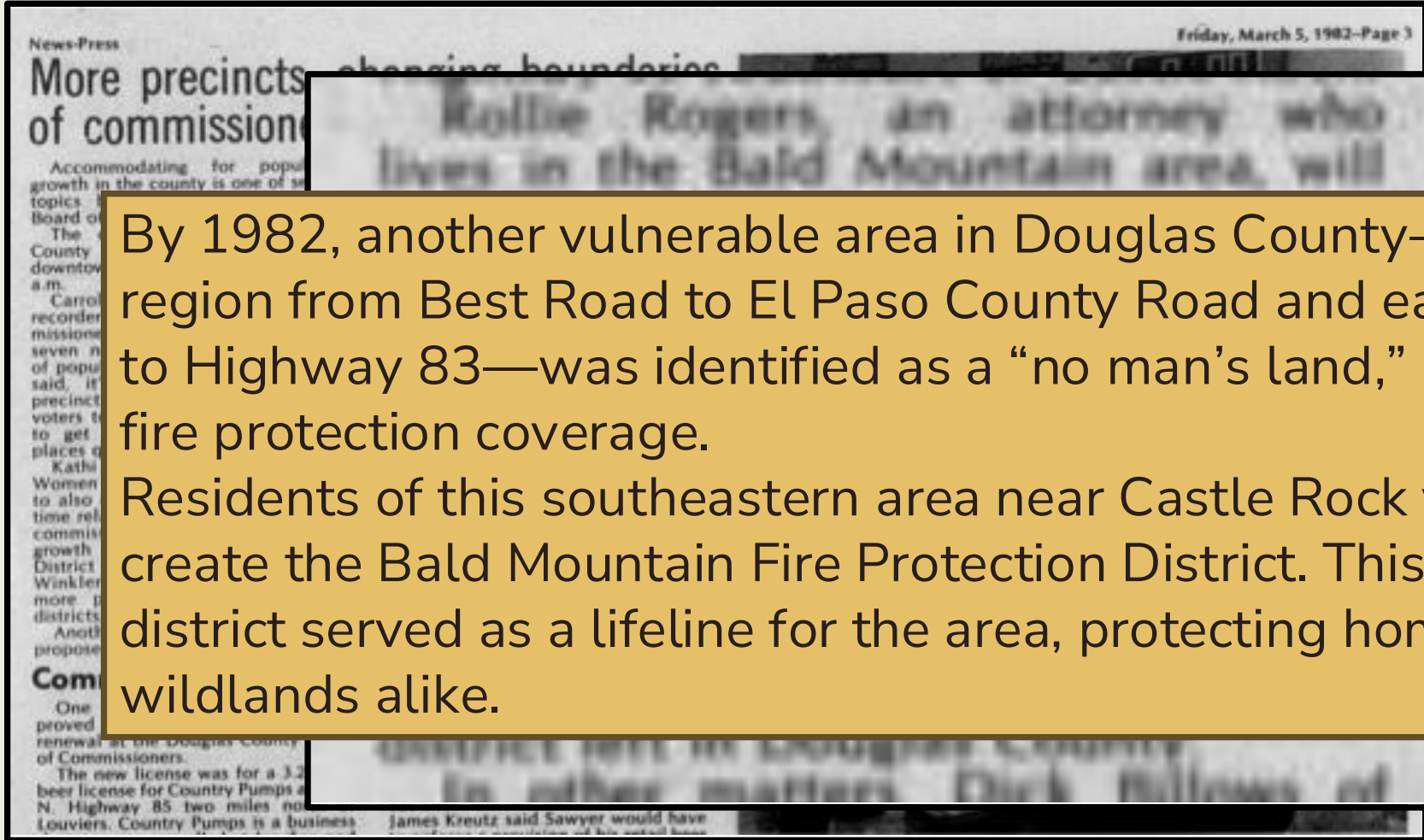
As the community grew, so did the department's responsibilities. In 1997, the district adapted to the loss of commercial ambulance services by hiring full-time firefighters and paramedics. This transition led to the establishment of three rotating shifts and paramedic ambulances stationed at two locations.

Both Station 161 in Larkspur and Station 162 in Perry Park underwent major upgrades, with Station 161 receiving expanded living quarters, administrative offices, storage, and a firefighter gymnasium in 2010. These improvements reflected the district's commitment to modernizing its facilities and providing top-tier emergency services.

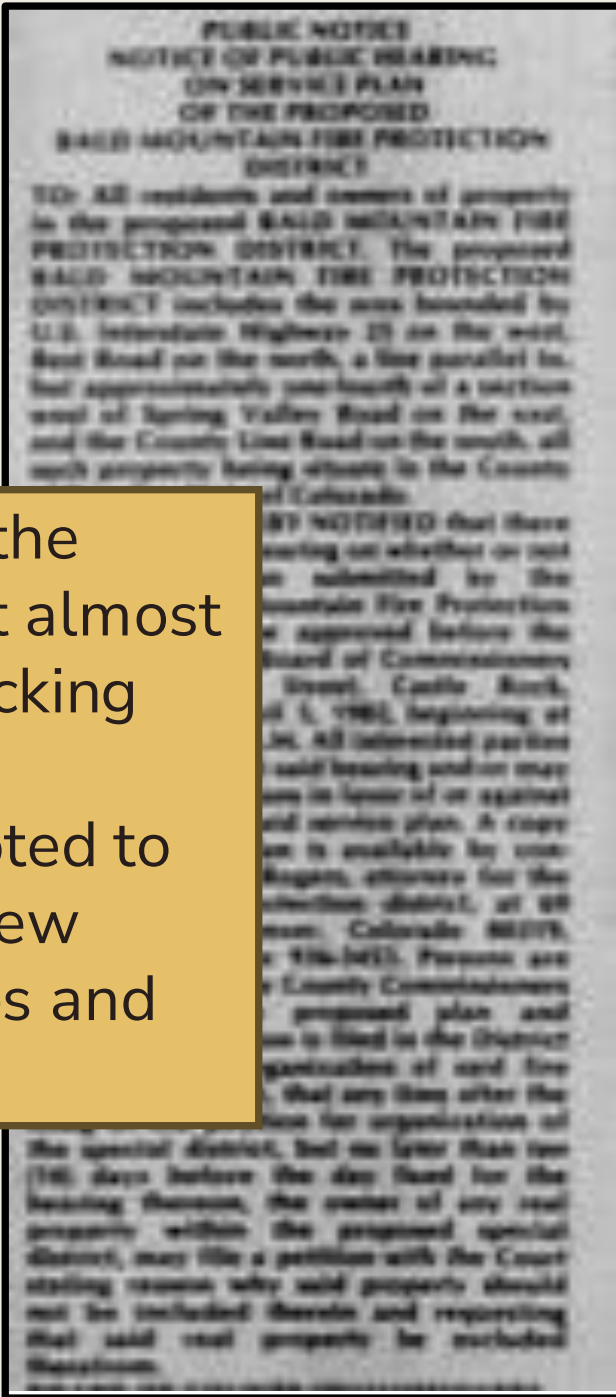
Douglas County's First Picture Paper
10c Per Copy — or Mailed \$4.00 Per Year
Vol. 15 Castle Rock, Colo., Thursday, May 13, 1965 No. 31

The State Forest Service
has returned our pump after

Bald Mountain Fire District, 1982



By 1982, another vulnerable area in Douglas County—the region from Best Road to El Paso County Road and east almost to Highway 83—was identified as a “no man’s land,” lacking fire protection coverage. Residents of this southeastern area near Castle Rock voted to create the Bald Mountain Fire Protection District. This new district served as a lifeline for the area, protecting homes and wildlands alike.



History of Community Support

Year	Event
1982	Colorado voters approved Gallagher Amendment
1997	AMR not available in county 24/7
1997	LFPD Hired two full-time firefighters
1998	Voters approved mill levy increase (13.09 mil total)
1999	LFPD Hired three paramedics
2011	Voters approved ~2 mil 15-year bond
2015	Voters approved 4.5 mill levy increase (17.81mill)
2018	LFPD voters approved ballot issue to de-Gallagherize
2020	Colorado voters Repealed Gallagher Amendment
2023	Reappraisal Year (LFPD Revenue +40% to \$4.5M)
2022-2023	Gap Project completed/ Pandemic declared over
2023	Colorado Property Tax Relief w/Backfill (RAR 6.7%)
2024	Colorado Special session (RAR 6.25%)
2025	Reappraisal Year (LFPD Revenue -7% from peak to \$4.1M)
2025	Repeal of Colorado Destroyed Property Tax Reimbursement Program (SB25-259)
<i>Future Risks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recession, stagflation, loss of insurability • State faces \$B shortfall Senior deduction backfill at risk? ~22% LFPD over 65, \$100k deduction translates to ~2% revenue reduction if not backfilled

LFPD Today

What began as a grassroots effort has evolved into a professional Larkspur Fire Protection District. The district provides a wide array of emergency services, from fire suppression to hazardous material incidents and medical emergencies.

Through decades of growth and development, the Larkspur Fire Protection District has remained a unified community in its determination to protect. It was first started as a response to a development in the community institution.

