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# Pikes Peak Country

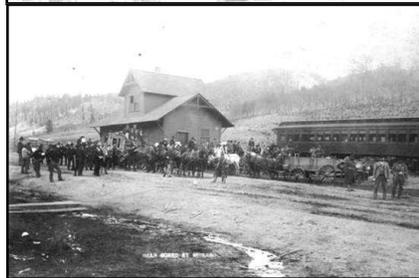
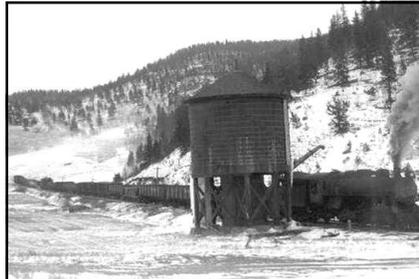
*Peace on earth, goodwill towards men.*

## Midland, Colorado and the Fig Leaf Ranch

About six miles south of Divide, just past Mueller State Park, lies a fork in the road - the right tine (Four Mile Road, or County Road 61) leads directly south, while the left tine (Highway 67) snakes up the ridge along the western foothills of Pikes Peak, following the route of the Midland Terminal railroad. In that fork there used to be a settlement called Midland. History has lost the reason for naming Midland "Midland," since it is now in the middle of nowhere. But as history shows, it was once in the middle of somewhere.

Early on, Midland started as the gateway to a wagon toll road which once existed between Divide and Cripple Creek prior to the coming of the railroad. Midland was where wagon drivers paid their toll. Today's Four Mile dirt road follows the route of that toll road for several miles, linking up with Highway 67 just west of Gillett, another spot on the highway that was once a place.

Later, Midland became a railroad watering station for the steam engines of the Midland Terminal as they hauled gold ore from Cripple Creek to the mills in Colorado City. Midland was where the long triple-engine ore trains



(Top Left) - A Midland Terminal ore train stops in Midland for water. The Midland Terminal operated from 1892 to 1949. (Top Right) - A view of Midland and the Fig Leaf Ranch - the hotel, blacksmith shop and barn (1920s). (Bottom Left) - The Colorado State Militia gathers during the 1899 mining union uprising. (Bottom Right) - A photo showing the Lawrie's cutting ice from a Fig Leaf Ranch pond to be sold to the Denver & Rio Grand Railroad. (the two Midland photos are courtesy of Ann Cott)

were split in half and the two half-trains separately shepherded up the lengthy incline to Murphy. The two halves were then recombined for the trip down Ute Pass.

Midland was also where the state militia encamped during the mining union disputes in Cripple Creek and Victor in 1899.

And Midland was the site of the Fig Leaf Ranch.

Located on the "backside of Pikes Peak," the 160 acre ranch was homesteaded by Jim and Jessie Lawrie and essentially operated as a guest ranch until 1928. An early advertising flyer reads: "The Fig Leaf Ranch, An Ideal Spot for Recreation, Complete Rest and Recuperation. Prices are the same for all, i.e. fifty cents for bed and fifty cents per meal per person (a day)."

As you drive up Highway 67 from Midland and look over the ridge to the south, you'll see several ponds in the valley. The ridges on either side now encompass a rural subdivision called Rainbow Valley. Down Four Mile Road about a mile south of the fork is the entrance to another rural subdivision called Woodrock, a gated community completely surrounded by Mueller State Park. The Dome Rock Trail Head is about a half mile south. The stocked ponds in the valley are recent additions (within the last 50 years or so) but there were earlier ponds during the time of the railroad and the Fig Leaf Ranch. In fact, the Lawrie's would cut ice from a pond near the intersection of the fork and ship it to Monument for use by the Denver and Rio Grand Railroad in their refrigeration cars

About the only thing recognizable in the Midland area today is the faint outline of the old railroad bed running lazily along the left side of Highway 67, and a wet area that was possibly the pond from which ice was cut. Beyond that, what used to be there is now left to individual imagination. Still, Midland was so important in times past that it remains a named place on road and topographic maps of the area. Like so many towns and villages in Colorado, Midland sprang up over the years to serve a purpose and contained a small settlement. When that purpose disappeared, so did the people. While the buildings and improvements have vanished into memory, Midland is still with us. May it ever be so. *By Dave Martinek*

Dave's Buyers' Guide

**Cabins, second-homes and land specials from Coldwell Banker 1st Choice Realty**

Prices and status effective as of November 30, 2009

To inquire, please email or call 719.687.1516

(Marshall-Martinek Team listings are boxed)



\$139,900

**60 E. Aspen Drive, Divide Rancher.** Remodeled rancher, inside and out. 3BR/2BA, 1309 S.F. on .44 acres, including an adjoining lot. New carpet, plumbing, wood stove and roof. Fenced w/ outbuildings. Quiet cul-de-sac in Sherwood Forest. Ideal for a permanent residence or vacation getaway. Unique! #474569



\$139,900

**192 Silbani, Divide Like New!** A well-maintained manufactured home with 3 BR/2 BA on 0.7 acres. 1736 SF. Features a new deck and improved excavation in front. Erected in 2004, this corner lot in the nicely treed Arabian Acres subdivision is minutes from Woodland Park. Great as a vacation home or a permanent residence. #559973

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\$645,000

**314 CR 781, Woodland Park Spacious.** 17.66 spectacular acres borders National Forest on 2 sides. 5BR/4BA/3GAR, 4570 S.F. Two ponds, a stream, loads of potential in a dream home. Barns & outbuildings. Land is fenced. #650021



\$320,000

**261 Utah Way, Florissant Vacation Home.** 2 acres of space. 5BR/4BA/2GAR, 3202 S.F. Two river rock FPs, T&G ceilings, custom windows. Wrap-round deck for viewing. A loft area with its own deck completes the home. Adjacent 2-acre parcel also available. #465722



\$16,000

**2856 Blue Mesa Dr., Divide Lake Front.** This heavily treed lot in Highland Lakes (1.67 acres) slopes down to Beaver Lake No. 2. Strategic tree cuts will make room for a driveway and a building site. After that, a dream home can happen. Come and see this beautiful lot. #457747



\$499,000

**203 Mills Ranch, Woodland Park Private Acres.** 9.6 acres backs up to 595 private property. Bring your horses. 4BR/3BA/2GAR, 5143 S.F. T&G ceilings, radiant heat. 5-year roof certification. Loft overlook for great views of Pikes Peak. #504551



\$250,000

**416 Arrowhead Dr., Florissant Log Home.** 2BR/1BA; 1206 S.F. on 2-acre private wooded lot with view of the mountains. Loft bedroom; 4" oak flooring. Stainless appliances. Large 32 x 9' front porch. Custom log structure. This is a great cabin in the mountains! #526682



\$19,000

**0 Commanche Trail, Florissant Mountain Top.** The views from the top (where the lot is) are outstanding. Rock formations dominate this 2.3 acre lot in Valley Hi Mountain Estates. There is no legal access to the property, so it is being sold as a "recreational" lot only. Hike up and enjoy the view! #470091



\$349,500

**375 High View Cir, Woodland Park Top of the World!** Gorgeous custom home on 0.62 acres with great room plus a formal dining rm. Oak staircase, unfinished basement. 4BR/3BA/3GAR, 3896 S.F. Great views of Pikes Peak. #517604



\$209,900

**1105 Midland, Green Mtn. Falls Listen to the Stream.** Very cute mountain home w/ wood-burning FP, a large MBR and a newer kitchen. 2BR/1BA, 1198 S.F. 0.15 private acres. Sit on the deck and listen to the stream. A perfect mountain setting. #592887



\$24,900

**86 High Chateau, Florissant Beautiful Land.** Just a couple of acres overlooking some trees and a great view of Pikes Peak. Easy access from High Chateau Road; utilities at the property line. 2.15 acres of level building sites. If you want to build a cabin, here's the place. #433314



**MERRY CHRISTMAS!** I hope everyone enjoyed a bountiful Thanksgiving and are looking forward to a New Year and hopeful economic recovery. 2010 will mark the fifth year I've published the monthly Pikes Peak Country newsletter. Each January I take a break and restart the next year's issues in February. I am grateful to all my readers who've given me feedback in the past, commenting on how well they like the stories, and giving helpful hints for improvement. It is my joy to do the research on both the stories and all the properties. Peace to you all...and love!