



HISTORY OF WELD COUNTY TOWNS

SERENE – 1923

Ghost Towns In Weld County

A railroad station and mine town on the Chicago Burlington and Quincy Railroad south of Erie were named Serene with the Serene Post Office opening in 1923. Serene was a company town – owned and operated by the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company.

In the early 1920's a recession caused several mine owners, led by the Colorado Fuel and Iron to decrease wages to \$5 a day from the normal wage of \$7.75 per day. Approximately 500 protestors showed up at the mine on the morning of November 21, 1927. The confrontation between strikers and the militia unit resulted in what became known as the Columbine Mine Massacre. Clubs, tear gas grenades, pistols, rifles and machine guns were used by the militia causing dozens of casualties and killing six miners.

The mine and the post office were closed in 1942, and the railroad tracks abandoned in 1946, and were removed in the 1950's. As the towns population began to decrease residents were forced to work in Erie or Lafayette, most homes and buildings were abandoned during the 1950's.

*The above information is gleaned from the upcoming book, **Weld County Towns: The First 150 Years**, researched by the City of Greeley Museums staff, Nancy Lourine Lynch head writer.*