



## HISTORY OF WELD COUNTY TOWNS

### **GILCREST**

*Incorporated Weld County Town - 1907*

The town of Nantes (1887-1907), situated along the Union Pacific Railway, was failing. A lumber tycoon from Iowa, W. K. Gilcrest, acquired much of the property around Nantes in 1907. He began building a new community on the bones of Nantes, renaming the town after his father, Jacob K. Gilcrest. Keeping with their temperance ideals, all Gilcrest deeds prohibited the sale of intoxicating liquors.

Within a couple years the Gilcrest Park and streets had 1,000 trees planted around them and a dozen businesses had opened to serve its 300 citizens. Between 1913 and 1977 the Greeley Great Western Sugar Factory operated a sugar beet dump at the Gilcrest railroad station. W. K. Gilcrest became a Colorado state legislator in 1915 and was instrumental in routing the Greeley-Denver Highway (now U. S. Highway 85) through LaSalle, Peckham and Gilcrest.

*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.*