



HISTORY OF WELD COUNTY TOWNS

KUNER – 1888

Unincorporated Community and Populated Place in Current Weld County

In approximately 1886 a receiving station was built for cucumbers on the Union Pacific Railroad tracks between Omaha and Denver, named Kuner in honor of the owner of the Kuner Pickle Company in Brighton, Max Kuner.

In 1908 the Holland Farms Company bought 3,000 acres of Asa Sterling's land for farmers originally from Utrecht, Holland. Named for the pickle station, Kuner plat was filed for a large townsite, expecting Kuner farmers would irrigate from many sources. Kuner Post Office was established in 1908 and a church was built in 1909.

Asa Sterling, a Greeley banker and rancher, gave land for Kuner's townsite and built a reservoir there named for himself. In 1909, the Kuner Improvement Company, aggressively promoted Kuner in full-page newspaper advertisements alluding to future pickle, sugar and candy factories there. In 1909 the Kuner Beet Dump was built to transport Kuner's sugar beets.

Acquiring enough water became a problem and when Asa Sterling Reservoir failed to hold water and the Laramie Poudre Irrigation District plans were abandoned Kuner suffered. The factories never materialized and the Burlington Railroad discarded its plans for expected Greeley-to-Roggen interurban line, with Kuner as the hub.

Between 1912 and 1918 Kuner farmers were plagued with grasshoppers and hailstorms and many left. The Kuner Post Office was discontinued in 1920 and Kuner was officially vacated June 4, 1936.

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.