



County Commissioner Josie Heath, left, laughs with county employees who, as the T-shirts indicate, helped renovate the Boulder County Courthouse. The building was rededicated May 7 on the 50th anniversary of its first dedication in 1934.

Boulder courthouse re-dedicated

A ceremony rededicating the recently renovated Boulder County Courthouse May 7 marked the 50th anniversary of the original dedication. Past county officials were recognized at a reception that followed.

A crowd of 4,000 attended the first dedication in 1934, but significantly fewer were on hand this time to hear county commissioners Josie Heath and Buz Smith acknowledge the building's history and some of its employees.

The first courthouse on the site, built in 1882, and dedicated 101 years ago, on March 8, 1883, was destroyed in a fire 50 years later. History notes the professionalism of the county commissioners serving at that time who were informed of the fire at 2:30 p.m. but did not adjourn their regular meeting until 4 p.m.

The destruction of the original building resurrected an old feud when the City of Longmont made its second unsuccessful bid to have the county seat moved there before the second courthouse was built. They had attempted to do the same thing when the first one was erected 50 years before.

Two months after the fire, the commissioners appointed an architect to design a new building "to house all county offices and large enough to take care of future needs of the county." They determined that the cost would be "governed largely by the sentiments of the taxpayers of the county," and arrived at a figure of \$200,000 as the limit to be spent.

A further stipulation on the rebuilding was that all labor and materials be from Boulder County. With the exception of recruiting qualified stone masons, those conditions were met.

An art deco style building, which was considered progressive in the 30s, was constructed, and the Boulder Daily Camera prophetically noted in its article on the dedication: "Boulder is proud of its courthouse which has done much to stamp it as a progressive city in the eyes of all who visit here." Boulder County citizens turned out for the May 7, 1934 dedication of the new building.

The recent renovation of the courthouse lobby has restored some of the original features and builds on the art deco style with light fixtures, signage and exhibit cases. A large floor case features exhibits prepared by local museums. The first one depicts the social history of the people of Boulder County and is being installed cooperatively by the Boulder Historical Society and Museum, and the Longmont Museum. A wall case will feature newspaper clippings of the fire, rebuilding and 1934 dedication.

The pink-toned stone in the lobby and on the stairwalls has been cleaned and new directional signs and a public information booth will be stationed to assist citizens visiting the courthouse. Historical photos of Boulder County and the original county courthouse were enlarged and hung on the lobby walls.

When the courthouse was occupied in 1934, the fifth floor was given over to the jail. The jail was moved to the west wing when east and west wings were added in 1960. The Commissioner's offices then moved to the fifth floor. The jail is now located in the Boulder County Justice Center and the County Clerk's offices are in the west wing and civil courts in the east. Future moves are planned as county offices occupy the recently purchased Administrative Services Building on the southeast corner of 14th and Spruce streets.

County offices also occupy the former Elks building on the southwest corner of 13th and Spruce. Major offices in the central courthouse building include the Assessor's Office, Elections, Treasurer, Data Processing, Housing Authority, County Attorney and Commissioners.

Jeffco Airport gets grant

U.S. Sen. Bill Armstrong announced recently that the Federal Aviation Administration will grant \$751,749 to the Jefferson County Airport for an engineering design study for a 1,500 to 2,000 foot extension of Runway 11L. The extension of the runway could intersect Colorado Highway 128, requiring planners to reroute two miles of the highway.

The funds will also pay for land acquisition of a clear zone between the runway and the highway as well as the engineering design for the relocation of the highway.

The grant will also fund runway lighting and the relocation of the localizer which is part of the instrument landing system.

"I am pleased that the FAA shares my view of the important role the Jefferson County Airport plays in serving the metro area," Armstrong said.

The funds come from the FAA's Airport Improvement Program which is financed through aviation fuel taxes and other user fees.

Fire

(Continued from Page 5)

Broomfield Ambulance Service, treated and released.

Station 2 firefighters examined a man who had caught his right leg in a roto-tiller the previous day and needed transport to a medical facility. He was taken to St. Anthony North Hospital by the Broomfield Ambulance Service, treated and released.

Station 2 firefighters examined a 63-year-old man who complained of shoulder pains at 5:48 a.m. May 6 in the 11800 block of Wadsworth Blvd. He was taken to St. Anthony North Hospital by the Broomfield Ambulance Service, treated and released.

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