

SUPERIOR HISTORIAN



Eunice Winkler, the postmaster's daughter, stands in front of Superior's first post office building at 211 W. William Street circa 1937.



Around 1940, Frank and Mabel Winkler added living space to the right of the original building, applied coats of new paint, and added roof hoods over some doors and windows. Photo courtesy Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Boulder Colorado.



By the 1950's, the Winkler's extended the southeast corner of the building with a gabled end with "picture window.." Now there was a public telephone booth at the left hand corner of the post office section.

UNUSUAL TIMES: A POST OFFICE IN SUPERIOR!

Raise your hand if you knew Superior once had its own post office. New residents to the area are probably surprised to learn this fact. Since postal service to Superior ended on January 31, 1955, only "old-timers" can recall ambling to the local post office to pick up their mail.

The Superior Post Office was established December 14, 1890, and for many of those early years, was located in the general store on Third Avenue. That changed in 1937 when Frank and Mabel Winkler purchased a recently constructed house and converted it into the new post office. Over the years, the Winklers added on to the building, which became their residence as well as the post office.

Since there was no home delivery in Superior back then, people went to the post office and, for the most part, picked up mail sent to them in care of "General Delivery." That simply meant that the mail was held for them at the window until it was called for. Those who could afford the monthly charge rented post office boxes and retrieved their mail after entering a combination into the lock on the door of the box.

Back in the day, going to the post office was more than just getting the mail. It was a place people gathered to catch up on the town's news and issues, including, no doubt, a healthy dose of gossip. Patrons would congregate outside the office or across the street under a shady tree to visit

while the mail was being put out.

Today's home mail delivery is certainly convenient but lacks the "homey" nature of the small town post offices of the past. No longer can we keep up with the news about the health and well-being of our neighbors just by going to pick up our mail. In today's impersonal society, a return to the those days is appealing.



The Green-Winkler post office building is going through yet another transition as its new owners undertake a 2007 renovation shown here in progress. Photo by Larry Dorsey



Frank and Mabel Winkler are shown at work in the Superior Post Office. Mabel handled much of the day-to-day chores as Frank also worked in the Industrial Mine. On the right are the post office boxes which were loaded with mail from the rear and accessed by the customer from the front.

WILL SUPERIOR EVER HAVE IT'S OWN POST OFFICE AGAIN?

Folks living in Superior have wondered why the Louisville address and zip code? Well, when the town's post office closed in 1955, it was logical and reasonable that Superior's mail come through the Louisville office. When only hundreds of people lived here, there wasn't a big problem. Now that more than ten thousand live Superior, many would like to see a unique zip code and perhaps even a separate post office. But the Postal Service doesn't see the issue the same way. So, for the present at least, Superior will share the zip code and post office with Louisville.



Superior News

By Frank Nichols

Ten Years Old

(from the 1947 Boulder Daily Camera)

Mr. Smoot, the shoemaker in Boulder, ran an awe [awl] clear through his finger fixing Peggy's shoes.

Mama, Pop and Janie are all sick with colds.

We went to the show Monday night and saw "The Yearling" in Louisville. We took Dannie, Donnic, and Bobbie Kupfner and Jimmy Luxner.

Art Sawyer got poison on his foot in the mountains.

Stevie Heffner rides a calf after the cow. He is six.

My great-grandma died this week. She was operated on for appendicitis. She has been sick a long time and she is 76 years old.

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Sources: Superior Historical Commission, Lost Superior: Cynda Arsenault, Superior: A Folk History; William H. Bauer & Roger Ryberg, Colorado Postal Society, Colorado Postal Historian; Herb Morrison, personal interview.

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