



Foidel Canyon School

Junction of RCR 27 and 33, Oak Creek, Colorado

Settlement in Foidel Canyon did not come until some years after the discovery of gold at Hahn's Peak in 1861 and after the first settlement at Steamboat Springs in 1875. According to local history, the Foidel family was the first to settle here in 1887. The Foidel School is the third building on this site. The first was a barn of undetermined origin and age. The barn was razed in 1913 for the construction of the first Foidel School in District 27. Before that time, the children attended schools in Oak Creek, Pinnacle and Eddy. In 1923 or 1924, the present school building was constructed on the site of the first one. The exact date of construction and the identity of the builder are uncertain. It is possible that a Steamboat Springs carpenter, Clyde Hanks, worked on the construction, but there are no records to substantiate this assumption. There are also no records establishing the date of construction of the teacherage and coal shed, but it is believed they were built after the schoolhouse, perhaps around 1925. The use of the one-room schoolhouses in Routt County declined in the 1940s when some of the children were bused into larger urban schools. In 1962, with the consolidation of the county school districts, the doors of the one-room schools closed forever. Some of these buildings are now private residences, but many are vacant and ravaged by time, weather and vandals. Foidel School is among the vacant ones, but the Energy Fuels Corporation took steps in the mid-1980's to secure and protect the buildings from further deterioration.