



Rherold-2015

### **Yampa Ladies Aid Hall 83 East First Street, Yampa**

The Yampa Ladies Aid Hall was built as part of the early building boom when Yampa was anticipating the coming of the Moffat Railroad. The south side of Moffat Avenue saw many commercial buildings put into place at that time. It is fair to conclude that the building at 220 Moffat Avenue, nestled closely among other commercial buildings was built between 1900 and 1902.

The occupants of the building changed many times during the next several years. These owners and tenants included: Mercantile owners, Mr. Bijou, Buck and Sons, George Canane, Ed and Sam Bell. Restaurant owners: Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Buttrick, Mrs. Labelle Riley. Saloon owners: Thomas Piercen and Charles Fagan. Lodge and dance hall: the Yampa Masons, the local Woodmen of the World.

The Woodmen of the World moved the building from Moffat Avenue to the present location on First Street to assume its second life as a social gathering place. On July 4, 1913, the Yampa Leader reported that the Woodmen were having their building moved that week. On November 19, 1913, the building was finally on its foundation. By January, 1915, The Woodmen added an addition of 20 x 26 feet, giving them a lodge room that measured 27 x 55 feet. This gave the Woodmen room for their meetings, but they also rented the area for other purposes. In 1915, Charles Simon installed a Motograph picture machine and used electricity for the light. In 1925, the Woodmen sold the building to the Yampa Ladies Aid.

Under the ownership of the Yampa Ladies Aid, the building was rented to many different groups. Political parties gave campaign speeches, birthday celebrations were held. During World War II, the different churches and ladies organizations used this hall for meetings and bazaars. The structure also played a large role in the Yampa women's history, as the building was owned and operated by the Yampa Ladies Aid from 1925 to the 1980s. It was maintained and rented out by that group. About 1970, The Yampa club had the ceiling lowered to its present level. Many of the early records of that group have been lost, but during the 1970s and 1980s their minutes show many organizations and groups continued to rent the building. To mention a few, there was: the Girl Scouts, the Neighborhood Watch, the Pinochle Club, the Forest Service, the Fire Department, the Routt County Cattlewomen, Hunter's Education. This building was large enough to hold any and all of those events.