



**A, &C. UTTERBACK HOUSE,
Fourth and Oak Streets, Steamboat Springs**

John Utterback and his wife Gertrude came to Steamboat Springs from the Washington, D. C. area, with their ten-month-old son, John Junior, in 1909 to allow Mr. Utterback to recuperate from tuberculosis. The family first lived in the Fairview area of Steamboat, then purchased land and homesteaded in the Tow-Wolf Creek area. John Junior attended a one-room school some years for four of the winter months and sometimes only in the summers; he graduated from high school in Steamboat Springs. During those high school years, he assisted the local veterinarian, who essentially only worked with horses. John initially majored in Agriculture then switched to veterinarian school at Colorado State University, where he worked odd jobs to pay his own expenses, and from which he graduated in 1935. He worked for the government, then graduated from Iowa State in 1938 with a Master's degree in veterinary medicine and returned to Steamboat in 1946, after serving in the military, to practice, ranch, and engage in local politics. He served two terms as a County Commissioner and tirelessly campaigned for

the protection of watersheds, water rights, and other ranchers' causes. He became an influential and well-known personage in the County for the remainder of his life.

The a two-story, rectangular wood-framed structure with intersecting gables topped by a widow's walk, was built in 1900 by C. A. Seymour, manager of the Hugus Merchantile Store. The home, located on the corner of Fifth and Oak Streets and used by a subsequent owner as a ballroom dancing school, was purchased by the Utterbacks in 1944 as a town residence for the winter months. When John passed away, Mrs. Utterback and her son John, known to all as Doc, continued to reside in the house until a few years before her death at 102 years of age. Doc remained in the house until 1996, when he died at the age of 88 while repairing fences on one of his family's ranches. The house was donated to the Tread of Pioneers Museum by Doctor Utterback's daughter, Karen, and moved to the corner of Oak and Eighth Streets, where it retains its exterior integrity and serves as the museum's permanent home.