



**A, C, & D. ROUTT COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
Poplar Street, Hayden**

Local residents prepared a free barbeque for the first passenger train to arrive from Denver in October, 1913. The success of that event launched the establishment of the Fair with the purchase of twenty acres and the construction of a racetrack. The first County Fair was held on September 12, 1914. The Fair offers exhibits, parades, rodeos, horse races and other competitions, dances, and carnivals and represents social, cultural, and economic growth in the Yampa Valley based on cattle, sheep, horses, and grain and hay, historic economic mainstays of the area. The rich soil and abundant rainfall prompted the extension of the railroad to the area, from which sprang the opportunity for large mining operations to become profitable and the recreation industry to develop, prosper, and expand. The grandstand, built in 1916, has hosted champion riders and legendary livestock. When the 4-H clubs were organized in the late 1920, exhibits added in 1929, and a junior livestock sale began in 1959, education and excellence in youth have been perpetuated. Stories made and told and information exchanged at the Routt County Fairgrounds, perhaps more than any other site in the County, reflect the County's ranching, mining, and recreation heritage; continue to expose participants and visitors to an increasingly endangered way of life, and serve as a legacy of the Yampa Valley.