



DFC MUSEUM



HISTORY AT WORK

MUSEUM VISION

The DFC Museum's vision is to be a community landmark that educates, inspires, and leads the Lakewood community in merging our rich history and evidence of people and their environment with the extended community. The DFC Museum serves as a bridge between the everyday world of a visitor and the world of history.

HAYDEN RANCH

The land which the Denver Federal Center now sits on was originally owned by Major Jacob Downing and known as Down Dale in the late 1800s. Around 1907, the land was purchased by real estate moguls Thomas Scott and Flora Hayden. More land around the original Down Dale was purchased and together it was called Hayden Ranch. By 1940, the ranch had grown to 7,000 acres, making it the largest livestock operation in Denver.

DENVER ORDNANCE PLANT

In 1940, the War Department began acquiring nearly 2,100 acres of the ranch to make way for the Denver Ordnance Plant (DOP). The plant would manufacture ammunition in anticipation of the United States joining World War II. The ranch was an ideal place to build the DOP because it provided an unobstructed area in which to test ammunition. Quickly, the building began. Ninety-two buildings were built on the site between 1941 and 1942.

At its peak, during the war, the DOP pumped out several million rifle and machine-gun cartridges each month and was capable of manufacturing nearly 10 million rounds of ammunition each day, greatly influencing the war effort. It has been recorded that the DOP produced more .30-caliber rifle ammunition than any other factory in the United States.

WOMEN AT WORK

With many work-aged men on the front lines or away from home during World War II, women took their place in ammunition manufacturing plants and in other factories that switched to producing equipment for military troops in support of the war

effort. The DOP was no exception. Women of all backgrounds took jobs at the DOP, whether right out of high school or married with children, their help was needed. This was an opportunity that many American women were able to seize for the first time – a full time job outside the home. On August 15, 1945, World War II came to an end.



DENVER FEDERAL CENTER

Nearly overnight, the DOP began shutting down. Only 600 employees remained on the large campus. The area was declared surplus property and turned over for federal office use. By 1950, the DOP became the Denver Federal Center (DFC), and the Veteran's Administration and the Bureau of Reclamation moved on campus. Over 1,000 unused acres on the campus were donated to the city of Lakewood, the R-1 school system and into private development.

AMERICAN TIMELINE

Late 1800's



The Alaska Territory is organized.

1907



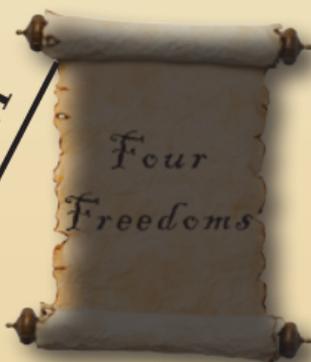
Hershey's Kisses were introduced to chocolate-loving Americans.

1940



World War II continues in Europe and Asia. The United States has not yet joined.

1941



In a message to Congress, Franklin D. Roosevelt states that the "four freedoms" shall prevail everywhere in the world. Eventually, the freedoms were incorporated into the Atlantic Charter.

1950



The comic strip Peanuts, by Charles Schulz, is first published in U.S. newspapers.

FEATURED ARTIFACTS

SOUND OFF: AH-OO-GAH!



The DOP had its own fire department on campus with sophisticated equipment in case of emergency. This Claxton horn was one of many spread

across the campus that would sound if there was a fire in a building. The Claxton horn is known for its unique sound, "ah-oo-gah!"



FOUND HISTORY

This was placed here Aug. 3, 1945

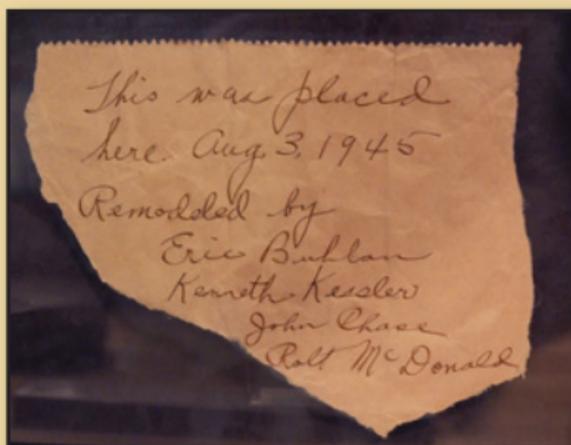
Remodeled by

Eric Buhlan

Kenneth Kessler

John Chase

Robert McDonald



A message was placed in a jar and buried between walls by contractors who remodeled

part of Building 41 while it was still hopping with the activity of the DOP. In just under two weeks of the note being written, the war came to an end.

From livestock ranch to dedicated arms and ammunition plant to federal office campus, come visit the piece of land that is integral to the history of Lakewood, Colorado!

HAVE A PIECE OF HAYDEN RANCH, DOP OR DFC HISTORY? DONATE IT!

HAVE A STORY ABOUT THE DOP? SHARE IT!

PLEASE EMAIL LESLIE.GALLUZZO@GSA.GOV

To schedule a tour, go to www.gsa.gov/dfcmuseum or please contact Leslie Galluzzo at 303.236.8000, ext. 2289.



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