

25. 'JIMMY' ANDREWS

Before getting back to Jeanne and me taking over the Ferree Ranch in the winter of 1981, I'll introduce one more notable character who lived and worked on the place in earlier times...

In local lore, I have always heard James H. Andrews (1882 - 1970) referred to as "Jimmy." It turns out that Mr. Andrews was a very proper Edwardian sort, so I will refer to him more properly here.

James was a fascinating Livermore and Larimer County character. I am acquainted with his son, Warren Andrews (89 at the time of this writing), also a biographer of his father.¹ It turns out that I have so many dots to connect that I've decided to devote more than one chapter to the Andrews family.

James' father, C. B. Andrews (1856 - 1905) was a prosperous businessman who had been involved in extensive cattle operations near Casper and Sundance, Wyoming, including transactions with the notorious Bartlett Richards (1862 - 1911)² in the early 1880s.

When C. B. Andrews settled down, he became a force in Fort Collins banking and real estate. James' grandmother, Julia Henderson Andrews (1862 - 1954) was active in Fort Collins society. The family had a summer getaway in the upper Poudre Canyon, the Kinikinik Ranch³.

James graduated in 1901 from Colorado Agricultural College (CAC, later A&M, now CSU) with a degree in civil and irrigation engineering.

In 1903 he worked as an engineer on the design of the new sugar factory south of the railroad on East Vine Drive⁴.

In 1904 the Water Supply and Storage Company hired James to survey the last 6.5 miles of the Grand River Ditch in Rocky Mountain National Park.⁵ At twenty-two, he was placed in charge of the survey and a crew of thirty men.

James' diary describes a summer of hardship, illness⁶, injury, rain, snow and mosquitos. At one point, he has injured a knee cap and hurt his other leg. He writes "*Didn't know which leg to limp on.*"⁷

In the fall of 1904, James enrolled in a graduate engineering program at Columbia University. The following spring, his father died. James came back to Colorado for the funeral and did not return to Columbia.

In 1906 initiating his ranching career, James purchased Section 21, T10N, R72W where James Barlow built his first house in 1871 (Chapter 24). In 1910 he bought the old Barlow property and some adjoining lands.

He also purchased the Rockdale Ranch at Log Cabin in 1911, where he resided part time. One of his neighbors was Lady Moon. Often in her cups: "*three sheets to the wind*", as James describes her one day, when she called him on the party line telephone to catalog her complaints *de jour*. After a few minutes, James politely excused himself and hung up. An hour or so later, he needed to make a call to Fort Collins, to discover upon lifting the receiver that Lady Moon was still talking to him.⁸

In 1913, the North Poudre Irrigation Company decided to replace the troublesome wood and masonry flume system in the lower part of what is now known as Phantom Canyon with a concrete diversion and tunnel (both still in existence) to deliver North Fork water into the Livermore Main. After a bit of a false start, the company hired James to be the chief engineer and surveyor for the project. It was convenient work for him because one end of the tunnel was on his Stonewall Ranch.

Thanks to Warren Andrews for his generous help.

(to be continued)

¹ Ref. *James Henderson Andrews 1882 – 1970 a Biography*. James Warren Andrews, 2011.

² Ref. *Old Jules*. Mari Sandoz, 1935; and *Bartlett Richards: Nebraska Sandhills Cattleman*. Bartlett Richards, Jr., 1981. These two books provide contrasting perspectives on a cattle baron, who died at the age of 49 in a Hastings, Nebraska jail after being convicted for fencing US Government land.

³ In those days, there was not a road through the lower canyon. To get to Kinikinik, you had to go through Livermore and Log Cabin to Manhattan and then down Pingree Hill to Rustic.

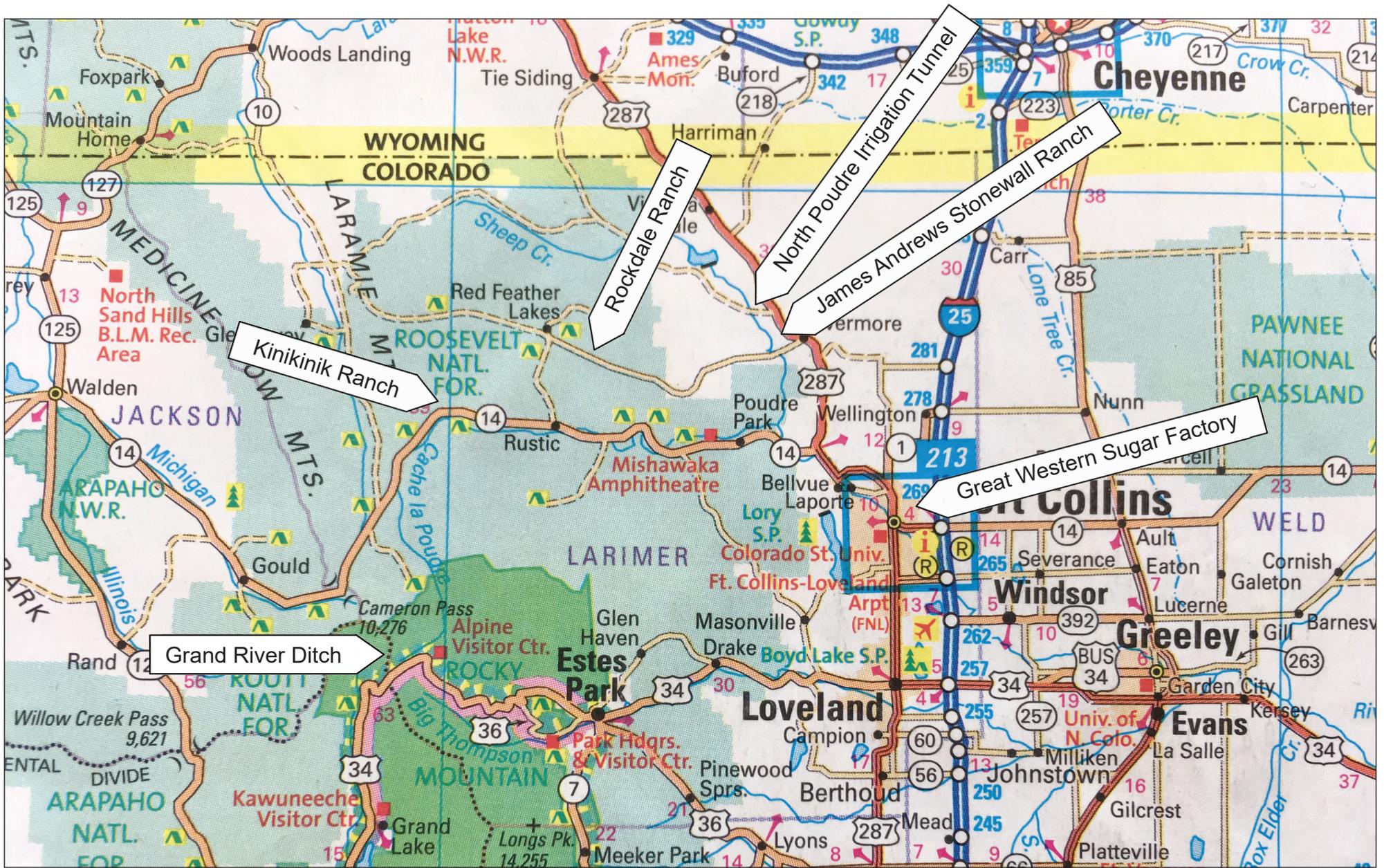
⁴ Some of the old Great Western Sugar Factory buildings are still in use today by the City of Fort Collins.

⁵ The 14.3-mile Grand Ditch is located in Rocky Mountain National Park. It runs north across the east face of the Never Summer Range intersecting creeks that would drain into the Colorado River thus diverting water over the Continental Divide into the Cache la Poudre River.

⁶ In addition to run-of-the-mill health issues from being wet and cold working seven days a week near timberline, James suffered severely from asthma, for which he self-administered hypodermic adrenaline injections. James' father also suffered from asthma and had come west as a young man in hopes of alleviating his symptoms. He died at the age of 49.

⁷ Ref. *James Henderson Andrews 1882 – 1970 a Biography*. James Warren Andrews, 2011.

⁸ I remember visiting Catherine and Evan Roberts with my parents one time when Evan's father, George, quite old then, was sitting quietly listening to the conversation when the subject of Lady Moon came up. George became suddenly animated and expostulated that "*Lady Moon was no lady.*"



From Michelin 2013 North America Road Atlas