



A, D, & J. ROYAL HOTEL
201 Moffat Avenue, Yampa

The Royal Hotel has a prominent place on the historic, unpaved, double-wide main street of Yampa. The wide street was used for rodeos, businesses, horse races, holiday celebrations, and the moving of sheep and cattle to stock pens east of Yampa at the railhead. Electricity came in 1910, and streetlights were added that same year, removed in the late 1940s, then replaced in 1985 with lamps purchased from the Town of Crested Butte but of the same vintage as the original Yampa ones. The Royal Hotel was one of three hotels in Yampa that served miners, timber and railroad crews, ranchers, and travelers on the Wolcott Stage line until the other two hotels were destroyed by fire. Other uses of the building at various times included housing the Yampa Leader, the local newspaper; a hospital during the 1919 flu epidemic when the small town's hospital could not accommodate all of the patients; a boarding house for school children during winter; a school gymnasium; a drug store; a post office; a popular family dining room; a general store; an upholstery store, and apartments. Mr. T. P. Lindsay began building the Royal in 1903: The East Wing, a two-story structure with rooms and baths to rent on the second floor, accessed by an exterior stairway, was constructed. In 1904, the stairway was removed; the hotel lobby, the West Wing; and a lean-to across the rear of the building were built. In the center of the two wings, which contained a total of 25 rooms and several bathrooms, was an open courtyard; a balcony across the back of the lobby connected the two wings. In the 1950s, the hotel's owner covered the courtyard

and installed large front windows; in the 1970's a different owner sided the entire ship-lapped building, the last remaining false-fronted building in Yampa. The building has a rock and cement foundation, and the interior and exterior chimneys were made from bricks manufactured at the Yampa brickyard. Interior partitions were constructed and removed over time to accommodate various changing uses. Some boarded up paneling, cupboards, and doorways were revealed during recent restoration. Locals claim that Theodore Roosevelt, who came to the area periodically to hunt, invested in the construction of the hotel. Zane Gray stayed at the Royal while composing his book, The Mysterious Rider, set in the Yampa Valley. Locals recall a few infamous guests of the hotel as well. The Royal Egeria Players, a volunteer, non-profit organization, begun as a community theatre group in 1989, has evolved into a local arts council for South Routt. The purpose of the group is to promote the arts for citizens and visitors of South Routt. In 1990, the Royal Hotel was purchased by the group, which has worked diligently to restore the building to be used again as a gathering place for locals, a visitors' center, a community theater, a local art gallery, and a meeting facility. The group's name comes from the original name for Yampa and the Toponas area.