

Once Upon a Time

04-28-2013 by Harry Zirkelbach

WBW, Way Back When, my alternate to OUAT, Once Upon a Time, Denver had more wild animals than people. The High Plains could be like that when water holes dried, animals seeking water from the South Platte.

But this WayBackWhen tale is not that ancient. Here, Denver, the Queen City is welcoming migrants from the surrounding states, and veterans introduced to Denver's niceties during WW II.

For the record, downtown Denver was the city core. Here, legislation prevented any new building having an elevation exceeding the Daniels and Fisher Tower's 325 ft.

One sojourner marries here yesterday, April 28, 1951. He had no other family in Denver. It was agreeable that all arrangements be made by the bride. Money was limited. Nonetheless, the wedding breakfast was held on the 14th floor of the Daniels & Fisher Tower.

When built in 1910, the 325' Tower was the tallest building west of the Mississippi. Its four sided clock tower visible for miles, served as landmark for six generations until height restrictions were removed in 1957. The tower building is not large, 32 feet on each side. Today, it is a designated Landmark.

In 1951, much of the block, Lawrence to Arapahoe, 16th to 17th Streets, was occupied by the multi-story Daniels and Fisher Dry Goods store.

The connected Tower rested at the southwest corner of the building. D&F as affectionately known, had a main entrance on Lawrence Street, was remarkable for its Doorman, topped with a tall bearskin hat, making him appear huge, much taller than his seven foot frame.

The Tower had an entry on Arapahoe Street. The wedding party entered there, rode the elevator to the 14th floor. The luncheon for the party of thirty was catered by the D&F kitchen. For all wedding days, participants' memories are jammed with unforgettable moments. One, look over the expanding city from four quadrants, west to the mountains, north and south view the Continental Divide, then east, that flat, rising, seemingly endless Plains.

*Not only was this an exquisite visit to each there,
but the family never knew of another wedding breakfast here.*

On May 12, 2013, a march back to WBW, with much anticipation. The couple and their children will visit the 14th floor of the D&F Tower that Sunday, guests to the management of the property. The couple will overlay their 1951 memory of that day, with four views of the 21st Century skyline, tell the others differences seen.

All other guests now gone, unable to dispute.

*WBW revisited with joy, failing memory and eyesight.
The newly weds couldn't have been more pleased.*

