

## Travels in Colorado

*By Kay Mauser*

We made many trips to Colorado, just to enjoy the scenery and explore the land. On one such trip we found ourselves in Pueblo, Colorado with a disabled car. Our stay in Pueblo lasted four days before we were able to start traveling home. It was a very educational stay as we got to view the museum and read stories about the Ludlow Massacre.

For those who do not know about the Massacre, in the summer of 1913, United Mine Workers began organizing the miners employed by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Co. The workers were mostly immigrants from Italy, Greece, and Serbia. The union wanted a pay raise, an eight-hour work day, and the right to live and trade outside the Company-owned town. These things were required by Colorado Law but the law was not enforced.

When the Company refused to even consider their request the workers went on strike. The strike lasted seven months. During that time the workers were put out of their homes and had to set up a tent city around the mine. They were beat up and shot by the Baldwin-Felts Detective Agency which the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company had employed to keep order in the tent city.

Thirteen residents who had tried to flee had been shot and killed. The miners were slowly being starved to death in order to have them submit to the Company wishes. The company was part of a business owned by the Rockefeller's.

On April 20, 1914 after the strike had gone on for seven months, the camp was set on fire and burned to the ground. Discovered the following morning in the Women's Infirmary were the dead bodies of four women and eleven children who had hidden there to avoid the fighting.

At last the corrupt government employees of Colorado were forced to do something, as President Wilson had sent a notice that he would have to send in troops if the matter wasn't resolved.

It was an interesting and education trip but such a sad one for me, a Union Steward, to hear about.