



Maxfield Mine

Brothers John and Robert Maxfield were taking logs out of Mill A Gulch (mile 6.6), when Robert's son discovered a nice vein of ore near the mill. They all agreed to stake a mining claim. However, Robert didn't believe much in mining, and they already made good money in lumber, so the claim was sold for \$80, a wagon and a team of mules. To their chagrin, the mine had produced over \$1 million in silver by 1906.

The lumber in the area was indeed plentiful at first. The Maxfields set up Mill C, located on the flat just above the current Storm Mountain Campground. Logs milled there were 100 ft. in length and 2 ft. in diameter. By the turn of the century, the enormous trees were gone.

Richard D. Maxfield, Jr. closed the sawmill and opened a small resort across the road in 1912. It was only a few cottages and campsites, but the restaurant became famous for fresh trout, chicken dinners, and luscious pies, all made by daughters Josie and Lois who helped run the famous Maxfield Lodge until 1956 when they retired. As children, the girls called Young's Peak "Storm Mountain" because that's where all the storms came in. The name persists to this day. They also named Santa Claus Mountain across from Storm Mountain because it looked like the jolly elf.

A popular Lodge visitor was Sam McNutt, miner and skilled fiddler. He was often "inspired" to dance and play by the offerings of free whiskey from guests. He claimed it would loosen his fingers and take the rheumatics from his ankles.

Pop Goes the Weasel was his favorite opening number.

