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1915 Dedication Exercise Celebrating Establishment of Rocky Mountain National Park

Harry Ruffner

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Saturday, September 4, 1915, Mr. Ruffner writes as follows:

Dedication exercises Rocky Mountain National Park
held in Estes Park.

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Many Sons, Pioneers and Daughters of Colorado, representing the Southern, Cache La Poudre Fort Collins, San Juan, Union Colony and Estes Park societies, and their respective districts, were in attendance.

Several thousand people assembled beneath the great tall pines, midst the fleeting shadows of the surrounding mountain peaks and shifting rain clouds. Panned and whipped by mountain breeze were several American and Colorado state flags, signals to the world that here and now would be dedicated America's youngest national park, the "Playground of America", which in its grandeur, magnificence, panoramic gorgeousness and inconceivable beauty is unsurpassed in all the world.

Of what wondrous beauty the scene and setting for this historical event. How eminently fitting would have been a prayer of thanksgiving to Almighty God for these, His choicest blessings upon our glorious commonwealth.

With time and place and inspiration of the gods of beauteous nature, came back to us the spirit of love and goodwill of the Colorado Pioneers who have passed over that Range of Everlasting Time. Aye, the spirit of brave old pathfinders, who have first placed foot and first gave name to mountain peak or valley, - those whose names are seemingly but fleeting memories to the present generation, but whose character, life and labor is indelibly impressed upon mountain-side and canyon of these great mountains.

The Sons of Colorado most heartily congratulate all those persons who labored so long and persistently to accomplish the results achieved, by giving to the nation the Rocky Mountain National Park.

Following the approval of the above, suggestions were made by those present that the Sons and Daughters of Colorado should provide ways and means and prepare plans for the erection of suitable monuments or memorial tablets to the memory of such pioneers as Joel Estes, who discovered and located Estes Park, of Jim Baker, Governor Gilpin and others.