



## 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary NEWS RELEASE

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### Bee Stands and Musical Instruments!

#### **A look back at the history of property values and assessments shows big changes in Mesa County**

Throughout the last 125 years in Mesa County, property values have risen dramatically—but they are not the only things that have changed. The types of property that have been valued have changed as well. As part of the year-long celebration of Mesa County's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Assessors Office would like to share a few interesting facts.

A look back at the numbers demonstrates how Mesa County has become much less of an agricultural community than it once was. In 1890 agricultural valuation was approximately 32% of the total property valuation. In 1960 it had fallen to approximately 26% of the total property valuation, and in 2007 the assessed value of agricultural property was just 1%. Furthermore, it appears that in the early 1920s, Mesa County may have had its largest-ever area of orchard land in production at 7,359 acres. In 1977 the acreage was cut almost in half (down to 3,847)—and in 2007 this figure dropped to just 2,823 acres of orchard land.

From 1920-1922 property owners in what was then a more agricultural Mesa County had 378 bee stands (for collecting honey) and 1,620 musical instruments that were assessed in value for tax purposes. In 1957 musical instruments were no longer listed for assessment and in 1970 bee stands disappeared from the list, too.

Historical property values clearly demonstrate the effects of the county's energy boom—and subsequent bust—in the 1980s (along with changes in property tax law and the assessment rate). The numbers also show the significant increase in property values to the present day. Only four homes that were built in 1883 (the year Mesa County came into existence) are still standing today. These four had an average actual value of \$14,140 in 1985. Twenty-two years later, the average actual value for these same four homes had increased more than eight times to \$121,420 in 2007. In 1985, a commercial building located on Main Street had an actual value of \$167,310. Just two years later in 1987 it jumped to \$310,240—and in 1989 it fell to \$248,550. Today the actual value of this commercial building is \$899,020.

Stop by the county's 125th Anniversary Ice Cream Social on June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Old Courthouse from 10 a.m.–noon, or the Assessors Office Reception from noon–2p.m. to visit with someone from the Assessors Office. For more information on these events, please visit <http://www.mesacounty.us/125/>.

*“Many faces, many places. One community—Mesa County.”*