

# Klan had its heyday in county

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BOULDER (AP) — News of a Klux Klan rally scheduled today in Boulder spurred some area residents' memories of a time when the organization's presence was stronger.

Longmont native Jack Murphy was 11 years old when he watched a Klan parade with his aunt.

"It was in the spring, I think," said Murphy, now 80, a former Boulder County Commissioner who still lives in Longmont. "There were about 2,000 to 3,000 Klan members from northern Colorado — all in their bed sheets — and there were some black horses. ... There were a lot of people down there, scared to death."

News clippings from several decades

## KKK to rally in front of Boulder courthouse

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan will stage a rally on the front steps of the Boulder County Courthouse from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today in protest of the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

County spokeswoman Margaret

McKinney said she hopes a planned 75-foot buffer zone will help stave off any chances for violence to erupt.

"We hope that there will be no fighting words spoken. We want this to be a peaceful assembly," she added.

— REBECCA RODRIGUEZ

past trace the Klan's history in Colorado to 1921, when a group of Denver residents formed Klavern No. 1. The goal was to rid

the state of the civil service, which the KKK believed was a haven for Catholics, Jews and natives of foreign countries.

A year after the Denver Klavern was formed, 200 Boulderites were led into the countryside five miles north of Boulder and initiated into the order.

In 1922, Klavern No. 3 was established in Boulder with membership rumored to be anywhere from 300 to 1,000. At its peak, there were more than 50,000 members throughout Colorado.

Clancy Waneka remembers when the Klan came to Lafayette.

"I recall on many weekends, especially on Sundays, the Klan erected great, large crosses on the hills here east of Lafayette," said the 84-year-old.

In Longmont, the Klan gained a majority on the city council and school board.