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## “In all things of nature, there is something of the marvelous.” — Aristotle

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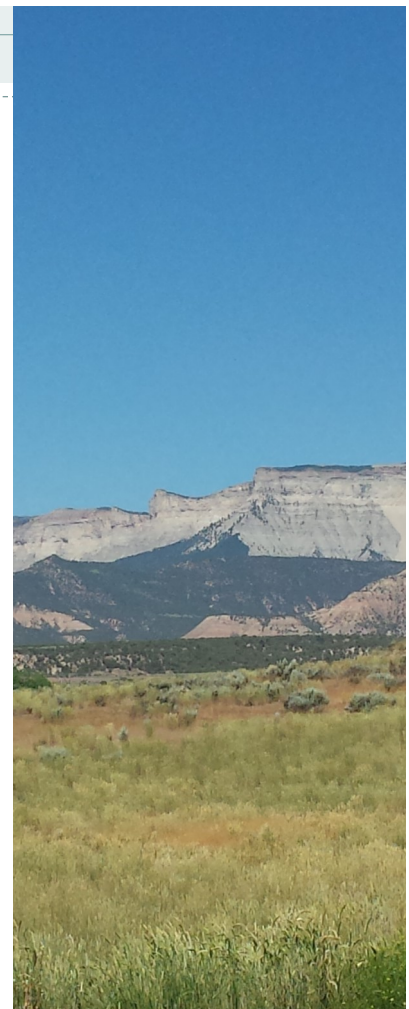
On this planet- from the majestically beautiful to the weirdly beautiful to the commonplace beautiful- we often take our surroundings for granted. I would like to offer you a little insight about three landmarks within miles of Rifle in hopes that you can appreciate the countryside that you live in.

Two notable prominences on the cliff edge of the Roan Plateau to the west and north of Rifle are the East and West Anvil Points. They are at an elevation of 8,658 feet, latitude of 39° 30' 57" N and longitude of 107° 55' 22" W. Their name is decidedly derived from the shape they present of an anvil (a blacksmith's tool with a smooth working surface of hardened steel and a projecting conical beak at one end that is used for hammering pieces of metal). For many of us that have lived in the Rifle area for some time, they are the landmark that you look for when you are journeying home from someplace afar.

As far as I could find, the formation was first alluded to by the name Anvil Point by J.W. Vanderbuilt in May, 1947 in the Rocky Mtn. Association of Geologists Guidebook (p. 16-17) Field Conference. J. B. Donnell again used the name in 1953, again in the Rocky Mountain Assoc. Geologists Guidebook Field Conference. His description was “consists of low-grade marlstone, thin-bedded shales, and sandstones alternating with gray and brown shales. Algal bed in lower part. Thickness about 1,500 feet. Underlies Parachute Creek member; overlies Wasatch formation. Exposed between Anvil Points Member (of Green River Formation).” In 1958 the U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin Summary had the first published detailed description of the Anvil Points.

The Roan Plateau can be accessed in the summer months via the JQS Trail or the Piceance Creek Road. It is beautiful country with breathtaking views but be aware that roads are definitely for 4-wheel drive vehicles and there are **absolutely no services** on the plateau!

An interesting sidenote is that in 1925 the Federal Bureau of Mines opened up an experimental mine and processing facility 11 miles west of Rifle on naval oil shale reserve land around the Anvil Points. From this endeavor, a small village, named Anvil Points, for the workers grew at the base of the plateau in 74 homes built by the government. Over the years, this little village was busy enough at times that three buses were needed to transport children to Rifle schools. Clean-up at the site began in 2008 and finished in the fall of 2013 so that today there is no trace of the bustling little community.



## Welcome to our first newsletter of the year!

We would like to know what you are interested in seeing in this publication. If you have something you would like to see here, please let us know at [rifleheritage-center.com](http://rifleheritage-center.com).

Photo Credits left to right:

- ◆ Lists of John
- ◆ Mapcarta.com
- ◆ YouTube



*Check out some “real western adventures” at [visittrifle.com](http://visittrifle.com)*

## Mt Callahan

At latitude 39.4408115°N and longitude 108.1164667°W (or immediately to the west of Parachute for those of us that don't do latitude and longitude) is a spectacular peak of 8,566 ft (2,611 m) known as Mount Callahan.

As far as I could ascertain, there are no hiking trails, ATV trails or jeeping roads that allow access to this mountain, but this striking peak offers beautiful vistas from a variety of locations (such as Battlement Mesa and the Colorado River valley floor) and in a variety of seasons.

## HOW A MOUNTAIN GOT ITS NAME

This particular peak is named after a late 1800's plain ole ordinary settler, Mike Callahan. The interesting story about Mike which plummeted him to local fame goes like this. Mike came to the grand valley in 1882, staked out a piece of land at the bottom of what we know as Mt Callahan and set about building himself a cabin. He built a sturdy fireplace out of the interesting and beautiful black shale rocks that were prevalent in the area. This was despite strong warnings from the Utes in the area. They insisted that the rocks would burn but Mike paid no heed and continued with his construction. After the cabin was completed, Mike planned a housewarming. At the party, the fire in the newly constructed fireplace ignited the rocks and the cabin constructed with love and sweat burned to the ground!

Photo is from the Garrison collection housed at the RHC.





Photo Credits for Mt Callahan-  
Tamara Blair Castellari and Jera  
Schaeffer  
Photo Credits for North Mamm  
Peak- visitrifle.org and Lynn Roe

The only historical note I have found about Mamm Peak is that it was officially designated

on September 10, 1963 by the U.S. Geological Survey as-

North Mamm Peak: peak with an elevation of about 11,123 feet, in White River National Forest, on Battlement Mesa about 11 miles south-southwest of Rifle; Garfield County; 39°23'20" N., 107°51'56" W. North Mamm Peak.

..USGS, LEADVILLE 1 :250; reported as local spelling; 'variant'. on older USGS, USC&GS .. -u;s.FS1 and County maps. (See summary for Mamm Creek.).  
---copied from PDF on file

People have different ways of appreciating the world so whether it's climbing a lovely mountain or driving to see an intriguing place, sharing photos or a short essay, swimming in a lake or wading in a stream, we can all share a sentiment by Sylvia Plath. "I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery — air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, 'this is what it is to be happy.'"

## North Mamm Peak

There are several rugged peaks along the ridge of the Battlement Mesa (in the Grand Mesa parent range) in Garfield and Mesa counties in the White River National Forest. These include Sugarloaf Mountain, Haystack Mountain, and North Mamm Peak. Each of these peaks are massive fields of volcanic boulders and ancient lava flows that spread out in all directions.

North Mamm Peak is the highest summit on the Battlements at 11,129 feet and it is visible from the valley floor where Rifle sits. It is about 11 1/2 miles south-southwest from the town.

North Mamm is really nothing more than a steep rocky outcropping rising about 300' above the surrounding terrain but its location above a vertical chute of boulders makes for some breathtaking pictures, especially in the winter.

For a closer look at the peak by passenger car, from I-70 in Rifle, take Exit 90. Go south a short distance to the second roundabout. Exit the roundabout heading east on Airport Road. Go 2.5 miles to CR 319 and turn right. Drive about 6 miles south. About 1/2 mile past an old schoolhouse there is a T intersection, turn right. Continue heading southwest until you reach the fork in the road (at about 10 1/2 miles). If you take the right fork, Forest Road 652, you will reach Trailhead 2160. If you head left at the fork, you will end up at a piece of the national forest with West Mamm Creek running through it.

For detailed information about the Battlements (from which you can reach North Mamm Peak) go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov>. There are maps and detailed instructions for accessing the area.

## Meet the Board

RHC is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors along with a dedicated army of volunteers that keep the doors open during our season, maintain the building we are housed in and acquire, care for and create the displays with their artifacts in the museum.

Kathy and Kevin Runia

Jessica Brandt

Cecil and Betty Waldron

Lynn Roe

Shirley Lawson

Jan Day

Alan Lambert

George Pearson

Kathy Budau

\*\*\*\*Stay tuned for the next newsletter to meet our wonderful volunteers\*\*\*\*

## SHARE WITH YOUR FRIENDS

The museum will open in the middle of May. There is lots of work to be done before then and we would like to invite anyone with a hankering to give back to their community to join us! Contact us at [rifleheritagecenter@gmail.com](mailto:rifleheritagecenter@gmail.com).

Our membership drive is in full swing. If you were a 2022 member, you will be receiving your membership letter shortly. Please share this way to support the museum with friends and acquaintances. Again, they may contact us at [rifleheritagecenter@gmail.com](mailto:rifleheritagecenter@gmail.com) and we will mail them a membership letter.

Follow us on Facebook! Historical notes and pictures get posted there along with upcoming events that the museum is associated with. Check out the speaker that will be at the Rifle Library in March and April— courtesy of RHC. Don't miss out!



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PLEASE  
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