



EXPLORING STEEL ENERGY AND THE WEST



NUMBER EIGHT IN A SERIES OF 10

See the exhibit at www.pueblolibrary.org/exploringsteel



CF&I fence manufacturing

FENCING

Ranching has been a staple of the American west since the first European-Americans arrived in the area. The Homestead Act of 1862 accelerated ranching and general agricultural land use, bringing even more people to the area. Colorado had the third-highest number of homestead claims in the United States as a result of the Act, with 107,618. Across the west, homesteaders and ranchers began fencing their land. Much of this fencing was manufactured in Pueblo by the wire mill at the steelworks. The wire mill produced stranded and barbed-wire fencing for well over 100 years and supplied its product all over the west. Interestingly, Colorado remains an open range state. Landowners are required to fence out livestock from entering their property; ranchers do not have to fence their property to keep livestock in.



Barbed wire fencing used for ranching