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MAR 29 1985

Mr. Russ Allen  
6155 South Cherrywood Circle  
Littleton, Colorado 80121

Dear Mr. Allen:

We are unable to determine who may have originated the name Park Range in Colorado or when that event occurred. The Board on Geographic Names was never involved with the origin of the name and its records do not include much information about the name and its application.

The name Park Range probably came into being before 1873 as a general reference to the then undifferentiated north-south trending groups of mountains bordering the west sides of North, Middle, and South Parks. In some respects the name persists because it exists.

The specific origin of the name Gore Range is equally elusive. It was obviously named for the Irish nobleman who made a significant contribution toward the reduction of American wildlife in the mid-nineteenth century. However, learning why his name came to be applied to the range or group of mountains may be difficult. I suspect that his hunting expedition made a significant impression on the then few people acquainted with the area and the name "Gore" became associated with the mountains. Once the name was used in print, especially on maps, it became fixed.

As a result of the 1964 Wilderness Act, Public Law 940-352, enacted on July 12, 1976, the name Gore Range-Eagles Nest Primitive Area was changed to Eagles Nest Wildlife Area. There is no explanation in the legislature, and U.S. Forest Service officials do not know, why the name was changed. Generally, wilderness areas are named for the most prominent geographic feature within their administrative areas. Perhaps it was an effort to shorten a long and cumbersome name or it may have been an effort to disassociate a wilderness area name from that of a person who represented the antinomy of the wilderness concept. You may wish to contact the U.S. Forest Service for additional information at the following address:

U.S. Forest Service  
Rocky Mountain Region  
Recreation and Lands Bureau  
11177 West 8th Avenue  
Lakewood, Colorado 80225

Mr. Russ Allen

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We are also unable to learn the origin of the name Mount Ethel in the Park Range.

I am sorry that we failed to help you much with your "name problems."  
Have a pleasant spring season.

Sincerely yours,

Donald J. Orth  
Executive Secretary  
Domestic Geographic Names

cc: RGCR  
RGCN (2) ✓  
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