

CAIRNS RANCH

Owners:

1882, James Cairns

Cairns' Lower Ranch later owned by VanDeusen, later CO-BT

Location:

Upper Ranch: 1882, "filed a pre-emption claim on 66 acres, and then a second on 30 acres... near where the home is today (Cairns Avenue). He ranched land in what is now the town of Grand Lake.

Lower Ranch: "In addition (he) homesteaded 160 acres under today's Shadow Mountain Reservoir, which were then nice meadows" The Van Deusen house was located about where Shadow Mountain Dam is now, (at a point somewhere between the Bureau Camp and the road to the Shadow Mountain Dam?) "...More or less in Sections 12 and 13, Township 3 North, Range 76 West, 6th P.M...."

General Ranch Information:

* "North of Granby, a brother and sister-in-law lived on James Cairns' lower ranch; however they didn't live there long enough to homestead it. Cairns homestead was usurped by James Elliott when Cairns visited Canada for several months. A few years later James Cairns was able to buy it back."

* The Redwood Fishers rented pasture land from the Cairns, about where Trail Ridge Marina is now.

* Jane Kemp has documents indicating that BLM took the ranch by eminent domain; Mary Lyons Cairns began negotiating with the government in 1941, and the land was finally taken in 1944.

* Jackie Boyd remembers that two women, Catherine Seymour and Rachel Rader, were living at the VanDeusen Ranch when the Fishers lived just below there. Both ladies were local teachers.

* Caroline Pratt (Holzwarth) stayed at the VanDeusen Ranch before her marriage.

Files:

Cairns, Mary Lyons and James

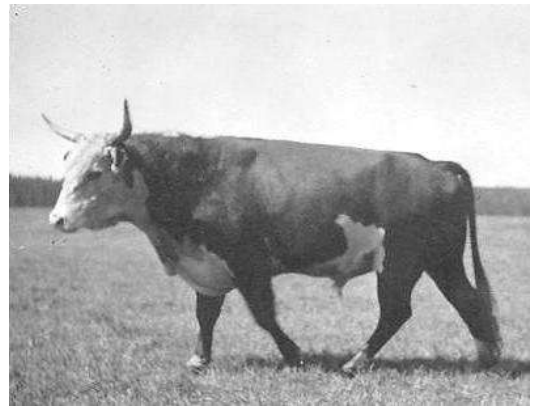
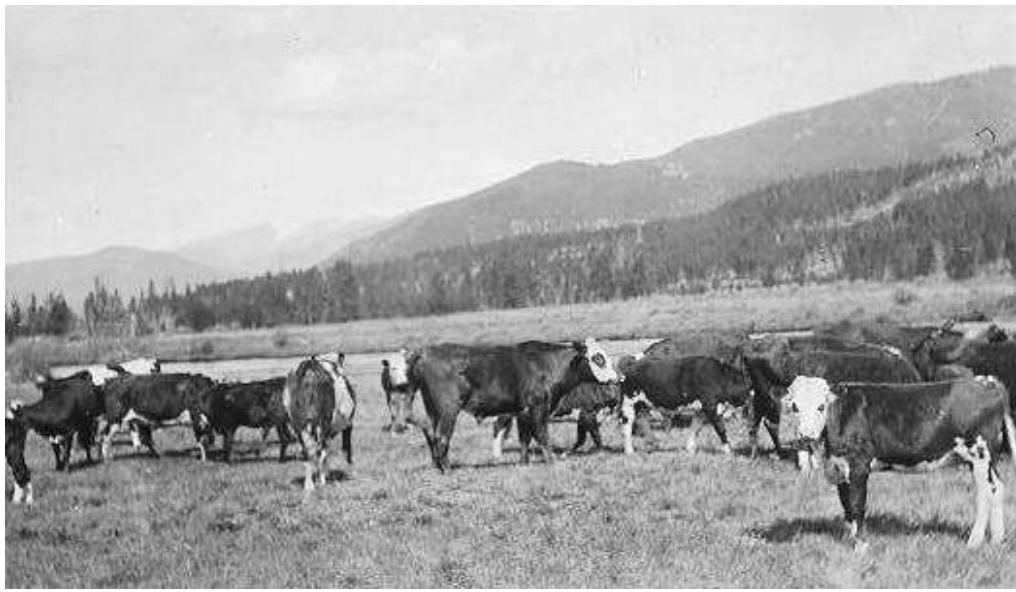
Box - Cairns:Water Rights/Early GL

Pictures:

Brand Book

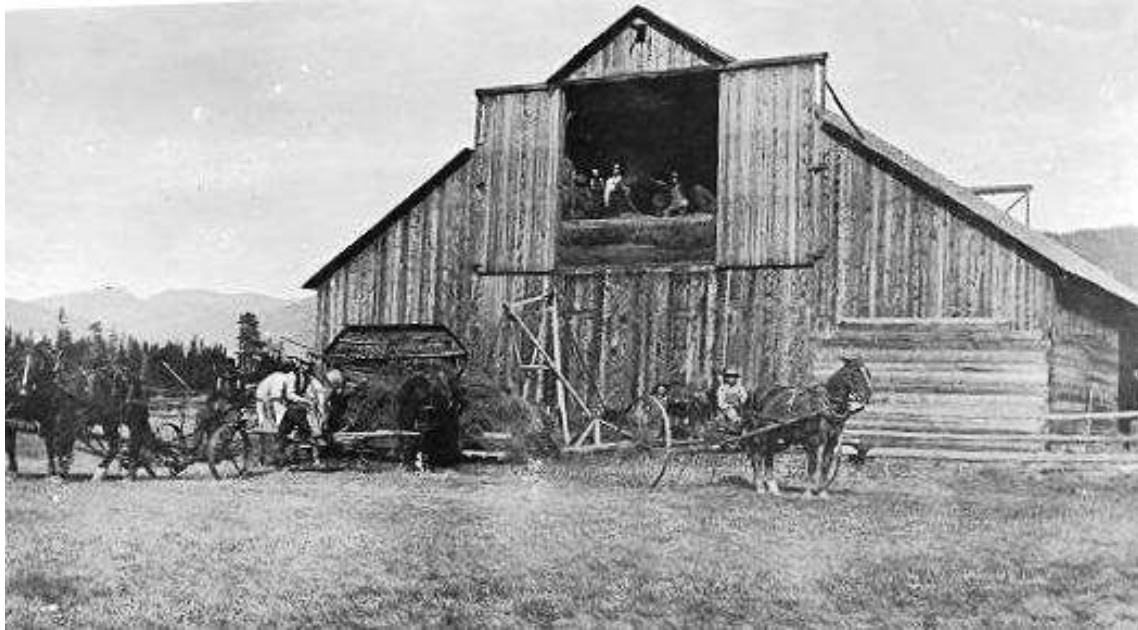
Ranching pictures

Jane Kemp's photos of the interior of the VanDeusen Ranch



Patience Cairns

Van Deusen Ranch



**Lower Cairns ranch – later the Van Deusen Ranch
Shadow Mountain Dam to the left**