

GREEN MOUNTAIN RANCH

Owners:

No owner noted (Fred Hertel?), ranch with three buildings is shown near the center of SW 1/4 section 13 (Green Mountain) in a survey of December 1881.

Charles F. Hertel (Hartel) - June 29, 1888 (1891?). Final proof provided 1894.

Henry Schnoor, Schnoor Ranch- July 15, 1897 (Named it Green Mountain Ranch?)

Schnoor sold to ? - 1906

Several sales

Henry Cowgill - 1917

(Son) H. Morse Cowgill - 1920 - 1928

Carl J. and Ada Nelson - 1934 (moved to Green Mountain Ranch, 1938)

RMNP - 1972

Location:

640 acres

North on Hwy. 34, five miles from Grand Lake. North Fork of Colorado River, Green Mountain opposite the ranch, at the foot of the Never Summer Range and Bowen Mountain. In the Kawuneeche Valley at Onahu Creek.



General Ranch Information:

* Henry Schnoor brought a herd of cattle with him in 1884, coming from Kiowa County (Elbert County?). In 1898, he built a two-story log cabin on Schnoor Ranch property, in anticipation of marriage to Kitty Harbison, which never occurred. Building later became main lodge of Green Mountain Ranch. ("The cabin was said to have almost vanished from view with the numerous additions made since its construction.")



* The Hartel Ditch (1889) and Christianson Ditch (1917) diverted water from Onahu Creek for ranch use. A small pond had been constructed at the mouth of Onahu Creek where it enters the Kawuneeche Valley."

* When ranch was inherited by Morse Cowgill, he was completely disinterested in ranching. Spent time playing cards while as many as 22 cattle starved. Morse deserted the ranch in 1928.

* Offered at a tax sale, the 640 acre ranch was purchased in 1934 by Carl Nelson. He "didn't know a cow from a horse when he started" but built up a dairy herd of 35 registered Guernsey cattle, providing milk to Zick's Store and GL Lodge.



* In about 1938, the Nelsons built up the guest ranch (never a "dude" ranch). Peak number of guests was 20-30 on the American plan, with housekeeping space for 50 more. In 1970 Dwight Miller excavated a lake for them. There was an olympic size swimming pool. (Jackie Boyd thinks this was added to increase the value of the property in anticipation of acquisition by RMNP.) "Cottages are separated for privacy- two to eight persons are comfortably housed in cottages of 1,2,or 3 rooms... The suites of rooms in the Main Ranch House are equally attractive - all with private baths." Riding, roping, and fishing were some of the attractions.

* Nine Green Mountain cottages remain and are used as housing for seasonal RMNP employees.

Files:

Schnoor - Henry, Harry, Carrie
Green Mountain Ranch

Pictures:

- Schnoors
- Travel Planner Brochure
- Small Ad
- Guest Ranch photos
- Copies of postcards
- Early ranch photos

Green Mountain Cabins used today for Seasonal Park Housing



