

The Holzworth Family



John Gotlieb Holzworth

Sophie Lefromm Holzworth



Papa, Marie, Julia, John, Sophie and Mama



**Johnnie Holzworth and Caroline (Pratt)
Virginia, Mary Francis and John III**

HOLZWORTH TROUT LODGE

1919 - 1930

John and Sophie Holzworth homesteaded this 160 acre ranch in 1917 and began building the necessary ranch buildings. They worked here in the summers with their son Johnnie until 1919 when they sold their property in Denver and moved here permanently. Friends came to hunt and fish and Mama and Johnnie decided it was time to start charging for their stay - \$2 a night \$11 for the week - this included a bed, three meals a day and a horse to ride. The first cabin was built in the early 20s and gradually more cabins were added up through the 1940s.



When Fall River Road opened in 1920 and the tourists began to arrive, Papa decided it was time to move closer to the road. He purchased the Joe Fleshut cabin and property from Henry Lehman for \$2000 - the amount he had received for the boarding house duplex they owned in Denver. A dining room was built where Mama cooked meals.



In 1929 Julia Holzwarth, Johnnie Holzwarth's sister, financed the building of a lodge for the ranch. She wanted her mother to have a better place to live but Sophie preferred the original cabin.



HOLZWARTH RANCH AND HOLZWARTH DUDE RANCH

The name of the ranch changed over time but the Holzwarth family operated the ranch from 1920 until it was sold to the park In 1973-74.

Name change may have resulted from a change in what the public was interested in.

Another explanation may be the death of Papa, the death of Mama, and the purchase of the property by Johnnie from his sisters with a resulting new business set up.



NEVERSUMMER RANCH



Owners:

John G. and Sophie Holzwarth, Sr.
- homesteaded, 1917, Holzwarth
Trout Lodge and Ranch 1919
Added Fleshut property –
Holzwarth Ranch and Holzwarth
Dude Ranch - 1923 – 1950s
Name changed to Neversummer
Ranch probably after Mama died
and Johnnie purchased ranch from
his sisters.
Johnnie Holzwarth, Jr. - built new
lodge for dude ranch in 1929, ran
ranch 1931 until sold to the park.

RMNP, 1973, purchased 140-acre dude ranch portion of property on Hwy 34.
RMNP 1974 - Nature Conservancy purchased 634 acre tract "Holzwarth Home Ranch",
transferred to RMNP

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

Location:

About two miles south of Phantom Valley Ranch, 10 miles north of Grand Lake, off
Highway 34, eventually 980 acres, both sides of the Colorado River, in Kawuneeche
Valley

(Joe Fleshut's cabin and land added sometime after the Fall River Road opened in 1920
- nearer Fall River Road, now Highway 34)
Campground opened south of the original Holzwarth Ranch lodge and Removed by
RMNP.

General Ranch Information:

* Holzwarth first homesteaded another site, now under Granby Reservoir, @1870 and was there until he and his brother David moved to Denver in early 1880s. Sold ranch to Johnstons.

* Holzwarth's Ranch, established by Holzwarth soon after 1917 (1919?). In 1919, the ranch was expanded, and called the Trout Lodge. Guests first in tents; seven cabins added, taxidermy shop, tent house, woodshed, ice house.

* Ranch was geared to caring for guests, but practical ranch developed at same time. At first, 10-15 acres of hay, kept in barn near homestead. Gradually acquired more land, cleared willow meadows, first by hand and later with Dwight Miller and his rotary plow.

* At peak of operation, up to 55 guests., "occasionally crowding in 70." Large horse herd (75-100), sometimes as many as 200. Staff of about 20. Featured all-day rides, three a week in summer.

* Part of operation moved in 1923 nearer Fall River Road (now Highway 34). large three-story lodge, smokehouse, smokehouse, barn & corral. Later, campground, sawmill. "...guest rooms with or without private bath, either in the lodge or in modern log cabins with fireplace. 40 guests. Good food..." Riding, "fishing, ranch activities, sports, square dancing, etc. - or restful relaxation. Daily bus service from Denver and for guests arriving by train in Granby."

* John may have gotten the dude ranch idea after working at Lehman Ranch.

* Spruce trees were planted; still there.

Files:

Holzwarth, John (includes two biographies w/ anecdotal material)

Pictures:

Napkin, Cowbells, shows brand Brochure

Postcards Ad Various pictures of ranch, family