

## SUN VALLEY RANCH

### Owners:

(Survey of December 1881 shows a ranch with 3 buildings near center SE1/4 section 25, and a ranch with 3 buildings near center of NE1/4 section 25.)

Rob Harbison homesteaded, didn't prove up - 1902 or 1906

Edwin T. "Ed" and Katheryn DeWitt - homesteaded @1914, @660 acres, Snowed-In Ranch; by @1917,1918, took in some guests for fishing, named Sun Valley Ranch. In 1920s,named Sun Valley Guest Ranch.

Sold several times. Gradually expanded facilities/ commercial kitchen and living room added to lodge.

Jack Montgomery 1943-45 Sold in February/Spring 1946

? to Ken England Reverse KL Bar

? to Troy Carr

Wallace Taber – sometime 1946 - 1953

Stan and Ester Williams - 1954, added kitchenettes in the cabins, owned land around lake. Taber still owned other property, but sold off over time.

Dr. Robert Henry - 1964, bought a portion of the the ranch, subdivided; 1969, sold to John & Kay Boyle

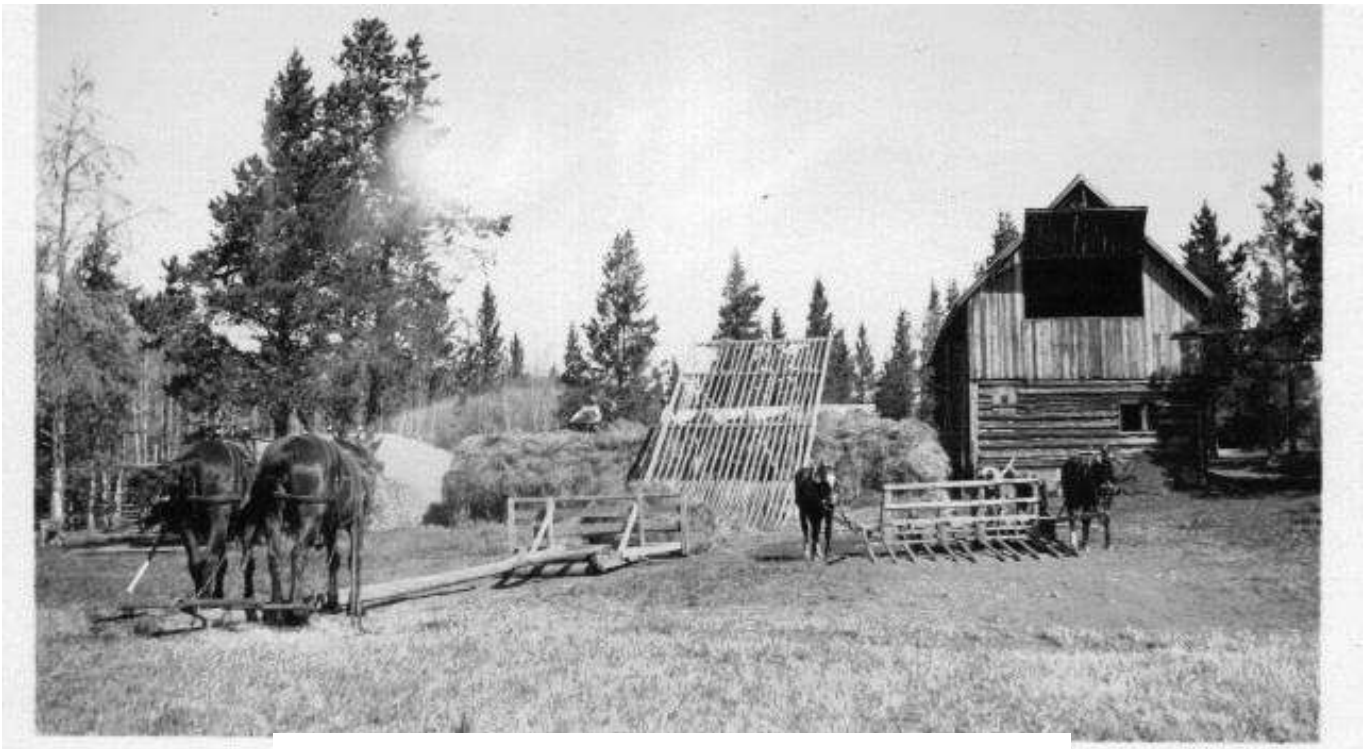
Various other purchases of portions of the property

Ken Bruton - August 1964, purchased 27 (30?) acres for a dude ranch, Sun Valley Ranch; Dude Ranch closed, 1982, and converted to luxury cabins, Sun Valley Estates.

### Location:

County Road 491, on the North Fork of the Colorado River





**Haying pictures taken 1943-45**



### **General Ranch Information:**

\* DeWitt was a German carpenter, raised some cattle, but mainly worked building furniture and repairing wagons. 1916, little Mrs. DeWitt peeled huge rafter logs while her husband hauled more in with his mules so they could build the cabin. (from Judy White) In 1920s, when taking guests, would go to Granby to meet the train with horses and wagon to bring guests to ranch. European style, meals extra. Son Clinton, with wife Violet, built his homestead cabin, still in original location across from Sun Valley Estates. Daughter Beulah married a Johnston at Stillwater Ranch.

\* In the booklet called "Grand Lake School and Sleepy Hollow School" Gertie Johnston Olsen states on page 24 that *"On Sundays we would have someone to our house or we were invited to someone's. We loved to go up to Mr. & Mrs. DeWitt's."* In "Grand County Historical Association Journal" June 1986 titled "A Dude Ranch Is....."1875-1986 which gives histories of various Dude Ranches in the area on page 9 it states: *"Another ranch north of Grand Lake taking guests prior to 1920 was the Snowed-In Ranch, later the Sun Valley Ranch. The first owner was a German Carpenter, Ed DeWitt who did not actively ranch, but who did take in some guests for fishing, perhaps as early as 1917-1918."* (From Judy White)

\* When the Montgomery's had the working dude ranch, they averaged 25 guests a week: day-long trail rides, cabins with clean bed linen, campfires and songs, "nine solid log guest cabins and a good lodge... lights were from carbide gas buried in a tank", outdoor plumbing, gas-driven washing machine. Had own garden, chickens, eggs, milk, hogs, wild game. Mexican braceros helped with haying.

\* Business card, showing "DeWITT'S Snow'd-In Ranch", and advertising Horses, Cabins – possibly published circa 1930-1950

\* Ken Bruton's Sun Valley Ranch was strictly American plan, everything included, capacity of 34 guests. (Schedule of ranch's day in file)

### **Files:**

Sun Valley Ranch

### **Pictures:**

Ranch

Haying 1944



