

From the Denver Post – May 15, 1910

Hotel Bellevue

The largest and most commodious hotel in Grand Lake is operated and owned by Preston H. Smith. Two stories in height, contains about sixty rooms and has just been enlarged again. It occupies about 75 x 100 feet on the main street, about 200 feet from the lake, and has accommodations for seventy-five guests in the hotel, also has cabins and tents in connection. The kitchen is presided over every season by a competent chef from one of the leading hotels and the table is equal to any first class hostelry. Bathrooms and running water have lately been installed. Mr. Smith is assisted in the management of his hotel by his daughter, Miss Genevieve Smith, who is quite a favorite with the guests. Right back of the Bellevue hotel is the famous fishing point, Lazy Man's Rock, where amateur fishermen cast their lines with bait, anchor their lines with rocks and watch them in the shade. In August last year a three and a half pound trout was caught by a resident of Denver. The trout, which hooked itself while the fisherman lay asleep on the grass, showing the case in which one can fish here. Mr. Smith also conducts a livery barn with saddle horses and teams for his guests, also takes contracts to erect cottages, several of which he has recently completed. He is a good entertainer and amuses his guests with stories of old times in this locality, especially the history of the Grand lake feud some eighteen years ago, when the county commissioners, sheriffs and deputies annihilated one another, which caused the county seat to be moved from Grand Lake to Sulphur Springs. The Bellevue hotel does a turn-away business. This past season it turned away as many as fifteen guests in one single day, unable to accommodate them. Rates run from \$12 to \$20 per week. The Bellevue is the headquarters of many people from Texas, Tennessee and Oklahoma.

December 22, 1911

The Hotel Belleview at Grand Lake was entirely destroyed by fire on last Saturday morning. The occupants barely escaped from the building before its destruction. It is supposed that the fire originated from a defective flue. It is not definitely known how much insurance was carried on the building at the time of its destruction.



Sky Hi News – Feb 22, 2001

On occasion of Grace Eslick's 90s birthday – the following article was written by Pat Raney.....

In 1902 P. H. built the Hotel Bellevue. Lauded in a local newspaper as, “The most commodious hotel in Grand Lake.: the two story Bellevue had 60 rooms, accommodations for 75 guests in the hotel and adjacent cabins and tents, with\$20 per week. The Bellevue had a “first class” dining room, plus a livery barn with saddle horses and teams for the guests. Bathrooms withinstalled sometime after the hotel opened. Unfortunately, in the winter of 1911 a large dinner bell sounded its second ring of the alarm, the clapper rope broke and volunteer help did not arrive in time to save the Bellevue from fire.

P. H. Smith and the family soon replaced the Bellevue with the Nowata Cottage, a two story hotel with large screened porches and patterned slab siding. Unfortunately the Nowata Cottage burned shortly after being built. At this time P. H. owned a block of land along Grand Avenue where he operated his sawmill plus a carpenter shop for making shingles by hand and other carpentry work. The family, including Clyde, was active building many cottages and buildings in town, including the Grand Lake Community Center and the Grand Lake Yacht Club. By 1913, the American love affair with the automobile was in full swing, and there were enough cars in Colorado that the state began issuing license plates. The development of convenient, affordable automobile travel brought...economic revival to small mountain towns like Grand Lake. About 1915, having two businesses burn within 10 years, the family abandoned the hotel business and built a structure catering to the automobile tourist, offering more comfort and convenience in the auto camps that were popular at the time. Clyde helped his father and grandfather build a cottage court, the first “motel” in Grand Lake. This innovative structure featured comfortable one room cabins with carports between them – all connected under one roof. The patterned slab sided cabins were heated by small wood stoves and furnished with a bed and a chair. A separate building housed restroom areas for men and for women. Open during summer and originally operated by Alfred and Georgia Eslick, the Eslick Cottage Court was managed by Clyde and Grace from 1947 to the late 1960s.