



Fairview Hotel

From Grand Lake in the Olden Days

The Fairview House had one of the fairest views imaginable, looking out across the clear waters of the lake toward Mt. Craig to the east and looking up both of the deep forested valleys of the North and East Inlets. The Fairview House was built in the autumn of 1881 for Mrs. Mary J. Young, a widow, at a “house-raising.” The work was done by her son Chris and several other men of the village. Mrs. Young had taken up the point of land on which to build her hotel, and an adjoining large tract, as a homestead. The table was always well supplied with trout and wild game. Mrs. Young was a famous cook, and her house was ever a popular stopping place for local people as well as travelers.

“She was a little dancing gypsy,” has been said of her. “She could work all day – cooking, cleaning, putting things to rights – and then still be so light on her feet that she could dance half the night without seeming to tire.” She was an ingenious woman, able when the supply of salt ran out to extract this precious seasoning from bacon rinds; to use molasses for sweetening when no more sugar was obtainable until spring; or to frost a festive cake using rose geranium leaves for flavoring when the vanilla bottle was long since empty.

It was at the ice house of the Fairview property that a tragic feud occurred on July 4, 1883. Some of the victims were carried into the hotel, and there two of them died. In the months that followed Mrs. Young tried over and over to get the blood stains off her floor; she would scrub and scrape, scrub and scrape, but she never succeeded in removing them all.

Josie Kalsay came to Grand Lake in 1887 to help Mary Jane Young at her Fairview Hotel on the point near the outlet. Josie married Chris Young in 1888. They built the Rustic Hotel.

The Fairview House stood on Craig Point until the summer of 1937 when it was torn down.