

Wiswall Tavern



Wilbert (Wilbur) Wellington Wiswall and Bruce Harry Wiswall were born in Longmont, Colorado. In the Longmont Ledger in 1899 “*Wilbur (age 21) is a fine pianist as well as a good baritone singer.*” In 1908 the brothers moved to Denver to go into business for themselves. They operated the Wiswall Photo Craft Shop in Denver in 1911 advertising commercial photography, Kodak finishing, enlarging, coloring, artistic framing and western landscapes. In 1917 they were producing scenic photographs and booklets, and motion pictures, scenic and industrial.

In 1918 they homesteaded north of Grand Lake. They opened the Color Shop (*locally known as “the Picture Place”*) in Grand Lake with Wilbur as manager selling prints from photographic plates done in oil and water colors, kodaks, finishing, Indian blankets and baskets. In 1919 he was organizing music classes in Grand Lake. Wilbur added a new entrance and large show window to the Color Shop in 1923.

Bruce Wiswall was proprietor of the Wiswall Tavern. It had a restaurant and soda fountain, room to rent, and they sold confectionery, cigars, and tobacco. Reported in the Estes Park Trail in 1923, “*The Wiswall Tavern will boast of a new fireplace next summer.*” From 1928 – 1930 L. J. Ish managed the Wiswall Tavern. The Rhones purchased the Tavern and operated it for many years along with many cabins along the lake and the Corner Cupboard Restaurant.

Photographer Bruce Wiswall made a specialty of mountain scenery. In 1919 he was also the official photographer of the Denver Tourist bureau. He secured pictures of the championship ski jumps at Hot Sulphur Springs and Steamboat Springs which appeared in literature advertising the state.

By 1928 Wilbur had relocated to Santa Fe New Mexico and where he was a prominent musician, playwright and writer. By 1935 Bruce Wiswall had moved to California. A listing shows he once operated a Corner Cupboard there.

