

KAWUNEECHE RANCH

Owners:

Unknown - "Land patents were issued for a ranch with three buildings in this location in 1881."

Almond N. "Al" or "Albert" and Nellie House's 160 acre homestead, which bordered his father Nelson's homestead on the south- 1914; family moved onto the property, named it Kawuneeche Ranch 1915.

Resort begins @1930.

Mr. & Mrs. Henry A. Gill, son Bob Gill - 1945?

RMNP - 1966

Location:

73 meters west of Trail Ridge Road and 99 meters east of a segment of the Green Mountain Trail, situated on a low, largely flat terrace at the far eastern margins of the Colorado River floodplain. 144 acres, North Fork of the Colorado River, six miles north of Grand Lake on Hwy. 34, adjacent to the Little Buckaroo Ranch. Accesses just across from large rock outcropping, pull-off just before Little Buckaroo entrance road.



General Ranch Information:

* The Nelson Houses came over from Estes Park, on Trail Ridge Road. They were supposed to prove up on the land in April, but they were in Estes with all their cattle and other things, so they had to file for an extension.

* "There was a sawmill in Bowen Gulch about this time, which (father) Nelson, (brother) Roy, and Al may have used as a source of lumber. Al eventually had a sawmill on his property...Al built a barn and gas-powered sawmill...several small housekeeping cabins for rental by guests..." " The property operated as a dude ranch" hiking, fishing, horseback riding, children's playground. The ranch kept about 35 horses in the summer. They planted daisies that are still there.

* Al House was the son of Nelson House, Little Buckaroo Ranch. Al continued work as a carpenter, was first NPS ranger on Grand Lake side, with wife built and managed Grand Lake Lodge. Al built Trinity in the Pines. "There is documentation that (Father) Nelson helped son Al during the 'proving up' period on his homestead, and he probably continued to help him afterwards as well." "Al worked in Estes Park and Grand Lake as a carpenter for needed income and so his children could conveniently get to school in the winter" of 1916 - 1919.

* Under Gills, "ultra-modern motel type duplex kitchenette apartments...Guest cottages are rustic... completely furnished for housekeeping. Fuel and electric lights included. Equipped with innerspring mattresses and warm woolen blankets. All cottages have individual water wells with pitcher pumps mounted at kitchen sink, except one room cottages which obtain water from nearby yard well. All have individual outside toilets...Rates - are from \$18.00 to \$50.00 per cottage or apartment, weekly..."



* Martha Boehner and Jane Kemp remember this as a beautiful property and ranch house: circle drive around a pond with a bridge (similar to the house with the pond in front, as you come to the Fall River entrance east side of RMNP), lovely spruce trees that they planted and are still there. Martha recently walked the area, but could not find the road that came into the circle drive.



* Six buildings were demolished when taken over by RMNP.

Files: Kawuneeche Ranch
Pictures: of Building
Small Ad