

PHANTOM VALLEY RANCH

Owners:

1898

Robert "Squeaky Bob" Wheeler - @1907 homestead, starts

resort in 1908 – "Hotel de Hardscrable" Camp Wheeler

Lester A. Scott - 1926, named it Phantom Valley Ranch

Milt Statler (becomes partner with Scott?) - 1927

Irwin and Virginia (Ginger) Beattie - 1941

RMNP – purchased in 1960



Lester Scott

Location:

160 acres, @12 miles from Grand Lake, both sides of the Colorado River, with main lodge and cabins on east side, barn and corral, tent camps on west



General Ranch Information:

* " May well be the west's first guest ranch" Began giving meals away free. Then Shep Husted, guiding people out of Grand Lake, asked Squeaky Bob to take care of people @1907. Wheeler put up four tents, built two feet above ground, and furnished with a cot and chair. At end of season, had to add 20 tents. Great food. \$5 - 6 per day. "Camp Wheeler", (Squeaky called it) "Hotel de Hardscrabble", (Locals called it) Squeaky Bob's Place. White English bulldog, Maggie, and a cat, Pansy.

* Main lodge and 12+ cabins, ice house on east side of river, barn and corral and cabin west of river. Old two-track road runs along the site's eastern margin, most likely the old Grand Lake to Lulu City Road. Resort became widely known when Teddy Roosevelt stayed there in 1905 on a bighorn sheep hunting expedition.



Teddy Roosevelt on a hunt in Colorado

* Statler and Scott tore down the tents, built cabins, including one for Wheeler and wife Allie. Cloyd Redburn (and wife Bea) lived on ranch, Cloyd was "a dude wrangler and ranch foreman."

* Beattie was running "eight different half-day and about twenty-one all-day rides from the ranch. Stabled 40 horses, 15 cabins to accommodate 60 people.



* **Phantom Valley Trading Post**, built @1926, was located about 1/2 mile south of Phantom Valley Ranch: store, Conoco gas station, cabins; removed about 1960.

