

PONTIAC LODGE/ MONTANE VALLEY RANCH

Owners:

1881 - Land survey of December 1881 shows that "A ranch with 3 buildings is shown near the center of the SW 1/4 of section 12. This ranch would, apparently, have been near the point where Onahu Creek intersects Trail Ridge Road."

1898 - John W. Spitzer - land patented.

1939 - Ted Lee – Homesteaded Lot 6, Section 1, Township 4, north of Range 76W of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado: owned until 1958, called Pontiac Lodge.

Various portions sold to: Mary E. Giggey (1947), Douglas Heating (1949).

1953 - Ted Bach - beginning in 1953, purchased pieces of the property, had all after 1958.

Various portions sold to: Hugh K. Hooks (1960, 1963), John Hilson (1960-61).

1963 - Charles S. and Virginia Housman; renamed the property Montane Valley Ranch, also called Housman Ranch.

1975 - NPS purchased Montane Valley Ranch.

Location:

Site of present Coyote Valley Trailhead in RMRP, where Onahu Creek intersects Trail Ridge Road. Nothing remains of the lodge/ranch; area now used as a picnic spot and trail access.



Houseman and Harbison Ranches

General Ranch Information:

* Ted Lee homesteaded the land and built Pontiac Lodge. The family lived there year round until he passed away in 1958. It was located just below Neversummer Ranch. The children attended grade school in Grand Lake. Martha Boehner and Jackie Boyd went to school with Lee children: Fred, Cathy, Dorothy, Ted, Jr. Linda (Lee) Giese lived at Pontiac Lodge in 1950-59. Their mother, Winifred, played the organ at the Presbyterian Church.

* "Photographs taken ... on family vacation in the early 1940s show a main lodge with two stories, six cabins with gas lights and wood stoves, and a pumphouse. The walls of cabins and lodge appeared to have been faced with half logs in the 'Rocky Mountain Stick' architectural style. The property included a silver painted bridge over the Colorado River."

* Ted Lee "tore down all of the cabins and retained only the lodge for his home, the barn and corral, and a garage (photos of these three buildings can be found in the *RMNP* land acquisition file)... Lee removed all of the willows surrounding the property and destroyed all the beaver dams on his property. Fairly modern looking structures, including a house, barn, corral, and shed or garage.

* "The Lee Irrigation Ditch was located on this property."

* When Tim and Marilou Randall were first married, they stayed in a cement slab-floored cabin at the Ranch. Marilou says that when Housman had purchased the place, it was a mess and had to be reconstructed. Charles Housman later married Tim's mom.



Pontiac Lodge Barn



**Pontiac Ranch Oil Shed, "Randall Cabin"
in Background**



**Ted Bach House, Later Charles Housman
House**



**River side of house the Randalls used. Housman constructed it from two
fishing cabins attached to the original wash house.**

