

SODA SPRINGS RANCH

Owners:

Harry Bunte

(Ernie Seipp was there for 35 years, first as a partner with Harry, but did not receive the ranch upon Harry's death in 1971.)

@ 1971 Jeannette Humphrey Akolt

1984 George, Jerry, Pat Peirce (Potts)

Location:

Where Soda Springs, restaurant now located, according to Helen Zick Walker. Soda Creek ran through it.



General Ranch Information:

* Ernie married Kathy Potts from Tennessee (no relation to Spike Potts) in 1949, and they first worked on Harry Bunte's wheat ranch in Sterling. They spent the winter painting two houses, a garage, and barn. "We about starved to death", but the farmers on the place shared their food. They moved onto Soda Springs Ranch in 1950, replacing Hermie Litz who had been managing the place. Ernie says he named the place the Soda Springs Ranch. The ranch had a house, barn with a hay loft, one-car garage – all log. When they moved in, Ernie's wife Kathy confronted pack rats, mice and other critters all well-established in the house. The barn is now located on the other side of Soda Creek, back where the new housing has been developed.

Ernie was in partnership with Harry Bunte on the Soda Springs site, and was promised the land before Harry's death. However, that contract was verbal and was never written, so the land went to Harry Bunte's stepdaughter Jeanette Humphrey Akoldt and her husband. They later sold the property to George Peirce.

* Spike and Pat (Peirce) Potts call their present-day ranch "Stillwater Ranch", and it is on the old Bunte Ranch, off County Road 4.



Ernie and Kathy Seipp and children on Soda Springs Ranch



