

Nowata Hotel

The P. H. Smith family first came to Grand Lake for a summer in 1886. P. H. brought the family to Grand Lake permanently sometime after he sold his Fraser sawmill. He built a sawmill and lumberyard in Grand Lake and acquired several properties.

P. H. Smith built the Nowata Hotel on the site of what was later the Corner Cupboard Hotel. Then in 1902 he built the Hotel Bellevue which he and his daughter Genevieve ran until it completely burned in the winter of 1912. (Foundation was still visible under Bunte's Rustic Cabin Court in 1955) He had a livery barn and built the first tourist cabins.

(from an article by Idelia Baumgarten, Middle Park Times – 1955)

(from Rocky Mountain National Park: A History).

“After a second night at Squeaky Bob's, they traveled to Grand Lake. There they stayed at the Nowata, one of five hotels in operation. It featured “hot and cold running water in the rooms, bath, and a very good table, the rate \$3 a day.” Willy and his son explored nearby sights afoot, later complaining that trails needed to be cleared. He also noted that automobile travelers were bringing changes to these resorts, with more mobile travelers inclined to spend only one night rather than a week as guests had in previous years. Willy saw hotel keepers inconvenienced and higher prices resulting from such quick visits. (about 1915)

1917 Colorado Business Directory (advertisement)

Nowata Cottage
(American Plan)
Mrs. Mary A. Smith, Prop.
A newly built home-like place for tourists
STRICTLY MODERN, HOT AND COLD WATER
STEAM HEAT
All the Comforts of a City Hotel. Make Reservations for 1917.
Rates and Prospectus on Application
GRAND LAKE COLORADO

Advertisement – Rocky Mountain News, Section 2, Page 9, Sunday, August 4, 1918

Nowata Cottage
Grand Lake, Colo.
A homelike place with all the modern
Comforts. Close to lake. Running hot
And cold water in all rooms. Good beds.
Mrs. P. H. Smith, Prop.

Middle Park Times – March 9, 1961

Word was received this week of the death of another old pioneer of Grand County, Mrs. Mary A Smith, former wife of P. H. Smith who owned and operated the Bellevue Hotel in 1911 where the Corner Cupboard now stands and the Nowata Cottage, where the present Rustic Court is. Mrs. Smith passed away at the age of 96 in Newtonville, Massachusetts on February 11, 1961. She was the step grandmother to Clyde Eslick and Bessie Lindsey.



Middle Park Times – May 1915

Mrs. Lehman is making extensive improvements about her hotel

Mrs. Langley is also building on and putting a new porch on her hotel.

P. H. Smith's new hotel is thoroughly completed and ready for summer business.

Hotels and Resorts (no date - @1920)

Grand Lake

Name	Proprietor	Distance from Station	No of Guests	Rate/day	Rate/Week
Lehman's	Mrs. H. Lehman	18 Miles	25	2.00	12.00
Langley's	H. C. Langley	16 miles	75	2:.00 up	12.00 up
Kauffman H	Mrs. E. H. Kauffman	16 miles	30	2.50	12.00
Norwata	P. H. Smith	16 miles	75	2.50	15.00
The Rapid	J. L. Ish	16 miles	75	2.50	15.00 up