

# Rustic Hotel

*From The Day Before Yesterday by Nell Pauly*

Mother Josie Young Langley, formerly Mrs. Christian Young, for 46 years proprietress of the Rustic Inn. Grand Lake. (mother-in-law of Nell Young Pauly – married to her son Jake)



Josie Kalsay came to Grand Lake in 1887 to help Mary Jane Young at her Fair View Hotel on the point near the outlet. Josie married Chris Young in 1888. They lived in Lulu City and Gaskill and then Mary Jane gave Chris and Josie a deed to the six lots just south of the point at the outlet for a wedding present and they immediately started the building of their modest little hotel on a shoestring. And the Rustic Inn was in the business of its borning. Chris built, with his own hands and with the help of Josie, several good sized and substantial buildings for their fast growing tourist trade. They were all built of heavy logs and adorned with the popular decoration of fancy lattice work patterned from small peeled pine poles. The second year at their new location they built an eight room house with an octagon shaped roof with hand rived shingles. It was called the Fawn

Cottage.

The main hotel building was first built with a sod roof housing the dining room and kitchen and large living room with a fireplace and two bedrooms upstairs. At first tents were used as guest sleeping units. The tent accommodations were used for several years, even after the several houses were built. The overflow of guests were glad to even be supplied with a tent. In a short while an upper story was added to the hotel, making new roomy bedrooms for their trade. Chris became known for his debonair hospitality and Josie for her delicious food and the good table she set. Each year found growing buildings. There were the horse barns, cow sheds and chicken coops, duck, turkey and goose runs.

Then they built the Lady of the Lake cabin which was a dance pavilion where dances were held on Saturday nights and by a swift cleaning and rejuvenating in the morning by Josie, Sunday school was held and even Church services. This cottage set out over the lake and as the wind swept the waves in, the house rose and fell lightly with the movement of the waves.



Mother Josie Young Langley, formerly Mrs. Christian Young, for 46 years proprietress of the Rustic Inn, Grand Lake.



In 1897 The Bear Cottage was built – the pride of the Inn.

In about 1900 a larger kitchen and dining room were added to the main hotel building seating a capacity of 48 people.

Chris Young died at the age of 44 in 1905. He left his widow Josie, then 35 the full management and responsibility of the Rustic Inn, three children (the oldest had died the year before and Jake (13), Jennie (11) and Chris, Jr. (9), a string of fine horses for the stage line and a fine mortgage and a pile of other debts.

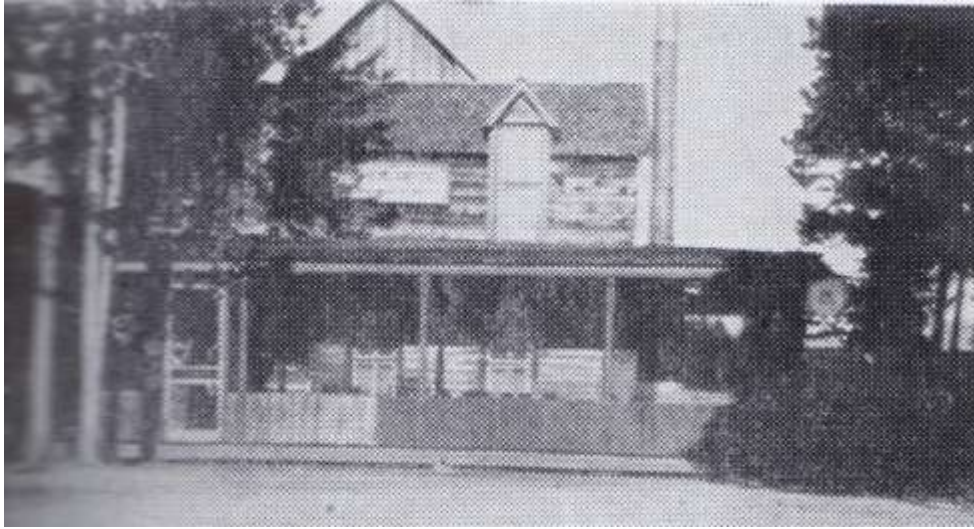
In 1906 Josie became Lady Josephine Langley – she married Lord Harry Langley from England. It only lasted five years due to Lord Langley’s continued drinking sprees. He was a guest at the Inn and wooed her with his singing and playing fantastic music on the piano. They traveled to Florida that winter and when it was time to return to the lake, the Rustic Inn and a “tourist” crop, Josie and her children made the trip alone. They returned to Florida two more winters and Harry promised to go back to Grand Lake but he never did and Josie finally sued for divorce and won. Josie was notified of his death years later and a large package of his music was delivered to her. All that was left of the romantic story of Lord Harry Langley. Josie died in 1952.



Hotels and Resorts (no date - @1920)

Grand Lake

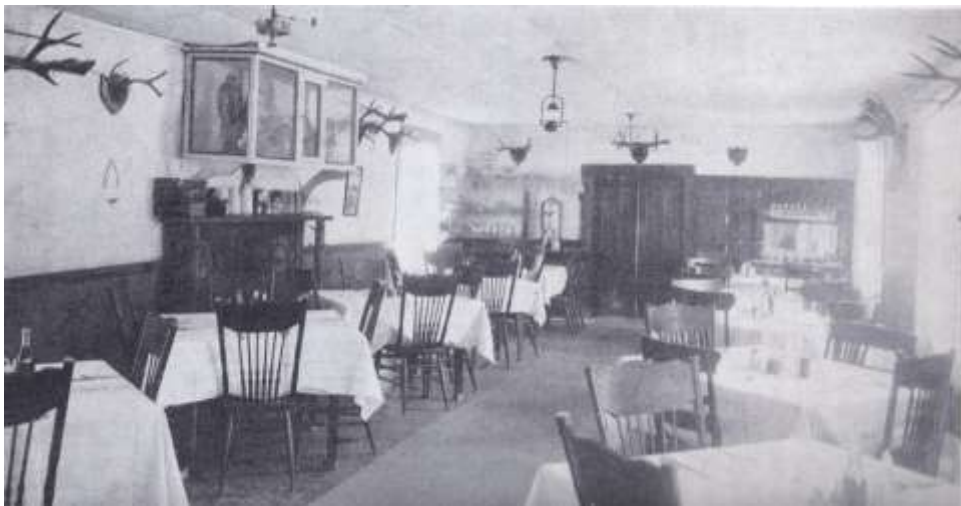
Name	Proprietor	Distance from Station	No of Guests	Rate/day	Rate/Week
Lehman’s	Mrs. H. Lehman	18 Miles	25	2.00	12.00
<b>Langley’s</b>	<b>H. C. Langley</b>	<b>16 miles</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>2:00 up</b>	<b>12.00 up</b>
Kauffman H	Mrs. E. H. Kauffman	16 miles	30	2.50	12.00
Norwata	P. H. Smith	16 miles	75	2.50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



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**Rustic Hotel Dining Room 1920**

*From the Denver Post – May 15, 1910*

## **THE RUSTIC HOTEL.** **The Oldest Hotel in Grand Lake.**

This hotel, built out of logs, has an inviting rustic appearance, has catered to the visitors and tourists for over thirty years. It is conducted by Mrs. Langley. It is situated on the east side of the lake, in an ideal location. It has accommodations for forty people. They also own several tents, which are rented to the people who enjoy tent life, who can take their meals at the hotel if desired. Rates for room and board at the hotel run from \$10 to \$12 per week. Special rates are made to families for the season. They own and rent rowboats for 50 cents per day. They also conduct a livery stable in connection, where rigs and saddle horses can be rented at reasonable rates. The Rustic is famous for its good meals and many cottagers take their meals at the Rustic. Many improvements have been made during the winter months in anticipation of a big business the coming season. Those going to the Rustic would be wise to make their reservations early.

The Rustic Livery Stable was a stable built by P. H. Smith. It was used as a livery stable by Harry Bunte for many years and then John Rhone rented horses from it. P. H. Smith had a hotel and carpenter shop in this too. His grandson, Clyde Eslick has added to the .....



*Photo by John Thompson*