



1920 – 2020
100th Anniversary

Shortly after Rocky Mountain National Park was formed in 1915, Roe Emery suggested the idea of building a lodge near Grand Lake. Emery owned a transportation company and envisioned bringing tourists to the park on a circle tour from Denver through the central Rocky Mountains with a return to Denver.

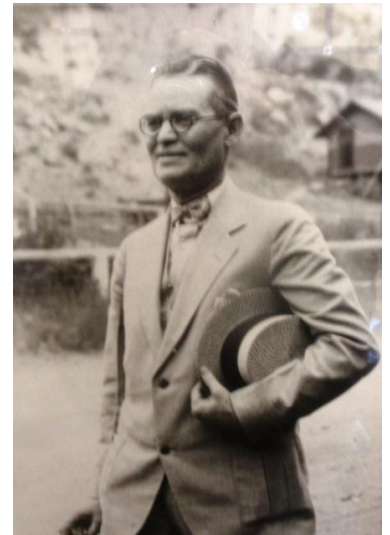


Frank Huntington, Grand County Surveyor, was asked to find a suitable location and draw up plans for a lodge. In February of 1919 the park approved the plans and in April construction began.

A wealthy friend of Emery, A. D. Lewis, financed the building of the Grand Lake Lodge.



A local rancher, Al House, operated a sawmill and supervised the building of the Lodge.

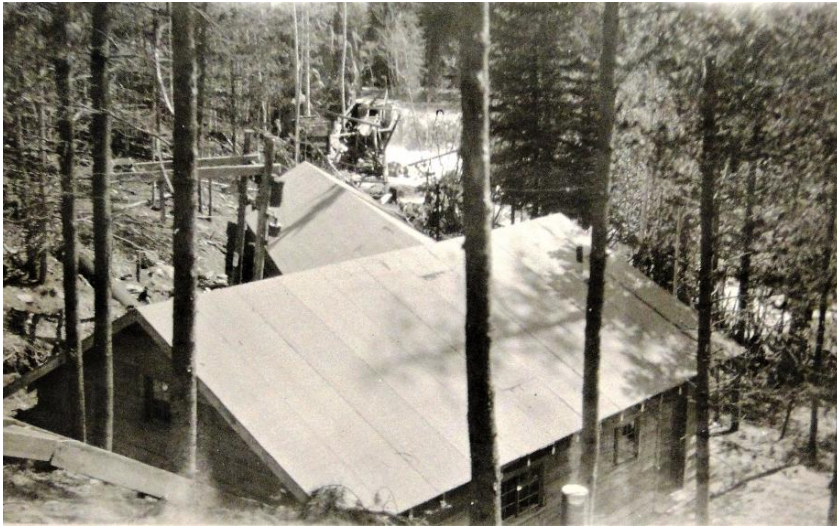




The Tonahutu Creek was diverted to provide water for the lodge through the mile-long wooden water pipe with a metal sheath inside. For 80 years this was the water used at the Lodge until Grand Lake built a new tower. Now this water is used for irrigation on the property. A 40' x 25' building housed the water wheel to provide electricity to power a saw mill and lines were strung for a mile to the lodge to serve the operation there.



In 1926 the Grand Lake Lodge made extensive improvements totaling \$40,000.

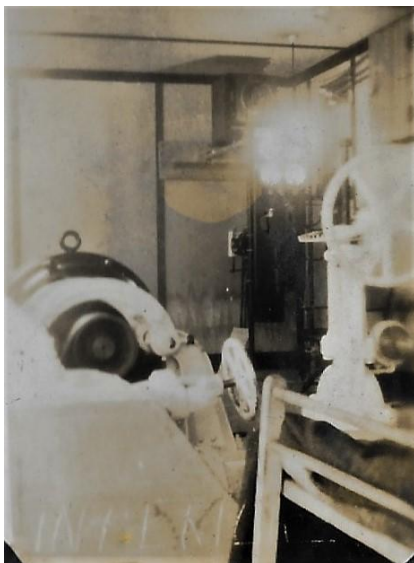
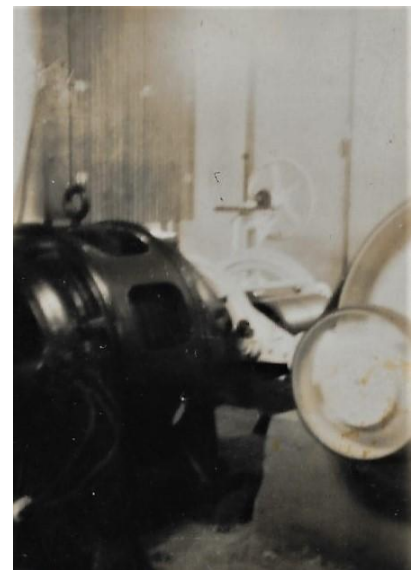


The original lighting and power plant having outgrown its usefulness, the Grand Lake Lodge erected a \$25,000 hydro electric plant to serve that purpose. The plant was located one mile above the hotel on a mountain side where there is a fall of 200 feet for the water which is to be used in generating the electricity and had a capacity of 100 kilowatts.

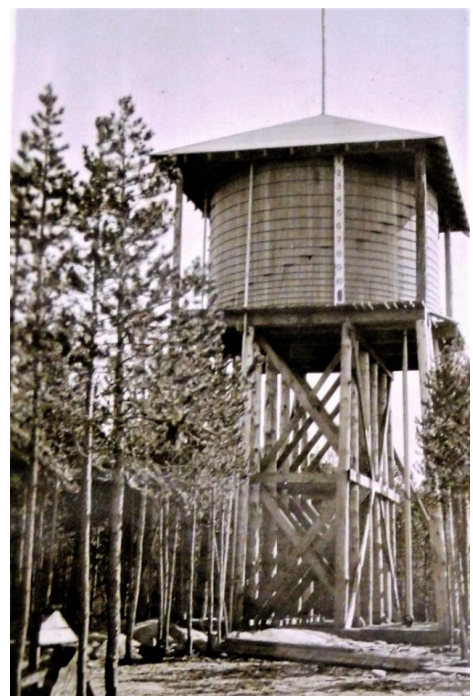


The plant is located on Tonahutu Creek and is operated by a supply of pipe line twenty inches in diameter and one thousand feet long. Professor L. G. Carpenter was the consulting engineer.

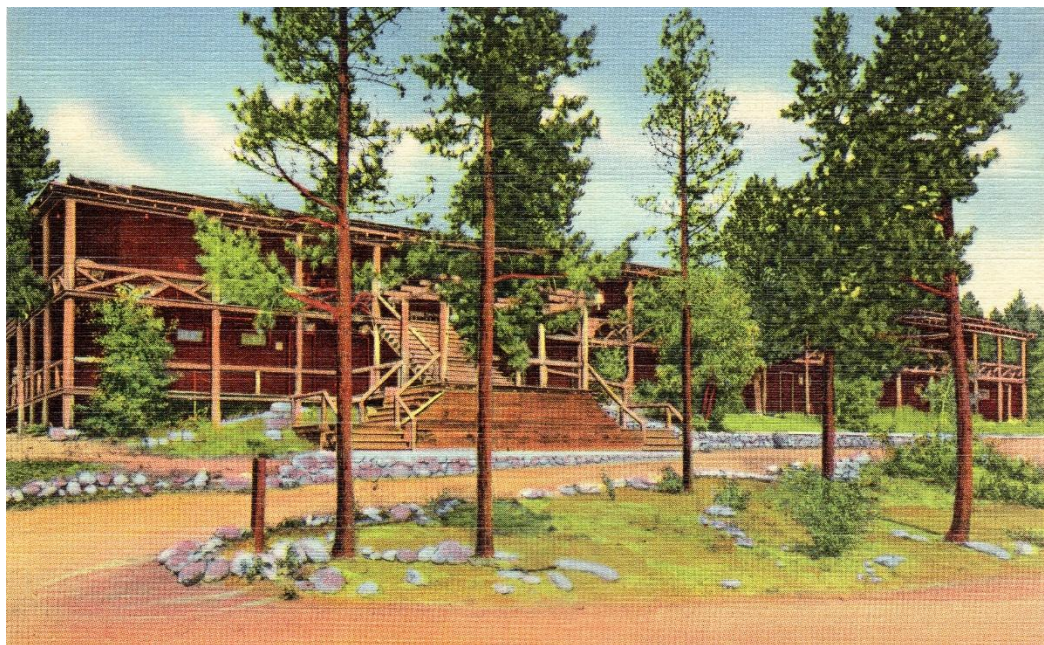
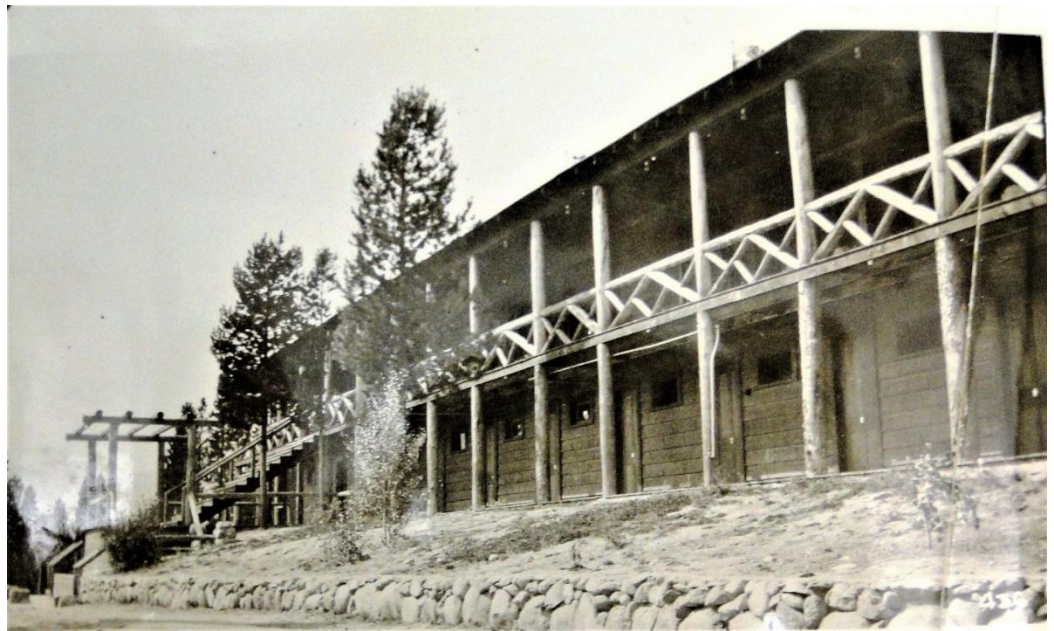
The machinery, wood stove and pipe line were transported from Granby, the nearest railroad point to Grand Lake, on bobsleds, over four feet of snow.



This picture of the water tower at the Lodge was taken in 1936. 20,000 gallon capacity



Logs that were cut when building Fall River Road were brought to the site. Rocks from the area were used for the foundation.



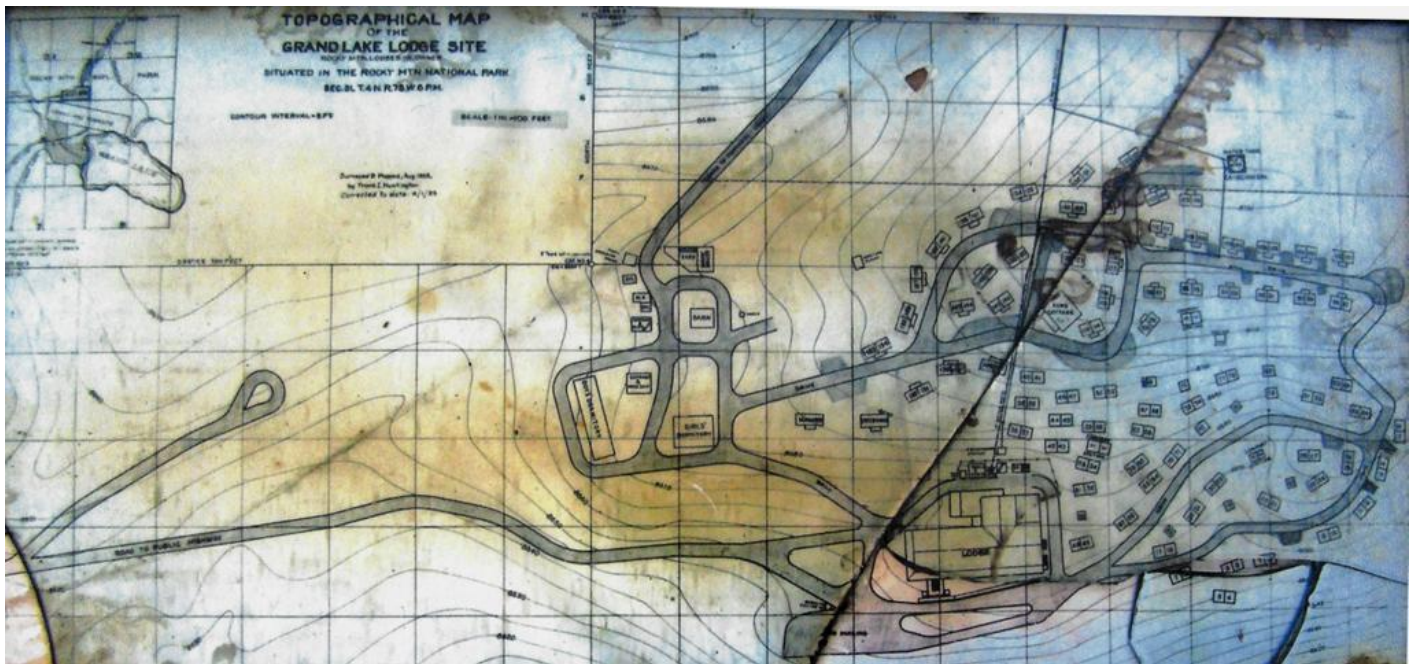
1920s

The Grand Lake Lodge was completed in the summer of 1920. Invitations and advertisements announced a formal Grand Ball set for the third of July 1920 to celebrate.

(We have searched for more information about the opening but haven't located anything. The Middle Park Times editor had visited the Lodge on July 2nd and said it was not finished. If you have pictures or any information about the opening, please let us know.)

Because Fall River Road was unfinished and did not open until September of 1920, Roe Emery would have transported his guests by tour bus on a route of 150 miles to Grand Lake.

This topographical map of the Grand Lake Lodge Site was surveyed and mapped by Franklin Huntington in 1924 and updated in 1929.





The first full season was 1921 with A. D. Lewis as manager and five cabins.

Over 80,000 visitors came through the park that summer.



The lodge building included a lobby, circular fireplace, dining room and kitchen. It was filled with chairs, rockers and tables made by the Old Hickory Furniture Company which supplied furnishings for the most famous lodges in the national parks.



The center supports shown in this picture were not sufficient to support the winter load of snow.

The entire building was remodeled in 1922 and many comforts added. Changes were made in the interior to have two rows of supporting beams in the lodge along the 160-foot length of the building.



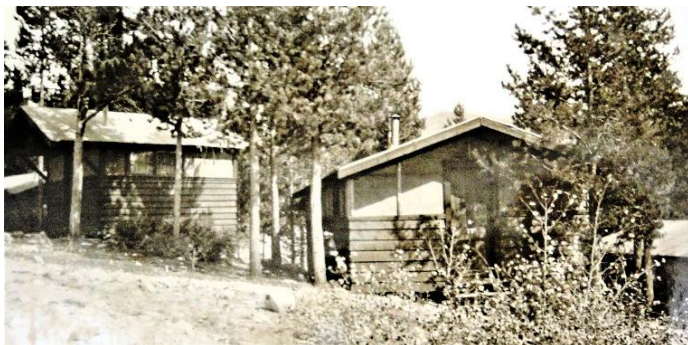
Behind the main lodge building were five one- and two-bedroom guest cottages in 1921.

In the fall of 1922 ten new cottages were built.



Cabins were built during the 1920s, some ordered from Sears-Roebuck Company. From 1908 – 1940 Sears, Roebuck and Company sold about 100 thousand homes through their mail-order Modern Homes program. They designed 447 different housing styles from elaborate multistory to the simpler Goldenrod which served as a quaint, three-room and no bath cottage for summer vacationers. They could modify the homes to buyer tastes and ship off the appropriate precut and fitted materials, including the nails, drywall and shingles, by railroad directly to the customer.

The lodge had its own saw mill and local rancher, Al House, in the fall of 1922 got out one hundred thousand feet of logs for the use of the Lodge after the mill had converted them into lumber. This immense amount of lumber was a portion of that used in the construction of the twenty new cottages.



C. E. Verry, the new president and general manager of the Rocky Mountain Lodges, Inc arranged for an extensive building program at Lewiston Chalets and Grand Lake Lodge. A large new dormitory for the help has been built in which is included a recreation hall and correspondence rooms.



Rocky Mountain Parks Transportation Company bought two hotels (Lewiston – renamed Estes Park Chalet, Grand Lake Lodge) and leased the Hot Springs Hotel from A. D. Lewis for \$75,000.

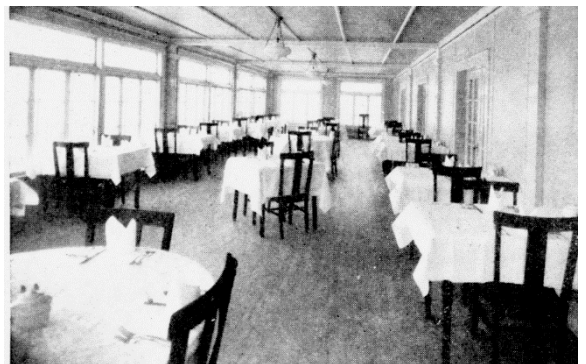


Estes Park Chalet with Circle Tour automobiles ready to roll.

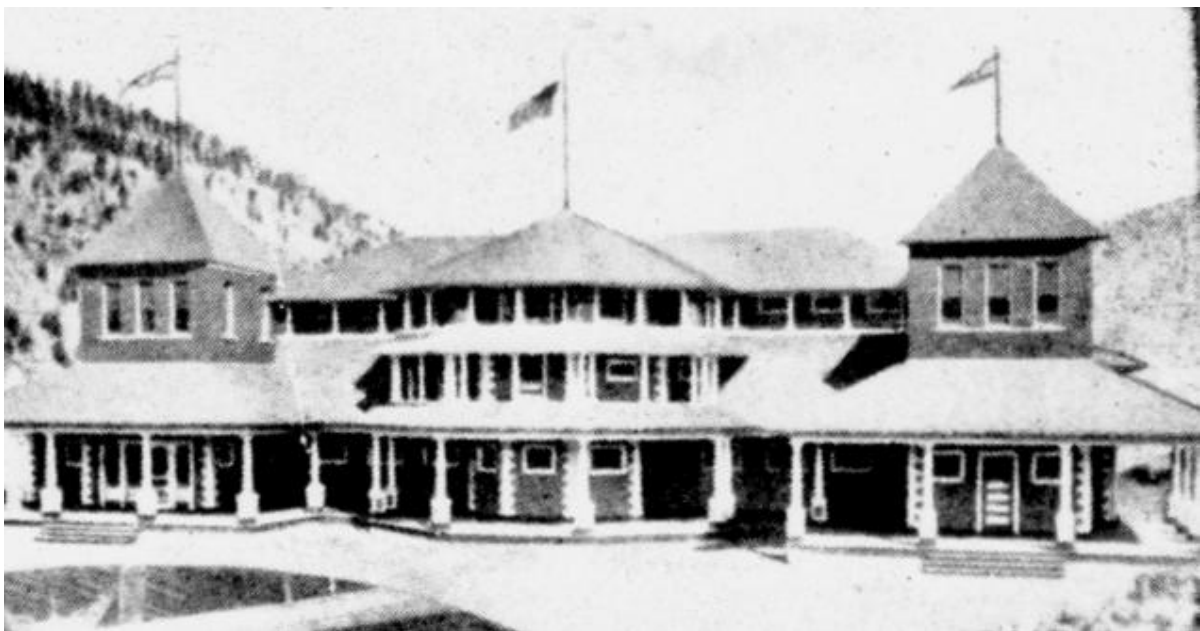
Chalet Lobby



Porch Dining Room in Idaho Springs

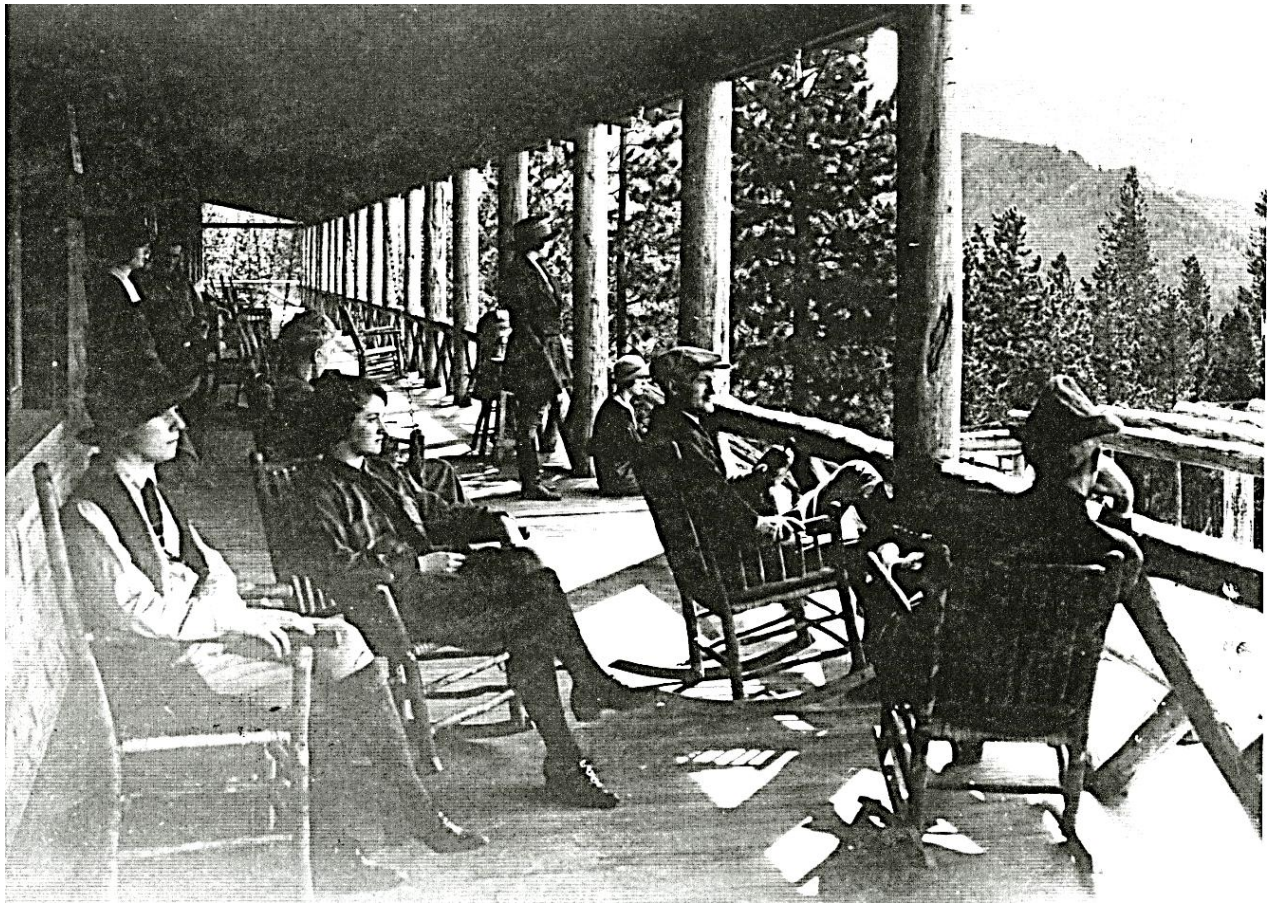


Hot Springs Hotel – Idaho Springs

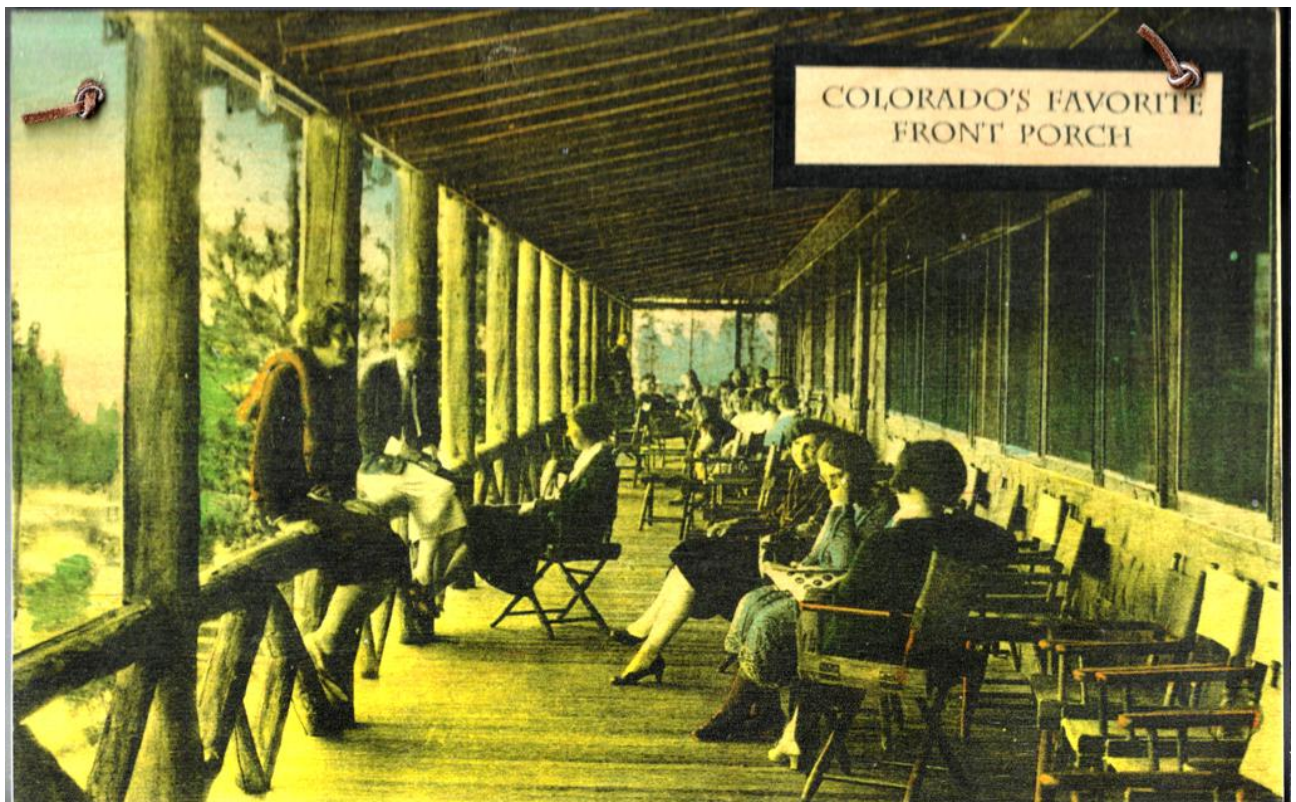


Roe Emery took over management of the Grand Lake Lodge January 1, 1923. He operated it successfully for the next 30 years. Emery also bought another bus company becoming one of the largest transportation companies in the West.





The most unique feature of Grand Lake Lodge was a veranda that offered the best views in all of Grand Lake.



Kitchens were greatly improved and plans were to make the Lodge second to none for meals and other accommodations. These improvements gave them a much greater capacity than was necessary for the tour business and it was planned to care for a goodly number of tourists other than those traveling with the tours. At the Lodge up to date electrical equipment and a double deck Hubbard oven was installed in the kitchen and the bakery.



COSY CORNER AT GRAND LAKE LODGE

Every possible convenience is provided for the guests at Grand Lake Lodge that tourists in the Rockies could demand—but most of all is a really enjoyable outing in the garden spot of America. To reach Grand Lake Lodge you drive over the highest continuous automobile road in the world and also one of the most scenic. It is not too early to make reservations for next season.

Write for literature today

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LODGES

Estes Park

434 17th St., Denver, Colo.



**Hickory hand crafted chair
from the Grand Lake Lodge**



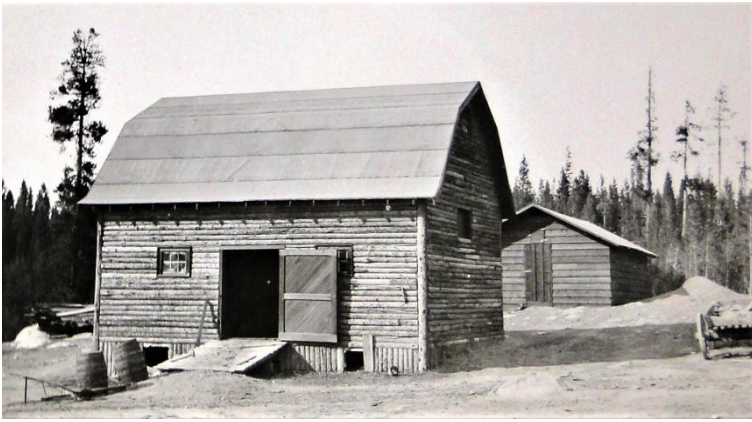
**Iced tea spoons
Silverware used at the lodge
Oneida Hotel Metal Plate**



**Creamer
Original china used at the Lodge**



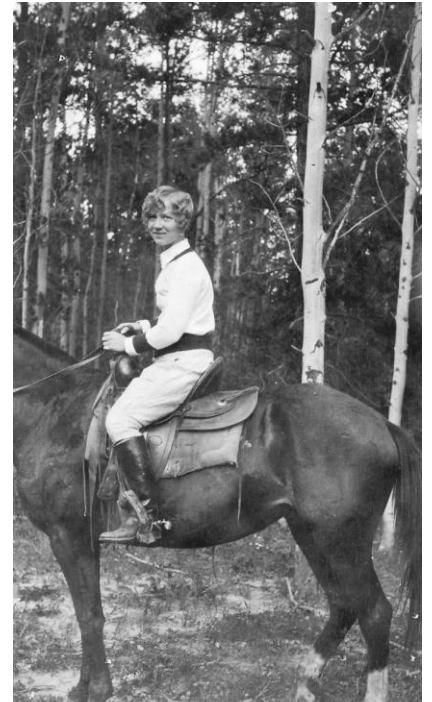
**Window box from a cabin at the Grand Lake
Lodge
Used for refrigeration**



**Barn and Ice House
1924**

After the fire in 1973 this barn was moved by putting it on logs and rolling it to a different location.

After the 1925 season Rocky Mountain Lodges, Inc had lumber on the grounds at Grand Lake Lodge. Fred Anderson of Estes Park was in charge of the work of erection of ten two room cottages with connecting bath, a boys' dormitory of 14 rooms, and an employees' dining room 30' x 32'. The work kept a crew of men busy all winter. This gave the Lodge 40 rooms with bath and a total of 150 guest rooms.



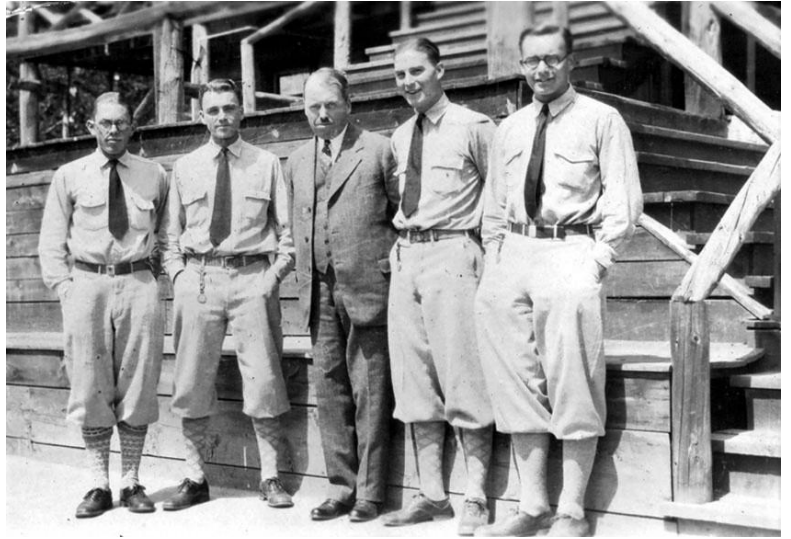
Kitchen 1924

Boy's Dormitory



Roe Emery hired college students to work at his lodge and prominently mentioned these specially trained employees.

Ted Coover spent three summers working at the Grand Lake Lodge 1924, 25, 26. He was a student at Kansas Wesleyan University. A friend had a job peeling potatoes. He was hired as a driver but found that he didn't do well and they offered him a desk job at Grand Lake Lodge for \$75 a month with room and board. He discovered that the bell hops made the most money so the second year he was a Bell Hop at \$25 a month plus tips.

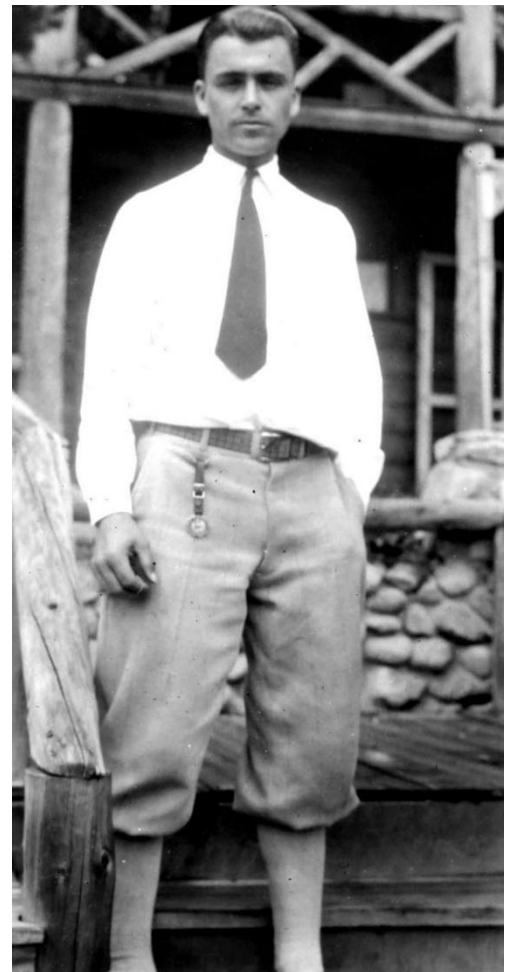


E. A. Francis (center in the picture) was the manager of the Lodge and returned there from the Hot Springs Hotel where he had been for the winter to supervise the improvement work.



Bell hops met the tour busses and took guests to their rooms, carried their luggage and every morning they started fires in the cabins and worked to earn their tips. The biggest tip he ever earned was \$150 from the Henry Ford family who stayed over a week.

Ted Coover

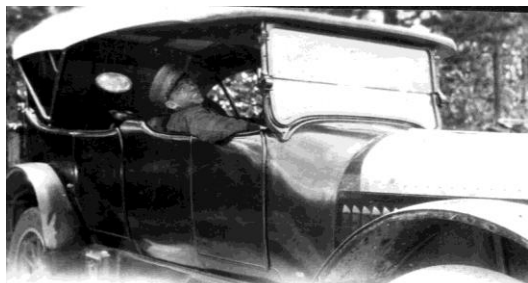




The cabin boys did a lot of work at the Lodge.



One day's laundry





Doris Sargeant worked at the Grand Lake Lodge in 1927 when she was 19. She and Dorothea Van Horn went to college at Hastings, Nebraska and were hired to work as waitresses at the Lodge. They took the train to Colorado. Doris remembered she had to memorize the entire menu and take orders at the tables with her hands clasped behind her back. All of the waitresses wore white pinafore aprons. White uniforms were worn for breakfast and lunch, black for dinner. The largest tip she ever received was 50 cents. 'It was a magical summer.' Employees would go into town on their day off and rent horses to ride. Doris remembers the Henry Ford family visiting but didn't think that Henry came, just his family. Also visits from George Eastman who owned the Kodak company

Doris Sargeant





1930s

In November of 1929 the newspapers announced plans for a million-dollar merger of the Estes Park Chalets and the Stanley Hotels. Chalets was owned by Rocky Mountain Motor Company and the Stanley owned by F. O. Stanley. C. E. Verry who had charge of the Grand Lake Lodge and Placer Inn at Idaho Springs was expected to be the manager of the consolidated Estes Park hotels.

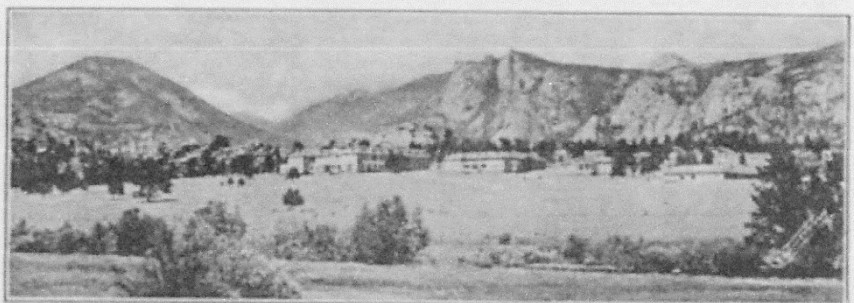
Roe Emery bought the Stanley Hotel in 1930. His transportation company had turned a tidy profit allowing him to upgrade the Stanley which had been built in 1907 and opened in 1909. The Stanley was a model mountain resort, complete with a nine-hole golf course, tennis courts, lawn and indoor bowling, croquet and billiards. It had its own private water plant, laundry and garage. On weekends guests could enjoy an afternoon on the veranda, attend evening dances and an afternoon concert. It cost five to eight dollars a night at a time when other Estes Park hotels charged only a dollar or two. (1933 advertisement)

In 1935 Roe Emery redecorated the bedrooms, added new light fixtures, replaced the hydraulic elevator with an electric one, and repainted the exterior from the original mustard yellow to the now classic white. Mr. Stanley continued to have lunch at the Stanley, attend concerts and sit in his favorite rocker on the veranda until his death in 1940. (In 1946 Emery sold the Stanley Hotel.)

THIS group of hotels furnishes a diversity of accommodations, with a range of rates to meet almost any demand.

The Stanley Hotel, beautifully situated in a mountain park of 150 acres, is ideally equipped for conventions as well as for guests who make long or short stays. Capacity 300.

The Lewiston accommodates 100, The Chalets 300, Grand Lake Lodge 300.



Stanley Hotel



Grand Lake Lodge

Rocky Mountain Lodges

Incorporated

1730 GLENARM PLACE

DENVER, COLO.

AMERICAN PLAN RATES

\$4.50 to \$6.00

per day and up

With and without
bath



Placer Inn

AT ESTES PARK:

THE STANLEY
THE LEWISTON
THE CHALETs

GRAND LAKE LODGE
at Grand Lake

PLACER INN
at Idaho Springs

WRITE FOR ILLUSTRATED FOLDER

1938 advertisement

REAL BARGAINS IN GENUINE

Navajo Indian Silver

RINGS BRACELETS NECKLACES BELTS
FROM ONE OF THE BEST COLLECTIONS OF RARE
PAWN AND SUPERIOR NEW PIECES

—●—
Rugs - Blankets - Baskets - Pottery
—●—

Stores at
STANLEY HOTEL, CHALET-RANCH,
TRAIL RIDGE MUSEUM, GRAND LAKE LODGE

—●—

Rocky Mountain Motor Co.

—●—

*Come up to The Stanley Hotel and see the
exhibition of bronze statuettes, modeled by the im-
mortal "Cowboy Artist," Charles M. Russell.*

Trail Ridge Museum at the top of Fall River Pass



Elaine Game worked at the Lodge 1936 – 37 as a maid and waitress. The maids had to empty the chamber pots. She remembers visits from a princess from Sweden and Norway, Clark Gable and Alf Landon. After Clark Gable came to the Lodge, she read the book Gone with the Wind. Elaine remembers serving Melba Peach Salad with cottage cheese. The waitresses laundered their own uniforms. They wore white in the morning and for breakfast and lunch and black at night. The girls and boys lived in separate dorms. Four girls who grew up on a dairy woke us all up at 5:30. It was hard work. The bell hops and cabin boys went to cabins and built fire with kerosene and sawdust.



**The International Association of Lions Clubs, District Number 6, Denver, Colorado
18th Annual Convention at the Grand Lake Lodge June 29-30, 1937.**



1940s



In 1946 Della Seyl, an Iowa elementary school teacher, traveled to Colorado with two of her friends to take summer jobs at Grand Lake Lodge. Della washed dishes, especially glasses, for two weeks and then made salads. She remembered working in the pantry. She also took tours around the area, went on picnics, went to church in the woods and mountains and fed the chipmunks.







Ron Capares worked at the lodge in 1949. He came from Indiana for a wedding and the Lodge needed a dishwasher. He washed 10 glasses per minute. As a bus boy he made 40 cents an hour. He took people for horseback rides. Tour groups paid 75 cents for lunch and left a 25-cent tip.



Cooks at the Lodge

The kitchen had a steam heated cabinet to keep the china warm. The windows opened with pulleys.

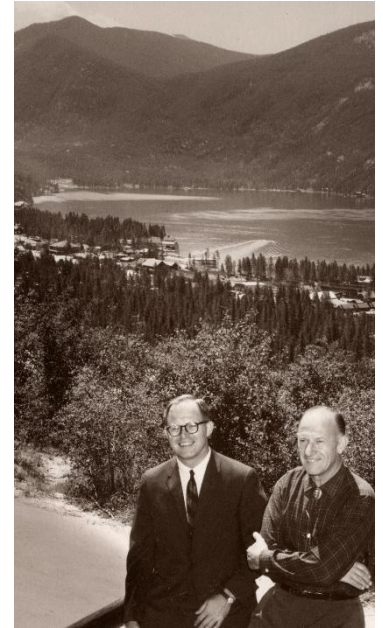
This picture shows the kitchen with the clerestory above, which allowed for ventilation of the cooking fumes.

The clerestory was what allowed the flames from the fire in 1973 to get into the rafters.



1950s

In 1952, at age 78, Roe Emery retired and sold his empire in T. J. Manning of Denver. Manning was unable to secure adequate financing and Emery offered the company to two brothers from Nebraska, Isaac B. and Ted L. James. They purchased the assets of the Emery bus and lodging company and formed the Colorado Transportation Company, taking control on January 1, 1953.



Ted Jr. & Ted Sr.

The first year proved to be successful, so they exercised their option on one of the leases on two of the Emery properties that included The Trail Ridge Store and the Grand Lake Lodge, both inside the park boundaries and negotiated a 20-year concession contract with Rocky Mountain National Park. Ted Jr. and his bride Sue took over managing the Trail Ridge Store. Ted James Senior took over the Grand Lake Lodge and other properties.

Ted James, Jr., Sue and their children (taken later)



Welcome to -



Grand Lake Lodge

GRAND LAKE, COLORADO

1960s

In 1961 the James family began negotiations with the park to exclude the Grand Lake Lodge from park boundaries. The National Park Service Mission 66 project purchased holdings within the parks and returned the land to nature. To save the Lodge being removed, the James brothers acquired a number of properties inside park boundaries and offered to exchange them for the land surrounding the lodge. It took an act of Congress and the signature of President John F. Kennedy to authorize the boundary adjustment.



In January of 1963 the Grand Lake Lodge became the property of I. B. and T. L. James.



**Discussion to determine the Lodge land boundaries after the Park changes the boundaries.
H. Baker Regional Director standing, I. B. James, Conrad Wirth National Park Director,
and Ted James**

By June of 1963 the brothers agreed to divide their company with I. B. assuming control of the bus operations and T. L. taking over the Lodge and other properties. Ted Junior joined his father to manage the Lodge and the Trail Ridge Store, staffing each with eager college students.



A new swimming pool was built in 1961.

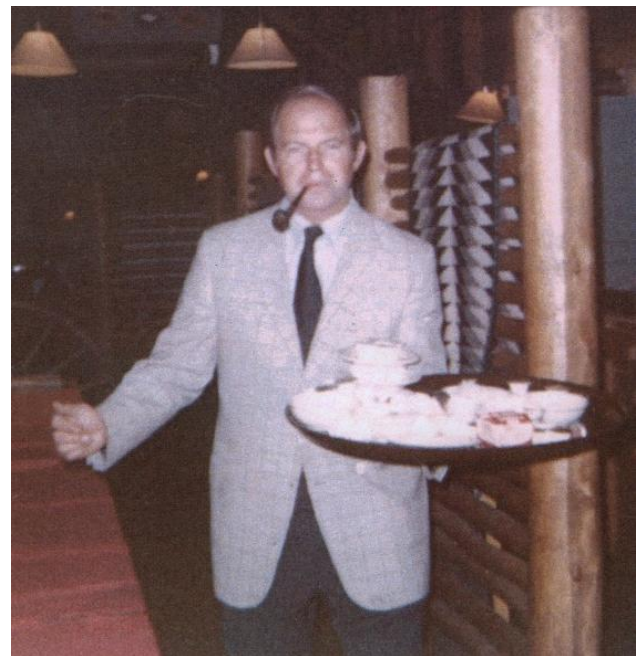




Bob Scott was hired in 1969. He came to Colorado from Texas and has been working with the James family at the Grand Lake Lodge for over 40 years.

He began working at the Grand Lake Lodge desk, the Trail Ridge Store, and eventually managed many of the operations of the Company. His duties even included taking care of the James family children. Pictured with Bob in 1969 is Reed James.

Ted James



Chef Harold and Ted James, Jr. at the Chalet



The Grand Lake Lodge and Estes Park Chalet worked together. The laundry was sent to Estes Park to be done and a specially built van transported food and clean laundry to the Grand Lake Lodge, then took garbage from Trail Ridge store & lodge to the dump and returned to Estes Park with the dirty laundry. The Chalet was sold in the early 1970s.

Sunday brunch was started in 1969 through 1973 and as many as 500 would be served.

The Lodge operated as a steakhouse atmosphere. David Allison, a college student from Purdue University worked at the Lodge in 1969 in the kitchen and was put in charge of preparing breakfast and lunch. The staff worked six days a week at the Lodge. “For breakfast we cooked bacon, scrambled eggs and sausage. On the line we cooked pancakes to order. The girls in the pantry served up fruit, muffins and breads which came in by truck from Estes Park Chalet.”

“Lunches had three times the number of people served at breakfast or dinner with the bus tours of vacationers who were visiting Rocky Mountain National Park. We heated up frozen entrees that were trucked in: chicken a la king, Swedish meatballs, beef stew and the like. We baked our own pastry shells which had come in frozen and cooked our own rice and vegetables. The pantry supplemented these with a variety of salads and desserts, some of which they made, and others of which they just dished up.”

Later that summer David partnered with another hired cook for the dinner shift. “Dinner was the only meat that we prepared from fresh ingredients. They consisted of top round of beef, ham, roast chicken, sometimes fried scallops, grilled pork chops, steamed vegetables, baked potatoes, salads and an array of desserts. On Saturdays we cooked a large round of beef and often welcomed guests from Grand Lake as well as the lodge visitors. It was simple cooking and people seemed very happy with the food.”

Every year in August, the Grand Lake Yacht Club held its summer regatta on the lake. After it ended, they held their celebratory banquet at the Grand Lake Lodge. “It was the biggest event of the summer and we had been preparing for it for days.” That morning the cook was fired and David had a battlefield promotion, acting as head chef at only 18 years of age.



1970s

On July 19, 1973 a fire broke out in the kitchen and got into the space above the ceiling. Employees saved chairs, taxidermy, and whatever they could, throwing them out onto the lawn. Firefighters worked to stop the spread of the fire, breaking holes in the roof, running out of water and eventually using the water from the swimming pool. Luckily a recent rain helped prevent the spread of fire away from the building.

This picture was taken just after the fire blew out the dining room windows



A local teenager jumped into the pool to keep the pumps from floating.



The lodge was closed for seven years. The James family continued to operate the Trail Ridge Store. Bob Scott was put in charge of managing the store and the housing of employees at the Grand Lake Lodge.

There were 67 employees and they worked in two shifts at the top of Trail Ridge Road. Bob woke up the first shift and they went by bus to the store at 7:15. Later he woke the second shift and they were bused to the top. Bob returned to the Lodge.



A maintenance crew of six worked to keep everything in working order. Bob Scott prepared the dinner for all the employees at night. He also planned weekly activities for the staff and once a month they had a talent show. Ted James, III was a high school student and he and his friends played music on a reel to reel tape recorder for the weekly steak dinner followed with a dance.

After three years which operated on insurance payments, the James family decided to renovate the main building. The arduous job of re-peeling the charred, once beautiful hand-peeled logs supporting the structure, with a sharp draw knife began. A special sealer was used to coat the logs after cleaning.

Employees cleaned up the lobby area of the lodge and turned it into a recreation hall, with rock and roll dances. Ted James, Jr. even purchased a supply of used roller skates which transformed the lobby into a roller rink.

1980s



In 1981 David McDougal agreed to lease the kitchen and dining room operation. Upgrades included new exhaust hoods and fire suppression equipment for the grill area as well as an abundance of fire extinguishers. McDougal's experience with his own Mountain Inn restaurant gave the James family an opportunity to concentrate on the hotel side of the business. The restored lobby boasted new taxidermy, Indian rugs and hand-crafted furniture. The hand-peeled logs appeared brand new and new lighting gave the building a soft, warm glow. Sue James reopened the gift shop. After seven long years the Grand Lake Lodge was back in business.

In the summer of 1980, the Grand Lake Lodge once again welcomed guests on a limited basis. The main building remained closed except for the Front Desk, but some of the cabins had been opened for overnight accommodations.

Cabins were renovated throughout the 80s updating electrical, sewer and plumbing systems to comply with the latest codes.

Grand Lake Lodge		
Appetizers		Salad Bar
Sauteed Mushrooms	3.25	Visit our 1843 Conestoga Wagon
Shrimp Cocktail	4.95	for a delightful array of salads,
Escargot	4.50	cheeses & fruits . . . 7.25
Entrees		
All entrees include Soup du Jour, Salad Bar, a choice of Baked Potato, Rice Pilaf or Vegetable du Jour, In-house Baked Bread and Whipped Butter		
Roast Sirloin of Beef with Bordelaise 9.95	Rock Cornish Game Hen A Country Sauce with Country Rice Dressing 10.95	Veal Marsala 12.50
Trout		Seafood
Colorado's Premier Offering, Proudly Served Here Since 1925		Shrimp Scampi 11.50
Trout Almandine	9.95	Crab Legs Market Price
Trout Pecan	9.95	Seafood Brochette 11.50
Steaks and Chops		Shrimp & Scallops wrapped in Bacon
New York Strip Steak	12.50	Fruits de mer Au Gratin . . . 10.95
Top Sirloin	11.25	Seafood in a Creamed White Wine & Cheese Sauce
Filet	13.50	Combination Dinners
Beef Wellington	14.95	Filet & Scampi 14.95
Steak Au Poivre	12.95	Filet & Crab Legs . . . Market Price
(New York cut laced with Peppercorns in a Brandy Cream Sauce)		Children's Menu
Stuffed Pork Chops	9.95	Shrimp Scampi 5.50
Daily Specials		Roast Sirloin Bordelaise . . . 4.95
Monday: Chicken Coq Au Vin . .	8.95	Daily Specials Half Price
Tuesday: Filet of Red Snapper Veronique	9.50	Dessert Cart
Wednesday: Chicken Teriyaki . .	8.95	All Selections 2.50
Thursday: Ham Steak Hawaiian . .	9.25	☼ ☼ ☼
Friday: Seafood Fettuccine . . .	12.95	Coffee, Tea or Sanka65
Saturday: Colorado Roast Prime Rib of Beef	12.50	Soft Drinks75
Sunday: Roast Leg of Lamb with Mint Sauce	9.25	Milk1.00
15% Gratuity added for parties of 8 or more. We accept Visa, Mastercard & American Express		Reservations Accepted: 627-3185
		Hours: Monday thru Thursday • 5-10 pm
		Friday & Saturday • 4:30-10 pm
		Sunday • 5-9 pm
		Sunday Brunch • 9:30-1:30 pm
		Lunch (Mon-Sat) • 11:30-2:30 pm
©1983 Calligraphy by Dominick Scarola of Grand Lake		

1990s

In 1993 the United States Department of the Interior listed the Grand Lake Lodge in the National Register of Historic Places. The designation recognized the significant contribution to the preservation of the “Rocky Mountain rustic stick style of architecture once so prevalent in the parks throughout the American West.”



In the 1990s the Lodge began hiring staff from the Camp America program in Europe. A couple from Slovakia returned for the reunion in 2006. They said they learned more about people from around the world, about nature and improved their English.



A National Historic Landmark

Grand Lake Lodge

Colorado's Favorite Front Porch

OPEN
June 9th 3 p.m. - September 5th high noon
Call Elaine Patterson Today!
970-627-3967

Special Events - Dining Room
NOW AVAILABLE for evening rentals!
(First time in over 50 years!)

- Fabulous venue for rehearsal dinners
- Main Lodge Building & Heated Front Porch Seating 30-200 guests
- Wedding ceremony, Reception and barbecue dates still available
- Diverse Menu Available
- Fireplace & Sound System
- Great Food
- Incredible Views

A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK



Grand Lake Lodge Restaurant

SOUPS AND SALADS

Baked French Onion Soup . . . \$4.95
A Lodge Specialty

Summer Greens House Salad . . . \$3.50
Fresh Greens, Julienne Carrots, Tomatoes, Jicama and English Cucumbers
Choice of Dressing: Ranch, Raspberry Vinaigrette, Balsamic Vinaigrette or Blue Cheese

Caesar Salad with Grilled Chicken
Marinated Chicken Breast, Crisp Romaine,
Parmesan Cheese, Herb Croutons, tossed
in Lodge Caesar Dressing . . . \$7.95

Grilled Salmon Salad
Salmon Fillet, Mixed Greens, Bean Sprouts,
Carrots, Green Onions, Almonds and Dried
Cranberries with Mango-Soy Vinaigrette . . . \$9.25

Spinach and Feta Cheese Salad
Spinach, Candied Walnuts, Marinated Feta Cheese,
Fire Roasted Red Peppers, Red Onions and Herb
Croutons with Raspberry Vinaigrette . . . \$8.95

Shrimp Salad Stuffed Tomato
Vine Ripened Tomato fanned and topped
with a Succulent Shrimp Salad served on a
Bed of Baby Field Greens . . . \$8.50

Basket of Homemade Cornbread Muffins . . . \$3.50

FROM THE GRILL

Grilled Items served with French Fries (substitute Fresh Fruit for \$1.75)

Grilled Rainbow Trout
Rainbow Trout grilled to perfection and
topped with Lemon Herb Butter . . . \$10.50

Jerk Chicken Sandwich
Grilled Caribbean Marinated Chicken Breast
with Mango Aioli on a Kaiser Roll . . . \$8.95

Buffalo Burger
1/3 Pound of Lean Ground Buffalo
on a Kaiser Roll . . . \$8.50

Angus Beef Burger
1/3 Pound of Ground Angus Beef
on a Kaiser Roll . . . \$7.95

BURGER TOPPINGS

Teddy's Favorite
Cheddar Cheese, Bacon
and BBQ Sauce \$1.95

Sue's Special
Blue Cheese and
Sautéed Onions \$1.50

Dylan's Delight
Choice of Cheddar, Swiss or
Pepper Jack Cheese \$.95

FAVORITES AT THE LODGE

West of Philly Cheese Steak
Thinly Sliced Roasted Beef, Sautéed Bell Peppers and Sweet Onions, topped with Melted Pepper Jack Cheese
on a Hoagie Roll with French Fries . . . \$9.50

Apple-Chipotle BBQ Pork Sandwich
Tender Pulled Pork smothered in Lodge BBQ Sauce on a Kaiser Roll with French Fries . . . \$8.50

Club Wrap
Lean Turkey Breast, Honey Glazed Ham, Bacon, Swiss and Cheddar Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, and
Honey Mustard Mayonnaise wrapped in a Flour Tortilla with French Fries . . . \$9.25

Katie's Broiled Portobello
Marinated Portobello Mushroom with Roma Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Chiffonade on Homemade
Basil-Garlic Focaccia Bread with French Fries . . . \$7.95

Cajun Crawfish Quiche
Deep Dish Crawfish Quiche with Poblano Peppers, Onions, Jarlsberg Swiss Cheese, Cajun Seasoning and
Fresh Herbs on Baby Field Greens . . . \$9.95

Grilled Reuben
Corned Beef, Swiss Cheese, Thousand Island Dressing and Sauerkraut on Marble Rye Bread with
French Fries . . . \$8.50

DESSERTS

Lodge Baked Sweets, Cobbler, à la Modes, or Old-Fashioned Root Beer Float . . . \$3.50

*Please inform your server of any special dietary needs.
One check per table please. A 15% gratuity may be added to parties of six or more.
A 1% voluntary charge will be added to your check in support of the Middle Park Land Trust.
Rev. 5/05

LODGE DINNER BUFFET

*Due to popular demand, the James Family has brought an evening buffet back to the Grand Lake Lodge.
During the 1950's, 1960's and up until 1973 (when the Lodge closed for eight years because of a fire)
our guests dined on a hearty spread of fine food at the end of each day.
The James Family and the entire Lodge staff hope you enjoy our revival of that tradition.*

♦ Adults \$19.95 ♦ Children (Ages 4 to 12) \$9.95 ♦ Children Under 4 Free

♦ Premier Seating "On the Porch" available with reservations . . .
Additional \$2.50 per person

Bountiful Buffet complete with:
Garden Salad Bar, Homemade Dressings,
Soup du Jour, Fresh Bread and Butter,
Chef's Vegetable of the Evening, Dual Selection of Starches,
Three Entrée Choices including a Nightly Carving Station, and Wonderful Desserts.
Choice of Two Children's Entrées also offered.

♦ Early Bird Discount 15% (must be seated when the restaurant opens at 5:30 p.m.)
♦ Senior Discount 15% (60 years or older)
♦ One discount per person

*Please inform your server of any special dietary needs.
One check per table please. A 15% gratuity may be added to parties of six or more.
A 1% voluntary charge will be added to your check in support of the Middle Park Land Trust.

CHAMPAGNE SUNDAY BRUNCH The Lodge EXTRAVAGANZA Beckons . . .

Come join the James Family and our friendly staff for a bountiful buffet of delicious and exciting foods
featuring freshly baked breads and pastries, favorites such as our waffle bar, peel-and-eat shrimp,
hearty roast carving stations, original pastas, specialty eggs and fresh fruits.
Our all-you-can-eat brunch buffet includes plenty of sparkling champagne,
assorted juices, gourmet coffee, and cocoa.

BREAKFAST at the Lodge is an all-you-can-eat buffet. Start your day with a view and enjoy
our famous waffle bar, freshly baked pastries and muffins, specialty eggs, breakfast potatoes,
bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy, fresh fruit, yogurt and granola.

LUNCH at the Lodge is an unforgettable afternoon with the National Park as your backyard.
Come sit on Colorado's Favorite Porch and enjoy homemade soups, wholesome salads,
summer sandwiches, hearty buffalo and Angus beef burgers,
daily specials and homemade desserts.

RESTAURANT HOURS . . .

Breakfast (Monday-Saturday)	7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Lunch (Monday-Saturday)	11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Afternoon Appetizers	2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Dinner	Beginning at 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Champagne Brunch	8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

*Reservations Strongly Suggested
(970) 627-3185*

In 1994 Tim Allen was married at the Grand Lake Lodge. The reception area below the lodge was decorated for the wedding. The drapery was hand pleated and Japanese lanterns were hung. The room had over 100 candles and it took two hours to light the candles. Water was brought down by a hose. Caterers were brought in to prepare and serve the meal.



2000

In 2006 a three day reunion was organized for former employees of the Grand Lake Lodge. As many as 675 former employees attended the first-ever Grand Lake Lodge Reunion.



Lodge sales fall through; it's still on the market

Reunion marks end of era

by Tonya Bins

Porch swings creek to and fro — a pendulum of time at the Grand Lake Lodge.

Revisiting old times was bitter-sweet last weekend, much like the rainstorm that delayed photo-taking Sunday only to divulge a brilliant double rainbow that arched over Grand Lake.

As many as 675 former employees attended the first-ever Grand Lake Lodge reunion. And, it may be the last — at least under the James lineage of ownership.

General Manager Reed James said

nounced the high century-old lodging business is nearing the end of an era under his family's watch.

The Lodge, listed for \$20 million, has twice been under contract, James said, but both times the deals fell through due to failed financing.

Thus, the Lodge resort is back on the market and the current owners are in pursuit of a buyer who will preserve the main building's historic landmark designation for at least 25 years, as well as winterize it to create a year-round business. The individual cabins could be sold off, James said.

James grew up at the nostalgic resort, perched high in the mountains overlooking the waters of Grand and Shadow Mountain lakes.

He is the grandson of Ted James Sr. who was one of two James brothers of Nebraska who operated a transportation company and who eventually assumed ownership of the Grand Lake Lodge, then a bus-passenger stop for those traveling on Trail Ridge Road in Rocky Mountain National Park. After a 1963 Act of Congress, which realigned park boundaries and made the Lodge private property, Ted James took over the lodge.

ing side of the brothers' interests. Isaac continued the transportation side.

The Lodge, originally built by "The Father of Colorado Tourism," a man named Roe Emery, in cooperation with the National Park Service and investors as part of his transportation company (the one he would later sell to the James brothers in 1952), was constructed in 1919. In the early 1920s, the Grand Lake Lodge got listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its "significant contribution to American tourism and for the preservation of the

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REVISITING OLD TIMES — About 200 photo albums were being passed around among reunion-goers. Above: Bob (Huslad) Gilbert, Lodge class of '80-84 looks at photos as Penny (Ecker) Burkle, '81-82, and friends look on.



FORMER CABIN MAIDS, WAITRESSES — From left Marty (Mosher) Goetz, Lodge class of '54-62; Carol (McKone) Moritz, class of '50-64; Frances McKone, class of '61-64, and Ruthie (Castell) Varela, class of '62-65. (Photos by Tonya Bins)

Reunion party was 'best ever' at Lodge

Continued from Page 1

Rocky Mountain rustic stick-style architecture once so prevalent in national parks throughout the American West.

On July 3, 1920, the Grand Lake Lodge officially opened to the public with a Grand Ball, just two months prior to the official opening of Trail Ridge Road, according to Lodge literature.

Eighty-six years and four James generations later, the Lodge would hold another Grand Ball, honoring all those who contributed to a time-honored tradition of hard work and unsurpassed hospitality for those passing over the despoiled Rockies.

"It was like seeing my entire adult life pass before my eyes," said Bob Scott, Lodge dean for more than three decades, describing the employee reunion that spanned three activity-filled days and Annie J. Green(Gary Key music-filled nights).

"It was like an episode of 'This is Your Life,'" Scott said.

Scott went so far as to say the Sunday-night party was the best one ever thrown at the historic lodge, and it drew the single largest crowd ever.

Cabin maids, hosts and hostesses, groundspeople cooks and waitstaff from as early as 1948 mingled with

Lodgegoers who retained summer employment as recent as this year.

Ruthie (Castell) Varela, Lodging class of 1959-1964, worked as a cabin maid until she was promoted to waitress. She also babysat the James children, including a much younger Reed.

The hardworking and gregarious grown-up Reed said he found out last weekend from several former

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Here from '40s to '00s, they mingled

Continued from Page 10

babysitters that he gave all of them a true run for their money — such as putting three garter snakes in the prep cook's salad station, setting off screams from the kitchen, or placing mice in the cash register.

James's first Lodge job was doing laundry and shoveling coal at age 10 to age 12.

The entire James family, core members being mother Sue, her sons Ted III and Reed, and daughters Kathy James Rinker and Kerry (James) Geary, plus husbands, wives and children, were present at the event, swapping stories, hugging old friends. "We were in tears so much," Reed said.

For five decades of teens and twenty-somethings, the Grand Lake Lodge has been the ultimate summer job, offering an irresistible dose of the great outdoors, summer camp-like camaraderie-turned-lasting friendships and hospitality skills that translate into well-rounded adults.

Ofteentimes, like with the James family itself, Lodge employment would span generations. Mothers or fathers, once part of restaurant or housekeeping staff, would have children who too would work at the Lodge.

The fraternity-like Lodge experience paid off in other ways as well. In fact, 39 marriages were recorded at the reunion, all relationships that ignited during Lodge summers.

Employees from the 1960s and the 1970s made up the largest groups in attendance, James reported.

"The experience here takes on a life of its own," he said. "Groups of 30 still stay connected." This made it easy for



OLD FRIENDS — Bob Scott of Grand Lake, who has been a friend of the James family and mentor of all things Lodge since 1969, wore his Scottish kilt to the reunion. Here he poses for a photo with former Lodgegoers from the 1970s. (Photo by Tonya Bins)

the Lodge to find and contact past employees. One e-mail sent to invite one former employee would mushroom into many, he said.

And, quite impressively, out of the 675 employees present at the reunion, James said there were only three whom he didn't recognize or know.

"I don't run the Lodge, it runs me," he said. "It just happens because people make it happen."

Friends reunite at massive lodge reunion

As many as

675 "Lodgegoers" returned to the Grand Lake Lodge for the first-ever employee reunion, conducted three days this week.

Employees from as early as 1948 joined the ranks of former restaurant, gift shop, house-

keeping, bar and grounds staff members who returned to Grand Lake for the festivities. Many among them showed for the group photo session held on Sunday. In the foreground is the James family; the James family of Ted James Sr. has operated the Lodge since the early 1920s. The Lodge has been a vacation stop out of Rocky Mountain National Park since 1920. (Photo by Tonya Bins)



The entire James family core members being mother Sue, her sons Ted III and Reed, and daughters Kathy and Kerry plus husbands wives and children were present at the event. Reed James first Lodge job was doing laundry and shoveling coal at the age of 10 to 12.

For five decades of teens and twenty-somethings, the Grand Lake Lodge has been the ultimate summer job with an irresistible dose of the great outdoors, summer camp like camaraderie and turning into lasting friendships and hospitality skills. Lodge employment often spanned generations. Mothers or fathers, once part of restaurant or housekeeping staff would have children who also worked at the lodge.

Operating a seasonal family resort with the rise in health insurance costs, property taxes and general overhead created an impasse for the James family. The Lodge needed to become a viable, year-round resort to continue. A master plan on how the property could be built out to raise finances for future business projects was created.

The family embarked on a development plan called Tonahutu Ridge Development home lots were offered on about a fifth of the 70 plus acre property divided into 17 acre lots. The Grand Lake Lodge was annexed into the town of Grand Lake to gain access to town water and infrastructure.



About halfway through the development the family decided to pass the baton to someone else who could bring the Grand Lake Lodge business to the year-round resort it needed to be. "We're teachers, historians, hotel and restaurant operators," Reed James said, "not developers."

General Manager Reed James announced the nearly century-old lodging business is nearing the end of an era under his family's watch. The Lodge was listed for sale for \$20 million and was twice under contract but both times the deals fell through due to failed financing.

In 2007 Tonahutu Ridge Development was completed with the sale of 19 homesites surrounding the Lodge. About a fifth of the 70 plus acre property was divided into 17 acre lots.



In 2011 the Lodge was purchased by Grand Ventures and operated by Red Tail Acquisitions an investment firm from California.



The Lodge sold again to Highway West Vacations in December 2017. They are now in their third year of operation with Nathan Harkins as manager.



The Grand Lake Lodge is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2020. A display about the history and development of the Lodge will be in the lobby. A similar display will also be at the Kauffman House Museum in Grand Lake. This written history will be on the Grand Lake Area Historical Society website: grandlakehistory.org.

The Lodge opened May 23rd during the Corona Virus pandemic with limited cabin rentals and carry out food. The restaurant opened May 29 with social distance seating and a special three course meal.

A special exhibit about the history of the Lodge was placed on display by the Grand Lake Area Historical Society.



Material for this exhibit and document was researched and compiled by Kathleen Means for the Grand Lake Area Historical Society.

Information came from the papers, photographs, and CDs donated to GLAHS by Robert Scott and the Grand Lake Lodge and research at Rocky Mountain National Park and on-line historical newspapers. Also helpful were books A Quick History of Grand Lake by Michael Geary and Memories of Grand Lake Lodge 1924 – 1926 by Ted Coover, magazine articles and personal interviews with Bob Scott.

Photographs were taken from the files from the Grand Lake Lodge, scanned from scrapbooks donated to the Lodge and Ed Howard's scrapbook loaned by Martha Boehner. Recent photos were taken by Kathleen Means.

Thanks to the people who attended the Lodge reunion for sharing their memories on the videos and tapes made at that time by Bob Phillips, a lodge employee in 1969.

Rare footage of the fire at the Grand Lake Lodge is on You Tube – Grand Lake Lodge Fire Summer 1973. It was taken by Ton Kiphardt. He and his wife Vera were managing the Corner Cupboard and were taking pictures of the staff outside the building when they saw the smoke and drove to the lodge to take a movie.

This document and others about the history of the 100th anniversary of Fall River Road and the Circle Tours may be seen on GLAHS website: grandlakehistory.org.