

Fred McLaren

Fred McLaren was born in 1892 near Lyons, Colorado. In 1908 he was a stagecoach driver from Georgetown to Grand Lake. In 1911 he rode his horse from Colorado to the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming and Montana where he worked on ranches and was a partner in two restaurants. He served in the U.S. Army in France during World War I on an ammunition troop train in 1917 & 1918. As a motorcycle courier, he made seven trips across France from the coast to the front lines.

Fred married Martha Iva Montgomery in 1919. Fred and Iva had six children: Phyllis, Dick, Dorothy, Doug, JoAnne and Bert.

He began his career as a ranger in RMNP at Estes Park in the Mill Creek Area in 1921. There was no employee housing and his family lived in a tent near Twin Owls. In 1922 he was reassigned to the Western District and moved his family into the Pole Creek Ranger Station south of Shadow Mountain. With the establishment of Shadow Mountain National Recreation Area in 1952 he was assigned as Chief Ranger of that area and remained there. In April of 1957 after 36 years with the park service, Fred retired. He was awarded the Department's meritorious service award. Fred then served as mayor of Grand Lake for several years.

Iva McLaren died in 1966 and in 1968 Fred married Ruth Kauffman Myers, the daughter of Ezra and Belle Kauffman of Grand Lake.

Fred and his wife Ruth traveled in their trailer but got tired of it and retired to Poulsbo, Washington near her children. He keeps busy tending his 17 fruit trees on their two acre plot of land. Fred died in 1992 at the age of 100.



Fred and Iva McLaren - 1964



Ruth and Fred McLaren - 1980