Nellie Jo Donathan (Nell Pauly)



Nellie was born in Texno, Oklahoma February 16, 1905. She came to Hot Sulphur Springs as a 16-year-old in 1921. They had previously been living in Brighton, Colorado, where she was the oldest of 12 children. In June of1922, she married Jake Young in Hot Sulphur and the night of the wedding they moved to Grand Lake. Jake owned the Rustic Inn Hotel along with his mother Josephine. Nell helped with the general managing of the hotel, waiting tables and general maid. Nell had a girl in 1923, and a boy in 1924. Josie sold the hotel in 1925 to the Grand Lake Lodge Co.

In June, 1933 Nell became acting Postmaster of Grand Lake Post Office. Her job ended in June, 1935.

In 1936, she had the Mountain Home Café built. She ran it for 30 years. In 1945 she started the Mountain Home Hotel. They bought the Lorraine Miller property and converted the house and added nine cabins. This was just off Grand Avenue, and was renamed Matchless Cabins. They were removed and is now the location of the Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre housing.



Matchless Cabins



She divorced Jake in 1947 and married Paul Pauly. They operated the Mountain Home Café and Mountain Home Motel. She sold the Café in 1966. In 1966 after the café was sold, they moved into Paul's hilltop house. They called it Windy Hill. Paul had remodeled it and redecorated it, built a fireplace and added rooms onto it until they had three apartments and one underneath. All four were nice, modern apartments. Paul started his new Ute Café in the first floor of his new stone, modern building.

In July, 1973 they sold the Mountain Home Motel. They still had the Ute Café and Motel. In 1973 they opened the Ute Antique Shop. In 1977, Nell was the Grand Marshal for Buffalo Barbeque in Grand Lake.

Nell is also a noted author of 6 books on Grand Lake history which include "The Day Before Yesterday"; "Who's



Who in the Grand Lake Cemetery"; "Death of the Mines", "Legends of the Utes", "Last of the Rogersons", and "Ghost of the Shoot'in". She has written many pieces of poetry and won prizes such as when her poem "A Sonnet to Pills" won first prize in a southern California poetry contest.

Along with being a noted author, she is a renowned artist as well. She works in all medias of art and has won quite a few first prizes for her work. She gave a one-woman show in Oklahoma, where she was acclaimed for her work. Some of her work is shown on the next page.

In the 1930's, she wrote news items for the Middle Park Times in Kremmling. Nell died on September 13, 1981 in Kingman, AZ at the age of 76.

Nell Pauly













