

WINDING RIVER RANCH, WINDING RIVER RESORT

Owners:

Lucien Husted, dairy farm

Then used for logging, according to Elaine Busse

Other owners who cattle ranched: shown on 1946 map as "Grassland Ranch"

Rembrandt Peale - 1959, thought about adding a guest ranch

Fred Fegel - 1961 Fred Fegel was an oil man from Texas.

@1962 - Rocky and Barb Garber lived there and managed it.

Bob and Elaine Busse - December, 1963

Location:

Ranch located at end of Western Road, CR 49, 120 acres originally, now 140 acres

Resort located off County Road 491, just past the Colorado River, now 160 acres.

The East Troublesome Fire burned 193,000 acres in Grand County and Rocky Mountain National Park on 10/21/2020. All of the buildings on the Ranch were destroyed. It is slowly being rebuilt.



General Ranch Information:

* In the 1960s and '70s, the ranch had cattle. They kept getting out, so they quit that business.

* Wes House came with Elaine Busse in 1964 to clean up and make the property suitable for guests. Bob Busse stayed back in Illinois to run their Gift Shop. According to Elaine Busse, they had acquired an 80 year old ranch house and two dilapidated cabins, but a brand new barn Fegel had erected the year before... rejuvenated the cabins for guests and the ranch house for a kitchen and dining room. This was the start of their dude ranch.

* Elaine later added her health and wellness resort, complete with doctors on site. Kathy Means remembers a program they presented to the Women's Club. (Elaine had a heart attack at age 37, and built the health business as a result; at this date 2012, she's 88.)

* Elaine says the Ranch portion is now called "Winding River Ranch and Equestrian Center, Triple H Division. (Heart, Health, Happiness)". The ranch was at some time previously named "Painted Valley", probably because of the aspens. (Wes House). It is primarily meadow land.



* Bob and Elaine later had a campground for tenters. Wes and then wife Sue Busse House managed the campground from 1969 to @1971. In 1972, Wes House bought a portion of the ranch, and the campground business separated from the ranch, and is now Wes's Winding River Resort. An additional 80 acres was purchased in 1978; the Resort is now 160 acres, mostly willows and trees. . The Winding River Resort is now a guest ranch for lodgers and campers, but also now includes a "guest horse hotel".

* There was once a sawmill on the Resort property: Farmers' Union Sawmill and Co-op in the 1940s. Two of the original cabins, now refurbished, are still on the property; others had to be torn down. Wes House says, "If you look on most maps you'll see going right through our property, there's a road, and that is the road coming out of the forest where they hauled the logs and brought them to the sawmill. And other people have said either their dad, or even one person who said he hauled finished lumber from there to Denver back in the late '40s and early '50s."

Wes says, "Some of the old buildings had outhouses, and we made a playground out of some of that. The outhouses made ideal sheriff's buildings." (Laughs)



Two original cabins from the logging camp – newly resided



Wes House

* There is now a new barn housing a marvelous carriage and sleigh museum, part of the animal viewing area, at the Resort.

Files:

Winding River Ranch/Resort

Pictures:

