

Ray Eldon Ruske

Ray was born June 25, 1894 in Fenton, Iowa. He graduated college with a degree in science and math. He went into WWI as a navy ships carpenter. He was a talented woodworker and a man who loved to hunt deer, collect natural and cultural specimens and compiled an extensive book and stamp collection. He married Edna Edmondson in Milton, Iowa on July 19, 1919. They were both teachers.

In 1928 they visited Grand Lake and fell in love with the area. They moved from Iowa to Grand County, Colorado settling in Hot Sulphur Springs. Ray was principal and taught school for two years in a local three-room public school in Hot Sulphur Springs. In 1929 Ray and Edna purchased three adjoining lots along the east shore line of the North Inlet River and began building their 600 sq. ft. rustic log cabin. Ray, Edna and Mac worked on the cabin. This cabin became their year-round home in 1930.



Ray Ruske



Ray Ruske's Model T Dump Truck

Ray and Edna owned the Iron Kettle Inn restaurant until 1943 when it burned down. A few years later they build three and then a few years later two more rustic cabins across the road from their house. They called their new guest lodging business "Ruske's Riverside Cottages". They sold them in 1965.

They started going to Tucson, AZ in 1935 during the winter months due to the harsh winter conditions in Grand Lake, lack of customers and their many collecting interests. Ray and Edna went on archeological digs and collected Indian pottery, rugs and generally got into anything Native American. Ray also did wood carving pictures.

Ray died July 11, 1987.

