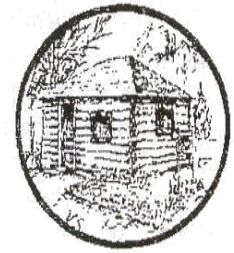




UTE PASS HISTORICAL SOCIETY & Pikes Peak Museum



P. O. Box 6875 / 231 East Henrietta Avenue

Woodland Park, CO 80866

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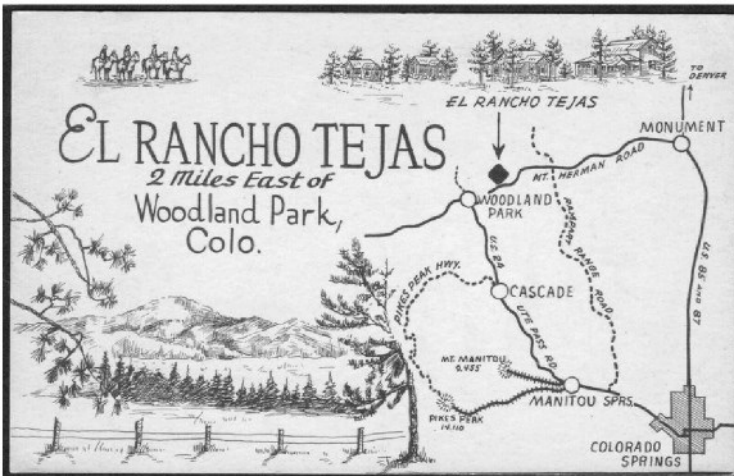
El Rancho Tejas / Quarter Circle

by Steve Plutt

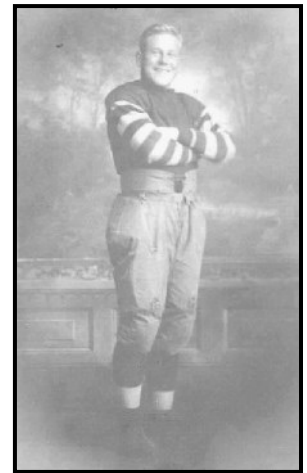
May, 2021

El Rancho Tejas was a Guest Ranch located just 2 miles northeast of Woodland Park, Colorado. In the 1930s it was a thriving resort for adventurers from across the U.S. but mainly from Texas.

The ranch was owned by millionaire Texas oil tycoon W. C. McGlothlin (William Claude) as a cool retreat from the hot Texas summers. Born in 1895, McGlothlin was a native of Dallas County, Texas. When he was 8 years old



his family moved to Shawnee, Oklahoma. There he attended Shawnee public schools and later graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1918. While attending OU, McGlothlin was a very prominent student, involved in many student activities and had a high scholastic record. He was a starting lineman during the Bennie Owen era for the Sooners football team in 1915, undefeated that year, and in 1916 to 1917. After finishing school, William entered the U.S. Navy and served as a radio operator during World War I.



William married Miss Roma Darling in Shawnee, Oklahoma in June of 1919. In 1922 the couple moved to Corsicana, Texas where he was already working as a zone geologist from 1920 to 1930 for the Gulf Oil Corporation. He left Gulf to start his own consulting geology business and also became an independent oil operator credited with the discovery of the Camp County oil pool early in 1940.

In 1937, *Big Mack*, as he was known in the oil industry, bought a 370 acre ranch two miles northeast of Woodland Park beside the present day Rampart Range Road. On



that land he built a nine room home for his family to enjoy in the summer months. He also built two seven room houses, a five room house and seven four room cabins, all for the use as a retreat for different oil executives and the general public. Many outdoor cookouts, hiking and just plain relaxing were enjoyed at the resort. The caretakers and year round residents of the ranch were Gabriel and Hazel Buckingham. Hazel was Mrs. McGlothlin's sister.

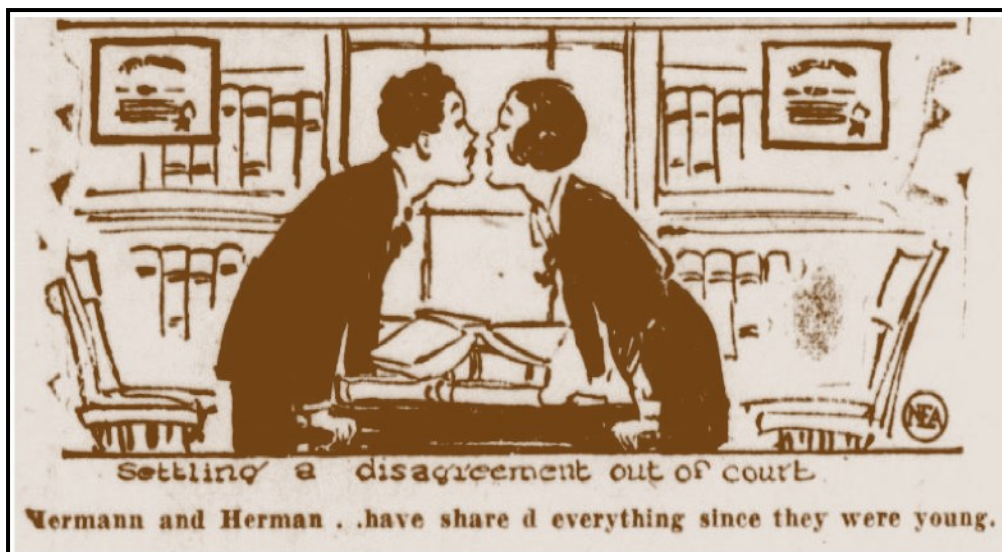
W. C. "Big Mack" McGlothlin died on June 1, 1942 at the young age of 47 after a lengthy illness. He was survived by his wife Roma, daughters Patricia and Betty and one son, William, Jr.

In late 1943 after one last summer at the ranch, Roma McGlothlin sold El Rancho Tejas to Melville Scott and Price King. Scott and King advertised the

(Continued on page 2)

furnished cabins as a *congenial, comfortable, restful vacation with excellent meals* and that *all cabins face Pikes Peak*. Scott and King owned the resort for about 3 years before re-selling in the spring of 1947 to Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hermann. The full 370 acres were still completely intact and sold for a reported \$60,000. The purchase also included rights to some land that was leased from the government.

Lee and Freda (Fritzi) Hermann were married in 1924 and lived in Brooklyn, NY. When they both passed the bar in 1927, they started the Hermann and Hermann law firm. In those days, for a husband and wife to be partners outside the home was mostly unheard of. And so it made the news from coast to coast in all the major newspapers. Soon after, the couple gave up their practices to work full time with kids.



In 1927 the couple started a travel camp where they would load up kids and journey across the map to places like Mammoth Caves, the Smoky Mountains, Grand Canyon, Zion and many more places. 1927 was also when they first came to Colorado and settled near Westcliffe and started their first camp, the Valley View Dude Ranch. Ten years later in 1937 they moved to Woodland Park. That same year they bought land that included the

old Silver Spruce Ski Club on the south side of Highway 24, just west of Edlowe. They named the place the Quarter Circle H Ranch, which at first was a working coed dude ranch for teenagers, 18-22 years old.

Now that they owned two places that amounted to about 2500 acres, they ended the coed format. With the purchase of *El Rancho Tejas*, they made the *Quarter Circle H* an all-boys camp and changed its name to the *Silver Spur Ranch*. *El Rancho Tejas* was renamed to the *Quarter Circle H* and was only for girls. Both places were more commonly known as the *Hermann's Youth Ranches*.

They could only accommodate so many *ranchers* (that was what the guests were called) so the Hermann's would annually travel to Chicago, New York, Dallas, Oklahoma and other major cities to interview prospective boys and girls.

The girl's ranch was the more elaborate of the two places. It was the latest in accommodations and the four room cabins were very nice. The big log house was their recreation hall. The main house, which was of log construction and was one of the showcases of the Pikes Peak Region, was known to have every modern convenience that any city home might have. With the adjacent Pike National Forest, it gave the girls many hundreds of miles of horse trails to enjoy.

Once a year, both the boys and girls camps would celebrate Colorado Day with a huge ranch get-together which included visiting parents. Always starting on a Saturday, there were many competitive games between the two ranches. In 1956, there were over 700 people from 28 states attending the party hosted by the Hermanns. These events culminated on Sunday evening with a melodrama performed by the *ranchers* for their parents and guests.

TRAVELING CAMP FOR BOYS TO ARRIVE IN DENVER FRIDAY

Nine youths, composing Caravan camp, a traveling summer camp for boys, between 14 and 18 years old, will arrive in Denver Friday for a sightseeing visit. They will be accompanied by four leaders.

Saturday, the party will visit the Capitol building and see the city, after which they will make a trip to the mountain parks. The boys have spent nearly a month near Westcliffe, Colo. They left Brooklyn, N. Y., July 1.

Lee Hermann and his wife, Mrs. Freda L. Hermann of New York, are directing the tour. Robert A. Neary, former Regis college student, is one of the tour leaders.

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renewal form enclosed with your newsletter!**



(Continued from page 2)

During World War II, Lee and Fritzi invited Camp Carson's recuperating wounded soldiers to come to the Quarter Circle H for therapy and relaxation. Every other day during the summer of 1949, the boys would be bussed to the summit of Pikes Peak so that they could witness the sun rise. Hermann's had Ralph Hines' local bus company drive them from the ranch. Fritzi Hermann died in 1949. Both youth ranches, which served two generations of "ranchers" ceased operations in 1960. Although Lee died in 1969, Lee and Fritzi's son, Ric and his wife Til, opened and operated the Pikes Peak Ranch for Boys and Girls at the Silver Spur location for several years in the early 60's.



**SILVER SPUR RANCH
FOR BOYS**
WOODLAND PARK, COLORADO

Offers your son a different and varied summer vacation—
horseback riding, pack trips, real cattle ranch activities, other
sports and sightseeing activities.

All-inclusive fee for eight weeks—\$400.00
Under guidance of Director with 20 years of ranch-camp
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For Booklet and Other Information, write
LEE S. HERMAN — ANTLERS HOTEL
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

Quarter Circle H Ranch, Inc.

A 1700 acre Horse Ranch at the foot of Pike's Peak, Colorado,
announces that its representative, Mrs. Lee Hermann, will be in
Chicago at the Palmer House on or about the 21st of January, to
interview a limited number of Ranchers for the summer of 1944.

Girls only *between the ages of 13 to 18 years inclusive.*
Regular Ranch activities, elective program, under careful supervision.
17th season.

For descriptive booklet and appointment, write to
MRS. LEE HERMANN, Director
1225 North Tejon Street, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Ric Hermann has spent a lifetime in the ranch-camp field. He was raised in the business his parents pioneered almost 35 years ago. After attending both Colorado A.&M. and the University of Nebraska, he returned to the camp business and eventually became the director of the ranches. Off season he is the local Scoutmaster, chairman of the Boys and Girls committee of the Lions Club and a member of the School Board.

Til Hermann has assisted at the ranches for the past eight years. While taking care of their three lovely children, she still is able to manage all menu planning and generally spread her feminine influence throughout the ranch.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
REGARDING THE RANCH,
CONTACT US YEAR 'ROUND**

MR. AND MRS. RIC HERMANN
PIKES PEAK RANCH
WOODLAND PARK, COLORADO



PIKES PEAK RANCH

WOODLAND PARK, COLORADO

for
BOYS
AND
4 GIRLS

DIRECTORS—MR. AND MRS. RIC HERMANN



Many thanks to some of the school volunteers during the Marigreen Pines Tours July 16 and 17, 2022
From left: Judy Perkins, Jean Rodeck, Renee Rowcliffe, and Betty Merchant



Volunteer and Board Member Julie Snyder and friends decorated all of History Park for the holidays

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I was recently asked to print the Charter Members List, so here it is..



Rex Dively, 1906



Judy Perkins, 2022

UTE PASS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



UTE PASS EDITION
2023 14-MONTH PICTORIAL CALENDAR

2023 Ute Pass Historical Society Available Now at the UPHS Gift Shop

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Funding for these grants has been provided by Colorado Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and the NEH Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP) initiative.



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It is an honor to serve you!