

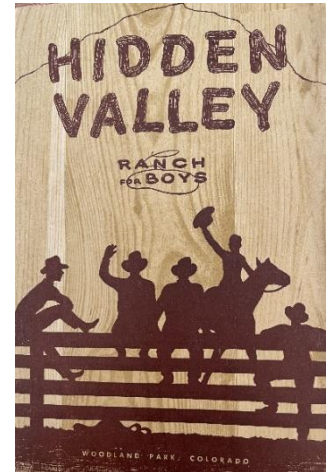


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In the fall of 1948, Ernest and Marial Poll bought what was called the Circle A Ranch from Lee Hermann. It was located just west of Woodland Park, up the Tranquil Acres Road.

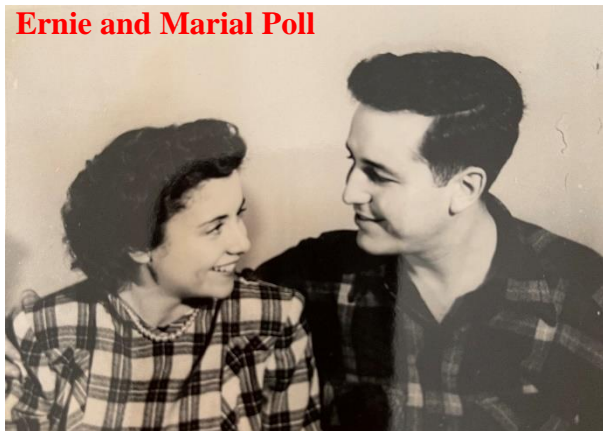
During the following winter months the Polls, who lived in Chicago, laid the basic plans and started an advertising campaign for a new guest ranch. In the summer of 1949 the Poll's came to Woodland Park and officially opened The Hidden



Valley Boys Ranch in July of that year.

Ernest Nathaniel Poll was born April 13, 1920 in Chicago and grew up on the South Side a few blocks from Lake Michigan. He attended Emil G. Hirsch Metropolitan High School graduating there in 1938. While in high school he was active in the Debating Club, the Pan American League, Civic League, Orchestra and was on the school newspaper staff.

Ernie and Marial Poll



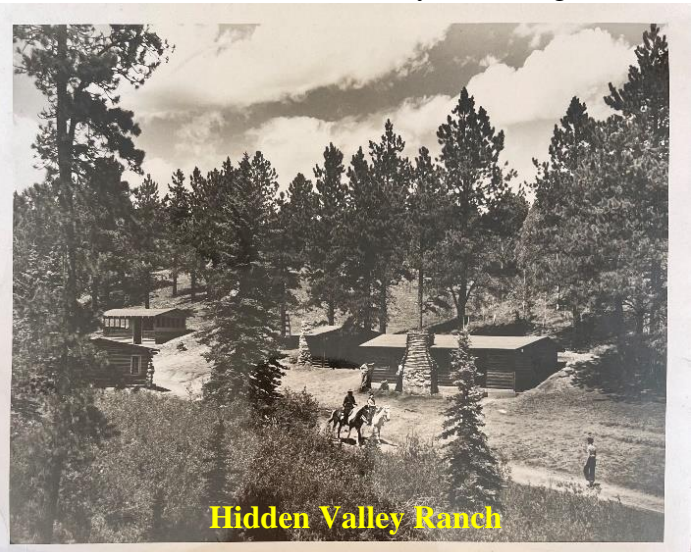
Ernie was a 4 year veteran of WWII, serving as a photogrammetric officer (Captain) with the 24th Combat Mapping Squadron stationed in the China-Burma-India Theater. He commanded a group of men who were responsible for the successful mapping of thousands of square miles of previously uncharted territory in the war theatre.

After the war Poll continued his education at the University of Chicago, earning a M.A. in Education and a B.S. in Geology. He stayed with U of C earning many honors as a teacher and director. He also taught in the Graduate School of Education and was an associate program director at Princeton and Vanderbilt Universities. He was a writer and consultant for the

Encyclopedia Britannica and Science Research Associates. In 1946 while at the University of Chicago, he met and married Miss Marial Charlotte Pliss of Chicago. Marial was born on May 27, 1922. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education at Northwestern University and her Master of Science degree in Physical Education at the University of Wisconsin.

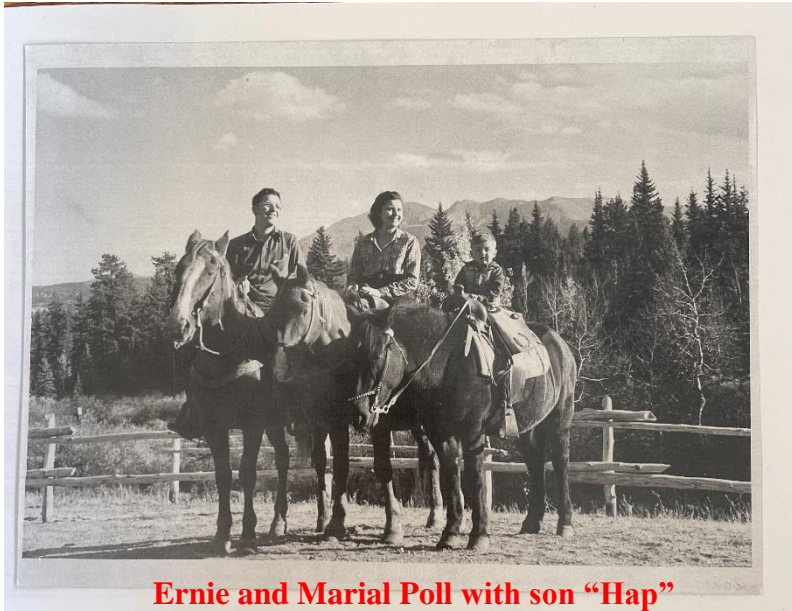
For a time, they both taught at the University of Chicago but Marial left the university to teach in the Chicago Public School system. Additionally, she worked in hospital therapy programs and served in various capacities on children's camp staffs. The couple raised three boys and three girls on the South side of Chicago.

They both had extensive camping and outdoor experience from the Smokies to the Rockies and from



Hidden Valley Ranch

the Ozarks to the High Sierras. Ernie also had hiked in the Himalayan Mountains of Asia and the Kashmir-Tibet frontier country. So it was no surprise that they were both active directors of Hidden Valley.



Ernie and Marial Poll with son "Hap"

The main lodge of Hidden Valley Ranch had large picture windows that overlooked a "breath taking" view across the valley and wooded hills to Pikes Peak. The lodge also had a massive fireplace made of natural Colorado red rock which characterized the warmth and friendliness of HVR. It's décor featured ranch style furnishings and colorful hand woven Navajo rugs along with copper decorations. It also had a modern bathroom and a long front porch overlooking the valley and Pikes Peak. The kitchen there was small but modern which boasted an electric dishwasher. The ranch used only the highest quality meats, vegetables and fruits.

The guest cabins were situated in the large pines and most had wood burning fireplaces.

They all had new furnishings throughout. Showers had plenty of hot water and the boys were required to shower every day. On staff was a registered nurse and a fully equipped infirmary if ever needed.

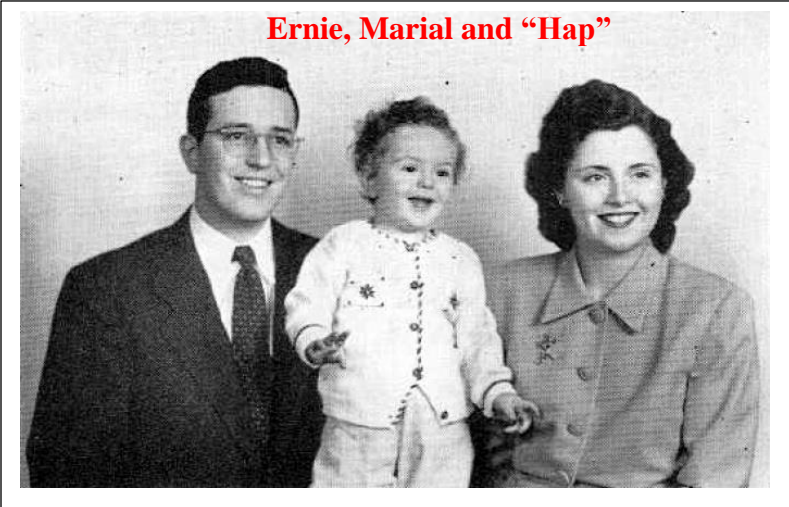
Typical costs in 1949 for your 8 to 18 year old boy were \$375 for an eight week term. At the ranch, the boys had many outdoor activities to enjoy. Horseback riding was always supervised by the ranch wrangler. Each boy had a horse assigned to him for his entire stay. Overnight rides that included a T-Bone steak fry was one of the high points of the summer. The season there featured: Volleyball, Photography, Softball, Horseshoes, Nature Study, Archery, Mineral Collecting, Badminton, Ping Pong and several field trips. The field trips went to all area tourist attractions such as the Garden of the Gods, Manitou Incline, Pikes Peak, Cripple Creek, Seven Falls, the Ute Trail Stampede rodeo etcetera. The boys at HVR also were taken to the public swimming pool and tennis courts, both located in Woodland Park.



The programs were all fitted to each boy and his capabilities, his interests and his needs. No one was forced into a rigid plan, only the ones they wanted. The Polls and counselors would take the boys on overnight trips to places like 11 Mile Canyon where they all slept on the ground and cooked their meals over a campfire. At Hidden Valley, the boys were busy all the time with craftwork such as making belts and other leather work. They learned wood carving and would, among other things, carve and paint their own Kachina Dolls. They learned how to develop and print their own photographs in the camps photo lab. They also learned things that could not be experienced in the usual city routine such as nature hikes where the boys would learn to identify animals and learn their habits. In the evening after a cookout, the boys would sit around the campfire and sing old songs. Evening in the lodge the boys read books, played chess or checkers and sang more songs. Some just relaxed in front of the fireplace. During their stay at Hidden Valley there were many exciting tournaments on

horseback, relay races, stake races, potato races and treasure hunts. The camp also had a baseball field which was very popular.

The season always ended with a big steak fry with large sirloin steaks and all you could eat. There was a song festival with everyone singing loud. This was the awards presentation night too where Ranch Awards were handed out to the deserving kids. The Polls always gave the boys encouragement and let them learn how to think for themselves and excel in the projects they took on.



The Polls loved children and Hidden Valley Ranch was their dream. However, in July of 1961 they leased out the entire property and buildings to the Frontier Boys Camp, which was a rehabilitation program for troubled boys. After the six year lease to the Frontier Boys Camp expired, the Poll's returned to spend summers there with family and friends and planned to open a campground over time on the site. That's when they started having off-season vandalism problems. With concerns of vandals destroying everything, the Polls decided to rehab the damaged cabins and to start selling off parcels of land. Ernie died January 20, 2004 at the age of

83. Marial lived to the age of 98 years and 6 months, dying on November 22, 2020. Both lay at rest in the Waldheim Cemetery of Forest Park, Illinois.



WELCOME TO HIDDEN VALLEY RANCH

Howdy Friends!

Slip out of your workaday world. Forget the cares and routine of everyday living. Gather the whole family together for an unforgettable vacation experience at Hidden Valley Ranch, the small, rustic, unsophisticated, family style, Guest Ranch, just twenty-five miles outside of Colorado Springs, in the heart of Colorado's natural mountain playground.

Hidden Valley Ranch's native log cabins are snug-gled down among the towering pines, most of them with a pleasant log burning fireplace, and all handy to a modern showerhouse. Our beautiful new cabin has two airy sleeping units, each one sporting a private bath and separate entrance to a large front porch.

How long has it been since you have slept like a baby? Just stretch your weary body out on one of HVR's luxurious innerspring mattresses and inhale the cool, exhilarating air; you'll awaken feeling ten years younger.

Our lovely lodge is a favorite meeting spot for all of our guests. With its large picture windows facing Pikes Peak, a massive natural stone fireplace, comfortable ranch style furnishings, a homelike dining area, a long porch with a breathtaking view across valleys and wooded hills to the peak itself, it exemplifies the warmth and congeniality of Hidden Valley Ranch. Our guests find the lodge perfect for informal relaxation, group singing around the roaring fire, playing of indoor games, or for just curling up with a good book in front of the radio or phonograph. Here we eat our meals, and man oh man, you should taste the food—meals planned to satisfy colossal appetites. And, if your taste runs to steaks and mountain trout done to a turn, you've got an unforgettable experience ahead of you.

Have you ever hankered to have a sure footed horse under you, fine companions at your side, and miles of the most spectacular scenery in the world at your feet? This is living.

Your vacation begins as soon as you leave the highway, and it doesn't end for months. You'll relive every new and thrilling experience at HVR a hundred times.

Our program is friendly and informal, with activities for the entire family. Whatever you choose to do at Hidden Valley Ranch, even if it is just relaxing or loafing in the sun, you will feel the vibrant good health which comes as a result of living and playing outdoors in this buoyant climate.

Clothing is strictly informal—blue jeans and sport shirts have become almost routine. Be sure to include warm sweaters or jackets for cool evenings and mornings, comfortable shoes for riding or hiking, and one "city" outfit in case you decide to go to town for sight-seeing or souvenirs.

Get up a party and let us know when to expect you. We meet any plane or train, at your convenience, or if you prefer, can arrange to have a rental car ready for your use.

Your Hosts,
Ernest and Marial Poll



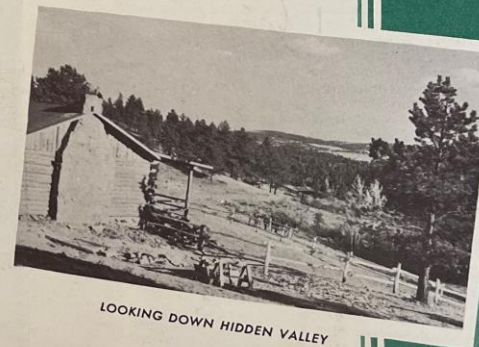
ARE YOU IN THIS PICTURE?



A NEWCOMER TO HIDDEN VALLEY RANCH



JOIN US AT THE FIRE



LOOKING DOWN HIDDEN VALLEY