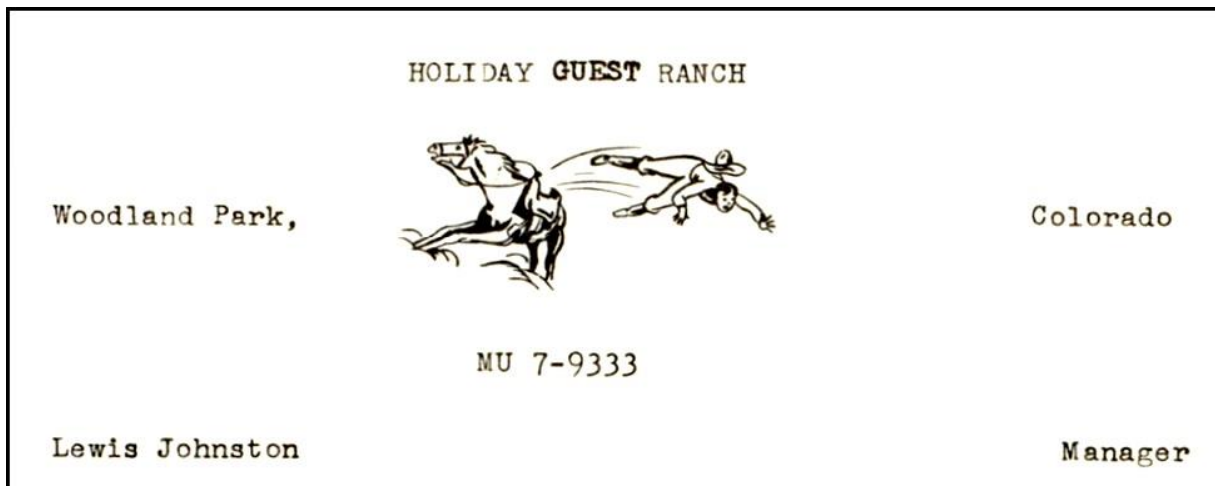


Holiday Guest Ranch

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The Holiday Guest Ranch was a 520 acre dude ranch established in 1955. It was located south of Highway 24 off the Edlowe Road and was the creation of

Mr. E. Doyle Garrett of Dallas, Texas. Mr. Garrett was attorney and businessman. He built and opened the first drive in movie theater in 1945 in Waco, Texas. The Holiday Guest Ranch is located south of Edlowe at over 8000 feet in elevation and had a large main lodge and four guest cabins. Four lakes also complimented the resort.

In May of 1957 Garrett sold the property to Mr. E. M. Burleson of San Antonio, Texas. Burleson was a widower and worked as an accountant in San Antonio. He built up the ranch to include cottages for 30 people with all the usual dude ranch accommodations that included fishing in his four private lakes. Hunting was allowed for licensed guests of in season game, including deer and elk. Burleson employed San Antonio real estate woman, Mrs. Lucille Thomas, to manage the ranch while he lived and worked in San Antonio. He would however fly out every month to check on things. He had close friends in the hotel business come out and make suggestions for improvements in the kitchen and guest cabins.

Burleson only owned the resort for a short time before he sold it in late 1957 to his manager, Lucille Thomas. Lucille who with help from her mother Mrs. Carrie Ralls now operated the Holiday Dude Ranch, both women were widows. Their camp could accommodate groups of 30 – 40 in the summer months. A well-known businesswoman of San Antonio, Texas, Lucille owed a Western Auto Store there and also owned and operated the Lucille R. Thomas Real Estate firm. This dude ranch remained typical of most others in respect to general activities which included horseback riding, hiking and games.



The property was again sold in 1961 to Philip Whitehead who refurbished the camp and converted it to the “Rampart School”, a private, non-sectarian school for not more than 20 boys, ages 11 to 15. Whitehead opened Rampart School in the fall of 1961. These were boys who, according to Whitehead, “were not achieving maximum growth and development either in the classroom or in general living experiences.” Whitehead continued saying “Boys to be admitted will be of average or above average intelligence and potential who are not making progress in a large school program due to home combinations of minor emotional, social, intellectual or physical problems.” Staff at the school included psychologists and others that are part of the mental health industry.