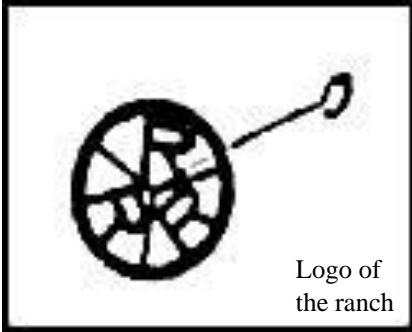


Rampart Range Youth Ranch

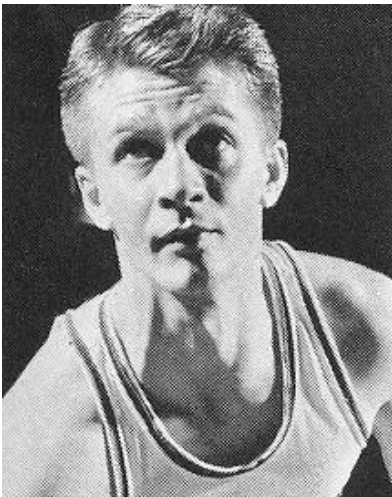
by Steve Plutt



Rampart Range Youth Ranch was a late 1950s early 1960s youth camp outside of Woodland Park up on Bald Mountain. They boasted unsurpassed views, horseback riding, hiking, fishing in their trout stocked ponds, swimming, archery and much more. Guests were entertained with dances in the lodge, card games etc. in the evenings. All accommodations were "all modern and comfortable" with food being "plentiful and appetizing". The ranch was owned and operated by Bill and Marilyn Mann in partnership with RCA rodeo superstar Jim Shoulders.

Marilyn J (Finlayson) Mann was born on March 7, 1929 in Chicago, Illinois. Marilyn attended Steinmetz Academic Centre located on the Northwest side of Chicago. After Steinmetz, she went on to Loyola and Bradley Universities. She met and married Bill Mann on June 25, 1949 in Oak Park, Illinois. They were the parents of three boys.

Bill and Marilyn moved to Colorado Springs in 1956. Marilyn was the niece of Virginia Hoder of the famous Wildhorn Dude Ranch north of Florissant, Colorado. Marilyn was also a friend of mine.



William K. "Bill" Mann was born on July 30, 1927 in Chicago. He attended Austin Community High School where he played for and excelled in basketball with the Austin Tigers. After high school, Bill attended Bradley University and starred with the Bradley Braves basketball team. He was an All American Basketball player and on April 25, 1951 Bill was selected in Round 3 with Pick 1 by the now defunct Baltimore Bullets in the 1951 NBA Draft. He was inducted into the Illinois Basketball Hall of Fame and the Bradley University Hall of Fame.

Here in Colorado Bill was a former Falcon School District 49 superintendent, captain of the Colorado Springs Polo Team and a vice president of the National Golfers Association. He was affiliated with the Boy Scouts and other youth organizations along with several different athletic and sports organizations.



After owning and operating the Youth Ranch, the Mann's were in the restaurant business. They owned the "Mann-Size Drive Inn" at the intersection of Boulder and Union in Colorado Springs.

William K. "Bill" Mann died on August 22, 1993 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Marilyn died on November 26, 2018 in Castle Rock, Colorado.

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Marilyn Mann, circa 1960



Rampart Range Youth Ranch in Green Mountain Falls at Bronc Days



Rampart Range Youth Ranch in Woodland Park at the Ute Trail Stampede Rodeo Parade



Rampart Range Youth Ranch in Woodland Park at the Ute Trail Stampede Rodeo Parade