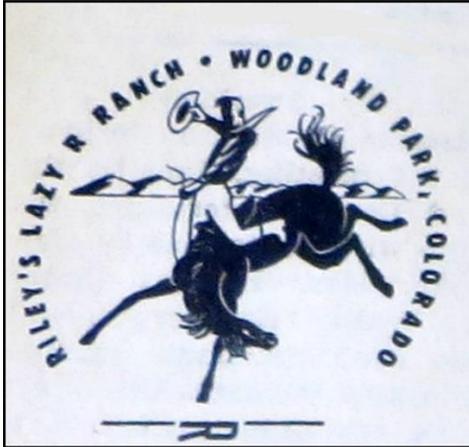


~ Riley's Lazy R Ranch ~

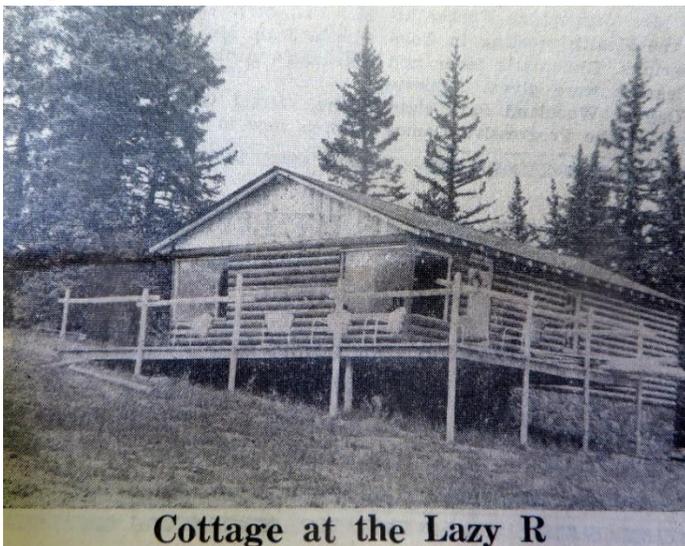
By Steve Plutt



Earl Kingsbury Riley and Ruth Mary (Cowan) Riley were residents of the South Mitchell area of Arlington Heights, Illinois. Earl was born on April 25, 1912 and Ruth on November 9, 1914. Ruth was the daughter of Doctor and Mrs. William A. Cowan of Brooklyn, New York. She graduated from Erasmus Hall in 1933 and was a member of the Pi Chi sorority. Earl Riley attended

Central School in Washington D.C. and graduated from Highlander Military Academy in Denver, Colorado. He was a member of the Kappa Phi Sigma fraternity.

They married in Brooklyn on May 29, 1934 then moved to Arlington Heights in the NW burbs of Chicago in 1945. They were very prominent citizens there and both very civic minded, always working on fund raising for local community and civic projects. The Riley's were instrumental in the founding of the Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights. He was on the board of directors of the YMCA and chairman of the Northwest Community Hospital. He also served as vice chairman of the hospital board of directors. He served as a member of the



Cottage at the Lazy R

and Ruth was busy at home raising their two children, 14 year old Dick and 9 year old Lorraine. It was on June 9 of that year when they left for Woodland Park, Colorado.

**Riley's
Lazy R
GUEST RANCH**
Woodland Park, Colorado
Opens June 14

Reservations can be made
by week or month
MODERN DELUXE CABINS
European or American Plan

- Horseback Riding
- Steak Fries
- Swimming
- Badminton
- Tennis
- Golf

19 Miles from Colorado Springs

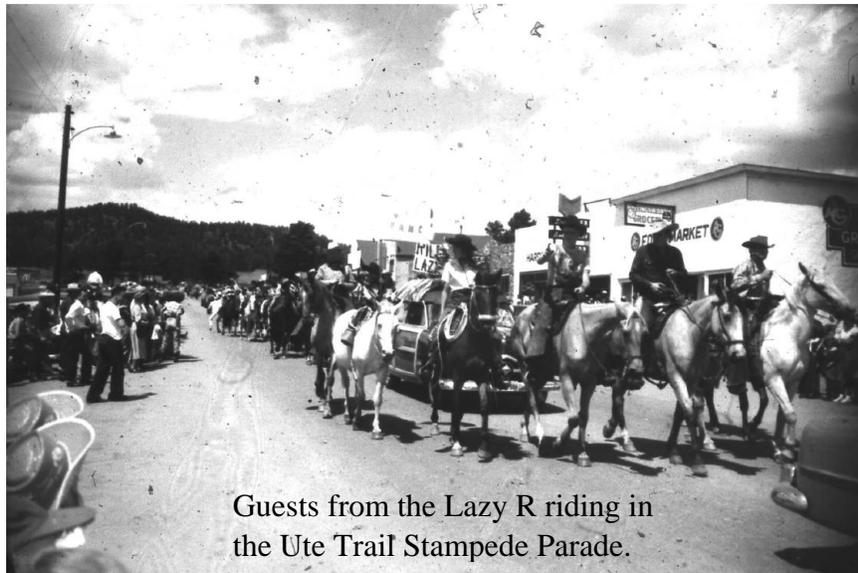
For Further Information
Call or Write
Earl or Ruth Riley
738 S. Mitchell, Arlington Heights
Phone CLebrook 3-4238

Northwest Boy Scout council and both were active in helping children with developmental disabilities.

It was a long time ambition while they were still young to establish a dude ranch in the mountains and that they did. April 26, 1949 is when they purchased from William Havel 160 acres and Earl and Ruth Riley's dream came true, "Riley's Lazy R Ranch".

In that year of 1949, Earl Riley was in the food brokerage business in Chicago

The Lazy R was located 2 miles west of town beside highway 24. The eight cottages were deluxe in every way and all faced Pikes Peak. Four of those cabins would accommodate four people and the other four would put up seven. The cottages were also all named after Native American Tribes. There was the Blackhawk, Cherokee, Mohawk, Ute, Shawnee, Comanche and Iroquois. They rented them out for \$100 and \$125 per week respectively. Each of the cabins



Guests from the Lazy R riding in the Ute Trail Stampede Parade.

**Live The Life Of Riley At
RILEY'S LAZY "R"
GUEST RANCH**

Woodland Park, Colorado
In the heart of the Rockies
shadowed by Pikes Peak.
Modern housekeeping cab-
ins. Horseback riding, golf,
many other activities.

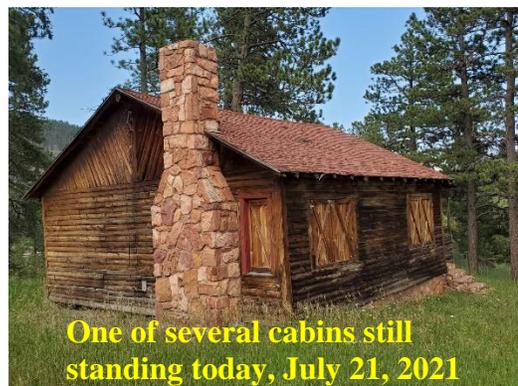
Rates: \$100 per cabin per
week up to 4 persons. \$125
per cabin per week up to 7
persons. All activities ex-
cept meals included.

EARL K. RILEY,
738 S. Mitchell Phone 238-M
Arlington Heights

were brand new that year and were completely furnished with a full bath, modern kitchen with electric stoves and refrigerators. Each cabin also had a screened porch enabling you to relax as Pikes Peak loomed in front of you. That weekly rate also included the daily use of horses and the unlimited use of Riley's nine hole golf course, which Earl described as "mighty rugged". And as a footnote, that would mean Riley's had the very first golf course in the Woodland Park area, even predating Dar Elder's Paint Pony Golf Course.

The Lazy R also had a large recreation hall with many activities to keep the guests occupied. In the summer of 1951 the Riley's added a complete kitchen in the lodge and invited people from Woodland Park to come try out their chef's cooking. Activities at the ranch included swimming, hiking, campfires, horseback

riding lessons, fishing and sightseeing. The Riley's would also host regular outdoor get-together wiener roasts and hamburger fry's on Sunday nights and even guests from the nearby Rosebud Guest Ranch were invited. Large singalongs would take place by a big bonfire then games at the main lodge. During the Ute Trail Stampede, all the guests that desired would be transported to Woodland Park to watch the parade and attend the Saturday night dance and crowning of the new rodeo Queen. Woodland Park's Lazy R was named Guest Ranch of the Year in 1950 by the Bunte Candy Company of Chicago, Illinois.



One of several cabins still standing today, July 21, 2021