

Railroad Ranch Building Histories

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

In the 1890's investors purchased land in Island Park. In 1902 this land was incorporated as the Island Park Land and Cattle Company to raise and sell livestock. The property was also a hunting and fishing retreat. Since the Oregon Shortline of the Union Pacific Railroad employed most of these early investors (William Bancroft and Silas Eccles), the ranch became known as the Railroad Ranch. William Bancroft encouraged the Guggenheim and Harriman families to invest in the ranch. The Guggenheim brothers purchased lots in 1906 and built several cottages. E.H. Harriman, chairman of Union Pacific, Purchased shares in 1908. Unfortunately, Harriman died in 1909, before every visiting the Railroad Ranch. A few years later, E.H. Harriman's widow Mary and their three youngest children, Carol, Averell, and Roland visited the ranch and fell in love with the place. Members of the Harriman family visited the ranch every summer until 1977, when the family gifted the land to the State of Idaho.

VOLCANIC CALDERA

Ahead of us, you can clearly see the volcanic ridge that was pointed out in the video. It is a 23-mile wide caldera, which is a circular formation remnant of a gigantic volcano that erupted and then caved in on itself, 1.3 million years ago. The last eruption, the Yellowstone Caldera was 650,000 years ago that blew up the eastern portion of the circular caldera. What remains is the northern portion that we can see here. So we are standing in the heart of a volcano right now..... The top of the caldera rim, what we now call Thurman Ridge, is the boundary of the Harriman Wildlife Refuge. Over the ridge is the "Sheridan Property" – a 7,000 acre ranch that the Harrimans owned, 3,000 of which is under the Island Park Reservoir. If you look towards the southeast, on a clear day, you can see the mighty Teton Range.

THE MUIR-HARRIMAN CONNECTION

Muir met E.H. Harriman in 1899 on The Alaska Expedition. Harriman invited Muir to join a group of about 25 scientists, photographers, biologists, and naturalists to explore Alaska. The two did not know each other prior to this trip. They left in May 1899 from Seattle to Alaska in Harriman's steamer *The George W. Elder*. During this 2-month expedition, Harriman and Muir became great friends. It would seem an unlikely friendship; Harriman being a powerful railroad tycoon and Muir being a writer, conservationist, and naturalist, but, they both wanted the same thing – to protect and preserve our natural resources for future generations.

After they returned, Harriman and his family maintained a close relationship with Muir. Harriman helped to fund Muir's efforts by giving him free passage on his steamships and rail cars. When Muir was working to incorporate The Yosemite Valley into a National Park in California, he called upon his friend, E.H. Harriman, to help get the bill passed. Upon Harriman's death in 1909, Muir wrote a long, touching eulogy.

Letters were also written between John Muir and Mary Harriman. Mary Harriman invited Muir to the Railroad Ranch in 1913, the year before his death. He spent 10 days here beginning August 17, 1913, sketching and writing in his journal. As we stand in front of the window and glance out at the Henry's Fork, the trees, the Tetons, and even 'hat rock' and 'millionaires pool'. Interpretive panels along the "John Muir Trail" show sketches from Muir's journal.

BOYS HOUSE (pre-1902)

This building is the oldest building on the ranch, as it was built prior to 1902 when the Island Land and Cattle Company was established. It originally belonged to James Anderson, one of the five original shareholders

and first ranch superintendent. James was an architect and design several of the buildings built at the ranch. Anderson sold it to Solomon Guggenheim. Solomon traded it to Mary Harriman for another guest house in 1917. When Roland and Averell (the Boys), their families or buddies came to the ranch during the summer, they would stay in this house. This is how it received the name “Boys House”. The Boys House was remodeled in 1949.

During the 1960’s and 70’s, this building was used for guest housing and housing for the grandchildren of the owners that had “earned” the right to visit and get a key. Roland and Gladys’ grandson, Tom Dixon from Boise, Idaho, was one of the few who did this. He and his wife, Linda, visited and used this building.

The bats have enjoyed living in the Boys House since its construction. When guests would stay in the house, they were given a small broom to be used to scoot the bats out the windows and sweep the bat guano off their beds upstairs. A story told about the house was that the “boys” would play cards and the loser was the one who had to shoo the bats out and sweep.

The Boys House was remodeled in 1996 to the way you see it now with the foyer, restrooms, conference room, and audiovisual room. It is used for meetings, weddings, special events, and school groups.

JONES HOUSE (1955)

This house is called the Jones House. Compared to the other homes and barns on the ranch, this house is the newest shareholder house being built in 1955. It was designed by Eddie Seagle, an engineer from Sun Valley and a personal friend of Gladys and Roland Harriman. A crew from Sun Valley built the house. It was built on the site of where three smaller guest cottages owned by S. R. Guggenheim once stood. Two of these cottages collapsed under heavy spring snows in 1952.

Jones House Mud Room

Over here to right is the door to the doghouse used for the Jones’ dogs. One of their favorite dogs was a black lab named “Ike”. Mr. Jones was a golfing partner of President Dwight D. Eisenhower who sported the nickname “Ike”. The President gave the Jones’ a dog and Charlie and Jenny named him after the President. “Ike” was only allowed in the mudroom and outside. Now, it is not uncommon for small animals like marmots, to use Ike’s house as a hideout.

The plywood silhouette here is an accurate depiction of how tall Mr. Jones was in real life, and those were his waders. Charles Jones was over 6 ½ feet tall and an avid outdoorsman. He especially liked fishing and duck hunting. Jenny enjoyed the outdoors, but she disliked fish—even the smell of fish bothered her. On the shelf and hooks are some of the fishing gear the Jones family used. Mr. Jones left a pair of his size 13 boots.

Charles and Jenny (Genevieve) were born and raised in the small town of Bonham, Texas and married in 1915. The Joneses were the last family to buy one of the shares here on the ranch, purchasing Solomon Guggenheim’s share after his death in 1949.

The Jones’ money came from oil, but unlike the Harrimans and the Guggenheims who inherited their wealth, Charles Jones began as an auditor and financial advisor for the Rio Grande Oil Company. Rio Grande hit on hard times during the Great Depression and was bought by Harry Sinclair in 1932. Sinclair appointed Jones as the Rio Grande’s president. As it profited, Rio Grande merged with Richfield Oil Company with Charles Jones as president. Mr. Jones’ last major project with Richfield Oil was the merger of that company with the Atlantic Oil Company. Upon his retirement, Charles was Chairman of the Board for the Atlantic Richfield Oil Company. He retained a board of director’s seat until his death.

Mr. Jones enjoyed western art; in fact, he and his wife Jenny owned the second largest collection of C.M. Russell paintings and sculptures. The National Cowboy Museum in Oklahoma City now owns this collection.

Jenny's most "prized possession" was a large oriental rug that filled this room. In fact, this room was designed around her rug. The Jones' donated the furniture we use in this room today, but most of the Jones' belongings and other furniture were taken back to California where they retired. There are four bedrooms on the main floor and two upstairs that were used by the cook and/or maid.

Of all the owners of the Railroad Ranch, Mrs. Jones stayed the longest—arriving in spring and leaving in late fall. Mr. Jones died in 1970, but his wife continued to come here during the summer until 1976. Today, the park uses the upstairs and north bedrooms for seasonal housing. As these areas are used by employees, please respect their privacy.

HONEYMOON HOTEL (1917)

The Honeymoon Hotel was built in 1917 by the Guggenheim Family to house their cooks, maids, and other help. While they owned it, the Guggenheims called it the "*Hotel der Baum*", German for *House of Trees* or *Logs*. When Roland and Gladys Harriman bought the building, she had it remodeled in 1951 for a married couple (the Carters Carters) working on the ranch, She was the ranch cook and he was a ranch hand. They had been living in the upstairs of the cookhouse for a couple of years and Gladys thought they should have their own house. The name was changed to the *Honeymoon Hotel* when they moved in to the building. The furniture in this building is mostly from the Boys House after the remodel including the ice box in the kitchen.

RANCH MANAGERS HOUSE (1917)

This house was built for one of the original founders/shareholders of the Railroad Ranch, Silas Eccles, as his "clubhouse". It is known to have been standing by 1917, but may date a couple of years earlier. It was Eccles who wrote to E.H. Harriman and got him interested in purchasing shares in the ranch. Eccles was president of the railroad from 1876-99, vice president of the smelting company that the Guggenheims owned in 1900, and in 1906 also became president of a copper mine. Eccles is related to the Eccles family of Salt Lake City who owned First Security Bank and several other entities.

Guggenheim purchased the building and used it for guest housing between 1929 and 1948. Since the Island Park Land and Cattle Company offices were in New York, a Ranch Manager had to be hired to run the "Railroad Ranch" (nicknamed after the first investors not because the railroad came through the ranch). This is where he and his family would live. It is known to have undergone some remodeling in 1921 and 1948.

There were only 6 ranch managers during the ranch's history, 1902-1977: Martin Garn, James Anderson, Sam Trude, Dan Clark Sr., Dan Clark Jr., and Ben Meese (*Meesee*). Each manager had the same two responsibilities: the first being to run and operate the ranch as a working cattle ranch and the second being to maintain the ranch as a summer retreat for the wealthy owners. Of the 6 managers, only the last two lived in what we know as the Ranch Manager's House. In the winter of 1997-1998, it was prepared and opened in the spring as a rental facility.

ICEHOUSE (1921)

The 1921 ranch report stated, "We built a very complete new ice house and cold storage with two compartments, and have same full of fresh ice just put in." Each cottage had an icebox on the porch, and it was filled each day. When refrigeration came to the ranch in 1949, the icehouse was wired for electricity and used for cold storage. One compartment served as a fridge, another the freezer and the third was the refrigeration unit

Three icehouses existed at the Railroad Ranch, one on Silver Lake, one on Golden Lake and the one in the compound. Employees would cut ice on the lakes in December. Each block of ice that was hauled to the icehouse had the following dimensions: 1 foot thick, 1 ½ feet wide, and 3 feet long. The ice was then packed in sawdust for insulation and put into the icehouse. For added insulation, the icehouse walls and ceiling are 16-18"

thick and insulated with sawdust. Ranch hands would use dogsled teams, as well as horses, to haul the ice from Silver Lake to the icehouse.

DUDE BARNS (1915)

The Dude Barns were built to house the private pleasure horses used for the wealthy owners and their guests. The Guggenheim family owned the two south barns and the Harriman family owned the north barn. These buildings were called dude barns because eastern *dudes* came to ride with the real *cowboys*. These barns were used in later years as storage areas for the ranch vehicles during the long winter months. There were carriage sheds connecting each barn, but one collapsed in 1932 and the other in the snows of 1952 and were removed.

In 1980, the north dude barn was torn down and the dormitory was built in its place for large groups (40 people) to use for meetings, conferences, family reunions, etc. In 2008/2009 the middle and south dude barns were taken apart log by log and then remodeled into rental facilities. The Middle Dude Barn is now the Dining Hall and is the cooking facility for the Dormitory. The South Barn is called the Scovel Center, a conference center and kitchen, with 10 attached cabins behind.

BAT HOUSE (1957)

Directly west of the ranch buildings is the Bat House. As you have learned several of the buildings had bats living in them. Ranch managers had tried a variety of methods to evict the bats from ranch homes. They tried a chemical product called “Roost No More” and mothballs. They also tried playing a record of “Cascade of the Roses” waltz very loudly for a time, but none of these methods worked. As ranch manager, Dan Clark, Jr., realized the bats’ importance in insect control. (The most common species of bats we have here, little brown bats, weighs no more than two nickels, yet can consume up to 3,000 insects a night, about 600 in an hour!) He heard about the bat towers in Texas and over in Europe. The maintenance foreman’s wife, Betsy Kroker, acquired a blueprint and design for the bat towers. The large Bat House operated on this theory: the house would be filled with guano, the bats would smell the guano, and think that other bats were living inside therefore, take up roosting. He authorized the building of the Bat House. The only place the bats came to was the space between the tin roof and the boards holding the roof on. Bats like small, dark, tight spaces. If you could look into the bat house, you would see that it is just one big open box with a shallow pitched, metal roof. The small, black boxes that you see throughout the park are a modernized design that actually works. Inside these boxes are four narrow compartments. The bats pack tightly into a compartment using each other’s body heat to keep warm. The walls of the compartments are lined with plastic screen, giving the bats something to hang onto. They are called a “colony box” and can hold up to 500 little brown bats.

RANCH OFFICE (1917)

The Ranch Office was built in 1917 and used as housing for ranch managers, Sam Trude and Dan E. Clark, Sr. Sam Trude had the house remodeled in 1928 as his family grew. In pictures taken in the 1930’s, it is shown to have three stories. The back had an enclosed staircase that lead to the third floor and may have been used for extra sleeping area for ranch hands. This building became the Ranch Office after 1952. For a while it housed the only phone on the ranch. According to one of the ranch hands at the time, Gladys Harriman was celebrating her birthday in the Dining Cottage and she received a phone call. She went over to take the call and the ranch hand overheard her saying “Thank you for the birthday greeting, Mr. President, but I must get back to my guests”. This building served as Park Headquarters from 1977 until 1981 and it now serves as housing for one of the park’s rangers.

DINING COTTAGE (1906)

(Watch silverware and other artifacts – people may have sticky fingers.)

Daniel Guggenheim originally bought this lot in 1906 and built the building soon thereafter. He sold it to Mary Harriman in 1911 to be used as her Dining Cottage. Mary passed away in 1932, and the next generation, Gladys, Roland, and their two daughters then used it as their Dining Cottage. The design is somewhat like the Boys House was before the last remodeled.

KITCHEN

When the Harrimans came, they brought their own cook and butler. The butler and cook also worked for U.P Railroad. Nels and Mels (Nelson and Melvin) were one such pair. Mels was the butler and Nels was the cook. There are five rooms upstairs for them including a small living room, two bedrooms, a bathroom, and linen closet where their uniforms and the bed sheets were kept. The upstairs is currently used as park storage. They prepared a list and took it to Jack Sr. and Marian Rice, the proprietors of the *Thrift Store*. The Rices would gather the supplies over a couple of days and then deliver them directly to the owners at the Ranch. The Rices were also friends of Ed Kroker, the Ranch Foreman

Mels and Nels both wore the *Union Pacific* jackets as you can see by the *UP* label. On Nels' chef hat is printed the word "ARDEN". This was the name of the Harriman's rail car, so we know that Mels and Nels also worked on the rail car. Nels preferred to cook on a wood or coal stove. This is why the *Majestic* cook stove is in here instead of a newer model. The Ranch had put in a new electric stove (outlet behind the wood box) but Nels didn't like it because he kept burning the food. The *Majestic* was brought back to the Dining Cottage. From this location, they also had a quick trip to the icehouse to get the food kept here.

Here on the kitchen table is some of the dishware left behind. Roland and Gladys took what they wanted and then the ranch hands took what they wanted and the park got what was left. The pinochle cards are on the table because Mels and Nels used to play the game with the ranch hands between preparing the three meals.

This building did have electricity back in 1907. Westinghouse built a diesel-powered generator (56 cell, 2 unit battery) and this piece of equipment was termed their "little electric light plant". It generated just enough power to light up their lights. The generator used to be housed alongside the old office, which also collapsed in 1952 because of heavy snowfall. The Dining Cottage was remodeled inside and more modern plumbing was added in 1949 including the stainless steel sink. Between 1977 and 1982, the building was used for housing for the Youth Conservation Corps who worked here in the summers while getting the park ready to be opened to the public.

DINING ROOM/BEDROOMS

The carpet in this room is railroad carpet. As you can see it was separate strips; they just took it out of the aisles of several cars or they used new and stitched it together. This carpet is quite fragile, so ask people to stay on the runners or wood flooring. The Harrimans would serve Railroad Ranch meat on the dining cars. Notice the *Union Pacific* dinnerware on the table ;The pattern on the plates is the Streamliner. Even the glasses, silverware, and pink tablecloth say *Union Pacific*. When meals were ready, the servants would open the curtains that separate the room. The curtains were closed before and after the meals when the Harrimans were visiting or passing the time with needlepoint and crossword puzzles. If they needed anything during their meal, they would ring the dinner bell (bell on the corner of the table).

There are 6 servings at the table that we set up for display, but usually, it was just Roland, Gladys, and their two daughters who ate here. Occasionally, guests were invited to eat with the Harriman family in the Dining Cottage. On Gladys's birthday, October 7th, they would celebrate her birthday party here. For the occasion, there could be up to 25 friends invited. Mr. Jones would make a special attempt to come just for the party and his wife, Jenny, always wrote a poem for the day's celebration.

Some of the prints on the wall are original *Ducks Unlimited* prints and others are just copies. Roland and Averell gave a lot of money to *Ducks Unlimited*.

These are the original furnishings. Although the Harriman's had a lot of money, they kept things simple when they came out to Idaho. Roland & Gladys' girls or Averell would stay in these 3 back bedrooms. The boys in the family had their own house (the Boys House). Since the Harrimans were not here in the winter, the fireplace and oil burner were adequate heat for the building while the owners were here.

All of the past residents of these buildings considered the side facing the river as the "front door". On a clear day, the owners had a spectacular view of the Tetons from their "front doors" which can still be enjoyed.

HARRIMAN COTTAGE (1947, original was built in 1911 and torn down)

The Harriman Cottage was Roland and Gladys' home. (Gladys and Averell Harriman didn't really get along, so Averell stayed in another building when he visited.) After the "boys" mother (Mary Harriman) died, Roland and Gladys wanted to build a cottage that would fit their needs, now that they were older, so the original Harriman Cottage was taken down and this one was built in its place.

The cottage features a "mud room" that is not connected to the house and is as far as you were allowed with your wet waders. If you get a chance, read the "fishing pox" sign on the wall, as it is quite amusing. The stove is called a "monkey stove" and was taken out of the back of an older caboose. You could keep warm as you were changing or cleaning your fish and then wash up in the sink and wipe your hands on the towels with your own brand on it. Bar 7 Bar (-7-) was the Harriman's private horse brand. Each shareowner shared the same cattle brand (*Bar C*). The significance of the -7- was Gladys's birthday, October 7th. The humorous pictures were done by a father and son team who often worked together, one during the day and one at night, on the same print. A series of calendars were produced in the 1930's and their illustrations were reproduced as prints and as jigsaw puzzles. They used identical signatures, Hy Hintermeister, making distinction of their work nearly impossible. You'll see the signature on these prints. The duo was often compared to Norman Rockwell with their illustration storytelling. John Henry Hintermeister (1869-1945) was born in Switzerland and Henry Hintermeister (1897-1972) was born in New York. Both Gladys and Roland walked with canes near the end of their lives. These are their canes. Roland died February 24, 1978, less that a year after the ranch was turned over to the state. Gladys died August 23, 1983, and Averell died July 26, 1986.

Roland organized the *Trotting Club of America* and here is a drawing on the wall portraying his involvement with the group. Both he and Gladys were excellent horsemen, but they were greatly involved in pacing and trotting horses. Gladys set a mile-run record with her horse, doing it in less than two minutes. She was the first woman to hold such a record. Above the sink, there is an anniversary invitation to the Harriman's from General Clark. Clark was an important general in World War II and for their 25th wedding anniversary, he had these made, framed and mailed to guests as part of the celebration.

The Harriman family was very politically-minded. Averell was governor of New York, Ambassador to several countries under 3 different presidents, Secretary of Commerce, and in June of 1985, received an

Ambassador Award from Russia. Roland and Gladys did a lot of work for the Red Cross and the Boys Club of America, which their father formed in New York before his death.

The Main House

On the left hand side (coming into the house) of the porch are some glass bulbs in a case. They are fire extinguishers are called Carbon Tet Bombs. The glass bulbs are filled with carbon tetrachloride. You would throw them at the base of the fire and the Carbon Tet would suck out the oxygen in the fire – if they were not careful, it would also take the oxygen away from the thrower as well. Carbon Tet is now illegal to use because it is a poisonous chemical, a carcinogen that will cause damage to your liver and pancreas, which is why they are behind the Plexiglas.

There are two bedrooms, Roland's on the right and Gladys's on the left. This was a common practice during the time period. As you look into both, notice the furniture in each is very different.

It is believed that the animal heads were from the original cottage and all but the goats were shot here on the ranch. The goats came from the Salmon River area, as the Harrimans took many pack trips over there. The lampshades have pictures of the ranch that were taken before 1952 because one has a picture of the three Guggenheim cottages standing.

Roland did the *New York Times* crossword puzzle each evening before bed. He would also smoke a pipe. Roland had a collection of over 100 pipes and left four here at the house. Gladys did needle point, although she did not make the pillows on the couch. The pillows were made by Betsy Kroker, the same woman who mailed away for the blueprint for the bat house, as well as designed the Cattle Foreman's House. Betsy's husband, Ed, was the maintenance foreman in the 1950's.

This is all the original furniture, although there is one interesting item missing – the tanned hide of Gladys's favorite horse, Geronimo. The horse was killed in a lightening storm. So, the ranch hands had it tanned and gave it to Gladys as a gift. Grandson, Tom Dixon, now has the horsehide. Also, a huge, dried snakeskin went up the length of the banister in the original cottage, which had an upstairs. On the coffee table there is a replica of a rail. This is a cross-section of a stainless steel rail. Guests received a portion of a rail so they could remember staying at the "Railroad Ranch". The board-like shelves in the windows were used for plants. The kitchen is small because they ate next door at the Dining Cottage. The hot plate was ideal for hors d'oeuvres and hot drinks.

The Harriman's horse brand, -7-, can be seen on many items in the cottage. Behind the door, on their riding chaps, is their brand again. Roland and Gladys took a final ride with the Governor Smylie, their Idaho lawyer, before they left forever. They asked the Governor if the State would leave their chaps just the way they left them. They also requested that the State leave the ranch and its buildings just the way they left them. The rugs are Navajo rugs. (The bear rug (in Roland's tub now) is thought to be a small black bear in its brown phase shot here many years ago.)

CATTLE FOREMAN'S HOUSE (1957)

This is the Cattle Foreman's House, also called the McGarry House after Jack McGarry, the last Cattle Foreman. It was built in 1957 and designed by Betsy Kroker, the maintenance foreman's wife. The cattle foreman was hired by the Ranch Manager to take care of the total cattle operation. This building is now being used as a rental.

AUTO GARAGE (1917)

This building was originally built as a tool shed and was only about one-third the size of the present building. Gradually, beginning with the Guggenheim family, families would leave their automobiles in storage here when they left for the winter. The first car on the ranch was a Ford Touring Sedan that the Guggenheims had in 1928. By the 1940's, many other people had autos, so the building was enlarged and the name was changed to the Auto Garage. Inside you can see some of the old equipment that was used on the ranch and Gladys's last automobile on the ranch, a 1953 Dodge Coronet Diplomat with a V-8 hemi engine.

COOKHOUSE (1949, Remodeled 1978)

This is where all the ranch hands ate their three meals each day. The original cookhouse was first built in 1903 and the upstairs served as a schoolhouse in the winter. Several of the men that worked here in the winter had children so a schoolteacher from Ashton or St. Anthony was hired to teach the children during the long winter months. It was torn down in 1949 because of the many bats in the walls and the smell that accompanied them. This is the new cookhouse built that year and then remodeled inside and updated to meet modern health codes and standards in 1978 for the YCC group as their cooking facility. The Cookhouse is now used as a cooking facility for groups that rent the Bunkhouse. It has two bedrooms to complement the Bunkhouse.

BUNKHOUSE (1928, Remodeled in 1978 for Youth Conservation Corps group)

The little building here was the bunkhouse for the ranch hands. This building was built in 1928 and then remodeled in 1978 for the YCCs. The building is fairly small, considering the number of ranch hands working here. The Ranch contracted out haying and fence building crews, so not as many of the workers actually needed housing.

The Bunkhouse was home for many bats for several years after the YCCs used it. In 2008, the bunkhouse was cleaned out and remodeled in 2008 and 2009. It now serves as a small group rental facility with the Cookhouse.

SMALL SHOP (1917)

The Small Shop may have originally been a bunkhouse. In 1935, it was converted to a storage and tool shed and then in 1944, it was reinforced to withstand the heavy snowfall. In 1952, it was moved to this location from near the cookhouse. The shop is still used for storage today.

RANCH FOREMAN'S HOUSE (1917)

This house was built as a residence for the Ranch Foreman and the Milk Foreman. The Ranch Manager would hire a man to take care of the fence building and maintenance for the ranch and this is where he and his family would live. There has been an addition to this building and there were also a couple of rooms in the basement for a few ranch hands. The most recent remodel was in the 1950's. This building is now used as a park employee residence.

RANCH BRIDGE (Stock Bridge, 1942)

The bridge spanning the river off in the distance to the northeast joins a road that connects to the highway and eventually to the site of the old railroad siding. This was the original entrance into the ranch and how the Harrimans and other families entered their retreat. Built in 1921, the ranch report for the year noted, "We have just completed above the rapids, a four span bridge across Snake River, sixteen (16) feet wide and two hundred (200) feet long..." The log and timber structure was reconstructed in 1942. It is made of logs and rail iron with 12" x 3" planks as the decking. Another deck was added since then and it is still used today for cattle, hikers, and fishermen but cannot support vehicles.

COW BARN (1922)

The cow barn was built to house the dairy cattle on the ranch. There were up to as many as 23 Jersey cows at one time (24 head stalls, so never filled it to capacity). Holsteins and Durham cattle were also used. Cows produced a great amount of dairy products for the guests, employees, and products sold in local stores. The small dairy operation ceased to operate with the last manager, Ben Meese (Mee-see). It is now closed and is used for park storage.

HORSE BARN (1917-1922)

Before the ranch acquired tractors and other machinery necessary for a large ranch operation, the Railroad Ranch used draft or work horses. Believed built between 1917 and 1922, they built this barn to house these large horses. They used Belgian and Shire workhorses (1800 + pounds) so the stalls and the tack are large. The barn was used right up until 1976, when the last ranch crew was let go after the last summer of operation as a ranch. According to the oral history of Pat and Sam McGarry, Jack's son and grandson, approximately 800 pair (a cow + calf= a pair) and 3,000 yearling cattle were taken out of the ranch when they closed the cattle operation. Because of this, you will see more modern items as well as older items that helped them care for the horses. The barn is in pretty good shape, although it was built over 80 years ago. In the summer of 1985, it underwent structural work to make the barn sturdier.

See this "No Smoking" painted above the door? The reason for it is because if an open flame of any sort was introduced into the barn, it could have easily caught the hay, and therefore the barn, on fire. We've learned that any ranch hand caught smoking in or around the barns was immediately fired. No exceptions! The "No Smoking" notice was originally painted in a crooked fashion, so we have kept it that way when repainting this building.

RAILROAD RANCH



Date Cheat Sheet

1. BOYS HOUSE (1902)
 2. JONES HOUSE (1955)
 3. HONEYMOON HOTEL (1917)
 4. RANCH MANAGERS HOUSE (1917)
 5. FORMER GUGGENHEIM COTTAGES (1915-1952)
 6. ICEHOUSE (1921)
 7. DUDE BARNS (1915)
 8. BAT HOUSE (1957)
 9. RANCH OFFICE (1917)
 10. WATER TOWER (1917)
 11. MEAT SMOKER
 12. DINING COTTAGE (1906)
 13. HARRIMAN COTTAGE (1947, originally built 1911 – tore down and rebuilt)
 14. CATTLE FOREMAN’S HOUSE (1957)
 15. AUTO GARAGE (1917)
 16. COOKHOUSE (1949, Remodeled 1978)
 17. BUNKHOUSE (1928, Remodeled in 1978 for Youth Conservation Corps group)
 18. LARGE SHOP (1920 – Burned down in 1982)
 19. SMALL SHOP (1917)
 20. RANCH FOREMAN’S HOUSE (1917)
 21. GRANARY (1917)
 22. COW BARN (1922)
 23. HORSE BARN (1917-1922)
- RANCH BRIDGE (original-1921, reconstructed-1942)