



Photos of Redfeather District Ranger Station from 1949. These old dormitories were for seasonal employees through 1967, at which time the District Ranger Station became a District Service Center and the seasonal employees moved into the rangers' houses and the dormitories turned into storage sheds.



From Hugh Drake
Circa 1989:

Bernice George

Hugh ^{Drake} used to stay up in the tower with ^{Bernice} she and her children when he was about 12 years old. She had a boy and a girl. She had a house in Greeley and his folks were from there.

He said they used to haul water from a spring about 1/2 mile away and then haul it up to the tower by ropes. There was an old shed at the bottom of the tower where she used to cook and they ate down there. She had a coleman stove and coffee pot in the tower. He and his folks used to visit them and would bring a picnic lunch enough for all. That was the old original tower.

She had a '41 Studebaker which was one of the last Studebaker cars made before the war. It was the first car to have an automatic transmission and Hugh drove it being his first experience on an automatic transmission.

Hugh's mother Bonnie had the wreath business in Red Feather and Bernice was one of her main workers teaching others how.

Bernice received two pensions from the government. One was from her husband and the other was one she had from the Forest Service. The one from her husband for many years was from the Chinese government. An interesting story.

Her husband joined the Chinese AF when China and Japan were at war before WW-II. They were what we call mercenaries. We were on the Chinese side with Chaing Ki Chek and the U.S. was suppling the Chinese P40 fighters. He and some of the other U.S. fighter pilots along with mechanics resigned from the U.S. Army Air Force, went to China and enlisted as Chinese Air Force pilots known as the "Flying Tigers" to fight the Japanese. Those same Chinese are now known as Taiwan. They were separate from the China mainland which was ruled by Mao, Chinese communists. Roosevelt at that time did not acknowledge that these men fought with the Chinese because he did not want to admit that the U.S. was at war. It was never technically known but the records were put into a safe. So when Bernice's husband was killed she received a pension right from the Chinese embassy in Washington for many years. About 1941 she bought a cabin at Red Feather. About 1945 the U.S. Air Force reacquired all of the "Flying Tiger" men back into the US Air Force and then Bernice's check came from the U.S. government. Those men were all volunteers but their widows were all guaranteed a pension by the U.S. govt. and all that were over there were put back on the records in the U.S. dead or alive. The all were later given credit for their years of service and restored promotions and pay. He was a Major when he went into the Chinese AF and became a Colonel. She couldn't tell anybody about the whole affair because it was secret until much later when it was all out. She had a pretty good pension from both services.

Bernice George recollections by Hugh Drake, made around 1989.

INTERVIEW-

John Englebert- Range Technician
Ranger Station Manager

He began working in the Redfeather district as a young man in 1959 for a man who contracted for range and fire fighting workers with the Forest Service.

He went to Colorado Springs for education and came back to Fort Collins to complete his forestry education. During 3 years of that time he worked in this area for the Forest Service as a recruit range and recreation forester. He managed the ranger station at Stub Creek in the Laramie River Valley in 1969-70. He left the Forest Service when the Laramie River and Redfeather districts were combined into the Redfeather District.

John returned to the district in 1979 and was the manager of the Rawah Wilderness Area. In 1982 upon the retirement of Bill Hurd, John became ranger station manager as well as area manager of the Rawah Wilderness Area.

John is the local contact during the winter season for local residents and he keeps the road open to Dowdy Lake for the ice fisherman, in addition to duties at the Ranger Station. He is the main contact because of his being on-site year-round and also his knowledge of the area.

John's statement is that the Forest Service's primary action is land management.

Colorado Game and Fish Department is game and fish management. Both divisions perform recreation duties and violator enforcement for their management areas and at times assist one another for the optimum use of the area. The local law enforcement is an additional management resource. The work emphasis for this area is range (cattle and horses), timber, fire fighting, recreation (Camping, Fishing, Hunting).

Interview with John Englebert around 2000 before his retirement.

Views of Mt Margaret trailhead before the new access road, parking lot and amenities were built in 2010

