

Aug. 16: The Livermore and Highland Clubs came up from the valley for parties at the club house. Everybody is haying when it isn't raining. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Naismith were host and hostess at the Red Feather Hotel for a birthday party for Lou Young. The crowd danced and presented Lou with a golf club. (28)

The Swedlows were returning to Denver to put the children in school. All this sounded like the end of a happy summer. Then came the sad word. On November 6, 1928 Swedlow had committed suicide. (29)

All despaired that winter for the future of the little settlement in the mountains. Social occasions were held but there was an undercurrent of concern for planning. In February there was a good crowd at the Club House for a social party considering the drifts of snow on the road. M.L. Sanborn at the fox farm reported seeing a mountain lion. In May, Akin and Rayner Lumber Company opened a new tie camp five miles above the Wagner ranch. Paul Hancock was in charge of the Red Feather fish hatchery and was going into Log Cabin for mail and provisions.

Then in May 1929, a new company was formed with John Ross and his son-in-law, A.D. Quaintance of Denver, among the directors. They faced the difficult problems which had seemed so hopeless to Swedlow. It seems amazing now that morale could recover so quickly, but Myron Akin wrote in September 1929:

Quaintance comes up regularly and seems to put over sales every week. It surely looks as tho' things would boom here another year. All the men seem sanguine of ultimate success. Glavins comes up regularly. He has Cooley in the Club House. Cooley says Glavins has 25 men who are to take over the Club House and golf links as soon as he gets permanent possession.

Besides assessing the financial prospects of the development, Akin commented on the fun of living at Red Feather Lakes. Of his wife, he wrote: "She is feeling unusually well and attributes it to her long stay at the Lakes. She would spend the winter here too if I could be with her."

There were at last a few permanent residents: "Wallace has the P.O., Phipps will stay till after deer season and Foster, Wolcott, and the Cooleys are permanent."

Fishing was excellent: "The trout in Ramona are beautiful—they run 10 to 12 inches and are as sweet as any river fish. I suppose for the reason there is no moss for them to get—the moss was completely killed by the deep water of the past 2 seasons." (30)

For all landowners in the area, the fate of the "lakes" or reservoirs was of vital importance. Fishing was excellent, but efforts were made to improve it as more people came. The Red Feather Lakes developers had one wooden fish hatchery built immediately and then replaced it with a more expensive stucco building. The property owners cooperated to improve fishing. Myron Akin wrote in 1929: