

The Spruce Lodge:



History:

The town of South Fork Colorado was a main Stagecoach stop before the D&RG Railroad came to Denver, this made the location a popular stop for people to stay and rest before the journey from Denver to Lake City.



When the Railroad was completed the town had to find a new source of income. The demand for timber for the Railroad and Mining operation in the area became the new industry for the

area. In 1905 the Galbreath brothers, Charles & O.S. started the Galbreath tie & timber company. The Galbreath's started many businesses in the town including a General store, the Post Office (in 1900) and eventually the hotel that would become the Spruce Lodge.



Charles Galbreath was born in Nevadaville, TN on 9/17/1875 and married Florence Broad in 1898, in San Francisco. O.S. Galbreath (1873-9/20/1934) was killed by drowning when he was in a car during a flash flood and could not make it out to safety.



The town that was formed by the Galbreath's was by definition a true "company town", the workers were paid in notes that were only good at the company store or other city offices.

In 1920 the Mill had a fire that destroyed the planer and the mill. The fire was reportedly started by a gas welding torch that had accidentally sparked near a pile of sawdust. One of the first ghost stories from the town can be traced to that event, James Blankey's ghost is reported in the old mill. It is even claimed that because of this ghost some of the workers refused to go

back into the mill to work. Another reported haunt of the Spruce Lodge is of a worker who was killed in a logging accident. He was a resident of the Lodge at the time of the accident.



While rebuilding the Mill and Plane, the addition of a new campground near the company store was built to encourage tourists. When the new store was completed in 1921, the old one was converted into a community hall.

The Galbreath Hotel was built in 1926 consisting of eight bedrooms, three bathrooms, a Restaurant and in the basement there was a pool hall and barber shop.



Some of the original employees were Josephine Campos-Dunn, Elvira Peterson and Ramon Santistevan, who had all worked for the mill at wages ranging from 9 ½ - 10 cents per hour.

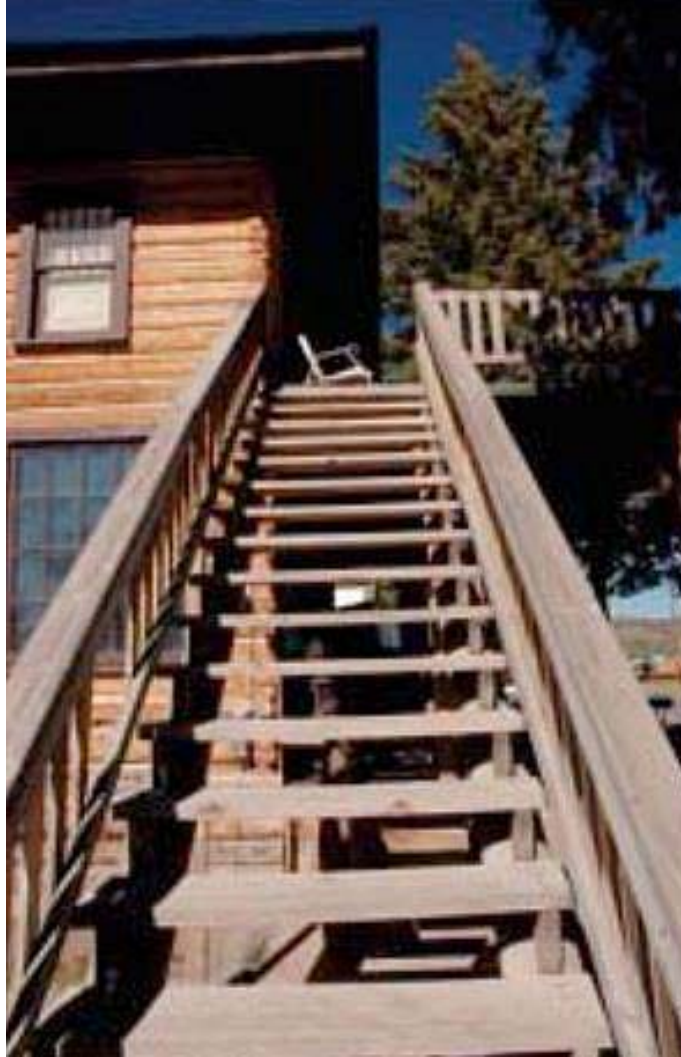
The Galbreath Tie & Timber Corporation was dissolved in 1948.

In 1936 & 1950 the additional support buildings for the Lodge were constructed.



The Lodge itself had stories written about it that talked about “the walls being so thin that you could hear the conversation in the next room, and not miss a word”. There was also a Comment that “the rooms were so cold that you might as well sleep outside”.

Throughout the years the Lodge has gone through many different owners and served as a Hotel, Boarding House, Private Home & Restaurant. Additions to the main building include a patio, a front room and an enclosed storage area in the back.



The basement of was converted from a Pool Hall and Barber Shop to additional rooms to rent. The current owners have their home located in the basement.

Some of the past owners of the Lodge:

Gallagher & Helga Rule
Purchase Date: Unknown

Dirk & Killeen A Squibb
Purchase Date: Unknown

Jante's & Marilyn J Karlovetz
Purchase Date: 05/26/1993

Spruce Lodge
Purchase Date: 06/04/1996



Kenneth D & Dianna Brooke
Purchase Date: 03/09/2000

Wayland D & Shirley Dianne Lykens
Purchase Date: 08/15/2002

Jennifer & Robert Plucinski
Purchase Date: 05/05/2006

When the current owners of the Lodge discussed the sale with the previous owners, they noticed that the length of the main stairs and part of the main entrance were covered in powder. The old owners said that they were trying to get footprints of whoever was causing the "footsteps" in the middle of the night. On the same evening they were told stories of lights turning on and off by themselves, doors opening and closing and rocking chairs that rocked by themselves.



According to the past owners, there have been reports of a woman in a black dress being seen in the second floor hallway and a story about a seven-year-old girl that had reported to the staff that she had felt someone lay down next to her in her bed the previous night.



Current activity has included:

The first night that they current owners were at the Lodge, they say that just after falling asleep, Dee woke up in the middle of the night and had the feeling of being “terrified” then just after that her husband woke up and “bolted” out of bed and said “what the hell was that?”. Neither one can remember any noises that would have woken them up.



Mid-summer 2006 there was a gathering in the restaurant, and a discussion of the previous owners and their ghost stories came up. They were discussing the powder that they had seen on the floors, when all of a sudden all of the smoke alarms went off on the second floor. When they reached the top of the stairs, the alarms turned off. They never discovered a reason for the alarms to have gone off.



In March or April 2007, one of the owners was upstairs in room six, trying to decide which runner looked best on the dresser, when the closet door behind her gently opened (all the way) and the closed and locked. They keep the door open, but say that it will be found shut and locked regularly.



In July 2007, the family was playing in the backyard and their son (3 years old) looked up to the location of rooms 1-3 and asked “who is that girl?”. There was nobody in the Lodge at the time.

The current owner has also reported witnessing several different events. She says that while she was on the phone at the front desk, she heard the sound of a person coming down the main staircase from the second floor (a very creaky staircase). She also reported hearing people walking around on the second floor, and there was nobody staying at the Lodge at the time.



In September 2007, the Mother of one of the current owners was in the Lodge alone and heard someone walk down the second floor hallway, and there was nobody staying at the Lodge at the time.



On November 4th 2007, the current owner's son was sick and went to bed early. About an hour after going to bed, they went in because he was talking to himself. He told them that "the other mommy" had sat on his bed. When they asked who the "other mommy" was, he told them that she looked just like Grandma. When they asked what she had said, he said she stated "she can't talk to me".



On Wednesday April 2, 2008, the current owners reported that while in bed they heard a click and the gas fireplace at the end of the bed turned on. One of them got up and went to the fireplace and discovered that the switch to turn it on had been flipped to the on position.

On-Site Investigation:

We scheduled a two-day long investigation due to the distance to the location.

The investigation started with a tour of the Lodge and interviews with the current owners about the history of the location and reported paranormal activity.



Equipment Locations:

Kitchen:

- 2 – Video cameras
- Microphone

Dining Room:

- 2 – Video cameras
- Microphone
- Several control objects (nerf balls)



Main Staircase:

- Video camera aiming up staircase
- Control objects (toy dinosaur and ball)

Second Floor Hallway:

Microphone

- 2 – Video cameras looking from opposite ends of hall
- Natural EMF meter located in view of camera near microphone
- Several control objects (balls)

Room 1:

- Video camera
- Control object (ball)

Room 3:

- Video camera
- Control object (ball)

Room 7:

- Video camera
- Control object (ball)

Basement bedroom:

- 2 – Video cameras
- Control object (ball)

Basement Kids Room:

- Video camera
- Control object (ball)



While setting up the equipment, the areas were mapped, baseline EMF and Temperature readings were completed.

The temperature throughout the two days was stable with no notable changes. The only variations noted were due to the outside temperature changes in the evening.



The EMF readings throughout the Lodge were unremarkable and ranged from 0-.1 milligauss for the duration of the investigation. There were some areas that had higher readings due to

electronic appliances. One area that appeared to be unusually high was in Room #1 which was due to the clock/radio that was on the table near the head of the bed.



The only notable event was on the second day, when at approximately 10:30 p.m. A control object in the kitchen located on the prep table rolled about four inches and abruptly stopped. We checked for drafts or any other possible causes of the ball rolling but the results were inconclusive.