



Pearl Lake History

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daughters that it was time to go "up to the country." There was a vast difference between life in Rawlins and life in Hahn's Peak. In Rawlins, little ladies wore ruffles and bows, and were supposed to act like ladies. They ate three meals a day at a table covered by white cloth. In Rawlins, M. Pearl always wore a dress, and she smelled like talcum powder, or sachet. At Hahn's Peak, they wore slacks, acted like tomboys, and ate at a table covered in oilcloth.



The six Hartt sisters

John Kelly Hartt was very successful during the time of the large sheep outfits that were part of that landscape early in the 1900's. By the time of his death in 1952, John Kelly Hartt was well known through



the region for his successes. He was president or vice president of the three largest sheep companies in the Rawlins region - Pioneer, Cow Creek and Yellowstone. He was on the Board of Directors of the First National Bank in Rawlins, eventually becoming the vice president and director. He was also a member of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association and the Wyoming Stock Growers Association.

After his death in 1952, M. Pearl continued to summer in the region. She sold much of the land, however, to the US Forrest Service. By the late 1950's the era of the large sheep outfits was over and the Forrest Service turned it into recreation areas. Pearl Lake was built in 1962 and Steamboat Lake (in Hahn's Peak Village) in 1968.

➔ Learn more about the history of Pearl Lake and the region at our web site:

➔ www.PearlLakeHist.com

Publisher, Cathy Hartt, is the granddaughter of M. Pearl and John Kelly Hartt, residing in Denver. To contribute historical information to her book or web site, contact cathycnm@msn.com or call 303-691-0446.



The History of Pearl Lake State Park, CO



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"Pearl" Lake's History

Pearl Lake State Park is named for Minnie Pearl Hartt, who made her summer home on what is now the shores of the lake from 1926 until her death in 1972. She wintered in Rawlins and then, later, in Denver.

M. Pearl (as she preferred to be called) was born July 29, 1882 at St. John, NB, Canada. She moved to Rawlins, Wyoming in 1909, after marrying a successful sheep rancher named John Kelly Hartt.

John Kelly Hartt was born in Bangor, Maine in 1870, the son of a Baptist minister. It is rumored that he got off the train in Rawlins, Wyoming in 1894 from



M. Pearl Hartt, namesake of Pearl Lake



New England because he had no money to ride further. It was at that time that he became a ranch hand for several outfits in Wyoming (Laramie and Rawlins area) and soon began to purchase some of his own sheep.

In a few years, he had become the owner of the three largest sheep outfits in the SW Wyoming region. When it came to



John Kelly Hartt

finding summer pasture land, the mountains of NW Colorado (just a few miles to the south) beckoned. Those were the years of the cattle/sheep range wars, so initially the summer sheep headquarters were located in Baggs, Wyoming. During these range war years, John Kelly Hartt was hunted after by Tom Horn and others who opposed the sheep.



Hahn's Peak

By the summers of 1916 & 17, John Kelly and M. Pearl were able to officially summer the sheep in the Hahn's Peak Basin. Their first summer headquarters is now under the waters of Pearl Lake. The summers 1918 & 19 were spent in the "little green house" in Hahn's Peak village. The 4-5 summers that followed were spent in the Old Ranger Station to the east of Hahn's Peak (now under the waters of Steamboat Lake).

John and M. Pearl had six daughters. When summertime came, M. Pearl would tell her



Early Hartt summer sheep headquarters now under the waters of Pearl Lake.

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