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White Grass dudes, wranglers reunite

By Elizabeth McCabe
Jackson Hole Guide

More than 40 people attended a White Grass Dude Ranch reunion between Sept. 8 and 10.

Former ranch manager Rachel Trahern, who worked at the ranch from 1953 to 1963, and Louise Wade, a dude from the 1970s, organized the event. The reunion was attended by people from throughout the country.

The festivities started with lunch Friday, Sept. 8, at Dormans Chuck Wagon in Grand Teton National Park. That night, a cocktail party was held at the Wade residence in the valley.

The Saturday night dinner was hosted by Carole and Norm Hofley at the Fall Creek Road Ranch. The Hofleys purchased and restored the original White Grass ranch barn on their property.

The group also met for a picnic lunch on Sunday at the former White Grass location, which is now Teton park property.

The ranch, located off the Moose-Wilson Road, was one of the most popular dude ranches in the valley. It was homesteaded in 1911 by Harold Hammond, a former JY Ranch wrangler, and Tucker Bisphen, of Philadelphia.

In 1935, Hammond married Marion Galey, a Philadelphia widow whom he met when she was a dude at the Bar BC. Hammond died a few years later.

In 1946, Mrs. Hammond sold the ranch to her son, Frank Galey, and her daughter-in-law, Inga Galey.

Frank died in July of 1985. His second wife, Nona, ran the ranch for the remainder of that season and then closed the ranch.

The closing of the ranch marked the end of another chapter in the history of Jackson Hole.

I remember Frank as one of the most colorful people in the valley. He was friendly and warm. He worked hard, played hard and drank hard. He was one of my first friends in Jackson Hole in the early 1930s.

The reunion kindled much nostalgia. Among the memories were the years the Hammonds raised silver foxes and sold the pelts.

I wore one as a stole for many years until it disintegrated. The stoles were beautiful.



ELIZABETH MCCABE / GUIDE
REUNITED AND IT FEELS SO GOOD: Jackson residents who attended the Whitegrass Dude Ranch reunion included Dick and Barbara Barker, Jack and Mimi Crenshaw, Fred Herbel, Elise Clover, Sharon Griffin, Cynthia Quask, Debbie Lopez, Tarnie Kinker, Chick Galey, Fran Fox, Rachel Trahern and Cynthia Galey Peck. The former Whitegrass dudes and employees gathered from Sept. 8 to 10.

Left, former Whitegrass Dude Ranch employees and dudes met at the ranch site, which is in Grand Teton National Park, to celebrate and recall old times in Jackson Hole. Rachel Trahern and Judith Smith (back row) and Beth Woodin, Cynthia Galey Peck, Steve Huebner and Debbie Lopez were some of the reunion attendees.

White Grass Reunion, 2000

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