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Restoring a legend: Glen-Isle resort has a new owner

Owners are trying to bring back the magical memories of the past

By Bill Bruner, Staff writer

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Glen-Isle resort's new owners

The historic Glen-Isle Resort was recently purchased by Mary Ruth and Greg Vincent. The couple looks to restore the historic resort to its former glory. (Photo by Bill Bruner/The Flume) It was built in 1900 and began operations in 1901. Long time owner Barbara Tripp's grandparents bought the resort in 1923, and the Tripp family owned it until it was recently sold.

After Tripp's death, the resort finally closed in 2012 and sat idle for many years while the family tried to decide what to do with the resort.

The family finally decided to put the resort on the market in 2016. Greg and Mary Ruth Vincent worked on purchasing the resort and finally closed on the property July, 2017.

Mary Ruth spent much of her childhood vacationing at the resort. "We used to come up here pretty much every summer for at least two weeks," Mary Ruth said.

The Vincents also vacationed here together in the early 2000s and always came by Bailey when they were in the Denver area.

In 2016, when they drove by the resort and saw the for sale sign, they decided to change their lives and try to buy the resort.

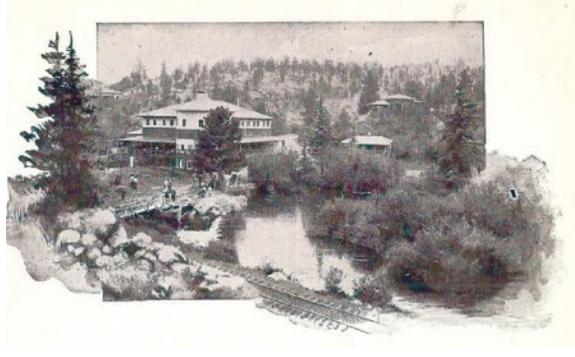
Greg was a high school principal at a successful high school in New Mexico, and Mary Ruth was a middle school teacher.

They never dreamed that they would someday own something like Glen-Isle.

The negotiations to buy the property took a year from when they first saw it. "We would never have been able to close on this property without the help of Karmen Box from Dynamic Properties," Mary Ruth said.

Finally after the closing in July, 2017, the Vincents took over and immediately started working to restore the grandeur of this special place.

“Much of the early stuff we had to do was simply because the resort sat idle for so many years. We want to update what we need to, like the plumbing and electric, and keep everything else the same. The charm is still here and it is truly a magical place,” Greg said.



Historic view of Glen-Isle Resort

This postcard shows Glen-Isle resort when it was still a train stop along the narrow gauge route from Denver to Como. The new owners hope to restore the resort to its glory days. (Courtesy photo)

The Vincents want to upgrade mattresses and box springs for all the cabins and rooms. They also want to replace bathroom amenities to make the resort a quality place to come to.

In the future the Vincents want to add a coffee shop that will be open to the public and serve upscale fresh ground coffee.

They look to improve and reopen the gift shop located near the grand lobby and hope to add an equine center to board people’s horses while they stay at the resort.

In addition, the Vincents want to add a wedding venue and maybe a music venue.

They hope to bring back the chuck wagon dinners the resort was always famous for

and many of the other fun activities that were part of the success of the resort in the past.

“We feel we are caretakers of this beautiful place, but it is the community that owns it. We want to be involved in the community and make this place a true escape from reality for all those that stay here,” Mary Ruth said.

The plan is to have about 75 percent of the resort open by next spring and 100 percent of the resort open within two years.

The Vincents hope to have online reservation services up and running by the spring so anyone can make a reservation on places like Travelocity or Booking.com.

The Vincents are originally from the Amarillo area, but have always loved the mountains and felt at home in the Bailey area. They plan to restore the old Tripp house and make it into their permanent residence.

The property is huge, encompassing 148 acres, of which 118 are currently accessible. The property has 14 cabins and 14 rooms in the main lodge.

The Vincents believe that some of the rooms in the main lodge will be removed to provide room for new modern bathrooms for the remaining rooms.

The Vincents are adding heat to the cabins and eventually to the main lodge, so the resort will move from a summer-only place to a year-round destination.

For now, to keep up with the progress, see the Glen-Isle’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/glenisleresort/.

The bringing back such a historic place for the community will really add to the

appeal of Bailey and the surrounding area.