

THE HISTORIC STRATER HOTEL PRESENTS

ROOM 205: ELECTRA SPORTING CLUB

CLEAR, HIGH MOUNTAIN STREAMS SOURCE OF PRISTINE LAKE

PRIVATE HISTORICAL GEM OF THE SAN JUANS

Located 25 scenic miles north of Durango and tucked away in the pines of the rugged San Juan mountains is one of the most serenely beautiful lakes in North America. It was created when a 400-foot rock and timber dam was constructed for a water power plant to supply power to the important mining camps of Durango and Silverton, each located about 25 miles away. In 1909 a small group of foresighted, nature loving, sports minded outdoorsmen of Durango and Silverton recognized the recreational possibilities of the new four-mile lake and formed the Electra Sporting Club. Articles of Incorporation were signed February 21, 1910, and the hard work and vision of the club founders set the stage for more

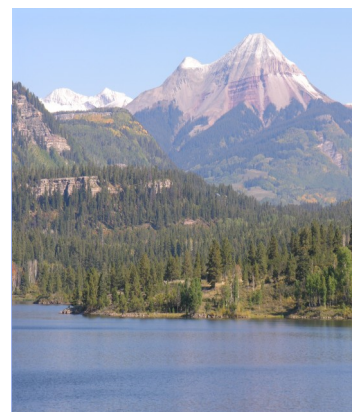
than 100 years of respectful stewardship and recreation management.

The workmen who had built the dam left a few of their temporary lodgings below the dam, and before long, logs and lumber retrieved from those were used to construct summer homes. In January, 1929, plans for the clubhouse were initiated at a meeting of the directors. Records show that the clubhouse, completed in 1929 cost \$9,280.91. Great care was taken to stock the lake with fish and maintain water conditions. Incubation equipment was installed and became a strong means of supplementing fish stock for the lake.

Ownership of a cabin and membership in Electra

Sporting Club was a coveted benefit when the club was first formed and remains so today. Handed down through generations to family members and sold for premium prices, having access to the beautiful lake and clubhouse is a prize indeed. For over 100 years of fierce winters, and hot, dry summers, the members of Electra Sporting Club have made improvements and maintained the appeal of the lake, clubhouse, and surrounding land. Residents and members treasure the tranquil beauty and relaxing sounds of water lapping the shoreline, birds calling, and the wind whistling through the pines.

What could be better in life than spending time in such a beautiful place?



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *The Lady Electra highball, a famous libation of the summer residents, required the necessity of building an ice house. Keeping the milk from souring and the fish from spoiling was most likely secondary.*
- *Biologists from the Division of Wildlife began banding bald eagles at the lake. Today, it is home to many species of birds, including eagles, osprey, hawks, and songbirds.*
- *Electra Lake is fed by the clear high mountain streams, Cascade Creek and Lime Creek.*
- *The Tacoma hydroelectric power plant continues to produce low cost electricity and uses only water as its fuel. As such, it has no air, land or water emissions.*

NASA COMES TO ELECTRA LAKE

An unusual visit in May of 1972 took place at Electra Lake when a group of men, accompanied by the caretaker arrived. Led by Dr. Silver of NASA, a number of astronauts, including Charlie Duke and Neil Armstrong, came to familiarize themselves with some of the rock formations found on earth so that comparisons could be made with

those found when they reached the moon. Dr. Silver had hiked the area some years previously, gathering geologic information for his doctoral thesis and believed that this visit would be an important visual reference for the astronauts. Formations in and around the lake were discussed including the approximate three and a half million year

age difference between the land mass of the west shore and the big island some 300-400 yards east of the it. No doubt memories of Electra Lake are part of the man's first moon visit.

Current Strater Hotel owner, Rod Barker, was behind the wheel of the boat used for the visitors that special day.