

Bear Lake Hot Springs The End of an Era



ARCHIVED PHOTO

The original hotel which stood at the Bear Lake Hot Springs site near Bear Lake.



PHOTO BY NEWS-EXAMINER STAFF

Current Hot Springs area recently sold to a land developer.

BY PAUL HUFZIGER

Mrs. Ethel Bates was the original owner of the historic, grand hotel that was first built on the site in 1911. The original hotel on this site was a sight to be seen, located on Bear Lake with beautiful views. Guests could relax on the porch and take in the serenity of Bear Lake. In 1939, the hotel tragically burned to the ground in an accidental fire. The fire started from a stove in the washhouse and spread quickly to the main building. Many local residents had relatives who responded and served on the fire crews that fought this fire. In spite of volunteers who responded quickly, the building and contents were a total loss. Some of the surrounding buildings, including a pool, were not damaged. The original concrete steps and a few pillars were all that remained after the fire and are still visible today.

In 1949, Lorenzo and Ruth Hemmert purchased the property. The Hemmerts have provided many interesting stories that have hap-

pened over the years. According to *The News-Examiner* archives, Mr. Hemmert stated that the original hot springs pool was wood lined and did not have a filtration system. A thick layer of mud sediment three to four inches thick was always present on the bottom. He added that, adjacent to the pool, there was a hitching post where teams or saddle horses could stand. Feed bags were attached allowing them to eat while their owners enjoyed relaxing in the cool waters. Another curious fact, and a testament to the healing properties of the hot mineral water, was a large collection of canes left behind by the guests. This collection grew, as patrons would check in with a cane and check out no longer needing it. Also in the archives, Mrs. Hemmert added that over 75,000 gallons of mineral steamy water flow through the pools every day. The water is constantly circulating, flowing in from the spring and out into the lake. She said that the soaking area was limited to 80 guests, but there have been a few occasions when there were more. Then they do not have as much fun, and it becomes a big job to keep track of everyone.

Bear Lake Hot Springs provided convenient access to the lake with sandy beaches, camp sites, and a newer enclosed pool. Family gatherings and reunions were a prominent tradition start-

ing on Easter weekend. Many would schedule their favorite campsites well ahead of time planning for that perfect location on the lake. Campers would enjoy elaborate cookouts, swim in the indoor pool, play on the beach, soak in the natural hot spring mineral waters, and just plain enjoy the tranquil setting. Many lasting and fond memories were made and are still spoken of warmly today. This hot springs was the closest venue for people living in Montpelier to get away from it all for a day trip and to enjoy Bear Lake recreation at its best.

Everything changed on April 20th, 2018, when the property was sold to a land developer. The proposed Lakeview Subdivision is a luxury gated community which is now in the planning stages. Most of the existing buildings and infrastructure may be excavated, and a completely new community will be built on the 22-acre site. Private and seasonal vacation homes are becoming the new normal for this lovely lake. Property values have climbed dramatically over the years, well beyond what anyone had ever dreamed. Public access to the Idaho portion of the lake is now limited to North Beach State Park and Bear Lake State Park.

WEATHER

Forecast:

Slight chance of Showers



Highs & Lows April 30 - May 6

DATE	High	Low	PRCIP
April 30	43	33	.07
May 1	55	26	.17
May 2	57	25	
May 3	61	31	
May 4	67	28	
May 5	72	29	
May 6	78	31	

Weather courtesy of Steve Kunz



Local youth win prestigious welding contest

BY KEVIN WELLS, INSTRUCTOR

On April 19, six students from the Bear Lake Agricultural Science and Technology Program were invited to attend the Idaho State University Rocky Mountain Shootout Welding Competition in Pocatello, Idaho. The Rocky Mountain Shootout is one of the premier welding competitions in the area. Schools from as far away as Boise, Idaho, attended with hopes to win the top prize and be named the best welders in the state. Students are given a written welding test and are then asked to complete three welding tests. Students weld a three pass 6010 pipe to plate in the horizontal position, a multiple pass 7018 joint in the flat position on 3/8" plate, and then complete GMAW (MIG) weld, also in the horizontal position. Needless to say, the competition is tough and the skills required are great.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Kyle Mattson, Zack Mattson, and Stetson Keetch hold their awards from the Rocky Mountain Shootout Welding Competition.

This year, we had three students who finished in the top five individually. Zack Mattson, a sophomore, son of Jeremiah and Janet Mattson finished in 3rd place. Zack's brother, Kyle Mattson, a senior, placed 4th, and Stetson Keetch, also a senior, son of Jeff and Tari Keetch, won 5th. Overall, their scores combined to earn the prize of the 1st place team at the 2018 Rocky Mountain

Shootout. Their efforts were paid off with multiple prizes and scholarships, including welding helmets, a grinder, and toolbox full of many useful tools. This is thanks to many great sponsors who include our local Airgas, Hunzeker Ford, and Agrium, just to name a few.

All three students plan to attend ISU College of Technology to pursue a career and education in welding. Our other three students also did well. That team consisted of Riley Wells, Nolan Jensen, and Byron Clements. They finished 8th overall. Altogether, there were over 70 students who competed and a total of 24 teams from some of the best high school welding programs in Southeast Idaho.

Congratulations to these great young men on their accomplishments; their futures are very bright.

CRIME STOPPERS



The following items were stolen from a residence on Hymas Lane in Liberty Id.

1. Porter Cable Pancake compressor red
 2. Central Pneumatic framing Nailer- silver and red
 3. Central Pneumatic stapler Silver and red.
- Anyone knowing anything about these items please contact the Sheriff's Dept at 208-945-2121

**REMEMBER:
IF YOU SEE
SOMETHING,
SAY
SOMETHING.**

INSIDE

Inserts include

Broulim's • Bomgaars
Tom Loertscher
Lori Haddock • Tractor Supply

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