

# The Brookforest Inn:



## History:

The Brookforest Inn was built in 1927 by Edwin F. Welz and his wife Mary A. Welz.

Mr. Welz was born in 1880 in Vienna. He worked at the Abbazia Hotel on the Adriatic coast near Fiume, Italy as a chef and then at San Remo, Heidelberg, Montreux and Basle.



**The Welz**

He moved to the U.S. in 1903 and worked at a Boston hotel. Mr. Welz purchased the “Pension Waldeck” in Langerbruk near Basle, Switzerland. He only owned it for two years and then sold it to his business partner so he could return to the U.S.



**The community that the Welz were creating**

While in Lagenbruck, Mr. Welz met Marie A. Jenny who he married in New York in 1910.

In 1915 Mr. Welz homesteaded a 160 acre second located at the current location of the Brookforest Inn. Ms. Welz and her sister moved into a home thirty-three miles from Denver on a Pioneer wagon trail.



**The front of the Inn in the early days**

Mr. Welz built one cabin at first and he rented it to three people during the summer months.



**Guests of the Inn being served a meal**

On November 10, 1921 Mr. Welz was given the title of Postmaster for the new Post Office of Brookforest, Colorado.

In 1999 Alice Stinson passed on the story that her grandparents used to live next to the Welz' when they lived in the 2500 block of Marion Street in Denver. They had met Mr. Welz when he had been a chef at Bauer's restaurant and bakery in Denver. Soon after Mr. Welz had sent for his wife and that they would live on the homesteaded property for about six months of the year. With Mr. Welz working at Bauer's during the week and joining his wife on the week-ends. In 1929 Alice needed a summer job, so she contacted the Welz' and hired her (at age 19) as well as her brother who was sixteen. She worked there for four years. "I remember both Mr. & Mrs. Welz, as firm and exacting, but kind and fair to their staff. We called Mrs. Wels "Ma" but we always addressed her husband as Mr. I remember once being reprimanded for not dusting a room thoroughly. Mr. Welz would run his finger over the top of the door frame and found dust. Mrs. Welz was especially kind to my brother, Grafton because he reminded her of her son, who would have been about the same age as her son if he had lived. The staff always ate first, and

were expected to entertain the guests if necessary. For example, if they needed a fourth bridge partner, or a tennis partner we filled in. I have wonderful memories of occasional evenings when guests and staff would ride horses into Evergreen, attend a dance or movie and the ride back in the moonlight and arrive home at midnight or later". Mr. Welz was also very protective of his staff. There was a new chef one summer who was perhaps 40-45. He had asked me for a date several times but I had refused. One day I was crossing over the bridge at the brook when he blocked my path and refused to let me pass unless I agreed to a date with him. That afternoon Mr. Welz called me into his office. He had apparently observed us on the bridge. "Alice" he said, you don't like the new chef?" I didn't dislike him but I didn't want to date him. "I see", Mr. Welz said. The chef was on the bus back to Denver the next day. During the Christmas holidays Mr. & Mrs. Welz would invite the staff to spend a few days at the Inn as guests, with Mr. Welz cooking- I remember a wonderful roast goose one year. He also enjoyed playing chess with them. Mrs. Welz niece Lina Welz, had come from Salzburg, Austria and worked with us as the salad and pastry chef. She was young, in her early twenties. She had a beautiful singing voice. She taught us Austrian folk songs and Yodels. Most of the guests came from St. Louis or Kansas City. I remember Mrs. Fred Harvey (her husband owned the Harvey House along the Santa Fe Railroad lines) spent a week there, and one summer she was sitting for a portrait at the time and I was assigned as her personal maid for the entire time that she was at the Inn. Another guest who came there often was a Colonel Chevalier. He was a very gentlemanly fellow, who brought a five-pound box of candy which he left in his room for the chambermaids. We were invited to eat as much as we wished as long as we would leave the box there. Sundays were always a special day at the Brookforest. The waitresses wore Swiss costumes that day and the meal was always fried chicken. Many people would drive up from Denver for dinner on Sunday.



**A room that included a fireplace**

We were also contacted by Larry about his experiences at the Inn. Larry worked at the Brookforest Inn in the late 1960s for about three years. He had relatives that worked there as well. Larry heard stories of Carl and to his knowledge, Carl had lived in what they called room number one at the time. The story at the time was that Carl had died of a heart attack in his room. Larry and several people that he worked with saw Carl. The most notable time was when Larry and the Manager of the Inn were on their way into the kitchen, and noticed a man standing near the coffee bar. When they asked him if they could help him with something, he replied "That's ok... I'm not here" and then he walked out of the kitchen. He says that every time someone encountered Carl they would never see his face. He was described as; around five foot nine inches tall, medium build with black hair wearing a gray suit. Larry said that while he was working on the third floor that was not being used for anything but storage, he would hear people walking around. Everyone that worked at the Inn heard these sounds coming from the third floor at night. There were also reports of guests going to Carl's room and having "odd" things happen to them. The guests reported that doors would open and close by themselves, and if a pitcher of water was left in the room, it would be partially empty when the guests would return to the room. Larry is so connected to the Inn that he returned there thirty years after he worked there so he could propose to his fiancé.



**The side of the Inn and the lake that was near it**

Mr. Welz wanted to make an Alpine village of his own in the Colorado mountains. When he was finished, the property had nine chalets, a Castle tower made of quartz rock, and the main Inn, which had bedrooms and bathrooms to accommodate up to 100 people.



**The brook and house behind the Inn**

Mr. Welz approached the U.S. Forest Service to put a trail to a waterfall that was on public land. This trail was built and now leads to a height of 14,260 feet on the top of Mt. Evans.

Over the years we have had the opportunity to talk to people who worked at the Brookforest, and they have passed on some amazing memories.



**The dining room 2017**

The Welz sold the Inn in 1945 and moved to Denver. Mr. Welz died in 1955. Ms. Welz passed away at the Davis nursing home and convalescent center at 1440 Vine St. after a long illness. She was cremated and her Niece, Mrs. Karoline Munz scattered her ashes near the Inn.



**A view of the original building**



**The old entrance to the Brookforest community**

Following the ownership of the Inn by Mr. Welz, the Inn has had several different owners. Some of the owners have been:

Katherine Nelson 06-21-1975

Frank and Marilyn Weiss 03-16-1987

Mary Ann Gallagher (who inherited the Inn from Frank and Marilyn)

Alvin L. Nelson & William R. Hall 12/15/1995

Merle A. Berry 01/14/1996

Acrew LLC (a Microsoft certification school) 09-09-1999

Betty Attencio & Rubel Attencio 01/02/2004

Jon & Melissa Barton 09/09/2010

The Brookforest has been a Motel, Lounge, Bar, Computer School, Concert venue.



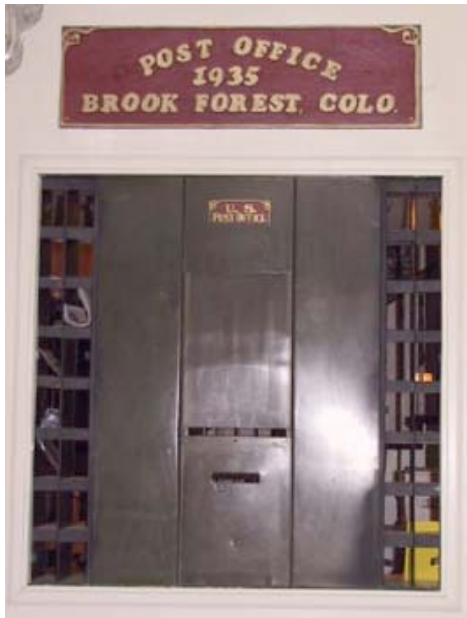


**A home located by the Inn**

Paranormal activity has been reported at the location by owners and guests. Most of the stories have been passed on from one owner to the next or published in the local newspaper. The young who died of influenza on the third floor is said to roam the floor knocking on doors and running up and down the halls.



One of the most common ghost stories is that of Carl. Depending on the source of the story, Carl was an employee of the Inn, a Stable hand from the Livery or the boyfriend/fiancé of one of the chambermaids at the Inn. The legend says that Carl was so distraught by his breakup with his girlfriend/fiancé that he killed himself. There are many different places that Carl is rumored to have taken his life. The first of the locations is in his room, where he hanged himself. Another location where Carl is said to have killed himself is the small house that is next to the Inn. The last location where the suicide was at the Livery Stable by hanging himself. There are many stories of seeing Carl throughout the Inn.



A full apparition has been seen outside the Monte Carlo II suite (old name) on and near the balcony.



The bar in the early 2000's



Brook Forest Staff 1929  
Alice Woodard (3rd from left)  
Grafton Woodard (2nd from right)  
*The Brook Forest Staff from 1929*

Neighbors have seen people walking around in the building when it was vacant.

Guests have complained about the "smell of rotting flesh" on the second floor.



**Our base location in the Welz' sons room**

A previous owner was inspecting the Inn and while she was walking up the main staircase, her son moved to the side of the stairs for no reason. When she asked him what he was doing, he said that he was moving out of the way of the "little boy". His mother saw nobody else on the stairs.

The story of the young boy who died at the location is a true event, based on the son of the original owner Mr. Welz. Edwin Jr. died at the Inn on March 25, 1922 of pneumonia. He is buried at Crown Hill Cemetery.



**Hall on the second floor**

The current Brookforest Inn has nineteen bedrooms, seventeen baths, Dining rooms, a full kitchen, and a Caretakers quarters. It is on 2.5 acres and features a combination of electric and forced air heating.

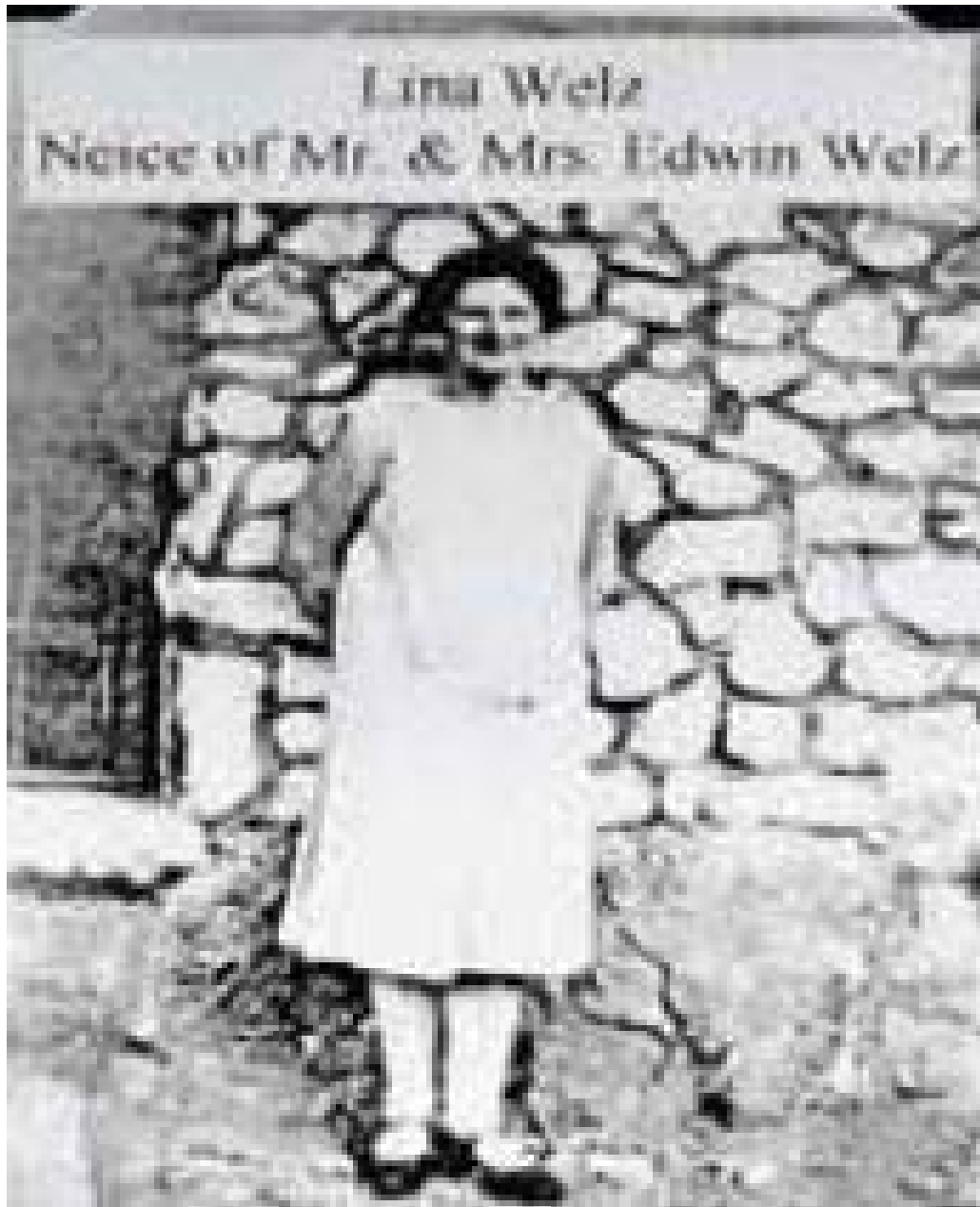
Behind the main building is a small house that has been used as storage as well as a home for several caretakers.

There are many local (very unconfirmed) legends attached to the Inn;



**Carl's old room**

Locals tell a story of how the Inn was used by German Spies posing as bicycling tourists that were actually crossing the country making maps for Germany.



Stories have been told about how the Inn was a German run internment camp that was used to hold U.S. prisoners of war. This and a story of “Nazi gold” being buried on the property were “confirmed” by the swastikas that were discovered on the walls of the building. It was later discovered that they were actually Native American symbols and not swastikas.



The Inn has had its share of Ghost-hunters over the years. One of the investigators that went to the location was reported by the Canyon Courier (local paper) was reported to have “entered with all of the sophisticated ghost detecting equipment of the day. Shortly after he set it up, he exited very quickly without looking back or coming back. The company had to send someone else to pick up his equipment. Their employee would not come near the place”.

One rumor is that during one of our investigations “one of the team members killed himself because of the hauntings”.



**Classroom when the Inn was a Computer School**

A psychic that was brought in for a television show claimed that the ghosts at the Inn were actually past employees that were upset with their treatment while they worked at the Inn.





**Main stairs**

**Investigations:**

We conducted investigations at the Brookforest Inn for over 8 years. When we were first contacted by the owners, the location was a Microsoft certification School. This meant that the Inn would be full of students, teachers and staff for six weeks and then empty for months, with only a caretaker to manage the property. This allowed us a unique opportunity to have a reportedly haunted location that was completely under our control. We continued our relationship with the Inn and its owners until the current owners purchased the Inn.

ment at Riverside  
WELZ—Edwin H. Welz, March 25, 1922,  
at Brook Forest, near Evergreen, Colo. Age  
10 years; beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed-  
win F. Welz. Services at 11:30 o'clock  
Monday morning, March 27, from the Olinger  
chapel. Interment at Crown Hill.  
WILLIAMS—Thomas S. Williams, March  
24, 1922.

Sunday with Mrs. Levonia.  
Edwin Welz, only son of Mr. and  
Mrs. Welz, of Brook Forest, passed  
away at his home Saturday morn-  
ing, pneumonia being the cause.  
Mr. and Mrs. Welz have the sym-  
pathy of all their friends.  
Mrs. Bubenzer spent last week in

Obit for Edwin Jr dated 3/25/1922

#### Areas monitored:

The following locations were monitored at various time during or ongoing investigations at the Inn.

- The Bar
- Breakfast dining area
- Dining room
- All rooms on the second floor
- Corner room on the third floor
- Storage room on the third floor
- Main staircase
- Second floor hallways
- Third floor hallways
- Balconies
- Kitchen
- Main entrance



**Symbols in original design of Inn**

Unusual happenings at the Inn:



**Entrance to the Inn**

At an investigation that we had selected the room on the third floor that is rumored to be the bedroom that Mr. Welz' son died in as our base location, we were all locked down in the room and the caretaker had gone to town while we were at the location. Around 2:30 in the morning we heard the sound of what appeared to be a large group of people entering the main door and hanging out in the bar. We figured that the caretaker had returned and brought the rest of the people at the bar he went to back home with him to continue the drinking. Two of us decided to go down and talk to him about this, and let him know that we needed the place to be quiet and empty for our purposes. When we got to the bottom of the stairs, the sound stopped. We entered the main entrance / bar area and there was nobody there. We went outside and the snow what was in front of the main door had not been disturbed. We checked out the caretakers "apartment" and he was not there. We noticed that his car was not in the space allocated for him. We went back to the base location and the people who had remained in the room asked what had happened, they were listening to the sounds up until the time that we had come back into the room.



**View down main stairs**

One evening Baxter wanted to rest, so we sent him to the room that Carl supposedly murdered the woman in. After about an hour of him sleeping he started making noises and whimpering. He eventually woke up and claimed that the sounds of the heavy breathing that we heard coming from the room that we thought was him, were “right in front of my face”.



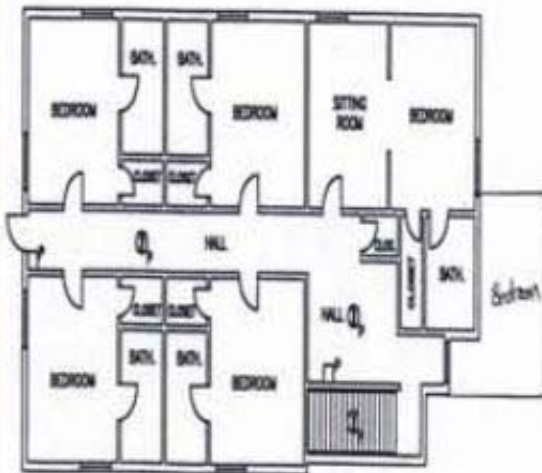
**Building next to Inn**

One investigation we had set up our base location in the second floor hallway and were sitting in/near the entrance to the room that Carl is rumored to have killed himself. After several hours of quiet, we noticed that the ceiling fan in Carl's room was spinning. This was odd because the fan had been turned off several hours before. We verified that the fan was turned off and then brought the fan up to full speed to see how long it would take for it to stop spinning. The fan stopped completely about a minute after turning it off.

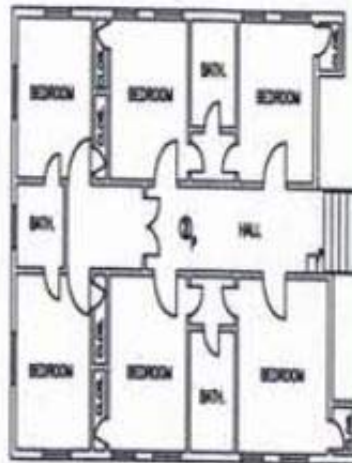


**Livery Stable where Carl is rumored to have killed himself**

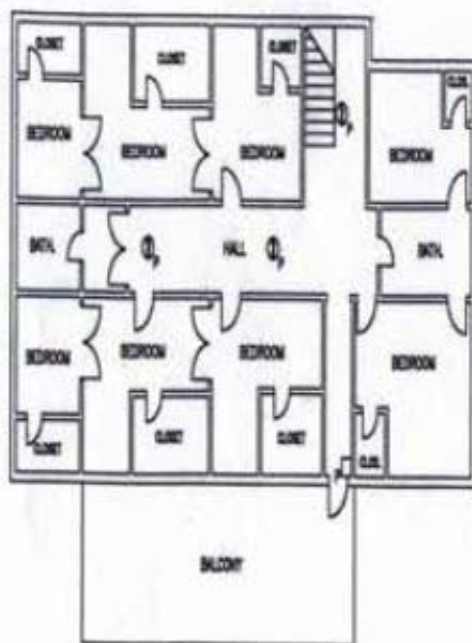




2ND FLOOR SOUTH WING  
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



2ND FLOOR MAIN PLAN  
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



3RD FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"