

Happy 2009!

2008 was a year full of changes some positive, the Johnson's coming back in to manage the motel, and some not so positive, the unstable economy, but we have made it through another year and are looking forward to an exciting 12 months ahead.

The next couple of months are normally pretty slow here so if you need a little r & r Gatlinburg is the perfect place to be. Even though there aren't as many people here in January, most of the shops and amusements including Ripley's Aquarium <http://www.ripleysaquariumofthesmokies.com/> are open during the day. Of course there is always Ober Gatlinburg for those of you who enjoy winter sports. Check out their web site at <http://www.obergatlinburg.com/> for what all Ober offers. And because of the laws of supply and demand- our rates are very affordable in January- only \$44.95+tax per night for a standard room or \$109.95+ tax per night for a condo excluding the Martin Luther King holiday weekend.

For our snippet of history of Johnson's Inn, a little about the ladies who started the motel. I have always thought that it was admirable that two women would start their own business in the 1940's but living in the foothills of the Smokies was bound to make you tough. Hettie Ownby Johnson and Lura Ownby Porter's father was killed in 1912 in a logging accident at Elkmont when the girls were still very young. Since there was no insurance or social security at that time they along with their mother Cora had to move back in with their maternal grandparents, Harvey and Sarah Oakley. The Oakley's lived in the Twin Creeks area off the Roaring Fork Motor Nature trail. I've been told that Grandfather Oakley was not the most pleasant man to live with and as soon as Cora was able she and the girls moved into Gatlinburg to live and work at the Mountain View Hotel. All three of them worked at the Mountain View Hotel and Lura worked for a few years as a weaver for the Arrowcraft shop. The women would buy up parcels of property where the motel is now located as they could afford it. When Hettie and Lee Johnson were married the best present that they received was a milk cow from Hettie's Grandfather Ownby. My favorite story about Hettie is from during the early years of the motel. The area across the street where Jack Huff's is now located housed a barn with some chickens and a rooster. Some of the guest complained about the rooster waking them up so early in the morning. Hettie said that she would take care of it and the next morning that rooster went cock-a doodle- awwwww. Hettie rung its neck and served it for dinner!

I sincerely hope that each of you have a wonderful new year and that you will be able to come stay with us again soon.



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