

THE NORTH BEACH

A whole new experience at Iron Springs

BY ANGELO BRUSCAS
The Daily World

COPALIS BEACH — Despite its wear and tear over the years, Doug True has maintained a long and lasting love affair with the Iron Springs Resort and its view cabins that look out on the majestic Pacific below.

"I just think it's such beautiful property," True said with reverence, surveying the scene beyond the new deck before him where the resort meets the ocean.



Doug True

True is president of Gull Industries, a Seattle-based private company that started as an oil company with numerous gas stations in the region and now has transitioned into commercial real estate holdings, mostly in the Puget Sound area.

When he heard the resort was on the market last year, True decided it was time to jump headfirst into the resort business, too, making a multimillion-dollar investment with his heart for what he describes as the experience of a lifetime on the Washington coast.

He said he first started going to Iron Springs with his family in the 1970s.

"And then I got married in the early 1980s and we started going back with the kids up until the late '90s," he recalled of his many trips to the resort. "But after that, the cabins got pretty run down. Then we noticed the place was for sale, and so we took a run at it."

designs were provided by Robert Arnesan of Seattle. New wood-carved signs adorn the resort, and those were all designed by local carver David Thompson, who works out of the Etue Woodcarving studio on State Route 109.

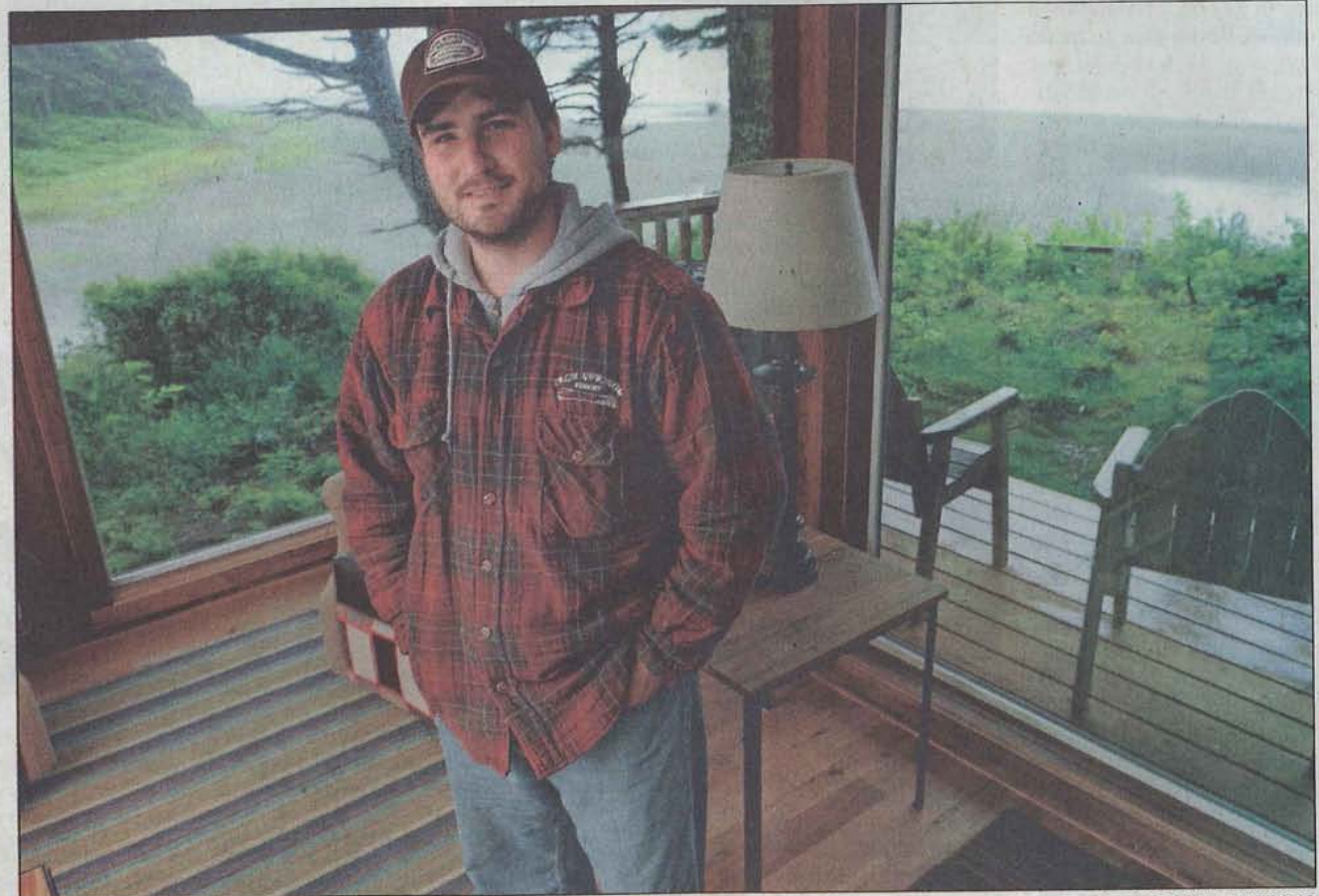
The True family also had to install a new septic and water facility because some of the cabins lacked decent water pressure and some would lose water altogether.

"Probably the lower cabins, which were the oldest and in the worst shape, had more extensive remodels than the upper cabins that had been built in the '70s," Doug True said. "But all of the upper cabins also have everything new inside. We just didn't have to do as much foundation work up there and things like that."

Dustin True said the approach was to renovate everything while keeping the old charm intact.

"It became 25 single projects that morphed into one huge project," he said.

Some of the wood from the old cabins was used in the reconstructed ones, and trees that had to be cut down were made into benches or used for other features. Only two fireplaces had to be taken down, so most of the cabins have been remodeled around the ones



Dustin True stands in one of the newly remodeled cabins at the Iron Springs Resort in Copalis Beach. True has managed the resort's upgrade for his family.



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"I think our experience is a lot different than Seabrook's, but there's something for everybody up here."

After a year of closure for the renovations, Iron Springs once again began to welcome guests on June 30. Doug True said the resort is "substantially booked" through July, with plenty of openings in August and September.

"We're just trying to get the word out right now, and most of the people who have already booked

down the "lodge" because it wasn't salvageable)," said one reviewer on the Website yelp.com. "But my, oh my, it's worth it!"

"Each cabin now has a beautiful, fully stocked and nicely sized kitchen with granite countertops and dishwashers. Each bathroom (also with granite countertops) has been totally remodeled, some with double-showers. Brand new interiors, flooring, carpets, furniture ... the list goes on. And the beds! No longer do you wake up with a backache, feeling like you slept on the floor. Now, it's like sleeping on a cloud."

Another yelp.com re-

