Cody and Susie Docheff moved to the Williams Fork Valley in 1967 with three young children when they purchased the Pickering Ranch, aka the Curtis Place, aka Brinker Creek Ranch.

It was the fulfillment of a promise that Metro, better known in Grand County as Cody, made to Susie to move to the mountains from the dairy farm that Cody’s family owned. That farm was located near the intersection of 120th Avenue and Sheridan Boulevard in Broomfield. Today, at the approximate location of where the dairy farm stood is the Broomfield Plaza.

The introduction to ranching in the high country wasn’t an easy transition for the Docheff family. The cattle they brought from the Broomfield farm were Holsteins, a move that was met with raised eyebrows and skepticism from local ranchers.

The Grand County Historical Association Journal, *What’s up on the Williams Fork River?* notes that Metro Docheff purchased the ranch in 1967 and 1968 with a business partner, John Metzger. They sold the ranch in 1975 to Chuck and Penny Lewis. The publication also notes that Metro Docheff share cropped with the Knapps on the Company Ranch, also in the Williams Fork Valley, to raise dryland wheat.

Although ranching didn’t work out for the Docheff family, Bert Williams, an engineer who was also an acquaintance of the Docheffs, noted the quality of the gravel on land owned by the Docheffs and encouraged them to start a concrete batch plant. The first year was less than fruitful, as Susie and Cody found they were underpricing their product. A cement salesman lent his expertise and advice and the Docheffs were off and running.

In 1971 they were able to purchase the Redi-Mix batch plant in Granby, as well as five mixer trucks, all owned by Gus Harris. Utilizing gravel pits in the Williams Fork Valley and Granby, the Docheffs built a concrete business named Mountain Park Concrete that provided many, many, many yards of concrete to a developing county. Harris became a trusted and versatile friend and employee, working with the Docheffs until the batch plant closed in 2019.

Concrete from Mountain Park Concrete underpins and supports buildings at both school districts in Grand County, buildings at the Berthoud Pass, Winter Park, and SilverCreek ski areas, the Grand County Judicial Center, and multitudes of footers, foundations, concrete floors, and sidewalks for houses and commercial buildings.

As an illustration of the time frame in which Mountain Park Concrete has been in business, the Hwy 40 bridge at the west end of Byers Canyon is nearing its 50th birthday. On the other end of the time spectrum, the company received kudos for the concrete utilized as part of the construction five years ago for the Highway 9 wildlife fence and overpass project. Under the strict guidelines of the state engineer and highway department, Mountain Park Concrete didn’t have a single load of concrete fail the stringent inspections for the Highway 9 project.

Though the batch plant is closed, the Docheffs continue to sell gravel products and concrete barriers from the Granby location.

Susie and Cody fell in love at a 4-H square dance. While growing up on the Front Range, Susie was involved in 4-H cooking and sewing projects, while Cody showed cattle at the Boulder County Fair.

When they moved to Grand County, it was only fitting their children would follow suit. The three children who moved from Broomfield - Cathy, Brenda, and Joe - were joined in the Docheff household by Frank and Charlie. In 1978, after they moved from the Pickering Ranch, Cody and Susie built their current home, which overlooks the Williams Fork Reservoir.

All five children graduated from West Grand High School, and all were heavily involved in 4-H, showing a variety of animals at the livestock events. Also involved in FFA, four of the five were presidents of the Kremmling FFA Chapter. Joe was also involved at the national level with FFA, an accomplishment that was only recently matched by a West Grand FFA student.

Cathy married Pat Acord and they live in the Granby area. Brenda was taken too soon by cancer while Joe and his wife Kittie, Frank and his wife Jodi, and Charlie and his wife Mari all live and work in west Grand County. In addition to their children, Cody and Susie immensely enjoy their 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

It is typical to describe Pioneers of the Year as providing the foundation for the growth of a community. With Susie and Cody, those words are not metaphorical, they are quite literal.

Thank you, Cody and Susie Docheff, for helping to build the county, for providing numerous jobs, for your support of agriculture, 4-H, FFA, the local school districts, as well as the Middle Park Fair and Rodeo. Your perseverance through early adversity was remarkable. Your work ethic was instilled in your family, and your legacy will last for generations.