

Record Courier 1/17/93

HIV-positive woman to speak here

A grade-A student, head cheerleader, gymnast, homecoming queen, she's young and beautiful. A likely person to be HIV-positive?

Most people wouldn't think so, but she is.

Lisa Tiger of Creek-Seminole-Cherokee ancestry will talk about her struggle with being HIV positive at Woodfords Community Center and at Dresslerville next week. The public, and especially young people and their parents, are invited.

"Because of her," says child abuse and neglect prevention coordinator Barbara Bennett of the Woodfords Community Council, "People [can] be aware that it can happen to anyone."

"She's just what you would want your daughter to be," Bennett added. "Who would suspect that she would have HIV?"

Tiger, 27, a resident of Muskogee, Okla., has already made presentations in her home state and other western states in an attempt to make young people aware of how vulnerable they are to the threat of AIDS.

People who are HIV-positive usually come down with the fatal Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, and it is felt that women are now especially threatened by the virus.

Bennett heard Tiger at the Tule River Indian Teen Women's Health Fair in Porterville, Calif., in December, and invited her to this area. The Woodfords and Dresslerville presentations are sponsored by Alpine County AB 1733, in conjunction with the Woodfords Washoe Community Council, Washoe Tribe Indian Child Welfare Agency and Washoe Tribe Community Health Representative.

The Woodfords presentation will be part of a Jan. 28 afternoon of training sessions also featuring Frank Joe, Alberta Becenti, Karen Fairbanks and Dr. Rick Botto of Alpine County. The presentations begin at 3 p.m. with a free com-

munity dinner at 6 p.m. and Lisa Tiger at 7 p.m.

The Dresslerville presentation begins with a free community dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the Dresslerville gym. The public is welcome to both.

Tiger discovered she was HIV positive July 5, 1992. She believes she contracted it from a boyfriend that she suspects had had a homosexual relationship.

When she learned of the diagnosis, she went into shock. Tiger says that since then she has tried to make a negative situation into a positive one.

"I really think I can get through to a lot of people," she told a reporter for The Phoenix newspaper in Muskogee in July.

"I'm ready for any reaction I might get, but hopefully everybody will pull together and work

hard on prevention, and work toward new medicines."

Asked if she thinks young people take AIDS into consideration when engaging in a relationship, she said, "No, I don't think so, but I'm going to make sure that they do. This is not funny anymore. We're not playing anymore. This is a life or death situation."

Tiger added that she feels strongly that men should use condoms, and that women have to demand it.

In her presentation, she tells her story and says that she hopes young people will "learn from my experiences and my mistakes. Hopefully, I can get through to them."

For more information about Lisa Tiger's presentation, call Bennett at (916) 694-2964 or 694-2170.

Utility also eyes Alpine

By BRIAN TAYLOR *Tahoe Tribune*
Tribune Staff Writer 1-17-93

Despite the multicounty agency status won in court last week, South Tahoe Public Utility District officials said Friday they still will consult Alpine County officials this week on plans to annex lands there.

The item will be on the Alpine Board of Supervisors' agenda when it meets Tuesday morning.

District officials have laid claim to the headwaters of the Upper Truckee River saying the entire watershed is central to their service area. They also hope that the remote area, including a small portion of Alpine County, will reinforce the district's multicounty status, which would exempt it from property tax losses.

Please see **UTILITY**, Page 8A

Utility

Continued from Page 1A

Estimates of the revenues at risk vary because of a complex formula and will ultimately be determined by the state. However, the difference for STPUD's sewer operations could be at least \$675,000, according to district Finance Officer Rhonda McFarlane and could exceed \$907,000.

STPUD's 1992-'93 sewer budget is approximately \$10.2 million.

Sacramento County Superior Court Judge James Ford on Thursday ordered El Dorado County Auditor/Controller Larry Klaus to include STPUD on his list of multicounty agencies.

Contacted Friday, Klaus accepted the judge's ruling. He said he complied in the list he submitted to the state controller's office by the deadline that day.

"My point (in resisting STPUD

requests for multicounty recognition) was that they were not on the list I've gotten from the Department of Equalization and they don't have any property in any county but El Dorado County that's in their district," Klaus said.

"I didn't really see (a multicounty designation) as anything that I had the power to grant" until the judge directed him to, the auditor/controller continued. "I don't want to see any county (district's) money going to the state. We need every dollar we can get."

However, Klaus also expressed pessimism that the Sacramento County judge's ruling would withstand state review. Certification of the county lists is expected in 30 days.

"I still think the state is going to say they're not a multicounty agency," Klaus said. STPUD assistant legal counsel Bill Cherry already had acknowledged that risk.

Klaus said there are dozens of

special enterprise districts in the county that are subject to the property tax shift. Of them, only 10 or so qualify for the multicounty exemption.

On a related matter, Klaus reported the El Dorado County Water Agency stands to lose \$88,000 to the revenue shift.

The water agency is almost wholly dependent on property taxes for its \$802,000 budget. However, Klaus noted provisions of the legislation that prevent the district from losing all of its funding.

The state expects to raise \$375 million for schools through the tax shift, but the legislation limits the loss incurred by any district. Klaus said the law sets those limits at either 10 percent of all district revenues reported in the 1989-'90 fiscal year or 35 percent of 1991-'92 revenues.

The lists Klaus and California's other 57 county auditors submitted to the state Friday will help the state

controller determine whether that formula will raise the projected amount.

"If it comes to less than \$375 million, then they're going to come back to us and have us revise the numbers," Klaus said.

And STPUD Customer Service Manager Diane Noble cautioned that her district's property taxes may not survive the current round of state budget deliberations, whatever fate may befall the court decision on the 1992-'93 revenues.

Gov. Pete Wilson already has proposed ending property tax payments to special enterprise districts to help close the \$9.5 billion shortfall projected in the 1993-'94 budget. That spending plan is supposed to be adopted by June 1.

"This year really doesn't say anything about next year," Noble said. "We're still threatened by the \$2.8 million (STPUD's total property tax allotment) that they're talking about in Sacramento already."

Status

Continued from Page 1A

by Klaus said.

Lake Valley's budget won't actually lose the \$107,000 at risk until the revenue shift occurs in June. Until then, it is being collected and will remain in a county-administered account in Placerville.

Still, Ceko said the Lake Valley board already has charged the loss against its depreciation fund for equipment replacement and the benefits the volunteer district provides for paid personnel.

"The next hit is going to cause us to actually shut the doors," Ceko warned. He referred to Gov. Pete Wilson's proposal to end property tax

'The Legislature doesn't want to raise taxes, so they're putting it on local governments to raise taxes for them.'

—John Ceko
Lake Valley fire chief

support for most special districts.

Wilson opposed many of the revenue shifts that helped close this fiscal year's \$7 billion state shortfall. But his 1993-'94 budget proposal al-

ready sacrifices the remainder of most districts' property taxes to schools.

Wilson reasons that the districts have the power to raise their own revenues through service charges, parcel fees or other means. Legislators introduced that reasoning last year and so already are inclined to accept it this year.

"The Legislature doesn't want to raise taxes, so they're putting it on local governments to raise taxes for them," Ceko charged. The result, for those served by affected fire districts, will be "skyrocketing rates" for fire insurance "or no fire insurance at all," Ceko said. He added that real estate values would plummet without fire insurance.

"It's a house of cards that they're fooling with," the fire chief warned.

Fire district seeks multicounty status



Ceko

*Tahoe Tribune 1-17-93
Lake Valley board votes to annex land in Alpine*

BY BRIAN TAYLOR
Tribune Staff Writer

Lake Valley Fire Protection District Chief John Ceko is watching closely the South Tahoe Public Utility District's maneuvers to attain multicounty status.

STPUD achieved that designation Friday by a Sacramento County Superior Court judge's order. If accepted without challenge by the California Controller's Office, the ruling will save the district as much as \$906,000 in property tax revenues that otherwise would be sacrificed to schools.

The Lake Valley fire district also hopes to win recognition as a multicounty agency, which would spare it a loss of \$107,000. Like STPUD, Lake Valley officials cite services provided to Alpine County as justification.

Special districts that serve more than one county are exempt from the property tax shift that helped close the state's budget gap last summer. The legislation shifted \$375 million from special districts to schools to underwrite the state's required level of support for education.

Lake Valley's board of directors voted unanimously last week to formally annex a portion of Alpine County, Ceko reported Friday.

The action concerns approximately 200 acres along State Route 89 where the district provides fire protection. Ceko said the resolution has been forwarded to El Dorado County's Local Agency Formation Commission for final approval.

LAFCO last month approved a similar annexation of Placer County land by the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District on El Dorado's northwest corner. That action saved the Georgetown utility as much as \$176,000, El Dorado Auditor/Controller Lar-

Please see STATUS, Page 8A

STPUD asks Alpine leaders for assistance

Utility seeks support for annexation of Alpine land

By JEFF DELONG
Tribune Staff Writer

As South Tahoe Public Utility District seeks a little friendly cooperation from Alpine County in its effort to protect precious dollars, it may find itself face to face with a public relations problem.

Representatives of South Shore's major water and sewer provider appeared before Alpine County leaders Tuesday and outlined plans through which they hope to cement "multicounty" status, which is needed to prevent diversion of property tax revenue to the state.

STPUD won the bulk of that battle last week when a Sacramento County Superior Court judge ruled the utility does provide services to both El Dorado and Alpine counties, thereby protecting up to \$1 million it would have lost under action taken by the Legislature last summer.

Through annexation of an as yet unspecified amount of Alpine County land at the headwaters of the Upper Truckee River and at Heavenly Ski Resort, STPUD

hopes to bolster its claim to multicounty status, utility attorney Bill Cherry explained to supervisors.

But while some Alpine supervisors appear supportive of the idea, others are not. They and other Alpine County officials and residents at Tuesday's meeting expressed concern the annexation might open the way for future land grabs by STPUD or other agencies such as the El Dorado Irrigation District.

And as Alpine County resident Warren Jeng pointed out, the utility initiates its annexation effort in the shadow of a history that has had STPUD exercise a heavy hand in its acquisition of Alpine land to store treated wastewater piped from South Shore over Luther Pass.

"We've had a lot of things forced down our throat by South Tahoe ... and it's left a bad taste in our mouths," Jeng said. "I think that's essentially what you're running up against. We've essentially been walked upon time and time again."

STPUD has yet to file an annexation with the El Dorado County Local Agency Formation Commission, which rules on boundary changes of all jurisdictions in

that county and would act as lead agency in the Alpine annexation. Cherry stressed that El Dorado officials want input from Alpine County's own LAFCO and said that while Alpine County might not be able to block the annexation, its support is desired.

The utility is one of two Tahoe special districts desiring annexation of Alpine County land to protect tax revenue. Lake Valley Fire Protection District also is seeking to annex land to help secure multicounty status. An update of that effort also was provided to supervisors Tuesday.

Cherry acknowledge STPUD is dealing with "sometimes rough history" with Alpine County in seeking its particular annexation.

"Like it or not we're connected together. We would like to get to a new era of cooperation here," Cherry said. "What we want to do is resolve any problems. We don't want this to be an adversarial situation."

The utility's attorney said that both the Upper Truckee River headwaters and Heavenly annexations would be of property owned by the Forest Service and would have no impact on Alpine's tax base. He stressed STPUD has no ulterior motives and merely seeks to protect tax revenue from diversion by the state.

"The motives here are pretty out front," Cherry said. "There's nothing that is hidden in this thing."

Opposition by Alpine, Cherry pointed out, could stretch out the four-month time frame by which STPUD hopes to have the annexation completed. The utility wants the process finished before the end of the fiscal year and before another likely budget crisis arrives in Sacramento.

"At the very least you can drag the procedure out," Cherry said. "You might even defeat it."

Whether Alpine is likely to protest the plan remains unclear. Supervisor Pete Blum said he is "100 percent against" the annexation, while Supervisor Cam Craik reserved an opinion but noted local residents are not likely to be pleased.

"The way STPUD is going about this is going to leave a bad taste in the citizenry over here," Craik said. "You guys are going to make a decision whether we like it or not. There is a section of the public that is going to be very irate."

Supervisor Eric Jung said he never has shared the suspicions of STPUD held by many Alpine residents, adding "it would be enough for me if we are not harmed by this."

Avalanche provides scare of a lifetime

Record Courier
by BRIAN MAFFLY 1/21/93
R-C News Service

Charlie Dobson had the scare of his life last week when an avalanche swept him up on California State Route 88 and buried him for more than 30 minutes.

The 30-year-old Markleeville man emerged from the avalanche unharmed, thanks to the quick action of California Department of Transportation worker who rushed to the scene.

"I feel great. I'm a little sore, but considering what happened I'm very lucky," said Dobson, who works summers as a firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service.

"I've been on a lot of fires, but I've never seen anything scarier than this," he said. "I had no control over what I could do. I couldn't move my arms or legs."

Caltrans crews quickly cleared

the slide that buried a 200-foot stretch of the road in 4 to 6 feet of snow just east of Carson Pass, but the road remained closed because of a continuing avalanche danger, according to Caltrans district superintendent Earl Williams.

On the night before the avalanche on State Route 88, the slope above the road had become unstable because of 8 inches of fresh snow and large drifts that had accumulated on the leeward side of the ridge above Carson Pass, according to the Alpine County Sheriff's Office.

Dobson was outside of his pickup truck, which had become stuck in the snow, when an avalanche pushed him 40 feet down the road and deposited him under 5 feet of snow, the sheriff's office reported.

"It swept me along like a wave and the next thing I know I was buried," Dobson said.

"I screamed for a while at first, but after that I don't remember much."

Caltrans crews responded to the scene after being notified by a colleague who witnessed the slide and searched out the victim with probes and shovels. "Those guys did a great job," Dobson said in praise of the workers' quick action that probably saved his life.

"The motorist was located and extricated approximately 35 minutes after he was buried by the avalanche," Assistant Sheriff Bob Tucker said. "Mr. Dobson was alert and conscious when uncovered, but was suffering from mild hypothermia and minor back pain."

Dobson was driving to work at Kirkwood Ski Resort when his truck became trapped in a small avalanche at 7:30 a.m., according to the sheriff's report.

Dobson and another driver were attempting to pull Dobson's truck free with a tow rope, when a Caltrans snowplow driver stopped to offer assistance.

As plow driver Dave Frame approached the two stranded motorists, the three were struck by a much larger avalanche that swallowed Dobson.

The other two men were able to dig themselves out and immediately began looking for Dobson after calling for help. Assisting in the search were four California Highway Patrol officers, two Alpine sheriff's deputies, Caltrans crews and a handful of private citizens.

Record
Courier
1/21/93

100 YEARS AGO
The Genoa Courier
Friday, Jan. 18, 1893

Remember when?

* **SAN FRANCISCO NEWS.** Willie Merrill of Woodfords is taking a general business course at Heald's College. He is studying type writing at odd times. Able Harris of Genoa is making excellent progress in this College and will likely remain there three months longer. Louis Springmeyer, son of Hon. H. Springmeyer, has just graduated from the general business course and is now taking a six months course in short hand and type writing.

Utility to file lawsuit

*But plans to pay
loan installment*

BY BRIAN TAYLOR
Tribune Staff Writer

The South Tahoe Public Utility District board of directors voted Thursday to pay the first installment of a \$350,000 loan from the El Dorado County Water Agency — and to challenge the constitutionality of the agency in court.

The decisions came at a board meeting that also featured sharp words about Alpine County concerning a separate monetary issue. The utility seeks to annex acreage in Alpine to its service area to bolster its claims to multicounty status, which could save the district at least \$675,000.

Concerning the loan, the five-member board voted unanimously to pay the \$175,000 that was due Jan. 1. The due date had been extended twice.

The utility borrowed the money in 1990 for an emergency search for a new water source to replace its "College Well." That well was the district's highest producer but

Please see LOAN, Page 7A

Loan

Continued from Page 1A

had been ordered off-line when it exceeded new uranium standards.

The Water Agency rejected requests last month and again this week for additional time for payment or for conversion of the loan to a grant. Utility officials originally had sought a grant instead of a loan and continue to contend the agency discriminated against them in requiring repayment.

By a 3-2 vote, the utility board also voted to take the agency to court. Chairman Lou Pierini joined members Mary Lou Mosbacher and Steve Onysko in the majority. Board members Duane Wallace and Bob Mason dissented.

"We're going to challenge the constitutionality of the legislation that created the Water Agency, and challenge the constitutionality of their disbursement of funds between 1987 and the present," utility legal counsel Dale Sare said this morning.

The agency has collected between \$900,000 and \$1 million in property taxes from the South Shore since 1987, when the agency decided to "pool resources to develop new water sources," Sare said.

Only \$48,000 of those funds have returned to the South Shore in grants. The rest was "collected and went to water exploration and development on the West Slope and was given in outright grants to the West Slope water purveyors," Sare charged.

The attorney noted the Tahoe Basin and West Slope are in entirely different watersheds. They have "no common problems or goals at all," making the diversion of property taxes to West Slope water projects improper.

During the meeting, board member Mary Lou Mosbacher tied the El Dorado loan to Alpine County's re-

action to STPUD's annexation bid.

The utility hopes to attach a small but undetermined amount of U.S. Forest Service acreage in Alpine County to its service area. No services would be provided to the remote, unpopulated area, but the annexation would extend the district's territory over all of the Upper Truckee River watershed, the source of STPUD groundwater.

Multicounty status will exempt the utility from a property tax shift engineered last year by the California Legislature. The move diverted portions of other local governments' tax revenues to schools but spared multicounty agencies.

El Dorado's Local Agency Formation Commission will rule on the annexation, but utility representatives attended an Alpine Board of Supervisors meeting earlier this week to enlist the panel's support.

"The first thing that came up was, what's in it for Alpine County? What's in it for us?" Mosbacher, who attended the meeting, informed the other utility board members.

STPUD owns several hundred acres in Alpine County, where it has built two reservoirs. One stores treated sewage effluent before the reclaimed water is parceled out to area farmers. The other one was formerly used for effluent, but STPUD now stocks it with fish for recreation.

"Everything but the hand was out there" at the meeting with Alpine officials, Mosbacher told her fellow board members.

"I personally wasn't interested in complying with blackmail," Mosbacher said. "We got kicked in the teeth. ... It's time to show that we have a backbone."

"I think you have consensus on that," said Chairman Lou Pierini.

The board adjourned to its closed session soon afterward, emerging three hours later with the vote to fight El Dorado County in court.

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Continued from Page 1A

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Utility to file lawsuit

Tahoe
Tribune
1/22/93

But plans to pay loan installment

By BRIAN TAYLOR
Tribune Staff Writer

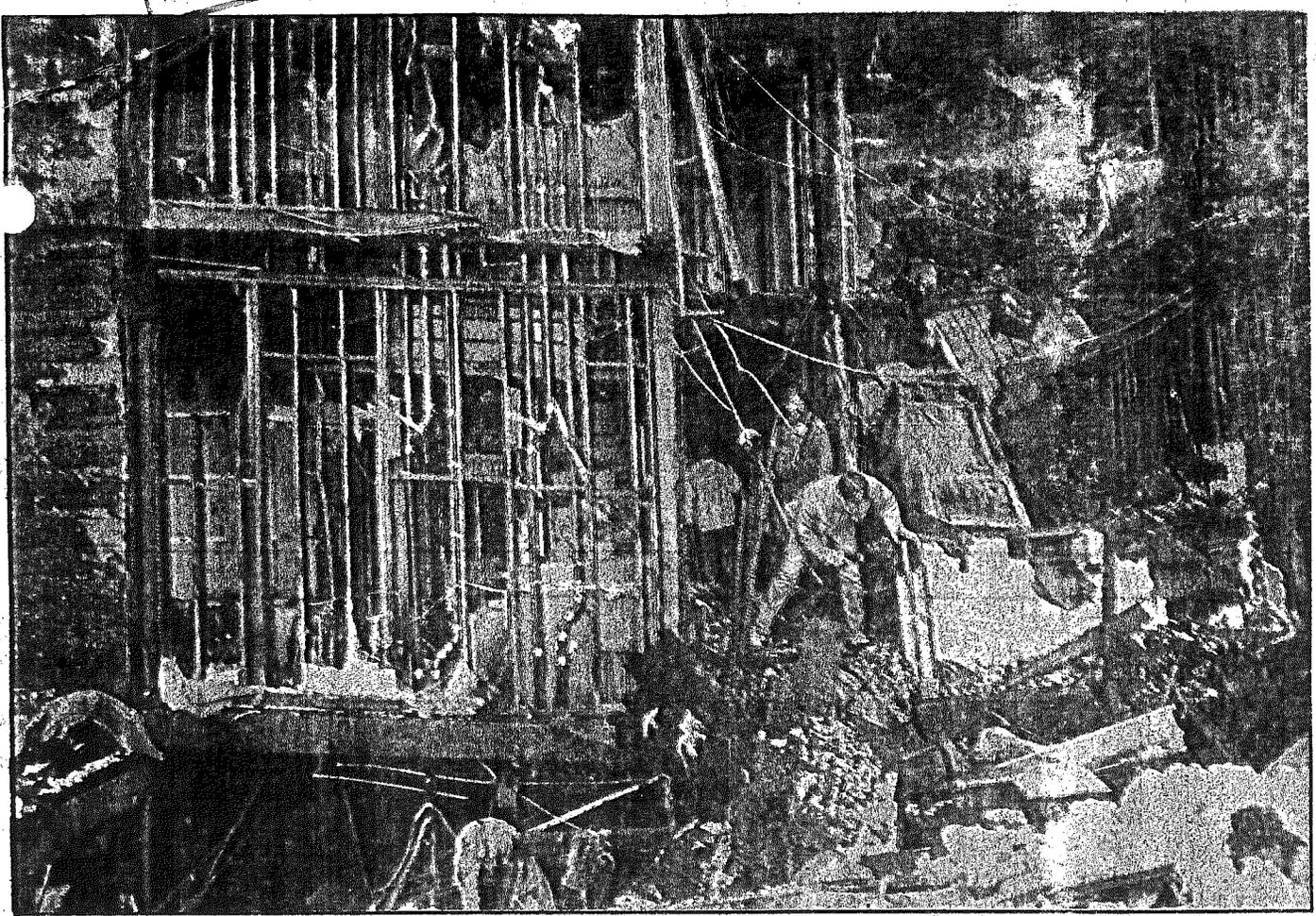
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DAN THRIFT/Tahoe Tribune

SEARCH: Alpine County Building Inspector Randy Gibson, right, with state Fire Marshal investigator Greg Smith behind him, checks the structural integrity of the Kirkwood condominiums during the search for fire victims Thursday.

Tahoe Tribune 1/22/93

Fire's aftermath brings grisly task

Risky structure limits search for victims

BY BRIAN MAFFLY
Tribune Staff Writer

Fire officials resumed their grim search today for two people reported missing and presumed dead at a Kirkwood Ski Resort condominium destroyed in a Wednesday afternoon propane blast.

Efforts to examine the Sun Meadows condominium building were stymied Thursday by continued harsh weather and an unsafe roof that threatened to collapse on investigators.

The fate of the missing 49-year old Napa Valley man and his 3-year-old daughter remained unconfirmed this morning as fire officials resumed a probe into the cause of an explosion and subsequent fire that ripped through the mostly vacant lux-

'It started blizzarding again and our rescuers were getting hypothermic, so we sent them home.'

— Henry "Skip" Veatch
Alpine County Sheriff

ury condos, injuring six people in what is believed to be the worst fire ever to strike the 20-year-old ski community near Carson Pass.

"It started blizzarding again and our rescuers were getting hypothermic, so we sent them home and they'll be back at 10

tomorrow morning," Alpine County Sheriff Henry "Skip" Veatch said Thursday afternoon.

The missing man's wife and two young sons, ages 6 and 9, reportedly sustained severe burns and are undergoing treatment in Sacramento area burn centers. Authorities are withholding the identities of the victims.

While fire officials are certain the blast is propane related, investigators from the California State Fire Marshal's Office were on the scene Thursday probing the ruined building to determine exactly how the devastating blaze started.

"At this point, it's consistent with a heavier-than-air gas explosion," Fire Mar-



DAN THRIFT/Tahoe Tribune

EXPLOSIVE: The force of the explosion spread debris 50 feet and more from the Sun Meadows II condominium at Kirkwood.

Fire

Continued from Page 1A

shel investigator Greg Smith said Thursday.

The fire is the latest in an epidemic of home-leveling propane disasters in the Tahoe area. Fire officials blame the blasts on ruptured outdoor propane lines caused by snowloading, which allows gas to escape and permeate into homes. The heavy gas settles in explosive concentrations in low areas.

Wednesday's explosion reportedly blew the first-floor wall off the rear of the building, shooting insulation and furniture out with it. The 2 p.m. blast triggered a blaze in two units, which quickly spread before firefighters could respond. The fire raged out of control for four hours before it was contained.

"We heard the big explosion and we saw the insulation fly out," said a Kirkwood visitor who was cross-country skiing in the resort's nearby East Meadow at the time of the blast. "A wall blew out along with a couch and then we heard a woman screaming that there were people in there."

A housekeeper in the building was on the phone reporting a propane smell to the reservations office when the explosion occurred, according to Kirkwood marketing director Greg Murtha. The housekeeper and two other resort employees who were checking out the suspected propane leak were injured in the blast.

Fire investigators were hampered by a section of partially intact roof that remained hanging three stories over what once were the living rooms of the units below. The missing people were believed to have been in the ground-floor unit most

affected by the blast, which was located directly under the precarious roof. The explosion caused the floor of this unit to fall into the basement, carrying the missing victims down with it.

"He was last seen standing on the floor with the child when it collapsed," Assistant Alpine Sheriff Bob Tucker said.

A county building inspector examined the charred part of the building and determined that it was too weakened by the fire to safely probe for possible victims and clues.

Workers pulled the overhanging roof down Thursday afternoon, Sheriff Veatch reported, but that move may have further destabilized the remaining structure, making it even more unsafe.

The ruined building, which housed 10 vacation rental units and four offices, is considered a total

loss, although the flames devastated only the rear half of the structure. The units were owned by individual private owners and are valued at between \$175,000 and \$250,000 each, according to Murtha.

The heat from the blaze ruined equipment belonging to Gem Technology Systems, a small computer firm that occupied one of the offices at the front of the building.

"It melted everything," Gem owner Ernest Reuter said. "It melted computers as if you took a blow torch to them."

Reuter was among the people to respond to the fire immediately after the explosion, but said "It was too hot to even get close."

The disaster interrupted water, phone and electric service to the Kirkwood area, but the ski resort expects to resume full operation by the weekend, Murtha said.

Reno Gazette Journal
1/22/93
**'It was like an
earthquake,'
witness says**

By Lisa Mielke
AS TOLD TO SEVIL OMER
GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Mielke, a resident of Santa Barbara, Calif., spent the week at Kirkwood Ski Resort. Mielke, a tenant in one of Kirkwood's luxury condominiums, watched in horror Wednesday as the neighboring complex exploded, leaving six people injured and two others missing.

It was snowing really hard that afternoon, so a lot of people were starting to call it a day and head into their condos.

I was sitting around comfortably in my long underwear watching the Presidential Inauguration. It was just an afternoon when everyone was inside, even the children.

There was nothing out of the ordinary. Everything was peaceful when I heard this incredibly loud explosion.

The next thing I knew, the roof flew off, the windows were blown out, glass was flying, and chairs were flying from the windows. Everything was thrown up into the air, and all we could do was watch it fall to the ground.

You didn't see the flames right away. We didn't know what was happening. It was unbelievable.

I finally got enough strength to throw on the first bit of clothing I could get my hands on, which was my ski outfit that I've worn straight for two days now.

It was like an earthquake. It was the most horrendous night I have ever had.

me dig for dad, daughter



■ **Trapped:**
Searchers comb ruins for 8 hours

■ **Burned:**
Wife, sons in UC hospital

By Sevil Omer
GAZETTE-JOURNAL

California firefighters today resume the search for a father and his 3-year-old daughter, believed trapped in the smoldering ruins of a condominium complex at Kirkwood Ski Resort.

Searchers called off their 8-hour effort at 5 p.m. Thursday at the Sun Meadows complex, where a propane gas leak caused an explosion Wednesday afternoon that ripped through one of the four three-story buildings 30 miles south of Lake Tahoe on Highway 88 near the Carson Pass.

The Napa Valley man's wife and two sons, ages 6 and 9, were burned in the five-alarm blaze Wednesday afternoon. The mother and boys remain in the University of California Davis Medical Center.

Three Kirkwood resort housekeepers, cleaning rooms in the 10-unit building, had rushed to help the screaming mother and two boys as they tried to escape from flames, Alpine County sheriff's deputies said.

Both boys suffered third- and second-degree burns to the face and body. The identity of the family is being withheld.

The 49-year-old father was in the living room during the blast, which caused the floor to collapse. Firefighters say the gas leaked from a pipe beneath the family's largest room. The daughter was in her bedroom, deputies said.

"We believe they are still in there," said Sheriff Skip Veatch.

Cause of the explosion is unknown. "Anything could have ignited it," Veatch said. "It could have been a telephone, a light switch, anything that makes a noise."

Sheriff deputies said the woman was calling the Kirkwood resort office to report a strong gas odor. Moments later, neighbors saw the structure turn into an inferno.

"It was harrowing. One minute there was nothing. Then, the next

Gruesome dig for dad

Kirkwood blast

From page 1A

Calif., who owns an adjacent condo.

"It was this terribly loud boom. It was incredibly devastating," said Gwen Cooper, another Kirkwood lodger.

Firefighters battled blizzard conditions and fatigue and exhaustion into their eighth hour of search and clean up.

"The structure is fragile and we're trying to make it as safe as possible to get in there," said Kirkwood Fire Chief Dave Meyers.

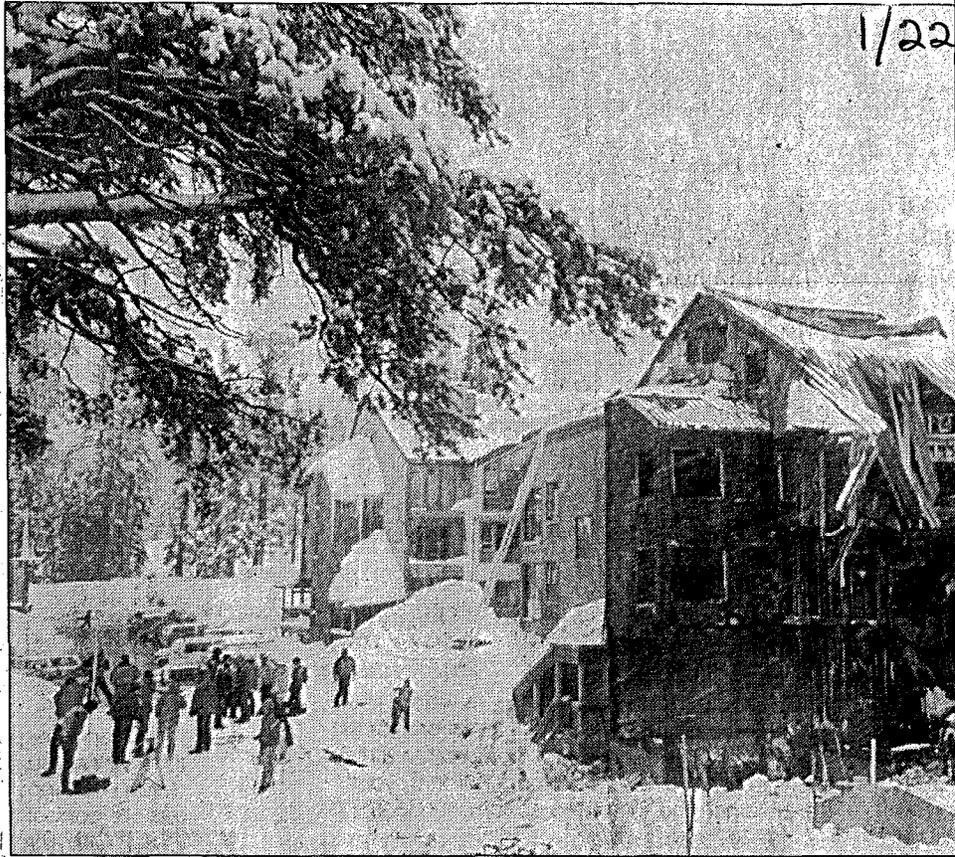
"The winds have been blowing, the snow has been blowing. The weather has not been helping us," Meyers said. "There's a lot more to do."

Charred wood and shards of glass were strewn about the once luxurious units, which cost about \$200,000.

"This is the worst fire Kirkwood has ever had," said Greg Murth, the ski resort's spokesman. "This is a tragedy."



1/22



RIPPED CONDOS: The Sun Meadows complex Thursday, a day after an explosion



INCINERATED: Greg Smith, California fire marshal inspector, **above**, collects evidence from propane pipes that enter the condo that exploded. The blaze incinerated each metal pipe. Pine County volunteer firefighter is seen through the blown-out window.



Don Marquis/Gazette-Journal

tore off one side.



r. At left, Joe Voss, Al-
efighter, glances out



Photos by Don Marquis/Gazette-Journal

SUN MEADOWS BLAST CHRONOLOGY

Wednesday

■ **2:15 p.m.:** A propane gas leak causes an explosion at the Sun Meadows condominiums. Three Kirkwood Ski Resort employees, a mother and her two young sons — are injured. Two others are reported missing.

■ **2:16 p.m.:** Kirkwood Fire Department arrives at the scene, calls Alpine County Sheriff Department for back up.

■ **2:26 p.m.:** Alpine County sheriff deputies arrive. Sheriff Skip Veatch calls five fire agencies to help fight the blaze.

■ **3 p.m.:** State Route 88 is closed by snow and Caltrans open the roadway for emergency vehicles. Firefighters from Douglas and Nevada counties, Woodford, Markleeville and Lake Valley join Kirkwood firefighters in attempts to control the blaze.

■ **3 p.m.:** Victims are taken to hospitals. Kirkwood employees are transported to Carson-Tahoe Hospital. The mother and two sons are taken to University of California Davis Medical Center.

■ **6 p.m.:** Fire is contained.

■ **10 p.m.:** The fire is brought under control.

Thursday

■ **9 a.m.:** States fire marshal investigates.

■ **1 p.m.:** Kirkwood firefighters search inside the burned structure but find no bodies.

■ **1:45 p.m.:** A police canine unit is called in to help find the two believed trapped inside the burned structure.

■ **5 p.m.:** Search is called off.

Today

■ **9 a.m.:** Search scheduled to resume.

KIRKWOOD BLAST

Searchers find bodies of father, daughter

Reno Gazette Journal
1/23/93

■ **Killed in explosion:** Two removed from wreckage.

By Sevil Omer
GAZETTE-JOURNAL

KIRKWOOD — Searchers Friday removed the bodies of a Napa Valley man and his 3-year-old daughter from the wreckage of a fire-ravaged condominium complex at Kirkwood Ski Resort.

The child and her father had been missing since an explosion and fire ripped through the 10-unit Sun Meadows Condominiums building Wednesday afternoon.

The child's body was found Friday afternoon. As night fell, searchers decided to call off the efforts at 7 p.m. But, a few remaining firefighters descended to the basement rubble and removed the man's body at 7:15 p.m.

The 49-year-old Napa Valley man was last seen standing with his daughter in the living room of the first-floor dwelling when it collapsed into the basement, said Alpine County Sheriff Skip Veatch.

The Napa Valley man's wife and two sons, ages 6 and 9, were hospitalized for treatment of burns at the University of California Davis Medical Center.

Officials have not released the names of the family members.

Firefighters believe a propane leak caused the explosion beneath the unit where the family had been staying since Monday. The fire ripped through nine other units in the three-story building.

Three Kirkwood resort housekeepers were injured in the explosion. They were treated at Carson Tahoe Hospital in Carson City and released. Three firefighters were treated for smoke inhalation at Barton Memorial Hospital in South Lake Tahoe.

Greg Murtha, Kirkwood's marketing manager, said the building would be razed and rebuilt.

Searchers find victims of fire and explosion at resort

By TIM WILLIS
Tahoe Daily Tribune
Tribune Staff Writer
1/24/93

Searchers on Friday found the bodies of a Napa County, Calif., man and his daughter in the basement of a Kirkwood Ski Resort condominium complex ravaged by an explosion and fire Wednesday.

The Alpine County Sheriff's Office, which had been withholding the names pending notification of next-of-kin,

issued a press release identifying the man as Roger Dickson, 49. The Associated Press, quoting friends of the family, identified the girl as Sarah, 3.

The Alpine Sheriff's Office declined to name Dickson's wife and two young sons, aged 6 and 9, all of whom were severely burned in the accident and were being treated in Sacramento-area burn units.

A deputy at the Sheriff's Office explained Saturday that all media inquires had to go through Assistant Sheriff

Robert Tucker, who along with Sheriff Skip Veatch could not be reached for comment.

Dickson and his daughter apparently were killed in the explosion and fire that destroyed the Sun Meadows II condominium complex.

The fire raged out of control for four hours before being contained. Search efforts were hampered by the weather

Please see VICTIMS, Page 8A

Victims

Continued from Page 1A

and the instability of the condominium complex's damaged structure. The complex contained 10 residential units and four offices.

Three resort employees also received injuries and were treated and released at a Carson City Hospital, while three firefighters had to be treated for smoke inhalation at Barton Memorial Hospital.

A search party of 23 people removed about 60 tons of rubble from the basement, where it was looking for the bodies. The crew included people from the California Conservation Corps, the California State Fire Marshal's Office, Kirkwood volunteer firemen and the Alpine County Sheriff's Office.

They found the girl's body at 3:15 p.m. Friday, the Sheriff's Office reported, and three people from the Fire Marshal's office discovered the father's body at about 5:15 p.m. Their remains were taken to McFarlane Mortuary in South Lake Tahoe and await examination by a pathologist.

Fire officials believe the explosion was propane-related, although the state Fire Marshall's Office is said to be continuing their investigation and could not be reached for comment.

Kirkwood plans to raze the building and rebuild it this summer, said Kirkwood Marketing Director Greg Murtha. The resort's electricity and heating was disrupted the day of the fire. Kirkwood still has limited phone service because some equipment was located in the ruined condominium complex.

Meanwhile, the resort had its propane heating system, including every meter and regulator, thoroughly checked by a boiler and heating contractor, Murtha said.

Delores Ellis *Record Courier 1/24/93*
Delores Ellis, 58, a two-year resident of Markleeville, died Jan. 19 at Carson-Tahoe Hospital in Carson City.

Mrs. Ellis was born Nov. 11, 1934, to Willie and Pearl Benjamin Astor in Stewart.

She attended elementary school in Reno and graduated from high school at the Indian School in Phoenix, Ariz. She attended Baccone College in Oklahoma.

Her husband, Perial Ellis, died

in 1990. She previously resided in Phoenix and Stewart, and worked as a matron for the Stewart Indian School.

She was a member of the Washoe Tribe, and she enjoyed reading and knitting.

Survivors include sons Gregory Ellis of Markleeville, Geoff Ellis of Carson City and James Astor Jr. of Woodfords; brothers Lawrence Astor, Wilbur Astor and James Astor, all of Reno; and several nieces and nephews.

Cremation was held under the direction of FitzHenry's Funeral Home and Crematory of Carson City, with private inurnment to be held. Services were held yesterday at the Stewart Community Baptist Church, with a dinner for family and friends following at the Carson Colony gymnasium in Carson City.

Missing father and daughter found dead

by BRIAN MAFFLY *Record*
R-C News Service *Courier*
1/24/93

Fire officials found the corpses of a father and daughter who were reported missing and presumed dead at a Kirkwood Ski Resort condominium destroyed in a Wednesday afternoon propane blast.

The bodies of a 49-year-old Napa Valley man and his 3-year-old daughter were discovered Friday by rescuers who sifted through the wreckage.

"He was last seen standing on the floor with the child when it collapsed," Assistant Alpine Sheriff Bob Tucker said.

Fire officials resumed a probe into the cause of an explosion and subsequent fire that ripped through the mostly vacant luxury condos, injuring six people in what is believed to be the worst fire ever to strike the 20-year-old ski community near Carson Pass.

Efforts to examine the Sun Meadows condominium building were stymied Thursday by contin-

ued harsh weather and an unsafe roof that threatened to collapse on investigators.

"It started blizzarding again and our rescuers were getting hypothermic, so we sent them home and they'll be back at 10 tomorrow morning," Alpine County Sheriff Skip Veatch said Thursday afternoon.

The dead man's wife and two young sons, ages 6 and 9, reportedly sustained severe burns and are undergoing treatment in Sacramento area burn centers. Authorities are withholding the identities of the victims.

While fire officials are certain the blast is propane related, investigators from the California State Fire Marshal's Office were on the scene Thursday probing the ruined building to determine exactly how the devastating blaze started.

"At this point, it's consistent with a heavier-than-air gas explosion," Fire Marshal investigator Greg Smith said.

The fire is the latest in an epidemic of home-leveling propane

disasters in the Tahoe area. Fire officials blame the blasts on ruptured outdoor propane lines caused by snowloading, which allows gas to escape and permeate into homes. The heavy gas settles in explosive concentrations in low areas.

Wednesday's explosion reportedly blew the first-floor wall off the rear of the building, shooting insulation and furniture out with it. The 2 p.m. blast triggered a blaze in two units, which quickly spread before firefighters could respond. The fire raged out of control for four hours before it was contained.

"We heard the big explosion and we saw the insulation fly out," said a Kirkwood visitor who was cross-country skiing in the resort's nearby East Meadow at the time of the blast. "A wall blew out along with a couch and then we heard a woman screaming that there were people in there."

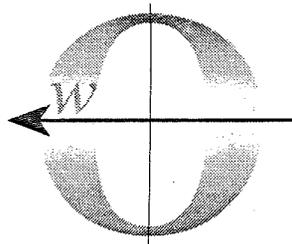
A housekeeper in the building was on the phone reporting a propane smell to the reservations office when the explosion oc-

curred, according to Kirkwood marketing director Greg Murtha. The housekeeper and two other resort employees who were checking out the suspected propane leak were injured in the blast.

Fire investigators were hampered by a section of partially intact roof that remained hanging three stories over what once were the living rooms of the units below. The explosion caused the floor of this unit to fall into the basement, carrying the missing victims down with it.

Workers pulled the overhanging roof down, Sheriff Veatch reported, but that move may have further destabilized the remaining structure, making it even more unsafe.

The ruined building, which housed 10 vacation rental units and four offices, is considered a total loss, although the flames devastated only the rear half of the structure. The units were owned by individual private owners and are valued at between \$175,000 and \$250,000 each, according to Murtha.



Carson Pass trails

Getting started

The level four-mile tour to Woods Lake is a good choice for beginners. A road intersects the highway just west of the Carson Pass Sno-Park. Ski the road bearing left at any junction. The lake provides a beautiful wooded setting for a picnic.

Experienced

A loop can be made starting at Carson Pass and then skiing from either Winnemucca Lake or Round Top Lake to Woods Lake. The trails can be found on any good map. Both routes require some skill at negotiating downhill slopes, with the Round Top Lake route being the most difficult.

Expert

There are numerous slopes that are accessible from any of the trails in this area that will challenge the experienced telemark skier. The potential for avalanches exist, so use sound judgment

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Carson Pass is skinny ski mecca

■ **Something for everyone:** Views make it worthwhile.

By Bob Russman

If the distance that someone is willing to drive to cross-country ski is indicative of the beauty of an area, then Carson Pass rates pretty high.

On a recent trip to this area, I spoke with California skiers from Walnut Creek, Sacramento, San Francisco, and Santa Rosa. All drove three or four-plus hours for the opportunity to ski this incredible place.

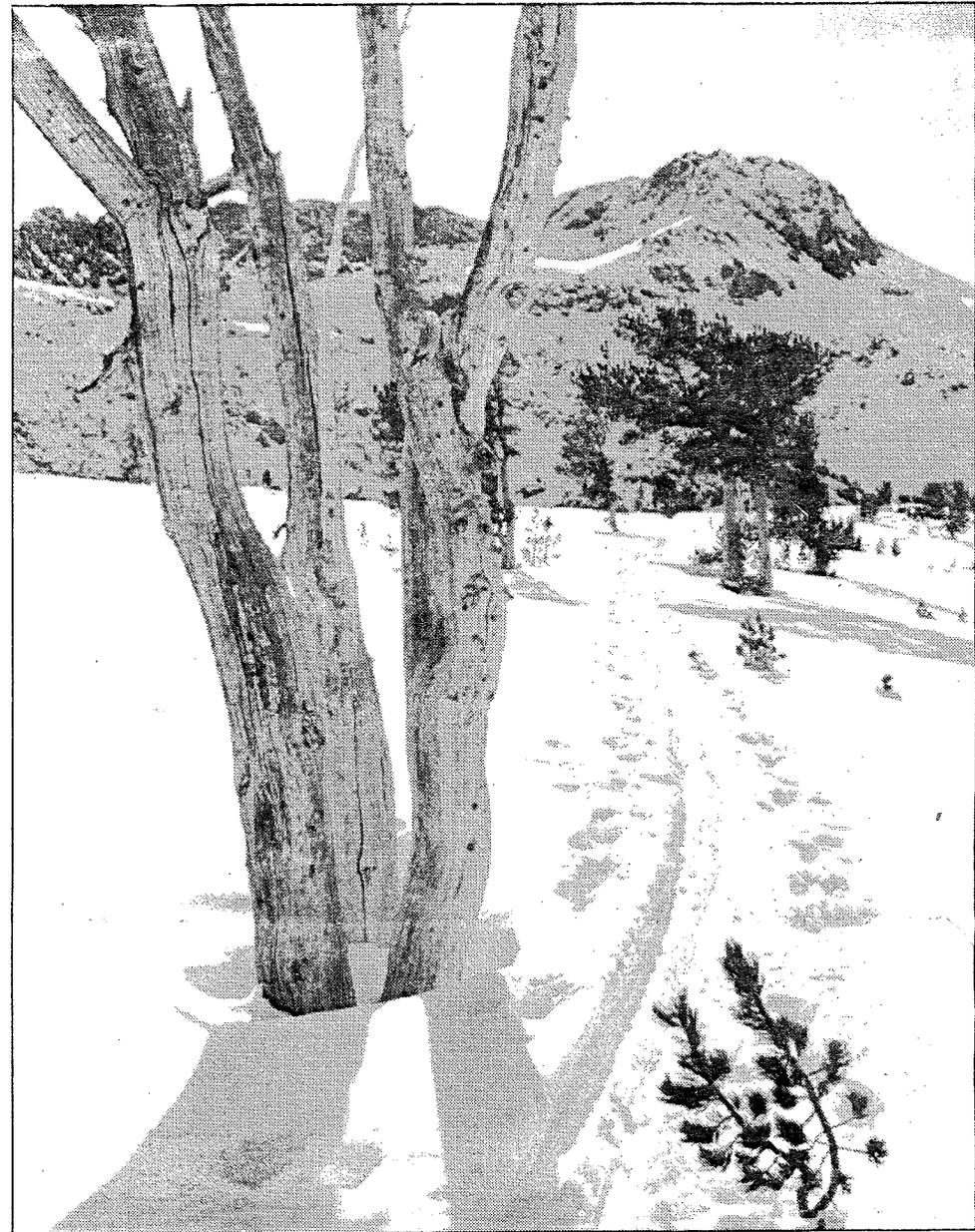
Located just 90 minutes from Reno, Carson Pass, with an elevation of 8,573 feet, offers excellent snow conditions and tours for all levels of skiers. There are slopes that challenge the most experienced telemark skier, while children as young as 5 years old can enjoy the easy Woods Lake trail.

A popular ski tour for intermediate skiers is the trail from Carson Pass to Round Top Lake. A moderately strenuous, six-mile round-trip tour with 700 feet of elevation gain along open scenic slopes, the trek provides opportunities for polishing your downhill skills on the return trip.

The trail starts at Carson Pass with parking available at a Sno-Park area. Sno-Park permits (\$3 daily) are required and can be purchased at Sorenson's Resort on Highway 88 just one mile east of the junction with Highway 89.

It is imperative that you use a Sno-Park permit at Carson Pass because it is such a popular skiing destination. Sno-Park areas are patrolled; without the permit, you stand the chance of getting a fine.

■ **Hitting the trail:** From Carson Pass, the trail heads south along a densely

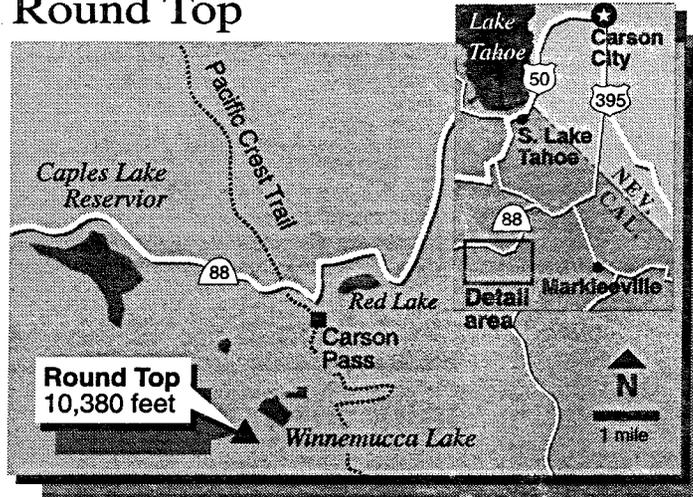


— Bob Russman

wooded ridge. The trail's course along this section is usually well defined by tracks left by previous skiers, as well as by blue diamond markers nailed to the trees.

If you are in doubt, stay high along the ridge while making a gradual ascent. As you climb, the density of vegetation decreases and you soon have views of Round Top Peak (10,380 feet), which is the prominent peak in this area and appropriately named Elephant's Back.

Round Top



Mark Nowlin/Gazette-Journal

SCENIC: Skiing at Round Top offers opportunities for great winter photos.

Once above the tree line, you'll probably find numerous sets of tracks leading in several directions.

■ **Winnemucca Lake:** Your destination from this point is Winnemucca Lake, which is about a mile away. If your course bears just a few

degrees left (east) of Round Top Peak while skirting the gentle lower slopes of Elephant's Back, you can't go wrong.

Here, you will enjoy views of Red Lake Peak to the north, Kirkwood ski area to the west and Caples Lake in the valley below.

When you reach Winnemucca Lake you'll parallel the lake's shoreline along a small ridge on the west side of the lake. From here, Round Top Lake sets over the steep slope (it's not

as steep as it looks) and directly in front of you.

■ **Making the climb:** The ¼-mile climb is the most strenuous part of this trip, but the return makes it worthwhile.

The easiest way to ascend this slope is from left to right until you reach an intersecting ridge. Bear left and parallel the ridge to the top. You can see Round Top Lake from here and it's a short easy descent to its shoreline.

On your return to Winnemucca Lake, you'll have several hundred acres of unbroken snow to practice your turns. From Winnemucca Lake, your bearing can be directly at Red Lake Peak, the prominent peak to the north.

■ **Map:** The Forest Service has a map available titled the Toiyabe National Forest, Carson Ranger District that is an excellent resource for trail locations.

It includes Carson Pass, Lake Tahoe area, Desolation Wilderness and the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness. It can be purchased at the Forest Service office at 1200 Franklin Way in Sparks, as well as the Carson Range District office in Carson City at 1536 Carson Street.

Reno resident Bob Russman is an avid backcountry skier and hiker.

Plowing Record

Courier 2/4/93

EDITOR:

Dear people of Alpine County, Calif.:

You wouldn't believe this, or maybe you would. Is it possible that the people in power in our county have lost touch with people's thoughts and feelings to such an extent that rules and regulations have escalated to top priority over and beyond common sense, decency and caring? It smacks of a dictatorship doesn't it? You might say it couldn't happen here. But it does. The seeds have been sown and are already germinating. Let me give you an example.

The setting is one of the most beautiful areas of our country. Edged by soaring mountain peaks and plunging valleys, far from smog-ridden cities and riots. Paradise? It should be but it isn't.

This is the story of a couple of seniors who came to live in this area with the idea of enjoying its beauty but also with the idea of becoming part of the community. They used to wave at all the passers by and they and their horses even became part of Search and Rescue in spite of the fact that he's 66 and she is 72. I am going to call this couple Joseph and Mary because that couple ran into some difficulties too, 2000 years ago, until they met the sympathetic innkeeper.

A few months after moving in the area, Joe had one of those so-called simple operations. But two days after the operation his legs went numb and so did his lower abdomen. His memory declined and so did his energy in an alarming way. He went on working planting trees and building shelter for the horses and their hay. The doctors were puzzled, one even declared Joe had MS.

A year later Joseph and Mary's beautiful German

Continued on page 5

Wrestling sign-ups underway

Record Courier 2/4/93

Competitive wrestlers of all ages are being sought for Alpine County Police Athletic League USA program.

The wrestling program is open to Alpine County and Carson Valley residents 5 years of age to adult. Practices are currently being held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. at Diamond Valley School in Woodfords.

Practices may eventually be set up at Douglas High School, depending on the number of wrestlers from the Carson Valley who sign up, according to Henry Blackwood, who is coordinating the USA program between Alpine County and the Carson Valley.

The local club is scheduled to host a four-way meet tonight at 6:30 p.m. at Diamond Valley School. South Tahoe, Sparks and Carson City will also be on hand for the meet.

The season will conclude with a trip to the USA wrestling championships in April in Santa Monica, Calif.

Anyone interested in registering for the program may contact Henry Blackwood or John Crawford at the Alpine County Sheriff's Department in Markleeville at (916) 694-2231.

Letters: Snowplow

Continued from page 4

Shepherd was shot and could not be saved. Before he died a new member, a Lhasa Apso joined the family. Joe put up an iron post and mesh wire fence so that the Lhasa could run and investigate and be safe. Then someone built a fire between their stable and hay shed. Their garbage can was deliberately smashed and someone had broken one of their wooden gates. Nothing was done about any of this, but then nothing was done about underage children riding off road vehicles on county roads, and teenage boys shooting 22s into trees in the neighborhood.

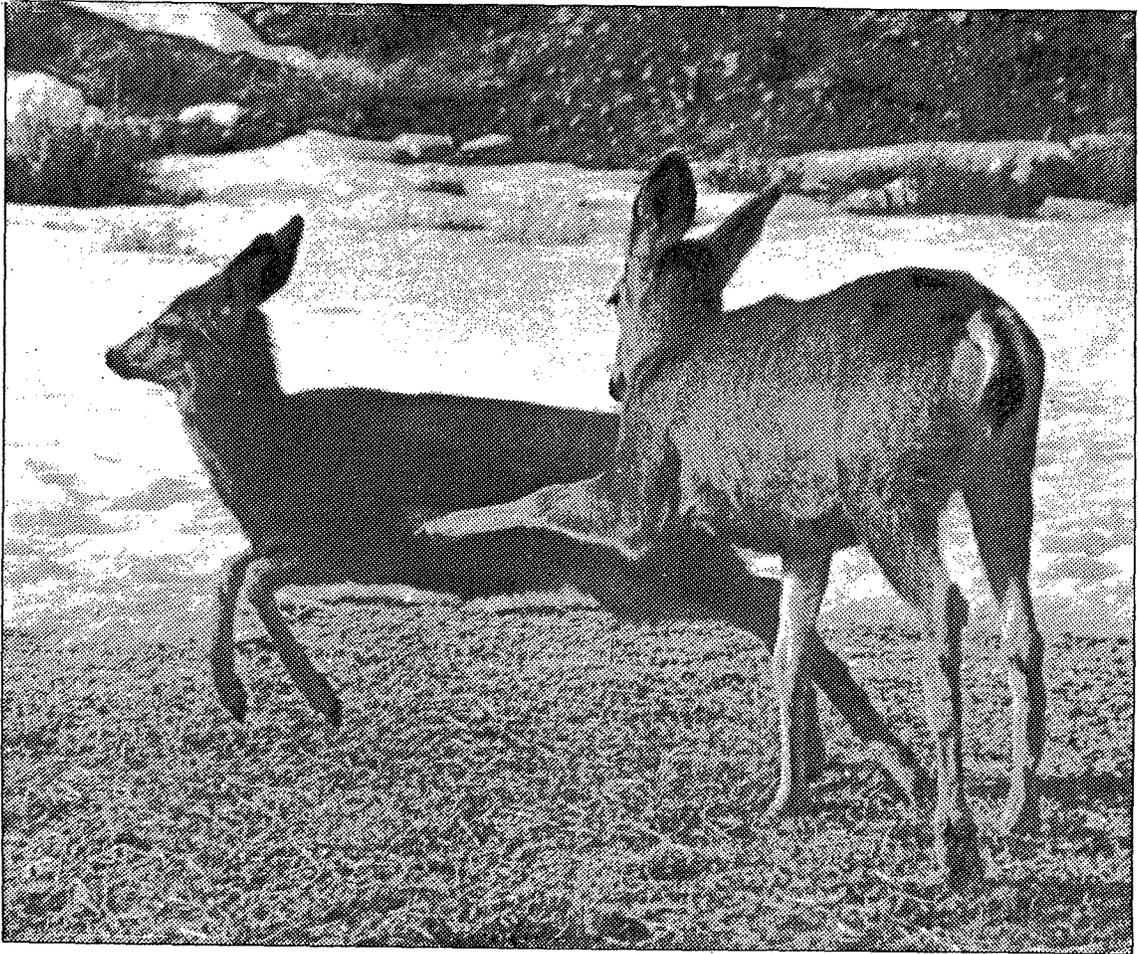
After 3-1/2 years Joseph and Mary received a very caustic letter from Public Works demanding immediate removal of the fence protecting their little

dog. Joseph at that time was facing another operation and could not do the work.

Later two more threatening letters arrived from Public Works and the Attorney General demanding immediate compliance or else. Joe, due to his neurological damage has been driven to ideas of suicide.

It was difficult getting an appointment at Public Health with a counselor if a person was not a drug addict or on alcohol. Mary has tried to reach out for just a little human kindness, but there has been little of that. Paradise? It could be with the addition of human caring, with a little less emphasis on rules and regulations and more attention given to individual human beings. It would be lovely if Joseph and Mary could find a few sympathetic innkeepers.

MARIANNA PINKSTON
Alpine County
Jan. 31



Deer fight

One deer takes a poke at another along the side of Foothill Road near Fredricksburg in Alpine County. There is currently an effort under way in Genoa to feed the deer up in the

mountains to keep them from crossing the road. Donations are being accepted at the Genoa Post Office. R-C photo by Teri Tremaine

Alpine wrestlers earn medals

Eight members of the Alpine County PAL youth wrestling team brought medals home from a Sierra Nevada Wrestling tournament last weekend in Reno.

Bud Nollet and Louvain Erwin, both Diamond Valley Elementary School 7th graders, led the way by placing second in their respective weight classes during age group competition at Galena High School.

Alpine also produced a quartet of third-place finishers: Ryan

Richardson and Jim Blackwood, both 8th graders at Diamond Valley; Randy Blackwood, a 6th grader; and Martin Perez, a 2nd grader. Gary Coyan, a 7th grade student, and Douglas High sophomore Sherwood Thompson also logged fourth-place finishes.

Sign-ups are still being accepted for the Alpine PAL program, which is open to Alpine County and Carson Valley residents 5 years of age to adult.

Practices are held Monday,

Tuesday and Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. at Diamond Valley School in Woodfords.

Additional practices may also be set up at Douglas High School, depending on the number of Carson Valley sign-ups, according to program director Henry Blackwood.

Anyone interested in registering may contact Henry Blackwood or John Crawford at the Alpine County Sheriff's Department (916) 694-2231.

Record Courier 2/7/93

Poverty low in Tahoe counties

But Alpine County not so lucky

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A new national census study says Placer, Nevada, El Dorado and Douglas counties have some of the lowest poverty rates in the country.

The study of the nation's 3,100 counties shows Placer County with a poverty rate of 7.1 percent. The rate for El Dorado and Nevada counties is 7.7 percent. California's rate is 12.5 percent and the national rate is 12.8 percent.

Poverty was defined as a yearly income of less than \$8,076 for two people, \$12,674 for four, and \$16,921 for six.

Across the state line, neighboring Douglas County reported the lowest poverty rate in the state of Nevada, with just 6.8 percent of its residents living below the fed-

eral poverty line.

Alpine County, however, has the highest percentage of children living below the poverty level in California, at 32.8 percent, according to 1990 census data.

Alpine County also ranks fifth in California when the number of elderly living in poverty are counted. Some 12 percent of the county's elderly fall below the federal poverty line.

Imperial County has the highest overall poverty rate in California, with 23.8 percent of its residents living below the federal government's poverty line, 1990 census data shows.

Marin County has the lowest poverty rate in California, with just 5.2 percent of its residents be-

Please see P

Tahoe Daily Tribune 2/8/93

Poverty

Continued from Page 1A

low the poverty level.

Only 74 of the nation's 3,131 counties reported a smaller percentage of their population living below the poverty level than Marin County.

But 505 counties in other states had higher poverty rates than Imperial.

Fresno County followed closely behind Imperial, with 22.6 percent of its residents below the poverty level. On the wealthy end, San Mateo County was second to Marin, with 6.3 percent below the poverty level.

California's most populous county, Los Angeles, had 1.3 million residents, or 15.1 percent of its population, below the poverty level.

The census reported 3.6 million Californians, 12.5 percent of the state's population, fell below the poverty line. Nationally, the census reported more than 31 million residents, or 13.1 percent, living below the poverty line.

Altogether, 27 California counties had more residents below the poverty line than the national average.

Minorities had higher poverty rates than whites in every California county, and in some areas the disparities were enormous.

In Del Norte County, for exam-

ple, 13.4 percent of the whites lived below the poverty level, compared to 50 percent of the county's black residents.

In affluent Marin, 4.2 percent of the whites were below the poverty level, but 15.3 percent of the blacks and 17 percent of the Hispanics were below the poverty level.

But poverty is across the board in Imperial County, with 22.5 percent of its white residents, 27.8 percent of blacks and 29.4 percent of Hispanics reporting incomes below the poverty level.

All 58 California counties had higher percentages of children than senior citizens living below the poverty level, in some cases by wide margins. The widest disparity between seniors and children was in Del Norte County, where only 4.3 percent of the seniors but 24.2 percent of the children live below the poverty level.

Glenn County has the highest percentage of seniors living below the poverty level, at 15.4 percent, followed by Imperial County's 14.3 percent. Del Norte at 4.3 percent and Marin at 4.4 percent had California's lowest percentages of senior citizens living below the poverty level.

Marin County also had California's smallest percentage of children below the poverty level at 5.8 percent, followed by Placer County's 8.6 percent and Sierra County's 8.8 percent.

Proceeds from 'Alpenglow' benefit Hope Valley Friends

Alpenglow is the term used to describe the bright reddish light on the mountain tops before sunrise and after sunset, and it's also the title of local musician David Burns' new EP cassette tape.

The tape consists of four original songs that celebrate the glories of nature, he says. Accompanying each tape is a pamphlet which includes the songs' lyrics and inspiring quotations regarding nature from the father of wilderness conservation, John Muir, the great naturalist/writer Henry David Thoreau, the famous French essayist Michel de Montaigne, and the renowned 20th century Indian saint Baba Muktananda.

"Alpenglow," the title song, was

inspired by the scenery in Alpine County's Hope Valley where Burns performs regularly at Sorensen's Cafe.

All sales proceeds from the \$3 tape will go to Friends of Hope Valley, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Hope Valley's wild and pristine beauty. *

Several local businesses are cooperating in this project by offering the tape for sale. These include Auntie M's, Nutrition Unlimited, and Crystal Kaleidoscope in Gardnerville, Lock, Stock and Barrel Books in Genoa, Tiers of Joy in Markleeville and Sorensen's Resort in Hope Valley.

Record Courier 2/11/93

Alpine not convinced on STPUD land plan

By BRIAN MAFFLY
Tribune Staff Writer

Tahoe Daily
Tribune
2/17/93

While Alpine County has welcomed Lake Valley's quest to annex some of its territory, county officials continue to view with skepticism an annexation plan proposed by another El Dorado County special district.

The South Tahoe Public Utility District is formulating a plan to annex pieces of Alpine for the same reason as the fire district: to preserve \$675,000 in funding that otherwise would be lost due to a tax shift diverting revenue from special districts to the state's schools.

A paramount concern among Alpine officials is what safety mechanisms will be built into the STPUD annexation to ensure that the county's interests will not be jeopardized.

"I just feel there's something also coming down stream. We're opening it up to the annexation of annexations," said Bob Karrasch, a county sanitation official. "There are a lot of unknowns. ... This stuff goes on and there's no way to track all these things from downtown Markleeville."

The comments were made at the Tuesday afternoon meeting of Alpine's so-called STPUD Contract Commission, a seven-member panel formed in 1984 to monitor the 1967 contract between the utility district and Alpine County. Comprised of Alpine supervisors, county staff and private citizens, the panel's decisions serve as recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

The parts of Alpine that STPUD is eyeing for annexation are the Upper Truckee River basin, which is an uninhabited wilderness, and a section of Heavenly Ski Resort that is less than 50 acres in size.

"STPUD is not proposing any services to the area they want to annex. It seems contrary to the purpose of annexation," said Leonard Turnbeaugh, Alpine's director of public works. "There's no one living in the territory they're proposing to annex. It's all government land."

STPUD attorney Bill Cherry, however, said in a phone interview Tuesday that providing services isn't critical to defining the boundaries of a special district.

"There are vast portions of our area we don't provide service to," Cherry said. "There's no requirement that we provide specific services to areas within our boundaries."

Cherry also assured that there are no "ulterior motives" behind STPUD's annexation drive.

Although STPUD's boundaries lie entirely within El Dorado County, a Sacramento court already has awarded the utility district status as a "multicounty" district, a designation necessary to win an exemption from the tax shift.

Cherry said the district plans to move forward with the annexation in case the California Legislature refines the multicounty definition to explicitly exclude special districts whose territory doesn't cross a county line.

While the annexation would offer few if any benefits to Alpine, commission members voiced reservations about demanding perks from the utility district in exchange for county cooperation with the annexation process.

"I don't want any concessions that they can use later as an excuse to put in some plant," said commission member Eric Jung, who chairs the Board of Supervisors.

A formal proposal hasn't been prepared yet, due to the difficulties of producing a map that details the exact outlines of the areas to be annexed, according to Cherry.

Until a formal proposal is forthcoming, however, Alpine officials said they will remain uncertain about how to proceed.

"The ball's in their court," Turnbeaugh said. "They have to come before our board and tell us exactly what they want to do. Right now we're jousting with shadows."

Alpine County supports fire annexation

BY BRIAN MAFFLY
Tribune Staff Writer

Tahoe Daily
Tribune
2/17/93

Lake Valley Fire Protection District's proposal to annex a small part of Alpine County won a morale boost Tuesday when Alpine supervisors unanimously

voted to support the idea.

The proposed annexation, which is key to Lake Valley's plan to preserve a substantial portion of its funding, involves 240 acres of federally owned land along the half-mile stretch of California State Route 89 south of the county line at

Luther Pass. This section of highway already is in Lake Valley's primary response area.

"I've reached a comfort level with this proposal," Alpine County Administrative

Please see ANNEX, Page 8A

Annex

Continued from Page 1A

Coordinator Jeanne Lear told the Board of Supervisors. "What we're looking at is really a small portion of the county. It's a reasonable response area for Lake Valley."

The El Dorado fire district hopes to annex the Alpine County turf in order to win the coveted multicounty designation which will exempt it from a tax shift that diverts local property tax revenues from special districts to the state school fund.

See related story Page 2A

The revenue diversion, which was worked out by California lawmakers as a deficit-reduction measure, is expected to cost the fire district nearly \$100,000 in ad valorem revenue, representing 10 percent of its budget, according to Lake Valley officials.

Fire officials have complained that with the tax shift, local fire agencies no longer will be able to afford to render assistance to neighboring jurisdictions.

Lear expressed concern that Lake Valley's loss of funding will mean a reduction in the mutual aid that comes into Alpine County.

"What we're really talking about is maintaining our mutual-aid relationship," she said of the annexation plan.

The value of the mutual aid Lake Valley provides Alpine County recently was demonstrated when its firefighters assisted local volunteers in fighting a disastrous propane fire at Kirkwood last month that killed two people and destroyed the ski

area's Sun Meadows condominium complex.

Lear emphasized that a well-staffed Lake Valley district next door will ensure continued mutual aid, a service that is of great value to the sparsely populated Alpine County, which cannot afford to fund sophisticated emergency services.

"They're trying to maintain their staffing levels so they can keep their stations open," she said. "After the Kirkwood incident, the (Alpine volunteer fire) departments felt that the value of their mutual-aid response should not be underestimated."

The proposal has garnered the support of the Woodfords, Kirkwood and Markleeville volunteer fire departments, particularly in light of the assistance Lake Valley has pledged to the county, Supervisor Cam Craik said.

Lake Valley expects to provide training and vehicle-maintenance services, as well as a defibrillator to Alpine's fire agencies if the district succeeds in its annexation quest.

Another factor behind the supervisors' support of the annexation was Lake Valley's pledge to support undoing the annexation if the plan turns out to harm Alpine County's interests.

Although the Alpine supervisors' support is not essential to the success of the annexation drive, it is expected to ease the approval process, which goes through El Dorado County's Local Agency Formation Commission.

The annexation must be complete by the end of the fiscal year on June 30 in order to preserve the funding lost in the tax shift to the state.

Alpine gains disaster aid

Declaration frees funds for county hit hard by winter

BY JEFF DELONG
Tribune Staff Writer

Gov. Pete Wilson has added Alpine County to the list of areas eligible for disaster assistance in the wake of heavy winter storms that have savaged the state during the last two months.

Residents, businesses and county government now will be able to apply for both state and federal disaster aid for storm-related damage. Some 24 California counties and one city now have declared emergency status.

Damage estimates in Alpine County total \$3.2 million, county officials told the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the California Office of Emergency Ser-

vices.

FEMA spokesman Alex Newman said today that the full extent of damage to California's least-populated county is hard to gauge.

"With all that snow up there it's hard to get accurate accounts," Newman said. "We've got our hands full" across the state.

Between 10 and 25 feet of snow has fallen in various parts of Alpine County, closing roads, collapsing roofs and sparking propane explosions and fires.

Assistant Sheriff Bob Tucker was unable to estimate just how much snow has fallen in Alpine, although last

Please see ALPINE, Page 8A

Alpine

Continued from Page 1A

weekend's storm alone deposited several fresh feet.

"I don't have a clue," Tucker said. "It's more than a lot of the old-timers can ever remember."

Kirkwood Ski Resort reported 638 inches of snowfall so far this season, compared to an annual average of 425 to 450 inches.

The storms have taxed the abilities of county government. Roads and snow-clearing equipment have "taken a real beating," Tucker said, while overtime budgets are exhausted.

Alpine's most spectacular storm-related accident was the Jan. 20 explosion and fire at the Sun Meadows condominium complex at Kirkwood

Ski Resort. After fixtures of a propane tank at the condominium ruptured, the volatile gas ignited in a devastating explosion that killed two guests and injured several others.

Another victim of that disaster was Gem Technology Systems Inc., a private company located in the same building and across the hallway from where the propane blast ignited.

The company suffered an estimated \$540,000 loss in the disaster, said Raymond Bigelow, Gem Technology's executive director. It was Bigelow who successfully petitioned the Alpine County Board of Supervisors on Feb. 16 to seek disaster assistance.

"It wiped us out," Bigelow said.

Disaster status will allow the company to seek low-interest loans

which will allow it to rebuild, possibly in South Lake Tahoe.

"This is very good news for us," he said.

Available assistance includes damage recovery programs for private dwellings and businesses as well as public facilities. Programs include low-interest loans and grants for temporary housing, repairs to homes, businesses and farms, and disaster-related loss of business or jobs. Mortgage and rental assistance also is available.

Those interested in applying for disaster assistance can call (800) 464-9029.

More than 4,200 people in California have applied for assistance since President Clinton issued a winter storm disaster declaration for the state Feb. 3.

Residents react to Alpine declaration

by JEFF DELONG
Staff Writer

Sherman Glettig stood in his front yard outside Markleeville and gestured around him.

"Where's the disaster?" he asked. "I don't see any disaster."

Glettig was among a number of sometimes surprised Alpine County residents who learned Thursday that their county had been declared a disaster area by California's governor.

Glettig, among others, views this winter as business as usual in the Sierra Nevada, and has trouble understanding the rationale behind a formal declaration of emergency or disaster.

With that status now in place, Alpine homeowners and businesses are eligible to apply for state and federal disaster aid.

"My snowblower blew a rod," Glettig noted. "I wonder if I can get a low-interest loan for that."

"This is news to me," said Joyce Higgenbotham, who runs a downtown Markleeville service station with her husband.

"Did you know Alpine was a disaster area?" she asked him.

Frank Higgenbotham wondered aloud if loans were available for snow-shoveling related back ailments.

But on further reflection, the Higgenbothams agreed this winter has been especially difficult.

"I've never seen one as bad as this one," Joyce said. "The storms hit so hard and so fast no one's had a chance to recover."

That this winter has carried danger is clear to the Higgenbothams as well. A propane-related explosion leveled the mobile home next to theirs at Sierra Pines Mobile Home Park early this winter, and was the first of a series of deadly propane disasters to occur in Alpine County and throughout the Sierra Nevada.

"That's spooky," the woman said.

Some county residents described this winter's heavy snowfall, whatever difficulties accompany it, as more than welcome.

"We're loving it," said Cindy Homer of Hope Valley Resort. Homer said declining business this

winter due to heavy weather should be offset in seasons to come.

"It's going to be a great summer and probably a great spring, too," she said.

Even some of the county leaders who declared a state of local emergency last week agreed this winter is basically a return of normal conditions to the Sierra.

"I think we're finally seeing a normal winter," said Supervisor Cam Craik.

Supervisor Eric Jung said he's seen more snow on at least two occasions during the 24 years he's lived in Alpine County.

Mike Tannehill, manager of Kirkwood Inn, has no problem believing this winter deserves special status.

One-third of the historic inn, which lies astride the boundaries of Alpine, Amador and El Dorado counties, is now technically a disaster area.

"It's been phenomenal," Tannehill said of this winter's snowfall.

Record Courier 3/4/93

Alpine is declared disaster area

by JEFF DELONG
R-C News Service

Record
Courier
3/4/93

It is the back-to-back nature of the heavy winter storms that have pummeled the Sierra Nevada this season that led Alpine County to successfully petition the state and federal governments for disaster aid, county officials said last week.

Gov. Pete Wilson added Alpine to the long list of California counties eligible for disaster aid this winter.

Alpine County leaders declared a local emergency after unending snowfall collapsed roofs, triggered explosions and cut off the vital flow of revenue-generating visitors to area ski resorts and other businesses. Wilson's decision finalized the process started by supervisors.

"We've needed snow for a long time, but we didn't need it all at once," said Bob Tucker, Alpine's assistant sheriff.

County officials identified some \$3.3 million in damages to both the public and private sectors in submitting their bid for disaster aid to the state. Storms damaged or destroyed 21 homes or condominium units, injured 11 people and killed two.

Much of that tally was tied to the storm-related explosion and fire that occurred when a propane tank ruptured and blew up at a Kirkwood Ski Resort condominium complex Jan. 20.

Three unidentified businesses

were listed as damaged by the storm, while a fourth, Gem Technology Systems Inc., was destroyed in the Kirkwood blast. Damage to the roof of a school in Bear Valley was listed at \$10,000.

County officials said \$911,500 worth of loans, grants and other forms of state and federal disaster assistance already have been identified.

That Alpine County has seen significant snowfall is without doubt. The county's lower elevations in the Markleeville area have had at least 10 feet fall in the course of recent winter storms. In the higher elevations the totals are much more impressive. The California Department of Transportation reports nearly 30 feet of snow so far this winter at its Caples Lake maintenance station, while nearby Kirkwood Ski Resort reports in excess of 50 feet.

Keeping up with that kind of snowfall has been, to say the least, a challenge.

"It's been tough," said Leonard Turnbeaugh, Alpine's public works director. Crews have labored to keep about 40 percent of county roads — some 29 miles — clear of snow in an around-the-clock struggle with Mother Nature. It may be months before the extent of damage to most county roads can be determined when the snow melts.

"We don't know what a big portion of our costs are," Turnbeaugh said. "We could be fighting this until June."

During the worst series of

storms last month, two road crews plowed day and night, while mechanics, the county building inspector and Turnbeaugh himself were forced to man heavy equipment as well.

"They ran almost 30 days straight without any days off," Turnbeaugh said.

The result has more than strained county coffers.

"It's depleted all our salaries and overtime," said Tucker, adding that the Kirkwood explosion cost \$6,000 in overtime alone.

One of the most serious consequences of the weather was the chilling effect on vital winter business. Sheriff Skip Veatch said back-to-back storms, which often occurred over weekends, drastically diminished business over a six-week period.

The result has been a serious decline in Alpine's sales and bed taxes.

"The storms have seriously affected the revenue for the county," Veatch said. "When a third of your winter season is shot because you have too much snow it's hard to deal with."

Storm-related road closures and frequently sensational media reports did significant harm to business at Kirkwood Ski Resort, Marketing Director Greg Murtha confirmed.

"It has substantially impacted our skier numbers," Murtha said.

Record Courier 3/1/93

PAL youth wrestlers compete in Fernley

Four Alpine County PAL club wrestlers returned home with first-place finishes from a recent Nevada Nevada Wrestling Association freestyle tournament in Fernley.

Nathan Bennett, Louvain

Erwin, Jeff John and Ryan Richardson captured championships in their respective age group weight classes during the one-day tournament

Bud Nollet and Jimmy Black-

wood also posted second-place finishes for Alpine. Jeff Martin and Troy Fontana were third-place finishes, while Randy Blackwood and Sherwood Thomson placed fourth.

The tournament attracted nearly 500 people, according to Alpine coach Henry Blackwood.

Record Courier 3/7/93

Alpine baseball, softball sign-ups slated

Sign-ups for the Alpine County Police Athletic League (PAL)-sponsored Little League and softball programs have been sched-

uled for Wednesday.

Registration will be taken between 5 and 7 p.m. at Diamond Valley Elementary School in

Woodfords.

Boys 9 through 13 years of age are eligible for Alpine Little League teams which travel to play in the Carson Valley Little League and Junior League programs.

The Alpine fast-softball program is available to girls 12 to 16 years of age. The team travels for tournament play through the summer, according to Barbara Armstrong.

For further information, contact (916) 694-2498.



LAURA PARSONS

Record Courier 3/7/93

Educators honored

Teacher wins \$2,500 at IDS awards dinner

Laura Parsons, reading specialist at Meneley Elementary School, was the big winner at a special teacher recognition dinner given by IDS financial services in Minden recently.

The dinner was held at the Carson Valley Inn and was designed to honor the teachers of the year from each of the Valley's six public schools. The teachers were guests of IDS.

IDS Gardnerville staff to organize the event were Dave Brady,

Julie Arneson and Jim Casteleyn. Jerome Etchegoyhen, the division vice president from Reno, was master of ceremonies.

The other five teachers were Linda Bell, Edna Doornink, Pam Gilmartin, Leigh Luce and Gaye Tyndall. They each were awarded \$50.

The ballroom was packed with well wishers as the names were drawn.

The last name was the winner, Brady reported.

Business



ITALIAN SPECIALITIES. Ruggero and Gina Gigli test the cacciucco freshly prepared at their Villa Gigli Collection Gallery/Cafe. The Giglis are 20-year residents of Alpine County and operate the restaurant near their home. Jay Aldrich photo

Villa Gigli offers Italian specialities

Ruggero and Gina Gigli are now operating Villa Gigli Collection Gallery/Cafe adjacent to their Markleeville home.

The Giglis, 20-year residents of Alpine County, operate the restaurant, 145 Hot Springs Road, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Fridays, and Saturdays and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Giglis serve homemade Italian specialities including lasagne, tagliatelle, pappardelle, cacciucco, focaccia and biscotti.

"We live in the house behind the gallery/cafe," said Ruggero Gigli. "Gina has a painting studio in the small cabin next to the house. I was a baker in Italy so my handmade breads, pizzas and pastas are authentic. We have been artists for many years and have collaborated on art projects."

The Giglis run the cafe with the assistance of their daughter Dinamarina Gigli, a senior at St. Mary's College in Moraga, during school vacation. She bakes the biscotti and does some of the art work.

Gina Gigli etches metal plates and Ruggero hand inks and prints

the limited edition etchings. Some of the etchings that are displayed on the walls have been used as images for wine labels.

The Giglis are well-known in wine country and own a gallery in the lobby of the Napa Valley wine train.

Villa Gigli Collection Gallery/Cafe is located on the top of the hill at the edge of Markleeville on the right hand side of the road leading to Grovers Hot Springs.

The Giglis can be reached at 1-916-694-2253.

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For Alice Downer, life has been an 'adventure' for 80 years

by MARY SETTELMAYER-FAIR
Special to the R-C

"Life is an adventure," said Alice Gottschalk Downer in an interview the other day. Recently she celebrated 80 years of it at a dinner party shared with a joyous group of family and friends at Sharkey's Nugget in Gardnerville.

"Life has many doors of adventure for all of us, we just need to venture through. They may not open again," she said. "And how can people say 'I'm bored' when there are so many interesting things to discover, to see, to do?"

For Alice, life began in Lovelock, Nevada, March 2, 1913 with her parents Peter and Martha Letcher Gottschalk. Those early years of growing up were full of fun with four brothers, Arthur, George, Earl and Robert, and one sister, Elma.

After grammar and high school days in Lovelock, it was on to the University of Nevada in Reno for a Normal School Certificate to teach. It was not easy, but Alice worked and her brothers helped her. What an adventure in learning, getting to know people — one in particular. To make up a foursome, a blind date had been arranged for her roommate — it was Bob Downer.

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Soon the couple discovered they both loved the out-of-doors. Besides the usual college dances and parties for getting acquainted, there were picnics and hiking. "We skated on Manzanita Lake. We climbed Peavine mountain. I didn't make it all the way up Mt.

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ALICE AND BOB DOWNER at her 80th birthday party at Sharkey's. R-C photo by Joyce Hollister

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"What a wonderful class! Those children became so attentive as I sought to raise their self image. They had so much to offer, many were artistic. One boy was a whiz at math! I told them that each had something wonderful given them by God — or the Great Spirit. Let's find out what it is."

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"Just a year ago — to climax all our travels — our daughter came with a plan. 'Mom,' Kay said, 'you and Dad are going to be having your 58th wedding anniversary and your 80th birthday. Neil and I want you to go with us to England and Scotland — we'll make all the arrangements, tickets, etc.'" The Downers, of course, picked up the tab for their part of the costs.

"God works in such wonderful ways! Bob and I were overwhelmed. That was the most wonderful experience, every minute and hour of it, little details, big moments."

Before they left the United States, they flew to Atlanta to visit grandson Eric Sander, a professional football player, and his family. It included celebrating the second birthday of their great-grandson.

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TELMEYER-FAIR R-C

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Record Courier
3/21/93

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Soon the couple discovered they both loved the out-of-doors. Besides the usual college dances and parties for getting acquainted, there were picnics and hiking. "We skated on Manzanita Lake. We climbed Peavine mountain. I didn't make it all the way up Mt. Rose, but I tried," Alice chuckled.

So — on Aug. 16, 1934, Alice said "I do," to Bob, the beginning of a 59-year marriage partnership.

"Our first home was in Fallon. Bob had an engineering assignment on a project at Shurz on the Walker River. A teacher friend in Fallon knew I played the piano and enlisted me to help with her Christmas program."

"As an engineer for the Nevada State Highway Department, Bob was sent to places like Caliente and Tonopah to locate new roads.

I was there, too. What Spartan living!"

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This was not Alice's way, of course. "Class," she said, "I know you want to graduate in June. But you have a tough civics test ahead and this is already February. I'm here to help you. Most of the work, however, is up to you."

"Do you know those kids knuckled down? They did work. They all passed the test. They all graduated. Kids have an instinct about teachers. They know whether you are for or against them."

It was during these years in El Dorado County that Alice attended summer school at Sacramento State and received her four-year degree in education.

Life has been an 'adventure' for 80 years



ALICE AND BOB DOWNER at her 80th birthday party at Sharkey's. R-C photo by Joyce Hollister

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When Boeing offered Bob the opportunity to transfer to another site, the decision was made to return to Nevada. So in 1963, the Downers arrived in Carson Valley. Father and son founded the firm of Downer Engineering.

For Alice came another teaching job. The principal she had had in Pollock Pines was having a terrible time with a teacher at the Woodfords school for Indian children. The man had left — Alice took over.

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A new school was built by the Unified Alpine School District in Diamond Valley, Calif., where Alice taught for nine years.

Retirement time had come. The Downers became involved with a development project at Indian Hills, where they have a spacious mobile home with a wide view of Carson Valley.

Sometimes they close up and leave to travel. One such time was when they were urged to visit Denmark while some of the Gottschalk family still survived.

"What a wonderful trip!" Alice said. "We picked up a VW bus in Germany. Son Craig, who joined us, is a linguist, speaking French and Spanish; his father speaks German and Spanish — what a way to go! We visited 11 coun-

tries."

"The Alps of Switzerland left a lasting impression, the little cog-wheel train, and the yodeling."

"The loving treatment of family in Denmark overwhelmed us. We saw so much of my father's homeland."

"Though we drove up the west side of Sweden, Norway was our love. It was captivating, such pristine beauty; we spent our last two weeks there. The birthplace of Edvard Greig, Trolldhaugen, was visited, his music enjoyed."

While teaching in Alpine County, Alice had flown to Hawaii in 1970 to attend the University of Hawaii, the realization of a dream. At the end of the course, Bob joined her. Together, with friends living in Hawaii, they toured the islands. It gave them a depth of understanding of the character of the peoples and the land of this island state.

Always their travels had a destination, as when they flew to Columbia, South America, where son Craig, a biologist, was involved with the taking of plant inventory in the Cauca valley in the

Andes mountains. "It's a story in itself to tell of our two trips to visit Craig in Columbia and Venezuela," Alice said. "Under his guidance we saw and experienced such exciting places, such exotic birds and animals. Craig was doing research on a rare tapir for his Ph.D."

Three years ago was a flight to Spain arranged through friends who had a condo exchange and who had invited Alice and Bob to join them. "I was enthralled," Alice said, "with the Gold Coast, with Gibraltar. We also flew to the Canary Islands, all so intriguing, especially the myth of their being a part of the fabled island of Atlantis. What a vacation!"

"Just a year ago — to climax all our travels — our daughter came with a plan. 'Mom,' Kay said, 'you and Dad are going to be having your 58th wedding anniversary and your 80th birthday. Neil and I want you to go with us to England and Scotland — we'll make all the arrangements, tickets, etc.'" The Downers, of course, picked up the tab for their part of the costs.

"God works in such wonderful ways! Bob and I were overwhelmed. That was the most wonderful experience, every minute and hour of it, little details, big moments."

Before they left the United States, they flew to Atlanta to visit grandson Eric Sander, a professional football player, and his family. It included celebrating the second birthday of their great-grandson.

"In Scotland and England we filled our minds, our souls, with the lore of that world, which we'd only read about. It was the most fulfilling experience I'd ever known," Alice said. "To visit Glasgow, Edinburgh, Cornwall, land of my mother's people; Salisbury, area of Bob's family; London where we had a little flat, was almost unbelievable. It was so wonderful."

What rewarding adventure and wide travels we reviewed as we sat in Alice's living room on a hill overlooking the beloved Carson Valley.

Editor's note: Mary Settlemeyer-Fair is a regular contributor to The Record-Courier.

Alpine awards made

Bobby Stephens was presented with the Community Volunteer award at the Alpine County community awards dinner Friday night in Woodfords.

Stephens, active with the volunteer fire department in Woodfords as well as search and rescue, was one of six individuals recognized during the fete at Diamond Valley School. The awards were based on balloting within the community.

Other plaques were presented to Dave Peets of the Alpine

County assessor's office, County Employee of the Year; Lynn Watson, a special education teacher at Diamond Valley School, was named Educator of the Year; Paul Washam Jr. was named Fire Fighter of the Year; and Henry Blackwood Deputy Sheriff of the Year.

A special appreciation award was presented to Alpine Sheriff Henry "Skip" Veatch for his support to the Alpine Police Athletic League (PAL) youth athletics program.

Record Courier 3/28/93

Alpine wrestlers take state championships

Jimmy Blackwood and Nathan Bennett earned gold medals in their respective classes for the Alpine County PAL wrestling club at the USA Nevada state tournament last weekend in Carson City.

Blackwood captured first place in the 13-14 year-old 70-pound freestyle weight class and Bennett was first in the 9-10 year old 95-pound division. Both are students at Diamond Valley School in Woodfords.

Thirteen other Alpine wrestlers returned home with place finishes during round robin freestyle and Greco-Roman competition Saturday and Sunday, including Bud Nollet, who placed second behind

Blackwood.

In Greco-Roman, Randy Blackwood placed second in the 11-12 year old 70-pound division and Josh Goldberg fourth in the 15-16 110-pound class.

In freestyle, Ryan Richardson earned silver in the 13-14 135-pound class, Allen Bill placed third in the 9-10 108-pound class, Jeff John third in the 11-12 99-pound class, Jeff Martin in the 9-10 65-pound class, Louvain Erwin fifth in the 13-14 100-pound class, Anthony Lundy sixth in the 15-16 145-pound class, Sherwood Thomson sixth in the 16-17 135-pound class and David Bennett sixth in the 7-8 59-pound class.

Burns gives benefit Saturday

David Burns, the troubadour at Sorensen's Resort, will give a special concert on guitar and piano at Auntie M's Espresso in Gardnerville on Saturday, March 20 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The admission is free. Burns and Marsha Bennett of Auntie M's are putting on the concert to raise funds for the Friends of Hope Valley, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Hope Valley's wild and pristine beauty.

Fifty percent of all food and beverage sales made during the three-hour event and all sales proceeds from Burns' "Alpenglow" cassette tape will go to Friends. Also, members of the organization

will be there to accept contributions and offer information.

"This is a great opportunity for local residents to come out and support the organization that helps protect our wilderness playgrounds in Alpine County," says Burns. "Friends of Hope Valley has been very instrumental in assuring the preservation of 25,000 acres in and around Hope Valley and has helped to get these wilderness lands up to second priority in the nation for Forest Service acquisitions."

Auntie M's Espresso is located at 1456A, Hwy. 395 in downtown Gardnerville.

Call 782-7571 for further information.

Record Courier 3/18/93

WARMING UP

Compiled by Chris Niskanen

WILDERNESS SURVIVAL

Who should pay for search and rescues?

When five lost cross-country skiers were miraculously discovered alive in Colorado in February, they were instantly hailed as heroic survivors.

But the media afterglow soon faded as the state's outdoors community rushed to point out that the group — some of whom had experience mountain climbing in Alaska and the Himalayas — had knowingly skied into a snowstorm and were woefully ill-prepared.

One editorial had admonished the skiers for having "the brain capacity of arctic lichen."

For Colorado and the nation, the incident raised the question: Should people who get lost in the wilderness pay for their search and rescue?

Talk to Sierra Nevada rescue organizations and the answer is often an unequivocal yes.

* "Absolutely," says Bob Tucker, assistant sheriff in Alpine County.

Tucker should know. Last summer, Alpine County, which has no search-and-rescue budget, incurred a \$43,000 bill for the 11-day search of a lost boy, Kenny Miller, near Markleville.

"It's to the point now where people take these risks with some negligence and no consideration the consequences," Tucker says.

Tucker says such search and rescues can have devastating effects on the slim budgets of rural counties. A helicopter alone can cost \$500 an hour, he says.

And the cruel irony? Its the very qualities of rural counties — solitude, wide open spaces — that seem to attract people who end up getting lost. "Cross-country skiers and hunters are the largest problem, followed closely by anglers and day hikers," Tucker says.

(Luckily, this year's heavy snowpack kept many skiers out of Alpine County's backcountry and no searches were initiated, Tucker said.)

What's even more galling to rural counties is people who turn around and sue the same officials who rescued them. Alpine County has won two such lawsuits in the past 13 years, Tucker says.

Chris Salisbury of Reno, a member of the Wilderness Finders rescue group and veteran of more



ON THE TRAIL: Search and rescuers look for lost skiers on Mount Rose last year. Some groups say rescued people should pay for their searches.

Dave Parker/Gazette-Journal

than 150 searches, agrees that rescued people should bear more of the financial burden of their search.

But she worries that poor people might hesitate to call for rescuers if they think they'll be billed for it.

"Do (rescuers) not get called if the people can't afford it?" she says. "You'd hope that wouldn't be the case, but then there would be those would put themselves in danger by initiating an amateur search."

Salisbury says some within the rescue community advocate "no-rescue" areas — well-posted wilderness areas where "if you get lost, we're not coming in to get you."

Another solution might require people to purchase insurance policies that would pay for their rescue if

they get lost, she says.

In the case of Alpine County, however, the liability problem seems to be solved. Tucker says a California law requires lost individuals to pay for their rescue. If they can't afford it, their county of residence is billed.

"Maybe that will stop a few of them," he says. "Or least make them pay attention to where they are going."

In the Kenny Miller case, Alpine County hopes to recoup its \$43,000 for the search by billing Madera County, where the Millers reside, Tucker says.

Meanwhile, in Colorado, a spokesman for the lost skiers said they would try to raise money to pay for their rescue.

People

Record Courier 4-29-93

1893: Potatoes here from Reno

100 YEARS AGO
The Genoa Courier
Friday, April 28, 1893

POTATOES. Recorder Dungan has received by express a peck of Carson City potatoes from Michigan, which he will plant in his Genoa garden. The potatoes are smooth and pretty, with very shallow eyes and as they belong to the early varieties, it is likely they will prove a good addition to Carson Valley spuds.

PHOTOGRAPHER. The Imperial Photographic Studio at 726 Market St., San Francisco, does excel-

Remember when?

lent work in all lines and makes a special point of keeping up with the times in all the latest fads in photography. It is the oldest studio in the city and Messrs. Howland and Lonergas always give close attention to details of their work and guarantee satisfaction.

BE THANKFUL. While the weather has been disagreeable here, we should feel thankful that we have been spared from the terrible cyclones and devastating storms that are sweeping over other parts of the country.

* **FLUME.** Ted Dolan returned from Markleeville this week and says that Gray & Campbell will commence repairing their flume in a short time. About a mile and a half of flume was destroyed by an ice gorge on Indian Creek, owing to this stormy weather they will be late in starting wood down the flume. Sam Longabaugh is reported as saying that he hardly thinks he can start the drive before the 1st of August, as there is so much snow in the mountains that he dare not trust the wood in the river before that time.

Kids may enter song-writing contest

Record Courier 4-29-93
Kids in Alpine County are encouraged to sing out against tobacco use by writing a song that depicts the health risks and social implications of smoking and chewing tobacco.

The statewide contest is sponsored by the California Department of Health Services in conjunction with the Alpine County Tobacco Control Program.

"We want the kids to say 'no' to tobacco," said Dr. Rick Botto, Alpine County Health Officer. "Instead of using traditional health

messages, the music contest encourages kids to tell other kids, through all types of fun music, that smoking and chewing tobacco are no longer cool."

To enter the contest, kids must compose an original song or rewrite an existing tune so that it has a strong anti-tobacco theme. Entries are judged on originality, persuasiveness and its overall anti-tobacco message.

First place winners from eight regions will receive a Karaoke machine from Nikkodo USA.

Regional winners will automatically qualify for the statewide competition and the chance to win a trip to MCA/Universal Studios Hollywood for a VIP, behind-the-scenes tour as well as a professional studio recording session. The statewide competition will be judged by celebrities and music industry critics.

The deadline for entering the contest is June 5. For more information call 1-800-947-TUNE (inside California only).

4/21/93 Tahoe Daily Tribune

Alpine stands up for funds

Smallest county tells state to keep hands off

BY JEFF DELONG
Tribune Staff Writer

In a political David vs. Goliath move, Alpine County leaders voted Tuesday to resist Gov. Pete Wilson's plan to divert tax dollars from the county to the state.

California's smallest and least populated county thus became the fourth to revolt against the tax shift and is joined by three urban heavy-hitters: Los Angeles, Contra Costa and Alameda counties.

"For the state to be balancing the budget on the backs of counties like this is improper," said Eric Jung, chairman of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors.

Tuesday's unanimous vote was a cry of protest against Gov. Wilson's proposal to take \$2.6 billion in property tax revenue away from the state's counties, cities and special districts.

Approved was an ordinance directing county of-

Please see ALPINE, Page 8A

Alpine

Continued from Page 1A

officials to distribute Alpine's property tax revenue next year to local government programs and schools in the same manner and proportions as the current fiscal year. That requirement would stand regardless of any conflicting orders by the governor and Legislature.

A similar ordinance was approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors last week, shortly after Alameda leaders took similar action. The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors adopted the same strategy a month ago, subject to voter approval in June.

"I think we're going to see a lot of counties considering it in the next few weeks," said Paul McIntosh, chief administrative officer for El Dorado County. McIntosh noted that the California State Association of Counties has asked all counties to jump on the tax-revolt bandwagon.

McIntosh said the matter will be considered by El Dorado supervisors next week.

"It's more of a symbolic gesture than anything else," McIntosh said. "Hopefully the symbolism will not be lost on the Legislature."

Last summer the Legislature moved during its 63-day budget deadlock to pull \$1.3 billion in tax revenue away from local government. Gov. Wilson said he plans to double that hit for next year's budget, insisting that the money is needed to grapple with the state's own multibillion-dollar fiscal shortfall.

The resulting loss in money to tiny Alpine County may be far less than most, but officials at the Markleeville-based government

stressed every dollar is precious to provide services to the county's 1,200 residents.

The hit suffered by Alpine from last summer's diversion was about \$10,000 from the county service area established to finance snow removal. Officials say that loss could triple or quadruple in size under the governor's current proposal.

County Auditor Barbara Ryan said the county organization cannot handle such a hit.

"They don't have it," she said. "They absolutely don't have it."

Supervisor Jung pointed out that county auditors may have the most to lose in the event of a pitched battle with the state over the tax diversion. He said auditors are "the first line of defense" and could face jail time.

Ryan suggested she's willing to take the chance. "I've just had it with the state of California and the governor," she said. "We just don't have the tax base for this."

Wilson has defended his tax shift by saying most of the money involved is "bailout" funding given to local governments following the passage in 1978 of Proposition 13 — a subsidy he said the state no longer can afford.

That argument rings hollow in Alpine County, which Ryan said has never received any of the bailout money.

"We never took a penny," Ryan said.

"Whatever excuse, however flimsy it is ... they don't even have that," agreed Jung.

Jung said he would attend a "Siege of Sacramento" planned May 19 to protest the proposed tax shift. El Dorado supervisors will decide who they will send to the event next week.

I've just had it with the state of California and the governor.

— Barbara Ryan
Alpine auditor

California trout fishing set to open

Record Courier 4/22/94

Well-stocked streams await anglers waiting to turn out for the start of California's trout season Saturday.

While masses of mobile homes are ready to wheel their way from Southern California to newly opened creeks and lakes around the Bishop and Mono County area, thanks to a good winter of snowfall, sportsmen in the Carson Valley can look forward to above average conditions closer to home in Alpine County.

"This may be one of the best opening days we've had yet," reports Judy Warren of the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce.

"Even in Fish & Game News, they're

saying the Alpine County waters are perfect.

"The water is not rushing down terrifically, but it's high enough to have flushed the sedimentation on the rocks, which makes it safer, and prettier. And the water is fairly clear, almost like July water," she continued.

Area streams have been stocked by the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, Alpine County Fish & Game and California Department of Fish & Game, with assistance with South Lake Tahoe Public Utilities District.

Markleeville Creek, Pleasant Valley Creek (fly fishing only, with restrictions),

Silver Creek, Hot Springs Creek, plus the east and west forks of the Carson River have been planted with rainbows up to three pounds.

Highway 4 may be opened to the second bridge this weekend in order to provide access to Silver Creek, according to Warren. Blue Lakes Road remains closed.

Indian Creek Reservoir, standing at 49-feet, has been stocked with trophy rainbow and kamloop trout. The campground will be open this weekend.

The Carson River East Fork is a "wild trout" section, with restrictions, to the Nevada state line.

Also, anglers are reminded they need a

valid California fishing license. Licenses are available at Woodfords Station, East Fork Resort and Monty Wolf's Trading Post. Sorensen's Resort in Hope Valley will have licenses in early May.

Looking for some tips. Warren advises that due to lack of airborne insects at this time, nymph fly angling will be successful. Also, large stoneflies may be found at this time. Success may also be found with Panther Martins in gold or green (1/8 to 1/4 oz.), yellow rooster tails, black or brown woolly worms, Black Matukas or great garden worms for lakes.

California's trout season continues through Nov. 15.

Alpine Cleanup Day adds new dimension

Record Courier 4/18/93

The annual Markleeville Spring Cleanup Day will be held May 8 and 9, and this year a new event has been added to the clean up list.

On May 16, all residents of Alpine County may dispose of their hazardous household waste at no cost.

This event is held in conjunction with El Dorado County.

Householders may take their hazardous waste to the South Tahoe Refuse Co., 2140 Ruth Ave., South Lake Tahoe, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Materials must be transported in containers that are sound and not leaking and properly labeled. They should be kept away from passengers in vehicles, and not more than 5 gallons or 50 pounds per vehicle may be transported, according to state law.

Hazardous household materials include leftover paint, used oil, pool chemicals, rat poison, cleaning fluids, pesticides, anti-freeze, motor oil, batteries, bleach, lighter fluid, paint removers, oven and toilet bowl cleaners and all

other materials that are toxic, corrosive, flammable or reactive.

These items, if not properly disposed of, can be hazardous to health.

These chemicals should not be poured down the drain.

Unacceptable materials include explosives, radioactive materials, medical waste, compressed gas cylinders, PCBs and dioxins.

For more information about what can be disposed of or for directions, call Denise Jones, county assistant planner, (916) 694-2255.

Alpine PAL wins California crown

Though just in its second year of existence, the Alpine County Police Athletic League (PAL) wrestling program has already made its mark as a champion.

With the aid of contributions from each of its 24 athletes, 18 of whom advanced to the finals in their age group weight classes, Alpine captured the overall team championship trophy at the California PAL state wrestling tournament held April 7-9 in Santa Monica.

Alpine brought home 11 individual champions: Alan Bill, Josh Goldberg, Uno Kivi, Jimmy Blackwood, Troy Fontana, Randy Blackwood, Jeff John, Lysle Turnbeaugh, Jeff Martin, Nathan Bennett and David Bennett.

Six others earned silver medals during the competition: Dwayne Summerhill, Josh Kivi, Nick John, Bud Nollett, Louvain Erwin, Ryan Richardson and Sherwood Thomsen.

"We were surprised (to win)," Alpine coach Henry Blackwood said. "There were a lot of people there, but the kids all really wrestled well."

Record Courier
4/18/93

'Angling in Alpine' set for Markleeville

Record Courier 4/25/93

Judy Warren, executive director of the Alpine Chamber of Commerce, will present "Angling Alpine," Friday, May 7, 6:30 p.m., at the Villa Gigli Collection Gallery/Cafe in Markleeville.

Ruggero Gigli will also give a culinary demonstration, showing how he marinates rainbow trout and prepares an Alpine-pinenut sauce. Guests not only will enjoy eating the trout, accompanied by Taglierini Primavera and Cai Cellars Musque, but will also learn from Warren the best angling spots and how to "reel 'em in."

Warren has been an avid angler from childhood. Her father first put a pole in her hand when she was four, and she began to fly fish at age 12.

She says, "Fishing is fun, relaxing and a great way to get rid of stress." Warren centers her business, "Horse Feathers," at Sorensen's Resort in Hope Valley where she teaches fly tying and fly casting, and also provides guide service to wilderness areas.

Warren is the Alpine County Manager/Stream Keeper for California Trout, and belongs to

Trout Unlimited, Outdoor Guides of North America, High Sierra Flycasters, and Golden West Women's Flycasters.

Twelve months of the year she coordinates activities among various agencies, encouraging new trout programs and enlisting volunteer crews to improve habitat.

The Villa Gigli Collection Gallery/Cafe has limited space, so participation will be determined by the first 20 reservations. For more information, call Gina Gigli, 916-694-2253.

Alpine joins California tax revolt

by JEFF DELONG
R-C News Service

In a political David vs. Goliath move, Alpine County leaders have voted to resist Gov. Pete Wilson's plan to divert tax dollars from the county to the state.

California's smallest and least populated county thus became the fourth to revolt against the tax shift and is joined by three urban heavy-hitters: Los Angeles, Contra Costa and Alameda counties.

"For the state to be balancing the budget on the backs of counties like this is improper," said Eric Jung, chairman of the Alpine

County Board of Supervisors.

Last Tuesday's unanimous vote was a cry of protest against Gov. Wilson's proposal to take \$2.6 billion in property tax revenue away from the state's counties, cities and special districts.

Approved was an ordinance directing county officials to distribute Alpine's property tax revenue next year to local government programs and schools in the same manner and proportions as the current fiscal year. That requirement would stand regardless of any conflicting orders by the governor and Legislature.

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proved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors last week, shortly after Alameda leaders took similar action. The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors adopted the same strategy a month ago, subject to voter approval in June.

"I think we're going to see a lot of counties considering it in the next few weeks," said Paul McIntosh, chief administrative officer for El Dorado County. McIntosh noted that the California State Association of Counties has asked all counties to jump on the tax-revolt bandwagon.

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"It's more of a symbolic gesture than anything else," McIntosh said. "Hopefully the symbolism will not be lost on the Legislature."

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Continued to page 3

Record Courier 4/25/93

Alpine: Joins state tax revolt

Continued from page 1

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Record Courier 5/2/93

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Record
Courier 5/6/93

Very disturbed

EDITOR:

I was very disturbed with the letter that was published by Mr. Scott Neil in the Sunday, April 25 edition of The Record-Courier.

Again, Mr. Neil writes about the drug problem in the county. And again, Mr. Neil wants to do nothing to help stop it. It seems to me, Mr. Neil, that you are willing to criticize the behavior of others, but you are not willing to do anything about it. Why?

By no means do I agree with the use of alcohol and or drugs. And yes, I agree that Douglas does have a problem. Every day I go to school and hear about the drug problem and it disgusts me, but unlike you, Mr.

Letters to the editor

Neil, I don't close my eyes and hide and run away from the problem. I confront it.

In your last letter you gave teens ideas of things to do, such as bonfires and blaring music all night, but do you think that we could actually do something like this without getting into trouble?

You are right. We do need to do something about this problem, but the answer, Mr. Neil, is not to leave hoping you'll end up in your own little carefree, drug free, problem-free world. The answer is to get involved in the community and show teens you care.

I think that if we all work together and invest some of our time by trying to solve the drug problem, we can make Douglas County a better, safer place to live. But I guess all I can hope for as a teenager, is that the rest of the people in the community won't close their eyes and run from the problem like you, Mr. Neil, but will be willing to help!

KORRIE CALLISON

Douglas High School Sophomore
April 28

Record
Courier

50 YEARS AGO
The Record-Courier
Friday, May 7, 1943

5/6/93

OFFICIAL NAME. Since the airport was built it has been known by at least three different names. Douglas county airport was the title most frequently used, but it has also been known as the Carson Valley airport and the Minden flying field.

Recently the board of county commissioners decided to do something about it and after due consideration and study, officially designated the field as the Tahoe-Douglas airport.

* **FINDS GOLD PIECES.** While raking his yard at Fredericksburg a few days ago, Earnhart Bassman uncovered a five dollar gold piece minted in 1844. Because of its early date, it is believed that it was lost by one of the thousands of fortune seekers that etaoi shrdlu uuuuu pine county during the early-day mining boom at Silver Mountain, the old road running close to the spot where the gold piece was found.

[Editor's note: The nonsense words "etaoi shrdlu" was typed in by linotype operators in the days of hot lead type to indicate a mistake had been made. The compositor then changed the mistake with the correct line of lead type. It seems the composing room didn't catch this mistake on the front page. This is rarely seen in the old R-C.]

Filmmakers enjoy quiet setting to edit movie on Bruce Lee's life

by M.B. HEPP
Staff Writer

Tucked in the woods surrounding Markleeville, a team of local editors cut and spliced film for three months.

On Friday, "Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story," a film that took four years to make, will make its Gardnerville debut at Meadowdale Twin Cinemas.

"I felt very proud to take my son there to watch Huck Finn and see my movie there," said Rob Cohen. Cohen wrote, directed and edited the new film.

It has been four years since he bought the rights to the book, "Bruce Lee: The Man Only I Knew," by the martial art expert's widow Linda Lee.

The movie was filmed in such bustling cities as Hong Kong and San Francisco. In contrast, the grueling hours of editing took place at Cohen's mountain retreat in Alpine County. Markleeville resident Janine Sprout was the apprentice editor.

Cohen has made several top-run films, and has been working in the medium since his early 20s.

"I've made the films, 'Bird on a Wire,' 'Running Man,' 'Razor's

Edge.' I've worked in Hollywood for the last 21 years, since I got out of college," Cohen said.

The filmmaker and his wife Diana Mitzner have lived in Alpine County for six years with their 6-year-old son Kyle. "It's our second home, but our primary emotional home," he said.

His place is a haven from the clogged freeways and smog of Los Angeles, the perfect place to let creativity flow.

The team of five editors, Cohen, Sprout, Peter Amundsen, Paisley Pappé and Anne Sawyer holed up in a loft in Cohen's house for three months to complete the project. The room, now devoid of editing equipment, is his son's playroom.

"It's romantic, a love story about Bruce Lee and his American wife, Linda Lee," Cohen said about the film. "Of course, there's a lot of martial arts action. It traces Lee's life from Hong Kong to the United States until his death in 1973."

Cohen co-wrote the screenplay with Edward Khmara, who also wrote "Enemy Mine" and "Lady Hawk," and first-time writer John Raffo.

He said more women like the story than men. Sneak preview



FILMMAKER. Rob Cohen, who wrote and directed "Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story," had Janine

Sprout work with him on editing the film. R-C photo by Belinda Rohleder

polls showed 97 percent of the women considered it good, compared to 95 percent of the men who thought it was a good movie.

Cohen said he doesn't give any credence to a popular belief that there was a curse on Lee's life and his son's life. Lee died of a cerebral edema in 1973. His son Brandon recently died of a gunshot wound while on a movie set in North Carolina.

"No, I don't believe there is such a thing as curses. Though the Chinese believe in such a thing a fate. Bruce Lee had a much closer dance with fate than most of us," he said.

Cohen is gearing up for his next project. He is the executive producer of four, two-hour, made-for-television movies called, "Vanishing Son."

The movies are about two Chinese brothers who immigrate to the U.S.

The filmmaker is not leaving his Alpine home for long. He plans to be there editing when his next feature film is ready.

Sprout, who is usually the public information officer for the Nevada State Museum in Carson City, was on a leave of absence

Continued to page

Record Courier
5/6/93

'Dragon': Opens here Friday

Continued from page 1
she could work on the film.

"I was really in just the right place at the right time," Sprout said.

"I went out and got a text book and read and was trained by the editor and assistant editors."

The group spent three months, seven days a week, 12- to 14-hour days editing. Toward the end, Sprout said, they slowed down to a five-day a week schedule.

"It was quite long hours. We were under a deadline and there was quite a lot of pressure," she said.

It was a lot of work, yet her face lit up when she thought of doing it again.

"I'd love to do this again. It's a lot of fun and very thrilling to be a part of it."

Sprout said her work as a graphic designer helped in her education in film editing. In the past, she worked at The Record-Courier for two years in the production department.

"It was really involved and it was a team effort," she said.

The team wrapped up the final editing during the first week in November 1992 and then Sprout

and her husband Jerome took off for Paris for the winter.

Mike Wiley, owner of the Meadowdale Theaters is looking forward to the show.

"Normally we would not play this show as a first run. The movie studios don't always want to play us on the break," Wiley said. "Playing on the break is playing a film when the rest of the world plays it — the big cities. I think we'll get a good showing for this."

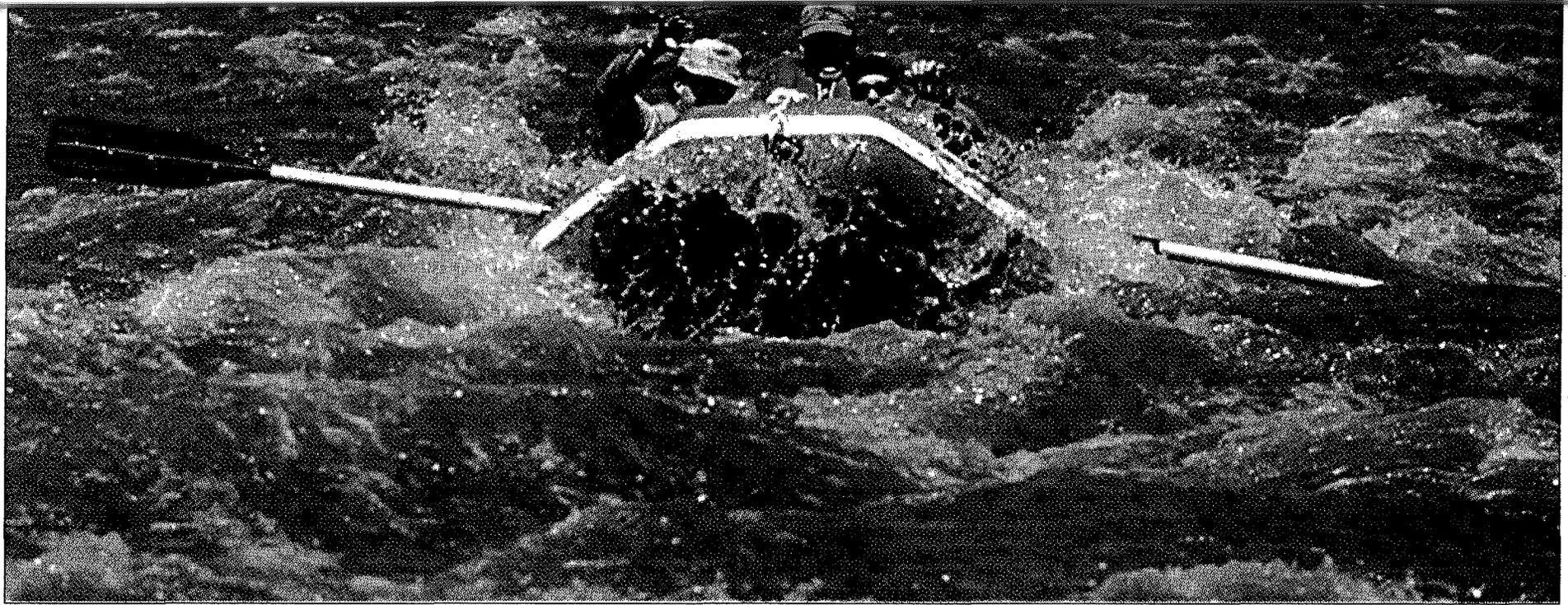
Wiley said that Cohen went high up in Universal Studios to get the film to play in Gardnerville.

The lobby poster for the movie is signed by Cohen: "Dear Mike and the Meadowdale gang, I've spent many happy hours watching movies here, I hope you enjoy watching mine."

"We're happy he went to bat for us," Wiley said.

A Valley martial arts club is getting a kick out of the movie, too. Ernie Reye's West Coast Institute of Tae Kwon Do in the Gardnerville Ranchos scheduled a private showing for their students.

Show times for "Dragon" are daily at 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m. 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. It opens this Friday, May 7.



Jean Dixon Aikin/Gazette-Journal

UP AND OVER: The East Fork of the Carson River provides enough white-water for a few whoops.

H₂O O O O O O O H!

Sights and sounds abound along the East Fork of the Carson River

By Chris Niskanen
GAZETTE-JOURNAL

MARKLEEVILLE, Calif. — It's lunch time on the East Fork of the Carson River and I'm about to get soaked.

Buddy Antos, our rafting captain, maneuvered the 16-foot Avon raft straight into the Class III rapid, but somehow we've gotten cockeyed and an imposing wave looms ahead.

I brace myself.
"Whoaaa. . . arghhh." Icy water leaps over the raft and into my lap. It's a scream of pleasure and pain. Whoops

It's also one of the closest rivers to raft near Reno.

"It's amazing how many people don't even know this resource exists," says Guy Pence, a ranger with the Carson District of the Toiyabe National Forest.

"It's a very unique river in this part of the world."

When he's not cooped up in his Carson City office, Pence becomes a river rat. He's rafted the East Fork more times than he can count, and was our guide on a 19-mile trip from Minden to just outside Markleeville.

Our group was a mixed bag: photographers, outdoor writers

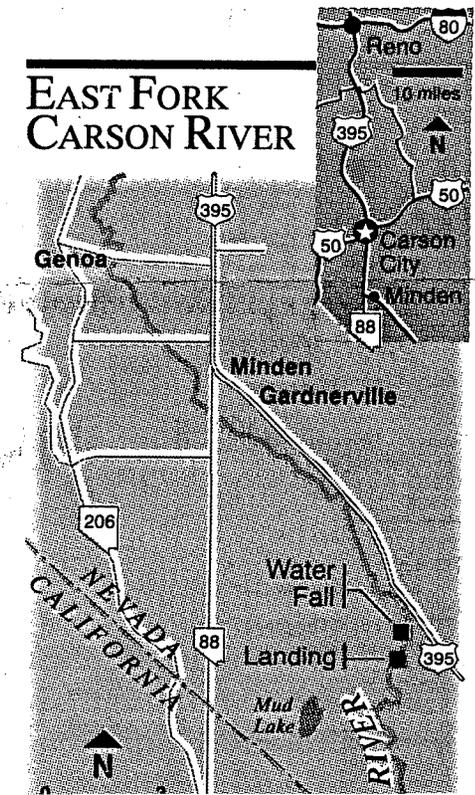
have twice cast their eyes upon the East Fork with dreams of building a reservoir.

The roads and pipes are still visible, but luckily the plans to dam the river dried up.

Pence would like to study if the river should have "wild and scenic" designation, which would protect it from future development.

The study would cost about \$90,000, he said, and Congress would have to give the final OK for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers act.

In the meantime, about a



somehow we've gotten cockeyed and an imposing wave looms ahead.

I brace myself.

"Whoaaa. . . arghhh." Icy water leaps over the raft and into my lap. It's a scream of pleasure and pain. Whoops and cheers erupt from the raft beached downstream as I pump my fist into the air.

Once we're on the beach, I shake off the snow-melt water from my shirt like a wet Labrador.

"That," I say, "was a real eye-opener."

For white-water rafting enthusiasts, the East Fork of the Carson River is an eye-opener.

What it lacks in high-powered rapids (most are Class II on a scale of I to VI), it makes up for in sheer beauty and accessibility.

river rat. He's rafted the East Fork more times than he can count, and was our guide on a 19-mile trip from Markleeville to just outside Minden.

Our group was a mixed bag: photographers, outdoor writers and Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service officials.

Despite our different callings, we were soon joined by a mutual admiration for this river.

We put in at Hangman's Bridge, just outside Markleeville, after Pence gave a mandatory 15-minute safety course.

The river was a light chocolate color and cold as a glacier. Pence assured us it was unlikely we would fall in.

"But if you do, just lean back, point your feet down river and let the life jacket float you above the water," he said.

I waded shin-deep into the river as we pushed off and felt the skin on my scalp tighten. *No way I was going to fall in here, I thought.*

The river was running at 1,400 cubic feet per second — just enough to elicit a few whoops without a white-knuckle ride.

We bounced through a couple of rapids in the morning, but mostly admired the deep canyons, dotted with juniper, cedars and pines jutting from the river's edge.

Kingfishers darted from limb to limb. Garrulous Canada geese warned us away from their nesting sites.

After my soaking, we beached the rafts for lunch at a hot springs. Full-bloom desert peach bushes accented the hills with dashes of pink.

We soaked our chilled feet in the 98-degree water, munching sandwiches.

In the afternoon, Pence pointed out where engineers had built roads and drilled core samples in the hillsides.

In the past 25 years, engineers

the study would cost about \$90,000, he said, and Congress would have to give the final OK for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers act.

In the meantime, about a half-dozen commercial rafting service operated on the river, along with numerous private groups, Pence said.

After five hours, we beach the rafts at the take-out point just a few miles from Highway 395. Tired and sunburned, we still quickly load the rafts and take one last look at the East Fork of the Carson River.

"It's quite a place," Pence said, turning the pickup down the dirt road toward Minden. Indeed it is.

All you need to know about rafting on the Carson:

■ **All rafting guide** services on the East Fork of the Carson River are required to have a permit from the Carson Ranger District of the Toiyabe National Forest.

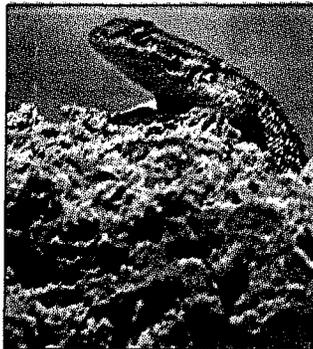
■ **Forest's district** office keeps a record of the permitted guides on the river. For a copy, phone 882-2766.

■ **The office** will not recommend any one guide service. However, you should always check to make sure your guide service is properly permitted.

The Forest Service requires all guides on the East Fork of the Carson River to have proper insurance and safety features for their trips.

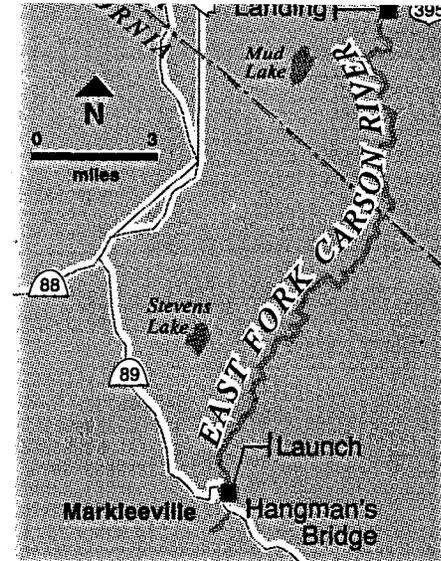
■ **A free directory** of California outfitters is available from California Outdoors. Call (800) 552-3625. You may have to leave a message.

■ **The Yellow Pages** also lists guide services.

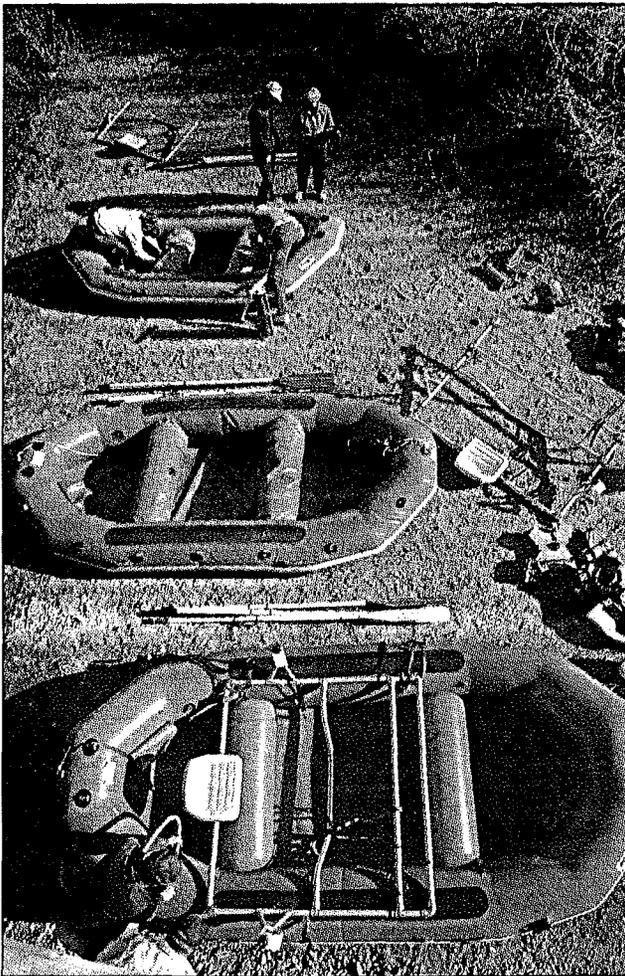


Jean Dixon Aikin/Gazette-Journal

FAUNA: The river is a good place to see and be seen, as this western fence lizard demonstrates.



Dave Hardman/Gazette-Journal



Jean Dixon Aikin/Gazette-Journal

STARTING POINT: The 19-mile river trip begins at Hangman's Bridge.

PREPARING FOR A RAFT TRIP

- **Equipment:** What kind of boats will be used? Are they bailing or self-bailing? Will you be required to paddle or will guides do the rowing?
- **The company:** How experienced are the guides? Does the company have the proper permits for rafting the river you'll be on?
- **Clothing:** How much clothing should you wear? Will the company provide "water booties"? Will there be an opportunity to change into dry clothes at the end of the trip?

Fishing on the fly

Rushing streams portend excellent summer angling

by BRIAN MAFFLY
R-C News Service

Sierra anglers bid farewell last weekend to an extremely harsh winter that seemed to persist past its normal boundaries, lingering well into spring.

Armed with artificial flies, lures, worms and power bait, these sportsmen ventured up Northern California's swollen rivers as trout season opened on most of the state's streams.

Despite predictably bad conditions, anglers hit Alpine County in large numbers, observing an opening-day tradition that marks the changing of seasons.

"Everybody comes out just to say they did," explained Jim Crouse, a fly-fishing guide and instructor based in South Lake Tahoe. "People come out opening day and then you don't see anyone for three or four weeks."

The short angling season on Lake Tahoe's tributaries doesn't start for another two months.

The long, drought-busting winter of 1992-93 has left behind a trail of weather-related disasters, but it also blessed California with a massive frozen reservoir that is now being released by spring's warmth. The Sierra's



now being released by springs within the Sierra's stream channels are consequently roaring with runoff from the first robust snowpack in years.

But the fishing conditions were surprisingly good on opening weekend, according to some observers.

"I thought it was really good. Up until the Friday before, the water was running very clear," said Judy Warren, a Markleeville fly-fishing instructor who is the executive director of the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce. "If the weather continues, we're going to see some really good conditions in the next few weeks."

While the water tumbles out of the Sierra at chilly temperatures, the trout tend to remain inactive, lurking in areas protected from the strong, sediment-filled currents.

"Their internal calendar starts turning on when it starts warming up. They're pretty lethargic when it's cold," Warren said.

The temperature of the water rushing down the Carson River's west fork registered in the low forties on Sunday, far below the 55 or 56 degrees that is considered optimal for trout angling.

But the trout were reportedly biting on opening weekend, with many fishermen walking away with the limit.

"They're hitting power bait and worms," said Walt Boitano, who runs the East Fork Resort, a favorite gathering point near Markleeville where anglers swap fishing tales. "Green power bait seems to work and I think it stinks."

Tacked onto the wall of a Markleeville store on Sunday was a Polaroid snapshot of a fisherman holding a trout weighing an alleged 3 pounds, 14 ounces. The fish was reportedly caught that day on Pleasant Valley Creek, a nearby stream where bait and barbed hooks are forbidden.

Crouse was about 30 seconds into his 1993 season when he coaxed a trout to rise from beneath an overhanging bush on Silver Creek on Sunday afternoon. He failed, however, to persuade the foot-long rainbow to strike his woolly bugger fly with much gusto, and Crouse abandoned the lie after a few more casts.

"Not bad for the second cast. I should have had it. It's been a long winter," Crouse said. "He was right where we thought he'd be. If I didn't see him I would have caught him."

A short distance upstream, Crouse successfully landed a seven-inch rainbow trout. Its small size and intact fins revealed that the fish was spawned in the wild, a fact that Crouse said made the catch a worthwhile experience.

Tricking a native fish into making a meal of a hooked hair ball is a lot harder than hooking the more aggressive planted fish that populate Alpine rivers. Hatchery fish have to fight for their food in their crowded artificial environments and are, therefore, conditioned to strike at almost anything when they are released into the wild, Crouse explained.

A strict adherent to the catch-and-release faith, Crouse



HOOLED ON FISHING. Ralph Gooch of Stateline casts a fly on Pleasant Valley Creek, a popular trout stream located approximately three miles out-

side Markleeville. Only fly-casters are allowed to fish on this Alpine County stream. R-C News Service photo by Rick Gunn

returned his little trophy rainbow to the river, calling after it, "See you next year."

With its stunning mountain gorges and trout-stocking programs, Alpine's East Slope boasts some of the finest fly-fishing in California. Its reservoirs and streams are particularly popular with Nevada anglers residing in nearby Carson Valley. With so few streams in-state, these fishermen pay the \$64 price for a non-resident California license for the privilege of fishing Alpine's waters just a half-hour drive away.

"There are no streams in Nevada to fish if you want to fly-fish," said Henry Martinez of Gardnerville as he purchased his license in the East Fork Resort's store. "We'll take off from work at 3 or 4 in the afternoon and come and fish the Walker River and the Carson.

"It's really nice to have such a beautiful area to fish just 20 minutes away from home."

Indian Creek Reservoir, one of the few Sierra lakes presently free of ice, is said to be yielding large trout and kamloops. Located between Woodfords and Markleeville off State Route 89, the reservoir has a campground that recently opened. Other open Alpine County campgrounds include Crystal Springs, Markleeville and Turtle Rock State Park.

Many of the higher-elevation tributaries are still snow-bound and won't be accessible to angling until summer, when fishing conditions are expected to be optimal.

"But that is also to our advantage," Warren observed. "That saves some of our best places for later in the season."

Record Courier
5/31/93

Alpine County Historical Complex opens Memorial Day weekend

Memorial Day weekend will mark the annual opening of the Alpine County Historical Complex in Markleeville.

The opening day festivities on Saturday, May 29 will feature live bluegrass and country music from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. by Dan Murphy and the Flexible Flyers.

Refreshments will be provided by the Historical Society of Alpine County, and the Native Sons will have a no-host bar. The Alpine County Arts Commission is co-sponsor of the event along with the Historical Society.

The complex will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. It

consists of the Old Webster School, constructed on the site in 1872 and restored by the society in 1968; the Historic Log Jail which includes iron cells constructed at Silver Mountain City in 1865; and the Alpine County Museum. The museum includes exhibits featuring an old general store and

post office, a blacksmith shop, a watchmaker's shop, Washo history and culture, and mining history.

Also on exhibit is the Spicer archeological collection which includes prehistoric tools and artifacts dating about 10,000 years. The Spicer project, which

took place in the 1980s, also recovered data from what is thought to be the oldest known structure on the North American continent. Spicer Reservoir is located in southwest Alpine County. Behind the museum is a four stamp mill which is being rebuilt. The museum store sells

books for adults and children, jewelry, and other items.

Normal operating hours for the complex after May 29 are from noon to 5 p.m. every day except Tuesday through October. For further information call Museum Director Nancy Thornburg at (916) 694-2317 or 694-2102.

Record Courier 5/20/93

People

1943: Douglas High yearbook

100 YEARS AGO
The Genoa Courier
Friday, May 19, 1893

DID YOU KNOW?

That mumps are thinning out.
That Genoa has musical talent.
That weddings are rather scarce.
That the Literary should be kept up.
That we ought to have a sugar beet factory.
That Will Johnson's colt is doing handsomely.
That you should always buy of your home merchants.

Remember when?

That Carson Valley has a bright future before her.
That Douglas county mines are coming to the front.
That it pays to raise raspberries and other small fruits.

That crinoline has actually made its appearance in Genoa.

That the Sheriff has at last got hold of Dick Gelatt's barn.

That Carson Valley should export more potatoes than she does.

That the tillable area in Carson Valley is being increased every year.

That our minister receives more than his predecessors and deserves more than he gets.

That our schools will soon be closed and the teachers winging their way homeward.

That there is enough water running to waste in the Carson river to irrigate the whole State.

That Eastern people are writing to Carson Valley people with a view in investing in land here.

That the World's Fair will create a demand for potatoes and other vegetables, and Nevada can take the lead.

* That Alpine is so healthful that she can neither support a drug store nor physician, and so peaceable that a lawyer would starve.



Potluck

Alpine Jazzercise, sponsored by Alpine County Tobacco Control, will celebrate its second anniversary Tuesday evening with a potluck and fast and fit program beginning at 5:45 p.m. at Marklee Toll Station in

Markleeville. From left are Donna Ramos, Teresa Horse, Cassandra Fred, Jennifer Weller and Carolyn Vaughn. Nancy Kerley photo

Alpine County Gathering welcomes former residents to gala festivities in August

Record Courier 5/23/93

People have been living in what is now Alpine County, Calif. since about 8,000 B.C. In fact what is thought to be the oldest known structure on the north American continent is located at Spicer Reservoir in the southwestern part of the county.

The museum has an excellent interpretive display of this archeological site as well as a fine collection of the tools used by these earliest inhabitants.

On Saturday, Aug. 14, Members of the Historical Society of Alpine County will be hosting a get together picnic at the Historical Complex for present and past Alpiners.

They don't necessarily expect that people who lived here 10,000 years ago will be able to attend, but they are hoping to find many former students, teachers and

school board members who have moved away, as well as others who have lived in Alpine County.

"If you are a 'survivor' of Alpine County, this is an opportunity to renew old friendships and acquaintances. The event itself is free, and food and drink will be available from concession run by local groups," said Nancy Thornburg, museum director.

"To help the Historical Society plan, let them know if you can attend. We need to know as soon as possible whether we're talking about 100 or 1,000 people!" she said. She is also looking for the names and addresses of others who have moved away or send them a copy of this notice. Information can be sent to Alpine Gathering, P.O. Box 24, Markleeville, Calif. 96120. Call 916-694-2317 or 916-694-2102.

Alpine Teen Drunk Driving Workshop set

Kids may see first-hand the effects of alcohol on the body's ability to react and make judgments at a special at a Teen Drunk Driving Workshop and Dinner.

Some adult presenters at the third annual Alpine County workshop will drink beer and wine coolers during the evening, and at the end their alcohol level will be measured by California Highway Patrol.

The workshop and dinner are

set for May 26, 6 p.m., at Turtle Rock Park on Highway 89 between Woodfords and Markleeville.

The program includes a discussion of what makes a driving under the influence suspect; Students Against Driving Drunk from Douglas High School; Mothers Against Drunk Drivers; DARE; Student Assistance Program; Alpine County Mental Health and Alpine County Superior Court.

Free child care and dinner for children under 10 will be held at the Alpine Children's Center.

The event is sponsored by the Alpine County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission, Alpine Kids and Alpine Children's Center.

Record Courier 5/23/93

Record Courier
5-27-93

Hope Valley Friends set work day May 29

Volunteers are welcome to join the Friends of Hope Valley on Saturday, May 29 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. for a Hope Valley work day.

This outdoor venture will need volunteers to help put up old cattle fences and gates on publically owned (Forest Service/California Fish and Game) lands under the direction of these public agencies to protect fragile, open meadows. To participate in this annual work

day, volunteers should bring heavy work gloves and simple tools, such as a appropriately for the weather and bring sun block and hats for all-day protection.

Water and juice will be provided. Complimentary lunch can be ordered in advance. Volunteers should meet at the Hope Valley Campground, 3-miles out Blue Lakes Road, just off of Highway 88 to begin the

day.

This work day is sponsored by Friends of Hope Valley, a local non-profit group dedicated to the preservation of the historic, recreational and scenic values of Hope Valley. Over the last five years "Friends" has been involved in preserving over 25,000 acres in open space. For more information or to reserve lunch, call Nick Hartzell at 916-694-2194.



DVS musical

The Diamond Valley School Musical Theater was held at DVS May 21. Judd Palmer, left, is one of the frogs in the "Proud Maiden," a play adapted from a Tlinglet story. The event also featured the DVS band and chorus directed by

Jeff Harootunian. Bay Area composer Candace Natvig worked with DVS students for three months on a grant from California Arts Council. Alpine County Arts Commission also gave support. R-C photo by Belinda Rohleder

Record Courier
5/30/93

BIRTHS

Brenda Van Den Berg

Jean and David Van Den Berg of Markleeville are the parents of Brenda Lee, born May 19 at Carson-Tahoe Hospital in Carson City. She weighed 9 pounds 2 ounces at birth.

Record Courier

6-3-93

Handmade banjos, Italian food at Gigli's

Eric Leffingwell, former California State Park Supervising Ranger at Grover Hot Springs, will bring hand-made musical instruments to "Merenda in Markleeville" at the Villa Gigli Collection Gallery/Cafe, Friday, June 4, 6:30 p.m.

Adding flavor to the sights and sounds of the banjo and mandolin, will be Italian country-style food by Ruggero Gigli.

Leffingwell makes his

instruments from scratch and says, "Most of my woods are purchased from a small retailer in Blue Lake, Calif., near Eureka. After retiring and moving to Lakeview, Ore., I found that building mountain music instruments was a rewarding hobby, and then thought I should try my hand at playing them."

One of his old-time instruments is a "courting dulcimer," named because "the boy played on one

side and the girl on the other. As long as Mama could hear music she knew there was no hanky-panky going on."

For the "Merenda in Markleeville" Ruggero Gigli will prepare Quaglie con Polenta, or Quail with Polenta. The Mountain Music Merenda will be limited to 20 guests. Villa Gigli will have an open house the following day, Saturday, June 2, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Call 916-694-2253.

Pony Express reride is set for June 19

Record Courier
6-6-93

The Nevada Division of the National Pony Express Association announced that the 1993 annual Reride of the Pony Express will take place in Nevada June 17-19.

In commemoration of the original Pony Express, the National Pony Express Association conducts a reride each year, passing over the same route as the riders of old. As part of this re-enactment, Commemorative Letter vignettes are carried via mochila, 24 hours a day for 10 days. This year the pony riders leave St. Joseph, MI. on June 10 and arrive in Sacramento, Calif. on June 20.

The mail will enter Nevada near Ibupah, Utah at approximately 5 a.m. on June 17 and be relayed by horse and rider across the state exiting in Woodfords, Calif. at approximately 5:30 p.m. on June 19.

At Fort Churchill, after the mail is exchanged in front of the cemetery, the Civil War Volunteers and the Pony Express will officially open the fort for the summer. The mail will pass through Fort Churchill at 7:15 a.m. on Saturday, June 19. It will travel west to Dayton with a 10 a.m. exchange in front of the Odeon hall.

Processing to Carson City, the exchange held in front of the new Pony Express Pavilion in Mills Park on Highway 50 East, as part of the official opening of the pavilion at noon. It will then move through town by the Legislature on East Fifth Street. It proceeds south past Fuji Park and on to Mormon Station, Genoa exchanging at 2 p.m. and exits Nevada at 5:45 p.m. at Woodfords, Calif. on its way to Sacramento.

The Nevada Division of the NPEA will have about 125 riders participating including men and women who range in age from 14 on up.

Record Courier 6-6-93



DIAMOND VALLEY students pick up highway trash. Nancy Kerley photo

DVS students keep highways clean

All students at Diamond Valley School in Alpine County, Calif., aged 11-14 years are encouraged to give service to their community.

Students in the 6th and 7th combined classes taught by Anna Marie Collete help keep clean two miles of Highway 88

and two miles of Highway 89.

Sixth graders with three hours of community service are sponsored by Alpine County Tobacco Control program to attend Camp Concord, an environmental educational camp at South Lake Tahoe.

It shows youths a better way

to live with nature, according to program Tobacco Control spokesperson Nancy Kerley, from keeping the earth clean to keeping their lungs healthy.

Eighth graders do three hours of community service to earn credit toward a trip to Marriott's Great America.

Tahoe Daily Tribune

AND THE LAKE TAHOE NEWS

The Tahoe Daily Tribune is printed using recycled paper

Volume 36 • Number 134

South Lake Tahoe, California

Monday, June 7, 1993

Price 50 Cent

El Dorado, Alpine may hike sales tax

BY JEFF DELONG
Tribune Staff Writer

As county leaders across California struggle with an unprecedented budget emergency, they weigh painful spending cuts against the politically chancy option of raising taxes.

Gov. Pete Wilson, who proposes to strip \$2.6 billion in property tax funding from local government, has offered to the counties that would bear the lion's share of that hit the opportunity to ask voters to approve a half-cent sales tax hike next November.

Last Thursday, Wilson backed off from earlier positions and said he would be will-

ing to extend a temporary half-cent statewide tax, primarily to protect police and fire agencies facing fiscal decimation.

He has also set a special election Nov. 2 to allow counties to enact a permanent half-cent sales tax hike of their own, in part to offset losses in property tax revenue that would occur under his proposed budget.

Some angry leaders in Sierra Nevada counties say the sales tax proposal is a political ploy designed to make them take the heat from a tax-weary electorate. Others say the tax may be needed, along with any other source of revenue, to preserve critical public services.

El Dorado County Chief Administrative

Officer Paul McIntosh recently briefed county supervisors on the sales tax option during a budget update. He also informed them of the necessity of trimming another \$5 million in spending to help offset a projected deficit for next fiscal year in excess of \$10 million.

If approved, such a tax hike would raise an extra \$5 million for El Dorado — an amount which would roughly equal the next round of cuts believed necessary in that county.

"We have had to make tremendous cuts and this could be an opportunity to replace

Please see TAX, Page 8A

Tax

Continued from Page 1A

that loss of funds," McIntosh said, noting in the same breath there's no guarantee the state might not later turn around and snatch the money just as it proposes to do with property tax.

Bill Center, chairman of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, said he'd be willing to put the sales tax proposal on the ballot to let the public decide if it's willing to pay for services being dismantled by the "cutting and cutting and cutting" supervisors have been forced to order.

But the West Slope supervisor was critical of the governor's motivations in offering the sales tax option.

"Forcing each county to do it on a county-by-county basis strikes me as a blatantly political move on the governor's part," Center said. "We're taking the heat for state decisions. He's shifting political heat."

It's heat John Upton, South Lake Tahoe's representative on the Board of Supervisors, is not willing to take. He said he would likely vote against putting a sales tax vote for El Dorado on the ballot next November.

"We'll just get by as we have to on our own part," Upton said. "I don't feel the vot-

ers of the county would be inclined to support it and as such I'm not prepared to push it."

The issue is complicated by disagreement over what margin of voter approval would be necessary to put a local sales tax hike in place. Gov. Wilson maintains a simple majority approval is all that is needed, and is supported by a legal opinion from Attorney General Dan Lungren. Others insist case law clearly shows a two-thirds voter approval is necessary, and that any sales tax put in place without that level of voter support could be successfully challenged in court.

"I think his legal grounds are pretty

shaky," said Jeanne Lear, administrative coordinator for Alpine County. Lear plans to schedule a discussion with her Board of Supervisors about sales tax opportunities in Alpine County soon.

Eric Jung, chairman of the Alpine board, said his county will have no choice but to look toward such revenue sources if the governor's proposed shift of property taxes takes place.

"We barely had enough money this year to plow snow. We can't stand it," Jung said. "We're going to need something extra."

Jung shared Lear's nervousness in putting any sales tax increase in place based only on a simple majority approval.

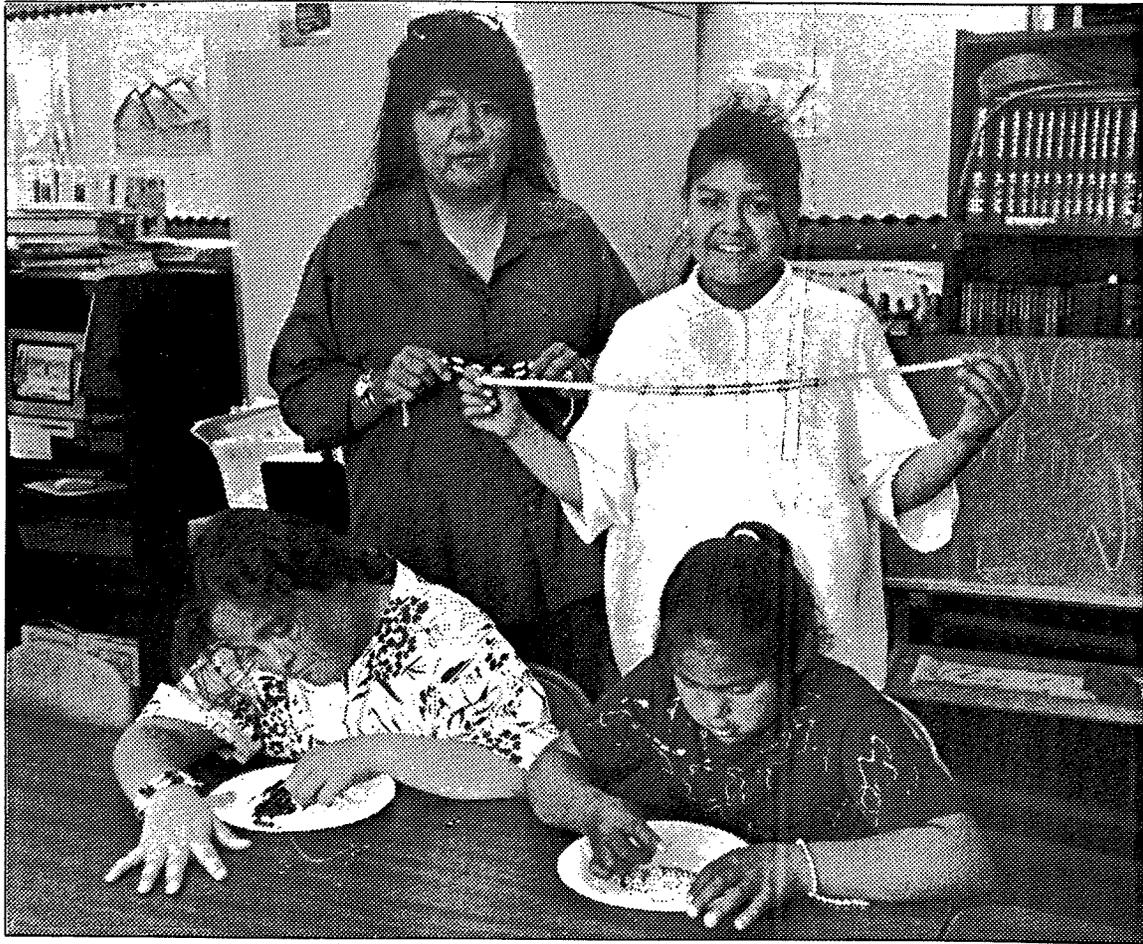
"No one wants to do it on the governor's say-so," he said.

To the north of Lake Tahoe in Nevada County, officials are looking at an \$8 million shortfall from the tax shift. The court already laid off 22 employees due to the 1 cent incorporation of Truckee.

Despite his county's fiscal plight, Supervisor Dave Tobiassen said Nevada County residents would doubtlessly reject any proposal to increase sales tax just as they have rejected similar payments to go for schools and recreation.

"You just don't get things like that passed up here," Tobiassen said. "Our county, at least, just blows it away every time."

Record Courier 6-10-93



Beading class

Kathy Vann, behind left, is teaching adults and kids the beading techniques she learned from her family at Diamond Valley School in Alpine County. Shown are Leora Crawford, left front,

Maggie John, right front, and behind Maggie, Sheila Crawford. Vann makes chokers, necklaces, bracelets and earrings. Nancy Kerley photo

Tahoe Daily Tribune

AND THE LAKE TAHOE NEWS

The Tahoe Daily Tribune is printed using recycled paper



Volume 36 • Number 137

South Lake Tahoe, California Thursday, June 10, 1993

Price 50 Cents

Suit filed over water

Amador sues over El Dorado plan on eve of hearings

By JEFF DELONG
Tribune Staff Writer

Amador County filed suit Wednesday in effort to block El Dorado County's plans to tap water from three Sierra Nevada lakes, but Amador officials say there's still time to talk.

The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, representing Alpine County and more than a dozen other parties, is expected to file its own lawsuit Friday.

Taken together, the suits would form a substantial block of legal opposition to El Dorado's plan when it is heard before the state Water Resources Control Board during a three-day set of hearings that begin Monday.

El Dorado had hoped to avoid a legal conflict with Amador, at least. It offered that

county's Board of Supervisors an agreement which would require the water level of Silver Lake on California State Route 88 to remain at historic levels even if El Dorado is successful in its bid to gain consumptive water rights to the lake.

Amador supervisors had seemed inclined to approve the agreement, but last week said they would do so only if El Dorado agreed to numerous amendments.

Amador County Counsel John Hahn said agreement still may be possible, but he filed suit in El Dorado County Superior Court in Placerville Wednesday to ensure the suit will be in place prior to Monday's hearings if the pact cannot be approved.

"We still want to talk with them and I do have every indication from the (El Dorado County) Water Agency they want to talk to

us," Hahn said.

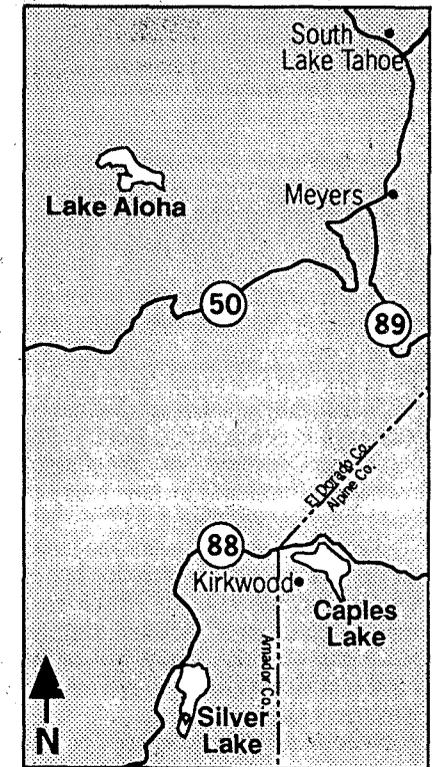
Without agreement, however, "we will proceed as protestants" during next week's hearings, Hahn said.

Stephan Volker of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund said his organization's lawsuit will be filed in Placerville Friday. The organization represents Alpine County, a number of businesses and property owners associations in the Caples Lake area, and the citizens group League to Save Sierra Lakes.

Volker's organization contends the environmental impact report prepared by the El Dorado County Water Agency on the project is inadequate and violates the California Environmental Quality Act.

"Bottom line is that the project is illegal,"

Please see **WATER**, Page 8A



Water

Continued from Page 1A

Volker said. "The EIR is unlawful in a number of areas."

El Dorado's Water Agency is seeking consumptive water rights to Caples Lake in Alpine County. Sil-

dicious to draw water for its quickly growing West Slope.

Sought are consumptive rights to more than 32,000 acre-feet of water, of which some 17,000 acre-feet could safely be used yearly. The water, which would be drawn downstream of the lakes from the South Fork of the American River, report-

Suit filed over water

Amador sues over El Dorado plan on eve of hearings

By JEFF DELONG
Tribune Staff Writer

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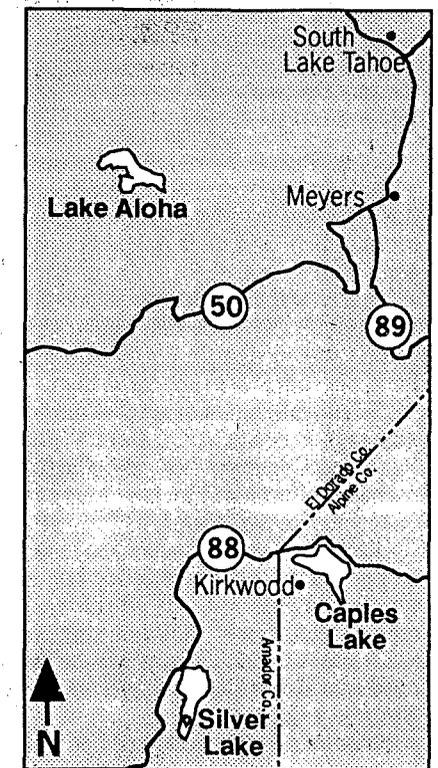
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Continued from Page 1A

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El Dorado's Water Agency is seeking consumptive water rights to Caples Lake in Alpine County, Silver Lake in Amador County and Lake Aloha in El Dorado County's Desolation Wilderness. The application to the state is unusual in that it seeks water from outside the boundaries of the county and the El Dorado Irrigation District, and is attempting to reach into other jurisdic-

tions to draw water for its quickly growing West Slope.

Sought are consumptive rights to more than 32,000 acre-feet of water, of which some 17,000 acre-feet could safely be used yearly. The water, which would be drawn downstream of the lakes from the South Fork of the American River, reportedly would be sufficient to meet El Dorado's needs until the year 2020.

The idea is viewed with particular concern by officials in Alpine and Amador counties, who fear the levels of the popular lakes could be substantially lowered with severe economic consequences.

Ceragioli ride & tie winner

Record Courier

6-13-93

Some close competition was featured last Sunday when runners and horse enthusiasts gathered for the fourth annual Cliff's Health Club Ride & Tie and Buggy Race.

Gary Ceragioli of Woodfords and Wayne Heinrich from Novato, Calif., combined to pull out a close win in the ride & tie, while Duane Stuebe from Marysville, Calif., drove his team of Arabians to victory in the buggy race. Both races were held on trails and dirt roads between the Ranchos and Mud Lake.

The 20-mile buggy race, held during the afternoon, was won by Stuebe in a time of one hour, 15

minutes and 35 seconds. Jerry Myers, of Auburn, Calif., was close behind in second place with a time of 1:17:34. Cliff Lewis was third in 1:22:05, Tom Lewis was fourth in 1:23:10 and Kathy Lewis fifth in 2:02.

In the morning ride & tie, held under chilly weather conditions that included occasional rain, Ceragioli and Heinrich outlasted the team of Chris Turney and Skip Lightfoot in a first-place dual that went back-and-forth for the better part of 25 miles. Ceragioli and Heinrich completed the double loop 33-mile course in three hours, 14 minutes to grab their first win in four ride & tie competitions this

year. Turney, of Sacramento, third in the Carson Valley 10-K on Saturday, and Lightfoot, of San Jose, finished three minutes behind in 3:17.

Kathy Ceragioli and John Gailson, of Caples Lake, finished third in 3:50. A pair of Californians, Ellen McCreary from Davenport and Gary Webb from Pescadero, finished fourth in 5:11.

The Ceragioli family has kept a busy ride & tie schedule 1993 — Kathy and son Drake, 13, finished first overall in the 16-0mile support ride at the Mustang Classic in April — and will compete at the World Championships July 10 in Paso Robles, Calif.

Washoe culture class wraps up success

Record Courier 6/17/93

By SHANNON ROONEY
Special to the R-C

The Washoe Language and Culture Class, led by instructor Phyllis Bateman, is winding up its first year at Douglas High School.

Initiated as a joint effort between the Washoe Tribe and the high school, the class has enjoyed the input of several tribal elders. Belma Jones assisted the students in learning the native Washoe language, while Marvin Dressler, Yvonne and Lana Christianson and Annette Jones contributed to the class in other ways.

Although in many ways successful, the class has not been without problems.

"It's difficult because we've had trouble maintaining any size in the

class," Bateman said. "We're down to four from 14 ... this is comparable to the general Native American population high school drop-out rate."

On the upside, Bateman said, "Basically, I think the class has helped the girls who are still in it. I think it has helped ... them in a lot of ways ... it's a step in the right direction."

The class has engaged in a variety of different learning activities, including traditional basket-making, preparation of pine-nut soup, Washoe myth-telling, identification of traditional edible plants, deer hide-tanning, and the Washoe Stick Game.

The complete production of a booklet titled "Washoe Heritage: Then and Now" was, Bateman feels, the class's most significant accomplishment.

Another impressive project has been the compilation of a Washoe Language Dictionary. The first installment has been printed out recently and "... it's something we can add to each year," Bateman said.

The fate of the class is uncertain at this point, as there have been only four sign-ups for fall semester so far.

"We may run it second semester and see if we can get some more sign-ups, or it may be an every other year or every other semester course," according to Bateman.

According to the students who have remained in the class for the full year, positive experiences have been gained.

"I've learned a lot more (about Washoe language and culture) from this class than from my family," student Gwen James commented.

Record Courier 6-17-93

50 YEARS AGO
The Record-Courier
Friday, June 11, 1943

LOCAL MEN SEARCH FOR PLANE. Duane Mack and Robt. Pruett of this Valley, now members of the Nevada Civil Air Patrol, were called into actual service last Friday when the transport plane, carrying 17 men, was reported lost somewhere in Nevada.

COUPLE WED. At Trinity Lutheran Church Monday afternoon, Rev. Paul H. Felten officiating, Dorothy Heitman became the bride of Henry W. Berrum. The ceremony was attended only by the immediate families of the contracting parties.

* **SNOWBOUND.** Mrs. Norman Green and infant daughter, snowbound at Blue Lakes since last November, made their first trip to Markleeville this week in seven months. Part of the journey was on foot over the snow to a car at the snowline on this side of Red Hill. They were accompanied by Mr. Green, caretaker at Blue Lakes. Mrs. Green enjoys the winters in the High Sierras.

OBJECTORS ARRIVE. A party of forty conscientious objectors arrived on the train at Minden last Sunday and from that point was taken by trucks to the Antelope Valley CCC camp where others of that group are being held for the duration.

IN TRAINING. Thirty-five trainees are now at Minden ready for cross country instructions in aviation by the Pathfinder Flight company at the Tahoe-Douglas airport. The men are billeted at the Minden Inn and actual instruction will start this week. With this course of instruction will be included ten hours of night flying.

VISITORS. Mr. and Mrs. James Hickey, Jr., and son Michael, of Carson, were here Sunday on a visit to relatives.

Record Courier 6-17-93
Eliza A June Vall Gard Coya Calif A the p 97, Care 1895

Successful year

"I've learned a lot about the language from Belma. And I really liked making the dictionary and the pine nut soup."

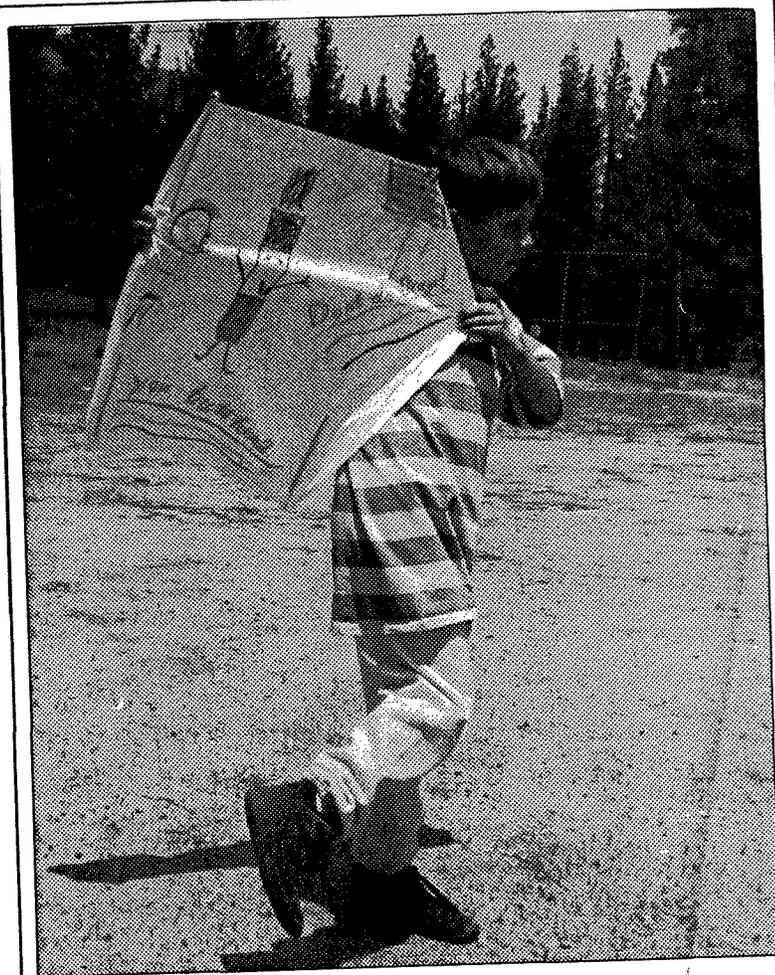
Michele Malicay enjoyed learning about the myths and the language.

"I liked the Washoe myth about the 'stone face' up at Lake Tahoe," she said, "And I've been teaching the language to my nephews!"

Douglas High School students interested in the fall semester class should contact their academic advisors.

Washoe elders or other tribal members who would like to contribute to this program may contact Bateman at Douglas High School.

Editor's note: Shannon Rooney is a Gardnerville freelance writer and writing workshop facilitator.



Kite Day

Kite Day at Diamond Valley School in Woodfords was recently held, sponsored by Alpine County Tobacco Control. Above is Mike Pinzon with the kite he made for the occasion. Nancy Kerley photo

OBITUARIES

Beth Coyan

Memorial service will be held 7:30 p.m. at the Carson City Methodist Church in Gardnerville for Elizabeth Pearl Coyan, a native of Alpine County,

resident of Gardnerville for the last two years. Mrs. Coyan, 77, died June 15 at Cottonwood Center. She was born Dec. 7, 1919, in Diamond Valley, Calif., to

John and Margaret Jones Ellis.

She graduated from high schools in Douglas County and attended business school in Stockton, Calif., for two years. She married George Wilson Coyan at the Alpine Hotel in Markleeville.

Mrs. Coyan retired as Alpine County treasurer after 50 years of service. She was a lifetime member and past president state trea-

surers association, Red Cross volunteer, Easter Star in Gardnerville and the Alpine Historical Society.

She was preceded in death by her husband, two daughters, Betty Lou and Margaret June, one brother and one sister.

Survivors include sons Gary E. Coyan of Markleeville and Barry R. Coyan of Markleeville; five grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Private cremation was held at Sierra Crematory in Reno. Private inurnment will be held at a later date at Fredericksburg Cemetery in Fredericksburg, Calif.

Walton's Chapel of the Valley in Carson City was in charge of the arrangements.

Alpine voters get final say on sales tax

Supervisors' split decision makes outcome a gamble

BY JEFF DELONG
Tribune Staff Writer

Alpine County leaders have decided to pursue an increase in the sales tax, but members of the Board of Supervisors are divided over the issue and some doubt sufficient public support exists for it to be approved at the polls.

The board on Tuesday agreed to move forward in placing a measure on the November ballot to increase sales tax collected in California's least-populated county by a half-cent. A July 6 hearing was set for supervisors to receive public input, with first reading of an ordinance placing the measure on the ballot to take place at that time.

As currently configured, the tax hike, if approved, would raise \$70,000-plus each year. The Board of Supervisors decided to specify that the money collected would predominantly pay for emergency services, including medical and fire protection.

Proceeds likely would be divided through a three-way split to various regions of the county, with 40 percent going to the Bear Valley area of Alpine's West Slope, 30 percent going to Kirkwood and 30 percent to the Markleeville-Woodfords area.

It is this lopsided apportionment of tax proceeds that disturbs at least one supervisor and may ultimately create significant division among others.

Supervisor Pete Blum, who represents Woodfords, said he will oppose any tax hike in which proceeds are not distributed uniformly countywide. Blum was one of two supervisors to vote against the plan Tuesday, joined by Supervisor Cam Craik.

"I will not support an increase in the sales tax unless that revenue is apportioned evenly to the whole coun-

Please see TAX, Page 8A

Tax

Continued from Page 1A

ty," Blum said.

But Bear Valley Supervisor Eric Jung, chairman of the board, said his district deserves a larger portion of proceeds because a majority of Alpine's tax revenue is raised there.

"My constituents have told me clearly they won't hold still for a split that doesn't give them at least something close to what they put in," Jung said. He voted in favor of the tax, as did Supervisors Donald Jardine and C. Ann Wade.

Disagreement over distribution of proceeds aside, the tax hike faces a more basic challenge. Because revenue collected is designated for specific expenditure on emergency services, the half-cent increase would require approval by a two-thirds majority of voters rather than the

simple majority that would be needed if proceeds were targeted for unspecified uses.

To obtain the needed two-thirds approval by 485 of Alpine's roughly 730 registered voters, Jung said the board should be wholly behind the plan.

At this point, the supervisor noted, that does not appear to be the case.

"We should get behind it 100 percent and really beat the drum, and I don't see that kind of support yet," Jung said.

And if the board is divided over the plan, a tax-wary electorate likely will present more of a problem in seeing the tax increase become reality.

Both Blum and Jung said they doubt sufficient voter support exists.

"People don't want taxes, they really don't," Blum said. "The general feeling right now is they won't support it until we do something to cut the fat."

Blum acknowledged that in his opinion, "there's a lot of trimming down that could be done" in Alpine County government.

Not so, contends Jung. He said Alpine's government already has had its fat hacked away and there's little room for more cuts.

Jung said Alpine residents may need to have that fact made clear through layoffs of county employees or other painful decisions before they'll see fit to dip into their pocketbooks further.

"Until we close some facilities or lay some people off, I don't think they will see the need for it," Jung said.

But the Bear Valley supervisor said the public should at least be given the opportunity to avoid such cuts by voting on a tax hike.

"It's a step we should probably go through just to say we did it and maybe lay the groundwork for another try in the future," Jung said.

Fahoe Daily Tribune
6-17-95

Alpine relinquishes radar gun

by BRIAN MAFFLY
R-C News Service

While radar is a regular feature in the law-enforcement toolboxes of most agencies, Alpine County's small Sheriff's Office recently relinquished its radar gun because of a bureaucratic error.

The device was purchased for \$2,519 with a federal grant obtained through the county Mental Health Department to help fund drug and alcohol programs, according to county officials. Sheriff's deputies hoped to use the equipment to fight drunken driving and drug trafficking on the

state highways cutting through the county.

The Mental Health director, however, hadn't observed the county's acquisition procedures, and the Alpine supervisors recently ordered the radar gun returned after learning that it had been obtained without their approval.

County Auditor Barbara Ryan questioned the legality of the sheriff's use of the radar in a recent memo to the Board of Supervisors.

"Since the Board has not adopted an ordinance allowing radar to be used in our patrol

vehicles and there are no signs posted stating that speed is checked by radar, it is illegal to have this equipment in the patrol vehicles," Ryan wrote in her memo.

Alpine sheriff's deputies' brief use of the radar device resulted in 55 speeding tickets being issued on State Route 88 and the arrests of two narcotics and four DUI suspects, according to Sheriff Henry "Skip" Veatch.

District Attorney Henry Murdock said the citations and arrests are still valid, but they might be open to challenge, particularly the narcotics arrests.

Record Courier 6/20/93

Alpine Supervisors place tax on the ballot

by JEFF DELONG
R-C News Service

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Record Courier 6/20/93

Indian Creek Reservoir campground

by CARISSA WREDEN
Staff Writer

Bureau of Land Management and California State Health Department officials should make the final decision by Friday on the re-opening of Indian Creek Reservoir campground near Markleeville.

The popular campground was closed on June 16, following the discovery of a ground squirrel infected with bubonic plague, said Joan Sweetland public affairs officer for Bureau of Land Management. Sweetland said the campground has been full since Memorial Day, with between 1,800-2,000 campers visiting the reservoir.

Liz McGeein, health services representative for the Alpine County Health Department was camping at the reservoir during Father's Day weekend when the campground was notified of the plague outbreak.

"I don't want to play this up. They only found one squirrel," said McGeein.

Despite the posted warnings people continue to camp at the reservoir.

Tony Merriman of Lafayette, Calif. was one. "When they (squirrels) come up to me foaming at the mouth and nibbling on me. Then I'll worry," he said Friday.

Concord, Calif. resident Bill Copeland said, "You can run into it everywhere in the woods, so we are not worried."

So far no other infected squirrels had been found in the Indian Creek area, but as a precaution the

California State Health Department is dusting the area for wild rodent fleas. These fleas, known to be carriers of the bacteria which cause the plague, are commonly found on ground squirrels, chipmunks, mice and other rodents.

The dust used to control the fleas — diazinon — will be used in baited dust stations where rodents give themselves a dust bath, according to Barbara Wilson, public health biologist with the State of California Vector Control.

Officials will be rebaiting traps until the first of July and will then run tests on rodents they find to evaluate the success of flea control measures, said vector technician Mark Bonfield from the El Dorado County Vector Control.

The results of these tests will determine whether the resort will open for the Fourth of July weekend, explained Bonfield.

Additionally, California officials will be trying to determine the extent of the outbreak by checking dead animals, burrows and live-trapping daytime rodents like chipmunks.

According to Wilson, certain species in the Indian Creek area are known to form good antibodies to the plague, such as long-eared chipmunks.

By testing the blood from these antibody producing species biologists can also determine how long the disease has been in the area.

The plague can be transmitted to humans by bites from fleas or infected animals.

Human infection can also occur when people handle or come close

contact with the bodily fluids of an infected animal. McGeein warned cats are especially susceptible to infection. This is due to their predatory nature.

The incubation period for the disease is seven days.

Common symptoms in humans include malaise, high fever, muscle aches, and swelling or tenderness of the lymph glands, located under arms and neck.

If detected in time, during the first or bubonic stage, plague is curable.

However, if the disease progresses to the pneumonic stage it can be fatal.

Unfortunately, bubonic plague symptoms in animals are usually inapparent, said Wilson.

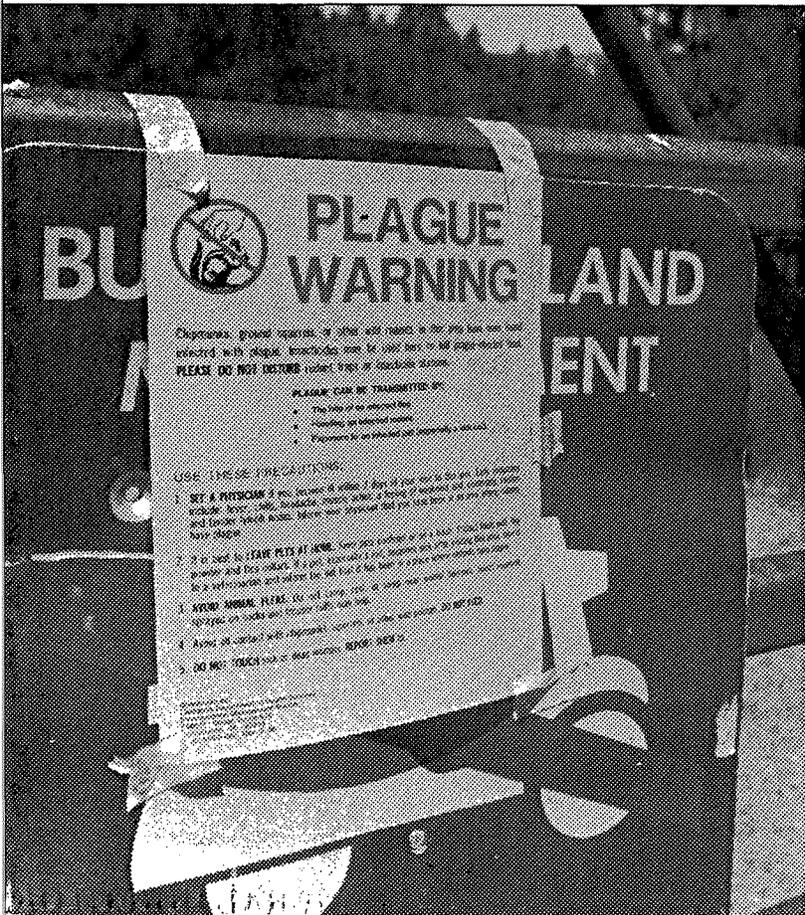
Wilson advised the public to refrain from feeding or luring animals, especially rodents and to avoid contact with inactive animals. McGeein added, campers should avoid camping, resting or sleeping near animal burrows.

All sources said to leave pets at home when camping.

If pets are brought they should be protected with flea collars and dusted with flea powder, since collars do not give 100 percent protection. Dogs should be kept on a leash and prevented from wandering or digging around. Suspicious animals should be reported to a park ranger and sick pets should be taken to the vet immediately. Campers wishing to use Indian Creek's facilities should contact the Carson City District BLM office at (702) 885-6000 to obtain updated information on the campground's status.



d closed by plague infestation



Fish or fleas

Bill Copeland (above) of Concord prepares his hook while fishing in the Indian Creek Reservoir. He said he hopes he doesn't get the plague, but that he is not going to let it ruin his holiday. More timid visitors to the area are turned away by locked gates and signs warning of the plague. California health officials should decide whether to re-open the campground sometime this week. R-C photos by Belinda Rohleder

Record Courier 7-4-93

ENGAGEMENTS

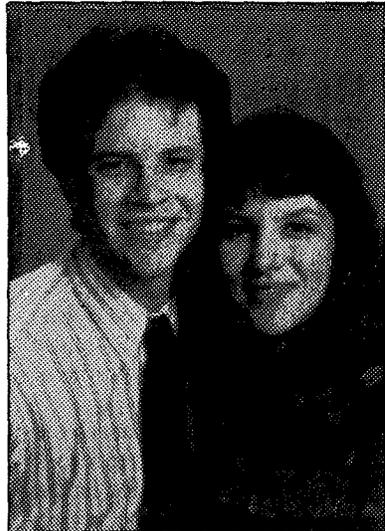
Nahinu-Moskoff

Catherine Kanani Nahinu of Woodfords, Calif., and Dr. Lane A. Moskoff of Philadelphia Penn. plan an Aug. 7 wedding and reception at Temperance House, Newtown, Penn.

The bride is a 1987 graduate of Douglas High School and a 1992 graduate of Temple University, Philadelphia, Penn.

The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Moskoff of Philadelphia and is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and Temple Medical School.

There will be a garden reception on Aug. 15 at the home of the bride's grandparents, Bob and Catherine Parker, in Woodfords, Calif.



CATHERINE NAHINU
AND LANE MOSKOFF

JUL - 7 1993

Tahoe Daily Tribune

AND THE LAKE TAHOE NEWS

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Monday, July 5, 1993

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Alpine County ponders sales tax jump

Increase would make up for taxes seized by state

By JEFF DELONG
Tribune Staff Writer

The different options available to Alpine County residents to tax themselves and visitors — and thus replace funds taken by the state in a \$2.6 billion shift of property taxes — will be outlined during a public meeting Tuesday.

Alpine County supervisors have scheduled a 7 p.m. hearing at their chambers in

Markleeville to discuss sales tax opportunities available during next November's election.

It is, to say the least, a touchy issue.

But if taxes and politics make for a sometimes volatile combination, some Alpine officials say an increase in sales tax may be the only way to offset the loss in property tax funding made certain when Gov. Pete Wilson signed California's \$52.1 billion budget Wednesday.

"It will be necessary to run the county the way it should be run," said Eric Jung, chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisors, while divided over the issue, recently agreed with the idea of placing a half-cent sales tax increase on next November's budget.

If they do so, however, it will be along-

It's simply a cross between blackmail and extortion. It's taking away county general funds and leaving it up to the voters to replace those funds.

— Jeanne Lear

Alpine County administrative coordinator

side a separate statewide half-cent increase included as a key component of the spending plan approved by the governor and Legislature.

Jung admitted the likelihood of voter approval of the local tax hike — an uncertain prospect at best considering it would need support of two-thirds of Alpine's 730 registered voters — would be further complicated by the existence of the statewide tax hike on the ballot.

The state has estimated a half-cent increase would raise \$119,000 in Alpine County, though Administrative Coordinator Jeanne Lear believes a more realistic figure is between \$80,000 and \$100,000.

See TAXES, Page 8A

Taxes

Continued from Page 1A

If both the statewide tax and a locally proposed tax were approved, that figure would double.

Any tax approved would backfill \$114,000 lost to the state to fund schools under California's budget plan. Lear characterized that hit as a "very serious" one to Alpine's \$4 million general fund, with \$114,000 representing virtually the entirety of

the county's reserve fund over the last few years.

"They're severely limiting our ability to maintain our services and a level of stability," Lear said.

She — like other local government officials across California — attacked the rationale of the governor and Legislature in pursuing the statewide tax to replace local government funding taken to pull the state budget out of the red.

"It's simply a cross between

blackmail and extortion," Lear said. "It's taking away county general funds and leaving it up to the voters to replace those funds."

The statewide half-cent tax, if approved, would go toward public protection services in California's counties.

The local tax eyed for Alpine is pointed in the same direction. Proposed is a three-way split among various portions of the county, with 40 percent of tax proceeds going to the Bear Valley

area, 30 percent to Kirkwood and 30 percent to Markleeville-Woodfords. The money would be earmarked for emergency services such as fire protection and ambulance operations.

That idea has created a split of a different sort, however, among the Board of Supervisors. Two of them, Pete Blum and Cam Craik, voted against the proposal.

Blum said he would continue to oppose a tax that distributed proceeds in any manner but a uniform

one across the county, and expressed doubt Alpine's voters would support any tax hike in any case.

Jung pointed out that since most Alpine residents do their shopping in the Carson Valley or at South Shore, a sales tax increase would have minimal impact on their pocketbooks.

Instead, Jung said, it would mostly affect the tourists who in turn impose such a service demand on the county.

Sales tax tossed out in Alpine

*Support for increase
lacking, leaders admit*

BY JEFF DELONG
Tribune Staff Writer

Tahoe Tribune
7-7-93

MARKLEEVILLE — Alpine County leaders let die Tuesday a plan to impose a local half-cent sales tax increase, but voters in California's smallest county will still consider a statewide tax hike on November's ballot.

In a sparsely attended public hearing on sales tax options, an obviously divided Board of Supervisors decided they lacked both the unification and public support necessary to pursue a local sales tax.

"It looks to be dead," said Eric Jung, board chairman.

Two supervisors, Pete Blum and Cam Craik, flatly opposed the local sales tax, while support by supervisors Donald Jardine and C. Ann Wade was lukewarm at best. Only Jung said he had no problem with at least giving voters an opportunity to consider the local tax.

But by placing the local hike alongside a similar statewide half-cent increase, Alpine would surely be dooming both to rejection, Craik warned.

"It's almost futile to even fight for it," Jardine agreed, adding that to him it made no sense "for us to put ourselves through a beating when it's almost a sure loss."

The state proposal will give voters an opportunity to decide whether to make permanent a half-cent level of sales tax previously set to expire in July and now extended until January under the state budget signed into law last week.

That income is designed to replace property tax funding taken from counties through the \$2.6 billion tax shift also included in the budget approved by the Legislature and Gov. Pete Wilson. According to latest estimates, Alpine County lost \$114,000 of its \$4 million general fund in the tax shift.

Jung — noting that fresh income is needed if Alpine County is to avoid the layoffs and service cuts that have occurred in many counties — said tax increases are at least worthy of consideration.

But several supervisors noted their constituents are flatly opposed to the idea.

"I have not had one person in my district that is

Tax

Continued from Page 1A

in favor of this," Craik said. "Nobody wants it."

Of the handful of Alpine residents attending Tuesday's hearing, some suggested county leaders should first look to trimming spend-

ing before hiking taxes.

"I don't think you folks have done your homework about tightening your belt," said resident Chuck Keebaugh. "There's a lot of fat to be cut."

"You haven't made a case for a sales tax because you haven't begun to cut where you can and should," agreed Jack Doyle.

See TAX, Page 8A

Death Ride returns Saturday

by DAVID PRICE
Sports editor

Imagine throwing a party for nearly 3,000 guests, and having the responsibility of transporting 3,000 gallons of water and six tons of food to accommodate everyone.

Now sit back and appreciate one of the largest cycling events in the Tour of the California Alps — The Death Ride, which will celebrate its 12th official anniversary Saturday on the roads of Alpine County. A total of 2,750 riders are entered in the event, which is co-sponsored by the Alta Alpina Cycling Club and Alpine Chamber of Commerce.

Check-in begins Friday at 9 a.m. and the first riders will hit the road Saturday at

6 a.m. from Turtle Rock Park, located between Woodfords and Markleeville. The total mileage of the tour is 128.5 miles including ascents of four area mountain passes — Monitor (8,314), Ebbetts (8,730), Carson (8,573) and Luther (7,740).

Ride officials advise that Highway 89 over Monitor Pass will be closed to automobile traffic between 6 a.m. and noon. Highway 4 over Ebbetts Pass will remain closed from 6 a.m. until 3 p.m. Law enforcement agencies will be present to restrict those routes to Death Ride participants.

"All riders will need an official wrist band, as well as a series of numbers, otherwise they won't be admitted on the course," said Curtis Fong of the Alta

Alpina Cycling Club.

"We want to discourage ride crashers. The reason we have a limit is to preserve the quality of the ride, and secondly, because of safety and liability reasons."

Needless to say, the Death Ride is a popular event. The 2,750 official riders represents an increase from the previous limit of 2,500, and the event has been filled for more than a month.

"The ride was sold out the first week of June," Fong said. "That's not unusual. It's been that way for the last five years since we put a limit on it."

The Death Ride has grown from 502 riders in 1983 to 1,500 in 1988.

"We're trying a 10 percent increase this year to see how it goes," Fong said. "The whole idea is to make sure we're able to

take care of that many folks, to accommodate the parking and meals, and make sure everyone has a good time.

"Nothing is easy in terms of putting this ride on. Try to move 3,000 gallons of water and six tons of food over 130 miles of course, and that's just setting it all up. Most people don't realize what it takes to put on an event of this magnitude, to make it work and make it work smoothly," he added.

Remember, this is a tour rather than a race. No awards are given for speed. Riders are encouraged to pedal at their own pace.

"It's a leisure ride where you see everything from 12-year-old kids to 70-year-old men and women."

Continued to page 13

Record Courier 7-8-93

Death Ride: A true cycling test

Continued from page 12

Still, this is an event once described by Bicycling Magazine as "one of the toughest and most bizarre rides in the country."

The Death Ride isn't a 128-mile event for everyone because shorter one-, three- and four-pass options are available. But now, the Death Ride crowd appears to be more fit than ever.

"More people are stating on their entry forms they want to try

and ride all five passes. Close to 2,000 people have signed up to try all five passes. That shows they're getting ready," Fong indicated.

Why?

"For one thing, the course is actually a little easier than it used to be years ago," Fong said. "I also think what we have here, people have been able to finish the three- and four-pass rides before, so this is something they've

been preparing to do over the years. And then last year, a lot of people were unable to do it because of inclement weather."

It's a considerable test, nevertheless.

"It's a long day on a bicycle, but if you pace yourself and if you're in pretty good shape, there's a pretty good chance you can make it."

All in all, the Death Ride is one heck of a party on wheels.

Record
Courier 7-8-93

People

1893: Gray shoots Dixon

100 YEARS AGO
The Genoa Courier
Friday, July 7, 1893

SHOT TO DEATH. Shortly after 2 o'clock on the afternoon of the Fourth, Fred Gray walked up to Adam Dixon, who was sitting on the porch at Hansen's saloon, and shot him through the head. The bullet entered slightly above and back of the left ear, passed through the head and lodged near the right ear. Dixon dropped down in the chair but did not fall to the floor. He was carried into the washroom at the Central Hotel and Dr. Young and others did all they

Remember when?

could for him, but he died within an hour without recovering consciousness.

Gray gave up his weapon immediately after the shooting to H.P. Burnham and was taken to jail by Constable De Long. He had been drinking freely and was greatly excited. He said Dixon struck his mother in the face with a chair six years ago, and that he swore at the time he would kill Dixon.

Both men have born bad reputations. Dixon grew to manhood in Antelope Valley and was ordered to leave there by the citizens a dozen years ago on account of his evil deeds. Dixon left at the time but afterwards returned to the Valley. In February, 1884, he shot at Jas. Campbell of Alpine county, at Hansen's saloon, within six feet of the spot where he received his fatal wound on the Fourth. Campbell saved himself by dodging under the counter.

Parties who stood near by say Dixon never knew what hurt him. As Gray was behind him there was not a glance or a motion to warn Dixon of the fate that awaited him until the bullet pierced his brain.

WOODFORDS CELEBRATION. The Fourth of July celebration and dance at Woodfords was a genuine success socially, and we are glad to say that it was equally so from a financial point of view.

50 YEARS AGO
The Record-Courier
Friday, July 9, 1943

* **NO PLANE CRASH.** A fisherman in Alpine county reported that he had heard a plane crash in the mountain last Sunday but army authorities reported that no planes were missing. However scouting planes were out Monday without locating the reported plane. Gardnerville people that spent the day at Grover Hot Spring report that a two motored bomber was in the sky over that vicinity during the day but at no time appeared to be in distress.

OBITUARY

Record Courier 7-11-93

Mae James

A funeral service was held Saturday for Mae Dick James, 93, a Woodfords, Calif. resident for the past 50 years.

Mrs. James died July 6 at her home. The service will be held at 1 p.m. at FitzHenry's Chapel of the Faith in Carson City.

She was born April 10, 1900, in Coleville, Calif. to Washo and Minnie Jim Dick. She spent her childhood and school years in Coleville, and married Roy James

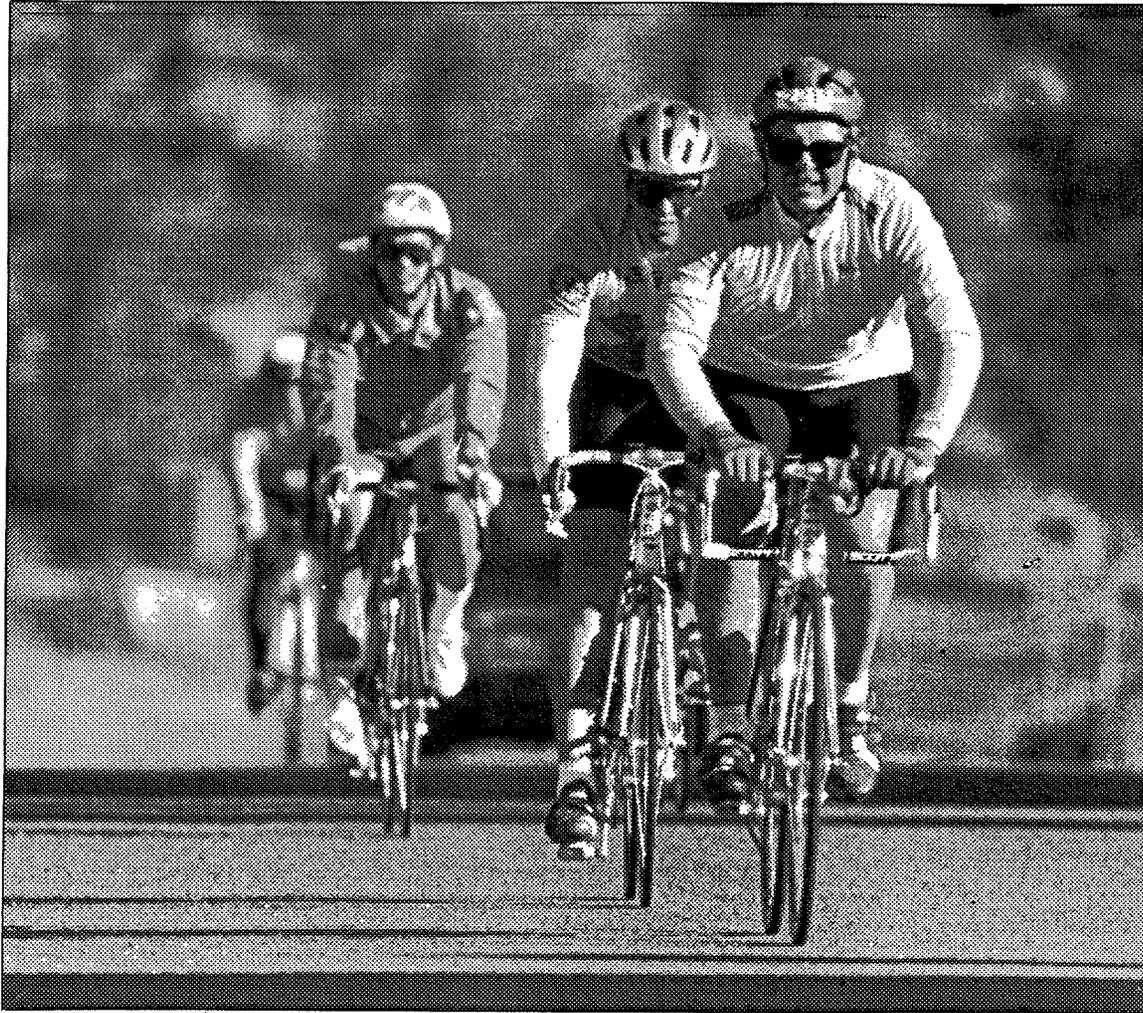
in Coleville in 1933. Mr. James died in 1966.

Mrs. James lived for a time at Camp Richardson at Lake Tahoe before moving to Woodfords. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include son Russell James and daughters Betty Cruz and Flora James, all of Woodfords; brother Albert of Coleville; 14 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Burial will be at Woodfords Indian Cemetery.

Sports



The Death Ride

More than 2,700 bicycle enthusiasts turned out for the 12th annual Tour of the California Alps — the Death Ride Saturday in Alpine County. This year's Death Ride, held on a day when temperatures soared to 90 degrees, was a marked contrast to 1992, when 12 cases of hypothermia were reported due to rain and cold. "I think everything turned out splendidly," said Curtis Fong of the Alta Alpine Cycling Club, co-sponsor of the event along with the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce. "It was a high-consumption-of-water type of day. Two riders were transported to the hospital, and I understand one of those was for an allergic reaction and he was OK, but other than that, everything went fine." An estimated 1,100 participants completed the full Death Ride distance of 128.5 miles, including climbs of Monitor Pass (twice), Ebbetts Pass, Carson Pass and Luther Pass. R-C photo by Belinda Rohleder

Record 7-15-93
Angie Merrill Courier

A memorial service will be held tomorrow for Angie Tibbetts Merrill, 97, who died July 8 in a care center in Walnut Creek, Calif. She a member of a pioneer California family, and was a long-time resident of Alpine County, Calif..

Mrs. Merrill was born Oct. 26, 1895, to Dr. William James and Josephine Stacey in Petaluma, Calif. Her grandfather, David Tibbetts, went to San Francisco from Maine in 1849 following the discovery of gold and later settled on a dairy farm near Petaluma.

Her childhood years were spent in San Francisco and Guerneville, Calif. where she lived the time of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. She attended Girls High in San Francisco and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1917.

In 1918, she came to Carson Valley to teach at the Fairview one-room schoolhouse.

She married the late Grant P. Merrill of Alpine County in 1919. He was an engineer with the State Division of Highways.

Mrs. Merrill was an active member of the American Association of University Women and Gardnerville Women's Literary Club and the Alpine Historical Society. She co-authored, with Mable Love and Eileen Long, the definitive history of Alpine County, "Alpine Heritage."

She lived in the county for about 58 years before to the Bay Area.

Survivors include sons Austin H. Merrill of Danville, Calif.,

OBITUARIES

Stuart P. Merrill of Woodfords, and Robert W. Merrill of Woodside, Calif.; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

The memorial service will be held Friday at 2 p.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lafayette, Calif. Private interment will follow at Woodfords, Calif.

Memorial contributions may be made to Alpine County Historical Society, Markleeville, Calif. 96120.

Tahoe Daily Tribune

AND THE LAKE TAHOE NEWS

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Cow ban gains a foe

Alpine County to appeal Forest Service plan

By JEFF DELONG
Tribune Staff Writer

MARKLEEVILLE — The Forest Service's decision to suspend cattle grazing on the headwaters of the Upper Truckee River was protested Tuesday by Alpine County leaders, who said a practice decades old should continue free of government interference.

County supervisors voted unanimously to appeal Forest Supervisor Robert Harris' decision to close down 1,200-plus acres in Meiss Country to all grazing for five to 15 years, beginning in 1995.

"In this particular area cattle grazing

has gone on for hundreds of years," said Supervisor Donald Jardine, who voted to appeal the policy change on the grounds of historic, cultural and economic impacts "and any other impacts I can come up with."

The action was requested by Loree Joses, whose family holds the Meiss grazing permit and has run cattle in the mountains for the last century.

"We don't feel the cattle cause the problems the Forest Service feels they do," Joses told the Board of Supervisors, adding that the proposed grazing suspension flies in the face of the agency's tenet promoting multiple use of public land.

The crackdown on grazing at Meiss, Joses warned, may be the initial step in a much wider effort to remove cattle from the slopes of the Sierra Nevada.

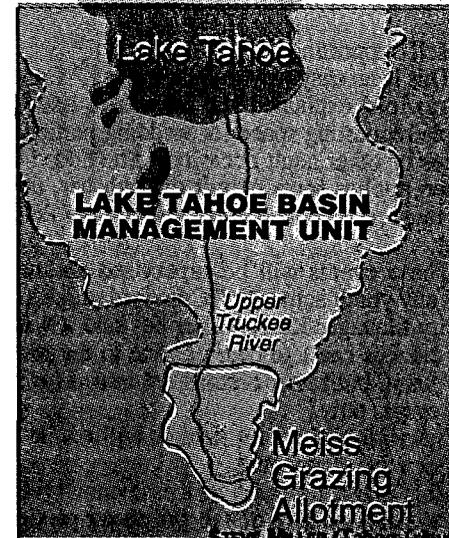
"I feel this is the tip of the iceberg," she said, adding that mountain counties could face severe economic consequences.

"It snowballs all the way down," Joses said.

The allotment lies in both El Dorado and Alpine counties off of State Route 89, south of Lake Tahoe near Luther Pass.

Harris contends the Forest Service's

See **GRAZING**, Page 8A



STEVE MILLER/Tahoe Tribune

BAN APPEALED: The Alpine County Supervisors are appealing a Forest Service decision to close the Meiss Grazing Allotment south of Lake Tahoe.

Grazing

Continued from Page 1A

action is needed to allow pastures, meadows and streambanks to recover from the affects of decades of grazing. The forest supervisor made his

decision selecting from several alternatives, one of which would have reduced the number of cattle allowed in the area from the current limit of 200 pairs of cattle and calves.

Another alternative would divide the Meiss allotment into several different sections, rotating grazing ac-

tivity between them.

Supervisor C. Ann Wade favored suggesting this later approach rather than the one selected by the Forest Service. She said an outright appeal by Alpine County would likely be pointless.

"Every time we appeal we get de-

nied," Wade said. "We can appeal and appeal ... but we're not going to get anywhere."

But Supervisor Cam Craik sided with Jardine in opposing the action, which he described as arbitrary and an example of overregulation by the federal government.

Record
Courier
7-22-93

25 YEARS AGO
The Record-Courier
Thursday, July 25, 1968

* **FOREST FIRE BLACKENS 20 ACRES.** The first man-caused fire in two years on the Alpine District of the Toiyabe National Forest blackened approximately 20 acres of the most scenic portion of the timbered along along the Carson river near Woodfords Tuesday afternoon.

LARGEST EVER PRIMARY REGISTRATION. For the first time more than 3,000 Douglas Countians are eligible to vote in a primary election. At the close of voter registration last Saturday evening, county clerk Earnhart Thran said 3,093 countians were eligible.

WAITING LIST. Young men approaching draft age in Douglas County and wishing to enlist in a service of their choice are urged to get their names on waiting lists as soon as possible, selective service board clerk Alice Dangberg has announced.

* **CALIFORNIA URGED TO KEEP PASS OPEN.** A recommendation that the Carson Pass Highway — State Hwy. 88 — be kept clear of winter snows if sufficient development occurs in the area to warrant the expense was made recently the the state Department of Public Works to the California Highway Commission.

Director Samuel B. Nelson told the commission that all-weather maintenance of the Alpine County route could be justified on the basis of the economic benefits that would accrue to the state and counties by development of winter recreational facilities.

Alpine grand jury says deputy misspent county money

BY BRIAN MAFFLY
R-C News Service

The Alpine County grand jury alleges in an interim report that a sheriff's deputy abused his authority as a county employee by spending public funds to purchase athletic equipment from a Gardnerville business he co-owned.

The jury wants Deputy Henry Blackwood to return the \$3,500 that it believes the officer illegally earned when he made purchases in 1991 and 1992 for the Police

Activities League (PAL) from the Sports Corner, which he owns with associate Barbara Armstrong.

The money in question originated from state grants for drug prevention and was allocated to the league as part of its mission to help youths build self-esteem, according to county officials. The California Government Code bars public employees from profiting from the expenditure of public funds under their control.

Blackwood coordinated the league, a nonprofit youth sports organization, as part of his duties

as the sheriff's deputy in charge of the Drug Awareness and Resistance Education program, the grand jury contends in the report it released this month. Sheriff's time sheets indicate Blackwood sometimes performed PAL duties on county time, according to the report.

Alpine District Attorney Henry Murdock, however, believes that the deputy made the purchases as a private individual, rather than as a county employee working in an official capacity, according to a Jan. 19 legal opinion he penned at

the jury's request.

"Clearly, in this case, Officer Blackwood was a leader of this group (the Police Activities League) in a private, volunteer capacity," Murdock wrote. "It is not to say that Mr. Blackwood's activities are without any suspicion of fault or blame, just that his actions are not prosecutorial under ... the (state) Government Code."

The jury also criticized the markup the Sports Corner charged on some of the sports league purchases, observing that better

deals could have been obtained at other stores.

"Although the grand jury agreed with the concept that a business had a right to make a profit, it appeared in this situation that the funds were not prudently spent," the report stated.

In an interview with the jury, Blackwood denied profiting from the transactions, stating that his business partner, Armstrong, owns the interest in the sports equipment side of the business.

Blackwood later invoked his Fifth Amendment protection

against self-incrimination when he was subpoenaed to testify on Nov. 2, 1992 before the jury.

The Attorney General's Office informed the jury foreman, Judi Nagel, that its review of the evidence did support the allegation that Blackwood was acting in his "official capacity" when he authorized the purchase, according to the grand jury report. State prosecutors, however, cannot intervene in the case unless they see a conflict of interest involving the local district attorney, and such a conflict is not apparent.

Alpine youth sports league director resigns

by JEFF DELONG
R-C News Service

An Alpine County youth sports league has changed financial oversight practices to prevent problems of the type addressed in a recent grand jury report, while the deputy sheriff who was the focus of that probe has resigned his post with the youth organization.

On Tuesday the Alpine County Board of Supervisors issued its formal response to the grand jury, which in an interim report alleged that Deputy Henry Blackwood improperly benefited by purchasing equipment for the sports program from a Gardnerville business he co-owns.

Supervisors said they are satisfied with fiscal management

changes put in place by the board of directors of the Police Athletics League and reported to them by league president Dale Bennett on Tuesday.

"We feel things are headed in the right direction," said Eric Jung, chairman of the board.

Bennett said the league has changed checkwriting policy to prevent Blackwood from making purchases on the league's behalf, a step he said led immediately to the deputy's verbal resignation as coordinator for the organization.

Commonly known by its acronym PAL, the Police Athletics League is designed to help youths build self-esteem through sports. Blackwood coordinated the program as part of his duties as the deputy in charge of Alpine's Drug

Awareness and Resistance Education effort.

The grand jury found that Blackwood improperly earned \$3,500 in 1991 and 1992 with purchases of equipment from his Gardnerville company, the Sports Corner, for PAL-related activities. The jury asked the deputy to return the money.

In an interview with the grand jury, Blackwood denied profiting from purchases for the PAL program stating that his partner, Barbara Armstrong, owns the interest in the sports equipment side of the business.

Blackwood invoked the Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination when subpoenaed to testify last November.

He could not be reached for

comment and was reported to be on leave from his duties at the Sheriff's Office.

Supervisors discussed the matter in executive session Tuesday, but reported no action.

Bennett said Blackwood's resignation as coordinator of PAL leaves the organization in a vacuum.

"He's been the backbone of everything," she said.

Sheriff Henry Veatch said that regardless of the controversy surrounding the grand jury report, the PAL program should remain in place.

"We really want to see the program continue with or without Henry," the sheriff said.

"I want to support that as much as I can."

Record Courier 7/25/93

Alpine

Continued from Page 1A

er administrative tasks and improve training and the level of service provided to Alpine residents.

Supervisors took no action last Tuesday other than to forward the proposal to volunteers of the two departments for suggestions as to how consolidation might be accomplished and what problems it might entail.

"It looks like there's potential there for slimming down, perhaps some savings," said Supervisor Pete Blum. "Everybody should have a say in it, particularly since they're volunteers."

Some people potentially affected had their say Tuesday. In addition to combining the two fire departments, the proposal also would transfer administration of Alpine's volunteer emergency medical technicians to the consolidated firefighting agency.

Three of those EMTs were on hand Tuesday to tell supervisors they're not so keen over that idea. They said the existing setup, which has volunteers providing emergency medical services independently from the fire departments, should remain unchanged.

"It is working. Let's not fix

something that isn't broke," said EMT Warren Jang. "When you start merging systems there's going to be a lot of friction."

EMT DeAnne Wickenberg, who also serves as Alpine's interim emergency medical services coordinator, said she and colleagues hope to stay at arm's length from the infighting she says is characteristic of fire departments.

"We have stayed out of that and I really don't want to get into that," Wickenberg said.

If the consolidation plan presents obvious problems to Alpine's EMTs, supervisors were at a loss to gauge the opinion of the firefighters themselves. None were on hand to provide input Tuesday.

But Chief Wayne Thomson of the Markleeville Fire Department said Thursday that some of his 13 volunteers feel stung because the idea progressed as far as it has without their participation.

"There's some dissension mainly because they feel they were left out," Thomson said. "A lot of folks were upset about it."

That sentiment at least in part led Warren to resign his post as chief of the Woodfords department last week, though he still insists consolidation would be a favorable move to streamline operations and save money.

"I'm just tired of the fighting and the politics," Warren said Thursday, adding that he believes his proposal is likely dead on arrival.

"I don't think it's going to work," he said. "No one wants to give up their power."

During Tuesday's discussion by the Board of Supervisors, some board members said support by volunteers is critical if consolidation is ever to occur.

"If we don't have the support of these people, I don't think it's going to work," said Supervisor Cam Craik.

Disagreeing was Eric Jung, chairman of the board.

"I don't consider opposition to this by the volunteers to be fatal," he said. "If it looks like a real good idea to the board, I certainly think it's within the board's power to make it happen."

Even if some of his Markleeville volunteers are irritated at the current proposal, Chief Thomson acknowledged consolidation of various fire districts across the state will become increasingly common during the tough fiscal times ahead.

"It's the way of the future," he said. "We're aware we need to be receptive to change and we need to change to be effective."

Merger report heats up Alpine

By JEFF DELONG
Tribune Staff Writer

Tahoe
Tribune 7-25-93

MARKLEEVILLE — When Alpine County leaders on Tuesday bounced around the idea of consolidating the two volunteer fire departments that serve Markleeville and Woodfords, it was clear the idea has sparked a little fire of its own.

The brainchild of Michael Warren, the South Lake Tahoe city firefighter who until recently served as chief of the Woodfords department, consolidation would establish a single department covering all of Eastern Alpine County.

Operating a single department, Warren said in a written report to the Board of Supervisors, would save California's smallest county precious money, reduce paperwork and oth-

See ALPINE, Page 7A

Alpine Gathering is coming in August

On Saturday, Aug. 14, the Historical Society of Alpine County will host a get-together picnic at the historical complex for present and past Alpiners. Former students, teachers and school board members who have moved away, as well as others who have lived in Alpine County are welcome.

"If you are a "survivor" of Alpine County, this is an oppor-

tunity to renew old friendships and acquaintances. The event itself is free, and food and drink will be available from concessions run by local groups," said Alpine Museum Director Nancy Thornburg.

"To help the Historical Society plan, let us know if you can attend."

"We need to know as soon as possible whether we're talking

about 100 or 1,000 people," she said. "Please also send us the names and addresses of others who have moved away or (this would help us with postage) send them a copy of this notice."

Information can be sent to Alpine Gathering, P.O. Box 24, Markleeville, Calif. 96120, or call the museum at (916) 694-2317 or the director at (916) 694-2102.

Record Courier 7/25/93

Alpine County protests grazing suspension

by JEFF DeLONG
R-C News Service

The Forest Service decision to suspend cattle grazing on the headwaters of the Upper Truckee River was protested last week by Alpine County leaders, who said a practice decades old should continue free of government interference.

County supervisors voted unanimously to appeal Forest Supervisor Robert Harris' decision to close down 1,200-plus acres in Meiss allotment to all grazing for 5 to 15 years, beginning in 1995.

"In this particular area, cattle grazing has gone on for hundreds of years," said Supervisor Donald Jardine, who voted to appeal the

policy change on the grounds of historic, cultural and economic impacts "and any other impacts I can come up with."

The action was requested by Loree Joses, whose family holds the Meiss grazing permit and has run cattle in the mountains for the last century.

"We don't feel the cattle cause the problems the Forest Service feels they do," Joses told the Board of Supervisors, adding that the proposed grazing suspension flies in the face of the agency's tenet promoting multiple use of public land.

The crackdown on grazing at Meiss, Joses warned, may be the initial step in a much wider effort to remove cattle from the slopes of

the Sierra Nevada.

"I feel this is the tip of the iceberg," she said, adding that mountain counties could face severe economic consequences.

"It snowballs all the way down," Joses said.

The allotment lies in both El Dorado and Alpine counties off State Route 89, south of Lake Tahoe near Luther Pass.

Harris contends the Forest Service's action is needed to allow pastures, meadows and stream banks to recover from the affects of decades of grazing. The forest supervisor made his decision selecting from several alternatives, one of which would have reduced the number of cattle allowed in the area from the current limit of 200

pairs of cattle and calves.

Another alternative would divide the Meiss allotment into several different sections, rotating grazing activity between them.

Supervisor C. Ann Wade favored suggesting this latter approach rather than the one selected by the Forest Service. She said an outright appeal by Alpine County would likely be pointless.

"Every time we appeal we get denied," Wade said. "We can appeal and appeal ... but we're not going to get anywhere."

But Supervisor Cam Craik sided with Jardine in opposing the action, which he described as arbitrary and an example of too much regulation by the federal government.

Record Courier 7/29/93

Alpine library program is 'Under Sea'

"Under the Sea" is the theme for the Alpine County Library's summer reading program for children.

A combination of a non-competitive reading program where kids earn awards for the reading and a special events schedule make up the library's summer offerings.

The program is conducted by Nancy Kerley and Sheila Morgan.

Kids aged 3-1/2 to 13 are welcome. Signups for the special events took place July 15, but children may sign up anytime for the reading part of the program.

The special events include crafts, singing, drama, river walk, storytime, and at the end, a picnic and play performance and a craft display.

Co-sponsors are the Alpine County Arts Commission and the Alpine County Friends of the Library.

The program is held Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays through Aug. 6.



FISHING. Daisy York, 3, "fishes" with a magnet on the end of her fishing line in the Alpine reading program. Nancy Kerley photo

HOW HANGMAN'S BRIDGE GOT ITS NAME

Following are articles from the "Alpine Miner" and the "Chronicle" (both published in Alpine County) from 1872-74 which relate the story of the hanging of Ernst Reusch at Johnson's bridge near Markleeville in 1874. The bridge later came to be known as Hangman's Bridge.

These old newspapers are available only, so far as we know, at the Bancroft Library, University of California at Berkeley. We are grateful to Shane Murphy for researching this subject and for providing us with xerox copies of the original articles, which are now in our Library in Markleeville.

For more information be sure to buy a copy of the published book by Shane Murphy, "A Historical Guide to Floating the East Carson River."

FREE LOVE AND MURDER

Our usually quiet community was startled on Wednesday morning by the announcement that at Silver Mountain on the evening before E.H. Errickson was shot through the head and instantly killed by Ernst Reusch. The facts in this case, as we learn them, are briefly as follows. Rusch 'tended bar at the official whiskey mill of the capital; Errickson kept a whiskey shop of his own. Rusch was married a few months since, but for only two weeks was he permitted to enjoy wedded bliss, when his wife left him for the arms of Errickson. Several quarrels have resulted from this matter before, but nothing more serious than words were brandished up to Tuesday evening - though it is said Rush (sic) had been out practicing at shooting through windows to see if a ball would do execution after passing through glass - when, perceiving Errickson sitting close to a window in his own saloon playing cards, Rusch asked a friend to watch the bar awhile, went deliberately into another room, took down a double-barrelled shot gun loaded with the largest of buckshot, went directly to the saloon of Errickson, and kneeling down so as to get a rest and shoot above the head of the party playing at the same table, took deliberate aim and shot Errickson through the head, killing him instantly. After coolly walking into the saloon and examining his work had been well done, Rusch gave himself up to the officers of the law, seeming well satisfied.

Each party has its sympathisers, we understand, but we cannot see any justification for Rusch; neither can we see how the friends of Errickson can deny the self-evident fact that he brought upon himself his fate.

"The Alpine Miner," December 21, 1872

Why? - If Harding, attorney for Reusch, who killed Errickson some weeks since,

wishes to establish the insanity dodge in favor of his client, why does it become necessary for our County Judge to order a physician from Carson to examine the prisoner? Is the County to be put to the cost of such attempt at trickery? These questions have been propounded to us, and not being posted we pass them along. Dr. Luce don't seem to think there is anything the matter with Reusch to justify the plea his attorney would set up.

"The Alpine Miner," February 1, 1873

It seems that Dr. Luce was mistaken in regard to Judge Goff's sending for him to examine Reusch with reference to insanity. The Judge clears himself, but also finds us justified in calling attention to the matter two weeks ago. The mistake occurred through a third party who carried the message to Dr. Luce.

"The Alpine Miner," February 15, 1873

The Lynching of Rusch. - In our last issue we briefly mentioned that Ernst Reusch had been hanged by a Vigilance Committee. We now give details in full: The prisoner left Silver Mountain, on the evening of the 17th inst., in custody of Deputy Sheriff Davidson, en route for Bridgeport, Mono County, for trial, and was accompanied by eleven witnesses. After proceeding to within a quarter of a mile of Johnsons Bridge crackling in the bushes attracting attention, the party saw a man, supposed, at the time, to be an Indian, but was doubtless one of the two who came up behind the wagon when it entered upon the bridge. Upon leaving the bridge, in front of the toll house, the party was confronted by a body of armed men, the leader saying: "Halt! hand up; we want the prisoner, ten minutes to confess." To two demands they promptly complied. The orders were given in a low tone, without an attempt to disguise. Davidson replied to the demand for the prisoner that he was going to take him to

Please turn to Page 15

Hangman's Bridge

Bridgeport to have a fair and impartial trial. To this another demand was made, and the leader, pointing to the prisoner, who was sitting between C.B. Gregory, the driver, and Davidson said: "There he is!" Mr. Gregory then informed Reusch that he must go. Reusch answered, "Well, if I must, I must," and, as he stepped from the wagon, asked his captors if they were going to hang him. Almost before Reusch touched the ground he was seized, and his hands tied behind his back. The prisoner then fully realized that he was a doomed man; he began to cry, repeatedly exclaiming, "My God! what can I say?" and, after talking about his father and mother, called upon the intercepted party to save him. At this juncture Davidson was ordered to move on to the turn of the road and there remain twenty minutes, and move not at his peril. With this command two letters, signed "An Outraged Community," addressed to two well-known residents of Silver Mountain, warning them to leave the county within thirty days, were handed in to be given to the driver. About ten minutes, 9:45 o'clock, after the prisoner was left in the hands of his captors, three piercing shrieks told the waiting party that the Committee had faithfully fulfilled its mission. Reusch was hung from the upper side of the bridge, third post from the house, by an inch rope, with a true hangman's knot; the great fall, twelve feet, broke the rope and the body fell a distance of twenty feet to the ground, striking it feet foremost. The body found in the river tied to a pier of the bridge. On Saturday morning an inquest was held at Markleeville by Justice Musser. The neck was not broken. The remains were interred at Markleeville on Saturday afternoon. The number of the Vigilance Committee is not known, but, it is said, innumerable revolvers, and shotguns were pointed from every direction. Reusch never regretted the killing of Erickson; on the contrary he embraced every opportunity to glorify the deed in offensive language.

"The Chronicle," April 25, 1874

We hear of no new light upon the matter of the summary taking off of Reusch. We publish the testimony adduced at the inquest, and the verdict.

"CORONER'S INQUEST. Markleeville, April 18th, 1874. At an inquest held this day to inquire into the matter of the death of E. Reusch, who was found in the main Carson river, about a mile and a half from said town of Markleeville, near the old toll bridge, the following testimony was taken before J.C. Musser, Justice of the Peace for the fourth township of Alpine county. The following persons were called as jurors: W. Larkin, W. Caruthers, J. Gibson, T. Cluney, P. Gregory, S. Donnelly, J.A. Norton, A. Shoemaker, L. Tindell, T. Andrain, W. Stowell. Messrs. Cluney, Gregory, Larkin, Caruthers and Donnelly were excused, not possessing qualifications requisite to act as jurors.

James Davidson, sworn. - Reside at Silver Mountain; occupation, Under Sheriff of Alpine county; was deputed to take the prisoner E. Reusch to Mono county for trial; started from Silver Mountain at 3 p.m. on April 17th, 1874; stopped at Monitor for supper at half-past 5 or 6; think I left there about 8 p.m.; came to the toll road bridge, Alpine county; were there stopped by several masked men, who leveled their weapons

and demanded the prisoner, at about 10 p'clock p.m. They then took Reusch. I could not tell what the weapons were; the night was dark. I then said to them, "hold on gents; give the man a fair trial," and that we were taking him out to where I thought he could get one. The spokesman of the party - I do not know who he was - then said, "I will give him ten minutes to make a confession." Just then one of the party said, "there he is, in the middle." One of them reached for him from the ground. Then Reusch got up and said, "If I must go, I will." He then jumped down from the wagon; they took hold of him and told us to drive on, which order we obeyed. The prisoner was not ironed at the time; think there were about eleven persons in the party that took Reusch from me. Because of the number in the party and the arms they presented I did not offer forcible resistance. Reusch was in a lumber wagon drawn by four horses; there were in the wagon fifteen persons; no one in the wagon assisted the masked parties. The name of the deceased is Ernst Reusch and his age is 30 years. For more than a year before his death he had been in jail at Silver Mountain. The last time I saw him alive was about 10 o'clock p.m. April 17th, 1874. The next I saw of him was about half-past 12 a.m. April 18th, 1874; saw his body lying in the water, just below the old toll bridge, one and a half miles from Markleeville, he was brought up on to the grade; he was dead; had a rope tied around his neck, and was bruised about the head. The condition of the body now is the same as at the time it was found.

I have examined the premises near where the deceased was last seen alive; found there footprints and masks. After Reusch was taken from me I came to Markleeville (sic) and summoned fifteen persons to go with me to the bridge and recapture the prisoner; returned to the scene of the capture and found the body as heretofore described; also found six black cloths with two holes in each, nine sacks, one ball of twine and a green veil. At the time we were stopped the capturing party told us to hold up our hands, and we held up our hands.

D.N. Mcbeth, sworn. - I thought there were outside of the house at the time

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Hangman's Bridge

Continued from Page 15

of the attack eight or ten persons, and that three or four more were looking out of the place from where the rush was made. I did not know any of the attacking party.

L.M. Buel, sworn. – Think there was seven or eight. *** On the south side of the bridge, about twenty feet from the west end, we found a rope hitched to one of the stanchions. It was broken off and hunt down about two feet below the floor, went under the bridge, where we found Reusch's hat; searched about among the bushes; about thirty feet from where we found his hat we found the body of the deceased lying in the river; there was blood on his face, his forehead was scratched, and there was a rope around his neck, one end of which was

fastened to a pier of the bridge. The rope around his neck was the same size as the one found on the bridge. The point on the bridge where the rope was found is eighteen or twenty feet above the ground.

Joseph H. Mitchell, sworn – Think there were between seven and ten persons in the attacking party.

Question by acting-Coroner – What did you mean by the remark made by you last night in relation to the deceased – that "here he is just as we left him."

Answer—Somebody said he looked natural, and I think I made the remark, "here he is just as natural as we left him," or something to that effect. Do not know as I made the remark, but if made, it was after

the deceased was brought upon the grade, and after some other person said he looked natural.

VERDICT. That the name of the deceased is Ernst Reusch, aged about 30 years, a native of Denmark. That he came to his death by being strangled with a rope attached to his neck, at the old toll bridge situated about one and a half miles from the town of Markleeville, Alpine county, Cal., and that said strangulation was caused by parties unknown to this jury.

(Signed) – *C.H. Emery, J.A. Norton, T.B. Andrain, Wm. A. Stowell, J.A. Gibson, A. Shoemaker.*

"The Alpine Miner," May 2, 1874

(The story as related here poses as many questions as it answers:

Why was Reusch held for over a year in the Silver Mountain City jail? Why were the citizens angry enough to form a Vigilance Committee determined to hang Reusch rather than let him go to Mono County for a "fair and impartial trial"?

Who were the Vigilance Committee Members? Was any action ever taken in regard to their action? What was the content of the two letters, and who were the "two well known residents of Silver Mountain" to whom they were addressed?)

Courtesy of the Alpine County Museum

Alpine Enterprise

Aug. 1993

Pg. 3

Record Courier 8-1-93

Mountain bike race at Kirkwood

The Kirkwood Red Cliffs Classic mountain bike race will be held Saturday.

The fifth race of the Lake Tahoe Mountain Bike Series will be held at Kirkwood Ski and Summer Resort.

Action begins at 10 a.m. for pro and expert class races and 11:45 a.m. for sport and beginner categories.

Race-day registration begins at

8:30 a.m. for professionals and experts.

The event features a five-mile circuit course that loops through the base of the ski area, situated at an altitude of 7,500 feet. Racers will compete over distances of 10, 15 and 20 miles depending on the category.

The races are for all National Off-Road Bicycle Association (NORBA) categories, from begin-

ner to professional and divided by age categories. All NORBA rules will be enforced, including the use of helmets.

A single-day NORBA license will be available race-day for beginners.

The Lake Tahoe Mountain Bike Series concludes Aug. 14-15 with the Homewood Hillclimb and the Backwood Challenge, both on Tahoe's West Shore.

People

NEW BOOK BY WOODFORDS AUTHOR

Lucky Bill: Was he a murderer?

by M.B. HEPP
Staff Writer

Michael J. Makley of Woodfords is the author of the newly issued book, "The Hanging of Lucky Bill."

Makley discovered the character of William "Lucky Bill" Thorington while researching another subject in Carson City. Lucky Bill was a notorious confidence man known throughout the West.

A history and English teacher at South Lake Tahoe High School, Makley and his wife Randi ran across two books that had differing accounts of the famous gambler's demise.

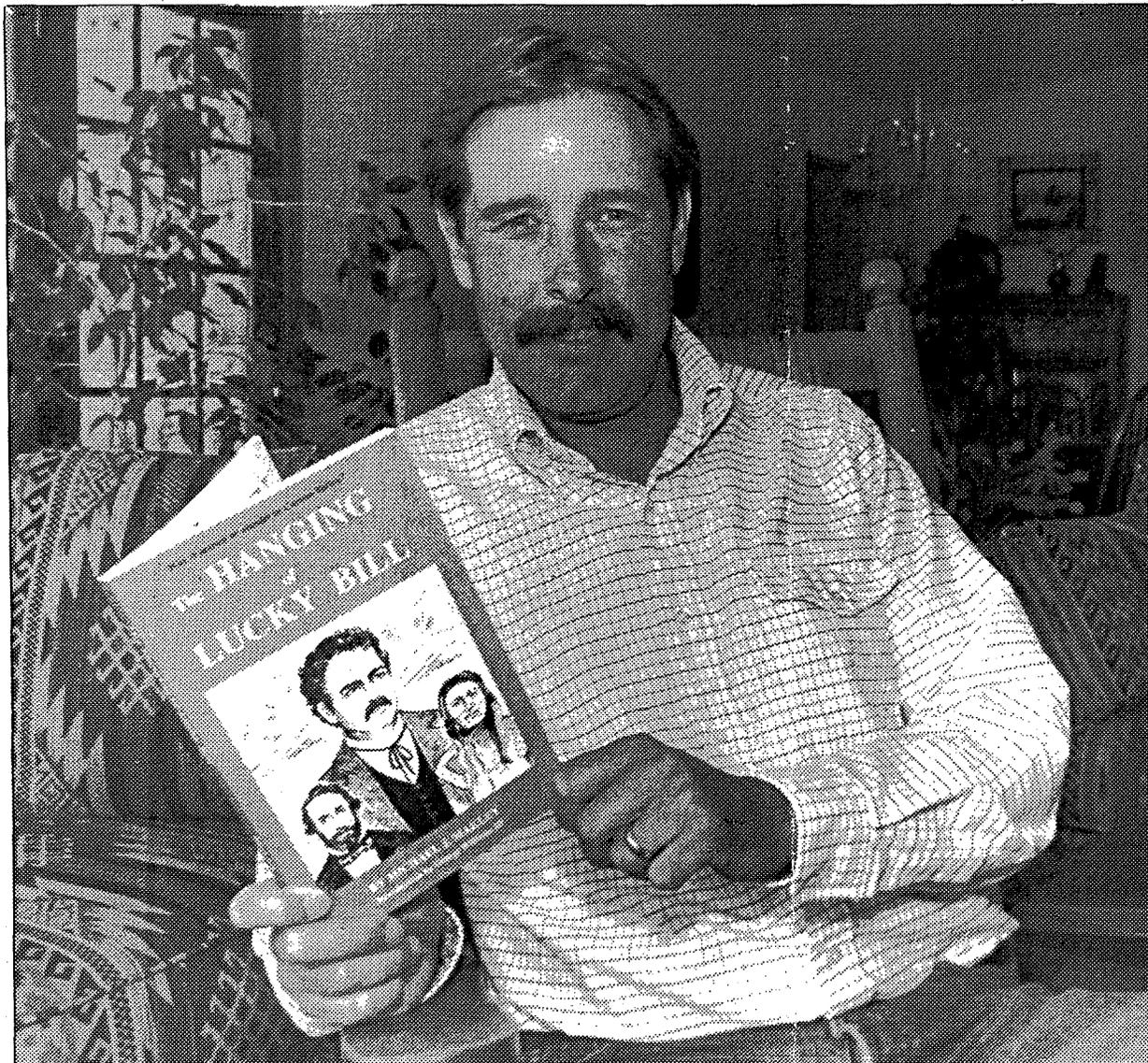
Thorington was hanged in 1858 as an accessory to murder, however those who were tried with him got off scot-free. Was it justice or a set-up?

Makley explores the issue with research, trial testimony and letters from those who lived in Carson Valley during the trial.

"Every book has something on Thorington, but no book had any in-depth information on him," Makley said.

In the book, Makley traces the political history when Carson Valley was part of Utah Territory and the western outpost of the Mormon expansion.

A gambler, Thorington won



MICHAEL MAKLEY R-C photo by Belinda Rohleder

most of his holdings. He owned three ranches in the Valley and a house in Genoa. He acquired the holdings during the early 1850s.

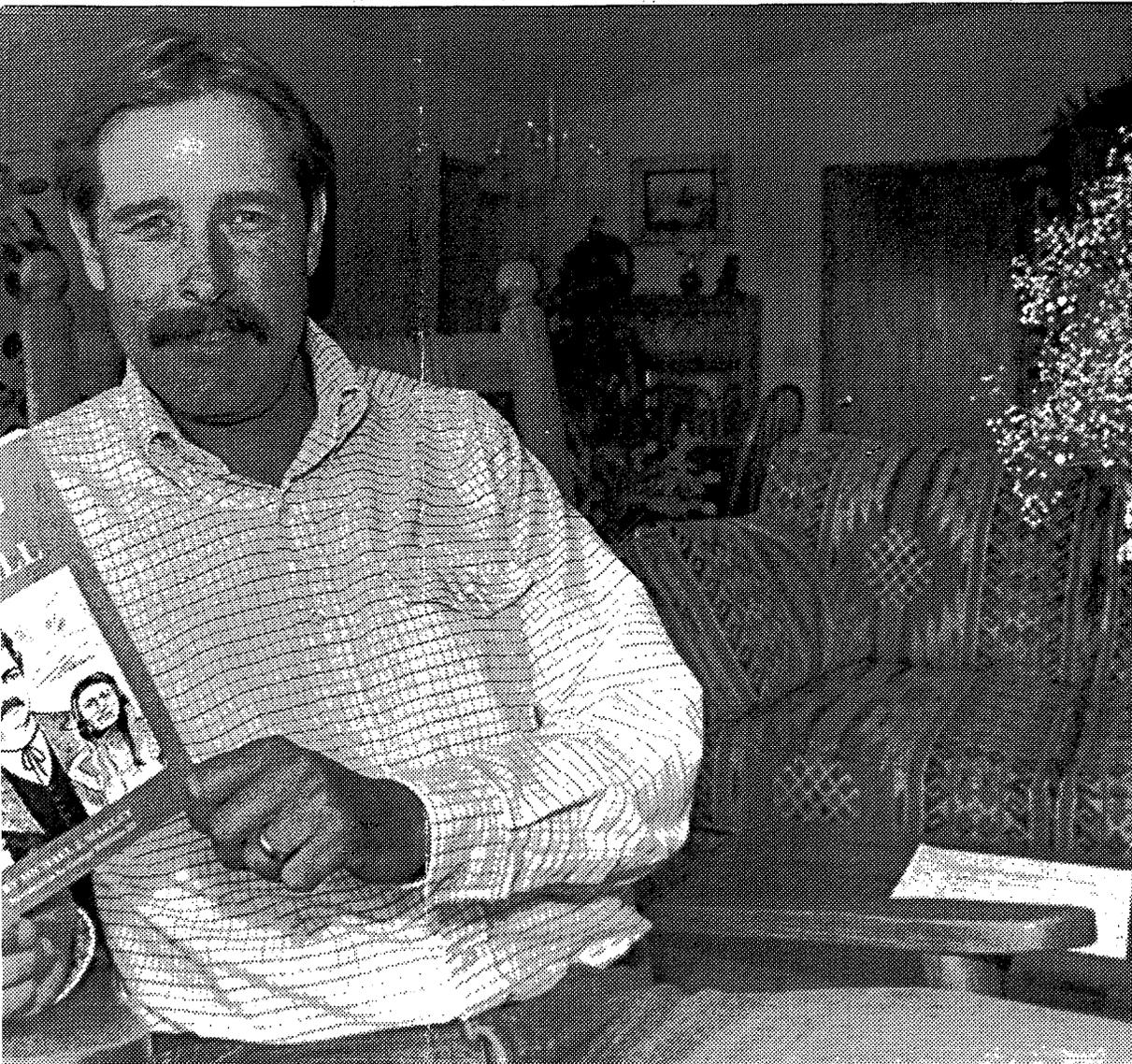
Thorington was also known as a Robin Hood as well as a shrewd

card-shark. He would win a team and wagon from some poor pioneer and then sign the whole thing back to the wife, effectively securing the rest of the family's trip to California.

In 1857, the Mormons pulled out, the power structure changed in the Valley. Thorington was accused of accessory to murder by a group from Honey Lake, Calif., and his arch enemy Major

People

NEW BOOK BY WOODFORDS AUTHOR



MICHAEL MAKLEY R-C photo by Belinda Rohleder

card-shark. He would win a team and wagon from some poor pioneer and then sign the whole thing back to the wife, effectively securing the rest of the family's trip to California.

In 1857, the Mormons pulled out, the power structure changed in the Valley. Thorington was accused of accessory to murder by a group from Honey Lake, Calif., and his arch enemy Major

William Ormsby. A vigilante trial took place.

"I get excited about it still, because it's such a great story," Makley said, his blue eyes lighting up.

Makley discovered that C.N. Noteware, later Nevada Secretary of State, wrote the transcript for the trial. The trial took place at the Schulz Ranch just south of Carson City.

The 45-year-old school teacher spent two years researching and writing the book. Much of his information came from newspapers: the Sacramento Union, the Sacramento Bee, the Placerville Mountain Democrat and the San Francisco Herald. He said the only newspaper in the Valley in the 1850s was the hand-written Scorpion and he couldn't find any copies.

The newspapers gained their information from the miners going to and fro between San Francisco and the gold country. He also researched letters from people who were living in the area.

"Thorington was involved with underhanded deals and outlaws, but I doubt if he conspired to murder the man," Makley said.

The author was raised at South Lake Tahoe and his parents and a brother now live in Gardnerville. Residents may remember him as the assistant coach for the Douglas High football team.

Published in June, the book includes photos, some daguerreotypes and maps of the area.

"The Hanging of Lucky Bill," is available in Carson Valley at Payless, Carson Valley Pharmacy, Minden Chevron; Lock Stock and Barrel Books and The Carson Valley Historical Society Courthouse Museum in Genoa; Kennedy Books, The Book Cellar and the Carson City Visitor Center in Carson City.

Record Courier 8/5/93



YOUTH ADVOCATES are, from left, Neil Mortimer, Matt Lujettie, Melissa Baker, Coty Richardson, Ryan Richardson and Nicky Steinmen. Nancy Kerley photo

Alpine youths prepare for camp

Eight Alpine County Tobacco-Free Youth Advocates met with parents and leader Nancy Kerley recently to prepare for the third annual Youth Summit camp to be held at Sly Park, Calif., Aug. 16-20.

The kids are advocates for non-smoking among their peers, Kerley said, and at the camp-conference they will learn how to use the media on how to combat smoking, community planning, influencing elected officials, counteracting tobacco industry tactics and self-esteem and lead-

ership.

It's not all work and no play, however. "It's really fun and a great camp," Kerley said.

The Youth Summit will include about 180 young people from 13 counties and is sponsored by the Gold Country Tobacco Prevention Coalition, a group of 13 health agencies, American Lung Association, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association and representatives from various health and minority coalition groups.

Kerley will accompany the youths during the five-day camp. The Alpine youths call themselves the Sierra Youth Challenge, and have been involved in various local projects.

The students promoted smoke-free lunch hours at McDonald's in Minden through posters at Douglas High School where Alpine County youths attend school. Ken Ristuben, owner of the McDonald's, supported the members by allowing them to use the restaurant for meetings.

Drake Ceragioli top junior

Drake Ceragioli of Woodfords was the first junior and third overall finisher in the Dogskin Tule Mountain 50-mile Endurance Ride July 24 north of Reno.

Drake, a 14-year-old Carson Valley Middle School 8th grader, completed the ride in 5 hours and 39 minutes, fastest among all 16-and-under junior entries. He was just minutes behind the overall runner-up and within a half-hour of the

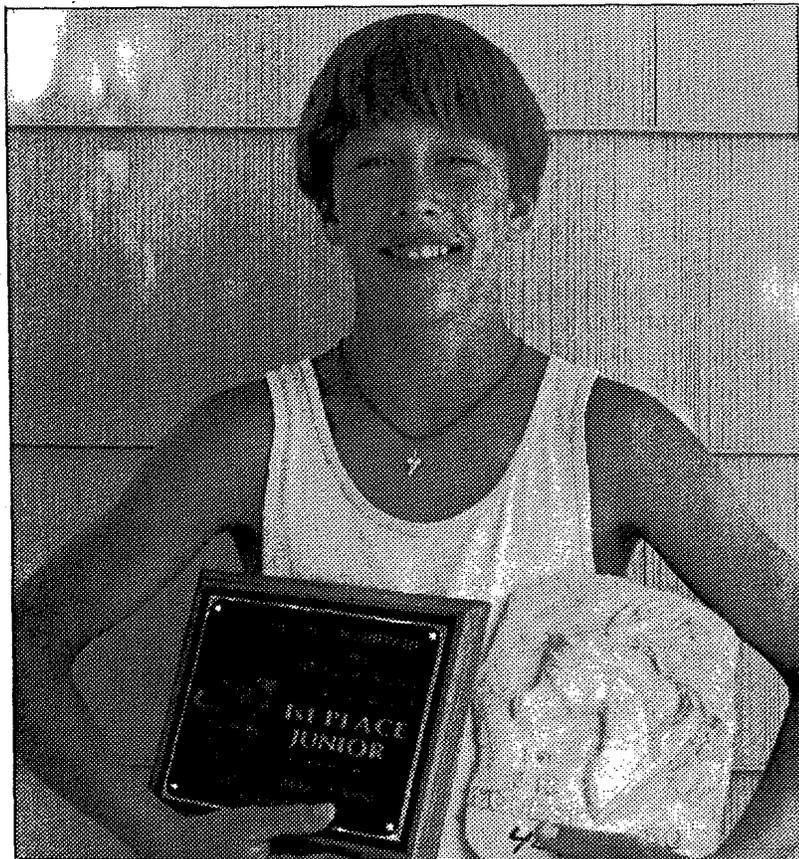
winner.

More than 50 riders were entered in the challenging endurance ride, according to Gary Ceragioli.

"This race is nicknamed the killer because it's so hard," said Gary Ceragioli, who rode in the event as his son's sponsor.

This was Drake Ceragioli's fourth American Endurance Riding Conference event and he's finished as the first junior in each one.

Record Courier
8/8/93



DRAKE CERAGIOLI

Tahoe Daily Tribune 8/8/93

Cabins spark public land debate

U.S.F.S. irks some Alpine residents

By **JEFF DELONG**
Tribune Staff Writer

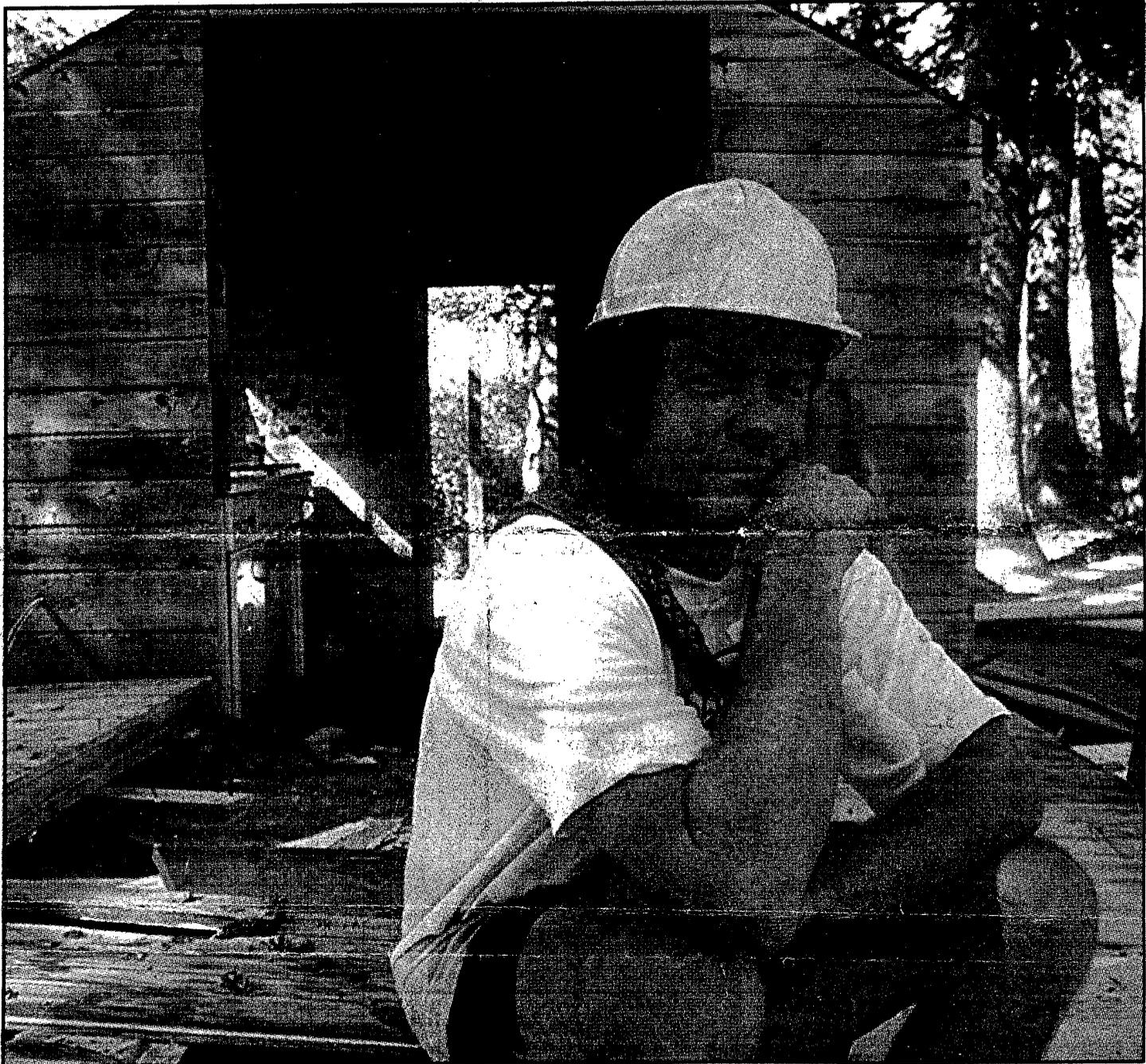
HOPE VALLEY — Five miles southeast of here the so-called Morrison Cabin sits on the side of a wooded slope with a glorious view of soaring granite peaks surrounding Carson Pass.

The cabin, which is 40 or 50 years old, has changed hands among a number of hardy Alpine County residents and miners, and today sits vacant on national forest land.

Locked up and posted by the Forest Service with a no-trespassing sign, the cabin's future is uncertain. It is the focus of a classic debate on the use of public land.

The U.S. Forest Service currently is considering the fate of three such cabins in the county. Two are located in Woodfords Canyon and the third, the Morrison Cabin, sits alongside Burnside Road southeast of Hope Valley.

A study is under way to gauge the historical significance of the three buildings. Toiyabe National Forest District Ranger Guy Pence said his primary concern at this point is to ensure all three cabins remain unoccupied, noting that some — particularly the Morrison Cabin — frequently were occupied illegally.



JIM GRANT/Tahoe Tribune

BARN LOWERING: Dean McKinley takes a break from tearing down the Merrill Cabin as ordered by the U.S. Forest Service.

in, recently was determined not to have such value and Pence ordered its removal this summer. Located

also has appealed a finding by the Forest Service that a permit to operate a nearby tungsten mine he has la-

the Morrison Cabin — frequently were occupied illegally.

In the case of the Morrison Cabin, results of the government's study could determine whether it remains in place or is removed.

"We need to determine if the cabins have some historic value," Pence said.

A fourth cabin, commonly called the Merrill Cab-

in, recently was determined not to have such value and Pence ordered its removal this summer. Located less than a mile down the road from the Morrison Cabin, the Merrill Cabin was recently torn down by its sometime occupant, Dean McKinley, and friends during a "barn lowering" party.

"I'm tired of fighting them," said McKinley, who

also has appealed a finding by the Forest Service that a permit to operate a nearby tungsten mine he has labored in for years is no longer valid.

One of those helping McKinley tear down the cabin was Cam Craik, the Alpine County supervisor who

See CABINS, Page 8A

Cabins

Continued from Page 1A

represents the area.

"It's really a shame," Craik said.

"The thing doesn't hurt anything."

In July 1991, the Alpine County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution designating the Morrison Cabin as historical due to its "ties and remembrance of the mining activities which have played a long and consistent role in the livelihood of Alpine County."

Two years later, the board attempted to cement the cabin's safety. Again citing its "significant historic value," supervisors voted last month to attempt to enter into an agreement with the federal government to permit it to manage and maintain the Morrison Cabin. The idea was that it might be taken over for training purposes by the county search-and-rescue team.

Also interested in the fate of the Morrison Cabin is Nancy Thornburg of the Alpine County Museum. She expressed frustration over the heavy hand she and many other Alpine County residents feel the Forest Service uses in managing public land.

That approach, she said, has been shown in decisions affecting the cabins, road closures, and the planned suspension of cattle grazing in Meiss Country.

"I think they should work with the community and not come in with an arrogant manner and say 'this is what we are going to do,'" Thornburg said. "It's a very negative relationship."

Alpine County Supervisor Don Jardine said he believes the Forest Service is "committed" to removing cabins on public land. He also accused the agency of forgetting a commitment to maintaining historical use of land that was a condition to the county's support of recent acquisition of much private land in Alpine by the federal government.

"They seem to have forgotten the conditions and the conditions were historic use," Jardine said. "Once they buy the land they forgot why we supported it. It's very unfortunate they're not holding up their end of the bargain."

In the case of the cabins, Pence denied the Forest Service intends to tear the structures down. If they are found to be historic, he said, it "will be my primary goal to protect and interpret those."

The district ranger said the Forest Service is only doing its job as mandated by the law.

"We're simply carrying out the rules and regulations that allow for occupancy and use of the national forest," Pence said. "We're not moving in with a heavy hand at all."

Nevada Appeal 8-12-93

Alpine County group battles forest service

By BRENDAN RILEY
Associated Press Writer

Some Alpine County, Calif., residents are battling with the U.S. Forest Service over what they see as unwarranted delays in getting rid of fire hazards created by dying, beetle-infested trees.

The critics include Alpine County Supervisor Donald Jardine, logger George Fernandes and Nancy Thornburg, who have targeted Guy Spence, in charge of the Carson Ranger District office here.

Jardine and Fernandes met July 19 meeting with Pence at the USFS office here to talk about the problem, and left feeling the ranger had

made comments that were "clearly and deliberately threatening to Alpine County," Thornburg said.

But Pence denied making any sort of threats, adding that nobody seemed upset at the meeting and "we all shook hands and they went out for coffee."

Alpine Supervisor Pete Blum, who also was at the meeting, said he wanted to stay out of the fray. "They should take their battle somewhere else and shouldn't implicate the county or the Forest Service," he added.

"There were things said that could have been taken five different

(See ALPINE, Page A-8)

Alpine

(Continued from Page One)

ways by five different people," he said. "But I thought it was a meaningful meeting and that we accomplished something."

Jardine, Fernandes and Thornburg said they're concerned because the the Forest Service controls most of the land in Alpine County, which is heavily dependent on tourism and recreation.

The three said the alleged threat by Pence to make Alpine suffer "could manifest itself in the form of opening campgrounds later or closing them earlier or closing them altogether, closing access to public lands, denying mining activities, terminating grazing permits, reducing timber harvesting and salvaging sales."

They also suggested that fire-fighting efforts might be less aggressive, although Jardine added he really didn't think the USFS "would go that far."

"I don't know how to respond other than to say this is completely fictitious and totally erroneous," Pence said. "They're trying to take little bits and pieces of what somebody said and trying to rearrange it to put it in a bad light."

The ranger added that his agency is working on timber salvage projects that will help get rid of diseased, dying trees, but also said beetle infestations are widespread due to recent drought conditions and "you're talking about a whole mountain range."

Jardine, who served with Fernandes and Thornburg on an advisory panel nicknamed the "beetle board," said Pence maintained he "just couldn't work with the board."

Pence said in a letter last February to all supervisors that he wanted to cut off dealings with the panel rather than "jeopardize all the positive ground we have covered."

Record Courier
8-12-93

25 YEARS AGO
The Record-Courier
Thursday, Aug. 15, 1968

YOUTHS JOIN MARINES. Two graduates of the Douglas County High School this spring have enlisted as members of the all-Nevada platoon of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Roger Stodieck, 18-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Stodieck of Gardnerville, and Dennis Atchison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Atchison of Genoa, will leave for Marine boot camp Aug. 22, following swearing-in ceremonies on the steps of the state capitol in Carson City.

11-YEAR-OLD HIKES 50 MILES. With plenty of energy left for a winner's smile, young Kevin Wines, 11, climbed the steps of the Douglas County Courthouse at 10 p.m. Sunday night as the only member of the Tahoe-Douglas Rotary-sponsored Zephyr Cove Boy Scout Troop 168 to complete a 50-mile hike.

*** ALPINE COUNTY TAKE KNIFE TO TAX RATE.** The largest tax rate slice in more than a decade was authorized earlier this week by Alpine County supervisors. Adopted the county's final budget for the 1968-69 fiscal year Monday, supervisors lopped \$1.18 off the rate — from \$5.95 per \$100 assessed valuation to \$4.77.

Annual Trail Ride set Sept. 11-12 in Alpine

The Carson Valley Conservation District, Soil Conservation Service and University of Nevada, Reno Cooperative Extension will sponsor the 17th annual Trail Ride Sept. 11 and 12 at Pleasant Valley, in Alpine County. To get an application to participate, contact Cooperative Extension at 782-9960 or Carson Valley Conservation District at 782-3661.

This year the trail ride will focus be riparian and forest management. A history of ranching and conservation activities in the are will be presented.

Record Courier 8/12/93

Labor of love tastes great

■ **Italian-born baker:** Lured back to cooking with tiny, unusual restaurant.

By Ian Harmer

The first time Ruggero Gigli opened a restaurant in the United States, the Italian-born baker refused to yield to market pressures and offer hamburgers and hot dogs along with exquisite ethnic cuisine harking back to his home town in the hills of Tuscany.

Typically — and depressingly — the standard fast-food fare offered at other neighborhood eateries was more in demand than the gourmet meals he preferred to cook. After some long, hard years of seven-day weeks, Ruggero decided that maybe the restaurant business was not for him.

Recently, however, Gigli concluded the public palate was tiring of endless burgers and fries so he decided to head back to the kitchen, where he belongs.

Villa Gigli on Hot Springs Road in Markleeville, just across the California border, probably ranks among the most eccentric restaurants in the West. But thanks to seamless teamwork between Ruggero and his artist wife, Gina, the downright weirdness of a five-table gourmet boutique in a converted studio on the edge of a mountain meadow makes for a dining experience worth repeating.

Because the Gigli's opted to open Villa Gigli in a residential area, their new business is technically a cottage industry, and therefore subject to stringent regulations protecting the natural beauty of Alpine County.

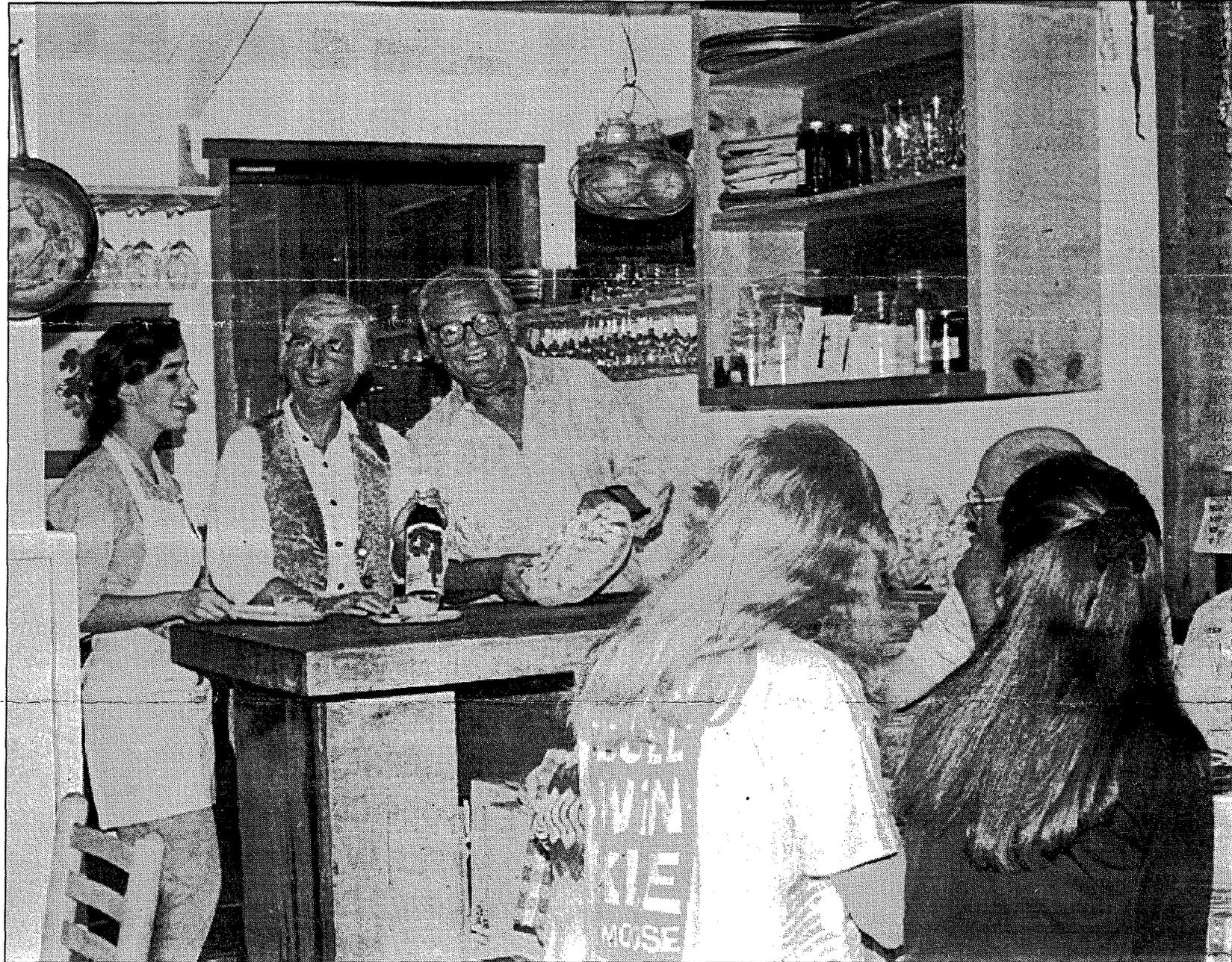


Photo by Ian Harmer

of Alpine County.

So the sign that swings beside the gate is a hard-to-spot 12-by-24 inches, and only would-be diners with inside information are likely to be able to find it.

Because the available dining area is smaller than the kids' playground at a typical McDonald's, the Giglis recommend reservations — a smart move anyway, because the home-baked bread, fresh pasta and traditional Italian dishes are available only from 4 to 8 p.m., Fridays and weekends.

Ruggero says the Villa Gigli Collection — so named because Gina's artworks decorate the high walls of the restaurant-in-a-gallery — was not opened to compete with the more opulent eateries in South Lake Tahoe, Minden or Gardnerville.

Cooking, he explains, is the great love of his, apart from his family, and the need to share his enthusiasm with strangers was

ITALIAN CUISINE: Ruggero Gigli, right, wife Gina, center, and daughter Dina Marina Gigli at their five-table restaurant in Markleeville, just over the California border. Ruggero says describes Villa Gigli as "a

IF YOU GO VILLA GIGLI

■ **Address:** 145 Hot Springs Road, Markleeville, Calif.

■ **Hours:** 4-8 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The restaurant is open later than 8 p.m., but customers are seated only until then.

■ **Details:** (916) 694-2253.

what prompted him to get back into the restaurant business.

"I get to cook all day long, three days a week, but only my favorite foods," he said. "It's what I always dreamed of doing, but the need to

make a profit got in the way.

"Now, running a restaurant is a labor of love. We don't want to lose money, but we have Gina's prints and paintings, our own range of fine wines and olive oil we cold-press and bottle ourselves to help me do things the way I want to."

The prices at Villa Gigli bear out Ruggero's approach. Not one entree is above \$9.

When he isn't conjuring up mouth-watering meals for first-time visitors or his widening circle of repeat customers, Ruggero heads for his workshop adjoining the gallery to print Gina's intricate intaglio artworks. Intaglio is an Italian word that describes a process Gina uses to etch her creations on a zinc plate coated with a

place where friends can come and feel at home, and where the chef can walk around and talk to his guests and keep an eye on the stove at the same time. This is a dream come true for me."

■ *"I get to cook all day long, three days a week, but only my favorite foods. It's what I always dreamed of doing"*

Ruggero Gigli

thin layer of beeswax.

Wine is very much a part of the Gigli Collection, because the vine-leaf designs Gina created adorn not only the bottles she intended them for but also the walls of the

gallery in larger-than-life prints.

"We promised ourselves when Ruggero gave up his first restaurant that we would do only what interested and excited us, and we have been lucky enough to make a living at it," Gina said.

"We open the restaurant for just four hours a day, three days a week, because I didn't want Ruggero to get back into cooking hour after hour without a day off. There's nothing creative about that.

"We try to keep to our posted closing time, but Ruggero is a soft touch, and if someone shows up when we are ready to turn out the lights, I whisper to them, 'Just tell him you're hungry,' and he lets them stay as long as they want."

Record Courier 8/15/93

Forest Service considers fate of cabins

by JEFF DELONG
R-C News Service

Five miles southeast of Hope Valley, the so-called Morrison Cabin sits on the side of a wooded slope with a glorious view of soaring granite peaks surrounding Carson Pass.

The cabin, which is 40 or 50 years old, has changed hands among a number of hardy Alpine County residents and miners, and today sits vacant on national forest land.

Locked up and posted by the Forest Service with a no-trespassing sign, the cabin's future is uncertain. It is the focus of a classic debate on the use of public land.

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A study is under way to gauge the historical significance of the three buildings.

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"I'm tired of fighting them," said McKinley, who also has appealed a finding by the Forest Service that a permit to operate a nearby tungsten mine he has labored in for years is no longer valid.

One of those helping McKinley tear down the cabin was Cam Craik, the Alpine County supervisor who represents the area.

"It's really a shame," Craik said. "The thing doesn't hurt anything."

In July 1991, the Alpine County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution designating the Morrison Cabin as historical due to its "ties and remembrance of the mining activities which have

played a long and consistent role in the livelihood of Alpine County."

Two years later, the board attempted to cement the cabin's safety. Again citing its "significant historic value," supervisors voted last month to attempt to enter into an agreement with the federal government to permit it to manage and maintain the Morrison Cabin. The idea was that it might be taken over for training purposes by the county search-and-rescue team.

Also interested in the fate of the Morrison Cabin is Nancy Thornburg of the Alpine County Museum.

She expressed frustration over the heavy hand she and many other Alpine County residents feel the Forest Service uses in managing public land.

That approach, she said, has been shown in decisions affecting the cabins, road closures, and the planned suspension of cattle grazing in Meiss Country.

"I think they should work with the community and not come in with an arrogant manner and say 'this is what we are going to do,'" Thornburg said. "It's a very negative relationship."

Alpine County Supervisor Don Jardine said he believes the Forest Service is "committed" to removing cabins on public land.

Trial date is set for Kirkwood suit

A 1995 trial date has been set in a lawsuit against Kirkwood Ski Resort stemming from the deaths of a Pope Valley, Calif., man and his young daughter in a Jan. 20 condominium fire.
Record Courier 8/26/93

The propane-related blaze brought a family's ski vacation to a tragic end when their rented condominium exploded, killing Roger Dickson Sr. and his 2-year-old daughter, Sarah. His son, Roger Jr., 9, was seriously burned, while his wife Peggy and 6-year-old son Scott sustained lesser injuries.

Mrs. Dickson filed the suit two weeks after the disaster, alleging negligence in the deaths of her husband and daughter, emotional distress and strict liability.

The fire, which destroyed most of the Sun Meadows II complex,

was one of at least a dozen home-leveling propane blasts in the Tahoe area last winter.

Heavy snowloads and ice falling off roofs ruptured propane lines, causing the heavier-than-air gas to pool under the doomed homes until the explosive fuel found an ignition source, often a pilot light.

The 45-day trial in the Dickson case is scheduled to start March 7, 1995 in El Dorado Superior Court before Judge Terrence Finney.

The suit also names the Sun Meadows Condominium Association, Amerigas Propane Co. and Robert and Marjorie Nakaji, who owned the unit the Dicksons were staying in.

Record Courier 8/26/93

Tibaduiza sets pace at Markleeville 10-K

Miguel Tibaduiza ran away from a field of 76 participants to win the 15th annual Markleeville 10-K Sunday.

The 36-year-old from Reno, a former qualifier for the U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials, covered the 6.2-mile out-and-back course in a time of 35:22 to win the second leg of the Alpine County 10-K Series.

Tibaduiza coasted home a winner on a course that climbs approximately 500 feet on the way out toward Grover Hot Springs State Park. He finished 27 seconds ahead of Reno's Dale Magnin, who earned a first-place medal in the men's 40-49 year old age category.

Leon Shordon ran 36:02 for

third-place overall, followed by Joe Fairwell of Gardnerville, the second master finisher and fourth overall in a time of 36:59.

Incidentally, five of the top seven finishers were entered in the men's 40-49 age group.

The first woman to finish was Amy Cathcart, 14th overall in a time of 41:01.

There were a couple of local area age group winners in the women's competition, including Amy Miller of Gardnerville in the 16-19 age group in 55:22, and Kathy Ceragioli of Woodfords in the 30-39 class in 48:32.

June Lane of South Lake Tahoe was first in the women's 40-49 class in 46:41. Suzy Stockdale of Minden, who competed at

the World's Semi-Toughest Triathlon at Lake Tahoe on Saturday, finished second in the age group with a 49:58 clocking.

Another Tibaduiza, 11-year-old Elizabeth, also came out a winner in the childrens one-mile fun run held afterward. Young Tibaduiza ran the distance in 6:11, followed by Tiffany Davis in 7:31 and Mara Melich in 8:07.

The first boy to finish was Frank Banks, 10, of Gardnerville with a 6:20 clocking. Cory Fitzpatrick was second in 7:31 and 9-year-old Kris Price of Gardnerville ran 7:39 to place third.

The Series started last month at Bear Valley and concludes with the 13th annual Kirkwood 10-K on Sept. 12.

Hikers rescued after night in woods

by BRIAN MAFFLY
R-C News Service

Record
Courier
8-29-93

Ten missing hikers, six of them children between the ages of 6 to 10, were found safe Wednesday after spending a chilly night near Markleeville without water.

Early rescue efforts were stymied because the hikers hadn't told their families exactly where they intended to go, officials said. The group was due back from a day trip Tuesday night and the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office was notified the group had not returned at 2 a.m.

The reporting person was confused about where the hikers went, and deputy sheriffs spent much of Wednesday morning just trying to figure out where to look while chasing false leads, according to Assistant Alpine County Sheriff Robert Tucker.

Searchers at first checked the

Luther Pass area, many miles from where the missing people actually were.

"Alpine and El Dorado deputies spent the morning searching near Star Lake but with negative result," Tucker said.

El Dorado Deputy Paula Cotter and Alpine Deputy John Crawford went back to the hikers' family to get more clues to point them in the right direction. Using their knowledge of area's backcountry, the deputies decided to search near Monitor Pass, a rugged area honeycombed with four-wheel drive roads off State Route 89 east of Markleeville.

"That area would have taken days to search on the ground so we called for aircraft," Tucker said, referring to a California Highway Patrol Cessna that was used in the search. "They flew it and within 20 minutes they found them."

Officials believe the hikers were trying to find some natural hot springs when they became stranded near Cottonwood Canyon, just east of the East Fork of the Carson River.

"Due to the rough terrain, it took the ground units over four hours to reach the stranded group," Tucker said. "The group had spent that evening and a cold night without food or water and were found to be suffering from dehydration and fatigue."

They were found with their disabled four-wheel drive vehicle on the Barney Riley Trail, a dirt road that starts near Hangman's Bridge, just outside Markleeville.

Two of the children were taken to Carson-Tahoe Hospital for treatment for dehydration and exposure, Tucker said.

Officials described the group as summertime residents of the Tahoe area.

Record Courier 9-5-93

Kirkwood 10-K run on Sunday

The 13th annual Kirkwood 10-K Run will be held next Sunday, Sept. 12, at Kirkwood Ski Resort.

The third and final leg of the Alpine County 10-K Series is scheduled for a 10 a.m. start from the Kirkwood main lodge.

In addition to awards for this race, prizes will be presented to the top male and female runners overall for the series, including season alpine and nordic passes at Kirkwood and Bear Valley.

The race is a double-loop course around Kirkwood meadow, consisting of trails and paved surfaces.

The entry fee is \$13 for pre-registered runners and \$15 on race day. A one-mile fun run for children 12 and under will be held with a registration fee of \$5.

The event is co-sponsored by the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce and Kirkwood, and is a Tobacco Free event.

Record Courier 9-5-93

'Parents' Night Out' offered in Alpine County

The Alpine Children's Center will once again be offering the Parent's Night Out to the families in its service area.

This is a time for parents to talk to each other about things that work or don't work for them.

There will be evenings with presenters on topics of interest to the group. Parent's Night Out gives parents an opportunity to be with other adults and have someone else take care of the children.

The first session will be on "Finding Time for Yourself."

Free child care will be available

in the preschool/school age building.

Refreshments will be served and door prizes given away. There

is no charge to parents.

The first event is 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sept. 9 in the Alpine Children's Center's infant building.

Gomez, Waldear win 10-K

Record
Courier
9-16-93

Albert Gomez and Debbi Waldear outran a field of more than 200 participants to earn top honors among the men and women at the 13th annual Kirkwood 10-K Sunday.

Gomez, a 16-year-old Florin High School student in Sacramento, was the overall winner as he completed the double-loop run around Kirkwood meadow in a time of 38:44 to lead all runners.

Waldear, 41, of Kirkwood, was first among the women in a time of 40:38.

The race was the last of three legs in the Alpine County 10-K Series, a Tobacco Free Event put on by the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce. Awards were presented to the top overall finishers for the series: Steve Ashcraft in the men's open division, Ralph Johnson of South Lake Tahoe in the men's masters category, Amy Cathcart in the women's open and Susie Richardson in the women's masters.

In the children's one-mile fun run Sunday, Tiffany Davis of Markleeville and Kristen Garzapena of Gardnerville finished first and second in the girls category. Frank Banks of Gardnerville was first among the boys.

Record Courier 9-30-93

Give administrators level playing field for public school programs

by JAMES PARSONS

I must respond to William Rusher's column about the California voucher initiative. This appeared in your Sept. 16 issue.

I must respond because Mr. Rusher made some statements that are either misleading or simply untrue. I will address them in the order that they appear in the article.

He states that the \$2,600 that the law would provide is what it would cost to educate one child per year in a private school, "only half of what it costs in the public system."

This is misleading.

I taught in a private school for nine years and was headmaster for

two. One cannot run a quality private school that can rival the public school in faculty, facility, equipment and curriculum for \$2,600 per student per year. Almost all private school budgets are supplemented with gift money, fund raising, endowments or other institutional support (i.e. churches).

The public school, on the other hand, runs almost exclusively on public money. If one were to compare the total expenditures of two like schools, private and public, the costs would be similar.

Mr. Rusher then says that the voucher initiative "would save a huge amount of money, which could then be spent on true improvements in public education."

This is not true.

When a student does not attend public school, the state withholds an average of \$5,000 per year from the public school; but when that student attends a private school, the state would pay the private school only \$2,600 per year.

The voucher initiative does not provide for using the money saved for improvements in public education. In fact, there is no provision to put any of the savings back into public education.

Then, two years from now, those students currently in private schools will also receive \$2,600 per year, for an additional cost of over \$1.3 billion more than the current state education budget.

Mr. Rusher also states, "that the

schools qualifying for the voucher would have to meet the same standards as all others in the California school system."

This is not true.

Private schools in California have to meet very few of the requirements placed on public schools, and the voucher initiative does not change this. In fact, the California Association of Independent Schools has concerns about the continued independence of private schools which could come into question if private schools accept public money as provided for in the voucher initiative.

This concern by the CAIS may, however, suggest the answer to our problems. If the public really wants to improve public education

with private education as a model, then remove the restrictions on public education. Allow public education to play the game with the same rules. When I was in private education, one headmaster used to say that a private school should always be better than a public school, because it was just like a horse race in which the state always made the public school horse run in hobbles.

Since then, I have learned that the right teachers with the right family support can neutralize a lot of bureaucratic poppycock.

A student may even get a better education in a public school than a private school. Many of us in public education are frustrated because we know how to do the job,

but regulations and politics often prevent us from doing the job as it should be done.

Then we are criticized for less than perfect results.

In fact, even when we produce near perfect results in one area, it is ignored, and a new issue of imperfection is raised somewhere else.

If private schools are the answer to the country's education problem, just let us run public schools like private schools.

If competition is the answer, then let public schools and private schools compete on equal ground.

Editor's note: James W. Parsons is Superintendent of Alpine County schools.



Career Day

Alpine County Sheriff's deputy Everett Brakensiek brought his drug-sniffing dog "Deacon" to Meneley Elementary School's

Career Day on Tuesday. A variety of community business people took part in the event. R-C photo by Belinda Rohleder

People

1918: Project gets agreement

75 YEARS AGO
The Record-Courier
Friday, Oct. 4, 1918

RECLAMATION PROJECT A GO. A final agreement on the form of the decree which means the establishment of the reservoir reclamation system embracing thousands of acres of land in Lyon county was reached last Wednesday afternoon in the law office of Mack & Green after a two-day conference between attorneys representing the interested parties.

CHAUTAUQUA WELL ATTENDED. The Chautauqua which opened at the high school auditori-

Record
Courier
9-30-93

Remember when?

um Wednesday evening attracted a bit crowd and to say that those who attended went away well pleased, only half covers their appreciation of the performance of Miss Smith and Miss Gordon, the harpist and imitator.



ALPINE HIGHWAY PUT IN CONDITION.

Grant Merrill was here from Woodfords Wednesday evening and reports that the road crew has just finished opening the Alpine highway to Lake Valley that had been damaged by the recent storms. A number of machines were hung up at Meyers Station awaiting the opening of the road.

Mr. Merrill states that the travel over the Alpine highways during the past season has been heavier than ever before. This is especially so of the Kit Carson route leading to the lower California valleys via Jackson. It is claimed that there is less grade on this route than any road crossing the Sierras.

Record Courier 9-30-93



Booth at fair

The Inyo, Mono and Alpine counties Tobacco Control agencies and health departments jointly sponsored an anti-tobacco booth at the Tri-County Fair in Bishop this summer, passing out literature and signing up folks for stop-smoking clinics. Above, Vincent Brennan, left, of Lone Pine and Jefferson Young of Bishop view a video. Nancy Kerley photo

M ARKLEEVILLE & HOPE VALLEY

Heading south out of Markleeville, on California State Highway 89, there is a green meadow that, from across the highway, looks like a golf course. While there is plenty of green, there are no sand traps, fairways or pins.

Not that it matters, because golf clubs are not on the menu in this part of the Sierra. Barbless hooks, mountain meadows, pines, cedars, aspens, a relaxed attitude belying a tumultuous history and hard winters are more the fare.

I recently made a couple of ventures into the Hope Valley, Markleeville, and the environs. The first was during the thick of summer when the wildflowers were in bloom. The meadows running adjacent to the roadways are God's flower boxes and summer is the display of His green thumb.

The second visit was in early autumn, when summer was on the wane and the leaves of the deciduous trees were beginning to catch fire. While vestiges of summer heat remained, they were tempered with an autumn breeze portending winter.

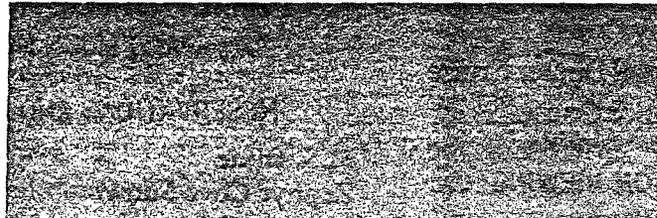
A Valley Of Hope

It is a place of reverse alchemy, where the gold of California becomes the silver of Nevada. In the middle of the last century, while the fortune hunt was waning in California, Nevada struck it rich with the Comstock Lode. The gold seekers left off, the silver seekers began and the Comstock Lode became the largest single strike of silver in the U.S.

The Comstock Lode, and the boom towns that sprouted like weeds in a grassy meadow, soon played themselves out. Fortune seekers stayed a short time and after about a decade, the once-booming mining towns became as lonely as a high pass in winter.

The Hope Valley still bears the name it was given by a party of Mormon settlers traveling to California almost 150 years ago. Nearing the end of their long and treacherous journey, they arrived in the valley and called it 'hope' for it gave them inspiration to complete the last leg of their trek.

The West Fork of the Carson River snakes its way through the Hope Valley. The river, and the numerous feeder streams lacing through the area, keep the meadow green and the wildflowers colorful, except when the valley is covered with a layer of snow.



Where
♦
gold
♦
turns
♦
to silver

by Robert Miller

Alpine County is an anomaly among the 58 counties in the state. The county boasts of having no bank (there is an automated teller), no supermarket, no McDonald's or any of that ilk, no doctor, dentist or pharmacy, mall, theater, high school, hospital or department store.

Hell of a place.

Alpine County is owned mostly by the federal or state government. A mere seven percent of the county is private property. While this makes for vast amounts of land available for outdoor recreational purposes, it prevents a booming real estate market. So much the better. The least populous county in the state, there are probably more trout than people.

Outdoor recreation need not be strenuous, although, for the willing, there is plenty of that to be found here. Each summer the local Chamber of Commerce co-sponsors a bicycle ride called the *Markleeville Death Ride* or *Tour of the California Alps*. Fit and obsessed cyclists climb one, three or five mountain passes in a day, logging better than a hundred miles and many thousands of feet of climbing, all at altitude.

For the softer of thigh, there is a No Pass option and for those with no interest at all in cycling, there is the Pass Out option, which entails a lengthy visit to a local drinking establishment.



Picketts Junction sits in the middle of the valley, a T-intersection joining highways 88 and 89.

The valley itself is a high mountain meadow, green except when it is white from the sky's winter offerings. Cattle run it. Anglers fish it. Skiers cross it. And most of those who see it, admire it.

The West Fork of the Carson River — many landmarks in this neck of the woods bear the name of Kit Carson, an early explorer who led the first winter crossing of the Sierra — makes a lazy 'S' or three through the valley. The river and

other feeder streams keep the valley green.

The eastern end of the Hope Valley opens up onto the high plains of Nevada's Carson Valley. From the higher elevations of Monitor Pass, looking east across Nevada, the brown and green plots of land stand out in a fertile checkerboard.

Passing Fancy

The hustle of summer in South Lake Tahoe becomes obvious on the drive to the Hope Valley. Highway 89 turns off US Highway 50 in Meyers (near the agricultural inspection station) and begins a climb out of Christmas Valley. I soon lost the crowds as I climbed Luther Pass. From the 7,740 foot summit, the Hope Valley quickly

reveals itself. In fact, stopping on the way down, one can walk in the meadow that borders the road. The view here is spectacular, offering up a sea of green framed by a backdrop of mountain peaks.

Luther and Carson passes usually remain open, except in the worst of winter storms. They are the two roads skiers must take to reach the ski slopes at Kirkwood. Carson Pass and the road through the Hope Valley is a National Scenic Byway, a fitting designation. The granite rocks give way to stands of aspens, which play counterpoint to conifer groves. The timberline weaves unevenly across the mountain-side, a few weathered and twisted trees standing alone amid broken alpine rock.

All along the way, patches of snow offer testimony to the previous winter's intensity. The snow remains at the higher elevations throughout the summer and fall.

The other two mountain passes into the area close during winter. Ebbetts Pass, at 8,730 feet, is the highest. Even without the sign marking the summit, I knew I was near as my vehicle lugged on the drive up out

low Highway 4 as it begins its final climb to the summit. The roadway is a lane and a half, with no center stripe.

The flora changes as the canyon narrows. Alders and aspens proliferate



and mountain meadows line many parts of the road, their floors green with life.

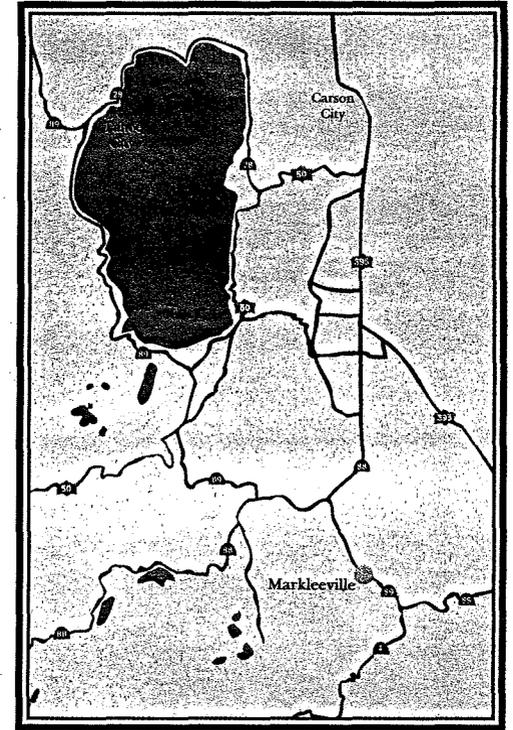
Continuing on Highway 4 will bring the traveler to Bear Valley. As a

(explosive projectiles were not in widespread use) nor was the tiny mining town. Its peak population of 2,000 in the early 1860s, swelled by the dreams of riches, had dwindled to about 200 a decade later. The pass leads to US Highway 395. The pass was built in the ambitious days of road construction so every county in the state could access any neighboring county without having to leave the state.

The pass that bears the name feels like the top of the world. I have been in other places where I could see more mountain peaks, but the emblems on the vehicles I was riding in said Boeing and McDonnell Douglas, rather than Chevrolet.

Who the Hell is Mario?

The Cutthroat Saloon in Markleeville boasts as funky an ambiance as one could expect from a drinking establishment. One wonders if the name reflects the style of activity in the region's early days. Locals and travelers mix beneath a ceiling that boasts the largest private lingerie collection in the county. Although owner



Markleeville, sitting in a mountain meadow. With a hot pool (104°) and a cold pool open year-round, the park is an all season stopping point for those seeking relaxation and relief from sore muscles. Trails lead out into the countryside.

On busy summer days, there is sometimes a wait to get into the hot springs. A fellow visitor, although not quite as aware of where he was as I was, asked the park attendant if he knew of an inn or hotel where he might get a room for the night. The park employee called a hotel in town.

"They have one room left, do you want them to hold it?"

"Does the place have a pool?" the visitor asked.

of Markleeville on Highway 4. It was early afternoon and the sun was high and hot. The roadside was as filled with parked cars as the stream and river banks were filled with anglers. Like deer, fish tend to feed in the morning and the evening. I guessed the anglers were simply practicing their casts in a real-life environment. Passing the Chalmers Mansion, I stopped, hoping to take in some local history. Instead, I took in some local vandalism, as the once stately home of a pioneer family has been left to the mercy of miscreants. Silver Creek fol-



Mario is said to have halted the practice of trading brassieres and panties for T-shirts emblazoned with the saloon's logo, the ceiling attests to a time when the practice was carried out in good standing. The operative word when looking up is variety.

The Saloon carries a fine assortment of tap beer, including Anchor Steam Ale and Samuel Adams Lager.

Grover Hot Springs State Park

The Grover Hot Springs State Park is four miles outside of

Pointing his head to the cold pool in the park, the attendant replied, "This is the only pool in Alpine County."
"I'll take the room."

A Historic Perspective

Rough were the days of the Western pioneers. A county register from the mid-1800s lists county residents by their physical appearance including such features as weight, height, hair and eye color and markings. There are numerous listings of



ski area, it is only accessible from the west. In summer, the region becomes a mountain biking haven. The previously snow-covered countryside converts nicely to bike trails and until the first rains turn the ground into impassable muck, the cyclists will come.

Monitor Pass (8,314 feet) was named after the nearby town of Monitor, an 19th century flash in the pan mining settlement. The name comes from the Union ironclad ship that traded cannon balls with the Confederate version, the Merrimac in 1862. Neither ship was a winner



Alpine County budget avoids layoffs

Service cuts also staved off until next year

BY JEFF DELONG
Tribune Staff Writer

California's smallest county continues the year with no layoffs, but looks ahead with a wary eye.

The Alpine County Board of Supervisors concluded public hearings for a \$6.5 million budget last week, avoiding the layoffs and widespread service reductions that plagued many other California counties this year, including El Dorado. Final adoption of the budget was slated for today's board meeting in

Markleeville.

"We did the best we could," said Eric Jung, chairman of the board.

The budget includes a general fund of about \$3.5 million and a reserve account of \$150,000.

While no county workers lost their jobs, several vacant positions will not be filled. One of those is the resident sheriff's deputy at Kirkwood, which will remain vacant for the second year in a row.

Impacts resulting from that vacancy will be partially offset because neighboring Amador

County continues to post a resident deputy at Kirkwood, said Sheriff Henry Veatch. The department's number of sworn peace officers, including the sheriff and assistant sheriff, is nine.

The Sheriff's Department's \$805,000 budget also fails to include funds to replace some needed equipment, Veatch said.

"Basically we did OK but we did need some of that equipment replaced," Veatch said, adding that he hopes funding for that purpose may be found later in the year.

The sheriff was not alone in having to put off purchases for the year, noted Administrative Coordinator Jeanne Lear. Repairs of some county buildings also will be delayed.

"We're still not funding the big-ticket items," she said. "We're falling behind on keeping our buildings up to par."

Both Lear and Jung are concerned that next year's county budget could be hampered by the California Legislature's practice of stripping local property taxes from counties to balance the state budget.

"I'm worried about next year," Jung said. "I expect the state's going to make another run on us."

Should that occur, tougher times in Alpine County are all but certain.

"At some point we're going to be looking at laying some people off or cutting back on services significantly," Jung said.

DHS speech, debate team scores

by RICK HACKMAN
Special to the R-C

The Douglas High School Speech and Debate Team scored a convincing win last weekend in the first northern Nevada tournament of the 1993-94 school year.

A total of 11 schools competed in the two-day tournament held Friday and Saturday at Incline High School. Douglas High students were among the top three finishers in nearly all categories of speech and debate. The two teams of Justin Phillips and Janine Toth, along with Ryan Derby-Talbot and Corrie Callison, tied for first place in the senior standard debate competition. The resolution being argued between standard debaters throughout the country this year focuses around whether the federal government should guarantee

comprehensive health insurance to all U.S. citizens.

In light of the first place tie, third place was awarded to Laurel Vickers and Eric Nystrom of Douglas High.

In the Lincoln/Douglas debate, Mindy Redeker took second place in the novice category and Kim Erb won third place in the senior competition.

Awards for overall speaker points went to Justin Phillips, first in senior standard debate; Mike Laxague, first in senior Lincoln/Douglas; and Erin Hackman, first in novice standard debate.

Other top Douglas finishers included: impromptu, Justin Phillips, first place, senior; Ryan Derby-Talbot, third place, senior;

Michelle McLoughlin, Sarah Norberg, Bryce Sady, senior finalists; Kim Erb, first place, novice; dramatic interpretation, Janine Toth, senior finalist; Matt Koepnick, Christine Fairbanks, finalists, novice; extemporaneous, senior, Mike Laxague, second; Rhianna Bowers, third; Laurel Vickers and Eric Nystrom, finalists; original oratory, senior, Britta Erickson, second, Corrie Callison, third, Julie Thompson, finalist.

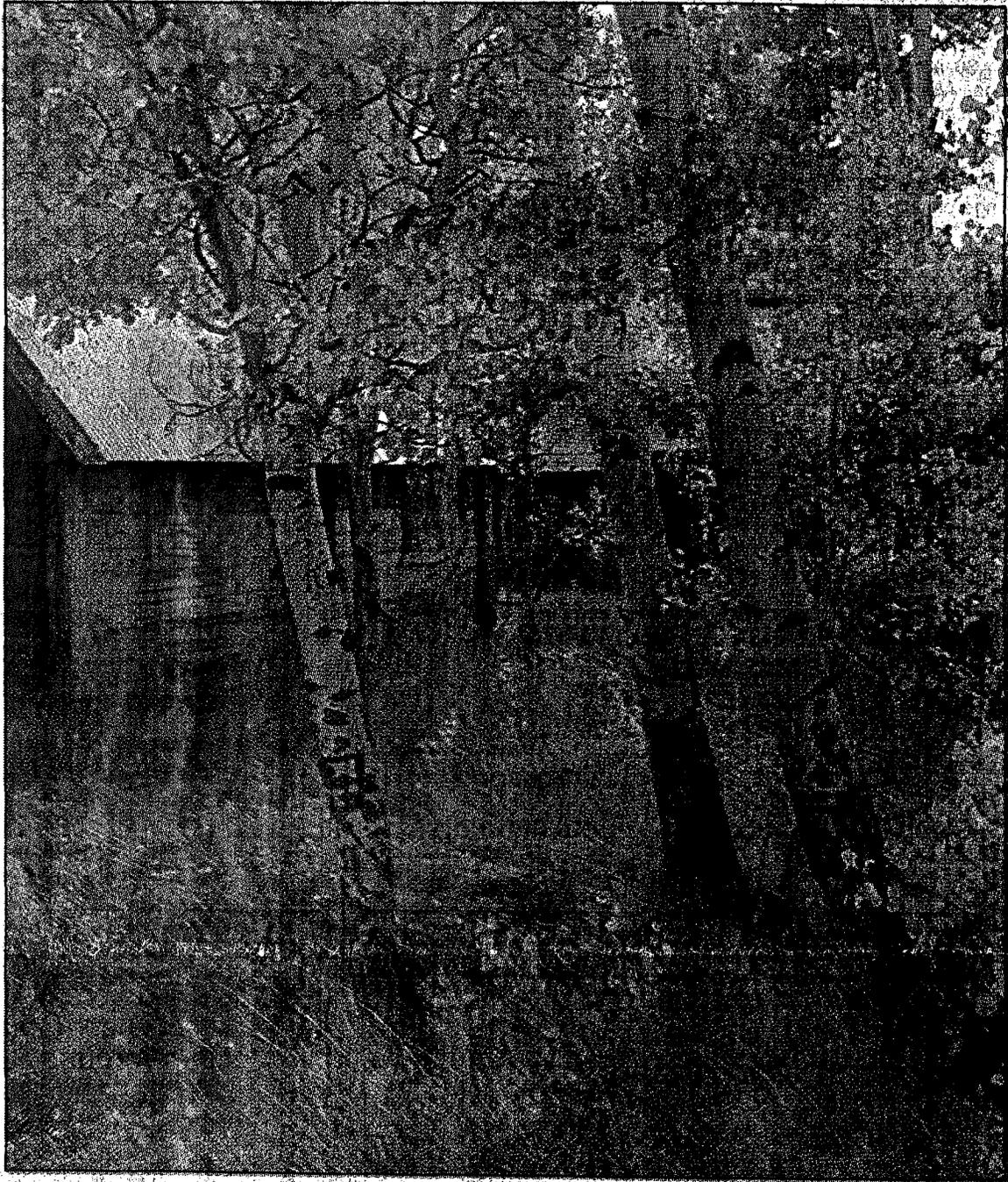
Teams competing in last weekend's tournament came from as far as Elko. The next northern Nevada speech and debate tournament will be held Oct. 22-23 at McQueen High in Reno.

The Douglas team is coached by Marty Cronin.

Coca Cola offers

Fall in Hope Valley

Record Courier 10-10-93



This cabin at Sorensen's Resort in Hope Valley provides the backdrop for the golden leaves of the aspen trees. Hope Valley is a popular spot for viewing the annual fall leaf

spectacular. From Gardnerville, take Highway 88 through Alpine County. R-C Belinda Rohleder

Record Courier 10-17-93

Fly fishing and cooking catch workshop on tap

Professional Chef Patricia Schnier will return to Sorensen's Resort in Hope Valley Oct. 24 and 25 to team up again with Horse Feathers Fly Fishing School for another special program featuring two of the finer things in life: fly fishing for trout and gourmet cooking.

The first "Wish Upon a Fish" workshop was conducted at the resort last June and the response for this unique blend of skills was enthusiastic.

"Flying and frying is a wonderful thing. It was an absolutely wonderful experience!" said Gigi Walker, a participant in the first seminar.

On Sunday, fly fishing instructor Judy Warren will guide participants streamside on the art of fly fishing and help them land their catch at a nearby clear, cool alpine stream from 2 to 4 p.m. Later, Schnier will present an evening lecture on learning the differences between fresh and saltwater fish preparation, fish storage and tips on several

recipes from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The next day, from 9 a.m. to noon, Schnier will teach a participatory gourmet cooking class presenting a variety of fish cooking techniques, suggested sauces and accompaniments. A special treat in this October class will be cooking the in-season wild mushrooms from Hope Valley with the Alpine trout.

Horse Feathers Fly Fishing School owner Warren has been guiding Sorensen's guests into the fishing in Alpine County for several years. Her school offers fly tying instruction at the resort as well as streamside fly casting instruction and a full array of licensed guiding opportunities. Sorensen's Gift Corner offers her custom made flies and fly-rods and her new book entitled "Angling Alpine" which offers the most complete information on Alpine County's fishing opportunities.

For more information and to make lodging/workshop reservations call 1-800-423-9949.



CUTTING RIBBONS. It was a math problem: how much ribbon to get? Helping solve and then cut the red ribbon were Coty Rakaw, left, and Dylan Rogers. Nancy Kerley photo

Red Ribbon Week in Alpine County

"Red Ribbon Week — drug free and proud."

The students and staff of Diamond Valley School are celebrating Red Ribbon Week this week.

"The success of a project as important as Red Ribbon Week and the message it sends to our youth depends on the energy and efforts of the entire school,

students and staff working together," said Nancy Kerley, Alpine County Tobacco Control spokesperson.

The students in Sharon Osgood's fourth and fifth grade class made red ribbon pins for students and staff that were passed out on Monday.

Stickers were passed out on Wednesday, buttons today, and

on Friday, essays and drawings will be turned in and awarded red ribbons and displayed in the gym.

"The quality of work shown in the past makes all of us very proud of our young people in the fight against drugs," said Kerley.

"Let's say no to drugs together!"

Alpine, utility smooth troubled wastewater

By JEFF DELONG
Tribune Staff Writer

MARKLEEVILLE — The odd and often strained relationship between South Tahoe and neighboring Alpine County was the subject of discussion among leaders Tuesday.

It is at Alpine where remnants of everything washed down a South Lake Tahoe sink or flushed down a toilet arrives for storage in a reservoir. It gets there after a lengthy journey over the mountains via a 26-mile-long pipeline.

Exportation of Tahoe sewage is mandated by federal law, but for years many Alpine County residents have resented the fact that property in their county was condemned for a lake of treated wastewater.

Resentment has likewise simmered since a 1983 initiative election, when Alpine County voters moved to

block the utility's plan to decrease the level of sewage treatment from tertiary to secondary. The vote, while successful in stalling the project for several years, was later rendered moot by the California Legislature.

Utility officials often have been at odds with Alpine County leaders. When the utility proposed annexing some Alpine County land last year as a means to avoid a tax grab by the state, the idea was greeted with outright suspicion.

On Tuesday, STPUD General Manager Bob Baer and two members of the utility's board of directors updated the Alpine County Board of Supervisors on a number of the utility's current activities.

Things went rather smoothly.

"No blood," Baer noted after the meeting.

Foremost on the agenda was an explanation of the recent decision by utility officials not to pursue construction of an underground tunnel for export of Tahoe

sewage to Alpine County.

Such a facility would be safe from the wastewater spills that sometimes plague the existing export pipeline. Operated by gravity, the tunnel would also save \$750,000 the utility spends annually to pump wastewater up and over the mountains.

Still, Baer told supervisors, the tunnel's price tag remains too high. Consultants estimated its construction would cost in excess of \$100 million, while replacement of the pipeline would be in the \$60 million range.

"There's about 40 million good reasons why we shouldn't build the tunnel," Baer said.

On the planned annexation of Alpine land at Heavenly Valley, Baer said the utility continues to proceed even though its primary objective — to protect the utility from state raids on tax dollars — has been achieved by unrelated legislation recently signed by Gov. Pete Wilson.

Annexation was seen as another way to protect tax dollars by winning status as a "multicounty" district serving both El Dorado and Alpine counties.

"We no longer will have to play this multicounty game," he said.

Baer said he and colleagues are "very, very proud" about the performance of the utility's sewage plant, which removes undesirable substances from wastewater before it is pumped to Alpine in an all-but-drinkable state. The utility is continuing to decrease reliance on chemicals in the treatment process, Baer reported.

And last winter's heavy precipitation helped boost water levels at Indian Creek Reservoir to desired amounts for irrigation, supervisors were told.

Baer said that as per agreement with Alpine, the utility provided the county this year with money to stock popular fishing lakes and streams with some 15,000 pounds of trout.

Ice fishing season is approaching

Well, fellow anglers, there is still time to do a little stream fishing.

Hope Valley officially closes Nov. 15.

How sad, but hey, there still are many accessible lakes which are

Mac the Naw

by DOUG BUSEY

doing quite well.

Indian Creek Reservoir has been very good for boaters trolling rapalas or blades with a night crawler.

Fly anglers are also doing well from their — brrrr! — belly boats. How can they stand that? That's not just cold, that's *cold*. A word of caution, don't expose yourself too long to cold water temperatures. Hypothermia or cramps can creep up without notice.

Anytime I'm planning a trip to cold water, I take two aspirin. It helps my circulation. But everybody is different. Consult your doctor before taking any medication, even aspirin.

Shore fishing is so-so, hit and miss. Many of the fish being caught from shore have been with power bait.

Caples Lake is doing well,

mainly from a boat, trolling blades and a night crawler. Shore fishing has slowed but still is active and doing fair. Many people are waiting for Caples Lake to freeze over. This lake is famous for its ice fishing.

Two years ago, I was fishing with a friend at Caples on a clear, brisk day in mid-February. The sun was just peeking over the mountain tops, with the warm glow of the sun hitting my face. Boy, it seems like hours when you're waiting for the first glimpse of warmth.

We had drilled our hole and started fishing when two young men came up to us to see how we were doing. I noticed that these two fellows weren't too well equipped. I asked one how he was going to cut his hole. He showed me a very nice stout-looking ice pick. I chuckled as I told him we would drill his hole. I then asked them if they had been ice fishing before. They replied, "No," in unison.

I proceeded to tell them the two main rules of ice fishing:

- Never sit on the ice with your jeans, or the rivets will stick.
- Always keep your hole clear — a small dip net will do.

So they set up and dropped their lines. About 30 minutes had passed when one of the young men started yelling, "I got one. I

got a big one." He started reeling frantically.

Well, everyone had to see this big fish, so we all went over to watch.

As we all watched, I noticed that they hadn't kept the hole cleared. There was about an inch of ice covering the hole. As the fish came up to the opening, they realized this, so his friend began picking at the hole. As the man began continued pulling up the fish, the fish's nose bobbed on the underside of the ice.

We could all see that it was a nice catch.

By frantically stabbing the pick into the ice, we could see he was making progress. Just as they were about to bring the fish out, the other man took one last stab at the ice — a direct hit — on his buddy's line.

Needless to say, they lost the fish.

Frustrated as they were, they baited up again and continued to fish. But as I watched out of the corner of my eye, I could see them stirring the ice with their pick every five minutes or so — just to keep it clear.

This is a hard way to learn a lesson, but one they will never forget.

Editor's note: Doug Busey is a fishing columnist for the Tahoe Daily Tribune.

FUNERAL NOTICE

Visitation will be held today from 4 until 8 p.m. at FitzHenry's Funeral Home in Carson City for Belma Barber Jones, 82, who died Nov. 9 at her home in Woodfords, Alpine County, Calif.

A funeral service will be held Saturday at 11 a.m. at Stewart Baptist Church in Carson City, with burial to follow at 2 p.m. at the Woodfords Cemetery in Woodfords.

Record Courier 11-11-93

Belma Jones

Nevada Appeal 11/12/93

A funeral for Belma Barber Jones, 82, a Painsville, Calif., resident, will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Stewart Baptist Church.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Friday at FitzHenry's Funeral Home of Carson City.

Mrs. Jones died Tuesday at her residence. She was born Feb. 22, 1911, at Walley Hot Springs, to Tom and Nettie George Barber.

Mrs. Jones was a lifetime resident of Woodfords.

She graduated from the Sherman Institute in Riverside, Calif.

Her husband, Ellsworth Jones, preceded her in death in 1968.

Mrs. Jones worked as an activist in education and in Indian affairs.

She was a member of many community and tribal organizations.

Among her survivors are her sons, Kevin, Lindsay and Bruce, all of Woodfords, and Elton of Chicago, Ill.; daughter, Diane Jones of Woodfords and Deirdre Flood of Denver, Colo.; sisters, Sylvia Andrews of Carson City and Amy Barber of Woodfords; and 12 grandchildren.

Burial will be at the Woodfords Cemetery.

The family requests those wishing to make contributions do so to The Alpine County Educational Trust Fund, c/o Alpine County Superintendent's Office, 43 Hawkside Drive, Markleeville, Calif. 96120.

Belma Jones

Belma Barber Jones, 81, died Nov. 9 at her home in Woodfords, Calif.

She was born at her family's winter camp at Walley's Hot Springs near Genoa, Feb. 22, 1912 to Tom and Nettie George Barber. She attended Stewart Indian School at Stewart, Nev. during her grammar school years and graduated from the Sherman Institute, a high school, in Riverside, Calif.

While living in Southern California, she worked for a time in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walt Disney and helped to care for the couple's two children.

Mrs. Jones' husband Ellsworth Jones died in 1968, and her son Michael died in 1980.

Mrs. Jones served on the Washoe Tribal Council and Woodfords Washoe Community Council and was instrumental in the formation of the Washoe Housing Authority. In April 1970, she testified along with Earl James in U.S. Senate hearings, asking for the release of lands from Bureau of Land Management for the now-existing Woodfords Colony.

She was associated with the Alpine County Historical Society;



BELMA JONES

Lake Tahoe Historical Society; President's Council on Aging; Alpine County Commission on Aging; National Indian Health Advisory Board; Alpine County Health Board; Tri-County Health Board; Southwest Indian Health Board and Toiyabe Indian Health Board.

She served on the Alpine County Board of Education and was a member of the Phoenix Area Indian Schools Board.

Mrs. Jones was involved in the Washoe Tribe Oral History Project and was an instructor of the Washoe language class at Douglas High School during the 1992-93 school year.

Survivors include sons Kevin, Lindsay, and Bruce Jones, all of Woodfords; son Elton Jones of Chicago, Ill.; daughters Diane Jones of Woodfords and Deirdre Flood of Denver, Colo.; sisters Sylvia Andrews and Amy Barber of Woodfords; and 12 grandchildren.

Funeral services were held yesterday at Stewart Baptist Church in Carson City, with burial at Woodfords Indian Cemetery in Woodfords under the direction of FitzHenry's Funeral Home in Carson City.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Education Trust Fund, c/o Alpine County Superintendent of Schools, 43 Hawkside Dr., Markleeville 96120.

Record Courier 11-14-93

Diamond Valley School first quarter honor roll told

FOURTH GRADE

Dena Catelani, Sarah Jardine,

Mike Pinzon.

FIFTH GRADE

Crystal Cruz, Gabe Hatchett,
Marcus McElroy, Mara Milich,
Bobbi Mortimer, Coty Rakow,
Dylan Rogers, Jake Vann.

SIXTH GRADE

Joni Dossey, Josh Kelly, Jeff

Martin, Blake Meyers, Thurman
Roberts, Jennifer Vaughn.

SEVENTH GRADE

Melissa Baker, Angel Gabriel,
Cheryl John, Kristy Vann.

EIGHTH GRADE

Gregg Masse, Paul Kralik,
Rendee Johnson.

Record
Courier 11/18/93

Kirkwood proposes snowmaking operation

by TIM WILLIS
R-C News Service

Record
Courier
11-21-93

The last three winters at Kirkwood Ski Resort have been punishing.

For the first two years the resort suffered from drought. Then last season, when the snow finally came, it was too much. Fierce drought-busting storms fell on weekends and holidays, scaring away visitors during peak periods, said Tim Cohee, the resort's new president and chief executive officer.

Cohee has some ambitious plans to help put those years behind Kirkwood.

Perhaps the most significant is a proposed snowmaking system. It could be finished in time for next winter or, at the latest, for the 1995-96 ski season, Cohee said.

"We are aggressively pursuing snowmaking," Cohee said.

He described snowmaking as a necessity that resorts can no longer do without. The resort is seeking water rights to use 500 acre-feet annually from Caples Lake. The plans must be approved by the State Water Resources Control Board and various other government agencies.

Ideally the system, if it's as large as

Skiers give thanks for open slopes

- **Alpine Meadows** — Machine-groomed 12-inch base, two lifts open. snow-making in progress. No snowboards. Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **Bear Valley** — Scheduled to open Nov. 25.
- **Boreal** — Machine-groomed 8-30 inch base, four lifts open. Open 9 a.m. - 4:30 a.m.
- **Heavenly** — Scheduled to open Nov. 24.
- **Kirkwood** — Scheduled to open Nov. 25.
- **North Star** — Machine-groomed 18-36-inch base, two lifts and gondola open. Three runs open. Snow-making in progress.
- **Squaw Valley** — Four lifts open. Ice Pavilion and bungee jumping available. Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Kirkwood hopes, would cover 200 acres of skiing, Cohee said.

Cost of the system is estimated to range anywhere from \$2 to \$6 million, depending on its size.

With snowmaking, "the resort would basically have the longest season in Tahoe," said Cohee.

The resort could also add another four or five lifts in the future to open up more

of the mountain's terrain, he said. With a top elevation of 9,800 feet, Kirkwood currently offers 11 lifts, 68 runs and four open bowls.

Many changes already were made for this season, said Cohee, who took over the reins at the resort last May.

Five new grooming vehicles were added to improve skiing conditions and the Solitude and Cornice double chairs

were upgraded into triples. Resort officials said the lifts serve some of the most popular runs.

Adult skiers will notice that lift tickets now cost \$39, a \$4 increase over last year. Resort officials stress that other discounts are offered to bring in families, including a new \$29 lift ticket for young adults aged 13 to 22. Tickets for children aged 6 to 12 were dropped from \$17 to \$5.

"Kirkwood has been perceived as an advanced-skiers-only resort," said Communications Coordinator Debi Puccinelli. "Since so many families take ski vacations, we are trying to make them more affordable, more convenient, more well-rounded."

Cohee said the average skier is much different from the one of just five years ago and demands more from resorts.

The industry has done a particularly "terrible" job with beginning skiers, sticking them in ski schools that amount to all-day lectures.

This year Kirkwood will be offering new ski clinics with more skiing and groups limited to six people.

To bring the customers in, Kirkwood is beefing up its marketing efforts, an area it had neglected in the past, Cohee said.

Alpine wants camping reform

Privatization sought for campgrounds

BY JEFF DELONG
Tribune Staff Writer

Eight campgrounds in Toiyabe National Forest could be operated by private interests under a proposal being explored by the U.S. Forest Service.

The Forest Service will solicit bids soon from concessionaires interested in doing business at the campgrounds, the majority of which are located within Alpine County. One is atop Mount Rose Summit on the North Shore.

Business representatives in Alpine County favor the idea, hoping a private company could keep the campgrounds open longer to serve the tourists that are so vital to the economic base of California's smallest county.

"Right now they're open so late and they're closed so early," said Judy Warren, executive director of the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce. "And when those campgrounds are closed it really effects our economy."

Warren and other supporters favor an arrangement in which at least some of the six national forest campgrounds in Alpine would be open prior to the start of fishing season in late April and remain open until the season ends in mid-November.

She noted that private concessionaires operate national forest campgrounds successfully throughout Lake Tahoe as well as in the Bridgeport area to the south.

The chamber requested the Forest Ser-

vice's Carson Ranger District to consider putting Alpine campgrounds out for concession last year and had the idea rejected, Warren said.

"They said absolutely not, but now they're considering it," she said.

Neil Botts, recreation supervisor for Carson Ranger District, said the time to consider the idea has arrived.

"It's just something that came to a head this year and we thought we'd try it and see what happens," Botts said.

Botts agreed a private operator may find a means to keep the campgrounds open longer than the Forest Service can.

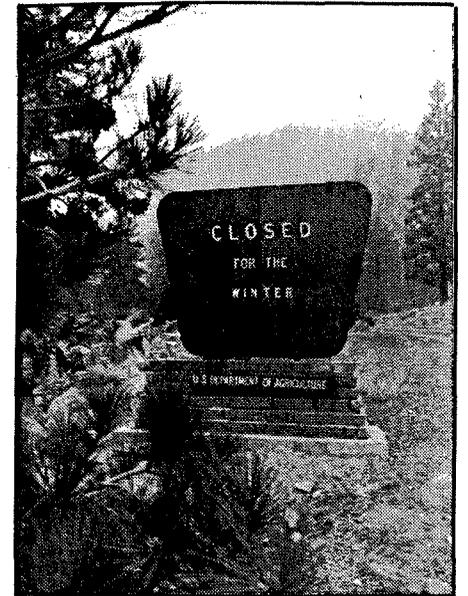
"We have budget constraints that only allow us to keep them open X number of days each year," he said. "It could be an opportunity for them to extend the season beyond what we require."

If supported by private business, the idea is viewed with some concern by Alpine County officials. Under the current arrangement, county schools and roads receive 25 percent of proceeds collected by the Forest Service at the campgrounds. That arrangement would change if the campgrounds were run by a private operator, according to Jeanne Lear, the county's chief administrator.

"This is going to reduce significantly what we receive," Lear said.

The campgrounds potentially affected in Alpine County include those in Hope Valley, at Markleeville, near Ebbetts Pass on State Route 4 and three in Woodfords Canyon.

Also affected would be the Mount Rose Summit campground and the Dog Valley campground west of Reno.



JIM GRANT/Tahoe Tribune

Not Good: Alpine County leaders want campgrounds to be more accessible.

Record Courier 11/28/93

Campgrounds could go private

by JEFF DELONG
R-C News Service

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Record Courier 12-2-93

Kirkwood opens today

Aided by snowfall from a significant storm earlier this week, Kirkwood ski resort opens its 1993-94 season today.

Kirkwood, which reported 16 inches of new snow on Monday, will open Chair 7 (Hole N Wall) and No. 9 (Bunny) to serve a total of seven groomed beginner and intermediate trails. The lifts will operate from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Kirkwood on Highway 88, less than 30 miles from the Carson Valley

Special opening weekend prices on lift tickets will be offered to all skiers and snowboarders. Adult tickets will be priced at \$25 for full-day, \$15 for half-day. Full-day tickets are \$20 for young adults aged 13 to 22, \$15 for half-day. Rates for seniors 60-and-over are \$15 for full-day,

\$10 for half-day. Children aged 6 to 12 ski for the regular season price of \$5.

The Kirkwood Cross Country Center is also open with 15 kilometers of trails and a specially priced trail pass of \$7 for the full day.

There are opportunities for beginners. Kirkwood is offering a new Learn to Ski package that includes an all-day lift ticket, lessons and rental equipment for only \$25. The same package is offered for second- and third-day follow-up programs priced at \$25 per day. Registration is taken at Timber Creek Lodge.

Kirkwood's "Pro Turn" clinics are also available for skiers interested in brushing up on their skills. The 90-minute classes are held three times daily and cost \$12.

Alpine campgrounds could be privatized

by JEFF DELONG
R-C News Service

Record
Courier
12-2-93

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Record Courier 12/5/93

Puppets, jazz and Madrigals in Alpine

It's a double feature program with popular puppeteer Chris Bayer and "The Coyote Saves Christmas" plus the Douglas High School Jazz Band and the DHS Madrigal Singers performing traditional Christmas music on Saturday in Markleeville.

"Coyote" offers Lonesome Luke, the singing cowboy, Flying Feet his horse, Santa Claus (suddenly retired) and Pirate Pete, proprietor of Wicki Wacki Island. Add the Coyote, inventor

of the holiday, and Humbug Detector and you have a marvelous mix of holiday cheer and zany antics.

The newly formed Douglas High School Jazz Band is made up of dedicated student musicians who practice before school to perfect their jazz and blues skills. Big band sounds and some contemporary music complete their repertoire.

The DHS Madrigal Singers dressed in their Renaissance costumes are greeted with

enthusiasm wherever they perform.

The group has taken numerous awards in competition.

The program will be held at 3 p.m. Dec. 11 at Turtle Rock Park Community Center, 1 mile north of Markleeville on Highway 89.

The event is sponsored by the Alpine County Arts Commission with help from a grant from California Arts Council. The Friends of the Alpine County Library will sell refreshments. Admission is free.



Scottish dancers model three types of traditional attire. From bottom left, Sarah Jardine and Marilyn Williams wear kilt costumes. Heather Dunbar, bottom right, and Jennifer James, top

left, wear peasant-style Aboyne dress. Top middle, Elizabeth Williams and Norah Dunbar display the Sailor's Hornpipe outfits. R-C photo by Belinda Rohleder

Group keeps tradition alive

by **CARISSA CRONKRIGHT**
Staff Writer

Traditional Scottish dancing is kept alive in Northern Nevada by a group of women and girls who hold weekend practice sessions in the Carson Valley.

They come from Markleeville, Carson City and right here in Douglas County, to learn a piece of Scottish heritage in the form of folk dances.

Norah Dunbar, a University of

Nevada, Reno undergraduate, teaches highland dancing to the group of five — Sarah Jardine, Jennifer James, Elizabeth Williams, Heather Dunbar and Marilyn Williams — at her parent's Minden home. She also instructs a second group on weekdays in Reno.

There is a wide age and experience range in the dancers, with Sarah as the youngest at 9. She is also the newest member of the group, beginning her training in

September 1992.

Elizabeth is 15 and along with her mother, Marilyn, began taking lessons in October 1990. Jennifer, 13, also started in the fall of 1990 and is the only member of the group who does not have Scottish ancestry, but her father plays the bag pipes.

Sisters Heather, 16, and Norah Dunbar both started to dance as children in Winnipeg, Canada.

"I've been dancing 17 years,"

Continued on page 7



Feast

Diamond Valley School celebrated Thanksgiving with its annual feast recently. Parents, students, teachers and staff took

part. Shown are Kindra Raqueno, left, and Rende Johnson. Nancy Kerley photo

Record Courier

12-16-93

People

1893: Epworth League formed

100 YEARS AGO
The Genoa Courier
Friday, Dec. 8, 1893

YOUTH GROUP. A number of our bright young people gathered at the Church last Wednesday evening and organized an Epworth League with 31 members. Officers were elected, and the League will presently get down to hard work. More anon.

HOLIDAY GOODS AT HARRIS'. Santa Claus made his head-quarters this year at Mrs. A. Harris' store. Having received a large assortment of Christmas goods from the East at a very low figure, I

Remember when?

will sell everything at astonishingly low prices. Mrs. A. Harris.

DANCE. The dance Thanksgiving evening at the Fredericksburg Creamery, though on short notice, was a happy surprise to the West Fork and Diamond Valley communities which were well represented.

Light refreshments were served at midnight. The music was furnished by Mrs. O.E. Jones and E. Jarvis; and to its melodious strains the delighted company moved till the dawn of morning. We extend our thanks for kindness, and believe that we echo only the sentiment of the people when we say: "When can we have another dance?"

A Participant.

SALE POSTPONED. But few bidders were present at the Sheriff's sale at the Johns ranch last Saturday, and only a small quantity of wheat was sold. Consequently the sale was postponed for one week, and the Sheriff will try again to-morrow (Saturday) to sell the remainder of the stuff.

Hope Valley land buyout wrapped up

BY LARRY O'HANLON
Tribune Staff Writer

A decade-long effort by environmentalists to protect about 24,000 acres of land in the Hope Valley region is finally reaching successful conclusion.

The Sierra Club and the Trust for Public Land have worked since 1982 to obtain the funds for parcel-by-parcel purchase of the sensitive private lands, which also were being eyed by developers. The last \$1 million of about \$25 million needed for the total project recently was appropriated by Congress to buy 2,360 acres in Bagley Valley, near Monitor Pass on State Route 89.

"This is parallel to all the attempts to buy land in the Tahoe Basin," said John Moore, a member of the Sierra Club's Mother Lode Chapter based in Sacramento.

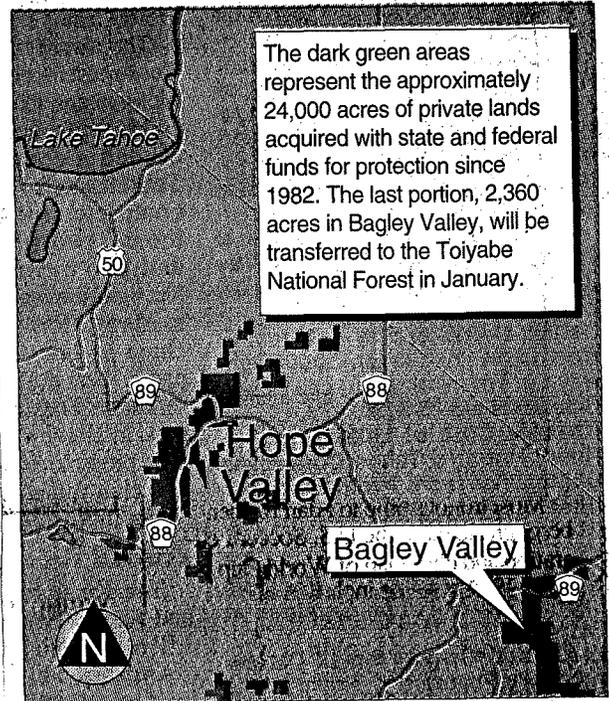
As with the California Tahoe Conservancy in the Tahoe Basin, the idea behind the Hope Valley land purchases is to turn over the land to appropriate state and federal agencies.

"Now we have a mix of state and federal lands," Moore said.

The lands to be put under federal ownership were bought with money obtained by the Sierra Club from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. State monies for land came from funds raised by Proposition 70, Moore said.

Some of the purchased lands are still in the process of transfer, with the San Francisco-based Trust for Public Land acting as the

See BUYOUT, Page 8A



Tribune Graphic

Buyout

Continued from Page 1A

middleman. Much of the land is being incorporated into the Toiyabe and El Dorado National Forests.

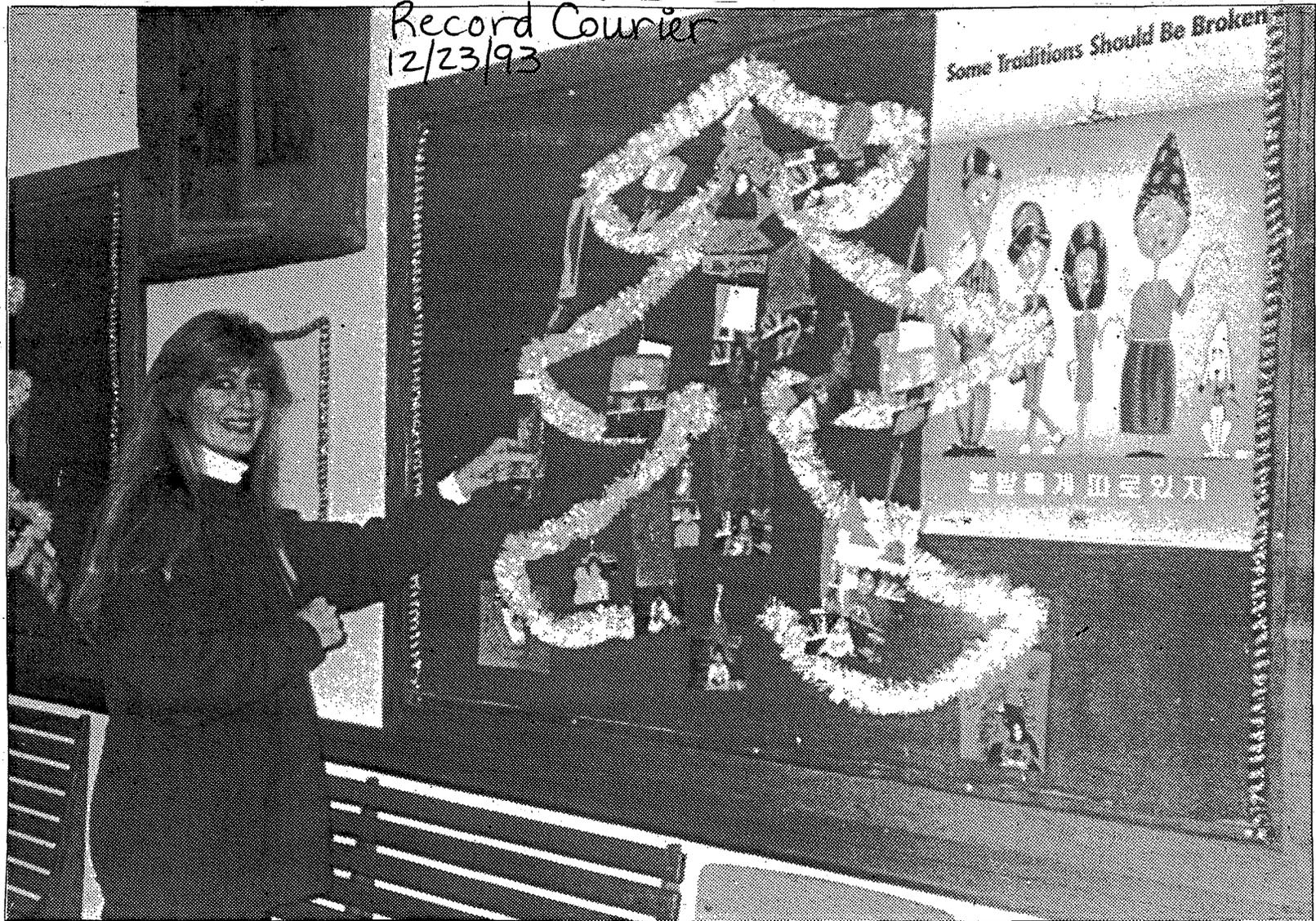
"It's taken a little longer than we expected," said Kevin Knowles, project manager for the Trust for Public Land. "We're not going back to Congress for Hope Valley again."

Funding for the federal land conservation program is becoming scarce because of Clinton administration cuts, Moore said.

The Forest Service also is pleased to see the program completed. The Bagley Valley lands will be conveyed to Toiyabe National Forest in January.

"We're just excited to finish up the Hope Valley acquisition program," said Erin O'Connor, acting public affairs officer for Toiyabe National Forest.

"It is public land and free from the threat of development," concluded Moore. "We're very pleased that we've succeeded."



Record Courier
12/23/93

GAIL STEINMAN of Alpine County district attorney's office admires the bulletin board decorated with ornaments made by Diamond Valley School first through third graders. The board was assembled by Nancy Kerley of Alpine County Tobacco Control. Nancy Kerley photo



Record
Courier
12/23/93

Alpine County Library program

The Alpine County Library (courtesy of librarian Diane Brigham and her staff) was a star-filled Christmas scene last weekend as the annual Christmas program took place. Storytime and crafts were the highlights of the day. Sheila Morgan read Christmas stories and made reindeer puppets. Refreshments were served. At left are Michelle Gibbons and Spencer Rogers. Nancy Kerley photo

It's cool to be hot at Grover's

■ **Hot spot.** Snow and hot springs provide fun for family (and polar bears).

By Chris Niskanen
GAZETTE-JOURNAL

MARKLEEVILLE, Calif. — As far as snowshoeing goes, it doesn't get any better than this. Sweaty and chilled, I kicked back in a 103-degree hot springs pool and watched the stars shimmer through a plume of steam.

A wiggle of the toes, a dunk of the head as I listened to the folks nearby quietly discussing the best restaurants in Carson City — where to find the thickest prime rib, the perfect primavera.

Oh, and yes, the snowshoeing was also terrific at Grover's Hot Springs State Park when I visited a week ago. Nestled in Hot Springs Valley 3 miles outside of historic Markleeville, Grover's offers unparalleled scenery just a little way off Highway 88.

Its cross-country ski trails are ungroomed — but ideally suitable for beginner skiers.

In the evening, with the alpenglow illuminating the nearby peaks, the meadows along Hot Springs Creek look like they were lifted out of an L.L. Bean catalog.

But the *hot springs* are the star attraction here.

Summertime business is brisk at the 519-acre state park, but in the winter, when tourists tremble at the idea of crossing the mountain passes, it's mostly locals and skiers who soak their bones in the hot pool.

"Our biggest customers are the skiers and other winter recreationists, but we get people from Minden, Carson City and South Lake Tahoe," says Gary Howard, the park's supervising ranger.

The facility, which is wheelchair accessible, has modern showers and restrooms for both genders.

The hot pool contains very little sulphur and maintains a temperature of 102 to 104 degrees. The cold pool was a comfortable 75 degrees on the day I visited.

For parents interested in getting their children out of the house during the holidays, Grover's Hot Springs is an ideal destination. The meadows are suitable for first-time cross-country skiers or snow play.

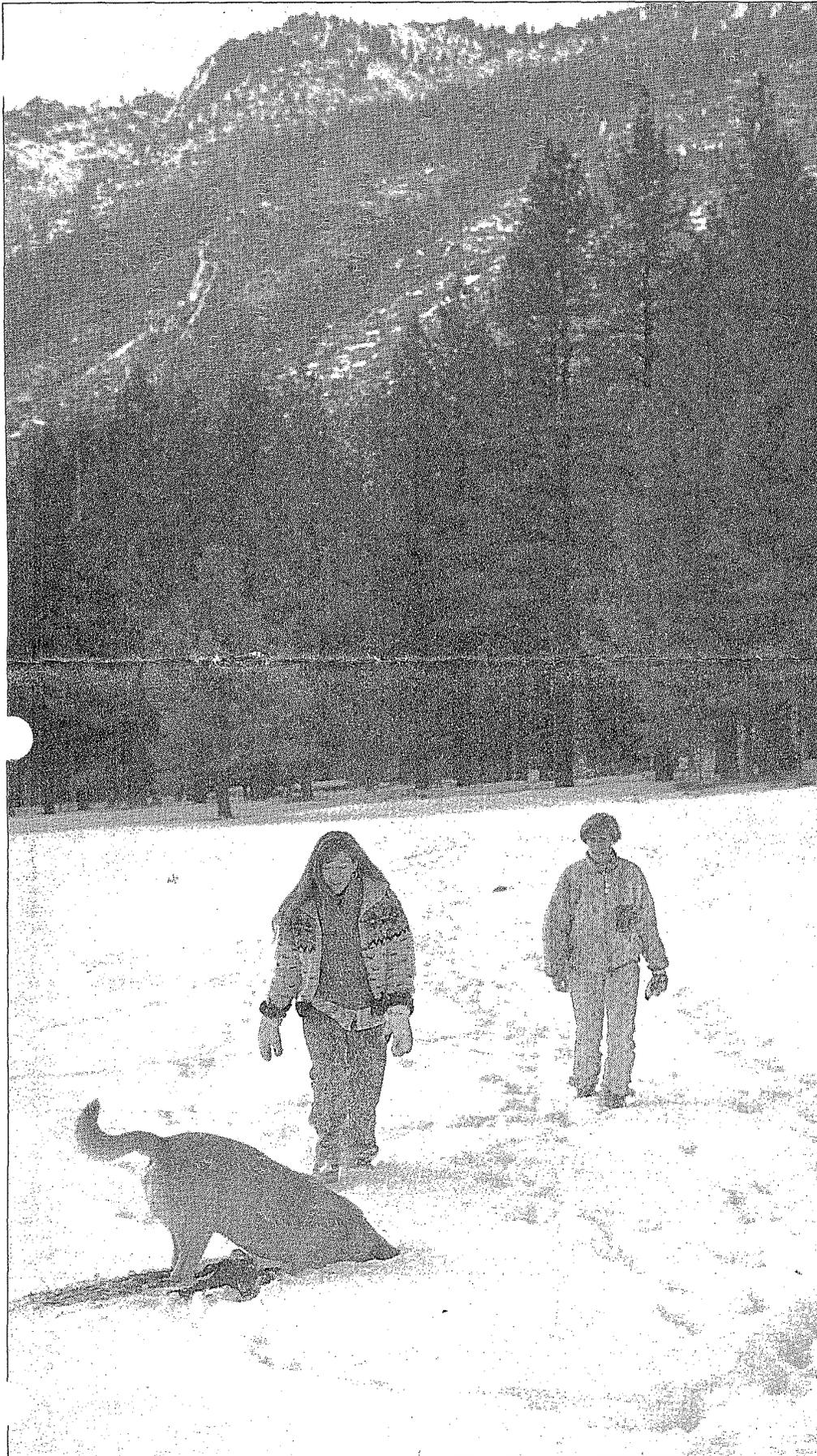
"A serious skier will be disappointed with our terrain," Howard says.

Best of all for parents, the hot springs offer a reprieve from the winter temperatures when the kids get cold and cranky.

Park rangers will offer a beginner cross-country skiing clinic at 10 a.m. Jan. 9. There will also be a moonlight tour, led by park rangers, on Feb. 26.

The park's two campgrounds are closed from October to May, but you can camp in a public area near the park entrance in the winter.

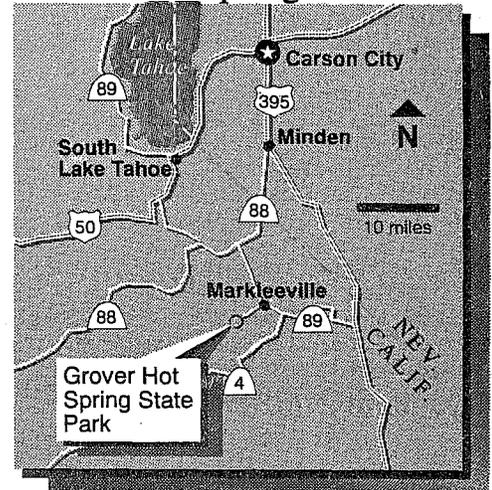
Water and picnic tables are available.



OUTDOOR LIFE: Maureen Gaffney, left, and Lisa Wilson of Markleeville enjoy a hike with their dog through the meadows at Grover's Hot Springs State Park.

Chris Niskanen/Gazette-Journal

Grover Hot Springs State Park



Mark Nowlin/Gazette-Journal

STATE PARK INFORMATION

Here are some quick facts about Grover's Hot Springs State Park:

- Winter trail use fee: \$2.
- Winter camping: \$12 per night.
- Hot springs fee: \$4 for adults, \$2 for children under 18 years.
- Hot springs winter hours: 2 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Closed on Christmas and New Year's days.
- Campground reservations (summer): (800) 444-PARK.
- More information: call (916) 694-2248.

Howard says the sites are suitable for campers, tents and RVs less than 24 feet long.

Bring a water bottle to sip on while sitting in the hot pool. Alcohol isn't allowed within the pool area.

However, if the adults are thirsty afterward, they can stop off at the Cutthroat Saloon in Markleeville for a beer and pretzels. A sizable women's undergarment collection hangs from the ceiling of this landmark.

All of this is part of the experience of visiting Markleeville and Grover's Hot Springs.



■ **Getting there:** Grover's Hot Springs State Park is 66 miles south of Reno. Take Highway 395 south to Minden, then take Highway 88 to Woodfords.

Turn left at Woodfords to Markleeville and then follow the signs once you get to Markleeville.



Book dedication

Korrie Callison, a member of the Sierra Youth Challenge Youth Advocates for a Healthy Smoke-free Future, presents Jeanne Lane, librarian at Diamond Valley School a book dedi-

cated in her name. Nine books were given to the library by the Youth Advocates, members of Alpine County Tobacco Control. Books will be donated twice a year. Nancy Kerley photo



INFANT CARE. Jordon Cruz, 21 months, left, and Austin Peets, 2, have hot dogs and French fries for lunch at the infant care center. R-C News Service photo by Jim Grant

Alpine County now has infant care

by JEFF DELONG
Tribune Staff Writer

After a most delicious hot dog with fries, an apple and some milk, Justin Peets was ready for action.

The 2-year-old pushed a plastic truck across the floor, then abandoned the toy and clasped tiny fists around a plastic wrench and screwdriver, ready for any job that came his way.

Nearby, 1-year-old Katie Branscombe hopped aboard a rocking horse for a short but giggly ride. Soon, a half-dozen toddlers joined the fun, romping on the floor under the amused attention of adults.

Such was the post-lunchtime scene last Thursday at the Alpine County Children's Center, a non-profit facility which expanded last spring to serve infants and toddlers up to age 2.

During the nine months since, the infant-care facility has met an important need in California's smallest county, one which up to that point had gone largely unfulfilled.

"It's very much needed," said Karen Hamann, one employee at the center.

Day care for preschoolers and school-age children has been provided at the center since 1987.

But it was only last spring — with the aid of a \$56,000 grant — that the facility for infants and toddlers up through age 2 has been in existence. What parents pay for day care is based on their income, starting at fully subsidized care and rising in cost on a sliding scale.

At the center, children are carefully monitored through a procedure that includes regular diaper checks, naps and activities ranging from singing to "fingerplays," stacking building blocks and exercises to help physical development.

And there's plenty of food, a fact Hamann said is particularly welcome among some of the lower-income families who use the center.

"We serve five meals a day — breakfast, snack, lunch, snack and supper," Hamann said.

"Some of the families are really appreciative of that."

Families that use the center are appreciative in general.

"I really don't know what we'd do without it," said Anna Maria Coletti, a teacher at the nearby Diamond Valley School and mother of 9-month-old Reena.

"It would really be hard."

Absence of the day-care facility, Coletti said, would likely force her family to move from Alpine's remote mountain country to the Carson Valley communities of Minden or Gardnerville.

"I'd really be in a tight spot without it," agreed Chris Branscombe, who works as a dispatcher at the Alpine County Sheriff's Office while 1-year-old Katie spends the day at the center. "It's wonderful. Quite wonderful."

Branscombe is also charmed with what young Katie is learning each day at the center.

"They really teach them a lot of things," she said. "She comes home with new words every day."

Sports

Record Courier

1-9-94

Douglas third in ski race

A young and inexperienced Douglas High School alpine ski team received its baptism under fire Wednesday when the Tahoe Basin Ski League season opened with a giant slalom at Alpine Meadows.

The Tigers made out just fine, thank you. Led by a second-place performance in the girls race by freshman Tamara Turnbeaugh, Douglas skied away with third-place overall in the five-school meet.

"We had a pretty good day. We hadn't had any gate training or time trials beforehand, so this was a new experience for a lot of our kids, but they posted some good results," Douglas coach Jeanne Turnbeaugh said.

Thirty-one skiers turned out for the Douglas program, which is under the direction of Turnbeaugh and Phyllis Bateman.

Tahoe-Truckee won Wednesday's opener with 349 points in the team scoring, four points better than North Tahoe. Douglas was third with 260 points, followed by Incline's 231 and George Whittell with 139.

Tamara Turnbeaugh placed second in the girls race with a two-run time of 65.92, one second behind North Tahoe's Chelsea Sullivan, who finished in 64.85.

Both those times were highly respectable, considering the boys race held afterward was won by Chris Watkins of Tahoe-Truckee in 65.95.

Julie VanValkenburg, a second-year member of the Douglas ski team, finished 18th, Christina Sergott 21st and Tandy Thew 25th to round out the scoring for the Douglas girls. All three are sophomores.

The Douglas girls squad was competing without senior Noelle Lamprecht, an all-league racer in each of the last two years, who was ill on Wednesday. She finished third at the league championships last year.

Senior Justin Kolbe led a balanced boys team effort in which four Douglas racers finished just two seconds apart. Kolbe finished 12th with a time of 72.76, Greg Clore was 14th in 73.13, Joe Day was 20th in 74.85 and Geoff Goodhart was 21st in 74.94.

Another highlight for Douglas was freshman Ben Day, who won the junior varsity boys race with a 72.35 clocking.

Turnbeaugh is looking forward to a successful season for the Douglas program.

"This is a very congenial and hard working team. We just we need to get a little more gate training experience," she said. "As far as goals, I think if we stay in a real solid third-place and try to put a couple of boys and a couple girls onto the all-league team, that would be great."

League action resumes Wednesday at Heavenly Ski Resort.

Record Courier 1/13/94

DHS debate team is tops

The Douglas High speech and debate team remains in first place among northern Nevada teams following last weekend's tournament in Reno.

Individual team members won first place in several categories during the two-day match at Wooster High. Point tallies at the conclusion of the tournament showed Douglas at least 30 points ahead of Reed in the northern Nevada standings.

Leading Douglas finishers include Kim Erb, first, senior Lincoln/Douglas debate; Gena Blair, novice, original oratory; Julia Thompson, first, novice

extemporaneous; Sarah Norberg, first senior impromptu; and Kim Erb, fourth, senior impromptu.

The team of Justin Phillips and Ryan Derby-Talbot, first senior extemporaneous; Landon Dykes and Laurel Vickers, fourth.

Also taking awards were Korrie Callison, second, senior oratory; Britta Erickson, third, senior oratory; and the teams of Justine Phillips and Janine Toth and J.P. Steenbakkers and Eric Nystorm tied for third place, standard senior debate. Several Douglas debaters will participate at a nationally ranked tournament at University of Nevada, Reno Jan. 14-15.

Record Courier 1/16/94

TAHOE BASIN SKI LEAGUE GIANT SLALOM

Turnbeaugh wins giant slalom

by DAVE PRICE
Sports editor

Wednesday was a day to take care of some unfinished business for Tamara Turnbeaugh.

The Douglas High School freshman did a good of taking care of business when she raced to first-place in a Tahoe Basin Ski League giant slalom at Heavenly. Turnbeaugh, a runner-up in the league season opener one week before at Alpine Meadows, didn't have to take a back seat to anyone this time.

The first-place finish, coupled with a balanced boys squad, helped Douglas capture fourth in the team standings with 258 points.

Turnbeaugh posted the fastest time on both runs and finished with a combined time of 53.10 seconds on Heavenly's World Cup Run, good for first-place in the girls race by seven-tenths of a second. Her

time was second fastest of the day overall for both boys and girls.

"We were real pleased. She skied one of her better races as far as putting two good runs together," Douglas coach Jeanne Turnbeaugh said of her racer, and daughter.

Heidi Anderson of North Tahoe finished second with a time of 53.80.

Another Douglas County racer, Megan Thompson of George Whittell High, placed sixth in the race with a time of 58.22.

As for that unfinished business, Tamara remembers that she just missed qualifying for a berth on the Far West Ski Association team that competed at the Junior Olympics last year.

"She was an alternate for J.O.'s, last year, so she feels good about coming back and beating some of those girls now," coach Turnbeaugh said.

Douglas also received a strong perfor-

mance from senior Noelle Lamprecht, who finished 11th with a 1:01.07 clocking. Tandy Thew finished 27th and Kara VanValkenburg 32nd to round out the scoring for the Douglas girls.

The Douglas boys squad didn't have anyone finish among the leaders, but seven racers did crack the top 30.

Joe Day led the Tigers with a 12th-place effort of 58.24, followed by his brother, freshman Ben Day, in 13th with a time of 58.69.

Brooks McManus finished 18th with a 1:00.79 clocking, Justin Kolbe was 20th in 1:00.80 and Geoff Goodhart was 21st in 1:01.33. The five Douglas boys all finished within three seconds of each other.

Greg Clore also finished 28th for Douglas with a time of 1:04.12.

Brandon Dey of Tahoe-Truckee won the boys race with a time of 52.4. Whittell freshman Rocco Bruno captured second-place with a 54.50 clocking.

"Rocco is on the Heavenly Ski Team and is an excellent racer," Whittell coach Russ Snow said. "We were really looking forward to having him come out for our team because we felt he could give us a boost. He proved it today."

North Tahoe edged Tahoe-Truckee, 348-343, to capture first-place in the team standings. Whittell finished third with 268 points, Douglas was fourth and Incline fifth with 199 points.

"It's been fun so far," said coach Turnbeaugh, whose Douglas squad stands third in the league's season standings. "Now, if we can get some snow so we can set up some gates to train on, we'll really be in good shape."

Douglas is due to host a league meet at Kirkwood Wednesday, but Turnbeaugh is hoping for more snow in the meantime.

"If we don't get any new snow, we may make a switch and move the race to Alpine Meadows," she said.

1-16-94

Water level in Carson River at third of average

by CARISSA CRONKRIGHT
Staff Writer

With water levels in the Carson River basin at only 33 percent of average, experts agree that the current year appears to be following in the path of past drought years.

"It's not much different from the previous six drought years since 1986," said John James, state climatologist.

He said the water supply is down from last year. "It's not very good. Woodfords is at one-third normal and the Sierra is half. It gets worse every day."

Last year's water supply was about 125 percent above normal,

according to James. "It just seemed like a lot. California built up some reserve, but not the Nevada side," he said.

Gail Durham, range conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service, agreed with James' observations. "We are almost exactly where we were in January 1990."

She said the water supply contained in snow for the Carson River basin is 33 percent of average and the Walker River basin is at 26 percent.

Last year Carson was at 163 percent and Walker at 149 percent of average.

In January 1990, the water

Continued to page 8

Drought: River basins below level

Continued from page 1

the water stored in snow was closer to current figures with the Carson basin at 22 percent and 20 percent in the Walker, Durham reported.

She said that year was also the year of "miracle March," when late storms brought totals up to 60 percent of normal.

The amount of water stored in snow is critical for farmers who count on the spring thaws to boost the flow of Carson and Walker rivers for irrigation usage, Durham said.

"It is critical that flows [in the Carson River] are above 200 cubic feet per second. If it's low they [farmers] are out of luck," she said.

James said the two wettest months of the year are traditionally December and January, accounting for near 40 percent of the year's moisture. "In 50 years, there have only been four times we've gone into January with no snow in the Valley," he said, adding, "We've had all of December and half of January with nothing to speak of. Last year we had

the most snow in 40 years. This year we have nothing."

Other important water months are November, February and March. "We haven't been shut out yet," James said, explaining, "It's not too late, but every day that goes by without snow means the chances of getting the water supply back are slimmer and slimmer. Once we get into March that's about the end of it."

He said that without enough moisture the fire hazard could be high this summer because last year's extensive moisture produced so much growth and without more moisture this year will dry out.

Julian Larrowy, water master for the East Fork of the Carson River, said the farmers he's talked with aren't concerned yet because there are still more than two months left in the season, but he notes that this year's rainfall is about 20 percent of last year.

"I've been keeping records in Centerville for five years and so far this is driest November, December, January we've had," Larrowy said. "It's not good."

Since the beginning of the new water year on Oct. 1, Larrowy has recorded only .87 inches of rainfall, while last year at this time the Valley had already been treated to over 4.42 inches.

"It certainly will be a dry summer with some early cut backs in irrigation, assuming we don't get anything," he said.

Durham also thinks it will be an early year in terms of irrigation. "Wells and everything else are going to be stressed again," she said.

"We live in a desert climate so we have these real peaks and valleys [in moisture]," she said.

"It is unusual for us to have six years of drought. We were lucky last year because we got a good dump and this year we're back in the same pattern as [before]," she added.

James warned, "Just remember, we live in a water-devastated area. In the past, we've had droughts longer than this."

He said, "Over three quarters of the droughts have wet, anomalous years in the middle of them. It's very typical."

California anglers now need to display license

by LARRY O'HANLON
R-C News Service

Record
Courier
1/16/94

In an attempt to increase revenue and encourage legal fishing, the California Fish and Game Commission voted unanimously on Jan. 4 to require anglers to wear their fishing licenses outside of their clothes.

"We invite California anglers to buy their licenses and wear them with pride," said Department of Fish and Game director Boyd Gibbons in a statement.

The new rule will take effect on March 1.

"I think it's a good idea," said Judy Warren who is, besides being a fishing guide, executive director of the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Alpine County Fish and

Game Commission. "I have no problem with people wearing fishing licenses outside their clothes."

Most anglers wear a vest or other outerwear that a license could easily be clipped to.

Under the new rule, licenses should be worn above the waist, folded in thirds with the stamp showing. That way the angler's name, address and other private information will not be visible, according to Mike Hill, a spokesperson for Department of Fish and Game in Sacramento.

One aim of the new rule is to promote peer pressure among fishermen to get the license, said Hill. Anglers found by wardens not wearing licenses will probably be warned. In the future there might be a fine associated with the violation, according to Hill. The current fine for fishing without a

license is \$250.

"It will help with enforcement," said Jim Crouse, a South Lake Tahoe fishing guide and instructor. "Something has to be done to expedite enforcement procedures."

A case in point is Alpine County, which has only one game warden — not enough manpower to catch every fish poacher in the county.

Both Crouse and Warren require their clients to get fishing licenses before heading out to the streams. About half of Crouse's first-time anglers need licenses, he said.

The Alpine County Sheriff's Office also enforces Fish and Game rules by performing informal checks of fishing parties. But the new "wear the license" rule won't be a great help to them, according to Alpine

County Undersheriff Bob Tucker.

"We're checking everything from barbless hooks to licenses," said Tucker. "And most of the time (anglers) have (their licenses) so wadded up that you have to make contact."

The best enforcement will probably be the peer pressure among fishermen at the stream and lakes, Crouse said.

"Someone not wearing a license will stick out," he added.

Annual California fishing licenses, which cost up to \$24.40 each, raise more than \$30 million every year. The money is used to protect and develop the fishing resources in the state.

"The Department of Fish and Game does a tremendous job studying and maintaining the resource," Warren said. "The way they do it is with licensing fees."

1/18/94

~~Record~~ Tahoe Daily Tribune

Meadow-trashing couple sentenced

TRIBUNE STAFF REPORT

A federal magistrate on Friday put a Red Bluff, Calif., couple on probation and ordered them to perform community service for trashing an Alpine County meadow with their four-wheel-drive vehicles.

Gary and Tanja McDaniel were caught last May four-wheeling in a protected "verdant high-mountain meadow" in Lower Faith Valley, which is part of Toiyabe National Forest, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

They pleaded guilty on June 4 and each agreed to pay \$375 in restitution to cover the costs of repairing the damage. But after the couple failed to pay the restitution, Forest Service officers arrested

them in Red Bluff and brought them before U.S. Magistrate Monte Reece in South Lake Tahoe.

Gary McDaniel, 27, was given a six-month suspended jail sentence and two years probation, ordered to perform 100 hours community service, and pay a \$250 fine on top of the unpaid restitution. His 22-year-old wife Tanja was given the same sentence, but without the jail term.

"Citizens must take care of the national forests just like their own backyards," Ranger Earl Griffith said. "When you think about it, that's really what they are."

Regulations and maps designating areas for legal four-wheeling are available at Forest Service ranger stations.

People

'AN AMERICAN ODYSSEY'

On a 'Majic Bus' tour of the United States

Former resident
earns 12 hours of
college credit while
studying on board

by JOYCE HOLLISTER
Staff Writer

Read Edgar Allen Poe's works at his grave at midnight. Talk to a black woman who was one of the teens to be integrated into high school via the National Guard in Little Rock in 1957.

Visit important historical and cultural spots in 38 states in 10 weeks; talk with writers, philosophers and politicians; read 24 books before the program starts and about two a week after that.

And do it all on a bus.

Taking part in this unique college class called, "The Majic Bus, An American Odyssey," was a former Douglas High School student and Woodfords resident, Stacey James.

James worked seven years for the Forest Service and had a permanent position all lined up. But at age 25 she decided it was time to go back to school.

A junior now at Haskell Indian Uni-



STACEY
JAMES.
B-C photo

University of Lawrence, Kan., she spent 80 days earning 12 college credits through the University of New Orleans in what is possibly one of the most interesting semesters of her college career.

"We met with contemporary authors and artists. We went to book parties. We went to historical sites and presidential libraries and to museums," James said.

"We built a house for Habitat for America in Americus, Ga. We met with Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison and Robert Orlan Butler, a Pulitzer prizewinner last year."

The idea behind the class, James said, was developed by university professor Douglas Brinkley — who feels students get more out of history and literature if they can visit the places where things happened.

"He wanted us to get a handle on America and the people out there. See what they're going through and see what the generation we are will be facing — to find ways to better our country and the lives that are in it."

The students lived on the bus for the most part as they traveled from New Orleans up to Massachusetts via various southern and Atlantic states, then to Chicago; through the Midwest and Montana and Idaho to Seattle, then south to Los Angeles and through the southwest across Texas and back to New Orleans.

She and fellow students earned credits in Road Literature from Whitman to Kerouac, American Intellectual History, American Social History and the Civil Rights Movement. The periods which they studied ranged from the time of Benjamin Franklin to the recent era.

The students took six exams on the road and kept a journal which made up 65 percent of their grade. The professor assigned books in addition to the 24 they had to read before the tour began.

"Most of the time," James added, "he assigned books that related to the geographical area or to some of the places we were visiting."

For James as a Native American, one of the highlights of the trip was seeing the pure white buffalo that had been born on a farm in Janesville, Wis. last year.

The white buffalo represents peace for the

Stacey James says her professor wanted the students in this unique college course to 'get a handle on America and the people out there. See what they're going through and see what the generation we are will be facing.'

people of the world, James said. James is Washoe, Paiute and Eastern Cherokee, and has spent her life living, visiting friends and relatives and going to school in Alpine County, Calif. and North Carolina.

Another highpoint of the tour for her was having dinner with Jimmy Carter, former U.S. president, at his place in Little Rock, Ark.

James and another student were selected to work with Carter and others on flood-damaged homes in the area.

"President Carter wasn't one to direct the work," she said. "He was right in there, doing the work."

At a catfish fry in the backyard with Carter friends and relatives, the two students were able to sit down and talk with the president-turned diplomat.

During the conversation, he had to excuse himself and take a long-distance phone call from Haiti. The next week Carter was on a plane to the troubled island nation, James said.

The students also met with Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg.

"She told us stories about her father, what his dreams were. We got to see a part of him that other people don't see," James said of the meeting. "You wanted to hug her, you wanted to laugh."

PHOTO
by Belinda
Rohleder

Melba Beals flew to Arkansas from California. Beals was one of nine teens to be integrated into Little Rock's Central High School in 1957.

"It was interesting to hear the horror stories of how people treated her as she just tried to get an education ... to hear she has no hate for anything, even though she had a price on her head from the KKK. She was an amazing person."

James plans to transfer to the University of California at Berkeley to continue in her Native American studies major, and then would like to go into a law program with an eye for a career in either tribal or environmental law.

She attends Haskell University where her parents met and where now 160 different Indian nations from 36 states are represented in the student body. It was at Haskell that she was selected to be among the 18 students aboard the Majic Bus Aug. 14-Nov. 1, 1994.

The tour was videotaped and will be shown on a major television network next summer. The video crew was on the bus or following the students day and night, but they soon got used to the idea.

Perhaps it was because they were working so hard.

"We studied on the bus. People were reading and writing pretty much 24 hours a day. At any one time, some were reading, others were sleeping, then they'd switch."

Each student was allowed one duffel bag and a box of books on the support van and a backpack, sleeping bag and a few books on the bus itself. Occasionally they stayed in hotels, but they did a lot of camping. They also stayed at the homes at some of the students along the route.

As she gets established in a career, James feels that the contacts made around the country and among her peers on the trip will be invaluable. Meanwhile, she's trying to put it all into perspective.

"This whole trip will have an impact on me for the rest of my life," she said. "I'm still trying to sort things out. It's just amazing — the more years that pass, I'll gain more from everything that we went through."

Douglas comes up short against rival

by CAROL TOLAN
R-C correspondent

Record 1/23/94
Courier

Amber Bill

The Douglas High School girls basketball team might have made the grades in class, but Friday night it was F's on the court.

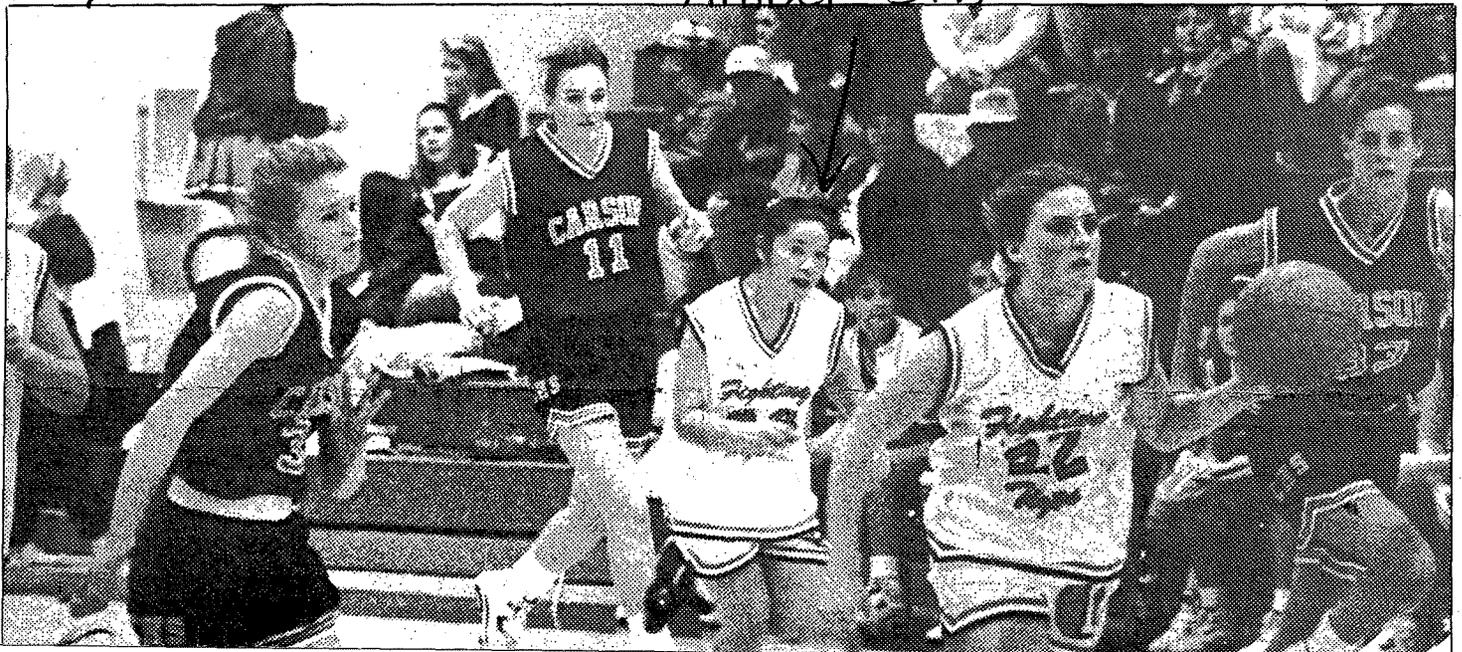
They stumbled to a 64-43 loss matched up at home against 7-3 Carson City, the second-place Division II Northern Nevada AAA team.

SENATORS

64

TIGERS

43



"We weren't prepared for this game," Tigers' coach Tammy Waldal said. "We just weren't ready to play."

The Douglas girls had final exams last

The Douglas girls had final exams last week so basketball took a back seat.

"Finals kept so many girls out of practice," Dawn Schlagel of Douglas said. "You have to study to stay eligible to play, but basketball suffers."

Douglas was able to keep up briefly in the first quarter, scoring 11 points to Carson's 19. Junior Amber Bill, Douglas' top scorer with 11, nailed a 3-pointer that tipped off the top of the board.

"I was so glad when it went in," Bill said. "We needed the points and we needed to get pumped up."

But the Carson Senators' agile passing and height advantage kept the tired tigers off-balance.

"Their passes were so quick," Bill said. "We just couldn't get there in time."

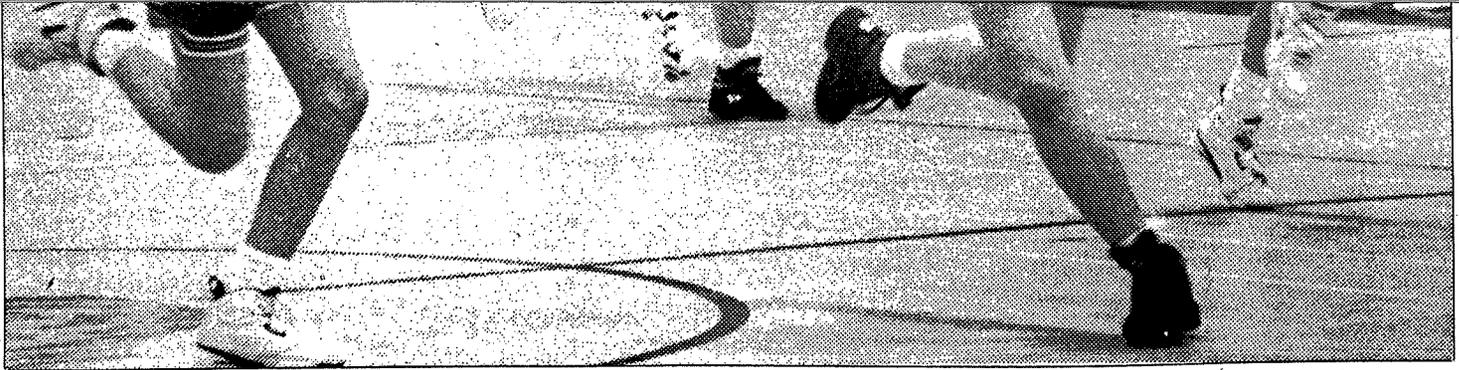
The second quarter found the Tigers being held to four points and frustrated. With great rebounding Carson was calling the shots.

"They worked us over underneath the basket," Bill said. "They made every shot under any circumstance, no matter what."

Carson led at the half, 35-15, and Douglas would never recover from the 20-point deficit.

Early in the third quarter, the Tigers saw their frustration turn into cold shooting. With 6:21 to go, Jenni Arlit maintained control of the ball long enough to attempt three shots which refused to sink. But point guard Dawn Schlagel finally got mad and stuffed one in.

"They had a mental breakdown," Waldal said. "And then we made some



OFF TO THE RACES. Douglas senior Dawn Schlagel is in the clear after picking off a steal during Northern AAA girls basketball action Friday against Carson City. The Carson Senators won, 64-43. R-C photo by Belinda Rohleder

stupid mistakes."

For a few moments in the third quarter they looked like the same team that stayed with top-ranked Elko last week in a 61-52 loss.

With 3:29 to go in the third period, Sarah Evans drove down the court, snapped a pass to Jenni Arlit and Bill was in place under the basket for the layup.

With 1:07 left in the quarter, it looked like the Tigers might get their rhythm back. Carson's Virginia Hardie passed to Stephanie Hicks, their leading scorer who had eight points, but the Tigers' Amy Arlit made an impressive steal. Again this play ended with Bill making from the outside to bring the score to 52-29.

"We got more pumped up in the second half," Bill said. "We finally got our heads in the game."

It would be too little, too late.

At the start of the fourth period, Jamie Vigil leapt and made a rebound above the long arms of Carson, but on the drive, the Senators' Jennifer Kotter, who had a total of nine points, made the steal to score.

With 4:27 left in the game, Schlagel missed an easy layup and the Tigers ran out of steam.

"When I missed that layup in the fourth," Schlagel said. "It was all over."

Waldal sent in last week's point leader Maya Woods to try and shake it up. With three minutes to go Wood weaved skillfully through the opposition and passed to Arlit for a basket.

"We just couldn't set up our offense," Woods said. "Our defense couldn't keep up with their passing."

With 58 seconds to go in the game, Bill

hadn't thrown in the towel. She made a shot from the outside to bring the Tigers to their final 43 points.

"We were supposed to win this one," Bill said. "But out there we looked like we had given up."

Laying this game to rest the 4-4 Tigers are looking to Tuesday in a key game against an 8-3 Wooster team.

Coach Waldal gave the eulogy on this game: "I don't want to talk about it," Waldal said. "I don't want to think about it. I'm really disgusted."

With finals over, maybe the Douglas girls can find the team that played Elko.

"We came close in the Elko game," Schlagel said. "We can go for it and beat Wooster."

"Maybe now that exams are over," Bill said. "Basketball can be our priority."

Jessica Palmer

Michelle and James Palmer of Woodfords are the parents of Jessica Lynn, born Jan. 16 at Carson-Tahoe Hospital in Carson City. She weighed 8 pounds at birth.

Record Courier
1-23-94

Record Courier
1-27-94

Pancake breakfast held at Diamond Valley School

The Diamond Valley School student council decided to treat the school and community to a pancake breakfast and hat day on Friday, Jan. 21.

Students on the student council planned it, sponsored it, and prepared and served the meal. A fee of \$1.50 was charged and all students who wore a hat in support of the spirit activity were given back 50 cents.

"Special thanks go to Royce Garrett, Manager and the South Y Raley's store in South Lake Tahoe for donating to the cause," said Karen Robinson, school secretary.

Students and staff instrumental in planning and carrying out the event were Angel Gabriel, Kristy Vann, Thurman Roberts, Melissa Riley, Melissa Baker, Jennifer Vaughn, Keena Jones, Rhianna Jones and Sheila Crawford (student council members); and Anna Maria Coletti, Edna Hellwinkel, Karen Robinson, Jeanne Lane, Principal Sandy Cowen and Gabe Chavarin (staff).

"Everyone enjoyed providing this positive community activity and the community and students appeared to enjoy the get together," Robinson said.



Pete and Reena Spansail, 10 months, enjoy their pancakes. R-C photo by Belinda Rohleder

Sports

Record
Courier
1-27-94



VARSITY GIRLS. Douglas High School will celebrate its basketball homecoming Friday night against Hug with the varsity girls taking the floor at 5:15 p.m., followed by the varsity boys at 7. Members of the Douglas varsity girls squad include (front row, from the left) Maya Woods, Amber

Bill, Lisa Weiss, Sara Evans and manager Veronica Penola; (back row) coach Eric Feeney, Dawn Schlagel, Jenni Arlit, Jamie Vigil, Amy Arlit, Angela Jones and head coach Tammy Waldal. The Tigers lost to Wooster Tuesday, 82-50 (see related story on page 8). R-C photo

Tahoe Daily Tribune 1/28/94

Alpine considers skier responsibility

By JEFF DELONG
Tribune Staff Writer

At the request of Kirkwood Ski Resort, Alpine and Amador county leaders are ready to put some teeth into policy guiding acceptable behavior on the ski slopes.

Next Tuesday, the Alpine County Board of Supervisors is set to approve an ordinance formally adopting a skier responsibility code. Approval of an identical ordinance by Amador supervisors is expected soon.

The two counties are among the last in the Lake Tahoe region to establish legal guidelines on skier conduct. El Dorado has long had similar laws on the books, as have Placer and Nevada counties. Washoe County adopted a skier responsibility code in January 1993.

"We're just trying to get those two counties to join hands with other Sierra counties," said Penny Tirschman, projects manager at Kirkwood. The ski resort is divided by the jurisdictional lines of Alpine, Amador and El Dorado counties, with Alpine and Amador containing the entirety of the resort's alpine terrain.

By adopting the requested code, the counties will essentially be placing into law policy currently printed on Kirkwood's trail maps.

The code will make official the

recognition by skiers that the sport is inherently dangerous, thus lessening exposure to frivolous lawsuits by injured skiers.

It also makes skiers liable for criminal sanctions should they ski out of bounds, ski out of control or leave the scene of a collision with another skier resulting in an injury.

Armed with the code, ski patrolmen, lift operators and other resort employees could place such skiers under citizens arrest for infractions or misdemeanors.

"It gives the skier a little more to think about," said Alpine County Supervisor Cam Craik, whose district includes Kirkwood.

Though most skiers behave relatively safely, the ordinance will give Kirkwood an opportunity to deal with those who don't from a position of strength, Tirschman said.

"It doesn't occur very often but it does happen," Tirschman said. "It helps us have better control on the mountain."

The new ordinance will also affect Bear Mountain Ski Resort on Alpine's West Slope. Operators of that resort are wholly supportive, said Eric Jung, that area's representative on the Board of Supervisors.

"I think it's a wonderful idea," said Jung, a former employee at Bear Valley. "It's taken the law a long time to catch up with skiing and the situations that arise from it."



DOUGLAS SKI TEAM. Members of the Douglas High School alpine ski team include (front, from the left) Mike Christl and Tristan Gorrindo, (front row) Drew Kolbe, Kara VanValkenburg, Brendon McNulty, Tamara Turnbeaugh, Geoff Goodhart, Noelle Lamprecht, Evan Solomon, Tandy Thew, Casey Haakensen, Dan Neuffer, (top row) Julie Pasek, Justin Kolbe, Brooks McManus, Julie

VanValkenburg, Greg Clore, Sarah Blakeslee, Josh Rosenbloom, Rhianna Bowers, Eric Newell and Dave Wright. The team is coached by Jeannie Turnbeaugh and Phyllis Bateman. Douglas is scheduled to host a Tahoe Basin Ski League giant slalom race at Kirkwood on Wednesday, Feb. 9. Photo courtesy of Douglas High School

Day brothers lead Douglas skiers

Brothers Joe and Ben Day combined to help Douglas High School capture third-place during Tahoe Basin Ski League action Wednesday at Alpine Meadows.

Both cracked the top 10 for the first time this season: Joe Day, a junior, placed eighth and Ben Day, a freshman, sped to 10th in the slalom held on Alpine's

Kangaroo Run.

In the girls race, Tamara Turnbeaugh placed sixth and Noelle Lamprecht eighth for Douglas.

Tahoe-Truckee claimed the team victory by edging rival North Tahoe, 349-343. Douglas was third in the team standings with 288 points, followed by

Incline (225) and Whittell (222).

The league's first slalom this season took a toll on the Douglas squad, according to coach Jeannie Turnbeaugh.

"We had a lot of kids who had to do some hiking," she said. "A lot of the kids just weren't able to put two good runs together."

Tahoe-Truckee swept three of the top four places in the boys race, led by Rick Smerdon with a time of 83.48 seconds.

Thanks to a strong second-run, Joe Day checked in eighth with a time of 91.89. Ben Day finished with a 94.69 clocking.

"Their experience showed in this race," Turnbeaugh said.

Brooks McManus also finished 16th and Josh Rosenbloom 18th in round out the team scoring for Douglas, while sophomore Drew Kolbe finished 20th in his varsity debut, Geoff Goodhart 21st and Greg Clore 22nd.

North Tahoe's Ali Ganong nipped teammate Chelsea Sullivan to win the girls race. Kirsten Beronio of Whittell was third in 88.36.

Turnbeaugh was sixth in 90.91 and Lamprecht eighth in 94.75. Julie VanValkenburg was 16th in 114.85 and Sarah Blakeslee 21st in 117.91.

Douglas skiers third in slalom event

Aided by top-10 individual performances by Famara Turnbeaugh, Noelle Lamprecht, Joe Day and Justin Kolbe, Douglas High School logged a solid third-place finish during Tahoe Basin Ski League competition Wednesday in Incline Village.

Turnbeaugh led the Douglas charge by placing second while Lamprecht sped to eighth in the girls slalom race. Turnbeaugh finished with a combined time of 1:05.18

for two runs, less than a half-second out of first-place. Lamprecht finished in 1:13.29.

In the boys race, Day and Kolbe raced virtually neck and neck while placing eighth and ninth respectively. Day was clocked at 1:13.29 and Kolbe was just a fraction of a second behind at 1:13.31.

Kolbe stood 11th after the first run, but moved up to ninth on the strength of a 35.54 second run.

The only other Douglas boy to finish

was Jason Rosenbloom, who finished 28th.

"It was a tough course," Douglas coach Jeannie Turnbeaugh said.

Roco Bruno of George Whittell sped to second-place in a time of 1:03.72. The runner-up finish was Bruno's second this season.

North Tahoe best Tahoe-Truckee to earn the team victory by a 350-332 margin. Douglas was third with 264 points, followed by Incline with 183 and Whittell

with 152.

Tahoe-Truckee and North Tahoe are now tied for first-place in the league's season standings with 22 points each. Douglas is third in the overall race with 15 points, Incline is fourth by an 11-10 edge over Whittell.

The Tahoe Basin League schedule continues Wednesday when Douglas hosts a giant slalom at Kirkwood. The meet is scheduled for 10 a.m.

Record Courier 2/6/94

Sled dog races return to Hope Valley

The 10th annual Alpine County Canine Connection will be held the weekend of Feb. 12 and 13 from 9:30 a.m. until approximately 3 p.m. at the Hope Valley Sled Dog Trail site.

A \$3 per car parking fee to benefit the Alpine County Children's Center will gain entry to the race area.

No parking is allowed along the highway. Participants should leave pets at home as they distract the racing teams.

Races will include three-, four-, six- and eight-dog classes. There will be a weight pull, and Husky Express will offer children's dog sled rides for a nominal fee.

The Musher's banquet and dance, open to the public will be held Feb. 12. Dinner will be served 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and dancing will be from 8 until 10 p.m. Lasagna will be served. Cost is \$9

adults, \$5 children and under 5 free. The Outsiders Band will be providing the music. Dance only \$3.

The dinner dance will be held at

Turtle Rock Park.

A no-host bar will be sponsored by the Woodfords Volunteer Fire Department. Information, (916) 694-2475.

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- DIAMOND VALLEY SCHOOL
ALPINE COUNTY
SECOND QUARTER
- 8th GRADE
Adam Bill, Paul Kralik, Gregg Masse.
- 7th GRADE
Melissa Baker, Sheila Crawford, Kristy Vann.
- 6th GRADE
Joni Dossey, Josh Kelly, Jeff Martin, Thurman Roberts, Lysle Turnbeaugh, Jennifer Vaughn.
- 5th GRADE
Gabriel Hatchett, Marcus McElroy, Mara Milich, Bobbi Mortimer, Coty Rakow, Dylan Rogers, Jake Vann.
- 4th GRADE
Dena Catelani, Sarah Jardine, Mike Pinzon, Bridget Wood.

Honor Roll
Record Courier 2/6/94

Youth wrestling at Douglas today

Youth wrestlers from around northern Nevada will converge on Minden today when the Alpine County Police Activities League (PAL) hosts an age group tournament.

Action in the USA-sanctioned tournament begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Douglas gym. A \$1 admission will be charged for spectators.

The round robin finals are tentatively scheduled for 1 p.m.

Nine Alpine County PAL wrestlers earned medals at the Galena Tournament for Champions Jan. 29 in Reno.

Bud Nollett, Al Bill and Jeff Martin earned gold medals in their respective age and weight classes. Michael Pinzon, Jeff John and Lysle Turnbeaugh were second-place finishers. Troy Fontana, Chris Lundy and Josh Himmelrick were also third-place finishers.

Some of those finishes could have been even higher with a little luck, according to assistant coach Dave Fontana.

"Due to time constraints at the high school, some of our second- and third-place finishers weren't able to wrestle off for higher wins," Fontana observed.

Record Courier 2/10/94

MES Friday Night Prime Time is always fun for kids

Having fun while learning is what happens at Meneley Elementary School when Friday Night Prime Time rolls around.

Students in kindergarten through second grade earned the right to attend the evening event held Feb. 4 at school.

Friday Night Prime Time is a popular event at Meneley Elementary, drawing students, teachers, parents, volunteers and even Principal John Soderman and Vice Principal Nancy Bryant.

The evening's theme was African Safari, also the theme for the MES

reading incentive program, according to organizers Laura Parsons and Karen Brown.

Kids took part in African mask-making, games and creative dramatics. They heard African stories related to the constellations.

At the end of the evening they

danced the Hokey Pokey and did an Elephant Walk.

The purpose is to have fun while learning, according to Parsons.

"Friday Night Prime Time has been going on at Meneley for many years," she said. "The students love the activities that make learning fun."

People

1894: Meteor's evidence found

100 YEARS AGO
The Genoa Courier
Friday, Feb. 9, 1894

THE METEOR. Parties from Belleville and Candelaria who went out to search for the meteor found only broken branches of trees and small pieces of burnt rocks. The latter were found buried in the ground to a depth of several inches. It is believed the main body of the meteor did not fall between Candelaria and Belleville, but passed on toward Death Valley.

* **A CHALLENGE.** County Clerk Frank Smith of

Record
Courier
2/10/94

Remember when?

Alpine county challenges Geo. Lamy to play a game of chess. Mr. Lamy says he would prefer a game with some one in Douglas county, but will accept a challenge from Alpine county.

* **BEAR LOOSE.** There was a little excitement at Woodfords a few days ago, caused by the escape of Mr. Merrill's pet bear. He was recaptured last Saturday.

Consultant goes to conference

Janay Robnson of Markleeville, recently attended a regional BeautiControl Cosmetics conference held in Burlingame, Calif, where she received extensive training for the newest product introductions.

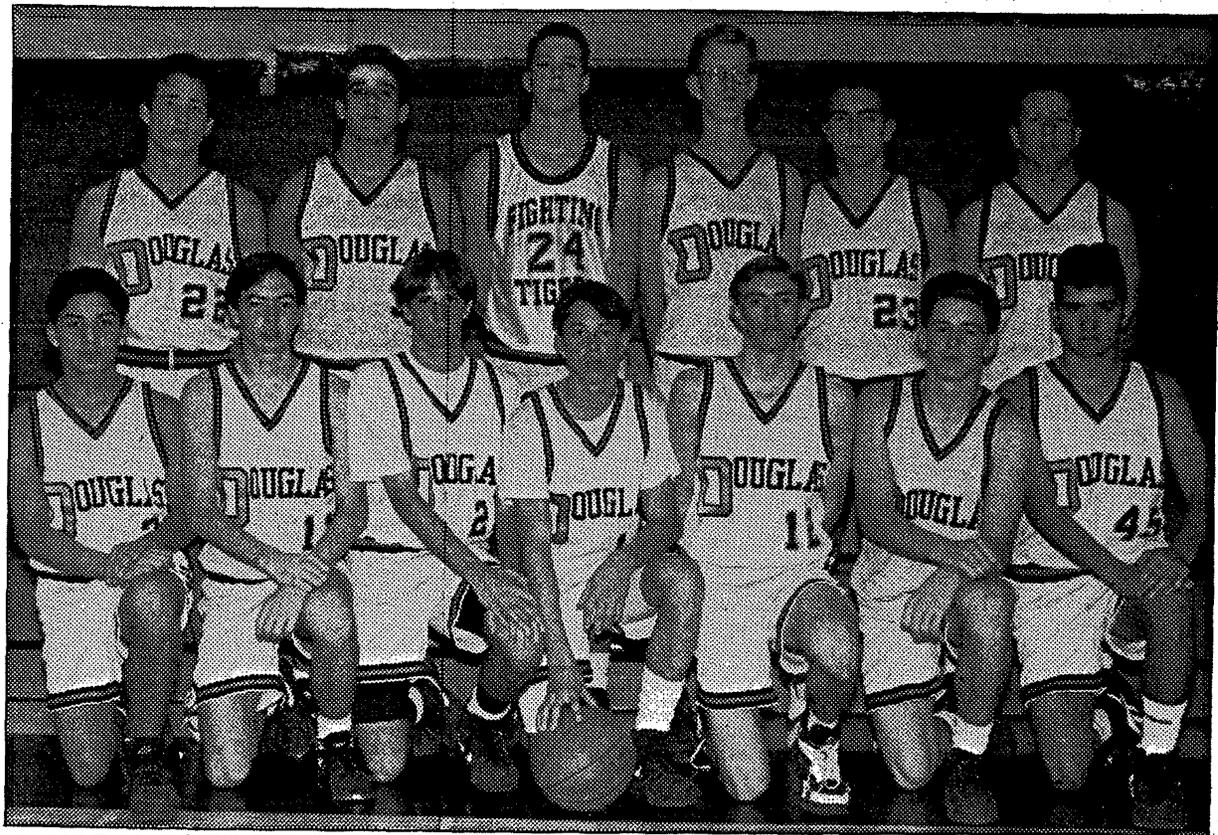
During the two-day conference, Robnson took part in workshops and learned about new face and body treatments which help treat skin sensitivities and irritations. The new products heal and protect the skin, while natural soothing camomile calms irritated skin.

Robnson, a skin care and image consultant for BeautiControl cosmetics, offers complimentary services like skin condition analysis, customized skin care and color analysis.

She has donated her services to various community groups and events, the most recent being the Miss Douglas County Fashion Show in Minden.

For more information call Robnson at 916-694-2587.

The Record-Courier-Gardnerville, Nev. • Thursday, Feb. 10, 1994 11-A



JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS. The Douglas High School J.V. boys basketball team will make its final home appearances of the season with two games this weekend. The Tigers play Friday against Reno and Saturday against Sparks. Members of the squad include (front row, from

the left) Carlos Verdeja, Scott Ness, Scott Drew, Dave Paganini, Ryan Wunsch, Scott Ovard, Aaron Bill, (back row) Ryan Shirley, Nick Martinez, Luke Anderson, Peter O'Reilly, Ryan Shirlls and Dave Covault. Mike Kuszmaul is not pictured. R-C photo

PAL wrestlers medal winners

The Alpine County Police Activities League (PAL) wrestling team enjoyed success at its own tournament last Sunday in Minden.

Ten Alpine County PAL competitors earned medals in their age and weight classes during a tournament that attracted competitors from around the northern Nevada area.

Jeff John and Jeff Martin were first-place finishers in their respective classes. Troy Fontana, Bud Nollett, Josh Himmelrick and Gary Coyan also picked up second-place finishes. Two other Alpine PAL wrestlers, Nick John and Neil Mortimer, logged third-place finishes. David Bennett and Lysle Turnbeaugh were fourth-place finishers.

The Alpine PAL team wrestles again Feb. 26 at a tournament in Fernley.

Record Courier 2/13/94