



DAN THRIFT/Tahoe Tribune

ATHLETES: Today's sled dogs, unlike their husky forerunners, are bred to be lean and have a large lung capacity for long-distance racing.

Sled dogs race at Hope Valley

BY BRIAN MAFFLY
Tribune Staff Writer

Mushing is not just a sport. It's a way of life. And this weekend it came

on the first day of the event. In more competitive races, however, mushers with a first-day time exceeding the top finisher's time by half don't race on the second day, according to Hoffmann.



Races

Continued from Page 1A

transportation, mushing is now an organized sport in which its top competitors can cover their expenses and perhaps earn a living with the help of sponsorships.

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Tom Palmer, a naval architect from Bremerton, Wash., prefers racing a mixed breed known as a Chilicoote. The breed, engineered by a former racer in Oregon, combines the husky with the Doberman pinscher, Irish setter and the brush greyhound.

"Siberians will never give you 100 percent. They always keep a reserve," Palmer said.

"There are a few dogs that will work until they kill themselves," he continued. "Irish setters happen to be one of the them. Call it stupidity or whatever. But they'll give you everything. You train them to run eight miles and they'll drop dead at 8.2 miles."

Today's top performers weigh less than 50 pounds, have a slightly roached back, angled shoulders and a deep chest, indicating a big lung capacity.

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to Hope Valley, where Sierra Nevada Dog Drivers, Inc. is hosting a two-day sled dog competition.

About two dozen mushers are competing in this weekend's Canine Connection, the association's ninth annual sled dog race.

The stars of the show are the knee-high running machines which pull the sleds and mushers on race courses of up to eight miles.

"You get the dogs to think they're racing against each other, but they're really racing against the clock," said Ed Hoffmann, who was announcing the races on Saturday.

Saturday's runs were a precursor to determine the starting order for today, when the fastest dog teams really show their mettle.

No team was disqualified for going too slow

The top finishers in the qualifying runs lead off today's final heat, which is a slight advantage because the trail conditions are better for those first out of the starting chute.

"It doesn't make that much difference unless (the snow) is really soft and punchy. If it's like that, they'll probably cancel the heat anyway," he said. "Everything revolves around the safety of the dogs."

Mushing is by no means easy on the team's human member, who has to bark out commands at the precise times — like at a fork in the trail — and is constantly pushing with one foot to help propel the sled.

Originating as an ancient Eskimo form of



DAN THRIFT/Tahoe Tribune

MUSHING: Jason Nickle of Redding, Calif., drives his dog team toward the finish line.

See RACES, Page 7A

uated spectator, but it should be remembered that these are the long-distance athletes of the dog world," race organizers wrote in the event program.

Short-hair breeds have appeared on the race course in recent years now that the sport has ventured to non-Arctic regions, like the Sierra, which is blessed with perhaps the most mild Alpine climate in the world. Dogs don't need all that hair to stay warm if they are racing in the lower 48 states, Palmer observed.

Racers in the Canine Connection compete in four different categories based on the number of dogs in the team: three, four, six and eight. Race lengths are determined by the number of dogs in the sled teams, with a minimum of one mile for each dog. Three-dog teams, therefore, run races of three or more miles, six-dog teams run at least six miles, and so forth.

Ralph Whitten of San Jose, who

co-authored a book on sled dog training, is racing in all four categories of the Canine Connection, one of four sled dog races held each winter in the Sierra.

At events like this one, which are sanctioned by an international racing association, dog drivers not only compete for modest purses, but also for points, which are earned for the purpose of ranking competitors.

Ranking points are awarded based on times, number of racers the competitor beats, and purse winnings.

Admission to the race is \$3 per car and organizers ask that you leave your dogs at home so they won't distract the racers. The event runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Race headquarters is located 1½ miles west of Pickett's Junction on California State Route 88.

Tahoe

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South Lake Ta

Pilot dies in

BY JEFF DELONG

Tribune Staff Writer

The pilot of a plane en route from South Lake Tahoe to Southern California died Sunday when his aircraft crashed in the high country minutes after takeoff.

Searchers located the plane's wreckage southwest of Freel Peak early this morning. The pilot was apparently killed on impact. Authorities said he was a resident of the Santa Ana area, although the single-engine Cherokee Arrow he was piloting was registered out of Stateline. His identity was withheld pending notification

of relatives.

According to authorities, the pilot took off from Lake Tahoe Airport shortly before 4 p.m. Sunday without filing a flight plan. The plane disappeared off radar at the airport tower minutes later and signals from its emergency location transponder were picked up immediately.

Search teams from El Dorado, Alpine and Douglas counties were dispatched to comb an 8-square-mile area near Freel Peak.

Nordic skiers searched the area through the night in temperatures estimated at about zero. The search resumed this

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crash

morning, and the crew aboard a California Highway Patrol helicopter spotted the wreckage in the Tucker Flat area about 8:30 a.m.

Skiers reached the crash site a short time later and found the pilot dead.

"It's real tough country," said El Dorado sheriff's Sgt. Marty Hackett.

This morning's recovery efforts were hampered by steep terrain and deep snow. Hackett said snowmobiles trying to reach the wreckage were bogging down in 3-foot-deep powder.



SEARCH ORGANIZED: Members of the search-and-rescue operation, Dan Doyal, left, and Ed Cook, confer before the snowmobilers departed Luther Pass to search for the plane that crashed Sunday about four miles south of Lake Tahoe Airport.

See **CRASH**, Page 8A

RICK GUNN/Tahoe Tribune

Crash

Continued from Page 1A

The aircraft reportedly crashed on a steep slope at the 8,500-foot-level, possibly impacting trees. The plane did not burn.

Rescuers were attempting to stabilize the wreckage this morning so the pilot's body could be removed. Equipment was ferried to the area by a helicopter from Fallon Naval Air

Station, while recovery efforts were coordinated from a command post at Grass Lake two miles to the south.

"It's quite a distance, especially with this terrain," Hackett said.

Sunday's plane crash was the first at Lake Tahoe this year, but follows by less than two months the Christmas crash of a plane at Brockway Summit that killed two.

Two others died last June when a homemade aircraft plowed into Lake Tahoe offshore from Pope Beach.

Caples Lake claims B league win

Record Courier 2/17/94

Paul Katosh knocked down a pair of 3-pointers to help spark a first-half run that carried Caples Lake past the Leftovers, 54-45, in a battle of Douglas County Recreation Department men's B basketball league leaders Feb. 8.

Caples Lake jumped out to a 30-16 halftime lead and held on the rest of the way in the Tuesday showdown played at the Carson

Valley Middle School.

The decision left Caples Lake, the Leftovers and Caesars tied for first-place in the B league.

Caesars secured a share of the first-place tie by defeating Carson Valley Golf Course, 65-57.

Mike Derwin and Mike Fajman scored 19 and 18 points respectively to lead Caesars.

In A league action on Feb. 9,

Dresslerville took over sole possession of first-place turned back the Marines in overtime, 70-65.

The Green Machine dropped out of a first-place tie with a 77-72 loss to Carson Valley Pharmacy.

Bob Rudnick scored 17 points to pace a balanced attack that carried Carson Valley Pharmacy. Scott Hemsath poured in a game-high 32 points for Green Machine.

Dogs, drivers enjoy a day at the races

Record Courier 2/17/94
by BRIAN MAFFLY
R-C News Service

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Mushing is by no means easy on the team's human member,



FRIENDLY GREETING. Sarah Edwards, 12, of Gardnerville, laughs as Kotor, an American Canadian champion dog, tries to give her a kiss. R-C photo by Belinda Rohleder

the best sled dogs, since they have been bred for thousands of years for this purpose. But a variety of other breeds are coming into the arena, with Irish setters and hound breeds crossing finish lines, registering competitive times.

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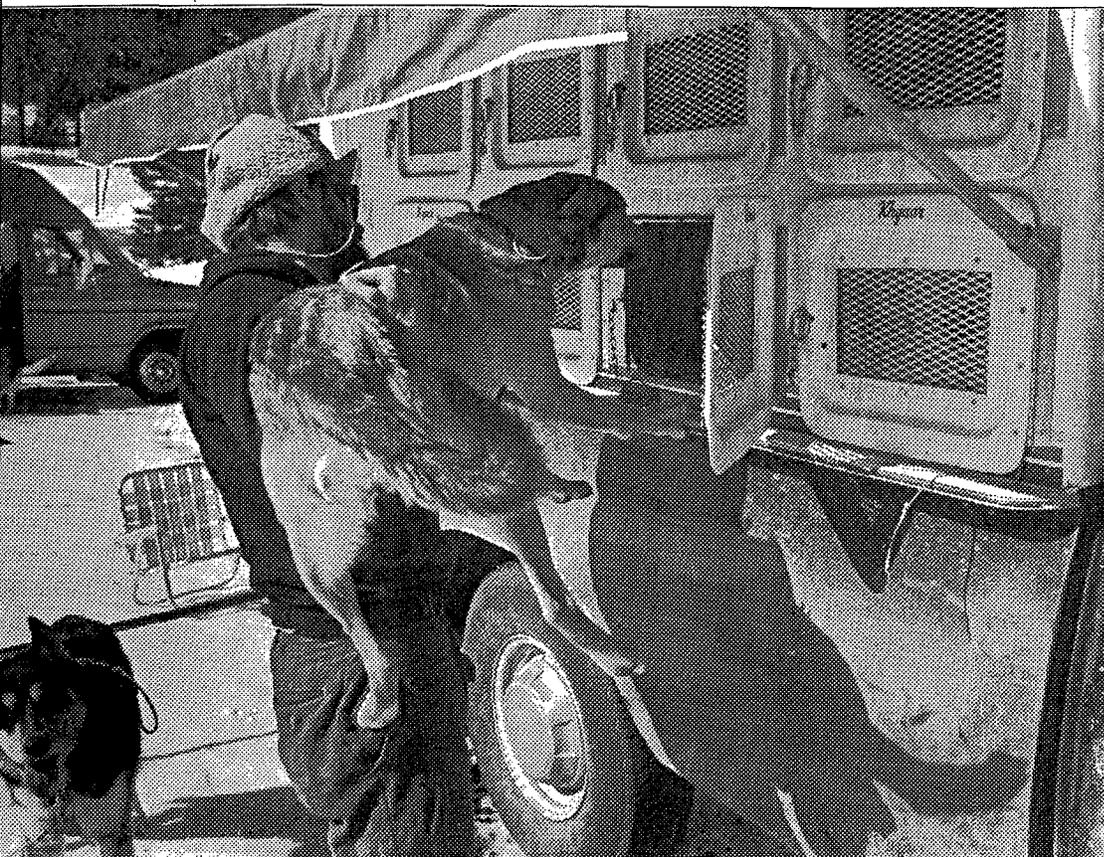
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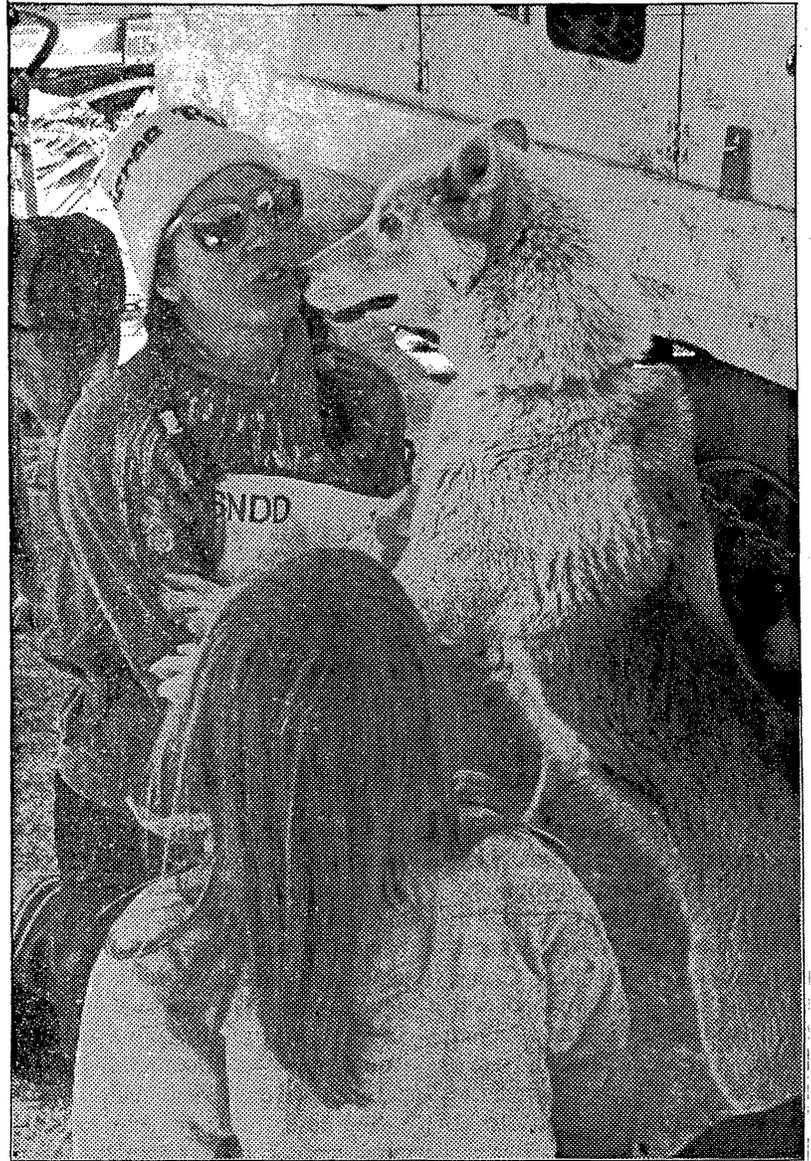
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TO THE FINISH. Lucy Bettis of Novato, Calif., above, drives her four-dog team to the finish line while the crowd cheers her on. (Doug Whorton photo) At left, Ron Rockholt of Madera Calif., loads up his dogs at the end of the race. R-C photo by Belinda Rohleder



SLOPPY KISSES. Diana Whitten of San Jose gets a sloppy kiss from one of her sled dogs for the benefit of her young audience. R-C photos by Belinda Rohleder

Record Courier BIRTHS

2/20/94

KaLynn Payne

Marilyn and Raymond T. Payne of Woodfords are the parents of a baby girl, KaLynn Larisa, born Jan. 26 at Carson-Tahoe Hospital. She weighed 11 pounds, 15 ounces at birth.

Alpine County wrestlers earn medals

Nine members of the Alpine County Police Activities League wrestling team returned home with medals from tournament competi-

tion in Fernley on Feb. 26.

The USA Wrestling-sanctioned tournament attracted more than 300 age group wrestlers.

The Alpine PAL team was led by two gold medal winners: David Bennett and Jeff Martin.

Troy Fontana, Jeff John and Al Bill earned silver for second-place finishes in their respective age and weight classes.

Ernie Evans, Michael Pinzon, Josh Himmelrick and Lysle Turnbeaugh all placed third.

"It was a good tournament," Alpine PAL assistant coach Dave Fontana said. "Some of these kids had up to 20 wrestlers in their weight bracket."

The team competed in Fallon this weekend.

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Record Carrier 3/6/94

Turnbeaugh continues comeback story

by CAROL TOLAN
R-C Correspondent

For freshman Tamara Turnbeaugh, being on the Douglas High varsity ski team is a miracle. But being a winner has been hard work.

In 1991, Turnbeaugh shattered both heels in a skiing accident at Kirkwood that left her in a wheelchair for three months. She didn't just want to walk, she was going back to the slopes. After a summer of painful walking and skiing at Mt. Hood, Oregon, Turnbeaugh got back on the lift.

"Walking was tough for a while and very hard to do," Turnbeaugh said. "But I always knew I'd ski again."

Turnbeaugh skied her way to the finals and a second-place finish in the Tahoe Basin Ski League Championships held Tuesday at Kirkwood.

Racers with the most overall points for the year from the five league teams skied against each other on a dual slalom format course.

Cara Leininger of North Tahoe defeated Turnbeaugh in the finals. Chelsea Sullivan of North Tahoe finished third and Kelly Welch of Tahoe-Truckee was fourth.

For the boys, Brandon Dey of Truckee took first, Tyler Stewart of Truckee second, Wes Watkins of North Tahoe third and Rocco Bruno of Whittell fourth.

"These are the league's best," said Brad

Robinson, the Douglas ski team's Kirkwood coach. "It's tough competition, but our kids know this course. This pro format is more competitive, man against man."

Turnbeaugh, a Far West Team member, ranked second in the league individually with 185 points during the regular season.

In a purple-spider downhill suit, Turnbeaugh faced the slalom course only a few yards from the tree that took her off her skis in 1991. But with speed and concentration, she systematically skied past her opponents to the final match.

"This is her hill," said senior teammate Noelle Lamprecht. "She has this hill down to an art and it's hers to conquer."

In her final run, Turnbeaugh faced North Tahoe's Leininger, who had finished eighth for the season. In the soft spring conditions, Turnbeaugh had a good start out of the gate, but a ski popped off three-quarters of the way down.

"I hit a rut and it popped off," Turnbeaugh said. "I've been running well on this course all day, but it just got so soft."

"We're really proud of Tamara," said Douglas coach Phyllis Bateman. "She's worked hard all year and is one of the fastest ones here."

Other Douglas racers who made it past

Continued to page 10

Record Courier 3/3/94

Record Courier 3/3/94

Ski: Tigers compete

Continued from page 8

the qualifying round included three boys and two other girls: Junior Joe Day, freshman Ben Day and Justin Kolbe; sophomore Judy VanValkenburg and Lamprecht. Tristan Gorrindo also skied and Mike Christl was an alternate.

Lamprecht, who has lettered for four years in alpine skiing at Douglas, made it through two rounds of competition. Truckee's Kelly Welch, who had a fourth place finish for the day, edged her out by less than half a second.

"With this competition, I wasn't expecting a win," said Lamprecht, who finished third at the league championships last March. "I'm not a Far West racer this year, but I did well and finished in the top eight."

Lamprecht finished her senior season with 162 points for seventh place. She plans to be an exchange student in France following graduation.

"I love the competition this

year," Lamprecht said. "It makes you race harder. This year we have more girls and having teammates to cheer you on is a boost."

The season was an overall success, according to coaches Jeannie Turnbeaugh and Bateman.

"We're happy with the season's results," Bateman said. "We have almost all first time racers, and some kids came into the year scarcely doing a wedge."

Training is rigorous and includes dry land drills starting in November, with weight training and aerobics. The team meets for practice every Saturday at 7:30 a.m. on the slopes of Kirkwood.

"We've had four all leaguers and more kids in the top eight than ever," Jeannie Turnbeaugh said. "We're proud of all the kids and hope to see some new faces next year."

"This is a tough program and requires commitment," Bateman said. "But these kids can see results in just a season."

Group to meet at museum

The old stone Alpine County Courthouse will be the setting for the next meeting of the Historical Society of Alpine County, Thursday, March 24, at 7 p.m.

"I couldn't think of a more appropriate place for my slide presentation," said guest speaker Jim Long, whose grandfather, Judge L.T. Price, presided over court in the same room many years ago.

Following a brief general business meeting, Long, now a ranger for the California State Parks and a resident of San Clemente, will dim the lights and turn on speakers and projectors to start his "sound and light" program. "Range of

Light" will transport the audience from the courtroom to glazed-ice caves, mountain meadows and the summit of the Sierras, accompanied by crescendos of sunsets and orchestral music.

During intermission, members will share a dessert "potluck" with coffee made by Carolyn Vaughn of Tiers of Joy Coffee House. The finale will be a short slide show of Markleeville-in-the-old-days.

The Historical Society encourages the public to attend the program.

Anyone who wants more information may phone Gina Gigli, (916) 694-2253.

Record Courier 3/13/94

Waldear Great Race winner

Kirkwood's Debbi Waldear was successful in her return to The Great Ski Race from Tahoe City to Truckee last Sunday, March 6.

Waldear, returning from a 10-year Great Ski Race hiatus, claimed her first victory in the 30-kilometer nordic race with a time of one hour, 32 minutes and 12 seconds.

More than 700 skiers started the 18th annual race at the Tahoe Nordic Center in Tahoe City. The overall winner was Dave McLaughlin of Truckee, who completed the course in 1:21:34.

Waldear, 44, finished well off the course record of 1:21:59 set last year by six-time winner Nancy Fiddler, but it was still the third fastest women's time in race history.

You wouldn't have known it by talking to her, though.

"I had a horrible race. Half the people who beat me, I've been beating them all season," Waldear said, referring to her 23rd-place overall finish.

Waldear crossed the finish more than three minutes ahead of the second-place woman, Mary Prince of Tahoe City, who finished in 1:35:56. Susan Lannoy of Tahoe Paradise was third in 1:37:02.

Waldear has her sights set on an even bigger challenge, the Gold Rush, on March 27 at Royal Gorge. The event serves as the men's 50-K and women's 30-K national championships.

"I've won it before, but probably not this time," she said. "Some of the national team girls are supposed to be there, and I hear the Norway girls might show up, too. Top 10 would be good."

McLaughlin, 30, led the 1,000-foot climb to Starratt Pass, the highest point on the course, and eventually crossed the finish uncontested. He was more than two minutes better than Dave Stover of Reno, who was second in 1:24:11.

John Cobourne of Minden finished fifth in the men's 40-49 age group, 26th overall, with a time of 1:33:04.

Mike Lannoy of Tahoe Paradise was first in the men's 40-49 division in 1:25:06.

Another Carson Valley racer, Wayne Kocher, skied to third-place in the men's 50-59 category in 1:46:02.

Other local finishers included Greg Townsend in 1:58:23, Carol Muir in 2:09:35, Ron Michelsen in 2:20:15 and Martha Betcher in 2:42:40.

Echo to Kirkwood race this Saturday

R-C News Service

Between 300 and 400 nordic skiers are expected to turn out for the 21st annual Echo Summit to Kirkwood race on Saturday.

The 12-mile race from Echo Summit on Highway 50 to Kirkwood on State Route 88, starts at 10 a.m.

Snow conditions are regarded as favorable right now, according to Kirkwood Ski Touring Center Director Debbi Waldear.

"If it stays like this, we'll have great spring skiing conditions," she said.

The course is highly challenging, including a 1,300 vertical foot

climb during the second mile, passage through dense woods, and finally a descent to the Kirkwood Ski Touring Center.

Doug Read of Carnelian Bay won last year's race, which was postponed one week due to avalanche danger. The race had 171 entries.

Alpine PAL wrestlers strike gold

Three Alpine County Police Activities League (PAL) wrestlers earned gold medals during freestyle tournament competition in Fallon last Saturday, March 5.

Jeff Martin, Jeff John and David Bennett won champi-

onships in their respective age and weight classes during the USA Wrestling-sanctioned tournament. It marked the second straight week Bennett and Martin had won gold.

Al Bill also captured a second-place medal, while Lysle

Turnbeaugh, Josh Himmelrick, Eric Rogers and Mike Pinzon were third-place finishers.

About 20 Alpine County PAL wrestlers are preparing for the Nevada state USA championships in Las Vegas March 19-20.

Kirkwood hosts spring party

Kirkwood Ski Resort is hosting a spring ski party from March 26 through April 3 and continuing every weekend until May 1.

Recent snow storms have left plenty of snow at Kirkwood to provide great spring skiing conditions.

On March 5, Kirkwood received an additional six to eight inches of new snow, bringing our base depth averages to 72 inches to 96 inches.

With the highest base elevation of all Northern California resorts, Kirkwood is known for maintaining some of the best spring skiing conditions in the Lake Tahoe area. Each winter, Kirkwood receives the greatest annual snowfall in the Sierra with an average of 425 inches falling during the season. Colder overnight temperatures help maintain conditions, with the resort open into May.

For skiers and snowboarders waiting for the spring season to officially take off, it's launch time.

Kirkwood will feature daily contests and activities sure to cure even the most severe cases of spring fever.

Snowboarders take to the air and let it fly during the daily big air contests where the bigger the air, the greater the rewards. Skiers will catch some monster air of their own in the ski jumping contests — all the thrills of Lillehammer without the nasty scores of East Transylvania.

Skimmers will ski or board down lower Monte Wolfe run, then skid across a bond at the base of the run.

Party central will be located at the base of chair no. 5.

3/17/94 R.C.

Lannoy wins Echo to Kirkwood

It was crowded at the start, but Mike Lannoy of South Lake Tahoe was alone at the finish in the Echo to Kirkwood Race and Tour on Saturday.

Approximately 340 competitors took part in the 21st Echo to Kirkwood event.

Lannoy, 40, completed the 12-mile nordic journey across the crest of the Sierra Nevada from U.S. Highway 50 and State Route 88 in 1 hour, 42 minutes and 3.80 seconds. It marked the second

time in three years he has won the event.

Alex Gignoux, a South Tahoe High senior, finished second in 1:47:40.17.

Debbi Waldear of Kirkwood took third place and her 1:48:30 was the fastest time among all women in the race.

John Cobourn, 46, of Minden finished sixth overall in a time of 1:58:58, nearly four minutes ahead of the defending race champion, Bill Read. Cobourn won the Echo

to Kirkwood event three times between 1989 and 1991.

Rounding out the top 10 were Oliver Brelsford in fourth (1:52:47), Tom Altenbach, Cobourn, Read, Christopher Lieke, Bill Rose and Mark Clifford.

The nordic tour was characterized by contradictory conditions.

"It was sweltering heat one minute and real blustery and cold when cresting the passes," said Gary George of Gardnerville.

R.C. 3/24/94

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Peak performance

Tamara Turnbeaugh of Markleeville hit the peak of a banner season with a silver medal performance at the U. S. Ski Association/Rolux J-3 Junior Olympics last week at Mammoth.

Turnbeaugh, who competes for the Kirkwood Ski Education Foundation (KSEF), earned a silver medal in the March 15 women's super-G and wound up with silver in the combined during the

For the record

by DAVE PRICE, Sports Editor

three-day championship event in Mammoth Lakes, Calif. She also captured third-place in the giant slalom and fourth in the slalom.

The Junior Olympic meet attracted 13-14 year old racers from nine western states, including Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and Utah.

Turnbeaugh placed second in the super-G, .76 seconds behind Jonna Mendes of South Lake Tahoe's Heavenly Ski Team. She finished second in the women's combined standings, just 1.41-seconds behind another Far West Division rival, Megan Ganong of Squaw Valley.

Those numbers just begin to tell how impressive this season has been for Turnbeaugh, a 14-year-old Douglas High School freshman.

"Tamara has really begun to fulfill her potential. We've seen the potential all along and she's now starting to break the envelope of that potential, with much more to come," said KSEF Director Ray Dicius.

"Technically and physically, her skills are developing quite well, now we're hoping to see her mental skills develop further," he added. "Specifically in maturity, handling stress and pressure... being able to do all the things that come with competing at a high level... and that comes with having the experience."

Another dose of experience against high level competition is forthcoming. Turnbeaugh's second-place finish in the Junior Olympic combined qualified her to compete at the Children's World Championships which will be held Thursday through Sunday in Whistler B.C.

"This is going to be an invaluable experience," Dicius said. "It's definitely a highlight to be picked to represent the U.S. in an event like this. Not only that, it's having the chance to see her peer group perform and to see how she stacks up against them."

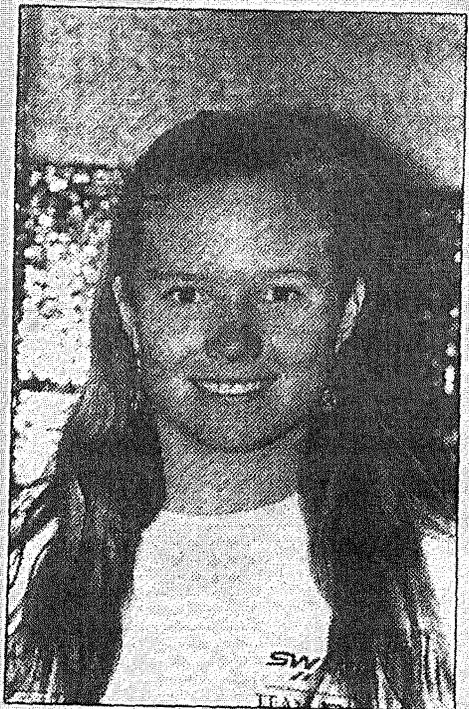
Young Turnbeaugh has faced a considerable building process in the last three years. In 1991, she shattered both heels in a skiing accident at Kirkwood that left her in a wheelchair for three months.

"To be able to compete and perform at this level with that type of injury in her past is a tremendous accomplishment," Dicius said. "She is a very strong athlete, a top student who is extremely intelligent, a team leader and great role model for the younger athletes in our program."

She has also enjoyed a successful freshman year at Douglas, where she carries a 4.17 grade point average in the classroom and last month placed second at the Tahoe Basin Ski League Championships at Kirkwood.

Turnbeaugh was joined at the J-3 Junior Olympics by Kirkwood teammate Geoff Fargo, an 8th grade student from El Dorado Hills, Calif. Fargo finished 61st in the men's super-G, 10 seconds off the winning pace set by Geoffrey Stephenson from the Intermountain Division.

"This is only Geoff's second year of racing and second year on our ski team, so just qualifying for the J.O.'s and being one of 20 boys chosen from Far West is a tremendous accomplishment," Dicius said. "He's had an excellent year, coming basically from the back of the pack up to the first third of the pack."



TAMARA TURNBEAUGH

Recall Court 3/31/94

Mother faces hearing in girl's beating death

by KURT HILDEBRAND
Staff Writer

A Genoa woman accused of killing her 4-year-old daughter had recently regained custody of the girl.

Terry Jean Garcia-Ortiz, 27, regained custody of her four children two months ago, according to documents filed in East Fork Justice Court by investigators.

During the course of their investigation, sheriff's office detectives learned Garcia-Ortiz lost custody of the children in Alpine County in connection with the alleged child abuse of Letisia Ortiz, who died Sunday of injuries sustained last week.

According to court documents, Garcia-Ortiz lost custody of the girl for biting her on the cheek and burning her feet.

However, the case was handled by the Alpine County Department of Social Services and Garcia-Ortiz was neither arrested nor charged in the incident.

Garcia-Ortiz was arraigned in justice court Monday on murder and child abuse charges in connection with Letisia's death.

Alpine County Social Services Director Pat Schuman said she could not comment on any case handled by her department.

Deputy District Attorney Kris Brown said defense attorney Tod Young was appointed to defend Garcia-Ortiz.

Garcia-Ortiz is scheduled to appear in court next week for a pre-



TERRY GARCIA-ORTIZ

liminary hearing.

Paramedics responded to a report of an injured child at the Little Mondeaux Ranch on March 23, according to Sgt. Lance Modispacher of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office.

Genoa volunteers were first on the scene at about 3 p.m. last Wednesday.

When they arrived, the little girl was unconscious and she was placed in an ambulance as soon as paramedics arrived.

Paramedics discovered bruising consistent with child abuse while enroute to Carson-Tahoe Hospital and radioed for sheriff's investigators to meet them.

Sheriff's investigators said Letisia had both new and old bruises on both shoulders, her

arms, legs, stomach, inner thighs and feet.

According to court documents, the girl was transferred to Washoe Medical Center where she was placed on life support.

Investigators questioned Garcia-Ortiz about the injuries to her daughter.

The woman said her oldest daughter hit Letisia on the head four or five times with a baby bottle, but that Letisia was not injured.

She told investigators that a short time later, the 5-year-old came for her and she saw Letisia face down on the floor with a chair on top of her.

The 5-year-old was questioned about the incident and told detectives that she and her other sister were spinning around on the chairs when one fell and struck Letisia on the head.

Detectives interviewed the 5-year-old the following day through the Washoe Medical Center SAINTS program, where children can be questioned in a non-threatening environment. The girl allegedly told investigators her mother struck Letisia in the head with a baby bottle.

When confronted with her daughter's statement, Garcia-Ortiz allegedly told detectives she became angry with the girl and shook her until the child threw up. According to court documents, the woman said she hit the girl five to six times in the head with a glass baby bottle.

Parents complain about violence

by KURT HILDEBRAND
Staff Writer

Two parents of Carson Valley Middle School students protested violent incidents at the school.

Anita Jeffers and Mike Storm told school board members about

against a brick wall in a March 15 incident at the school.

"She was literally beat up," Jeffers said.

She told board members that four boys were teasing another girl when her daughter intervened.

The girl became a target for the

that evening.

"They called it horseplay," she said of her attempt to get action from the school.

According to Jeffers, the girl missed three days of school because of injuries related to the incident.

Cemetery and Mausoleum in Carson City was in charge of arrangements.

Letisia Joyce Ortiz

RC
3/31/94

Letisia Joyce Ortiz died March 27 at Washoe Medical Center in Reno. She was 4.

She was born Dec. 27, 1989 in Carson City to Gilberto and Terry Wilkes Ortiz.

She had been a Genoa resident for the past three months coming from Woodfords.

She is survived by her parents Gilberto and Terry of Genoa; brothers Arnold of Genoa, Martin Perez of Woodfords and Frankie Perez of Alturas, Calif; sisters Christina and Rosa Ortiz of Genoa and Cecilia Perez of Woodfords; maternal grandmother, the Rev. Lucerina Sanchez of Alturas, Calif. and paternal grandparents J. Ines Ortiz and Ester Garcia of Mexico.

A graveside service will be held today at 10 a.m. at Woodfords Cemetery.

Walton's Chapel of the Valley, Cemetery and Mausoleum in Carson City was in charge of arrangements.

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Editorial

Grim business of being a child

The death of one of the Carson Valley's children this week and reports of violence at our middle school point out what grim business being a child has become.

Four-year-old Letisia Ortiz died Sunday of injuries authorities believe she received at home. The little girl already had come to the

Our opinion

attention of officials in Alpine County when she was taken away from her family for unexplained bites on her cheek and burns on her feet.

No charges were filed in that case and she was returned to her parents who moved to the Little Mondeaux Ranch north of Genoa a short time later.

Letisia had bruises on both shoulders, her arms, legs, stomach inner thighs and feet when paramedics responded to her home last Wednesday. She was taken, unconscious, to Washoe Medical Center and placed on life support.

Her brief life ended tragically Sunday when she died of injuries which paramedics attending her said were consistent with child abuse.

Letisia's mother has been charged with murder and child abuse in connection with her death.

On Tuesday, two parents of middle school students complained to the school board that their daughters had been attacked recently at the school.

According to one woman, her 12-year-old suffered a concussion at the hands of classmates and the mother didn't know about it until she came home from work that evening.

In the second incident, a father said his daughter was slapped in the face so hard by a student that it left a red mark.

School officials say they can't discuss details of the incidents or what happened to the student perpetrators. Board members say they are concerned about the potential for violence at the middle school.

We would suggest that these two incidents point out the fact that the situation has progressed from "potential" to "actual."

While opening a second middle school may alleviate the overcrowding at Carson Valley Middle School, simply separating the troublemakers won't do much to correct the problem.

Let's use our resources as a community to ensure that our children have the right to grow up and feel safe in any situation whether at school or at home.

It's too late for Letisia Ortiz.

But have we grown so big that this little girl stays a statistic and the kind of violence that is becoming increasingly common in our schools remains unchecked?



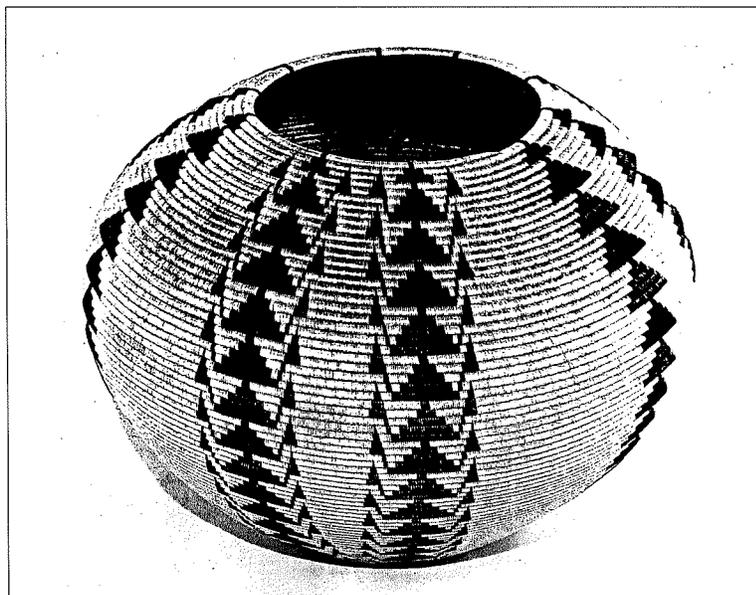
Dat So La Lee, a Washo woman whose given name at birth was Dabuda, was thought to be born sometime around 1835 in Douglas County, Nevada. She proved to be the finest basket weaver of the West; today her fine pieces are displayed in such distinctive museums as the Smithsonian Institute.

Dat So La Lee: Weaver of Legends

by Maureen Bell

Dat So La Lee sat beneath the pines outside her home and skillfully worked an awl through the coiled staves of her *degikup*, or "fancy" basket. Her personal agent and financier, Abe Cohn, urged her on, for even in the early 1920s he could obtain \$5,000 for one of her masterpieces.

During the first quarter of the twentieth century, this aging, 310 pound Washo woman was a common sight in Tahoe City, California, on the confluence of the Truckee River and Lake Tahoe in the Sierra Nevada. When distracted by tourists, she would jiggle a bag of coins and graciously accept their money. And when she heard a steamer blow its silver whistle, she would glance across the twelve-mile-wide, 2,300 foot deep "lake in the sky" and reminisce about her life and her people. In honor of these memories, Dat So La Lee wove the legends, customs and history of the Washo Indians into her baskets — works of art that portrayed an impor-



"Wonder Hunters," 1919. Using traditional materials of willow, redbud bark and black bracken fern root, Dat So La Lee invented and perfected the small-mouthed globular basket known as the degikup, a basketry style made for sale to tourists and collectors. The stitches are very fine; some are thirty-two to the inch.

tant saga about the West.

There are no records of Dat So La Lee's birth; her life began close to twenty years before writing reached the Washo world. Scholars and historians believe that she was born in 1835 in an Indian village now known as Sheridan, a deserted mining town in Douglas County, Nevada. Her

given name was Dabuda.

Dabuda grew up following the manners and trails of her people, who were semi-nomadic in nature. During most years, they traveled in single family groups from early spring until fall, moving as the need for food or shelter arose.

Her winters were spent along the Carson River or in Eagle Valley, now Carson City, or near the hot springs on the eastern Sierra foothills, by present day Genoa and Reno. There she and her people lived in *campoodies*, simple structures of sticks and thatch or bark. They wore rabbit skins for warmth and ate the food collected in the fall — pine nuts, various grass seeds

and berries, and small game animals. It was during these years Dat So La Lee learned to make pinenut soup and to weave baskets, two feminine arts handed down from one generation to the next.

As spring slowly approached, people grew restless and hungry. The heartier Washo journeyed to Lake

Tahoe, or Daow, the "center of their world," where they lived in caves and other natural shelters and caught the abundant whitefish. One or two men would carry a load of the fish to the camps so the old and the sickly, new mothers and young children, would not starve.

Soon those remaining in the lowlands trekked up the steep trail to Lake Tahoe. They camped at assigned beaches, blessed themselves and ate the bountiful fish, fruits and nuts. It was then that the Washo, a scattered and isolated people, joined as a single group for the spawning season.

Washo men would dream that this important season was about to begin. While they waited, the people danced and sang, obeying the Washo laws, living a simple and principled life. Then came the harvesting of the fish. Native trout and a type of large sucker swam up the streams by the thousands, their bodies crowded from bank to bank. A religious ceremony preceded the harvest; people then waded into the streams armed with baskets, scooping up the fish and tossing them onto shore.

The spawning season, which usually lasted two weeks, was a time of great social interaction, a time when leaders of the various Washo groups met and conferred. Medicine men competed in displays of magical powers. Courtships were initiated or renewed and marriages consummated. It was during these celebrations that stories of legendary creatures sprang from the shores of Daow; such creatures as Ang, a monster bird which terrorized the Washo people.

When the spawning time de-

clined, families left their lakeside camps with reluctance. They wandered into the alpine forests above Lake Tahoe, often constructing windbreakers of brush, called *gadus*. The damp mountain meadows provided an abundance of vegetation, on which sheep, deer, antelope and wild fowl grazed. The Washo spent the summer months hunting wildlife and collecting grasses, seeds and tubers. Women gathered roots, bark and branches for creating baskets. Dat So La Lee claimed herself to be a medicine

celebrate the harvest, a group of tribal members formed a circle and sang. Some threw nuts and cones to the four winds from winnowing baskets, others chanted and prayed that no member of the tribe would become ill and that the pinenut groves would always be abundant.

The next two weeks were spent gathering and preparing pinenuts for winter storage; a long pole was used to knock the nuts to the ground. The nuts were then collected in piles and shoveled into large baskets. When

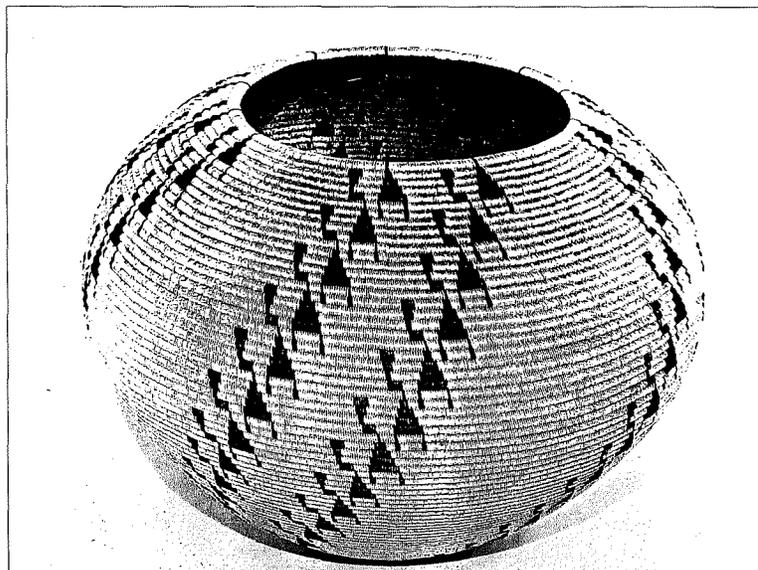
finished, the people either stayed near the pinenut groves or drifted slowly west, toward Honey Lake or into Eagle Valley. There they set up camps and collected great piles of wood to store and use during the deep snows and bitter winter weather.

The Washo lived this lifestyle for thousands of years. That is, until the white men entered their world, with the first expedition conducted under the leadership of famous pathfinder John C. Fremont.

Dat So La Lee claimed to have seen Fremont and his soldiers in 1844 when they first explored the Nevada territory. Since some claim the event to have happened in Eagle Valley

while others claim it to have been at West Walker Lake, the stories of actually seeing him may be a myth. The sighting could have been a company of the First Dragoons as they passed through.

At any rate, Dat So La Lee and her nephew grew curious and approached the group. A mounted soldier treaded too close, throwing the boy to the ground. A man with epaulettes on his shoulders immediately



"With the Aid of Medicine Men's Magic Arrowpoints Abundance of Game Was Slain," 1924. Over the age of ninety when she died in 1925, Dat So La Lee left a rich heritage of over 120 major baskets, as well as many minor baskets and miniatures.

woman, who made only ceremonial baskets or those baskets placed in the graves of chiefs and medicine men.

By late fall, well fed and happy, Dat So La Lee and her people traveled eastward to forage the sacred hills for seeds and berries and for their staple food, pinenuts. While the northern bands concentrated in the hills northwest of Reno, the southern Washo met on the southeast side of Minden and Gardnerville in Nevada. To cel-

ordered the soldier to apologize. Among Dat So La Lee's most treasured possessions were some brass buttons which she said the soldier gave to her.

Fremont himself described the Washo as a peaceful people who offered hospitality and shared their knowledge of the land with him. But behind Fremont came a wave of explorers, all seeking the easiest mountain passes to the West.

Next came wagon trains of settlers on their way to the great California Gold Rush. Many of these pioneers chose to stay on land belonging to the Washo. They cut trees to build houses, surrounded their ranches with fences and grazed cattle on the natural grasses.

At first the Washo tried to collect a compensation for the land. One Washo named Captain Jim accepted two sacks of flour from John Reese in 1851 for the land around present day Genoa. A misunderstanding resulted. The Indians thought the payment was for the use of the land, while the settlers were sure it was for the purchase. The white men later refused to pay a penny for the property.

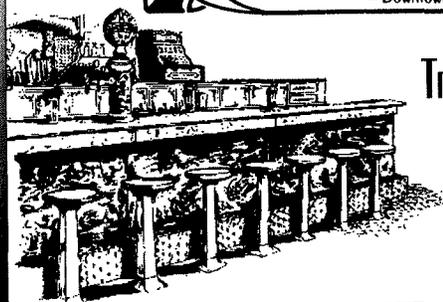
With the swelling settlement of white population, the Indians needed more area in which to live. The Washo competed with the Paiute for land; fierce battles ensued. It is told that in the early 1860s the Paiute declared war on the Washo and subdued them. During the battle, Dat So La Lee claimed, she and her chiefs destroyed all the fine baskets she had ever made, for they were too sacred to fall in the hands of the enemy.

Thousands of eager people flocked to Nevada in 1858, when the Comstock Lode was discovered. Today this historic era is considered the heyday of Nevada, when the "Silver State" made more money than Sacramento and San Francisco combined.

With this swarm of miners, Washo country became white man's

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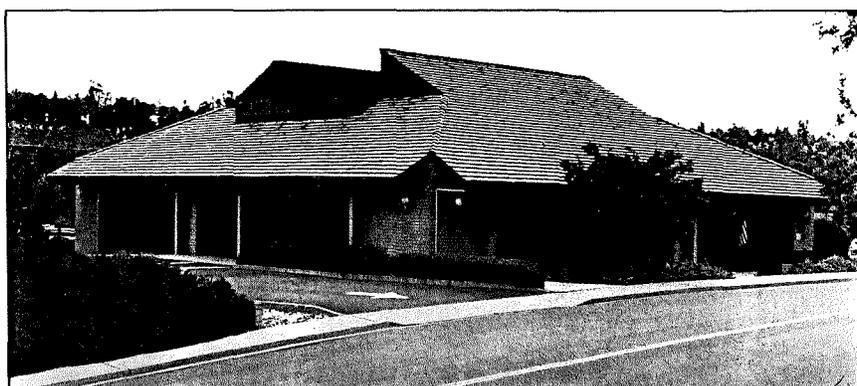
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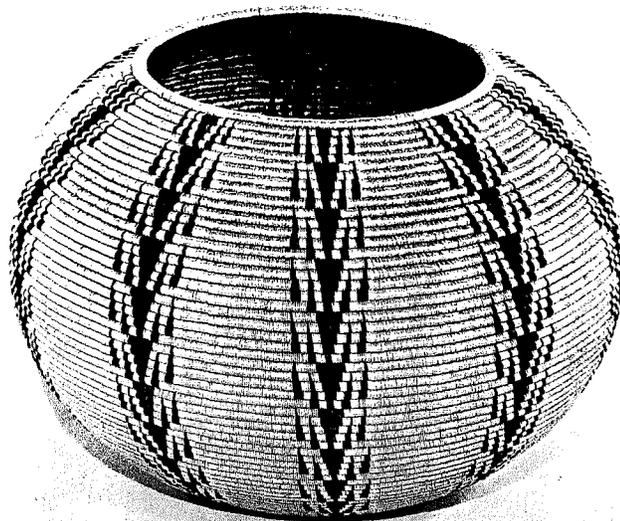
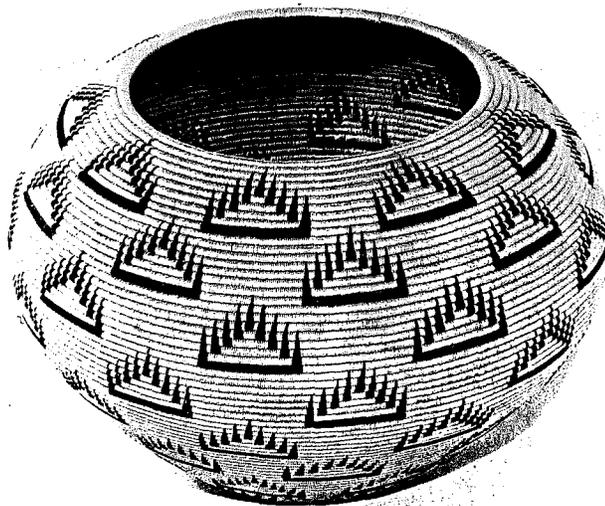
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land. Commercial fishing took over at Lake Tahoe and hillsides of trees were cut for buildings at Virginia City, Gold Hill, Silver City and Dayton. Timber was used to shore up miles of underground tunnels and shafts. Fences, roads and railway tracks cut off the game trails, streams and lake shores. Game animals were hunted more often, depleting their supply. Mine wastes polluted the streams and killed the fish. Epidemics of white men's diseases swept through the Indian villages.

The Washo were no longer able to support themselves, so they moved onto reservations or near white settlements to work as servants; some begged for food. Dat So La Lee washed clothes and cooked for the miners and their wives. She no longer used traditional items to cook with; tin pans and iron pots were provided. In fact, Dat So La Lee was so busy trying to earn a living that her former basket weaving skills were neglected. In her spare time, however, she gambled. She liked the Indian gambling games played with sticks or bone dice and the new games of chance the white men brought to Nevada. Sometimes she played straight through two days and nights.

In 1871 Dat So La Lee moved to the then-busy mining town of Monitor, in Alpine County, California, and worked for the Harris Cohn family. There she became familiar with the



Top: "Hunting Game of the Air in the Sunshine," 1904.
Bottom: "Our Ancestors Were Hunters," 1902. Dat So La Lee was supported by the patronage of Abe and Amy Cohn, owners of an emporium in Carson City. This support allowed her to devote her time to weaving masterpieces from 1895 to 1925.

methods of the Indian traders. She also became attached to the curly headed little Abe Cohn who later became her agent.

Dat So La Lee then moved to the Keyser and Elrod Ranch in Carson City. Dr. S. L. Lee, a Carson

City physician, wrote in his 1912 journal that he knew Dat So La Lee long before she was famous. She first married a man named Assu, who had tuberculosis. They had two children, neither living to maturity. At some point Assu became very angry with Dat So La Lee and left in a rage, trying to cross the Sierra in the middle of a winter storm. He died of exposure. For a long time, Dat So La Lee was afraid of the revenge that her husband's family might exact upon her.

After some time, she married Charley Keyser, a good hunter and fisherman as well as an expert craftsman who made rows which he sold to the whites. Upon her marriage, Dat So La Lee changed her name to Louisa Keyser. She had no children with Charley.

The days of Nevada's mighty wealth passed quickly. And then the lean years came. Work for Dat So La Lee became scarce, and her age made her less desirable as a servant. In 1895, when about sixty-five years old, she walked to Carson City with four willow-covered whiskey flasks and showed them to Abe Cohn, who owned the local emporium and who was interested in Indian

basketry. He thought that her work showed promise and encouraged her to make baskets, telling her that he would try to sell them.

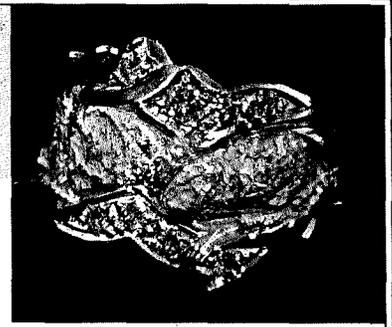
Dat So La Lee quickly wove several ceremonial baskets which were readily bought; they were pleasing in



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design, excellent in form and fine in
style. But she needed constant en-
couragement to keep working, which
came in the form of an offering of pre-
sents and bonuses. In despair, Abe
built her a house on his property in
Carson City, complete with modern
conveniences, a work room, and a
place to store her materials. Here,
she and Charley lived for nine
months each year; summer months
were spent at Tahoe City. They were
fed, clothed, had their fuel furnished
and their doctor bills paid.

Dat So La Lee could now devote
all of her time to weaving. The local
press and the window displays in
both of Abe Cohn's stores, the Tahoe
Tavern in Tahoe City and the Empo-
rium in Carson City, caused her mas-

pieces to be in high demand. Abe
kept records of her work, marking the
baskets with the initials "L. K." (for
Louisa Keyser) and a number. In his
handwritten ledger, entries show her
large, important baskets to be num-
bered to L. K. 120. Because she could
not write, her handprint proved her
bill of sale.

In November 1919, Abe Cohn
took Dat So La Lee to the Arts and
Crafts Exhibit at St. Louis, Missouri
where she and her work were exhib-
ited for thirty days. Museum curators
in both Europe and America bid for
her baskets and even J. P. Morgan,
Sr., the famous financial wizard,
bought several of them and took a
friendly interest in Dat So La Lee's
welfare.

Six years later, on December 6,
1925, Dat So La Lee, the finest known
basket weaver of the West, died of
dropsy. Today, her baskets are found
in such museums as the Smithsonian
Institute in Washington D. C. and are
valuable collectors' items nationwide.
Many are worth tens of thousands of
dollars apiece. Dat So La Lee's mas-
terpieces symbolize a time when Na-
tive Americans lived free in an
abundant land they called home. ♦



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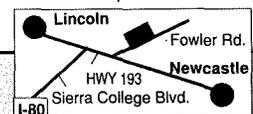
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Tahoe Daily Tribune 4/1/94

Nevada blames California for child's death

MINDEN, Nev. (AP) — A Nevada official said the beating death of a 4-year-old Douglas County girl could have been avoided if California authorities heeded his agency's advice not to return the child to her parents.

John Sarb, chief of the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services, said Alpine County asked last May about returning Letisia Joyce Ortiz and her three siblings to Gilberto and

Terry Jean Garcia-Ortiz.

The children had been placed with other family members after an incident in Woodfords, Calif., in which Letisia allegedly was bitten on the face by her mother.

Sarb said Nevada recommended against returning the children, but the parents regained custody in January.

"We said no, it was not a good idea," Sarb said. "They did it any-

way, and we were not notified. If they had listened to us, this would not have happened."

Alpine County District Attorney Hank Murdock said the Alpine Superior Court held a hearing to determine whether it was safe for the children to stay with their mother. He added she was never charged in Alpine County.

The 27-year-old mother now

faces a murder charge for allegedly beating the youngster to death with a glass baby bottle near Genoa.

Letisia died Sunday after being taken off a life support system. Other bruises on the little girl's body showed a pattern of abuse, authorities said.

Mrs. Garcia-Ortiz faces an April 7 preliminary hearing. She remained jailed on \$500,000 bail.

Four-year-old's death mourned

by CARISSA CRONKRIGHT
Staff Writer

Funeral services for 4-year-old Letisia Joyce Ortiz held at the Woodfords Cemetery ended with forgiveness of one mother for another.

Before more than 50 family and friends gathered to mourn the child's death, Letisia's grandmother Lucerina Sanchez told Terry Jean Garcia-Ortiz, "I forgive you."

It was a teary-eyed Garcia-Ortiz that was allowed to attend her daughter's burial escorted by Douglas County sheriff's deputies. Garcia-Ortiz, 27, of Genoa was arraigned in East Fork Justice Court earlier this week on charges of murder and child abuse in connection with Letisia's death.

The child died March 27 at Washoe Medical Center where she had been on life support systems.

Sanchez said she would never forget her granddaughter. "The baby will always be a part of my life. As long as there is breath in my body she will live on."

The elderly woman then allowed a weeping Garcia-Ortiz to lean on her shoulder as they approached the small white coffin together.

"It is tragic what has happened here, but life must go on," said Christian minister Phillip Bennett. "It is sad when these things take place, but it brings a family closer together."

He asked family members to reach out to one another, release Letisia and find love and forgiveness for her mother.

"Remember this little girl's smile, her touch and the love she imparted within you. I know how little ones when they touch they

Continued to page 6

Record Courier 4-3-94

Loss mourned: Family gathers at funeral for 4-year-old

Continued from page 1

touch with purity and innocence," he said, adding, "Reach out and love the mother."

Reuben Martinez of the Pit River Tribe sprinkled water behind the casket as it was brought to the grave site. He was asked to participate in the services

by Sanchez.

"What you have seen here is how we bury the dead so they can go on their journey," he said.

"We come here to pay our respects to this family and this little girl. It's a very sad day that we have put away a little girl. When we lose our children we lose our

future."

Despite the sadness of the day, Martinez managed to find some good.

"It is a good thing that you show you care for this family at this time," he said.

"It shows that there is still good in this world."

Martinez, with an outstretched arm palm facing the sky, chanted a song for the girl as the casket was lowered into the grave. He told her to remember the song and let it guide her.

"Follow this song," he said, "and it will take you to a good place."

R.C. 4-3-94

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Tahoe/Sierra

Tahoe Daily
Tribune
April 6, 1994

Alpine orders probe of girl's death

By **JEFF DELONG**
Tribune Staff Writer

MARKLEEVILLE — Alpine County leaders voted Tuesday to investigate what went wrong in the case of a 4-year-old girl who was released from the county's protection and then allegedly beaten to death by her mother.

"We still feel there are questions that need to be answered," said Supervisor C. Ann Wade. "Something in our system failed and as a result a child was murdered."

The county will look into its handling of the case of Letisia Joyce Ortiz, who died March 27 after allegedly being beaten on the head with a baby bottle at the family's home in Genoa. The child's mother, Terry Jean Garcia-Ortiz, faces a murder charge in connection with the child's death.

Letisia and three of her siblings were reportedly remanded to the custody of other family members by Alpine County authorities after a 1992 incident in Woodfords during which the child was allegedly bitten by her mother.

The children were returned to their parents through an order in Alpine County Superior Court in late January. That action was reportedly taken despite a recommendation against such a move from officials with the Nevada Division of

Child and Family Services.

By 4-1, supervisors on Tuesday voted to ask the California Attorney General's Office and the state Department of Social Services to study the county's handling of the Ortiz case. Supervisors also voted to hire Sacramento attorney Christopher Lee to conduct an independent probe into the matter.

"There's no finger-pointing to anybody here," said Supervisor Pete Blum, who along with Wade serves on the county's Social Services Committee.

Blum said an investigation is needed to determine how the county's system to protect children may have failed in this instance and what can be done to prevent such future tragedies.

"This is an immediate problem and I think it needs an immediate answer," Blum said.

District Attorney Hank Murdock said his office would cooperate with any investigation by the Attorney General's Office, but that confidential county records on the Ortiz case could not by law be opened up to an independent attorney. Sheriff Skip Veatch expressed similar concerns.

Limited access to county records by independent counsel was cited as the reason by Supervisor Eric Jung for his no vote Tuesday. Jung, while favoring an investigation by state officials,

said hiring the private lawyer would likely be a waste of taxpayer money.

"What are we really trying to do here?" Jung asked. "Are we trying to impress the newspapers? Are we trying to get a good answer?"

Murdock also suggested the county was not at fault in the matter, saying the decision by Superior Court Judge Harold Bradford to return the children to their parent's custody was made "with the best information he could get."

"What was done wrong was an irritable young woman (allegedly) beat her child to death," Murdock said.

Supervisor Cam Craik agreed the investigation is warranted.

"Somehow the system has failed — we've lost a child," Craik said. "This particular case has brought the problem out into the open and to a head."

Lee — a Sacramento trial lawyer and former Sacramento County district attorney — said he planned to travel to Markleeville today to begin work on his investigation. He confirmed he has worked on several cases involving child protective services, but declined to elaborate.

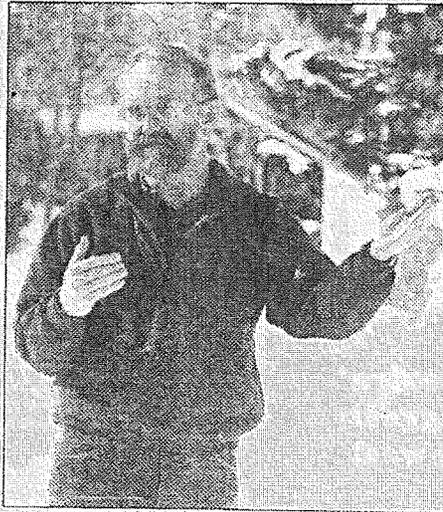
"They want somebody from the outside to take a look and see what can be done better," Lee said. "They're trying to fix something if there's something broken."

Story of Sorensen's Resort in Hope Valley in new book

The Hope Valley Publishing Co. has just released the first printing of "They Came Every Summer," the history of Alpine County, Calif. focused within the tale of Sorensen's Resort from 1876.

Taking his cue from the magnificent backdrop of the Sierra Nevada landscape, author Art Ewart weaves a factual western tale into the larger events of history.

Using as the core of his story the settling, building and growth of a small cluster of modest cabins along the West Fork of the Carson River that became known as Sorensen's Resort, Ewart brings to life the family that eventually came to represent the saga of the Amer-



AUTHOR ART EWART

ican west.

This emigrant family and their resort encompass a "marvelously rich cultural history," says the author. Those who visited the resort over the years came to share this life and "came to identify closely with the Sorensens and the cabins themselves."

Most of all, Ewart captures a sense of place in the classic meaning of those words, from the stunning natural beauty of the land, to the hearty emigrants who settled it and made it their own, to the generations still coming to find solace in the landscape.

During the course of his research, Ewart struck a chord with all of those he came into contact.

Some families had been coming to the resort for generations and spoke of their emotional bonds to the place.

He notes, "It's not often you interview people about their favorite vacation spot and they start to cry."

More recent visitors carrying on the tradition of returning every year are drawn because the place "exudes history from every hearth and sapling." Ewart recounts it all.

"They Came Every Summer" appeals to readers interested in the Sierra Nevada, its richness and lore.

"They Came Every Summer" is available through Sorensen's Resort by calling 1-800-423-9949 or by request through local bookstores.

Record carrier 4/7/94

Alpine County investigates child's death

by JEFF DELONG
R-C News Service

Alpine County leaders voted Tuesday to investigate what went wrong in the case of a 4-year-old girl who was released from the county's protection and then allegedly beaten to death by her mother.

"We still feel there are questions that need to be answered," said Supervisor C. Ann Wade. "Something in our system failed and as a result a child was murdered."

Planned is an investigation into the county's handling of the case of Letisia Joyce Ortiz, who died on March 27 after allegedly being

beaten on the head with a baby bottle at her home in Genoa. The child's mother, Terry Jean Garcia-Ortiz, faces a murder charge in connection with the child's death.

Letisia and three of her siblings were reportedly remanded to the custody of other family members by Alpine County authorities after a 1992 incident in Woodfords during which the child was allegedly bitten by her mother.

The children were returned to their parents through an order in Alpine County Superior Court about a month prior to Letisia's death. That action was reportedly taken despite a recommendation against returning the children to

Continued to page 6

6-A The Record-Courier • Gardnerville, Nev. • Thursday, April 7, 1994

Child's death: Supervisors approve probe

Continued from page 1
their parents from officials with the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services.

By a 4-1 vote, supervisors on Tuesday voted to ask the California Attorney General's Office and the state Department of Social Services to study the county's handling of the Ortiz case. Supervisors also voted to hire Sacramento attorney Christopher Lee to conduct an independent probe into the matter.

"There's no finger-pointing to anybody here," said Supervisor Pete Blum, who along with Wade serves on the county's Social Services Committee.

Blum said an investigation is needed to determine how the county's system to protect children failed in this instance, and

what can be done to prevent any such future tragedies.

"This is an immediate problem and I think it needs an immediate answer," Blum said.

District Attorney Hank Murdock said his office would cooperate with any investigation by the Attorney General's Office, but that confidential county records on the Ortiz case could not by law be opened up to an independent attorney. Sheriff Skip Veatch expressed similar concerns.

Supervisor Eric Jung cited this limited access to county records by independent counsel as the reason for his no vote on Tuesday. Jung, while favoring an investigation by state officials, said hiring the private lawyer would likely be a waste of taxpayer money.

"What are we really trying to do

here?" Jung asked.

"Are we trying to impress the newspapers? Are we trying to get a good answer?"

Murdock also suggested the county was not at fault in the matter, saying the decision by Superior Court Judge Harold Bradford to return the children to their parent's custody was made "with the best information he could get."

"What was done wrong was an irritable young woman (allegedly) beat her child to death," Murdock said.

Supervisor Cam Craik agreed the investigation is warranted.

"Somehow the system has failed — we've lost a child," Craik said.

"This particular case has brought the problem out into the open and to a head."

Record Courier
4/7/94

Alpine County records now accessible

From the courthouse basement to microfilm in 130 years is the story of the Alpine County historical archives and records.

In 1864 when the county was founded, documents from four adjoining counties were used to form the basic record of land deeds and transfers, tax records and mining claims for the new county. Court records were added to the county archives when the county established its judicial system. According to county history expert, Nancy C. Thornburg, the records were maintained, stored and preserved in an haphazard manner over the years.

On one occasion an overzealous supervisorial official hauled some records to the dump. Fortunately, town persons intervened. Most of the records were salvaged. In 1984 the Alpine County Historical Records Commission was formed under the chairmanship of Nancy Thornburg and together with Karen Keebaugh, county clerk, and Diane Deadrich-Rogers, librarian and archivist, the initial steps were undertaken to survey and preserve the county historical

Alpine Archives

by JIM HOLDRIDGE

and government records.

In 1986 the Alpine County Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance establishing the Alpine County Archives. Using grant monies from the National Historic Publications and Records Commission, archival expert Inez Dillon Prinster was hired to chronologically organize and catalog records annotating some 120 years of county governmental business.

Included were such diverse activities as coyote bounty payments, road master and toll collection accounts for log floating on the Carson River, mining district records, water rights rulings, hand drawn to aerial survey maps, jail blueprints and street maps of 1877 Markleeville.

The board of supervisors contracted with a micro-film photographer to duplicate the records and

archives of the county on film. Work began in May of 1993 and with the assistance of Sheila Morgan, the Alpine archives clerk, two months were spent preparing and photographing the governmental documents.

The Alpine County Free Library received its copies of the microfilm in July 1993. A copy will be safe stored and one copy will be available for public access at the Alpine County Library.

All records except those marked "R" for restricted (need to know) are accessible. A person wanting access to the archives may complete a request form in person or by mail. An appropriate fee will be charged for photocopying mail request material. Information on archive retrieval is available by phone, (916) 694-2120.

Preservation of historical and governance records welds the present with the past giving meaning to both.

Editor's note: Jim Holdridge is chairman of the Alpine County Library Commission. He lives in Alpine County, Calif.

Ceragioli team sets ride and tie record

The husband and wife team of Kathy and Gary Ceragioli of Woodfords combined to win their division in record time at the Mustang Classic ride and tie last weekend near Mt. Hamilton, Calif.

The Ceragiolis completed the 25-mile run and ride in a time of 2

hours, 24 minutes, good for first-place in the man-woman division and fourth overall. They finished just 11 minutes off the winning pace set by Tom Johnson and Mark Rickman, the winning team at last year's world ride and tie championships.

In addition to winning their division, the Ceragioli team broke the course man-woman record by more than 15 minutes.

Their horse, Cody, an Arabian-Thoroughbred mix, was the No. 1 ranked ride and tie horse in the nation in 1993.

Record Courier 4/7/94



Sheep showmanship clinic

Carson Valley Shepherds 4-H Club held a showmanship clinic at the fairgrounds last weekend. At top is Bridget Wood of Woodfords with judge Paula Pawliszyn. Bridget

took second. Above is Beth Geary of Gardnerville with a sheep. At left, Cera the sheepdog, 9 weeks old, has an instinct for herding. R-C photos by Belinda Rohleder

Mother will undergo evaluation to determine competency

by MELANIE SUPERSANO
and SHEILA GARDNER
Staff Writers

Terri Jean Ortiz-Garcia, the Genoa mother accused of beating her 4-year-old daughter to death with a glass baby bottle, was ordered to undergo a psychiatric evaluation to determine whether she is competent to stand trial.

Letisia Joyce Ortiz died March 27 after suffering numerous blows to the head and body, allegedly at the hands of her 27-year-old mother.

Defense attorney Tod Young filed the motion for a competency evaluation, saying later he wanted to "let the experts decide whether she is competent."

Ortiz-Garcia has been charged with three felonies: murder, child abuse causing substantial bodily harm and battery with a deadly weapon, and one gross misdemeanor, child abuse, in the case.

She had been scheduled to be arraigned Monday, but District Judge Tom Perkins suspended proceedings until the competency issue is settled. He set a competency hearing for May 9.

Alpine County is investigating the case because the child was released from the California coun-

ty's protection and given back to her mother in Douglas County despite objections from the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services.

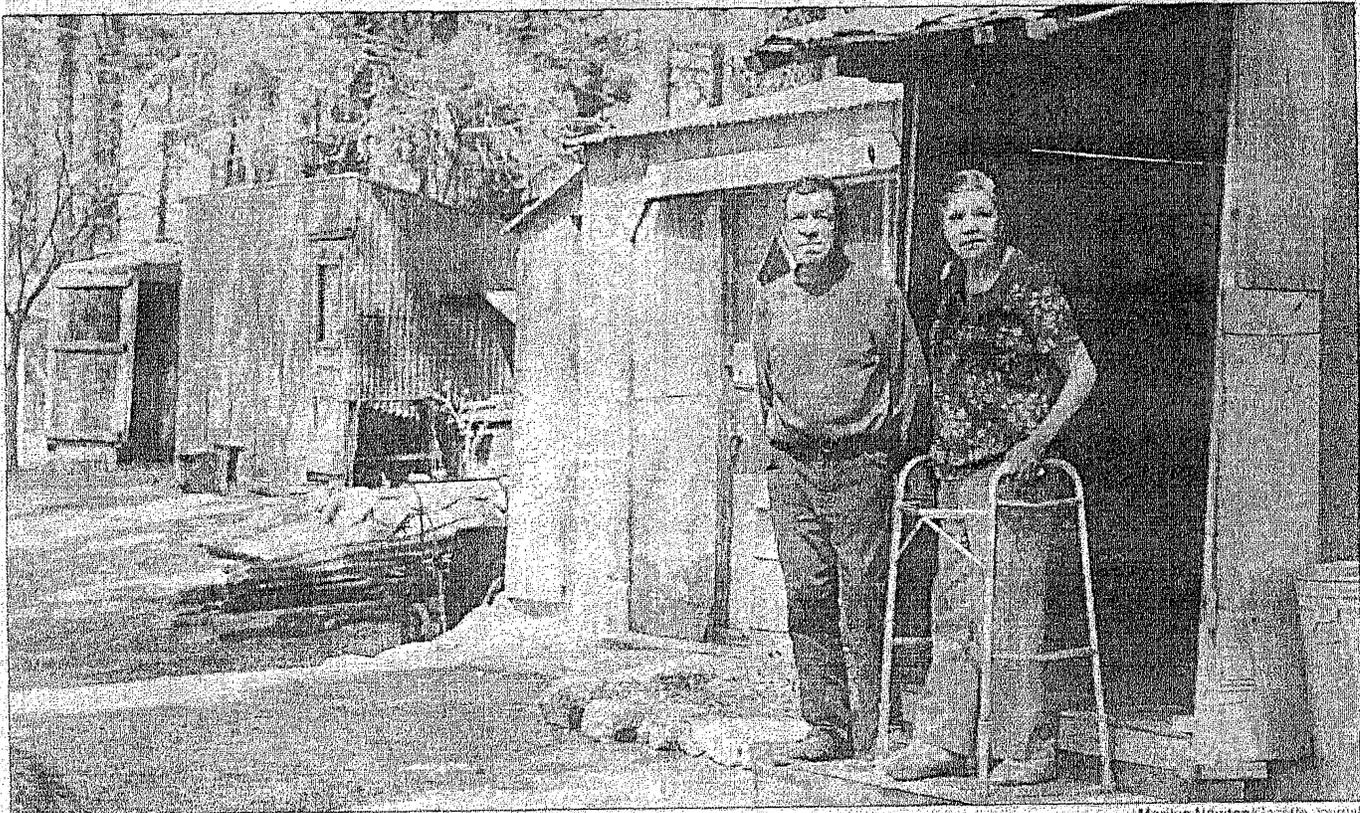
Letisia and three of her siblings were reportedly remanded to the custody of other family members by Alpine County authorities after a 1992 incident in Woodfords during which Letisia was allegedly bitten by her mother.

The children were returned to their parents through an order in Alpine County Superior Court about a month prior to Letisia's death.

Last week, Alpine County leaders voted 4-1 to ask the California Attorney General's Office and the state Department of Social Services to study the county's handling of the Ortiz case.

Supervisors also voted to hire Sacramento attorney Christopher Lee to conduct an independent probe into the matter.

Owner dispute may force seniors from their makeshift home



Marilyn Newton/Gazette-Journal

SHACK: Viviana Miller and Darrell "Sparky" Mix face eviction from this shack they have called home since September.

'They don't even think of me as human'

By Lisa A. Kirk
GAZETTE-JOURNAL

WOODFORDS, Calif. — Disabled Washoe Indian elder Viviana Miller says her own people treat her "no better than a dog."

"They don't even think of me as a human. It really hurts me but I think it is too late to make it better. The damage is already done."

Thin but still a beauty, 56-year-old Miller sits primly on the edge of her bright-colored quilted bedspread in the tiny, dark room. She dabs her dark, tear-filled eyes with a tissue.

Her walker is in front of her, within easy reach. A wood stove glows in the corner, the only heat in the ramshackle house built near the edge of the Carson Riv-

er. She has no running water. No indoor plumbing. No electricity.

But at least she has a roof over her head and some walls, said Alpine County District Attorney Hank Murdock.

Within days, she and her companion, Darrell "Sparky" Mix, probably will be evicted from the shack where they have lived since September.

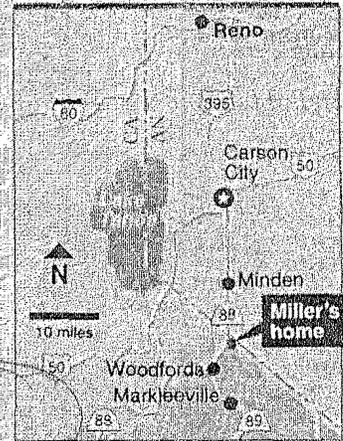
They have no legal right to be in the house, one of a collection of shanties on Indian trust land. The land belongs to people who don't want the couple on their property for security and safety reasons. Others say Miller and Mix aren't hurting anybody, and that if the living conditions don't bother them, why should anyone

else care? "We will have two old people on the street without the ability to take care of themselves," Murdock said, offering one reason why people should care. "Our Social Services Department will have an obligation to provide temporary relief, but we will then have a long-term problem."

The makeshift house is located on federal trust or Indian allotment land along Carson River Road near Diamond Valley. The property belongs to a group of 16 Native Americans and the majority interest owners want the couple out.

Miller and Mix have no right to be on the land — called the Old

See **HOUSE** on page 6B



Paul Horn/Gazette-Journal

Reno Gazette-Journal May 1, 1994

Alpine County arts group presents guitarist

On Sunday, May 22, the Alpine County Arts Commission will present international classical guitar virtuoso Klaus Jackle in concert at Turtle Rock Park Community Center at 3 p.m.

Tickets at the door are \$3 for adults, \$1, children 17 and under.

Klaus Jackle was born 1963 in

Waldkirch, Germany and got his first guitar lessons in Baden-Baden from Boris Bagger. Prior to studying exclusively with Pepe Romero he attended the music school "Mozarteum" in Salzburg where he obtained his diploma with excellence and won the highly acclaimed Lilli-Lehmann-

Medaille award from the "Internationale Stiftung Mozarteum," Salzburg.

1991 he released his first CD, "Jardin de Dolly" (Aurophon) with his wife Elisabeth Riessbeck, flute. A second album will release this fall with spanish solo music: "Concierto para una Fiesta."

5/15/94 R.C.

Murder suspect is competent to stand trial

by SHEILA GARDNER
Staff Writer

A Genoa woman accused of beating her 4-year-old daughter to death with a glass baby bottle is competent to stand trial, a district court judge ruled Monday.

Judge Tom Perkins ordered a preliminary hearing for Terri Jean Ortiz-Garcia, 27, accused of the murder of her daughter, after a psychiatrist and psychologist at Lake's Crossing Center for the Mentally Disordered Offender determined that she was mentally able to participate in her defense.

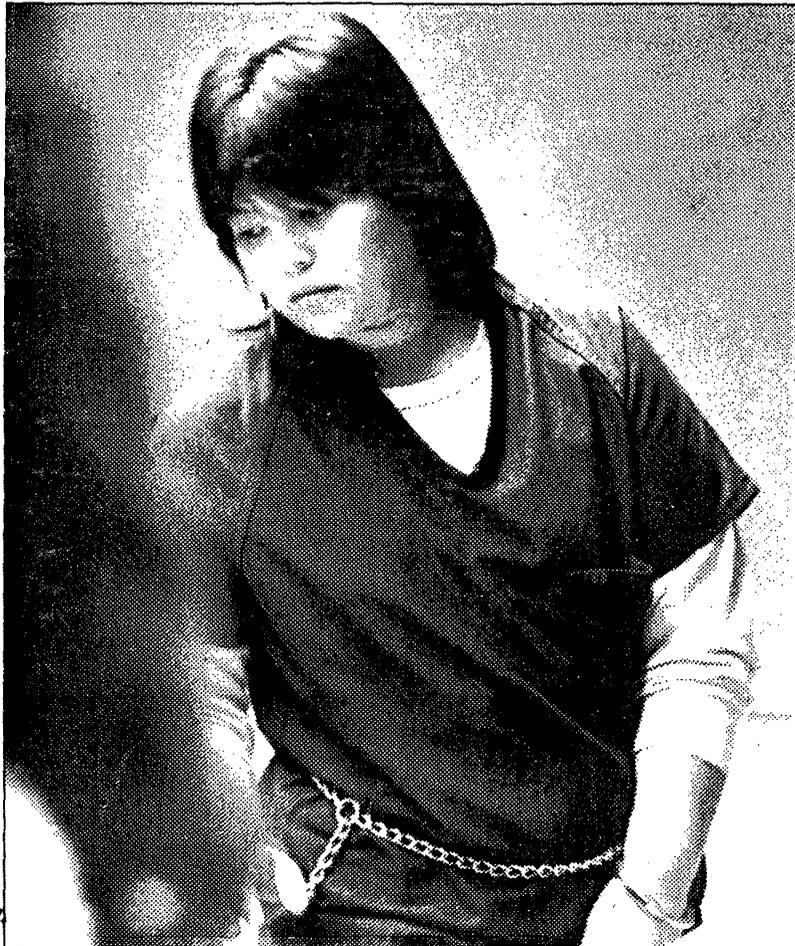
A preliminary hearing tentatively is scheduled for June 3 in East Fork Justice Court.

Letisia Joyce Ortiz died March 27 after suffering numerous blows to the head and body, allegedly at the hands of her mother.

Attorney Tod Young, representing Ortiz-Garcia, said Monday he could not argue with the Lake's Crossing evaluation of his client.

"If both reports find her competent, I'd be hard-pressed to tell you something other than that," Young said.

After Perkins agreed to seal the competency file, Young said he was concerned about conversations that his client claimed he had with her regarding her defense.



TERRI JEAN Ortiz-Garcia in court. R-C photo by Belinda Rohleder

"There is a reference ... about how to dispose of this case," Young said. "That conversation never occurred."

Perkins sealed the file based on a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that in order to get a valid evaluation, the suspect must be free to communicate with her doctors, and statements she makes may not be used against her in criminal proceedings.

Ortiz-Garcia has been charged with three felonies, murder, child abuse causing substantial bodily harm and battery with a deadly weapon; and one gross misdemeanor, child abuse.

Alpine County is investigating the case because the child was released from the California county's protection and given back to her mother in Douglas County despite objections from the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services.

Letisia and three of her siblings were reportedly remanded to the custody of other family members by Alpine County authorities after a 1992 incident in Woodfords during which Letisia was allegedly bitten by her mother.

The children were returned to their parents through an order in Alpine County Superior Court a month prior to Letisia's death.

Paramedics responded to a report of an injured child at the Little Mondeaux Ranch on March 23.

Continued to page 3

Suspect: Competent

Continued from page 1

Letisia was unconscious when they arrived and had bruises authorities said were consistent with child abuse. She was transported to Washoe Medical Center and placed on life support where she died four days later.

Investigators questioned Ortiz-Garcia about the injuries to her daughter. At first, she claimed that her 5-year-old daughter hit Letisia on the head four or five times with a baby bottle, but did not injure her. A short time later, she said she found Letisia face down on the floor with a chair on top of her.

Detectives interviewed the 5-year-old who said she allegedly saw her mother hit Letisia with the baby bottle. When confronted with

5/19/94 R.C

her daughter's statement, Ortiz-Garcia reportedly told detectives she became angry with Letisia and shook her until the little girl vomited. According to court documents, the woman said she hit the child five to six times in the head with a glass baby bottle.

Ortiz-Garcia remains in Douglas County Jail on \$500,000 bail.

Record Courier 5/19/94

May 19, 1994 Record Courier

Alpine library has an on-line computer program and CD-ROM access

In the struggle to remain open and viable as informational agencies, local libraries are opting to become entrance booths on the superhighway of information retrieval and disbursement. The Alpine County Free Library and Archives is no exception.

Diane Brigham, Alpine Country Librarian, has an active program of on-line computer and CD-ROM accessible services. Included in the services offered to the public and for library use are internet access; Legi-Tech, a source for California legislative

information; CARL Uncover, a source of magazine and document delivery; the University of California Library catalog; the Mountain Valley Library System, a consortium of some 17 public library systems which offers IMPACT, a CD-ROM catalog listing the holdings for the member libraries, available on inter-library loan.

The newest computer link to the information network is the receipt of a California State Library grant for a computer, printer and modem station dedicated to Internet use. This station will be operational and available to the public before the end of next summer.

This program will allow library patrons to sit at a station, call up Internet and access the thousands of national and international infor-

Alpine Archives

by JIM HOLDRIDGE

mation sources including E-mail. Legi-Tech is California's on-line legislative service available through Library Legislative Access Program offering member libraries through a toll-free computer modem hook-up, legislative data including bills and legislative analysis up to 10 pages. The board of supervisors and

administrative staff members have been invited to an instructional session to learn how the system works and its uses to local government.

Small libraries with limited collections such as Alpine County Library find in the Mountain Valley Library System an opportunity to access and acquire loans from member library systems. A periodical up-date via CD-ROM technology allows member libraries to "browse" through collections for specific requests.

New additions to the local collection are added to the file on a scheduled program. In addition to the technology

services offered to library patrons which literally opens the doors to national and international resources, the Alpine County Library is undertaking a modernization program of computer-assisted cataloging and circulation. The Alpine County Friends of the Library has pledged financial and physical support for this project.

As Alpine County Library moves toward the 21st Century, hopefully its services to the public will keep pace.

Editor's note: Jim Holdridge is a member of the Alpine County Library board and lives in Alpine County.

CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
New Church Development, PCUSA



Worship & Church School
at 4:00 pm, Sunday

Hospitality Hour Following Service

Sermon: To be Announced

We meet at Coventry Cross Episcopal Church
 1631 Esmeralda, Minden **782-3781**

Extension: Can child stay home alone?

Alpine PAL wrestlers win medals

Eight members of the Alpine County wrestlers competed at the California Police Activities League (PAL) State Tournament last Saturday in Los Banos.

The Alpine County PAL program had a successful trip, according to coach Dave Fontana.

"The boys did really well bringing home six medals," Fontana stated.

Budd Nollett and Jeff Martin earned first-place medals in their age and weight divisions. Nollett, just a 13-year-old, won the 13-14 age group 80-pound class and Martin was a gold medalist in the 11-12 age group 70-pound class.

Troy Fontana, a 13-year-old 125-pounder took second-place, while Eric Rogers, Frank Roza and Lysle Turnbeaugh each earned third-place medals.

Gary Coyan and Cameron Quell also made the trip to the PAL tournament.

Along with the individual medals, Alpine captured fifth-place in the team standings, according to Fontana.

Dos Palos, a small community with a rich football and wrestling tradition in California's central Valley, captured top honors.

Incidentally, Alpine County will host the 1995 California PAL tournament.

Six members of the Alpine PAL program are now preparing for the USA Western Regional Championships June 20-25 in Fresno, Calif. Jeff John, Roza, Martin, Nollett and Fontana qualified for the regional tournament by placing among the top three in their divisions at the Nevada state tournament in February.

May 22, 1994 Record
Courier

Mark Twain is subject of new book

A new historical novel about Mark Twain's life in Virginia City is being published by Eastern Sierra Press. "The Apprentice Twain," by Michael J. Makley, tells the story of the young Twain learning to write as a reporter for The Territorial Enterprise.

Author Makley grew up in this area and uses tales told through the years here to develop this rollicking adventure. Virginia City, once the richest, most raucous and dangerous town in the West, plays a large part in the story.

Featured characters include

"Enterprise" editor Joseph Goodman, celebrated reporter Dan DeQuille, "Master Whip of the Sierras" Hank Monk, renown courtesan Julia Bullette and several members of the "crimson discipleship," the gunmen.

The story covers hilarious events in Twain's life in the West, such as a scuffle in which the hero suffers at the hands of a 10-year-old; "Enterprise" hoaxes including Twain's "Massacre at Dutch Nick's," which causes him to change his name (from Clemens) and nearly his career;

and a binge of "momentous occasion" with DeQuille and famed humorist Artemus Ward. Martin Lane, editor of the "Comstock Chronicle," says "The Apprentice Twain" "brilliantly depicts the combination of male camaraderie and good times, tempered by the ever-present danger of living in a frontier town, which led Mark Twain to recall his Comstock days with such great affection." "The Apprentice Twain" is available at stores and shops throughout Northern California and Nevada.

Record Courier
May 22, 1994

State critical of Alpine County child protection

BY BRIAN MAFFLY
Tribune Staff Writer

In the wake of a girl's abuse-related death, California social services officials say Alpine County should upgrade its training of child protection workers.

The recommendations by the state Department of Social Services came in the wake of the March 27 death of 4-year-old Letisia Ortiz, allegedly at the hands of her mother. Authorities believe Terry Jean Garcia-Ortiz, a 27-year-old mother of seven, fatally beat her daughter shortly after the Alpine courts returned the girl to her abusive mother.

The report, presented Tuesday to Alpine's county supervisors, found "only technical violations" with county social workers' handling of the Ortiz case.

State investigators did not address the sensitive issue of why Letisia was returned to her mother, which is the subject of an independent probe by a private attorney whose findings remained secret last week.

The DSS probe found that Alpine social services staff failed to follow standard procedures for advising

their Nevada counterparts before and after Letisia was returned to Garcia-Ortiz, who had moved across the state line to Douglas County.

The state's findings were endorsed by Alpine's social services chief, Patricia Shuman, who plans to implement the report's recommendations.

"I don't have any problems with their findings at all," she said. "We did make an error in not notifying interstate (Nevada) and in not sending the exact form. ... From my point of view, it's a lot of technicalities."

When Garcia-Ortiz regained custody of Letisia, Alpine failed to secure a so-called Interstate Child Placement Compact, a required agreement with Nevada officials to monitor the family. Alpine officials, however, regularly visited the Ortiz family while they lived in Douglas, according to the report.

The state recommends Alpine train its child protective staff to ensure that they follow interstate placement procedures more closely, visit families regularly and document their progress and devise case plans in close association with the families.

Alpine authorities reportedly took custody of Letisia

Ortiz and a sister in June 1992 because of physical abuse occurring in their Woodfords home.

Ortiz' attorneys and a Pit River tribal social worker lobbied the Alpine Superior Court to place Letisia and her sister with the mother in early 1994, according to the DSS report. The court granted the request over the objections of county child protective staff, who argued for more family counseling while the two sisters remained in foster care.

The children on Jan. 24 were handed over to Garcia-Ortiz, who was then living on a ranch with her husband near Genoa. Two months later, Letisia was rushed to Washoe Medical Center with a major head injury inflicted by a bottle. She died after a few days in a coma.

Garcia-Ortiz faces a preliminary hearing June 3 in East Fork Justice Court on murder, assault and child abuse charges. She is being held on \$500,000 bail, while some of her remaining children reportedly are living with relatives in Redding, Calif.

The question remains why Alpine Superior Court agreed to return Letisia to the parents, despite documented patterns of past abuse. Sources believe that

Judge Harold Bradford's decision to reunite the family was made on the basis of inadequate information.

California's philosophy governing child protective services is to work toward family reunification, with an emphasis on rehabilitating dysfunctional parents. Parental rights are revoked only in cases of extreme and repeated abuse and neglect.

Alpine's Board of Supervisors retained a Sacramento attorney, Christopher Lee, to probe the county's handling of the Ortiz case. The attorney presented his findings at a recent closed supervisors meeting.

The board "strongly" backs Lee's recommendations, but chairman Donald Jardine declined to specify them or release the report.

Jardine said the board may release the Lee findings after its June 7 meeting.

The Attorney General's Office, meanwhile, declined the county's request to investigate the Ortiz matter. But the office will provide legal counsel and investigative assistance to the Alpine County grand jury should the citizen watchdog panel launch its own probe.

Shots fired in bid for district attorney

May 23, 1994 Tahoe Daily

BY BRIAN MAFFLY
Tribune Staff Writer

Tribune

Henry "Hank" Murdock has never seen an opponent in his three previous bids to serve Alpine County as its district attorney.

The rural county, after all, is home to only three attorneys, so there isn't much competition for the post that handles less than two dozen felony cases a year.

But this year's election is different for Hank Murdock, who became district attorney in 1980.

A Woodfords attorney, who has virtually no experience in criminal law, wants to replace him. Accusing Murdock of prosecutorial sloth, Tim Pemberton contends the incumbent cuts too many deals with criminals.

"I look through the files and all I see are a bunch of plea bargains," said the 48-year-old Pemberton, a logger-turned-litigator who joined the California bar in 1981. "The criminals are just being rotated through the system with plea bargains that are way out of whack."

Pemberton alleges the deals are the result of lazy trial preparation on the part of Murdock, and if the voters tap Pemberton for the job, he pledges to prosecute serious crime to the fullest extent.

"Without diligent and successful prosecution of felony criminal cases in Alpine County ... the crime rate will continue to grow," he wrote in a campaign statement.

Murdock defended plea negotiations as an accepted part of criminal prosecution, sanctioned by the Legislature and the courts.

"He's criticizing something that he doesn't know how the hell to do," the prosecutor said, denying he misuses the plea process. "You're changing people's lives around. These are decisions that take a great deal of compassion and humanity."

"They (defense attorneys) can shut the system down cold," Murdock continued. "All they have to do is to

insist on arguing every drunk driving case to a jury. There has to be a meeting of the minds."

About half of Alpine's criminal filings are DUI cases.

"We don't have the resources to try ever one," Murdock said. "I have to balance the resources, interests of justice, court time and the seriousness of the offense."

Pemberton and Murdock, who make little effort to hide their dislike of one another, present Alpine's 800 registered voters a choice between two very different attorneys. Pemberton is known as a vigorous advocate with a hot temper. On the other hand, Murdock, a 58-year-old former Marine who grew up in North Carolina, has an informal, personable style, according to court observers.

The Alpine district attorney position, which pays \$50,000 a year, is a multiple-hat post because the light criminal caseload affords time for other duties. Murdock's office files about 20 felony and 150 misdemeanor cases a year. South Lake Tahoe prosecutors see that kind of action in a slow month.

Pemberton acknowledges his inexperience at the criminal bar, but stresses he has 13 solid years of litigating civil matters in state courts in several nearby counties, as well as in the federal courts. Should he win the June 7 election, Pemberton will spend the next six months "interning" with the district attorney of an unnamed neighboring county.

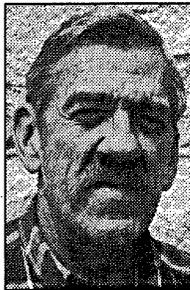
Pemberton said his civil law skills, particularly in natural resource law, will serve the county well. Alpine is one of two California counties in which the district attorney also serves as county counsel, a post that provides legal services to the Board of Supervisors.

"Chasing water around and zoning intricacies I don't know well," Murdock conceded. "There's no way to keep up with all that and run a good criminal practice."

Counseling other elected officials is a secondary task that may better be left to outside attorneys appointed on an as-needed basis, according to Murdock.

"As county counsel, I just do crisis management," he said. "I don't go out there and sue the U.S. government or whoever else irritates the Board of Supervisors. You elect a district attorney to prosecute crime."

In contested elections, Murdock is 0-and-2, having lost two stabs at judicial posts, most recently his 1992 bid to unseat Alpine Superior Court Judge Harold Bradford.



Murdock



Pemberton

Alpine County 'Arts of Trout' this Saturday

The "Arts of Trout" fishing tournament and art show will be held Saturday in Alpine County.

To start the day, a tournament will be held from 7 a.m. to noon at Indian Creek Reservoir. Registration begins at 6 a.m. at the reservoir's boat ramp and the entry fee is \$10.

Art show, including fly-tying demonstrations, fishing equipment, paintings, taxidermy, dance and more will be held between noon and 9 p.m. at Turtle Rock Park, located on Highway 89 between Woodfords and Markleeville. Admission to the art show and dance is \$5.

An awards ceremony will be held at Turtle Rock Park at 6 p.m.

For further information regarding the event, call the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce at (916) 694-2475. The event is being co-sponsored by the chamber of commerce and the Alpine County Arts Commission.

5/12/94 R.C.

May 26 1994 R.C.

Alpine County sheriff's race heats up

Villa "Lew" Roper is hoping to bring more community involvement and professionalism to the Alpine County Sheriff's Office.

The veteran California Highway Patrol officer is running against incumbent Sheriff Henry "Skip" Veatch.

Veatch, 48, responds that under his tenure the office has improved and become closer to the community, particularly with the creation of the Police Activities League

and the anti-drug DARE program.

"I believe the Sheriff's Department has grown in effectiveness during the last four years," Veatch said. "We have upgraded our training of deputies and gotten a better handle on the crime in Alpine County."

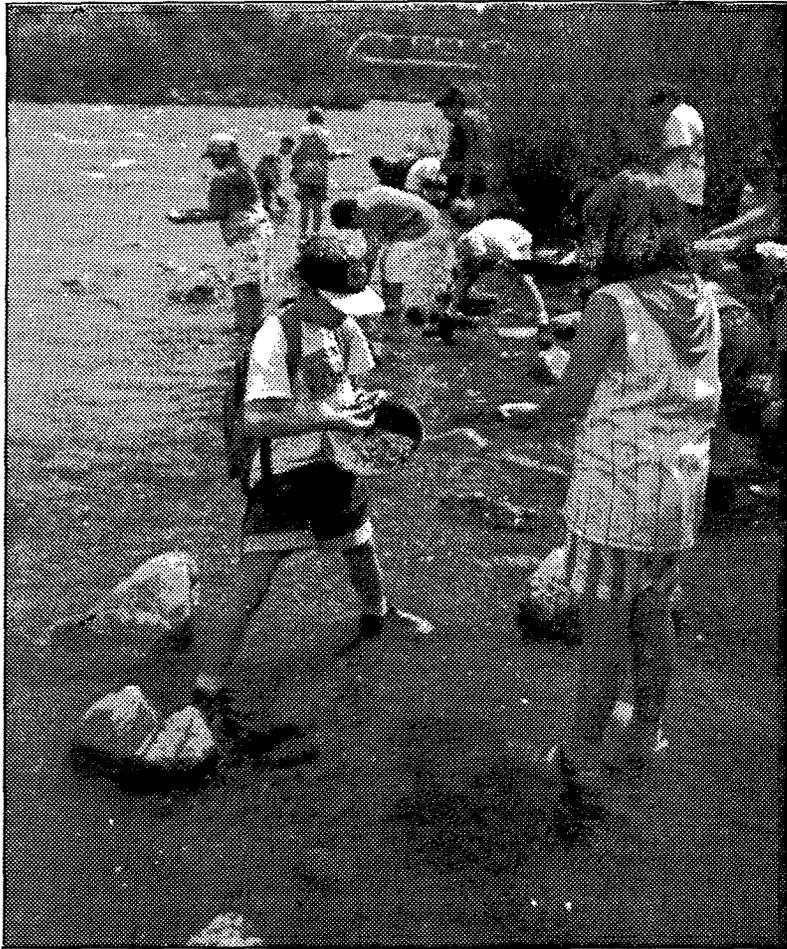
But the sheriff's challenger wants Alpine law enforcement to be held to a higher standard and more public accountability.

The centerpiece of Roper's cam-

paign is a Citizen Review Board to handle complaints against officers and recommend disciplinary actions.

"If people are unhappy about the department, I want them to come to me and I will work with them," said Roper, a 46-year-old Woodfords resident.

Alpine's 800 registered voters have a June 7 deadline to return their mail ballots on the sheriff's race and other county elections.



Fourth and fifth grade students spent a day exploring Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park. DVS photo

Diamond Valley School kids take tour of the Gold Country

by MARY WOOD
Special to the R-C

Sharon Osgood's 4th/5th grade class at Diamond Valley School recently spent a day exploring the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park in Coloma, Calif.

The students have been studying California history, and the field trip gave them the opportunity to see first-hand the area along the American River where the Gold Rush of 1848 started.

The group started their tour at the museum, which provides excellent displays about the early history of the area, placer mining and how the gold rush began (while supervising the construction of John Sutter's mill, James Marshall discovered the first yellow flecks of gold).

After the museum, the class saw an old miner's cabin, stamp mills, a huge water pump used in hydraulic mining, and an old Chinese market. A short hike brought them to the top of the hill where James Marshall's statue stands, pointing toward the site of his discovery.

They also saw the cabin where James Marshall lived, the town cemetery, and an old jail cell.

Everyone enjoyed a picnic lunch in the park, and then listened to an interpretive talk at the replica of Sutter's Mill. The sawmill was originally being built to supply lumber for Sutter's Fort (early day Sacramento), but when word of Marshall's gold discovery got out, people left Sutter's Fort and moved to the mill area. The lumber was used there, and the town of Coloma was born. The park ranger also showed the group how a water-powered saw mill works.

After that, the class, armed with gold pans and plenty of ambition, headed down to the original mill site on the river to pan for gold. Even though no one made their fortune, and they learned that gold panning can be tiring and frustrating, they all had fun!

It was a warm, sunny day and cooling off in the river felt good. The trip was a good addition to their study of California's history.

Concert set in Alpine June 4

On Saturday, June 4, the Alpine County Arts Commission will present the Sacramento Youth Symphony in concert at Diamond Valley School in Woodfords.

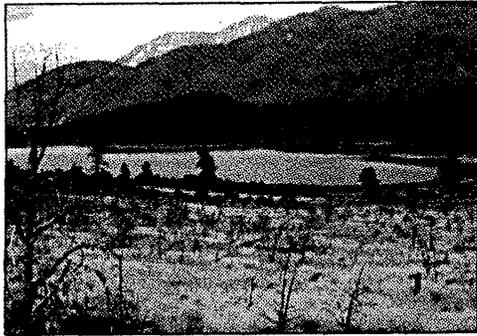
Conductor Michael Neumann will feature the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto with guest violinist

Victor Nguyen.

Tickets are \$3 adults and \$1 for age 17 and under, and will be on sale at the door.

Food will be on sale prior to the concert starting at noon as a benefit for the Alpine County Kids program.

FISHING



R. Dickerson/Special to Gazette-Journal

FISHING COUNTRY: Alpine County is a favorite of many local fisherman.

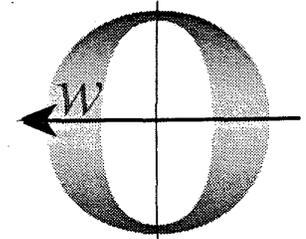
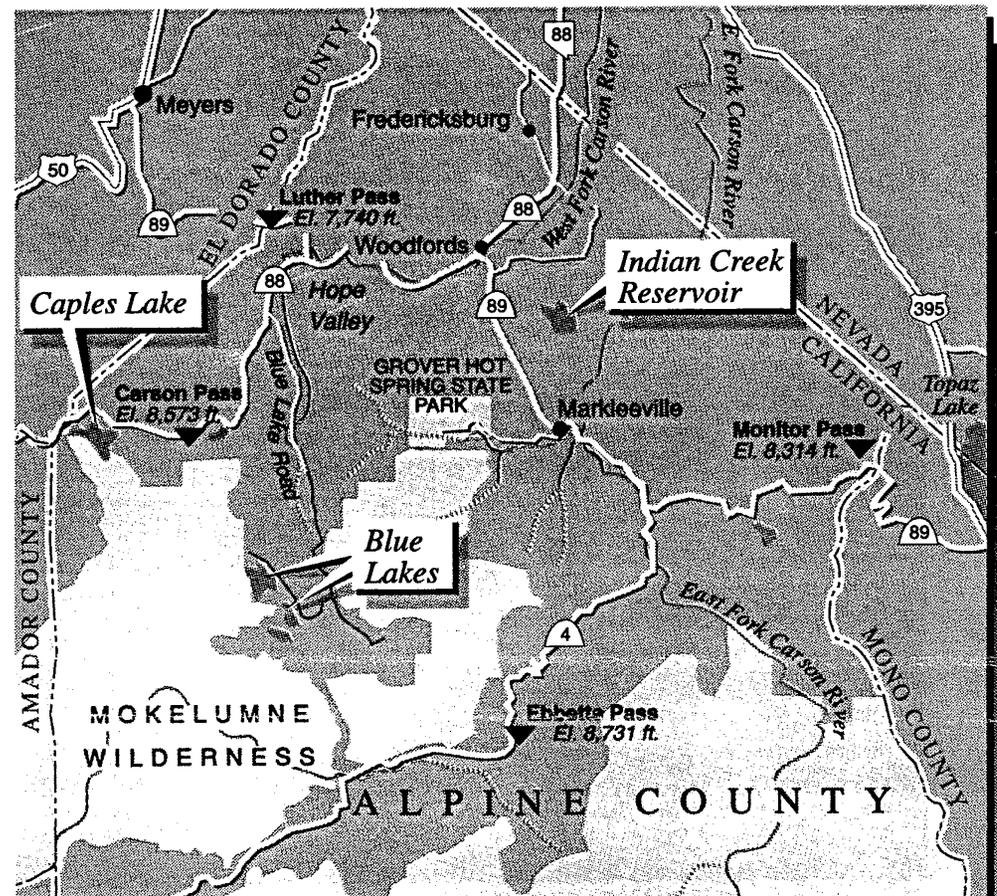
Alpine: fish county

By Richard Dickerson

Finding and exploring a new lake or stream is one of the pleasures of fishing. Every angler daydreams about a remote lake teeming with trout, but few exist. There is, however, an area close to Reno often missed by local fisherman.

Alpine County is an overlooked fishing destination. Tucked into the Sierra south of Lake Tahoe, this rural county is the origin of five major rivers and has more than 60 lakes.

FISHING IN ALPINE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



Traveling Alpine County

Indian Creek Reservoir: south of Woodfords, off of Highway 89. Drive four miles before turning east for about three more miles to find Indian Creek.

Alpine Lake: continue south on Highway 89 through Markleeville. Where 89 turns east, Highway 4 begins.

Caples Lake: located on Highway 88, about 15 miles from the intersection where Highway 89 turns north to Lake Tahoe.

Blue Lakes: lie 12 miles

Year-round, Indian Creek is the most popular water in the county," said J.E. Warren, owner of Horse Feather Fly Fishing School in Markleeville, Calif.

Indian Creek sits at 5,600-foot elevation about seven miles north of Markleeville. The small lake, 160 surface acres, is home to rainbow, brook, Kamloops, and Lahontan cutthroat trout.

"It's good for fly fishing, bank fishing, lures, bait, small boats and float tubes," Warren said.

Last year Warren and a group of volunteers helped California Fish and Game workers survey Indian Creek's trout population. Most of the fish they found were chunky rainbows in the three-pound class. Warren described them as little footballs that you couldn't put both hands around.

The Kamloops strain of rainbow trout deserves its reputation among anglers. Rainbows are known for their tendency to jump when hooked. Kamloops trout jump higher than any other rainbow trout.

Warren says yellow Rooster Tails, green and gold Panther Martins, Super Dupers and the new Jake's lure in 1/4- to 1/8-ounce sizes work well at Indian Creek.

"Large garden worms work well anywhere," Warren said. "Orange Power Bait appears to be the color choice this year."

In early April, Indian Creek's water level was a little low. When full, the lake is 54 feet deep, but the April depth was 49 feet.

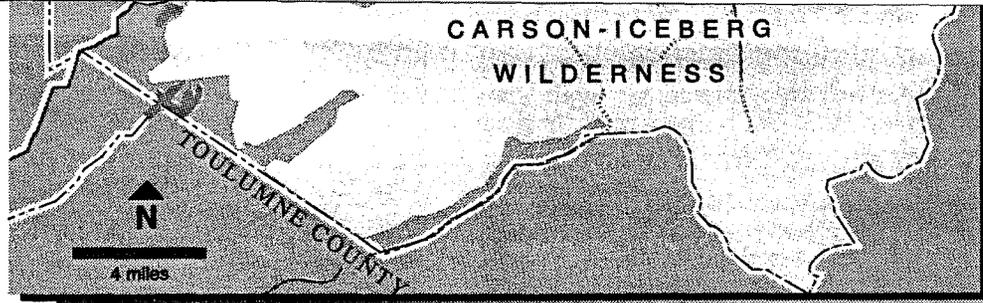
Above where the snow plows stop, beyond Ebbetts Pass on Highway 4, lies a trout fishing sleeper. Lake Alpine is a slightly larger lake that doesn't get a lot of spring and early summer fishing pressure.

The pass south of Markleeville usually opens in early May — just in time for the opening of California's trout season.

"It's great for canoes and float tubes, but spotty for shore fishing," Warren said.

Alpine County's boat regulations work well at Alpine Lake. Speed limits require boats leave a flat wake.

Large streamer flies like a Woolly Worm fool Alpine Lake trout, according to Warren. She says black Panther Martin lures work well. Also, lures with a little



Mark Nowlin/Gazette-Journal

silver and white catch trout, too.

Another Alpine County angling hot spot sits near the Carson Pass on Highway 88. Caples Lake has 600 surface acres and holds big brown trout and mackinaw.

"A 13-pound mackinaw came out last year," Warren said.

Access is easy at Caples Lake. The highway runs the length of the north shore. The dam area is one of the lake's favorite shore fishing spots and other prime shore locations are right off the highway. Trolling anglers have an improved boat ramp for launching.

Warren says successful fisherman use the same tactics and tackle at Indian Creek.

"The orange Power Bait and a little larger worm seems to work better," Warren said.

Warren recommends the same techniques when fishing Alpine County's Blue Lakes. Actually, among a chain of several lakes near the 8,000-foot elevation, Blue Lake is one of the most picturesque in the county.

The upper and lower lakes are the most consistent rainbow trout producers in the chain.

Alpine County has a lot of angling possibilities. Indian Creek, Alpine Lake, Caples Lake and Blue Lakes are just a few of them. Who knows? One of these lakes, or another one close by, may have an abundance of hungry trout on the day you arrive. You'll never know until you try.



R. Dickerson/Special to Gazette-Journal

REWARD: Glen Grevert holds an Alpine County prize, a rainbow from Indian Creek Reservoir.



R. Dickerson/Special to Gazette-Journal

FISH FOOTBALL: Indian Creek's trout are football shaped fish that provide exciting fishing.

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ENDURANCE ATHLETES

Waldear makes most of locale

By John Trent
GAZETTE-JOURNAL

It was a crisp day in late March when some unsuspecting members of the U.S. national women's cross country ski team were beaten at their own game by 44-year-old Debbie Waldear.

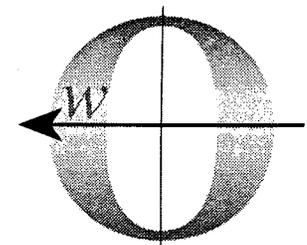
No matter it was the California Gold Rush, one of the largest cross country ski races on the West Coast.

No matter these were U.S. Olympians, only a month removed from the Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway.

Waldear, who has made practically all of Lake Tahoe her back yard since 1972, finished sixth overall in the 30-kilometer race, beating U.S. Olympian Suzanne King and finishing only 33 seconds behind the top U.S. skier at Lillehammer, Nina Kemmel of Anchorage, Alaska.

If that wasn't enough, Waldear also took first among all master's (over 40 years old) entrants.

Waldear's final time for the 18.6-mile race was 1 hour and 42 minutes.



Booming past 40

You'd like to say Debbi Waldear's success is because of the magical waters of Lake Tahoe.

But the 44-year-old Waldear, of Woodfords, Calif., has produced premium national-caliber performances into her 40s because of a much less mystical reason: common sense.

"It was pretty exciting for someone 44 years old," Waldear said.

Pretty exciting for anyone any age. Not surprising, though, as far as Waldear is concerned.

A year ago, Waldear won world master's titles in cross country skiing at 20K and 10K. For the past 15 years, she's been among the area's best runners.

Mix all the ability with a Lake Tahoe locale Waldear wouldn't trade for anything, and you've got one of the Sierra's most formidable competitors.

Tracing Waldear's athletic lineage more or less begins with the year she first visited Lake Tahoe in 1970. She was a student at Sacramento State University.

In 1972, when she had an opportunity to take a job as a backcountry ranger for the U.S. Forest Service in the Desolation Wilderness, Waldear jumped.

The allure of the wild — and solitude — was strong.

"You would spend so many days in the backcountry living alone, then you would come out for your days off," she said.

"I guess it's hard to handle all the stuff that's going on in society, so I like to remove myself."

Waldear worked for the Forest Service for about seven years.

It was near the end of her tour of backcountry duty that she tried running and cross country skiing competitively for the first time.

She found trail running challenging, yet

MOUNTAIN WOMAN: Debbi Waldear exhibits the form that has made her one of the top cross country skiers in the country. The 44-year-old Waldear recently finished only a few seconds behind America's best Olympic skier, Nina Kemppel, 23, of Anchorage, Alaska, in a race at Royal Gorge.

Marilyn Newton/Gazette-Journal

soothing.

On cross country skis, Waldear discovered she was more than just competitive.

"It was the typical situation where you do your first race in touring skis and end up doing pretty well," she said. "Then everybody says, 'You could do so much better if you had better skis.'"

Waldear bought better skis. By 1984, she'd qualified for the first of two U.S. Olympic Cross Country Skiing Trials.

By 1987 she'd won a national championship.

Waldear also established herself as one of the area's best female runners.

She remains practically untouchable on any local race where there are many hills and little pavement.

"I don't live anywhere that's flat," said Waldear, who has resided primarily in the South Lake Tahoe area. Recently she purchased a home in Woodfords, Calif., in Alpine County.

"A flat run for me is probably hilly for

anyone else. I always run hills."

Strangely, it was during one of Waldear's most focused periods during the mid- to late-1980s that she discovered what the Lake Tahoe area really meant.

It was where Waldear felt most comfortable.

"During the 1980s I spent some time traveling and training and racing overseas . . . and I got burned out," she said. "I have no desire to do it again.

"I'd much rather be at home than staying in motels. Then, I was waiting for a race in order to get my reward.

"Now, I have so much to do here. I have a home, I raise animals (she owns and raises llamas). That's my reward."

She still has many goals.

Next year's World Master's Cross Country Skiing Championships in Canada are a priority.

She also wants to continue pouring herself into her job of the last seven years as director of the cross country skiing center at Kirkwood ski area.

Does she train as hard at 44 than she did at 34 in preparation for cross country skiing and running races?

"No," Waldear said, chuckling. "But I've got a few more wrinkles."

Alternating hard/easy days: "I'm probably more aware of taking it easy when I need to instead of training hard all the time," she said.

Varied training: Since she has lived in hilly areas, Waldear uses the hills to her advantage. "I run a lot of hill repeats," she said.

Tailoring training to lifestyle/work: Waldear, who's the director of the nordic skiing center at Kirkwood ski area, gets out on the snow at least twice a day.

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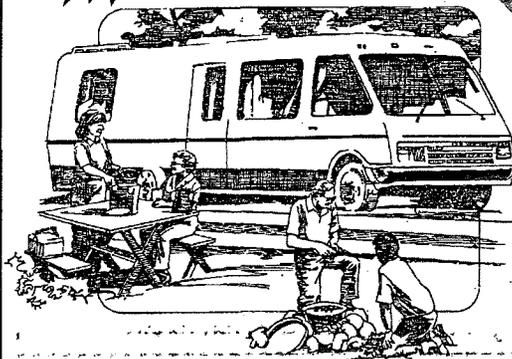
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Experts testify in 4-year-old's death

by SHEILA GARDNER
Staff Writer

Four-year-old Letisia Ortiz never woke up to tell who inflicted the head injuries which killed her, but her battered body left many clues for experts to determine that the little girl died of abuse.

"Her collective injuries are indicative of multiple episodes of non-accidental injury," said Dr. Ellen Clark, a Reno pathologist. "Letisia was a victim of physical abuse."

Clark testified with two other doctors, law enforcement officers

and the little girl's father, Gilberto Ortiz, during a two-day preliminary hearing in East Fork Justice Court which ended Friday.

The hearing was to determine if there is enough evidence to bind Terri Jean Ortiz-Garcia over to District Court for prosecution on murder charges.

Mrs. Ortiz-Garcia, 27, the victim's mother, is charged with three felonies: murder, child abuse causing substantial bodily harm and battery with a deadly weapon, and one gross misdemeanor, child abuse.

Letisia Joyce Ortiz died March

27 after suffering numerous blows to the head and body.

East Fork Justice Doug Struthers said he will rule Monday whether to bind the suspect over and on what charges.

Clark, who examined Letisia before and after she died, told deputy district attorney Kris Brown that the little girl's body was covered with bruises, skin break injuries and head and scalp injuries. She also suffered deep abdominal bruising.

The medical expert also testified that skin break injuries around

Continued to page 2

Ortiz-Garcia: Child died from multiple injuries

Continued from page 1

Letisia's wrists and ankles indicated the little girl had been grabbed or tied up. Some of the child's bruises were so recent that Clark indicated they could have been inflicted up to an hour before her parents summoned help because Letisia was unconscious.

"She died of blunt traumatic injuries to the head, specifically the brain," said Clark, an expert in the study of physical abuse of children.

Clark said Letisia suffered from shaking impact and blunt impact syndrome which means that she was shaken so vigorously that she suffered a fatal brain injury. She also said that the injuries could not be self-inflicted.

"These were not normal childhood injuries," Clark testified.

Letisia's father, Gilberto Ortiz, testified with the assistance of a court interpreter that he came home for lunch on March 23 and found the little girl sitting alone in her bedroom.

He said he argued with his wife because he discovered a scratch on Letisia's face. He said he told the suspect that he wanted Letisia to play more with her sisters and brother.

Ortiz said he was home for about half an hour and then went back to work on the Little Mondeaux Ranch in Genoa where his family also lives.

He said he drove past the house once and Letisia's sisters waved to him from the window. The second time he drove past, Ortiz testified

that his wife came running out because she said Letisia was unconscious.

Ortiz said he found Letisia on the floor and her mother attempting to revive her. He ran to a nearby house for help and when he returned Mrs. Ortiz-Garcia had picked up Letisia and placed her on a bed.

"Letisia had started breathing a little. Terri had been able to help her. I told Terri to carry her to the car. But then the paramedics came and put her in the grass by the car," Ortiz testified.

Ortiz said he made the decision at Washoe Medical Center four days later to remove the child from life support system.

Letisia underwent surgery to relieve pressure on her brain, but neurosurgeon Dr. Dante Bacca testified that her injuries were too severe.

"Her prognosis after surgery was the same as before — poor," Bacca said.

"The doctors told me if they took the tubes off, she would die. They told me she would never get well. It was a very hard decision. They told me I could hold her," Ortiz said.

Under cross-examination by the suspect's attorney, Tod Young, Ortiz admitted that he beat his wife. Judge Struthers granted him immunity from prosecution in exchange for his testimony.

He said he hit his wife with a belt, his hand and his boot, but denied he ever struck her with a tire iron, glass bottle or 2-by-4.

Ortiz also testified that he had very little to do with the children's care, leaving it up to his wife to dress and bathe the four children.

Letisia is survived by two sisters, Rosa, 5 and Christina, 2 and her 9-month-old brother, Arnold.

East Fork paramedic Dennis Atchison testified that he responded to an emergency call to the Little Mondeaux Ranch at 3 p.m. on March 23 for a report of a sick child. A first response team already was on the scene when Atchison arrived.

"The child was lying on a backboard. I started to check the patient and I could see she was unresponsive," Atchison testified. He said she was able to draw approximately one breath a minute on her own. He said the pupil in her left eye indicated pressure on the brain and she had blood around her mouth.

"It was a scoop and run," Atchison said. "Everything I needed to do, I needed to do enroute to the hospital. There was no time to stay at the scene."

Atchison said he cut off Letisia's sleeper and noticed the bruises that covered her body.

"Once I saw the bruising, I asked the driver to notify dispatch to have a Douglas County Sheriff's officer meet us at the hospital because we suspected child abuse."

Letisia was transported by Care-Flight from Carson-Tahoe Hospital to Washoe Medical Center where she died four days later.

Sheriff's investigator Robert

Cooke testified that he saw the child at Carson-Tahoe Hospital and observed several bruises on her body that he believed were caused by a strap or belt as well as hand and fingerprints.

According to Cooke, Mrs. Ortiz-Garcia originally told him that 5-year-old Rosa struck Letisia four or five times with a baby bottle and that a chair had fallen on her.

He said he questioned Rosa who denied the allegations and who Cooke said was incapable of inflicting the type of injuries suffered by Letisia.

Cooke said Mrs. Ortiz-Garcia finally confessed that she was the one who struck the child.

Under questioning by attorney Young, Cooke denied that he threatened Mrs. Ortiz-Garcia with the death penalty or told her that she would not see her children until she confessed.

"I never told her that if she did not tell the truth, she would never see her children. She wasn't telling the truth, she was lying. I might have told her she was going to prison, but I don't recall telling her she would get the death penalty," Cooke said.

Cooke said the initial tape recording of their conversations failed because the tabs on the tape were broken which meant it could not be taped over. The only record he has is of her second conversation.

Mrs. Ortiz-Garcia remains in Douglas County Jail on \$500,000 bail.

Alpine County sheriff's race ends in dead tie

By BRIAN MAFFLY
Tribune Staff Writer

Alpine County voters Tuesday deadlocked in their sheriff's election, while tossing incumbent District Attorney Henry "Hank" Murdock out of office by a resounding margin.

Sheriff Henry "Skip" Veatch and his challenger, California Highway Patrol Officer Villa "Lew" Roper, each garnered 276 votes, thus delaying an outcome in the race.

The tie sent county officials running to the state's Government Code to figure out how to handle the deadlock. County Clerk

Barbara Jones determined that the two-way race must be resolved in a "runoff" election in November, a prospect neither candidate is happy about.

"I wish it was going to be over. You don't want the campaign to drag on for another five months," said Roper, a 21-year CHP veteran who moved to Woodfords nine years ago. "I plan to take some time off from the campaign road — for a month — and then hit it again going door-to-door."

Said Veatch, "I was hoping to know one way or the other whether I was going to have a job."

Election observers pointed out that the results in the sheriff's race show the difference individual voters can make.

"To me there's a good message in this. Your vote does count," said attorney Tim Pemberton, who defeated Murdock in the district attorney race. "Here's an example where if one more person would have voted it would have been decisive in the results."

Murdock's re-election bid was far from inconclusive. By a 3-2 margin, the voters handed the district attorney job to Pemberton, a Woodfords attorney with virtually no experience in criminal law.

Neither sheriff candidate plans to seek a recount, although any Alpine voter has until Tuesday to make such a request.

Roper outpolled Veatch in the western part of the county, where he lives and patrols, while Veatch dominated in Markleeville and Bear Valley.

Three or four ballots in Bear Valley reportedly were disqualified because the voters failed to sign the outside of the envelopes.

Veatch said he's looking forward to refining his campaign message, which focuses on the accomplishments of his first term as sheriff, before returning to the stump.

His platform stressed the community programs, such as the Police Activities League and the anti-drug message of DARE, as examples of how his six-deputy department is building ties with the community.

Roper, however, contends his strong finish shows voter skepticism of Veatch's tenure.

"I think it should send a message to him that half the voting population is not happy with him," said Roper, whose platform calls for greater public accountability in the Sheriff's Office. His central goal is to create a citizen review board to investigate complaints against officers.

June 10, 1994

Tahoe Daily Tribune

Sierra voters send DAs packing

By BRIAN MAFFLY
Tribune Staff Writer

Alpine County voters were hardly alone on Tuesday when they handed District Attorney Hank Murdock his walking papers.

Incumbents in three neighboring counties met defeat at the hands of younger attorneys, all promising change and aggressive prosecution.

In Alpine's case, the voters tapped Woodfords attorney Tim Pemberton, who has no experience in criminal law, to succeed Murdock in the incumbent's first-ever contested race. The vote was 329 to 225.

Murdock attributed his defeat to the enmity he has fostered while enforcing the law during his 14-year tenure as a small-town prosecutor.

"When I reach out and put someone in jail, I touch a whole family. ... This is not a job that engenders a great number of friends," Murdock said. "The better you do your job, the more enemies you make. It's a lot harder in a small county where you literally know everyone."

With 1,100 residents, Alpine is the state's least-populated county where about 20 felony cases are filed each year. No one has ever been charged with running a red light here because there are no traffic signals.

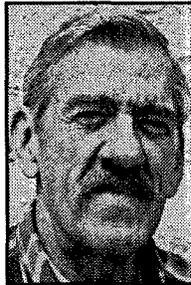
Nine of California's 22 incumbent district attorneys facing contested races lost outright in Tues-

day's election and two others face November runoffs. The bulk of the losers serve rural eastern counties concentrated in the northern Sierra.

Among the prosecutorial careers that crashed Tuesday were:

- El Dorado's Walt Miller, unseated by his own deputy, Gary Lacy;

- Amador's Larry Dixon, defeated by Steve Cilenti, a former cop and private attorney who sharpened his prosecutorial teeth in the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office;



Murdock

- Placer's Paul Richardson, unseated in a close race with a former deputy, Brad Fenocchio. (Uncounted absentee ballots could swing the results.);

- veteran Modoc prosecutor, Ruth Sorenson;

- Kings County's Garry Gonsalves.

And voters in Plumas and Sierra counties fired their district attorneys — Mike Crane and Wes Travis, respectively — in recall elections within the last two years.

"An incumbent district attorney is very vulnerable and that's where Pemberton had the edge," Murdock said. "The outsider with nothing to lose can sit back and fire all the pot-

shots he wants."

Pemberton blasted Murdock's plea-negotiating practices, complaining that felons were being given excessive lenience.

"If the evidence is plain and the crime is serious, my task is to get the cases before a jury and let society make a call on it," Pemberton said. "The voters found (Murdock's) deals repugnant. The deals were slaps on the wrist. The work load is light so, if there are no evidentiary problems, what's the need for a deal?"



Pemberton

Like other victorious challengers, Pemberton promised to pursue more severe punishments, a pledge that wins votes in Sierra towns, whose conservative voters want urban violence kept out at all costs. El Dorado's Lacy, likewise, harangued his opponent-boss over his unwillingness to file capital charges.

"That kind of rhetoric sells, never mind whether your board of supervisors might not give you the funds to do those prosecutions," said Sue Jackson, the attorney who succeeded the recalled Travis as Sierra County district attorney. "You'd like to deliver on these promises and take these cases to trial, but

sometimes you have to do what's cost efficient and makes sense."

The losing incumbents, of course, touted their own tough-on-crime stances, zero-tolerance toward drugs and incarceration records.

"I've put more people in prison than anyone else in the history of Alpine County. I've been tough on crime and that's hurt me some," Murdock said. "Take drunken driving. There's no slack on it in my office."

With his career as a prosecutor in limbo, the 58-year-old Murdock plans to relocate from Markleeville to the South Shore where his wife teaches at Tahoe Valley Elementary School.

"It wasn't that overwhelming a loss for me," he said. "After 14 years, it's time to do something else."

Conceding his lack of criminal experience, Pemberton said he will devote his full attention to closing his civil practice and studying criminal law before taking office next year.

"I feel comfortable with courtroom skills, but I need to know the substance and the procedures involved with criminal law," Pemberton said. "I think I can do it in six months."

Pemberton's civil law background will be useful in his new career since the Alpine district attorney also serves as county counsel, advising officials in civil matters.

Arraignment scheduled in death of 4-year-old Letisia Ortiz

A 27-year-old Genoa woman, charged in the murder of her 4-year-old daughter, is expected to plead not guilty at her arraignment tomorrow in district court.

Attorney Tod Young said his client, Terri Jean Ortiz-Garcia, will plead not guilty to three felonies and one gross misdemeanor in the March 27 death of her daughter, Letisia.

The child died four days after paramedics were called to the family's home on the Little Mondeaux Ranch because the little girl was unconscious. She never regained consciousness and was taken off life support systems following surgery. Medical experts testified during a two-day preliminary hearing earlier this month that Letisia suffered a fatal brain injury and showed other signs of prolonged physical abuse.

At the conclusion of the preliminary hearing, East Fork Justice Doug Struthers found that there was enough evidence to bind Ortiz-Garcia over to district court to stand trial on the murder charges.

She was arrested after the child died and remains in Douglas County Jail on \$500,000 bail.

GETS PROBATION

A 19-year-old Indian Hills man who stole a car and took three juveniles to California was sentenced to three years probation and ordered to pay \$1,266 restitution.

District Judge Dave Gamble suspended one year in Douglas County Jail and sentenced Dwayne Allred to probation, ordered him to submit to search and seizure of his property and abstain from all alcohol and drugs. In addition, he is to stay away from the juveniles and maintain full-time employment.

Allred pleaded guilty April 19 to unlawful taking of a motor vehicle, a gross misdemeanor. He was arrested March 16.

"This has been a fairly quick process," Gamble said, "and I don't want you to think it hasn't been important. I promise you if you violate probation, you will be back here."

Gamble noted that Allred's prior criminal history included a \$600 petty larceny charge.

"I hope you recognize that this is not a good pattern and that you'll turn from it and not engage in any more criminal activity," Gamble advised.

COURT REPORT

PROBATION REVOKED

A 19-year-old Carson City gang member had his probation revoked after he admitted possession of a .45-caliber handgun.

Jorge Ibarra, speaking through an interpreter, told District Judge Dave Gamble that he was in possession of the weapon, but claimed he wanted to protect himself and his family from unwelcome visits from former gang acquaintances.

Ibarra was sentenced to four years in Nevada State Prison in connection with the stabbing of a fellow gang member in 1992. He served 366 days in Douglas County Jail and was deported to Mexico. He returned to the United States, he said, to be with his girlfriend and their young daughter.

Ibarra was arrested in Carson City on May 24 and charged with being an ex-felon in possession of a firearm. He also faces federal charges for being in the United States illegally and being an illegal alien in possession of the firearm.

Ibarra told Gamble that the gun was left at his residence by an acquaintance. "I wasn't with the

gangs anymore. I was walking the straight and narrow. I had the gun to protect my girlfriend and my daughter."

"I believe a lot of what you said," Gamble told Ibarra. "If these other people came after you, you did no wrong. I wish you well and hope you find a place to be with your family away from the gang stuff."

Gamble gave Ibarra credit for time served, a total of 507 days, which means he is nearly eligible for parole on the four-year prison term on the original charge.

TRIAL DATE SET

A 39-year-old Tonopah man goes on trial Sept. 28 after he pleaded not guilty to two felonies and one misdemeanor in connection with the molestation of a child under age 14.

Mark Madsen is charged with two counts of lewdness with a child under 14 and one gross misdemeanor of annoying or molesting a minor.

According to the court report, the victim claimed that Madsen forced her to watch pornographic

videos and fondled her. The incidents allegedly occurred when Madsen was living in Fish Springs.

The trial is expected to last two days, according to Madsen's attorney, Laura Grant of Carson City.

ADMITS THEFT

A Gardnerville janitor admitted that he broke into the Douglas County Library and county offices at the Minden Inn he was responsible for cleaning and took money.

Terry Smith, 38, faces up to five years in Nevada State Prison and a \$5,000 fine at his sentencing July 19. He pleaded guilty June 7 to attempted theft, a felony.

He was arrested with two others on May 23. According to court documents, Smith occasionally lived in the basement of the Minden Inn and at the library. He and two accomplices had access to a safe combination and also took money from a copy machine at the library.

"I took money from the Minden Inn and the Douglas County Library, gambled it and lost it," Smith told District Judge Dave Gamble.

VANDALIZES CAR

A 24-year-old South Lake

Tahoe woman faces up to one year in Douglas County Jail after she admitted that she poured sugar in the gas tank and spray painted the car of a Stateline man.

Colleen Anne Dalton pleaded guilty June 7 to tampering with a motor vehicle, a gross misdemeanor.

"I had no intention of making the car immovable," she told District Judge Dave Gamble. "I just intended to mess up the car."

Dalton was arrested May 19 after she was stopped for a traffic violation.

Authorities said two juveniles were with her after curfew and deputies found paint cans in her car.

Dalton has been serving a 30-day sentence for harassment. She also agreed to pay \$3,600 restitution for damage to the victim's car. She will be sentenced July 26.

Gamble ordered her to stay away from the victim and to refrain from alcohol.

"If you were trying to get back at this person, it's not working very well," Gamble said.

"You're in jail now and you have to pay \$3,600 for damage to the car."

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Record cover June 12, 1994

Turnbeaugh picked for regional group

Kirkwood Ski Education Foundation ace Tamara Turnbeaugh saw her promising future take a step forward recently when she was named to the U.S. Ski Association Western Region Development Group.

"This is quite an accomplishment for Tamara," according to KSEF program director Ray Dicius. "Being named to a regional development group is quite an honor; only two female athletes were named from Far West, Tamara and Megan Ganong from Squaw Valley.

Turnbeaugh, 14, who lives in Markleeville and was a straight-A student as a freshman at Douglas High School this past year.

The selection was based on her Far West Divisional results, as well as a stellar performance during the USSA Western Region J-3 Junior Olympics held at Mam-

moth in March. At the Junior Olympic meet, she placed second in the women's Super-G, third in the giant slalom, fourth in the slalom and earned a silver medal in the combined during competition against 13-14 year old age group racers from nine states.

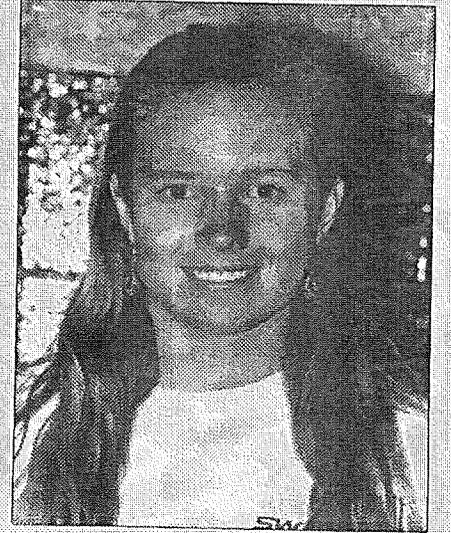
Afterward, Turnbeaugh was selected to compete on a team that represented the U.S. at the Children's World Championships held March 30 through April 4 at Whistler, B.C., where placed 14th in the giant slalom and 19th in the slalom. Her efforts helped the U.S. claim the 13-14 age group world team title from Slovenia.

"Tamara has really begun to fulfill her potential. We've seen the potential all along and she's now starting to break the envelope of that potential, with much more to come," Dicius said in a March interview.

"Technically and physically, her skills are developing quite well, now we're hoping to see her mental skills develop further," he added. "Specifically in maturity, handling stress and pressure... being able to do all the things that come with competing at a high level... and that comes with having the experience."

The Western Region Development Group is the first step on the ladder that leads to the U.S. Ski Team, according to Dicius. The next step is the regional training group, which consists primarily of racers in the 16-18 age bracket.

Turnbeaugh has received an invitation to work out with the Western Region Training Group at its summer camp session June 26 to July 10 at Mt. Hood, Ore. She has also been invited to attend a the Women's Development Group camp Aug. 19 to Sept. 1 at Mt. Hood.



TAMARA TURNBEAUGH

Record Courier 6/12/94

Man survives accident on Ebbets Pass

Officials who helped rescue a Gilroy man Friday morning said he was lucky to be alive after his car went over a steep embankment on Ebbets Pass Thursday night.

"It was quite an ordeal," said California Highway Patrol officer John Mason.

According to reports from the Alpine County Sheriff's Office, 39-year-old David Osler said he was driving alone over State Route 4 at about 10 p.m. Thursday when he swerved to miss some deer.

His car plummeted over a more than 50 foot high cliff about 1/5 of a mile east of Cascade Creek near the 8,000-foot level. The car came to rest on a steep bank covered with loose rocks and boulders about 300 feet off the highway.

Osler said he was thrown from the car and continued to bounce and roll another 20 feet.

The victim spent the night in the rocks. On Friday morning he was able to crawl up to his Dodge Ram truck where he was spotted by a passing motorist who reported the incident to officials.

Workers from Alpine County, the highway patrol, Markleeville, Woodfords and Bear Valley all reported to the scene.

Mason said rescue crews used a stabilizing jacket, a backboard and a sled stretcher tied to a tow truck to bring Osler up to the roadway. The rescue took about 40 minutes.

Osler was taken by ambulance to a landing zone at Kenney Reservoir where he was transferred to CARE Flight and airlifted to Washoe Medical Center.

Alpine sheriffs reports said the victim was alert and responsive when he was rescued. He was said to have cuts and bruises, was dehydrated from spending the night outside, and complained of pain in the neck, back, chest and pelvic area.

Abused girl failed by 2 counties

By BRIAN MAFFLY *Record Courier*
Tribune Staff Writer

Letisia Ortiz fell through the cracks between two states' child protection systems.

A lack of coordination between Douglas and Alpine county authorities in monitoring the 4-year-old girl's abusive family life may have hastened her death, allegedly at the hands of her alcoholic mother, according to a private attorney retained to investigate Alpine County's handling of the case.

And weak communication among Alpine's law enforcement agencies shielded Terry Jean Garcia-Ortiz, a 27-year-old mother of seven, from prosecution on child abuse charges, states a report prepared by Sacramento attorney Christopher Lee.

The Alpine Board of Supervisors

14/94 See ABUSE, Page 7A

Abuse *Record Courier*

Continued from Page 1A

hired Lee, at a cost of \$7,000, to help the county identify deficiencies in its child protection services in the wake of Letisia's March 27 death from a head injury inflicted by a bottle.

"It was to find out what went wrong," board chairman Don Jardine said. "We never want this to happen again."

Alpine supervisors on Friday released an edited copy of the Lee report with the names of the victim and her family blacked out.

Alpine County intervened in the Ortiz family when sheriff's deputies responded to their Woodfords home and found signs of child abuse in April 1992. Local authorities later took custody of Letisia and two of her sisters after reviewing evidence that included bite marks around the face of one of the children and burns on the tops of her feet.

However, no criminal probe was launched at this time.

A year and a half later at a Jan. 24 Superior Court hearing, Judge Harold Bradford returned Letisia and a sister to Garcia-Ortiz, who

then resided with her husband near Genoa, just across the state line in Nevada.

A representative from the Pit River tribal community, Elvira Rodriguez, urged the court to return all four children then in protective custody with relatives, Lee reported. The children's court-appointed attorney offered no objection, while the Department of Social Services argued to delay the children's return.

Observing that state law requires family reunification at the earliest possible time, Bradford agreed to return two girls, but ruled to keep the Ortiz' two oldest children in the court's custody. The youngest of the Ortiz children had been returned home a year before with no apparent problems.

Alpine officials tried to get Douglas, the Ortiz' county of residence, to take over the case, but their requests were declined, Lee reported.

"These folks (the Ortizes) were Nevada residents," Jardine commented. "There's only so much our people can do on our side of the border to monitor the situation."

Two months after joining her parents, Letisia was fatally beaten and her mother charged with her

murder.

Nevada newspapers reported that Alpine authorities did not properly notify their Nevada counterparts of the situation at the Ortiz home.

Lee dismissed this claim as "unfounded" after the Nevada media declined to reveal its sources.

Within Alpine County government, Lee found that various county agencies failed to exchange information regarding the Ortiz case, and, consequently, officials acted without knowing all the facts available. For example, sheriff's deputies took custody of the Ortiz children in April 1992 after finding evidence of physical abuse. However, there was no "routine, regular procedure" for automatic referral of all suspected child abuse cases to the District Attorney's Office.

"The children were properly and safely removed from their mother's care and custody, but no criminal charges were filed," Lee wrote. "A criminal investigation, which may or may not have resulted in the filing of criminal charges, was not conducted."

Sheriff Skip Veatch's failure to at least initiate a criminal case was an oversight that should not be repeated, Lee said.

"The availability of criminal sanctions in cases like this are in effect the ultimate authority of the courts over anti-social behavior and physical and sexual abuse toward children," Lee wrote.

Supervisor C. Ann Wade, who represents Alpine's native community, on Monday expressed displeasure with the sheriff and District Attorney Hank Murdock for not launching a criminal investigation of Garcia-Ortiz once her suspected abuse became known.

Lee found similar complaints that the sheriff doesn't adequately confront crime and child abuse in the county's tribal community, and recommended the hiring of an additional deputy to focus on this problem.

The attorney also recommended officials inform county employees of state mandates to report suspected child abuse, develop continuing education programs for sheriff's and district attorney staff, and cultivate better interagency cooperation.

County supervisors "strongly" urged the sheriff, the district attorney and social services chief Patricia Shuman to implement Lee's recommendations, Jardine said. Their progress is expected to be discussed at the board's June 21 meeting.

Emigrant trail tour set in Hope Valley

One of the most successful and longest running programs at Sorensen's Resort in Hope Valley, Calif., the historic emigrant trail walking tours, enters its 10th season with a series of tour dates extending through October.

The cost is \$35 per person for Sorensen's guests and \$50 for non-guests and includes lunch and refreshments on the road.

Imprints of larger historical events ripple through the land in Hope Valley from the lore of the Native Americans to the Gold Rush immigrants passing through to a better life, to the legend of "Snowshoe" Thompson and even the beginnings of the Studebaker Automobile Company.

Tour participants continue to be amazed and inspired by the tales and extraordinary 2,000 mile migration of the early western pio-

neers. Traversing some of the same territory as these early travelers, expert guide and acclaimed historian, Frank Tortorich, leads participants across parts of the famous Mormon-Emigrant Trail, which became the major route over the rugged Sierra Nevada after the stunning failure of the Donner party.

He recounts the western romantic history of the early Pony Express route and gives a vivid portrayal of the intrepid Sierra mailman, "Snowshoe" Thompson, who introduced skiing to the United States.

Tours include a pre-evening, introductory slide show around the campfire at Sorensen's highlighting the remains of the Oregon-California Trail as it still exists today and recounts the personal travails encountered by the pio-

neers heading out from Independence, Missouri in the mid-1800s.

Participants should bring comfortable walking shoes and be prepared for changeable weather. Depending on the number of participants, some may be asked to drive their own vehicles to selected hiking locations.

Because of Frank Tortorich's wealth of knowledge of the entire emigrant road, two special tours have been added, including a day-long desert tour on June 27 and a mountain day hike to West Pass on Aug. 30. Guests should specify their interest in the special programs to receive additional information.

Sorensen's is located just east of the Highway 88/89 intersection in Hope Valley. For more information and reservations, call 1-800-423-9949.

Report says lack of coordination contributed to child's death

by BRIAN MAFFLY
R-C News Service

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A lack of coordination between Nevada and California county authorities in monitoring the 4-year-old girl's abusive family life may have hastened her death, allegedly at the hands of her mother, according to a private attorney retained to investigate Alpine County's handling of the case.

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(See related story page 10.)

World's Toughest now at Kirkwood

R-C News Service

The World's Toughest Triathlon will observe its 10th anniversary at a new location, moving from South Lake Tahoe to Alpine County on Aug. 6.

More than 500 athletes compete in this race, noted for its physical and mental intensity, as well as unique setting.

The new course will be based at Kirkwood. The grueling course will consist of a two-mile swim in the brisk waters of Caples Lake, followed by a 100-mile bike ride that will encompass two 8,000-foot passes in Alpine County: Carson and Ebbetts. The last leg of the race will be an 18.6-mile run around the Kirkwood ski resort area.

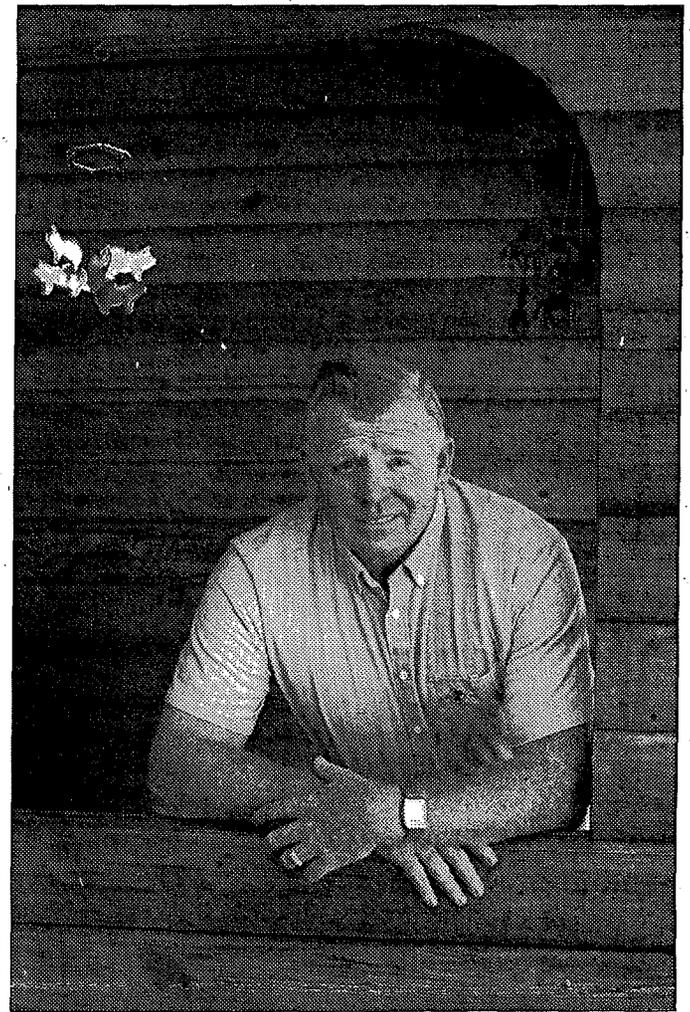
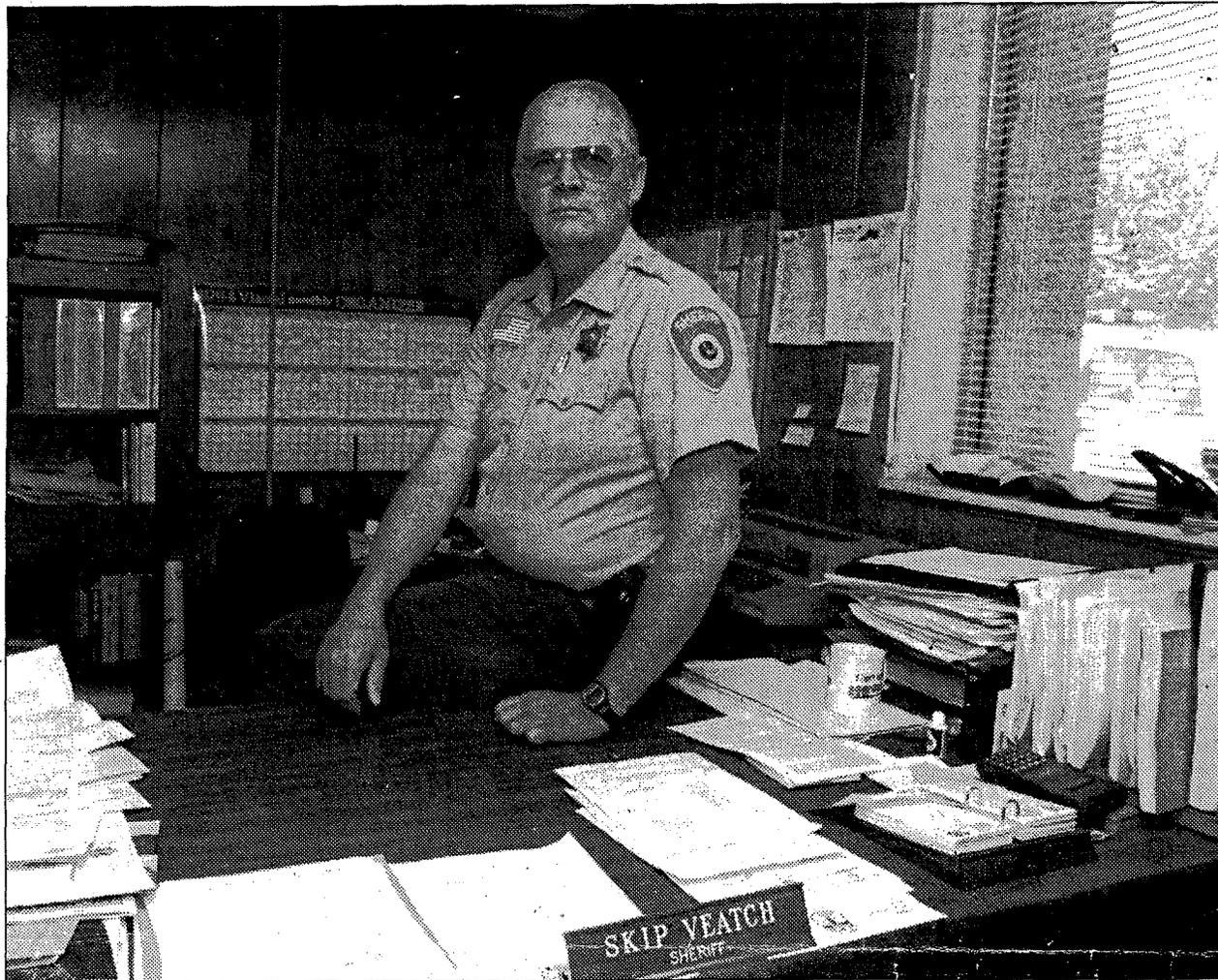
In addition to individual competitors, approximately 60 relay teams will compete, according to race director Charlie Lincoln.

For more information and registration details, call (916) 573-0103.

RC - 6/19/94

California and the West

Los Angeles Times



Photos by JEANNE MAE WONG / For The Times

Alpine County Race Shows Every Vote Counts

■ **Elections:** Ballots were cast by 76.5% of the electorate—and sheriff's contest ended in a dead heat, 276-276. Those who failed to mail in votes regret it—and want to remain anonymous.

By MARIA L. La GANGA
TIMES STAFF WRITER

MARKLEEVILLE, Calif.—Everyone knows of one, an offender most foul, but no one here will rat out a neighbor, tattle on a friend.

C. Ann Wade, supervisor for Alpine County's District 3, knows five of them. Sheriff Henry (Skip) Veatch knows four, but he is too much of a gentleman to divulge an identity—even though they cost him big.

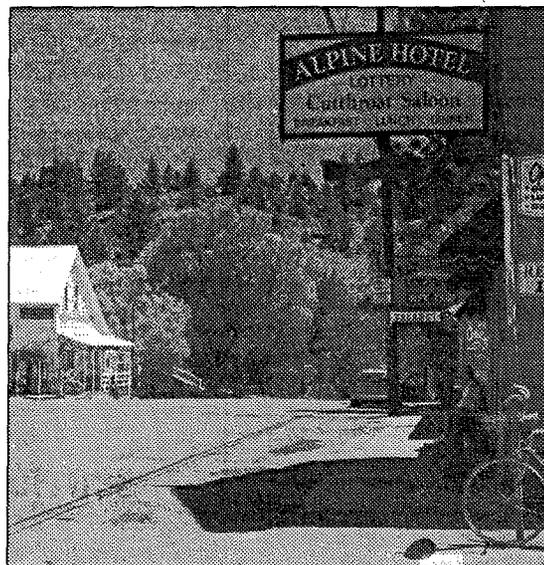
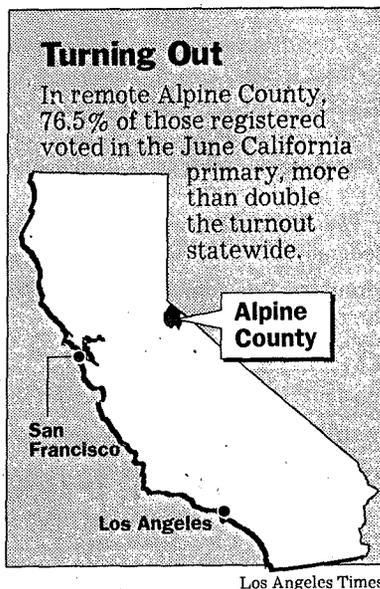
Who are these culprits? Only their county clerk knows for sure.

In remote Alpine County, where the government owns 96% of the land and the only bank closed about 15 years ago, 76.5% of those registered voted—more than double the turnout statewide and higher than any election in recent county memory.

Only 175 men and women did not bother to vote, and they are kicking themselves these days, for the sheriff's race, a heated battle, ended in a mathematical near-impossibility, an honest-to-goodness tie: Skip Veatch 276, Villa (Lew) Roper 276.

"A lady at the library, the day after the election, had her ballot in her purse," Wade said, recounting a tale that is repeated all over town. "She never sent it in. She said, 'Now I know what they mean by one vote counts.' She voted for Lew Roper."

Don't look for a teacher to thank for such stunning civic involvement, even here in the county seat of Markleeville. The northeast California county is so small that there is no high school; these California kids learn government in Nevada, grow up



Markleeville, the seat of Alpine County in northeast California on Nevada border.

knowing more of Carson City than they do of Sacramento.

Still, when the polls closed statewide two weeks ago today, more than three-quarters of Alpine County's 745 registered voters—1,113 people live there—had cast ballots. One reason the turnout was so spectacular was that it was not really a turnout at all. With such a low population that it is hard to muster up a polling place, Alpine County voters cast their ballots by mail, the only county in the state to do so.

"Alpine truly is a high-participating county; its results are not just a fluke of registration rolls," says Mark DiCamillo, director of the Field Poll. "That is the most persuasive reason I've heard [for the high turnout], not the demographics but the voting method."

But local pundits have a better explanation of why Alpine County put the rest of California to shame: There were two emotional races made even more heated in part by the death of a 4-year-old Native American child in a complex abuse case

that crossed the California-Nevada border.

It is a case that doubled turnout in the Native American community, Wade's District 3, where the drama began. A case that even Veatch grudgingly admits colored the races for sheriff and district attorney. "A couple of things came up that hurt us," Veatch says. "The Ortiz case was one."

In 1992, Terry Ortiz and her children were visiting relatives in the Alpine County town of Woodfords, home to the Southern Band Washoe Tribe of California-Nevada. During the visit, family members reported to social service workers that Letisia Ortiz, then 2, had been abused, bitten on her nose and burned on her feet.

The child and three siblings were taken from their mother and placed by the court with other family members. On Jan. 24, an Alpine County Superior Court judge gave Letisia and her sister, Rosa, back to their mother, who was living on a ranch in nearby Genoa, Nev. Two months later, Letisia was dead, beaten with a glass baby

bottle. Her mother is in jail in Nevada, awaiting trial for murder.

The Sheriff's Department has never had a good relationship with the 310 Native Americans who live in Alpine County. "The community feels the Sheriff's Department doesn't respond. They live less than five minutes away, but it takes them up to two hours to come here," Wade says. "We need someone to take control of the officers and make them do their job."

Veatch acknowledges the strained relations, the Washoe Tribe's concerns that its members get short shrift. But recent studies, he says, show that 40% of the department's enforcement calls take place in Native American territory, while the community makes up only 30% of the county's population.

"That's disproportionate," he says. "We respond to the calls the same without regard to race or geographic area. . . . We respond with a great deal of concern."

A report commissioned by the Board of Supervisors is highly critical of how both the Sheriff's Department and the district attorney's office handled the Ortiz case.

"What is missing is a routine, regular procedure for automatic referral to the District Attorney's Intake Section of Alpine County of all suspected criminal activities involving child physical and sexual abuse," the report states. "A criminal investigation which may or may not have resulted in the filing of criminal charges was not conducted."

Although Veatch declines to speak in detail about the case or the report, he insists that an investigation was carried out. And he admits that Letisia Ortiz's death just two months before the election hurt both him and Dist. Atty. Henry Murdock, who lost his bid to remain in office.

"The Ortiz thing hurt both of us as incumbents," he says. "We were in office when it happened. A scapegoat was sought."

For all the factors that caused Alpine County residents to vote in record num-

Please see ALPINE, A22

ALPINE: County Takes Pride in Voting Record

Continued from A3

bers—the heated races, the mail-in ballots—voting here is not automatic. The electorate of Alpine County overcomes one very high hurdle: Some barely acknowledge that they live in California.

“Physically we belong to Nevada,” said David Kirby, owner of Woodford’s Station, part general store, part local hangout. Alpine County shops, works and goes to school across the state line and at one time actually was part of Nevada. Sometimes it still feels that way.

Between 1987 and 1992, employees of this eastern California county negotiated for a paid day off on Oct. 31 so they could celebrate Nevada Day, the legal holiday commemorating Nevada’s admission to the Union. And California news—political or otherwise—is terribly hard to come by, a real hurdle for anyone attempting to actually know what they’re voting about. The television stations all beam from Nevada, and most newspapers travel west across the state line.

“The first time I saw Ronald Reagan on television was when he ran for President,” says Nancy Thornburg, executive director of the Alpine County Museum. “One thing that’s so darn frustrating is that you can’t get any California



JEANNE MAE WONG / For The Times

Nancy Thornburg says Alpine County residents miss out because they only get Nevada TV.

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At least Thornburg talks about the election. Chris Branscombe doesn’t even like to do that, and was crestfallen, as a matter of fact, when the sheriff’s race tied. To others, the tie is a statistical freak show; to the Branscombes it is a

guarantee of five months of discord until the November runoffs.

Branscombe works for Sheriff Veatch. Her husband is employed by Woodford’s Auto Service, whose owner has a longstanding and complicated complaint against the Sheriff’s Department, part small-town intrigue and part retribution. At Woodford’s, they vote for Lew Roper.

“I’m between a rock and a hard place in this election,” she said. “I handed my husband his ballot and I filled out mine, and we didn’t talk about who we’d voted for.”

Branscombe is not the only one who feels bad this Election Day. Yes, it may have been difficult, but at least she voted. Which is more than can be said for some people here in Markleeville.

The woman who sauntered into Alpine County Library on June 8 only to find her ballot when looking for her library card would not consent to be interviewed for this story. In fact, her friends are so kind that they would not divulge her name and instead called her for a statement on her voting lapse.

How does it feel to be one of the few, the not-so-proud, the disenfranchised here in the cradle of California democracy?

“Just lousy,” she said, through an intermediary.

ALPINE: County Takes Pride in Voting Record

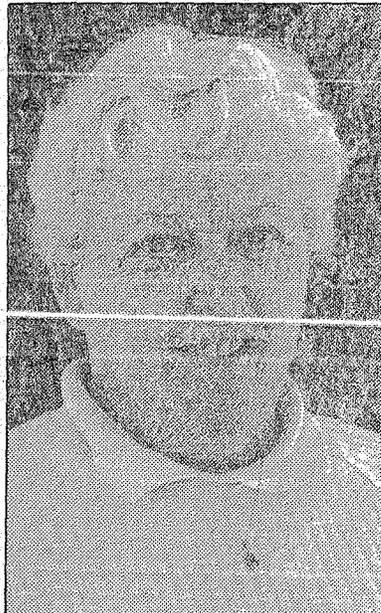
Continued from A3

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Man arrested in shooting

Record Courier
6/23/94

by KURT HILDEBRAND
Staff Writer

A Woodfords man was arrested Tuesday for allegedly shooting another man with a shotgun.

Christopher Allen Gorham, 20, turned himself in to authorities after a warrant was issued for his arrest.

He was being sought in connection with the 10:45 p.m. shooting of Gardnerville Ranchos resident Clayton Richmond Keebaugh.

According to Sgt. Lance Modispacher of the Douglas

County Sheriff's Office, Keebaugh, 27, was wounded in the right hand by birdshot fired from what deputies believe was a 12-gauge shotgun.

Deputies were notified of the gunshot wound by Carson-Tahoe Hospital officials.

Doctors removed three or four shotgun pellets from Keebaugh's right hand.

The shooting was apparently the result of an argument between Gorham and Keebaugh over a woman, Modispacher said.

Modispacher said the

shooting took place on Diamond Valley Road near Mud Lake. The pair were about 30 feet apart when the shooting took place.

Gorham was arrested for attempted murder with a firearm, assault with a deadly weapon and battery with a deadly weapon. The bail for the three charges has been set at \$25,000.

The shooting was the second incident involving a shotgun Monday.

An 18-year-old Gardnerville Ranchos man and two

Continued to page 9

527 15, PHONE 007-4330.

Shooting: Three arrested Monday

Continued from page 1
juveniles were arrested Monday morning for allegedly pointing a shotgun at a motorist.

Justin Harris Hearold, and two Gardnerville youths aged 16 and 14 were arrested after deputies received a report that the trio stuck a shotgun out of the window of the 1977 Pontiac Trans Am they were driving on Highway 395 in Minden at 11 a.m. Monday.

Deputies located and arrested the trio. Hearold was booked into jail for aiming a firearm at another person, conspiracy to commit a crime and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. His bail was set at \$3,000.

The two minors were arrested for aiming a firearm at another person and conspiracy to commit a crime.

Record Courier 6/23/94

us to have more water through less

Record letter 6/26/94

and refrigerate.

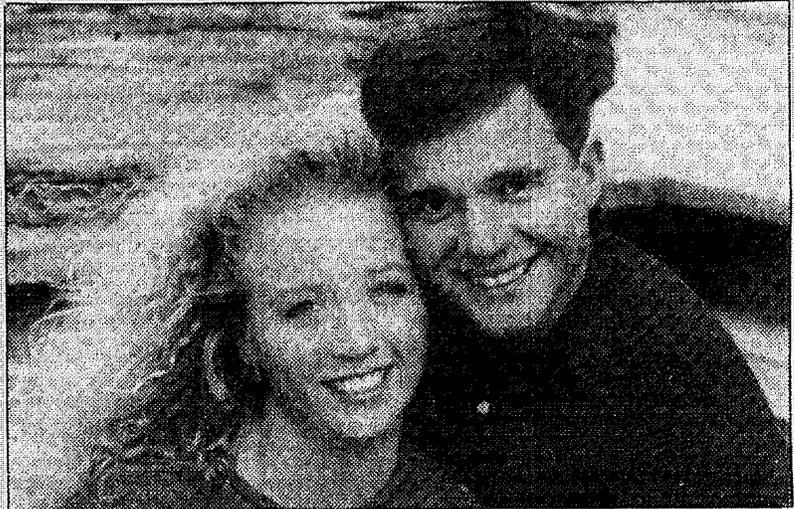
Gansberg-Reis wedding planned for August

Wendy Gansberg of Fredericksburg and Anthony Reis of Turlock, Calif., plan an Aug. 6 wedding at Trinity Lutheran Church with a reception at the Gansberg ranch home.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Chris and Faye Gansberg of Fredericksburg, and the bridegroom-elect is the son of Luis and Margaret Reis of Turlock.

Gansberg is a 1992 Douglas High School graduate and a student at California State Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo, Calif., majoring in education.

Reis is a 1990 Turlock High School graduate and is majoring in agricultural business at Cal Poly.



WENDY GANSBERG AND LUIS REIS

desk copy

Record Courier 7/7/94

Death Ride returns Saturday

Special to the R-C

What does 10,000 pounds of food, 5,000 gallons of liquids and more than 300 volunteers have in common with any other day cycling event in the West?

Absolutely nothing. There is no other cycling event that compares to the "Tour of the California Alps," more fondly known to its participants as "The Death Ride."

The population of Alpine County will quadruple, Saturday when 2,750 bicyclists, along with another 2,500 of their friends and family members, ascend to the

mountain community for the annual Tour of the California Alps. This year's ride is called "Death Ride the 13th" commemorating its 13th year. Over the past 12 years, this one-day tour has built a reputation as being one of the top 10 rides in the country and undoubtedly, northern California's premiere cycling event. Hard-core endurance cyclists from all over the country, as well as Europe and Japan, attend this annual "rite of passage."

The Death Ride starts and finishes at Turtle Rock Park, located on Highway 89/4, three miles north of Markleeville. The course officially opens at 6 a.m. and

closes at 7 p.m.

The Death Ride normally challenges bicyclists to climb and descend a course that includes 15,000 vertical feet of climbing up five mountain passes over a 130-mile distance. The climbs include both the west and east sides of Monitor Pass at 8,310 feet on Highway 89; Ebbetts Pass at 8,740 feet on Highway 4; Luther Pass at 7,750 feet on Highway 89; and Carson Pass at 8,580 feet on Highway 88.

Riders have the option to do as few or as many passes as they feel fit. Many are satisfied riding one to three passes.

In 1991 nearly 1,000 of the 2,500 rider

limit completed all five passes. In 1992, an estimated 200 cyclists finished the entire five-pass course on a day filled with unseasonable blinding rain, hail, lightning and thunder. Last year, nearly 1,300 cyclists conquered the five-pass course under excellent weather conditions.

This year's ride, "Death Ride the 13th," offers the added challenge of yet another mountain pass climb bringing the total vertical feet of climbing to over 17,000 feet and stretches the distance to 143 miles. The added challenge is positioned as

Continued to page 10

Death Ride: A sizeable undertaking

Continued to page 10
pass No. 4 for those attempting to complete the six-pass option and includes descending the west side of Ebbetts Pass, the climb up the Pacific Grade and return climb up the west side of Ebbetts Pass on Highway 4.

Nearly half of this year's pre-registered riders have indicated that they will attempt to ride all six passes. This presents a big challenge to ride organizers as they have to "guesstimate" the amount of food and drink required to fulfill the needs of the participants.

"Most participants don't realize what it takes to put together an event like this" commented Curtis Fong, 11-year Death Ride course director for the Alta Alpina Cycling Club and the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, the two co-sponsoring agencies that present the event. "This course has to be built from the ground up. It's not like we're in Metropolis, which is why many cyclists are drawn to Alpine County. There are few public

facilities and services available along the course in these high mountain passes, so everything must be trucked in and set up." He added. "From shade tents to portable toilets, bike racks to dumpsters ... not to mention 10,000 pounds of food ... that's five tons of food, and over 5,000 gallons of water, soft drinks and energy drinks that must be delivered, set up and served by the over 300 volunteers it takes to man the 13 rest stops and water stops along this 140-plus-mile course. It's truly rewarding to see the number of volunteers from the various businesses and organizations come forth and give of their time for this one day event. The Death Ride is the biggest annual event in Alpine County and benefits a number of non-profit organizations."

Participants in this year's Death Ride will again enjoy riding both Monitor and Ebbetts passes without the worry of two way vehicular traffic. Access to Monitor Pass and Ebbetts Pass will be closed to through traffic and open to bike ride participants from Highway

89/4 south of Markleeville over Monitor Pass on Highway 89 to the junction of Highway 395 from 6 a.m. until 12 noon. This closure will also extend over Ebbetts Pass on Highway 4 to Mosquito Lakes Campground, again, from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Motorists should be aware to travel alternate routes or plan to travel before or after these road closures times as to not cause delays in their travel schedules. By mid-day, cyclists will be riding on Highway 88 up Woodfords Canyon to Picketts Junction, and up Highway 89 to Luther Pass. Cyclists will complete the tour by 7 p.m. by riding west on Highway 88 to the top of Carson Pass. Motorists should be aware to share the roadway with bicyclists along this "open road" portion of the course.

Death Ride the 13th is one of the best produced cycling events in the west and its continued record of being sold out weeks in advance as well as the number of applications that are turned away (last year over 3,000 applications were sent back after the ride sold

out) is a testimony of its challenge and success. This year's Death Ride has been sold out to its 2,750 rider limit since the first week in June and there is no same day or late registration. Selling or transferring of one's entry to a non-registered rider is also prohibited. Only registered riders will be allowed on the closed portion of the course. Various check stations will be set up to monitor and allow participants with proper numbers and wrist band tickets access to the closed portion of the course. Ride crashers are highly discouraged.

"We tend to attract more serious and conditioned cyclists that train for this event. Most of them know their limits. But, when you put 2,750 bicycle riders on a 143 mile course at altitudes from 5,000 feet to 8,700 feet, add 85 plus degree temperatures and 25 to 35 mph winds, anything can happen," Fong said. "Thank goodness the ride has never lived up to its name ... no one has ever died by participating in the Death Ride and we'd like to keep it that way."

July 10, 1997
Record Courier

Carson Ranger District offers wildflower walk at

Enjoy a historic walk near the old Dangberg Ranch cow camp site while taking in the beautiful wildflowers. Incredible views of Hope Valley or hike down an old stagecoach road in Kings Canyon to the stagecoach stop with the U.S. Forest Service and interpreter Shirley Pollock.

Beginning July 14, the Carson Ranger District is encouraging the public to explore their national forests with a series of hikes and other activities on the Toiyabe National Forest. These programs will continue throughout the summer until Labor Day.

The hike on July 14 is a short

hike along Kings Canyon Road to an old stagecoach stop where some ruins of the old buildings remain. Views of Carson City, Genoa Peak, and the wide horizons of Nevada can be seen from vistas along the trail. Meeting at the top of Spooner Summit Highway 50 at the Tahoe Rim Trail ac-

Dangberg cow camp in Hope Valley

Hikers will have a 4.5 mile round trip. Meet at 9 a.m. with water, a snack, and either boots or tennis shoes for this walk.

Wildflowers will be the focus on July 16 in Hope Valley, as hikers meander through tall grasses and boggy meadows to find the jewels of summer. Views of Hope

Valley and the Sierra fill the backdrop of this hour walk near the old Dangberg Ranch summer camp, while the west fork of the Carson River flows nearby. Take Highway 88 to Highway 89 (Picketts Junction) and follow Highway 89 toward Lake Tahoe about one mile. The old Dangberg Ranch

buildings are on the west side of the road. Meet at the curve in the road on Luther Pass Highway 89 near the old buildings. Meet at 9:30 a.m. with boots or shoes that can get wet. Bring a lunch and relax by the Carson River after the walk.

Information, 882-2766.

Historic walk



Hikers will be visiting the old Dangberg cow camp in Alpine County, pictured here, on July 16. The hike is sponsored by the Carson

Ranger District. See story, page 4, for details. R-C photo by Belinda Rohleder

July 10, 1994 - Record Courier

Pair of cyclists hurt in annual Death Ride

By **BRIAN MAFFLY** *July 11, 1994*
Tribune Staff Writer ~~July 11, 1994~~

Bicyclists participating in Saturday's "Death Ride the 13th" learned the annual race's title is no joke.

In separate wrecks, two participants were seriously injured while cruising down two of the courses' steepest grades — Monitor and Ebbetts passes.

California Highway Patrol officers are contemplating criminal charges against the driver of a van who allegedly struck cyclist Werner Wilkander of Incline Village, sending him face first onto the asphalt at 12:50 p.m.

Driver David Sharp, 44, of Rancho Cordova, was towing a camper trailer behind his van as he passed cyclists racing down Monitor on State Route 89, according to CHP Officer Bob Lillywhite.

As he attempted to pass the 41-year-old Wilkander, Sharp's trailer allegedly hit him, causing him to crash and sustain serious facial injuries. The cyclist was transported to Tahoe's Barton Memorial Hospital, where he underwent surgery and was released Sunday.

Sharp was cited for unsafe passing and may face a charge of reckless driving, according to Lillywhite.

About 20 minutes after Wilkander's wreck, cyclist Kirk Hunt, 41, of Lodi, Calif. lost control and crashed on State Route 4 near Ebbetts Pass.

Paramedics considered his head injury grave enough to warrant calling a Care Flight helicopter. Hunt was flown to Reno's Washoe Medical Center, where his condition improved to satisfactory by this morning. He is expected to be

released today.

CHP officials weren't able to determine how the accident occurred because Hunt was removed before officers reached the scene, located seven miles above Wolf Creek. No automobiles were involved in that wreck.

About 2,750 cyclists rode in Saturday's 13th annual running of the Death Ride, an 130-mile race over five mountain passes in the Markleeville area. Barton's emergency room was reportedly busy Saturday treating cyclists suffering from heat exhaustion and less serious wrecks.

Tahoe Daily Tribune



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Tues-Thurs (4:00 @ \$3.50) 2:30 • 4:00 • 7:30 • 10:00

SPEED (R)

(ULTRA-STEREO)

Tues-Thurs (2:00 @ \$3.50) 2:30 • 4:00 • 7:30 • 9:50

THE SHADOW (PG-13)

(ULTRA-STEREO)

Tues-Thurs (7:45 @ \$3.50) 2:15 • 4:45 • 7:15 • 9:45

LION KING (G)

Tues-Thurs (2:15 @ \$3.50) 2:15 • 4:45 • 7:00 • 9:00

— TAHOE CINEMA —

FORREST GUMP (PG-13)

Tues-Thurs (4:00 @ \$3.50) 7:00 • 10:00

— STATELINE CINEMA —
Across from Crescent V Center

SHOWTIME LINE 541-0200 Ext 3500

WYATT EARP (R)

Tues-Thurs 9:00

WOLF (R)

Tues-Thurs (4:00 @ \$3.50) 6:30

of the use of stone in historic Markleeville buildings

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Alpine Archives

by JIM HOLDRIDGE

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I lapsed into another period of inactivity except when summoned to house community social events. Those were special nights. Music and stamping feet would rock this rock.

The annual Firemen's Ball and the semi-monthly dances for the road construction crews with a band all the way from Lodi were happy nights with families coming early and the children bedding down at night on the floor huddled close to the walls of stone snug and secure.

Bob Jackson, a life-time resident of Alpine County, recalled several incidents concerning the building. One included the time the Markleeville Creek washed away the well serving the building and he ran hoses from his home to



RECORD COURTESY 7-14-04

LIBRARY IN MARKLEEVILLE. Librarian Diane Brigham, right, and her assistant Sheila Morgan are pictured on the steps of the Alpine Library. R-C photo by Belinda Rohleder

the school house so there would be water available.

In 1966 the Alpine County Board of Supervisors created the Alpine County Public Library. For three years a book-mobile served county residents, but in 1970 the school house/community building

became the permanent home of the library. Today the building I am part of houses the library and health services.

I've seen many changes — electricity, lights, telephones, computers, fax machines — but these walls of stone can stand the stress

and changes of time. My fellow stones and I intend to serve for years to come.

Editor's note: Jim Holdridge is chairperson of the Alpine Library Commission and lives in Markleeville.

A short history of the use of s

Technically I am called rhyolite tuff, an igneous rock from felsite which mainly originates in lava flows or andesite volcanic cones.

Quarried from the east bluff of the Carson River a few miles up the present Ebbetts Pass road I was used as the foundation stone for the new buildings being constructed in Silver City in 1865, then the county seat of the newly formed Alpine County.

By 1875, Silver City had been abandoned and the county seat

was moved to Markleeville. I languished in a ghost town for many years. Fires and growth in Markleeville created a need for solid construction. Along with other building material and accouterments I was hauled to Markleeville to be a part of the new courthouse. The original design was a two-story structure featuring my light buff colored exterior finish but finances scaled back the proposed plans.

In 1928 the need for a new

Alpine Arch

by JIM HC

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The annual Firemen's dance and the semi-monthly dance were popular road construction crews would bring a band all the way from Reno for happy nights with families. The children were early and the children were down at night on the floor. The building was close to the walls of the building and secure.

Bob Jackson, a life member of Alpine County Firemen, has seen several incidents concerning the building. One includes the Markleeville Creek fire which destroyed the well serving the town and he ran hoses from

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July 14, 1994 Record Courier

Resiliency, caution grew from Sierra fire

By Tram Nguyen
GAZETTE-JOURNAL

WOODFORDS, Calif. — Catherine Parker walked through her carefully tended garden, pointing out the leafy willow and the apple tree that sprouted among large boulders.

The garden had grown back in full bloom, leaving little trace of the fire-scorched ruin it had been only seven years ago.

Parker still remembers watering the blackened earth after the 1987 fire that devastated Alpine County and destroyed her home. Believing the plant roots beneath the ground could still be saved, she sprinkled and hosed her land in hopes of renewing it.

"And the apples came back, and the willow came back. We were so amazed. The next spring, the iris started coming up," she said. "At the time people said you were crazy — watering a fire. But I said, what have I got to lose?"

Catherine and Bob Parker's big redwood and stone house burned to the ground along with 25 other homes in Woodfords, leaving nothing but the fireplace, whose mortarless stones soon toppled into the surrounding ashes.

Marking each rebuilt house is a slender flag pole donated by a family whose house was spared. Each has a plaque with an inscription dedicated to the survivors of the fire.

The Parkers' new house is surrounded by a wide swath of gravel and landscaping of large rocks, which would help stunt the spread

of flames in case another fire should ignite. Catherine's old garden grew right up to the house, but she is careful now to keep all plants pruned away. The roof is made of fire-retardant material, and the whole house has been treated in fire-retardant chemicals.

"My attitude now is, if it's meant to be, it's meant to be," she said. "We chose to live here. We chose to come back here. We are not ignorant of the dangers. We have prepared as best we can, and so be it."

Like the Parkers, many Woodfords residents have learned to take more precautions in the rustic community where barren tree trunks stand like matchsticks on the mountain sides.

Dave Kirby, owner of the Woodfords Station general store, said he and his neighbors are now more alert about safeguarding their irreplaceable belongings.

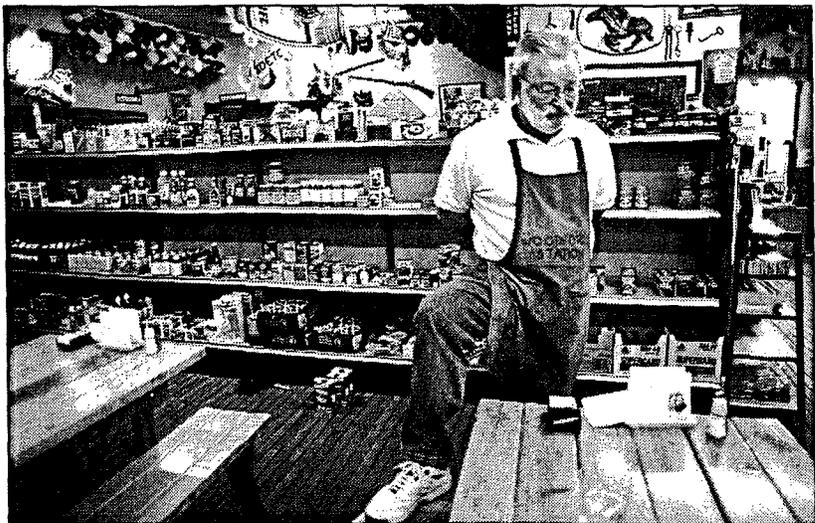
"My wife and I talked about what to grab first when we go out the door, and the rest of it — to hell with it," he said.

Skip Veatch, the town sheriff, lost everything in the fire but "my wife, my two children and the cat," he said. His property had 22 pine trees growing close around the small house. Now two trees remain, and the rebuilt house is bordered by boulders.

He's always aware of fire danger but tries not to dwell on it.

"If you live your life in fear of the fire, then you don't enjoy yourself. We take what precautions we can," he said.

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Marilyn Newton/Gazette-Journal

WOODFORDS SURVIVOR: Dave Kirby, owner of the Woodfords Station general store, recalls the 1987 fire that nearly wiped him out.

World's Toughest now at Kirkwood

R-C News Service

The World's Toughest Triathlon will observe its 10th anniversary at a new location, moving from South Lake Tahoe to Alpine County on Aug. 6.

More than 500 athletes compete in this race, noted for its physical and mental intensity, as well as unique setting.

The new course will be based at Kirkwood. The grueling course will consist of a two-mile swim in the brisk waters of Caples Lake, followed by a 100-mile bike ride that will encompass two 8,000-foot passes in Alpine County: Carson and Ebbetts. The last leg of the race will be an 18.6-mile run around the Kirkwood ski resort area.

In addition to individual competitors, approximately 60 relay teams will compete, according to race director Charlie Lincoln.

For more information and registration details, call (916) 573-0103.

Record Courier

July 24, 1994

Missing Alpine hikers found

A search for three hikers lost in the Sierra was called off after they were found by a helicopter.

The hikers, described as a husband and wife in their 40s and an 18-year-old woman, spent the night in the Sierra after they were separated from a walking tour.

Alpine County Search and Rescue was called out Friday night after a headcount revealed the trio were missing.

A spokesman for the Alpine County Sheriff's Office said the hikers were part of a group of more than 100 people which set

off from eastern Amador County, near Kirkwood Friday morning for a day hike.

Alpine searchers on horseback spent Saturday morning looking for the trio.

A California Highway Patrol helicopter from Sacramento called in to aid the search located the hikers at about 10 a.m.

An unusually warm weather pattern worked in the three hikers' favor.

Cloud cover kept temperatures warm and muggy overnight. Light rain fell Saturday morning.

Record Corner 7/31/94

Record Courier Aug. 7, 1994

Edie and Skip Veatch celebrate 25th anniversary

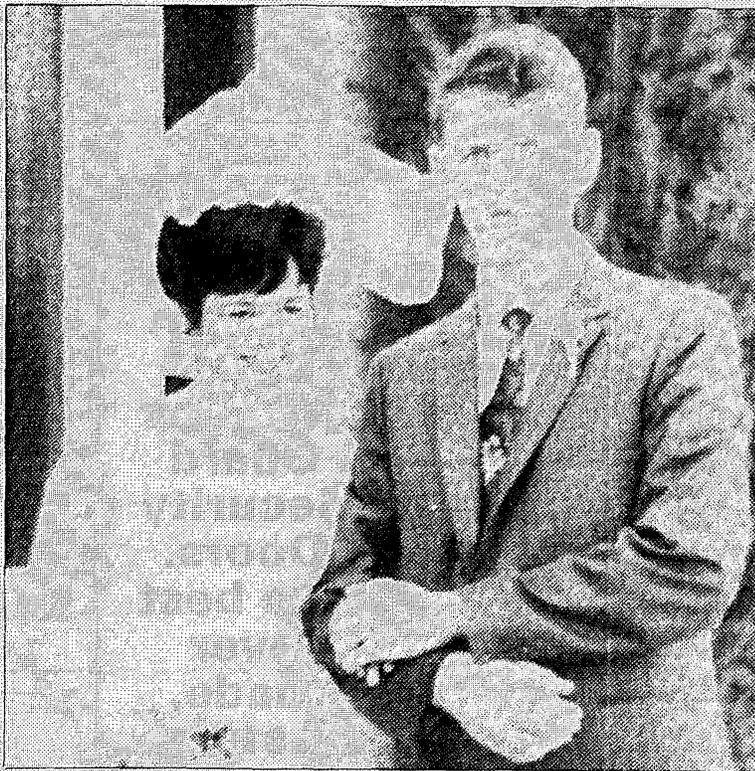
Edie and Skip Veatch celebrated their 25th anniversary July 26 with an evening at Chester, a small town outside of Susanville, Calif.

The two met while working at Household Finance in Vallejo, Calif. In July of 1969 they were married in Yountville, Calif. and moved to Alpine County in July of 1973.

Edie says her fondest early marriage memories include the baby showers held for her when she was pregnant with her two children, Chris and Tammy. The whole community was involved in each celebration.

Skip remembers the community gatherings where he played music, danced and sang for various functions.

When asked what attributed to their marriage being so strong,



EDIE AND SKIP VEATCH, CIRCA 1969

they replied that they had open communication through all the difficult times, and they support-

ed each other and put their relationship first above everything else.



RICK GUNN/Tahoe Tribune

NO EASY SOLUTION: Loggers, like George Fernandes, face a number of hurdles trying to weed out dead trees.

Tahoe's troubled trees

Tahoe Daily Tribune Aug 6-7, 1994

BY ELIZABETH CROSS
Tribune Correspondent

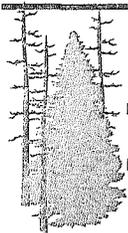
"Damned if you do, damned if you don't." That is fast becoming the motto for many local loggers and homeowners who watch helplessly as Tahoe's forests die.

Today about 30 percent of the trees in the Tahoe Basin are either dead or dying. In some pockets of the forest, the mortality rate is more than 80 percent, according to the Forest Service. Until those trees are logged or rot into the soil, residents and firefighters will face each summer and autumn with the looming prospect of catastrophic wild land fires.

Forestry experts agree: Fire suppression, coupled with more than seven years of drought, have created a disaster here and in much of the West. Most people feel the logical solution is to get the dead fuel load removed as fast as possible — but that's where the frustra-

tion lies.

The combined effects of bureaucracies, tight, but necessary laws, human and financial limitations, and environmentalist concerns have made it almost impossible to get the deadwood out of the basin.



TAHOE TINDERBOX

Tahoe Life, page 1C

RED TAPE

About 75 percent of the land in the Tahoe Basin is federally-owned and managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. Due to the bureaucratic process mandated by Congress to protect those forests, the administration of a timber sale is a 5-

year ordeal.

The process probably can't be sped up, according to Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit forest supervisor Robert Harris. One big reason is that the timber sales must meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), before logging can begin. NEPA demands studies of archeology, wildlife and other sensitive aspects of timber sale sites. Studies determined, for example, that helicopters must be used to carry out logs from the Tahoe Mountain and East Shore timber sale areas to minimize erosion on the steep slopes.

As a timber sale inches through the bureaucracy, the market value for those trees plummets due to natural decay. This dilemma has often forced sales to change mid-stream. Bidders no longer have to remove the unmerchantable wood or "cull," from the Tahoe

Please see **TREES**, Page 9A

Protecting the environment but trying to make a profit

BY ELIZABETH CROSS
Tribune Correspondent

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Tahoe's troubled trees

Tahoe Daily Tribune Aug 6-7, 1994

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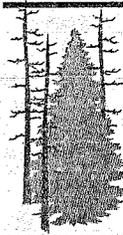
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Please see TREES, Page 9A

Protecting the environment but trying to make a profit

By ELIZABETH CROSS

Tribune Correspondent

Even the best loggers can get tripped up by the tangled thicket of Forest Service laws and regulations.

Late last year, George Fernandes was sentenced to a year of probation after allowing a truckload of logs to leave a Forest Service timber sale unbranded. Brands stamped and painted onto the end of logs identify where the logs come from and control how they are sold.

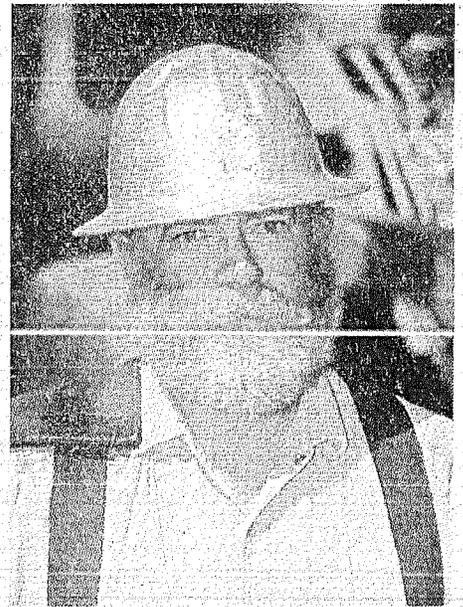
"The logs were mine. There was

no question I (had) paid for them," Fernandes said. "I just forgot to brand the dumb things.

"We'd gotten rid of the (marketable) logs (on the site) long before," Fernandes said. "This was just some junk wood I told the guys to get out of there because it was near the Meeks Bay campground and it looked horrible."

There was no profit for Fernandes' company, Sierra Nevada Logging, in the firewood-quality wood, he said. Fernandes

Please see LOGGER, Page 9A



George Fernandes

Logger

Continued from Page 1A

had, in fact, incurred the cost of transporting the load, which was on its way to Markleeville where much of it was to be distributed to senior citizens and the volunteer fire department.

But a mistake can lead to serious penalties under the letter of the law. Despite Fernandes' admission of error, Forest Service special agent

Dave Cotter issued citations to Fernandes and his truck driver Bob Williams.

In court, federal magistrate Monte Reece fined Fernandes \$500, which Reece then suspended, and placed the logger on one-year informal probation. Williams was fined \$100.

"I told the judge I've never stolen a log in my life and never will," Fernandes said. "The judge said his hands were tied and he gave me the minimum sentence possible. He looked at the officer (Cotter) and said it should

have been handled in a different way instead of coming to court."

However, according to Cotter, the law does not allow officer's discretion in the matter.

"That particular statute that (Fernandes) got cited for is a theft prevention statute," said Cotter. "When that wood left the sale area not marked and designated for removal, that's theft of government property."

The fact that the market value of the wood on the truck exceeded

\$100 (as fire wood) and was not branded when it was agreed on paper that it should have been, by law required Cotter to cite Fernandes, Cotter said.

The court took into consideration Fernandes' impeccable logging record before this incident, however.

"We do make recommendations considering the past history of the individual," Cotter said. "In fact, that was a consideration in our recommendation to the court in

George's case. That penalty is so low."

"I felt awful for a court," Fernandes said right on the paper they big letters: If I violate

George Fernandes: An ideal logger

By ELIZABETH CROSS
Tribune Correspondant

If the public and forest stewards were to describe the ideal logger, he might resemble George Fernandes.

For 30 years Fernandes has been working with the Forest Service and environmentalists as the owner and operator of Sierra Nevada Logging of Markleeville. The past ten years have included extensive operations in the Tahoe Basin.

"The closest thing I could come to in describing a model logger is George Fernandes," said Steve Harcourt, forester for the California Department of Forestry. "If I could clone

him I would. He's a forestry practice inspector's dream. He's not typical."

"I love the forest," Fernandes said. That love has led him to take unusual measures to protect the forests while still doing his job.

"We do about 4 to 5 (truck) loads a day at best," Fernandes said. "It takes us more time because we are careful to go around and not run over new growth."

Many loggers carry out 15 to 20 loads a day everyday, he said.

In doing his job, Fernandes has kept up a good working relationship with the Forest Service's Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit timber office. They recently invited him

to participate in a program for about 450 local middle-school children.

"I really enjoy children and I was happy to help them understand the forest," said Fernandes, himself a grandfather of three. "We even looked at the beetles that have infested the trees."

Fernandes purchased 40 hard hats for the kids and the Forest Service rounded up another 20. In bus loads of 60, the hard hat-clad kids went into an actual logging project to visit with Fernandes and his crew of 10.

"We didn't get much work done those two days, but I think the kids learned a lot and had fun, so it was worth it," Fernandes said. His crew

was paid for those days, though they put in about a tenth of their normal work load.

The Department of Agriculture recognized Fernandes with a plaque, praising his outstanding achievement.

"The character of the individual (logger) is critical," said Harcourt. Most loggers work unsupervised, so how they get their product out of the forest effects the ecosystem.

"I think he is very, very well thought of in terms of timber contractor here," said Forest Service recreational forester Gary Weigel. "I don't know of any person who has worked with him that has a negative

\$100 (as fire wood) and was not branded when it was agreed on paper that it should have been, by law required Cotter to cite Fernandes, Cotter said.

The court took into consideration Fernandes' impeccable logging record before this incident, however.

"We do make recommendations considering the past history of the individual," Cotter said. "In fact, that was a consideration in our recommendation to the court in

logger

was paid for those days, though they put in about tenth of their normal work load.

The Department of Agriculture

George's case. That's why (the penalty) is so low."

"I felt awful for a week after court," Fernandes said. "It says right on the paper they gave me in big letters: If I violate probation, I

could go to jail for the duration of the probation.

"I met with (my employees) and told them to try their very best not to make any mistakes," Fernandes said.



Marilyn Newton/Gazette-Journal

PASSING IT ON: Goldie Bryan plays an ancient hand game with Benny Fillmore, center, and Herman Holbrook.

Hear our words

Project goal is to save American Indian languages from extinction

By Sandra Macias
GAZETTE-JOURNAL

It was another hot day at the Dresslerville Indian Colony, and Benny Fillmore, his uncle, Herman Holbrook, and his aunt, Goldie Bryan, sat under the shade of a cottonwood in Fillmore's back yard.

The three faced a small group of people, one of whom pointed a video camera at them. Everyone was quiet as Holbrook began.

"Ungadegemdia hesh me'i?"

Holbrook threw the first question in Washo to his nephew. Fillmore, sorting out the sounds in his mind, answered: "Benny Fillmore."

Smiling slightly, Holbrook went on to

■ *"It's important that we don't lose our culture and language. Language is about all we have left now."*

Adele James

other questions, such as "Where do you live?" and "Who is your family?"

He asked all of them in his native Washo tongue while Fillmore answered in short sentences. Meanwhile, linguist Leanne Hinton taped their exchanges.

It's all part of a program in which Holbrook, 69, is passing on the Washo language to his 35-year-old nephew, Fillmore. The two are involved in a California-based, language-preservation project whose goal is saving American Indian languages from extinction.

The two-year program takes a master-apprentice team approach. Each team is composed of an elder and a younger member of the tribe, and each commits to 20 hours of conversation a week.

So far, the program has 25 master-apprentice teams speaking 10 different languages. The Washo, the only participating tribe from Nevada, has

See **LANGUAGE** on page **4E**

Language

From page 1E
three teams. The rest are from California.

The goal is to build a network of "speakers" — those who can speak fluently. From there, children will learn the language. This will be done not only by speaking it in the home, but in preschools in colonies and on reservations.

Two of the program's facilitators — Nancy Richardson and Hinton, a professor of linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley — paid a recent visit to Dresslerville, outside Minden. They met with two Washo teams to check on their progress.

"We have to focus on fluency," said Richardson, emphasizing the urgency of the program's mission. "We have got to make speakers or we won't have language."

The average age of the elders in the program is 60 plus and a few are in their 80s.

"Some tribes only have one or two speakers," said Richardson. "You can see, we don't have 30 years (to save native languages)."

The Washo tribe is in better shape than most tribes in California. According to a survey, there are 64 fluent Washo speakers in a membership of 1,572.

"The fluent speakers are elders," said Laura Fillmore, who with her husband Benny got the preservation project rolling at Dresslerville. "But there is no real rebirth of the language among our

children. If we don't line up more masters and apprentices in the next couple of years, we'll be in big trouble."

Elders concerned about the demise of Washo say younger tribe members won't know who they are without the language.

"It's important that we don't lose our culture and language. Language is about all we have left now," said Adele James, who's participating in the project with her younger sister, Kathy Burt.

The Washo tribe has been busy preserving its language in other ways besides the master-apprentice project.

The tribe began a language circle last winter, offering classes in Washo. In July, the language classes took a summer break.

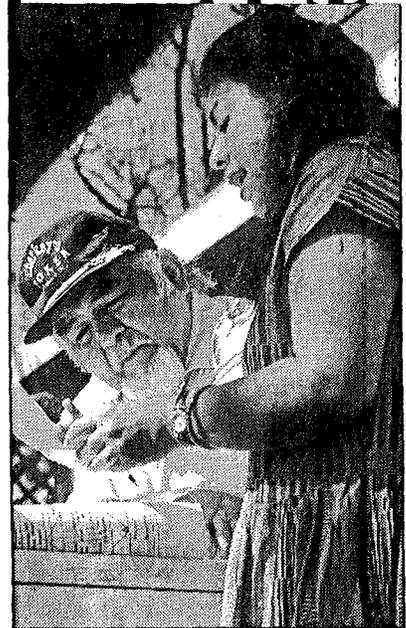
Classes went reasonably well, said William Jacobsen who taught them in June and July.

"But there was a lot of turnover. Some struggled and some dropped in for a few classes," said the retired professor of linguistics at the University of Nevada, Reno.

There are differing opinions on the value of saving the language. Some tribal members say the modern language is English.

"They accuse us of wanting to go back to the Stone Age," said James. "They say we should focus on the issues of the reservation. Fix today's problems rather than the past."

But others say the loss of a language is a loss of a people, its culture, beliefs and identity. And that's why Holbrook and Fillmore are doing their part to keep the language alive.



Marilyn Newton/Gazette-Journal

PRESERVATION: Nancy Richardson goes over some notes with Herman Holbrook.

Sitting in the back yard, under the cottonwood, they begin where they left off with their language activity.

Fillmore picked up a twig and began tapping a beat on a stone. His aunt Goldie picked up the beat with her cane while Holbrook joined in with a tapping foot.

A sing-song chant began. It embraced the singers and observers before it circled its way up through the tree branches and into the hot air.

The ancient hand game began, linking the living with their ancestors.

oppression that have led to the decline and death of languages in California, she is indignant.

Some of the essays in this volume appeared first as Hinton's columns on language in a magazine, "News from Native California." Some were written by

other linguists. In her introduction to "Flutes of Fire," she tells us how she came to the study of languages through music, and how her magazine columns led to the book.

"Any book about language," she writes, "must also be about the

lessons in humanity that we learn through language. Through this book, I seek to bring to the reader a sense of urgency about the impending loss of our great linguistic treasure."

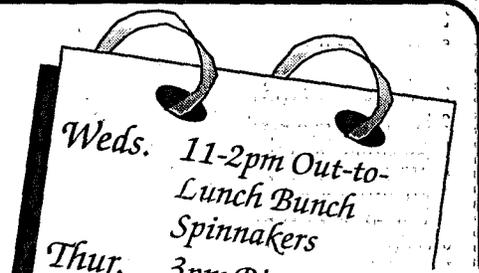
Barbara Land is a Reno-based free-lance writer.

ERFUL LIFE OR AT LAKESIDE

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**MILESTONES/
OBITUARIES** Page 2C

NEVADA DIGEST

Charge is reduced in death of baby

MINDEN — Terri Ortiz pleaded guilty Monday to a reduced charge of battery in the beating death of her 4-year-old daughter.

Ortiz, 27, was first charged with murder, battery and child abuse for beating the child with a glass baby bottle at their home near Genoa. The girl died four days later after life support was removed at a hospital.

Deputy District Attorney Kris Brown confirmed that charges were reduced because the primary evidence, a taped confession, was compromised by an investigator's handling of the case.

Douglas County sheriff's officials are conducting an internal investigation and have asked the state attorney general's office to review the case. The investigator, Bob Cooke, is on leave with pay.

Cooke testified at Ms. Ortiz' preliminary hearing that he had two conversations with her before the one in which she confessed. But he said he didn't have the tape of those conversations.

Brown told District Judge Tom Perkins that first tape has disappeared "and there's no satisfactory explanation of what happened." Without all the tapes, she said the confession is subject to challenge as involuntary.

Sentencing is set for Sept. 26. Ms. Ortiz could get up to 20 years in prison.

Mother admits child abuse;

Confession questioned, sheriff's investigator on leave

by SHEILA GARDNER
Staff Writer

A Genoa woman accused of beating her 4-year-old daughter to death faces one to 20 years in Nevada State Prison after she pleaded guilty Monday to child abuse causing substantial bodily harm in a plea agreement with the district attorney's office.

Additional charges against Terri Jean Ortiz-Garcia were dismissed after deputy district attorney Kris Brown said the woman's confes-

sion to the March 23 death of her daughter may have been coerced by a Douglas County Sheriff's investigator.

"Because of the questionable handling of the interview, the state could not prove that no coercion was used in the interview before the confession," Brown told District Judge Tom Perkins. "It's in the best interests of justice to accept this plea negotiation."

Originally, Ortiz-Garcia was charged with murder, child abuse causing substantial bodily harm,

battery with a deadly weapon and child abuse. She pleaded not guilty to the charges and a trial was set for Nov. 28.

Douglas County Sheriff Jerry Maple and Capt. Jim EnEarl said Monday that investigator Robert Cooke was on paid administrative leave until the sheriff's office concludes an internal investigation of allegations that Cooke tampered with evidence and lied during Ortiz-Garcia's preliminary hearing in June.

At that time, Cooke denied that

Record Courier 8/11/94

murder charge dismissed

he threatened the woman with the death penalty or told her she would not see her children until she confessed.

He also said the initial tape recording of their conversations failed because the tabs on the tape were broken which meant it could not be taped over.

When asked by Ortiz-Garcia's attorney, public defender Tod Young, for the original, Cooke said he thought it was in his desk. A temporary restraining order was issued to prevent the original from being destroyed.

EnEarl confirmed Monday that

the tape has never been found. He said Cooke told him that he must have lost it.

Perkins set sentencing for Sept. 26 at 1:30 p.m. Ortiz-Garcia faces one to 20 years in Nevada State Prison and will be eligible for parole after five to seven years. She remains in Douglas County Jail on \$500,000 bail.

Ortiz-Garcia wept after she entered her plea. She told Perkins that she understands English and completed the ninth grade.

"Ms. Ortiz remains depressed about her child's death," Young said after the arraignment. "She is

depressed about being in jail. She's scared and uncertain of her ultimate fate."

"The child is still dead," Young said. "This woman has not had a trial and no one knows exactly what happened. You cannot presume that she is guilty of murder. That is not going to be established."

In addition to the sheriff's department investigation of Cooke, both the district attorney and Young have asked the Nevada attorney general's office to look into the allegations.

Continued to page 8

Ortiz: Murder charge dismissed

Continued from page 1

"When I became aware of information that there was likelihood that testimony presented at the preliminary hearing was fabricated, it was my duty to pursue that," Young said.

"I had information from my client about what happened during the course of the interview. His testimony was beyond belief. It was inconceivable that the events he testified to transpired that way. Everything from his demeanor to the content of his testimony was an indication that he was not telling the truth."

Maple said Cooke was placed on administrative leave on July 27. He currently is taking two weeks' vacation and will be placed back on leave Aug. 15. Maple said Cooke continues to draw salary because it would be unfair not to pay him since he hasn't been found guilty of any transgressions.

In addition to the allegations of tampering with evidence and perjury, the sheriff's department is looking into whether there were any violations of policies and procedures.

By pleading guilty to child abuse causing substantial bodily harm, Ortiz-Garcia admitted that she caused injuries to her 4-year-old daughter, Letisia Joyce that were "willful, unlawful and unjustified."

Letisia died March 27 after suffering numerous blows to the head and body.

Medical experts testified at her mother's preliminary hearing that Letisia died of blunt traumatic injuries to the brain. According to testimony, Letisia was shaken so vigorously that she suffered a fatal brain injury.

She was placed on a life support system for four days and underwent surgery before the decision was made to remove her from the system.

Maple said it would be inappropriate to comment whether Cooke has ever been the subject of prior disciplinary actions. Cooke is a 14-year veteran of the sheriff's office.

"At the conclusion of our investigation, there will be full and free access to our report and information about any prior disciplinary problems," Maple said.

Deputy district attorney Brown said after the arraignment that she was disappointed that the case was negotiated, but felt that was the state's best option.

"Because of the allegations raised concerning coercion, the burden shifts to us to prove that the confession was voluntary. What I had to look at is the chance the confession would be suppressed," she said.

"Without the confession, all we

have is a circumstantial case against her."

Brown said she had to weigh factors from the worst scenario of having the whole case thrown out to the best scenario in which the prosecution remained intact despite the questions raised over confession.

Brown said there was little difference between the penalty for the charge to which Ortiz-Garcia pleaded and second degree murder.

"Had she pleaded guilty to second degree murder, she could have been sentenced to life with the possibility of parole after a minimum of five years."

"I'm disappointed that it had to be negotiated, but I felt under the circumstances I had to look at that option," Brown said, adding that "I'm pleased with the way the sheriff's department is handling the investigation. Nobody is trying to cover up what was done."

Public defender Tod Young agreed with Brown's assessment of the investigation.

"For the most part, the people of Douglas County can be very proud of the job this sheriff's department does," Young said.

He told Judge Perkins at the arraignment the sheriff's department and the district attorney's office had been "courteous, and professional with ethics on the

Investigator leaves sheriff's department

Probe reveals violations in handling Ortiz murder case

by KURT HILDEBRAND
Staff Writer

Investigator Robert Cooke retired from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office yesterday in the wake of an internal investigation into his handling of the Letisia Ortiz case.

"We have been informed through Mr. Cooke's legal counsel that he has retired from this department effective 5 p.m. this date," Sheriff Jerry Maple said in a prepared statement Wednesday. "Had Mr. Cooke not taken the avenue of retirement, it was our intention to aggressively seek his termination from this

department."

Maple said investigators examined the conduct of the investigation into the March 23 death of the 4-year-old child.

"The internal investigation concerned itself with the conduct of Mr. Cooke and his investigation of the abuse of 4-year-old Letisia Ortiz," Maple said in the statement. "It also concerned itself with the resulting testimony of Mr. Cooke during the preliminary hearing of Terri Jean Ortiz-Garcia who was accused of abusing her 4-year-old daughter."

Terri Jean Ortiz-Garcia is

scheduled to be sentenced in District Court on Sept. 26.

She pleaded guilty to child abuse causing substantial bodily harm and faces 1 to 20 years in prison.

Additional charges against Ortiz-Garcia were dismissed after deputy district attorney Kris Brown said the woman's confession to the death of her daughter may have been coerced by a Douglas County Sheriff's investigator.

"Because of the questionable handling of the interview, the state could not prove that no coercion was used in the interview before

Continued to page 3

Cooke: Violations were uncovered

Continued from page 1
the confession," Brown told District Judge Tom Perkins during Ortiz-Garcia's arraignment on Aug. 8. "It's in the best interests of justice to accept this plea negotiation."

Originally, Ortiz-Garcia was charged with murder, child abuse causing substantial bodily harm, battery with a deadly weapon and child abuse.

Cooke was the investigator in charge of the Ortiz-Garcia investigation.

According to Capt. Jim EnEarl who, with Sgt. Mike Biaggini, conducted the sheriff's internal investigation, particulars of the investigation are confidential.

"This was all done under the umbrella of attorney-client privilege," EnEarl said Wednesday.

The sheriff's office released 11 findings from the month-long investigation into Cooke's handling of the Ortiz case.

Of the seven internal findings, investigators sustained six of seven allegations that Cooke violated provisions of the sheriff's office manual of rules and regulations.

Among those allegations are that Cooke violated the standard of conduct, performance of duty, obedience to laws and regulations, untruthfulness, tampering with evidence, and lockers sections of the manual.

Investigators determined that an allegation that Cooke removed or altered official records was not sustained.

According to the sheriff's office, investigators sustained allegations Cooke made a false report and destroyed evidence in violation of state law. An allegation that Cooke offered false evidence was not sustained.

Maple said that he and District Attorney Scott Doyle wrote a letter to the Nevada Attorney General's Office seeking an investigation.

A spokeswoman for the Attorney General's Office said it is that office's policy not to reveal whether an investigation is under way until charges are filed.

According to EnEarl, the internal investigation cannot be used against Cooke in any criminal pro-

ceeding.

While the sheriff's office requires employees to cooperate with an investigation, because of the constitutional provisions against self-incrimination, nothing developed in that investigation may be used in a criminal case.

"I cannot even talk to the attorney general about this case," EnEarl said.

The internal investigation was conducted to a civil standard, which uses a preponderance of the evidence and not a criminal standard, which seeks to prove allegations beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Because of the differing standard, there is a possibility no criminal charges would be filed by the state in this case.

"The attorney general may see there is not enough evidence, because of the differing level of proof," Maple said. "The AG is not privy to the same information we are."

As a 14-year veteran, Cooke

was vested under the Public Employees Retirement System.

Maple said Cooke has been the subject of prior disciplinary action.

"In August 1992, Robert Cooke was demoted from the rank of investigator as a result of misconduct," Maple said. "Charges were brought up in an internal investigation for misuse of county vehicle and misuse of county phone system. He repaid Douglas County back \$300 in phone bill charges. He used a telephone and car for personal reasons."

Maple said Cooke appealed the disciplinary action to an outside arbitrator.

"The arbitrator ruled that the department was well-justified in demoting Cooke, but didn't feel that the demotion should have been permanent," Maple said.

Cooke was reinstated to the rank of investigator after nine months and awarded no back pay.

An attempt to contact Cooke for comment was unsuccessful.

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Kirkwood 10-K run on Sept. 11

The 14th annual Kirkwood 5- and 10-K Run will be held next Sunday, Sept. 11, 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.

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 (by Saturday) and \$15 on race day. The registration fee for children under 12 years of age is \$5.

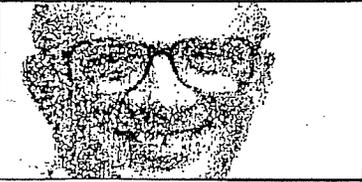
A one-mile fun run for children 12 and under will be held.

The event is a benefit for the Kirkwood Volunteer Fire Department.

9-494 RC.



Outdoors



Good, bad mix at Heenan

Last Friday was the opening day of the 1994 fishing season at Heenan Lake in nearby Alpine County, Calif., and it presented an interesting mix of both good and bad.

Included in the good were:

The weather was beautiful at the beginning of the day — a gorgeous late-summer/early-fall day.

However, that rapidly changed, as a stiff wind began to blow by mid-morning, resulting in many of the fishermen (110+) departing for other less-wind-prone waters.

I saw several familiar faces at the opener including Bob Best of Carson City, Gerry Colquhoun of Minden, Bob Martin of Gardnerville, Russ Wickwire of Truckee, Warren of Woodfords — just to name a few.

Russ Wickwire is a fisheries biologist with California Fish and Game Department, and he was at the Heenan opener in the event his presence was needed.

He was there well before the official opening at 6:30 a.m., and did a superb job in fielding questions regarding rules, regulations, where to fish, the new gate blocking fishermen's access to the water, etc.

Included in the bad were:

The fishing was pitiful, at best, with very few of the anglers reporting even getting any strikes.

Heenan had a very heavy bloom of algae, which in combination with the hot weather of past weeks, the recent full moon and the huge number of fishermen in float tubes (98) on the water, all, undoubtedly, contributed to the fish hugging the bottom and refusing to bite.

A new barbed-wire fence around the parking area, new heavy-duty locked gates and a pedestrian-access through the barbed-wire fence created the most comments and animosity of the day.

I asked game warden Norman Reuther the purpose of the gates and he said, "It's to keep people from driving to the hatchery."

This was probably the excuse for the gate on the road to the hatchery, but no one, including Reuther, ever did an adequate job of explaining the other gate.

That gate kept fishermen from being able to take their boats to the edge of the lake, and boaters were reduced to having to lift their boats over the gate and to carry them 100 yards to the water.

Reuther's presence as a fish and game warden at the Heenan Lake opener on Friday could be described as sadly lacking — at best.

He arrived 20 minutes after the official opening (a number of fishermen were already on the water at 5:45 a.m.), made the statement he thought that the season opened at 7 a.m. (he's been the Alpine County game warden for years!), and was overheard asking Wickwire what the 1994 rules and regulations were for Heenan lake!

Once Reuther arrived, he walked about 50 yards from his truck to the information booth, where he spent about 30 minutes visiting, before leaving for parts unknown.

While he was visiting at the booth, I asked if he ever walked around the lake or went out on the water to check the fishermen.

His reply: "No."

When asked how many warnings or citations he had written at Heenan in 1993, he replied: "I didn't write any last year."

His most mind-boggling activity was when he returned at 10:45 a.m. and learned that the outhouses were missing toilet paper.

He immediately raced off to Markleeville for the necessary rolls.

While he was at Heenan, did Reuther check any licenses? Did he walk down to the water's edge? Did he walk around the lake? Did he go out onto the lake? Did he check if anyone was using illegal methods such as barbed hooks? Did he use his binoculars to check anglers?

The answer is a very sad: No!

But, he did tell me more than once: "I'm the only game warden in all of Alpine County and a lot of waters don't get covered."

Based on what I saw, there's very little difference between covered and uncovered in Alpine County.

• Bet Your Favorite Pigeon

Bet your favorite pigeon that he can't tell you about the impact of poaching for ivory on elephants in Kenya, Africa.

It's frightening! In the last 10 years, their numbers have been reduced from 150,000 to 30,000.



Photo by Don Quilici

TWO VERY LARGE black bear paw prints in wet mud are shown next to a spinning rod and reel for comparison in size. The bear had been walking along the edge of Wet Meadows Lake near Hope Valley, and is one of an increasing number in our area.

6.0 Quake Shakes Tahoe — Tremors Follow

*By David Perlman
Chronicle Science Editor*

A rolling earthquake struck just east of the high Sierra before dawn yesterday, and although it jolted a wide area of Northern California and Nevada, it caused only minor damage and no injuries.

The quake, with a magnitude of 6.0, shook thousands of people awake at 5:23 a.m. It was centered about 12 miles east-southeast of

Gardnerville in Nevada's Douglas County — about 30 miles from South Lake Tahoe — and was felt in San Francisco, Fresno and 300 miles away in Elko, Nev.

The earthquake was followed by several aftershocks with magnitudes of around 3 and one of magnitude 5.3, which hit at 4:47 p.m. and was felt in the Bay Area.

Moderate quakes have been reported in the sparsely populated mountain and desert region since

the area was settled a century and a half ago.

In California, Alpine County Sheriff Henry Veatch said the quake rattled the courthouse windows in Markleeville and damaged the roof, while goods tumbled off the shelves of several stores.

"It woke me up pretty good," Veatch said. The jolt was the strongest quake he had felt in his 21 years of living in the tiny county seat with a population of 150.

Cheryl and John Sparks, who own Markleeville's sporting goods and liquor store, said the quake tumbled half their stock of wine and liquor off the shelves.

"I have liquor all over the place," Cheryl Sparks said. "It's real bad."

"The windows all rattled at first, then it just kinda jumped all up and down," said Dennis Thomp-

QUAKE: Page A13 Col. 1

6.9 Quake

By David Fertman
Chronicle Science Editor

A rolling earthquake just east of the high Sierra dawn yesterday, and although it jolted a wide area of Northern California and Nevada, it caused minor damage and no injuries.

The quake, with a magnitude of 6.0, shook thousands of people awake at 5:23 a.m. It was centered about 12 miles east-southe

here, because everyone in the hotel was calling downstairs and asking how to call long distance or wanting to know if everything was all right," said Francis Sullivan, the reservation clerk. "But there was no structural damage, just a good shaking."

Within minutes after the quake touched off alarm signals at the University of Nevada's seismology department in Reno, teams of scientists moved out to install portable seismographs around the epicenter to record the quake's aftershocks and pinpoint its precise location and depth.

But even with those details still uncertain, the quake revealed fresh evidence of how unstable the Earth's crust remains in a wide region that stretches for hundreds of miles on either side of the great San Andreas Fault.

According to David Hill of the

Earth's crust — the Pacific Plate on the west and the Continental Plate on the east. On the west side of the San Andreas, the Pacific Plate, with San Francisco and the entire Coast Range riding on it, has been moving ponderously northward at about 40 millimeters a year — barely an inch and a half.

The result is a tangle of seismic faults, some marked by earthquakes in which one side of a fault dips beneath the other side, while in others the quakes cause the crustal blocks to slip horizontally past each other.

"We all really live on a very soft boundary between the two plates," Hill said, "and moderate quakes like yesterday's are very common along the western edge of the Great Basin and the eastern Sierra."

Chronicle correspondent Ann Bancroft contributed to this report.

6.0 quake boasts big motion, little damage

By Sam Stanton and John D. Cox
Bee Staff Writers

An earthquake that struck early Monday rocked parts of Northern California and Nevada, jarring groggy residents from their beds, triggering small rock slides and scaring household pets.

But the extent of the damage from the temblor appeared to be limited largely to the destruction of grocery store pasta sauce.

"We lost two jars of spaghetti sauce," said Gary Carter, assistant manager of the Tahoe City Lucky's store. "That's it."

Not bad for a quake that measured 6.0 on the Richter scale, a magnitude that normally can cause severe damage.

But damage from the quake, which

the rocking in Lake Tahoe and hundreds of miles away in Sacramento, San Francisco, Fresno and Elko, Nev.

The rarity with which earthquakes are felt in the Sacramento and Sierra regions left many people convinced early Monday that a catastrophic temblor had struck the Bay Area and that what they were feeling was the aftershock of the dreaded "Big One."

"I live in Truckee, and it shook the house pretty good," Carter said. "I thought, I wonder if this was in San Francisco?"

The quake occurred in a "transition zone" between the Sierra Nevada and Great Basin, and aftershocks may help scientists understand the process that produced the

Previous east Sierra tremors

Magnitude, place and year

- 7.2, Fallon, Nev., 1954.
- 6.0, Truckee, 1966
- 6.0 Markleeville, 1857, 1860, 1868, 1869 (twice), 1887
- 5.0, Markleeville, 1942, 1953

Sources: Associated Press, California Department of Conservation

struck at 5:23 a.m., apparently was slight because it was centered in a largely rural area at Double Spring Flat, Nev., about 12 miles south of Minden.

Still, there were reports of people feeling

INSIDE

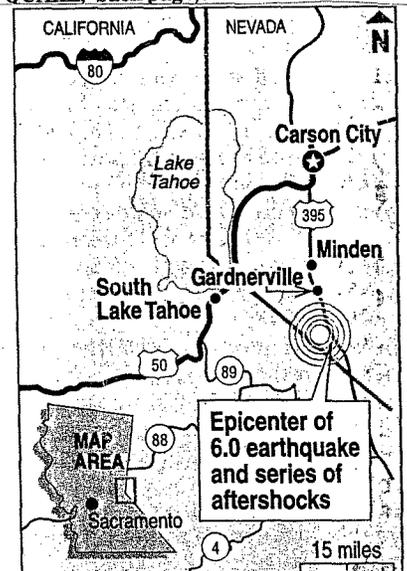
- Sacramento isn't immune to quake rituals.

Diana Griego
Erwin, page A2

mountain range, said John Louie, professor of seismology at the University of Nevada. Louie said seismic waves from aftershocks will be studied to identify the deep interior of the Sierra Nevada and answer such questions as "why they are there, how recently they came up, and how fast they came up."

While the peaks of the Sierra are marked by dramatic "fault scarps" formed by the upthrusting of ancient temblors, Monday's was apparently along a sideways-moving

Please see **QUAKE**, back page, A12



FROM PAGE ONE

Quake: Nevada rife with faults, studies indicate

Continued from page A1
 "strike-slip" fault that has not been identified before.

"It's very common for us to have an earthquake on a fault that's never been identified," Louie said. "It doesn't really surprise us. Investigations over the last 20 years have shown that Nevada is essentially rife with faults."

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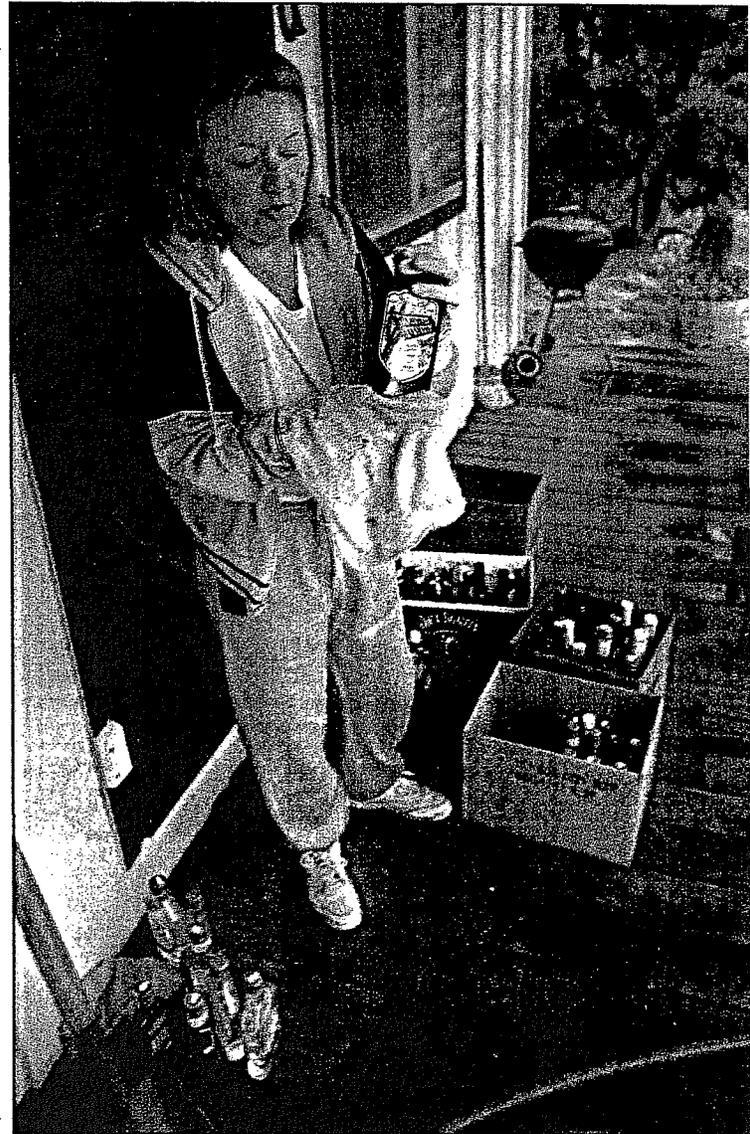
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Bee/Mitch Ioli

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Bee correspondent Catherine Gibbs contributed to this report.

The Sacramento Bee

6.0 quake boasts big motion, little damage

By Sam Stanton and John D. Cox
Bee Staff Writers

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But the extent of the damage from the temblor appeared to be limited largely to the destruction of grocery store pasta sauce.

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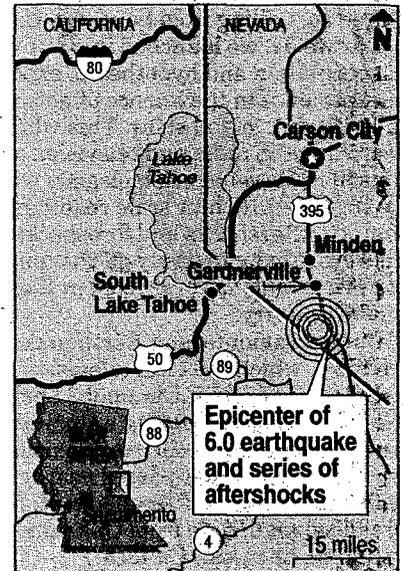
- Sacramento isn't immune to quake rituals.
- Diana Griego Erwin, page A2

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Please see **QUAKE**, back page, A12





Bee/Mitch Toll

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FROM PAGE ONE

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Continued from page A1
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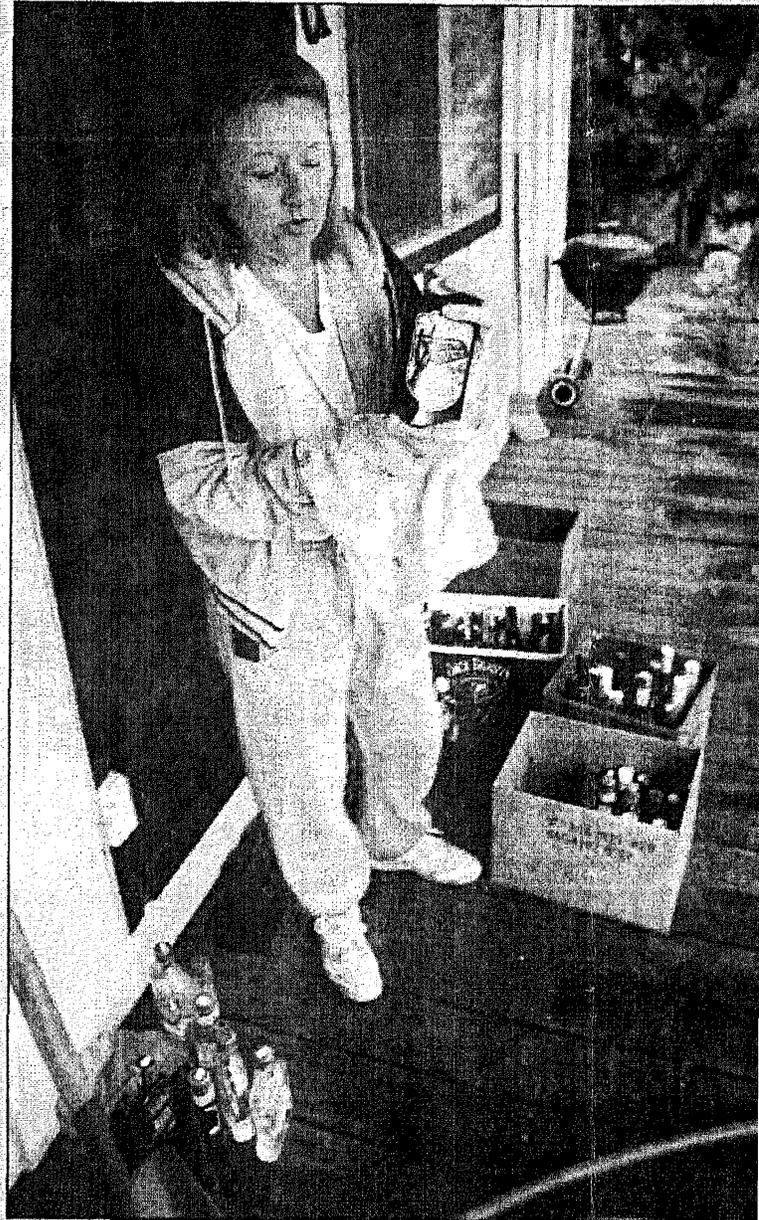
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Bee/Mitch

TV host starts 2nd year
in Letterman's old slot



Firm unveils software
package for businesses



Team lets owner savor
victory, Graswich says

Founded 1857
Volume 276

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The Sacramento Bee

TUESDAY
September 13, 1994

The Sacramento Bee

State
FINAL
46¢

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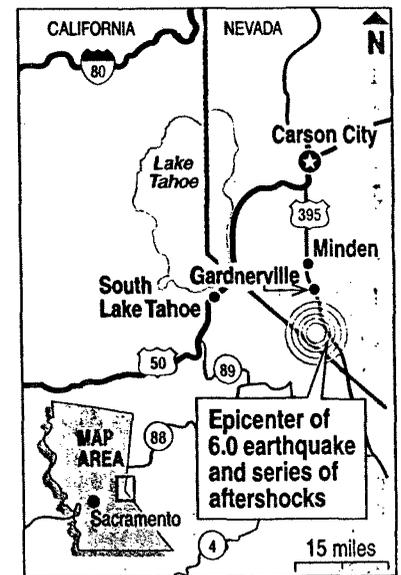
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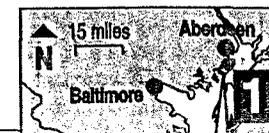


White House security fears raised



The route pilot took

Flying unchallenged in restricted airspace, a Cessna 150 piloted by Frank E. Corder of Maryland crashed on the South Lawn of the White House early Monday morning.



Plane crash triggers wide probe

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6.0 quake rattles S. Tahoe

R6J
9-13-94

■ No injuries:
Damage slight from region's worst shaking in 28 years.

By Don Cox
GAZETTE-JOURNAL

The region's strongest earthquake in 28 years shook buildings Monday in Douglas County, rattled windows in the Truckee Meadows and destroyed the contents of the only liquor store in the tiny town of Markleeville, Calif.

The quake, centered in Double Spring Flat about 12 miles south of Minden, struck at 5:23 a.m., and measured 6.0 on the Richter scale.

The temblor lasted about 15 seconds. There were no reports of injuries or serious damage.

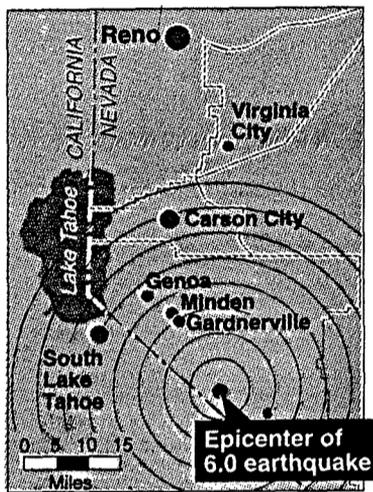
"I just burst into tears," said Debby Borowick, who lives at the Riverview Mobile Home Park a few miles north of the epicenter.

"I thought it was never going to stop. I felt like I was in a boat on a lake."

The University of Nevada Reno Seismological Laboratory recorded approximately 10 aftershocks with magnitudes above 3.0 in the first eight hours after the quake. The largest measured 5.3 at 4:58 p.m. and was 2 miles south of the morning quake's epicenter.

"We're recording thousands of small aftershocks," said John Anderson, interim director of the laboratory. "They're coming in at the rate of several per minute. We'll be recording aftershocks for several weeks."

Monday's temblor came 28 years — to the day — after a 6.0 quake was recorded near Truckee, Calif.



Mark Nowlin/Gazette-Journal

More on 3A

- **The big one:** Experts say Northern Nevada could get hit hard.
- **Insurance:** Shaker brings moratorium on new quake policies.
- **Advice:** What to do when a temblor hits.

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See **QUAKE** on page 3A

FESTIVAL
Reno Livestock Pavilion

Quake

From page 1A

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"It's very common for us to have an earthquake on a fault that's never been identified," Louie said. "It doesn't really surprise us. Investigations over the

last 20 years have shown that Nevada is essentially rife with faults."

Monday's quake was felt as far west as Sacramento and east to Elko, 300 miles from its center. Many residents in Reno, Sparks and Carson City were awakened by the shaker.

But Markleeville, a community of 160 about 20 miles south of Lake Tahoe, suffered some of the most extensive damage.

Bricks fell from the top of a chimney on one house. Two other buildings, the Alpine County administrative center and court house, were damaged.

"We don't know the extent of it," Alpine County Sheriff Skip Veatch said.

"Some of the mortar around the windows in the court house fell out. The upstairs windows are loose in the administration building."

Shelf merchandise was smashed

in several Markleeville stores.

"It just knocked all the liquor and wine off the shelves and it broke into pieces," said Cheryl Sparks, who operates the Monty Wolf's Trading Post.

"We lost about \$5,000 worth of stuff. We're the only liquor store."

Down the street, glassware and pictures were broken at the Tiers of Joy coffee shop and art gallery.

"Everything just jumped off the shelves," store owner Carolyn

Vaughn said.

"I just walked into a big mess." In Douglas County, the quake cracked the chimney of the Minden Inn — which is being converted to a government administration building.

A combination florist and wine shop in Minden, the Bouquet & Bouquet, reported broken china and crystal.

"I think the knots in everybody's stomachs have been more

than the damage," Douglas County sheriff's deputy Ken Davis said.

"Everything we've gotten reports on has been real minor." With wire service reports



ENTERTAINMENT
CRAFTS • GAMES
COUNTRY DANCE

Sept. 23 & 24
Reno Livestock Pavilion

What you should do during an earthquake

- Stay calm
- If inside, stay inside. If outdoors, stay outdoors. Most earthquake injuries are cause when people are trying to get in or leave buildings.
- If indoors, get under a solid object like a heavy table, desk, bench or inside a supported doorway.
- Stay away from glass
- Douse all fires and don't use candles or any open flame after the quake because of the danger of natural gas line breaks.
- Don't dash for exits and don't use elevators.
- If outdoors move away from buildings and utility wires. Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops.
- If in a moving car, stop as quickly as safety permits. A car may jiggle, but it's a safe place to stay until the shaking stops.
- When you drive on, watch for hazards caused by the quake. Look for downed power lines, damaged bridges or broken roadways.
- Stay off the telephones unless you need medical help. During even minor earthquakes, the emergency lines are jammed by curious residents and those who need help can't get through.

PREPARE FOR QUAKES

Shaker increases chances of another jolt



Jean Dixon Aikin/Gazette-Journal

SMASHED MERCHANDISE: Cheryl Sparks describes the mess at the Monty Wolf's Trading Post in Markleeville, Calif., caused by Monday's earthquake. Sparks said she had to restock the shelves of liquor behind the counter after all the bottles previously on the shelves fell off and smashed on the floor.

Shaker brings moratorium on new quake policies, insurance agent says

By Don Cox
GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Northern Nevada could soon experience an earthquake big enough to cause extensive damage after Monday morning's strong temblor that rattled homes throughout the region, a scientist said.

Monday's quake measured 6.0. "Whenever we get a magnitude of that size in Nevada, there is a small possibility it will be followed by a larger earthquake," said John Anderson, interim director of the University of Nevada, Reno Seismological Laboratory.

"The probability is highest right after the earthquake. After three days, the (possibility) is practically gone."

Anderson estimated the chance of a larger quake at 1-in-50.

"But that means it's 49-out-of-50 that this is an isolated event," Anderson said.

A 6.0 quake, according to Anderson, can cause significant damage in a populated area. But Monday's temblor, centered about 12 miles south of Minden, was located in a sparsely populated area.

The lab hasn't determined which of the area's earthquake faults was responsible for Monday's jolt.

Two quake measuring crews were dispatched from the lab to the temblor's epicenter Monday. Instruments were set up that will

Big quakes

- **1852:** Pyramid Lake, 7 plus
- **1858:** Verdi, 6.0
- **1869:** Wadsworth, 6.7
- **1872:** Owens Valley, 7.9
- **1914:** Reno, 6.0
- **1914:** Reno, 6.4
- **1915:** South of Winnemucca, 7.6
- **1932:** Mammoth Lakes area, 7.2
- **1933:** Yerington, 6.0
- **1948:** Verdi, 6.0
- **1954:** Southeast of Fallon, 7.2
- **1966:** Truckee, Calif., 6.0
- **1994:** Gardnerville-Minden, 6.0

gauge quake activity.

Other measurements will be taken in the Reno-Sparks and Carson City areas.

"We'll have a better idea of where aftershocks are occurring," Anderson said.

In the past 40 years, eight quakes of 6.0 or larger have affected west-central Nevada. The biggest, a 7.2, took place in 1954 in the Dixie Valley area near Fallon.

After Monday's quake the U.S. Corps of Engineers urged residents of the area to check their homes for damage to propane and natural gas systems, hot water heaters and all appliances.

If problems are found, the engineers said the appropriate utility company should be contacted.

Western Nevada earthquake

Western Nevada was rocked by a 6.0 earthquake at 5:23 a.m. Monday. The quake was felt in Reno and knocked store items off the shelves in Markleeville, Calif. It happened on the 28th anniversary

Could it happen here?

The Truckee Meadows sits between two faults zones. The Genoa Fault zone to the west runs south through Carson City and Genoa. into

RC Sept. 15, 1994

What a day: Earthquake,

fire and rain in 12 hours

Carson Valley residents experienced Mother Nature at her most dramatic on Monday.

The day started with a jolt at 5:23 a.m. as a 6.3 magnitude earthquake rocked northern Nevada with the epicenter just south of Gardnerville.

About 1 p.m. — in the midst of several aftershocks, a small wildfire broke out just over the California line in Alpine County.

The afternoon ended with a heavy rainfall throughout the Carson Valley, and the aftershocks lingered on.

Carson Valley residents wait for next rattle

by TREVA LIND
Staff Writer

Another jolt like Monday's 6.3 magnitude earthquake could roll through Carson Valley again



soon, a University of Nevada, Reno professor says.

However, the chance that this quake precedes a bigger one just around the corner decreases with each passing day, according to John Louie, associate professor of seismology.

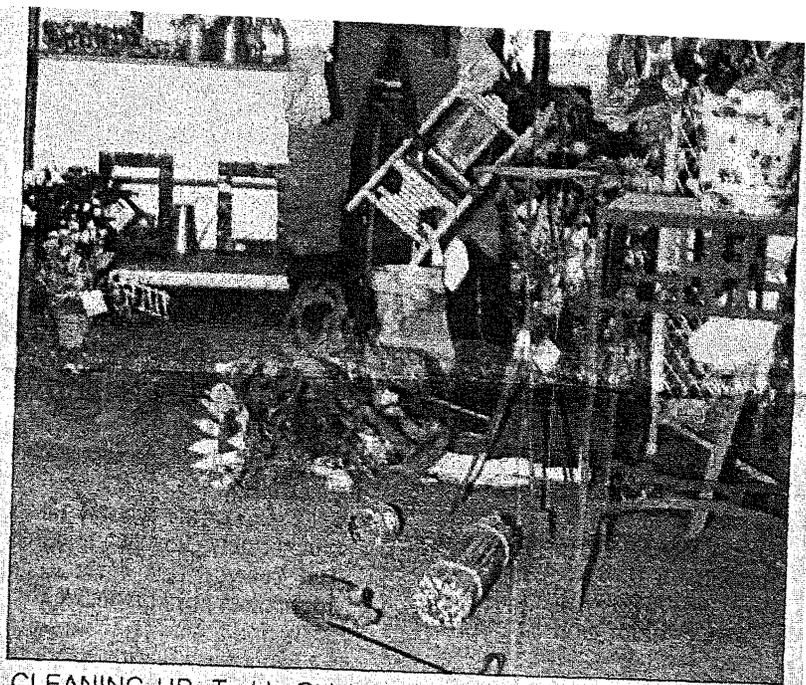
"There is a significantly larger chance of a large earthquake in the next few days, one as big or larger, but that decreases after the first few days," Louie said Monday.

"I'd say by Thursday (today), the chances are back down to a normal level."

"The total chance that an earthquake will occur on any given day is still quite small. There's just more of a chance after one like this."

The 5:23 a.m. quake that woke up most of Carson Valley caused only minor damage with no reports of injuries. The epicenter was at Double Springs Flat, 12 miles south-southeast of Gardnerville.

Lasting about 20 seconds, the quake was felt as far as Fresno, Sacramento and Elko. The depth of the quake was shallow, accord-



CLEANING UP. Teddy Chichester cleans up the debris at Bouquet & Bouquet in Minden following Monday's 6.3 earthquake. R-C photos by Belinda Rohleder

ing to the UNR Seismological Laboratory.

If this same quake had occurred in a major metropolitan area, damage would likely have been much greater, Louie said.

"There has been some in Los Angeles this size. There was some damage and some casualties. So I think it's lucky that it happened in a relatively sparsely populated

Continued to page 6

Only minor damage reported

by CARISSA CRONKRIGHT
Staff Writer

A Gardnerville business owner hoping to escape the quaking earth of Southern California was jolted awake as a temblor shook the Carson Valley early Monday morning.

As Lyane Terzich surveyed the damage to Accolades — mainly broken bronzestones, an overturned mirror and a fallen shelf — she remembered why she left Manhattan Beach, Calif. for northern Nevada.

"I moved here in 1978-79 to get away from the earthquakes," she said. "I didn't know there was

a fault here."

Terzich is a survivor of the 1971 Sylmar, Calif. quake, and said she was visiting Palm Springs when Los Angeles was rocked last year.

She was happy to report following Monday's shaker that her family is fine and damage to her store, minimal.

Dick Mirgon, communications director for the county's 911 emergency program, said it should be no surprise to find earthquakes in northern Nevada.

"We're the third largest in the nation for earthquakes," he explained. "The faults in Nevada are extremely active."

He said one of the reasons the region is not perceived as particularly active is because of the relatively small population and the lack of tall buildings, which helps keep damage to a minimum.

Mirgon added that if Monday's 5:23 a.m. shaker registering 6.3 on the Richter scale had occurred in a metropolitan area, the damage scenario could have been much worse.

"If this earthquake had happened in San Francisco or Los Angeles there would have been a fair amount of damage."

Damage to county facilities mirrored that seen elsewhere in

Continued to page 6