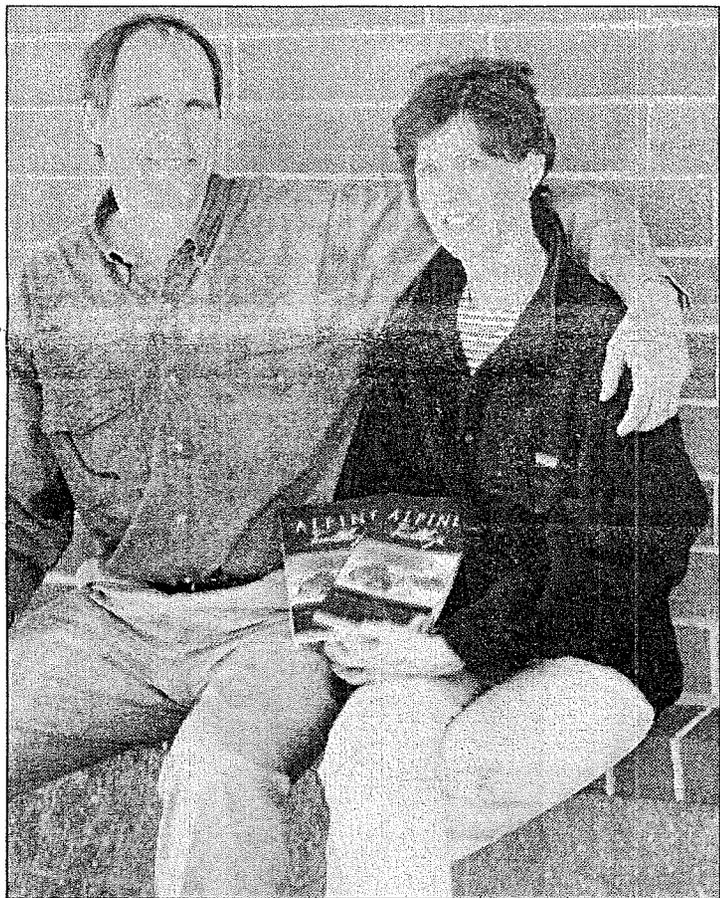


# Jerry and Janine Sprout release a detailed guide to Alpine County



DERRIK BRYANT/R-C photo

**Book:** Jerry and Janine Sprout are shown with their book.

by **Merrie Leininger**  
Staff Writer

**A**n Alpine County couple have recently published a book for people who love the untouched environment of Alpine County as much as they do.

Jerry and Janine Sprout have lived in Markleeville since the '70s and this winter sat down together to put out "Trailblazer," the first and only travel guide for Alpine County.

Jerry is the writer, who also has worked at Rite of Passage, and Janine is a graphic designer who has worked in the public information office of the Nevada State Museum. She also took all the photographs for the book.

Writing a novel about Snowshoe Thompson is what got Jerry Sprout interested in the history of the area, he said.

"It is a tool for people who already appreciate Alpine County. I hope it gives them access and it contributes to the preservation of what is good about Alpine County," Sprout said.

The book also goes into great detail about the scenic drives and self-propelled recreation, such as hiking, skiing, biking and kayaking.

"It's more about recreation, but there is a pretty fair amount of history.

"There are six driving histories, two in Alpine County, two around Tahoe, one on Foothill

**Long-time residents' first edition of the guide sold out in the early 1980s. The book is aimed at 'people who believe in self-propelled recreation'**

toward Virginia City and one toward Bodie, that all include local history, and the beginning of each hiking trail has the history of the area," Sprout said.

The couple has extensive personal knowledge of the hiking trails in the area.

"We've been hiking about 200 miles a year for 20 years," he said.

The couple put out a smaller first edition of the guide in the '80s," he said. "'What to do in Alpine County' sold out so fast, but we never got around to updating it."

Sprout said the book is good for people who believe in conservation.

"It's a guide book for people who believe in self-propelled recreation. I hope it makes Alpine County more popular among people who believe in conservation," he said.

He said this is a good time to live in and visit Alpine County because those with economic interests and those with environmental interests are now agreed that outdoors recreation is the best thing about Alpine.

"We believe the economic base is dependent upon conservation of natural resources. Over the years, people who want to preserve the environment have been at odds with the people who want to build up the economy, but for the first time, they are hand in hand."

Sprout said the visitors to Alpine County have

See **Sprouts** on page 2

Record Courier May 12, 1999

## **Sprouts: Alpine County guide now available**

Continued from page 1  
doubled in the last 15 years.

"Now the Alpine Sierra is becoming an option between Tahoe and Yosemite. It's got something nothing else does," he said.

Jerry said that something is access to the high altitudes and the fact that 95 percent of the county is public land.

"It's healthful and beautiful. Going outdoors in the Sierra in the summer is the equivalent of going to the finest museums in Paris," he said.

The book is being distributed by the Sprouts' company, Diamond Valley Co., and through a catalog put out by Wilderness Press in Berkeley, Calif. Wilderness Press can be reached at (800)

443-7227.

The book can be bought by writing the Sprouts at 89 Lower Manzanita Drive, Markleeville, Calif. 96120.

The book costs \$14.95 and two books are \$25.95. Include \$3.20 for shipping, plus \$1.23 for sales tax.

Phone or fax orders may be placed by calling (530) 694-2740.

May 12, 99 Rec. Courier

# Controlled burn lowers chance of wildfire

BY REX BOVEE  
Appeal Staff Writer

A burn team member walked along, dribbling flaming diesel and gasoline into the soft pine-needles between the Jeffrey and piñon pines above Indian Creek Reservoir.

A couple yards away, the holding team had extended a fire line another 25 feet, pulling back needles and brush with shovels, fire rakes and pickaxes. They stood ready to bury any flame that dared to violate the boundary.

Needles, fallen twigs and branches, slash left over from a thinning operation — all got caught up in the fire's enthusiasm.

The morning breeze, indecisive, pushed flames and smoke back and forth lightly at first. But the rise of the hot gasses created a draft, pulled the cool air into the fire which fanned the flames.

Gray curtains of smoke opened and closed, offered teasing views of runners of flame climbing the bark of a few trees, reaching for the green, live Jeffrey pine limbs 20 or 30 feet from the ground.

The thick, soft duff burned easily but quickly and the fire starved on the forest's carpet. Lonely limbs still smoldered on the ground but the fire itself had moved on, prodded with drip torches and herded by the holding team.

Beneath the charred needles, the roots of perennial grass were still alive. Above, manzanita leaves and pine needles still hung green. The live branches of the Jeffrey pines were unscorched.

Tuesday's fire was a prescribed burn, a 13-acre controlled removal of accumulated fuel from the forest floor above the Bureau of Land Management's popular fishing and camping spot between Woodfords and Markleeville, Calif.

Prescribed burns are a small but growing part of

■ California buys fast fire tankers.

Page B1

the land management program for the bureau, according to forester Steep Weiss. Years of fighting wildfires — and paying the costs of fighting wildfires — have provided some insights about fire prevention and control, he said.

Land managers now accept that periodic fires are part of the forest life cycle, helping renew the variety and vitality of vegetation.

Weiss called it, "a fire-adapted ecosystem."

But a century of logging has created forests of unnaturally uniform age and spacing. Decades of vigorous suppression of forest fires has allowed the accumulation of dense undergrowth that feeds fires when they do start. Forests of evenly sized trees encouraged fire to leap from crown to crown.

"If we don't manage these fuels, when a fire starts, we have a giant fire," Weiss said. "In 1984 or 85, a fire here burned 19,000 acres. Events like that made us realize we had to do something to manage accumulations of fuel like this."

The bureau does not take a single-minded approach to dealing with the fuel build up, he said.

Weiss said some of the area included in the prescribed burn had been thinned by commercial loggers, which increased the spacing between trees and allowed light to reach the ground to encourage other species.

"We picked the trees we wanted to keep, then someone else paid us to be allowed to harvest the ones we didn't want," Weiss said.

"The logging was a pretty low-impact operation," he said, indicating the logging road that was blending back into the forest floor.

## Prescribed burning has Alpine County resident smoldering

BY REX BOVEE  
Appeal Staff Writer

As John Whitaker looked down from his deck Tuesday toward Indian Creek Reservoir, he was not happy to see the smoke rising.

The prescribed burn on Bureau of Land Management forest below was going well, Whitaker conceded. But he recalled a night a year ago when he awoke to see a dozen trees aflame.

"They didn't leave anyone up there watching it. I got on my phone and called and they sent somebody back up," Whitaker said.

"Fortunately, it was dead calm that night, but suppose it had been windy?"

Whitaker, 70, is serious about the danger of fire in the forest. His 20 acres are surrounded by pines, brush and grasses.

Whitaker has cleared defensible space around his new home. He installed a 2,500-gallon underground water tank with pump and 200 feet of canvas hose to fight off a fire.

The water supply was required by the county on his building permit. Whitaker said he didn't think it was much use without the rest, so he created his own "fire department" with the pump and hose.

And Tuesday morning, while the BLM's Silver

Please see **BURNING, BACK PAGE**

Please see **SMOLDERING, BACK PAGE**

Newark Appeal / May 19 1999

## Burning

Continued from Page A1

At another point, a California Conservation Corps crew manually cleared brush and branches from beneath the pines and among the bitter brush and manzanitas, Weiss said.

As forest fires do occur, as management continues, the forests should return to the natural mosaic of mixed vegetation that can slow fires, he said.

This was the first burn for the bureau's Carson City District,

Weiss said. But the U.S. Forest Service had one going farther south and has been burning near Incline Village to reduce fire danger in the Tahoe basin.

The bureau has completed its environmental assessment of the area, which included information needed before burns can be prescribed. Specific sites are selected for suitability of terrain, vegetation and proximity to other forest uses, among many factors considered.

Boundaries are marked and crews using hand tools cut a fire

line around the burn area, days or weeks before the burn day. The moisture content of vegetation and fuel are evaluated, weather forecasts are checked and the availability of fire crews and equipment are confirmed, Weiss said.

And the burns are limited by spring snow melt on one end and the fire season on the other.

"Prescribed burns are still pretty new here are not necessarily well-accepted," Weiss said. "It's taken us eight years to get to this point, but you'll be seeing more of them."

# Hope Valley river cleanup day set

The Friends of Hope Valley will sponsor its annual Spring Cleanup Day on Saturday, May 29, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The project will include repairing fences and planting willows along the riparian zone of the West Fork Carson River. The group will meet at the Burnside Road turnoff parking area in Hope Valley.

Volunteers should take gloves, pliers, wire cutters, drinking water and lots of energy. Lunch will be provided by Sorensen's Resort.

On Wednesday, May 26, volunteers will be needed for a willow-cutting project. Meet at Woodfords Station, near the historical marker, at 6 p.m.

For more information, contact Judy Warren of the Horse Feathers Fly Fishing School at (530) 694-2399.

## ■ DHS sports physicals

Free physical examinations for boys and girls in the 8th and 9th grades who will be participating in Douglas High School athletics next year will be available June 8, beginning at 4 p.m.

Dr. David H. Johnson and Dr. Gerald Cottrell will provide the free physicals at 1624 Library

## SPORTS BRIEFS

Circle in Minden.

Physical forms can be picked up at Douglas High, as well as Paul-Wa-Lu and Carson Valley middle schools in the front offices.

Forms must be signed by a parent or legal guardian, who need not be present at the time of the physical if the form is signed.

For more information, contact Mr. Hughes or Mr. Wilcox at Douglas High, 782-5136.

## ■ Volleyball camp

The 2nd Annual MeFiYi Celebrity Volleyball Camp is scheduled for June 15-17 at Truckee Meadows Boys and Girls Club in Reno.

UCLA volleyball coach Burt Fuller and USC coach Laura Ames will provide instruction at the camp.

The net proceeds from the camp will be directed to volleyball programs in Northern Nevada. MeFiYi Foundation in a non-profit organization.

For more information, call 783-9598.

Record Courier May 19, 1999

## Markleeville hit its peak long ago

Markleeville, located 35 miles southwest of Carson City, is one of Eastern California's most picturesque and historic small towns.

Its history is remarkably similar to that of many Nevada mining towns. In the mid-1860s, silver was discovered in the area and a number of small mining camps appeared almost overnight, including



**richard MORENO**

Silver Mountain City, Monitor and Markleeville.

By 1864, more than 5,000 people lived in the region, which was carved into a new county called Alpine.

That year also turned out to be the historic peak in terms of population for the county, which is still among the least populated in California with only a few thousand residents.

As with most mining towns, the ore began to run out and by the mid-1870s, the population began a gradual decline.

### BACKYARD **Traveler**

Silver Mountain City faded so quickly that Markleeville was named the county seat in 1875.

As mining declined, the lumber industry became more important. During the 1870s and 1880s, Alpine County became one of the major sources of wood for booming Virginia City.

Records indicate that during one year more than a quarter million cords of wood were cut and sent to the Comstock.

Today, Markleeville is a charming, quaint little town with a handful of historic buildings that show that things haven't changed too much in the last century.

For example, the Alpine Hotel in the center of town has a friendly tavern and still offers a couple of rooms upstairs.

There are also a few local businesses—the kind you usually only find in small mountain towns—like a bait shop and a general store.

Markleeville is also the location of the Alpine County Historical Complex, a museum that includes a collection of historic buildings that help tell the town's story. The complex is open from Memorial Day through October.

Visitors to the museum will

### If you go

For more information contact the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, Box 265, Markleeville, CA 96120, 530-694-2475.

find the restored Webster School, a classic one-room schoolhouse built in 1882. The Webster School was used until 1929, then allowed to fall into disrepair.

In the 1960s, it was stabilized and eventually restored to its original condition.

Inside you can view an interesting photographic exhibit describing the restoration project.

In addition to the schoolhouse, the museum includes displays describing the area's rich history. Exhibits include a re-creation of an old country store and a blacksmith shop, Washo Indian baskets, antique toys and dolls, and a pair of 19th century handmade, wooden skis that are similar to those used by famous Genoa resident John "Showshoe" Thompson.

The complex also includes the Old Log Jail, Alpine County's original jail built from locally-cut

logs in 1875.

The jail has two hand-riveted iron cells that were originally part of the Silver Mountain City jail, then transferred to Markleeville in the 1870s.

An informative 72-page soft-bound book describing the development of Alpine County with historic photographs is available for sale from the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce in Markleeville.

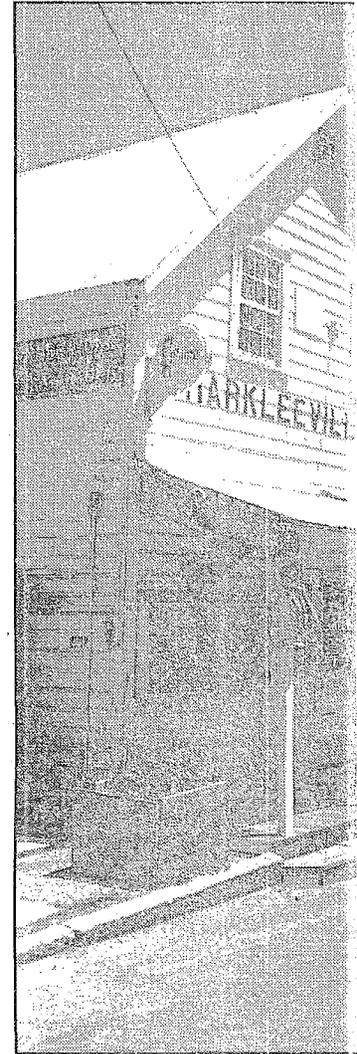
Located high in the Sierra Nevada, Markleeville is surrounded by alpine forests and beautiful mountain ranges.

There are a number of campgrounds and hiking trails in the immediate area. Lists of both are also available at the Chamber of Commerce office.

Markleeville is located 35 miles southwest of Carson City via U.S. Highway 395 and Highway 88 and 89.

For more information contact the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, Box 265, Markleeville, CA 96120, 530-694-2475.

*Richard Moreno is the author of 'The Backyard Traveler' and 'The Backyard Traveler Returns,' which are available at local bookstores.*



The Markleeville Genoa

own.

## Mountain music on tap at Villa Gigli July 4

Mountain Music, personified by folk singer Margaret Craig, returns to Villa Gigli Collection on Sunday, July 4, from 3-5 p.m.

While listening to Craig's guitar strumming and soulful ballads, Ruggero Gigli will be serving guests his rosemary-studded focaccia and pouring three samples of wine — Moscato Bianco by La Famiglia de Robert Mondavi, Pinot Meunier by Domaine Chandon and Petite Sirah by Mitchell.

Meanwhile, in the meadow next to the trattoria, six Alpine County women artists will be displaying their unique crafts: Wandy Coyan, pine needle baskets and soap; June Dailey, plants and herbal essences; Gina Gigli, banners and masks; Sharon Lackey, clothing and jewelry; Camilla Olsen, soap and honey; and Carolyn Vaughn, raku and high-fire functional ware.

Villa Gigli is at the top of the first hill, overlooking the town of Markleeville, on the road leading

to Grover Hot Springs. The cost of the wine tasting is \$3 per person.

For further information, phone (530) 694-2253.

Record Courier  
June 6, 1999

# Falling rock kills boy at Woodfords

WOODFORDS (AP) — A large, falling rock knocked a young Carson City boy into the West Fork of the Carson River and killed him, authorities said Monday.

Dalton James Sutter, 5, was fishing with his mother and a friend near Woodfords when the accident occurred late Sunday afternoon, Douglas County Sheriff's Sgt. Lance Modispacher said.

The boy's mother, Lori Egerton, was walking up the river bank when a large rock about 2.5 feet in diameter became dislodged and rolled toward the river.

The rock fell onto the boy and drove him into the river. He suffered injuries to his head and body and was under the water for just a few seconds, Modispacher said.

Mrs. Egerton and her friend performed CPR on the boy and drove him to the Carson Valley, where they called 911.

Paramedics responded and met the couple at the intersection of State Highway 88 and Kimmerling. The boy was transported to Carson Valley Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.

*Tahoe Daily Tribune  
4/3/1999*

*Record Carson 6/99*

## Volunteers are invited Saturday in Hope Valley

Friends of Hope Valley and the High Sierra Fly Casters (HSFC) are inviting people to help on Saturday, May 29, at 9 a.m. at a conservation work day on the Carson River.

Working plans include planting willows for erosion control, building and repairing fences and releasing trout. Afterwards, all will meet at Sorensen's Resort for a free lunch.

Judy Warren, a member of the HSFC and the Carson River Cal-Trout Streamkeeper, will lead the work crews. Warren has been working for years with Sorensen's to protect and conserve Hope Valley. All wishing to assist should meet at 9 a.m. at Pickett's Junction (east corner of Highway 88 and Highway 89 in Hope Valley). Dress warmly, bring gloves, boots, drinking water and something to make planting holes with, such as a long-shafted screw driver or similar object. There is something everyone can do, so bring the whole family.

Fishing will be available, as the West Fork of the Carson is always well stocked for Memorial Day weekend. The water conditions will probably be high and cloudy, but very fishable, so don't forget your fishing gear. One could not expect a better family day, a bit of work and play, said Rosemarie Middendorf of HSFC.

"All are invited to participate. Hope Valley and 'the river that runs through it' is our responsibility. The number of public access fisheries is declining and will continue to do so. It is our job to help protect and preserve the ones we have left," Middendorf said.

For further information, call Dan Kaffer, 782-0204.

A couple of dead chubs lie on the shoreline of Indian Creek Reservoir as John Domina, of Carson City, prepares to go fishing.

JIM GRANT  
Nevada Appeal News Service



## Dead fish at Indian Creek Reservoir stun biologists

BY ANDY BOURELLE  
Nevada Appeal News Service

MARKLEVILLE, Calif. — Hundreds of dead fish have turned up at Indian Creek Reservoir during the past few weeks, and officials are not sure why.

"We're looking into possible causes. It can be a number of different factors. Right now we just don't have any clear answers," said Stafford Lehr, fisheries biologist for the California Department of Fish and Game. "The kill is rather significant. The numbers are probably hundreds, if not thousands, of chubs. I

### Tui chub

*Gila bicolor obesa*

Tui chub, a member of the minnow family, is common throughout the western United States. It is prey for larger fish and birds. Spawning takes place in late spring in shallow water or the mouths of streams. They can reach up to 7 years of age and 16 inches in length. They are olive, brown or brassy on the back and white or silver on their bellies. The younger the fish, the more silvery its overall body color.

would say a couple of rainbow trout have died."

Indian Creek Reservoir, a popular Alpine County fishing spot, is a man-made reservoir south of Lake Tahoe. The South Tahoe Public Utility District in the past pumped its recycled wastewater to it. Since 1989, the dis-

trict pumps the water to nearby Harvey Place Reservoir. However, the district still pays to stock the Indian Creek Reservoir, diverts water from Indian Creek, and the West Fork of the Carson River to fill it and operates an aeration system to keep the lake habitable to fish.

The district has performed water-quality tests, and Fish and Game and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board are investigating what could be causing the deaths.

Lehr said the deaths are "puzzling" because the problem is primarily affecting tui chubs. If it was a lakewide problem, all the fish likely would be affected.

One possibility, Lehr said, is a problem with the water quality near the reservoir's shores. Tui chubs, which are small fish in the minnow

Please see **FISH, BACK PAGE**

Nevada Appeal

June 22, 1999

## Fish

Continued from Page A1

family, are spawning right now in the shoreline weed beds. The trout are in open-water areas.

The first reported sighting of the dead fish was Memorial Day weekend. Fish have died at least as recently as last week.

The reservoir remains open to the public.

Lehr said he had no estimation

of when officials could determine the reason for the fish kill.

According to district officials, tests are conducted at the reservoir on a monthly basis, and there has been nothing extraordinary in the results. The last round was taken June 8.

"Everyone's concerned, but nobody's getting overly excited, because they're waiting to see what kind of results come in," said Hal Bird, Alpine County land manager for the district.

Nevada Appeal 6/22/99

# School superintendent husband, teacher wife are dedicated to education

by Nancy Hamlett  
Staff Writer

When you meet Jim and Laura Parsons, you immediately become old friends. Or at least, that's the way you feel after just a few minutes in their company.

Outgoing and personable, Jim and Laura have an infectious humor and ready smiles. But when the subject of their careers is brought up, they are all business.

Jim is the superintendent of schools in Alpine County, Calif., and Laura is the

## RECORD-COURIER NEIGHBORS

reading specialist at C.C. Meneley Elementary School. Both are dedicated to quality education for children, but with the difference in school districts, their modes of implementing their goals can often be vastly polarized.

Laura teaches in a multi-track, year-round school. She loves the diversity that a large school with many students can create, yet there are one or two drawbacks that she jokes about.

"I have color-coded my life," said Laura. "I'm not on a specific track with teachers and students — I am full time. So, it's always a memory game, trying to remember which classroom a student is in, who is on track or off track or maintaining a schedule."

See Parsons on page 3



The Parsons family: From left are Maren, Jim and Laura at Minden Park.

### Parsons: School superintendent husband and teacher wife are dedicated to education

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See Parsons on page 3



View of the Minden Park.

## Parsons: School superintendent husband and teacher wife are dedicated to education

Continued from page 1

Alpine County only has 200 students enrolled in its schools, and according to Jim, the population is spread out all over the place. This requires a fair amount of logistical creativity.

■ **“Little House.”** “The schools in Kirkwood and Bear Valley are K-6, with a K-8 school and two community day schools in Woodfords,” said Jim. “The K-6 schools are like ‘Little House on the Prairie’ — one teacher for all grades. And there are a lot of students who work in the ski industry. They work and do independent study. The needs of our population require that we be flexible.”

According to Jim, the Alpine County School District includes a high percentage of special education students.

“So we have a lot of programs for very few kids, but that’s what you do in education — you meet with the kids where they are,” said Jim.

Jim and Laura met while they were both teachers at Desert Sun, a coed, college preparatory boarding school in Idlewild, Calif. In addition to teaching, they lived in the dorms with the kids and became their surrogate parents.

“But they did things to us that they would never do to their parents,” said Jim.

“Like short-sheet our beds,” said Laura.

While at the school Jim and three other teachers formed a

band. Their name was changed by the school’s underground newspaper.

“They were called Willy and the Pigs,” said Laura as she tried to contain a smile.

“We were pretty good,” said Jim. “We even played at weddings and community events, but when we started getting paid for the work, I bowed out. There ought to be one thing in your life you don’t get paid for.”

Jim jumped into administration when he was appointed headmaster of the school.

“For nine years, I lived with four telephones,” said Jim.

“And more pranks,” said Laura.

They both chuckled when they remembered when, after they were married, some students hung a speaker in the chimney of their cabin. It was wired to the dorm and at 2 o’clock in the morning sound effects were piped into their home.

“It wasn’t hard to figure out who did it,” said Jim. “All we had to do was follow the wires.”

“I remember thinking, I’m too young for this,” said Laura. “But in reality, the school was a lot of fun.”

■ **Moving on.** When it became time to raise a family, Jim and Laura left the boarding school and Jim became the director of curriculum for the Selma Unified School District in Fresno.

“The school district was about the same size as Douglas County



BELINDA GRANT/The R-C

Laura and Jim Parsons: They met while teaching at a prep school.

“We have a lot of programs for very few kids, but that’s what you do in education — you meet with the kids where they are.”

**Jim Parsons**  
On the Alpine County School District

School District and I enjoyed it,” said Jim. “But when I read about the job in Alpine County, it sounded like it was written for us, and Laura and I decided we needed to go back to the mountains.”

Jim’s position of superintendent of schools is an elected position. California allows for an elected superintendent for each county, and an appointed superintendent for each district within the county. However, Alpine County is fairly unique in that it has only one school district. Therefore, theoretically, there could be two superintendents, one elected and one appointed, for the same school district.

“There are only five counties in California where this could happen,” said Jim. “But I like working

with a small school district. I can run a private school on the state’s dime.”

Although Jim and Laura love backpacking in the mountains by their Markleeville home, the last few years have seen a sharp decline in their recreation.

“I’ve been lobbying in Washington, D.C. for education issues for the last three years,” said Jim. “That sucks up a lot of time.”

And they have spent a considerable amount of time involved with both sets of their parents.

“It’s been an eye-opening experience,” said Laura. “As your parents age, it makes you realize what you’d like for the rest of your life. But parents are invaluable. It’s all worthwhile.”

Jim and Laura have one daughter, Maren, who will be a junior at Douglas High School. Jim said that for relaxation and fun, he plays mental games with her — to drive her nuts.

■ **Part-time poet.** “I read my cowboy poetry to her,” said Jim. “She begs me to read it to her friends.”

Maren rolled her eyes at her father.

Jim has written a collection of more than 80 poems. He teased about some day being invited to the Cowboy Gathering in Elko.

“Or maybe someone will be foolish enough to publish them,” said Jim.

“Stranger things have happened.”

Record Courier 6/23/1999

day when 30 members of Search

# Alpine County is site of events and activities

Classical and pop music, historic walking tours and the West's largest and most grueling bicycle ride are just a few of the great special events and activities planned in Alpine County this summer and fall.

Long-running events scheduled for the season include the 18th annual Death Ride: Tour of the California Alps, July 10, which hosts 2,500 riders on a 126-mile course with 16,000 feet of vertical climbing on five mountain passes, and the Bear Valley Music Festival, July 31-Aug. 15, now in its 31st season, featuring both classical and pops music.

Another popular annual event is the ninth High Sierra Music Festival, July 1-5, with more than 20 of the hottest contemporary bands performing at Bear Valley. The Hope Valley Music Series will also return to a variety of venues in and around the county's most beautiful high mountain meadow, including Sorensen's Resort.

Kirkwood Ski and Summer Resort has a full season of events planned, highlighted by A Day at the Wood on July 31, featuring the hot Cajun sounds of regional favorite Mumbo Gumbo. Other activities during the day include a regional arts and crafts show and a

Cajun food fest.

In addition to its mountain bike park, climbing wall and adventure center, Kirkwood will also feature such events as the Campfire Cowboys Poetry and Music on July 3, a series of flyfishing workshops, guided llama and natural history hikes, the Doug Robinson Climbing Clinic, Sept. 4, the Banff Festival of Mountain Films, Sept. 5, plus a lot more.

For more information on Alpine County's summer events, contact the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce at (530) 694-2475.



# Girls found after night in the forest

MARKLEEVILLE (AP) — Two girls who vanished on a fishing trip near a remote Sierra Nevada lake were found safe about four miles away late Tuesday.

A Boy Scout troop from Berkeley found them near Utica Union Reservoir, said the Alpine County sheriff's office.

Mallory Smith, 12, of Vallejo and her friend, Rebecca Liberty, 8, of Stockton were tired and hungry but were otherwise in good shape.

Mallory's mother greeted her daughter with open arms.

"Her mom was in tears, scolding her but at the same time rejoicing and counting her blessings," said Boy Scout Thomas Ferrey, who first noticed the girls.

Mallory told reporters she and her friend spent the night sitting on a rock, sharing a sweatshirt between them. She said she knew they would be found because they heard helicopters overhead all day.

Ferrey spotted the girls on the rock Tuesday as he went to a stream to take a bath.

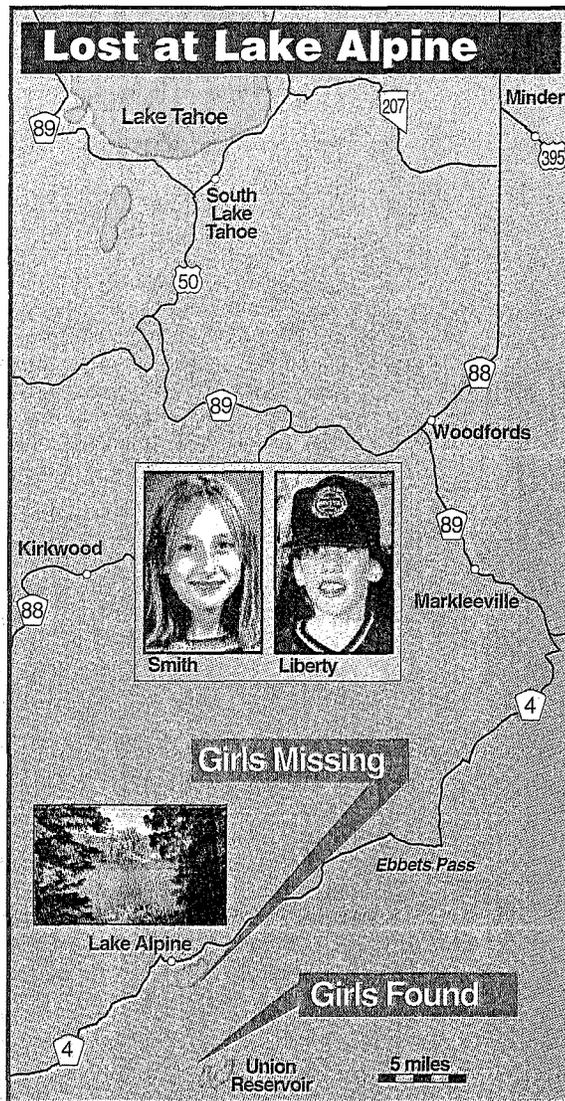
"We just went over there and said, 'Do you know how to get out of here, how to get back?'" said Mallory, recalling her encounter with Ferrey. "He's like, 'Are you the two girls who are missing?' And we said, 'Yeah.' And he said, 'Follow me.'"

The girls had taken the scouts' food bag down from a tree where it had been hoisted to keep bears away, Mallory told reporters. The girls, who suffered only mosquito bites, drank lake water and ate crackers and chips from the bag.

The girls had been last seen Monday as they headed back from Lake Alpine to get gum from Mallory's father's car. They said they got lost while playing a game of hide-and-peek.

The car was about 600 feet from the spot where the girls had been fishing with Rebecca's father, Tom Liberty, according to the Alpine County Sheriff's department.

Mallory was wearing only a bathing suit when she



was last seen in the rugged area where the overnight temperatures dipped into the 40s.

Relatives said that Rebecca was not familiar with the dense woods around Lake Alpine.

"She's only 8 and she does not know the area," Rebecca's aunt, Ruthanne Dunn, said earlier in the day. "My brother just moved there a month ago; she's got to be frightened."

Authorities began searching for the girls shortly after Rebecca's father reported the girls missing at about 5:30 p.m. Monday.

Helicopters and ground crews aided by search dogs began canvassing the area at sunrise Tuesday.

Tahoe Daily Tribune 6/30/1999

# Tiny Alpine County has never had a reported AIDS case

By Cynthia Hubert  
SCRIPPS-MCCLATCHY SERVICE

MARKLEEVILLE, Calif. — Nestled in the Sierra Nevada amid vast national forest land, Alpine County is best known for its big fish, towering evergreens and narrow mountain roads.

But this sparsely populated segment of California just south of the Lake Tahoe basin also holds another, little known distinction:

Alpine is the only county in California that has never reported a single case of AIDS to state health officials.

However, that does not mean that no one with AIDS or HIV has ever lived in or moved to Alpine County. People who live there may seek treatment outside the county, and instances of AIDS are reported to the state from the county where a person is diagnosed with the disease. Cases of HIV are not reported.

Four other counties, all of them rural, have recorded fewer than six AIDS cases since the state began

keeping statistics on the disease in 1981. In 19 years of the epidemic, AIDS has killed nearly 70,000 in the state.

Richard Botto, the county's health officer and the only physician in the area, said he has never even knowingly treated a patient with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

The health department, one of the few places where Alpine County's 1,200 or so permanent residents can receive confidential testing for HIV, has had only one taker in recent years.

But those facts can be misleading, local public health officials said. In rural counties, people are much more likely to keep silent about such things.

"It's not that we don't have people who are positive," said the county's HIV community outreach worker, Toni Hall. "We know we do. But confidentiality is a big issue because everybody knows everybody else."

"There's a false sense of security because our numbers are so small," said Botto. "People think we are im-

mune from the problem, and that's not true."

In fact, a local paramedic said he has responded to at least a dozen emergency cases in recent years involving people who tested positive for HIV, although none was diagnosed with AIDS in Alpine County.

Lynn Doyal, emergency medical services coordinator for Alpine County, said his paramedics take the same precautions against HIV exposure as those in San Francisco or Sacramento, where AIDS rates are staggering.

"We use gloves and face masks and goggles" during routine treatments to avoid exposure to body fluids that may be contaminated, Doyal said, and full body gowns when treating major trauma cases. "We know it's out there. We watch out for it all the time."

But hepatitis is a greater concern than HIV for paramedics in the field, he said. "I really think people here have been overexposed to information about AIDS," he said. "We're sick and tired of hearing

about it. We feel there are a lot of other conditions and issues out there that we should be dealing with."

Still, officials say permanent residents of Alpine County, a place of "traditional" families with few hard-core drug abusers, need to be aware of the behaviors that put them at risk of contracting HIV, such as intravenous drug use and unprotected sexual intercourse.

Thousands of tourists from metropolitan areas with higher HIV rates visit the area annually for its ski slopes, whitewater and scenery, and some carry those risk factors.

"We are rural during the week," said Peter Zeldis, who contracts with school districts in Alpine, Mono and other rural counties to conduct an AIDS education program in schools. "But on the weekend we may get 15,000 tourists."

Zeldis, who uses giant puppets to teach children about HIV as well as social concerns ranging from tobacco use to divorce, said he is aware of several students within the districts

he visits who have the virus.

They and others likely go outside their home counties for treatment, health officials said, both because of confidentiality concerns and because some rural communities have neither the resources nor the expertise to treat HIV complications.

Alpine and other rural counties each receive \$50,000 annually from the state Office of AIDS to fund HIV prevention and education programs.

But educators and public health officials in rural areas said it can be a challenge to disseminate such information. Often, they said, they must battle community denial, as well as cultural and religious taboos, in trying to teach people about the disease.

"Five years ago, they didn't want us teaching about AIDS in the schools," said Botto. "People didn't want us to do community forums. There was even some resistance to hanging a condom machine in bars. Public education has been a problem, but attitudes are changing

now."

Today, schools are mandated by the government to provide some form of education about HIV.

Zeldis said his puppets "were the first to address the issue of AIDS directly" in Mono County schools, beginning three years ago. Using a script developed by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Zeldis performs skits that inform children as young as 6 about "a virus you can't get rid of."

Older children get more details about how the virus is transmitted, and all are encouraged to question the puppets.

"We can't pass out condoms, but we can show how they're used," Hall said of the Alpine curriculum. "There's not a lot of resistance anymore."

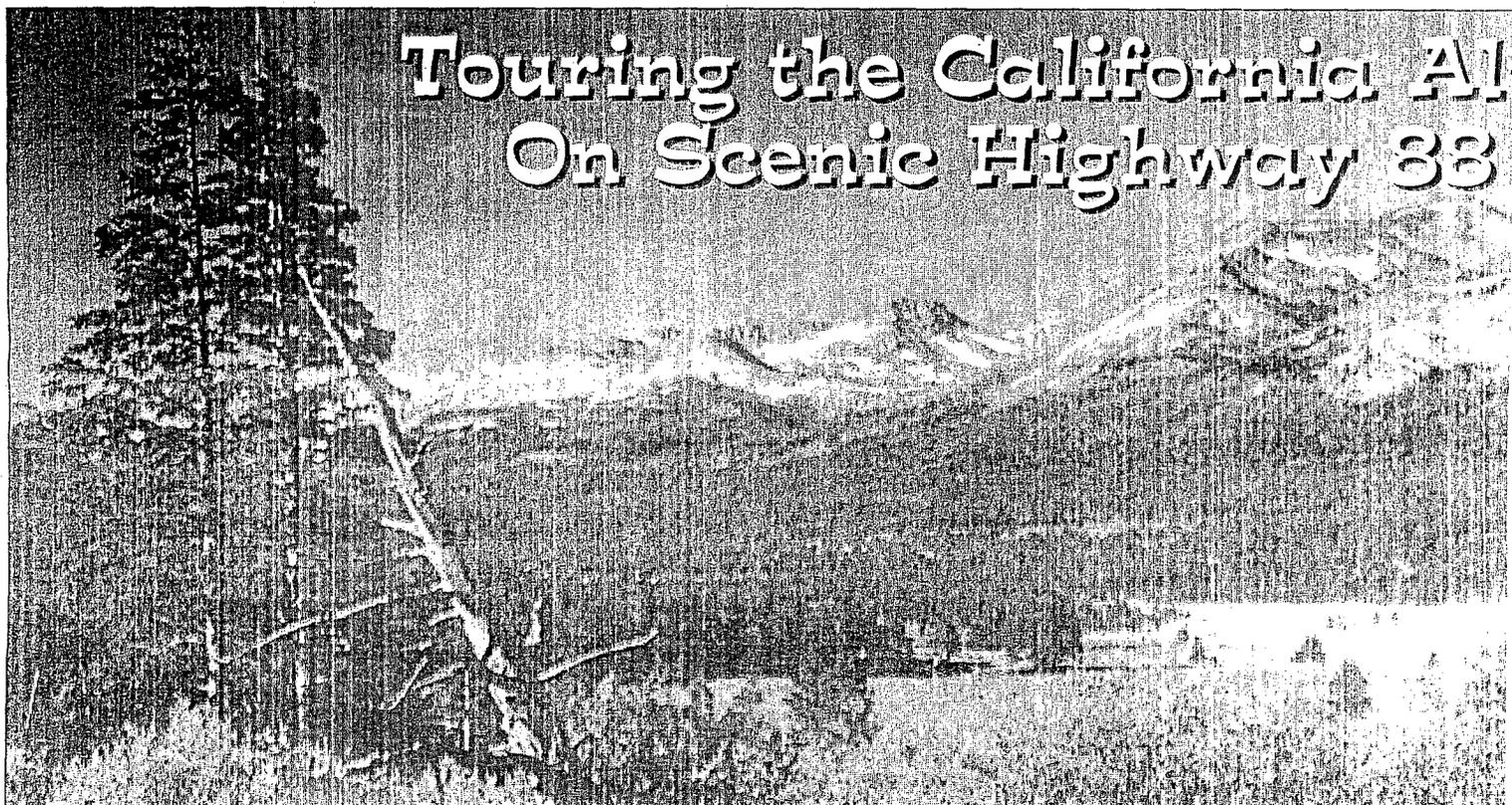
Actually obtaining condoms in the county is another matter, however, because they are unavailable at most of the corner stores. "In some cases you might have to drive 30 or 40 miles to get one," said Botto.

READ GINETTE JOURNAL 6-30-97

# THE 88 TRAVELER

*Scenic Highway 88* *Your Historic Road to Lake Tahoe and The High*

Woodfords • Markleeville • Hope Valley • Kirkwood • Jackson • South Lake Tahoe • Carson



## Touring the California Alps On Scenic Highway 88

*Hope Valley*

*Crossing the Sierra Nevada range through a spectacular land of pine forests, rugged mountain peaks and clear alpine lakes, Highway 88 offers travelers a beautiful and convenient highway route from the valleys of California to the popular resorts of Alpine County, Lake Tahoe, and western Nevada.*

**L**USH ALPINE MEADOWS, tumbling rivers and lofty snow covered mountains give credit to the often used name for this region, the 'California Alps.'

Though not as well known as the more heavily used highways to the north, Highway 88's history parallels the exploration and settlement of California itself. Long used as a Native American trade route across the mountains, the route was later followed by

California's early explorers, emigrants and goldseekers.

In the early 20th Century, the highway was open only during the summer months, serving the needs of fishermen and hunters visiting the remote lakes and canyons of Alpine County.

With the building of the new grade around Red Lake and the clearing of snow in the winter months, Highway 88 came into its own as a modern all year route of travel, serving vacation-

ers in the summer and snow enthusiasts in the winter.

Today, with millions of visitors crossing the mountains each year, the highway offers a relaxing alternative route, featuring a variety of vacation resorts, quaint communities and roadside businesses.

From the west, the highway leaves the town of Jackson in *Amador County* and the rolling oak covered foothills of California's Gold Country, climbing gently through forests of digger pine and incense cedar. Passing the small community of Pioneer, one begins to see stands of magnificent Ponderosa Pine.

Continuing uphill, the highway gains the forested ridgeline which sepa-

*Continued on page 2*



- ◆ Summer fun! Page
- ◆ Winter adventures
- ◆ Historical attractions
- ◆ Season-long listings
- ◆ upcoming events
- ◆ Guide to camps & picnic areas
- ◆ Regional maps
- ◆ Highway 88 resources & services Page

The Scenic 88 Traveler

Summer 1999

## Traveling Historic Highway 88

Continued from page 1

rates the Consumnes River to the north and the Mokelumne River to the south, offering glimpses of the high alpine country ahead.

Along the way, various roadside resorts and lodges appear, many of which were established during the California Gold Rush of 1849 and the frenzied migration to Nevada Territory in 1859. Historic waystations like *Cooks*, *Black's* and *Ham's Stations* began serving the traveling public when the road was crowded with teamster's wagons, gold hungry argonauts and westward heading pioneers.

*Peddler Hill* is next, where legend has it that entrepreneurs set up shop along the road during the 1859 rush to Nevada Territory, selling all sorts of goods to the silver crazed miners. Farther on, the road meets the *Mormon Emigrant Road* at Iron Mountain, blazed in 1848 by members of the Mormon Battalion on their return from the Mexican War of the previous year.

From this point, Highway 88 continues east near timberline providing dramatic views. Several historical markers are found along this stretch of road, including the *Maiden's Grave* and *Tragedy Springs*, the latter location where several members of the Mormon Battalion were reportedly robbed and killed.

The highway next passes *Silver Lake*, site of several rustic resorts, including *Plasses Resort*, offering private tent camping, RV hookups and group equestrian camping, and the *Kit Carson Lodge*, featuring cabins, bed & breakfast accommodations, and gourmet dining.

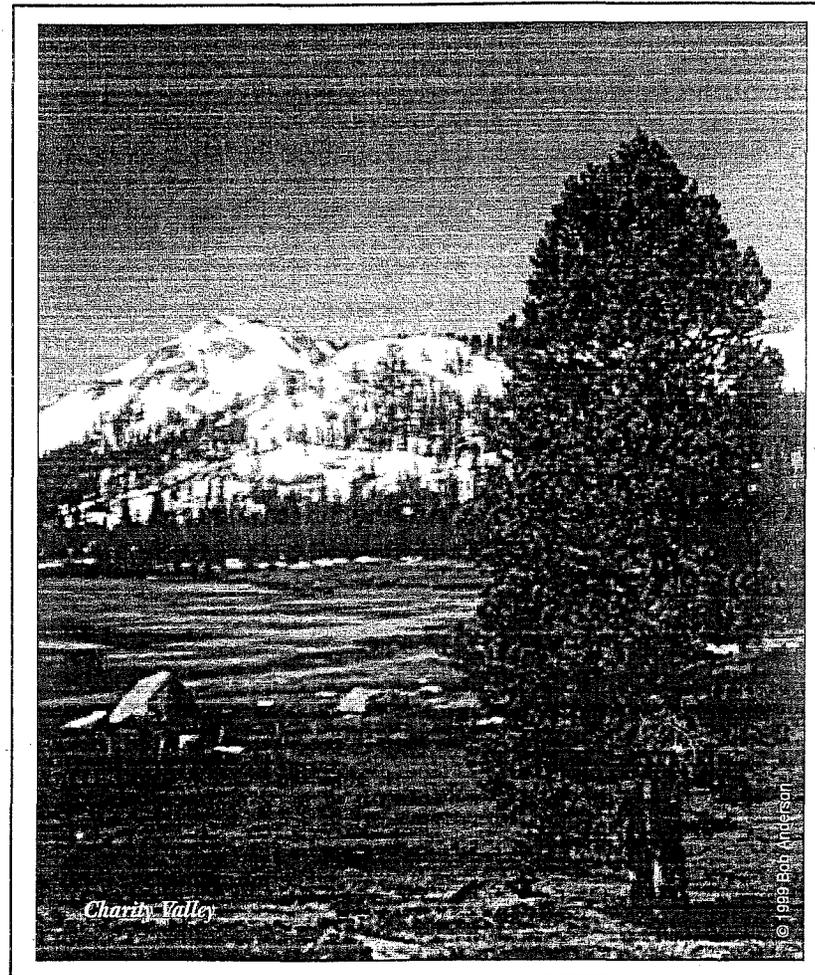
From Silver Lake, the highway winds through mixed pine and aspen groves to emerge at the spectacular *Carson Spur*. With incredible views of the distant Crystal Range and the headwaters of the American River, the Spur was blasted through solid rock to shorten the original route in 1862, during construction of the Amador-Carson Valley Wagon Road, as the route was then known.

Next along the highway is beautiful Kirkwood Meadows and *Kirkwood Ski & Summer Resort*. Developed in the early 1970s, Kirkwood hosts thousands of skiers each winter and is quickly becoming a popular summer destination as well.

New construction at Kirkwood includes both magnificent private homes and several new base lodges with interval ownership condominiums.

Just past Kirkwood's main entrance, the highway passes the historic *Kirkwood Inn*, with great atmosphere and food, then climbs briefly to serene

Continued on page 13



The Scenic 88 Traveler

Summer 1999

# Summer Fun In Alpine Sierra

**T**HE ALPINE SIERRA REGION along Highway 88 has beckoned summer vacationers for years with clear lakes, cool forests and lofty peaks. Sparsely populated, this thousand square mile region today offers a variety of outdoor recreation during the warm weather season.

Early in the century the area was best known by hunters and fishermen who went to great lengths to access it's beautiful mountains and valleys. Poor roads and a lack of facilities made travel difficult, though the rewards were great.

Today, every type of alpine recreation is available, as modern resorts and highways provide the access and comfort needed to enjoy the area on a quick weekend getaway, or an extended vacation.

Offering ideal waters for spincasters and fly fishermen alike, more than sixty lakes and streams offer a variety of game fish, including Rainbow, Brook, Golden, Brown and native Cutthroat Trout.

West of the crest, highway accessible lakes and reservoirs include Lower Bear River Reservoir, Salt Springs Res-

ervoir, Silver Lake and Caples Lake, while Indian Creek Reservoir is a popular spot for east slope fishermen.

For stream fishing, there are a great number of choices. On the east, the region is dominated by the forks of the Carson River, while the west slope offers great fishing along the Mokeulmne and American Rivers. The entire area offers numerous side creeks and streams, providing endless enjoyment for the angler.

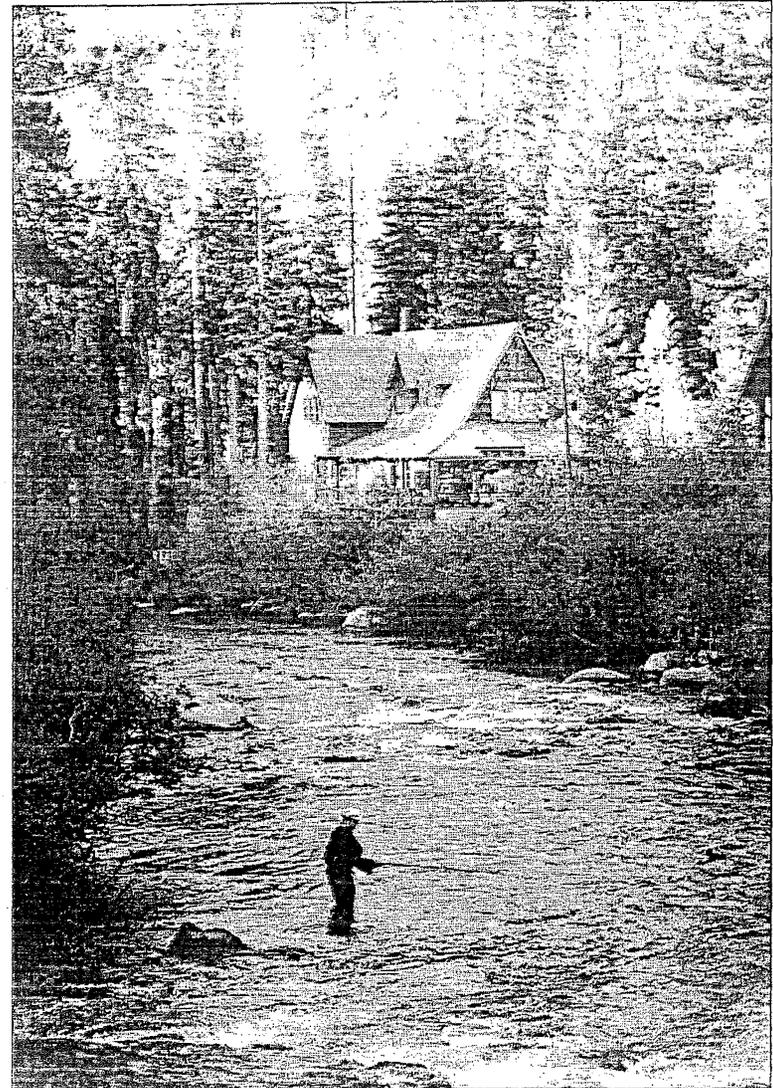
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*...more than sixty lakes and streams offer a variety of game fish, including Rainbow, Brook, Golden, Brown and native Cutthroat Trout...*

---

Alpine County also offers several fisheries of special note. The Pleasant Valley Fishing Preserve near Markleeville, offers trophy fly fishing in a private setting, while Heenan Lake, California's only source of Lahontan

*Continued on page 4*



## Alpine Sierra Summer Recreation

*Continued from page 3*

Cutthroat Trout, is sought after by fisherman for a limited fall season of Catch & Release angling.

The East Fork of the Carson River below Hangman's Bridge is designated a 'Wild Trout' river, with a two fish limit at least 14 inches in size, using barbless hooks on artificial lures.

For whitewater rafting, the Carson River provides an exceptional experience, especially for families and beginners. The 21 mile 'Wild and Scenic' run provides both Class II & III whitewater, as well as natural hot springs for soaking.

For canoeists and kayakers, many of the region's lakes and reservoirs offer great flatwater paddling. Silver Lake, Caples Lake and the Bear River Reservoir are all accessible during the summer months from Highway 88.

The Alpine Sierra region is also known for its selection of campgrounds. Developed campgrounds are found along and near the highway, while several private campgrounds are also available. Dispersed camping is also allowed in the region's National Forests.

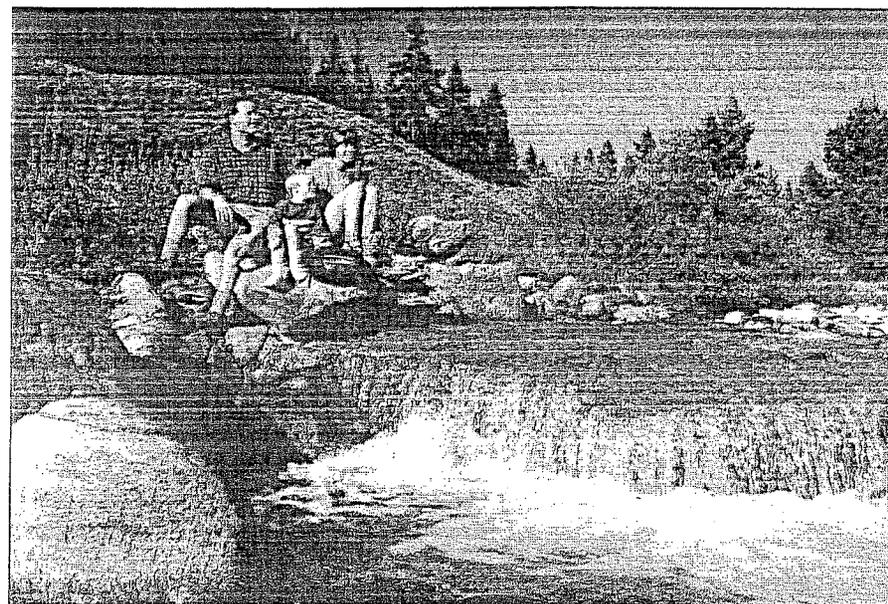
For backcountry enthusiasts, Alpine County and the Highway 88 cor-

ridor offer some of the most beautiful, and remote country in the Sierra Nevada for hikers, backpackers and horsepackers.

Two Federal Wilderness Areas, the Mokeulmne and Carson-Iceberg, dominate the high country, while portions of the El Dorado, Stanislaus and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests cover much of the region. Hundreds of miles of trails are available, with a wide choice of destinations, including numerous alpine lakes. The Pacific Crest Trail also passes through the area following the crest of the range. Popular trailheads are found at Carson Pass, Blue Lakes and Silver Lake.

Bicyclists are attracted to the area for its challenging roads and highways. Popular routes for road cyclists include the Diamond Valley area and the steep passes along the crest, while mountain biking is popular in the Blue Lakes area, north along the Tahoe Rim Trail and along hundreds of miles of Forest Service roads on the western slope.

For serious cyclists, the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce sponsors the 'Death Ride: Tour of the California Alps' in July each year. Now in its 18th year, the Death Ride attracts



2500 riders from around the country who take on 16,000 feet of climbing and 126 miles of riding over five mountain passes.

Off highway vehicle enthusiasts will also find plenty of fun to enjoy the outdoors along Highway 88. Numerous marked roads are found on both the east and west sides of the range, including many in the foothills of Amador County, and along the California/Nevada border.

With hundreds of square miles of public lands, it's little wonder that the Alpine Sierra region has become so popular with summer outdoors enthusiasts. For more information on the area, contact the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce at 530-694-2475, or visit the agency's Visitors Center in Markleeville, operated in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service, for maps, books and information.

## Carson River Offers Whitewater Fun

**F**OR WHITEWATER enthusiasts visiting the Alpine Sierra region, the East Fork of the Carson River provides an exciting Spring season of rafting and kayaking.

Running 28 miles from Silver Creek to the takeout below the Nevada stateline, the river winds through an incredibly diverse environment, ranging from the alpine mountains to the Great Basin desert.

And, with no upstream dam, and little evidence of man's activities, the California portion of the river has been designated 'Wild and Scenic' by the state.

Along its length, the East Fork provides two popular runs, suitable for all abilities.

The upper run, seven miles in length follows State Route 89/4 from the confluence with Silver Creek near Wolf Creek Road to Hangman's Bridge. It is popular as a half day raft trip, and is also used by kayakers who have easy access from the road.

The lower, longer run is the twenty one mile stretch from the Bridge to the takeout near Highway 395. This section can be done as a one day trip, or as a leisurely two day adventure, as



numerous campsites can be found along the way. The lower river also features several natural hot springs for soaking.

With no upstream storage or controls, the annual rafting season on the Carson varies each year with the

fluctuating snowpack. Generally, the season runs from May through mid-July, though it can start earlier and last longer.

The Carson River, like the other rivers draining the east slope of the Si-

erra are known as 'continuous gradient' rivers. Dropping at a constant rate, rafters are almost always enjoying the fun and excitement of Class II and III rapids along the way.

Several commercial rafting companies provide trips on the river through the season, while the greatest use comes from private rafters. *Ahwahnee Whitewater* provides daily trips from the nearby Carson River Resort, while other companies can arrange trips for individuals and groups.

For more information, contact the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce at 530-694-2475.

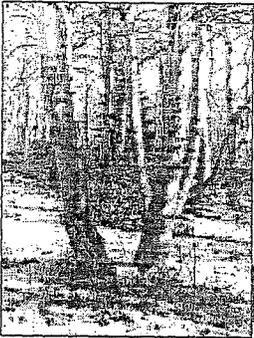
*Don't miss the*  
**Woodfords Faire &  
Chili Cook-Off**

**SEPTEMBER 18-19**

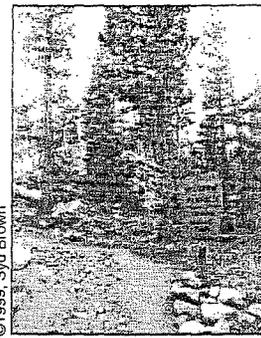
**Woodfords, CA**

# Highway 88 Regional Map

Your Guide To Fun and Adventure on California's Most Scenic Highway!



Basque carvings,  
Carson Pass



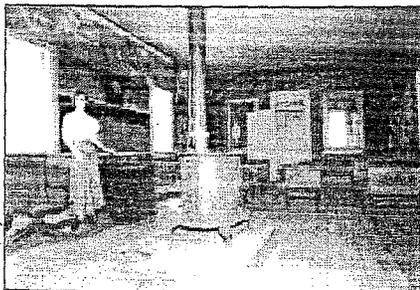
Frog Lake/Winnemucca Lake  
trailhead, Carson Pass

## Scenic Points of Interest

## Hiking Trailheads

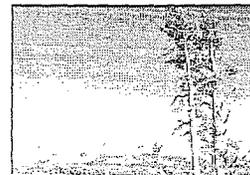
Location	Map #
Woodfords Canyon & The Carson River .....	S1
Hope Valley .....	S2
Carson Pass .....	S3
Caples Lake .....	S4
Kirkwood Meadows .....	S5
Carson Spur .....	S6
Silver Lake .....	S7
Devil's Garden .....	S8
Shot Rock Vista .....	S9
Leek Springs Vista .....	S10
Peddler Hill .....	S11

Location	Map #
<b>Markleeville/Woodfords Area</b>	
Wolf Creek Meadows .....	T1
Carson River Trail .....	T2
Pleasant Valley .....	T3
Thornburg Canyon .....	T4
Charity Valley East .....	T5
Grover Hot Springs .....	T6
Horsethief Canyon .....	T7
<b>Hope Valley/Kirkwood Area</b>	
Tahoe Rim Trail .....	T8
Charity Valley West .....	T9
Blue Lakes .....	T10
Wet Meadows .....	T11
Carson Pass/Pacific Crest Trail .....	T12
Caples Lake .....	T13
Silver Lake .....	T14



1882 Schoolhouse

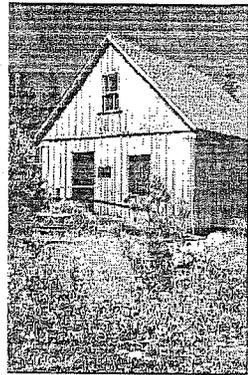
## Historic Points of Interest



Caples Lake

Pg. 6

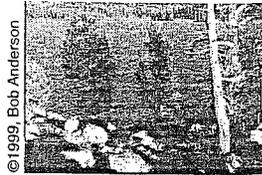
Location	Map #
Snowshoe Thompson Cabin .....	H1
Woodford's Pony Express Monument .....	H2
Gangberg Cabin .....	H3
Alpine County 1882 Schoolhouse .....	H4
Alpine County Log Jail .....	H5
Hope Valley Pony Express Monument .....	H6
Devil's Ladder .....	H7
Caples Lake Emigrant Monument .....	H8
Tagedy Springs .....	H9
Maiden's Grave .....	H10



Old Log Jail,  
Alpine County  
Museum Complex

### Regional Attractions

Location	Map #
Alpine County Museum Complex .....	A1
Amador County Museum .....	A2
Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center .....	A3
Genoa Courthouse Museum .....	A4
Grover Hot Springs State Park .....	A5
Indian Grinding Rock State Park .....	A6
Monroton Station State Park .....	A7
Kennedy Gold Mine .....	A8
Kirkwood Adventure Center .....	A9
Lake Tahoe Historical Society Museum .....	A10
Nevada Railroad Museum .....	A11
Nevada State Museum .....	A12
Sutter Creek Main Street Theatre .....	A13
Sutter Gold Mine .....	A14
Taylor Creek Stream Profile Chamber .....	A15
Volcano Theatre Company .....	A16



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### Fishing Lakes & Streams

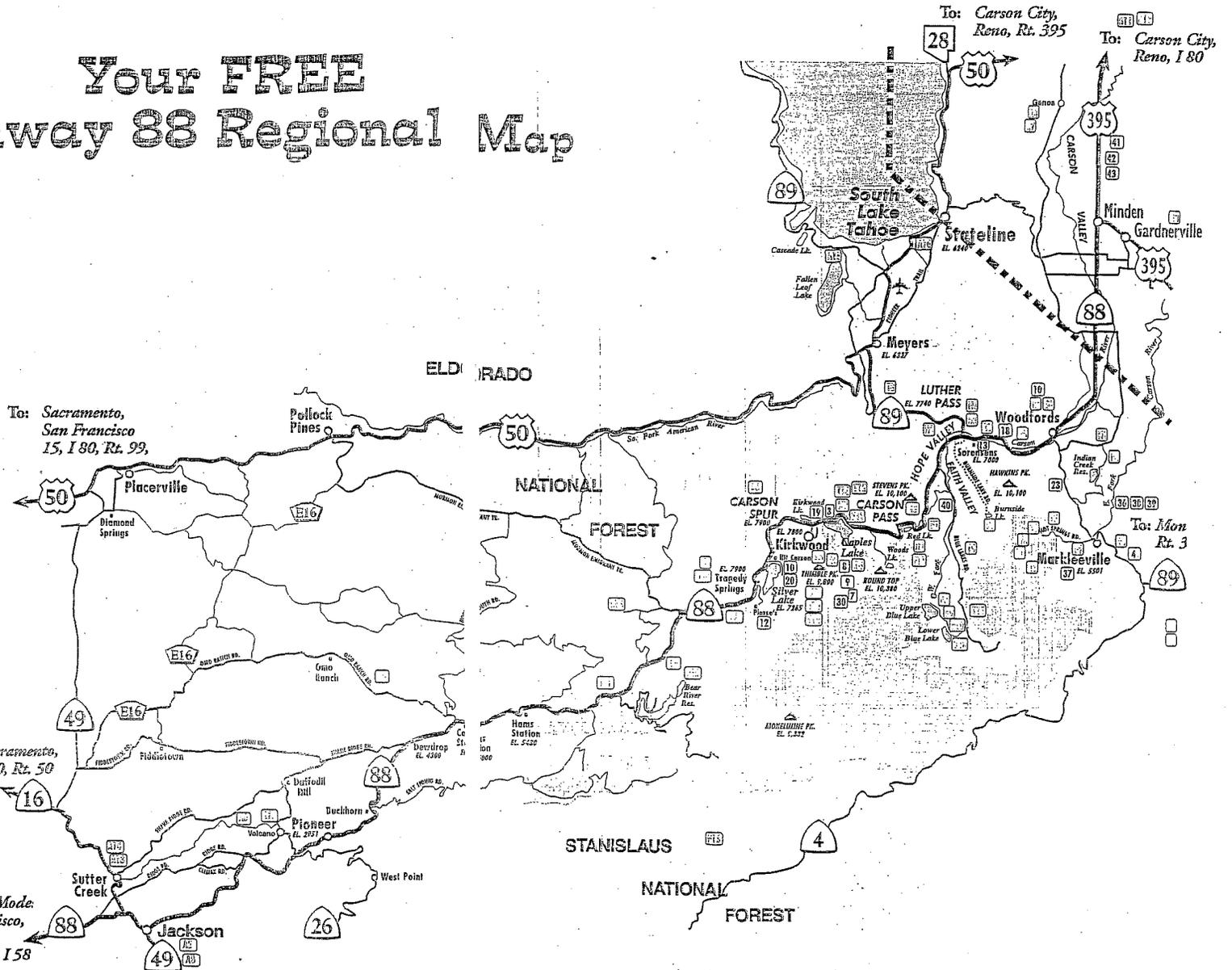
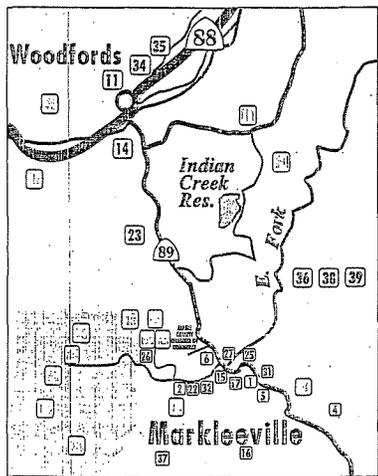
Location	Map #
East Fork Carson River .....	F1
Markleeville Creek .....	F2
Pleasant Valley Creek .....	F3
Indian Creek Reservoir .....	F4
West Fork Carson River .....	F5
Burnside Lake .....	F6
Red Lake .....	F7
Blue Lakes .....	F8
Sunset Lakes .....	F9
Tamarack Lake .....	F10
Forestdale Creek .....	F11
Winnemucca Lake .....	F12
Caples Lake .....	F13
Silver Lake .....	F14
Bear River Reservoir .....	F15
Salt Springs Reservoir .....	F16

### Important Phone Numbers

All Emergencies	911
<b>Alpine County</b>	
Sheriff .....	530-694-2231
Museum .....	530-694-2317
Chamber of Commerce/Visitors Center .....	530-694-2475
<b>Amador County</b>	
Sheriff .....	209-253-6500
Chamber of Commerce .....	209-223-0350
California Highway Patrol .....	530-577-1001
Carson City Convention & Visitors Bureau .....	702-687-7410
Carson Valley Visitors Authority .....	800-727-7677
Grover Hot Springs State Park .....	530-694-2248
Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority .....	800-AT-TAHOE
S. Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce .....	530-541-5255
Tahoe Douglas Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center .....	775-588-4591
USDA Forest Service Information .....	530-694-2475

15  
7

# Your FREE Highway 88 Regional Map



## Winter Adventure in Carson Pass Country

**W**ITH HUNDREDS of square miles of national forest and wilderness, the winter season along Highway 88 provides an abundance of recreation for the outdoor enthusiast. Skiing and snowmobiling are the most popular activities in the region, while backcountry ski touring, dog sledding and ice fishing are also available.

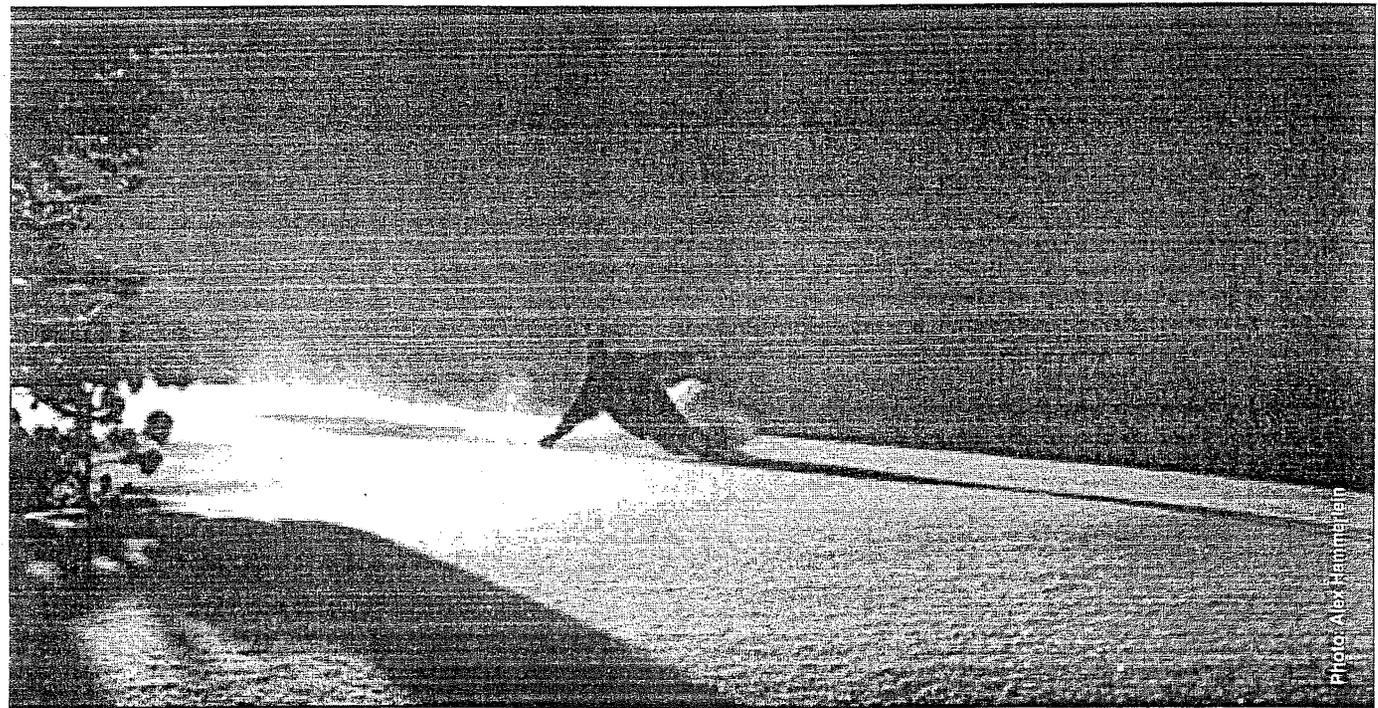
For skiers, *Kirkwood Ski & Summer Resort*, is the largest winter sports facility in the area, located west of Carson Pass on Highway 88. With ten lifts and more than 2000 acres of skiable terrain, Kirkwood offers skiers everything from wide groomed beginner slopes to steep powder filled chutes and gullies, with ample intermediate slopes in between.

And, with the highest base elevation of any ski resort in Northern California, Kirkwood receives abundant snow, providing a season lasting well into Spring.

Lodging choices include a variety of condominiums and vacation homes. In addition to the resort company, lodging is also available through *Kirkwood Accommodations* and *Kirkwood Towers*. The resort is also developing several new base facilities, including the Lodge at Kirkwood, offering interval own-

ership to guests. Dining is available at several locations, including the Red Cliffs Lodge, the Cornice Cafe, the Timber Creek Lodge and the historic Kirkwood Inn.

*Skiing... snowmobiling... backcountry ski touring...  
dog sledding and ice fishing...*



*Skiers at Kirkwood enjoy one of the largest winter sports facilities in the area.*

Kirkwood also offers a full range of skier services, including a well staffed ski school, snowboard and ski equipment rental shops and retail stores. In addition, the mountain features the

Mighty Mountain Children's Center, offering specialized instruction for small children.

For the nordic skier, *Kirkwood*

*Continued on page 14*

## Soak Up Some Fun at Grover Hot Springs

ONE OF THE Alpine Sierra region's most popular attractions is the *Grover Hot Springs State Park*. Situated just a few miles west of Markleeville, the Hot Springs have attracted people for years for what many believe to be it's soothing and curative powers.

Hot springs are common along the eastern escarpment of the Sierra Nevada, formed by the recent uplift of the range and the volcanic activity associated with the earth's movement. As ground water seeps into the earth, it is heated by hot magma, returning to the surface as steam laden with dissolved minerals. At the surface, it bubbles from the ground at about 150 degrees F.

The area where the Hot Springs are located was originally used by the native Washo tribe. In 1854, the valley was claimed by rancher John Hawkins, who later sold to the Grover family. They in turn operated a dairy and ran the Fisk Hotel in Markleeville (now the Alpine Hotel), while the springs were used as an attraction for hotel guests.

After changing hands several times, in 1959 the State of California

purchased the property for \$12,000 and established the site as a state park.

Today, Grover Hot Springs offers visitors a relaxing environment for a quick soak or an extended stay.

Bathing facilities include a hot pool, maintained at 102-104 degrees F, as well as a cold swimming pool, showers and changing rooms. The water from the springs are largely free of sulphur and have a mineral content of 74.4 grams per gallon, mostly calcium carbonate, sulphate and chloride.

Nearby, the state maintains a beautiful 76 site campground which is open all year long. Hiking trails lead to Grover Falls, Burnside Lake and Charity Valley, while fisherman can try their luck in Hot Springs Creek, or other area streams and lakes.

The Park also is home to many species of plants and animals and several self guided nature trails are available to learn more about the natural history of the area.

For camping reservations, guests should call 800-444-7275. For general information, Grover Hot Springs can be reached at 530-694-2248.

## Visitor Information

Genoa • Minden • Gardnerville • Topaz Lake

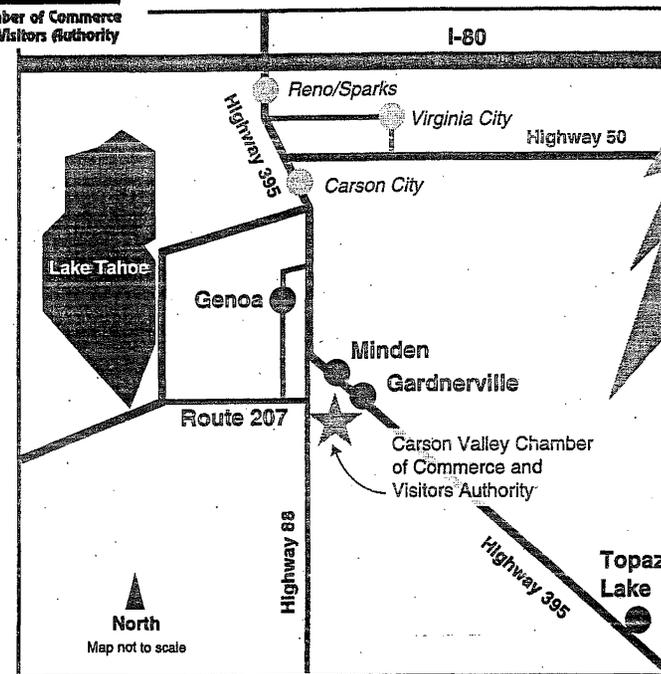


Chamber of Commerce  
and Visitors Authority

Stop by our Visitors' Center and let us help you discover the beautiful Carson Valley — at the Nevada end of Highway 88.

Area Maps  
Calendar of Events  
Walking & Driving Tour Map

1512 U.S. Highway 395 N., Suite #1 • Gardnerville, NV 89410



775-782-8144 or 800-727-7677

[www.carsonvalleynv.org](http://www.carsonvalleynv.org)

## Touring Highway 88

Continued from page 2

*Caples Lake.* With the backdrop of massive Round Top, the *Caples Lake Resort* offers lakeside cabins and gourmet dining in its rustic lodge, while anglers regularly catch huge Mackinaw Trout in the lake.

Several miles past the lake, the highway finally tops out at *Carson Pass*, 8,580 feet above sea level. In the summer a small visitor center is manned by volunteers, while trails head south to the Mokelumne Wilderness and north towards the Lake Tahoe Basin. It was near this spot in 1844, that John Fremont, Kit Carson and a small band of explorers and surveyors, crossed the mountains on their way to California. Fremont and another member of the party climbed nearby Red Lake Peak on the 14th of February and sighted that magnificent body of water, Lake Tahoe, the first non-natives to do so.

Continuing east, Highway 88 begins its rapid descent into the Great Basin, the tawny sage covered mountains of Nevada visible in the distance. Passing *Red Lake*, the highway continues down to *Hope Valley*, named by members of the Mormon Battalion, who felt they had finally reached safety on the east slope of the range.

During the Gold Rush of 1849 and

the subsequent waves of emigrants which followed, this valley served as a resting place, providing abundant grass for cattle and horses. Today Hope Valley is a popular recreation spot, hosting fisherman and campers in the summer, cross country skiers and snowmobilers in the winter.

Just past Pickett's Junction and the turn off to Lake Tahoe, one comes upon *Sorensen's Resort*, nestled in a grove of aspen trees by the road. Originally built around the turn of the century as a sheep herding outpost by Danish immigrant Martin Sorensen, the resort has flourished in the last twenty years as a relaxing retreat and recreation getaway.

Beyond Sorensen's, the *Hope Valley Resort* stands at the entrance to the Woodford's Canyon, featuring a quaint store, restaurant and camping sites.

Following the tumbling cascades of the Carson River's West Fork, this portion of the emigrant road was often mentioned in the traveler's diaries, as the old road crossed and recrossed the river on large boulders. Today, the highway provides numerous pullout and fishing spots along the river, shaded by huge pine and fir trees.

Emerging at the canyon's mouth, the small community of *Woodfords* ap-

pears. Established in 1848 by Sam Brannan who left supplies at a nearby spring, a collection of family businesses provide services, including lodging at the *Mountain & Garden Bed & Breakfast* and fishing supplies at the *Woodford's Station*, antiques at *The Consortium* and the real estate office of *Rainbow Realty*.

At this point, Highway 89 heads south towards the community of Markleeville. Along the way one passes the comfortable *Woodford's Inn* and the *Sierra Pines Store and Park*, before arriving in the historic community.

The County seat since 1875, for many years *Markleeville* served as a center of mining, lumbering and ranching activities on the East Slope. Today, the town is best known for its great fishing, camping and the nearby *Grover Hot Springs State Park*, where thousands come each year to soak up the soothing mineral waters.

Businesses in Markleeville include the *Cutthroat Saloon* and *Alpine Restaurant*, both housed in the historic Alpine Hotel, lodging at the *J. Marklee Toll Station*, *Alpine Inn*, *Bed, Bike & Bagel Cabin* and *Grandma's House*, dining and treats at *The Deli* and *M's Coffee House*, great Italian cuisine and art at *The Villa Gigli*

*Collection*, unique gifts at *Olsen's Soap Works* and fishing equipment, groceries and supplies at the *Markleeville General Store* and *Grover's Corner*.

Markleeville is also home to the *Alpine County Museum Complex*, featuring the County's 1882 one room schoolhouse, the old log jail and displays on the early history of the County.

Back on Highway 88 at Woodfords, the highway begins its long descent crossing the California/Nevada stateline into the lush fields of the *Carson Valley*. Fed by the Carson River, this area was the site of Nevada's earliest settlement, *Genoa*, and is today a mix of new homes and ranchettes, quickly growing alongside family run hay, cattle and dairy operations. The neighboring towns of *Minden* and *Gardnerville* offer a variety of services, and feature brightly lit casinos, alongside nearby neatly manicured neighborhoods.

Along its path, Highway 88 traces some of the most beautiful country anywhere in the Sierra Nevada. With a variety of resorts, it beckons the traveler with its scenic beauty and recreation. Whether it's a first trip across this historic highway, or the first of many, new adventures wait at every bend in the road.

## Winter Activities Abound On Highway 88

*Continued from page 11*

Cross Country has 80 kilometers of groomed trails over 3,000 acres of mountainous terrain. Considered one of the most beautiful nordic centers in the Sierra, Kirkwood Cross Country features a comfortable day lodge, a full range of equipment and rentals and expert instruction.

Cross country ski equipment, snowshoes and instruction are also available at *Hope Valley Cross Country*, located at the Hope Valley Resort.

Though many visitors to the area prefer the comfort and convenience of developed facilities and resorts, a variety of activities are available on the region's hundreds of square miles of national forest and wilderness lands.

Snowmobiling is a popular sport in the area, with many riders touring the Blue Lakes region during the winter months. *Lake Tahoe Winter Sports Center* offers guided snowmobile tours in Hope Valley and the Blue Lakes throughout the season, while snowmobile owners will find no shortage of trails to explore on their own.

The Alpine Sierra region also at-

tracts cross country skiers and snowshoers seeking the beauty and serenity of the mountains outside of one of the area's developed resorts. Hope Valley is popular with beginners, families and groups, with its wide flat expanses and gentle terrain.

For a more challenging cross country tour, skiers depart from Carson Pass, heading south into the Mokelumne Wilderness, or north to Meiss Meadows and the Lake Tahoe Basin, while others take extended overnight trips into the backcountry. Backcountry travelers should always check current snow conditions and weather forecasts in advance.

Lastly, fishing is open all year on the area's lakes and reservoirs which can provide exciting rewards for those up to the challenge. Indian Creek Reservoir is usually ice free most of the year, while Caples Lake and Silver Lake provide sport for serious ice fishermen.

For more information on the region's winter recreation and activities, contact the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce at 530-694-2475.



*Cross-country skiing at Kirkwood offers some of the best trails you'll ever encounter!*

Photo: Tania Magidson

## History On Display At Museums & Attractions

**R**ich with the history of both California and Nevada, the Alpine Sierra region offers a variety of quality museums, historical sites and attractions.

Operated by the individual states, historical societies and private organizations, the information and artifacts on display tell a fascinating story of the exploration and settlement of the area.

In the Carson Valley, Nevada, several quality sites are available to the public. Best known is the *Mormon Station State Park*, located in Genoa. The site includes a recreation of the original trading post and stockade established by John Reese in 1851, as well as artifacts and exhibits on the Washo Indians, Snowshoe Thompson and early Carson Valley history.

Across the street in Genoa is the *Genoa Courthouse Museum*. Built in 1865 the building served as the county courthouse and later as a schoolhouse. It contains many displays which reflect the heritage of the area.

Across the state line in Markleeville, California, the *Alpine County Museum Complex* features the history and heritage of Alpine County. Featured are the County's 1882 school-

house, the original log jail, Native American artifacts and a collection of memorabilia from the County's first families.

The Museum Complex also features a collection of the artwork of Walt Monroe, who lived in Alpine County in the early twentieth century and painted numerous pastoral scenes of the area.

Other historical points of interest include plaques commemorating the Pony Express' route through the County and the original Carson Emigrant Road.

Amador County, California, offers a glimpse into the early Gold Rush history of the state. The *Kennedy Gold Mine* in Jackson offers weekend tours of their 19th Century mine, while the *Sutter Gold Mine* is available for tours in nearby Sutter Creek.

Two theater companies also bring the state's history to life. The *Volcano Theater Company* offers performances on Sundays in Volcano, while the *Sutter Creek Main Street Theatre Works* also offers performances.

For more information, refer to the list of Chambers of Commerce in the center of this publication.

# 1999 Alpine Sierra Special Events

All community event information is presented by the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce as a public service. Dates and locations are subject to change.

JULY			
1-4	High Sierra Music Festival	Bear Valley	510-420-1529
1-4	Celebrity Golf Tournament	S. Lake Tahoe	530-544-5050
3	Fire Department Winetasting, Beerfest & BBQ	Kirkwood	209-258-3000
3	Campfire Cowboys, Cowboy Poetry & Music	Kirkwood	209-258-3000
4	Thunder Saddle Ski Race	Kirkwood	209-258-3000
4	Llama Hike	Kirkwood	209-258-7357
4	Pass Sales & Barbecue	Kirkwood	209-258-3000
4	Salute To Alpine County Veterans	Alpine County Museum	530-694-2317
4	July 4th Fireworks, Lake Tahoe & Carson City	Various	530-694-2475
10	Antiques & Collectibles Sale	Minden	775-265-6097
10	Death Ride	Markleeville	530-694-2475
10-12	Mountain Horsemanship Camp	Plasses Resort	209-258-RIDE 209-727-0902
10-11	Kirkwood Explorers Days	Kirkwood	209-258-7357
11-17	Robert Reynolds Watercolor Workshop	Bear Valley Lodge	209-753-2325
17	Alpine Wildflowers with Botanist Lea Gardner	Sorensen's Resort	800-423-9949
17	Lake Alpine Fishing Tournament	Lake Alpine	209-753-6358
17	Wildflower Hike & Slide Show with Laird Blackwell	Kirkwood	209-258-7357
17	Introduction to Flyfishing with Trout Creek Flies	Kirkwood	209-258-7357
17-18	Kirkwood Explorers Days	Kirkwood	209-258-7357
17-18	Flyfishing Workshops with Alpenglou	Sorensen's Resort	800-423-9949
18	Hope Valley Music Series: Back Forty Band	Sorensen's Resort	800-423-9949
18	Celtic festival at Valhalla	S. Lake Tahoe	530-541-4975
19-23	American Yankee Assoc. (Grumman Yankee Aircraft)	Minden-Tahoe Airport	
20	Emigrant Trail Walking Tour with Frank Tortorich	Sorensen's Resort	800-423-9949
23-25	ZIA	Bear Valley Lodge	209-753-2325
24	High Sierra Pack Llamas Hike	Sorensen's Resort	800-423-9949
24	"Hair & The Bear" & "Angels and Devils of the Goldrush" Offered by the Amador Learning Network	Kirkwood	209-258-3000
24	Papermaking Workshop, Offered by the Amador Learning Network	Kirkwood	209-258-3000
24	Llama Hike	Kirkwood	209-258-7357
24-25	Kirkwood Explorers Days	Kirkwood	209-258-7357
25	Kirkwood Inn Brunch, Entertainment by Cool Black Kettle	Kirkwood	209-258-3000
25-27	Landscape Photography Workshop with Steve Ruley	Sorensen's Resort	800-423-9949
26	Moonlight Kayak Paddle	Bear Valley Adv. Ctr.	209-753-2834
31	Bear Valley Music Festival: Crystal Gayle	Bear Valley	800-458-1618
31	"A Day At The Wood", Featuring Mumbo Gumbo Concert, Cajun Food & Arts and Crafts	Kirkwood	209-258-3000
31	Natural History Walk & Hike	Kirkwood	530-577-1506

# The Scenic 88 Traveler

Summer 1999

AUGUST			
1	Kayak Demo Day	Bear Valley Adv. Ctr.	209-753-2834
1	Kirkwood Explorers Day	Kirkwood	209-258-2357
2	Alpine Wildflowers with Botanist Lea Gardner	Sorensen's Resort	800-423-9949
3	Bear Valley Music Festival: Community Beach Barbecue	Bear Valley	800-458-1618
3-8	Hot August Nights	Reno	775-356-1956
4	Bear Valley Music Festival: Pops/Best of Broadway	Bear Valley	800-458-1618
5	Recital with Phillip Quint & Dmitry Cogan, Piano		
6	Mondo Combo, Swing Dance Part Concert		
7	Festival Orchestra, Phillip Quint, Violin Peter & The Wolf, Free Children's Concert		
7	Stamping Class, Offered by the Amador Learning Network	Kirkwood	209-258-2357
7	Fly Fishing Workshop with Alpine Flyfishing	Pleasant Valley	530-542-0759
7-8	Watercolor Workshop, Offered by the Amador Learning Network	Kirkwood	209-258-2357
7-8	Wildflowers of the Sierra Nevada with Michael Graf	Kirkwood	209-258-7357
8	Bear Valley Music Festival: Festival Orchestra, Virginia Luque, Guitar	Bear Valley	800-458-1618
10	Chamber Music Concert		
11	New Christy Minstrels with Randy Sparks		
12	'The Barber of Seville' Opera (In English)		
13	Festival Orchestra, Santiago Rodriguez, Piano		
14	'The Barber of Seville' Opera (In English)		
15	Festival Orchestra, Santiago Rodriguez, Piano		
13-15	Great Gatsby Days	S. Lake Tahoe	530-541-5227
14-15	Alpine County Pioneer Family Weekend & Grubstake Dinner	Alpine County Museum	530-694-2317
14	Antiques & Collectibles Sale	Minden	775-265-6097
14	Natural History Walk & Hike	Kirkwood	530-577-1506
14-15	Kirkwood Explorers Days	Kirkwood	209-258-7357
19	Board of Directors & Membership Mixer Chamber of Commerce	Bear Valley	530-694-2475
20-22	12th Annual Valley Cruises Main St. Event	Minden	775-265-2256
20-22	ACCC Lake Alpine Fishing Tournament	Lake Alpine	530-694-2475
21	High Sierra Pack Llamas Hike	Sorensen's Resort	800-423-9949
21	Tai Chi/Yoga Workshop Offered by the Amador Learning Network	Kirkwood	209-258-7357
21	Papier Mache' Workshop Offered by the Amador Learning Network	Kirkwood	209-258-7357
21	A Grand Star Party, Planetarium & Stargazing	Kirkwood	209-258-7357
21	Plasses Annual Deep Pit BBQ	Plasses Resort	209-258-8814
21-22	Kirkwood Explorers Days	Kirkwood	209-258-2357
22	Hope Valley Music Series: Mariposa	Sorensen's Resort	800-423-9949
22	Jazz Brunch Series	Caples Lake Resort	209-258-8888
24	Moonlight Kayak Paddle	Bear Valley Adv. Ctr.	209-753-2834
25-29	Mountain Horsemanship Camp	Summit Meadow Camp	209-258-RIDE 209-727-0902
27-28	Emigrant Trail History Slide Show & Hike Presented by Bill & Jeanne Watson, Ore-Calif. Trail Assoc.	Kirkwood	209-258-7357
28	"Angels & Devils of the Gold Rush" & "May Woolsey's Trunk" Presented by the Amador Learning Network	Kirkwood	209-258-7357
28	Papermaking Workshop Presented by the Amador Learning Network	Kirkwood	209-258-7357
28	Lake Tahoe AIRFEST 99	Lake Tahoe Airport	530-541-0480
28-29	NORBA State Mt. Bike Downhill & Trials Championship	Bear Valley	209-753-2301
28-29	Kirkwood Explorers Days	Kirkwood	209-258-2357
29	Hope Valley Music Series: Alisa Fineman	Sorensen's Resort	800-423-9949

# The Scenic 88 Traveler Summer 1999

## SEPTEMBER

3	<b>Mountain Horsemanship Camp</b>	Plassess Resort	209-258-RIDE 209-727-0902
4	<b>Kirkwood 10K Run</b>	Kirkwood	209-258-3000
4	<b>Labor Day BBQ Party</b>	Kirkwood	209-258-3000
4	<b>Doug Robinson Climbing Clinic and Slide Show</b>	Kirkwood	209-258-7357
4	<b>Model A Ford Club</b>	Carson City	775-882-1157
5	<b>Bear Valley Triathlon</b>	Bear Valley Adv. Ctr.	209-753-2834
5	<b>Banff Festival of Mountain Films</b>	Kirkwood	209-258-3000
6	<b>Jazz Brunch Series</b>	Plassess Resort	209-258-8814
6	<b>BVAC Rental Equip. Closeout Sale</b>	Bear Valley Adv. Ctr.	209-753-2834
7 & 21	<b>Board of Supervisors</b>	Markleeville	530-694-2287
11	<b>High Sierra Pack Llamas Hike</b>	Sorensen's Resort	800-423-9949
11	<b>Kirkwood Golf Invitational</b>	Sierra Nev. Golf Ranch	209-258-7357
11	<b>Antiques &amp; Collectibles Sale</b>	Minden	775-265-6097
11-12	<b>15th Annual Street Celebration</b>	Minden	775-324-6435
14	<b>Emigrant Trail Walking Tour with Frank Tortorich</b>	Sorensen's Resort	800-423-9949
16-19	<b>National Championship Air Races</b>	Reno	775-972-6663
17-19	<b>ACCC Caples Lake Fishing Tournament</b>	Caples Lake	530-694-2475
18-19	<b>Woodfords Fair &amp; Chili Cookoff</b>	Woodfords	530-694-2475
18	<b>Natural History Walk &amp; Hike</b>	Kirkwood	530-577-1506
20	<b>Harmonial City &amp; Summit City Mining Camp Tour</b>	Sorensen's Resort	800-423-9949
25-26	<b>Get In Shape For the Winter Season Clinic</b>	Kirkwood	209-258-7357
25-26	<b>79th Annual Candy Dance</b>	Minden	775-782-8696
28	<b>Emigrant Trail Walking Tour with Frank Tortorich</b>	Sorensen's Resort	800-423-9949

## OCTOBER

2-3	<b>Kokanee Salmon Festival</b>	S. Lake Tahoe	530-573-2600
8-9	<b>4th Annual High Desert Jazz Festival</b>	Carson City	775-883-1976
8-10	<b>Mountain Horsemanship Camp</b>	Plassess Resort	209-258-RIDE 209-727-0902
9	<b>Natural History Walk &amp; Hike</b>	Kirkwood	530-577-1506
15-17	<b>Cruzin' To The Colors Car Rally</b>	Bear Valley Lodge	209-753-2325
17	<b>Velo Promo Mt. Bike Race</b>	Bear Vly Adventure Ctr.	209-753-2834
19	<b>Emigrant Trail Walking Tour with Frank Tortorich</b>	Sorensen's Resort	800-423-9949
23	<b>Kit Carson Trail Ghost Walk</b>	Carson City	800-638-2321
30	<b>Community Get Together</b>	Alpine County Museum	530-694-2317
31	<b>Nevada Day Parade</b>	Carson City	800-NEVADA-1

## Highway 88 Region Campgrounds & Picnic Areas

Name	#Sites	RV	Water	Toilets	Price	Elevation	Agency	Reservations
Markleeville Creek	10		PW	V	\$ 9.00	5500 ft.	USFS	No
Grover Hot Springs	76	27 ft.	PW	FL	\$16.00	5900 ft.	State Park	800-444-7275
Turtle Rock Park	28	35 ft.	PW	P	\$ 8.00	6100 ft.	County	530-694-2140
Sierra Pines	40		PW	FL	\$16.00	5000 ft.	Private	530-694-2949
Indian Creek Reservoir	29	29 ft.	PW	FL	\$8-10.00	5600 ft.	BLM	775-885-6000
Carson River Resort	25		PW	V	\$10-20.00	5600 ft.	Private	530-694-2229
Centerville Flats			ST	P	Free	5900 ft.	USFS	Undeveloped
Wolf Creek Meadows			ST	P	Free	6700 ft.	USFS	Undeveloped
Silver Creek	22		PW	V	\$ 9.00	6800 ft.	USFS	800-444-6777
Crystal Springs	20	22 ft.	PW	V	\$ 9.00	6000 ft.	USFS	No
Snowshoe Springs	13	16 ft.	PW	V	\$ 9.00	6600 ft.	USFS	No
Scout Kit Carson	12	22 ft.	PW	V	\$ 9.00	6900 ft.	USFS	No
Hope Valley Resort	18	30 ft.	PW	FL	\$15-30.00	7000 ft.	Private	800-423-9949
Hope Valley	20	22 ft.	PW	V	\$ 9.00	7300 ft.	USFS	877-444-6777
Hope Valley Group	1		PW	V	\$20.00	7300 ft.	USFS	877-444-6777
Lower Blue Lake	16	Yes	PW	V	\$15.00	8200 ft.	PG&E	916-923-7142
Middle Creek Camp	5	Yes	PW	V	\$15.00	8200 ft.	PG&E	916-923-7142
Upper Blue Lake, Dam	25	Yes	PW	V	\$15.00	8200 ft.	PG&E	916-923-7142
Woods Lake	25		PW	V	\$10.00	8200 ft.	USFS	No
Woods Lake Picnic	8		PW	V	\$ 8.00	8200 ft.	USFS	No
Caples Lake	35	Yes	PW	V	\$11.00	7800 ft.	USFS	No
Kirkwood	12		PW	V	\$10.00	7600 ft.	USFS	No
Oyster Creek Picnic	6		PW	V	Free	7200 ft.	PG&E	No
Ferguson Point Picnic	10		PW	V	Free	7200 ft.	PG&E	No
Silver Lake	42		PW	V	\$12.00	7200 ft.	USFS	No
Silver Lake West	35		PW	V	\$15.00	7200 ft.	PG&E	916-923-7142
Plasses Resort	60	32 ft.	PW	FL	\$20.00	7200 ft.	Private	209-258-8814
Tragedy Springs	3		PW	V	Free	7900 ft.	USFS	No
South Shore	22	Yes	PW	FL	\$10.00	5900 ft.	USFS	No
Bear River Group	3		PW	FL	\$50-\$100.00	6000 ft.	USFS	209-295-4512
Bear River Resort	155	Yes	PW	FL	\$20.00	5900 ft.	Private	209-295-4868
Pi Pi	51	Yes	PW	FL	\$10.00	3900 ft.	USFS	877-444-6777
White Azalea	6		ST	V	Free	3500 ft.	USFS	No
Mokelumne	8		ST	V	Free	3200 ft.	USFS	No
Moore's Creek	8		ST	V	Free	3200 ft.	USFS	No

Code: PW - Piped Water; ST - Stream Water; FL - Flush Toilet; V - Vault Toilet; P - Pit Toilet. Prices subject to change without notice. Copyright ACCC 1999.

## Mt. Sierra Christian School students finish term papers early, make quilts



BELINDA GRANT/The R-C

**Quilts:** Holding their quilts are, front row, left, Callahan Carlin, Holden Sapp, Sarah Schonian,

Sabrina Finley, Kaelie Hall; back, Whitney Tynes, Chelsea Garcia and Nicole Broersma.

### Work is on display at The Quilt House in Gardnerville

by Joyce Hollister  
Staff Writer

Who would have thought that the age-old art of quilting could spur children on to finish their term papers?

Mt. Sierra Christian School teacher Beth Prause gave a quilt project to a few students who finished their term papers early. These youths worked on their quilts while the other students in the 4th-5th-6th grade class worked on their research.

As soon as the other students saw the quilting going on, it inspired them to finish their papers and start a quilt, Prause said.

"It was amazing to see most of the kids in the class finish their

research papers two and three weeks early," she said. "It was an incredible incentive."

Teacher Sheila Jardine helped the students clean up the designs of their quilts, which were then drawn to scale. Next, the students chose a background fabric and colors that would complement their designs.

After cutting out their pieces and laying them on the backgrounds, they ironed them on. Prause and Jardine gave the students lessons in stitching.

"Quilting through the three layers of fabric was actually the most challenging for them," Prause said. "Some of the students are still in various stages of the process, but I'm sure they will finish because the quilts that are already finished motivate them."

The finished quilts and several that are close to being finished are

on display at The Quilt House at the Raley's shopping center in Gardnerville, thanks to owner Janet Pierce. Among the 32 children in the class, some 25 started quilts.

"I never expected for this to turn out to be such a cool class project," Prause said. "I just wanted to teach a few kids a fun skill and to keep them engaged because they had extra time."

In addition, she said, quilting is an alternative to watching television.

"Quilting is a great American heritage skill that needs to be brought back to children," she said. "It was awesome to see the pride the students showed in their work and designs."

In the display at the shop, each child's quilt is accompanied by a printed description and the quilter's name and age.

## Wear your zoot suit down to Alpine County on Saturday

Got a zoot suit?

You'll need one for the swing music revival sweeping the country. In Alpine County, residents enjoy going to enjoy one of the Bay Area's hottest swing bands — Cynthia and the Swing Set.

Lead vocalist and bandleader Cynthia Bythell is one of the few singers with a powerful range from contralto to soprano and she belts it out like Ella Fitzgerald. The Bay Guardian claims she could "... sing at Candlestick Park without a mike!"

With five albums, published

songs, numerous national and regional awards, Bythell sings a variety of standards, including "Mean to Me," "Blue Moon," "I Get a Kick Out of You" and her own original works.

Her group includes some of the Bay's best swing players — award-winning arranger and tenor saxophonist Susie Laraine, outstanding alto sax player and arranger Barbara Speed, Mack Horton on trumpet and John Arnaudo on trombone, as well as some of the hottest rhythm players in the Bay area.

They put on their zoot suits, their black fedoras and usher their audiences back to a gentler time.

According to Bythell, "I think people are ready to dance closer and dance together. I think they're trying to create a fantasy of an era that they think was nicer, with more beauty in it, more melodic music...It's a nice crowd of people."

To complete the evening, there will be an hour of free swing dance lessons before the concert.

The concert will be held at Turtle Rock Park, between Wood-

fords and Markleeville on Highway 89. Dance lessons begin at 6:30 p.m.

The concert follows at 7:30 p.m., July 24.

Tickets are \$8 adult, \$3 child (12 and under).

For advance reservations and information, call (530) 694-2787.

The event is paid in part with Prop 99 funds, the Tobacco Tax Initiative, and by a grant from the California Arts Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

7/21/99 Record Courier

**50 YEARS AGO**  
The Record-Courier  
July 22, 1949

Record Courier  
July 21, 1949

**F**ire sweeps Hawkins' "Mystery Castle" destroying priceless pioneer relics.

Priceless and irreplaceable relics were destroyed Tuesday when fire swept through the storeroom and one room of the living quarters of Harry Hawkins, between Woodfords and Markleeville.

Hawkins called the building with its museum of relics his "castle of mystery."

Origin of the fire was undetermined.

Hawkins, who was born and has spent his entire life at Hawkins Flat where the building was located, was severely burned about the face and his full beard and eyebrows were badly scorched as he attempted to control the flames before the arrival of the Alpine county pumper.

For many years Hawkins has collected relics of the pioneer days when Alpine county was a mining and lumbering center. He had many relics from those mining days, fine hand-made tools, imported pieces of furniture, oil paintings and rare household furniture.

## M's Coffeehouse offers barbecued salmon Saturdays

Every Saturday evening through October, M's Coffeehouse in Markleeville will hold a salmon barbecue from 5 p.m. until the salmon runs out.

Marsha Bennett, owner of the restaurant, said the salmon barbecue has been popular with patrons

because the salmon is fresh.

"It's just incredible. The salmon is so good and fresh," she said.

The dish is served with pasta salad, green salad and bread and drinks are available. Cost is \$12.95 for a large portion. A king portion is also available.

The salmon is barbecued over mesquite and charcoal, and cook Ed Moss makes a special butter and "massive" garlic sauce for the salmon, Bennett said.

The coffeehouse is located at 38 Montgomery St. in Markleeville in Alpine County.

7/24/1999

Record Courier

## Dinner to benefit the Alpine Co. Museum

Record Courier  
7/24/1999

On Sunday, Aug. 15, from noon to 3 p.m., the Historical Society of Alpine County will host a Grubstake Dinner to benefit the Alpine County Museum and to honor the county's pioneer families.

Grubstake is defined as "supplies or funds advanced to a mining prospector or a person beginning a business in return for a promised share of the profits."

The museum certainly can be designated as a "a mine of preserved historical information."

The promised share of the profits happens with the satisfaction of helping to ensure the collection of historical documents and artifacts available for future generations.

On top of the hill overlooking the rooftops of Markleeville, the historical complex includes the

museum, schoolhouse, outhouse, old jail and carriage shed, plus rustic picnic tables for the use of the public. For the cost of \$10 per adult and \$5 per child under the age of 12, there will be bowls of stew, baskets of bread, buckets of fruit, pots of dessert and plenty of drinks.

For further information, call Historical Society President Ruggero Gigli, (530) 694-2253.

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**inside:** Road trip guru pit stops in Tahoe

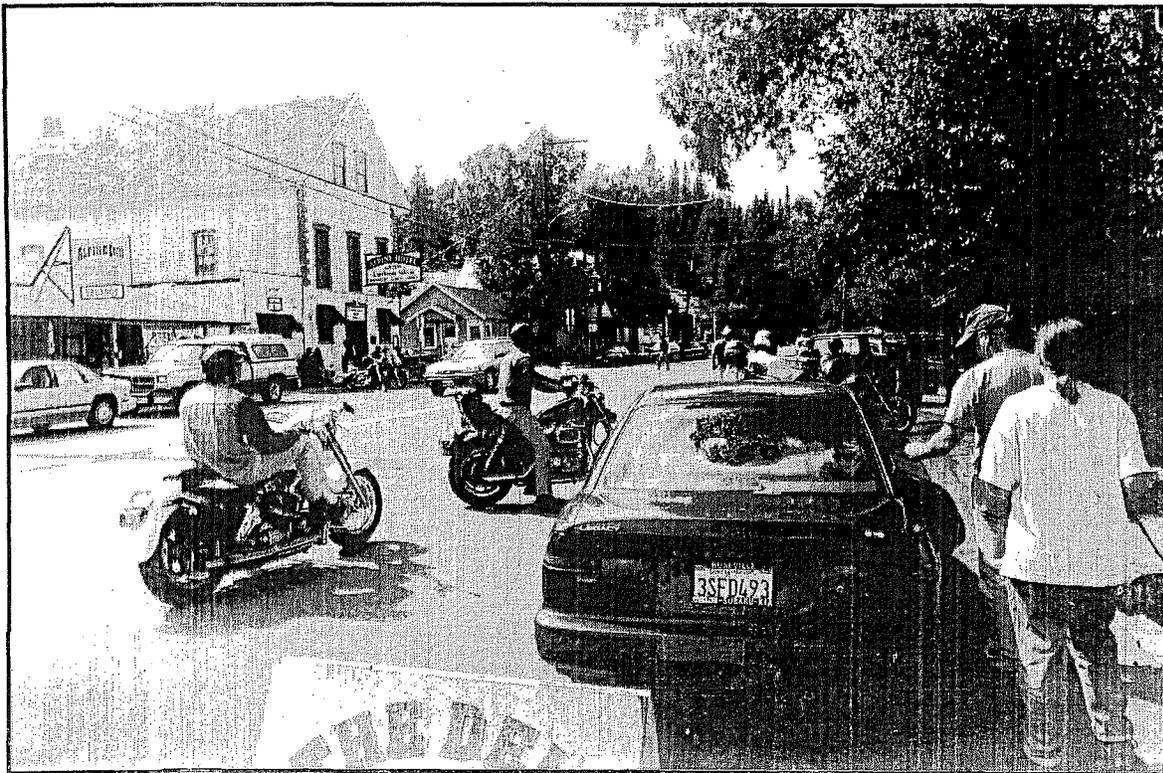
**FREE**

# TAHOE MOUNTAIN NEWS

Serving Lake Tahoe's South Shore since 1994

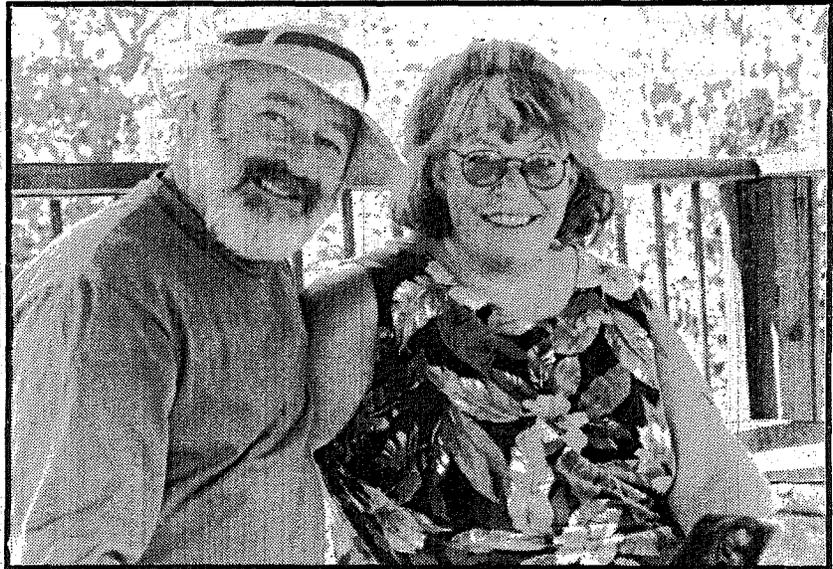
August 1999 • Vol. 6, No. 1

Rush hour?



## Markleeville

In this month's cover story we take a look at our neighbors in Alpine County and find the town yawning and stretching and looking around for just a little more business.



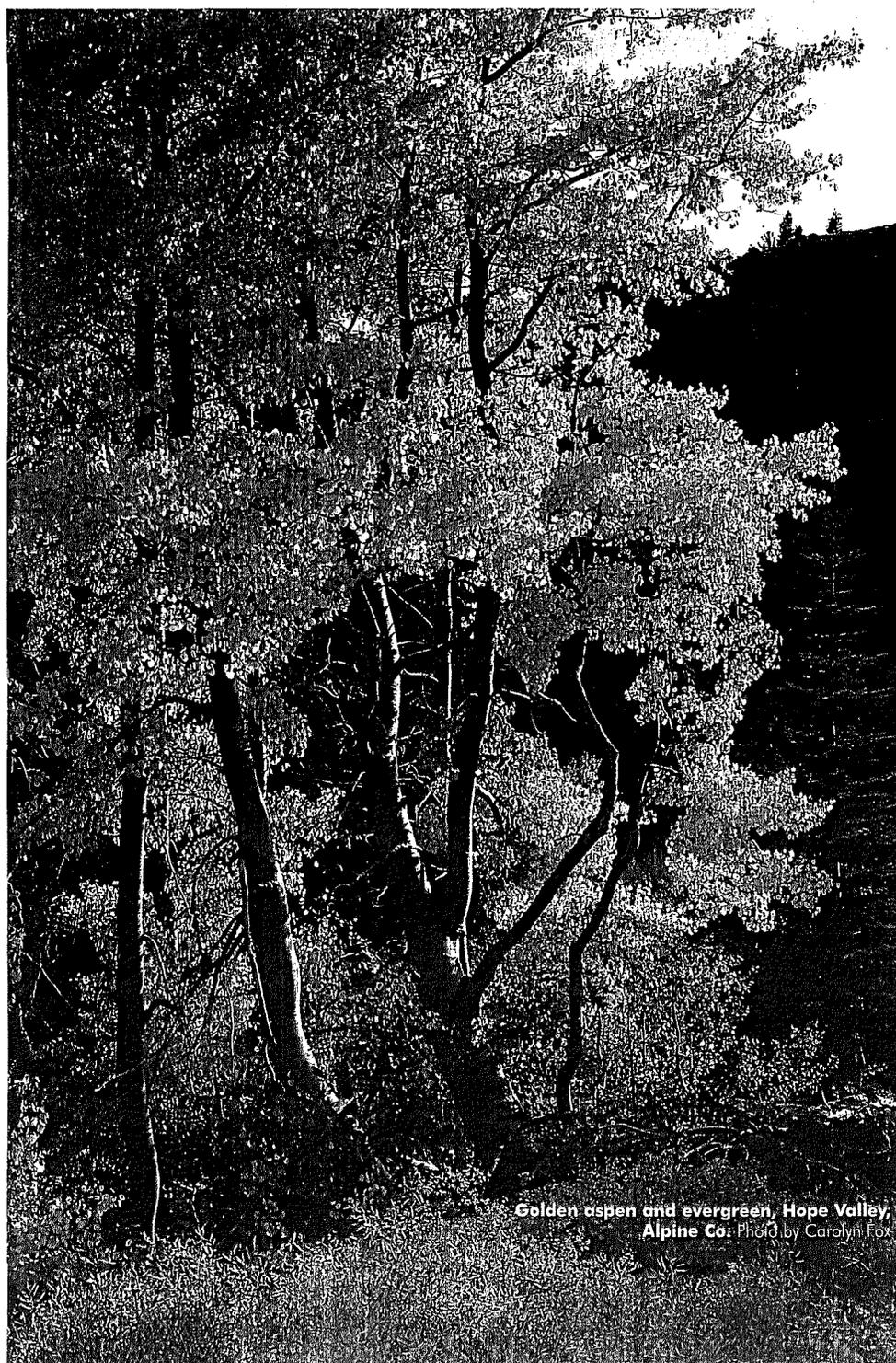
Ed Ross and Marsha Bennett, owners of M's Coffeeshouse in Markleeville, relax on the outdoor porch on a recent summer morning in Alpine County.

*Mountain News Mid August - Mid-Sept. 1999*

## 3-DAY JAUNT

### *The Journey IS the Reward in the California Alps*

BY CRAIG MACDONALD



Golden aspen and evergreen, Hope Valley,  
Alpine Co. Photo by Carolyn Fox

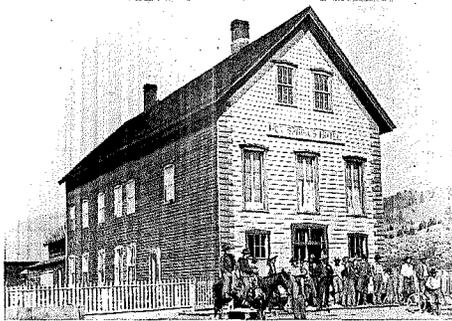
Have you noticed there are a lot more people in California lately? You see them on the roads, in the market, everywhere. Sometimes it makes you want to just get away, escape to the Sierra and find some peace of mind.

"(People) weary of the bustle, strife, noise and crowds...will wander...and be happy by the tall peaks where whispers from Heaven come down through the pines," Dan DeQuille wrote well over 100 years ago. The need for solitude then apparently is echoed again today in a much more populated state.

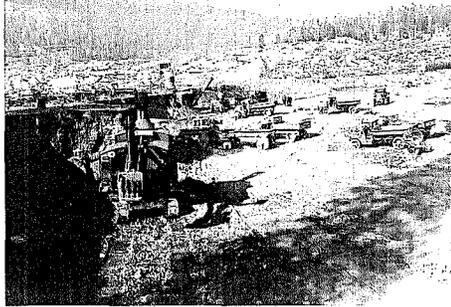
Wallace Stegner said, "We simply need that Wild Country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in." The place DeQuille wrote about was Alpine County and Stegner agreed it indeed would be a marvelous place to "look in" or "escape to." It will definitely give you a much needed break from the pressures of urban life.

Located in the crest of the Sierra - south of Lake Tahoe, east of Nevada and north of Yosemite - it's the perfect place to see tall trees, dense forests, high mountain lakes and deep canyons. No wonder some residents refer to it as the "California Alps."

It will refresh your soul. You can smell the freshness of the early morning and the fragrance of wildflowers. You can learn to listen to nature again - the gurgling brooks, the wind whistling through the branches. And you can see things that left a lifelong impression on John Muir, like "the sunbursts of morning on the icy peaks." Muir called the Sierra, "The most divinely beautiful of all the mountain-chains I've seen."



(Above) Hot Springs Hotel 1887  
(right) Caples's Dam Construction 1910



vehicles (roughly 1,000) and the fewest miles of public roads in the state (less than 400, including forest service roads). Its spectacular, unsurpassed vistas - seen at elevations from 4,800 to 11,400 feet - include breathtaking scenes of snowcovered peaks, meadows, lakes and forests.

Alpine's legendary snow is in the record books. The county reportedly holds the national records for Monthly snowfall (390" Jan. 1911), Seasonal Snowfall (884" 1906-07 season) and Depth of Snow on the Ground (451" March 11, 1911). If all that isn't unique enough, few places in California have such a

diverse and fascinating history. Three of the West's most famous figures enjoyed the area as they traveled through it in the first half of the 19th Century - Jedediah Smith, John C. Fremont and Kit Carson.

The Carson Route of the Emigrant Trail (now Highway 88) became heavily used in the Gold Rush as thousands came west over it to California. Their presence can still be seen in wagon ruts and marks scraped on

rocks by wagon wheels near Woodfords.

Near Carson Pass is a turnout with a super view of Red Lake. Plaques honor Carson and Diamond Valley Resident John "Snowshoe" Thompson, who exemplified the "Alpine Spirit" by courageously carrying the mail over the Sierra for many winters.

Other Pioneer remnants include sagging headframes on abandoned mines and old foundations (at Silver Mountain where a silver stampede occurred in the 1860s).

More incredible Alpine Tidbits:

**PONY EXPRESS:** North of the intersection of Highway 4 and Old Pony Express Road in Woodfords, a monument pays tribute to the Pony Express Remount Station. On April 4, 1860, rider Warren Upson grabbed his mount, scaled the mountains in a blinding snowstorm and made his way down the Eastern slope of the Sierra on his way to Carson City.

**MINES:** Copper, Silver, Gold, Sulphur. The first copper mine in California was near Red Lake. Silver and gold mines sprung up in the diggings at Monitor, Mogul, Silver Mountain and other spots. Later, the largest open pit sulphur mine in the world operated in Alpine County.

**CAMELS:** Perhaps the area's most unusual guests were a herd of camels who traveled

Alpine County is still "divinely bursting" with a sincere, unspoiled beauty offering lucky viewers a refreshing step back in time when life seemed simpler and we took time to admire the wonder around us.

"We know what we've got here and we love it," shared Dick Edwards, director of the wonderful, worth-seeing Alpine County Historical Museum in Markleeville, on Highway 89 between Highways 4 and 88. "It's one of the most beautiful areas in the Sierra or anywhere," said the retired State Park Ranger. "I've lived all over but the quality of life here is just incredible. The air's good, the stress level's low and the people are friendly. We know everyone by their first names. Folks seem nicer here. They really care about you and watch out for each other. But don't come here expecting to find banks, hospitals, supermarkets, movie theaters, dentists, high schools or even traffic lights. There's not one in the entire county!"

Alpine is a county of unique but pleasant surprises both present and past. In fact, it's the least populated county in California (about 1100 residents last time anyone counted).

Named for its rugged mountains, peaks and lakes (like its European counterpart), Alpine County has over 726 square miles of mostly government-owned land. It reportedly has the fewest number of registered



#### VILLA GIGLI RESTAURANT AND ART GALLERY IN MARKLEEVILLE

*Markleeville was home to the Giglis long before they decided to stop dreaming about introducing Americans to the Italian dishes Ruggiero Gigli's mother taught him to cook way back in the 20th century. A decade ago they took the plunge and opened their cozy restaurant/art gallery.*

*During the winter months these days you can have dinner family-style inside the restaurant/gallery where grandma's Italian cuisine abounds. During summer months, the action takes place on the restaurant's spacious deck, giving visitors the chance to marvel at just not the food but at some of the most beautiful surroundings to be enjoyed anywhere.*

*Ruggiero, chef/owner of the smallest trattoria in the Eastern Sierra in the smallest county seat of California, shares his unique pasta secrets and recipes in his first compilation of the restaurant's most-beloved dishes. Collecting the 65 recipes was the two-year project of his wife and collaborator, artist Gina, whose wine-theme paintings grace the walls of the restaurant, spill over into the minuscule gallery, and now illustrate their 200-page soft cover cookbook, "Poco Pane, Poco Vino."*

*Ruggiero's cookbook, Gina's paintings, friendly hospitality and sumptuous Italian cuisine can all be yours at Villa Gigli - definitely worth a stop on your tour of Alpine County.*

*For more information call 530/694-2253 or visit online at [villagigli.com](http://villagigli.com).*

over the Big Trees Road on their way to Nevada where they carried salt to the silver mines of Virginia City. The quite capable characters proved their value and could carry a tremendous load but their presence scared mules, horses and others, creating a controversy that led to their unfortunate demise.

**JOHN STUDEBAKER:** The man whose company would make the famous Studebaker autos in the 20th Century was 20 years old when he set up shop near Red Lake and fixed the iron tires of covered wagons so they could make it over the steep Sierra. He later took his skills to Placerville and made wheelbarrows for the Forty Niners before returning east with his sizeable earnings.

**DRIVERS OF WOOD:** During the booming Comstock Lode, there was an urgent need for timber used in the many mines and buildings. To meet the need, there were "Wood Drives" similar to "Cattle Drives." Yellow Pine and other trees were cut down in Alpine County and "washed" along the East Fork of the Carson River to Nevada each spring. Men helped guide the logs with long hooked poles. Many of the "Drivers of Wood" hired for this exciting event were French Canadians and Native Americans, who were quite skillful in guiding the logs on their journey.

**NATIVE AMERICANS:** The Washoe Tribe called the area home long before the Gold Rush immigrants arrived. Some became renown for their weaving skills. Dat-So-La-Lee, who was raised in Monitor, developed into one of the world's most famous basket-makers. The Washoes lived peacefully off the land and many still call Alpine home today. A census shows that nearly 26% of the county's population is Native American or Eskimo.

**DOG SLED RACES:** Over the years dog sled races have been held at various sites in Alpine County with some teams coming from as far away as Alaska.

One of the oddest facts about Alpine County is the unusual way it came into being. Originally part of Utah Territory, it evolved into Nevada Territory. But an 1863 Government Boundary Survey showed it to be in California. This, plus the expanding

population during the Silver Stampede, enabled Alpine County to be born on March 16, 1964. It was officially formed from parts of Amador, Tuolumne, El Dorado, Calaveras and Mono Counties.

During its heyday in the 1860s, Alpine's population exceeded 11,000. However, when the boom played out, most went elsewhere and by the 1920s only 200 resided there. Today, with State Highways 88, 89 and 4 running through it, the population increases with guests during the winter snow and summer camping seasons. In addition to fine downhill and cross country skiing at Kirkwood and Bear Valley, Alpine offers camping, hiking, cycling, swimming, fishing, mineral pools and a whole lot more. Sparkling Caples and Silver Lakes are just two of many spots with campgrounds and a variety of fun things to do. Picnicking is superb in the aptly named Hope, Faith and Charity Valleys, near the Highway 88 and 89 junction. The immigrants named the valleys after escaping the deserts and finding themselves "on more favorable ground."

For more local history, stop by the Alpine County Historical Museum in Markleeville. It's open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Monday (Memorial Day to the end of October). You'll see mining exhibits, displays on the Washoes, the actual Old Webster Schoolhouse and a real log jail, complete with hand-riveted iron cells.

Four miles West of Markleeville, the smallest county seat in California, is Grover Hot Springs State Park, with its therapeutic mineral pools and charming meadow.

The adventuresome can check with rangers about hiking to the top of Sonora Peak (11,459 feet) to appreciate the red and brown volcanic rocks and panoramic views.

Every Summer, the Bear Valley Music Festival brings world class performers to the special Sierra setting in the forest.

The "California Alps" are definitely worth an escape from the hustle and bustle of urban life. Your Sierra sojourn will not only refresh you but provide many fond memories. As it did for Kit Carson, John Muir and Wallace Stegner, you'll learn that "the Journey IS indeed the Reward." **SH**

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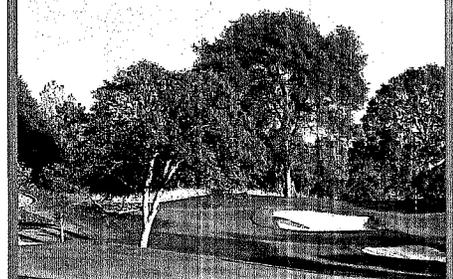


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# TAHOE MOUNTAIN NEWS

Serving Lake Tahoe's South Shore since 1994

August 1999 • Vol. 6, No. 1

Rush hour?



inside: Road trip guru pit stops in Tahoe

ELITE

# TAHOE MOUNTAIN NEWS

Serving Lake Tahoe's South Shore since 1994

August 1999 • Vol. 6, No. 1

Rush hour?



## Markleeville

In this month's cover story we take a look at our neighbors in Alpine County and find the town yawning and stretching and looking around for just a little more business.

It is that Markleeville is dealing with infrastructure issues," Anderson said. "There's still some pretty basic needs."

Kirkwood, some 24 miles and 40 minutes away, is a major source of county revenue through property taxes and some skiers who find their way to town. The South Tahoe Public Utility District pays the county about \$106,000 a year for the privilege of pumping treated sewerage into Harvey's Place Reservoir there, and another \$15,000 to stock Indian Creek with trout.

"This is an appropriate transitional time to look at these issues," Anderson said. "For 150 years the county lived off extractive industries—mining, lumber, ranching. Now we're looking

for ways to keep Alpine County from falling off the financial map. I'd like to see our tourism improve and become a year round product.

"I think the residents of this county fall into very specific groups," Anderson said. "On the one hand we have very traditional families; then we have a newer group that is more environmentally concerned.

"It's going to be interesting. Most of the growth is around Woodfords, where there are some new homes north of the highway—a lot of Tahoe people and big city retirees.

"More important, we only have 500 voters in the county, which means that 100 votes control a supervisor seat.

"Nobody wants it to be Yosemite or Tahoe. We don't

have enough synergy that we don't have to lose the essence of Markleeville. It's a place where you feel comfortable walking around."

And in strolling about the town, it's hard to miss the Comstock relic Alpine Hotel, which houses the Cutthroat

Villa Gigli, a short drive from downtown, is an Italian restaurant and art gallery that caters to an upscale patronage. It's open only on weekend evenings, by reservation, but has been discovered by people from Tahoe and the Carson Valley seeking a different kind of dining experience.

Owner Ruggero Gigli makes his own pasta, bread, spumoni and biscotti.

The Carson River Resort, formerly the East Fork Resort, has a new owner who is making improvements, fixing up the cabins and campground for trout fishermen and "leaf peepers" who come for the fall colors.

One tourist draw is the county museum complex on School House Hill, overlooking the

town. Dick Edwards, the director, and his assistant, Ellen Martin, are county employees who run the place. The main building, Edwards explains, was designed as a museum. It has several spacious rooms: a recreation of a 1920's country store; a mining exhibit, and much more. Next door on the windy hilltop is the original Markleeville one-room school house built in 1882 by local residents and used until 1929. Complete with original student art on the walls, pot-bellied stove, and well-used desks in different sizes, it looks as if the kids will come trooping in from recess at any moment.

Nearby the 1800's log jail house is open. It emits a chill even on a warm day,

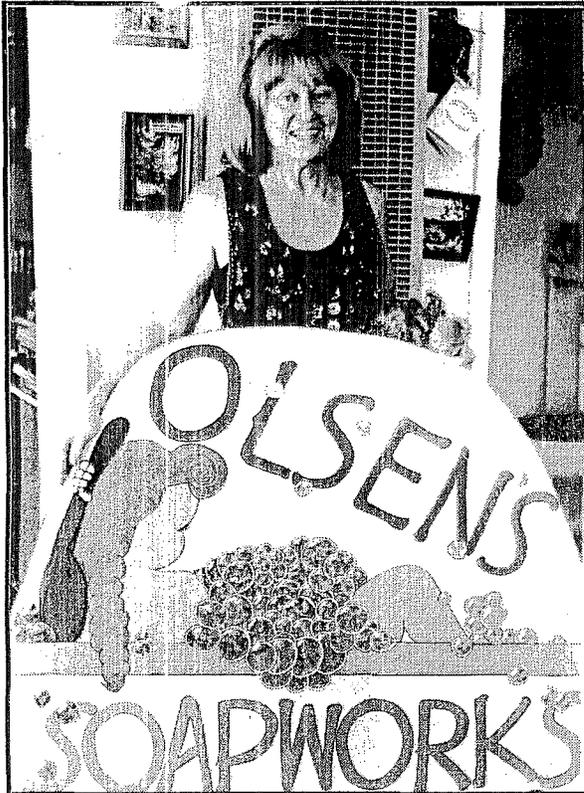


Photo by Catherine Abel

**Camilla Olsen makes a living in Markleeville running a soap making company.**

Saloon and Marcy's restaurant, serving full home-cooked meals in a dining room vaguely reminiscent of the 1940's. (This reporter had one of the best cheeseburgers

**"We only have 500 voters in the county, which means that 100 votes control a supervisor seat."**

**Bob Anderson, Director Chamber of Commerce**

ever, at a tiny price.) The Cutthroat is a regular stop for many high-end motorcyclists, often big city couples riding tandem on gleaming \$30,000 machines, escaping to the mountains for a day or a

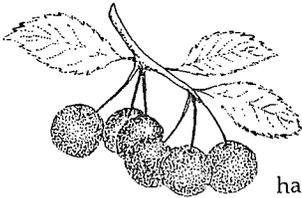
# Markleeville

In this month's cover story we take a look at our neighbors in Alpine County and find the town yawning and stretching and looking around for just a little more business.

including nearly \$74 billion in federal subsidies in 1988. Other hidden costs include pesticide regulation and testing, hazardous waste disposal and cleanup, and environmental damage. For instance, if you add in the environmental and social costs of irrigation to a head of lettuce, its price would range between \$2 and \$3.

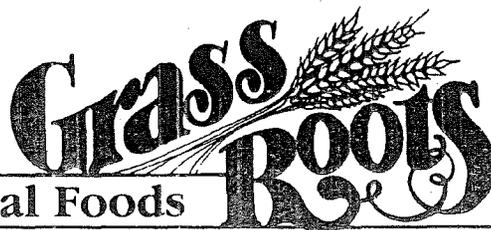
## 9. PROMOTE BIODIVERSITY

Mono-cropping is the practice of planting large plots of land with the same crop year after year. While this approach tripled farm production between 1950 and 1970, the lack of natural diversity of plant life had left the soil lacking in natural minerals and nutrients. To replace the nutrients, chemical fertilizers are used, often in increasing amounts. Single crops are also much more susceptible to pests, making farmers more reliant on pesticides. Despite a tenfold increase in the use of pesticides between 1947 and 1974, crop losses due to insects have doubled — partly because some insects have become genetically resistant to certain pesticides.



## 10. TASTE BETTER FLAVOR

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A lively conversation takes place around the hood of a parked truck in downtown Markleeville.

Photo by Taylor Flynn

# Markleeville

Small town ~ modest dreams

At first glance, Markleeville looks much the same. It has a wide main street where a sleeping dog would not be out of place, a few tourists strolling past 100-year-old buildings, plenty of parking spaces. Looking closer, you'll see a new

store in an old cabin. The long-closed gas station is open for business. Visitors fill tables outside the deli, and the general store is bustling. A "bed and bagel" unit is attracting city-weary travelers. The sleepy town is stretching and waking.

A loose organization of

merchants has been meeting for several months to talk about boosting prosperity for all. "If we could just extend the summer season for a few more weeks into the fall, maybe we wouldn't have to take other jobs to get through the winter," says Dee Anne Jang, who with her husband Warren Jang owns the deli.

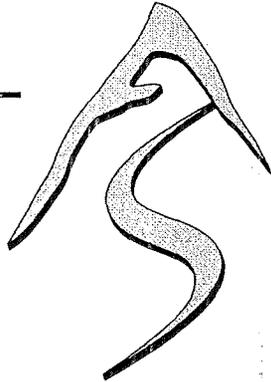
Others express equally modest ambitions. "We don't want to see Markleeville go from 150 people to 1,500," said Bob Anderson, executive director of the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce. "Our strategy as a chamber is that we market to people in Tahoe and Reno: we benefit from the

destination visitor who has an extra day to spend. Just like people visit Reno and go to Virginia City for the day. The hot springs is a big tourist draw, and we have a nice museum. And people in town here get to have their cake and eat it too, when the tourists leave at the end of the day."

There are very few lodging rooms at Markleeville, Anderson said, but that may change. He points out a slope above the chamber offices. "A developer wants to put a 40-room lodge on that eight acres," he says. "The Planning Commission will look at it sometime this fall."

A very real growth-stopper at Markleeville is the fact that about 95 percent of all land in the county is owned by the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or the state, leaving very little room for expansion. The population of the entire county is only about 1,200, Anderson said.

Marsha Bennett and Ed Ross are two of those people, having moved up from Gardnerville, Nev. a few years ago to a cabin in Woodfords, four miles from Markleeville. Bennett had been on the lookout for a place to open a coffee house similar to the one she ran in Nevada.



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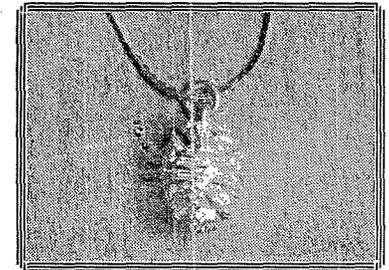
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issues, things like providing little maps of the town, doing more recycling, getting some of the sign clutter down, maybe paving a little bike path....we want to make the town friendlier, more inviting. We're trying to get people to paint and clean up.

"We don't really have a budget, just dues of 50 cents. It's sort of a grass roots movement. It sort of started when we got a grant to start a plan--there was no money to do anything, just for a plan."

"If we have a hundred people in town, we'll have a hundred different ideas," Moss said. Bennett agreed, "Rugged

## the creek and sit for 20 minutes to de-escalate before I even let them unpack!"

A labor of love—and lots of just plain labor—has become the "Bed & Bagel" lodging next to M's Coffeeshouse. Ross, a retired teacher, is clever with tools. He and Bennett bought the 70-year-old small house, which had a former life as a car repair shop among other careers, and have restored and improved it into a cozy, unique

overflow—I love 'em a lot."

J. Marklee Toll Station, on the east end of town, has been owned by Wayne and Sandy Matlock since the early 90s. Wayne works for CalTrans out of South Lake Tahoe, plowing snow in winter and running his business summers. The motel's five rooms are open all year. A single cabin and the restaurant—breakfast and lunch only—close down in the fall.

The busiest time is early June, when the Death Ride comes to town. "I could fill up 150 rooms then," Matlock said.

He was "not invited" to meetings with other

the crank-sniffing weirdoes moved in...they're gone now, but it's been hard to get people to come up here, especially in the winter." Improvements are needed, he said, but "nobody wants to make it yuppified.

"People who live here are here by choice. They love the

"Most people have the idea that we have horrible winters. We don't. This elevation [5500 feet] is just perfect. And in the fall, with the cottonwoods, we have wonderful color."

Camilla Olsen is living her

**Continued on Page 18**



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## MOUNTAIN NEWS COVER STORY

Finally the Frostee soft ice cream place came up for sale. Now the old building has been transformed into M's Coffeehouse, with a large deck out back where customers can enjoy specialty coffees, bagels (supplied by Rude Bros. in South Lake Tahoe), sandwiches, and yes, they still have snow cones. On Saturday nights there's a barbecued salmon feed that people from the Carson Valley have discovered.

On a recent Friday morning locals and tourists find their way to the deck, which overlooks a steep bank where Ross has planted a riot of bright flowers. Some 50 feet below, Markleeville Creek bubbles over boulders as a Huck Finn look-alike tries out a fishing pole. Al Pettit, editor of the local monthly newspaper, the Alpine Enterprise, wanders in and joins the conversation. "I really commend Marsha for what she and Ed have done here," he says. "All the business owners in town seem to be doing well."

Those business owners, however, would like to do better.

"We don't want to change Markleeville," Bennett said, "and we don't want our meetings to get too formal. We've come with about six issues, things like providing

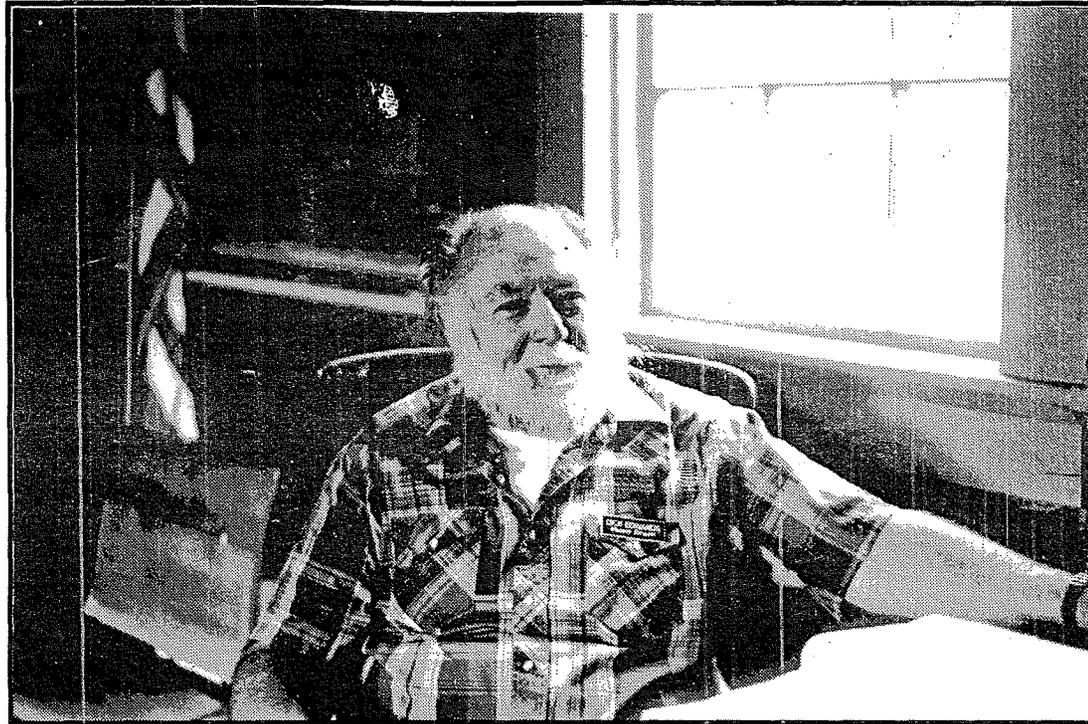


Photo by Catherine Abel

**Dick Edwards poses at the teacher's desk in the 1882 school house, part of the Alpine County Museum complex which he manges (and loves).**

individualism is alive and well here."

"It's improvement we need," Pettit said, "not big changes. The old-timers resent big changes."

**"When people get here from the city," Bennett says, "I make them go down to the lower deck by**

guest house.

"When people get here from the city," Bennett says, "I make them go down to the lower deck by the creek and sit for 20 minutes to de-escalate before I even let them unpack!"

In developing the food and lodging businesses, Bennett said, she's had "helpful and generous" advice from John and Patti Brissenden, who operate the successful Sorensen's Resort, 12 miles and 2,000 feet above Markleeville. "They send us their

merchants, he said, but "I would like to see the county get involved, get together with the merchants and help clean up Markleeville. Bishop is an old town like this, but when you drive through, it looks so nice and clean." Ross, of M's Coffeehouse, said he had visited Alpine County for some 20 years before moving there. "This little community has thrived, on and off," he said. "There used to be community fairs, rubber duck races in the creek, all kinds of things. Then

tranquility; they're not into shopping and going to casinos."

Pettit said he discovered Markleeville on a trip from Marin County to his home in San Diego. "My wife had never seen Lake Tahoe, so we looked at a map and took what looked like a shortcut over Monitor Pass. We zoomed through here. But the next year we remembered the little town we'd seen and said let's go back and explore.

"We started coming up once or twice a year until we moved here 11 years ago."

He thrives on running the newspaper, although when asked what's the most fun thing about his job, replies, "Leaving the Board of Supervisors meeting when it's over.

"Public hearings are fun. We're the government watch dogs."

"Bureaucrats can get to power-tripping," Bennett said. "Al keeps us all honest. He tells us the truth."

"Tourists are our livelihood," Bennett continued. "We want them to have a wonderful time, and a real experience, not like Disneyland. City people are so busy taking classes on how to relax they don't have to relax.

## MOUNTAIN NEWS COVER STORY

### "Markleeville"

Continued from Page 17

dream. Two months ago she opened Olsen Soap Works in a small building next door to M's Coffeehouse. "I can't believe I've actually done this myself," she says, looking around the fragrant shop overflowing with soaps displayed on an antique bureau, small gift items on walls and shelves... and a bee hive on a small table smack in the middle of the room.

The narrow glass-sided hive is abuzz with bees, kept inside by a wooden plug. Olsen explains that she has two such hives. One is outside in the backyard, open so the bees can go about their business, while the other is displayed in the shop. They're exchanged daily.

She sells honey, and uses honey and beeswax in her soaps. "The wax turns into oil and honey is an antiseptic. I love my soaps...they're 30 to 40 percent natural glycerin, good for the body and soul." The soaps are made with a wide variety of natural scents. And if you've a hankering for handmade paper, Olsen will sell you some or teach you how to make it yourself.

The county-wide chamber of commerce has 85 members, Anderson said. It shares an

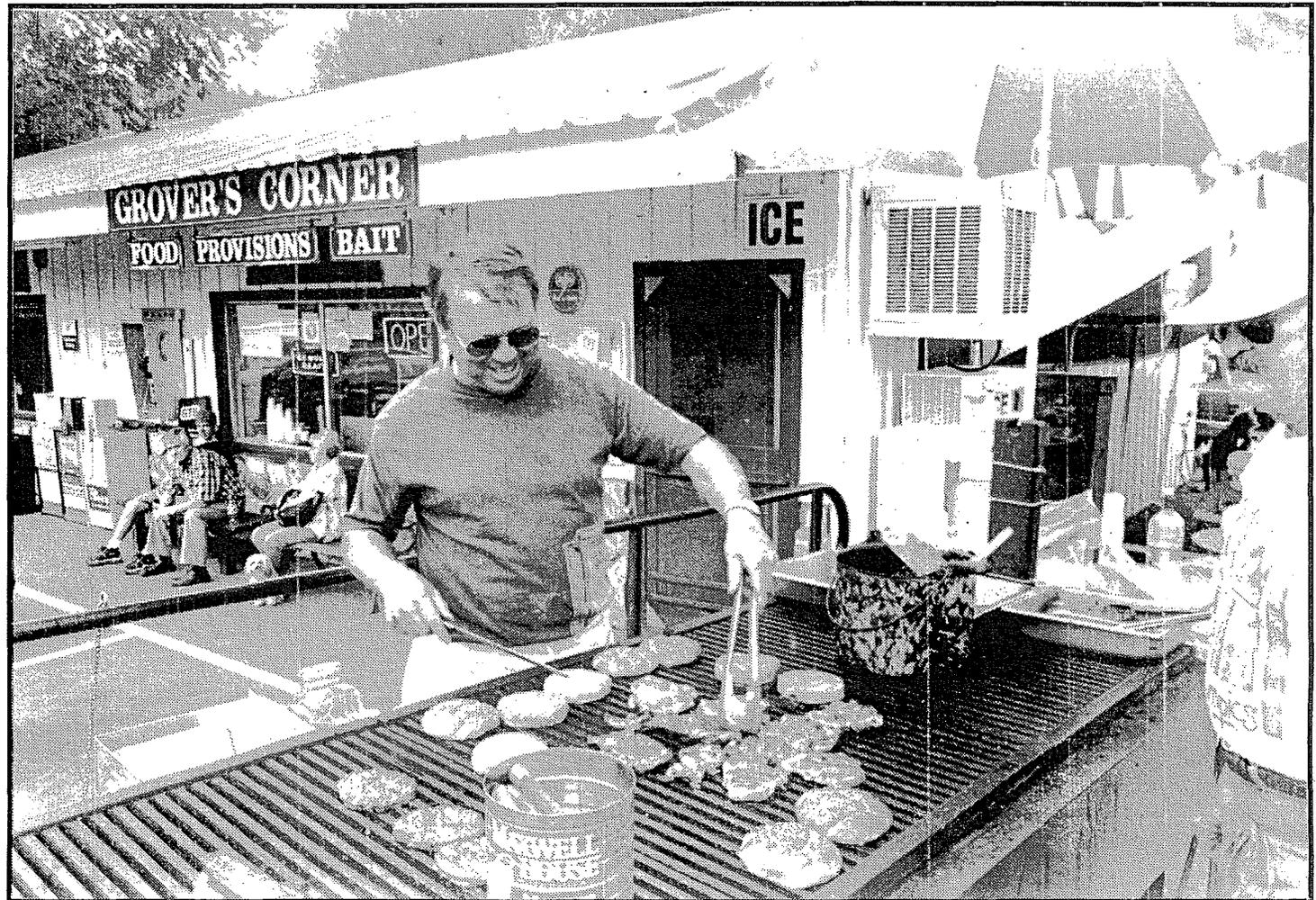


Photo by Taylor Flynn

**Mike Gard (left) and Bob Dunn fry up some burgers on the outdoor barbecue during another busy day at Grovers Corner Grocery.**

office with the Forest Service, and when their people are busy, Anderson lends a hand with campfire permits and information.

"The Death Ride is a big part

of what we do," Anderson said. "I work on it for four or five months out of the year, and it pays half our annual budget." The Ride attracted some 2,600 mountain bikers

this June, he said, in a grueling endurance event that takes place up and down the rugged peaks of the county. It is not a race; the idea is to complete the course.

Alpine County's income has fallen in recent years due to a decline in Forest Service timber sales, a portion of which is allocated to local governments. "bottom

## MOUNTAIN NEWS COVER STORY

line is that Markleeville is dealing with infrastructure issues," Anderson said. "There's still some pretty basic needs."

Kirkwood, some 24 miles and 40 minutes away, is a major source of county revenue through property taxes and some skiers who find their way to town. The South Tahoe Public Utility District pays the county about \$106,000 a year for the privilege of pumping treated sewerage into Harvey's Place Reservoir there, and another \$15,000 to stock Indian Creek with trout.

"This is an appropriate transitional time to look at these issues," Anderson said. "For 150 years the county lived off extractive industries—mining, lumber, ranching. We're looking

have enough synergy that we don't have to lose the essence of Markleeville. It's a place where you feel comfortable walking around."

And in strolling about the town, it's hard to miss the Comstock relic Alpine Hotel, which houses the Cutthroat

Villa Gigli, a short drive from downtown, is an Italian restaurant and art gallery that caters to an upscale patronage. It's open only on weekend evenings, by reservation, but has been discovered by people from Tahoe and the Carson Valley seeking a different kind of dining experience.

Owner Ruggero Gigli makes his own pasta, bread, spumoni and biscotti.

The Carson River Resort, formerly the East Fork Resort, has a new owner who is making improvements, fixing up the cabins and campground for trout fishermen and "leaf peepers" who come for the fall colors.

One tourist draw is the county museum complex on School House Hill overlooking the

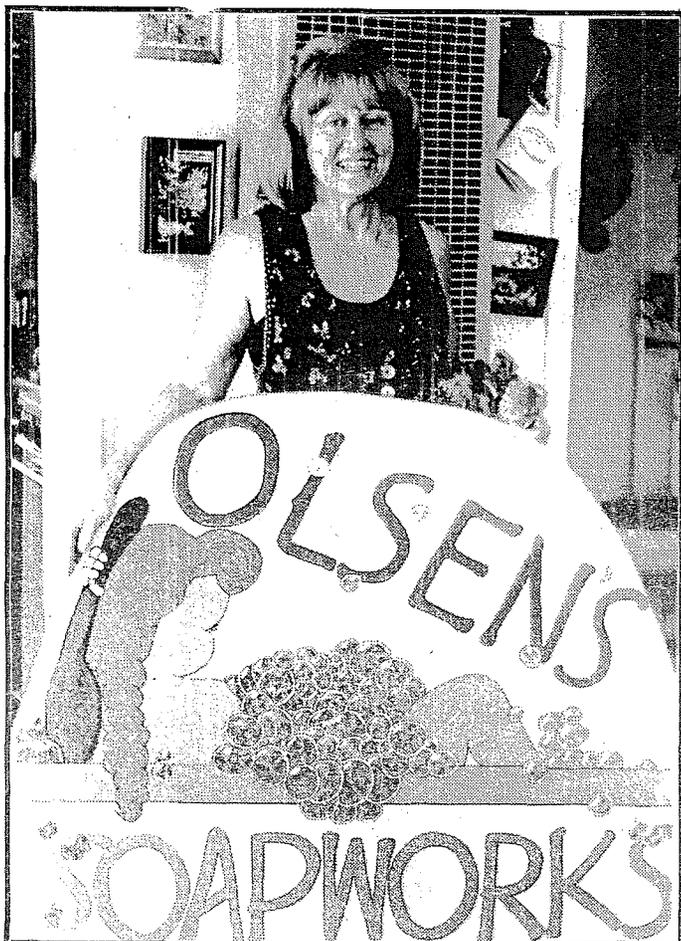


Photo by Catherine Abel

Camilla Olsen makes a living in Markleeville running a soap making company.

# MULLIGAN'S

IRISH PUB & NITECLUB

## CONCERT LINE-UP!!

Friday 8/20

**HEMLOCK**

with :avish Green & Original Sin

Sunday August 29th

**MONKEY**

Sunday, September 5th

**PSUEDO POD**

Friday, September 17

**KEISER SOZE  
& LAVISH GREEN**

Nightly Line-Up!

**SUNDAY**

**TEQUILA POPPERS NIGHT**

TEQUILA

for ways to keep Alpine County from falling off the financial map. I'd like to see our tourism improve and become a year round product.

"I think the residents of this county fall into very specific groups," Anderson said. "On the one hand we have very traditional families; then we have a newer group that is more environmentally concerned.

"It's going to be interesting. Most of the growth is around Woodfords, where there are some new homes north of the highway—a lot of Tahoe people and big city retirees.

"More important, we only have 500 voters in the county, which means that 100 votes control a supervisor seat.

"Nobody wants it to be Yosemite or Tahoe. We don't need a TV in every room. We

Saloon and Marcy's restaurant, serving full home-cooked meals in a dining room vaguely reminiscent of the 1940's. (This reporter had one of the best cheeseburgers

**"We only have 500 voters in the county, which means that 100 votes control a supervisor seat."**

**Bob Anderson, Director  
Chamber of Commerce**

ever, at a tiny price.) The Cutthroat is a regular stop for many high-end motorcyclists, often big city couples riding tandem on gleaming \$30,000 machines, escaping to the mountains for a day or a weekend.

town. Dick Edwards, the director, and his assistant, Ellen Martin, are county employees who run the place. The main building, Edwards explains, was designed as a museum. It has several spacious rooms: a recreation of a 1920's country store; a mining exhibit, and much more. Next door on the windy hilltop is the original Markleeville one-room school house built in 1882 by local residents and used until 1929. Complete with original student art on the walls, pot-bellied stove, and well-used desks in different sizes, it looks as if the kids will come trooping in from recess at any moment.

Nearby the 1800's log jail house is open. It emits a chill even on a warm day,

Continued on Page 21



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**"Markleeville"**  
Continued from Page 19

especially when you step into one of the two cells, with walls and floor completely made of sheet metal.

Edwards would like to develop a docent program, with demonstrations of wood carving, black smithing, and "knapping," the ancient art of working with stone. "I can make a fair arrowhead," he said.

Steve McEwen is one of less than a dozen sheriff's deputies who patrol Alpine County's 850 square miles, as well as the town of Markleeville, which is unincorporated and has no police force. The sheriff's officers are

supplemented by four volunteer fire departments, a volunteer search and rescue team, Forest Service enforcement officers, and security teams from Kirkwood and Bear Valley. Local crime is "a little bit of everything," McEwen says, pointing out that a county sees some three million tourists a year.

Back downtown, Dee Anne Jang, whose parents own Rudden's General Store next door (open all year), says she and her husband started the deli seven years ago. "We work at it pretty hard, seven

who don't speak to each other, but when you need something, everybody is there for you."

Jang and her husband Warren have been actively involved in the movement to improve business at Markleeville.

One idea is to persuade CalTrans to keep Monitor Pass open in winter, which would route some tourists through town on their way to Tahoe or Yosemite.

"Brian Peters, our Planning Director, is really good, and he's working on it," Jang said. "We're also working with people in Mono County—they really hurt when the passes are closed. It comes down to dollars, but they keep Echo open, and Highway 80."

"It's a challenge," Peters agrees, "the seasonal nature of business here. We do fairly well in the summer, but it's almost dead in the winter.

"We do have the hot springs, and people find them all winter. We need to figure out some way to get more activity. But not too much."

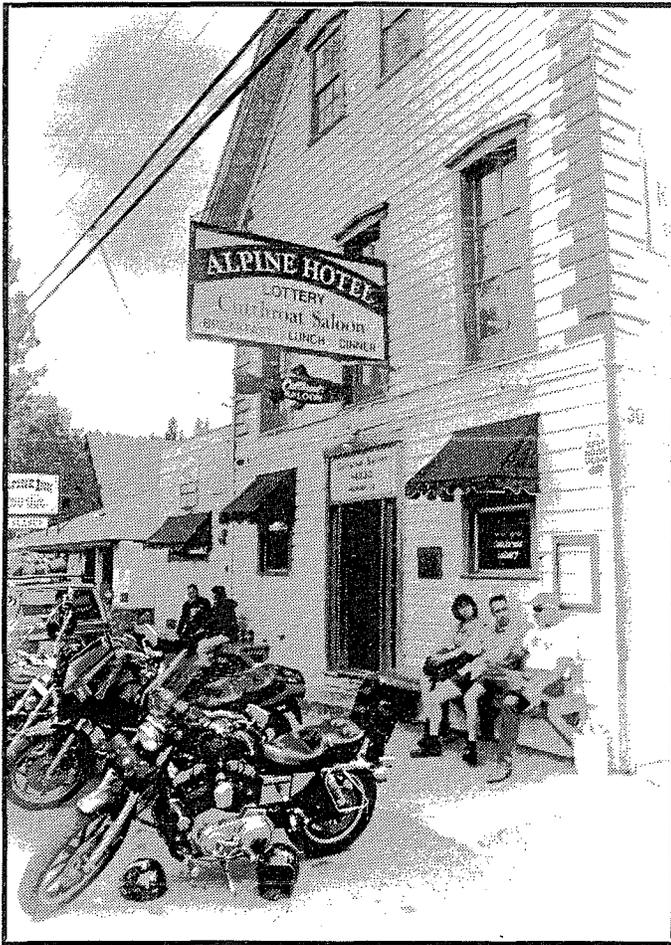


Photo by Taylor Flynn

The Cutthroat Saloon is a longtime attraction for bikers - real ones and weekend warriors alike.

days a week from the end of April to the middle of November.

"The most fun thing about it is the people. I enjoy the locals—lots of times you can walk down the street and hear the laughter coming out of here. With only 165 people in town, you know everybody. Sometimes you get people

**Both Under One Roof**



NOW

**MULL**  
Rest:

Fall's

Appet

Egg Rolls  
Smoked Chicken, Black Beans & Co  
Cheese with Red Peppers & Spinach.

Sizzling Garlic Mushrooms

Blooming Fried Onion  
With Spicy Cajun Aioli

Stuffed Potatoes  
With Cheddar, Jack, Bacon, & Green

Hot Spinach Cheese Dip  
Spinach, Roasted Garlic, Peppers, An  
& Jack Cheese Served with French B

Wings  
Regular, Nitro or Teriyaki

Chips with Pico de Gallo  
Made Fresh Daily

House Salad  
Mixed greens, Cucumber, Tomato &  
of Balsamic Vinegar, Ranch or Thou

Caesar Salad  
With Grilled Pesto Chicken

**House Sp**  
Entrees served with your choi  
or Garlic Mashed Potatoes or (

Grilled Sirloin Center Cut  
Prime Sirloin topped with sauteed M

Chicken Marsala  
Searred Boneless Chicken Breast with  
Marsala Cream Sauce

Hawaiian Chicken Teriyaki  
Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast with

Homemade Irish Cottage Pie  
Oven Baked with Ground Sirloin, Veg  
in a brown Demi Gravy

Half Pound Sirloin Burger  
Served with Sauteed Onions & Seaso

Turkey Burger  
Served with Seasoned Curly Fries

Veggie Burger  
Served with Seasoned Curly Fries

Beer Battered Fresh Cod

## Salmon feast set at M's Coffeehouse

Every Saturday evening through October, M's Coffeehouse in Markleeville will hold a salmon barbecue from 5 p.m. until the salmon runs out.

Marsha Bennett, owner of the restaurant, said the salmon barbe-

cue has been popular with patrons because the salmon is fresh.

The dish is served with pasta salad, green salad and bread and drinks are available. Cost is \$12.95 for a large portion. A king portion is also available.

Record Courier 8/7/99

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## Grubstake fund-raiser set in Alpine County next Sunday

**O**n Sunday, Aug. 15, from noon to 3 p.m., the Historical Society of Alpine County will host a Grubstake Dinner to benefit the Alpine County Museum and to honor the county's pioneer families.

Grubstake is defined in Webster's Dictionary as—"Supplies or funds advanced to a mining prospector or a person beginning a business in return for a promised share of the profits." The museum certainly can be designated as a "a mine of preserved historical information." The promised share of the profits happens with the satisfaction of helping to ensure that the collection of historical documents and artifacts will be available for future generations.

On top of the hill overlooking the rooftops of Markleeville, the historical complex includes the museum, schoolhouse, outhouse,

### DETAILS

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**What:** Grubstake Dinner

**Where:** Alpine County

**When:** Aug. 15, noon to 2 p.m.

**Cost:** \$10, \$5

**Info:** (530) 694-2253

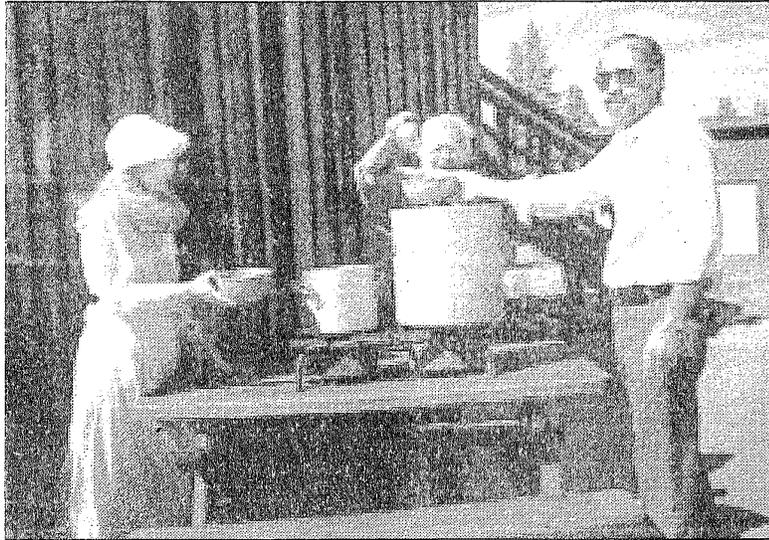
old jail and carriage shed, plus rustic picnic tables for use by the public. For the Grubstake Dinner, additional tables will be provided, along with canopies to provide shade for contemporary prospectors.

For the cost of \$10 per adult and \$5 per child under the age of 12, there will be bowls of stew, baskets of bread, buckets of fruit, pots of dessert and plenty of drinks.

For further information, call Historical Society President Ruggero Gigli, (530) 694-2253.

*Record Owner 8/7/99*

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VILLA GIGLI photo

**Grubstake Dinner:** Wanda Coyan, left, and Leonard Turnbeaugh, right, get grub from Ruggero Gigli at the Alpine Historical Complex.

## Grubstake is coming Sunday

Reviving a popular fund-raising event for the Alpine County Museum that was staged six years ago, the Historical Society of Alpine county will host the Grubstake Dinner at the historical complex in Markleeville, Calif., on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 15, from noon to 3 p.m., during Pioneer Family Weekend.

Museum director Dick Edwards promises, "Pioneer Family Weekend will bring members of Alpine County's founding families together to re-acquaint old friendships, make new friends and participate with community members in the Grubstake Dinner."

Rustic picnic tables will provide outdoor seating for contemporary "grubstakers," who not only will be eating miners' stew, but by donating \$10 for adult's and \$5 for children's tickets, will be providing additional funding for the museum.

More than 100 years ago, when miners were swarming over the Sierra Nevada and towns that are no longer towns were springing

up, many of the prospectors needed extra money to keep on mining, and "grubstakers" came to their rescue.

"History repeats itself," as the saying goes, and just as miners needed additional funding, so do museums.

Historical society president and Italian chef Ruggero Gigli will cook the hearty miners' stew over flame, and vice president Leonard Turnbeaugh, with Gary Coyan and Forrest Robinson, will not only ladle out the stew, but also issue sourdough bread for sopping. Kegs of beer and buckets of lemonade will be provided for thirsty guests, along with succulent fruit. For dessert, old-fashioned apple crisp will be baked by Wanda Coyan.

Tickets are on sale at the Alpine County Museum, the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce or may be purchased at the door.

For further information, call Villa Gigli, (530) 694-2253, or the Alpine County Museum, (530) 694-2317.

August 11, 1999 Record Courier

## Friends of Hope Valley will present folk duet

### Mariposa on tap at M's Coffeehouse in Markleeville to benefit non-profit group

On Sunday, Aug. 22, from 4 to 7 p.m., the folk duet "Mariposa" brings together Michele Whizin on vocals and standup bass and Matthew Werner on vocals, guitar and mandolin to celebrate the beauty of Hope Valley and the work of Friends of Hope Valley over the years to protect and preserve this jewel of the Sierra.

The engagement will take place in downtown Markleeville at M's Coffee House. The event costs \$5 per person, with proceeds benefiting "Friends."

M's Coffee House will be offering a salmon barbecue for sale as

well as food, wine and beer, coffee drinks and other beverages.

Mariposa just released its second album, "California in My Heart."

The moving album tells the history of California through original and long-forgotten traditional acoustic folk songs. It was released to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the Gold Rush and California statehood.

"California in My Heart" was inspired by numerous performances at Yosemite National Park and travels throughout California. The duet combines original acoustic sounds with the vibrant history of the land and the people who have made California beautiful.

Record Courier  
8/14/99

This is their second benefit performance for Friends of Hope Valley.

Friends of Hope Valley is a non-profit environmental group based in Alpine County, which has worked for over 15 years to help secure over 25,000 acres of open space in Hope Valley and other critical areas for recreation, historic resources and wildlife habitat. Hope Valley is located on the eastern edge of the Sierra Nevada, 20 miles south of Lake Tahoe and above Minden/Gardnerville.

This concert is co-sponsored by California Proposition 99/Alpine County Tobacco Education Program. For more information, call (800) 423-9949.

# You said it!

Asked at Douglas County 4-H Youth Fair shooting competition by Derrik Bryant

## What does the recent Jewish center shooting say about America?



**Sarah Smith  
Gardnerville**

America is just turning weird since Columbine. People are getting bad ideas.



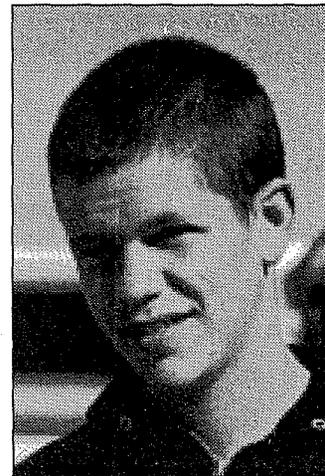
**Jenny Jaggard  
Minden**

Basically, the guy was really irresponsible. It's not guns, it's the people.



**Annaliese Foster  
Gardnerville**

Some people have really bad tempers. They took their anger out on little children, it's very sad.



**Tyrel Dressler  
Gardnerville**

It says that there are a lot of hate crimes going on. People think they are gone, but they're still going on. There is still a lot of racism.

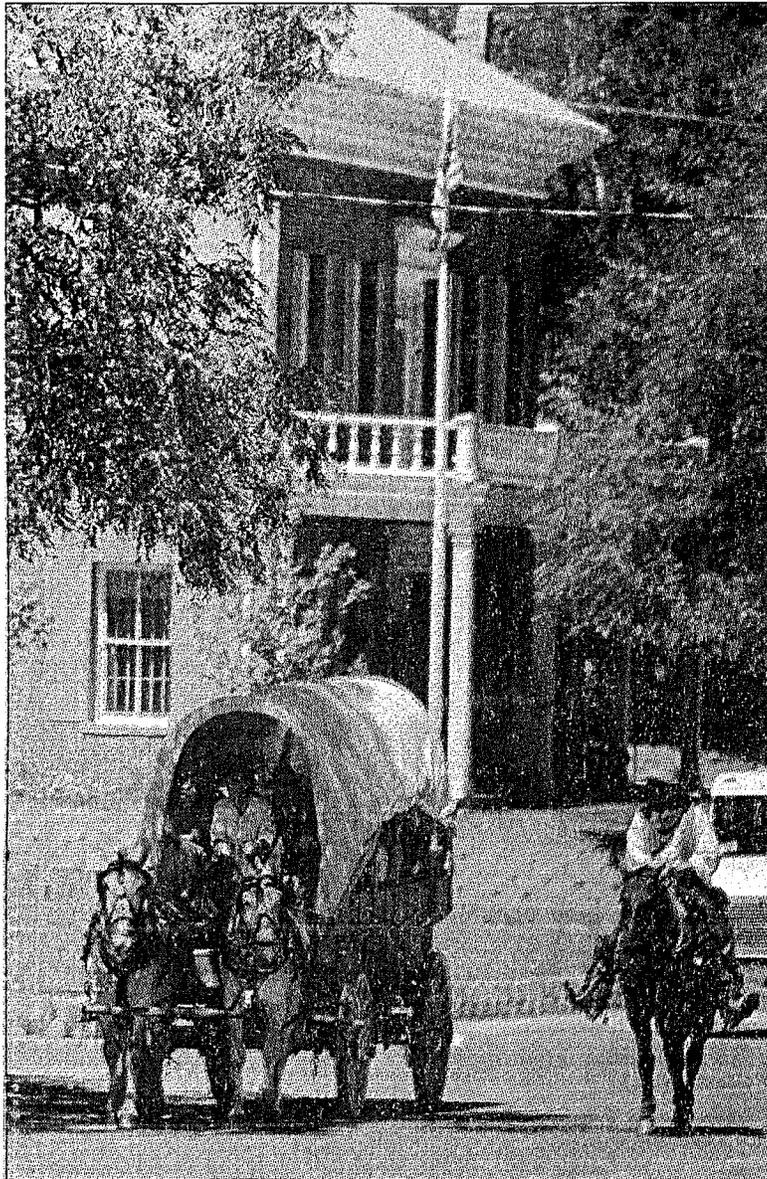


**Ben Wood \***  
**Gardnerville**

It says that there is still a lot of sick people, and still a lot of people that think that way. There are still a lot of sexists and racists.

Record Courier 8/18/99

\* Son of Russ & Mary Wood,  
Alpine Co. residents



BELINDA GRANT/The R-C

**On the road:** In the wagon are Maria Campbell, left, and Sherri Burge, both of McPherson, Kan., and Al Burke of Bend, Ore. On horseback is trail boss Russell Leger of Plattsmouth, Neb. Behind is the Genoa Courthouse Museum.

## California's 150th celebration wagon train goes through Valley

Horse and mules made their way through Genoa on Monday after their owners talked to children at Jacks Valley Elementary School.

The Gold Rush Wagon Train, which began in Atchison, Kan., in April, completed its course through Nevada and entered into California this week.

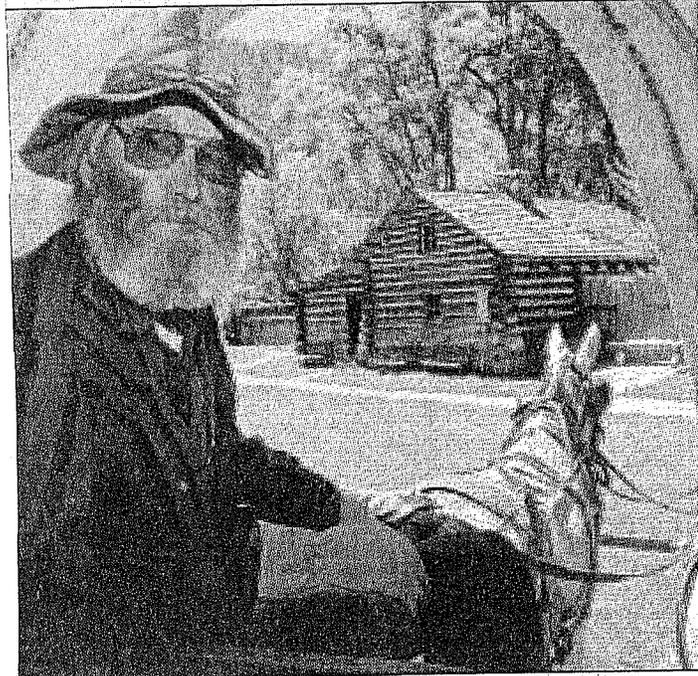
Members of the wagon train offered a living history lesson to

students in the Valley and along the trail.

The destination for the 20 teamsters and riders is Sacramento, as the train is designed to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the California Gold Rush. The wagon train travels about 25 miles each day, and members of the train have endured temperatures ranging from 32 degrees to 105 along the way.

## WAGON TRAIN

Record Courier 8



BELINDA GRANT/The R-C

Al Burke of Bend, Ore., is hitched up. See more on page 2

## Douglas may join call for Leviathan cleanup

by **Christy Chalmers**  
Staff Writer

Douglas County may join a call for better cleanup efforts at Leviathan Mine.

County commissioners on Thursday will consider sending a letter urging the Environmental Protection Agency to put the mine on the Superfund National Priorities List and support U.S. Forest Service efforts to clean the site.

The mine is located in Alpine County, Calif., but toxic runoff drains into Bryant and Leviathan creeks, which run into the Carson River.

The mine, originally opened in the 1860s, produced copper sulfate and sulfur off and on through 1962.

Since then, toxins like arsenic, mercury, copper, lead and zinc have leaked out of the site, almost ruining Leviathan Creek, which empties into Bryant Creek, a tributary of the Carson River's east fork.

### DETAILS

**What: County commissioners' discussion on Leviathan Mine cleanup**

**Where: Stateline administration building, 175 Highway 50**

**When: Thursday, 1:30 p.m.**

Federal officials have been working on cleaning up the site, and California's Lahontan Regional Water Quality Board has also been monitoring the mine. Placement of the mine on the priority list would draw more attention to the mine and focus efforts on cleanup.

County commissioners have in the past supported efforts to increase funding for cleanup of the site.

Thursday's action coincides with a recent letter from Washoe Tribal Chairman Brian Wallace to Felicia Marcus, regional administrator for the EPA.

In his letter, Wallace cited concerns about environmental and

health risks to the tribal members and their land. He wrote the tribe appreciates the efforts the EPA has made to analyze the site and offered to give the agency an estimate of health risks based on the Washoes' traditional ties to the area.

Wallace wrote a similar memo to the county commission.

"To date, the problems associated with the hazardous releases from Leviathan Mine have been underestimated and attempts to address the releases have failed," he stated. "We believe that the listing of Leviathan Mine on the NPL is necessary to ensure that this environmental crisis is properly addressed."

A memo to the county commission mentions that the Forest Service is also "looking for ways to put pressure on various responsible agencies for cleanup of the mine."

The commission will meet at the Stateline administration building Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

# Lahontan tries to clean Leviathan

Tahoe Daily Tribune 8/19/99

By Andy Bourelle  
Tribune Staff Writer

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board is installing a new cleanup system at a highly polluted, inactive sulfur mine near Markleeville in an effort to accomplish what other officials have failed to do in the past two years.

Harold Singer, executive director of Lahontan, said water officials with the help of University of California, Davis, researchers have long studied the Leviathan Mine and are optimistic about the plan.

"This is not something we just pulled out of a textbook and tried to build this big piece of equipment," Singer said. "We think we've got a pretty good chance of success."

Acid mine drainage — water containing dissolved toxic metals such as copper, arsenic, aluminum and nickel —

*"This is not something we just pulled out of a textbook and tried to build this big piece of equipment. We think we've got a pretty good chance of success."*

— Harold Singer  
Executive director, Lahontan Regional Quality Control Board

contaminates the site.

Five evaporation ponds hold the polluted water. However, a major problem at the site, which may soon be listed as a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Superfund site, is that the ponds overflow, discharging the contaminated water into the nearby Leviathan Creek.

Lahontan is planning to pump the contaminated water out of the ponds, treat it and discharge the newly cleaned water

outside of the ponds. The drawn-down ponds then would not overflow as more polluted water gets discharged into them.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and ARCO, a previous owner of the mine, made similar attempts the last two years but were unsuccessful.

The cost of this year's work will exceed \$1 million, Singer said.

Lahontan officials recently have been installing the system, and testing likely

will happen this week.

"I think California is trying to solve the problems out there. The legislature and the administration have authorized money to fix the problem. We've got a five-year outline we're in the second year of," Singer said. "There's some other problems out there (other than the overflowing ponds). We realize what they are, and we have some plans to solve those problems."

The Leviathan Mine, located 25 miles south of Gardnerville, was first mined in 1863. Comstock workers mined it for copper sulfate to process silver in Virginia City. The mine later became a dedicated copper mine and it was used that way until 1869.

In the 1980s when Lahontan first started cleaning up the site, contaminated water flowed into Leviathan Creek and,



Source: Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Tribune Graphic

## Leviathan

Continued from Page 1A

from there, into Bryant Creek and the East Fork of the Carson River.

Singer said the state agency's efforts then cleaned up much of the problem and contaminants now shouldn't be in the Carson River.

"I don't think the state's efforts have been a failure," he said. "I think we've made some very significant progress, not to say more doesn't need to be done. But we've probably solved 60 to 70 percent of the problem in the mid-'80s."

Tahoe Daily Tribune 8/19/99

"I don't think we will ever be able to just walk away from it, like most historical mining sites," he added. "I think it will always require some effort."

Earlier this year, EPA regional administrator Felicia Marcus notified Nevada, California and the Washoe Tribe of her plans to list the mine with Superfund status. California, to better learn what the listing would do for the site, last month asked EPA to delay its decision until October.

The Washoe Tribe, which owns land on which the potentially polluted creeks run through, supports the Superfund idea.

"The health risks and resource damage caused by past and present hazardous re-

leases are unacceptable, and the Washoe Tribe strongly supports the listing of the site on the (Superfund National Priorities List) as a way to finally ensure that proper resources are devoted to the remediation and restoration of the site," said Brian Wallace, chairman of the Washoe Tribe.

Douglas County commissioners today are scheduled to discuss whether to support EPA's proposal. They discussed the situation Wednesday with U.S. Sen. Richard Bryan, D-Nev., who said he wanted to "jump over some layers of bureaucracy" by getting the director of EPA Carol Browner to visit the mine.



Jim Grant/Tahoe Tribune

## WAGON TRAIN TAKES A BREAK IN WOODFORDS

At left, Dahl Olsen, an outrider on the Gold Rush Wagon Train, relaxes on a day off from riding by whittling. The wagon train crew and livestock rested in Woodfords Wednesday before it heads over Carson Pass today.

Above, Kimberly Lloyd-Stewart, sitting, who has been on the road with the wagon train for the past five months, talks about the trip and history of the wagon train to passersby in Woodfords Wednesday.

# EPA chief invited to Leviathan

**Commissioners say time is up for cleanup**

**by Sheila Gardner**  
Staff Writer



**Carol Browner**  
EPA chief may see problems at Leviathan Mine first-hand

Operating on the philosophy that "seeing is believing," federal Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol M. Browner will be invited to see for herself the pollution at the abandoned Leviathan Mine threatening Carson Valley's water supply.

U.S. Sen. Richard Bryan told Douglas County commissioners Wednesday that he wanted to "jump over some layers of bureaucracy" and ask Browner to come from Washington, D.C., to see the site damage from the leaky sulfur mine that Commissioner Bernie Curtis referred to as a "moonscape."

"The bottom line is we have to clean it up," Bryan told commissioners.

"When the guys in the white suits with breathing packs tell you to get the hell out of there, it kind of gets to you," said Curtis, who toured the site in 1997.

On Thursday, commissioners questioned Harold Singer, executive director of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Cali-

*Record Courier*  
August 21, 1999

See **EPA** on page 7

## EPA: Chief to be invited to tour Leviathan

Continued from page 1  
California agency overseeing cleanup at the mine.

"A couple of scientists told us two years ago everything is under control," said Commissioner Don Miner. "Time is up."

According to Singer, Superfund status means the EPA has authority to order the mine's owner to clean up the site. If the cleanup project is placed on the National Priorities List, the EPA has the authority to spend money for the cleanup if the responsible party refuses.

"It seems to me California is a little hesitant to get after ARCO," said Commissioner Jacques Etchegoyhen. "I don't know who is dragging their feet. We're feeling a heightened sense of frustration."

■ **Proud of work.** Singer said the California water board was proud of the work it has accomplished. He said a treatment system should be in place this week-end.

"I think it is achievable. We have a very strong chance of success because of all the research," Singer said.

He said \$6.5 million has been

Record Courier 8/21/99

spent at the mine site since the early 1980s.

"Every single dollar we have spent has not been thrown away," Singer said.

Pending Browner's visit, commissioners decided to delay action for a month on whether to seek placement of the Leviathan Mine on the EPA's Superfund National Priorities list.

Brian Wallace, chairman of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, asked commissioners to join the Tribe in requesting the mine be placed on the National Priorities List.

■ **Tribal concerns.** "To date, the problems associated with the hazardous releases from the Leviathan Mine have been terribly underestimated and attempts to address the releases and the site have failed. Hazardous materials continue to be released from the site in Leviathan Creek, Bryant Creek and the East Fork of the Carson River at an alarming rate," Wallace wrote to EPA Regional Administrator Felicia Marcus in San Francisco.

"... the hazardous releases impact the environment in such a manner that they present a serious

biological and ecological health risk to tribal members through botanical, biological, air, soil, surface water and ground water pathways," Wallace said. "Furthermore, these hazardous releases have had a devastating effect on the traditional natural resources and customary uses, upon which the members of the Washoe Tribe depend, in the entire area impacted by the releases."

The Leviathan, located 25 miles south of Gardnerville and five miles east of Markleeville, was first mined in 1863. Comstock workers mined it for copper sulfate to process silver in Virginia City.

The mine was a dedicated copper mine until 1869. Off-and-on mining operations ceased at the Leviathan in 1962. The site is owned by the state of California and managed by the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board. ARCO was the last private owner of the mine.

Leviathan Creek, which flows through the site contains levels of arsenic, copper, lead, zinc and other heavy metals in excess of state and federal water quality standards.

## Births

### Nicholas Campbell

Frankie Elizabeth Shy of Minden is the mother of Nicholas Tyler, born Aug. 12, at Carson-Tahoe Hospital in Carson City. He weighed 6 pounds.

### Hunter Celio

Jennifer and Clinton Celio of Markleeville are the parents of Hunter Kyla, born Aug. 12, at Carson-Tahoe Hospital in Carson City. She weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounce. Rec. Courier 8/25/99

## Woodfords community sale set Labor Day weekend

A community block sale will be held in Woodfords Sept. 4 and 5 to raise funds for the annual Woodfords' Community Faire and Country Chili Challenge coming later in September.

There is no limit on space for a

cost of \$7.50 per day to sellers.

The community block sale will be held at the Old Pony Express Road at the junction of highways 88 and 89 at the yellow flashing light. The Woodfords' Community Faire and Country Chili Challenge

raises funds for Alpine Kids, a program that offers support to families in Alpine County, Calif. This year's event will be held Sept. 18 and 19.

For more information, call (530) 694-2966.

*Record Courier  
8/25/99*

## Friends of Hope Valley plan Sunday concert

Nationally known, award-winning singer/songwriter Alisa Fineman and songwriter/multi-instrumentalist Kimball Hurd of City Folk will be performing the final summer concert for the Friends of Hope Valley Music Festival Series.

The concert will be held at the Mountain and Garden Bed and Breakfast Inn located at the junction of Highways 88 and 89 in Woodfords, Calif., from 4 to 7 p.m. Aug. 29.

Admission to the concert is \$5 per person to benefit the non-profit, environmental organization.

Dinner and beverages are extra and available during the concert.

Fineman has appeared in concert with John Gorka as his vocal accompaniment and has toured with legendary Tom Paxton. She has also recently completed working on a new recording with Windham Hill recording artist Alex de Grassi.

Described as a rare combination of storyteller, lyricist and talented singer, Alisa Fineman's soulful and compelling songs have earned her many song writing awards and festival appearances.

Kimball Hurd is a member of one of San Francisco bay area's favorite bands, City Folk, an

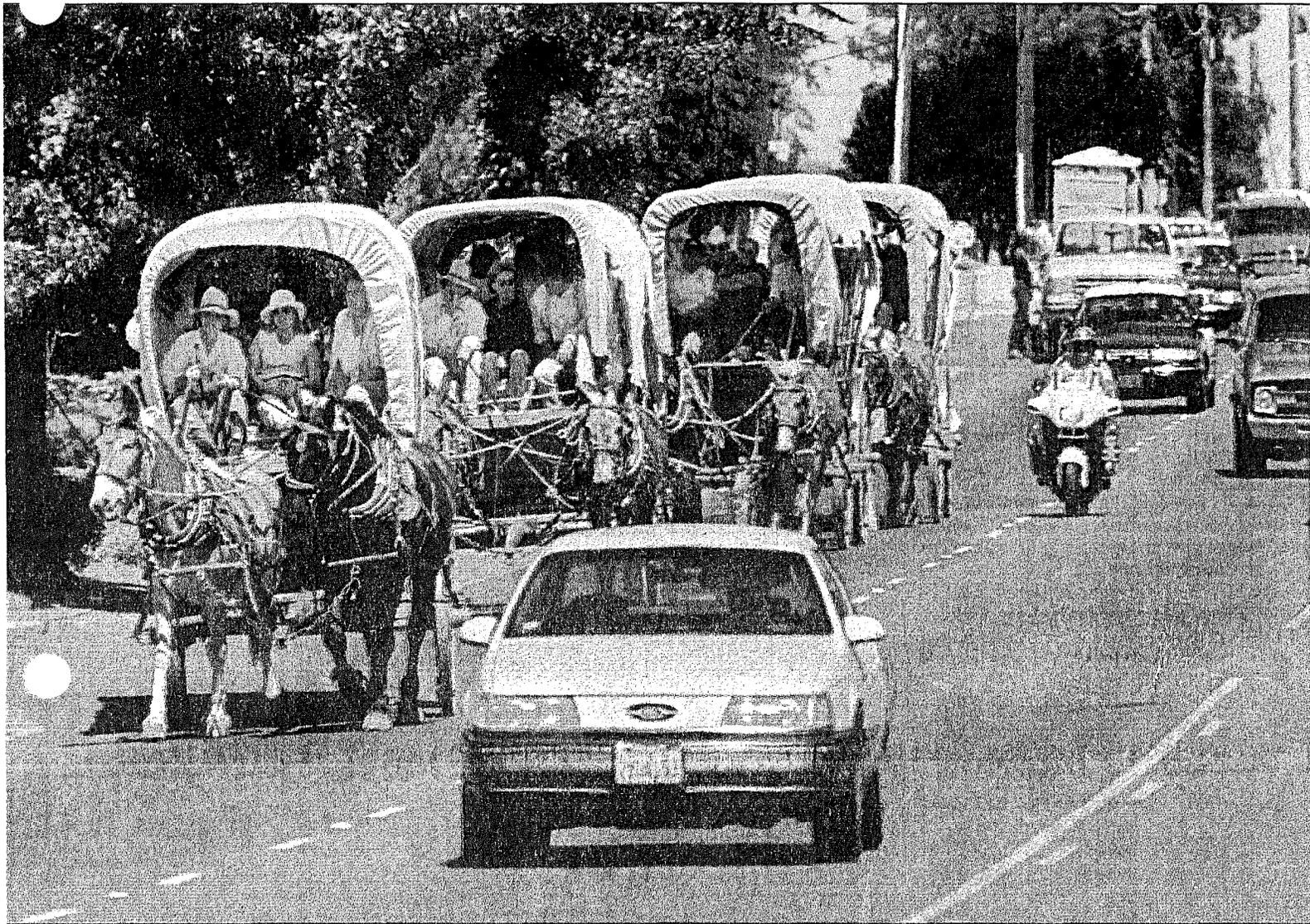


**Alisa Fineman and Kimball Hurd**

acoustic trio that blends folk, country, blues and bluegrass with socially conscious lyrics.

The wonderful folk duet of Alisa Fineman and Kimball Hurd is performing on behalf of the Friends of Hope Valley. The organization is a non-profit, environmental group based in Alpine County, which has worked more than 15 years within their community and with many national environmental organizations to help secure more than 25,000 acres in Hope Valley for recreation, historic and wildlife resources and valuable, pristine open space.

*Record Courier Aug. 28, '99*



## End of the trail

The Official California Trail Gold Rush Wagon Train of the 49ers, above, rolls down Fair Oaks Boulevard near Arden Way on Monday, nearly five months after it set out to re-create the 2,300-mile trek from Missouri to California in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Gold Rush. At right, Kevin Atchley and his son Elijah give water to wagon-hauling mules at a brief stop in Fair Oaks. Behind them on horseback is Morris Carter, leader of the trip.

Bee photographs/Bryan Patrick

*Sacramento Bee*  
August 31, 1999



## Villa Gigli sets Sunday tasting

On Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m. Ruggero and Gina Gigli, owners of Villa Gigli in Markleeville, will host their regular first-Sunday-of-the-month wine tasting.

Margaret Craig will sing her sentimental and uniquely textured ballads, accompanied by the sound of her guitar strings and by "the pull of listeners' heart strings." Husband and wife Greg and Dale Bennett of Woodfords will be the guest visual artists. Greg's original wildlife paintings will be displayed on the deck, while Dale's Indian beadwork will be arranged under the poplar tree.

"It has become the custom for guests to alternate activities, tasting wine and listening to music inside, then looking at the mountain scenery and art exhibits outside," Gina said.

As Ruggero serves samples of focaccia, Gina will be pouring three tastes of unusual wines: Clos Du Val's 1997 Ariadne, La Famiglia di Robert Mondavi's 1995 Sangiovese and Mitchell's 1996 Petite Sirah.

The price for the music, art and wine tasting is \$3 per person, with reservations not required. For further information, call (530) 694-2253.

Record Courier  
9/4/99

# Leviathan on the mend?

**Breakthrough:** California water quality scientists, engineers try out new process to clean up polluted water at Alpine mine

by **Sheila Gardner**  
Staff Writer

Ranjit Gill raised his arms in victory. Since 1983, he's been traveling back and forth to the Leviathan Mine, trying

to clean up the toxic water flowing from the abandoned mine high in the Sierra.

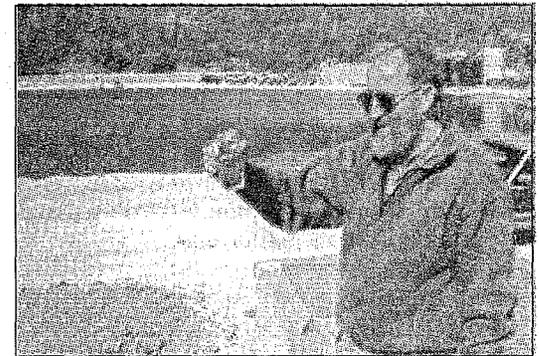
At 10:15 a.m. Thursday, the solution seemed at hand.

"It's so joyous, so wonderful," Gill

said. "I am 100 percent certain we will correct this problem."

The cause for celebration was the successful removal of heavy metals from the water discharged into Leviathan Creek that has posed a threat to Carson Valley's drinking water for decades.

See **Leviathan** on page 7



**ANDREW BOURELLE/R-C News Service**

**Harold Singer** shows water before process.

*Record Courier 9/4/99*

## Leviathan: New process being tried out

Continued from page 1

"At the end of 2000, we want no untreated acid mine drainage leaving this site," said Harold Singer, executive director of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, the California agency overseeing cleanup of the mine.

Singer took reporters and photographers on a tour of the mine site Thursday at the same time the water treatment was proclaimed a success.

"Once you treat the discharge — pull the metals out and raise the pH balance — it shouldn't have the impact on the creek," said Singer.

Gill and the Lahontan staff have been on site every year since the early 1980s, when the Leviathan's pollution problems became clear and the federal and state governments passed more stringent environmental standards.

Project Manager Chris Stetler is spending his third summer at Leviathan Mine. He's been on site since early August and will stay until October.

■ **Running out of time.** "The last two years, I watched the EPA and ARCO attempts and they didn't work," Stetler said. "I wish we had more time. We'll be back next spring as soon as we can get up here."

The Lahontan agency hopes to treat 8 million gallons of water before the cold weather forces the crew out of the Sierra for the winter.

The mine has been closed since 1962, and is under consideration by

the federal Environmental Protection Agency as a Superfund site. That designation would make more money available to clean up the site, but also gives the EPA more clout in forcing the cleanup.

"Two summers ago, the Environmental Protection Agency tried to bring a treatment system in, they were unable to do it, and they pulled the treatment out," Singer said.

"Last year, under a directive from the EPA, Anaconda tried to remove pond water from the site with an enhanced evaporation system. That didn't work."

Singer said the state of California hasn't taken a position on making the Leviathan a Superfund site, a decision that could force a bigger burden of cleanup on taxpayers if the EPA determines California is the primary responsible party.

"The state hasn't taken a position on the listing. Until they do, I am not in a position to talk," Singer said.

Singer predicted that determining ownership of the mine could end up in court.

"Superfund is a federal law that gives the EPA the authority to require parties to clean up the site. A subset of the Superfund is national priority listing. That gives the EPA access to a bigger pot of federal money only if the owner is unwilling. It doesn't mean EPA will bring the trucks out and clean up the site."

Brian Wallace, chairman of the

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, has requested that the mine be placed on the National Priorities List because the toxic water passes through tribal land.

Douglas County Commissioners have a stake in the cleanup because of the proximity of the toxic Leviathan Creek to Carson Valley's drinking supply.

Nevada Sen. Richard Bryan said last month he would ask federal EPA Administrator Carol Browner to visit the site.

■ **Fudge, anyone?** The two-step treatment process under way Thursday extracts the harmful chemicals from the water and converts the by-product into what Singer characterized as harmless "fudge" which may be used to revegetate the area. The treated water goes back into the creek and the toxic material will be transported to a hazardous waste site in the California central valley.

"It's a simple process," Singer said. "We've done it in the lab many, many times."

Bringing that simple process to the Leviathan Mine has cost the state of California \$1 million this summer, bringing to \$7.5 million the total spent on the cleanup.

Nevada has contributed \$100,000 in matching federal grant money toward the cleanup, Singer estimated.

The Leviathan was first mined in 1863 for copper sulfate to process silver in Virginia City.

The mine was a dedicated copper mine until 1869.

## Block sale coming to Woodfords this weekend

The community block sale set for this weekend in Woodfords will raise funds for the Woodfords' Community Faire and Country Chili Challenge set for Sept. 18 and 19.

Today and Sunday, sellers are welcome to hawk their wares at the street sale to be held on Old Pony Express Road near the junctions of highways 88 and 89 at the flashing yellow light.

Cost is \$7.50 per day, and the sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. For information, call (530) 694-2966.

Money from the sale will be used to mount the annual Woodfords' Community Faire and Country Chili Challenge that ben-

efits Alpine Kids, a support program for families in Alpine County. At the fair and chili challenge Sept. 18 and 19, Ericka Gocka Trio will entertain Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m., says organizer Edie Veatch, director of Alpine Kids.

David John and the Comstock Cowboys, fresh from their appearance in the musical "Calico" at Virginia City's Piper's Opera House, will perform Sunday at the fair.

On sale will be collectibles, antiques, arts and crafts, lots of food, including Indian tacos, hot dogs and beverages.

Also at the fair and chili challenge, kids and adults will be able to take part in various games and

activities, including the hit and fall dunk tank and pitch and win horseshoes, Veatch said.

Alpine Kids is a non-profit, all volunteer organization that serves families in Alpine County. The agency is recognized by the State of California as a gang prevention organization and a child abuse prevention and intervention organization.

Sponsors of the faire and chili challenge also include the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, California Highway Patrol, Tahoe Women's Center and the Alpine Tobacco Education Prop. 99 funding. For information, call Veatch at (530) 694-2934 or Paul Washam, (530) 694-2966.

Record Courier 9/4/99

# Treat yourself to fun and food at Woodford's Chili Challenge

**T**he annual Woodfords' Community Faire and Country Chili Challenge that benefits

Alpine Kids, a support program for families in Alpine County, is coming up this weekend.

The event will offer plenty of fun, with entertainment, chili-tasting, booths and plenty of food.

The fair and chili challenge will be held Saturday and Sunday at the junction of highways 88 and 89 at the yellow flashing light in Woodfords.

The Ericka Gocka Trio will entertain Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m., performing lush sounds from their current CD, says organizer Edie Veatch, director of Alpine Kids.

David John and the Comstock Cowboys, fresh from their appearance in the musical "Calico" at Virginia City's Piper's Opera

House, will perform Sunday.

Chili-tasting kits will be available Saturday at 1 p.m. and those people who buy kits and taste the chili will vote for the winners beginning at 2 p.m. Cost is \$2.

On sale will be collectibles, antiques, arts and crafts, lots of food including Indian tacos, hot dogs and beverages.

Among items to be sold are tapestry vests and denim quilts, animals and flowers hand-painted on river rock, leather purses and belts, chimes, wood creations and dressed stuffed bears and rabbits.

Also at the fair and chili challenge, kids and adults will be able to take part in various games and activities, including the hit and fall dunk tank and pitch and win horseshoes, Veatch said.

On Saturday, chili cooking starts at 10 a.m. and tasting and judging begins at 1 p.m. There will be continuous enter-

tainment from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Winners will be announced at 4 p.m.

Chili cooks are the Alpine County Health Department's Silly Chill-Out Chili; Sue O'Brien; Grover's Corner with Dunn's Done Chili; Carson River Resort; Valley Cruiser's Car Club, Racers Chili; and Alpine Restau-

See **Chili Challenge** on page 2

## DETAILS

**What:** Community Faire and Chili Challenge

**Where:** Woodfords

**When:** Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Info:** (530) 694-2934 or 694-2966.

Record Courier 9/15/99



**Erica Gocka Trio**

## Chili Challenge: In Woodfords

Continued from page 1  
rant with its Laramie Street Chili, winners of the 1996 and 1997 chili challenges.

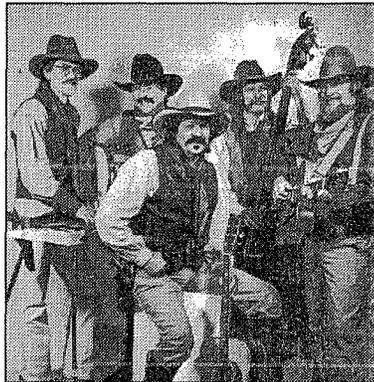
Sunday, events are kicked off by a pancake breakfast, 7 to 10 a.m. Breakfast will be cooked by Alpine Christian Community Church and include pancakes, sausage juice and coffee for \$3 per person or \$10 for a family. Proceeds benefit the church.

Entertainment is planned from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., when live music takes over until 5 p.m. The Grover's Corner's barbecue is planned for Sunday.

Raffle drawings will be held during the fair and chili challenge to help support Alpine Kids.

Among the items to be given away are a \$60 gift certificate for Michael's Restaurant at the Carson Valley Inn, a one-night stay at Kirkwood, a master C graphite rod and Zebco heat reel at Hendrix's Smith Creek Ranch and other fishing-related prizes, dinners for two, gift certificates and wine.

Alpine Kids is a non-profit, all volunteer organization that serves families in Alpine County. The



**David John and the Comstock Cowboys**

agency is recognized by the State of California as a gang prevention organization and a child abuse prevention and intervention organization.

Sponsors of the faire and chili challenge also include the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, California Highway Patrol, Tahoe Women's Center and the Alpine Tobacco Education Prop. 99 funding.

This is a non-smoking event.

For information, call Veatch at (530) 694-2934 or Paul Washam, (530) 694-2966.

## Silver Oak Cellars will be on tap at Villa Gigli Sept. 25

**J**ustin Meyer, president and winemaker of Silver Oak Cellars, will fly into Markleeville on Saturday, Sept. 25, to pour his wines for dinner guests assembled at the Villa Gigli Trattoria.

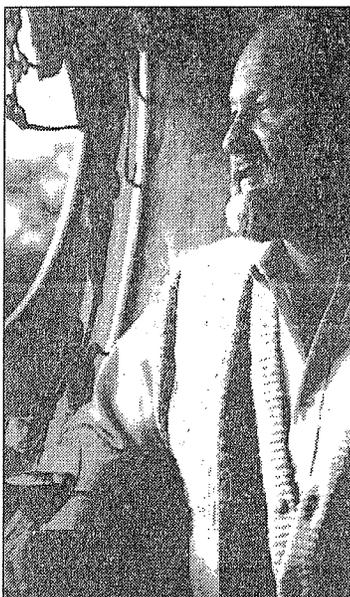
Ranked the number one cabernet for the fifth year in a row by "Wine and Spirits" annual survey of restaurants, Silver Oak's score of 285 was highest among all red wines.

When chef Ruggero Gigli prepares a gala dinner, he always has two rags in his back pockets; therefore, this event has been dubbed the "Silver Oak Two-Rag Dinner."

Gigli says, "Pairing Italian-style pasta and meat courses with the renowned Silver Oak cabernets from the Alexander and Napa Valleys and dessert with the Meyer Family port is an extremely pleasant challenge."

At the American Society for Enology and Viticulture annual meeting in Reno this summer, the 1999 merit award was formally presented to Meyer in recognition for his many contributions to the wine industry, particularly through his important role with the American Vineyard Foundation.

Meyer started out his adult life as a teacher-coach member of the Christian Brothers religious order. He was "drafted" from teaching high school to the Christian Brothers Winery.



**Justin Meyer, Silver Oak Cellars**

Along the way, he added bachelor's and master's degrees in viticulture and enology from U.C. Davis and then, after 15 years, he left the order, married Bonny, joined in partnership with Raymond Duncan to form Silver Oak Cellars, and the rest is making history.

Adding to the ambience of the Silver Oak Two-Rag Dinner will be Carson Valley's own composer-musician Alexandra Kingzett.

As seating for this special dinner will be limited, those who are interested in attending should call Ruggero or Gina Gigli at (530) 694-2253 to secure reservations.

*Record Courier Sept 18, 99*

## 'Mark Twain' on tap in Alpine

The Alpine County Arts Commission will offer an October event to celebrate Alpine's autumn beauty, artistic talent and an American legend.



**McAvoy Layne**

On Friday, Oct. 1, enjoy the American West at its best with a fall colors hike, tasty homemade appetizers by Joyce Coker and an elegant evening with McAvoy Layne as Mark Twain.

McAvoy Layne, author of the biography, "Hooked on Twain," is known in the U.S. and abroad for his portrayal of America's best loved humorist and storyteller. Layne portrays Samuel Clemens in A&E's biography of Mark Twain and in the Discovery Channel's documentary, "Adventures of

Huckleberry Finn."

From Leningrad University in Russia to California, McAvoy enthalls and transports his audience with his dynamic impersonation of one of the truly unique characters of all times.

The evening with Mark Twain starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Alpine County Library, 270 Laramie, Markleeville. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. Proceeds go to fund artistic programs for children in Alpine County.

Make it a day by joining Coker at the Hope Valley Outdoor Center from 2 to 4 p.m. for a fall colors hike. At the library, she'll serve a "light faire" of appetizers, desserts and cold drinks before the evening performance. Fee for the hike is \$15. You must pre-register for it by Wednesday, Sept. 29, by calling the Alpine County Arts Commission at (530) 694-2787.

Record Courier 9/22/99

## Christian School offers chance to win big at Golf Classic Marathon

A lucky golfer could win \$1 million at the Mt. Sierra Christian School's first Golf Classic 100 Marathon at the Golf Course at Genoa Lakes Nov. 5.

All golfers who raise \$2,500 in pledges will have the opportunity to qualify for the \$1 million shootout at the completion of the golf marathon.

Golfers have a goal of playing 100 holes of golf in one day and raise \$25 per hole, said organizer Sandra Gatlin.

ProFund, a company that organizes golf marathons for schools and other organizations to raise money, will conduct the Golf Classic 100 Marathon. Mt. Sierra Christian School hopes to add on

two new classrooms and a multi-purpose building with the proceeds.

For more information or to sign up, call Gatlin at 588-6029 or the school at (530) 694-2391.

Record Courier 9/25/99



## Trout Fishing in America set for Alpine

**Guided hike to see fall is colors also offered**

An Autumn Day to remember will be offered in Alpine County Oct. 10 beginning with a guided hike to view the fall colors in Hope Valley.

Owner of Hope Valley Outdoor Center on Highway 88 Joyce Coker will lead the hike from 1 to 3 p.m. Participants should wear comfortable walking shoes and take a light jacket.

A 5 p.m., a dinner featuring chicken jambalaya wraps or veggie wraps with drinks and homemade pies will be served at Turtle Rock Park Community building, 2 miles north of Markleeville on Highway 89.

At 7:30 p.m., a concert by the award-winning Trout Fishing in America will be offered at the community building. The duo includes Ezra Idlet on guitar and vocals and Keith Grimwood on bass and vocals.

Trout Fishing in America has



ALPINE COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION photo

### Trout Fishing in America

appeared at the White House, the Winnipeg Folk Festival, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and in a concert special on PBS. In addition, the group has produced nine albums.

Cost is \$15 for the hike, and dinner is \$12. Concert tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Call the Alpine County Arts Commission for hike and dinner reservations by Oct. 5; concert tickets also should be reserved in advance. The Alpine County Arts Commission can be

reached at (530) 694-2787.

For visitors from out of town, Alpine County offers cabins, a riverfront resort, historic bed and breakfast, motels, hot springs and campgrounds. For lodging information, call the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce at (530) 694-2475.

This event is being made possible in part by a grant from the California Arts Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Record Courier Oct 2, 1999

## Poet and trumpeter to perform at Alpine County Library

Virginia City poet Shaun T. Griffin will offer a special reading of his poetry, and jazz trumpeter Don Bush will provide musical

entertainment, Sunday, 1 p.m. on the Alpine County Library lawn in Markleeville.

Guests should bring lawn chairs

or a blanket.

This event is free, and refreshments will be served.

Information, (530) 694-2120.

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## Douglas members do well at the state fair

**D**ouglas County youths did well at the Nevada State Fair, with participants in competitions in beef, sheep, swine, poultry and rabbits.

The fair started on Wednesday, Aug. 25, with the poultry. Showing their hens were Brian and David Hoskin, both receiving participation ribbons for quality. Brian was fourth junior poultry showman and David was fifth intermediate poultry showman. Aimee Hoskin took a rooster, placing fourth in quality and was third in senior poultry showmanship. Participating in the dog show events was Nikki Clark. She took a second place in sub-open obedience and was champion senior dog showgirl.

Thursday was the beginning of the fair for the other species. Taking a 4-H steer were Richi Ryan and Andrea Derobertius. Richi placed fourth in intermediate steer showmanship and received a fourth place in quality with his market steer. Andrea received a second place in senior beef showmanship and received a second place in her market class with her steer. Andrea also received second places in her breeding classes with her heifer, her bull calf and her aged cow.

Showing their bunnies were Jake DeVries, Devin DeVries, Lacey Hayes, Savannah Hayes, Christina Siqueiros and Victoria Gay. Jake received a third place, Devin placed first and Lacey

received a second place all in the pee wee class. Savannah placed second in her junior class, Christina placed seventh in novice and Victoria received a first in her intermediate showmanship class and continued on to be reserve master showman.

Taking in swine were Skyler Zulian, Bridget Wood, Ben Wood, Russell Pedrett, Rachel Hedgecock and Jennifer Hedgecock. Skyler was first in intermediate showmanship and fourth in market. Skyler also took a breeding gilt that placed first in her class. Bridget was first senior swine showman and reserve master senior showman and second in her market class. Ben was in the top five in intermediate swine showmanship and received a blue ribbon in quality. Russell was second in senior swine showmanship. Russell was first and second in his market classes and went on to be reserve champion of the swine market show. Russell also took breeding stock and did very well, bringing home honors for reserve champion gilt, reserve champion boar and champion get of sire. Rachel was first in her market class, and Jennifer did very well in swine showmanship and placed seventh in her market class.

There were many sheep participants, including Baa Co. teen leader Aimee Hoskin (who showed in FFA), Amber and

See **Fair** on page 10

Record Courier 10/2/99

# Leviathan

Continued from Page 1A

fur lowers the water's pH level, meaning it makes the water acidic. Acidic water then dissolves toxic metals in the ground, creating acid mine drainage.

After Anaconda sold the site in 1963, Leviathan Creek flowed directly through the disturbed area. Acid mine drainage flowed into the creek.

Lahontan bought the mine in the 1980s, and state officials estimate it has taken care of 70 percent of the problem. Leviathan Creek was channeled with concrete where it runs directly through the site, keeping toxic water from hitting it.

Runoff of the polluted water now is diverted into five evaporation ponds. Together, they hold 13 million gallons of the toxic water. Historically, however, there have been problems in that only 2 to 3 million gallons evaporate in a year. When 6 to 8 million gallons are created each spring runoff, there has been major overflowing.

Lahontan officials this past summer built a \$1 million system of treating the contaminated pond water, in order to create capacity for more runoff. The system pulls the acid mine drainage, which has a pH of 2, into the ponds, takes out the acidity and toxic metals and returns the water — pH of 7, the same as distilled water — into Leviathan Creek.

The state-of-the-art system has been hailed as a success.

"Things are going really well in terms of the water treatment," said Harold Singer, executive director of Lahontan. "We expect to have more than 5 million gallons treated this year. I won't say it's 100 percent, but I would say there is a very good chance there won't be any overflow this year. It kind of depends on the weather and how much precipitation we get."

EPA supports those cleanup efforts. However, federal officials

say there are other problems and the stream will still be contaminated, a fact Lahontan agrees with.

EPA officials think the Superfund status will help create more of a long-term cleanup approach.

The state of Nevada has indicated it won't object to the listing, Mayer said, and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California has supported it.

Brian Wallace, chairman of the tribe, said contaminants could be making their way onto Washoe land.

"We have some very serious health issues that need to be addressed," he said.

Officials from Douglas County are concerned because Leviathan Creek flows into Bryant Creek, a tributary of the East Fork of the Carson River. However, the Douglas County Commission has not taken a position.

"The contaminants are discharged into a stream that eventually flows into the Carson River which goes through Douglas County," said Don Miner, county commissioner. "It's used for irrigation for crops, and there's the potential for contamination of groundwater. All our drinking water comes from groundwater."

Douglas commissioners had hoped to take a tour of the mine and see Lahontan's work before deciding whether to support the proposal. That has yet to be arranged.

Mayer said it likely would take a few months before the mine received formal listing. The interim would serve as a public-comment period, during which Douglas County's comments would still be welcome.

After official listing, EPA then would be in a coordinating role.

"I know the regional board is willing to work with us and the tribe and the other interests," he said. "It's going to take a lot of effort to get the Leviathan Mine to a point where it's not impacting the watershed in a negative fashion."

# Leviathan Mine cleanup could get 'superfunding'

By Andy Bourelle  
Tribune Staff Writer

Tahoe Daily Tribune Oct 5, 1990

Federal officials have yet to hear any objections to listing the highly polluted Leviathan Mine on the Superfund National Priorities List and likely will propose the listing within three weeks.

"We are moving along. However, the proposals, with the final signatures, are running a little slow this quarter," said Kevin Mayer, Superfund project manager for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "It probably won't happen until the second, maybe third, week of October."

EPA has asked the state of California, whose Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board owns the abandoned mine, to comment on the proposal, raising concerns and expressing objections if there are any. The state hasn't done that yet.

"I know the state of California wants this situation dealt with. That's not the question," Mayer said. "It's just one of autonomy and inter-jurisdictional issues that's holding up the state's unqualified support."

The Leviathan Mine, located 25 miles south of Gardnerville, is an inactive sulfur mine now contaminating a nearby creek with acid mine drainage — acidic water containing dissolved toxic metals such as iron, copper, aluminum, nickel and arsenic.

The Leviathan Mine, which has been closed for 37 years, was first mined in 1863 for copper sulfate to process silver in Virginia City.

Early mining activities did not harm the water quality of the region. However, a mining business called Anaconda, Co. purchased it in the 1950s and used it as a sulfur mine. The company excavated hundreds of acres of land, creating an open pit mine — a type of operation known for causing water quality problems.

Water runoff going through the mining site mixes with sulfur. The sul-

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See *Leviathan*, Page 2A

Tahoe D 3

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## I FEEL A DRAFT



BELINDA GRANT/The R-C

**Homemade:** Rae Richerson traveled through the Carson Valley in his wrought iron Volkswagen

beetle recently. The whole car is open and the only glass window is the front windshield.

Review Courier Oct 6 1999

### **Garth McCormack**

A special memorial will be held in the spring to celebrate the life and artworks of Garth Stewart McCormack, 55, of Woodfords. Information will be distributed at that time to ensure his friends can all attend.

Mr. McCormack died Oct. 1 as a result of injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. He was the owner and operator of Woodfords' Inn in Woodfords and a friend to many in Alpine County, Minden and Gardnerville.

He was born Jan. 15, 1944, and raised in San Jose, Calif. He served in the U.S. Army, worked for about five years for the San Jose Police Department, then moved to Alpine County to be a deputy sheriff. He returned to San Jose in the mid-1970s and served for 12 years as a patrol officer with the San Jose Police Department. He returned to his beloved mountains, bought Woodfords Inn in the late 1980s and had resided in Woodfords ever since.

Mr. McCormack was a man of varied talents and achievements. He earned his master's degree in fine arts from San Jose State University. He served at one time as

art commissioner for Alpine County. He was an accomplished pianist and photographer, painted and crafted his own pottery. He enjoyed many kinds of music and loved to cook, regularly attending fine dining and wine tasting events. He also loved riding his motorcycle, hiking and other outdoor activities.

Both of Mr. McCormack's parents preceded him in death. He leaves behind his cousin, Marty Boyer of Hayward, Calif., his companion, Victoria Taylor, distant relatives and countless friends.

Private interment was held in San Jose in accordance with Mr. McCormack's wishes.

### **Maxine Williams**

Maxine M. Williams, 84, died on Oct. 3 at Carson-Tahoe Hospital in Carson City.

She was born on Nov. 29, 1914, in Ephraim, Utah, to Fred and Emily Christensen Mangelson.

For the last two months, Mrs. Williams lived in Minden with her niece Bonnie Hall.

She came from Kent, Wash., where she was a member of the 1st Ward, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and the senior center and AARP.

Before that, Mrs. Williams was secretary for Cedar Green Cannery in Georgetown, Wash., for 15 years and secretary for the Carpenter's Union in Renton, Wash., for 10 years. She was a life member of the Ladies Auxiliary of Eagles in Renton.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters and her husband John Williams, who died in Renton in 1987.

Survivors include her brother Robert Mangelson of Spokane, Wash., and niece Bonnie Hall of Minden.

A memorial service and inurnment will be in Renton.

FitzHenry's Carson Valley Funeral Home in Gardnerville and FitzHenry's Crematory in Carson City handled arrangements.

Record Courier Oct. 6, 1999

# Trout Fishing in America coming to Alpine

## Fall colors hike and dinner are also offered Sunday

Autumn in Alpine County is a visual treat with golden quaking aspen leaves fluttering against a pristine cerulean blue sky. The Alpine County Arts Commission is sponsoring an autumn event on Sunday, Oct. 10 (Columbus Day weekend) complete with an autumn colors guided hike, delicious dinner and family entertainment.

Residents are invited to enjoy "Trout Fishing in America," the award-winning "power duo," featuring Ezra Idlet on guitar and vocals and Keith Grimwood on bass and vocals, who enchant audiences with their eclectic mix of folk-rock, humor and music from varied traditions — folk, blues, rock and reggae.

At 1 p.m., visitors will meet for a fall colors hike at the Hope Valley Outdoor Center, 14655 High-



### Trout Fishing in America

way 88, one-half mile from the junction of Highways 88 and 89 in Hope Valley, telephone number (530) 694-2266. The hike will last until 3 p.m., so wear comfortable walking shoes and take a jacket if it's cool. The fee for the hike is \$15, payable at the start.

Then at 5 p.m., head over to

Turtle Rock Park Community Building on Highway 89 between Woodfords and Markleeville for dinner. The fare will be chicken jambalaya wraps, veggie wraps, chips, salsa, homemade pies, coffee and drinks — a full dinner for \$12. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., the concert begins. Purchase tickets in advance to assure a place. Call (530) 694-2787 to reserve tickets for any and all of the events since space is limited. The hike and dinner are by reservation only by tomorrow, Oct. 7. Concert tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. The concert is at Turtle Rock Park Community building on Highway 89, two miles north of Markleeville.

This event is funded, in part, with funds from the California Arts Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Record Courier 10/6/99

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By JOHN HOWARD

Associated Press Writer

WOODFORDS, Calif. (AP) -- Tiny, mountainous and remote, California's least populated county is waging a fierce campaign to replenish its lifeblood -- fast-dwindling money for schools and roads that come from logging national forests.

The people of Alpine County -- all 1,200 of them -- are scattered across the Sierra Nevada in a region of cliffs, chasms and peaks that resembles Switzerland more than the Wild West. It is snowbound half the year -- one of the school buses is a Chevrolet Suburban with studded snow tires -- and it has some of the steepest stretches of public highway in California.

The county seat is Markleeville, population 165.

This very small community is at the center of a very large national debate over the so-called "timber receipts" law, which has been on the federal books since 1908. It provides that 25 percent of the proceeds from U.S. Forest Service timber sales and grazing fees be divided among counties that have national forests within their borders.

In Alpine County, more than nine of every 10 acres are owned by the government. There are parts of three national forests here.

But as timber harvesting has declined throughout the Sierra, the receipts have dropped dramatically. Now, schools and other public agencies that depend on that money are looking to the federal government for a more reliable source of cash.

In 1987, the 39 California counties entitled to receive timber receipts got about \$53 million, according to the Forest Service. Last year, they got just \$30 million.

Alpine County's share plunged from \$835,000 to about \$330,000, and much of that went to keep up the roads. *half?*

"Three or four years ago, it dropped from about \$500,000 to \$120,000 for schools, and I watched a quarter of my budget disappear," said James Parsons, superintendent of the Alpine County Unified School District, which has a \$2 million annual budget. "It was catastrophic."

The entire county, which is about 40 miles south of Reno, Nev., has about 200 school-age children. There is no high school, so most of the high school-age students go to Nevada for class, and a few attend school in nearby Calaveras County. The rest are educated at small elementary schools in Alpine County, including two one-room schoolhouses.

In fact, the district is so small that some officials wonder whether it is too tiny to be functional.

"I'll go to these meetings, and people will ask me, 'Why do you exist,

anyway?' Well, we exist because this is where the kids are. That's why we're here," Parsons said.

Because of the district's size, any fluctuations in timber receipts have a disproportionate impact. The district recently laid off its classroom aides and two of 15 teachers. Other salaries were frozen, and two of the three bus drivers were let go.

Federal officials have heard the county's complaints. But they say there is little they can do.

"The public has told us in very clear terms that they would like to see more emphasis placed on recreation and fish and wildlife and less emphasis on intensive timber production," Forest Service spokesman Matt Mathes said. Logging has changed from clear-cutting to simply thinning out, he said -- meaning less timber is coming off each acre and receipts are smaller.

"The bottom line is that in the old days the driving force was the production of boards," Mathes said. "Now, it is the restoration of the ecosystem."

To help counties dependent on logging, the Clinton administration has proposed replacing the timber receipts with a stream of federal tax dollars. Other proposals before Congress would retain a link to timber, but assure a minimum level of federal funding.

Some within the logging industry believe that severing the tie to timber could erode timber harvests, loosening the industry's leverage over local communities and disturbing rural culture.

"'Decoupling' these county payments is bad for taxpayers, and it rips the socioeconomic fabric holding these rural communities together," said Chris Nance of the California Forestry Association.

But in Alpine County, where schools are community centers and roads bind residents together, people are weary of the fight for money.

"There's just not much money here anyway, and it affects everything," said Bob Rudden, owner of the Markleeville General Store. "It affects everybody with children or grandchildren."

# Letters to the editor

## Where is proof?

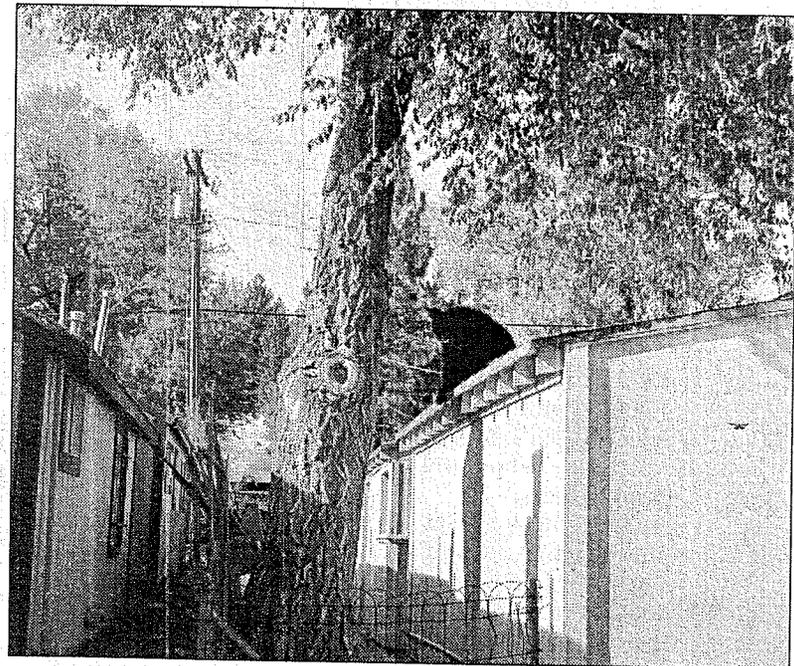
EDITOR:

I would like to ask a question and make a comment concerning the Leviathan mine in Alpine County, its acid mine drainage, and recent coverage of this situation by The Record-Courier.

Where is the scientific proof that this acid mine drainage, which admittedly is doing environmental damage to Leviathan Creek and apparently to Bryant Creek, is endangering Indian land and/or the drinking water in Carson Valley? The Record-Courier has made this statement on several occasions, most recently in the Oct. 9 edition. Does the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board have monitoring stations above and below the confluence of Bryant Creek with the East Fork of the Carson River? Last time I asked them that question, a couple of years ago, they did not. If they still do not, if no one is monitoring the quality of the East Fork in such a way as to determine what contaminants are present and where they come from, how is it defensible to make the claim that Carson Valley's drinking water supply is being threatened?

I would also like to mention something which my husband has pointed out, but which we have never seen referenced in all the coverage of this issue, including the need for California and EPA money to clean up the Leviathan site: In the 1860s, the ore from this mine was taken to Virginia City for processing ores there, and in the 1950s, the sulfur ore went to Weed Heights for the processing of copper. Nevada, almost exclusively, profited economically from the Leviathan production, not California and certainly not Alpine. I believe that the same can be said for the clean-up efforts over recent years.

**Nancy C. Thornberg**  
Markleeville

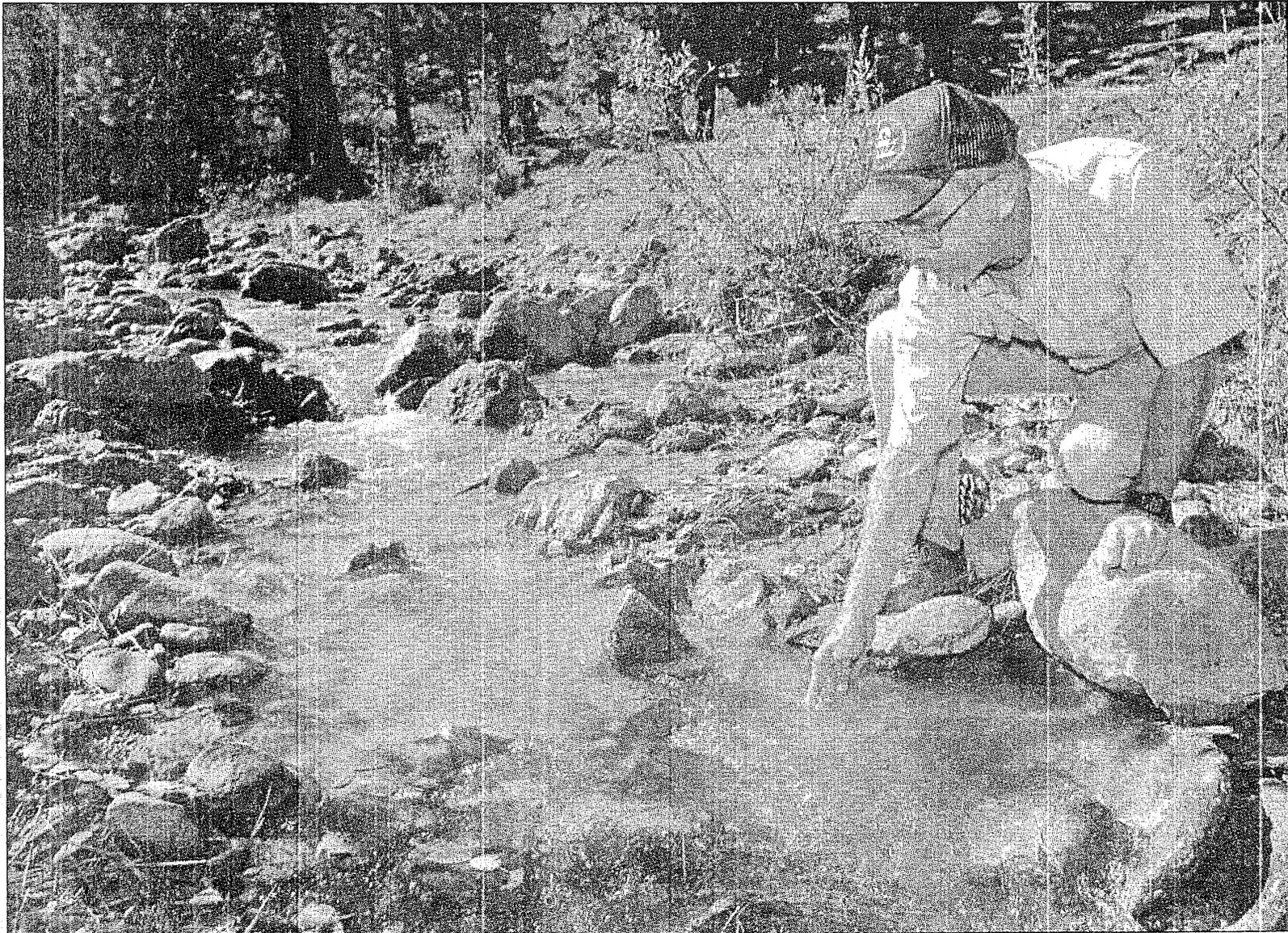


**BARBARA THOMAS** photo

**Up on the roof:** While traveling through Markleeville, Carson Valley resident Barbara Thomas shot this picture of the bear peering over the roof of the Alpine Hotel.

# LEGACY OF LEVIATHAN MINE

Rec. Courier  
10-20-99



BELINDA GRANT/R-C photos

**Water test:** Kevin Mayer of the Environmental Protection Agency tests the water Tuesday at Bryant Creek which is fed by Leviathan

creek and flows into the Carson River. The discoloration is due to the toxic minerals discharged into the creek from Leviathan Mine.



BELINDA GRANT/R-C photos

**Water test:** Kevin Mayer of the Environmental Protection Agency tests the water Tuesday at Bryant Creek which is fed by Leviathan

creek and flows into the Carson River. The discoloration is due to the toxic minerals discharged into the creek from Leviathan Mine.

## Commissioners support Superfund status for mine

**U.S. Sen. Richard Bryan:** '(The Superfund cleanup) is something that could affect the whole future of the area.'

by **Christy Chalmers**  
Staff Writer

Douglas County leaders decided Tuesday they support making Leviathan Mine a federal Superfund site.

Citing what they called lackluster efforts by California officials to clean up the mine, county commissioners told Environmental Protection Agency representatives they think federal intervention will be more effective.

"I feel a lot more comfortable now that you guys are here," said Commissioner Kelly Kite.

"The whole point of this thing is to get that creek cleaned up so the water that goes to this valley is fit for agriculture and fit for drinking," added Commissioner Bernie Curtis. "That's the future of this county and the counties below us."

The EPA hasn't decided



**Samples:** Superfund project manager Kevin Mayer of the EPA holds sulfur ore and copper sulfate from the site.

whether to propose Superfund status for the toxic mine site.

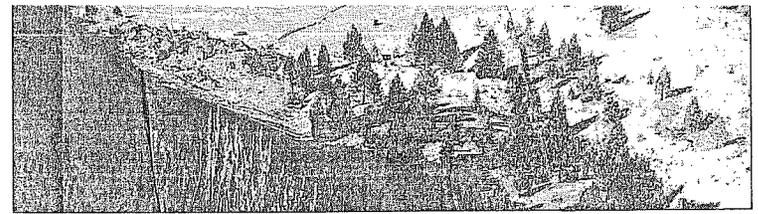
See **Mine** on page



**Dirty water:** Harold Singer, director of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, holds a jar of water discharged from Leviathan Mine before treatment. Singer performed the demonstration for a tour Tuesday of federal, state and county officials well as members of the news media.



BELINDA GRANT/R-C photos



On the tour: Keith Takata, right, head of the EPA's Superfund division, talks with officials Tuesday at Leviathan Mine. To Takata's right are Sen. Lawrence Jacobsen, R-Minden and Tom Baker, rural representative for Sen. Richard Bryan, D-Nevada. Sen. Bryan arranged the tour. The photo above shows how the mine cuts into the Sierra Nevada in Alpine County.

## Mine: Commissioners support designation as Superfund site; decision expected this week

Continued from page 1  
located 25 miles southwest of Gardnerville in Alpine County, Calif.

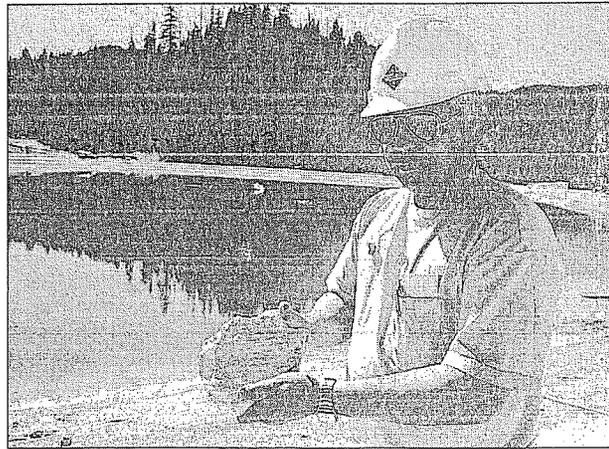
A decision is expected later this week, but Sen. Richard Bryan, D-Nev., who organized the day's meetings, predicted the request will be granted.

"I think it will happen," Bryan said from his Washington, D.C. office. "I think that (the commission's action) indicates how serious the potential damage is to the watershed. This is something that could affect the whole future of the area."

As a Superfund site, the mine would be eligible for federal funding to aid cleanup if the previous owners who caused the contamination don't pay.

The mine operated between the 1860s and 1962 and has been discharging toxic runoff into the surrounding area. The runoff has damaged Leviathan and Bryant creeks, which drain into the Carson River's east fork.

While Superfund status would give the federal agency control over the process, it also allows the feds to go after previous owners



Just like cake: Site worker Steve Touchi holds processed sludge.

"It is heartening to hear that the folks who did this may have to pay for it," said county commissioner Jacques Etchegoyhen. "The Superfund designation might enable us to get some money from those who caused the problem."

Potential drawbacks include economic impacts on downstream users in the Carson Valley, who could be faced with restrictions related to the cleanup efforts, and a lengthy litigation process from previous owners.

show a clear chain of mine ownership and predicted litigation wouldn't be a major issue.

Though he couldn't promise downstream users won't be impacted if Leviathan is declared a Superfund site, Takata said EPA efforts would focus on the immediate mine area, which covers about 400 acres.

Takata said his agency could meet with concerned citizens to allay "misinformation" about the impacts of Superfund designation.

## EPA doesn't think toxins will hurt Douglas

by Christy Chalmers  
Staff Writer

Environmental Protection Agency officials said Tuesday that the toxins leaking out of the Leviathan Mine can probably never be stopped, but they don't think downstream users in Douglas County will be hurt.

The EPA representatives made their comments during a tour of the mine site, located in Alpine County, Calif., about 25 miles southwest of Gardnerville.

The mine operated intermittently between the 1860s and 1962 and has been discharging toxic runoff into the surrounding area. EPA officials are considering making it a Superfund site.

**■ Pleased with results.** California water quality officials have been trying to treat the acid drainage at the mine site, and they are enthused with the results.

They said they will continue a three-pronged approach to the problem: a permanent system to treat the runoff, a system for collecting the ground and surface

water that comes through the site and an effort to prevent the water from becoming contaminated at all.

Still, some runoff will probably escape.

"It is very unusual to take a mine like this and completely eliminate the problem," said Harold Singer, executive officer of California's Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board. "We expect to be out here for a long, long time."

"We won't catch every last drop of contaminated water, but we think we can do a good enough job to protect the ecosystem and any people that would be using the resources downstream," said Kevin Mayer, Superfund project manager.

Keith Takata, director of the regional Superfund division, said a Superfund designation won't necessarily carry impacts like mandatory disclosures on real estate transactions for Carson Valley residents because the agency's immediate focus would be the mine site.

**■ Water quality.** "We will evaluate downstream impact, but we're only going to be looking at water quality," said Takata.

"We're not looking at the land area above the rivers. Based on what we know now, I think it's extremely unlikely that we'll be taking active remediation way downstream in Nevada."

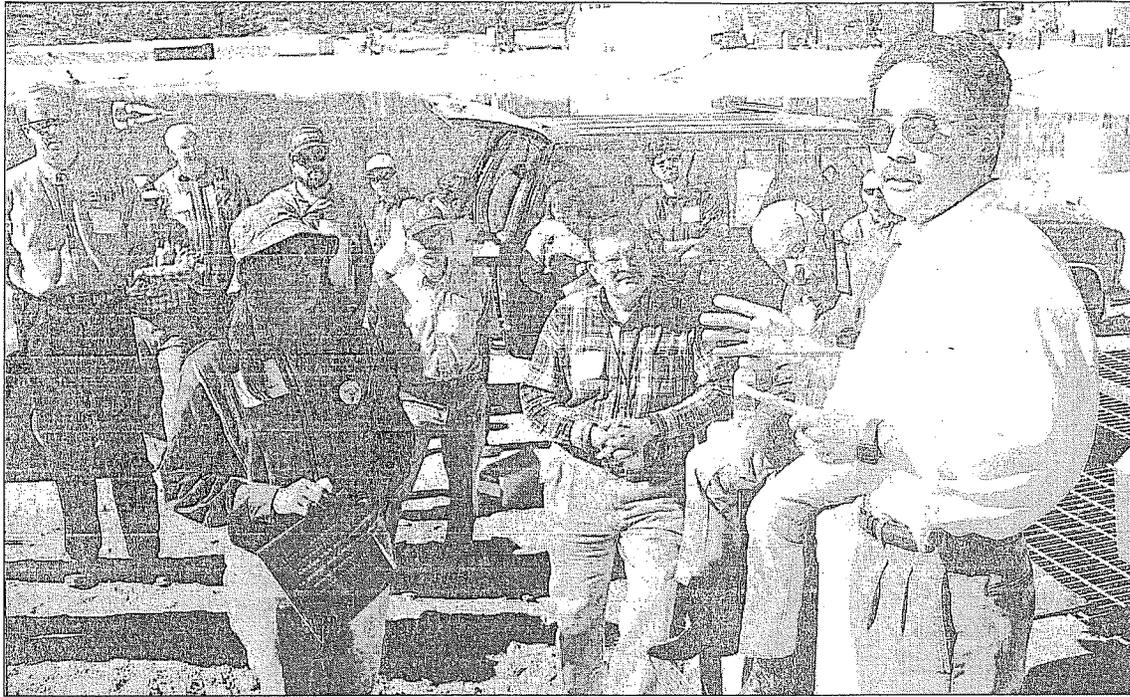
The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Board began cleanup efforts in 1982 after agreeing to a settlement with ARCO, one of the previous owners.

The mine site covers about 400 acres.

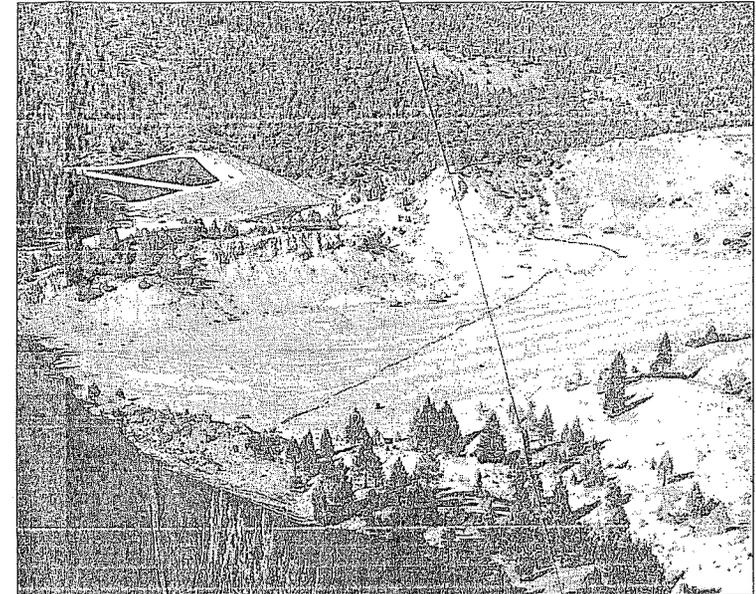
Part of the original mine site has been filled in and ponds have been built to detain the toxic runoff, but the ponds have overflowed in past winter.

Water running through the mine site turns sulfur into sulfuric acid, which dissolves minerals in the rocks and produces a soup that is toxic to wildlife.

Overflows have spilled into Leviathan Creek, which empties into Bryant Creek, a tributary of the Carson River's east fork.



BELINDA GRANT/R-C photos



On the tour: Keith Takata, right, head of the EPA's Superfund division, talks with officials Tuesday at Leviathan Mine. To Takata's right are Sen. Lawrence Jacobsen, R-Minden and Tom Baker, rural representative for Sen. Richard Bryan, D-Nevada. Sen. Bryan arranged the tour. The photo above shows how the mine cuts into the Sierra Nevada in Alpine County.

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# SNOW TRACKS

BULKRATE  
U.S.POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No.190  
Placerville, Ca.  
95667

A publication of the California - Nevada Snowmobile Association

November 1999



Left to right Chairperson Roberta Rawlings Alpine county Supervisor Herman Zellmer and retiring Larry Helm of California Off-highway motor vehicle Recreation Division.

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## Presidents Report

By Ken Harris

If you value your right to snowmobile then please pay attention to the following information: The Yellowstone National Park Draft EIS is out. It was mailed out late and we have only until Nov. 15th to respond. If the Yellowstone Park is closed to snowmobiling then other National Parks will surely be next and this will be an end to public access snowmobiling that we now enjoy. For those of you who do not have a copy of the DEIS, you may simply write in support of Revised Alternative E. This alternative is proposed by the BlueRibbon Coalition, the American Council of Snowmobiles, the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association, and Citizens of Gateway Communities.

Revised Alternative E applies adaptive planning that uses new information as it is developed to responsibly manage winter recreation in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. Its proposes: \*Support for scientific research and the peer review of data and conclusions. \*To provide public safety, improve trail maintenance, and protect wildlife by a night time closure of the park. \*Reasonable regulation of snowmobiles for emissions. Support for the Environmental Protection Agency's process in regulating emissions. Require NPS implementation of EPA emissions guidelines when they are developed provide for non-motorized opportunities and trails away from main motorized routes. \*To relieve congestion through the use of prepaid passes and an improved parking plan at Old Faithful. \*The preservation of the Continental Divide

Snowmobile Trail and motorized over-snow use at Jackson Lake. \*Protection of the public's prime winter recreation experience through the TC establishment of carrying capabilities. We OPPOSE Alternative B and the other alternatives that plow or close any of the park entrances to over-snow travel or establishes emission standards outside the EPA process. Send your letters to Clifford Hawkes, National Park Service, 12795 West Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, Co. 80228. It is that simple "just do it," now! If you have computer knowledge, you can obtain the latest information on: <http://Hwww.sledcity.com>. It will also tell you how to send your letters via e-mail

I would like to give you information on a few items covered at the Oct. board meeting. ISC co-chairs, Tom and Linda Vanella, announced that CNSA netted \$18,000 and 601 persons attended this Congress. This was the most successful and best attended ISC ever. GREAT JOB! to them and all the volunteers involved. Thank you!!

Three of our OHV staging areas will become Snow Parks this year and therefore will require the purchasing of a Snow Park Pass. They are Blue Lakes Road (Hope Valley), Spicer on Hwy.4 and the 108 staging area.

Scott Nedved, the CNSA Safety Chair will be holding "on the snow" safety courses at Hope Valley, Hunting Lake and LaPorte. Look for these dates in Snow Tracks under his safety article. Scott and his committee have done an excellent job in this important area of our sport.

CNSA will be sponsoring a new annual award. The Doug Forrester Memorial Groomers Award. It is expected that the first recipient of this award will be Chuck Best, posthumously.

We almost didn't have a winter program supported by grants. As the enviro's forced these grants to pass through OAL channels and then when the State Parks applied

# HOPE VALLEY: NEWEST CALIFORNIA SNO-PARK

READY FOR  
FAMILY PLAY  
THIS WINTER

MARKLEEVILLE, Calif.

(Oct. 21, 1999) -

With more families taking advantage of winter recreation opportunities, the California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division recently dedicated Hope Valley in Alpine County as its newest park in the statewide Sno-Park system.

Located at Highway 88 and Blue Lakes Road, approximately 15 miles from South Lake Tahoe, the park will offer winter snow play, snowmobiling on 26 miles of groomed trails, cross-county skiing, dog sledding, and a winter concession stand.

"This is the first new Sno-Park that we have dedicated in more than six years," said Barry Jones, winter program recreation coordinator for California State Parks. "This winter we are also opening new Sno-Parks on Highway 4 in Calaveras County and Highway 108 in Tuolumne County, bringing our total to 22 parks throughout the central Sierra."

Jones said that Sno-Parks provide a variety of winter recreational opportunities, but perhaps more importantly, they serve as a safe place for family

groups to pull off the highway and play in the snow.

He told the gathering at the Hope Valley dedication that his division has been working with the Alpine County Board of Supervisors, the U.S. Forest Service, the California Department of Transportation and the California Highway Patrol for the past two years to make the Hope Valley park a reality.

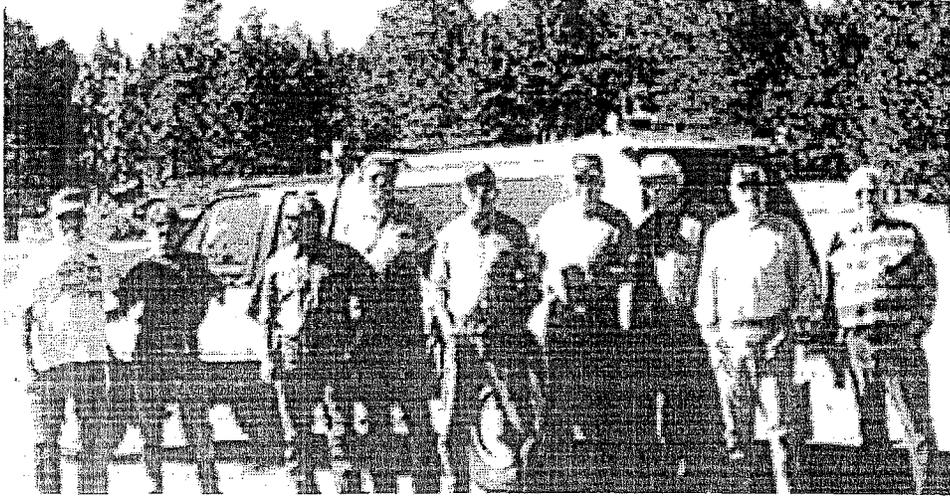
"We are absolutely delighted that everyone has worked together with a common goal of making Hope Valley an integral part of the California Sno-Park system," said Herman Zellmer, chair of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors. "This park will be a real asset to Alpine County."

Sno-Parks are operated and maintained from revenue generated through the sale of Sno-Park permits. The permits pay for snow plowing, trash removal, and restrooms at each of the Sno-Parks. A day or seasonal permit is required for each vehicle parked at one of the Sno-Park sites. A \$5 day permit is valid at any Sno-Park, but only for a single day. A \$25 seasonal permit is valid at any Sno-Park on any day during the winter season (November 1 through May 30).

Permits will be on sale at the Lake Tahoe Winter Sports Center concession that will be located on Blue Lakes Road approximately ¼ mile from the entrance to the park. The center will also carry some snowmobile repair parts.

"We have been snowmobiling in Hope Valley for years," said Bob Brown, a member of the Lake Tahoe Snowmobile Association, "and now after several years of hard work, this wonderful area will be a first-class Sno-Park with all the amenities."

For more information on the new Hope Valley Sno-Park or information on the California Sno-Park program, contact Connie Finster, at (916) 324-1569.



A very ambitious group from the Lake Tahoe Snowmobile Assoc. spent a day with the Forest Service cleaning trails in Hope Valley.

I wish to thank Don Michielsen, Harry Howard, John Donaldson, John and Judy Breylinger, Al Bartley, Larry Moore, Rick Russell, Ari Makinen and Ken Koegl for volunteering for this project.

Weather permitting there will be one more date set to complete this project before Winter sets in.

Jim Edge, USFS, will be attending several of our monthly meetings to explain ways the Lake Tahoe Snowmobile Assoc. can be of great help during the 1999 - 2000 Season. We will be looking forward to this.

Hopefully everyone is looking forward to a working year and fun included also.

Thanks again to everyone.  
Jaclyn Howard President

## **Safety Class all welcome need not be members open to the public!**

January 15<sup>th</sup> there will be a safety survival seminar at Hope Valley Sno-park. You will be lead in a survival class, step by step, building a snow cave, getting drinking water, keeping warm, fire building fire, finding food, signaling for help, snowmobile repair (to get you home), trouble shooting! Got an engine that quits in the back country get tips on how to get it going again!

Free, as part of CNSA service for safety sake.

Lunch will be available by the Lake Tahoe Snowmobile Association on site.  
Hours will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. responds would be nice to allow for food 209  
295 7852

# John and Patty Brissenden stumble on Sorensen's, stay to make it a success

by Nancy Hamlett  
Staff Writer

It was an off-handed encounter with Sorensen's Resort that brought John and Patty Brissenden to the Hope Valley.

Visiting Patty's sister and brother-in-law, who were managing the cabins, they fell in love with the clean mountain air and beautiful scenery. Yet, according to John, at the time they had no goal to own the resort.

"We bumped into it," said John. "But the

## RECORD-COURIER NEIGHBORS

more Patty and I thought about it, the more we considered the option."

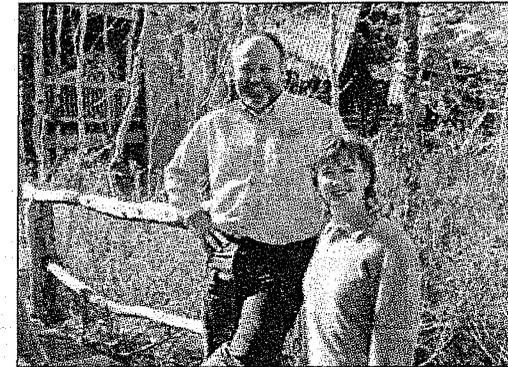
Sorensen's, which was built as a sheep camp during the turn of the century and opened as a resort in 1926, had fallen onto hard times. Former owners had let the facili-

ty fall into disrepair, and even though the current owners were trying to upgrade, they were frustrated by environmental impact reports that curtailed improvements.

In stepped the Brissendens. Long-time proponents of conservation and environmental issues, they purchased the property in 1982 and for the next year and a half, commuted between the resort and their home in Santa Cruz, Calif.

"We couldn't afford to leave our jobs, as the resort wouldn't support us," said John.

See **Neighbors** on page 9



BELINDA GRANT/The R-C

John and Patty Brissenden have helped to preserve public lands in Hope Valley

Record Courier Nov 10, 1999

## Neighbors: In Hope Valley

Continued from page 1

"It was an exhausting period, but actually only an indication of what was to come."

What followed was the gradual rehabilitation of Sorensen's Resort — and the inclusion of the Brissendens into the community.

Under their careful supervision, cabins were repaired and remodeled and new ones built. And with an original marketing plan, the resort began attracting guests who were interested in more than fishing.

With historic hikes along the Emigrant Trail, watercolor workshops, Star Watch (a lesson in astronomy under the fall stars), wreathmaking, picnics and birding, the Brissendens attracted people to the resort who were as interested as they were in the pristine conditions in the Sierra Nevada.

They also adopted the Hope Valley and the Sierra Nevada in their conservation efforts. Patty is one of the founders of Friends of Hope Valley and the Sierra Nevada Alliance. Both organizations are dedicated to the preservation of lands in the Sierra Nevada. In a large part due to the Brissendens' efforts, more than 25,000 acres surrounding the resort have been turned over to the U.S. Forest Service.

The Brissendens donated 65 acres personally, and they also donate 300 nights of lodging per year to other conservation organizations.

■ **Award winners.** Their involvement and dedication have not gone unappreciated. Last year, they were awarded the Conde Nast Traveler's Ecotourism Award.

"We won the honor, but it was the locals and literally hundreds of our guests who wrote letters to Washington, D.C.," said John.

"You tend to have more of an appreciation of a place where you live," said Patty. "Once the guests visited Sorensen's and the Sierra, they understood what we found so special about it."

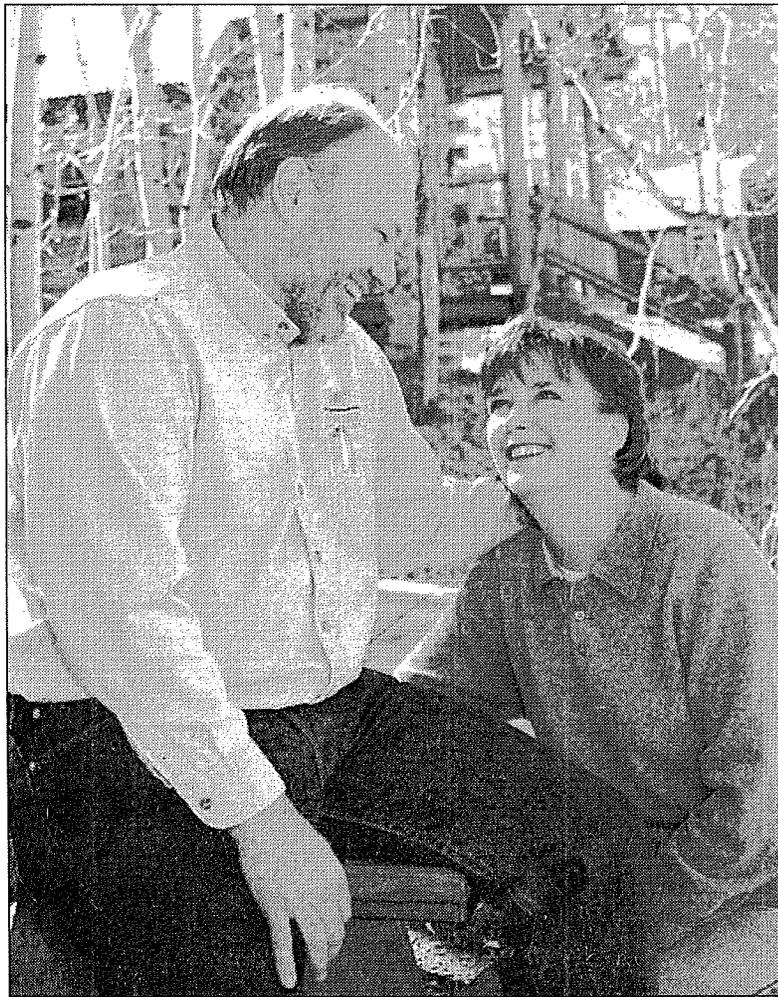
According to John, a background in child care and preschool teaching was probably the best training he had for the management of the resort.

"We have to cater to so many people, and it is definitely multi-task," said John. "It's not just three balls in the air."

John mans the phones and supervises the ongoing renovations and improvements to the resort. Patty is in charge of the interiors. She hand-picks the furniture and accessories to fit the personality of each cabin.

The café at the resort serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. Meetings in the conference cabin and weddings in the gazebo add to the base business of cabin rentals.

Even without the recent purchase of the Hope Valley store and campground, John said that he and



BELINDA GRANT/The R-C

**Hope Valley couple:** John and Patty Brissenden share a quiet moment.

Patty sleep only two hours a night.

"And they may not be the same two hours," said John.

Patty is able to escape from the resort by retreating to their home that is across the river and off premises.

"I tune it out. I spend time with Beth, our 15-year-old daughter, and I do things that I enjoy," said Patty. "But John can't do that. As long as he is awake, he is thinking about the resort."

Although business and the environment place high in the Brissendens' priorities, both say that their children come first in their concerns. They have four children ranging from 32 to 15. And they are anxiously waiting the arrival of their first grandchild.

"Moving to Hope Valley wasn't easy for our children," said Patty. "John, our oldest, stayed in Santa Cruz to finish high school, but the three girls attended Douglas County schools. It's not easy living so far away from the mainstream, but I sincerely believe that living here and meeting the guests has made them worldly adaptable."

John and Patty feel the isolation as well and said that if not for guests and local friends, their life could be very lonely.

"But we have a wonderful staff, a cadre of talented people who work for us," said Patty. "We're able to get away and visit family and friends and take an occasional vacation."

The support staff has also enabled John to donate time to the Agency for International Development. He has traveled twice to Bulgaria and the Ukraine to speak and offer advice to people in the tourism industry.

"We are community activists,

not just to Hope Valley, but state, federally and internationally," said John. "After our family, these activities are my second highest priority in life."

The Brissendens support many causes besides conservation and the environment. Art, education and health organizations receive not only monetary support, but also the wealth of John's and Patty's time and political expertise. John keeps a binder filled with the many letters and memos from appreciative groups they have sponsored. Many of them are located in the Carson Valley.

■ **Cousins to Carson Valley.** "Even though we live in California, we feel a kinship, as though we are related to Nevada, and the Carson Valley is our community," said Patty.

"We are friends to the guests and to the community, conservation and causes," said John.

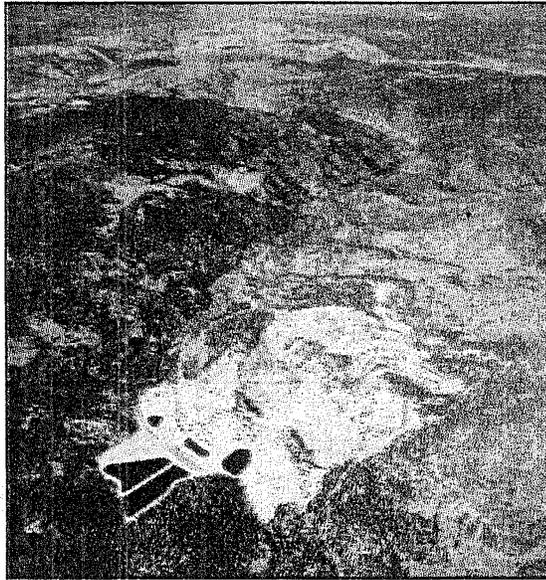
But of all causes, conservation maintains the strongest hold on their hearts.

"When I was 6 or 7, I went camping with my parents, and my mother told me that we had to leave the campsite better than we found it," said John. "I guess that's when my concerns about the environment and conservation started. By staying with us, guests are investing in people who are helping the environment and are community-minded."

Patty enjoys introducing their guest to the joys of the mountains.

"I enjoy and love the mountains, and I love our life here," said Patty as she paused outside one of the cabins to appreciate the blue skies.

"And the best part about it? This is no desk job."



An aerial view clearly shows the site of the Leviathan Mine. EPA Superfunding could be used to clean up the area.

## Alpine County seeks funding to clean up Leviathan Mine

By Andy Bouelle  
Tribune Staff Writer

MARKLEEVILLE — Joining Douglas County and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, Alpine County Tuesday agreed to support the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's plans to put the polluted Leviathan Mine on its Superfund National Priorities List.

"I think anything we can do to help the cleanup of this thing we should," said Chris Gansberg, member of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors.

The Leviathan Mine, located 25 miles south of Gardnerville near the California and Nevada line, is an inactive sulfur mine now contami-

### Super subject

**What:** Leviathan Mine public workshop

**When:** Dec. 2, 6:30 p.m.

**Where:** Turtle Rock Park, Turtle Rock Park Road, Alpine County

nating a nearby creek with acid mine drainage — acidic water containing dissolved toxic metals such as iron, copper, aluminum, nickel and arsenic.

The proposed listing, which had been expected for months, happened

See *Leviathan*, Page 2A

e news — and a lot more! [tahoe.com](http://tahoe.com)

TAHOE DAILY TRIBUNE 11-17-99

# Leviathan

Continued from Page 1A

last month and began a 60-day public-comment period, which ends Dec. 21. Actual designation as a Superfund site could happen sometime after that.

At the Alpine County meeting Tuesday, Kevin Mayer, Superfund project manager for EPA, said the federal agency has received no formal comment from California. Nevada has commented but didn't support or oppose the listing.

The Leviathan Mine, which has been closed for 37 years, now looks like a several-hundred-acre white scar in the otherwise green mountains of Alpine County. Leviathan Creek, which runs through the site, is discolored and unable to support aquatic life.

The water eventually runs into the East Fork of the Carson River.

The Leviathan Mine was first mined in 1863.

Early mining activities did not harm the water quality of the region. However, a mining business called Anaconda, Co. purchased it in the 1950s and used it as a sulfur mine. The company excavated hundreds of acres of land, creating an open pit mine — a type of operation known for causing water quality problems.

Water runoff going through the mining site mixes with sulfur, which lowers the water's ph level, making it acidic.

After Anaconda sold the site in 1963, Leviathan Creek flowed di-

rectly through the disturbed area. Acid mine drainage flowed into the creek.

Lahontan bought the mine in the 1980s, and state officials estimate it has taken care of 70 percent of the problem. Lahontan officials this past summer built a \$1 million-plus system for treating a long-running problem there.

EPA supports those cleanup efforts. However, federal and Lahontan officials agree there are other problems and the stream will still be contaminated. EPA officials think the Superfund status will help create more of a long-term cleanup approach.

"Despite what I think is a really commendable effort by the regional board when they have the funds, the waste from the mine is continuing to impact the watershed there," Mayer said.

The Superfund listing likely could bring a more focused approach to the cleanup, according to EPA.

And it could hold ARCO, which has purchased Anaconda, and Lahontan, currently owning the property, financially responsible for the cleanup.

The Washoe Tribe has long supported the listing. Douglas County commissioners voted to support it last month.

Although Alpine County took action this week, a public workshop has been scheduled for later this month to educate residents of the county about the situation. Representatives of Lahontan and EPA are expected to be there.

## Alpine officials back Leviathan Mine Superfund listing

by **Andy Bourelle**  
Special to the R-C

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## Alpine County supervisors wary of Clinton road plan

by **Andy Bourelle**

Special to the R-C

The Alpine County Board of Supervisors agreed Tuesday to draft a letter to the U.S. Forest Service expressing its concern over President Clinton's proposal to preserve 40 million acres of federally owned land nationwide.

The action could potentially limit recreation such as snowmobiling and off-road vehicle use on as much as 20 percent of the county's heavily forested land, Alpine officials believe.

About 96 percent of Alpine County's 726 acres is publicly owned. About 49 percent of that is designated wilderness area, the highest level of protection the federal government gives its land. While Clinton's proposal does not protect it to that degree, the preservation called for is the highest degree possible without a wilderness designation.

If all of Alpine County's available roadless areas were given the protection as a result of Clinton's plan, that would be another 20 percent of the land there with a high-level of protection.

The board of supervisors expressed concern that as much as 69 percent of its county could be given such a high level of protection that it would limit uses there.

"I just cannot believe this is what we need in this county," said Herman Zellmer, board chairman, at the county's meeting Tuesday. "The needs of the people in this county should somehow be considered. With the president's declaration, all that comment goes out the window."

A preliminary public comment period before the Forest Service starts to more closely look at the issue ends Dec. 20.

Alpine County is planning a public workshop with representa-

tives of the Forest Service for Dec. 7.

Calling national forests "places of renewal of the human spirit," Clinton last month announced steps to protect 40 million acres of federally own roadless areas from development. About 3.5 million acres of land in California could be affected.

The Forest Service is in the beginning of the process, taking comments before determining what roadless areas may be viable candidates for further preservation.

Comments to be sent to the Forest Service by Alpine County include concerns that the 60-day comment period beginning the process was not long enough.

The county's comments state: "There will be significant social, economic and environmental consequences of any of the alternatives listed including the following: forest health, forest management options, fire prevention and suppression, grazing and agriculture, mining and logging.

"Opportunities for a variety of recreational activities will be affected including hiking, fishing, cross country and downhill skiing, snowmobiling, off-road vehicle use, hunting, rock hunting, firewood cutting, photography, painting, camping, rock climbing, backpacking, horseback riding, llama and horse packing, pinenut harvesting, Christmas tree cutting, preservation and protection of historical and cultural resources, birding and just pleasure driving and sight seeing ... Response to search and rescue or medical emergencies will be severely curtailed if snowmobiles, (off-road vehicles) and helicopters cannot be used ...

"The economies of rural communities ... may be severely impacted."

# Alpine might join river users group

by **Christy Chalmers**  
Staff Writer

Lawyers are meeting to devise a way for Alpine County, Calif., to join its Nevada counterparts in managing the Carson River watershed.

Directors of the Carson Water Subconservancy District, which includes four Nevada counties, decided Wednesday to research ways of adding Alpine to the district. Alpine officials previously approved the talks.

"We're going to have our attorney talk with their attorney to explore ways of them becoming a member," said Ed James, general manager for the Subconservancy District. "They just want to have a seat at the board, and we're looking at how to make that work."

The Subconservancy District covers the river's watershed in Carson City, Douglas, Lyon and Churchill counties. District members have adopted a philosophy of managing the watershed as an entire unit, instead of focusing on the segments within each political boundary.

Talk of adding Alpine County, where the river's two forks originate, started about a year ago. At the time, plans were being made for Churchill County, Nev., to join the district.

The addition of Churchill, which expanded the district board by two members to 11, was approved during the 1999 legislative session. The Carson River terminates in Churchill.

Alpine could be added to the

district using a bi-state compact, but the action would probably have to be approved by both state legislatures. The Nevada Legislature convenes again in 2001, and James said the district wants the request to add Alpine, if it proceeds, to be ready for action then.

James acknowledged that the subconservancy board members are skeptical of creating a body like the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, the bi-state board that governs the Lake Tahoe basin. The TRPA is infamous for political infighting and restrictive land use policies.

"They said, 'Make sure it does not become a TRPA board,'" said James. "We're actually quite different, though. We can't make policies and we don't make land use decisions, so we're quite different than the way the TRPA is set up."

James said he'll probably inform the local governments in the subconservancy district of the talks with Alpine. Decisions about whether the board would be expanded and how much power Alpine would get — Douglas representatives have five votes and the other three counties each have two — have not been addressed.

If the idea succeeds, the Carson River watershed group might be setting a regional precedent.

"I don't know a lot of watersheds that have this kind of arrangement," said James. "There are several (interstate) compacts out there, but to look at this as a whole watershed, I think, is truly unique."

## Orphaned bear visits town of Markleeville

by Linda Hiller  
Staff Writer

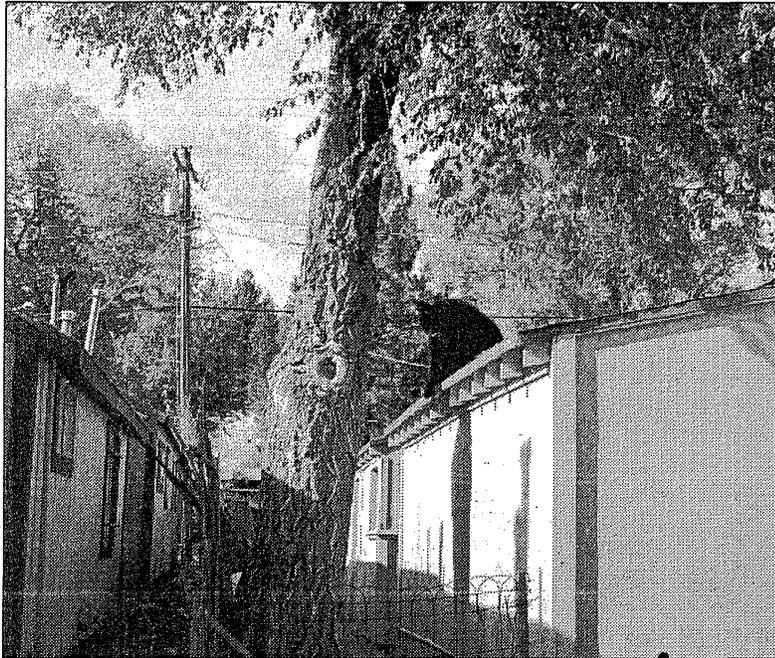
A young black bear entertained the residents of downtown Markleeville, Calif., recently, climbing on rooftops and generally making a show of being a bear.

Carson Valley resident Barbara Thomas took this picture of the young cub, perched on the roof of the Alpine Motel.

"I saw some people looking up at something and then I saw that it was a bear," Thomas said. "So I grabbed my camera and took this picture."

Next door to the Alpine Motel, Josh Williams of M's Coffee House, has named the bear "Mocha." Co-worker Eva has named it "Bubba."

Markleeville residents say the bear's mother was shot in a nearby campground in June. Since then, it has meandered in and out of town and some residents have chosen to feed it, which could sound the mammal's death knell, according to Nevada Division of Wildlife



BARBARA THOMAS photo

**Up on the roof:** While traveling through Markleeville, Carson Valley resident Barbara Thomas shot this picture of the bear peering over the roof of the Alpine Hotel.

biologist Carl Lackey.

"We always ask people not to feed any wildlife," he said.

"And bears, by virtue of their size alone, can pose many dangers when they come in contact with people. There is plenty of natural food out there for them, and it keeps them away from people. When we say, 'A fed bear is a

dead bear,' that's what we mean. Feeding bears usually results in the worst possible outcome for the bear."

Williams said the cub has been scarce around town this week.

"Sometimes when people come in, they tell me they've seen it around, but we haven't seen him lately," he said.

## GIGLI'S GOLD

Your dinner choices in the small town of Markleeville, California—that's in the nature lover's paradise of the Sierra Nevada mountains—are, well, limited. There's a sandwich shop, and there's a western place with a pool table, full-volume TV, and a bunch of brassieres hanging from the ceiling (ladies, presumably, can get a break on the price of a beer). Anything beyond variations on the theme of chicken-fried steak is considered experimental indeed.

The mere existence, then, of *Villa Gigli*, situated halfway up a mountain and with sweeping views of the Nevada hills, is something of a miracle. Yes, rustic leather placemats and red-bandanna napkins decorate picnic tables set on a sprawling deck, but baskets of warm, crusty bread appear immediately. Next come homemade pastas sauced with ripe garden tomatoes and earthy porcini mushrooms.

After a glass of wine (either the inexpensive and very good house variety or something from the impressive list), it's not hard to imagine you're somewhere in the hills of Tuscany. Authentic antipasti—say, *fagiolini* (little white beans) and garlicky artichoke crowns with spicy young olive oil—add to the illusion.

Chef Ruggero Gigli, who began baking bread in his native Florence at age

11 and worked his way up to head baker at the well-known Borgo San Lorenzo, left Italy for love, following a girlfriend to New York City in the 1950s. There, figuring that anyone who could cut *capelli* pasta could trim a head of hair, he turned his talents to hairdressing. When his relationship fell flat in the early '60s, he hopped a train to Carson City, Nevada, in pursuit of a quick divorce. Adjusting to life there proved no easy feat. "I would walk the streets in the evening, as I always did in Florence," he says, "wearing a raincoat and swinging my umbrella. Then somebody told me it never rains."

But Gigli fell in love again—with the mountains, the desert, and a local artist named Gina. He bought a pair of cowboy boots and opened a swanky hair salon that became an immediate success. ("It was the accent," he says.) After listening to the secrets of Carson City's wives, however, Gigli decided he'd had enough when the husbands started coming in for cuts and unloading their troubles as well.

He and his new wife bought a dilapidated Frosty malt stand in Markleeville and began serving pasta seven days a week. But the restaurant was so busy, Gigli had no time to indulge his passion for making bread. "So what was the point?" says Gina, who designs wine labels. In 1993 the couple retreated to a smaller restaurant, one attached to their house, where these days they serve up to 40 people every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night. The Giglis' out-of-the-way trattoria has become so popular, reservations are a must. Every weekend, they turn away several hungry souls, shuddering to think of the alternatives awaiting them at the bottom of the mountain. *Villa Gigli, 145 Hot Springs Road, Markleeville, CA, (530) 694-2253.*

—Laura Fraser

GOURMET

December 1999



# First of several meetings on Leviathan Superfund status set

**Douglas County commission:** Supports making the mine a Superfund site, though it is located in Alpine County

by **Christy Chalmers**  
Staff Writer

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials plan to hold the first of several public forums on the impact of Superfund status for Leviathan Mine Thursday.

The event will be held at Turtle Rock Park outside of Markleeville.

Leo Kay, an information officer for the EPA, said residents will hear about the Superfund listing process, as well as time frames and the factors considered with the proposal.

The EPA proposed listing the Leviathan Mine area as a Superfund cleanup site in October, kicking off a 60-day public comment period. Superfund status would give officials

access to special tools and resources for cleaning the area, but it would also mark the 400-acre site as one of the most contaminated in the nation.

The mine operated intermittently from 1863 to 1962. Acid mine drainage now produced at the site has obliterated aquatic life in Leviathan and Bryant creeks, which drain into the Carson River's east fork.

Kay said the EPA is planning to address the Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce and hold other meet-

## DETAILS

**What:** Leviathan Mine Superfund proposal

**Where:** Turtle Rock Park, 17300 Highway 89, Markleeville

**When:** Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

**Info:** (415) 744-2343

but Kay said that's not an indication that Superfund status is certain.

"We do feel it's in everybody's interest to go forward with the listing, but we will wait and see what the comment period (brings)," said Kay. "I'm not sure if folks can ask for an extension (for the comment period). I'm pretty sure we will be coming out with the final decision on Dec. 22."

Douglas County leaders are publicly supporting Superfund status, as

See **Leviathan** on page 9

ings in Douglas County in January. Those events would occur after the end of the public comment period,

*Record Courier Dec 1, 1999*

## Leviathan: Meeting on status set

Continued from page 1

is the Carson Water Subconservancy District board. The Subconservancy District covers most of the Carson River watershed in Nevada. The mine site is located entirely in Alpine County, Calif. Leaders have been told Superfund status won't harm Douglas Coun-

ty, though the Carson River is a major water source for the area.

Anyone interested in commenting on the Superfund proposal can contact Carolyn Douglas at (415) 744-2343. Thursday's meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. at Turtle Rock Park, 17300 Highway 89, Markleeville.

*Record Courier  
12/1/99*

Record Courier 12/8/99

# Alpine woman looks to finally realize her dream

**Assisted living:** Ellie O'Toole has worked to build a facility for seniors and the disabled for years

by Linda Hiller  
Staff Writer

Something has driven Ellie O'Toole all these years to a goal she is finally closing in on.

O'Toole is the force behind SALF, the Sierra Assisted Living Foundation, which is, basically, a vessel to create an affordable, interactive home for senior citizens and people with disabilities.

"I've found that many people have a mindset that, once they go into a care facility, they're going there to die," she said. "And some of them actually start doing just that. For that reason, I will always continue to advocate for seniors and people with disabilities to try

## DETAILS

**What:** Christmas at the Lake  
**Where:** Harrah's Tahoe  
**When:** Dec. 11  
**Cost:** \$20  
**Info:** 783-1883

and keep them independent for as long as possible."

■ **Personnel roots.** O'Toole, 54, has lived north of Woodfords in Alpine County for 25 years. She and husband Terry moved to 10 acres there after living at South Lake Tahoe.

"Terry had always wanted to

See **O'Toole** on page 11



BELINDA GRANT/The R-C

**Ellie O'Toole:** Shown with a drawing of proposed facility.

## O'Toole: Hopes to realize her dream of living facility in 2000

Continued from page 1

have a little farm," she said. "When he first saw this place, it was a full moon, and there were deer tracks everywhere. He sat on the porch and had a beer with the Realtor, which was a mistake."

Well, maybe not a mistake, but Terry did buy the place then and there, only telling Ellie about it afterwards — spontaneous behavior that was not characteristic to her husband, who was an electrician by trade and a builder of miniatures.

At the time, Ellie was working as the administrative assistant to the city manager of South Lake Tahoe. She, too, looked forward to eventually freeing herself from the politics of her job and becoming independent on their 10-acre "farm" with, at one time, more than 100 animals, including chickens, ducks, geese, guinea hens, hogs, sheep, goats and horses.

"I put the word out that I could do side work in my field, and right away I got too much work," she said. "I had to hire my friends and family, which was the birth of my temporary employment agency, Substitute Personnel Service, which I owned from 1976 to 1997."

O'Toole also opened another employment agency in Carson City, Personnel Plus, which grew to a business with a yearly payroll of \$1 million, and eventually sold

seniors and people with disabilities who were low income."

■ **One of her favorite inspirations.** O'Toole grew up in a family of eight children in Southern California. Today, she is propelled forward by the experiences she saw her brother, Ted Nagel, 41, experience every day of his life as a person with a disability.

Nagel was born with a rare birth defect — arthro-gryposis multiplex congenita — and walked with leg braces as a child. When he was in college, he broke his ankle severely and has required a wheelchair since then.

"I actually saw my brother have to move to Seattle from the Lake to get the housing and programs he needed," she said. "Nevada is not too good in that area either."

Also because of her work with Special Olympics, O'Toole felt driven to find a way to help people with disabilities stay independent longer.

"Medicare would only pay for something like a nursing home," she said. "We're working with the Legislature to try and fix this."

■ **Providing an alternative.** Fund-raising for SALF has been slow but steady and definitely very impressive, O'Toole said. So far, more than \$2 million has been raised for the housing facility that would provide studio apartments on a sliding scale from \$541 to \$1,116 per month.

The first phase of the project to

store, is estimated to cost just over \$4 million. This phase will provide 60 apartments in five 12-studio apartment "houses," each of which will have a common area. O'Toole is in the process of procuring loans for the \$2.4 million balance.

"Of course, if we didn't have to borrow money, we could keep the price toward the lower end," she said. "But we want to get moving and plan to start in March or April."

O'Toole said bids on the project will open this month and close in January.

The monthly rate will include rent, utilities, transportation, recreation programs and three meals a day. One of the features of the SALF facility will be to involve residents in the day-to-day running of the home, O'Toole said.

"We have many high functioning people who don't want to just sit around," she said. "Why not involve them in running their home?"

O'Toole said she has had a few people on the waiting list for the facility for as long as six years.

"My brother Ted was my initial inspiration, but the people on the waiting list are also my inspiration," she said. "I know this will help so many people."

Applicants will have to qualify for the facility by falling below the median income, which is

■ **Not one to sit home.**

Through the last two years of working to make the SALF project a reality, O'Toole has fought her own personal battle with ovarian cancer.

"I am not one to sit home, and my family is always after me to slow down, but I've been lucky in that I've suffered very little from the chemotherapy," she said. "I've been real blessed. Everybody and their uncle has been praying for me — I take great strength from that."

O'Toole said she realizes that every person has their own challenges in life, and that hers is no different in that sense.

"For me, losing my hair was no big deal, and I count my blessings every day," she said. "Some people have trials all their lives. When I start to feel sorry for myself, I hang onto that."

■ **Charity event Saturday.** SALF events coordinator Joyce Buckingham has been working with O'Toole to coordinate the group's biggest fund-raiser so far.

"Christmas at the Lake" will be held Saturday, Dec. 11, at Harrah's Tahoe, featuring music groups Mumbo Gumbo and Dog with a Bone.

A silent auction, raffle and door prizes will also be featured during the evening, which begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 each and available in several locations.

For more information call

## Tough Cuts

# Rural School Districts Get a Taxing Primer In Politics of Timber

## As National Forest Logging Is Curbed, They See Share Of Revenue Fall Steeply

## The Spotted Owl Flies Again

By JUNE KRONHOLZ

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

ALPINE COUNTY, Calif.—Kirkwood Meadow Elementary School sits near the top of the Sierra Nevada range—six children and a teacher in the cheerful basement of a ski-resort condominium at 8,500 feet.

Less amiably, Kirkwood Meadow and five other schools in the Alpine County school district also sit in the middle of a battle between environmentalists and timber companies over—of all things—the future of logging in the national forests.

“I’m just trying to stay alive as a little school district,” pleads James Parsons, the superintendent. But because of the struggle, Alpine’s Bear Valley Elementary has gone from two teachers to one, and may close next year. Diamond Valley Elementary has one bus to collect 102 youngsters, down from three. The police athletic league has taken over the sports program. And school districts in 41 states and in 800 counties that, like Alpine, include national forests are in the same fix.

### Old Law, Modern Problems

At issue is a 1908 federal law that gives school districts and county road departments one-quarter of the revenue generated by national-forest lands within their boundaries. The payments initially helped settle the West by using money earned off the public lands to build early roads and schoolhouses. With that need long past, the revenue—split 50-50 between schools and roads in most states—now is seen as compensation to the counties for the taxes they lose by having the non-tax-paying federal government as a local landowner.

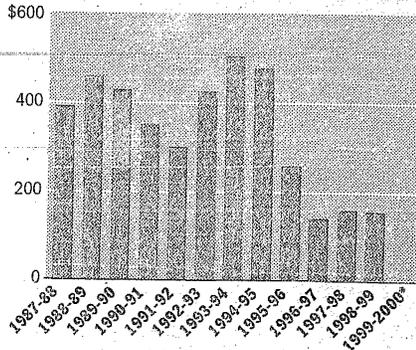
The problem is that about 90% of national-forest revenue comes from logging, and, under pressure from environmentalists and the Clinton administration, timber cutting on public lands is in a steep decline. In 1987, the historic peak, logging companies harvested 12.7 billion board feet of timber from the national forests. A board foot is 12 inches square and one inch thick, and 12.7 billion of them are enough to build about 2.5 million houses.

But timber harvests toppled after Mr. Clinton’s election, and this year, the U.S. Forest Service estimates a harvest of only 2.9 billion board feet, which is less than any year since the Forest Service began keeping records. Meanwhile, the value of those sales will plunge to an estimated \$339 million this year, from a high of \$1.3 billion a decade ago.

Alpine shared in the bounty of the big harvests. The federal government owns 95% of Alpine County’s 726 square miles, with the Eldorado, Stanislas and Hum-

## Declining Timber Revenue

Alpine County schools forest-reserve receipts, in thousands of dollars



\*Estimate

Source: Alpine County School District

boldt-Toiyabe National Forests accounting for much of that. The headwaters of five storied Western rivers spring from the slopes of Alpine County. Enormous Jeffrey and Ponderosa pines dominate the high-elevation forests. Already, the season’s first snowfall has cut two of the four mountain passes that connect the east side of the county to the west; they won’t open again until May.

In both 1989 and 1990, with logging still near record levels nationally, Alpine’s schools received more than \$458,000 in forest revenue. Forest receipts fell steeply after that, but then a beetle infestation and a huge fire that killed thousands of acres of trees boosted revenue again as the forest service moved to sell the still-valuable trees. In 1993, Alpine’s schools received a record \$504,000 from the forests out of a total budget of \$1.8 million.

But Alpine’s boom then went bust. The northern spotted owl was added to the endangered-species list in 1990, and timber harvests largely stopped in the older forests of Washington, Oregon and northern California that are the owl’s habitat. To make up for the lost logging receipts, Congress agreed to subsidize for 10 years the schools in 70 counties affected by the spotted-owl logging bans.

Alpine wasn’t among the 70, though: It has the California spotted owl. The forest service says it has identified nine nests in the county and believes that seven are occupied. The California owl isn’t on the endangered-species list, but the northern owl controversy caused the forest service to worry about it anyway. In 1992, it ordered the 11 Sierra Nevada forests that are

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Laura Fillmore, right, and children dance in a circle and sing a song in Washoe at the Washoe Language Circle program, held at the Washoe tutoring site in Dresslerville. Children are learning their heritage as well as the ancient Washoe language. Belinda Grant photo



at both children and adults

## Washoe Language Circle offers a respect for heritage

by Sharon Carter

**L**ess than 100 years after a U.S. census numbered their membership at 300, the Washoe Tribe's population, at about 1,500, is on the upswing.

"The Washoe are a very resilient people," says Laura Fillmore of the nation she has adopted. "When you look at the inhospitable conditions they survived under, both before and after the white people came, it really brings it home to you."

Fillmore, whose husband and four children are members of the Washoe Tribe, is a community organizer. Originally from Kansas City, she has been a moving force in establishing the Washoe Language Circle at the Dresslerville Colony near Gardnerville.

The language circle, begun in February 1994, is a formal undertaking aimed at resurrecting and revitalizing the Washoe language and culture. To date, Fillmore says, the cir-

cle has garnered about \$500,000 in language renewal grants from private and governmental sources.

At the circle, aging native Washoe speakers reacquaint themselves with the language of their youth. They learn its phonetic alphabet and a written form as developed by linguist William Jacobsen and they pass their knowledge on to younger members of the tribe.

Dinah Pete of Woodfords is one of the 12-member language circle board. She and other board member/teachers, Eleanore Smokey and Herman Holbrook of Dresslerville and Daniel McDonald of Woodfords, said that as children they understood the language of their elders, but grew up speaking English.

"When we started back with the language, we understood what people were saying, so it wasn't that hard to start speaking," Pete says. "We had it in the back closets (of our minds)."

Fillmore says the circle began with

a core immersion group of 10 students. Students, in the sixth grade and lower, are accepted into the program.

"The goal is total immersion," Fillmore says. "All subjects are taught in the medium of the Washoe language.

"And depending on which (elementary school) tracks are on and off, we've had as many as 18 students at a time learning the language."

Fillmore likens the language circle's growth and progress with that of the Dresslerville Colony and the Washoe Tribe.

The Dresslerville Colony began in 1917, when Carson Valley rancher W.F.

Dressler donated a 50-acre portion of his sheep camp to the Washoe Tribe for a reservation. This year, Dressler's grandson, Frederick, donated 40 additional acres to the tribe's Dresslerville Colony.

The original acreage, in the flats above the Carson River, had no utility service and few comforts. Over the years, the colony has grown and evolved along with other Carson Valley communities.

But the community's survival and evolution, as determined by federal law and the dominant Anglicized culture, has come at substantial cost to the Washoe people.

"There are ways of thinking that come with the structure of a language that many Washoes have lost or are



Herman Fillmore, 8, makes a photo frame out of sticks and yarn at the language circle program. Belinda Grant photo

in danger of losing," Fillmore says. "Many of the stories and legends have been altered to fit other people's perceptions as to how they should be."

Fillmore and the members of the language circle feel it is important that their children and grandchildren know of their Washoe heritage.

"We've discovered that a byproduct (of that knowledge) is increased self-esteem — the kids are becoming ambassadors of the culture," Fillmore says. "Everyone is profiting intellectually — I've seen it strengthening the elders (and their honorary positions as tribal advisors) and empowering them to make decisions.

"It strengthens the community from within."

(competition) with 18-year-old men," Standing Bear said. "It's important that these young people follow this road of honesty, dignity, pride and humility we're on now."

Standing Bear said his grandfather believed only Indian people should sit around the drum, creating a red hoop. Standing Bear learned to make drums and sing.

"My grandfather taught me, long before we find out who we are, we find out who we're not," Standing Bear said. "And long before we find out what we need to do, we find out what not to do. It's a good rule for dancing and in life."

In Minnesota, Rebecca, 15, Miss La Ka Lel' Be Princess 1997-98, was given permission to dance the Jingle Dress dance, a traditional Plains Indian dance. Standing Bear said it was a very spiritual honor. She was also given the name, Wasay-be-nay-seek, which means "flashing thunder woman."

Thomas and Dorothy, the youngest in the family, are still learning the songs and dance steps.

Lorraine said the family is making sure the traditional ways are preserved for them and pow wows aren't just for the entertainment of tourists.

"Dancing and singing provide Indian people opportunities to reclaim their culture and break down stereotypes," she said.

"When you learn a lot about other cultures, you aren't skeptical or make assumptions."

# Woodfords Science Bowl Team takes third place

by Maggie O'Neill  
Staff Writer

Five members of the Woodfords Indian Education Center won third place and a sportsmanship award at the Native American Science Bowl in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The Jeopardy-style elimination included questions on computer science, math, physics, biology, chemistry and science, including astronomy, which Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School ninth-grader student Hector Caldera considers his specialty.

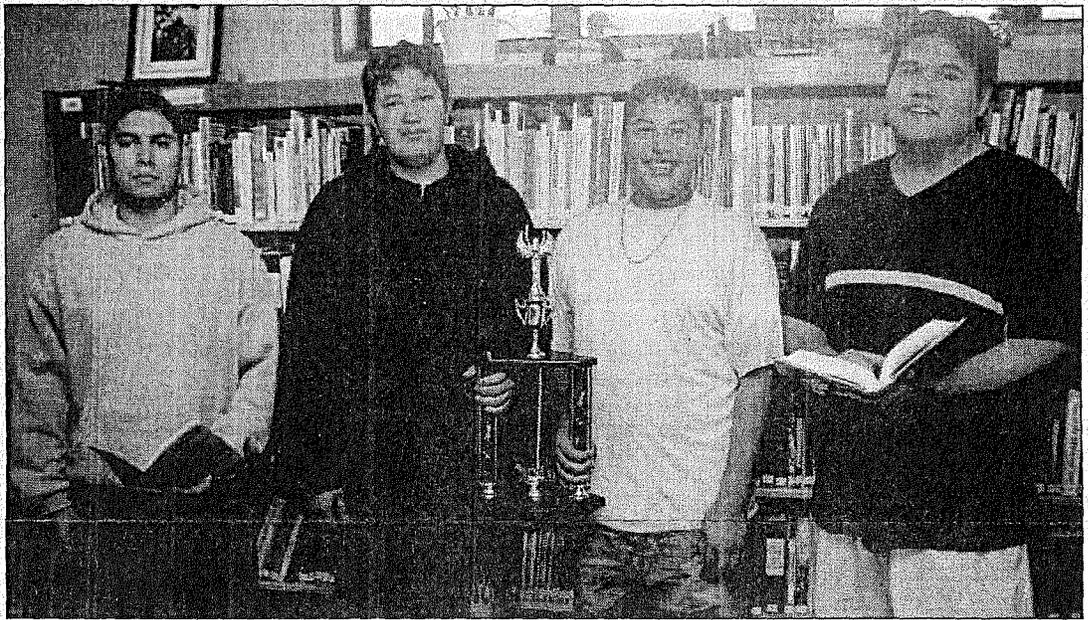
"The questions were pretty hard," he said. "It was like Jeopardy. You had buzzers to see who hit it first."

Points were not deducted for answering questions wrong.

"Anyone could buzz in. They asked questions about the stars. I missed maybe one or two of the astronomy questions."

Caldera, along with Douglas High School junior John Vann, DHS sophomore Anthony Caldera and two PWLMS ninth-grade classmates, Jermaine Jim and Samuel Simmons, participated in the February Science Bowl.

"These students excelled during the competition and won four



SHANNON LITZ/The R-C

**Science Bowl:** From left to right: Coach Jason Bryan, Pau-Wa-Lu ninth-graders Hector Caldera and Jermaine Jim, participants in the Native American Science Bowl and Coach David Roberts Jr. Not pictured are DHS junior John Vann, DHS sophomore Anthony Caldera and Pau-Wa-Lu ninth-grader Samuel Simmons. The Science Bowl quiz occurred in February in Colorado Springs, Colo. The team won medals for its third place, and a sportsmanship trophy.

of the five events in the round robin portion of the competition," said Lawanda Fred of the Woodfords Indian Education Center.

The team won a trophy for sportsmanship, the only team of

the 30 participating to win recognition from judges, teachers and other teams.

The team won medals for its performance. Hector said participants were picked based on the amount of time they spent prac-

ticing. It was his first time at the Science Bowl.

"Congratulations to all of these students," Fred said. "They have demonstrated their academic skills and are wonderful role models."

## CELEBRATIONS TODAY



BELINDA GRANT/The R-C

**Building a Washoe gadu:** Tony Smokey, left, Stacey James and Martin Smokey, 10, weave willow branches Friday for a traditional Washoe dwelling as Dan Kaffer, right, watches.

## Earth Day: Focus is on trees, water

by **Joyce Hollister**  
Staff Writer

Run for your mother today — Mother Earth, that is.

Everyone is invited to the Washoe Tribe environmental protection department's first Earth

■ Washoe Tribe holds first observation today; public invited to run, barbecue

Day celebration at the Washoe Housing Authority offices in Dresslerville.

Registration is at 9:45 a.m. for the adult 5K run, which will begin at 10 a.m., and registration for the kids' 3K run/walk will take place at 10:15 a.m. for the 10:30 a.m. event.

Marie Barry, coordinator for See **Earth Day** on page 7