

San Francisco Chronicle

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER

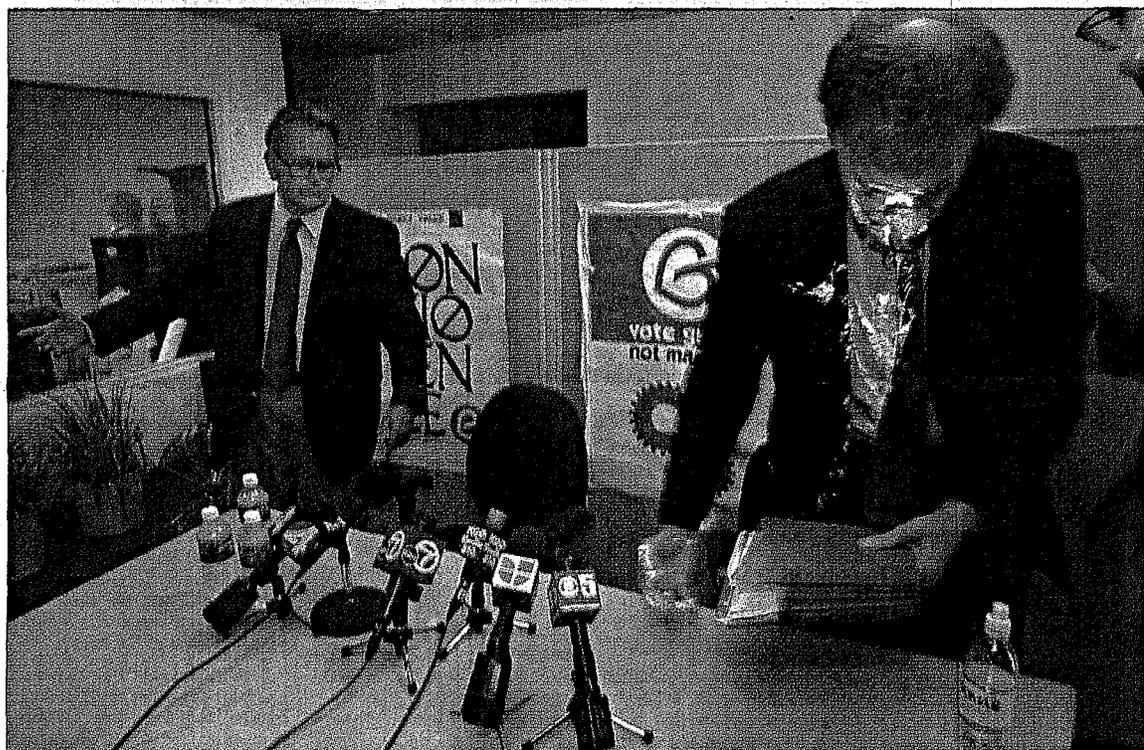
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2003

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THE CALIFORNIA RECALL

Ex-governor plays surr

Nader gets a taste of recall madness



MARK COSTANTINI / The Chronicle

Ralph Nader gathers his papers after being struck with a pie at a news conference in San Francisco. Nader, the Green Party's 2000 presidential candidate, was announcing his endorsement of fellow Green Party member Peter Camejo (left) for governor in the Oct. 7 recall election when a prankster burst into the room and slammed a

cream pie into his face. The culprit fled through a side door, leaving Nader smeared with pie as TV cameras rolled. Nader called the recall "a great opportunity for people to rethink their role in a democratically governed system." He said Camejo understands the state's fiscal crisis better than other candidates.

ALPINE VOTER: Folks in laid-back Markleeville are skipping over the recall hoopla downhill and far away

By Steve Rubenstein
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

MARKLEEVILLE, Alpine County — In all of Alpine County, a tucked-away corner of California possessed of uncommonly good sense, not a single one of the 1,192 citizens has signed up to do the governor thing.

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The fishermen replied that they had only 13 fish among them. "Arnold would solve this thing right away," said Thomas Lane, one of the accused, as he stood on the front steps of the old stone courthouse. "He'd count the fish. He'd count the fishermen. And that would be that. Case

► ALPINE: Page A14



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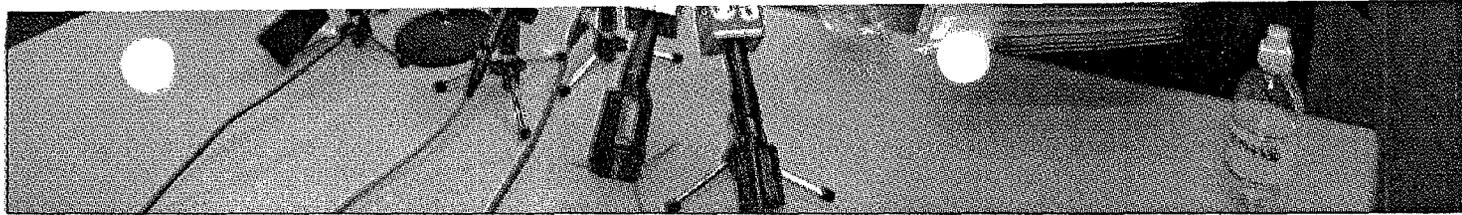
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White worked with Schwarzenegger last year on Prop. 49, a successful measure to provide more after-school programs for California's young people.

After five years of listening to Davis and other Democrats disparage Wilson's two terms as governor, payback is one reason for his involvement.

"There is a personal element," Wilson said in an interview Tuesday. "I'm outraged by (Davis') deficit in vision and leadership."

California was a different and much better state when he left as governor, Wilson said.

"I wanted the job (as governor) in order to make changes, and we did," he said. "We left (Davis) in great shape, with a multibillion-dollar surplus. In four years' time, he's managed to create the worst business climate in the nation. He's spent us into an unbelievable hole."

That's red meat rhetoric for the millions of California residents unhappy with the direction the state has taken under Davis. And Schwarzenegger's political team, many of them Wilson alumni, see the ex-governor as the perfect person to paint the actor as a

► **WILSON:** Page A15

► **Buffing up images:** Media consultants gearing up for a hectic 55 days until election. **A14**

COURT CHALLENGE: Rights groups seek to delay recall election over punch-card ballots

By Bob Egelko
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Civil rights groups stepped up their legal efforts Tuesday to block California's Oct. 7 recall election, asking a federal judge to rule next Monday that the vote must be postponed until March,

when the last punch-card ballots in the state will be eliminated.

Invoking the specter of Florida-style hanging chads on a voluminous ballot, lawyers for minority and voting rights organizations said allowing the vote to take place as scheduled would "disenfranchise not less than tens of

thousands of California voters in six counties" that still use punch cards.

The counties, including Los Angeles and Santa Clara, are home to 44 percent of the Californians who voted in the last presidential election and an even higher percentage of minorities, said

lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union. In their filing with a federal judge in Los Angeles, they said punch cards have twice the error rate of other voting systems.

The state Supreme Court rejected a similar argument by law-

yers for Gov. Gray Davis last week, in one of five suits seeking to sidetrack or alter the recall election. Lawyers for Secretary of State Kevin Shelley's office in the Davis case denied that the punch-card machines are unreliable or would have a discriminatory ef-

► **RECALL:** Page A15

Index

BUSINESS

Suicide blasts fracture Mideast truce

2003
SF CHRONICLE



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This story is taken from [Recall](#) at [sacbee.com](#).

Keeping quiet in Alpine County

Elections tend to produce little rancor and few candidates.

By Blair Anthony Robertson -- Bee Staff Writer - (*Published August 26, 2003*)

Forgive the voters of sparse but scenic Alpine County if the recall election doesn't quite register with them.

When it comes to political elections, the sparsely populated but scenic county is not a microcosm of California -- it's a whole other world.

Running for office is often a lonely, uncontested civic duty in Alpine County, a far cry from a recall election field that is so big and diverse that it has become a laughingstock nationwide.

Still, Barbara Jones, the county clerk, says she is busy getting ready for Oct. 7. Recently, she ordered 1,000 ballots, which should be plenty.

"Right now, I have 820 registered voters, so I have a cushion," said Jones, who has served three terms and has never had anyone run against her.

Residents seem to think it is almost impolite to take on an incumbent, let alone recall one. Contested elections are rare -- and when there is one, people talk.

"We're so small, and we know everyone; so no one wants to run against you," said Jones. "It makes campaigning easy."

Alpine County, located in the middle of the Sierra 120 miles east of Sacramento, promises to remain small. About 95 percent of the county's 738 square miles in the Sierra is public land, meaning there is little room for housing development.

There are a handful of elective positions, including five supervisors and two judges. Voter turnout is usually around 70 percent. In the November 1996 election, 80.8 percent of the electorate swarmed the polling stations.

Because there is so little rancor, elected officials look to the votes they didn't get as a measure of how well they are doing. Assessor Dave Peets, he of the unpopular property tax notices, usually fares worst in that regard. In 1998, he even had an opponent. He squeaked by with a two-vote margin.

Two weeks before the election that year, Peets made a decidedly unpopular move -- he sent out the overdue notices for assessments.

"It had to be done," he explained. "You just have to do your job, not try to win an election." In Alpine County, that's usually enough for a long career in public office.

About the Writer

The Bee's Blair Anthony Robertson can be reached at (916) 321-1099 or brobertson@sacbee.com.

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► ALPINE, page A4

Alpine: County has just a few elective offices

► CONTINUED FROM A3
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At a glance

NEW CALIF.

EL DORADO CO.

Sacramento

Alpine County
• Population: 1,208
• Number of residents (18 and older): 932
• County seat: Markleeville
• Incorporated as a county: March 16, 1864

Sacramento Bee/Olivia Nguyen

Bear Valley, the crop is snow for skiing.

Its residents vary, too. There's a mixture of young professionals — who work in urban areas to the west or in the Carson Valley — and retired old-timers who help set the area's slow pace. Most of the population is white, although 15 percent of the rest is Washoe Indians. Statistics say 95 percent of the county's full-time population works, but local officials say the figure is much lower. More than 90 percent live in the county's five villages of Fredricksburg, Woodfords, Markleeville, Kirkwood and Bear Valley — any one of which can be missed in the time it takes to check the speedometer and decide if you're driving too fast.

One thing the residents share is a willingness to do without some basic comforts many take for granted — like large shopping centers and convenience stores down the road. It's a 20-minute drive to Gardnerville and 30 minutes to Tahoe. The climate, which brings more than 36 inches of precipitation — much of it snow — to many parts of the county, is "only for the hardiest of souls," according to one resident.

At the same time, there are some amenities you can't buy anywhere. Most like the idea that there aren't any streetlights, sidewalks or noisy buses. They like the languid pace, and they don't care if one of the items in the local paper is news on when the next full moon will be. The county, state and federal governments have a lock on 680 square miles of terrain, so there is plenty of open spaces and untracked woods to enjoy. They say the fishing's not bad.

EN WITH ITS ATTRACTIONS, Alpine County has not grown much at all in the last five years — despite the pent-up demand for quality "in-the-trees" housing created by Carson Valley growth and Lake Tahoe building moratoriums. The county has some money in the bank, but some officials are worried that if growth doesn't pick up a little they'll have to cut back services and lay off workers as they did in the early 1980s. The growth rate in recent years has hovered around 6 percent, and the county's management consultant thinks that rate needs to be 10 percent before the area reaches a fiscal equilibrium needed to maintain basic services.

Developers have been sniffing around the county's eastern slope lately, but they're coming away with mixed feelings about the area's growth potential. There are no water utilities, and there is no sophisticated sewer system. Only 8 percent of the county's land is in private hands, and much of that is ranching tracts that can't be easily or economically subdivided. There's only one real estate agent on the east slope.

Ray Smith, a Gardnerville planning consultant who helped design and develop Incline Village years ago, spent months studying the area and came away feeling Alpine County "is like the rest of the world was 30 years ago." He found a "rock-ribbed conservative community" with something of an anti-growth attitude.

some kind of growth to meet their costs."

"I'd still have to say there is considerable interest (in development)," Smith said. "People want the trees. Alpine County's got lots of trees."

IT'S ALSO GOT a "confining" growth management plan that county officials say will help them accommodate growth without damaging the area's rural character. The majority of the county's developable land — that small chunk still in private hands — is zoned for 5-acre minimum lot sizes. Ranchland has 20-acre zoning, and can't be chopped up further unless the developer spends a lot of money on water, sewers and roads through the land. There's also a "tree-line" rule that says new homes can't be visible from the road.

"We feel like we can afford to be fussy," said Turnbeaugh. "We're receptive to good ideas (for development), but we've watched what's happened in other areas and we don't want the county's beauty damaged by wild growth."

One of the lessons, Turnbeaugh says, has been South Lake Tahoe, which exploded with growth in the post-war years and now finds itself with what one city official has called a "ticky-tacky" image.

"When I became the county planner five years ago we said, 'We're not going to become another South Lake Tahoe.'" Turnbeaugh said. "It won't happen here."

There are other natural limits that will keep Alpine County small. Many homebuyers will stay away because they'll be faced with the choice of paying California's state income tax or remaining in Nevada and paying none. Some won't like the threat of snow, even though accumulations aren't great on the east slope below Woodfords Canyon. Some will be scared away by the unexpectedly high price of land in Alpine; due to the scarcity of private, developable land, the per-acre cost can top \$25,000. Not bad for a back-water county.

"ALL THESE THINGS will stop those who can't afford to live here, and those who can afford it will come here for the clean air and environment and be willing to pay more to keep it that way," said Tim Pemberton, a young "country lawyer" who moved to Woodfords in 1982 and has built a spacious log house — from trees he cut — on five acres on the edge of a ranch. "I see quality development when there is development. I can see Alpine County becoming the Bel-Aire of the Carson Valley."

Pemberton, a staunch environmentalist who has been joined by many of his neighbors in fighting a South Tahoe Public Utility District proposal to pump partially treated sewage into a county reservoir, said he wouldn't mind more growth in the county because it would upset the area's long-time power base headed by the county's ranchers. Some of the ranchers, who would receive the South Tahoe effluent for a much-needed irrigation supply,

was, you scratch one and they all dieed," Smith said.

Gansberg, for instance, works with his father and uncle on the family's sprawling ranch near Fredricksburg. The ranch has been in family hands for decades, and Gansberg has been on planning commissions and supervisor boards for nearly 20 years. Other ranch family members sit on the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board — the agency that regulates the Tahoe utility district — and sit on the Board of Supervisors.

ALPINE COUNTY residents have taken their voting rights very seriously since a plot to take over the county government was uncovered seven years ago. Four people were convicted of felony fraud and perjury when authorities learned they intended to develop a "Constitution City" on 600 acres of land they'd purchased. The four were members of the Sierra Alpine Association, an ultra-conservative libertarian group, and were trying to create a "mini-nation" with its own institutions and exchange system. Their voters would have tipped any balance in county voting rolls, officials feared.

Although the county is divided on the sewer issue — a majority approved an initiative that would require more treatment for the exported effluent, while others contended the sewage plant would benefit the area and provide irrigation supplies that would preserve ranches and fend off development — it has been united in its opposition to a proposed powerline that would run through the area and link Sierra Pacific Power Co. to the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. One of the routes being proposed for the intertie would run through Hope Valley — one of the area's more picturesque meadows — and county residents have been adamant.

"We just don't see any way it could benefit Alpine County," Barbara Moore, the area's real estate agent, said. "Why should we let it in when it's not going to help us?"

While the county's intertie protest helped give it its environmentalist reputation, Moore said many homebuyers are attracted to the county's attitude toward growth. She said that among those interested in moving to Alpine are young families from Tahoe who are tired of the lake area's transient nature. Although the county has no high school and only one elementary school, many families feel Alpine would be a good place to raise their children.

In many ways, Alpine County is returning to what it originally was — a retreat. It was a favored camping spot of the nomadic Washoe tribe because it was out of the snow of Tahoe in the winter and free of the heat of the valley in the summer, and the trails along Indian Creek are littered with arrowhead carvings. The Indians enjoyed the fishing, the fresh water that trickled down from the Sierra, the pinenuts, and the views of the Great Basin.

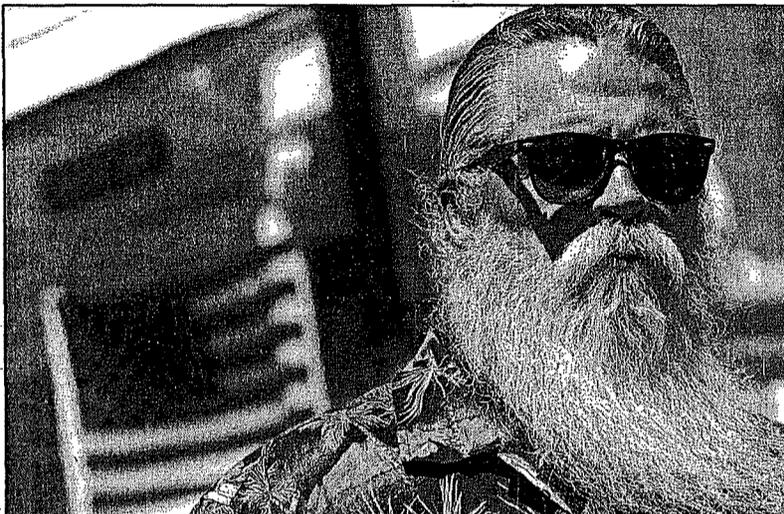
"I'd like to tell you all about why this is such a great place," said one Markleeville resident. "But I'm not so sure I want a lot of people to find out about it."

THE CALIFORNIA RECALL

blame recall ite House

“What a waste of tax money. Californians are surely circling the toilet bowl...”

Ed Moss, 65-year-old proprietor of Markleeville's Bed, Bike and Bagel



Photos by PENNI GLADSTONE / The Chronicle

Tom Lane (left), accused of overfishing in Markleeville, is backing Arnold Schwarzenegger. Fourné Gustwick (right), a clerk at the general store, says, “Californians have lost control of their government. It won't give me any heartbreak to see the governor disappear.”

eneger's self-described “moderate” views on social issues such as gay rights and abortion. In addition, the recall raises several topics that Bush is not eager to discuss when he travels in Southern California on Thursday and Friday. Democrats have used the recall issue as a way to remind voters about the contested 2000 presidential election, comparing what happened in Florida — where Republicans went to court to stop a recount — to efforts to recall a California governor just elected in November. Bush may also be uncomfortable attacking Davis for California's electricity crisis, which federal regulators have concluded was partly the responsibility of Texas oil men with close ties to the White House. And finally, Bush can hardly share a podium with angry Republicans who are attacking Davis for turning huge budget surpluses into record budget deficits.

Bush lost California

Bush has never had as strong a following in California as he does in the rest of the nation. After spending in excess of \$11 million during the 2000 campaign, and making repeated visits to the state, Bush still lost in California to Democratic Vice President Al Gore by about 1.3 million votes. In last year's governor's race, Bush backed former Los Angeles Mayor Dick Riordan, who lost the GOP primary to Simon, and the president's lukewarm embrace of Simon was not enough to help beat Davis. “Everything the White House does in California turns to s—,” said a Californian Republican who spoke on the condition he not be identified. “They should know enough to stay out.” Bush has steadfastly insisted that he is nothing more than an interested bystander, treating the recall like an out-of-town sports event. “I find what's going on in the state of California very interesting, and I'm confident the citizens of California will sort all this out for the good of the citizenry,” Bush said Friday.

Fingerprints of GOP

Yet Democrats insist that the recall election is being orchestrated by Washington operatives. “Their fingerprints are everywhere,” California Democratic Party chair Art Torres said about the White House. Torres said the decision by Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Vista (San Diego County) to drop out of the replacement election — despite spending more than \$1.5 million to put the recall on the ballot — was in response to White House pressure that too many candidates would splinter the GOP vote. “Issa was presented a dead horse in his bed,” Torres said, in a reference to a gruesome scene in the “Godfather” movie in which the Mafia, trying to persuade a movie producer to do it a favor, makes him “an offer he can't refuse.” Torres predicted that Bush will involve himself publicly between now and Oct. 7. “They want (California's) 55 electoral votes, and they are going to do everything they can to get it,” Torres said.

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Mulling the recall in civic-minded Markleeville

Men accused of overfishing trout say ‘Arnold would solve this thing’

By Steve Rubenstein
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

MARKLEEVILLE — In all of Alpine County, a tucked-away corner of California possessed of uncommonly good sense, not a single one of the 1,192 citizens has signed up to do the governor's thing.

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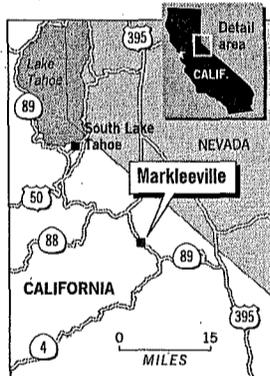
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Source: ESRI, GDT Chronicle Graphic

doing, all right.” At the Markleeville General Store, where genuine Buck knives sell for \$27, \$44 and \$70, Boomerang the dog was lying behind the counter, next to an electric fan, and watching the most committed voters in California stop by for their bait, fishing licenses and cans of Vienna Sausage.

Clerk Fourné Gustwick gave Boomerang a pat and said that tens of millions of dollars for an election isn't really a lot of dough.

“They can have my (two) dollars right now,” she said. “It's worth it to let these people know what I think. Californians have lost control of their government. It won't give me any heartbreak to see the governor disappear.”

Long before Oct. 7, Alpine County voters will have made up their minds and have done their civic duty. There are only five voting precincts and no polling places — all voting is done by mail. Procrastinators can drop their ballots on Election Day at the courthouse or into a cardboard box at a cafe down the road, Jones said, but most Alpine County residents know their own minds better than that.

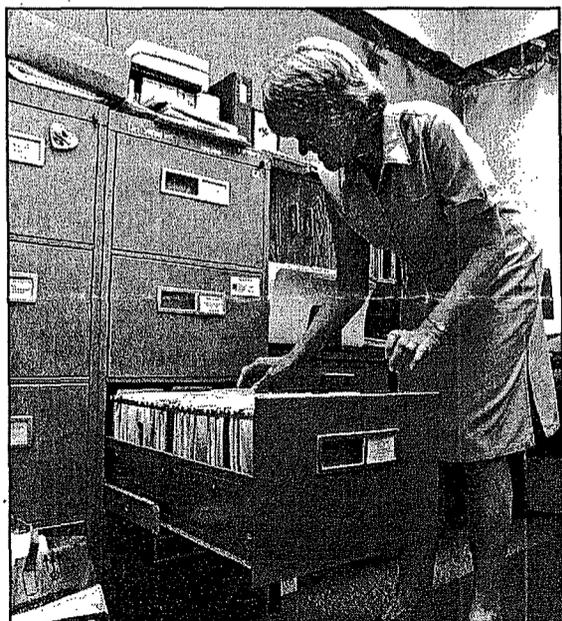
Her biggest headache will be squeezing up to 200 candidates' names onto the skinny punch card ballots and explaining to voters that all the ballots, even the ones with no punches on them, must be turned in as a set for the vote to count.

It could be the biggest political event to hit town, said newspaper editor Al Pettit, since the visit to Alpine County of a genuine United States senator.

That event last happened six years ago. It was Barbara Boxer, and she stopped for 20 minutes at the courthouse and told everyone how clean the mountain air smelled to her.

“We wanted to talk to her about getting more money for schools,” Pettit recalled. “But it was OK. At least she stopped.”

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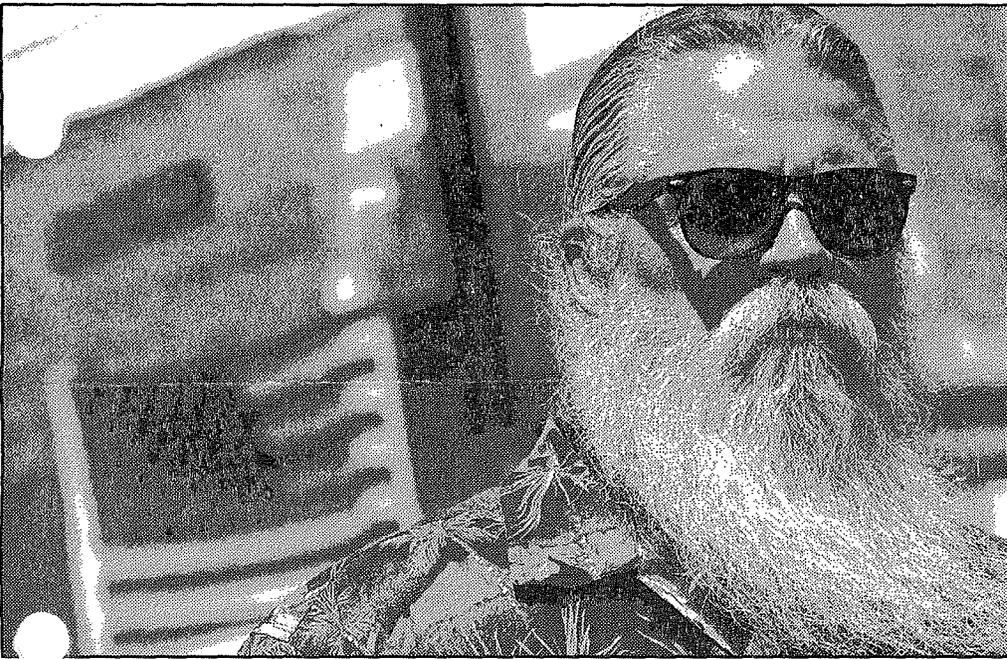


County Clerk Barbara Jones says voters who don't mail in ballots (there are only five precincts and no polling places) can drop them at the courthouse or in a cardboard box at a cafe.

osals in Congress would let foreign-born become president

“What a waste of tax money. Californians are surely circling the toilet bowl . . .”

ED MOSS, 65-YEAR-OLD PROPRIETOR OF MARKLEEVILLE'S BED BIKE AND BAGEL



Photos by PENNI GLADSTONE / The Chronicle

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Mulling over the recall in Markleeville

► ALPINE
From Page 1

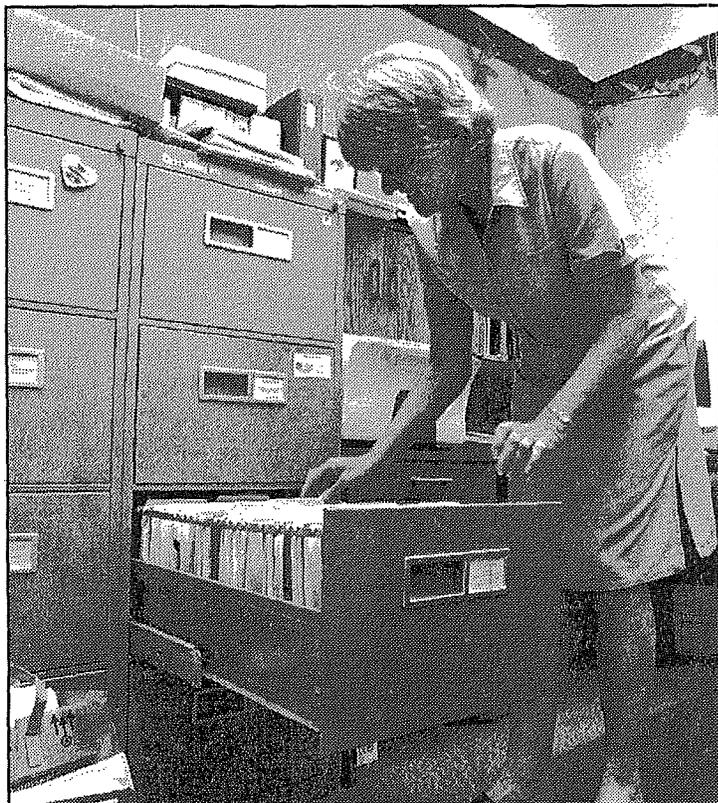
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E-mail Steve Rubenstein at srubenstein@sfchronicle.com.

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BELINDA GRANT/R-C

Re-opened: Owners Marsha Bennett and Ed Moss sit with Chelsea the dog and Alexandra Leumer, who is here for the summer from San Francisco.

Auntie M coffee moves to Markleeville

by Linda Hiller
Staff Writer

Auntie M, you're not in Gardnerville anymore.

For people who have wondered "Whatever happened to Marsha Bennett at Auntie M's Coffee House in Gardnerville?" the truth is, she hasn't gone far. She's only 25 minutes down the "yellow brick road" to Markleeville.

"I'd been wanting to come to Markleeville to escape the growing Carson Valley for some time," she said. "We already lived in Markleeville, and had been commuting to Gardnerville, so we put the business up for sale and it sold within a month."

That was last year, and Bennett moved permanently to Markleeville and eventually opened up another coffee house, M's Coffee House, in that small mountain community.

"We just love it here," she said. "It is so peaceful and relaxing. The serenity of this setting is wonderful — we're right on Markleeville Creek, which gives us tremendous views."

The "M" in M's Coffee House stands for Marsha Bennett and her partner Ed Moss, a former elementary school teacher. At M's, they are carrying the same great coffee as Auntie M's had for seven years — Graffeo coffee from San Francisco.

"We still have the same great coffee as before, and we also have smoothies, sandwiches and wraps and home made sweets," she said. "Plus, this is such a neat place,

with hiking and Grover's Hot Springs, fishing and rafting nearby."

The sandwiches — tuna, chicken and veggie — sell for \$4.95, and wraps include Caesar chicken, teriyaki chicken and veggie, selling for \$5.75.

Sweets for sale at the shop include scones, brownies, cakes and other fresh yummys, Bennett said.

■ **Want to get away?** Right next door to the coffee house is Bed, Bike and Bagel, the couple's creekside vacation rental and cabin getaway. It is a two-bedroom cabin with a sauna, housing four guests comfortably and up to six if necessary.

The cabin comes with four mountain bikes and guests are treated to bagels and coffee in the mornings. Rental is \$125 on Sunday through Thursday, and \$135 Friday and Saturday.

The deck (in construction right now, but should be finished in a few weeks, Bennett said) will offer a place to dine and relax, although customers can currently sit on the grass outside to enjoy the sights and smells of beautiful Markleeville.

During the Death Ride bicycle race, Bennett said the town fills with 6,000 or so participants and there are tents and people everywhere.

The BBB cabin is already booked for that time, this year on July 9 and 10.

■ **Misses Valley customers.** Bennett said she misses the camaraderie of doing business in the

Carson Valley, but reports that many of her steady customers have found the new coffee house little by little.

"I was sad to move and I miss our customers," she said. "I hope they'll continue to come find us here in Markleeville."

M's Coffee House and Bed, Bike and Bagel are located at 38 Montgomery St. in Markleeville, exactly 18 miles from Douglas High School, Bennett said.

To get there, go south on Highway 88, turn left at Woodfords on to Highway 89 and continue to Markleeville.

The coffee house is open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, and extended weekend hours should be in effect after the Death Ride.

For more information, call 694-9337.

Woodfords hosts faire, chili challenge

Record Courier 9-17-03

Beautiful downtown Woodfords, at the flashing yellow light at the junction of highways 88 and 89, is hosting the eighth annual Woodfords' Faire & Country Chili Challenge Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 20 and 21.

The faire features arts and crafts, antiques, cotton candy, Indian tacos, Avon products, gourmet foods, pitch 'n' win horseshoes, a horseshoe tournament, and much more. For the children there will be a bouncer and games costing 25 cents each. The Alpine County Sheriff's Department will have 'Kids IDs', and Smokey Bear will be making a couple of appearances.

Saturday there will be the chili cooking contest and Sunday a salsa making contest. Set up starts at 8 a.m. and cooking at 10 a.m. Faire participants will be able to sample the chili and salsa at 1 p.m. and vote for their favorite. Cost for tasting kits is \$2 each. Winners will be announced at 3:30 p.m. Prize money for first place is \$100.

Entertainment starts at 10:30 a.m. with the cowboy music of Skip Veatch and again at 4:30

p.m. Chris Bayer takes the stage at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. with music for children as well as adults. He may even teach you how to play the spoons and washboard. The Alpine Trio will play at noon and 3 p.m. both days.

There will be a raffle. The grand prize this year is a full season pass to Kirkwood. Other prizes include a hand beaded 'Ugly Stick' fishing pole, Waterford crystal candy dish, T-shirts and much more.

All proceeds benefit the Alpine Kids Program. The proceeds this year will be used for the June 2004 trip for families to Marine World.

The event is sponsored by Alpine Kids, Alpine County Chamber of Commerce and the Alpine County Arts Commission.

Sept 22, 2003 Tahoe Daily

Bus goes to Alpine County

By Gregory Crofton

Tribune staff writer

Cash produced by a 50-cent tax on cigarettes in California has allowed bus service to connect Alpine and Douglas counties.

The tax that provides the money was approved to fund programs that affect the first five years of a child's life. The group formed to handle the money, First 5 Alpine, has distributed more than \$300,000 since 1998. About \$25,000 of that money is funding the bus service.

"First 5 Alpine realized that limited public transportation kept many residents from accessing many of our programs that benefit children ages zero to 5 and their fami-

lies," said Cindy Hanna, chairwoman of First 5 Alpine. "Now we have families that are able to travel together on the bus, dropping off their children at child care before going to work or taking them to doctor appointments."

Called Alpine Mountain Transit, it runs four round trips a day, Monday through Friday. Trips begin at Smith's Market in Gardnerville, stopping at Wal-Mart in Carson City and making five stops in Alpine County. The bus service connects with the PRIDE Bus System, which runs to Carson City and Reno.

A round-trip ticket is \$2 for adults, \$1 for seniors and students and children ride at no charge. Call (530) 694-2287.

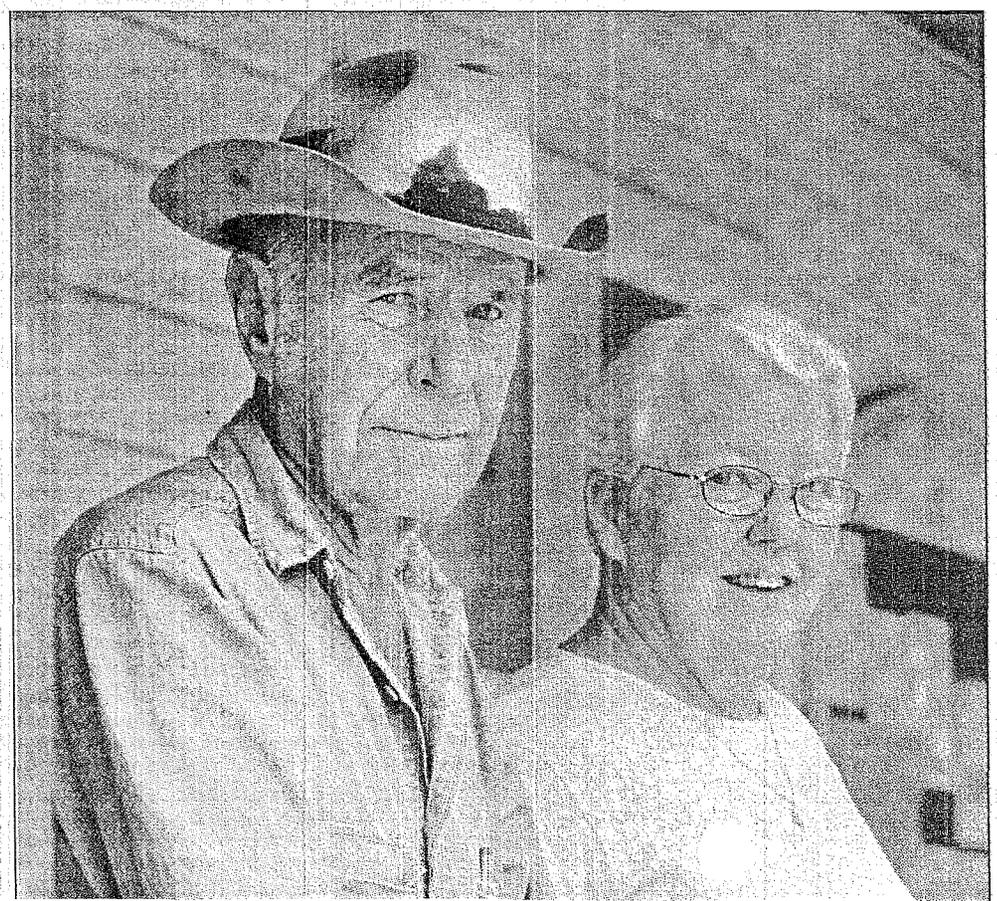
Los Angeles Times

CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES EDITION

Monday, September 22, 2003

latimes.com/california





ROBERT DURELL *Los Angeles Times*

INTERESTED IN ELECTION: *Fritz and Nancy Thornburg in the center of Markleeville, the largest community in Alpine County, which has 820 registered voters.*

RECALL POSTCARD

Remote Residents Find They Are Off the Radar Screen

By ERIC BAILEY
Times Staff Writer

MARKLEEVILLE, Calif. — Nancy Thornburg has happily resided just outside this town of 165 since marrying into one of Alpine County's pioneer ranch families 45 years ago. Over scores of snowy winters and bucolic summers she's heard plenty of community chatter — news of births, deaths and all the amusing gossip in between.

But these days, Thornburg says, there is surprisingly little talk of the wild and woolly recall election unfolding on the other side of the Sierra Nevada.

Although the rest of the state and much of the nation seem obsessed with Gray and Arnold and Cruz and Tom, tiny Alpine County remains for the most part a political Shangri-La, blissfully free of the electoral storm.

Location, location, location has a lot to do with it.

Voters Must Register by Today to Cast Ballots Oct. 7

By ALLISON T. HOFFMAN
Times Staff Writer

Today is the final day to register to vote in the Oct. 7 recall election, even as an 11-judge panel meets in San Francisco to reconsider whether the election will be held on that date.

State and county elections officials are urging voters to register — and to request and return absentee ballots — even though

the election date is in limbo following a ruling from a three-judge panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals last week that the election be delayed.

In a conference call with county registrars Friday, Secretary of State Kevin Shelley said registration, early voting and absentee ballot receipts have dropped off, presumably in response to voter confusion.

[See Vote, Page B7]

The county — California's smallest, with 1,210 residents — perches on the Sierra's remote eastern backside. Nevada looms at its doorstep, just along California 88. Locals mostly shop in Nevada. Many work there. They also

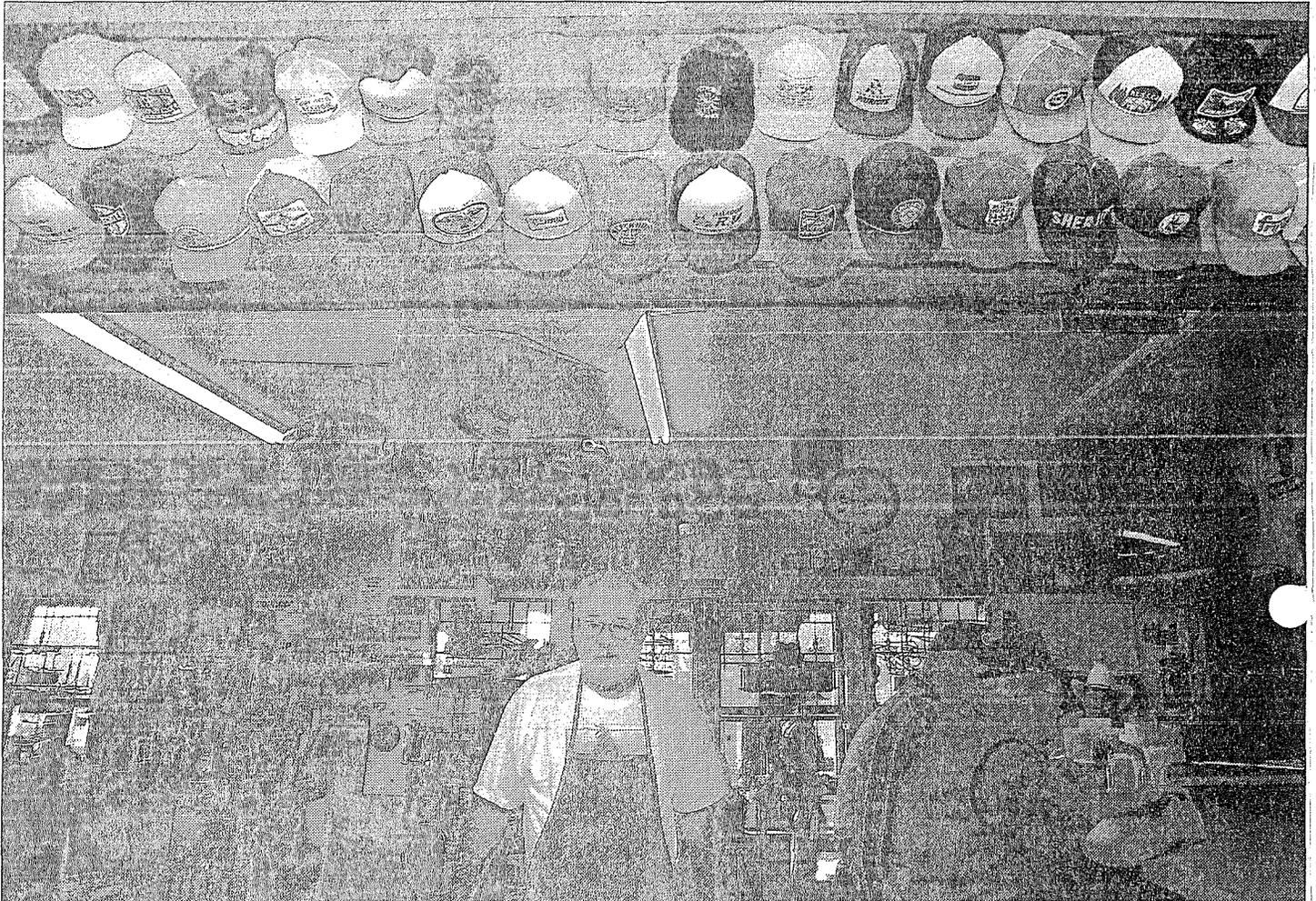
get their news — in print and on TV — from the Silver State.

"We are very much Nevada-oriented," observed Thornburg, 65. "I'd like to watch the candidates debate,

[See Alpine, Page B7]

'We are very much Nevada-oriented. I'd like to watch the candidates debate, but I don't think our Nevada TV stations bother carrying it.'

Nancy Thornburg, resident of Alpine County



Photographs by ROBERT DURELL Los Angeles Times

ELECTION THOUGHTS: In Woodfords, store owner Dave Kirby ponders the recall under a display of baseball caps.

Remote Alpine County Is Off the Recall Radar Screen

[Alpine, from Page B1] but I don't think our Nevada TV stations bother carrying it."

Size also matters. In the upcoming election, Alpine County will count — it just won't count for much. The diminutive county electorate, all of 820 registered voters, isn't much bigger than the number of gubernatorial candidates on the ballot (135).

Lacking electoral clout, Alpine County compensates with countryside.



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In the 1960s and '70s, the growth of two ski resorts on its western side — Bear Valley and Kirkwood — helped boost the



Photographs by ROBERT DURELL *Los Angeles Times*

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Meadows greened up by late-summer thunderstorms hug jagged granite peaks wearing a bristle of Ponderosa pine. More than 95% of the land is public forest. Cattle ranchers own much of the rest.

The timber industry died years ago, so tourism keeps things afloat. Campers practically outnumber residents in the summer. Up a rolling valley, Grover Hot Springs draws visitors from around the globe. Anglers flock for the prized cutthroat trout. Hunting and cross-country skiing and snowmobile excursions abound.

Crime is virtually nonexistent. The biggest burglary threat is a bear. Just a few weeks back, a wayward bruin lumbered right down Markleeville's main street.

While the fate of Gray Davis rattles the rest of the state, folks around here seem more perplexed that the new owner of the old Cutthroat saloon and grill yanked down the colorful brassieres that once wallpapered the venerable establishment.

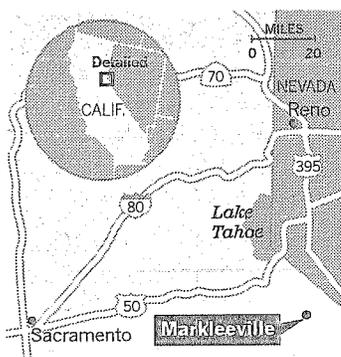
"Some of us are probably more up on Nevada politics than California's," confessed Al Pettit, onetime editor of the Alpine Enterprise, an Internet newspaper that folded in February. "We're sort of scratching our heads over the recall."

Which isn't to say Alpine County doesn't have a stake.

In Woodfords, a wide spot where California 88 begins its swoop down into Nevada, Dave Kirby's 7 a.m. breakfast crowd at his deli and market naturally inclines against Davis. In part, theirs is a local beef: The governor has failed to appoint a re-



VOTER: Coffee shop owner Ed Moss says he has nothing against Gray Davis, but opposes Arnold Schwarzenegger.



Los Angeles Times

placement for Alpine County's vacant supervisor's seat.

"We wait and wait and wait," grumbled Kirby. "Christ, it's been a year! We need a warm body!"

Thornburg, for one, acknowledged having had mixed feelings about the recall at first. But as a Republican, she came to embrace the heave-ho prospect of it, the delicious "popular uprising thing" against the "dirty politics" of Davis and his like in Sacramento.

Given that Alpine County's 305 registered Republicans barely outnumber the 283 Democrats, a dissenting opinion is just around one of the pastoral bends in the road.

Markleeville coffee shop owner Ed Moss, a transplanted

San Diego grade-school teacher, happily unloaded on the recall as a GOP coup d'etat.

"I don't find fault with Gray Davis," said Moss, dishing up a warm wedge of blackberry pie along with his opinion. "I find fault with Enron's gouging." The white-bearded bagel-and-espresso merchant summed up Schwarzenegger as a guy with "big muscles," but as far as running the state, "he's not equipped."

Given its remote location and scant votes, Alpine has had no Arnold sightings. Folks expect no visits from any of California's governor wannabes, said Supervisor Herman Zellmer. "Our 800 votes aren't where they want to put their time."

The last real, live state politician showed up months ago, when a rookie Republican exploring a state Senate run came trolling for votes. Nobody recalls his name. Assemblyman Tim Leslie (R-Tahoe City) has come by a few times to check in with constituents. Years ago, U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) stopped for 20 minutes on the way to somewhere else.

Anonymity fits the place. A silver strike in the 1860s put it on the map, but the rush died within a decade. Alpine County nearly faded away, its popula-

tion dwindling to about 200 for much of the next century. The only real town then and today is Markleeville, named after the loser of a Wild West gunfight. Thornburg, a longtime muse director, says the county "reached the peak of its economic well-being the year it was created."

In the 1960s and '70s, the growth of two ski resorts on its western side — Bear Valley and Kirkwood — helped boost the economy and added scores of new residents. Longtime locals sneer at the growing flotilla of million-dollar ski homes as "starter castles."

Heavy winter snows still cut parts of the county off from the rest of the state, driving them to Nevada for essentials. Residents scoot to the Carson City Walmart or head to Minden for groceries, a DVD and affordable gas. Currently, there's not a real supermarket anywhere in Alpine County.

"By all rights we should be in Nevada," Pettit said, recalling a story about a 1930s attempt by the county to get annexed into Nevada. Politicians in Nevada rejected the idea.

With the county being the smallest cog in the Golden State recall drama, County Clerk Barbara Jones and her team of poll workers will conduct their tally completely by hand after polls close.

Of course, Alpine County itself has no polls to close. With its tiny, widely dispersed electorate, the county has for a decade held elections by mail.

That's good news, and bad. With the ease of mail, Alpine County consistently produces the highest voter turnout in the state — 80% in some elections. But it also runs up the tab. The recall cost will mount to more than \$6,000 and require "tightening elsewhere," Jones said.

But she's got it in perspective. Alpine County's entire annual \$14.9-million budget for sheriff's deputies, planning and everything else, she said, "is about equal to what L.A. will spend just on the recall election."

9/22/83

THE CALIFORNIA RECALL

“What a waste of tax money. Californians are surely circling the toilet bowl . . .”

ED MOSS, 65-year-old proprietor of Markleeville's Bed, Bike and Bagel



Photos by PENNI GLADSTONE / The Chronicle

Tom Lane (left), accused of overfishing in Markleeville, is backing Arnold Schwarzenegger. **Fournée Gustwick** (right), a clerk at the general store, says, “Californians have lost control of their government. It won’t give me any heartbreak to see the governor disappear.”

Mulling the recall in civic-minded Markleeville

Men accused of overfishing trout say ‘Arnold would solve this thing’

By Steve Rubenstein

CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

MARKLEEVILLE — In all of Alpine County, a tucked-away corner of California possessed of uncommonly good sense, not a single one of the 1,192 citizens has signed up to do the governor thing.

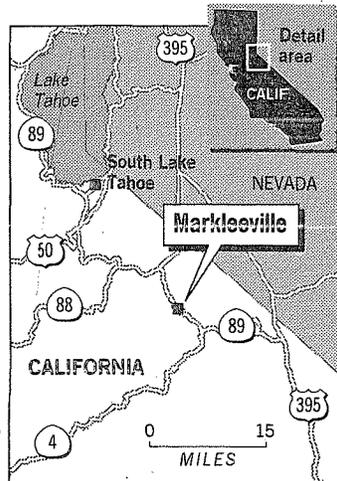
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People talk about the recall when they aren’t doing something more important, like fishing for trout in the Carson River or playing chess at the Bed Bike and Bagel coffee house, just down the street from the town’s solitary stop sign.

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"I was ready with the papers, in case anyone came in to take them out," she said. "No one did. People up here are smart."

Alpine, the smallest of California's 58 counties, also holds the distinction of being its most public-spirited.

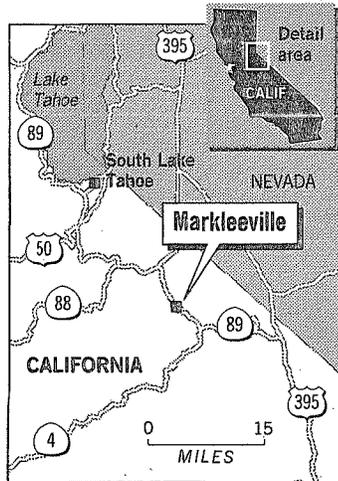
Higher percentage of adults — percent — cast ballots in this hard-to-get-at slice of the Eastern Sierra than anywhere else in the

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The fishermen replied that they only had 13 fish among them. "Arnold would solve this thing right away," said Thomas Lane, one of the accused, as he stood on the front steps of the old stone courthouse. "He'd count the fish. He'd count the fishermen.



Source: ESRI, GDT Chronicle Graphic

And that would be that. Case closed."

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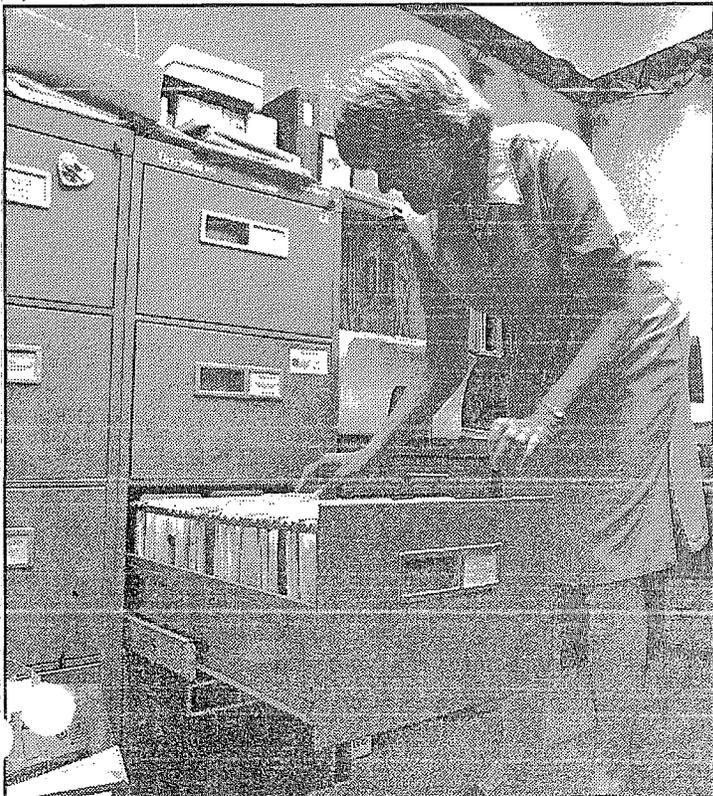
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E-mail Steve Rubenstein at rubenstein@schronicle.com



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REMOTE VIEW OF Economy figures heavily for keen-eyed

By Patrick May
Mercury News

MARKLEEVILLE — Even though voters in Alpine County are forced to watch California's political battles from nose-bleed seats high in the Sierra, they don't miss a thing. High voter turnout is the norm up here, and in the 2002 election, when fewer than half the state's registered voters bothered to show up, Alpine's 70.3 percent participation put every other county to shame.

"Our voters always turn out for local candidates because there are so few of us living up

MOOD OF THE VOTER

First in an occasional series

here that we usually know them personally," says County Clerk Barbara Jones. While that local involvement

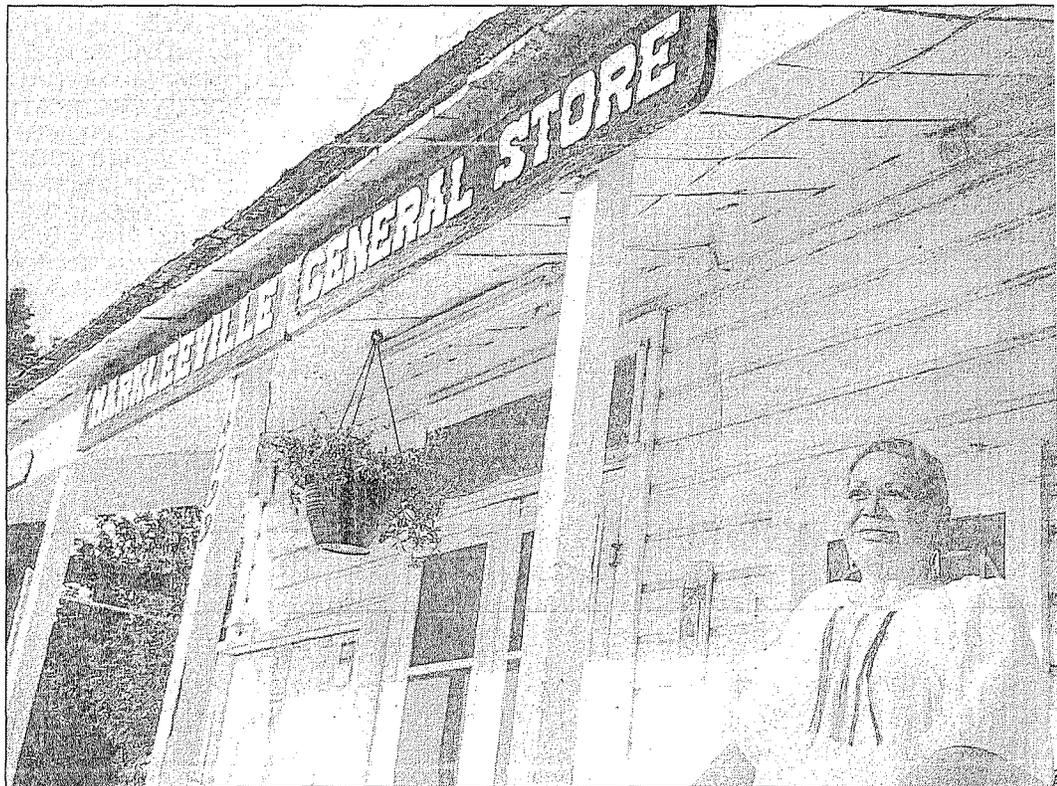
has traditionally translated into high turnouts for state and federal offices as well, all bets are off with next week's recall election. Jones expects only 60 percent turnout "because most people think this recall is ridiculous."

Gauging voter mood in Alpine County requires a lot of driving. With only 1,192 people spread out over 776 square miles, folks in California's least-populated county have plenty of quiet time to fine-tune their political beliefs. Living in a high-altitude oasis between Lake Tahoe and Yosemite, Alpine residents tend to be as rugged as the crest of the Sierra Nevada they inhabit.

Split by winter

Of the 815 registered voters, nearly 200 declined to state their party affiliation. Among the rest, Republicans have a slight advantage over Democrats.

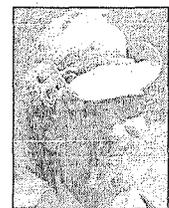
Alpine's a curious place, literally split in half when its two mountain passes — Ebbetts on Highway 4 and Monitor on 89 — shut down for the winter. In an isolated county some locals call "The Forbidden



ALPINE COUNTY

- Population: 1,192
- Incorporated: 1864
- County seat: Markleeville
- Demographics: White, 74%; American Indian, 18%; Black, 0.6%; Asian, 0.3%; Hispanic, 7%
- Median household income: \$41,875
- Living below poverty line: 19.5%
- People per square mile: 1.54
- Voter participation*: 70.3%

* Percentage of registered voters who voted in the 2002 general election



Byram
Voting no on recall, he says Gov. Davis cares.



Jones
Voters turn out for local candidates, the county clerk says.

Zone," these fiercely self-reliant citizens seem to take after the rugged silver-mining pioneers who first settled here in the mid-1800s. And they are not shy about calling things as they see them.

Forné Gustwick, on a break from her cashier duties at the general store in Markleeville, a bend-in-the-road county seat that resembles a ghost town once county workers clear out at 5 p.m., uses a vulgarity to describe the state of the state.

"We've had bad fiscal management and Davis has to accept a lot of the blame," she said. "This recall is a good heads-up to all these elected officials. It's a reminder that they're supposed to represent citizens and not special interests."

Dependent of tourists

A battered economy has everyone on edge. With a median household income of \$41,875, many residents work two or three jobs to make ends meet.

Largely dependent on tourist dollars, locals say Alpine has suffered especially from a slowdown in budget-conscious skiers. Longtime resident Pat Byram lives in a cabin in the backwoods a mile off Highway 4 near a ski resort. Without electrical power and using only a wood stove for heat, Byram is completely reliant on disability checks for a back injury he sustained when he worked as a carpenter.

"The economy has been

MERCURY NEWS

WHO SHOULD LEAD CALIFORNIA?

THE VIEW OF RECALL

s heavily for keen-eyed Alpine County voters



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PATRICK MAY — MERCURY NEWS

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For those Alpine residents who do hold down jobs, or who must adhere to tight budgets in the small businesses they run, the state's fiscal crisis seems mind-boggling. Todd Sodaro, 41, manages the Carson River Resort, a trout fishermen's mecca on the east side of Ebbetts Pass. Every inch of wall in the resort's market is plastered with Polaroids of lucky anglers holding fish up for the camera.

Big fish vs. big news

"People here care more about big fish than any big news" about the recall, says Sodaro, at first reluctant to even talk about the campaign.

Yet Sodaro's ambivalence is commonplace in Alpine. When first asked about the recall's legitimacy, he defends Davis. But after a few moments of conversation, Sodaro's frustration becomes obvious.

"I'm not sure how I'll vote," he says. "I just want to know how we can be billions of dollars in the hole when we're the richest state in the nation."

Confusion is rampant. Even Gustwick at the general store isn't quite sure whether the recall is the final nail in California's coffin, or the first wisp of a hopeful new era.

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Then she pauses. "Maybe Schwarzenegger will be the first honest politician we'll have in a while," Gustwick says. "He's not for sale — or at least not as cheaply as the others have been."

Contact Patrick May at pmay@mercurynews.com or

ALPINE COUNTY

- Population: 1,192
- Incorporated: 1864
- County seat: Markleeville
- Demographics: White, 74%; American Indian, 18%; Black, 0.6%; Asian, 0.3%; Hispanic, 7%
- Median household income: \$41,875
- Living below poverty line: 19.5%
- People per square mile: 1.54
- Voter participation*: 70.3%



Angeles

* Percentage of registered voters who voted in the 2002 general election

MERCURY NEWS



Byram
Voting no on recall, he says Gov. Davis cares.



Jones
Voters turn out for local candidates, the county clerk says.

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Dependent of tourists

A battered economy has everyone on edge. With a median household income of \$41,875, many residents work two or

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slipping away for years; the cost of skiing and the high price of gas is killing us," he said. "Every season, people up here have to look for a new job. And those who can't find work are leaving. Alpine in the summer has become a poor place where the rich come to play."

Supporters fed up

Byram is voting "no" on the recall, "yes" on Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante. He feels Gov. Gray Davis truly cares about the working person and that the effort to oust him is the work of "partisan right-wingers."

But even some Democrats in this hunting-and-fishing paradise who have supported Davis in the past are fed up with him now. This disdain for the status quo has created an enormous opening for a non-traditional candidate seeking the governor's office. Arnold Schwarzenegger will find strong support among Alpine's disillusioned Democrats, such as Marcia Hamil-



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San Jose Mercury News (CA)

September 29, 2003

Section: Front

Edition: Morning Final

Page: 16A

Memo: THE RECALL

WHO SHOULD LEAD CALIFORNIA?

REMOTE VIEW OF RECALL

ECONOMY FIGURES HEAVILY FOR KEEN-EYED ALPINE COUNTY VOTERS

PATRICK MAY, Mercury News

Even though voters in **Alpine County** are forced to watch California's political battles from nose-bleed seats high in the Sierra, they don't miss a thing. High voter turnout is the norm up here, and in the 2002 election, when fewer than half the state's registered voters bothered to show up, **Alpine's** 70.3 percent participation put every other **county** to shame.

"Our voters always turn out for local candidates because there are so few of us living up here that we usually know them personally," says **County** Clerk Barbara Jones.

While that local involvement has traditionally translated into high turnouts for state and federal offices as well, all bets are off with next week's recall election. Jones expects only 60 percent turnout "because most people think this recall is ridiculous."

Gauging voter mood in **Alpine County** requires a lot of driving. With only 1,192 people spread out over 776 square miles, folks in California's least-populated **county** have plenty of quiet time to fine-tune their political beliefs. Living in a high-altitude oasis between Lake Tahoe and Yosemite, **Alpine** residents tend to be as rugged as the crest of the Sierra Nevada they inhabit.

Split by winter

Of the 815 registered voters, nearly 200 declined to state their party affiliation. Among the rest, Republicans have a slight advantage over Democrats.

Alpine's a curious place, literally split in half when its two mountain passes -- Ebbetts on Highway 4 and Monitor on 89 -- shut down for the winter. In an isolated **county** some locals call "The Forbidden Zone," these fiercely self-reliant citizens seem to take after the rugged silver-mining pioneers who first settled here in the mid-1800s. And they are not shy about calling things as they see them.

Fornee Gustwick, on a break from her cashier duties at the general store in Markleeville, a bend-

in-the-road **county** seat that resembles a ghost town once **county** workers clear out at 5 p.m., uses a vulgarity to describe the state of the state. "We've had bad fiscal management and Davis has to accept a lot of the blame," she said. "This recall is a good heads-up to all these elected officials. It's a reminder that they're supposed to represent citizens and not special interests."

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Illustration:Photos (3), Map

MAP: MERCURY NEWS

Alpine County

PHOTO: Byram

Voting no on recall, he says Gov. Davis cares.

PHOTO: Jones

Voters turn out for local candidates, the **county** clerk says.

PHOTO: PATRICK MAY -- MERCURY NEWS

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Family, friends celebrate Bruns' 90th birthday

More than 150 family and friends joined to wish a happy 90th birthday to Hubert Bruns on Sunday, Sept. 21, at his home in Fredericksburg, Calif.

The celebration was held at the family home where Bruns was born.

His father and brothers and sister were born in the same house, which his grandfather bought in 1873, when he came from Germany.

Bruns attended the one-room school in Fredericksburg and graduated from Douglas County High School in 1931.

He decided not to attend college, but rather to stay at home and make a career of ching, an occupation which has continued up to the present.

In 1939, he married Merle Sheppard of Sutter Creek. They celebrated their 60th anniversary at their daughter, Shirley's home in Sacramento in 1999.

Merle died June 5, 2003.

Hubert and Merle had three children: Shirley, Linda and Bruce.

All were present to help their father celebrate his birthday as was his sister, Vernita, who celebrated her 95th birthday at the ranch in May of this year.

Bruns served 32 years on the Alpine County Board of Supervisor, 17 years on Alpine County school boards, 27 years in the volunteer fire department, 15 years on the Interstate Compact Commission and Pyralake Task Force, and 11 years on the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board.

In his recently completed "Memories of My Life," which will be available in the near future for purchase



Submitted photo

Young at heart: Hubert Bruns, Shirley Bruns, and Vernita Springmeyer with birthday cake.

through the Alpine County Museum in Markleeville, Bruns cites some of the things that he was connected with that he can look back on, "with at least a minimum" of pride:

- Helping to revive and plant the roots that kept the Carson Valley 20/30 Club alive.

- Helping to organize and being the first chairman of the Carson Valley Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

- Being a past president and 46 years of active membership in the Minden Rotary Club.

- Suggesting and pushing the first landscaping at the

county courthouse in the early 1940s.

- Suggesting and pushing for the first fire department in Alpine County.

- Being a part of drawing up the first planning department, first building code, and first zoning ordinance.

- Helping to turn Grover Hot Springs into a State Park.

- Efforts to build Monitor Pass as well as improve both state routes 88 and 89.

- My seventeen years on the school board and being one of three or four people to lead to the unification of Alpine schools and being the first chairman of that board.

- Setting up the

Markleeville Public Utility District when others failed.

- Getting the sewage out of South Lake Tahoe for which I received thanks from Governor Pat Brown and a very generous letter of commendation from the State Director of Public Resources.

- My part in dividing the waters of the Walker, Carson and Truckee rivers and Lake Tahoe between the two states for which I donated more than 3,000 hours.

- A part in protecting the water quality of Lake Tahoe and other places in California, such as Lake Arrowhead in San Bernardino County, during 11 "years on the Lahontan board"

zed for years following the acute attack of the ve

1 YEARS AGO
e Record-Courier
ctober 19, 1978

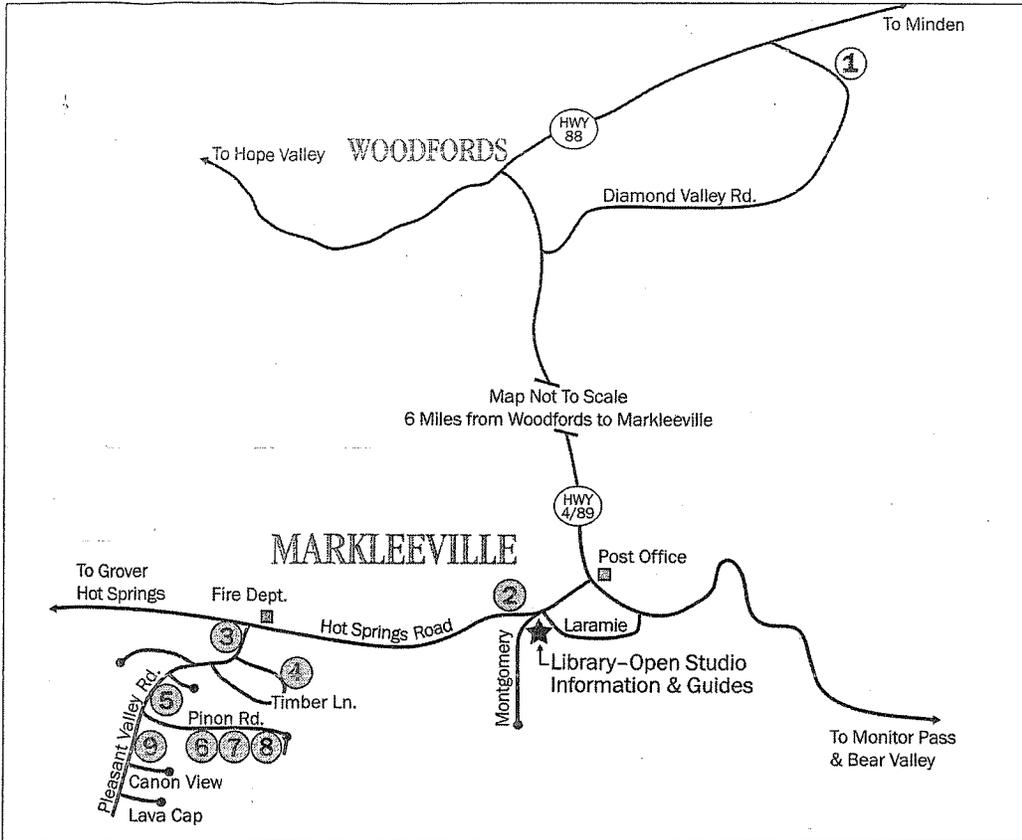
Special smoking area denied at Douglas High School. At the meeting of the School Board of Trustees last week, members voted down the proposal made by Douglas High School Principal Chris Nenzel to create a special smoking area at the school. Nenzel said in his proposal that he did not condone smoking, but feared for the safety of a member of students who stood on the highway driveways of the school to smoke, causing cars to slow down or even stop. Board member Nancy Gardner was especially angry at the idea, saying that it was an open invitation to smoke. "Next there will be a smoking area," she said. Acting superintendent Lou Hirschman added weight to Nenzel's argument, saying "We could be controlling smoking, not condoning it." Nenzel went on to say that though student smoking is an "ongoing problem" at school, it by no means the most important one.

YEARS AGO
e Record-Courier
ctober 14, 1993

Middle school named. School Board members christened the new middle school under construction in the Gardnerville Ranchos. Board members voted 6-1 Tuesday for the name Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School, which was third among the five names proposed by an 11-member committee. Pau-Wa-Lu translates to People of the Valley in the Washoe language. The committee's favorite was Job's Peak Middle School. Second favorite was Sierra Club Middle School. Committee member and Scarselli teacher Ron Carr said he preferred the Washoe name because it would make people think. "It's good that the school would have a name that requires explanation because that goes with the idea of a school as a place of learning," he said. According to Business Manager Rick Kester, construction on the new middle school is continuing on schedule.

by Tracy Tierney

■ A look at the past issues of the R-C



Tour: Alpine artists open up to public

Continued from page 1

group's informal matriarch. "We're just all happy and excited to be a part of this."

The idea for an open studio tour had been in the air for quite some time, but with the planning of Gigli, and fellow artists Charles Muench, Jeff Brees and Sandra Baenen, the idea was brought into form.

Now the public can share, for a day, their world and their work. Everything from lithographs, jewelry, textiles to topiaries will be available for purchase directly from the artists. Hear the stories of how each of them began and what pushes them to create.

The artists are Gigli, Muench, Brees, Wright, Baenan, Peter Chope, Kathy Caldwell, Mark and Carolyn Vaughn, Sharon Lackey, Lee Ann Burkwall, Kaye Jobst, Ellen Martin and Susan Flakus.

For more information, visit www.markleevilleart.com or call (530) 694-2253.



SHANNON LITZ/The R-C

Getting there: Top, the tour map; above, Ellen Martin's 'girls' are sweet and sassy.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Bank Repossessed** Cars and Trucks

ALPINE ART TOUR



SHANNON LITZ/The R-C

Parade of art: Kaye Jobst, above, shows her American Indian-influenced craftwork of fine beading and gourd art that she will display during the Alpine Artists Open Studio

Tour Saturday, Oct. 18 and Sunday, Oct. 19. For more information on the studio tour and the artists participating see People page 1B.

Aerosol recycled parole hearing

New aerosol recycling plant could open in Douglas County; owner questioned about other business

by Maggie O'Neill
Staff Writer

A senior deputy for the Nevada Attorney General's Office said Monday he would like to see the owner of a now-defunct Minden plant back in business if it means the \$800,000 he owes the state will be paid.

Walter Gonzalez, owner of Depressurized Technologies International, was ordered by District Court Judge Michael

So far, Gonzalez has spent about \$14,000 according to

"It's quite interesting his nose is in Douglas County," Attorney General's Office spokesman McCormick said. "I never go in for that amount in a fine," Gonzalez said. "Gonzalez owes fines to the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection as defined by

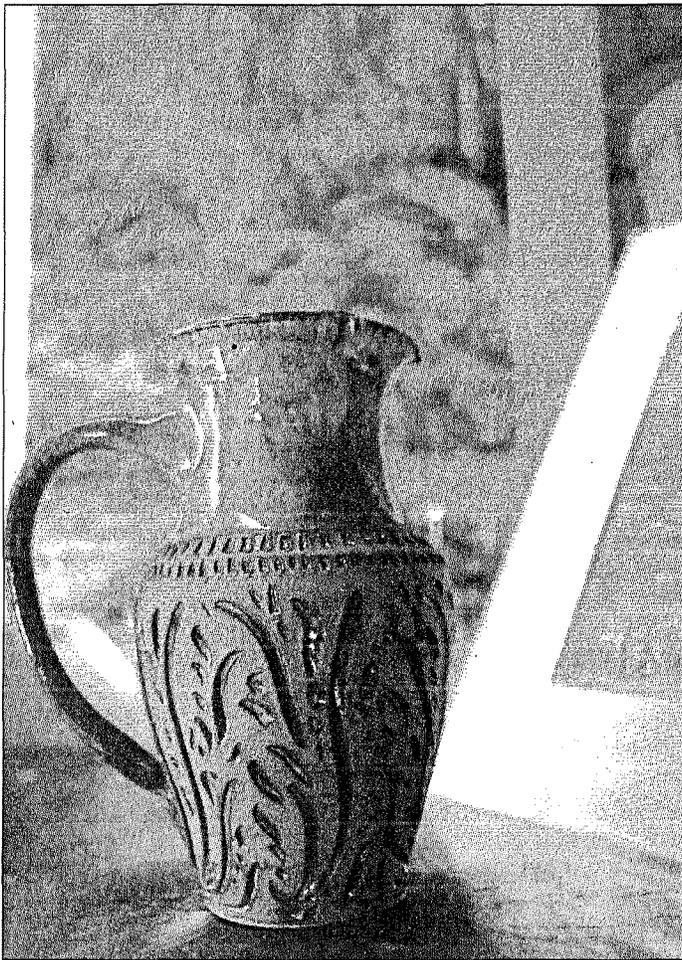
Hot tonic



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People

The Record-Courier ■ Gardnerville, Nevada

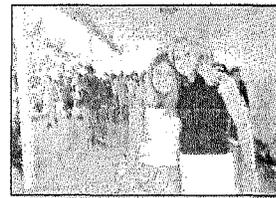


Interpretations: In the photo above, is an example of one art form produced by Lynn Wright. She also creates paintings and etchings. Wright will share a studio with Gina Gigli. At right, Susan Flakus, owner of Steel Magnolia Fine Metal Works, is outstanding in her field and will present an open air tour featuring her functional, durable and one-of-a-kind



People

INSIDE
■ YOUTH NEWS
Page 6



OCTOBER 15, 2003 ■ WEDNESDAY



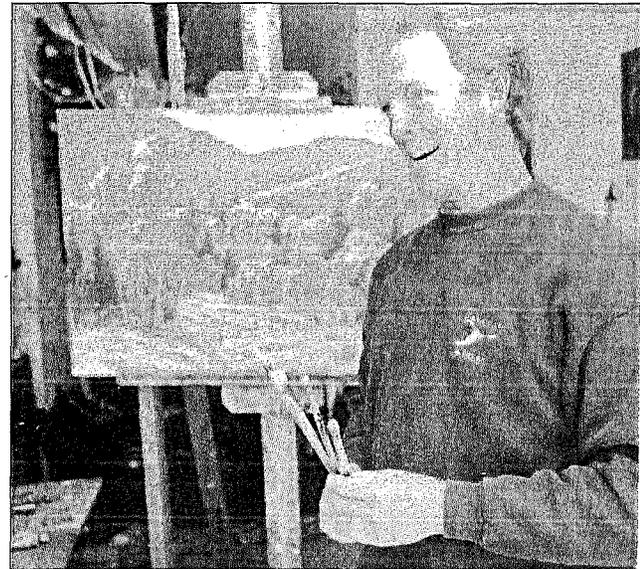
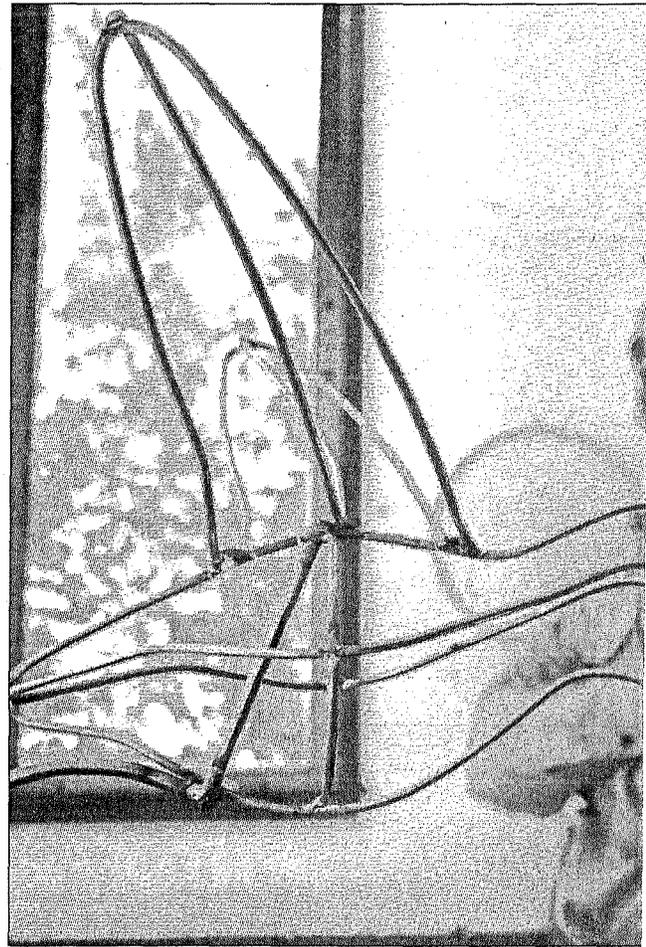
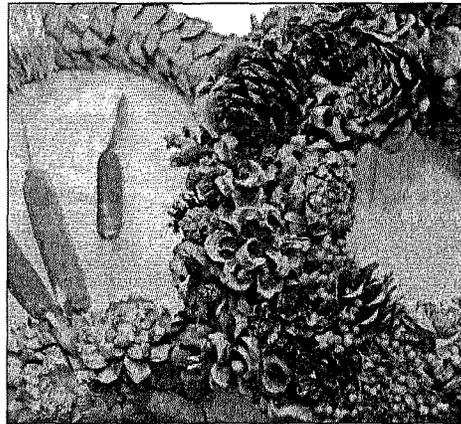
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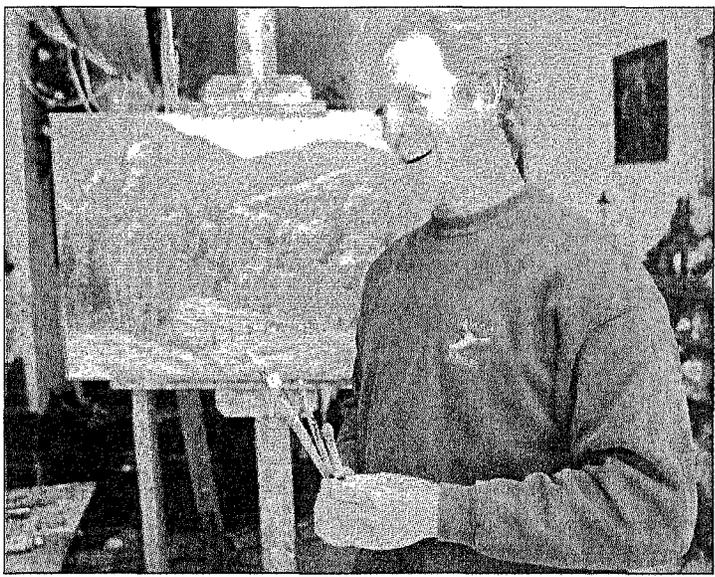
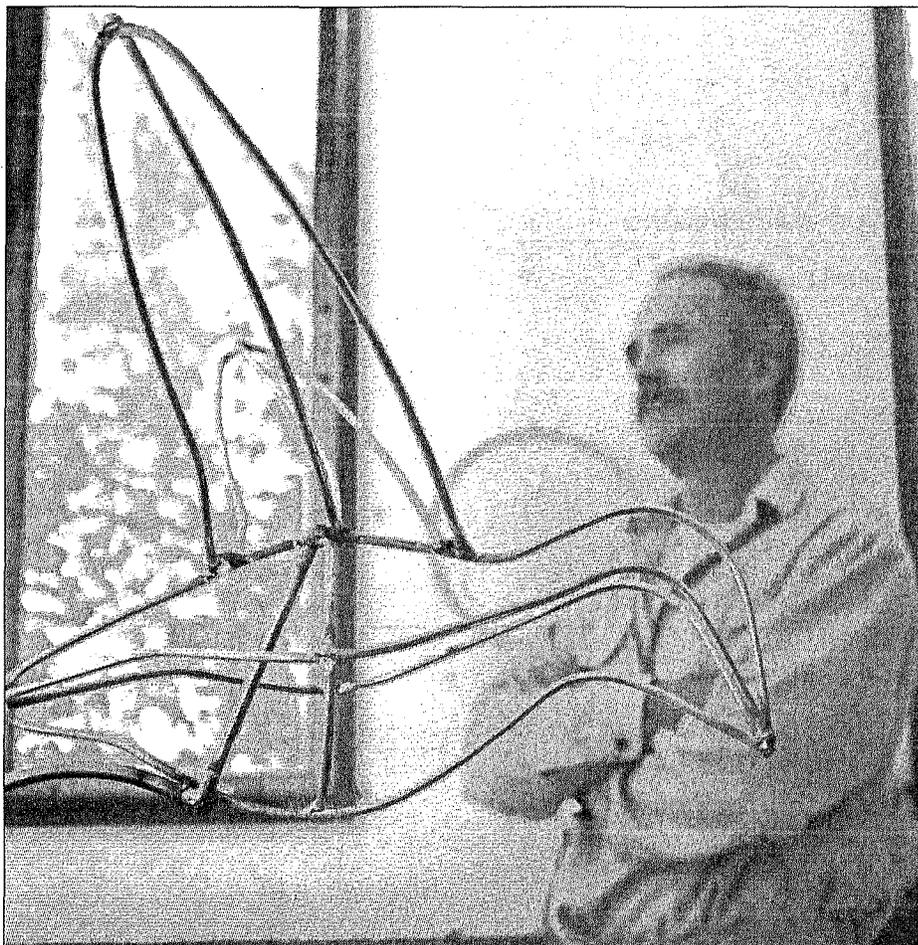
Finesse: In the photo above, Gina Gigli and Lynn Wright in the studio. Each offers unique items.

At right, creations using natural elements created by Ellen Martin, who also works in textiles. Below, Sharon Lackey's lifelong love of dolls and work as a teacher, has led her to create minutely detailed and historically accurate porcelain dolls.



SHANNON LITZ PHOTOS

Mountain Art



by Karel Ancona-Henry
Staff Writer

Ask the artists of Alpine County what inspires them and most readily reply "Our environment," followed with a quip about "and our long winters."

Either way, both seem to contribute to growing creativity, drawing from the majestic beauty of the Sierra Nevada and putting long winters to good use, producing works for the rest of us to enjoy.

To that end, the Markleeville Artists host their first Open Studios Tour, Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., daily. There is no cost to attend this event. Simply stop by Markleeville Library for a free map and guide. (See page B2 for map.) Then enjoy a leisurely day in glorious surroundings, with fantastic art and a selection restaurants to lunch at.

The tour features 14 artists in nine studios, each presenting diverse art forms, as well as the seasonal show of changing colors provided by Mother Nature.

Markleeville Artists is a cop that formed early this year. Their purpose is to support one another and the arts in Alpine County, California's largest and least populated county. Markleeville serves as the county seat and Villa Gigli Restaurant is the unofficial headquarters of the Markleeville Artists and the site of Gina Gigli and Lynn Wright's studio.

"The drive alone is worth coming up, though it is also a great opportunity to do some early shopping for unique, holiday gifts," said Gigli, the

Interpretations:
In the photo above, Jeff Brees is shown with an example of his functional art. At left, Charles Muench enjoys portraiture and nature work, often using the plein aire, or open aire, approach to painting.

SHANNON LITZ PHOTOS

See **Tour** on page 2

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ig area denied at Douglas

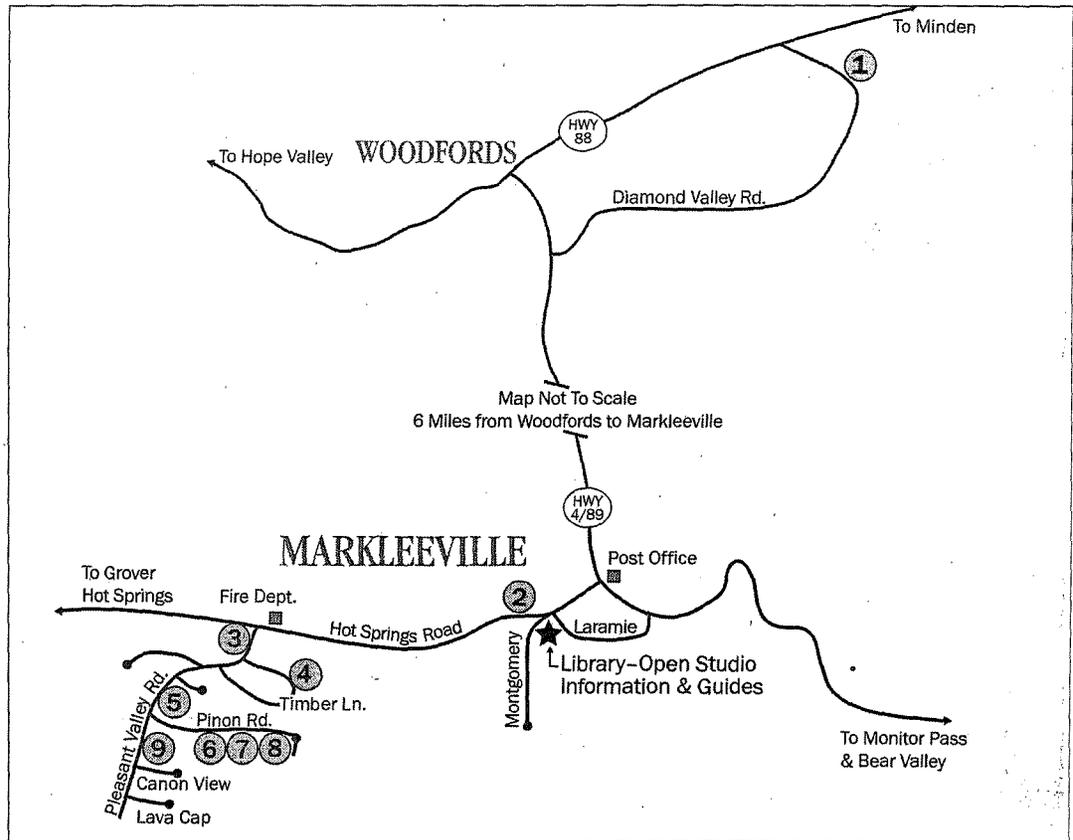
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SHANNON LITZ/The R-C

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Bank Repossessed** Cars and Trucks

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call (530) 342-2007.

Shameus plays in Markleeville

Rock band "Shameus" will rock downtown Markleeville, Calif., from 7 to 10 p.m. Aug. 16. The concert will take place on the lawn at Markleeville Community Park, next to the library. Admission is \$10.

Everyone will have an opportunity to dance to the music or just enjoy the concert. People should bring lawn chairs and ice chests. The event is sponsored by Alpine County Arts Commission and the California Arts Council.

Alpine artists prepare for open studio tour

Celebrating the annual spectacular show of autumnal aspen tree colors in Sierra Nevada's Alpine County, artists in and around the county seat of Markleeville are preparing to open their studios to visitors Saturday, Oct. 18, and Sunday, Oct. 19.

Foliage fans and art appreciators will find their senses saturated with aspens displaying colors of gold, bronze, citron, apricot, orange, red, russet and purple; and with artists showing the inner workings of their studios along the tour.

Maps of routes through

aspen groves along scenic highways and to the artists' studios will be provided to each registrant when they sign up for the free tour at the Alpine County Library in Markleeville on Saturday and Sunday. Artists' studios will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

Serene Sierra settings provide inspiration for artists Sandra Baenen, Jeff Brees, Lee Ann Burkwall, Kathy Caldwell, Peter Chope, Susan Flakus, Gina Gigli, Kaye Jobst, Sharon Lackey, Ellen Martin, Charles Muench, Mark Vaughn, Carolyn Vaughn, and Lynn Wright.

October 2003

The Record-Courier ■ Gardnerville, N

Alpine proposes smoking ordinance

by Regina Purcell
Staff Writer

Alpine County, Calif., is proposing an ordinance to prohibit smoking within 20 feet of county buildings, passenger vehicles and county parks.

The ordinance is brought by the Alpine County Tobacco Coalition, which also brought a previous ordinance that prohibited smoking within 20 feet of county buildings. The proposal goes a step further. It prohibits smoking within 20 feet of all county doors, entrances, air intakes and includes county vehicles that transport the public.

Rebecca Wheeler, health education program coordinator for Alpine County, Calif.,

said at this point, the county seems to support the proposed ordinance.

The Alpine County Board of Supervisors will host a public hearing on the smoking ordinance at its regular meeting Tuesday, March 2. The meeting is at 8 a.m. at board chambers, 99 Water Street, Markleeville, Calif.

In other business, supervisors will consider: ■ A public hearing for a resolution to amend fees and deposits for development review.

■ Legislation proposed by Sen. Barbara Boxer and the Wilderness Coalition.

■ Regina Purcell can be reached at rpurcell@recordcourier.com (775) 782-5121, ext. 211.

California's Wild & Scenic designation on Carson River being battled

by Regina Purcell
Staff Writer

A letter in opposition to designating the Carson River in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System will be reviewed tonight.

The Carson Water Subconservancy District meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Churchill County Commission chambers, 155 North Taylor in Fallon.

The district is adamantly opposed to the Wild & Scenic designation because of several concerns:

■ If a river is designated

Wild & Scenic, it prohibits agriculture dams and other water diversions; and

■ If another 100-year flood hits, such as in 1997, how will water be stopped.

The designation is proposed by California legislator Sen. Barbara Boxer and will require Congressional approval.

David Loomis of the U.S. Forest Service gave a presentation to the district board last month. He said the only other way a designation is approved

is for the governor to recommend it to the Department of the Interior, that decides on a

'We request the language ... be removed in order to not compete with our process.'

Proposed letter to Sen. Barbara Boxer

case-by-case basis.

The proposed letter said designation of the Carson River is premature.

DETAILS

What: Carson Water Subconservancy District meeting

Where: Churchill County Commission chambers, 155 North Taylor, Fallon

When: 6:30 tonight

"Based on the cooperative effort with the federal agencies and the local community, we request the language referring to the Carson River ... be removed in order to not compete with our process," the let-

ter states.

In other business, the district will consider:

■ The Churchill County Recharge, Storage and Recovery Report and the county's feasibility study.

The study was started three years ago and there was an interlocal agreement with the district to help fund it. The district has withheld payment until the study was completed.

■ Hiring Brown & Caldwell of Carson City to do a report on meeting new federal arsenic standards in the Carson Valley watershed.

The federal government has mandated that water arsenic levels are at 10 parts per billion by 2006. In the past, an arsenic mix of 50 parts per billion complied with federal standards.

■ A three-year contract for accounting and auditing services.

■ A grant agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency for the Marlette Water System in Carson City.

■ Regina Purcell can be reached at rpurcell@recordcourier.com or (775) 782-5121, ext. 211.

R-C 10-15-03



Tribune News Service

Sue Coleman's mother taught her to weave traditional Washoe tribe willow baskets.

Renowned Washoe weaver teaches other specialty; carries on a tradition

By Megan Feldman
Tribune News Service

TAHOE CITY — Sue Coleman's love of weaving is about more than the willow baskets that have won her dozens of awards. It began as a way to preserve Washoe culture and became a career when she made a promise to a dying woman.

While Coleman was growing up on and around the Washoe reservation in Dreslerville, most women made baskets for cooking and carrying babies. She never learned how, and in her 30s she noticed that basket weaving had become a dying art.

"One day I looked around and there were hardly any weavers around and I decided to learn," said Coleman, 53, while teaching a basketry class last month at the North Tahoe Arts Center in Tahoe City. "It's been part of our lives forever and it's something that shouldn't die."

Coleman's mother, Theresa Smokey, taught her to weave the intricate but strong baskets that

she'd carry on the tradition.

"That was her passion and now it's mine," Coleman said. After her mother's death she began entering basket weavers competitions across the Southwest. She's won 32 blue ribbons and in 2002 the Nevada Arts Council awarded her the Excellence in Folk Arts Award. When she's not weaving baskets, she's teaching.

As part of a generation of children who didn't learn the Washoe language because their parents were "re-educated" in Indian schools and prohibited from speaking their native language, keeping her people's traditions alive is important to Coleman.

The drive to assimilate Washoe children was accompanied by blatant prejudice and segregation during the 1940s and '50s. Coleman said her grandfather once spent a night in jail for being on the street in Gardnerville after the town's 8 p.m. curfew for Indians. She remembers having to sit upstairs at the movie house when she was a kid, separate from the

speaking Washoe at school, the people of Coleman's parents' generation still learned to gather food and make baskets used to clean the pine nuts they collected. However, most of the children her age did not learn such customs.

"Years ago they needed those baskets to survive, now you can go to Wal-Mart and get anything you want — kids are doing other things, like school and work," Coleman said. Like the famous clay pots of other tribes, what was once a necessity for the Washoe has become an art form.

Weaving a basket is an arduous and time consuming process, and it took Coleman more than a year to learn how to make the willow thread that holds the reeds in place. She let her eight-person class at North Tahoe Arts skip that part.

Coleman lives outside Gardnerville. For more information about her classes, call North Tahoe Arts at (530) 583-2787.

Folks in high country take pride in highest voter turnout

MARKLEEVILLE - It is California's least populous county, with 1,208 residents and not a single movie theater, bank, barbershop or high school.

But it can lay claim to a special distinction this year when, on Election Day, little Alpine County racked up the biggest percentage - 86.3 percent - of voter turnout in the state.

Now, this may not seem like much to city dwellers, who boasted this year of braving long lines and strange new contraptions to cast their votes. And it may not seem like very many votes, really, since the "highest percentage" in Alpine County translates into exactly 714 votes.

But the consistently high turnout here - and the county's extraordinarily high percentage of registered voters among those eligible - is an ongoing source of pride in Alpine County, a beautiful but isolated region along the crest of the central Sierra Nevada, south of Lake Tahoe.

Politics here, locals say, is serious

business.

"People in rural counties take more of an interest in politics because we're closer to it," says Dave Kirby, 68, owner of Woodfords Station diner, deli and general store, where locals gather daily at 7 a.m. to jaw over matters, political and otherwise.

"One or two votes can make a lot of difference around here." And how. Kirby and other residents love to tell the story of the sheriff's race a few elections back, when incumbent Skip Veatch was challenged by Lou Roper of the California Highway Patrol in the primary - ending in a tie. Veatch came out on top in a runoff.

A local auditor's race that also went to runoff was won by only three votes.

"In our county, we know our vote makes a difference and does count," says Alpine County Clerk Barbara



Jones, who is on her third term.

Dave Zellmer, a regular at the morning coffee klatch in Woodfords (population 150), still chuckles over the story many years back of a candidate from Markleeville, the county

seat named for a 19th-century settler killed in a gunfight. The candidate, who he says lived with his wife and mother, was counting on - surely - at least three votes in his bid for county supervisor.

He got two.

"We kidded him about that for years," said Zellmer, a 67-year-old retired Caltrans man and rancher, who was the county's fire chief for 17 years and served with search and rescue for 25 years. "He never did figure it out." This year, though, most agreed it was the presidential race, not local politics, that fueled the interest. More than 86 percent of Alpine County's regis-

tered voters weighed in, while most California counties' turnout percentages hovered in the 60s to low 70s.

The county, which is almost evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats, ultimately tipped toward Sen. John Kerry. But four years ago, voters here went with George W. Bush.

Zellmer believes the aging of the county's population helps explain the election-year enthusiasm. "Most of us are on the older side, so we're more into politics," said Zellmer, refueling his cup this week at the J. Marklee Toll Station coffee shop in Markleeville, six miles down Highway 89 from Woodfords.

"We have a lot of history in this county and, as you get older, you want to keep that aspect." Yet if there's one thing folks here credit most for the impressive Election Day turnouts, which date back years, it is the simple fact that Alpine County - with only five precincts - has switched to mail-only balloting. It is one of only two counties, including Sierra, to vote exclusively absentee - a status permitted under the

Elections Code when a precinct's number of registered voters is 250 or less.

"Want to know our magic secret? We vote by mail!" 74-year-old Dave Brees exclaimed, working the register this week at the Markleeville General Store.

Absentee voting is a perk for the aging population, he says, and a practicality. As November elections descend, so also does winter, and the closures of Ebbett's and Monitor passes seal off the heavy tourism flows until spring.

Linda Merrill, 48, who runs The Mountain and The Garden bed and breakfast in Woodfords, rather misses her wintry treks to the fire station to cast her vote.

But no one expects election enthusiasm here to diminish any time soon.

"We know we're small and we know we don't have much say," says Brees, "but we do like to say it."

□ □ □

Reach Marjie Lundstrom at (916) 321-1055 or mlundstrom@sacbee.com. Back columns: www.sacbee.com/lundstrom.

Alpine County food, toy drive is under way

in, food items can be taken to social services department

The Alpine County Family Support Council is sponsoring the annual Alpine food and toy drive for Christmas this year.

"We are so fortunate to live in such a magnificent area and to be able to enjoy the closeness of a small community," said Cheri Warrell, executive director of the council and Alpine County child abuse pre-

vention coordinator and grants coordinator.

"Throughout the year, this community works together to help each other, and this is especially true during this season," she said.

Some people are adopting an entire family, and Warrell will give them a list of what a specific family wants for Christmas.

"I've got a lot of requests for Barbies and toy trucks and red

wagons," she said.

Others are simply donating cash so that Warrell may purchase gift requests. All applications are screened and kept confidential. Food and donations for toys may be dropped off at the Social Services department on Diamond Valley Road, Markleeville, or checks may be mailed to the Alpine County Family Support Council. P.O. Box 363, Markleeville, Calif. 96120.

guests, Hawkins was introduced and spoke on "A State Regent's Life from Election to November 2000." Afterward, each chapter presented her with a donation to her project (preserving Nevada's DAR records) or a donation in her name to one of her favorite committees or schools.

Raffle drawings were held. The meeting closed with a tribute to Veteran's Day, with a solo of "God Bless America" sung by Virginia H. Garrison, Valley of Fire Chapter.

Record Courier 11-22-00

Hantavirus hits Alpine

by Maggie O'Neill
Staff Writer

Bloodwork on an Alpine County, Calif., man confirmed Monday he has Hantavirus disease. Health officials have not yet determined where he contracted the disease.

The man is the 354th person in the United States to contract the virus. No outbreaks have been reported in Nevada, according to Rick Sowadksy, disease control specialist for the Nevada Department of Health.

Previously, 14 Nevadans have been diagnosed with the virus, since its 1993 recognition.

"It's an extremely rare disease," Sowadsky said. "It's really really rare. Physicians in the area are savvy enough to test for it."

The identity of the Alpine County man has not been released, but Alpine County Health and Human Services indicated the man has fully recovered from the virus, which results in a 38 percent fatality rate.

Alpine County Health and Human Services is working to determine where the man contracted the virus.

"It's hard for me to say (when the origin will be determined)," said Shelly Taplin, public health nurse with Alpine County Health and Human Services. "There are just some factors that play into the time frame that are difficult to predict. It's a matter of doing an on-site investigation and speaking with the patient and that is going to happen in the very near future."

She said California is "endemic" for Hantavirus.

to what to look for when they go camping and when they starting cleaning out their garages."

Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome, or HPS, is transmitted to humans through the urine, droppings or saliva of infected rodents. Humans might also contract the disease by breathing in the aerosolized virus, according to the CDC. Rodents carrying the virus include the Deer Mouse, the Cotton Rat, the Rice Rat and the White-Footed Mouse. The CDC warns that other rodents may carry the virus or other types of viruses that cause a different infection. The agency suggests avoiding contact with rodents.

Rodents do not show symptoms of the virus when they carry it, according to the CDC. But Sowadsky suggested the virus is pervasive.

"If you look for it you're going to find it," he said.

The CDC tracks Hantavirus through the residences of stricken people. That does not mean that the Hantavirus was contracted in those areas, Sowadsky said.

"People move around so much," he said. "So it would be much harder to track where they got it."

For more information on the Internet about the Hantavirus, go to www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hanta/hps/index.htm.

Some symptoms of the virus include fatigue, fever and muscle aches, headaches, chills and abdominal problems, like vomiting, diarrhea and nausea, according to the CDC. Four to 10 days after the initial illness, coughing and shortness of breath occurs.

Top honors: Pictured from left, are Sharon Grecian of the Soroptimists' education committee; student Ray Gabriel; Lori Pasqua, DHS education advisor; student Daniel McDonald; counselor Kira Brown; student Crystal Grayot; and Linda Faff, also of the education committee.



BELINDA GRANT
/The R-C

Soroptimists honors students, present award

Three Douglas High seniors were recognized as student of the month by Carson Valley service organization, the Soroptimists.

Ray Gabriel, Crystal Grayot, and Daniel McDonald were introduced and given certificates for their contributions to their community and school.

These students were specifically recognized for being excellent role models for other students and very goal oriented. Ray Gabriel, who won for January, is a top student in his math class and is president of the Young-A-Lei-Ti Youth Council. He is also on the Douglas High football team and is a DHS wrestler.

Crystal Grayot, who won for December, will graduate early and is pursuing her goal of entering college early. She has also started her own business while preparing for college.

Daniel McDonald, honored in February, also plays on the HS football team and is helpful to other students while he works toward his goal of college.

Nominating teachers and families were also guests at the awards



BELINDA GRANT/The R-C

Scholarship: Soroptimist's Vice-president Norma Villasenor, presents the Women's Opportunity Award certificate to winner Cece Zimmerman. The award included \$1,500.

luncheon.

For more information, call Jody Laxague at 782-8754.

Also receiving a \$1,500 adult scholarship, the Women's Opportunity Award, was Cecilia Zimmerman.

This award is given to a woman who is seeking to gain

additional skills, training and education, to enter, or improve her status in the work force in order to support herself or her family.

In addition to juggling her responsibilities of managing a busy high school kitchen, driving a school bus and being president

of her union, she attends classes at WNCV while maintaining a high grade point average. She also runs a household where she is caretaker of her mother, Bev, and is a single mother of three children.

In Dec. 2002, Cece was involved in an automobile accident in which she was injured and totaled her car.

Funds she had set aside for tuition and books were depleted due to the accident, however, she stated the \$1,500 award was a blessing as she can now enroll for her spring semester classes and continue working on her degree.

The competition for the Women's Achievement Award was fierce and upon interviewing the candidates, the judges state they were enormously impressed with Cece's commitment, abilities and positive attitude, stating they are sure she will achieve her goals and become very successful!

For more information about how Soroptimist International of Carson Valley makes a difference for women, call President Karen Winters at 782-7923.

RECORD-CARRIER
2003

a separate

Sierra

Just a few miles from
the bright lights and
big price tags of Tahoe's
South Shore lies a quiet
universe called Hope Valley.

BY BONNIE WACH

IN NEARLY EVERY PIECE OF literature on Alpine County is a reference to the fact that it is the least-populated county in all of California. This would not be such an unusual statistic or one even worthy of mention, unless you consider that Alpine County is less than 20 miles from the tourist beehive of South Lake Tahoe.

I read this little census tidbit to my husband as we drove busy Highway 50. Looking at the map, we saw that the gateway to this roomy county, an area named Hope Valley, was barely a bean's length from the bright lights and big price tags of Tahoe's South Shore. But as we turned off at Pollock Pines, where the rest of the world begins to form a conga line for the casinos, condos, and ski resorts, we suddenly found ourselves on the road less traveled, and it was as if we had entered a parallel Sierra universe.

We soon discovered that Hope Valley and its Nevada neighbor, Carson Valley, have many of the same assets that lie on the other side of the



mountain: a pristine alpine lake, historic Western towns that grew up along the Emigrant Trail and pony express route, and snowy peaks and verdant river valleys to delight and challenge all manner of outdoor enthusiasts.

They also have a few things that their famous neighbor doesn't: natural hot springs; high-desert chaparral abutting craggy ridges; roads free of traffic jams and—come to think of it—traffic lights; many wide open miles of

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROWN CANNON III

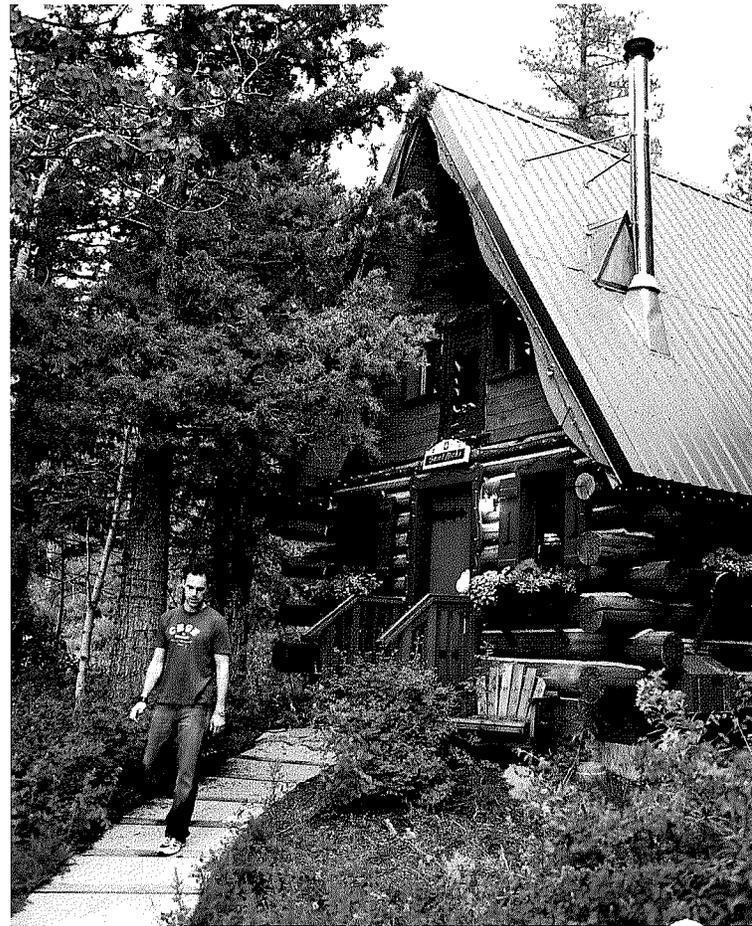
cross-country ski trails; and a bar in a town that claims to be the first permanent settlement in Nevada.

Snow had begun to fall softly as we approached Caples Lake, which is nestled in an alpine bowl surrounded by pine forest. The lake has turquoise waters similar to Tahoe's but without the speedboats and surrounding rows of gated communities. Though it usually freezes over by January, Caples still attracts a winter tribe who park themselves at the rustic cabins located at the lake's southwest end to take advantage of proximity to Kirkwood Mountain Resort 1.5 miles up the road.

Just past Caples Lake, we crested Carson Pass—at 8,573 feet, one of the highest of the Tahoe area summits—and rolled down into the Hope Valley basin, where the whole mountain seemed to exhale, taking on a softer, gentler demeanor that carried all the way to the only working radio station we could find: KTHO, soft-rock hits of the '70s and '80s.

Our first stop was Sorensen's, the Scandinavian-style resort opened in 1926 that has been owned since the early '80s by John and Patty Brissenden. The Brissendens, we learned, are part of the reason for Alpine County's sparse population (around 1,200 at last count). Some 20 years ago they fought and won a battle, along with their neighbors, to set aside a large swath of this wilderness as protected public land.

"This land has dodged the bullet so many times," says John in Sorensen's cozy café. In the 1960s, some of the Kennedy family had an eye to building a ski resort. Later, a developer wanted to build a snowmobile concession. The Brissendens raised \$350,000 in six days and fixed up the rundown Hope Valley Resort on what had become federal land. Today it operates as the Hope Valley Outdoor Center, a hub for cross-country skiing and snowshoe lessons in winter and biking, kayaking, and fishing in summer.



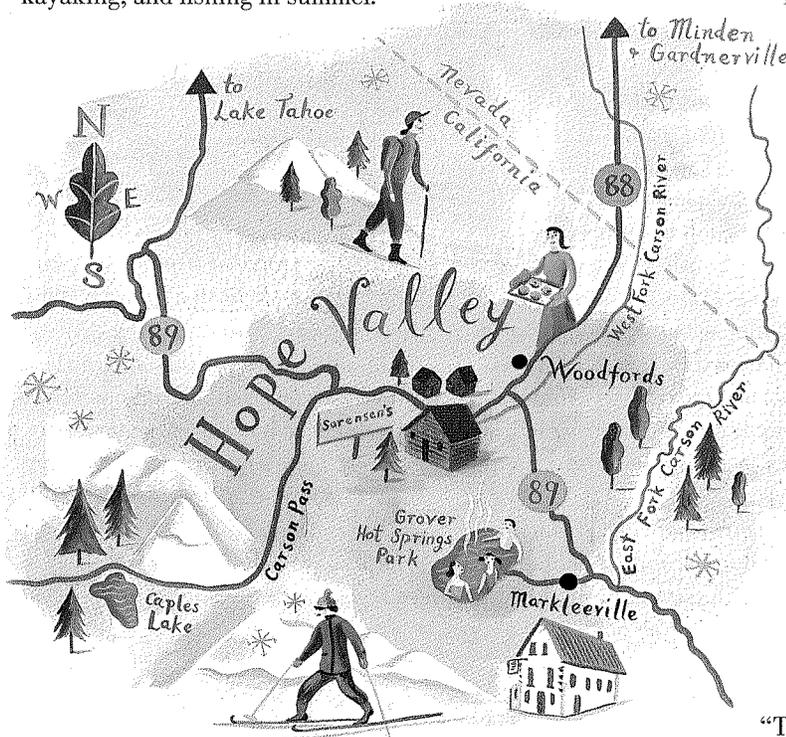
At Sorensen's, 32 cabins serve as home base for activities that range from skiing, snowshoeing, and sledding on runs groomed by children's backsides to fly-fishing, llama trekking, leaf peeping (the area is famous for its quaking aspens), bird-watching, and stargazing. In winter, some folks never venture much farther than the wood-fired sauna or the ski trails that

leave from the front door. At some point, however, almost everyone finds their way to a bowl of beef burgundy stew (available at breakfast, lunch, and dinner) and a serving of fresh berry cobbler.

We settled in at Sierra House, one of the larger, more modern cabins. Those who prefer the classic mountain log-cabin experience usually opt for Snowshoe, Creekside, or Shepherd. Top prizes for cuteness definitely go to the Chapel and Saint Nick's, two whimsical little A-frame chalets that would feel right at home at the North Pole.

That afternoon, as we tromped through the woods with nary a car horn or howling coyote to disturb our reverie, we wondered if this was some Sierra Shangri-La—a paradise, all but forgotten by the commercial interests that long ago co-opted the shores of Lake Tahoe.

The next day we stopped at the Hope Valley Outdoor Center to visit Joyce Coker, aka the Cookie Lady, famous for her one-pound chocolate-chip cookies and her black-and-blue pies, and for getting just about anything with two legs up on skis. "This area lives literally and figuratively in the shadow of Lake Tahoe, and that's just the way we like it," she said,



We crested Carson Pass and rolled down into the Hope Valley basin, where the whole mountain seemed to exhale, taking on a softer, gentler demeanor.

stirring cookie dough with one hand and black-bean chili with the other, then dropping everything to run across the café to fit a 4-year-old into skis.

We packed a chocolate-studded one-pounder into our knapsack before heading down the road to Markleeville, the county seat. Within minutes the snowy peaks gave way to dusky desert sagebrush.

Markleeville's saloon, earthy coffeehouse, rustic resorts, and handful of restaurants call to mind the Truckee that might have been had the railroad never come through. Jacob Marklee, who built a toll bridge across what became known as Markleeville Creek in 1862, hoped to cash in on miners heading to Silver Mountain City, but instead met an untimely death in a gunfight. Eventually, Markleeville settled for status as a ranching and lumber supply town and a tourist hub.

Wolf Creek Restaurant & Cutthroat Saloon, formerly a down-home eatery and cowboy watering hole that has recently been reincarnated as a white-tablecloth establishment, offers the town's most expansive menu, with such uncowboylike offerings as escargots, calamari piccata, and medallions of beef Henri. Nearby Villa Gigli is a combination gallery-trattoria, open on weekends for dinner and art appreciation. When not serving authentic Tuscan-style pasta and homemade bread, owners Ruggero and Gina Gigli can often be found in their hot tub next door.

The sight of steaming, soothing waters spurred us on to the first of two wonderful hot springs in the area. At Grover Hot Springs State Park, a few miles from Markleeville, skiers, cyclists, and snowbirds alike converge to take the curative mineral waters that bubble out of the ground at 150 degrees before being channeled into a 104-degree pool. Open year-round, Grover is low on luxuries but big on natural scenery and, as we soon discovered, is a magical spot in the middle of a snow flurry.

After a long soak and a quick dip in the cold plunge, we crossed the state line, passing through the twin cities of Minden and Gardnerville on our way to Genoa (juh-NO-uh). This little specter of a town boasts—implausibly—a fine French restaurant, La Ferme (awarded five stars by the *Reno Gazette-Journal*), and the Sugarplum Bakery. Sitting on a plateau at the base of a grade that is only 11 miles from Heavenly Mountain Resort, Genoa is as rich in Victorian architecture and historical landmarks as it is short on square footage.

This tiny Western relic, in fact, claims both the oldest “thirst parlor” (the still-operating Genoa Bar) and the oldest permanent settlement in Nevada; a replica of Mormon Station, the original trading post established by emigrant John



TOP LEFT, opened in 1926, Sorensen's has 32 cabins that serve as home base for activities in all four seasons. BOTTOM RIGHT, diners soak up the warmth at La Ferme, an unexpected find in historic Genoa.

Genoa, a little specter of a town,
is as rich in Victorian architecture
and historical landmarks as it is
short on square footage.

Reese in 1851, is open to the public May to mid-October.

A statue in Mormon Station State Historic Park commemorates Genoa's other claim to fame: It is the final resting place of legendary mailman and mountain rescuer Snowshoe Thompson. From 1856 to 1876, John A. Thompson (formerly Jon Torsteinson-Rue) traversed the rugged mountains between Placerville and Genoa on homemade skis, lugging 50- to 100-pound mailbags on his back. A native of Norway, Thompson spent his last years near here and is buried in the cemetery at the edge of town.

Thompson is not the only celebrity to have found his way to this Nevada outpost. Ulysses S. Grant, Teddy Roosevelt, and Mark Twain all sought the curative waters at David Walley's

Hot Springs up the road.

Built in 1862 by David and Harriet Walley at a cost of more than \$100,000, the resort catered then, as now, to a more well-heeled clientele, many of whom had made their fortunes in the nearby silver mines. Though not much is left of the original hotel and spa (which included a ballroom, restaurant, stables, and bath-houses), the resort's modern luxuries—a spa with all the amenities, a prime-rib house, Jacuzzi tubs, and suites with full kitchens—seem in keeping with Walley's vision.

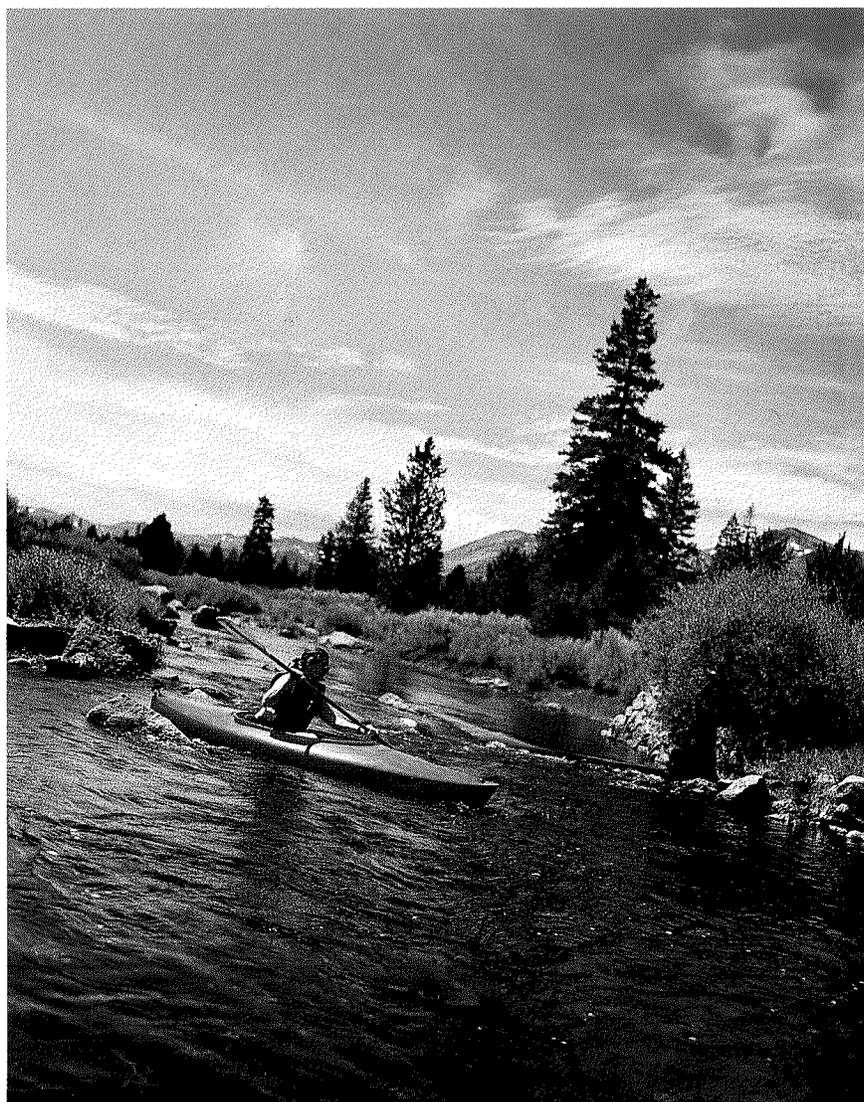
As we lounged in one of six hot pools under a high-desert moon, with nothing to block our view but miles of sagebrush and juniper, we contemplated the fact that a bean's length can put you both a few miles and an entire world away. ✧

Bonnie Wach, author of *San Francisco As You Like It*, has written for *The New York Times Magazine*, *Travel & Leisure*, and *Health*.

IF YOU'RE GOING . . .

- Alpine County Visitors Center**
(530) 694-2475, www.alpinecounty.com
- Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce**
(800) 727-7677, www.carsonvalleynv.org
- David Walley's Resort, Hot Springs & Spa**
(775) 782-8155
- Genoa Visitor's Center** (775) 782-8696,
www.genoanevada.org
- Grover Hot Springs State Park**
(530) 694-2248
- Hope Valley Outdoor Center**
(530) 694-2266
- La Ferme** (775) 783-1004
- Sorensen's Resort** (800) 423-9949,
www.sorensensresort.com
- Sugarplum Bakery** (877) 783-2253
- Villa Gigli Collection** (530) 694-2253
- Wolf Creek Restaurant & Cutthroat Saloon** (530) 694-2150, www.wolfcreekrestaurant.com

TOP, the memorabilia climbs the walls at the Cutthroat Saloon. BOTTOM, kayakers find challenge amid first-rate scenery on a stretch of the Carson River.





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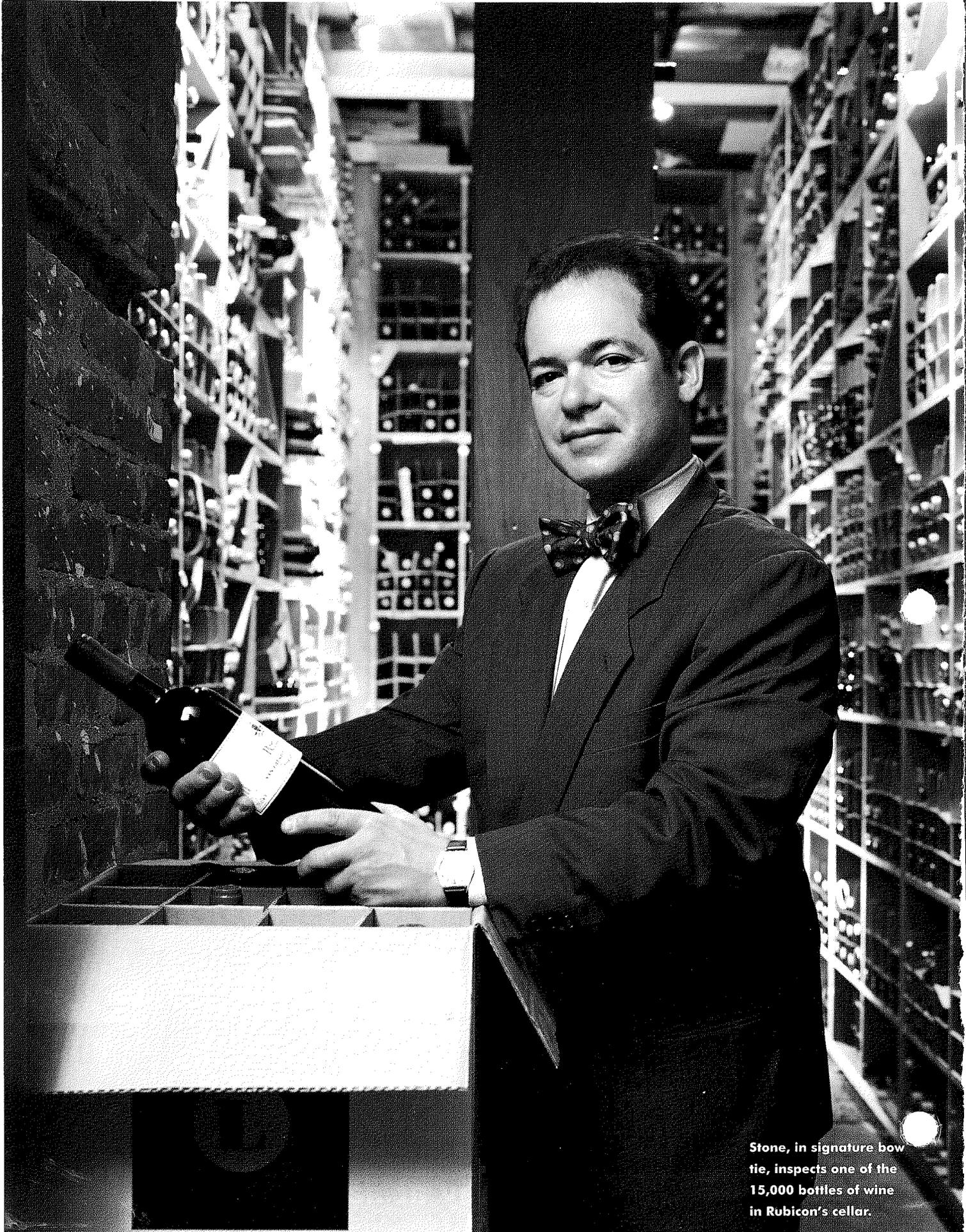
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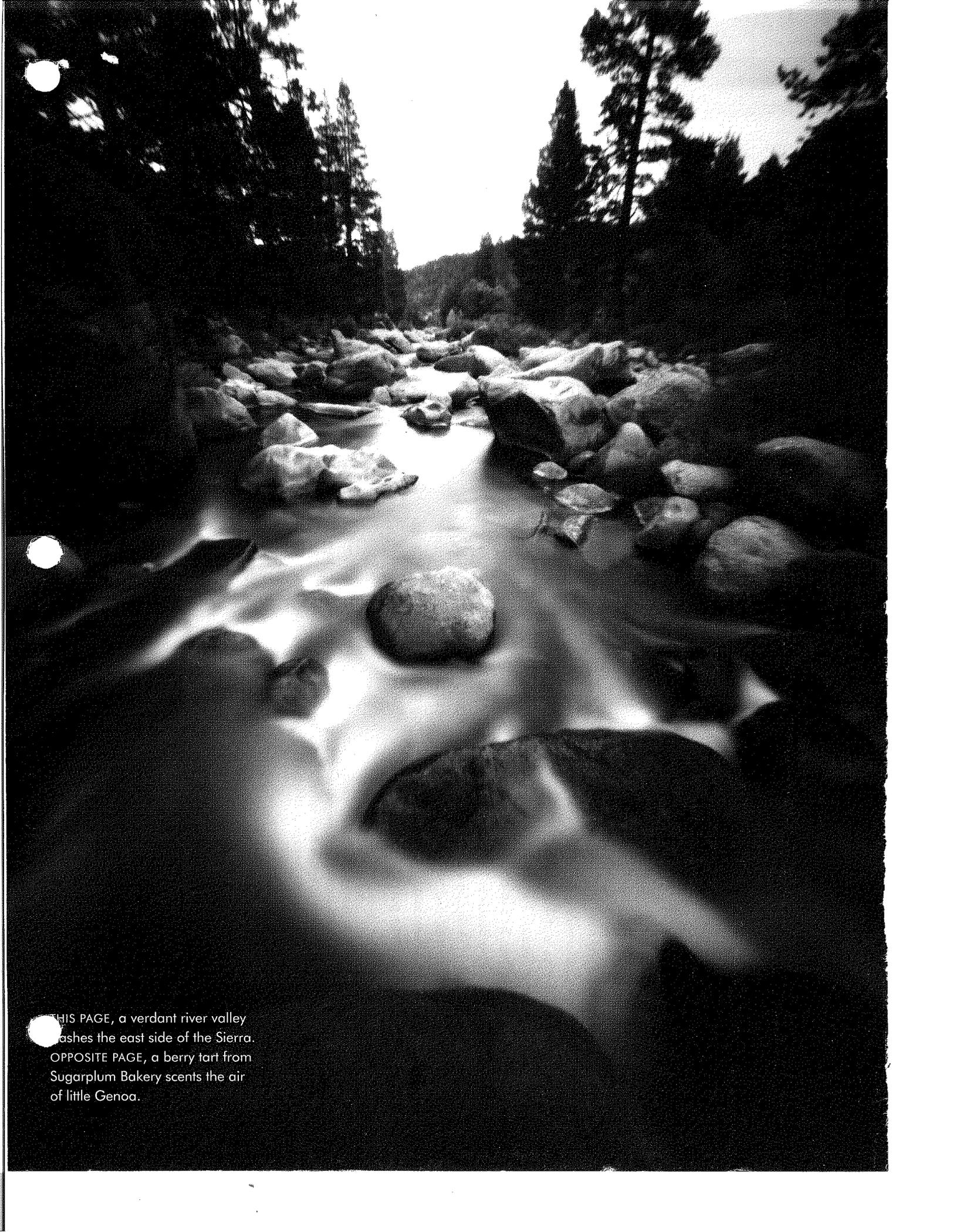
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Stone, in signature bow tie, inspects one of the 15,000 bottles of wine in Rubicon's cellar.

CHARDONNAY



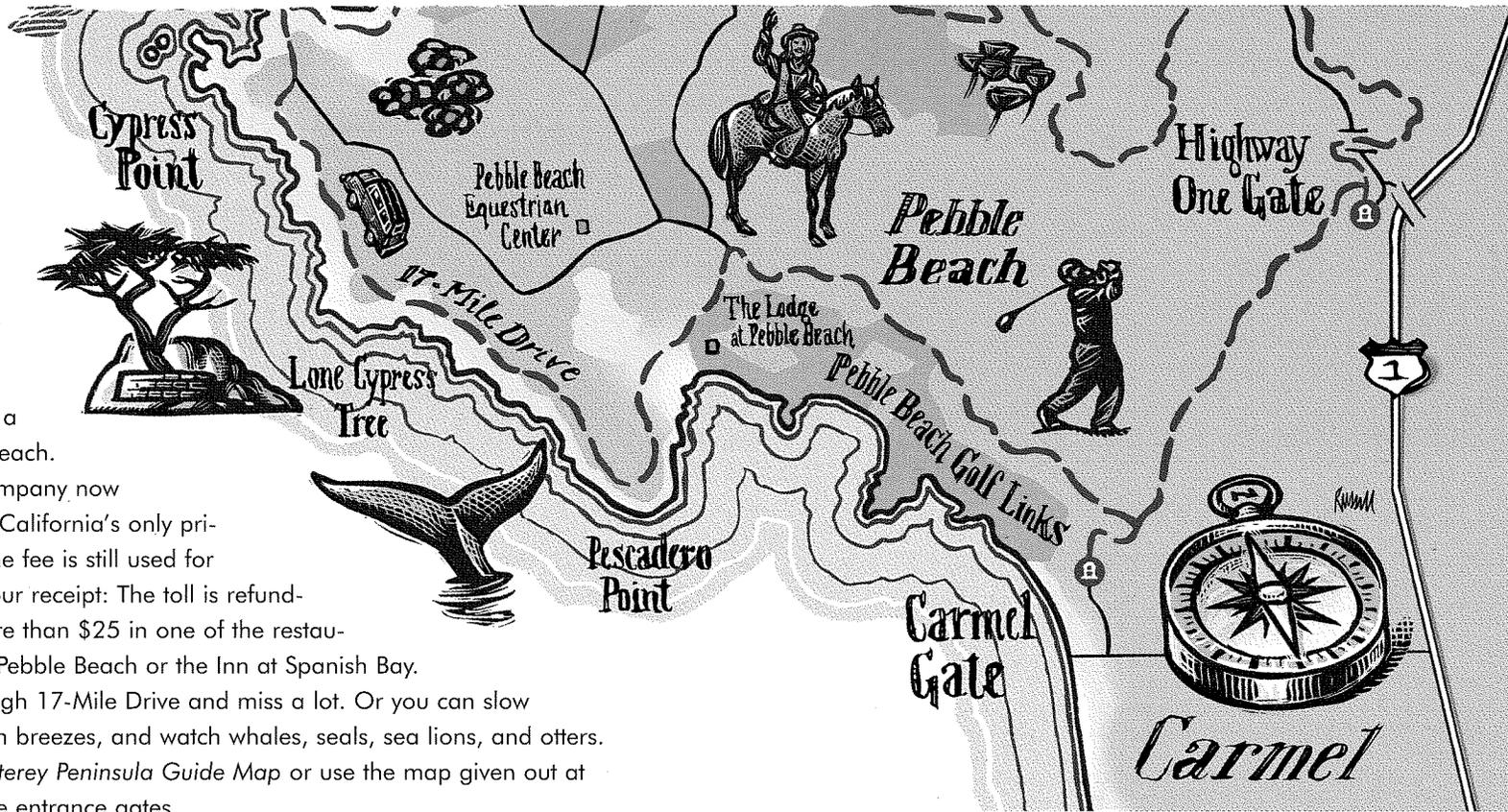
THIS PAGE, a verdant river valley washes the east side of the Sierra. OPPOSITE PAGE, a berry tart from Sugarplum Bakery scents the air of little Genoa.

fee introduced by the Pacific Improvement Company, which had carved out the road in 1881. Visitors rode horse-drawn carriages along the route running from what was the Hotel Del Monte in Monterey to a picnic site at Pebble Beach.

The Pebble Beach Company now owns 17-Mile Drive—California's only private toll road—and the fee is still used for maintenance. Save your receipt: The toll is refundable if you spend more than \$25 in one of the restaurants at the Lodge at Pebble Beach or the Inn at Spanish Bay.

You can whiz through 17-Mile Drive and miss a lot. Or you can slow down, smell the ocean breezes, and watch whales, seals, sea lions, and otters.

Pick up AAA's *Monterey Peninsula Guide Map* or use the map given out at each of the drive's five entrance gates.



SPANISH BAY Named for the explorers who dropped anchor here in 1769. Its bleak natural beauty and white granite sand contrast with the vibrant palette of coastal plants and wildflowers. Picnic here or take the half-mile stroll to Point Joe or the 1.8-mile hike to Bird Rock. To your right, the sea. To your left, sweeping fairways that may host grazing deer.

THE RESTLESS SEA Hang out with cormorants and contemplate the ocean's turbulence, thought to be caused by submerged rocks that have claimed at least two ships.

POINT JOE Named for a Chinese fisherman who used to live in a driftwood cabin nearby. If you're hoping to spot gray whales migrating south from December to February and returning north to Alaska in spring, this is a perfect lookout.

BIRD ROCK Crowded with sea lions, harbor seals, pelicans, and gulls. The 1973 movie *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* was filmed here. And nearby tidal pools formed the marine treasure chest of Nick Nolte's Doc in the 1982 film *Cannery Row*, based on the John Steinbeck novels *Cannery Row* and *Sweet Thursday*.

FANSHELL OVERLOOK Closed April 1 to June 1, when harbor seal pups are born. At other times is a good vantage point to see seals and survey the craggy coastline.

CYPRESS POINT A hangout for sea otters, and one of two places where Monterey cypress occurs naturally. (The other is Point Lobos, south of Carmel.)

LONE CYPRESS TREE Clinging to its rocky outcrop for more than 250 years, this old-timer is the definitive 17-Mile Drive landmark.

PESCADERO POINT A good overlook for Carmel Bay and Stillwater Cove. Check out the Ghost Tree, a dead Monterey cypress bleached white from salt spray and the sun.

PEBBLE BEACH EQUESTRIAN CENTER Daily beach and forest rides are offered on horses stabled here. Rides start at \$47; for reservations, call (831) 624-2756.

THE LODGE AT PEBBLE BEACH From the terrace, look out over the 18th hole to yachts bobbing on blue water. The complex, with its pricey shops and quality restaurants, has an elegant resort feel. For picnic fare, pop into the Pebble Beach Market deli.

HUCKLEBERRY HILL Named for the bushes growing in profusion. At this 800-foot elevation, get a bird's-eye view of Monterey pines, swatches of manicured golf greens, and coastline. *

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Lifestyle® 35 DVD system shown

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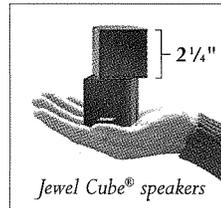
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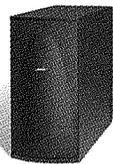
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Monterey's Best Detour

Take a tour of 17-Mile Drive, where the sea is restless, the cypress lonely, and the homes sumptuous. BY WANDA HENNIG

People have paid to travel 17-Mile Drive almost as long as it's been open. Today, many visitors drive, cycle, hike, or ride horses along the scenic five-mile stretch of California's coastline that makes up the abbreviated route between Pacific Grove and Carmel. But the complete 17-Mile Drive loops you into the Del Monte Forest, among Monterey pine and cypress as well as more than 200 species of birds, and offers panoramic vistas of Monterey Bay. The curious also get a view of Pebble Beach, a community whose private homes range in price from \$750,000 to \$28 million.

The toll (now \$8.25) dates back to 1901, when it was a 25-cent livery.

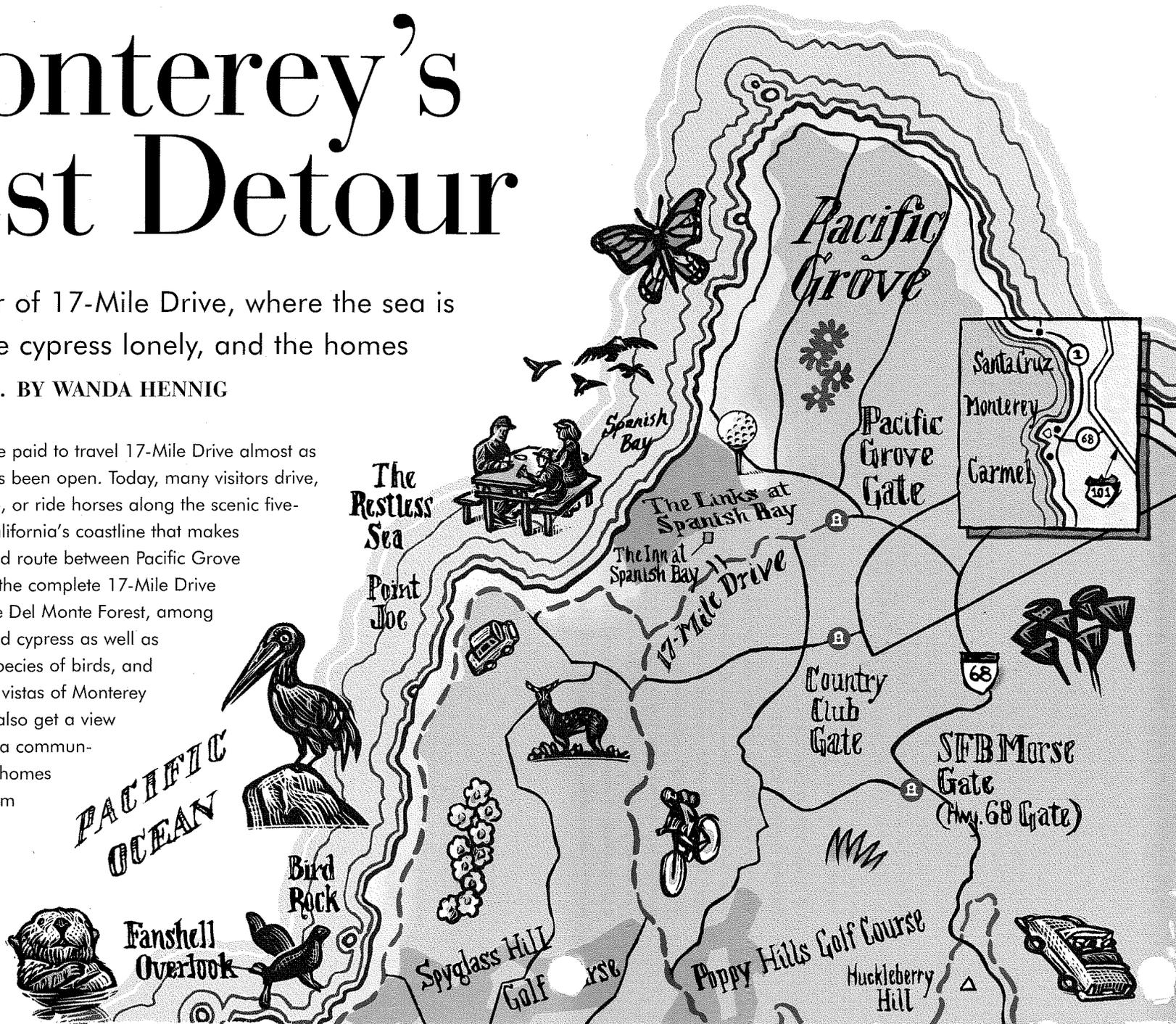


ILLUSTRATION BY BILL RUSSELL

Hot Springs still an attraction after 150 years

by Gregory Crofton
R-C News Service

The spot is about three miles from this tiny town, the seat of Alpine County. It doesn't need publicity because it has delivered the goods for 150 years.

Grover Hot Springs State Park, a 45-minute drive from South Lake Tahoe, offers a bath in 100-degree mineral water for \$3.

The state park includes a campground too, but the hot springs are the attraction. It has been enjoyed by white settlers since a rancher named John Hawkins came to graze cattle in 1854 and dug a 12-foot hole to create a pool of hot mineral water.

Today the park has a hot pool and cooler one. Both are tucked on the west side of the 700-acre tract of land enveloped by a massive meadow with a pine-studded granite peak to the north and solitude in all directions.

"(I like) switching pools all the time," said Edward Murillo, 11, of South Lake Tahoe, who has visited the park about 20 times. "It makes me feel kind of good."

The park is named after Alvin M. Grover who in 1873 took ownership of 185 acres in the valley in a partnership with a man named Daniel Hawkins. The following year the two men developed the hot springs, enlarging the pool and building a bath house.

By 1883, Grover was the owner of the Hot Springs Hotel in Mendocville. The hot springs



DAN THRIFT/R-C News Service

area opened as a state park, which may or may not have been a good thing.

For the last two years, the state's budget deficit has forced the park to cut its hours of operation dramatically. It used to be open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week. Now it's open only from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday through Monday.

What better way to spend the day?

Gary Ewers
Grover Hot Springs visitor

The park is popular enough that it could sustain its full hours of operation, but all the money collected at the door goes to the state general fund instead of being

able to pay staff directly from collections.

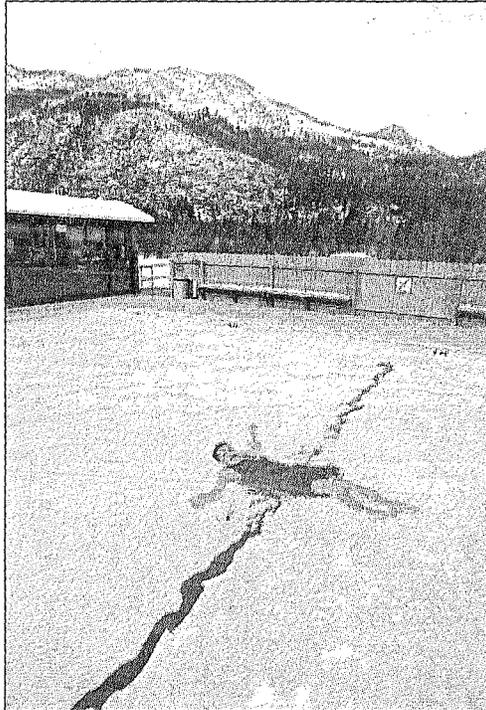
"A lot of people are very unhappy about the reduction in

mer, when it might require an hour of wait time to get in the door. Larry Rogers, who rides his motorcycle from Sparks to visit the park a couple of times a year, said he thinks Europeans go to the springs because it

releases mineral water. Some people believe the rich water helps alleviate medical conditions.

Rogers, 52, injured his back years ago. Soaking in the 102-degree water helps, he said, but

Record Courier 12/09



Hot time: Steam rises from 11-year-old Edward Murillo's head, far left, as the South Lake Tahoe boy enjoys the Markleeville-area natural springs. Oscar Castillo, near left, came from Los Angeles to enjoy the more temperate swimming hole at Grover Hot Springs.

it doesn't cure everything. Rogers' fellow motorcycle rider, Gary Ewers, has been visiting the park for 24 years.

"What better way to spend the day?" Ewers, 55, said. "It's a very popular spot. You see a lot of motorcycle riders."

Surprisingly, it's also a regu-

lar spot for South Lake Tahoe residents. Carmen Murillo, 41, comes to the springs about twice a month to soothe her sore muscles.

"I work too hard. I have two jobs," she said, rubbing her shoulders and back. "I need something to relax."