

Mill Creek

Summer Home Tract



Cabin Histories at Mill Creek

Where It's Not Happening

July 2014

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INTRODUCTION

The seed of an idea for this project started in the summer of 1999 while attending a wedding at the Weesha Country Club, a small community in the San Bernardino Mountains. A book describing the development of the club and each cabin was available for perusal. Immediately I thought we should have something like this for Mill Creek! We need to preserve the rich history of the community and those who developed it.

After thinking about this potential project for many years, the idea was presented to the Mill Creek Summer Homeowners Association Board of Directors and they approved a plan to collect the stories of the cabins comprising the Mill Creek Summer Home Tract. Requests were sent to each cabin owner and the following histories are the result of their recollections, memories and love of Mill Creek. As one can see, a number of owners had extensive fond memories and interesting information about the history of their cabin. Others were able to supply only the barest minimum knowledge. Unfortunately, the project is incomplete as some owners did not respond after numerous requests.

In addition to the individual cabin histories, United States Forest Service documents were researched and provided useful information about the history and development of the Tract. One of those documents is quoted extensively to set the scene for the presentation of the individual histories.

One of the developments with great impact throughout the entire history is the successful Land Exchange which culminated in the transfer of ownership from the US Forest Service to each individual cabin owner.

The process, which took over a decade to complete, is recounted in “The Land Swap Story” written by Ralph Meuter. The highlights presented here belie the frustrating travails of dealing with the confusion and bureaucracy of multiple levels of government agencies and regulations.

The list of former owners provides an interesting recollection of those who preceded the current owners. This listing was compiled from a variety of sources, and unfortunately, is incomplete.

The Mill Creek Timeline offers a brief recap of significant events and actions over the years. It is amazing to note that we are less than a decade away from the one hundred year anniversary of the establishment of the Mill Creek Summer Recreation Residence Tract.

It has been my pleasure to lead the development of this endeavor. There have been times of frustration, but the finished product is worth all the trials and tribulations. I appreciate all of those who shared and contributed to make this project come to completion. Special thanks go to Ralph for support throughout the project, to Matt Meuter, David Zeichek and Sally Loker for technical assistance and to Joe Kelly for his wildlife photos and to the Mill Creek Summer Homeowners Association for funding this project.

Mill Creek holds a very big soft spot in my heart, where family and friends have had many, many special times. It is my hope that my children and grandchildren will have wonderful memories and never lose the essence of Mill Creek.

Marilee Meuter, Editor

July 2014

Mill Creek, Where It's Not Happening

The Mill Creek community is no longer part of the Lassen National Forest Service since a land swap in 2005 allowed the cabin owners to hold the deed to the property. The following overview is taken from the *Significance Evaluation of the Mill Creek Summer Home Tract*, USDA Forest Service, Lassen National Park, Almanor Ranger District, 2001 to provide an historic picture of the community.

Introduction

“Summer home tracts, such as Mill Creek on the Lassen National Forest, were built in California's National Forests during the first part of the twentieth century and are commonly referred to as second homes or recreational residences. Shortly after the passage of the Term Permit Act of 1915, housing tracts were laid out and summer home development began along the shores of many of Lassen National Forest's most scenic and accessible rivers and lakes. The Mill Creek summer home tract is located six miles southeast of the town of Mineral in Tehama County (Map 1).

Historic Context

The earliest recreation residences documented in the Pacific Southwest Region date to 1906. Most of the early, scattered, residences were later incorporated into surveyed tracts. Recreation residence tracts in the region were first surveyed in 1915, following implementation of the Occupancy Permits Act. Over the succeeding years, tracts were added and changed, until 1959, when the last tract was developed. Most recreation residence tracts are now over 50 years old. Most have, on a whole, undergone constant change; but, most also maintain an historic, rustic character, as a result of the Forest Service guidelines permitting their use. (USDA 2000:16)



Map 1 -- General Location

Period of Significance

The period of significance for the Mill Creek Recreation Residence tract is between 1924 and 1945. Lots within the Mill Creek tract were surveyed and developed in three distinct phases (Phase I 1924-1925, Phase II 1930-1935 & Phase III 1947) during this time period. The special use permit obtained by each owner required the construction of a summer home within two years of signing the permit. Since the original special use permits for the Mill Creek tract have been destroyed, it can only be assumed, that most people built their homes shortly after acquiring the lots from the Forest Service as indicated by several discussions with current residents.

History of the Mill Creek Summer Home Tract

The local economy in the mountains of Tehama and Plumas counties has always depended on the logging industry, recreation related service jobs, and employment by local, state and government agencies. Due to the heavily forested character of the northeastern part of the state, the timber industry was *very* much in evidence. The Red River Lumber Company had its headquarters in Westwood and logged much of the timber in the Plumas-Lassen county area. People came to the mountains during the summer to get away from the valley heat, hunt, fish, and enjoy the scenery. Lassen National Park as well as the many lakes, creeks and recreational opportunities continues to draw visitors to this area today.

The Mill Creek tract is located on the banks of Mill Creek in Tehama County, California. The tract is located along Highway 172, approximately 25 miles west of the town of Chester and Lake Almanor, and approximately 75 miles northeast of Chico and Red Bluff (Map 2).



Mill Creek Environs
Map 2

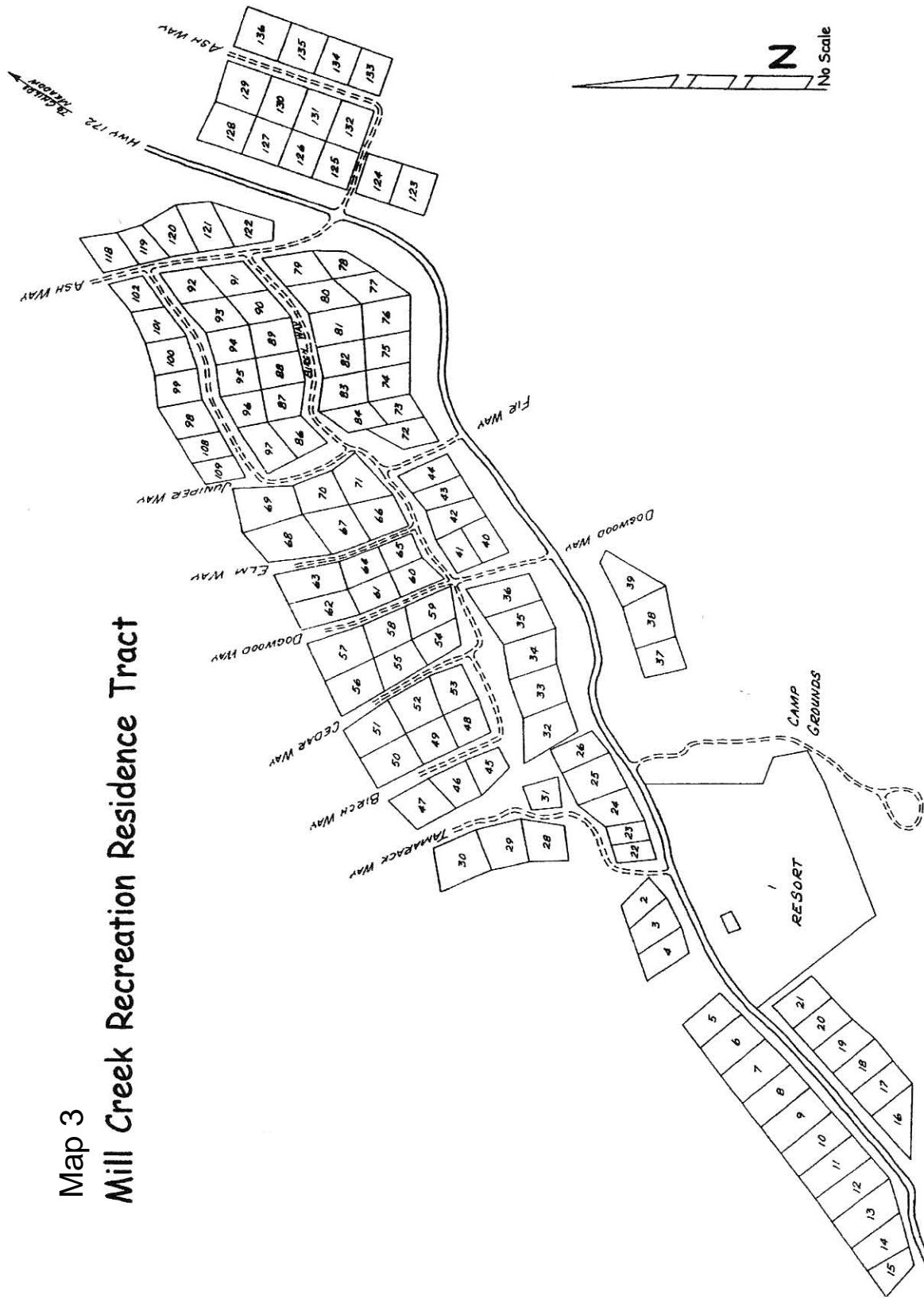
The tract overlooks Mill Creek to the east and is located amongst mixed conifers at an elevation of 4,600 feet. Annual precipitation is approximately 20 inches, and average temperatures vary from a high of 95 degrees in summer months to a low of 18 degrees in the winter. The Mill Creek summer home tract consists of 122 lots. Three of the lots are vacant (Lots 26, 27 & 99) and 119 are occupied.

Facilities within the Mill Creek Tract include a store/post office building (resort) on Lot 1 and 118 summer homes (Map 3). Most of the original homeowners in Mill Creek were farmers, schoolteachers and a smattering of professionals. Many of the lots have been passed down through families and are held in common by several siblings.

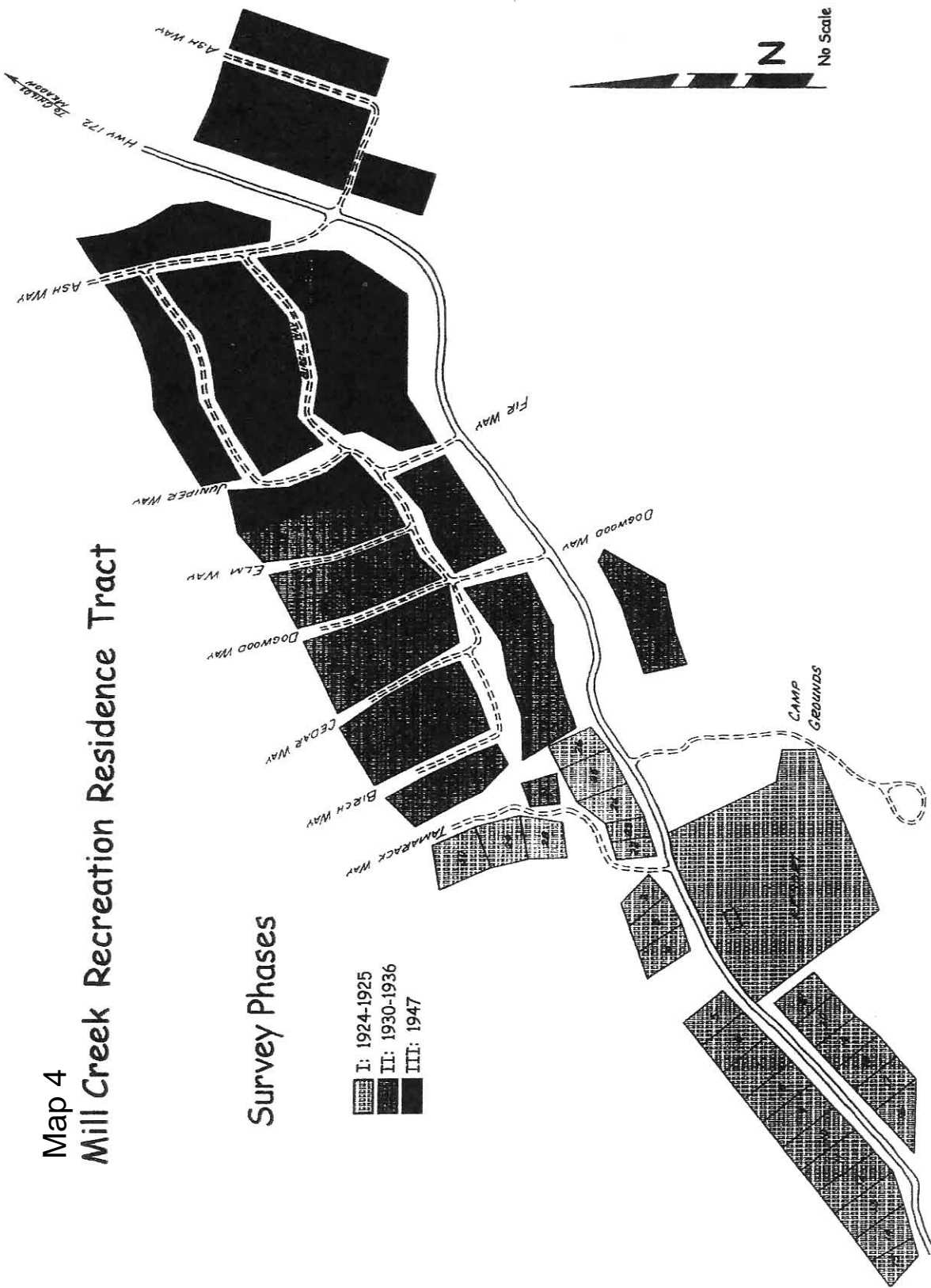
The growing use of the backcountry resulted in the creation of Mill Creek Recreation Residence Tract which provided the public the opportunity to build a vacation home in the scenic mountains. Over the years recreation became an increasingly important factor to the rural economy. The main attraction of the area was the natural setting, spectacular mountain scenery and the lack of people and development. The Mill Creek tract was surveyed in three phases. The spatial distribution of the Mill Creek Tract surveys is shown in Map 4.

Phase I:	1924:	Lots 1-26
	1925:	Lots 27-30
Phase II:	1930:	Lots 31-39
	1934:	Lots 40-44
	1935:	Lots 45-68
Phase III:	1947:	Lots 69-84, 86-122 and 123-136

Map 3 Mill Creek Recreation Residence Tract



Map 4
 Mill Creek Recreation Residence Tract



Survey Phases

- I: 1924-1925
- II: 1930-1936
- III: 1947

Summer home lots at Mill Creek were initially distributed by a lottery system. The first lot was awarded to Dr. Godbolt, a dentist from the Sacramento Valley. He built his cabin on Lot 28 (DeBolt, 1999). In the early years, most folks who acquired lots were from the Sacramento Valley (Majors, 1999). Lot 1 was known as Foster's Camp, Mill Creek Homesite, and/or Mill Creek Homesite Resort. It was under a commercial lease to partners: E. J. Foster & Leo Corby.

The tract was located on Highway 36, which was the original Susanville to Red Bluff road. Highway 36 was later re-routed over Morgan Summit and the Mill Creek road was given a different designation (Highway 172). It was paved all the way to Red Bluff as early as the 1920s. The owners originally constructed most of the summer homes in the tract and attempts were made to achieve a rustic quality of buildings. Materials were brought in from the Red River mill in Westwood, or from the Valley (Majors, 1999). Construction materials were wood with some rock in the foundations and chimneys. One informant said the rock for the chimney of his cabin was brought in from Lake County by the owner for sentimental reasons (DeBolt, 1999). The buildings were unsealed and done in a primitive manner in keeping with the rustic character of the tract. They were small, measuring approximately 30 ft. x 40 ft., usually consisting of two rooms. The kitchen and sleeping quarters were often just screened in. They were closed up with large shutters during the winter (DeBolt, 1999).

Due to its isolation Mill Creek residents had very basic amenities, the most critical need being water. E. J. Foster, an original permittee in Mill Creek was the proprietor of the store and built the first water system.

Spring water was collected in a reservoir and fed directly into cast iron pipes laid above ground. Since the pipes were located above ground the system had to be drained in the winter to prevent damage from freezing. The system was also subject to contamination and was improved in order to meet health standards at the time it was sold. The original water system served Lots 1-39.

When the next phase of the tract was opened in the 1930's, the water system (serving Lots 40-68) was enlarged by W.H. Foster. The Forest Service constructed the concrete spillway, the main line and a 5,000-gallon tank using CCC crews. This was a closed system with redwood reservoir tanks.

When the Fosters sold the resort in 1965, they kept the water system. The Mill Creek Homeowners Association bought Foster's System, each homeowner being assessed \$50.00 to help defray the purchase price (DeBolt 1999). The Foster's system had been in continuous use for nearly 50 years without a permit or any regulation. It was sold to the Homeowner association after much negotiation and bad feelings between the Fosters and the homeowners. At that time the existing water system was expanded and connected to a second system that served the rest of the lots. In 1972 a second set of water tanks was installed to supplement the older system and the Association administered the entire system.

Mill Creek residents used kerosene for lighting and wood stoves for cooking and heating. Electricity was installed around 1945 by PG&E. Before power could be extended to the tract there had to be a

minimum of 40 summer homeowners who would purchase electricity (Major 1999). Originally, an outhouse was built for each summer home; however, most have been replaced by modern bathrooms and septic systems in recent years. Phone service was not available at the Mill Creek tract until recently.

Mill Creek Tract Attributes

The Mill Creek Recreation Residence Tract is situated up slope from Mill Creek. Route 172 bisects the tract with summer homes laid out in a grid pattern on both sides of the road with most frontage roads within the tract running perpendicular to the main road. Fifty-nine percent of the buildings are accessed by the numerous frontage roads within the development, 35% are reached from the main road bisecting the tract and 6% are accessed by their driveway.

Summer homes were designed to blend into the natural landscape and were situated on the landscape and designed to take advantage of landform features. Homes were commonly built near landscape features such as trees (50%) and boulders (13%), on slopes (18%) and oriented towards Mill Creek (19%) in many instances.

Most of the summer home lots also had at least one or more outbuildings associated with the main residence. Storage sheds are the most frequently occurring outbuilding (38%), followed by garages (29%), sleeping cabins (14%), outhouses (7%), guest houses (2%) and miscellaneous structures. Many of the outbuildings, especially garages, found at Mill Creek are non-permitted structures and relatively recent additions to the tract.

All summer homes had an outdoor activity area in the form of a porch, patio or deck, usually adjacent to the house. Wood decks occur twice as often as porches in this tract. Many of the decks and porches are modern in design and lack the rustic, vernacular look. Other cultural features observed on many lots included satellite dishes, paths, flower beds, fire pits, swings, horseshoe pits, tables, benches and other natural seats (stumps and boulders).”

USDA Forest Service, Lassen National Park, Almanor Ranger District, 2001
Significance Evaluation of the Mill Creek Summer Home Tract,



Lot 1

Owners: Terry and Georgene
Neher
Mill Creek, CA

Purchased: 1982

Based on historical information and references in *Mineral-Mill Creek Place Names* by Gene Serr, “The community and resort started as Mill Creek Campsites in Lassen National Forest. In 1924 the Forest Service surveyed a plan for 25 summer homesites, a store and a possible resort. E.J. Foster and Leon Cordy of Cottonwood leased the store and a number of cabins. The Forest Service later increased the number of home sites to 118.”

Pictures show an original small building on this property, right at the edge of the road. The current facility was built by E.J. and Hank Foster in 1935. Hank and his wife, Merle, operated the resort until 1956. Subsequent owners included the Swartz family, Larry and Dolores Mansfield and George and Dorothy Crockett.

Terry and Georgene Neher and her parents, Gene and Georgia Litzler, bought the resort in July, 1982. Daughter, Kelly was 4 ½ years old and started Kindergarten at Mineral School. Golden Retriever, Fauna, joined the family in September. In November, 1983, the birth announcement of Jake Quincy reported that the “permanent” population of Mill Creek became an even dozen. Gene and Georgia helped with the operations and shared stories with the guests. Over the years, in addition to Kelly and Jake, most of Terry and Georgene’s nieces and nephews worked at Mill Creek as well as a number of other great staff.

Kelly and Jake both attended Mineral School, a 2-room, K-8 school. Both kids especially enjoyed skiing and participated in the 4-H guide dog program. Eventually, this led to the resort’s two subsequent golden retriever hosts, Jess and Radiant. Both Kelly and Jake went to Red Bluff High School. Kelly went to St. Mary’s College in Moraga and Samuel

Merritt College in Oakland for a B.S. degree in nursing. She and husband, Kevin Linebarger, live in Anchorage, AK, where Kelly is a flight nurse. Jake attended Cal Poly University in San Luis Obispo, with a degree in finance and economics and has lived in London, England since 2008.

Terry and Georgene were original members of the Mill Creek branch of the volunteer fire department, starting May, 1984. The first fund-raiser pancake breakfast was held “4th of July weekend”, 1984. Approximately 125 people were served entirely out of the resort kitchen. In the early 1990’s a parade was added to the festivities and now includes kids, dogs, wagons, bikes, fire trucks, floats, and a kazoo marching band; all with a patriotic spirit and community pride inspiring everyone. This community event and volunteer firefighter fund raiser had a record 610 guests in 2011.

In anticipation of an eventual “retirement” in sight, Terry and Georgene have bought a Mill Creek cabin for a home base, with the extreme hope that the resort will continue to function as a family-oriented, generational, great milk shake and burger operation into the future. “The little place in the woods where it’s not happening.”



Lot 2

Owner: Jerry Cleek
Orland, CA

Purchased: 1950

Jerry's grandfather purchased the cabin for his grandmother. She spent all summer at the cabin.

"Cleek's Sinking Inn" is located near the creek formed by the run-off from the spring on upper Tamarack, and looks across to the Mill Creek Resort. For Jerry, Mill Creek is his favorite place on earth--one step above Disneyland.



Indian Paintbrush



Lot 3

Owners: John & Susie
Kirch
Fallon, NV

Purchased: 2005

This cabin was originally built as a fishing shack in 1933 by an unidentified farm hand from Gridley. It was one of the first to be built in the Mill Creek subdivision. The owner was Clyde Hamer of Gridley and in 1946, he and his wife deeded the property to their daughter Cora Jean and her husband Harold Horn. Cora Jean died in 1987. Harold continued ownership of the cabin and in 1991 shared ownership with his new wife, Janet Kirch. They owned the cabin jointly until 2005 when Janet purchased the property from Harold. Her son and his wife, John and Susie Kirch, shared ownership until Janet's death in 2006 at which time John and Susie became the sole owners.

Over the years, the cabin evolved into a more comfortable place. A screen porch was added in back and a deck in front. Running water and plumbing added more convenience. In the early 1990's several more improvements were made upgrading the interior and increasing the size of the deck.

As the cabin approached its 74th year in 2007 the decision was made to demolish it and rebuild from the ground up. Within three months from the beginning of construction, a beautiful new cabin was completed while the exterior maintained the historic integrity of the community.



Lot 5

Owners: Terry and Georgene
Neher
Mill Creek, CA

Purchased: 2008

Ardeen Smith and her husband inherited the cabin. The original cabin, being in the single digits of the development, was very likely to have been built in the late 1930s.

When the original cabin was destroyed by a fallen tree, Mr. Smith, an architect, prepared plans for a replacement. After many years of building, the outside shell was “completed” about 1982. For several years, “Deenie” and her friend, Buzz, camped out in the cabin, without power and water, attempting to construct the interior. They eventually established a roughed-in kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and loft with power and water.

It was purchased by Dante and Ann Grasso in September 1996 when Deenie passed away. Dan, retired from the Coast Guard, continued to work on the interior of the cabin and visited often, especially during hunting season. When the Grassos moved to the Midwest in 2004, the cabin wasn't being used as they had hoped. Terry and Georgene Neher had admired the windows, openness and deck of the cabin and purchased the work in progress in October, 2008. They completely remodeled the kitchen, finished the floors, walls, and exterior and plan to use it as a family gathering and retirement base in the future.



Lot 6

Owners: Mark and Diane
Black
Red Bluff, CA

Purchased 1998

The Black's purchased in 1998 after searching a couple of years for the "right" cabin. They especially enjoy the peace and quiet and beautiful setting.



Snow Plants Pop Up



Lot 8

Owners: Ann and
Michael
McDonald
Durham, CA

Purchased: 1953

The cabin was built in 1934 by Fred and Theresa Kronsbein and they sold it in 1953 to Louise and Harry Higginbotham and Harry's sister Mary Higginbotham. The Higginbotham family enjoyed camping at the Mill Creek Campground to escape the valley heat. It was cool, quiet and peaceful and they loved Mill Creek. When a cabin came on the market, they were delighted to purchase it and become a part of the Mill Creek community.

The cabin was small but well built. Harry put decorative rock in the front under the deck and improved the foundation. Later, as repairs were needed, a new, larger deck was constructed and a small storage building was added.

Treasured memories have been collected in the sixty plus years the family has had the cabin. Following Louise's death in 2013, Ann, her daughter, and husband Michael have ownership of the cabin. They cherish the cabin that Harry and Louise bought and look forward to many more memories.



Lot 9

Owner: Barbara
Woogerd

Purchased: 1972

Barbara's introduction to Mill Creek was from a neighbor in Sonoma where she worked and lived. Her neighbor had a son who lived in Mineral and at one time owned Child's Meadow Resort (John Koberer); he suggested that Barbara stop by to take a look at the area and while returning from vacation in the north one year, she did. She looked at the available cabins for sale. The owner of Lot 40 had told Larry Mansfield, the owner of the Mill Creek store and a Real Estate Broker, if anyone was interested in buying, let them spend the night in his cabin which was for sale. The short visit made Barbara and her family realize they wanted a piece of Mill Creek to be in their lives. Eventually she purchased Lot 9.

The previous owner, Father Dosch, celebrated mass every Sunday in the cabin. The lore of Father Dosch continues among the old timers of Mill Creek.

One of the first cabins constructed in the area, it has windows that drop down inside the walls to open. The newel posts of the staircase are of small shellacked trees.

The family enjoys spending time at the cabin and have memories and friendships of others who passed their summers here.



Lot 10

Owners: Bob and Joanne
Kittle
Fort Collins, CO

Purchased: 2000

The original owners are unknown. In the 1960s, Hank and Merle Foster rented the cabin for the summer after they sold the Mill Creek store. They later moved to Camp Tehama where they managed the site for many years. Barbara Miles and her husband, who was once a president of the homeowner's association, were the next owners. They were from Huntington Beach and they began expanding the cabin. Following the Miles, a young couple from Santa Rosa owned the cabin and enlisted their friends to assist with remodeling. The friends must have tired of this arrangement as the cabin soon sold to Carl Shepherd. The Kittles purchased the cabin in 2000 from Bob and Mary Evans and Pat and Shelly Tedford.

In 1987 good friend Tony Petromilli (Lot 66) offered his cabin to Joanne, her previous husband and three children as a retreat following the death of Joanne's father. As a result, they met many neighbors and became "caretakers" of the Sugden's cabin, Lot 43, while they were temporarily living in Texas.

Following her divorce, Joanne began dating Bob Kittle. In the fall of 2000, while visiting Mill Creek she noticed a "for sale by owner" sign at Lot 10. They called the owner, looked at the cabin and Joanne, who already loved Mill Creek, was delighted that Bob fell in love with the area too.



Lot 11

Owners: Frank and
Elaine
McCaughey
Orland, CA

Purchased: 1958

The cabin was built in the 1930s; the original owners are unknown. As a child in the 1940s, Frank's family spent summer vacations at Mill Creek, renting a cabin from the Fosters. In the 1950s the Voorhies from Redding owned the cabin then sold it to Father Dosch. In 1958 Father Dosch sold the cabin to Frank's mother for \$2,500. Father Dosch then purchased Lot 9. Frank's mother called it St. Jude's because she didn't think she would ever own it; she prayed to St. Jude that she could buy it. In 1961 Frank and Elaine spent their honeymoon in the cabin and in 1980, Frank inherited it.

The McCaughey's spend a lot of time in the summer at the cabin with family and friends. A family tradition is an annual Mount Lassen Climb, which is discussed over beer and Martini's; a climb has actually occurred three times. The family has been known to play mountain golf behind the cabin and also they go road bowling on the main road.

Another tradition is to have Grandkids Week in July when the grandkids, without parents, have fun at the cabin and spend a short time at Reno where they are taught to drink, smoke and gamble. The older grandkids fondly remember the times at Reno and hope to do the same with their grandkids when the time comes.

One summer Frank and Elaine were greeted at the cabin by neighbor Jack Dolan with a pitcher of Martini's and a boom box playing John Phillip Souza. Jack told them that Mill Creek needed to have a Fourth of July Parade. There was a Homeowner's meeting the next day and Frank proposed a parade be held during the Pancake Breakfast. The parade was a success and has become a Mill Creek tradition since 1994. The

first year, Kelly Neher was Miss Mill Creek, Louise Higginbotham (Lot 8) & J.W.(Skip) Bakerville (Lot 17) were the Grand Marshalls and were driven by Jack Dolan (Lot12). Frank and Jack Tedford (Lot 10) had the Mill Creek Mountain Golf and Road Bowling float.

As a result of campfire “meetings” with neighbors, life-long friendships have developed which Frank and Elaine cherish. Frank proudly served on the Homeowners Board during the land swap process.



The McCaughey children in 1967.



Lot 12

Owners: John & Thea
Dolan
Santa Rosa, CA

Purchased: 1972

“Holiday House” was built in 1931, or 1934. An architect was used to design the cabin which was unusual for the time. It was built by a gentleman from Chico, whose name has not been discovered. It was called Holiday House because that is what it was used for. A place to party on holidays and according to the old timers in the area, these folks knew how to party. It was also used during the hunting and fishing seasons. Various trophies from those early days are on display in the great room.

The owner of the cabin found that the upkeep of the cabin, the cleaning of fish, the dressing of game was taking too much party time on his visit to the cabin, so he made an arrangement with two bachelors to become caretakers of the cabin. They were relatives of the owner. These caretakers were known as Slim and Red to the neighbors. Slim was a rather frail man and spent a good deal of his time doing housework and sitting on the deck enjoying the sunshine and tying fishing flies. He lived in the cabin year round. He was a favorite of the neighbor kids and often provided them with treats.

Red was the bread winner of the family and worked at various jobs in the forest and the surrounding ranches. In about 1935 a friend of Red’s decided that she wanted to spend more summer time at the cabin, and so the east bedroom was added to the original structure.

Jim Rankin, from Sacramento purchased the cabin in the mid 1960s and sold a share to Ken Wiffler in 1969. In 1972 Jack and Thea Dolan purchased one-third interest from Ken Wiffler. In 1982 the Dolans bought another one-third interest and in 1999 purchased the remaining third interest. During this time a new steel roof, a new water system,

new windows, and new flooring were added, a bedroom was converted into a laundry room and bath, as well as other improvements were made. Most of this work was done by the Dolan's nephew, Dave Osowski from Grafton, North Dakota when he spent one winter month at the cabin.

The Dolan's have spent many delightful days at the cabin. Their children learned to ski at Mt. Lassen and have used the cabin as a base for area camping, exploring and hiking. Grandchildren and their families spend several weeks during the summer time and some times in the winter for cross-country skiing and sledding. Cabin neighbors, especially Phyllis Abbott and Frank and Elaine McCaughey, were dear to the Dolan's and in Thea's book, Frank makes the best martini north of San Francisco.



Fun in the Snow



Lot 13

Owners: Bruce & Paula
Geveden
Red Bluff, CA

Purchased: 2006

The cabin was built by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley from Lafayette. Mr. Stanley had read in the Oakland Tribune that the Forest Service was opening a number of lots in the area very near Lassen National Park. On a return trip from Washington in 1932 they decided to take a look at the lots that were available. They fell in love with the Mineral area, but there were no lots available. They were told to head on over the hill and see if any were available at Mill Creek. They did, and they found there was only one lot available, Lot 13. Phyllis Stanley Abbott was twelve years old at the time and remembers driving over the hill from Mineral with her parents, two brothers and a sister. The family purchased the lot and Mr. Stanley, a contractor, built a small one-room cabin within the time limit required by the Forest Service. The following year, he and a friend built on to the one room. Because her mother had asthma and hay fever, she and the kids would spend the entire summers at Mill Creek and Mr. Stanley would join them on weekends.

It was quite a venture to go in the winter because the cabin was built for summer use, but Phyllis and her family and friends would go to Mill Creek and enjoyed skiing at Mount Lassen.

As the years passed, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley continued to enjoy the cabin during the summers. After their deaths, Phyllis and her brothers became owners. In the years that followed, difficulty in getting to Mill Creek as well as illness caused them to sell the cabin.

In 2006 it was purchased by the Gevedens.



Lot 15

Owners: Shirley Boracci
Orland, CA

Purchased: 1983

Dale and Bernice Sievers owned the cabin since the 1920's. They decided to sell in order to move closer to their children in Idaho. It was considered one of the "party" cabins in the 50's, 60's and 70's. In 1978-79 they added the living room and upstairs master bedroom and bath. Bernice loved to take hot baths and then sit on the "patio" outside the sliding doors of the bedroom. Dale would bring her coffee each morning and they would chat.

At the time the Sievers were contemplating selling the cabin, Shirley and her late husband, Ernie, decided they needed a retreat from work as well as the heat of summer. They looked for a cabin at Mill Creek in February when two feet of snow was on the ground. Once inside the Sievers' cabin, the Boraccis knew it was going to be theirs. They added the front deck and shed for the two quads and five snowmobiles.

The cabin was indeed a great get-away from Orland, and a wonderful place for their five daughters and their friends. It is used today by the extended family, some who have been coming to Mill Creek since they were infants. Two grandsons learned to ride the quad here. The youngest one could not reach the foot pedal, but he knew how to use the hand grips to power and stop. They progressed to snowmobiles and their uncle showed them some pretty risky maneuvers. They enjoyed it and were careful and not once did they have to be taken to the hospital in Chester.

During the land swap process Ernie worked very hard with the attorneys, CPA's, advisors and others because he wanted to "own his own land." Ernie passed away before the land swap was complete and Shirley continued on with it because it was what he wanted for the family. She has been involved in the Homeowners Association for many years and the Water Company since its inception.

Shirley and her family love Mill Creek and want it to continue to be a great home away from home.



Photo by Joe Kelly

Mill Creek Catch



Lot 16

Owner: Janice Knight
Red Bluff, CA

Purchased: 1997

The quiet atmosphere, little traffic and the great people brought Ron (deceased) and Janice to Mill Creek in 1995. The cabin was constructed sometime in the 1920s, and the story is that it was the “bunk house” for the lot next door, Lot 17. Swedish trappers supposedly added the fire place with a three to four inch solid slab of local pine for the mantel and they built the dining table. Some of their pelts are still in the cabin. The original builder/owner is not known, but the cabin was owned for a time by the Robert and Marilee Meline family from Woodland, then the Moore family from Red Bluff, again by the Melines and then the Knights.

Through the past years, double-pane windows were added as well as a bedroom and bath. The comfy charm has been maintained, even the bit of a lean the structure has developed.

Family and friends enjoy using the cabin in summer as well as winter.



Lot 17

Owner: The Chaput
Family Trust
Portola Valley, CA

Purchased: 1987

The cabin was built in the 1920s by Skip Bakerville with the help of his father-in-law who also helped build the cabin on Lot 16. This was one of the first completed cabins and Skip helped construct the small run-off stream from the spring through the cabins at the west end. Skip's brother Ivan surveyed the home site before construction. Skip drove a linen truck and his route included Red Bluff to Susanville. He and his wife loved to go to dances at Dance and Dinner Hall which is believed to be what we know now as Child's Meadow.

While camping with friends and exploring Lassen Park, Marc Chaput stumbled upon Mill Creek and knew it was special. He sat at the store having coffee with Skip and listened to stories of the cabin and area. Marc eventually purchased Skip's cabin, but let Skip keep a set of keys, so he could enjoy the cabin whenever he wanted. Neighbors said that occasionally Skip would be spotted sitting on the deck enjoying the forest view. In addition to the occasional visit by Skip, the cabin has hosted singer, songwriter and guitarist Boz Scaggs.

The Chaput Family considers their Mill Creek cabin to be a jewel and hope to keep it forever in the family.



Lot 19

Owner: Jim Davis
Red Bluff, CA

Purchased: 1973

Having grown up in the Red Bluff vicinity, Jim spent time in the mountains. Relatives had a cabin in the Mineral Stringtown area and at times he stayed with friends who had a cabin at Mill Creek. The cabin was built in the 1920's.

While in high school at Red Bluff Jim visited Bill Foster whose family ran the store. The two played basketball at Red Bluff High School.

Ralph Cooper, a former owner, told Jim that golfer Champagne Tony Lema visited the cabin while he owned it. Richard Mason, another former owner, added a living room and bedroom.

The cabin's history includes a tree falling through the middle of it at one time. The day after Thanksgiving day of 2009 another tree fell on the cabin and did over \$20,000 in damage. In January of 2010 another tree added more damage.



Lot 20

Owner: Jack and Belva
Slyh
Orland, CA

Purchased: 1972

The cabin was built in 1929 by Tommy Tompson from South San Francisco. He and his wife owned the cabin from 1929 until 1972 when the Slyhs purchased it. Tommy was a deer hunter who would hang deer from a bar between two trees in the back of the cabin. Jack's parents purchased a cabin (Lot 35) in 1943. Mill Creek has always been a second home for Jack.

Jack remembers thirteen high school classmates staying at his parents cabin for a visit--wall to wall boys sleeping on the floor. It was during the winter when there was two feet of snow on the ground. The following day was a Senior Sneak Day from Orland High School to Mineral where the friends all enjoyed sledding and sliding down the hill.

Jack and Belva's children, Sheri and Gary repeated the fun ventures of their father by using the cabin in the winter with their friends and skiing at Lassen. Having been involved in redoing the water system when they were younger, they were very careful about turning off and draining the pipes properly and there was never a problem with frozen pipes.

The Slyhs enjoy all seasons at Mill Creek. They like to escape the summer heat by leaving the valley and in the winter to play in the snow and snowmobile. In years past, they enjoyed catching fish in Mill Creek and having a fish fry in the evening.

The year 2010 marked a mile stone for the Slyh's. Granddaughter Sierra worked at the Mill Creek Resort. Her first work experience and the fourth generation of Slyh's to appreciate Mill Creek.

There are many things about Mill Creek for which the Slyhs are thankful: a very good water system, a good road from the valley that Cal-Trans keeps open all year, and a nice resort and restaurant.



Lot 22

Owner: Ed and LouAnn
Beall
Woodland, CA

Purchased: 1993

In 1993 the Bealls purchased an old hunting cabin from Fred Pepper which they razed. A Lindel Home was built by Coopersmith in Chester in 1994 on the lot. The original cabin was twelve by twenty-four feet, had no insulation and you could see outside from inside through the large gaps in the walls.

Having been introduced to the area by their friends Robert and Marilee Meline (former owners of Lot 16), the Bealls knew this is where they wanted to spend their free time. They had enjoyed spending New Years and 4th of July holidays with the Melines. Owning their own cabin, they continue fishing, hunting, hiking and relaxing.



Lot 24

Owner: Jan Brogden
Chico, CA

Purchased: 1987

This cabin was constructed around 1936 by E.V. (Jack) and Myra Wing from Red Bluff. The story is that he used scraps of lumber to build the cabin. The Wings had a sheep ranch. Mrs. Lawrence, who lived in the next-door cabin on Lot 26, (subsequently the cabin burned) would go down to the ranch when the shearers arrived, to cook and bake pies.

Friends introduced Jan to the area. While camping in the area, she and her former husband mentioned to a resident that they sure would like to have a cabin at Mill Creek. This local, Doug Young (Lot 31) suggested that they check out the cabin on Lot 24. The dream of having a Mill Creek cabin came true when they purchased the lot from the estate of Mr. Wing.

Jan, her kids and grandkids love spending time at Mill Creek where they have fond memories.



Lot 25

Owners: Robert & Louise
Woodring
Colusa, CA

Purchased: 1973

The Woodrings purchased the cabin from Daniel and Cheryle Warren. They came to the area to fly fish with their son-in-law, Richard Forney, who owns Lot 81.

At one time Lot 25 was owned by the Rumbiguier. The story goes that they had a friend who's name was Vilatelle. He camped in the campground and was involved in poaching to supply French restaurants in San Francisco with venison. Vilatelle dug a large hole under his tent to store the venison until he was able to transport it to San Francisco. According to local legend the Rumbiguier lost their lease when it became apparent they were involved in the poaching scheme.

The location is perfect for year-round use as there is easy access in the winter and it's close to the campground Vilatelle used! A favorite pastime is to watch the walkers, runners and bikers who pass by the road.



Lot 28

Owners: Preston and
Christine
Dickinson
Chico, CA

Purchased: 2000

In 1924 the first lot of the Mill Creek tract to be awarded was Lot 28 to Dr. Godbolt, a dentist from the Sacramento Valley. He enjoyed the cabin and community for many years. In 1986 it was purchased by Jack and Jackie Besso of Woodland who rebuilt it in 1994 after it was determined the cabin was sliding off its foundation. The Deromedis owned the cabin for a short time from 1998 until it was purchased by the Dickinsons in 2000.

The Dickinsons had been looking for a cabin in the woods and Lot 28 ended their search. In 2007 a major addition began and the cabin size was increased considerably.





Lot 29

Owners: DeBolt Family
Trust
Loomis, CA

Purchased: 1972

The original owners were from the San Francisco Bay Area; they built the cabin in 1926 and had ownership until 1972 when it was purchased by Walt and Helen DeBolt of Woodland. Family cousins just down the road, the Youngs (Lot 31), hosted the DeBolt's on occasion and thus the introduction to Mill Creek. The story goes that the cabin was the hide-out for bank robbers during the 1930s.

Walt loved the cabin and spent a lot of time there after he retired. The cabin has a real lived in look with a small grassy area and flowers around the creek. Walt and Helen's eight grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren all have fond memories of Mill Creek. The family especially enjoy the wildlife in the area and, before catch and release, many a Rainbow Trout breakfast.



Lot 30

Owners: Al and Nancy
Lengtat
Corning, CA

Purchased: 1964

The cabin was constructed in the 1930s by Dr. Brearcliffe and the Lengtats purchased from his family. The Brearcliffe's had given the cabin tender loving care and some of the furniture as well as cabin stairs were built with hand-hewn logs.

The Lengtats were introduced to the area by a friend who had a cabin here and whose mother was a realtor. They wanted a cabin, not a second home, to enjoy with three young sons. The cabin is near the spring and a small creek runs along the side. They love their safe, fun, friendly mountain retreat.



Lot 31

Owners: Russell and
Marilyn
Young
Meridian, CA

Purchased: 1936

A heavy snow storm in the winter of 1935-36 collapsed the cabin on Lot 31 which had been built by a Mr. Jones, from Yuba City. Mr. Jones was a barber and one day Russell's dad was in the barber's shop and the talk of the day was the heavy snow storm and that Mr. Jones wanted to get out of his Mill Creek property. He couldn't face the prospect of the repair work that the cabin would need.

Russell, who was six years old at the time, and his family drove to Mill Creek to see what the lot looked like. It appeared to be a pile of kindling lying on top of the floor, the roof and walls having collapsed. Mr. Young, who had field crops and ran cattle on his property in Meridian, decided that he would buy it and wrote a fifty dollar check to Mr. Jones for the lot. Other expenses included the lease fee for fifteen dollars and the transfer fee which was five dollars.

In 1937, after clearing the lot, Mr. Young hired Thad Baker, a jack-of-all trades, to go to Mill Creek to build a cabin. The lumber and supplies were purchased at a lumber yard in Sutter City for \$175 to build the 16' x 32' cabin. The carpenter was paid six dollars a day and \$168 was his total earning for the project.

The cabin had no interior walls, just the studs from the exterior. Morning announced its presence early with lots of light coming through the knot holes and space between the lumber. It was built for summer use only.

The only route from Red Bluff to Susanville was through Mill Creek. The narrow road was a challenge to drive. The sound of air brakes on the big trucks maneuvering the winding road could be heard all night long.

Of course, there was no electricity, so no refrigeration, which made for short visits. Water was heated by pipes that ran through the wood-burning stove. They had a screen box hung in the tree to store food and food was cooked on a wood stove. Russell's mother would go to Mill Creek for two weeks in the summer with the three boys until they were old enough to work on the ranch. It was also used occasionally during deer season. Walt and Helen Debolt, Russell's cousin, used the cabin in the summer until they purchased their cabin (Lot 29). Water was available from the spring, with the same pressure that residents enjoy today.

As a young child, Russell remembers not being too happy one summer when a friend of his aunt's, who lived in San Francisco, brought her son to Mill Creek for the two week stay. Russell was convinced that this city slicker was going to cut into his time, which he treasured; the two didn't get along well. Mrs. Young was going to spank Russell for a misdeed one day, when he bolted and hid under the porch, where he was confident she would not venture. He could hear the talk about going to the creek from the voices above. He could see through the cracks that they were indeed going and Russell decided he wouldn't be left behind. He hollered to them to wait for him, and his mother was there to grab him for his earlier misdeed. He was horrified that his mother would do such a thing!

The Young boys enjoyed fishing along Mill Creek and would venture out and spend the day along the stream. The limit at that time was twenty-five and they happily filled their limit.

Russell and his wife, Marilyn, married in 1950. They enjoyed being at the cabin, but decided it needed to be larger to accommodate their family which consists of Russ, Troy, Pam and Jennifer. The cabin was enlarged in 1976 by the addition of a bedroom and bathroom. Another addition was made in 1987-88 which dramatically enlarged the original 16' x 32' cabin. Both additions were done by Russell and his sons; well insulated, the cabin now is enjoyed all year round.



Lot 33

Owner: Stanton Blair
Orland, CA

Purchased: 1940

The cabin's original owner is unknown, but Stanton's father-in-law, Lester Sturm, purchased it from Clarence Grey of Chico. Stanton has memories of going to Mill Creek with his parents when he was very young. He inherited it in 1993.

The cabin, like most in the area, probably has no level floors or straight walls. Recently a new deck was built and a metal roof was installed.



Fun on the Tire Swing



Lot 34

Owners: Terry & Patsy
Zerkovich
Yuba City, CA

Purchased: 2008

The cabin was built in 1940 by the Eckels from Yuba City. They owned it for 68 years when it was purchased by the Zerkovichs. Having spent many years hunting in the area, they were familiar with Mill Creek. Since purchasing it, they have done much restoration.



Cattle Drive 2010



Lot 36

Owners: Ed and Betty
Fullwood
Willows, CA
George and Shirley
Rummell
Roseburg, OR

Purchased: 1930

Current owner Betty Fullwood has many memories in Mill Creek. Her father, George Rummell built the cabin two years before she was born. George worked in the grocery business in Chico at the time and his boss, Mr. Kilpatrick who leased a cabin at Mill Creek (Lot 15) encouraged him to build a cabin. He built the cabin with another man who sold out to George early on. During construction, the men and their wives camped on site. The street named Dogwood, did not exist at the time and the cabin's porches were oriented in the reverse to what they are today--the "front" porch faced west before Dogwood was constructed. After the road went through, the "front" porch was at the eastern end. When the cabin was built, there were screened sleeping porches at both ends; an outhouse was just a few feet uphill and there was no electricity or indoor plumbing.

Betty and her brothers and sister spent summer vacations at the cabin with their mother Elizabeth and their father would come up from the valley on weekends. She has recollections of playing with Donna Dillon Major (Lot 37) during those early school years.

Electricity was available around 1945, but George opted out and it wasn't until 1950 that he added it. As refrigeration was not available, food was stored in a tub on the porch with cold water slowly dripping in from a hose. The run-off from this tub provided a lot of fun for George and Elizabeth's four children who made small boats and floated them down the drainage channel. Later, Betty's brother made a box with a canvas covering and put a hose over the box to cool food. With the birth of his grandchildren, George decided it was time to add electricity. His

own children wondered and asked why he didn't think it was necessary when they were youngsters.

Indoor plumbing came to the cabin when the Forest Service discouraged the use of outhouses. George used a portion of the north sleeping porch to make a bathroom much to the relief of Betty's sister who, while using the outhouse, had the unfortunate experience of being stung in the mouth by a bee. From that time on, she was teased about keeping her mouth closed. Betty as well as her children remember taking baths in a metal tub on the porch before the bathroom was added; of course the last child in didn't have very clean water. To this day there is no water in the kitchen. Until the "front" porch was restored around 2008 dishes were done in a sink on the porch. Betty hopes to have a sink installed on the porch soon as she enjoys doing dishes out of doors.

After George and his wife retired, they spent much of the summer at Mill Creek. George continued working on the cabin doing finish work. Following his death, Betty and her brother George became joint owners of the cabin as the other two lived at a greater distance and weren't interested in ownership.

Changes in fishing regulations to catch and release caused much disenchantment among the Rummell family as they all enjoyed going down to the creek to fish and then enjoy their catch.

For over eighty four years, the cabin at Mill Creek that George built has been enjoyed by his family and they think it's a wonderful place to spend time.



Lot 37

Owner: Donna and
Jack Major
Sacramento, CA

Purchased: 1931

In 1932, Donna's father, Webster Dillon, built the cabin. There were twenty-five cabins at Mill Creek when he began construction. He was interested in the area because as a young man, he accompanied survey parties for the Southern Pacific Railroad, where his step-father was chief surveyor. Donna's mother was also familiar with the area as she grew up in Corning. They came through the area on their honeymoon and noticed there were lots for sale. They selected this particular lot because of its proximity to the creek and there would be no development toward the west. Cabin number 38 had already been built by Bill Hack. Access to the cabin was problematic, and Donna's father built a driveway that would allow entrance to both cabins 37 and 38. A few years later, Mr. Coolidge, a stonemason from Corning, came to Mill Creek to build the fireplace. It was a big fireplace with a hook that swung out to hold a pot over the fire.

In 1937 the worst winter that anyone could recall occurred. Coincidentally, that was the year Donna's family decided it would be fun to spend the winter at Mill Creek and have relatives come for Christmas. With howling wind and torrential rain, several trees snapped and one went through the upper floor of the cabin. Her father was able to repair that, but later another large tree fell through the cabin into the living room and buried itself in the ground. Hank Foster, who owned the store at the time, walked up to see what damage had been done. He fainted, thinking the entire family had been killed. He was taken back to the store to be revived, while the Dillon family managed to extricate themselves from the damaged cabin. Mrs. Lawrence, who lived in the cabin across the street (former Lot # 26) opened her cabin to accommodate the Dillons. Donna, four years old at the time, spent time at the next door cabin (Lot 25) where the Rumbigier's lived, while her older sister attended school in Mineral. The storm dropped many feet of

snow and Donna's father and Carl Lund, who was Mrs. Lawrence's son, cleared snow from the roof tops of the cabins. They charged \$25--some cabin owners chose to pay, others didn't. Another task her father took on that winter was to use skis and trudge out to Circle S ranch to get the mail and milk for the young Foster son as the road was impassable. That was the only winter the family attempted to stay at Mill Creek. They returned to their home in February after the repairs were made and the roads were passable.

Each year as the last day of school approached, the family would make plans for the move to Mill Creek to spend the entire summer as did many of the other families who had cabins at Mill Creek. During her teenage years, Donna and her sister had horses that they enjoyed riding with the Rummel girls from Lot 36. The horses were boarded behind Lot 21, where the Dillon's rented pasture land from Collins Pine which required the land to be fenced. There were also horses owned by Ned Steele in an adjacent pasture. The Dillon horses would remain at Mill Creek until after hunting season when Mr. Dillon would take them down.

A cooler hung from the trees outside the cabin to keep their food cool until electricity came in 1945. Once a month they would go to Red Bluff to refresh their food supplies. Chickens in the yard delivered fresh eggs and they would occasionally go to Westwood to the company store for fresh food.

One year Webster and a relative fished all the way down Mill Creek to Los Molinos. Donna's mother was there to meet them after several days and didn't recognize the scraggly men who came up the bank. Along the way they encountered apple trees and berries that had been planted by the Savercool Indians.

After the death of Webster, Jack and Donna became the owners and used it often, as did Donna's mother who spent every summer there until she was 91. In 1994, Jack and Donna moved to Mill Creek to live full time and lived here for eight years.

Donna has fond memories of summers at Mill Creek, swimming in the creek, going to Wilson Lake, fishing, horseback riding, playing with the other children and exploring the area. It was a fun time, all the time, she says. After meeting Jack in college, they married and he came for the first time to Mill Creek on their honeymoon. He immediately fell in love with the area and here they still spend much of their time. She knows her father and mother would be so pleased to know that the cabin has remained in the family, with improvements being made through the years and that now four generations take pleasure in "being at home" at the cabin.



Lot 38

Owners: Jack Roche
The Negri Family
American Canyon, CA

Purchased: 1966

This cabin was built in 1931 by Bill Hack. Jack and his brother-in-law brought their boys to camp and fish at Hole in the Ground. They purchased this “bit of heaven” in 1966 and both families have shared it through the years. It is used in both winter and summer and the deer hunters enjoy their season as well.

The shed along the side of the cabin was built with tree trunks for supports and the sides are rough-cut 12” planks of redwood. Even with the slight tip due to snow weight, the eighty-three year old building still stands.



Lot 40

Owners: Sally & Bill Loker
Chico, CA

Purchased: 2011

The Lokers purchased Lot 40 from Dedrick Pedersen who held ownership since 1983. The cabin had been little used since the “fish and release” policy of the Department of Fish and Game ended the pleasure the Pedersen’s had in coming to Mill Creek.

Mr. and Mrs. Evert Higgins from Red Bluff owned the cabin before selling to Mr. Pedersen. Mr. Higgins’ brother Roy owned the adjacent Lot 42.

During the few years of ownership, the Lokers have painstakingly remodeled the cabin.



Winter 2012



Lot 41

Owners: Larry and Jude
Tarrant
Sacramento, CA

Purchased: 1988

The cabin was purchased by the Tarrant family from the Barber family of Red Bluff. Before the Barber family, the cabin was owned by Gary and Barbara Hunt from Red Bluff, who sold to Norman Russell from Sonoma.

Ties to the area go back several generations as Jude Tarrant's family was one of the pioneering families in Susanville and Westwood. The Moak brothers, her great-great-grandfather and his brother, wrote a book *The Last of the Mill Creeks*. The Moak brothers are referred to and poorly spoken of in the book *Ishi*.

Jude and Larry visited a cabin on lower Ash that was built by their friends, the Torngrens. The Torngrens later sold their cabin, Lot 135, to Jude's good friend Jackie Sabine Van Buskirk. They fell in love with Mill Creek and purchased the first cabin that became available. That cabin happened to be one of the smallest cabins on one of the smallest lots in the tract.



Lot 42

Owners: Ralph and Marilee
Meuter
Chico, CA

Purchased: 1973

The cabin was built in 1937 by Mr. Bonwell from Alameda. He and his friends “rescued” many items used in the construction from their place of employment at the U.S. Naval Air Station at Alameda. Among the items used in construction and for furnishing were wood, blankets, silverware, pots and pans, heavy shipboard chairs, light fixtures, and miscellaneous hardware and fixtures.

Mr. Bonwell owned the cabin from 1937 until 1970 when he sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Higgins from Red Bluff who owned it until 1973. The Meuters wanted an affordable mountain cabin, close to Chico and accessible to skiing, hiking and fishing. A cabin on lease-land in Mill Creek was a perfect solution. It allows an escape from the valley heat, as well as providing a rustic environment with year-round access.

The cabin had not been built for winter use, so there were many plumbing challenges for the Meuters in the early years of their ownership. Many fond memories abound for the young family discovering life without radio, TV and other modern conveniences. Each season provides a variety of activities and adventures.

The land-swap process drew Ralph into a more central role in the community and provided an opportunity to get to know a wide variety of other cabin owners and enrich their connections with the community. The cabin is used throughout the year by family and friends who have established a number of reoccurring traditions.



Lot 43

Owners: Art and Marian
Sugden
Shady Grove, OR

Purchased: 1985

The cabin was built in the mid 1930's. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Asbell from Redding owned it for a number of years before selling it to Chris and Liz Macpherson around 1975. The Macphersons were camping in the area and stopped at the store to purchase some supplies when they saw a For Sale sign go up. That was all it took for the Macphersons, from Walnut Creek, to be cabin owners. During their time at Mill Creek an addition to the cabin was made enlarging the downstairs living area and deck.

Circumstances required that Chris and his family move to Southern California, and he offered the cabin to a co-worker. Art had heard often of the wonderful place called Mill Creek, and he and Marion became owners in 1985.

While Marion Clearman's father was building their cabin on Lot 65, her family stayed in the cabin on Lot 43. Her father's favorite chair is in the cabin to this day.



Lot 44

Owners: Melisse
Larrabee
Scott Koehler
Chico, CA

Purchased: 1936

Mr. J.M. Hampton was an avid fisherman and fished in the area and camped near the store in the early 1930's. He and Charles Noyes, his Sutter Butte business partner purchased the lot and began construction in 1935 and it was completed in 1936. The two men pitched a tent on the lot for the summer and built the cabin. It had two kitchens--a farmer's wife likes her own kitchen! Mr. Noyes sold out to Hampton. Scott remembers nothing being developed beyond Fir Way and chasing his dog into the forest. His grandmother warned him not to play in the area where the outhouse was located.

In 1970 Margaret Koehler, step-daughter of Mr. Hampton, inherited the cabin. And in 1994 ownership transferred to her children, Scott and Melisse.

The cabin has a large stone fireplace with mounted deer heads above the mantel. It also has original wooden drain boards in the kitchen. The cabin once had a snow box filled with snow every spring for cold storage of food. The box was 10'x10'x6' and insulated with sawdust. Scott's father and grandfather took their pickup trucks near Lassen Park and collected loads of snow which were shoveled into the snow box through a portion of the roof that was removable. There was a small door through which food was placed on the snow. When electricity came, the snow box was replaced with a refrigerator which also is an antique.



Lot 45

Owner: Jim Chesini
Family
Meridian, CA

Purchased: 1992

Although the original owners are unknown, the Chesini's have been told that the cabin has been added to at least three times. Lynton and Bernice Jordan transferred the property to Johnny and Sharon Abshier who sold it in 1976 to Phyllis and Kip Wilsey. (The Wilsey's son later purchased Lot 50.) The Chesinis purchased it in 1992.

Fishing, camping, hiking and skiing originally brought them to the area. With fishing restricted to catch and release, and the ski area closed, they have found plenty of other things to do.

A few items of cabin lore include a bear being shot on the front deck, and twice the water tanks were drained due to pipes being left on. Until the foundation was repaired, the cabin leaned downhill.

The Chesinis find Mill Creek to be a wonderful place with great people, good times and memories galore.



Lot 46

Owners: Mark and
Peggy
Murphy
Red Bluff, CA

Purchased: 2007

The cabin was built in 1955. Mark is glad to be back in the area where he has fond memories of fishing Mill Creek as child while visiting family in a nearby cabin (Murphy, Lot 88). A fair amount of remodeling has taken place since Mark and Peggy purchased the cabin.



Mineral Kazoo Band, 4th of July Parade



Lot 48

Owners: Fredina and
Frank Rose
Capay, CA

Purchased: 1944

This cabin has remained in the family since it was constructed by John Campos, family and friends. John immigrated to the United States from Spain as a young man and settled in the Westwood/Mt. Lassen area to work in the lumber mills. While working in the mills, he became familiar with the Mill Creek area. John later moved to the Fairfield/Vacaville area where he became successful in the grocery business (Food Fair stores). He frequently returned to Mill Creek to fish and stayed in the cabins around the Mill Creek store. In the late 1930's he leased Lot 48 and built the cabin around 1944. John, his wife Grace and their three children used the cabin extensively during the summers. Their daughter Grace married Armand Ritchie during the construction era and he helped build the stone fireplace, which as the story goes, was very difficult to complete. The cabin was primarily built for fishing and hunting and lacked a "feminine touch" but John's wife Grace didn't mind a bit because she loved the area.

Following the death of her parents, Armand and Grace Campos Ritchie became the owners. The cabin was not used from 2003 until 2010 and fell into disrepair. In May, 2010 Grace Ritchie's daughter Fredina and her husband Frank made extensive repairs and it is now better than ever.

The John Campos family has loved being at Mill Creek through the years and now that the cabin has been restored, they look forward to many more years.



Lot 49

Owner: Julie Molohon
Chico, CA

Purchased: 2008

The cabin was built in 1959. Otto and Elsie Wackerman purchased it in the 1970s and it became known as one of the party cabins during the 1970s, and a frequent stop for the local snowmobilers. Bill (deceased) and Julie purchased it in September of 2008 shortly after the chimney fell down.

Bill and Julie discovered Mill Creek in 2000 while vacationing in their trailer at Lake Almanor. It was love at first sight and they rented a trailer space for the following summer. Each year they returned, for longer and longer periods of time.

The cabin is unusual in that it has a full basement, a foundation, a garage as well as a woodshed lovingly called “the cabana” by the Wackermans. They had it built as an outdoor eating venue.

Bill loved the cabin and Mill Creek and spent many happy hours fishing, hiking, snowmobiling, cutting wood, drinking wine, and talking with whomever would listen. He died of cancer in 2012. His ashes and spirit are forever in Mill Creek. Julie loves it at Mill Creek as well and plans to spend many more happy times here.



Lot 50

Owners: Kevin Wilsey
Loomis, CA

Purchased: 1999

The cabin was constructed in 1947. Kevin's parents, Kip and Phyllis Wilsey, owned lot number 45 in the 1970s. Kevin had many fond memories of fishing and rafting Mill Creek and was delighted to come back to the area as an owner and uses the cabin throughout the year.

The exterior was remodeled a few years ago.



Photo by Joe Kelly
Mill Creek Catch



Lot 53

Owners:

Tim & Mary Coyne
Greg & Carol Patton
Dave & Julie Bullock
Stephen Francis
Castro Valley, CA

Purchased: 1995

The cabin was originally built around 1945 by Mr. Cook. George and Dorothy Crockett purchased it from Mr. Cook and sold it in 1995. The Crocketts at one time were owners of the Mill Creek Store.

Mary Coyne, her sister Carol, and brothers, Dave and Stephen, have been coming to Mill Creek since 1961. Mary and Tim spent part of their honeymoon here in Mill Creek. While camping at Manzanita Lake in 1995, they saw the "For Sale" sign on the bulletin board at the General Store. They drove up to take a look and bought it two months later.

Mr. Cook, the original builder, worked at the Mare Island shipyard and would "rescue" building materials from the yard that ended up as part of the construction project for the cabin. Some examples include door hinges that had at one time secured water tight doors aboard ship. Direct Current (DC) main power switch boxes that controlled the power aboard ship were used in the wiring effort for the cabin. The first clue that these boxes were from naval vessels was finding a stenciled label on one of the boxes that read "Gun Turret #1."

Our cabin is such a great place to visit, we always hate to leave!



Lot 54

Owners: Scott & Terry
Schimke
Pat & Cheryl
Schimke
Orland, CA

Purchased: 1969

Robert (Bob) and Marilyn Schimke first came to Mill Creek in 1963 where they were frequent guests of Buck and Evelyn Gleason, Lot 118. In 1967 Bob and Marilyn purchased Lot 32, their own slice of Mill Creek. They spent many hours refurbishing the cabin so that family and friends could stay and visit them. In 1968 Pat and Bernice Connors bought the cabin at Lot #54. Pat and Bob were partners in a dental practice in Orland. In 1969 the two families decided to share the Connors cabin and extended their partnership.

Lot 54 was originally built and completed in 1945 by a Mr. Jackson. He was involved in nursing homes during the war and much of the cabin was built to code of the time. It was used as a summer home. Mr. Jackson entertained numerous guests over the years but eventually he needed to sell the cabin. Over time the cabin took on an identity of its own and is still referred by to all as the “Cabin”.

The winter of 1969/70 was an extremely hard one with a tremendous amount of snow. Bob and family traveled to the cabin to shovel snow off of the roof. By the end of the weekend they had completed clearing the roof of the cabin, but were unable to get to the garage. Later that year a warm storm came in and it rained heavily. This unfortunately caused the garage to collapse. In the spring it was cleared and the existing garage was erected in its place. The cabin and garage have been shoveled several times in the ensuing years until most recently when the metal roof was installed.

Early on Mill Creek was a favorite location for many Orland folks and

holidays would always find numerous cabin gatherings where families would stay and play and generally enjoy the Mill Creek experience. The Cabin was a sanctuary for Bob and Marilyn where they could come and get away from the world, if only for a few days. Bob became an expert fly fisherman. He tied all of his own flies and rods. He even invented his own version of the Mill Creek Queen. His version has been used throughout California and much of the USA and has been very successful in every location. They are now collector items and are hoarded by anyone who ever received one from Bob. His family has fond memories of Bob tying flies at home in front of the TV during the winter months in anticipation of spring and the opening day on Mill Creek.

Over the years Mill Creek saw many a true outdoorsman and fisherman grace the mountain. Two of the best were Ned and Loraine Steele, their cabin, Lot 26, was located just to the West of Lot 32. It was unfortunately destroyed by fire and was never rebuilt. Ned's father and mother were one of the original owners of the Mill Creek store. Ned was a fishing and hunting machine and had an unending list of stories of the game he took in and around Mill Creek as well as Mineral (many, many years ago there was a nine hole golf course there), Chester and Childs Meadow. He personally knew Henry Childs of whom the meadow was named. The other fisherman of Mill Creek was Harold Horn. Bob, Ned and Harold would share their secrets and success of fly fishing on Mill Creek while sitting on the front porch enjoying a cold beer and each other's company.

Over time Bob and Marilyn bought the Cabin from the Connors and they and their family (Scott, Sue and Pat) spent almost every major holiday at the cabin roaming the mountains and enjoying the many wonders of Mill Creek. Each of Bob and Marilyn's children subsequently married and brought their own families to Mill Creek to share in the many family traditions that they grew up enjoying. During his forty-plus years at Mill Creek, Bob was very involved in the Mill Creek community. He served many years on the water board to ensure that the cabins had a working water system (frozen pipes in the winter were never any fun for anyone). He was also a vocal supporter of the land swap.

Marilyn passed away in 2005 and Bob followed her in 2009. Their ashes are located in Mill Creek and their souls can still be felt as one stays and enjoys the wonderful place called the "Cabin" in Mill Creek.



Lot 55

Owners:

Carole & Jerry Southam
Betty & Elroy Eberwein
Patterson, CA

Purchased: 1962

The cabin was built in the 1950s and was previously owned by Jose and Marina Codina, then George and Mary Lewis (1962-1969). Having relatives, the Warren McCrackens (Lot 51), at Mill Creek was their introduction to the area.

Mostly used in the summer, the cabin is enjoyed by their children and grandchildren. They all enjoy the mountains and the cool weather.



Ducks Mark the Trail



Lot 56

Owners: Karen Rold
Petaluma, CA
Richard Rold
Ketchikan, AK

Purchased: 1936

Hans Seiersen and his wife Eva, Danish emigrants, homesteaded from Modesto to the Capay Rancho District in the Orland area. They were attracted by cheap land, plentiful water and electricity. Eva died in a tragic car accident on the way to the Glenn County Fair in Orland in 1929. Hans was one of the pioneer settlers of the Capay Rancho and lived there for 32 years.

Hans and his daughter Orva would drive out of the hot summer Sacramento Valley, and stay in the little cabins by the Mill Creek Store, escaping the heat for a few days. They liked it so much that it was decided to buy one of the lots that was for sale. Hans selected a lot at the end of the road, hoping for few neighbors. The cabin was built by Elgen Alger, minister of the Capay Friends Church in the Capay District in Orland. Reverend Alger spent the summer building the cabin. Hans was very proud to invite his friends and neighbors to his cabin.

In 1948 Hans Seiersen died a few weeks after returning from a trip to his native Denmark. His daughter, Orva Seiersen Rold and her sister, Helen Cleek inherited the cabin. Orva and Dick Rold eventually purchased Helen's share. Helen was the mother of Jerry Cleek, Lot 2. Dick died in 1990, and Orva died in 2004 at the age of 94. Their children, Karen and Richard now own the cabin.

Now 3rd and 4th generations enjoy the cabin. Karen's children, Joshua and Kristian Eldridge, learned the joys of skiing and reading at the cabin. Their beloved Mill Creek cabin is one of the few variables that has not changed in their lives.

Karen and Richard's other grandparents, Herbert and Gertrude Rold, lived in the cabin when they built their own cabin on Lot 61. After their deaths, the cabin on Lot 61 was sold.



Lot 58

Owner: Tom Childers
Fairfax, CA

Purchased: 2009

The builder of the cabin is unknown. It was constructed in 1938. In 1972 Harold and Josephine Silcott sold the cabin to the Bells and Wards. A few years later the Gonzalez' joined the ownership to make it a three family partnership: Molly and Jim Bell, Emily and Richard Ward and Frank and Dorothy Gonzalez. Tent camping at Potato Patch piqued the family's interest in the area, and then they found Mill Creek.

The three families immensely enjoyed the cabin and mountain atmosphere when their children were young. The families would gather for fishing, hiking, visiting Terry Neher at the store and taking trips to Lassen Park. After the three husbands died the three widows continued ownership until they found that it was too difficult to maintain. They have cherished memories and photos of the cabin.

In October 2009, the cabin was purchased by Tom Childers for his family Trust. His parents, Penny and Leon Salanave, had owned Lot 79 on the corner of Ash Way from around 1977 to 1992, and some residents may remember Leon as a retired astronomer who hosted "star parties" with a telescope during the 1980's summers, when he resided here full time.

In early 2009, Tom's wife Nancy Jones was introduced to the area by her colleague Cheryl Gordon (Lot 134), and fell in love with Mill Creek. The coincidence was cosmic, in a way that Leon would appreciate. Together, Tom and Nancy sought out a cabin as a place they could bring Penny for holidays and weekends. Sadly, Nancy passed away a few years later.

The cabin has many original designs, wall fixtures and heating system as well as the beautiful original knotty pine wall paneling, stone fireplace, Douglas fir flooring, and early 1950's kitchen appliances and cabinets. Some of Penny and Leon's books, dishes, tools and furniture have returned, and help make this cabin a family home.



Lot 59

Owners:

Joanne Chini
Phil and Robbie
Montalbano
Sacramento, CA

Purchased: 2012

In 1997 the lot was appraised as the typical lot in the tract for the Forest Service to establish lease fees for the next decade. In 1999 Roger and Bronwyn Meyers purchased the cabin from Mr. Aguire. They sold to Joanne Chini in 2012.

Joanne has memories from the 1940s when her grandparents, John and Grace Campos built the cabin on Lot 48. Work parties were mostly to clear the land and make preparations for building. They rented cabins near the store. During the work parties Joanne, as oldest grandchild, was responsible for the younger grandchildren while they napped. Her parents, aunt and uncle and grandparents did the manual labor, but to this day, Joanne is not sure who did the supervising, and who did the labor.

Grandpa John Campos loved to fish and spent time here fishing and teaching his grandchildren to fish. Memories include root beer floats every afternoon at 3:00 p.m., playing canasta under the trees, feeding the chipmunks, and especially the sense of freedom that came with being allowed to roam to the spring above Sugar Pine Bridge down to the creek, stopping at the store to pester Hank, the owner of the store, and back to the cabin. As her birthday was usually celebrated at Mill Creek, it was always a good laugh to see how lopsided the cake would be considering it was baked in a wood burning stove.

She with her sister and brother (owners of Lot 96) spent most Easter breaks with Grandma and Grandpa, sometimes in the snow and sometimes not. It was always an adventure. Her Grandmother was so content here that she would spend most of the summer with at least two or more of her grandchildren in tow. An after-dinner walk was a fond memory.

As an adult with a family of her own, there were many trips with Grandma and Grandpa that turned into work parties. They helped gather the rocks to face the foundation of the cabin and got involved in plumbing and other repairs. The week between Christmas and New Years was always a favorite time to come. With her husband and three children (along with their friends) they enjoyed the snow, and bringing in the New Year along with Blanchard Rogers and other friends. It gave Joanne much pleasure to introduce “cabin life” to her children and watch them experience the same adventures that she had.

Joanne is pleased to be back at Mill Creek where she has such fond memories. She’s looking forward to watching her grandchildren and their children enjoy the same sense of freedom and peace.





Lot 60

Owners: Joe & Sue
Pelanconi
Geyserville, CA

Owners: 2001

The cabin on Lot 60 was constructed in 1955. Joe and Sue Pelanconi purchased it in 2001 from Dr. Charles and Jan Haines from Chico. The cabin had been owned previously by Dr. Haines' father, a rice farmer from Hamilton City. Through the years, there have been two additions to the original structure.

The Pelanconis lived for many years in Los Molinos and friends in the area encouraged their purchase of the cabin.



Girls Enjoying the Fourth of July Parade



Lot 61

Owners: Art & Vicki
Patterson
Corning, CA

Purchased: 1996

This cabin has had two owners. The Dodson family built it in 1950 and owned it until selling it to the Pattersons who had been looking for a cabin close to home.

The cabin has been extensively remodeled and many hand-crafted items were made for it. They've enjoyed many years here and their dog, Scrappy, spent most of her nineteen years getting to know the neighbors.



Playground Behind the Resort



Lot 64

Owners: Nils and Erika
Hedglin
Sacramento, CA

Purchased: 1968

This cabin was one of the four built by Nils Otto Bostrom, Henning Erickson, Joe Erickson and Arvel Erickson and it has been in the family since its origin. The men emigrated from Sweden and traveled west to work in the lumberyards of Oregon. They stopped in Orland for a brief time and missed the bus when it pulled out. Stranded, they decided to stay in Orland and the rest is history. The three brothers, (Erickson) married three sisters (Carlson) and the fourth sister married Bostrom. Henning and Hanna Erickson were the original owners of cabin on Lot 64.

After the cabins were constructed for each family, the wives and kids would come to Mill Creek to spend the summer out of the valley heat. The husbands would come up on weekends and bring necessary food and supplies.

Fred and Alice Hedglin became the owners after having owned Lot 67 previously. Alice is a descendent of the original builders. The property was deeded to Nils and his brother Kris at the time of his father's death. Kris spent some of his happiest days with his friends at the cabin, fishing and just having fun. Kris died in 2003, leaving Nils & his wife Erika as the owners.



Lot 65

Owners: Mitch & Merry
Hoggard
Chico, CA

Purchased: 1996

The cabin was built in 1947 by Marion Clearman's father. After his death, Marion and Von Clearman became owners and spent many summers in their retirement at Mill Creek until their deaths in the 1990's. The cabin was then given to a family friend, Mr. Ryan, who lived in Idaho. He had no interest in ownership and sold the cabin after a few years to the Hoggards.

Marion's father was a meticulous craftsman; the story goes that he was an Austrian ship builder. He made the beds and several pieces of furniture that are in the cabin today, as well as finely-finished newel posts on the staircase. A bunk under the staircase is much like one used aboard a ship, built with springs. Much of the foundation was built with slate that he transported from the Lassen Lodge area, and full cedar logs were used as floor joists which are still in place. He created a venting system in the upstairs bedrooms for hot summer nights as well as a method for sending heat in the winter from the fireplace to the bathroom and bedrooms on the second floor. The exceptionally broad windows appear to be original, which was quite unusual for the time. An ice house was built with 12" walls insulated with saw dust to provide storage for food during the summer with ice gathered from the Lassen Park area.

Mitch was introduced to Mill Creek in the late 50's when his family visited the Haines at Lot 60 and he and Merry visited the area before they were married. A call from Dr. Haines in 1996, informed them that his cabin was for sale and they came up to take a look. Coincidentally, a sign went up on the cabin next door, and they opted to buy it, Lot 65 instead of the Haines cabin.

The Hoggards cherish the memories and friends they have made during their time in Mill Creek.



Lot 66

Owners: Tony & Patti
Petromilli
Goodyear, AZ
Mill Creek

Purchased: 1975

While returning from a camping trip with friends in Deer Creek Canyon, Tony's friend Chris MacPherson decided to stop by the Mill Creek store to buy a loaf of bread. He went home with a loaf of bread as well as a cabin (Lot 43). After returning to Walnut Creek, he called Tony and encouraged him to look in the area for a cabin also.

Tony and Patti enjoy the cabin year round and enjoy entertaining on their deck. Throughout the years, friends and family have the pleasure of sharing the cabin. A major renovation has recently been completed.



Big Snow Year, Spring 2011



Lot 67

Owner: Nancy Hansen
Santa Rosa, CA

Purchased: 1990

Nancy and Lee Hansen wanted a cabin in the Sierra Mountains and had looked in the Sonora area without finding what they were looking for. While their son was a student at Chico State, they explored the Lassen area. One day they were having a bite to eat at the Mineral Lodge (which they didn't think was very good) and were told if they wanted really good food, they should drive over to Mill Creek. They did and were pleasantly surprised by the community. A note on the bulletin board advertised a cabin for sale. They purchased Lot 67 from Dante Grasso, who then purchased Lot 5. The realtor who handled the sale was Jack Faniani, who owned Lot 100.

The cabin was built in 1945 by Nils Otto Bostrom and his brothers and brothers-in-law. The story is that they built four cabins on the street and used the scraps from the first three to build this one. Of the four brothers/brothers-in-law, Nils was a cabinet maker and had the skills and experience necessary, but being a craftsman, he focused on the other cabins rather than on his own. The property passed to Nils' daughter Alice Hedglin and her husband Fred.

In 1986 Dante Grasso purchased the cabin from George Marcillac who was from Daly City. Dante did some remodeling and made improvements. An interesting wood-burning stove that is in the cabin today was made by Dante and his Coast Guard buddies from an old boiler.

Nancy uses the cabin mostly in the summer and her children and grandchildren enjoy using it occasionally throughout the year.



Lot 68

Owners: Eric & Margie
Nielsen
And Family
Chico, CA

Purchased: 2010

The cabin was built in the 1940's by C.G. Erickson, Lloyd Nielsen and Otto Bostrom. This is one of the cabins built on the same street by four brothers/brothers-in-law (see Lot 64 for details). In 1969 the Nielsen's cabin sold to Dale Green. The Nielsen's continued to come to rent cabins at Mill Creek in both the summer and winter.

In 2010, Erick Nielsen (son of Lloyd Nielsen, grandson of C.G. Erickson) and his family were excited to purchase the cabin and get it back into the family. Mill Creek has always been a special place for the family and now they enjoy it as owners.



Lot 69

Owner: Hans Basart
Sonoma, CA

Purchased: 1977

The cabin was built in 1955 by Bona Allen and Mary Jefferies who came to California from Oklahoma. The family camped on the lot during construction. After living in Westwood, they moved to Chico. They sold the cabin to John and Jean Wackerman of Orland. John's brother Otto and wife Elsie Wackerman owned Lot 49.

In the summer of 1977, Sara and Hans Basart were asked by their Sonoma neighbor, Barbara Woogerd, to drop by Mill Creek on their way to Washington. Barbara's daughters had been babysitters to the Basart's children and Barbara had often asked them to drop by Mill Creek and expressed to them how beautiful it was. When they arrived, they fell in love with Mill Creek and wondered why they hadn't taken Barbara up on earlier invitations. They continued on their trip to Washington, visited family and returned to Mill Creek and looked at three cabins that were on the market. They choose Lot 69 which they purchased from the Wackermans. The lot at the corner of Juniper and Pine was a perfect site with the whole mountain behind that seemed to be their private refuge. In less than two weeks from their introduction to Mill Creek, they became cabin owners.

The three Basart girls spent summers and winter moments at Mill Creek. They learned to ski at the Lassen Park ski area, built snowmen, had friends visit, played in the creek and rode snowmobiles. Now eight grandchildren including two sets of twins, love to visit the "cabin-house." They build forts, climb the mountain behind the cabin, bike, wade in the creek and love to have milkshakes at the store. Sliding down the "little" hill near the cabin is always fun and when an adult can be persuaded to join them, they trek over to the "big" hill at Cedar Way. There have been thrilling sightings: a mama bear and her cub on the back porch going

through the compost, a very tame deer with a band aid around an antler stub, and a three-pawed raccoon who drops by to see if there are any good pickings.

In May of 1995 the grandson of the first owners, Jim McMahon, Jr. stopped by. He enjoyed the tour of the cabin and was impressed with how the original tile work in the bathroom and kitchen has held up. The Basarts were thrilled to have this unexpected visitor.

The things that make Mill Creek special are the sounds of wind and rain, watching snowflakes, taking night walks with flashlights, turning off the flashlights and watching the sky, stars and satellites, lying down on a blanket in the middle of the road while watching all around, enjoying a blazing wood stove fire when it is twenty degrees outside, barbeques, friends and laughter.

Sadly Sara died in 2013.



Lot 70

Owner:

JaniceHeckerson
Chico, CA

Purchased: 1992

Janice worked with the previous owner, Kathleen Purvis, and had visited during the five years that David and Kathleen owned the cabin. The Purvis' purchased from Hal Bishop. When the Purvis' decided to sell, Janice was eager to buy as she wanted land in the mountains and Mill Creek is very convenient from Chico.

The story is that the original owners camped on the lot for two years during construction. The A frame cabin is situated near a natural drainage swale and there are several long hatch covers used as bridges. A septic tank was put in by Hal Bishop in 1971. Janice added a deck to the front in 1992.

A major project of adding a dormer and windows to each side of the roof and a new front wall has recently been completed. Trees were removed on the right side of the cabin and a bedroom was added.

Spending time at the cabin is something Janice loves to do. She hopes her grandchildren will, too.



Lot 73

Owner: Doris Rice
Darrow
Vacaville, CA

Purchased: 1970

Doris and her then husband, Bill Rice, wanted a cabin near her parent's cabin which was on Battle Creek. Real Estate agent John Koberer brought them to Mill Creek to check out the area. At the time, the resort, post office and store were for sale. It didn't take long for them to realize this was the place they wanted to be. The cabin was built around 1956. Bill Rice became very involved in community affairs, first as a member of the water committee and later he became president of the homeowner's association. Doris continued ownership of the cabin following Bill's death.

Doris has fond memories of going Christmas caroling around the tract; of the Easter egg hunts in the meadow behind the store when George and Dorothy Crockett owned the resort; and of having potluck dinners with neighbors.



Lot 74

Owners: Bill & Bettie
Jacobs
Red Bluff, CA

Purchased: 1964

Bill built the cabin with the help of his Red Bluff High School teacher friends. Some of those friends are familiar Mill Creek names: Mac McMahon and Bernie Gleason.

In 1968 Bill and Bettie visited former cabin owners, Walt and Mary Irey who had Lot 98. They fell in love with the area and learned that a few lots were available. One restriction was that the cabin be built within a year. They jumped right into the project and have never regretted it.

This cabin has been enjoyed by five generations. It is used winter and summer, but more often in the summer. The Lassen Park Ski Area was a great place of enjoyment as all the kids learned to ski there. Christmas time has been an especially cherished time with a fresh-cut tree and homemade ornaments to decorate it. In those early days, Walt Irey would dress up as Santa and deliver gifts to the kids.

The two elk head mounted in the cabin were a special gift from Bettie's father.



Lot 75

Owner: Elaine Thomas
Red Bluff, CA

Purchased: 1966

Elaine's husband Tommy was introduced to Mill Creek home sites in 1966 by a friend, Jerry Phflugrad, who owned a cabin on Lot 127. The area interested Tommy and in a conversation with the Ranger, he learned there were two lots available: one was a vacant lot where a fire destroyed a cabin (Lot 26) and the owner didn't intend to rebuild, and Lot 75. He chose Lot 75. After cutting a road and clearing the lot, construction began the last day of August, 1966. (The permit to build set Tommy back \$43.88.)

The majority of the work was done on weekends and holidays by Tommy and friends Jerry Phflugard, Bernie Gleason and Bill Jacobs, all cabin owners. Construction came easy to him as he had worked in construction in San Francisco and had helped build several houses in Red Bluff and Los Molinos. Hauling the sand, gravel, concrete and lumber from Red Bluff was a major chore. Tommy borrowed a two-yard dump truck from a friend and struggled up the steep-grade highway 36 before the new road was built.

The concrete was poured with the help of Bill Jacobs and Bernie Gleason on a long, hot summer day. Two cases of beer made the work more pleasant. Robert Emerson, a friend from the park service, helped with the framing and roof tresses. The electrical and plumbing tasks were done with Jerry Phflugrad. The outside sheeting was meticulously done by Tommy, who wanted not a single hammer mark to show; Tommy did get help with the roof sheeting from Jim Curry, Jerry Myers and Jerry Phflugrad over the period of two weekends. The natural rock fireplace and chimney was built by Tommy with help from his youngest son Barney. They would lay all the rocks out side by side, Barney would mix the mortar and Tommy would do the molding and lay the rock. When the chimney was too high to reach, he worked on scaffolding and pulled

the rock and mortar up in a bucket. Unfortunately, a rock slipped once and fell from the second story onto Barney's head. It was fortunate that no damage was done. Another event occurred before the windows were installed when Tommy's youngest daughter was sitting on a window sill and fell out. Fortunately again, there was no injury.

Steve Burdett was the manager of Sterling Lumber Co. where Tommy got his building material. Tommy had requested timber long enough to tie the walls together and Steve didn't have any, but was on the look out for some. At this time Diamond Match was closing their local lumber yards and Steve would buy material after their final sale took place at each location. While in Williams at the Diamond Match closing, he saw some 4" x 6" x 24' beams in the rafters and asked what it would cost to buy them. The agent said if Steve could get them down and haul them off, they were his. Lucky for Tommy, they tied the cabin together.

The cabin is adorned with numerous mounted deer, blue gill, and black bass. They originated in Mill Creek, Modoc county and Montana. The fish are from Florida.

The Thomas family loved their time at the cabin. Before going out to play during the winter months, the five Thomas' children would put plastic bread bags over their socks and play in the snow until they were freezing and crying. They'd come in and get warm and go back outside and repeat the process all over again.

One of Barney's early memories, in addition to being hit on the head with a rock, was when the cabin suffered a break-in. The culprits left a note and apologized for eating some canned goods. They were stranded when their car broke down and needed shelter.

As a child, Bonnie, Elaine and Tommy's second child, has many memories. The cabin has taken most of her life-time to construct and is still being worked on in the interior to this day. Among her favorite memories: the long trek up to Mill Creek from the valley on the narrow, windy road; having Thanksgiving dinner at the unfinished cabin using a ping-pong table and saw horses for chairs; getting lost in the snow with sister Holly and a couple of friends, only to find they had to go ten feet up the road to their cabin; Grandma Webb on her hands and knees placing every rock and stone in the perfect spot to be put on the mantle; and annual neighborhood parties with Los Molinos friends.

Mill Creek holds fond memories and is a very special place for the Thomas family.



Lot 76

Owners: David & Kelly
Zeichick
Chico, CA

Purchased: 2006

The cabin was previously owned by Frank and Marliss Stroud from 1960 until the Zeichicks purchased it from Marliss in 2006. Mr. Stroud was a ship captain and the cabin was known as the ship cabin. The front door had a porthole window and there were wooden posts with ship lanterns on top. Tommy Thomas, next door at Lot 75, helped the Strouds with the addition of a bedroom in the 1980s.

There are three structures on the lot: the main cabin, a garage and a small cabin. There are several stories about the cute small cabin in the back and the current owners have chosen to believe the story that it was originally an architect's studio. They were told the original owner was an architect.

When the cabin was remodeled in 2006, the porthole door was recycled to an interior door and the ship lanterns and a maritime clock were given to a Mill Creek friend of the Strouds. The wrap-around window in the living room is unusual. The corner support was reinforced during the remodel, but in the original house, the front corner of the living room had no support beam, only a wrap-around window. It was architecturally very interesting. Much of the house including the roof, siding, insulation, doors, windows and flooring were repaired and or replaced. Three skylights and a back deck were also added.

The Zeichicks were drawn to Mill Creek because Kelly's grandparents owned a cabin near Lake Almanor and her family has fond memories of summers there. Friends in the area as well as the proximity to the great hiking in Lassen Park were also reasons to choose Mill Creek.



Lot 77

Owners: Larry
Johnston
Evert, WA

Purchased: 1965

Larry grew up near Red Bluff and in 1965, his parents, Mary Louise and Burkett Johnson, had the cabin built by Dobson Construction. It was one of the first cabins to have a metal roof. When the roof was replaced, Mary Louise gave the original one to Marliss Stroud and it now covers the garage on the adjoining Lot 76.

The cabin is currently being remodeled by Ken Stannard from Red Bluff.



A Walk in the Woods



Lot 78

Owners: Cameron and
Barbara Eye
Martinez, CA

Purchased: 1976

The previous owner, Robert Hesper, built the cabin in the 1950s. He held ownership of the lot until it was purchased by the Eyes in 1976.



Photo by Joe Kelly



Lot 79

Owner: Cindy Wolff
Chico, CA

Purchased: 1992

The cabin was built in 1954 by Annie Linder and her husband. Annie lived year around at the cabin for a number of years. Her constant companion was a large German Shepherd named Boom. They took a daily walk to the store and back. She kept the drive plowed and sat around the fire place. Her husband owned a garage in Sacramento. The cabin is dark inside which Howard believed reflected Annie's Bulgarian background.

Leon & Penny Salanava purchased the cabin in 1976. He was a professor of Astronomy and had a large telescope on the south side of the house. He was pleased to give anyone interested a view of the stars with it. His step son and wife purchased Lot 58 in Mill Creek in 2010. They have visited their old cabin and marveled at the changes.

Cross country skiing brought Howard(deceased) and Cindy to the area in 1976 and they were delighted to have the opportunity to purchase the cabin in 1992. For the first fifteen years, while their kids were younger, the cabin was used mostly for vacations. From 2008 Howard and Cindy spent more time at the cabin and started a number of improvements. They renovated the upstairs, giving it a complete face lift. Also a considerable cleanup of the outside, including good forest practices provided a much more attractive lot. It is now a very comfortable summer home with all the necessary amenities for easy living.

Howard was a dynamic leader in the Homeowner's Association and was committed to making Mill Creek a safe and enjoyable place for the residents. His impact on the community will be remembered.



Lot 80

Owners: Peter & Mary
McFadden
Stockton, CA

Purchased: 2003

No information was submitted by the owners. The following was contributed by Ruth Murphy, Lot 88

The original owner of this cabin was Jim Moore. Jim was one of the earlier settlers in the newer section of the Mill Creek Area. He built a beautiful home and ultimately became the unofficial “mayor” of our little section of the woods. If you had any questions about the area, you’d always ask Jim.

A most beautiful experience during his time was listening to the unbelievably lovely sounds wafting through our neighborhood. On Sundays, Jim used to play hymns on his organ and the music would echo through the woods for all of us to enjoy. In his usual, unassuming way, Jim always managed to leave us with an experience we would never forget.

Jim also hosted potlucks for our Water Association and made his own “Made by James Moore” wine to share with friends. One neighborhood boy, Tim Murphy, thought he was riding in a king’s carriage when he was invited to ride in Jim’s shiny red convertible with doors that swung upward. Jim had all sorts of “cool stuff” in the eyes of the youngsters, but to others, he was a professor, a neighbor, a musician and a dear friend. He left his mark on Mill Creek and will surely be missed.



Lot 82

Owners: Matt and Lee Ann
Pendergast
Napa, CA

Purchased: 2002

The cabin was built in 1946 by Mr. Roberts, who lived in Sonoma; he owned a restaurant in San Francisco. Jerry and Shirley Lyons from Richmond became owners in the 1960s. After Jerry's death, Shirley sold the cabin to Matt and Lee Ann in 2002. They had been looking in the area for a cabin after a friend, who purchased one in Mineral, suggested they might like the area. Indeed, they fell in love with Mill Creek when they drove through.

The cabin was one of the first cabins built on the east side of the tract and was built on a foundation, unlike most in the area that were constructed on piers. The original construction had a number of interesting features: clear-heart redwood exterior siding, pecky cedar on the interior walls; tongue and groove pine floors; forced-air electric heater in the bedroom and a radiant heater in the bathroom, both built into the structure, and still working to this day; and a cast iron fireplace liner with a convection heat exchange and a four foot opening, for a very large fire; and eight angled windows 8 feet tall x 12 inches wide in the front.

During the replacement of the steel-barrel septic tank, an old dump site was found at the south-west corner of the cabin. Nothing of value was found, just old China plates, tin cans and bottles.



Lot 83

Owner: Tom and Amy
Webster
Napa, CA

Purchased: 1997

The cabin was built in the early 1970's by a contractor who built it on speculation and sold it to the Luba's who lived in Orland. The Luba's owned it until 1994 when they sold it to the Jones.

The Webster family had been coming to the area, camping at Hole in the Ground, since 1960. Many family members continue to camp while Tom and Amy enjoy the comforts of cabin life.

A tale which goes with the cabin is that Mrs. Luba's baked pies were cooling on the table one Thanksgiving when she heard the screen door on the deck being opened. She turned to see who was coming in and was face to face with a bear. Legend has it that she grabbed the rolling pin, clonked the bear on the head while hollering and chased him out of the cabin, pies untouched. The infamous rolling pin is still in the cabin.



Lot 87

Owners:
Ben and Nick Bertagna
Chico, CA

Purchased: 1986

A sign, “Welcome to the Nut House,” greets guests to the cabin owned by the Bertagnas. The cabin was built in the 1960s. It was purchased in 1987 by Chico nut farmers Ben and Carmen Bertagna, since deceased, who wanted a place the entire family could enjoy. The third generation is now learning cabin life at Mill Creek.



Circle “S” Ranch Fire Truck in 4th of July Parade



Lot 88

Owners: Ruth Murphy
Annette
Reynolds
Salinas, CA

Purchased: 1954

The following was written by Ruth Murphy in 2012. Sadly, she died shortly after.

Built in 1954, the Reynolds-Murphy cabin on Lot 88 has remained in the original family and has been used annually for nearly six decades. The cabin and the surrounding area hold a very special place in the hearts of every member of our family, now spanning five generations. The youngest family member currently enjoying the cabin is seven years old, and the oldest is now ninety-two.

Back in 1953, after enjoying several weekends in Mineral at the invitation of friends, my husband Ray and I took my parents for a ride through the Mill Creek area. We wanted them to see the beauty of all the cabins surrounded by the woods. We had been spending many weekends in those mountains, only we were in tents with camping gear, not in pretty little cabins. My father, John, was a carpenter, and with his skill and Ray's determination, we knew our dream of having our own cabin in those woods would soon come true.

The following summer, our dream began to take shape when our family began construction of our cabin on Lot 88. What a beautiful site it was, dense with young trees and plenty of deer to keep us company. Hungry for our watermelon rinds and corn cobs, newer generations of deer continue to return to Lot 88 each summer, just as our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren do.

Needing to be frugal, my dad found the old Canfield home in ruins on Sacramento Avenue in Chico. Much to my dad's delight, he was able to obtain strong lumber and wood-framed windows. Soon, a new house was under construction with the old materials; much of the Canfield home in Chico became the Reynolds-Murphy cabin in Mill Creek. When construction began, our six-year-old son Tim was a real "gopher" and

worked like a little man. When he would finish his chores and things were a little slow, he would say, “Well, if you don’t need me, I think I’ll go out and find me a friend.” If his dad Ray couldn’t go fishing with him, Tim would run off and come back hours later, after visits to other cabins made him countless new friends. When there *was* time to fly fish, Tim and his dad would give a share to those friends upon their return.

My mother, a very hardworking woman, kept everyone well fed. Tim and Ann remember their grandma cooking countless pancakes and fish on our very first wood stove. Now, several decades later, every child in the family can remember new generations of grandmothers preparing what now totals thousands of fish and tens of thousands of pancakes cooked inside our little cabin.

A few years after our cabin was constructed, my brother Leonard, who was busy getting married at the time we started working on Lot 88, joined us. Not only were we thrilled as he, his wife Annette and eventually their two daughters, Lynnette and Pam, joined in the summer fun, but it was also a big help to have another handy man involved. After all, cabins are not *all* about play and require work as well! We were grateful that Leonard had the time to search and find the repairs needed and problems if they appeared.

Leonard’s family also loved the snow, so they spent many winters skiing nearby and enjoying the cold-weather activities in the Lassen Park area. In contrast, my husband Ray would leave at any sign of snow. If he couldn’t fish or enjoy other summer activities in the area, he would have rather been at home. But Ray and I weren’t the only ones who preferred the cabin during the summer months. In August of 1975, our son Tim married his wife Nancy, and they took their honeymoon in their favorite place on earth—the Reynolds-Murphy cabin on Lot 88.

Through the last fifty eight years, we have met such warm people “up at the cabin.” We have seen several generations of owners and their families pass through the local general store and post office. We were fortunate enough to have the Foster family as storekeepers for many years, and now we have Terry and Georgene Neher. The store has always been a favorite bike-riding destination for the kids at our cabin, who would race each other there for Orangina sodas and chocolate milkshakes.

One of our most treasured friends and neighbors was Jim Moore, who lived across the road on Lot 88. Jim was one of the earlier settlers in the newer section of the Mill Creek Area.

While our cabin itself was not very large, it was a sufficient size as little time was ever spent indoors in Mill Creek. At night, neighbors would

gather to play simple card games like Gin Rummy, Go Fish, Old Maid and Poker. We'd also play dice games like Zilch and Yahtzee. It was amazing how the youngest usually beat the old ones at cards and dice! The late evenings might be spent cleaning the day's catch after a good day of fishing, or roasting marshmallows on the fire. During very special times of the year, however, Tim, his friends and his family would "night fish" Butt Lake. More often than not—and as a result of expert casts and a strong spool of sinking line—we'd wake to a sink full of giant fish, caught by Tim, in the dark, while the rest of us were fast asleep. Bears were also fun to watch in the evenings. If we parked near the local refuse area and kept very quiet inside our cars, we'd witness a gang of bears scavenging for food after dark. We also learned of another spot, just off the road past the meadows, where we could watch the deer gather for evening grazing.

During the daytime, chipmunks and squirrels put on quite a show for us to watch from the deck of the cabin. The number of wildlife decreased as other families started building up the lots around ours, but these days we still see our share of deer, chipmunks, squirrels, raccoons, mountain bluebirds, and even the occasional curious brown bear.

When it stormed, however, the dogs were always terrified. The thunder clouds move in quickly in the mountains, and the tin roof of the cabin allows the sound of the rain to echo throughout the house. During one particularly fierce storm, the booming thunder scared one of our dogs so badly that he came right through the screen door to hide from the sound! (Do not worry—he was fine!)

Our days were always spent fly fishing. After the morning trip down to the creek, we would spend the days on the deck of the cabin, reading or visiting with friends. Some of our happiest summer memories involved taking long walks, reading those books we never seemed to be able to finish back home, and taking bicycle rides wherever we could. Later in the day, Ray and Tim would head back to the creek and fish until twilight, logging innumerable hours together on a stretch of water that they, their children, and their children's children would all grow to know by heart.

Mill Creek wasn't just a source for our breakfasts and dinners—it was also our community pool. Summer after summer, we would walk down to the same spot on the creek to build (and rebuild!) Murphy's Dam. Murphy's Dam was a swimming hole the kids built every year, after the heavy winter snow washed away the prior year's hard work and deposited our rocks throughout the creek bed. Building the dam was half the fun, and when the children and their friends would ride down their hand-made waterslide on hot summer days, it was better than any

amusement park they'd ever visited.

As our children and grandchildren grew, so did our range of activity. We would fly fish different creeks, rivers and lakes, and we explored new parts of the surrounding areas. Lassen Peak is a beautiful hike, and the active sulfur pits of Lassen's volcano are an incredible sight to see. In addition, my brother Leonard loves to golf, and his family still regularly visit the golf course near Lake Almanor.

Since 1954, the five generations of family who have enjoyed the cabin were comprised of the following families:

- John and Ethel Reynolds – Children Ruth and Leonard
- Ray and Ruth Murphy – Children Ann and Tim
- Tim and Nancy Murphy – Children Mackenzie and Micah
- Micah and Crystal Murphy – Child Isaiah (and one on the way!)
- Leonard and Annette Reynolds – Children Lynnette and Pam
- Lynette Reynolds Western – Children Trent and Jordan
- Pam Reynolds Hughes and John Hughes – Children Tanner and Kelly

Surprisingly enough, in 2008, another Murphy arrived on the Mill Creek scene. Mark Murphy, my nephew on my husband Ray's side, settled with his family in one of the nearby cabins (Lot 46). One day, his introduction sounded down through the trees, with Mark calling out "Hey! Any Murphys down there?" To Mark's delight, he received a familiar reply of, "Yeah, Murphys down here!" from Lot 88. It warmed my heart to know that this encounter was set in place in 1954, and I wondered just how many other families shared in very special moments just like this around their own cabins.

As I said, our son Tim was six years old when we started building on Lot 88. Last year, my great-grandson Isaiah (the first member of the fifth generation) was six years old when he played "gopher" for the first time, fetching tools and helping with the annual lot clean-up and repairs to our beloved cabin. Isaiah has become aware that "the cabin" is not only a fun place to visit but also a haven for all the wonderful memories that the grandmas and grandpas are always talking about.

Our family has been lucky enough to experience some of the most exotic, interesting and scenic places on Earth. But none, we agree, compare to our cabin in the woods. The sparkle of the creek, the mossy mountain waterfalls and the quiet, green meadows—these are the scenes we truly love. In my ninety-two years I have learned that, when added to the love we have passed down through the generations, these scenes make Mill Creek the most beautiful place in the world.



Lot 89

Owners: Norman and
Patricia Cady
Ross, CA

Purchased: 1955

This is one of the few cabins that is owned by the original builder. Norman Cady built the cabin in 1965. The beauty, peace and quiet of the area and the availability of family recreational activities throughout the year brought them to Mill Creek.

When their family was young, the Cady's spent a month each summer at the cabin and during the winter, they frequently skied at Mt. Lassen. Little has changed through the years. Today, their grandchildren are enjoying the cabin in the same manner as their mother did at their ages: riding stick horses, playing kick-the-can, walking to the store, fishing at the creek, swimming in Lake Almanor, enjoying the beauty of Mt. Lassen and maintaining long-time friendship with the same neighbors and their next generations.



Lot 90

Owner: Tarrant and Bell
Families
Petaluma, CA

Purchased: 1957

The cabin was built in 1958 by P.J. Tarrant a general contractor from Marin County. He had the cabin walls framed at home in Marin County then hauled them up to Mill Creek. The entire cabin framing went up in one weekend. He invited family and friends to Mill Creek to help finish it and they stayed at Fire Mountain Lodge until it was completed. Unfortunately, the plumbers who came to help had never worked at high elevations and did not take extreme cold weather into consideration. The first several winters and springs were marked by frequent broken pipes and repairs.

P.J. Tarrant's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren enjoy the peace and quiet of Mill Creek.



Lot 91

Owner: Blanchard
Rogers
Vacaville, CA

Purchased: 1980

The first exposure Blanchard had of Mill Creek was in the early 50s when he managed Diamond Match in Gerber and sold lumber to the Duggers and Fanianis for the construction of their cabin on Lot 100 which was completed in 1955. Blanchard and his wife felt honored to be the only non-family members to use the cabin for the next twenty years. In 1978 the Rogers purchased Lot 108 and owned it for two years before moving on to Lot 91. Blanchard purchased the cabin from Dale and Wilma Schmitke. The cabin has formerly been owned by Bill and Barbara Vanderschoot.

The cabin is used mostly in the summer, but they always spent New Year's week with snow mobile friends: the Wackerman's, Faniani's, Crowells, and Schmitkes.

Blanchard remembers one year being able to drive right up to the cabin with no snow on the ground, and another time, in the 1980s, when there was nine feet of snow. Cal-Trans gave him two hours to dig his car out of the snow and move it before they plowed the road. After spending two hours of digging, he realized that his time had been spent digging someone else's car out.





Lot 92

Owners: Mike & Susan
Silveira
Orland, CA

Purchased: 1971

Cabin 92 was built in 1957 by Leo and Robert Deranso from Red Bluff California. Leo Deranso and his wife lived in the cabin during the summers until 1971 when they decided to sell it due to ill health. In 1971 John and Frances Silveira from Orland bought the cabin from Leo Deranso based on the recommendation of Carl Lund, a close friend of the family and owner of what later was the Steele cabin (Lot 26) which has since burned down. John and Frances enjoyed coming to Mill Creek, getting out of the Sacramento Valley heat and getting a break from there Agribusiness Operation.

John, Frances and family had been coming to Mill Creek since the early 1950's enjoying hunting and camping at Hole in the Ground. They could drive up to Mill Creek and be at the cabin in one and a half hours. John and Frances enjoyed sharing their cabin with their children and grandchildren. They also enjoyed the friendship of the Mill Creek cabin neighbors including Buck and Evelyn Gleason, Dale and Wilma Schmitke and Don and Paula Crowell. With the passing of John and Frances the cabin was bought out of the Silveira Family Estate by Michael and Susan Silveira in 2008 continuing the family tradition at Mill Creek Home Sites.



Lot 94

Owner: Dorothy Gallo
Cook
Orland, CA

Purchased: 1980

This cabin was purchased from Mrs. Velda Hutchison. The family was introduced to the area from camping trips to Hole in the Ground Campground. With friends they enjoy fishing and snowmobiling. Favorite places to spend time are Lassen Park, Chester and boating on Lake Almanor in the summer.



Wildflowers in the Meadow



Lot 95

Owners: Maynard and Patricia
McMahon
Red Bluff, CA

Purchased: 1963

The cabin was built by Maynard and Patricia in 1963. They made many trips to the lumber yard to get supplies and instructions on how to do each step. Neighbors would stop by and give advice. Oren Johnson came by and told them how to frame the cabin, then took a hammer and helped them put up the frame. With four children (under five years of age), living in a tent, camping on the lot with a refrigerator, a Coleman stove and lantern near a tree, they worked through the summer. They made daily trips to the creek for bathing, and went home once a week to harvest their garden produce, wash clothes and buy groceries.

The McMahons were introduced to Mill Creek by friends Marge and Jerry Pflugrad (Lot 127) who were also teachers at Red Bluff High School. Nine teachers eventually built cabins at Mill Creek. Maynard's brother John built his cabin next door (Lot 96) in 1968.

After the cabin was completed, they spent entire summers at Mill Creek, often lending a hand to other people who were building their cabin. Skiing was a favorite winter activity.

Birthdays, thanksgivings, New Year's Eve, and many other family events were celebrated at the cabin. Dinner with John and Marion followed by playing bridge till the wee hours are fond memories. Several years ago Maynard and Patricia celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary with their children and grandchildren at the cabin.



Lot 96

Owners: Steve Alonzo
Sacramento, CA
Dan & Maureen
Brock
Suisun Valley, CA

Purchased: 2013

Steve Alonzo and his sister Maureen Brock purchased the cabin with their families and in doing so returned to the area where they have many childhood memories. Their grandparents (John and Grace Campos) built the cabin on Lot 48 and Steve, Maureen, with their sister Joanne, who recently purchased Lot 59 are happy to be back at Mill Creek. (See Lot 59 for their childhood memories.)

They purchased the cabin from Marion McMahon several years after John's death. John and Marion lived in La Canada where John was in public school administration. Every summer they enjoyed being in the mountains and visited friends in the Fallen Leaf area near Lake Tahoe. John had a burning desire to build a cabin. Later they visited John's brother Maynard at Mill Creek. The lot next to Maynard's was the last available building site and was an unsightly mess as the lease holder didn't build, and others used the lot as a dumping ground for pine needles and other debris. John and Maynard drove over to Mineral and talked with the Forest Service rangers about the possibility of taking over the lease on the lot. Marion was surprised when John and Maynard returned from that drive to find they were the new lease holders of Lot 96.

Summers were spent in building John's dream. The first summer, John asked Marion if she wanted to go to Hawaii for a vacation, or to go to Mill Creek and build a septic tank. Marion knew what John wanted her answer to be, and they spent the summer constructing the septic tank. Each summer, they would travel from Los Angeles with a truck filled with

building materials. Friend and co-worker, John Schirmer, spent his summers helping John with the exterior which they hoped would be completed in one summer. Several parts of the cabin were prefabricated in Los Angeles and transported the following summer to Mill Creek including the cabinets, and the iron work for the exterior railings and interior stair railings. In order to do the iron work, John enrolled in a class to learn to weld and then built the railings. The construction process took several years.

One night when John Schirmer drove into the tract to assist for the summer, he encountered another cabin owner in the middle of Ash and Juniper streets with a rifle and a downed bear. John was very excited and amused at this once-in-a-lifetime event, which turned quickly to great concern as he pitched his tent to live for the summer, out-of-doors. The bear had evidently been a menace in the area.

After construction was complete, John and Marion spent summers at Mill Creek and hosted many friends and fellow-teachers. John retired in 1981 and they moved to Red Bluff, built a home, and spent much more time at Mill Creek.



Lot 97

Owners: Fleet and Ruth Irvine
Chico, CA

Purchased: 2003

Fishing in the mountains was a favorite summertime activity for Fleet and his son for many years. The idea of buying a cabin to enjoy with kids and grandkids began in the early 2000s. Fleet looked at Almanor, Mineral and many other communities.

Mill Creek had the ambience he was looking for. He asked friends who owned at Mill Creek if they knew anyone who seldom used their cabin and might be interested in selling. From a short list, Fleet began making calls to see if he could find a willing seller. After looking at Lot 97, he knew it would be his, but a lot of work was necessary before his family could also feel it was their retreat. Before escrow closed, the living room was stacked with lumber purchased to panel the interior. Thus began a labor of love that has made this a “cozy, comfy cabin.” The entire cabin has been renovated by Fleet.

Fleet and Ruth use the cabin year round and enjoy the quiet, peaceful life in the mountains and look forward to visits there with their family.



Lot 98

Owners: Don and Betty
Riddle
Sacramento, CA

Purchased: 1974

The cabin was built in 1963 by Walter and Mary Ireys. The Ireys came to Mill Creek from Red Bluff where several of their friends, also teachers at Red Bluff High School, were building cabins. Mary designed the “Wee Chalet” and drew floor plans, then built a scale model of balsa wood the winter before construction. The amount of wood needed was calculated by a Red Bluff lumber yard and then loaded into a truck and brought to Mill Creek with everything necessary, including the water closet and tub on top of the load. The parts were assembled by the Ireys and friends and neighbors and one carpenter. The building inspector built the fireplace. Total cost for the cabin turned out to be \$2,000.

The exterior of this cabin resembles a Swiss chalet with the outside walls on the second floor extending four feet up before the ceiling meets them. This gives the second floor useable space for two bedrooms plus two Pullman cubbies with full-size beds. A drop-down ladder provides access to the attic where more sleeping space is available.

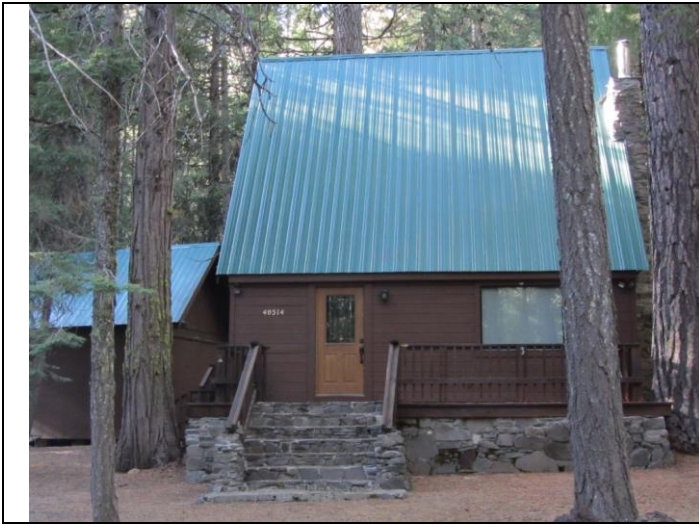
The Ireys used the cabin as a retreat site for Mary’s Red Bluff High School students. Twice it was used as the location for family reunions, and the cabin was a frequent spot for Christmas holidays. In 1974 the cabin was sold to the Riddles who had visited the Ireys in 1963.

One year, Betty, who taught in a three-room school hosted first through fifth graders for a snow trip. The boys bunked in the attic and the girls slept on the second floor. It was the first experience in the snow for

many of the children and the cabin was decorated with wet clothes hanging from every available space.

The four families using the cabin today are: Don & Betty, heads of the clan; Doug (son) and Sharon Riddle with daughter Kelsey and twin sons Kevin and Cameron; Scott (son) and Kathryn Riddle with daughter Erica and son Ben; Robyn (daughter) and Paul Pollero with daughter Lindsay, son Adam, and daughter Megan.

They use it to get away from the valley heat and are still trying to catch Moby Dick in the stream fly fishing. In the winter they enjoy the snow on snowmobiles. On many holidays the entire family squeeze around the fireplace playing dominos and other games.



Lot 100

Owners: Craig & Laurie
Faniani
Fair Oaks, CA

Purchased: 1954

Cabin construction at Lot 100 in the Mill Creek Homesites began in 1954. The lot was part of an area then called "the new section." There was a proposed lot behind Lot 100 but it was decided that it wouldn't have any water pressure due to its proximal location to the water source. So Lot 100 has the mountain as its backyard. The initial owners were Gerber residents Minnie and Raymond Dugger, Florence and Dick Dugger, (Raymond was Dick's father) and Jack and Dorothy Faniani. Florence and Dick had three sons, twins Gary and Larry, and Tim. Jack and Dorothy had a daughter, Barbara and a son Craig who now owns the cabin with wife Laurie, son John and daughter Jenna. They reside in Fair Oaks.

As with most cabins, it is a work in progress. According to Jack, "it was a hunting cabin until the wives showed up." And so it went with Lot 100. It started out very simple— four walls, two stories and an out house. Some of the wood used in construction was purchased from Blanchard Rogers (Lot 91) who was manager of Diamond Match Company in Gerber and much of it was scrap wood.

Eventually decks were added, a shed, indoor plumbing etc. The rock for the fireplace and the front deck were gathered from a quarry in Lassen Park at a time when you were allowed to remove such things from that habitat.

Jack Faniani and his son Craig named the Mill Creek streets. Jack worked for the Tehama County Road Department. One day when the

Mill Creek home sites were in their formative years, the County needed to name the streets. They were proposing A Street, B Street etc. Jack called home and asked Craig (about 8 years old at the time) to pull out his "tree" book – the kind every kid had at that time. Craig called out the tree names and Jack wrote down the ones that seemed most appropriate to our area and submitted them to the Road Department. That's how our road names became appropriately descriptive instead of mundane and generic.

The "Cabin" has been a haven for relaxation, family, celebration and inspiration for decades as well as a place for treasured memories with friends and neighbors. We are lucky to be part of this magical and peaceful place.



Lot 102

Owners: Steve & Diane
Carter
Clint & Carol
Rice
Red Bluff, CA

Purchased: 2012

The cabin was built in 1953 by Don and Paula Crowel from Orland. Following the death of Don and Paula, it was owned by the family until it was purchased in 2012 by the current owners. The cabin was a hotbed of activity among those who were snow mobile users during the 1970s and 1980s.

The “weather rock” is a unique piece of work that the current owners have restored. There is rock work inside and out and the pine interior adds to the rustic cabin charm.

The Carters and Rices have been busily bringing the cabin back to prime condition following many years of very little use. They find the mountain environment and friendly neighbors a perfect fit for their lifestyle.



The Weather Rock



Lot 108

Owner: Eloise Johnston
Gerber, CA

Purchased: 1984

The original owner and builder are unknown. In 1978 Blanchard Rogers purchased the cabin from Mr. Potts who was from Napa. He sold it in 1984 to Orrin (deceased) and Eloise Johnston. Orrin, who lived in Tehama County his entire life, was introduced to the area while spending time with friends during summers for many years. His parents owned Lot 119 which they sold in 1972 to Jim (deceased) and Patricia McDaniel.

After purchasing the cabin, Orrin became involved in the homeowner's association and spent much time maintaining the water systems. He was the "water guru" for many years and knew all the idiosyncrasies of the system.

Family reunions and annual sister's reunions have been enjoyed at the cabin. Grandchildren spent many a happy winter playing in the snow. The family enjoys hiking, fishing and hunting in this beautiful country.



Lot 118

Owners: The Gleason
Family
Orland, CA

Purchased: 1959

When Evelyn and her husband Buck (deceased) purchased the cabin from George and Emil Doering, brothers who lived in Chico, it was a small one room place. They completed the construction with family members. In those early days she remembers the only other cabins in the area were those belonging to the Crowells (Lot102), Gobels (Lot 93), and Fanianis (Lot 100).

Favorite memories are of getting together for happy hour and potlucks with neighbors: Crowells, Silveiras, Bertagnas, Jarvis', McCrarys, and the Rogers.

Evelyn doesn't go up anymore but her grandchildren love to be at Mill Creek and they are eager for their children to have happy memories of Mill Creek, too.



The Gleason Cabin at the Corner of Don't Worry and Be Happy



Lot 120

Owners: Jarvis Family
Marysville, CA

Purchased: 1959

Construction was started in 1960 by Russell Jarvis, Jim Spradley and friends. It was the last lot for sale in the development and the Jarvis family wanted a place for recreation and family fun.



Wild Flowers



Lot 121

Owners: Russ & Lynn
Jarvis
Yuba City, CA

Purchased: 1971

In 1971, Gene Jarvis purchased the cabin as an unfinished shell and completed it in 1972. His brother owned Lot 120 and he wanted a cabin nearby. He also wanted a cabin with electrical power, indoor plumbing and year round access which wasn't available at the cabin he owned at the Feather River Rod and Gun Club not far from Wilson Lake. Gene used the cabin for fishing Mill Creek and especially enjoyed deer hunting with his three sons. The buck-head shutters were made by Gene.

In 2008 Russ and Lynn bought the cabin from the estate of his father. They enjoy being in the mountains, the people here and escaping the valley heat, and especially sharing time with their two sons and their families as well as friends.





Lot 122

Owners: Dave & Julie
Rigby
Sacramento, CA

Purchased: 2013

The Rigbys purchased the cabin in the summer of 2013.

In 1954, Florence and Dick Dugger along with Minnie and Raymond Dugger and Jack and Dorothy Faniani, all from Gerber, built cabin number 100. Following the divorce of Florence and Dick, Ridge and Florence McCrary purchased the cabin in 1974 from Rae Ribbler, a photographer for National Geographic. The cabin was filled with memorabilia of her world travels including an interesting sealed metal tin weighing five pounds. After years of speculation of what the box contained, Florence's brother opened it and found Ghirardelli chocolate bars. He sent a label to the company and learned that the chocolate was made from an unusual recipe that miners liked to hide near the mouth of a mine. The recipe was one that gave the chocolate a very long life. If the miners were trapped, at least they had some chocolate. The letter and label can be found in Fremont at the Ghirardelli Museum. In 1978 the metal tin was refilled and sealed by Florence's brother with a label "The Riches of the Land." The mysterious contents remain a secret as Florence's brother died shortly after filling the box.

While raking the yard one day, Ridge found a box of cremains of Rae's sister Ester. She has been reburied with a small, tidy fence around the plot where she remains to this day. There have been several sightings of "Ester the Ghost" in the cabin. She has been spotted coming out of the bathroom in a robe, once in a red gown and once her presence was felt on a bed. Some say the number of sightings increases with the amount of wine consumed.

Ridge and Florence spent weekends at the cabin until his retirement. After retirement, he would spend months at a time at Mill Creek. The family has memories of great reunions with friends and family spending precious time at Mill Creek. In 1996 when Ridge died, his family had a memorial bench made in his honor. It is at the Mill Creek Store.



Lot 125

Owners: Charles and
Kristen Werner
Walnut Creek, CA

Purchased: 1980

Friends in Walnut Creek introduced the Werners to Mill Creek. They purchased the cabin in 1980.



Winter Scene



Lot 128

Owners:

Gistelli/Shumacher
Families
Sonoma, CA

Purchased: 1961

Two couples started construction of the cabin in 1961 as partners, but due to personal reasons, they discontinued construction shortly thereafter and put it on the market for sale. Theresa & Merlin Pedrotti, parents of Ermalyn Gistelli and Mary Schumacher, discovered and purchased the cabin in 1961 while on a summer vacation looking for a replacement summer cabin. Their original cabin in the Sisikiyou Mountains was washed away during the floods of 1957 and 1958.

As it was only partially complete, they completed its construction with help from family members. Upon the death of Merlin (1968) and Theresa (1992) ownership of the cabin transferred to Ermalyn and Mary. Mary Schumacher passed away in February 1998, at which time her half interest in the use permit for the cabin transferred to her three children, Kate, Peg (Margaret) and Thomas. The Gistelli and Schumacher families have continued to own, occupy and enjoy the cabin since its purchase in 1961.

With the exception of its new metal roof, new septic system and recent exterior paint job, it is in its original, rustic condition as built in 1961.



Lot 130

Owners: Jerry & Lois
Ellsworth
Reedley, CA

Purchased: 1988

This cabin was another built by a teacher from Red Bluff High School in the 1960s. The Ellsworths purchased it from Walter Marshall who lived in Chico.

Lois' sister, Eloise Johnston, owns cabin number 108 and while visiting her sister, Lois and Jerry decided that Mill Creek was a special place and that they, too, wanted to have a cabin for their family.



Circle "S" Ranch with Mt. Lassen Beyond



Lot 131

Owners: Bill and Gennis
Zeller
Yuba City, CA

Purchased: 2013

The cabin on lot 131 was purchased by the Zellers from the Walt Benjamin Family. The Zellers dreamed of a mountain cabin and their love of the Sierras and chasing trout brought them to the area. When they saw the cabin, they immediately made an offer. To their surprise, it was a “turn-key” transaction as many of the cabins in the area are. Furnishings, linens, harvest gold and avocado green appliances, canned goods and even toilet paper on the roll were included.

The deck was built around a giant multi-ton boulder that is an artifact from one of the myriad Lassen eruptions. Geologists say that it was carried miles to its current resting place by an avalanche of magma-generated mud and snow slush from a volcanic eruption.

Also known as “Fishcamp,” the cabin was, and is perfect for the Zellers. The Benjamin family had obviously put a great deal of love into it. The Zeller clan continues to enjoy and care for it enormously.



Lot 132

Owners: Mary and Bernie
Gleason
Red Bluff, CA

Purchased: 1965

A cabin originally built on this lot burned to the ground in 1964. Bernie and Mary purchased the lot in 1965; the debris from the fire had to be removed including eighteen trees which had been damaged. The fire singed the neighboring cabin 127, but did no major damage. Bernie built the present cabin with the help of friends in 1966. While putting up one of the last four rows of shingles on the top of the north wall of the cabin, the scaffolding began to fall. Bernie safely jumped twenty feet to the ground.

The Gleasons became aware of the area when friends talked of building their cabins in the peaceful forest. The first three summers after construction was completed Bernie and Mary lived full time at the cabin while he worked at Lassen National Park and Mineral Lodge.

A special event occurred at the cabin when Bernie and Mary celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in August 2008.



Lot 133

Owners: Dick and Katie
McCulley
Vallejo, CA

Purchased: 1976

This cabin was built between 1965-68 by Dave and Elizabeth Elam. Ownership changed in 1976 when Dick McCulley and Andy Vanderschoot purchased it. Andy sold his share and Dick, Sam and Helena McCulley became owners. Today it is owned solely by Dick and Katie McCulley.

A visit on Memorial Day, 1976 to Bill and Barbara Vanderschoot's cabin, presently owned by Blanchard Rogers, introduced Dick to the area. It didn't take long for him to find a cabin that fit his needs. The cabin is one of very few to have a direct view of Mill Creek.

The McCulley's daughter and several friends spent much time during their growing-up years at Mill Creek skiing at Mt. Lassen, swimming Mill Creek and exploring the forest. A nostalgic fondness of times past and anticipatory pleasure of the next visit weighs on the women today.



Lot 134

Owners: Cheryl Gordon
Don Hubbard
Berkeley, CA

Purchased: 2000

Don and Cheryl were introduced to the area by her brother who was a geologist working at Lassen National Park. After her brother left his position at Lassen, they continued to visit the area and stayed at Mill Creek Resort for fifteen years, beginning in 1985. During their visits, they looked for a cabin to purchase.

The cabin was originally constructed by an engineer, whose name is unknown, as a fishing cabin with an outhouse and no electricity. It was inherited by the wife of the original owner who lived in Little Saigon, Los Angeles. The cabin sat vacant and unused for five to ten years. In the mid-80s, the cabin was purchased by Ed Barbour and partially remodeled with the addition of a bathroom. The Stemples purchased it from Barbour for cash in the late 80s, with the understanding that the remodeling would be finished, but as they waited in the car before leaving, Barbour walked out and told them he was done with it. Remodeling is still unfinished. Some valuable metals and exotic items were found under the cabin.

During the water system project in the mid 2000s, an enormous bolder was unearthed on Lot 134. It is eight feet tall and five feet by six feet wide. It was left at the front of the lot as a monument to the mountain we live on.



Lot 135

Owners:

Sondra & Jim
Runyan
Sara & Kyle Young
Martinez, CA

Purchased: 2006

The cabin was built between 1958-1961 by Ted and Jackie Torngren and their three children. Most of the building materials used were from Mare Island. The cabin was basically built for Ted and his buddies to get out of the city to fish, play cards and “batch” it at Mill Creek. The Torngrens, from Sacramento, sold it to Jerry and Jackie (Sabine) Van Buskirk in 1983. The Van Buskirks owned the cabin from 1986 until 2006. The major addition to the cabin during the Van Buskirk era was the large wrap-around deck built with the help of friends.

It was thought by some of the old timers that the land between Lots 134 and 135 contained buried treasure as the owner of Lot 134 had been a fortune hunter and used the land to hide his loot; needless to say, nothing was found, but guests of previous owners used their metal detectors for some entertainment.

The Runyans, teachers in Martinez, own the cabin with their daughter and son-in-law, the Youngs, who are Coast Guard officers. They use the small cabin year-round as a base to explore the many outstanding outdoor opportunities in the area. They love to mountain bike, hike, kayak, snow shoe, and cross-country ski. The quiet and solitude in the winter is especially appreciated. Winter is when they spend most of their time at Mill Creek.



Lot 136

Owners: Ellis & Carolyn
Richard
Moose, WY

Purchased: 2006

Around 1972 Wayne and Bonnie Erickson of Chico purchased Lot 136. (Wayne is related to the Erickson family who in the early days of Mill Creek built several cabins on Elm.) Purchased for \$9,000, the cabin had broken windows and needed foundation repairs. During the thirty years plus of ownership, many improvements were made including a deck around three sides, a downstairs bedroom as well as an additional room which were added to the north side of the cabin.

The Richards enjoy being in Mill Creek and having Forest Service land on two sides is a benefit.

The Land Swap Story

The Concept

In the early 1970's, the Mineral Recreation Residence Tract completed a land exchange with the Lassen National Forest. The Mineral group purchased land the Forest Service was interested in and exchanged it for ownership of the land their cabins were on. During that time and since there were many discussions and at least one false start to accomplish a similar land exchange for the Mill Creek Recreation Residence Tract and Resort with the Lassen National Forest. In the late 1980's, the Mill Creek Summer Home Improvement Association (MCSHIA) made a formal request to complete a land exchange to allow private ownership of the leased lots from the U.S. Forest Service. The District Ranger made the decision at that time that it was in the public interest to keep the lands in public ownership.

The land exchange proposal was resurrected in the mid 1990's. Recreation dollars had been decreasing and reduced staffing and funding was limiting the Forest Service's ability to properly administer the 119 permits. The Almanor District Ranger saw this exchange proposal had merit for the opportunity to acquire additional and desirable private lands through the exchange process.

In the simplest terms, a land exchange entails an appraisal of value of the federal land on which the Mill Creek cabins are situated; then locating an equally valued parcel or several parcels of desirable non-federal private lands. The private lands are purchased and exchanged with the federal government in return for ownership of the previously leased land. It is so simple in concept, yet it is extremely complicated to actually accomplish. "The devil is in the details."

The Process

The serious and organized land swap process began in 1994 when the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) indicated they were interested in pursuing a formal land exchange. An inquiry was made to all private property owners in the Mill, Deer, and Antelope Creek watersheds to update the list of willing sellers for potential land exchanges. Several willing sellers with desirable properties were identified mainly located in and around the Ishi Wilderness area in Tehama County.

In the ensuing three years, many cabin owners and others volunteered a great deal of time and effort working toward that end. In 1995 the MCSHIA solicited a small amount (\$200.00) from each cabin owner to help in funding to continue the process and to proceed with the land swap. The response was overwhelming with at least one hundred seven cabin owners out of one hundred nineteen (90%) providing the start-up funds.

In an official MCSHIA ballot in 1996, a large majority of cabin owners (74%) gave the green light to acquire approximately one hundred sixty acres at Mill Creek. Given that mandate, the volunteers formed sub committees and utilized the original funding to assure that the purchase was feasible. The Land Swap Committee was ably chaired and orchestrated by Bob Hamel, with the following sub committees and chairmen: Survey/Form of Ownership, Jerry Van Buskirk and Terry Neher; Appraisal, Howard Wolff; CC&Rs, John McMahon; Environmental, Bob Hamel; Assessments, Bob Hamel; and Title Insurance, Corky Kramer.

The work of these dedicated volunteers culminated in an Agreement to Initiate the Mill Creek/Ishi Land Exchange being signed by MCSHIA, the Exchange Land Owner(s) and the Forest Service, which formally kicked off the process in July, 1997. The Agreement to Initiate laid down the ground rules and gave a timetable for completion of the various requirements prior to the final land exchange. Of course, the

timetable (Implementation Schedule) was only a guideline, and in fact was overly optimistic in regard to the amount of time needed to complete the process.

By September, 1997, the initial “start-up” money (\$200.00 per cabin) was nearly exhausted. Most of this money was used to support attorney fees to determine form of ownership, meeting with the Land Swap Committee and the MCSHIA Board, discussions of many other items to assure that the MCSHIA was on sound legal footing and moving along the right track. In order to continue, it became obvious that additional funding was needed. A special assessment ballot to assess each cabin owner \$1,000.00 was submitted to the membership and approved by a majority vote. In support of this action, the Land Swap Committee provided preliminary estimates of the total costs for the land swap. It’s interesting and amazing to note that these estimates were surprisingly close to the actual figures experienced at the close of escrow some eight years later. These early estimates predicted a total cost per cabin owner were to range from \$6,000 to \$15,000. In fact, at the close of escrow, each cabin owner had paid close to \$10,000 in total costs of land and processing costs. Of course, the resort owner paid considerably more.

At this point in the development it became quite obvious that the number and complexity of activities on the horizon required to complete the land swap necessitated the hiring of a knowledgeable and professional project manager to assist the MCSHIA Board through this maze of activities. The MCSHIA Board and involved volunteers were still actively involved and provided policy direction but the project manager was needed to perform day-to-day tasks. Thus, in December, 1997, Steven Honeycutt was engaged to fulfill this role. Mr. Honeycutt immediately immersed himself in the project and organized “town hall” meetings in several key communities where most of the cabin owners resided. The purpose of these gatherings were two fold: 1. to allow the

cabin owners an opportunity to express their feelings, questions, and concerns regarding the land swap; 2. to provide Mr. Honeycutt the opportunity to understand the various issues and provide suggestions on how most effectively and efficiently to complete the process.

The “town hall” meetings were held during the spring of 1998 and they well-served the purposes noted above. The most significant outcome was the development and presentation of the “Draft Project Plan for the Mill Creek Land Exchange and Ownership Project” in June, 1998. The “Executive Summary” of the draft plan provides a comprehensive description of this important document:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

* The objectives of the Mill Creek Land Exchange & Ownership Project are:

- (1) to obtain ownership of the land from the U.S. Forest Service,
- (2) to create and distribute parcels to each participating cabin owner,
- (3) to provide for the smooth transition from Forest Service control and oversight to self-governance, and
- (4) to achieve the above at the lowest possible cost consistent with the interests of the participants.

* The Mill Creek LLC is currently being organized to carry out the project on behalf of the cabin owners. The LLC will conduct an organizational meeting on July 4, 1998 to correspond with the annual meeting of the Mill Creek Summer Home Improvement Association. Participating cabin owners (Members) will consider a draft "Operating Agreement" that will address the governance of the LLC and the conduct of its business, and specify Members' rights and obligations.

* In an effort to extend every opportunity for reluctant cabin owners to understand the project and become comfortable with participation, it is proposed to allow investment *without* added payment for risk or interest until September 1, 1998. Any cabin owner not joining by that time would be subject to added costs if they subsequently wish to purchase their lot. A second meeting of all Members would be held on Labor Day weekend, during which updated cost allocations would be provided and finalized based upon final LLC membership.

* The Project Schedule calls for entering into a binding Exchange Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service in June, 1999 with the transaction to take place the following October.

* The Forest Service has been requested to issue a patent describing 125 separate parcels, which will be immediately amended by Lot Line Adjustment, and thus made ready for distribution to individual cabin owners. Minor adjustments to lot boundaries to correct encroachments, resolve disputes, or other changes will be made at that same time. *

A Project Budget of \$1,115,000 is proposed, which breaks down as follows:

	Total Budget	Fair Share Per Cabin	Cost for Non-Payers	Total Per Paying Cabin
Processing Cost	\$278,501	\$2,340	\$720	\$3,060
Land Cost	783,929	5,894	1,572	7,466
Cont'gency Res.	<u>52,570</u>	<u>442</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>578</u>
Total	\$1,115,000	\$8,676	\$2,428	\$11,104

The Draft Project Plan was formally presented to the cabin owners at the annual July 4th meeting, 1998. For the next year and one-half, Mr. Honeycutt was tasked with developing and implementing the major elements of the Project Plan

The first major issue to be addressed was an organizational question. That is, what is the best organization vehicle to be used to represent the 119 cabin owners. From the start, it was assumed that the vehicle would be the MCSHIA. However, two significant issues surfaced which called into question the advisability of MCSHIA serving this role. The complexity and financial scope of the transaction (estimated to be in the range of \$1,000,000) posed a significant potential personal liability for the individuals involved in the activity. In addition, MCSHIA could jeopardize its non-profit status with federal and state taxing authorities if it was designated as the lead agency for the swap.

The MCSHIA Board sought legal and technical advice from a variety of experts regarding this issue. Lawyers, accountants and other knowledgeable individuals concluded that the establishment of a Limited Liability Company (LLC) was clearly the best choice to serve as the organizational vehicle to represent the cabin owners in dealing with the U.S. Forest Service. For many cabin owners, a LLC was a new concept, and there were a number of reservations expressed about it. Nevertheless, the MCSHIA Board understood the wisdom of using this vehicle, and directed Mr. Honeycutt to engage legal counsel to create the Mill Creek Limited Liability Company (MCLLC). The MCLLC was established and recorded with the State of California in November/December, 1998. Throughout the land swap process the managers of the MCLLC and the Board of Directors of the MCSHIA were the same individuals. Scrupulous care was taken to assure that the business of each organization was handled separately and in the best interests of that organization. In retrospect, the efficiency of this dual leadership far outweighed the potential for conflicts of interest.

With the LLC established in late 1998, all of the regulatory agencies of the State and County level needed to be contacted, and the arduous task of complying with the myriad rules and regulations necessary to complete the land swap began. Throughout the entire

process the three levels of government required satisfaction of untold numbers of policies and procedures. Confusion about the LLC and other concerns caused some cabin owners to question the legitimacy of some of the decisions taken by the Board/Managers. Nevertheless, the process was now underway and gained momentum. It appeared that the land swap would be completed within the next year or two, but that proved to be highly optimistic.

Although the Federal Government represented by the U.S. Forest Service was clearly supportive of the land swap, significant hurdles were encountered with satisfying the requirements of Tehama County. First the actual size and specific configuration of the Mill Creek property needed to be determined.

The original amount of Mill Creek federal land proposed to acquire consisted of approximately one hundred sixty acres. In order to reduce costs for the Mill Creek LLC and minimize the amount of land taken out of federal ownership, the size of the Mill Creek Tract was reduced to around 108 acres and finally to 86.7 acres.

Next the internal lot lines needed to be surveyed and represented clearly on maps submitted to the Tehama County Planning Department. With preliminary approval of the Mill Creek maps by the Planning Department, other Tehama County departments and agencies reviewed the project and issued opinions and concerns. Throughout this process, public hearings and discussions were held. What was originally projected to be completed in months turned out to be years. Although it was clear that an overwhelming majority of homeowners were in favor of the land swap, a small vocal minority of home owners constantly raised concerns and questions. There is no doubt that this small group caused numerous delays and extended the time and cost of the entire process.

Early on in the process, the U.S. Forest Service indicated that support and participation by all of the lease holders would expedite the transaction. Certainly all lease holders had to be offered the option to

purchase their land or continue to lease under the same conditions as with the Forest Service. Some lease holders viewed this as a requirement that 100% of the group had to be in favor of the land swap. This ambiguity was not settled until much later in the process.

For almost two years, the original Project Manager guided the project, but he became ill and a new Project Manager was hired in December, 1999. Jim Saake provided expert guidance and direction for the remainder of the project.

After three long and frustrating years of meetings, hearings and accomplishments, the Tehama County Board of Supervisors in February, 2003 approved the Tentative Mill Creek Subdivision map with several conditions needing further satisfaction. The two conditions which had the most impact were:

1. completion of a septic system survey and require all systems to be permitted; and
2. completion of several internal road improvements to accommodate emergency vehicle access.

Approximately one-third of the home sites were required to install a new septic system, and during the spring and summer of 2003 this was generally completed and satisfactory to Tehama County. All of the remaining conditions were satisfied.

On October 31, 2003, the Exchange Agreement was signed between the U.S. Forest Service and the Mill Creek LLC. This agreement was based on the Decision Notice issued by the Forest Supervisor finding of No Significant Impact. The Decision Notice officially locks in land values and is the final step to allow the signing of the Exchange Agreement. Even though the Decision Notice was appealed by one lease holder, the U.S. Forest Service Reviewing Official affirmed the Forest Supervisor's decision to allow the Mill Creek/Ishi Exchange.

From March, 2004 until the close of escrow in November, 2005, a whole host of issues were resolved and activities completed to satisfy the

State of California's Department of Real Estate requirements and finalize property tax matters with Tehama County. The establishment of the Mill Creek/Lassen Mutual Water Company was a requirement whereby each lot owner received one share of the water company. Another major accomplishment was the recording of the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs) of Trail No. 02-1006 for Mill Creek on May 18, 2005.

Several escrow actions were required. First the Mill Creek LLC had to purchase the private land to be exchanged for the Mill Creek property. Then the U.S. Forest Service exchanged the Mill Creek property for the deeds to the desired private land, now owned by the Mill Creek LLC. Finally the Mill Creek LLC provided separate individual deeds to each lot owner upon the deposit of necessary money to complete the transaction.

At the end, after over a decade of activity, each Mill Creek home owner invested \$10,000.00 for the purchase of the free and clear deed to their property at Mill Creek. Clearly a bargain worth the trials and tribulations!

Special recognition needs to be delivered to the hard working and diligent members of the MCSHIA Board of Directors and Managers of the Mill Creek LLC, who persevered through monthly meetings, and numerous disappointments to finally complete the land swap exchange.

Many homeowners contributed to the success of this project. All of the current and future homeowners owe a huge debt to: Ernie Boracci, Shirley Boracci, Jerry Ellsworth, Frank McCaughey, Ralph Meuter, Jude Tarrant, Jackie Van Buskirk and Russell Young. In addition to these individuals, Jim Sakke, our Project Manager provided expert guidance, advice and service and Jack Major provided professional and accurate financial records and accounting services throughout the project. Together these individuals are responsible for setting the frame work and

sound financial condition of the Mill Creek Summer Homeowners Association and the Mill Creek/Lassen Mutual Water Company.

The attached Final Land Acquisition Report of the Mill Creek LLC, dated May 5, 2006, details the specific financial aspects of this transaction. As the final action of this complicated transaction, the Mill Creek LLC was dissolved and no longer exists.

MILL CREEK LLC
 LAND ACQUISITION
 REPORT May 5,
 2006

FUNDS RECEIVED

LAND@5100	663,000.00
ASSESSMENTS@ 3000	357,000.00
SPEC. ASSESSMENTS@ 1900	226,100.00
PROPERTY TAX COLLECTED	12,749.13
RISK / INTEREST PENALTIES	25,102.50
BANK INTEREST	15,707.08

TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED \$1,299,658.71

LAND ACQUISITION COSTS

PROCESSING LAND ACQUISITION COSTS

PROJECT PLANNING & MGT.	108,764.74
TAX & ACCOUNTING	14,454.40
SURVEYING & ENGINEERING	120,181.21
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES	44,289.37
LEGAL COUNSEL	42,237.52
APPRAISAL & CRUISE	45,084.61
LOCAL FEES & CONSULTANTS	24,653.87
PRODUCTION & COMMUNICATIONS	7,162.92
INSURANCE	6,165.00

TOTAL PROCESSING COSTS 412,993.64

LAND COSTS

LAND	665,190.63
TITLE & ESCROW FEES	43,461.81
PROPERTY TAXES PAID THRU ESCROW	23,844.27

TOTAL LAND COSTS 732,496.71

TOTAL LAND ACQUISITION COSTS 1,145,490.35

BALANCE OF FUNDS 154,168.36

DISTRIBUTION TO MUTUAL WATER COMPANY 90,100.00

DISTRIBUTION TO M.C.S.H.O.A 60,000.00

TOTAL OF FUNDS DISTRIBUTED 150,100.00

BANK BALANCE AS OF MAY 5.2006 4,068.36

Mill Creek Time Line

1924	Phase I of the Mill Creek Summer Recreation Recreation Residence Tract is surveyed and Developed by National Forest Service
1930	Phase II is surveyed and developed
1939	“New” Highway 36 completed; “old” Highway 36 became Highway 172
1945	Electricity installed at Mill Creek
1947	Phase III is surveyed and developed
1964	Torrential storm scoured Mill Creek
1970	Beginning of a land swap attempt
1971 or 1972	Cabin 26 burned
1972	A second set of water tanks was installed to supplement the old system
1984	Mill Creek Volunteer Fire Department established
1994	Forest Service determines a Land Swap is desirable
1995	Homeowners give approval to proceed with Land Swap First Annual 4 th of July Parade
1996	Mud/land slide near Camp Tehama
1997	Agreement to Initiate signed by Forest Service and MSCHIA
1998	On Tamarack, new water tanks installed and building constructed
2005	Land Swap completed
2008	New water system installed
2010	Chip and seal on interior roads

Former Owners

Lot 1	E. J. Foster and Leon Cordy Robert Schwarze Larry and Delores Mansfield George and Dorothy Crocket	
Lot 3	Clyde Hamer Harold and Cora Jean (Hamar) Horn Harold Horn and Janet Kirch	Gridley
Lot 5	Kirk and Ardene Smith Ann and Dante Grasso	Walnut Creek Fairfield
Lot 6	Frank and Tilly Ondricek Frank and Joyce Shumway	Orland Orland
Lot 7	Jerome and Elma Viola Coleman Don and Betty Dean	Chico
Lot 8	Fred and Theresa Kronsbein	
Lot 9	Rev. Anthony Dosch	
Lot 10	Ruth Miles Carl and Prentice Shepherd Pat & Shelly Tedford/Bob & Mary Evans	Redwood, CA Red Bluff Chico
Lot 11	Mr. Voohries Father Dosch	Redding
Lot 12	Jim Rankin Ken Wiffler	Sacramento
Lot 13	Alan Stanley Bruce and Paulette Geveden	Lafayette Red Bluff
Lot 14	George Nisson	Chico
Lot 15	Mr. Kilpatrick Dale and Bernice Sievers	Chico Orland
Lot 16	Bob and Mary Lou Moore Robert and Marilee Meline	Woodland

Lot 17	J.W. and Bernice Bakerville	Orland
Lot 18	Mr. Wickland Harold Bills Joseph or Marilyn Zlatunich Ken Kramer	Chico San Francisco Red Bluff
Lot 19	John Shilbarg Ralph Cooper Richard Mason	Burlingame
Lot 20	Tommy Tompson	San Francisco
Lot 22	F.A. and Emily Pepper	Berkeley
Lot 23	Helen Pates Lillian Mole	Chico Cloverdale
Lot 24	E.V and Myra Wing	Red Bluff
Lot 25	Mr. Rumbigier Mario Giuntini Daniel and Cheryle Warren	Castro Valley
Lot 26	Mrs Lawrence (didn't own, lived in '37-'57) Ned and Loraine Steele Lot reverted to Forest Service	Orland
Lot 28	Fred and Martha Godbolt Jack and Jackie Besso Dennis and Edie Deromidi	Red Bluff Woodland Chico
Lot 30	Dr. Brearcliff	
Lot 31	Mr. Jones	Yuba City
Lot 32	Robert Schuntz Robert and Marilyn Schimke George and Dorothy Crockett Bonnie and Bob Wisherd	Manteca Orland Sacto /Mill Creek
Lot 33	Lester and Ellen Sturm Clarence Grey	Orland Chico
Lot 34	Clinton and Pearl Eckols	Potter Valley

Lot 35	John Sly Reginald and Mary Evans	Orland Corning
Lot 37	Webster and Jane Dillon	Newcastle
Lot 38	Bill Hack	Orland
Lot 39	Charlie Johnston O.J. and Lola Jennings Bob Hamel Kevin and Debbie Scheline	Red Bluff Rancho Murieta Chico
Lot 41	Gary and Barbara Hunt Norman Russell The Barber Family	Red Bluff Sonoma Red Bluff
Lot 42	Mr. Bonwell Mr. and Mrs. Roy Higgins	Alameda Red Bluff
Lot 40	Mr. and Mrs. Higgins Dedrick and Dorothy Petersen	Red Bluff Novato
Lot 43	Frank Asbell Chris and Liz Macpherson'	Redding Walnut Creek
Lot 45	Fletcher Craig Lynton and Bernice Jordan John Abshier Kip and Phyllis Wilsey	Oroville Pinole
Lot 46	Billy and Barbara Heron	Chico
Lot 47	Lyle and Jessie Bench John and Elizabeth Briscoe Tracy McDonald (Millon)	Richmond Chester Chico
Lot 49	Jim Burrows The Petersons Otto and Elsie Wackerman	Orland
Lot 50	W.J. Tanner Bob and Margaret Lambert	Hayward Orland
Lot 52	S.J. and Eula Alford Bruce & Carol Johnston	Chico Gerber

Lot 53	Mr. Cook George and Dorothy Crockett	
Lot 54	Mr. Jackson D.P. Conroy	Manteca
Lot 55	Jose and Marina Codina George and Mary Lewis	
Lot 57	David Kwate Dennis Thompson	Orland
Lot 58	Harold and Josephine Silcott Bell/Ward/Gonzalez	
Lot 59	Carrell and Berniece Kolousek Mr. Aguire Roger and Bronwyn Meyer	Orland Red Bluff
Lot 60	Charles Haines	Orland
Lot 61	Gertrude Rold Dodson Family	Oroville
Lot 62	Victor and Lillie Holvik	Orland
Lot 63	Jim Parnell Patrick and Linda Jenkins'	Red Bluff
Lot 64	Henning and Hanna Erickson Fred and Alice Hedglin	
Lot 65	Vaughn and Marian Clearman Mr. Ryan	Hayward Idaho
Lot 66	Lennis Dunlap	Chico
Lot 67	Nils Otto Bostrom Fred and Alice Hedglin George Marcillac Dante Grasso	Daly City
Lot 68	Lloyd Nielsen Dale and Edith Green	Yuba City

Lot 69	Bona Allen and Mary Jeffries John and Jean Wackerman	Chico Orland
Lot 70	Jack Steward Hal Bishop William and Jane Rutherford David and Kathleen Purvis	Chico Chico Chico
Lot 71	Jerry Tullis/Lloyd Perry Clayton Johnson Bernard Taylor	Clayton Concord Yuba City
Lot 72	Charles and Louise Armstrong	Mill Creek
Lot 76	John Mitchell Frank and Marliss Stroud	Red Bluff
Lot 78	Robert Hespen	Seaside
Lot 79	Ann Linder Leon and Penny Salanava	
Lot 80	Jim Moore	Chico
Lot 81	Maurice Phillips	Tracy
Lot 82	Mr. Roberts Jerry and Shirley Lyon	Sonoma Richmond
Lot 83	Ed and Irene Luba Mr. Jones	Orland
Lot 84	Geneva Harvey Ray and Virginia Meadows	Redding
Lot 87	Ernest and Juanita Blum Houghton/Ornelas	Corning
Lot 90	P.J. and Irene Tarrant	San Rafael
Lot 91	Dale and Wilma Schmitke A. Nicholson Bill and Barbara Vanderschoot	St. Helena
Lot 92	Helen Deranso John Silveira	

Lot 93	Leo and Elsie Gobel Henry and Vicki Blunck	Orland/Chico Rio Vista
Lot 94	Evan Covish Velda Hutchinson Gerald Gallo	
Lot 96	John and Marion McMahon	
Lot 97	Wayne and Donalee Rhoderick Julian Misqueu Craig & Laurie Faniani/Grant & Kathy Rauzi Grant & Kathy Rauzi Greg and Diana Smith Diana (Smith) Bacci	Chico Yuba City Red Bluff Red Bluff
Lot 98	Walter and Mary Ire	
Lot 100	Raymond and Minnie Dugger Richard and Florence Dugger John and Dorothy Fanani	
Lot 101	Michael Phillips John and Allison Crane	San Leandro Palo Alto
Lot 102	Donald and Paula Crowell	Orland
Lot 108	David and Terry Potts Blanchard Rogers	Napa Vacaville
Lot 109	Craig Peterson	Chico
Lot 118	George and Emil Doering	
Lot 119	Johnnie O. Johnston	
Lot 120	June Spradley Robbie Courtney	Reno
Lot 121	Gene Jarvis	
Lot 122	Rae Ribbler Florence and Ridge McCrary	Redding, CA

Lot 123	Betty Palmer Charles and William Stohlman	Biggs Gridley
Lot 125	Walter and Jean Welch Chuck and Kris Werner	Orland
Lot 126	Mabel Buman Mike and Nancy McKinney	Oakland
Lot 127	Gerald and Marjery Pflugrad	Red Bluff
Lot 129	Dave Fuller Duane and Mae Jenkins	Chico Stockton
Lot 130	Diana Browli Walter Marshall	Mill Creek
Lot 131	F.H. and Helene LaPlante Walt Benjamin	Suisun Las Vegas
Lot 133	Dave and Elizabeth Elam Andy Vanderschoot Dick, Sam and Hellena McCulley	Gerber
Lot 134	Sowul Boleslaus Ed Barbour Lauren and Ruth Stemple	Orland
Lot 135	T.S. Torngren Jerry and Jackie (Sabine) Van Buskirk	Sacramento Sacramento
Lot 136	William Gore Wayne Erickson	Daly City Chico