

PCWA-L-128

GERLE CREEK HISTORY

Follow this page as I add historical information collected over the years from my library of maps, pictures and documents. Work in progress. MG Brattland Author deer hunting McKinstry Peak, Fall 1991

If you want to contact me, the author of this web page, you can do so by e-mail me, Michael G. Brattland at mgbrattland@gerlecreek.comI live in El Cajon, California in the San Diego suburbs.....my complete address information is elsewhere on the web site under the purchase page for the technical bulletin I wrote on Ford multiple carburetion.....

Maps of the Georgetown Divide....from 1865 to the present day.....

Gerle Creek Summer Home Tract(GCSHT), US Forest Service Summer Home Tract, first established/located on Southwest side of Gerle Creek opposite from Swimming Hole on logging spur by the the Forest Service. A November 5, 1953 article in the MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT entitled *"Plan New Recreation, Homes on Wentworth Springs Road,"*

"A new summer home and recreational area is being planned by Eldorado National Forest for Gerle Creek, on the Wentworth Springs Road approximately 40 miles East of Georgetown. The site selected embraces an area large enough for 50 to 60 summer homes, one public camp area and two organizational areas. Fishing, swimming and hiking will be the principal attractions. The area is only eight miles west of Desolation Wilderness area. Work on the proposal is being carried out under direction of County Supervisor Gene Chappie and Ranger George Ramstad."

This original plan and layout of the summer home tract lots along the Southside of the creek did not work out. Interest in the lots was basically lacking and some of the old stories indicated due to the location directly on the creek, the mosquitos made it difficult. In any case, with no interest in the original location, the Forest Service went back to the drawing boards and re-laid out the summer home tract in the present location on the North side away from the creek and up on the hillside above the Airport Flats area as laid out in the map below. Have a look at this original US Forest Service Map of the GCSHT, a compass and tape survey, dated Feb 1953. By the time the

FS offered lots at Gerle Creek, they had eliminated the lots on the Southside of the creek in favor of the current position up the hill on the Northside of the flats.

For a number of reasons not clear, there were no takers for the summer home tract between the original offering in 1953 and when they began again to create interest in the summer home tract. In a January 31, 1957 article entitled "SPRING OPENING OF SUMMER HOME TRACT ON GERLE CREEK PLANNED," published in the MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT,

"Plans were announced this week by Ranger Kenneth St. John of Georgetown Ranger station for the opening of a summer home tract along Gerle Creek. The forest service will offer 40 lots for lease this spring or early summer, said St. John. The tract, about three and a one-half miles north of South Fork on Gerle Creek., will be reached either from the Georgetown-Wentworth Springs road or by the Icehouse road from Highway 50. The area is 39 miles northeast of Georgetown on the Georgetown-Wentworth Springs road and 28 miles north of Riverton on the Icehouse road. The lots, each of one-quarter to one-third acre in size, will be leased on a standard forest service permit, reissued annually, according to St. John. This is the first summer home development area opened along Gerle creek."

As originally envisioned, it was laid out for lots 1 through 47, but later lots 1 through , 8,9 and 16 were removed from this original plan. The exact position of the Summer Home tract center is 38 Degrees, 59.205 Minutes North; 120. Degrees, 23.010 Minutes West.

Later in the Summer of 1957, the MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT reported n July 11, 1957 article entitled "FIVE SUMMER HOME SITE APPLICANTS AWARDED LOTS AT GERLE CREEK,"

"Summer home sites along Gerle Creek above Georgetown have been awarded to five applicants in the first allotment of 42 sites in the Forest Service development it was announced this week by Georgetown Ranger Kenny St. John. Lots were awarded to Steven R. Camber, Oakland; D.C. Young, Orinda; Albert H. Somner, Garden Valley; John Holmes, Sacramento; and Harry Heckenliable, Stockton. The five were among a list of applicants which has been building up since 1952, it was explained and many who had previously applied apparently were no longer interested, accounting for the small number of applicants appearing to select sites. Later applicants now on file will be notified of a date to be announced later when further selections may be made."

I believe that due to the rather remote location, the unfamiliarity of people in general with this area on the forest and real difficulty in reaching this area in the early 50s, that interest was lacking for few interested folks who were willing to trek to Gerle Creek. The roads to Gerle Creek then were little more than two tire tracks whether coming from Riverton or Georgetown. The narrow old log roads took considerable time and navigational skill to make your way to places like Gerle Creek. The initial offering of summer home sites in 1953 was coming at a period of time when the country was just 8 years past a major World War and currently was involved in the Korean War. Recreation opportunities for people were not high on the scale when balanced against the need to reestablish their basic needs including housing and work. Among the other difficulties of Gerle Creek was the fact that the original log bridge crossing Gerle Creek at Airport Flats in 1927 had been washed out in the Winter of 1951/52. So besides the isolation presented by the summer home tract at Gerle Creek was the fact you had to ford the creek every time you came or went to the summer home tract. In the days before the new Loon Lake Dam, this was no small feat and nearly impossible during the early Spring and Summer, due to the snow runoff. All tract residents as well as other users of Airport Flats barracks buildings, including the South Fork Mill ditch keeper had to ford the creek till 1963 when the first lane of the new concrete bridge was completed.

By 1957, 1958 people were ready to take up the opportunities presented by the Forest Service offering of summer home tracts. My parents, Gordon and Joy Brattland found out about Gerle Creek as a result of applying to the Forest Service for a summer home lot at Wright's Lake. Our family camped regularly at Wrights Lake from the mid 50s and fell in love with the isolated setting and the cabins around the lake. The Forest Service advised that they had no more lots at Wright's Lake, but they had a summer home tract at Gerle Creek and plenty of available lots. My parents then visited the tract in the early Summer of 1958 via Georgetown with my sister and I in tow and selected lot 34 next to the Holmes on Lot 33. After completing the paperwork and being awarded the lot, the Carey Brothers, who had also wanted Lot 34, had begun to build on the lot. When we showed up after being awarded lot 34 by the Forest Service, the Carey family indicated they had earlier actually selected lot 34 and that one of the three Carey Brothers was supposed to go to Georgetown and sign the required paperwork with the Forest Service, but had failed to do so. They were so intent on this lot that my father and mother decided to pick another lot, selecting instead Lot 24. They reported the problem to the Forest Service, who corrected both lease documents, awarding Lot 24 to the Brattland family, while allowing the Carey

family to retain Lot 34.

Gerle Creek Summer Home Tract Association

Original Association Hydraulic Ram Pumps for the water system picture 1 Here is a later picture with my friend Dave Orchard standing in front of the hydraulic ram pump house built over the ram pumps, picture 2.

Lot 24 History Brattland Family Cabin

Lot 41 History McDowall Family Cabin

Aerial shot 1968

Gerle Creek(Gurley) The creek was named for early El Dorado County settler, Christopher C. Gerle, a Swedish immigrant who arrived before 1860(Gudde). One of three Gerle brothers who came to California in 1851, Christopher C. Gerle was born in Sweden in 1833, marrying his wife, Mary Clausen in El Dorado County in 1865. Mary was daughter to Paul and Mary Clausen, both emigrating from England to Coloma. Her father Paul was born in 1806 while her mother was born in 1815. Her father Paul was a boot maker. Christopher C. Gerle and his wife, Mary initially had two boys, Peter C. Gerle, born 1869 and dying in 1871 and a second boy, Charles Gerle, born 1870 and died in 1871. Both are buried in the Pioneer Cemetery in Coloma with their two uncles, Charles W. Gerle and Christopher Cyrus Gerle. Christopher C. Gerle and his wife Mary later moved to Plymouth, in Amador County, California, having a third son George and three girls, Mary, Charlotte and Maggie. Charles W. Gerle was the oldest brother, born in Sweden in 1823 and dying March 4, 1907, while Christopher Cyrus Gerle was born in Sweden in 1831, but died in Coloma in 1875. Charles W. Gerle lived in Coloma with Minnie Johnson, who was previously married to an Englishman and had two boys Juan Johnson and Charles W. Johnson in Sweden, with a third child George M. Johnson, born in Coloma in 1878.

The Georgetown Gazette reported in their August 20, 1880 edition about Charles Gerle's trial in justice court..... *"The trial of Chas. Gurley (misspelled), for drawing a rifle on James Smith, took place in Justice McLains court last Saturday. Dist Attorney Ingram represented the presecution, with Jas. Smith and Chas. Harris as witnesses for the complaint, while Gurley testified for himself. The weight of the testimony told against Gurley, but the matter was compromised by Gurley pleasding guilty to simple*

assault and paying a fine of \$50.00."Gernes; Deibert, 1999

A report from the June 23, 1882 edition of the Georgetown Gazette on the movement of livestock through Georgetown to the ranches in the Sierras....."A great many droves of stock and dairy cattle, sheep and goats, have passed through Georgetown during the present month for their ranges above, and many more are yet to pass before the month ends. Among those who have already passed up with dairy stock are: Forni of Gold Hill, Sam Forni of this place(Georgetown), filippini & Co., Bacchi of Garden Valley, Schelari and Gerley(mispelled) of Uniontown, Deller and Son near this place (Georgetown) and others whose names we have not in mind. Besides this, no less than a dozen large bands of sheep and goats have passed through town. Much stock is also passing up by routes south of this place." (Gernes; Deibert, 1999)

The Gerle Brothers used their Sierra ranch on Gerle Creek (Gurley; Lawyer's Cow Camp; & Wagner Bros.) to raise hogs during the Summer months, hauling the pork products over the Sierra's on the Georgetown/Wentworth Springs/Rubicon Springs/Lake Tahoe Road to sell in Virginia City, Nevada. The earliest maps including Bowman's 1874 Map of the whole Georgetown Divide show their ranch and the creek identified with Gerle misspelled and written as it sounded; "Gurley." Gerle's Ranch became a very important way stop on the road to Lake Tahoe from Georgetown, remaining so till Charles W. Gerle died in the early 20th Century when the ranch property was sold off, to be eventually purchased by the Lawyer Family and renamed.

Gerle Creek Reservoir-Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado County, Ca

In 1885, Alex F. Forni applied for a patent on 560 acres near what is now Gerle Reservoir in the Butler Meadows area, where he operated a ranch (Errington 2000). Review of the earliest map of the area, shows AE Browns ranch house and fence in this area, but no mention of Forni. Butler Meadows is more than likely named for the Samuel Butler and his pioneer family who were early cattle ranchers, arriving in about 1860. This same area was also an area frequented by Indians, most likely Southern Maiqu, making use of several areas around the juncture of Angel Creek and Gerle Creek, "during the Summer months, hunting, fishing and gathering seeds, fruits, and bulbs" underneath the current reservoir, according to Wilson and Dyson(1962)

For a picture of Charles Forni, see Rambeau, 1998, page 21 for a group photo of the

I.O.O.F. lodge in Georgetown, 1889. There is a group picture showing members Alex Francis, Charles Forni, Dan Jerrett, Gus Orelli and Charles Wentworth, all significant men in the history of Gerle Creek

Gerle Creek Reservoir Dam

Gerle Creek Reservoir Dam was completed in 1962 and is on the East side of Butler Meadows. As an interesting piece of background on this eventual site for this storage reservoir for SMUD, in 1916, hearings were held on the water rights of the Truckee River General Electric Company to water from Gerle Creek. These rights had been assumed when they acquired them from the California Water and Mining Company (California Water Company). The company wanted to build a dam and reservoir to produce electricity. This claim was disputed and became part of rather complicated and extended federal hearing. The most interesting part of the proposal, was the intention to build this dam on Gerle Creek at Jacobsens, creating water storage lake in the meadow adjacent to Jacobsens extending back into Gerles Ranch or Lawyers Cow Camp. The hearings were reported on extensively, including the names of witnesses who testified, including Jacob Jacobsen (Mt Democrat Sept 30, 1916). In the April 17th issue of the Mt Democrat in 1917, it was reported the federal government found in favor of the Truckee River General Electric Company and confirmed their rights to the water for use of Gerle Meadow for a dam and reservoir. By 1924, these rights had been passed along to the Georgetown Divide Water Company (Mt Democrat, March 8, 1924). All real action to actually create a dam and reservoir were put off till the early 1950s when El Dorado County in the push to resolve their increasing need for water with the post WWII boom revisited creating a number of dams and reservoirs in the county for electricity generation. From early 1951 till at least 1955, the planning of the SMUD Upper American River Project on the divide included the Gerle Creek Dam and reservoir in Gerle Meadows next to Jacobsens. The Mountain Democrat carried a very extensive and detailed article including a map showing 68 proposed dam sites in the June 23, 1955 newspaper, including the actual proposed reservoir site at Gerles Meadow, next to Jacobsens and not in its present location. As the proposed SMUD Upper American River Project progressed after 1955, the Gerles Meadow site was dropped in favor of the eventual and current site in Butler Meadow.

Aerial shot of the Lake 1968

Airport Flats US Army Air Corps Rest Camp (R&R)-Gerle Creek, now Airport Flats US Forest Service Campground, Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado County, Ca

Here is a 1931 article from the "MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT" which gives the basis for the "Rest Camp" built by the US Army Air Corps at Gerle Creek in 1931 which hereafter gained the name "Airport Flats." This article was contributed by Monte Hendericks, a volunteer historical researcher with the Eldorado Nation Forest, whose primary interest is military and civilian plane crash sites on the Eldorado National Forest. Have a look at this link for more information on aircraft mishap sites on Eldorado National Forest. Many thanks to Monte for sharing this essential record.

ARMY AIR CORPS PICKS SITE FOR "REST CAMP"

Georgetown District Scene of Development on 45-Acre Tract

About 45 acres in Eldorado National Forest, Georgetown District, has been taken over by Mather Field of Sacramento and Crissey Field Air Corps of San Francisco under government permit for a rest camp.

The camp is on Gerle Creek, near the Francis Ranch, in a forest of large yellow pine.

Forest Supervisor Edwin F. Smith, through whose efforts the site was selected, and Ranger R. C. M. Berri-man, in charge of the Georgetown District have just returned from the camp and report great activity there.

Several acres of ground have already been cleared of brush, a large mess hall and cottages are under construction, as well as a swimming pool and base ball ground. Major Tinker, Commanding Officer at Mather Field, will have a cottage on a knoll overlooking the camp. On the outer edge of the camp will be cottages for the married men and their families.

The camp is for the purpose of getting the men away from the flying fields and airplanes for at least two weeks. The camp will be kept open as early and as late as the seasons permit, and from 50 to 80 men will be there at a time, thus providing rest and recreation for several hundred fliers.

Large government trucks pass through Georgetown daily with lumber and supplies for the new camp.

Mt. Democrat 22 May 1931

Here is a Sacramento Union article from June 12, 1931, reporting on the work and plans for the "Army Camp" at Gerle Creek.....

WORK IS BEGUN ON ARMY CAMP

New Project Located About 40
Miles From Placerville

(Special to The Sacramento Union)

PLACERVILLE, June 11.—Construction work at the United States army air rest camp, located near Georgetown, about 40 miles north of here, has begun, it was indicated today when Sergeant Hawkins, in charge of building construction, reported in Placerville yesterday that there was a force of 24 men at work at the camp site.

Quarters for officers and enlisted men and a large mess hall are now under construction, providing accommodations for several hundred.

Sergeant Hawkins, who has been stationed at Mather field for some time, states that this site is an ideal rest camp, being located in a beautiful pine grove in the rolling hills, where fish and game are abundant. There is a large meadow nearby, which may be made into a landing field, providing space for any of the larger planes, he said.

The camp was established by Edwin F. Smith, federal forest supervisor, several weeks ago.

Here is a follow on article from the "MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT" of July 31, 1931 on the Airport Camp at Gerle Creek.....

80 TO 100 MEN AT AIR CORPS VACATION CAMP

Forest Supervisor Reports Operations in Full Swing for Season

Between eighty and 100 men from army air fields in the Central California region are vacationing at the Army Air Corps rest camp east of Georgetown in El Dodado National Forest.

Forest Supervisor Edwin F. Smith said during the week that the camp was opened about two weeks ago and is under the supervision of Major Tinker, of Mather Field.

The fliers come and go in detachments, so that when one group leaves there is another scheduled to take its place, according to Smith.

Electric lights, sewer and water installations are being made and the camp is all ready equipped with a mess hall to seat 100 men, cooking equipment to match, a swimming pool and an athletic field.

Tents are erected over platforms to house the men.

During their stay at the rest camp, the men rest, the idea being to relieve their nerves and give them opportunity to forget about flying so that they may physically get back to "normalcy."

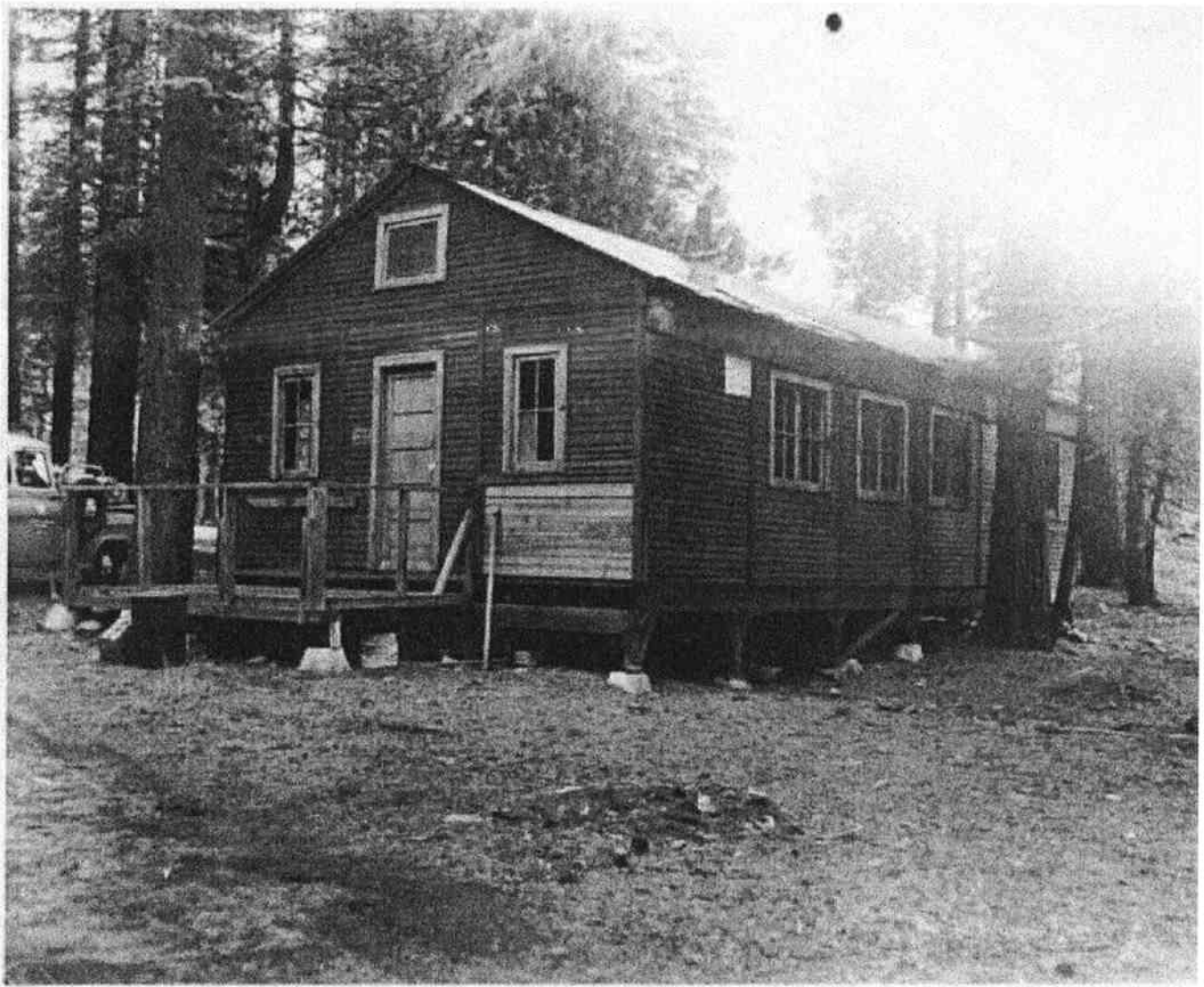
According to Les Clemmens of Stone Cellar (Clemmens, '04), by the mid 1930s, the Airport Camp at Gerle Creek was a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp with a local man named Joe Flynn in charge of it.

Prior to 1931, the Airport Flats area was a naturally open area in the trees at a natural fording point of Gerle Creek (picture of the McDowall Family Ford pickup sitting in front of the Ford on Airport Flats, 1962) on the Georgetown/Wentworth Springs road to Wentworth Springs. From 1873, it was the point where the ditch tender's road branched off to the diversion dam (Pic#2, Pic#3) at the head of the Gerle Creek Ditch (1873 Map) on Gerle Creek. Have a look at this dual picture kindly volunteered by Lint Brown using the 2001 photo of the Diversion Dam taken by myself alongside a very nice 1936 picture taken by friends of his father Linton A. Brown showing his father and a friend at the same dam 64 years earlier. In 1927, a log bridge [This excellent picture was taken in 1959 by John Holmes, showing the collapsed Gerle

Creek log bridge at Airport Flats. Those two boys swimming in Gerle Creek are Bill and Charlie Holmes. Of further significance is the flow of the water in this picture. The creek flowed much higher prior to the removal of the Old Loon Lake Dam in late 1962 and is evident by the fact that both of the Holmes boys are swimming in deep water as opposed to the flow today which is shallow at best. Many thanks to John Holmes for sharing this very historic picture of this special log bridge long ago gone.....] was built within about 20 feet of the present modern single lane concrete bridges at Gerle Creek, Airport Flats. The first lane of the concrete bridge was built in 1963 (Picture taken in 1962-63 by McDowall Family) and followed with the second lane in 1969. This log bridge with concrete foundations served well from 1927(Supernowicz, 1983) till the severe Winter of 1951/1952 when the log bridge was lost in the Spring runoff. There after till the concrete bridge was built in '63, cross creek traffic returned to the natural ford South of both bridges about 100 feet. Here is a 1962 picture of the Airport Flat access to the ford across Gerle Creek (McDowal Family Photo)The primary reasons for this cross creek traffic of Gerle Creek was the road to Wentworth Springs went this way; access to the two barracks buildings built adjacent to the swimming hole off the flats on the Southside in the early 1930's by the US Army Air Corps; access to the road from the flats to the Gerle Creek Ditch and Diversion Dam, a mile down Gerle Creek from the flats, as well as accessing AE Browns Ranch(early maps clearly list this name as "AE Brown" while some other sources suggest that his name was "AC Brown") halfway down the ditch keepers road off the flats as well as the land used by Alex Forni after 1885.. This ditch and diversion dam were constructed during the summer seasons of 1873/74 and finished late in 1874 for the California Water Company diversion of Loon Lake water to Georgetown. The barracks buildings were used both by the US Army Air Corps till the end of World War II, when the custody of the two barracks buildings, the large water tank and a large garage building in the center of the flats were transferred to the Forest Service.

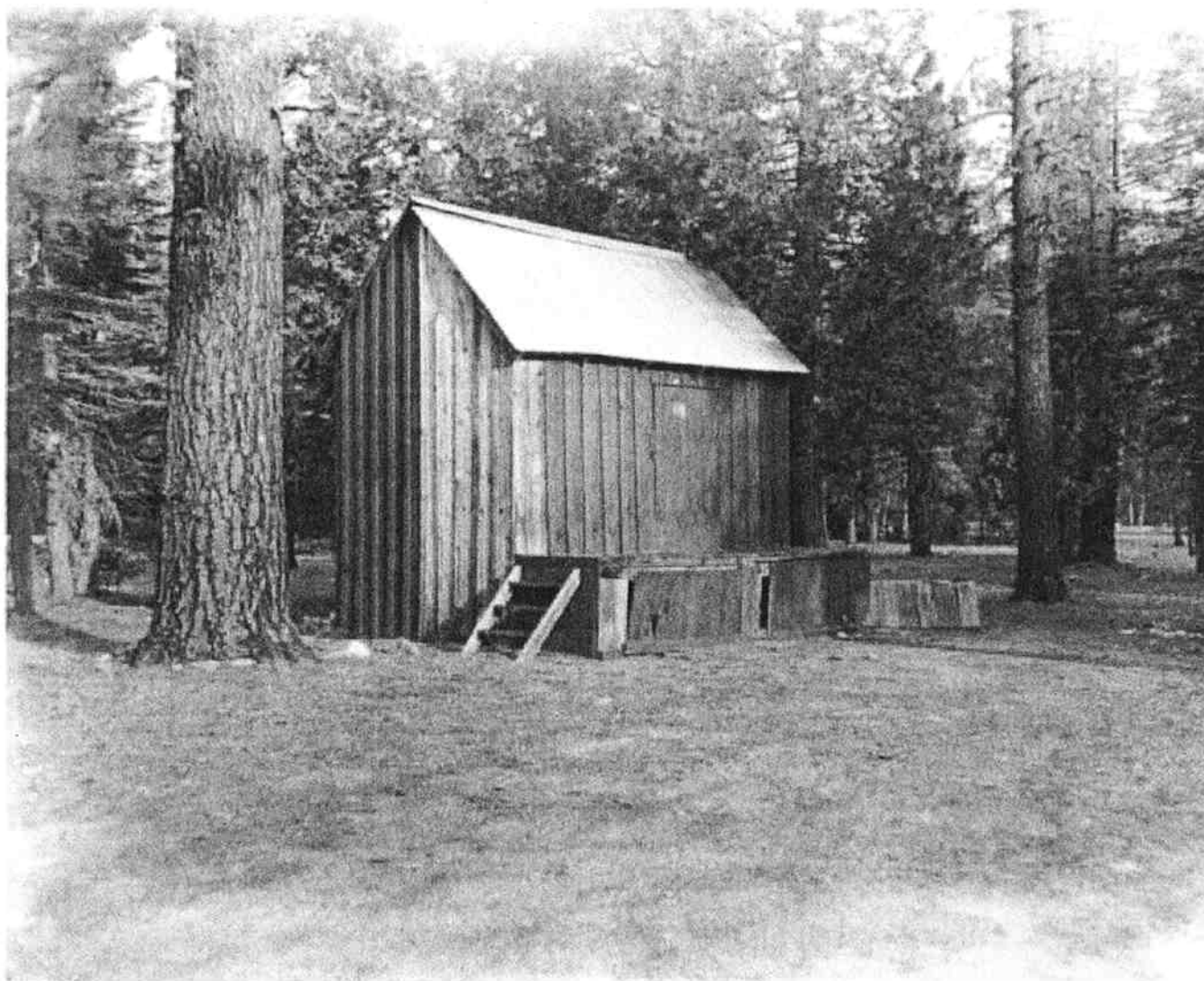
Here are two historic pictures of two of the several buildings originally built by the Army in 1931on Airport Flats. The first picture is of one of the barracks buildings, which in later years was all that really remained at Airport Flats and was called the "Guard Cabin" or Airport Flats Ranger Station by the Forest Service. This picture was taken by W.Maule of the US Forest Service in 1959 as a means of documenting existing structures on the forest. This building was not torn down until the late 1960s. The Forest Service survey crew who surveyed the new road up in our area, lived in this barracks during the Summers of the 1967 and 1968. During the Summer of 1968, due to the general disrepair of the structure, the Forest Service brought in a trailer and

parked it next to the barracks, which was used by the crews. Dave Orchard worked on this survey crew in both 1967 and 1968 while Jim Barnard, son of the Barnard family who had built a cabin on Lot 36 at GCSHT, worked on the same survey crew with Dave Orchard during the Summer of 1968, staying down on the Flats.



If you look close at the picture on the lower left, just sticking up above the Forest Service pickup truck bed, one can see what appears to be part of the pipe which comes out of the water tank which was over to the left and not in the picture. An additional barracks about the same size was also located between this building and the creek, very close to the 'swimming hole' which has been a favorite spot of everyone who has ever used the Airport Flats area from day one. This barracks was already torn down in 1958, but remnants of it could be seen walking the short trail from the Water Tank down to the swimming hole. Another picture of the same building on the flats from a little different angle taken in 1962 by the McDowall Family

The second photo, also taken by W. Maule of the Forest Service in 1959, shows the "Old Barn" as it was referred to by the Forest Service as well as one small out building. This Old Barn was located right next to the current large fire pit in the Motorhome camp site immediately on the left on entry into the Forest Service campground at Airport Flats. Whether this building was one of the original constructed by the Army in 1931 or was later constructed, one cannot be certain, other than looking at the condition, it would appear to be of older age and reflecting nearly 30 years of age and use by the time this picture was taken. The Forest Service tore down this barn during 1961.



Both of these photos were made available from the US Forest Service archives at Pacific House Ranger Station by Krista Deal, Pacific District Archaeologist. Many thanks to Krista for this important contribution to the local history of our area.

During the Fall of 2003 the Forest Service was doing a selective logging and a general cleanout of underbrush and small trees in the Gerle Creek area to make the area more fire safe. In the logged area almost directly across from the old lower road along the Southwest side of Gerle Creek which takes off from the Wentworth Springs road about 300 feet Southwest before the road goes across Gerle Creek at Airport Flats, about 75 feet into the forest, the Forest Service has flagged a general area with red ribbon about 600 square feet. Within this area are two old original concrete and granite stone foundation corners, plus remnants from the beginnings of a building, including an old metal bucket. I have taken the following photos of these foundations and the site.

Gerle Creek Foundation1a, Gerle Creek Foundations1b, Gerle Creek Foundations1c, Gerle Creek Foundations 1d, Gerle Creek Foundations 1e, Gerle Creek Foundations 1f, Gerle Creek Foundations 1g

After over 40 plus years, I have never ever heard anyone discuss these old foundations nor have I ever known about their existence. History wise at different times, I have heard that the summer home tract at Gerle Creek was in fact laid out in this area originally, but was eventually moved to its present location. I have also long heard over the years that the tract was originally laid out along the lower road along the Southwest side of Gerle Creek and was eventually moved to its present location due to the fact there was no interest in the tract at that time and for the fact that the mosquitoes were so much worse down along the creek. Is entirely possible that both of these old rumors were true and the layout of the tract included the area where the foundations are presently and along the road on the Southwest side of the creek.

My final thought about this foundation would be that it could very well be a part of the Commanding Officer's cabin which was to be built as part of the "Rest Camp" at Airport Flats as laid out in the above article. Looking over the foundation remnants thoroughly, I found no markings or impressions. Knowing that people commonly put names or dates in the initial parts of buildings etc., I found nothing along this line. I would hope that the Forest Service has plans to more thoroughly investigate this site.

After World War II, the Forest Service barracks buildings at Airport Flats served a variety of purposes including housing fire fighting crews, El Dorado County prisoners during the summer months of 1951 or 1952 who were brought in and housed here

while out cutting certain kinds of plants and vegetation. This did not work out and was only tried one Summer season. Later the Forest Service had custody, during the evenings, they would sometimes show movies outdoors using a large screen setup on the open area of the flats with rows of benches for people to sit. Carolyn Beam, owner of South Fork Mill (many thanks to Lint Brown for sharing his fathers photo) remembers this well as a child during the very early 50s at South Fork Mill when she and others were invited to attend these evening movies at Airport Flats. Later in the mid 60s, it housed the Forest Service survey crews who surveyed the new paved road from Highway 50 to Loon Lake and Lawyers Cow Camp (Gurleys or Gerles). Of the two large barracks buildings, the one closest to the Gerle Creek swimming hole was gone by the late 1950s, leaving one large barracks building on the edge of the open flats area, the large water tank immediately next to it and a large tall garage building for storing equipment out in the center of the flats in what is now the motor home parking area of the Airport Flats Forest Service Campground. These were all gradually torn down by the early 70s.

In 1937, the El Dorado County constructed a new concrete bridge to cross Rocky Basin Creek right on the Southeastern edge of Francis Cow Camp and with it a short mile of new road which eliminated the existing road section on the Western side of Gerle Creek between Airport Flats and Francis Cow Camp and the need to ford Gerle Creek at Francis Cow Camp. [Have a look at this USGS map of 1895 where you can clearly see that the Georgetown-Wentworth Springs road cross Gerle Creek at what is now Airport Flats so that the ditch keeper road then turns off to the south to the diversion dam and halfway to the diversion dam the road makes a sharp right and dead ends at AE Browns ranch or house. This map also clearly shows how the road proceeds to Francis Cow Camp where it fords the creek just above Rocky Basin Creek and then continues on to Wentworth Springs via Jacobsens and Gerles.] This revision and addition to the Wentworth Springs road reflected local ranchers and resort owners needs to access their properties in the early spring of each year. Gerle Creek could be a pretty ferocious flow of water to get across in the Spring and the new Rocky Basin Creek Bridge and new road on the Eastern side of Gerle Creek resolved this. The old ford at Gerle Creek at Francis Cow Camp and the original but unused lead in road to the ford is still visible and just a little bit North of the entry point of Rocky Basin Creek into Gerle. The original road shown clearly on the 1916 Eldorado National Forest Map until 1937 crossed at the Airport Flats ford/the Log Bridge (after 1927) and then followed (on the Western side of Gerle Creek) what became the GCSHT road to the associations water ram pumps and past this location fording Gerle Creek

directly across from Francis Cow Camp. From there the road remained the same as depicted today. More to come.....

Gurley's Ranch(Gerle) Lawyers Cow Camp, Wagners Cow Camp 1874, Gerle Brothers-Natives of Sweden-Hog Farmers-Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado County, Ca

Summer range location for the Gerle Brothers, early emigrants and farmers on Gerle Creek, 2 miles West of Wentworth Springs (USGS Map of 1895) on the Georgetown/Wentworth Springs/Rubicon Springs/Lake Tahoe road, next to Gerle Creek. Their ranch property butted up against the Jacobson Ranch property on the West side of the section, also on Gerle Creek. One of three Gerle brothers who came to California in 1851, Christopher C. Gerle was born in Sweden in 1833, marrying his wife, Mary Clausen in El Dorado County in 1865. Mary was daughter to Paul and Mary Clausen, both emigrating from England to Coloma. Her father Paul was born in 1806 while her mother was born in 1815, both in England. Her father Paul was a boot maker. Christopher C. Gerle and his wife, Mary initially had two boys, Peter C. Gerle, born 1869 and dying in 1871 and a second boy, Charles Gerle, born 1870 and died in 1871. Both are buried in the Pioneer Cemetery in Coloma with their two uncles, Charles W. Gerle and Christopher Cyrus Gerle. Christopher C. Gerle and his wife Mary later moved to Plymouth, in Amador County, California, having a third son George and three girls, Mary, Charlotte and Maggie. Charles W. Gerle was the oldest brother, born in Sweden in 1823 and dying March 4, 1907, while Charles Cyrus Gerle was born in Sweden in 1831, but died in Coloma in 1875. Charles W. Gerle lived in Coloma with Minnie Johnson, who was previously married to an Englishman and had two boys Juan Johnson and Charles W. Johnson in Sweden, with a third child George M. Johnson, born in Coloma in 1878. The Gerle Brothers used their Sierra ranch on Gerle Creek (Gurley; Lawyer's Cow Camp; & Wagner Bros.) to raise hogs during the Summer months, hauling the pork products over the Sierra's on the Georgetown/Wentworth Springs/Rubicon Springs/Lake Tahoe Road to sell in Virginia City, Nevada. The Gerle Brothers were long time neighbors in the Sierras during the Summers with Murray Camp folks just a mile North of their ranch on the way to Bennett's Ranch in the McKinstry Lake area. The earliest maps including Bowman's 1874 Map of the whole Georgetown Divide show their ranch and the creek identified with Gerle misspelled and written as it sounded; "Gurley." Gerle's Ranch became a very important way stop on the road to Lake Tahoe from Georgetown, remaining so till Charles W. Gerle died in the early 20th Century when the ranch property was sold off, to be eventually purchased by the Lawyer Family.

In the early part of the 20th Century, Archie and Irma Lawyer had assumed ownership of Gurley's Ranch at which point it became known as "Lawyer's Cow Camp" after 1920 (Errington 2000). Reviewing the original Eldorado National Forest Map of 1916 shows this old ranch still listed as "Gerles." Later sometime in the 1950s or early 1960s, the historic ranch was sold to the Wagners, who referred to it as Wagner Bros., and or Wagner's Cow Camp.

Gurley's Ranch1, Gurley's Ranch2, Gurley's Ranch3, Gurley's Well, Gurley's Ranch 4,
Gurley' Ranch 5

See Gerle Creek.

Schlein's Cabin-1875, Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado County, Ca US Forest received this property December 26, 1944. Schlein's was built by the early 49er Schlein Family of Placerville. Here are several pictures of Schleins taken in 1964, picture 1, 2, and 3.

Jacobsens Ranch/Dairy- Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado County, Ca

Johnny Jacobsen (USGS 1895 Map) applied for a patent on 80 acres of land in 1891, on the West side of Gerle's Ranch, where he operated a dairy in the meadow now bearing his name, adjacent to one of the crossings of Gerle Creek (Baldwin 1975). Johnny Jacobsen, or Jacob Jacobsen, (Picture published in Baldwin, 1975) born in 1860 in California, was one of three children (Sophia, Peter and Jacob) of Alexander Jacobsen. Alex was born in Germany in 1830, arriving in California in 1854, who married Margareta Clausen of Coloma. Alex died in Sept 1906 followed by his wife, one month later (Baldwin, 1975). The Jacobsens settled on Weber Creek, where they conducted a dairy farming business (Sioli, 1883, Baldwin, 1975). Johnny Jacobsen died in 1944 and was buried in Coloma. After years of fording the creek at Jacobsen's Dairy, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors in Sept of 1944 approved an appropriation (not to exceed \$2000) to build a concrete bridge over Gerle Creek at Jacobsen's (Mt Democrat, Sept 7, 1944). The concrete bridge at "Jacobsen's" as this creek crossing is and has been referred to for years, was lost in a early Spring runoff during the very early 1980's. Considering that Johnny Jacobson owned the dairy and meadow at the foot of what is annotated on area maps as "Johnny's Hill," Johnnys Hill takes its name from Johnny Jacobsen.

Johnny's Hill...named for Johnny Jacobsen, Jacobsen's Meadow and old Dairy Ranch on Gerle Creek.

Francis Cow Camp-AA Francis-1872s,Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado County, Ca

In 1872, Alessandro A. Fransioli, one of several Swiss-Italians to establish ranches in the area, constructed a log bunkhouse at Francis Cow Camp. Born in Canton Tieno, Switzerland, May 29, 1817, Alessandro came to America with his father Joseph, arriving in California in 1852. Like many others before them, they became miners on the Georgetown Divide with some success. Alessandro's father Joseph returned to Switzerland where he died at age 68, leaving his son alone in California. Alessandro continued to engage in mining, before leaving the Divide for San Francisco where he became a fruit and cigar merchant in 1857. In 1858, he returned to the Georgetown Divide, changing his focus and getting into the butcher business. He eventually purchased the business from the firm he was working for, continuing in the business very successfully for another 25 years. Additionally, he owned a saloon and livery business in Georgetown. In a late 1880 edition of the Georgetown Gazette, a quarter page advertisement for the *"Bonanza", on Main Street, Georgetown was displayed.* *"Verbiage in the ad included the following recommendation from the proprietor, A. A. Francis...."Nothing but the finest brands of Liquors, Cigars and Tobacco kept. Best French Brandy "The Pete" Whisky, Gin, rum, bitters of all kinds, Mountain Brewery Lager for sale by the bottle or gallon. Club Room with Pool Table."* In a late 1890 advertisement in the Georgetown Gazette, AA Francis ran a near quarter page ad for his butcher business called "City Market, Main Street, Georgetown, A. A. Francis. The editors of the Gazette referred to Francis as Georgetown's Butcher. Later in a editors note from the July 19, 1900 edition of the Georgetown Gazette, it was reported that.....*"Alex Francis has decorated his place of business with a handsome new sign - Arcade Saloon - from the brush of Trask, the artist."*(Gernes, Deibert, 1999) In 1870, "Alex" Fransioli married Florina Forni, daughter of another local Swiss-Italian immigrant. They had seven children. He eventually retired in 1897. (Jerrett, 1963; Errington, 2000) However the retirement was due in part to the fire of 1897, whereupon, he soon reopened his butcher shop after finding it difficult to "remain idle" (Morgan;Rambeau; Wurm, 2003). Review of these early maps shows that AA Fransioli's name was shortened or misspelled to read AA Francis, which may have been related to how he was commonly referred. For a picture of Alex Francis, see Rambeau, 1998, page 21 for a group photo of the I.O.O.F. lodge in Georgetown, 1889.

There is a group picture showing members Alex Francis, Charles Forni, Dan Jerrett, Gus Orelli and Charles Wentworth, all significant men in the history of Gerle Creek

Here are some 1973 pictures of Francis Cow Camp, picturing my wife Pat, sister Karen looking over the historic cabin and the ranch site including the original cattle loading ramp made of logs.....Pic#1, Pic#2, Pic#3,

I recently obtained a copy of the Georgetown Historical Walking Tour Brochure which includes a wonderful illustration of AA Francis' Georgetown home 1880 which is on Church Street in Georgetown. Jacqueline Morgan did the drawing while Sheryl Rambeau was the historian and author, with Bonnie Wurm doing the layout in the original brochure, 2003



(Morgan; Rambeau; Wurm, 2003)

Recent Francis Cow Camp Ranch building pictures of the remains of the ranch buildings taken October, 2001. Pic#1, Pic#2, Pic#3 Francis CC after collapse winter of 90-91, July 91, Pic#4

Loon Lake and Dam-1873/1881/1962, Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado County, Ca

Identified early on by The California Water Company as a means to deliver a constant supply of water to Georgetown and the many mines and farms during the dry months of the Summer. the California Water Company tested this idea by building a

temporary dam of logs, nine feet high (Bowman, 1874) to determine whether sufficient water could be retained through the Summer such that it could be selectively released to overcome the shortage of water in the lean summer months. This idea required the building of the 4 mile long South Fork Ditch connecting Gerle Creek with to Hanna's Camp on the South Fork of the Rubicon River in order to further divert this Loon Lake water via a series of creek beds, ditches and flumes to Georgetown. This initial log dam was completed along with the South Fork Ditch by the Fall of 1874. This original log dam was then replaced by a second higher log dam, about 20 feet in height which remained till replaced in 1882 by the granite stone dam. In addition to the higher log dam on Loon Lake, separate log dams were built on Pleasant Lake and Bixby lakes behind Loon Lake which enabled each to collect more water which flowed from them into Loon Lake. Complete details of each of these log dams as well as the log dam on Loon Lake was covered in the 1880 California Water Company report to the Board of Directors. In this report, the recommendation was to build a larger, taller dam at Loon Lake to increase the total storage of water to allow the company to sell more water for farming, mining and agriculture. By building the larger dam, it would also replace the smaller additional log dams on Pleasant and Bixby Lakes. Bixby Lake is currently the part of Loon Lake behind the Francis Fill Dam.

July 30, 1881, MT DEMOCRAT, *"Dam at Loon Lake-the Georgetown Gazette says: The California Water and Mining Company has commenced the erection of a substantial stone dam at Loon Lake. The wall to be entirely built of granite, which is found in inexhaustible quantities, and of the best quality, right on the ground. We understand that that portion of the dam which it is intended to complete before Winter, include about 450 feet in length and 20 feet high at the trunk or highest point. A force of experienced quarrymen have been engaged, a number of whom have already gone forward. All the tools and appliances necessary for the rapid and economical prosecution of the work, such as derricks, tackle, wire guys, car for transporting rock from the quarry to the dam, cement, supplies for the men, etc; are either on the ground or on the way there."*

Further reporting on the progress of granite dam construction at Loon lake from the September 2, 1881 edition of the Georgetown Gazette....."The dam being constructed by the Cal. W.&M. at Loon Lake are composed of Granite and the works are of the character to do service for ages....the winter following the present Company's purchase of the promising property was one of the severest ever experienced by ditch owners owners in the Mountains of California, and the Manager,

Mr. Findley in common with the leading men of the County, has determined that such a disaster shall never visit their property again, and further they are building dams of such dimensions as to increase the water reserve sufficient for all future wants of the divide and the city of Sacramento, besides, which the County many have the opportunity of supplying in the near future. The object of these immense reservoirs located at an altitude of more than 6000 ft. above the sea, is to store an abundance of water from the vast accumulation of snow, as a reserve for the dryer seasons, when the supply from other streams begins to fail."(Gernes; Deibert, 1999)

The California Water Company in their official company report to their board of directors of 1880 said much the same thing regarding supplying Georgetown and the City of Sacramento, actually including San Francisco in their proposal for water from their Loon Lake water.

The Georgetown Gazette kept track of the Loon Lake dam building again reporting on the work progress in the short new report of October 21, 1881....."There are some forty men engaged on the work of the Cal. W.&M.Co. at Loon Lake. C.H. Jones, the Superintendant of construction says that a more faithful and better lot of men he never saw anywhere, and to the credit of Mr. Jones, we have heard it remarked by several of the men, that a better Boss they never worked under. When the spring opens a much larger force will be employed, and the works completed during the season. The dam will be 664 feet in length on top, and forty feet in height along the widest base."(Gernes, Deibert, 1999)

It would appear that the Mt Democrat and Georgetown Gazette were talking and getting reports from two different people regards the actual size of the dam being constructed at Loon Lake.

In a short note in the June 23, 1882 edition of the Georgetown Gazette....."We noticed yesterday 1200 feet of 1 inch wire cable in front of the Cal. Water Co.'s office which goes to Loon Lake for guys to support a large derrick used in moving ponderous blocks of granite from the quarry for the everlasting dam which the enterprising management of the Company is constructing at that point."(Gernes; Deibert, 1999)

July 22, 1882, Mt Democrat, reported "Superintendent Wolf of the California Water

Co's works at Loon Lake was down on a hurried visit this week. He reports that work on the dam is progressing rapidly; the force increased, a new derrick being put up, making the fourth derrick, and that he believes the dam will be completed this season."

Early winter weather caused some confusion and delay in finishing the dam early in October, 1882 as reported in the Georgetown Gazette of October 7..... "A portion of the quarry men employed at Loon Lake dam came down this week on account of the storm and signaled their intention of quitting for the season, as they believed winter had set in. There being a couple gaps in the dam yet to be closed, and the managing Director Findley being satisfied that there would yet be plenty of good weather in which to complete the work, tried to persuade the men to return, but they refused. Yesterday, Mr. Findley stated for the Lake to utilize the force already there to see that the two gaps are filled and you may depend on it." (Gernes, Deibert, 1999)

As a post script to the personnel situation which Managing Director Findley was facing when some of his quarry men quit with the initial October winter storm, the Gazette reported the following snippet in their October 14, 1882 edition of the paper on Findley's character..... "The Loon Lake boys tell us that Tom Findley, who was with them the past two weeks, threw his coat and went to work with a vim. Findley is the man to meet an emergency every time." (Gernes, Deibert, 1999)

In mid May, 1883 the California Water Company had to dispatch a crew of men to Loon Lake Dam to make some repairs on the just completed granite dam in the Fall of 1882 as reported in the May 26, 1883 edition of the Georgetown Gazette..... "A party of laborers departed for Loon Lake on Thursday to repair a portion of the surface of the new dam washed out, owing, it is said, to the waste-way being too small for the discharge of surplus water." (Gernes, Deibert, 1999)

Later in 1881(Sioli,1883), the California Water Company build a permanent replacement granite stone dam finishing it in late 1882 which stood [This historic photo was taken on June 24, 1940 by Linton A. Brown(1901-1966), father of Linton Brown of Red Bluff, Ca, who has kindly provided these historic photos from his collection on the South Fork Mill, the ditch system and Loon Lake Dam.. His father was a friend of Art Rasor, the ditch tender for the Georgetown Divide Water Company] till removed by SMUD's contractors in Fall(Sept/Oct) 1962 (another

great historic photo provided by Lint Brown and taken by Eugene Poe on Oct 30, 1962) and replaced by the present Loon Lake Dam in 1963. The hand cut granite blocks removed from the considerable granite rock surfaces surrounding the dam area on the North side of the present day Dam, can now be found spread out along the top of the current dam structure as well as the Francis Fill on Loon Lake. A walking tour of this area and close inspection reveals where all the original granite was hand cut by Chinese Labor. Chinese Labor were also principal to the construction of the South Fork Ditch with rates for their pay specifically outlined in the Amos Bowman Report to the company directors. For a very good, recent 2001 Mountain Democrat article on the modern dam and the various powerhouses and underground interconnections, try www.mtdemocrat.com/archives/index.inn?loc=detail&doc=/2001/August/16-563-RO815_N.txt . For a very good picture and descriptive tour of the under Loon Lake Power House, check out this web site.....the author took the tour and offers a great set of pictures....just fabulous....

For the most recent research on this area of the Eldorado National Forest, refer to Brown, Linton A., "Memories of South Fork and Gerle Creek Ditches and Old Loon Lake Dam, El Dorado County, California," Linton A. Brown, Red Bluff, Ca, 2003. Lint goes into greater detail on the whole original history of the dam, lake and ditch system, as well as most of the local Georgetown Gazette discussion of the work on the dam.

Loon Lake Dam...historic July 3, 1953 photo of the dam kindly provided by Lint Brown.....from archives of California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety and Dams and originally taken by Eugene V. Poe as several photos in sequence to get the entire dam....this Jpeg was the result of Lint Brown's efforts to enhance and make all of the photos into one Jpeg....a very, very nice photo.....

Here are links for about 47 historic pictures collected by Lint Brown from Ca State Archives which offer a wonderfully historic look at the California Water Company built dam of 1882 at Loon Lake.... [108](#), [109](#), [110](#), [111](#), [112](#), [113](#), [114](#), [115](#), [116](#), [117](#), [118](#), [119](#), [120](#), [121](#), [122](#), [123](#), [124](#), [125](#), [126](#), [127](#), [128](#), [129](#), [130](#), [131](#), [132](#), [133](#), [134](#), [136](#), [137](#), [138](#), [139](#), [140](#), [141](#), [142](#), [143](#), [144](#), [145](#), [146](#), [147](#), [148](#), [149](#), [150](#), [152](#), [153](#), [154](#), [155](#), [156](#)

The following 19 links are copies of official State of California Water Department inspection documents written as a result of various inspections and additional work on the Loon Lake Dam between September of 1934 till mid year 1953, Georgetown

Divide Water District documents, including a couple old newspaper articles on the raising of the dam's height and cracks in the dam due to atomic bomb tests in the early 1950s. These documents were also collected by Lint Brown during his research work in 2002 on the Ditch Camp at South Fork and shared with me. I have put them up here so that others with a historic interest in our area of the forest might enjoy them as I do.....a very interesting read as well.....enjoy and many thanks to Lint Brown.....

089, 090, 091, 092, 093, 094, 095, 096, 097, 098, 099, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107

Loon Lake, identified in Amos Bowman's 1874 Report and Map prepared for the directors of the California Water Company and probably so named due to the presence of Loon's, a type of bird (Gudde, 1969) and is also the headwaters of Gerle Creek.

The following is a report from the Mt Democrat on the fine lakes in the area of Wentworth Springs from the September 23, 1882 issue of the newspaper. *"Our Lake Region-Within a radius of one and one half miles of Wentworth's Springs are five beautiful little lakes, varying from 15 to 80 acres in size. The altitude of the Springs is about 6,200 feet, or about the same as Lake Tahoe, and those little lakes are from 300 to 500 feet higher than the Springs. Groves of Tamarack surround these lakes, and a beautiful little meadow usually found adjoining. We learn that one of these lakes has been stocked with trout, and that Mr. Wentworth intends to stock the others next Spring. Loon Lake, two miles Southeast, and nearly 200 feet higher than Lake Tahoe, is a natural body of pure fresh water of some 1300 acres of surface, and in places 40 to 60 feet in depth; but since the construction of the dam, its size has been greatly increased, and will, when the monster granite dam now being built by the California W. & M. Co. is completed, embrace an area of about 7 square miles. Strange to say, until of late years this lake contained no fish. A few years ago some trout were put in, but until recently, it was supposed the fish did not live; now it is known that they have done well, and with the new supply added, it is believed that Loon Lake will become a favorite fishing resort in the near future-Georgetown Gazette"*

Loon Lake Boy Scout Camp The Golden Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of

America in Sacramento, Ca acquired about 5 acres of shorefront property directly East across from Loon Lake Dam, where they constructed a Boy Scout Camp beginning early Summer, 1964. Due to the location of the new camp, all materials had to be transported by water to the camp as there was no roads and only a trail along the East side of the lake from the Campground to the Boy Scout Camp. Two full summers, 1964 and 1965 were required to construct the present main lodge building on the site, and build the septic system. The camp was envisioned as a base camp where the scouts would then begin their main camping experience from by hiking into the Desolation Valley Wilderness area. I was one of the two dozen scouts who worked full time the entire Summer of 1964 and 1965 helping to build the camp, living at the camp from June till August of both years. I drove the tractor and boats and barges (A picture of the 16 year old author on the camp John Deere Tractor awaiting another barge load, Summer of 1964, taken by my late father, Gordon A. Brattland) used to haul all the building materials from the campground to the camp via the water. The main lodge has special glue lamb beams custom made for this unusual shaped lodged, hauled up by truck to the campground and then hauled intact via barge to the camp where they were raised using a large Gin Pole by the US Navy Seabees from the Sacramento unit who spent two weeks active duty at the camp for this purpose. Loon Lake BSA pics 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Here are some later photos taken during a visit by my father Gordon and myself during the mid 70s via our fishing boat to the camp which very nicely show the main lodge which was the end result of all the work of the Summers of 1964 and 1965.....Pic#1, Pic#2, Pic#3, Pic#4

McKinstry Lake, McKinstry Peak and McKinstry Meadow This map is a copy of the original survey plat of the area around McKinstry, originally done beginning in 1875 by J.R. Glover, another part of the survey done by L.D Bond in 1877 and the last part of this Township 14, Range 15 East completed by C. F. Putnam in July of 1882. As this is the authoritative original survey of this area by the US Geological Survey, they did not name McKinstry Lake, the peak or meadow on this map. This was more than likely the result of not having or knowing this common name for the area which Amos Bowman knew about when he did his authoritative survey of the Gerogetown Divide resources owned by the California Water Company in 1873/1874, who may have had the benefit of dealing with people who were more familiar with this area due to their work and employment in this area, associated with the California Water Company. McKinstry Lake is noted as "lake" on the map in section 19, just West of the peak noted as "High Peak" on the map in section 20. The peak noted as "High Peak" is not McKinstry, but rather what we call Guide Peak. The surveyors managed to

draw it slightly more to the West than it was. McKinstry peak was not highlighted by these original surveyors as it would be on the bottom line of section 18 or the top line of section 19. The larger lake noted as "lake" on the section 29 section 32 line is what is now known as Bugle Lake, above Wentworth Springs. The "farmers house" to the West of McKinstry Lake and not named is in fact "Bennet's Ranch," so named on the township map immediately to the West of this sectional.

The following description is provided by Erwin Gudde..... "The mountain is labeled McKinstry's Mountains on Bowman's map (1873), and M'kinstry peak on sheet 47-D of Wheeler's atlas. It has been suggested that the name may commemorate George McKinstry, Jr., who was one of the best known of Sutter's men and the first sheriff of the northern district (1846-1847); it seems more likely, however, that the places were named for Elliott McKinstry, a miner at Oregon Bar in 1866, or Lee McKinstry, a miner in Gerogetown township in 1867 (Gudde, 1969)".

Very nice photo of Joy Brattland sitting next to beautiful McKinstry Lake .

L. Dellar's Cabin—1889—Eldorado National Forest, Placer County, Ca

According to the Surveyor's field notes who completed the original survey plat on the Township including Dellar Meadow and Dellar's cabin in September, 1889, he wrote that Dellar's first name was Louis.....Louis Dellar. In fact his full and complete name was Louis J. Deller, spelled with a "e" vice an "a," who was born in California in 1854 according to the official 1910 US Census. In reviewing the records of the Deller family on the 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930 census' respectively, it would appear from the hand written census entries from 1860 that Deller was originally either Dellar, Doller, Daller, Duller or Deller. I believe over the years that Andrew Deller, Louis J Deller's father elected to use the "Deller" spelling after 1870 as the census listing for 1870 lists the Deller family name as Deller. I think that in common use, so many people spoke the name as Deller, that the original spelling was changed by usage and family need to Americanize their name. The Surveyor spelled Deller's last name both on the original plat and in his field notes as Dellar which could very well have been the correct, original family name when Andrew and Eva immigrated to the US around 1849 from Germany.. For this reason and through the years, the map makers have continued to use the original spelling, In Mountain Meadow, just above Dellar Meadow where L. Dellar cabin was depicted in the final surveyors work and original survey plat of the area in 1889, there are another set of ruins on the South edge of Mountain Meadow, identified by the Forest Service , right

on the Dellar Trail or Stockmans Trail which went on around Bunker Hill down into the Rubicon Canyon and across to the other side. These ruins could possibly have been an earlier cabin belonging to the Deller family or some other early user of this very beautiful meadow. Krista Deal of the US Forest Service believes these cabin ruins date from approximately the 1850's. The Georgetown Gazette got the Deller name spelled as the family was to prefer in their article of 1882 below.

A report from the June 23, 1882 edition of the Georgetown Gazette on the movement of livestock through Georgetown to the ranches in the Sierras..... *"A great many droves of stock and dairy cattle, sheep and goats, have passed through Georgetown during the present month for their ranges above, and many more are yet to pass before the month ends. Among those who have already passed up with dairy stock are: Forni of Gold Hill, Sam Forni of this place (Georgetown), filippini & Co., Bacchi of Garden Valley, Schelari and Gerley (misspelled) of Uniontown, Deller and Son near this place (Georgetown) and others whose names we have not in mind. Besides this, no less than a dozen large bands of sheep and goats have passed through town. Much stock is also passing up by routes south of this place."* (Gernes; Deibert, 1999)

In the above article in the Georgetown Gazette, the editors when they referred to Deller and Son would be referring to Louis J Deller as the "Son" of Deller and Son, while the "Deller" was Louis' father, Andrew Deller. Andrew Deller was married to Eva, both born in Baden, Bavaria, Germany according to the US Census' of 1860, 1870 and 1880. Andrew was born in 1812. Eva, his wife was born in 1830. They came to the US around 1849 as their oldest child, Emma, was born in Louisiana in 1849, while Louis J. was born in California in 1854 according to the 1860 census. The family arrived in California sometime after 1849. The oldest child Emma was not listed in the 1870 census which could mean she died or had been married off. Andrew and Eva Deller had two other children, Lenora born approximately 1860 and Adaline or Addie born in 1865. In the late 1890s Louis married Rose, born June 13, 1872 and had three children, Anna born in 1897, Andrew J. in 1899 and Aninita in 1904. When Louis's parents, Andrew and Eva passed away in the 1880s, he took over the ranch in Greenwood township (Pilot Hill) in the 1880s. The Mountain Democrat in the Feb 10, 1912 edition of the paper reported the real estate transfer of the Deller Ranch in Greenwood to H.B. Stacy. Louis J. Deller was not listed in either the 1920 or 1930 census, while his wife Rose was. I believe he probably passed away between by 1920. By 1930, Louis' son Andrew J Dellar had married Florence and moved to Sacramento where he raised his family. Andrew and Rose had two children, Richard L. born in 1923

and Lorraine W. born in 1925. On the 1930 census, Andrew J. Deller was listed as a butcher in Sacramento, while his mother Rose was working in Sacramento as a servant. According to the 1930 census, the Deller family lived in the city of Sacramento. Rose Deller, Andrew's mother, died in Sacramento on August 15, 1966.

Joe's Spring More than likely named for the famous early Eldorado National Forest Ranger, Joe Bauman who was principal to the establishment and surveying of the Gerle Creek Summer Home Tract as well as current massive, beautiful hand built stone lookout station at Bunker Hill. Here is an actual photo of Joe's Spring in 1990 with my mother Joy Brattland enjoying a drink of the very good water which is a product of the spring on Bunker Hill.

Bennets/Bennetts Ranch-1875-1889 The farmers house on the road identified as road to Bennets Range or Bennetts Range from Gerle's heading up to McKinstry lake.

Noted on the earliest of maps in the meadow area half mile West of McKinstry Lake. Reading the Surveyor's Field notes for the original survey for this Township completed in September, 1889, the survey wrote that the cabin or farmer's house in McKinstry Meadow, below and slightly to the West of McKinstry Lake which on the earlier survey belonged to Bennett, now belonged to Forni. The Forni name is misspelled in the Surveyor's original hand written field notes.

Bunker Hill-1875-Eldorado National Forest, Placer County, Ca The mountain top which was acquired in order to put a lookout on top, was purchased by the Forest Service May 5, 1936.

Early wood low to the ground lookout structure pictured in Supernowicz 1983 History of the Eldorado National Forest of the 1930's was replaced by Joe Bauman who built the present day stone lookout tower and living quarters in the 1950s. This is a Lint Brown photo from 1957.

Hanna's Camp-South Fork Mill-California Water Company-Water Operated Saw Mill, 1874-1880, South Fork of Rubicon River, Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado County, Ca

Hanna's Camp1, Hanna's Camp2, Hanna's Camp 3

Hanna's Camp was later known as South Fork Mill or Ditch Camp.....wonderful Lint Brown photo Ditch Camp Early 20th Century

A report of shooting in the August 27, 1891 Georgetown Gazette..... *"A Shooting affair occurred at the South Fork sawmill, yesterday between R. Jerrett and Domingo Veril, resulting in Veril receiving a charge of shot in his shoulder and breast from a shotgun in the hands of Jerrett. Veril shot at Jerrett with a Winchester rifle. the wounded man brought to town last night and is being treated by Dr. Hickman."*(Gernes; Deibert, 1999)

South Fork Rubicon River Bridge Georgetown Wentworth Springs Road South Fork Mill, Ditch Camp, 1932

Murry Camp

In 1898, William Murry filed on 160 acres on what is now called "Murry's Camp"(Errington 2000), just inside the Placer County line on the road to Bunker Hill, just a mile North of Gerle's or Lawyer's Cow Camp. Besides being the main trail to Bunker Hill, it was the trail to McKinstry Lake and Bennet's Ranch in the meadows near McKinstry Lake. This trail was actually formally identified on the earliest maps as the "Road to Bennet's Range." There are five cabins at Murry Camp situated on Bart's Creek. The following pictures of the original log cabins built from the turn of the 19th to 20th Century were taken during a visit Memorial Day, 2004.....Murry Camp1, Murray Camp2, Murray Camp3, Murray Camp4, Murray Camp5, Murray Camp6, and Murray Camp7

Jerrett Peak

Jerret Peak and Creek were named for the Jerrett family, early El Dorado County pioneers. The Wentworths and the Winslows eventually sold Wentworth Springs to Robert S. Jerrett of Georgetown, Ca, son of Daniel Jerrett, a Georgetown Grocer and 49er. Robert's brother, Herman Daniel Jerrett, wrote two books....*"California's El Dorado, Yesterday and Today,"* 1915 and a later book entitled *"Hills of Gold,"* 1963. For a picture of Dan Jerrett, see Rambeau, 1998, page 21 for a group photo of the I.O.O.F. lodge in Georgetown, 1889. There is a group picture showing members Alex Francis, Charles Forni, Dan Jerrett, Gus Orelli and Charles Wentworth, all significant men in the history of Gerle Creek

Jerrett Creek See Jerrett Peak above

Ellis Creek This creek flows out of Bugle Lake into Loon Lake. In the days prior to the

new Loon Lake Dam in 1962, the creek entered what was then Pleasant Lake. Pleasant Lake is now part of the new Loon Lake. Where Ellis Creek crosses the Georgetown-Wentworth Springs-Rubicon Springs-Lake Tahoe 4WD road is where the new (since the 1980s) Jeepers 4WD trail joins from Loon Lake Dam.

Bugle Lake Headwaters for Ellis Creek which flows out of an down into the Northeast end of Loon Lake. In the days prior to the new Loon Lake Dam, the creek entered Pleasant Lake which is now a part of Loon Lake. The lake is directly above Wentworth Springs on the Northside of Jerrett Peak.

Buck Island Lake

In the words of Judge Wilbur Johnson..... *"Picture 6 Vic Wikander and his wife, Alice.*

While honeymooning they visited Buck Island, over the hill from Rubicon to the west. Victor worked out a 99 year lease of the smaller island at Buck Island, I presume with the U S Dept. of the Interior.

In the 1920's Rubicon Springs continued to be accessible by motor car and Victor began to take in the materials needed to improve the leased island. He carried everything over the hill to Buck Island by back pack, a little over a mile but up quite a grade. (NB: The last motor vehicle into Rubicon (until the Jeep) was a Cadillac touring car operated by an enterprising fellow from The Lake (Tahoe). On the way out the Caddy slid off the road at one of the switchbacks and was abandoned. This occurred around 1928-1930 and the vehicle remained, somewhat intact, for quite a few years. From this, the current name, "Cadillac Hill", was coined.)

As time passed, Victor built a rowboat, first of all, and then 3 cabins. A main cabin and 2 smaller cabins as guest houses. He flew 3 flags; The Stars and Stripes at the main cabin and the flags of Finland and Ireland at the guest cabins.

He laid out paths cabin to cabin and other points of interest on the island. He gathered stones, 4 - 6 inches in diameter. and lined the paths. Using the rowboat, he gathered sand from the far west side of the lake and sanded the paths.

He also built a catch-all storage shed near the main cabin and a boat house with skids to house the rowboat over the winters. Sometime, during later years, he stopped

using the boat house. He just pulled the boat out of the water and left it in the open. One time, I asked, "Why?" He said that, in the boat house, the boat dried and seeped leakage by the next season.

He spent all summer every year at the island. His wife joined him when school was out. He also went in regularly in winter. His wife never joined him on the winter trek. He put a door high in the gable of the main cabin to avoid digging snow down to the front door. Each summer season he would provision the cabin for the winter trek, food and fuel. One year he fell and broke a bone in the ankle area, possibly the lower end of the fibula. He crawled into the cabin and set the break as best as possible and bound it with strips of cloth. He spent the next few weeks holed up in the cabin waiting for the break to knit. What a guy!

His island was close to the north shore of Buck Island Lake, about 50 yards or so. The water there was shallow and in winter it froze enough for him to ski/snow shoe across. In the spring he could wade. At most, the water depth was about 5 feet at one point. Thus, he never really had to "swim" to the island.

He spent many idyllic years at the lake until the 1950's when age began to take its toll. He passed away in Oakland, Alameda Co. CA, on August 7, 1958. His wife, Alice, survived another few years until the early 1960's. End of an era! (no children)."

Spider Lake—Spider Lake is on the Georgetown to Lake Tahoe Road just past Wentworth Springs and a long time isolated fishing destination. One must hike or use a 4 wheel drive vehicle to get there. In a wonderful article on the front page of the Sacramento Bee, June 3, 1931, it describes the challenging trip by motorcar during Memorial Day time frame of 1931 for several Sacramento people who wanted to catch a few trout.....*"SPICKARD FIRST TO SPIDER LAKE, Dealer Pilots Car over Granite Boulders to Reach Fishing Paradise.....Driving through mud holes, around fallen trees and over granite boulders in the sluice box region of the headwaters of the Rubicon River, C. R. Spickard of the local automobile firm of Spickard & Loughland, and Ray Weatherwax, service superintendent for the firm, were the first to reach Spider Lake this season. They made the trail over the Memorial Day weekend, driving there via Georgetown, Uncle Toms and Wentworth Springs in five hours Friday afternoon and*

returning in the same time Sunday night. Road Good for a ways. Spickard said the road up the Georgetown Divide was very good to Wentworth Springs, forty-six miles east of Georgetown and 103 miles from Sacramento. From Wentworth Springs on ten miles to Spider Lake the going was bad and much difficulty was experienced. However, by persistent effort, the two auto men worked their car to within a few yards of the lake and pitched camp. Rewarded By Trout. After they had broken the trail, two or three other cars followed, but stopped further from the lake. They were rewarded for their effort by fine catches of large trout in Spider and other nearby lakes. There is a road that runs from Spider Lake on through the granite sluice boxes and down to Lake Tahoe at McKinneys, but it is in such poor condition that but a handful of cars have gotten through to the lake by this route in the past several years."

Georgetown Wentworth Springs Rubicon Springs Lake Tahoe Road

In a short informational note in the Tahoe Tattler in the Fall of 1881, the current owner of Rubicon Springs reports on plans for the road..... "Hunsucker Bros' proprietors of the Rubicon Springs, say they will have a road open to Georgetown next year, to give visitors a better chance to see the wonders of that wonderful place and to expedite the ways and means of getting out the famous soda water. Up to date the demand has been much greater than the supply." (Gernes; Deibert, 1999)

Later in the Georgetown Gazette edition of July 1st, 1885, the editors offer their thanks to to Mr. Hunsucker for this personal effort in getting the road from the Rubicon Springs to Lake Tahoe in serviceable condition..... "Good! the new road from Rubicon Springs to Lake Tahoe is in splendid order, and Mr. Hunsucker deserves much credit for the good job in its construction. Johnny Poor, who is running the stage on that road now sends a four-in-hand down the road as though it was level ground. At the Springs the thermometer during July 5, 6, and 7th stood during the warmest part of the day at 85 degrees. Since the 4th the health and pleasure seekers are coming in more freely. There remains only a short piece of road to be made between the Rubicon and Wentworth's to complete the wagon road from Georgetown to Lake Tahoe." (Gernes; Deibert, 1999)

Even with the best efforts of the Hunsuckers and Wentworths, the road remained unfinished in 1887 when the editor summarized the history and need for the road to be finished by the county in the July 16, 1887 edition of the Georgetown Gazette..... "During the past twenty years there has been expended, by the citizens of the Georgetown Divide in opening a wagon road to Tahoe, no less than

\$10,000. It is now completed to Wentworth Springs, 42 miles from Georgetown, and from Lake Tahoe to Hunsucker's Springs (Rubicon Springs) about 10 miles. leaving about 10 miles between those points to be opened. the road has always been free to anyone who desired to travel it, and no person ever received back any of the money expended. To complete the road will cost at least \$3000. To raise that amount by private subscription has been found impossible; yet a portion could be raised, and if some assistance had been rendered by the County, the road could have been opened this year."(Gernes; Deibert, 1999)

In a further very short note or tidbit in the July 12, 1888 edition of the Georgetown Gazette, the editors reported..... *"Arrangements have been made for completion of the Georgetown and Tahoe wagon road.*"(Gernes, Deibert, 1999)

During the Summer of 1888, the Gazette reported on the progress of the Lake Tahoe road completion in the August 2, 1888 edition as follows..... *"The wagon road now being completed from Georgetown to Lake Tahoe will make this the most direct and best route for people coming from the lower Counties who have not visited this great lake. Georgetown being a central point is a very convenient place for procuring supplies for a mountain trip, and we believe that goods can be brought at as low figures here as in any mountain town."* (Gernes, Deibert, 1999)

Finally, in the late Fall of 1888, the final part to the Georgetown to Tahoe wagon road was completed and reported upon in the October 4, 1888 paper..... *"The wagon road is now completed through to Lake Tahoe from Georgetown, so that loaded teams can pass over to the lake. With tow daily stage lines plying between Placerville and Auburn, making Georgetown an important junction, it is believed that by next Spring business will justify a daily line between Georgetown and Lake Tahoe."* (Gernes; Deibert, 1999)

The continuing condition of the Georgetown to Lake Tahoe Road via Wentworth Springs and Rubicon Springs was in yearly need of work to keep it in passable condition. the attraction of Lake Tahoe and its resorts as well as Wentworth and Rubicon Springs made it necessary to keep the pressure on the county supervisors for road maintenance. The following letter was, I am sure, a sincere request for support for the county infrastructure but it should also be noted that Judge Bennett was running for re-election at the time of this letter. This letter may have also been a means of reminding the citizens of Georgetown of his name and his obvious civic interest in the county. He was subsequently re-elected shortly here after. In a letter

to the editor of the Georgetown Gazette of September 14, 1896 by Judge M.P. Bennett of Georgetown, he wrote..... *"Most residents of the county are familiar with the natural advantages of the Placerville road, the liberal hospitality of the Inns along the way, and the climax of scenic grandure, when from the western summit of the Sierras, Lake Tahoe, fifteen hundred feet below, breaks into view....there has been for many years a road from Georgetown to Wentworth Springs and despite some pretty steep hills, it is a good mountain road. I first traveled it in the summer of 1877 and it was a most delightful renewal of my early impression through the mighty timber....Wentworth Springs....owned by Nathan Wentworth whose well built hotel is in a beautiful valley, in which a number of sparkling, health-giving springs are an attraction that annually bring thither numerous tourists from this county as well as Sacramento and Placer counties. Many stop here and venture no further because the wonderful beyond, like all the fabled wonders of antiquity, is approachable through only the most perilous way. From Wentworth Springs to the Rubicon Springs, is not exceeding ten miles, measured in feet and inches, but a mile of good road is a mile, and how far a mile of this is, I do not dare to state. Some portions of it are called "Sluicibox" and one of our party designated it "Devil's Sluice Box" to go with "Hell Hole", not far off. To make this road passable, from three to five hundred dollars should be spent on it and the investment would be a most judicious business proposition for El Dorado county.....As McKinney's stands for progress on the western shore, so does Tallac with its beautiful new hotel building, at the south end of the Lake, but there is woeful want of land communication between the two places. A good road is constructed from Tahoe City to McKinney's, and from Tallac to Brigham's, and a wagon has been through from McKinney's to Mr. Frost's Rubican Park, but from that place to Dr. Brigham's, a distance, I think, of probably five or six miles, there is no wagon road....We have in Lake Tahoe one of the greatest natural wonders and beauties of the world....does not fairness to the North Divide...demand that the approach to the Lake over the Georgetown road be made safe and comfortable?....(signed) M.P. Bennett"(Gernes, Deibert, 1999)*

Wentworth Springs-1880, Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado County, Ca

Jones Silver...Named for Fleming and Florence Jones who Summered in the Silver Creek area, running dairy cattle.(Yohalem) Jones Silver cabins, pictures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. and 7.

Leonardis Ranch This is a Jonni Hill photograph of the ranch contributed to help with the history of important places and people in El Dorado National Forest and County,

which was used as a basis for one of her original paintings. Jonni Hill is a noted artist of people and early places in El Dorado County. Many of her works are displayed in Robb's Resort. Our family personally owns one of her wonderful Native American paintings. You can find out more about her art work at [High Country Sketches](#).

Robbs Peak Gudde indicates it was named after an early cattle ranchman named Hamilton D. Robb, but that US Forest Service Records suggest it was named after a US Army Lieutenant with the last name of Robb who during a investigation of the area with his detachment, climbed the peak and left a metal can or "tin cylinder" on the peak (Gudde).

Robbs Lookout...Lint Brown photo of Robbs Lookout on Robbs Peak

Tells Creek/Peak Gudde indicates it was named for a early Swiss "homesteader" named Tell. His cabin is shown on the early maps to the West of Tell's Peak on Tells Creek around 1875. However other sources in Gudde's research suggest it was named for "Ciperano Pedrini", commonly known as "Bill Tell," who was a merchant in Garden Valley (Gudde)

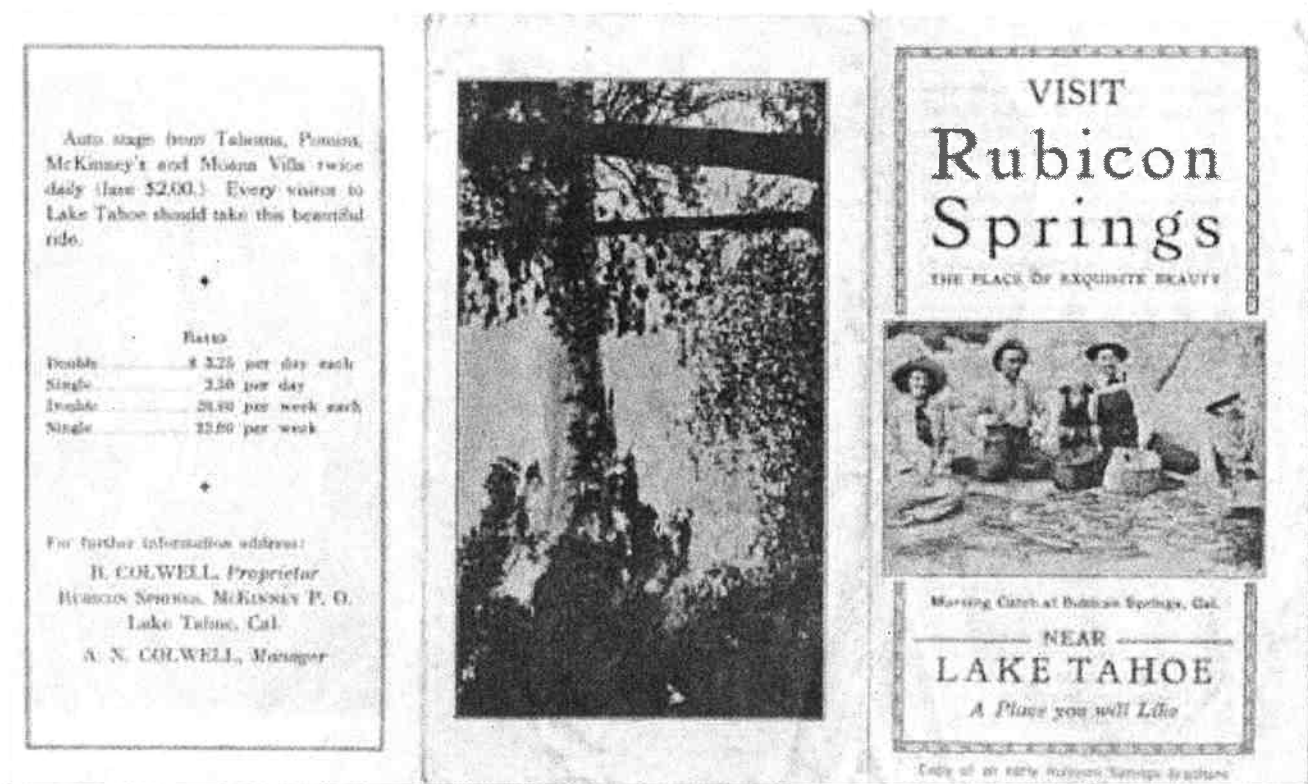
Desolation Valley *"Indian Hatie told the Rupleys about trouble between the white men and the Indians when she was a little girl. One day her mother hid her in the woods and told her not move. She came back day and said the white men had driven off the Indians. the Indians started back for Carson Valley, but there was a storm....in the Spring they were found frozen to death. They say that is how Desolation Valley got its name."* (Yohalem, pg 214)

Rubicon Springs-1869 Hunsaker Springs

Originally discovered and established by the Hunsaker Brothers. In 1869, they filed and located themselves on 160 acres here building a log house which was to become a way station for travelers from Georgetown to McKinney's at Lake Tahoe. They were great friends with John McKinney who owned McKinney's on Lake Tahoe. This relationship helped bring people to the springs via the side wheeled steamer from Glenbrook on Lake Tahoe to McKinneys, where they were then brought in over the pack trail to Hunsakers. Once the Hunsakers became too old to run their way station, they sold it to Mrs Vade Clark in 1886, who renamed it the Rubicon Mineral Springs Hotel. She built a more substantial structure, finishing her work in 1889 (Presba, 1992) and operated what became a sixteen room hotel for the next 15 years marketing the

mineral water which she said was "better than whisky." Dr Winslow Anderson felt much the same way describing the Rubicon Springs in his 1889 prize essay as "an excellent mineral soda springs, romantically situated in the beautiful Garden Valley, on the Rubicon River. The owner of this beautiful mountainous resort is erecting commodious accommodations for guests and visitors. As for the mineral springs, the doctor described them as belonging to the Alkalo-Carbonated class of waters, so valuable in the treatment of the many diseases" (Anderson, 1889). Vade Clark eventually sold her hotel back to Daniel Abbot in 1898, but leased back to Vade Clark, who continued to operate it till it eventually sold to Ralph Cowell in the 1908. (James, 1915; Presba, 1992).

Here are two images of a modern reproduction copy of a original Rubicon Springs advertising brochure in pamphlet form. The pamphlet indicates that R Colwell is the owner, which means it was published sometime from 1908. My thanks to Alan Vella from Gerle Creek Summer Home Tract for loaning this historic document so that it could be imaged and shared via this historical website.

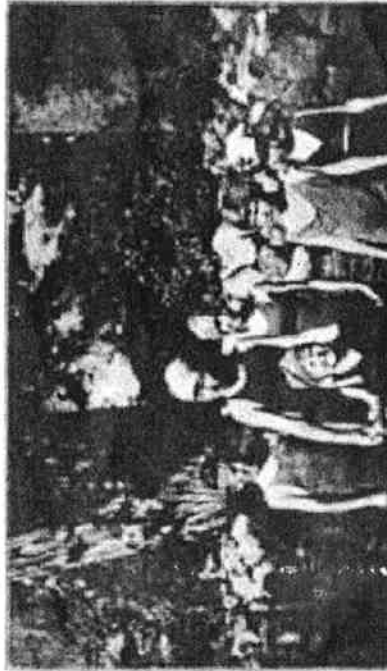


Rubicon Springs is located eleven miles from Lake Tahoe in the beautiful Rubicon Valley and in the very heart of the Sierra Nevada Mountains within easy hiking distance of many snow clad peaks and numerous mountain lakes well stocked with Eastern, Brook, Rainbow & Loch Lomond trout. There is no place in California where better fishing can be had, for in addition to the many lakes the Rubicon River affords many miles of excellent fly fishing.

We cater to the class of respectable people who desire a homelike atmosphere where they can drink and do as they please on all occasions without attracting criticism or comment. No better place could be found for the hard business man and his family.

We take particular pride in our table and only the best food obtainable is served. All the milk and cream you can use, supplied by our own herd.

The mineral springs possess remarkable medicinal properties, especially for stomach, liver and kidney trouble, but no one with long trouble or any contagious disease will be accommodated.



These days the property and the mineral springs are owned by the Jeepers Jamboree in Georgetown, now home to the famous yearly trek (Jeepers Jamboree) of 4 wheel drive Jeeps from Georgetown to Lake Tahoe via Rubicon Springs. Originally when the Jamboree first began in 1952, the Jamboree found its way to Rubicon Springs and Lake Tahoe via Wentworth Springs, but by the late 1980s, the trek was modified to go to Rubicon Springs via Loon Lake Dam, trekking the North side of Loon Lake and re-entering the trail to Rubicon Springs at Ellis Creek.

Here are four historic pictures of Rubicon Springs from July 16, 1953, taken by Linton A. Brown, the late father of Lint Brown. They show the old hotel partially collapsed as a result of the record breaking Winter of 1951/52 where the Sierras had one of the biggest snow falls on record, which led to considerable extra runoff and the damage seen in these nearly 50 year old photos. One of the photos shows what was left of the famous piano in the old hotel; another is a nice shot of the collapsed hotel; another a shot of a small barn or shed on the edge of the meadow and the final shot, shows Lint Brown and his friend, Robert P. Neeley standing proudly next to an interesting piece of old equipment, with their fishing and hiking equipment displayed. Here are two more historic photos of the SPRR Cabin in Lower Hell Hole taken by Lint Brown Sr in 1951, which was removed with the construction of Hell Hole Dam and Lake in the

1960's. 029, 030

Rubicon Trail History Page.....a very nice historical time line on related history, names and places along the Rubicon Trail to Lake Tahoe

Hales Camp Cabin on the North side of the Rubicon River, near Hales Crossing, 4 miles down the Rubicon River from Hell Hole Dam. Hales Crossing is located at the Western point of the Charles Creek Trail which began at Jacobsens on Gerle Creek and wound its way West and down into the Rubicon Canyon. Lent Brown photo

California Water Company-1874

The details of the California Water Company and all their activities in this area are covered in great detail by Bowman, 1874; Gildersleeve, 1880 and finally summarized in Sioli's history of El Dorado County in 1883. This company, originated and capitalized in San Francisco, was central to early development of resources in the Georgetown Divide area, building a Loon Lake log dam initially along with a ditch to connect Gerle Creek to Hanna's Camp by 1874. This trial dam was followed by building the granite stone dam to replace the original nine foot high log dam at Loon Lake in 1881-1882 using Chinese labor which stood till removed in 1962 for the current earth filled dam built in 1963. The companies need to support their ditch and flume structures to bring the water from Loon Lake to Georgetown also necessitated their building the South Fork Mill, (between 1874 and 1880) a water powered saw mill at Hanna's Camp, which still stands today.

Van Vleck Ranch) 1870 One of the original ranches built for summer range East of Robbs Valley for grazing cattle...identified as "Tell's Ranch" on Amos Bowman's 1874 Map of the Georgetown Divide for the California Water Company of San Francisco, California...Originally belonged to the Fillpini family of Garden Valley.....(Rinaldo Filippini..commonly called ."William Tell") till the early 1900s before being passed to the Forni Family (the 1916 US Forest Service Map shows Forni's name on the ranch) an then to the Van Vlecks...four pictures of the Brattland family visiting this historic ranch in July 1991...the next year the ranch burned down from a chimney fire. Pictures show the original ranch building along with the beautiful near natural meadow which made this such a perfect place for a summer ranch when first located by early settlers. Some of the timbers of this original mid 19th Century ranch house most probably came from the Southfork Mill at Hanna's Camp. Pic#1 Pic#2, Pic#3, Pic#4

A report from the October 28, 1881 edition of the Georgetown Gazette on the Filippini "Dairy".....*"A profitable Dairy - Filippini and Company of Garden Valley, have a dairy of about 200 cows which they keep during the summer months in the higher altitude above Georgetown. They brought their stock down last week and reported the following as the result of the seasons operation. they made something over four tons of cheese, at which business, being native sons of Switzerland and trained to it from childhood, they are adept, and for their cheese they have an active demand. They are shipping this cheese to Eureka, Nevada, and other points. They also put up something over three tons of butter of remarkable fine quality, equal to the best we have ever tasted."*(Gernes; Deibert, 1999)

A report from the June 23, 1882 edition of the Georgetown Gazette on the movement of livestock through Georgetown to the ranches in the Sierras.....*"A great many droves of stock and dairy cattle, sheep and goats, have passed through Georgetown during the present month for their ranges above, and many more are yet to pass before the month ends. Among those who have already passed up with dairy stock are: Forni of Gold Hill, Sam Forni of this place(Georgetown), Filippini & Co., Bacchi of Garden Valley, Schelari and Gerley(mispelled) of Uniontown, Deller and Son near this place (Georgetown) and others whose names we have not in mind. Besides this, no less than a dozen large bands of sheep and goats have passed through town. Much stock is also passing up by routes south of this place."*(Gernes; Deibert, 1999)

Orelli's Ranch was located on the Eastern slopes of Robb's Peak adjacent to the the natural meadow of Robbs Valley. The ranch building is now gone and Robb's Valley Resort sits on the property immediately next to the old ranch location. The Orelli's, Charles and Catherin, came to California in the 1860's from Switzerland. They were from an area very near the border with France called Canton Ticino (Baldwin, 1975). Their cattle ranch was located in the area between Lotus and Rescue in the foothills, where they raised "beef and milch cattle" according to Anna Baldwin. In the early Summer, they herded their cattle up to the range property in Robb's Valley. The cattle remained till herded back down to their ranch Lotus/Rescue in the Fall. This property at Robbs Valley was "obtained by government permit" according to Anna Baldwin. The Orelli's made salami, cheeses and other dairy products which they sold to various merchants. The Orelli cabin or ranch in Robb's Valley was noted on the Amos Bowman 1874 Map of the Georgetown Divide for the California Water Company of San Francisco, California as "Orelly."

For a picture of Gus Orelli, see Rambeau, 1998, page 21 for a group photo of the

I.O.O.F. lodge in Georgetown, 1889. There is a group picture showing members Alex Francis, Charles Forni, Dan Jerrett, Gus Orelli and Charles Wentworth, all significant men in the history of Gerle Creek

Union Valley Dam Here are several in construction pictures of the dam taken by my father with myself standing on the dam during construction Pictures 1. and 2.

AE Brown Cabin-1875s, Long Meadow and Gerle Creek Ditch Cabin

He built a cabin in Long Meadow as well as just West of the Old Ditch Tender's road, halfway between Airport Flats/GCSHT and the California Water Company built diversion dam still visible at the head of the Gerle Creek Ditch at the Northern end of Gerle Lake, where the natural creek now enters the Northern end of the lake, which was built 1873/1874 to divert water to Hanna's Camp for further diversion via ditches and creeks to Georgetown. After completing this Gerle Creek Ditch, between 1874 to 1880, the California Water Company built a water powered saw mill (Gildersleeve, 1880) at Hanna's Camp, which made use of the diversion ditch water and the water of the South Fork of the Rubicon River to power the sawmill, now commonly referred to as South Fork Mill. It's chief purpose was supplying lumber for repair efforts on the California Water Company owned flumes and ditches, as well as selling to the local ranchers. AE Brown may have been one of the early ditch keepers or another of the many valley ranchers and farmers who claimed meadow land up in the Sierras for use by their livestock in the Summer months. His ranch building on the road to Gerle Creek Ditch Diversion Dam is plainly located on the original Geological Survey Map. The pictures below are of AE Brown's cabin still standing on the West end of Long Meadow.

AE Brown's Cabin1, AE Brown's Cabin2, AE Brown's Cabin3

Uncle Tom's Cabin 1864-Georgetown-Wentworth Springs Road, Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado County, Ca

Uncle Toms1, Uncle Toms2, Uncle Toms3,

Originally built by Tom Markham in 1864(Presba, 1992). Archie and Irma Lawyer, married in 1912, owned Uncle Tom's from about 1921, living there every Spring till the first snow of the Fall till the mid 1970s. According to Irma Lawyer, it was named after a black man who lived there, mining and trapping in the early mining days. No one ever

knew his real name, although he was referred to as Tom. However, other sources indicate that Tom Markham was in fact a Caucasian from Missouri. He later left the county in the late '70s for Tulare County (Gardner, 1993). White fur trappers who moved into the area would seek help from Tom with trapping and actually getting their hides out. After many years, the name "Uncle Toms Cabin stuck and continues to this day (Yohaler, 1977).

After Tom Markham left for Tulare County, John Brock and John Saucerman, hunters and trappers, made it their headquarters before it was passed along to William Vaughn and B.W. "Dick" Hartless turned it into a store and beer bar (Gardner, 1993). According to Gardner, Dick Hartless actually inherited the name "Uncle Tom" among his friends, which followed him to the end of his life.. By the late 1880s, the the property was acquired by the Swiss Timber and Land Company who built a substantial building there. Uncle Toms was then operated by B. Scholari and then Charles Schultz of Coloma. After the Swiss Timber Company sold the property, Uncle Toms burned down, but the new timber company owner rebuilt it immediately (Gardner, 1993). The Lawyers once they took it over from this timber company, operated it as a roadhouse which catered to the Spring and Fall cattle drives of the valley ranchers moving their cattle into the many sierra meadows which were homesteaded by early California pioneers

GCSHT-1953/1957- Lot 24-GA Brattland Family Cabin-1958-Old and Current Pictures

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Last updated on 11/09/04