

Sierra Recreation Association

April 1998

White Spring

As those who have been up to the park this month know, it has been a very white spring. We had a teaser of about a week of spring weather in March and then winter set in again with snow every day for a couple of weeks. The weather has been very cold. Although the weatherman has promised us a week of spring weather, don't let this keep you from winterizing your cabin when you leave this month; it can still get plenty cold.

I am sure Randy and Mike have appreciated people not parking on the roadways during their snow removal operations. This could still be a consideration, so please continue to park in the parking lot at the lake if you do not have off-road parking for all your vehicles at your cabin. And speaking of Randy and Mike and snow removal, I am sure I speak for all when I say thank you for your early morning and late night hours that you have spent removing snow from the roads and keeping them sanded when needed. I am sure you both are looking forward to the end of snow season.



over the campfire, in the pouring rain. Some nights the bears would come down the hill into camp looking for anything they could find to eat. If you didn't bury your garbage, they would scatter it all over the place. My Dad, Bob Morris, would say "Soosh, be very quite now." Believe me, we would all hold our breath until we heard the bears tromp off through the trees. Dad always had a weapon by his side in case he needed it. We always took the garbage home with us when we went home after our stay in the park.

The apple orchard was close by and every year, in the fall, a herd of deer would walk through the apple trees, eating the apples as they migrated to lower country for the winter. The deer seemed to know they were safe in the Park. We would also pick apples to eat and to make pies. They were very small but tasty.



My dad liked country western music. He made a speaker, attached it to the car radio and set it on top of the car (a 1934 DeSoto). They would play his favorite song, Ghost Riders in the Sky. The moon would be full and you could look out over the meadow and the music just floated away. There was no other sound to be heard in the Park. We spent many days walking and hiking over the Park, checking out the creek which was lined with willows just as it is today. There was no lake then. I understand Bob Hodgson worked on this project.

Bob Hodgson's lot was directly behind ours and they also camped every weekend. My dad built the Hodgson cabin. It was just one room with a wood stove for heat. We witched for water with a willow branch and they dug a well and got water.

The next Thanksgiving our family, (Bob, Mabel, Betty and Carole) spent four days in the Hodgson's cabin. We parked the car up on Highway 108 at Sylvan Lodge. There was about 18 inches of snow on the ground. We hiked down the hill and across the upper end of the meadow to the cabin, carrying everything -- food, sleeping bags, etc. The dirt roads could not be plowed and there was no caretaker. There were no other cabins in the Park at that time, except the small cabin on the five acres that was not part of the Park. The time we spent there was just beautiful; everything covered in snow, the squirrels and birds scurrying around and the quietness. To get out, we had to climb the hill to the highway. The snow was hard and crusty by this time. We slipped back one step for every two we advanced. We all got so tickled at each other, slipping and sliding, we got the giggles and then we started laughing so hard we thought we never going to make it to the car.



Sierra Park Lodge #376



Lodge meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and Lodge potluck social on the fourth Saturdays of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the recreation hall. This month's potluck social will be April 25th 1998.

Park History - by Clare Smith

The following is a from a letter sent to us from Carol Morris Rueb, daughter of Bob and Mabel Morris:

I have been thinking of my own experiences in Odd Fellows Sierra Park. I remember our family camping in a huge Army squad tent, along with other lodge members and their families; everyone was like one big happy family. The nights were pitch black, no lights anywhere. Then later we camped on our own lot behind the present entrance arch in the middle. This fence and arch are still standing. We cleaned our lot which was knee deep in pine needles and branches, and we also helped Fred Watkins of Tracy to clean his lot, which was right next to our lot. We eventually purchased his lot when he moved away.

We would haul drinking water from Tracy and carry buckets of water from the creek up the hill to camp for dishes and bathing. We had a campfire every night. We made hot chocolate

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Board of Directors Meeting Minutes April 12, 1997

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by president Del Wallis. Those present were Del Wallis-President, Jim Morrison-Vice President, Richard Bonner-Treasurer, Deena Hague-Secretary (arrived at 9:05 as she got stuck in the snow), Fred Coleman and Robert Snell. Those absent were Greg Brown, and Gene Reed - excused.

MINUTES - The minutes of the March meeting were approved with the following correction: Randy's salary is \$2034, not \$2000 as printed.

GUESTS BEFORE THE BOARD - None.

MEMBERS BEFORE THE BOARD - None.

CORRESPONDENCE -

1. A letter was received from the California Department of Forestry concerning a meeting of the Fire Safety Council. This includes a steering committee.
2. Minutes of the Tuolumne-Calaveras Fire Safety Committee.
3. Newspaper clipping from Mr. and Mrs. Barber from San Leandro concerning the danger of ATVs to young people.
4. Notice of Tuolumne County Water Agencies meeting on April 17, 1998 at 12:00 noon at the Oak Tree Restaurant.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WATER - Morrison - Water usage for last month was 92,000 gallons..

Need to check water lines near Boy Scout Camp. Water moved some rocks that were holding the water line. When water level goes down will need to backfill and put bigger rocks in.

Sonora pump cannot get in yet for new well. Tank inspection is on hold until weather improves.

We received a letter from the state about a new form for the yearly report on the water system which will go into effect in 1999. We plan on sending the annual water report out with the announcement for the annual meeting.

ROADS - (Reed absent) - Road base and fill applied to various pot holes in the park. Road repair is ongoing. Discussion about road repair for summer. One bid came in concerning road repair. Jordan Way East and Jordan Way West bid at about \$45,000, Miriam about \$2500, and if we do Moses it will be \$8000.

BUILDINGS - (Hawke) - Track lighting has been installed and the upstairs in the Hall has been cleaned up and organized.

TIMBER - Coleman - Two sealed bids came in from loggers for this years' cut.

RECREATION - Snell - Still need to obtain the permit for fishing derby. We are ready for this otherwise. Motion by Coleman and second by Bonner to see if the Boy Scouts would like to furnish \$200 worth of fish, thus allowing the scouts to fish in the morning until 10:00 a.m., provided they are supervised. Motion carried.

HEALTH AND SAFETY - Hague -

EQUIPMENT - (Brown absent) -

FINANCE - Bonner - This month's bills come to \$7912.93, plus \$677.20 which is timber expense for work done by Craig Tolme and was transferred from the timber fund. Motion by Morrison, second by Snell to pay all bills. Motion carried and so ordered.

OLD BUSINESS:

Five acres - The appraisals on the five acres were received on the five acres as a whole and the five acres as seven parcels. There will be a meeting with Tuolumne County regarding the five acres. This will cover the road to Long Barn, maintenance of the road to Long Barn and abandonment of the road to Long Barn by the county.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget - A discussion was held about the proposed 1998-99 budget. Motion by Hague to send proposed budget out with information about the general meeting and the proxies. There will be elections for 3 three-year terms starting in May 1998. Seats up for election are those currently held by Jim Morrison, Richard Bonner, and Fred Coleman.

The regular meeting day for May's Board of Directors Meeting falls on Mother's Day. We will hold the meeting as scheduled. Meeting closed at 10:10 a.m. Next Meeting will be May 10, 1998, at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room at the Recreation Hall.



Park History (continued)

The park would have social events such as barbecues, picnics and Fairs, as fund raisers. We would have a fair with different game booths like pounding a large spike into a big wooden plank with a hammer. If you could do it with three blows you won a prize. One of the Members from Tracy Lodge, Mrs. Lozano, worked in ceramics. She saved the pieces that did not turn out perfect and we used them for a baseball booth where you threw the balls at the plates. The booths usually charged five or ten cents.

Bob Morris did a lot of work in the Park, working with Bob Hodgson, as did many other members. They helped in building the drinking fountain in the picnic area and also the barbecue pit. There was a lot of work and pride in accomplishment done in the Park.

Bob and Mabel Morris sold their two lots some time in the early 50's. Then in 1968, Bob purchased a lot on East Jordan and decided to build a cabin. The place he wanted the cabin located was in a big gully. They had a man come in with a big bulldozer and level the lot. Lowell and Audrey Jackson from Tracy had their cabin complete and Bob and Mabel stayed part of the time with them while working on their own place. They also had a small trailer on the property where they stayed part of the time. Bob did all the work except the fireplace and the shingles on the roof. He fastened the rafters and beams

together with them laying on the frame. Then he strung a pulley from the tree to the shingles on the roof. He fastened the rafters and beams together tree over the center of the cabin. He attached a rope to the top of each rafter and lifted them up by pulling on the rope and setting them in place on the frame. This was quite a fete! I don't know how many sanders we wore out sanding those beams. After the cabin was enclosed that first fall, we spent Thanksgiving there, setting up sheets of plywood and sawhorses for our table and lawn chairs to sit on. It was all very rustic. The cabin was completed in 1970. Bob retired that year and moved into the cabin. It took two years to build the cabin, working weekends and all vacations.

Then in 1970, the bug bit Bob's daughter, Carole and son-in-law, Gideon (Spike) and they bought a lot right across the street from the Jackson's on East Jordan. In 1972, they started their cabin. At one point, they were trying to put the beams up on the frame and they were just too heavy for one person to manage, or so we thought. Along came Tom Jones, the caretaker, and we enlisted his help. He rested the beam on his shoulder and walked up the ladder and set it right where it belonged, just like it was nothing.

We have made many memories and friends over the years and have enjoyed our beautiful Park. We have traveled many places and we know there is no other place like this.

Checks disbursed for March/April 1998

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
3/24	8682	Signs Right Now	101.88
4/8	8683	Twain Harte Lumber	187.52
4/13	8684	US Bank	786.95
4/13	8685	Cal Sierra Disposal	789.93
4/13	8686	Eric A Carlson, Accountant	250.00
4/13	8687	Sonora Insurance	255.15
4/13	8688	George Reed, Inc.	200.24
4/13	8689	General Plumbing	438.08
4/13	8690	Mother Lode Portable Toilets	63.73
4/13	8691	Village Mail Stop	67.86
4/13	8692	Doherty Tire of Sonora	205.69
4/13	8693	W.H. Breshears, Inc	230.17
4/13	8694	AT&T	5.96
4/13	8695	Pacific Bell	58.96
4/13	8696	J. S. West Propane	194.08
4/13	8697	AquaLab	75.00
4/13	8698	PG&E	585.69
4/13	8699	Robert Snell	37.50
4/13	8700	Deena Hague	37.50
4/13	8701	Fred Coleman	56.50
4/13	8702	Jasper Morrison	45.00
4/13	8703	Wayne Harvey	50.00
4/13	8705	Postmaster	112.00
4/13	8706	Randall J. Tolbert	777.58
4/13	8707	Michael W. Caropreso	451.19
4/13	8708	Randall J. Tolbert	777.58
4/13	8709	Michael W. Caropreso	451.19
4/13	8710	US Bank	50.00
4/13	8712	M. Douglas Peters	450.00
4/13	8713	Sierra Resources	677.20
4/13	8714	Doherty Tires of Sonora	70.00
4/30	8715	US Bank	50.00
		Timber expense	677.20
		Tire Repair	70.00
		Employee Deductions	50.00
			8,590.13
			- 677.20
			7912.93



#8704 Voided for misprint
#8713 reimbursed from Timber Reserve.

Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Association
P.O. Box 116
Long Barn, CA 95335

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

U.S. Postage Paid
Bulk Mail
Permit #2
Long Barn, CA 95335