

DATE	NEWSPAPER	HEADLINE	CATEGORY	PEOPLE
1/1/1977	??	Laid-off judge says he'll work for free	Courts	Judge George Francis
1/1/1977	The Tertiary Gravels of the Sierra Nevada of California	The Markleeville Quadrangle:eneral Geoolgy	Geography	
1/1/1977	Sacramento Bee	Alpine's Agony: financial Crisis Solution Is As Thin As Snowpack	Government	Earl O'Neal, Clyde Brooker, Barbara Ryan, Leonard Turnbeaugh, Harold Duarte
1/6/1977	Bee	Amador, Alpine Feel Drought Is Not Over	Weather/Water	
1/7/1977	Sacramento Bee	Bible Is Cited In Asking End Of US Tax Charges	Comitatus	Ruth Gillings, Francis Gillings
1/18/1977	Sacramento Bee	Suit Says Firm Is Left Holding Bags	Courts	
1/23/1977	Sacramento Bee	Crooked Politician Endures	Crime	
2/24/1977	Record Courier	Familiar faces, music? It's the Alpine Trio	Biography	Rita Keebaugh, Chuck Keebaugh, Skip Veatch, Mary Ellen Zellmer, Dave Zellmer, Edie Veatch
2/24/1977	Record Courier	New books at the Alpine library	Library	
3/1/1977	Sacramento Bee	Making It Easier To Vote	Laws	
3/17/1977	Record Courier	Class of '06	History	Otto Heise, Minnie Heitman, Clarence Heitman, Maggie, Heitman, Frieda Heise, Dora Heise, Anna Heise, Ada Fricke, Hilda Heise, Sief Heise, Fred Fricke
3/29/1977	Record Courier	Fusion energy talk	Library	Steve Hibbs
3/31/1977	Record Courier	Unique water saving program at Mt. Reba	Water	Maury Rassuss
4/1/1977	Modesto Bee	Two years after going bankrupt, Bear Valley fights back	Bear Valley	Bruce Orvis
5/28/1977	Stockton Record	Gillings' Sentence Stayed by Judge; Sanity Test Set	Posse Comitatus	Francis Gillings, Ruth Gillings

5/7/1978	Stockton Record	Posse Man' Quits	Posse Comitatus	John Buras, Archie Wood, Stu Merrill
5/7/1978	Sacramento Bee	Fear for his safety forces candidate out	Posse Comitatus	John Buras, Archie Wood, Stu Merrill
5/8/1978	Reno Evening Gazette	Alpine sheriff candidate withdraws from the race	Posse Comitatus	John Buras, Archie Wood, Stu Merrill
5/11/1978	Record Courier	Right Wing' takeover?	Posse Comitatus	John Buras, Archie Wood, Stu Merrill, Chris Smith, Francis Gillings,
5/12/1978	Tahoe Daily Tribune	DA probes voter fraud, perjury	Posse Comitatus /Voting	Chris Smith, John Buras, Francis Gillings, Joan Chacon
5/18/1978	Record Courier	Alpine takeover story was disappointing	Posse Comitatus	Nancy Thornburg, John Buras, Chris Smith
5/18/1978	Record Courier	The real issue in Alpine County	Posse Comitatus	Francis Gillings, Chris Smith
5/18/1978	Record Courier	Diamond Valley students take 1st in video contest	Schools	Jason McKinley, Clay Keebaugh, Dean McKinley, Chuck Keebaugh
5/18/1978	Record Courier	The Alpine Story: Both sides say there's more to it	Posse Comitatus	Nancy Thornburg, Francis Gillings, Don Light, George Acey, Chris Smith
5/18/1978	Record Courier	Attention, food freaks	Community	
5/18/1978	Record Courier	Alpine library sale	Library	
5/23/1978	Los Angeles Times	Bid to Build Right-Wing SanctuaryStirs Concern	Posse Comitatus	Chris Smith, John Buras, Francis Gillings
5/25/1978	Record Courier	The Alpine take-over	Posse Comitatus	Francis Gillings, John Buras, Chris Smith,
5/25/1978	Record Courier	Alpine DA files charges	Posse Comitatus /Voting	Chris Smith, Francis Gillings
6/1/1978	Record Courier	Alpine, Mono to decide tax issue, candidates	Election	Frank Jerauld, Al Chain, Harold Duarte, Jean Martin, Stu Merrill, Archie Wood, John Buras

7/18/1978	Sacramento Bee	Voter Fraud Trial Opens In Alpine	Posse Comitatus /Voting	Hilary Cook, Vernon Essig, Harvey Essig, Roseanna Collins, Elby Collins, John Buras, Archie Wood, Chris Smith
7/28/1978	San Francisco Chronicle	4 Convicted Of Vote Fraud In Alpine County	Posse Comitatus /Voting	John Buras, Vernon Essig, Harvey Essig, Roseanna Collins, Elby Collins
7/28/1978	Sacramento Bee	Four Are Guilty Of Vote Fraud In 'Constitution City" Fight	Posse Comitatus /Voting	Vernon Essig, Harvey Essig, Roseanna Collins, Elby Collins, Chris Smith, Hilary Cook, Archie Wood, John Buras, Francis Gillings, David Gillings, Ruth Gillings
8/3/1978	Sacramento Bee	Vote Fraud Trial Brings Civil Suit	Posse Comitatus /Voting	Vernon Essig, Harvey Essig, Roseanna Collins, Elby Collins, John Buras, Chris Smith
8/3/1978	Sacramento Bee	Right-Wingers Expect Logging OK	Posse Comitatus	Francis Gillings, David Gillings, Chris Smith
8/4/1978	Nevada Appeal	Markleeville voter fraud convictions were railroaded, defendants claim	Posse Comitatus /Voting	Vernon Essig, Harvey Essig, Roseanna Collins, Elby Collins, John Buras, Chris Smith, Francis Gillings
8/4/1978	Sacramento Bee	Right-Wing Group Expected To Win Permit For Alpine County Logging	Posse Comitatus	Francis Gillings, David Gillings, Chris Smith, Ruth Gillings
8/10/1978	Record Courier	The voter fraud case	Posse Comitatus /Voting	Vernon Essig, Harvey Essig, Roseanna Collins, Elby Collins, John Buras, Chris Smith, Francis Gillings, Francis gillings, David Gillings, Stu Merrill
8/19/1978	Nevada State Journal	Markleeville Fraud Trial Resumes	Posse Comitatus /Voting	Vernon Essig, Harvey Essig, Roseanna Collins, Elby Collins, John Buras, Chris Smith
8/27/1978	Eureka Times-Standard	Law, order in Sierras	Biography	Chris Smith
8/27/1978	??	Black brings law, order into High Sierras area	Biography	Chris Smith

11/16/1978	Record Courier	Was how Tribal Council members installed in Alpine ceremony	Washoe	Hilary Cook, Robert Frank, Jean Dexter, Beverly Frank, Katherine Fillmore, Eugene Frank, Romaine Smokeu, Sr., Wayne Snooks, Claudia Wade, Vernon Wyatt, Clare Smokey, Leon Jacobs
11/16/1978	Record Courier	CalTrans invites bidders to Alpine	Roads	
12/7/1978	Record Courier	Suspects held for kidnap	Crime	
12/7/1978	Record Courier	Rockets and jets	Schools	Jerry Price, Eberhart Weidenmeyer, Angie Landaru, Chris Lamp, Jason McKinley, Mark Nagel, Shawn Moore, Matt Olson, John Craik, Lance Lundy, Ernie Reuter, Lorraine Price
12/11/1978	Sacramento Bee	Espensive Alpine Road Proceedes	Roads	Chris Smith
12/14/1978	Record Courier	Genoa's was first History		
12/19/1978	Sacramento Bee	Outsiders' ...Rightist Views Events In Alpine County	Posse Comitatus	Francis Gillings, David Gillings, Ruth Gillings
12/19/1978	Record Courier	Teaching traffic safety awareness to schoolchildren	Schools	Lyn Bawden, Elaine Bawden
12/14/1978	Record Courier	Snowshoe carries the mail; Ponypress rides Kingsbury Grade	History	John Thompson
1/1/1979	Record Courier	Trail drive	History	
1/1/1979	Record Courier	Alpine Bazaar is this weekend	Schools/Event	
1/25/1979	Record Courier	Master plan developed for Diamond Valley School	Schools	Richard Martin
2/8/1979	Record Courier	Chain honored	Award	Al Chain, Ileen Long, Wilton Neddenriep, Lucille Chain
2/8/1979	Record Courier	Kirkwood amateur mog event set	Kirkwood	
4/13/1979	Peninsula Times-Tribune	A real-life hero in alpine County	Posse Comitatus /Voting	Chris Smith, John Buras
4/19/1979	Record Courier	Bear Valley Jazz Festival set	Bear Valley	

				Mike virgin, Cathy Osgood, Renee Soares, Kanani Nahinu, Matt Sagues, Renee Halvorson, Robby Osgood, Kelly Craik, John Craik, Charlene Leffingwell, Rob MacDonald
7/5/1979	Record Courier	Alpine team tours Virginia City	Sports	
7/12/1979	Record Courier	Bear Valley to sponsor bike races	Bear Valley	Joane Roberts
7/17/1979	Nevada State Journal	Old Woodfords Store destroyed by blaze	Fire	Karen Fitch, Stu Merrill
7/18/1979	Record Courier	Woodfords Station burns	Fire	
7/18/1979	Record Courier	Alpiners fizzle	Sports	Renee Soares, Shawn MacDonald, Cathy Osgood, Robby Osgood, Benjie Carmona, Tom Virgin, Jeremy Purdy, Nani Thornburg, g Purdy, Berald Bawden, John Craik, Rob MacDonald
7/19/1979	Record Courier	Thanks but no thanks	Roads	
7/26/1979	Record Courier	Alpine all-stars formed	Sports	Robby Osgood, John Craik, Shane Soares, Leah Jim, Jimmy Osgood, Debbie Osgood, Gerald Bawden, Greg Purdy, Benjie Carmona, Larry Bawden, Mike Sagues, Kerim Imes, Kelly Craik, Cathy Osgood, Nani Thornburg, Debbie Wood, Laura Christensen, Renee Soares, Renee Halvorson, Shawn MacDonald, Rob MacDonald, Michelle Carmona, Mike Virgin, Jeremy Purdy, Jimmy Osgood
8/2/1979	Record Courier	Woodfords store will rebuild	Fire	Melvin Laub, Peter Tomaino, Grant Merrill
8/9/1979	Record Courier	Thanks from Woodfords	Fire	Karen Fitch, Stu Merrill, Becky Thornburg
9/13/1979	Sacramento Bee	Quiet Alpine County Fears Sound Of Growth	Hope Valley	John Anderson, John Haug,ritz Thornburg, Chris Smith

10/25/1979	Record Courier	Alpine Bazaar is Nov. 3 4	Event	
10/27/1979	Sacramento Bee	Alpine County Split On Growth Rule	Government	Chris Gansberg, Dr. Greg Hayes, Stu Merrill, Nancy Thornburg, Chris Smith
11/8/1979	Record Courier	Alpine bazaar earns \$2000	Event	Harold Duarte, Gina Gigli
11/8/1979	Record Courier	Turkey Bingo set	Community	Don Johnson, Joe Scott
11/20/1979	Tahoe Daily Tribune	Lake's water quality lres Alpine residents	Water/Sewage	Dean McKinley, Rich Harvey
11/20/1979	Tahoe Daily Tribune	Gigantic magnet remains overnight in Hope Valley	Roads	
11/21/1979	Sacramento Bee	3 Sides Clash Over Water Quality	Water/Sewage	Dr. Richard Harvey
11/28/1979	Tahoe Daily Tribune	Sewer district may seek new reservoir	Sewage	
11/29/1979	Record Courier	All-Conference player	Schools/Sports	Lesly Price
11/29/1979	Record Courier	1979-80 ski season opens at Kirkwood	Kirkwood	Glen Jobe
12/6/1979	Record Courier	Washoe Tribe describes progress	Washoe	Deirdre Jones, Claudia Wade, Kevin Jones, Belma Jones, Larry Kuhl
12/6/1979	Sacramento Bee	Tahoe Expansion Harm Could Be Severe, EPA Says	Sewage	
12/7/1979	Sacramento Bee	Sewage Effluent Rules Toughened	Sewage	Chris Smith, Nancy Thornburg, Miles Celio, Fritz Thornburg
12/20/1979	Record Courier	Peugeot Grand Prix West at Kirkwood	Kirkwood	
12/24/1979	Sacramento Bee	Ski Area Aid...Kirkwood Seeks US Bailout	Kirkwood	Bill Sim
12/25/1979	??	Canadian university gives photographs to Washoe Tribe	Washoe	Dat So La Lee, Scees Bryant Possock, Lizzie Toby Peters, Jennie Bryant Shaw, Tillie Snooks, Sarah Jim Mayo, Maggie Mayo James, Lena Frank dick, Lillie Frank James, Bob Frank, John Frank, Bruce Jones
1/20/1980	Sacramento Bee	Kirkwood Will Get Condo Project	Kirkwood	Bill Sim, Dennis Morgan

1/31/1980	Record Courier	Program scheduled	Library	
1/31/1980	Record Courier	Balcon	Obituary	Harold Duarte, Mary Duarte
2/3/1980	Nevada State Journal	Markleeville Art	Arts	Gina Gigli, Ruggero Gigli, Frank Jerauld
3/6/1980	San Francisco Chronicle	Alpine; The county that wouldn't grow	History/Community	Fred Dressler, Manuel Dick
3/13/1980	Valley News	Man convicted on tax count	Posse Comitatus	John Buras, Francis Gillings, Chris Smith
3/21/1980	Sacramento Bee	Kirkwood Denied US Loan	Kirkwood	Bill Sim, Dennis Morgan
3/21/1980	Playboy	Alpine County Revisited	Gay Liberation Front	
3/29/1980	Record Courier	Rancher seeks rustlers who slaughtered bull	Crime	Hubert Bruns
4/24/1980	Record Courier	Alpine flea market	Event	Jeanine Sagues
4/24/1980	Record Courier	Lesly Price will compete for Queen	Competition/Community	Lesly Price, Gerald Price, Jeannine Price
4/24/1980	Record Courier	Indian Creek campground to open Friday	Recreation	
5/1/1980	Record Courier	White water talk	Library Bob Wall	
5/1/1980	Record Courier	BLM to hold wilderness meeting in Alpine	Environment	
5/8/1980	Record Courier	VICA boys win awards	Schools/Awards	Jeff Colescott, Nate Bawden, George Chavez
5/15/1980	Record Courier	Douglas 4-H'ers make clean sweep of beef contests at state show	4 H	Tami Gansberg, Whit Hall, Kim Hall, Michele Berg, Darlene Stephenson, Cami Stephens, Sam Chacon, Greg Price, David Price, Jeannine Price
5/22/1980	Record Courier	Three Nevadans, one Californian arrested in shooting incident	Crime	Richard Rowland
5/25/1980	San Jose Mercury News	County called vulnerable to takeover	Posse Comitatus	Francis Gillings, Ruth Gillings, Frank Jerauld, Nancy Thornburg, Don Jardine, Chris Smith

5/25/1980	Record Courier	Stress in Sierra; Alpine County has by, problems	Biography/Business	Roger Hertz, Betty Hertz, Chris Smith, Doris Geddry
5/29/1980	Record Courier	Public Notice	Roads	Lake Alpine
5/29/1980	Record Courier	Tri-County fair celebrates 25 years	Event	
5/29/1980	Record Courier	Douglas High students inducted into National Honor Society	Schools/Awards	Carolyn Reuter, Jenny Thornburg
6/5/1980	Record Courier	Smokey the Bear	Schools	
6/12/1980	Record Courier	Diamond Valley graduation is tonight	Schools	Deirdre Jones, John Craik, Sam Lacey, Shawn Moore, Charlene Leffingwell, Mike Madeiros, Eberhard Weidenmeyer, Matt Olson, Lucinda Wilker, Ronica Schopke, David Cruz, Nicole Sanford
6/12/1980	Record Courier	Program held in Alpine First joint Officer Bill	Public Safety	Lynn Bawden, Wayne Thomson, Pam Ertle, Bill Colescott, Hurd Armstrong
7/24/1980	Record Courier	Mothers plan bazaar	Event	Harriet Kelly, Jeannine Price, Jeanne Reuter, Jean Martin, Pat Buchannon, Bernice Van Hoy, Jan Kinney
7/31/1980	Record Courier	New hours at Grover's Springs	Hot Springs	
7/31/1980	Record Courier	Bluegrass benefit to be held	Event	Doris Geddry, Dean McKinley
8/7/1980	Record Courier	Alpine Community Forum on Aging to be held Aug. 14	Social Services	Ruth Summerfield
8/7/1980	Record Courier	Gourmet cook	Business	Bobby D'Amico
7/14/1980	Record Courier	Mountain swimmers take the ribbons	Sports	Ginger Craik, Renee Soares, Shane Soares, Jeff Wood, Jim Osgood, Lynn Kelly, Kanani Nahinu, Keith Nagel, Rob Osgood, Mike Sagues, Scott Robinson, Kelli Lingelbach, Kelly Craik, Debbie Wood, John Craik, Gerald Bawden, Matt Sagues, Larry Bawden
8/14/1980	Record Courier	Three compete for Miss Washoe Tribe title	Washoe	Cheryl Dutchy

10/30/1980	Record Courier	Holiday Bazaar	Event	Harriet Kelly, Edie Veatch, Danny Kelly, Renee Halvorson, David Price, Jason Warren, Alicia Armstrong, Jessica James, Lila Bradley, Tom Kelly, Jimmy Osgood, Keri Cason
10/30/1980	Record Courier	Washoe Tribe plans industrial park	Washoe	
11/6/1980	Record Courier	Alpine Bazaar	Event	Jeannine Price, Jan Alessio, Patti Assay, Ellie O'Toole, Mina Wood, Valerie Lingelbach, Donna Soares, Margie Stephens, Jan Kinney, Pat Buchannan, Linda Helsel, Barbara Jones, Edie Veatch, Nancy Schrom, Bernice Van Hoy, Karen Robinson, Jeanne Reuter, Carolyn Reuter
11/6/1980	Record Courier	Diamond Valley runners place	Schools/Sports	David Price, Jeremy Purdy, Jimmy Osgood, Sheila Reuter, Rob Osgood, Ben Carmona
11/20/1980	Record Courier	Mothers' Club thanks supporters	Event	Jeannine Price, Edie Veatch, Valerie, Lingelbach, Barbara Walsh, Barbara Ryan, Doris Geddry, Pat Buchannan, Dorothy McKemy, Janet Bradley, Barbara Gist, Patty Clark, Glenda Gillies, Virginia Cook, Jan Kinny, Margaret Colescott, June Barrett, Jim Clark, Paula Pennington, Linda Helsel, Sara Jones, Clyde Brooker, Vera Purdy, Colores Clark, Marie Mathe, Ellen Gansberg, Ray Martin, Eln Lloyd
12/19/1980	Record Courier	More News	Courts	
1/9/1971	Tahoe Daily Tribune	Words from St. Pud	Sewage	

3/5/1981	Record Courier	DHS student in Bank of America program	Schools	Carolyn Reuter, Mary Colescott, Jenny Thornburg
3/12/1981	Record Courier	New Alpine preschool opens	Schools	Kate Harvey, Patti Asay, Jo Daugherty
3/12/1981	Record Courier	Alpine teacher commutes to Tahoe--Daily	Biography	Eileen Merrill, Eric Merrill, Cathy Merrill, Stu Merrill
3/12/1981	Record Courier	Area girls vie for county title	Competition/Community	Carolyn Reuter
3/22/1981	San Francisco Chronicle	Welcome to Alpine County and So Long	Community	Nancy Thornburg
3/27/1981	Tahoe Daily Tribune	Words from St. Pud	Sewage	
3/30/1981	Tahoe Daily Tribune	Kirkwood district forming	Government	Fred Jones
3/31/1984	Tahoe Daily Tribune	Conservation awards announced	Sewage	
3/31/1984	Tahoe Daily Tribune	Short: Ski report	Kirkwood	
4/3/1981	Tahoe Daily Tribune	Words from St. Pud	Sewage	
4/3/1981	Tahoe Daily Tribune	STPUD finds another breaks own	Sewage	
4/5/1981	Sacramento Bee	Pass Is Town's Lifeline	Roads/Community	Frank Jerauld, George Fernandez, Roger Hertz
4/10/1981	Tahoe Daily Tribune	Little-known disease can spoil outings	Recreation/Health	
4/12/1981	Modesto Bee	Beleaguered Markleeville will try to clear Monitor pass	Roads/Community	Frank Jerauld, George Fernandez, Roger Hertz
4/17/1981	Tahoe Daily Tribune	Sierra Ski Scene	Kirkwood	
4/17/1981	Tahoe Daily Tribune	Grover Hot Springs under repair	Hot Springs	

6/11/1981	Record Courier	Douglas High Sch graduates 191 seniors	Schools/Awards	Carolyn Reuter, Mary Colescott, Jenny Thornburg
6/11/1981	Record Courier	Gone Fishin' ; Where to go?	Fishing	
6/12/1981	Record Courier	Cyclists prepare for Coors Classic with altitude training	Bicycle	
6/18/1981	Record Courier	Alpine County. -- if you like the outdoors this is the place	Recreation	Dorothy Johnson
6/18/1981	Record Courier	Alpine swimmers set team records	Sports	Matt Ssagues, Renee Soares, Jeff Wood, Mike Sagues, Debbie Wood, Jimmy Osgood, Becky Sturgeon, Kanani Nahinu, Gerald Bawden, Kelly Craik, John Craik
7/2/1981	Record Courier	Alpine swimmers improve	Sports	Robby Osgood, Renee Halvorson, Kelly Cr John Craik, Paula Sandell, Gerald Bawden, Jeff Wood, Debbie Wood, Matt Sagues, Mike Sagues
6/18/1981	Record Courier	Rafting down the river	Recreation	
6//23/81	Tahoe Daily Tribune	A weathered Fence	Hope Valley	
7/2/1981	Tahoe Daily Tribune	Teen holds on to job by economic fingernails	Social Services	Jimmy Martin
7/2/1981	Record Courier	Gone Fishin' - Try a new approach	Fishing	
7/2/1981	Record Courier	Here's what to do on the Fourth of July	Event	
7/8/1981	Record Courier	Scott Robinson	History	Scott Robinson
7/9/1981	Record Courier	Overnight camping trip becomes fifth grade tradition	Schools	Dick Martin
7/9/1981	Record Courier	Gone Fishin' Bait close to home	Fishing	
7/9/1981	Record Courier	American Holiday	Recreation	
8/6/1981	Sacramento Bee	Would-be Silver Barons Face Emotional Land Mines	Mining	Dave Griffith, Steve Lloyd
8/6/1981	Record Courier	Volunteer staff publishes Alpine County newspaper	Communication	Greg Hayes, Nancy Thornburg

12/17/1981	Record Courier	Hemsath leads Tigers past Whittell 66-52	Schools/Sports	Greg Price
12/17/1981	Record Courier	A Grimacing David Price	Schools/Sports	David Price, Vincent Bryan, Jeremy Purdy
12/24/1981	Record Courier	Herman Hellwinkel	Obituary	Herman Hellwinkel, Hubert Bruns
12/24/1981	Record Courier	Old man winter	Water/Hope Valley	
12/31/1981	Record Courier	CVMS announces students of the month	Schools/Awards	Joan Chacon, Sam Chacon
12/31/1981	Record Courier	DHS math students take prizes	Schools/Awards	John Craik
12/31/1981	Christian Science Monitor	Alpine's pantomime millionaires	Census	Joan Chacon

Laid-off judge says he'll work for free

By AL MURRELL
Staff Writer

After learning Thursday night that he was being dismissed in a budget cutback after 25 years as a Long Beach Superior Court judge, George Francis decided he would "help out for awhile" by working for nothing.

Francis, who initiated a system which has saved the county millions of dollars in trial costs, was told his courtroom was going to be one of eight closed in an economic cutback ordered by the county Superior Court's executive committee.

The final decision to close four courts in downtown Los Angeles and one each in Long Beach, Norwalk, Torrance and Pasadena, effective Tuesday, was confirmed Thursday afternoon by Presiding Judge William P. Hogoboom.

INCLUDED in that decision was the dismissal of eight judicial officers—four "assigned judges" like Francis who have retired and stayed on the bench and four court commissioners.

"It's just one of those things," Hogoboom said in a telephone interview. "There is nothing else we can do. We have to cut back to operate within our budget."

He said he was not sure whether judicial officers in Torrance and Norwalk would be dismissed or whether judges would be transferred downtown.

When Hogoboom talked with Francis by telephone Thursday night, the Long Beach judge said he would be willing to take his pension and continue working.



JUDGE GEORGE FRANCIS

Francis even agreed to meet with Long Beach Supervising Judge Carroll Dunnum today to decide what staff cutbacks could be made in his courtroom.

Francis said he would be willing to give up his court reporter and borrow someone from another court when he needs one.

The 75-year-old judge has been presiding over settlement conferences—his own innovation—for the past 18 years.

Hailed as the "genius of the settlement conference," Francis has settled more than 6,000 civil lawsuits which otherwise would have taken some 30,000 court-days to try and cost the taxpayers more than \$30 million.

Wagner, Waldemar; The Tertiary Gravels of the
Sierra Nevada of California. Washington:
G. P. O., 1911, repr. 1977. Dept. of the Interior,
U. S. G. S. Distributed & printed by the American
Trading Company, Bellevue, Washington.

CHAPTER 17. THE MARKLEEVILLE QUADRANGLE.

GENERAL GEOLOGY.

The Markleeville quadrangle adjoins the Pyramid Peak quadrangle on the east. The California-Nevada State line passes through it diagonally from Lake Tahoe on the northwest to Antelope Valley on the southeast. In California the area comprises small parts of Eldorado and Mono counties and the larger part of Alpine County. The Nevada portion lies in Douglas County. No geologic map of this quadrangle has been issued, but the main features are known from reconnaissance work by H. W. Turner in earlier years and by the writer and H. C. Hoover in 1895. (See Pl. I. in pocket.) The southwestern part includes the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada; along the eastern boundary extends the first of the ranges of the Great Basin, the Pine Nut Mountains, separated from the Sierra by a low pass. North of this pass, at an elevation of 5,000 feet, lies the broad and flat Carson Valley, reaching from the gentle slope of the Pine Nut Mountains on the east to the abrupt scarp of the Sierra south of Carson. South of the pass opens the Antelope Valley, drained by West Walker River, which in the extreme southeast corner of the quadrangle hugs another steep escarpment of the great range. The highest points of the Sierra, in this quadrangle, fall a little short of 11,000 feet in elevation.

The western part of the quadrangle is essentially a high, glaciated ridge of granite and granodiorite, beginning on the north in the narrow buttress rising between Lake Tahoe and Carson Valley. Along the southern edge of the quadrangle granitic rocks reach across to West Walker River and form the steep escarpment west of Antelope Valley. Most of the rock is granodiorite. North of Hope Valley, extending up to Jobs Peak, the granodiorite is replaced by a normal quartz monzonite or granite similar to that which in the quadrangle to the west forms the conspicuous Pyramid Peak range. Almost everywhere the granitic rocks are jointed and fissured, in strong contrast to conditions farther down on the west slope. This jointing is especially developed in Charity Valley (Pl. VII, B, p. 32); in Summit Creek, southeast of Round Top, and in the West Carson Canyon. The most prominent joints strike north or north-northwest and dip from 40° to 80° east or west. At the Blue Lakes and Indian Valley the direction is east and west.

A few small bodies of metamorphosed sedimentary rocks are embedded in the granite or granodiorite and have suffered much change from both regional and contact metamorphism. All of them present characteristics suggesting identity with the Triassic and Jurassic rocks appearing near the granite contact in the Pyramid Peak and Truckee quadrangles. One of these areas near Stevens Peak is conspicuous by the bright-red color of the outcrops and consists of black clay slates, quartzitic schists, and some limestone. The schist near Fredericksburg, at the mouth of the West Carson Canyon, is composed largely of amphibolite. A somewhat larger area of metamorphic rocks is exposed at the northern edge of the quadrangle from the Hot Springs to Genoa. The rocks are in part amphibolitic greenstones, but siliceous slates and clay slates are also present and dip west at moderate angles. The schist areas in the Pine Nut Mountains which, south of the Mountain House, extend up to the State line are somewhat different and consist chiefly of light-gray slates, in places altered to knotty schists. Highly pressed conglomerates with flat pebbles are also present. The areas exposed are not large.

The volcanic rocks which cover the larger part of the quadrangle are divisible into two distinct series. The first comprises the main area of volcanic rocks in the center of the quadrangle with scattered patches resting on the uneven granite surface of the western part of the quadrangle. These rocks are identical with the andesitic flows and tuffs that cover so large

a part of the western slope of the Sierra. Their period of eruption falls in the latest part of the Tertiary. The rocks are little altered by static metamorphism and their rough dark-brown outcrops are very characteristic. Both hornblende andesites and pyroxene andesites are present and minor areas of rhyolite and basalt are also found. The andesites are largely breccias, in places tuffaceous, but generally not so plainly stratified as the tuffs of the western slope. Necks and masses of solid andesite penetrate the breccias at many points, and it seems likely that the points of eruption for a large part of the flows of the western slope were located in this vicinity. The thickness of the andesitic masses is very considerable; near Silver Mountain a section between 3,000 and 4,000 feet thick is exposed.

Igneous rocks of a different class are exposed in the Pine Nut Mountains. There is a small area of granite at the summit about 8 miles northeast of Mountain House and small areas of diorite near the north end of the range, but with these exceptions the Pine Nut Mountains consist chiefly of porphyritic rocks of a great variety, but showing throughout the characters of surface flows. Hornblende andesites, pyroxene andesites, light-colored rhyolitic rocks, and some diabase breccia are all represented. The outcrops form yellowish-brown, rather smooth hills, contrasting strongly with the rough reddish outcrops of the andesites of the Sierra. The rocks of the Pine Nut Mountains are throughout somewhat altered by chloritization and present unquestionably an older aspect than the andesites, which, moreover, near the Mountain House distinctly overlie them. The Pine Nut Mountains are continued northward by the Virginia Range and at least a large part of the igneous rocks of that range are probably older than the andesites of the Sierra Nevada.

The higher region of the western part of the quadrangle was covered by glaciers in Quaternary time, but they mainly extended toward the west and probably in no place reached the level of Carson Valley.

STRUCTURAL FEATURES.

At least three main dislocations of the fault system of the eastern slope traverse the Markleeville quadrangle. Along the southern boundary line the main granite mass of the Sierra extends across the quadrangle to Antelope Valley, where a steep eastward-facing escarpment marks the most southerly of the fault lines. This steep escarpment, from 3,000 to 4,000 feet in height, continues in a north-northwesterly direction, with gradually decreasing height, as far north as Mountain House, where the Pine Nut Range may be said to begin. The relation of this part of the Pine Nut Mountains to the scarp is not quite clear.

The second fault line extends from the vicinity of Silver Mountain and Grovers Springs to the mouth of West Carson Canyon and northward to Genoa and Carson. The escarpment marking this line attains its greatest height at Monument Peak, where an unbroken slope of 5,200 feet in $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles descends to the level of Carson Valley.

The third fault line is that following the western shore of Lake Tahoe; about 10 miles south of the lake this fault appears to bend to the west and join the dislocation on the west side of the lake.

It has been shown that the depression of Lake Tahoe already existed in the early part of Tertiary time.¹ This last-mentioned fault scarp, then, is of considerable antiquity and there is no evidence whatever that faulting, even on a small scale, has recurred along it in post-Tertiary time. The slopes are fairly steep and from 2,000 to 3,000 feet in height, but, unlike the eastern slope, the lower declivities are usually more gentle than the upper. West of Luthers Pass this fault has apparently died out entirely and farther south the main block of the Sierra continues unbroken until the Genoa fault line is reached.

In a similar manner the Genoa fault line dies out south of Markleeville and, as stated above, at the southern edge of the quadrangle the main block of the Sierra continues unbroken to the escarpment at Antelope Valley. South of West Carson Canyon the andesite lies piled up against the Genoa fault scarp and there is no indication that any postvolcanic movement has taken place along this part of the line. But from the vicinity of Woodfords northward the

¹ Truckee folio (No. 39), Geol. Atlas U. S., U. S. Geol. Survey, 1897.

conditions change entirely. The escarpment increases in height and steepness. Carson River flows its eastern base closely and swampy meadows actually reach the very foot of the fault scarp. At least three successive dislocations have taken place along this fault line. Some movement has occurred within the last 50 years. From Walleys Hot Springs to Genoa the scarp rises with extreme abruptness and cloud-bursts have often carried enormous boulders far out in the valley. The precipitous slopes are practically denuded of forests and more landslides may be expected. The slope is steepest close to the valley and gradually lessens with increasing height. This characteristic alone strongly suggests dislocation. A mile north of Genoa evidences of recent disturbance begin. At this place a *débris* fan is clearly faulted. At Walleys Hot Springs a distinct fault line at the foot of the escarpment can be traced for 2,000 feet, within which distance the small *débris* fans at the mouths of the gulches are faulted, the scarp being about 40 feet high. Between the little gullies the fault cuts the solid rock, which is extremely crushed; large blocks show slickensides and striated faces coated with quartz and calcite; seams of these minerals also traverse the granitic rock in all directions. Just at the face of the fault are several outcrops of a rusty-looking rock having the appearance of a fissure vein which has been deposited by the hot water along the fault plane before being exposed by this last dislocation. A shaft about 50 feet deep has been sunk here and the material is said to contain some gold.

An enormous amount of water issues as springs along this dislocation. One mile south of Sheridan probably 1,000 gallons a minute issues within a quarter of a mile at the very foot of the projecting shoulder of Jobs Peak; one of these springs is tepid. About 2 or 3 miles farther north are more exceptionally large springs and beyond this begins the line of Walleys Hot Springs, 2,000 feet long; these come out so continuously along this distance that the aggregate volume is probably large. The temperature at the hottest spring is 146° F. The water is rich in hydrogen sulphide, but contains so little of the dissolved salt that it can be used for irrigation. No spring deposits are formed. According to an analysis by J. Warren Phillips the chemical composition of the water is as follows:

<i>Analysis of water at Walleys Hot Springs.</i>		Parts per million.
Sodium sulphate.....	.....	212.808
Potassium sulphate.....	.....	11.605
Calcium sulphate.....	.....	37.602
Sodium hyposulphite.....	.....	6.930
Sodium bicarbonate.....	.....	11.065
Sodium borate.....	.....	29.816
Sodium chloride.....	.....	81.900
Silica.....	.....	48.900
Alumina.....	.....	.500
Ammonia.....	.....	.035
Carbon dioxide.....	.....	111.109
		552.270

The relation of the alluvium of Carson Valley and the escarpment is sufficient proof of a downthrow on the east side of the dislocation.

Other evidence tends to show that a dislocation had already taken place along this line in Cretaceous or early Tertiary time. In examining this question the general configuration of the Tertiary surface must be considered. The summits of the main granite ridges of the quadrangle show in places characteristic gentle slopes which break off abruptly into scarps of faulting or erosion. It is held that these gentle slopes represent the remnants of an old topography which far antedates the andesitic flows, the gravels, and probably the entire Tertiary period. At Luthers Pass a conspicuous wind gap is cut about 1,500 feet below the gentle slopes. This remarkable depression connects with a similar one across Little Truckee River, in the Pyramid Peak quadrangle, and the latter is clearly shown to have been the valley of the Tertiary American River. Where the upper headwaters of this stream, east of Luthers Pass, were situated it is possible to say, for about 600 feet below it now extends the broad and gentle depression

of Hope Valley containing the headwaters of West Fork of Carson River. The inference is that owing to dislocations along the eastern base the West Carson, at some epoch long prior to the andesitic flows, captured the headwaters of American River and within the area occupied by them carved a depression several hundred feet below the old level of the American. The contact lines of andesite and granite show that at the time of the andesitic flows Hope Valley existed much in its present form. The river, now as then, traverses it in gentle meanders and its outlet at the time just prior to the andesitic flows was through West Carson Canyon, which then was less deep and had an even stream bed of moderate grade. In the canyon, flows of andesite now descend to an elevation of 7,200 feet, but not lower. The present character of the canyon and the relation of the andesite areas bear testimony to a recent rejuvenation of the powers of the stream and it is concluded that the postandesitic faulting at the mouth of the canyon amounted to about 2,000 feet. It is only a matter of time when the river will cut back farther and change the gentle slopes of the valley to abrupt canyon sides.

The Tertiary surface of the range in the western part of the Markleeville quadrangle presented a strongly accentuated topography, with broad, open valleys, above which the granitic ridges rose to heights of 3,000 and 4,000 feet. The details can not be traced out at all points, because this whole block has been greatly crushed by the stresses effecting the uplift of the Sierra and in many places within the block faulting parallel to that of the main scarp has taken place.

The two branches of Carson River, referred to as East Fork and West Fork, exhibit some striking differences which are due to the postvolcanic disturbances. The East Fork traverses from south to north the entire main volcanic area and, so far as can be seen, has not been affected by later faulting. This stream is throughout well graded and flows for the most part in an open valley lined with gravel terraces, the highest of which are about 100 feet above the river level. The terraces are probably due to recent sinking movements in Carson Valley.

The West Fork, on the other hand, crossed the escarpment in West Carson Canyon and at that place has so greatly increased its grade that it now forms a succession of cascades and rapids. In front of this canyon, between the granitic escarpment and the main volcanic area, an immense mass of débris, partly angular and partly waterworn, has been lodged. This débris clearly represents the material excavated in the canyon since the late Tertiary dislocation. At first glance it is difficult to understand why a postandesitic depression of 2,000 feet should not have affected the volcanic area drained by the East Fork. The answer is that it undoubtedly did affect that area, but that the dislocation along the scarp passed into a gradual flexure in the andesites.

Carson Valley, in the northern part of the quadrangle, is about 12 miles wide and forms a plain sloping gradually from an elevation of 5,000 feet at the foothills of the Pine Nut Mountains to about 4,700 feet at the foot of the escarpment. No remains of the deposits of the lake which in Quaternary time filled the lower part of the Carson drainage basin and which was designated by Russell Lake Lahontan are found in this part of the valley. At Dayton the level of the lake was determined by Russell to lie at an elevation of 4,375 feet, and it is therefore unlikely that this lake ever extended to the Carson Valley, above the city of Carson.

To the east of Carson Valley extends a wide area of gently westward sloping foothills, above which, at an elevation of 6,500 feet, project the more abrupt ridges of the Pine Nut Mountains. These foothills are covered by beds of volcanic tuff and fine gravel, which uniformly dip about 5° W. They are apparently overlain by or change into normal andesite tuffs near the East Fork of Carson River, but they are later than the older (early Tertiary or Cretaceous) andesite of the Pine Nut Mountains. They are regarded as of later Tertiary age and their present position shows that they were tilted westward probably by the same movement which now tends to sink Carson Valley. The whole trend of the evidence therefore tends to show a differential sinking of the area from the foot of the main escarpment to the Pine Nut Mountains and produces the impression of an even tilt of the sunken area toward the west.

The steepness and evenness of the main granitic fault scarp of Antelope Valley, in the extreme southeastern part of the quadrangle, suggest topographic youth, and this suggestion

Confirmed by the entire absence of debris fans and by the way in which West Walker River follows the base of the escarpment. There are at this place no volcanic rocks, but additional evidence of postandesitic displacement is found in the peculiar relations in Slinkards Valley. This valley occupies a longitudinal depression parallel to the main scarp; whether this depression is erosional or structural is left undecided. It is now filled by an even sheet of debris sloping northward after the manner of such accumulations at the bases of desert ranges. At the lower (north) end of the valley this sheet ceases abruptly, the valley contracts, and a canyon begins which swings to the east and cuts across the main escarpment. The vertical distance of 500 feet between the lower end of the Slinkards Valley debris fan and the level of Antelope Valley is held to indicate the amount of postandesitic displacement along this scarp.

MINERAL DEPOSITS.

The mineral deposits of the Markleeville quadrangle comprise several types not usually found on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada. There are practically no Tertiary auriferous gravels underlying the andesite in the bedrock depressions, nor are there any Quaternary gravels of much importance. A little placer work was done in the Silver King district, in the southeast corner, and some Quaternary gravels have been washed on the western slope of the Pine Nut Mountains. The oldest deposits are probably those in the metamorphic area in the granitic region. Near Genoa the amphibolites contain some copper and gold. The metamorphosed sediments near Stevens Peak and Hope Valley contain, near the contact with the granodiorite and limestone, contact-metamorphic deposits carrying pyrrhotite, chalcopyrite, and bornite, the principal gangue mineral being garnet. These deposits contain principally gold, copper, and silver and have yielded a moderate production.

In the Pine Nut Mountains are contained gold-bearing quartz veins, which, however, are narrow and irregular in extent and pay. The Red Canyon mines are entirely in the granite and have been worked to some extent. Others are found in the old andesites. Most of the gold is apparently contained in the sulphides and is set free by oxidation. The andesites also contain large zones of solfataric alteration in which deposits yielding principally silver have been found.

The most important deposits economically are contained in the central mass of andesite southeast of Markleeville, near Monitor, and also somewhat farther south at Silver Mountain. Near Monitor an area comprising many square miles has been altered by thermal waters to propylitic rock in which abundant epidote and chlorite have developed. The altered rocks comprise both breccias and massive andesite. In the central area, between Mount Bullion, Monitor, Mogul, and Leviathan, the rocks have suffered extreme alteration and now appear as white, yellow, and red outcrops consisting of jaspery and chalcedonic rocks as well as kaolin. In places these rocks are rich in sulphides, principally pyrite, but also argentite and various rich silver antimonides. Zinc blende, chalcopyrite, pyrargyrite, enargite, and galena also occur. No well-defined veins could be seen. The copper occurs principally near Mogul and Leviathan.

In the Mogul and Monitor district the claims affording the principal production are said to have been, from south to north, the Colorado, North Colorado, Polaris, Stella, and Orion, the latter two near Mogul. The district has yielded principally silver, but also some gold.

In the Silver Mountain district similar ores have been found, the valuable part of which is said to have consisted of pyrargyrite. The only deposit from which a considerable production has been derived is said to be the IXL-Exchequer, from which many years ago ore to the value of \$100,000 is reported to have been taken.

These districts were discovered many years ago, and from 1860 to 1880 were the scene of extensive mining operations. The total production has probably not exceeded \$1,000,000. The ores proved difficult to treat and during the last 30 years the production has been almost negligible. From 1896 to 1908 the total output of Alpine County was only \$42,430 in gold and \$5,921 in silver.

Alpine's Agony

Financial Crisis Solution Is As Thin As Snowpack

By MIKE DUNNE
Bee Correspondent

MARKLEEVILLE — Alpine County officials who have been weathering a financial crisis since the start of the fiscal year are eyeing the future with an optimism as thin as the surrounding snowpack.

First, the situation at the start of the fiscal year in July:

—Officials of the state's smallest county had to borrow \$160,000 from the only bank in town to compensate for mounting delinquent property taxes that had accumulated over the previous two years.

—Salaries for the county's approximately 50 employees were frozen. The last raise they received was in July 1975.

—The general fund budget for the 1976-77 fiscal year was slashed \$110,000 from the previous year's spending plan and ended up \$140,000 less than the total requested by department heads.

—The county's outstanding property taxes totaled nearly \$390,000, a delinquency rate of 26 per cent. The delinquencies jumped from \$22,000 (4 per cent) at the end of the 1973-74 fiscal year, to \$162,000 (22 per cent) at the end of the 1974-75 fiscal

year and to \$206,000 (26 per cent) at the end of the last fiscal year.

—The county's tax rate was boosted to the maximum allowed by law, \$3.74 per \$100 assessed valuation, up 74 cents from the previous year's levy.

Now, the encouraging signs:

—The county collected a total \$296,175 in property tax revenue for the first installment due Dec. 10, leaving a balance of \$36,294 that was not paid. The delinquency rate dropped to 23 per cent, 2 per cent less than the projection at the start of the fiscal year. County officials are cautious in interpreting the slight boost in revenue.

"The trend is almost identical to the past two years," said Earl O'Neal, the county's budget adviser.

"We're going up, but not at breakneck speed," said acting Treasurer-Tax Collector Clyde Brooker, who noted that the income reflected a substantial boost in the county's tax rate. "It's improved a little bit, but not enough to jump up and down about."

—The county's general fund ended the 1976 calendar year with a balance of \$143,395, up \$45,000 from the balance at the same time a year ago. This year's balance, however, in-

cludes the remaining \$33,000 of the \$160,000 loan, noted Auditor-Recorder Barbara Ryan. She, too, is cautious in interpreting the figures, noting that the county can expect little revenue between now and the second property tax installment in April. In addition, the loan fund is dwindling. When the loan is exhausted, county officials may have to return to the bank to borrow additional funds.

—Concerning the loan, which was taken out at 4.25 per cent interest, county officials ended calendar year 1976 by making the first payment of \$80,000 in principal and \$1,416 in interest.

—Halfway through the fiscal year, county expenditures totaled nearly half of the appropriated funds, indicating that departments are staying within their budgets. "We are pleased to be holding to the tight budget," said O'Neal.

—Although O'Neal expects to prepare another tight budget for the 1977-78 fiscal year, he is optimistic that the county will have enough funds to grant employees a raise. That will come as encouraging news to county workers, who are becoming restless about the pay freezes, said Leonard Turnbeaugh, an engineer-surveyor in the county's public works department and president of the county's employees association.

"The cost of living is continuing to increase," said Turnbeaugh. "This is a bad way to finance local government," he added, referring to the wage freeze. "It costs as much for us to live as anybody else. Some people are saying, 'If I have to borrow money to pay my bills, why can't the county borrow money to pay its bills?'"

Although county salary negotiations are a few months away,

the employees association is beginning to ponder its options, including possible requests for a pay hike to cover cost of living increases over the past two years and for merit step raises to pick up boosts that were skipped during the past two years, said Turnbeaugh.

—Although the Sierra snowpack is shallow, it is deep enough for the county's ski resorts to operate their lifts, stimulating the local economy, increasing county income from sales, gasoline and room taxes and reducing unemployment, which boosts the county's welfare expenses when the resorts are unable to operate.

Ironically, the ski resorts have been unfairly blamed for the county's financial woes, believe some county officials. O'Neal, for example, noted that the tax delinquencies stem primarily from subdivision developments and condominiums associated with the bankrupt Bear Valley Development Co. and the Kirkwood Meadows Ski Area, not the ski facilities themselves.

O'Neal also pointed out that although the Bear Valley area's tax delinquencies totaled nearly \$160,000 during the past year, the area had contributed nearly \$360,000 to the county treasury. Delinquencies at Kirkwood Meadows totaled nearly \$42,000, but the area, including the resort, also added \$226,000 to the coffers, said O'Neal.

He also noted that the Bear Valley Development Co. should not be confused with its neighboring ski area, Mt. Reba, Inc., which is solvent and nondelinquent in its taxes.

Alpine County authorities, long proud of the area's reputation for fiscal stability, have been em-

See Page B1, Col. 3.

See. Bee

Ps. 1

Suit Says Firm Is Left Holding Bags

SUSANVILLE—Sierra Pacific Industries claims in a lawsuit that it has been left with 185,000 bags of bark that will cost \$20,000 to destroy.

Sierra Pacific Industries filed the suit in Lassen County Superior Court against Far West Forests and Ted Lewis, address not listed.

The complaint says that Far West

Forests agreed to purchase 300,000 bags of bark, but only picked up 115,000 bags. The remaining 185,000 bags, valued at \$133,000, are awaiting pickup at Sierra Pacific Industries' Susanville plant.

The firm claims it has been unable to find another purchaser for the bark.

A judgment of \$153,000 is being asked.

Ps. 1

Alpine Agonizes

Sac. Bee

Over Financial Crisis

Continued From Page B1

barrassed by the crisis and the accompanying publicity. The county's supervisors apparently were particularly stung by news reports that the financial straits didn't develop suddenly and that some officials had been warning them since November 1975 of the consequences of rising expenditures at a time of declining revenues.

At one point some of the supervisors, complaining that news accounts were making the board appear incompetent, suggested that any remarks concerning the financial situation first be cleared by the board chairman. Although the policy was not adopted, some local officials are reluctant to discuss the financial situation.

Harold Duarte, the newly chosen chairman of the board, said the problems were created by an overestimate of revenues, inadequate reserves and the lack of adequate financial information for suitable planning.

"The board members are only as good as the information they receive," remarked Duarte. "Now we know what to watch for and how to plan better.

"I think we'll come out of this situation in a better light."

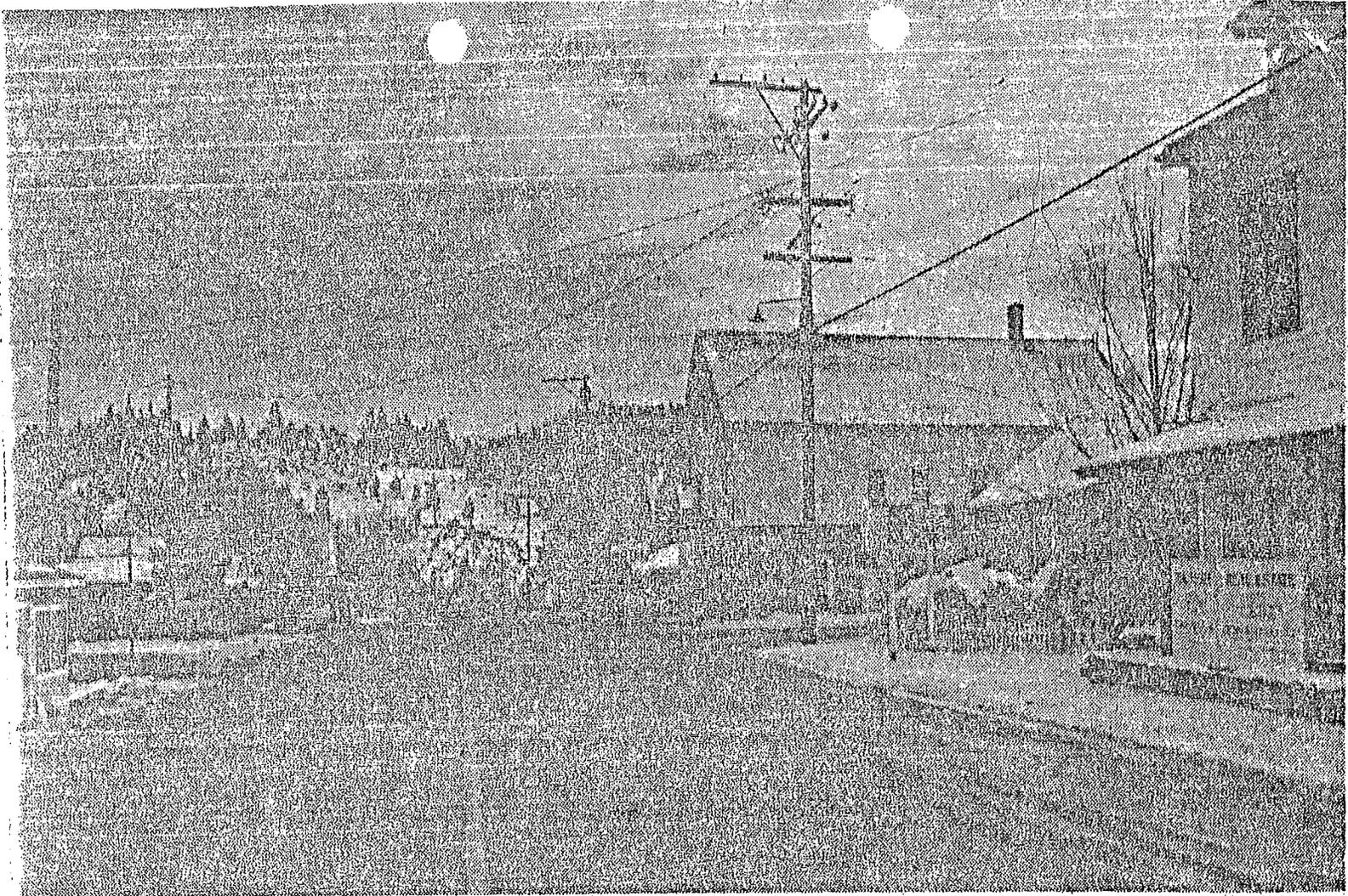
For Alpine County's financial plight, the light at the end of the tunnel may not be visible for another three years. Under current law, taxes must be delinquent five years before the property can be claimed by the state and sold by the county in an effort to recover the lost revenue.

"After the five-year period, Alpine County will be in good financial condition again," said O'Neal.



bee photo

Alpine County Courthouse, where employes await wage thaw



Markleeville: The county seat is a hot one because of financial interests.

Sae. Bee

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Sacramento Bee

1-18-77

Amador, Alpine Feel Drought Is Not Over

Despite the rain and snow of the past few days, supervisors in Amador and Alpine counties are not convinced California's drought is over.

Nothing that farmers, ranchers and operators of recreational and tourist enterprises have been "profoundly and adversely affected" by abnormally dry weather since April 1975, the Amador County board Tuesday reaffirmed an earlier resolution declaring the county a disaster area and requesting Gov. Brown to join them in the proclamation.

In a four-page report prepared for the board, David A. Thompson Jr., the county's agricultural commissioner, and Robert E. Plaister, county director of cooperative extension, noted the county's agricultural losses because of the drought during the past year totaled \$1,867,950.

The losses include \$918,750, which cattle ranchers have been forced to spend for supplemental feed, and \$414,400 in lost revenue because of weight reductions of marketed calves. Calves sold in June were 100 pounds below normal weight, they noted.

Production of grain, orchard and vine crops are off by approximately half, they added. Hay losses were put at \$82,500, grape losses totaled an estimated \$303,600, walnut losses totaled \$77,000 and prune losses were estimated at \$56,700.

"There is a grave shortage of reserve water in stock watering and irrigation ponds, which has resulted in the transportation of livestock drinking water and the abandonment of some irrigated pasture," noted the report.

In an additional three-page report, Beverly Rauh, executive manager of

the Amador County Chamber of Commerce, reported business at some 200 recreation and tourism related enterprises was off 30 per cent during the past year because of the drought.

Pardee Lake, which is at 40 per cent of capacity, will not open its recreation facilities this year "unless there is a large snowpack of wet snow by Feb. 15," she noted. The lake usually employs 11 to 15 persons, all of whom are unemployed, she added.

The drought's impact on tourism and recreation also was primarily responsible for prompting the Alpine County supervisors to adopt a resolution Monday asking the governor to declare the county a disaster area.

The lack of snow, noted the resolution, has seriously jeopardized the economic survival of the county's winter recreation areas, reduced tax revenues available to the county and threatened curtailment of county services.

Trinity Declares Drought Disaster

WEAVERVILLE -- Trinity County supervisors Tuesday afternoon adopted a resolution declaring the county a drought disaster area, one day after Shasta County supervisors did the same thing.

Mike Harris, director of emergency services, told the board that ranchers in southern Trinity County have lost \$500,000 due to the lack of range land feed. He also estimated that more than \$675,000 was lost in a 45 per cent decline in recreational business due to Trinity Lake's low level last year.

Sacramento Bee

Dec. 15

8A. 3

1-6-77

JULY 1977

Bible Is Cited In Asking End Of US Tax Charges

Contending that charges of income tax violations are violating her right to religious freedom, Tracy housewife Ruth I. Gillings has cited the Scriptures as her authority in seeking dismissal of the charges in federal court here.

Mrs. Gillings and her husband, Francis E., are accused in a grand jury indictment filed a year ago of failing to report personal income to the U. S. Internal Revenue Service in 1971 and 1972.

The Bible, says Mrs. Gillings, commands a wife to obey her husband and she was practicing her religion when she followed the lead of her mate in the income tax matters.

She cites Jeremiah 7:23 as well as other admonishments from the Bible:

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands as unto the Lord.

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church . . ."

For the court to prosecute her for obeying her husband, is to punish her for practicing her religion as guaranteed under the First Amendment, said Mrs. Gillings as she sought

dismissal of the charges against her.

The Gillingses, avowed income tax protesters, are members of the dissident United States Taxpayers Union, and are slated to go to trial Tuesday in Sacramento. Federal Judge Robert F. Peckham of San Francisco has been assigned to hear the case.

The Gillingses, acting as their own lawyers, have pleaded innocent to charges they failed to report gross earnings of \$39,718 in 1971 and of \$43,444 in 1972.

Mrs. Gillings' motion is one of several the couple has filed in advance of their trial. Their major contention is that the indictment against them should be dismissed because Federal Reserve notes presently in circulation as legal tender are not equivalent to a dollar as defined by Congress.

Gillings, who formerly operated a garage in Tracy, also is a member of the Posse Comitatus, which clashed with San Joaquin County sheriff's deputies last year when posse members attempted to block labor organizers from farms in the area.

Crooked Politician Endures

By WILLIAM GREIDER
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Every season, it seems, somebody picks on him. Newspapers expose him. Reformers denounce him. Prosecutors indict him and send him to prison.

But this much has to be said for the crooked politician — he endures. He is a permanent fixture, it seems, of American politics.

Based on the recent past, one might even say that old-fashioned corruption flourishes still as our government begins its third century. An impressive number of public officials have been called to the bar of justice in the last few years, from a vice president to city meat inspectors, even a mayor's press secretary. The common denominator in their indictments was money.

A U.S. senator, six congressmen, three governors, two U.S. attorneys, one state Supreme Court justice, a state treasurer, a state insurance director, 15 state legislators, 17 federal housing officials, three dozen or so city councilmen, a variety of sheriffs and tax assessors and purchasing agents — that is a sampler from the last three years.

The Justice Department keeps an unofficial and incomplete listing of public officials who have been indicted over the last seven years. It runs to 35 pages and does not include state indictments. A conservative estimate would be that at least 400 people in government have been accused, during that period, of bribery or extortion or income tax evasion or some other variation on the same theme.

"Corruption is endemic and almost a normal part of politics," said Prof. Milton Rakove, a political scientist who has sympathetically chronicled the inner dynamics of the Chicago machine of the late Mayor Richard J. Daley. "It's a normal part of life. I don't think politicians are more corrupt than the rest of us — than doctors or lawyers or college professors."

Joseph Alton, former county executive of Maryland's Anne Arundel County, spent seven months in federal prison for taking campaign money in exchange for lucrative consultants' contracts and is a trifle cynical about his crime:

"As far as taking money is concerned, I thought I was a cut above what I'd seen generally in politics."

A Washington defense lobbyist, who has spread hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign gifts around Capitol Hill, claims that reform laws do not shut off political money — they merely push it into less visible conduits.

"There's no way you can do it, not as long as money can buy a loaf of bread; you can't eliminate the influence of money from politics," said the lobbyist — who, for obvious reasons, insisted upon anonymity. "Every politician has a friend. There is one person that every politician

the things it is unable to do legally," said James C. Scott, a Yale political scientist who has studied corruption in different cultures. "A persistent pattern of corruption leads you to suspect that there is a series of transactions which are very difficult but which the society needs . . .

"Defense industries, for example, live or die on government contracts. They're not about to take their chances on a free market and so they try to stabilize their environment."

One way to "stabilize" the market is to buy influence with the decision-makers, whether through money for politicians or hunting trips for admirals. But the anonymous defense lobbyist insists this process is healthy and necessary.

"I never saw anyone make an aboutface on an issue because of money I gave him," the lobbyist said. "I never gave money to somebody who was against me. Somebody who's against you — you know he's getting help from your enemies in the industry. What you do is try to make your friends stronger and that automatically makes your enemies weaker."

Even so, he conceded, some congressmen are given money simply to neutralize them. Congressman X who serves on a crucial committee "is a lobbyist's nightmare," he explained. "You know it's throwing money down the rathouse. You won't get anything out of it, but you've got to get on his list. He won't do anything for you, but he can cut you."

On other levels of government, the stakes are not so grand but the motivation is similar: doing business with the government or keeping the government out of your business. A builder bribes a housing inspector. A gambler bribes a cop. A developer bribes the zoning commission. An

asphalt salesman bribes the superintendent of highways.

One of the hidden personal motivations for politicians is resentment — resentment toward voters.

"What happens to many people in politics is they find they are less than loved and that justifies playing games," said Joe Alton, who is now a real estate developer in Annapolis, Md. "I've seen many guys who go in with good intentions and they get blasted a couple times and every decent thought they had is gone."

Rakove, a University of Illinois professor who has worked inside the Chicago machine, describes the politician's perspective:

"The theory of democratic politics is that people are elected to deal with public interests. But once they get into office, they realize that the only way to stay there is by appealing to private interests at the expense of public interests.

"Now you have to pay lip service to the public interest. I've written a lot of political speeches and you've got to give them God, Motherhood and Country. So you say: 'Here's what I'm going to do for you and it's going to be good for the country.' Most people want to be good and they want their politicians to be decent — but their private interests come first."

If a politician sees the world in those terms, he is likely to develop his own informal definitions of corruption — a kind of gray moral code that distinguishes between white sins and black ones, in a way he can never acknowledge in public.

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said the lobbyist — who, for obvious reasons, insisted upon anonymity. “Every politician has a friend. There is one person that every politician will trust and, if you can reach that man, you can reach the politician.”

If these opinions sound corrosive, perhaps it is because they are rarely expressed in newsprint. When corruption is exposed, newspapers usually proclaim breathless outrage. People are sent to prison. Reform laws are proposed and enacted in response to the outrage. Yet when corruption surfaces again, as it usually does, Americans still have the capacity to be shocked all over again.

The question is: Why? What keeps this cops-and-robbers cycle so firmly fixed as a feature of American politics? What are the unspoken explanations behind the obvious one of greed and personal gain?

“You can tell a lot about a political system by

If a politician sees the world in those terms, he is likely to develop his own informal definitions of corruption — a kind of gray moral code that distinguishes between white sins and black ones, in a way he can never acknowledge in public.

See Forum 8, Col. 3

● Politician

Continued From Forum 1

Corrupt politicians work out benign rationales for the money they take. It is the grease that makes the wheel turn, that keeps himself or his political organization in power. If he or the organization do good things for the people, then the extra cost of corruption is a small price to pay for effective government.

The defense lobbyist suggested a parallel in his realm of activity — patriotism:

“Regardless of all the scandals, you never ever hear the one that’s treasonous. You can’t buy a legislator’s love for his country. These politicians or presidents, they may fly for a free meal or a board or something, but they won’t sell the country.”

Alton suggests there is a wide range of corrupt behavior among politicians which is legal, such as using public funds to advance one’s own career in a deceitful way.

He would much rather see a politician “who took a few bucks than one who doesn’t care about the people.” That view is the supporting rationale for occasional corruption inside the Chicago machine, according to Rakove.

In the last few years, half a dozen old stalwarts from the Chicago organization have gone to jail, thanks to a Republican prosecutor who was elected governor last month. Rakove said this latest cycle of cops-and-robbers has strengthened the Chicago organization, not weakened it, because it opened up slots so younger and smarter politicians could move up.

Prof. Scott of Yale believes the occasional bursts of public outrage are usually satisfied by a few “symbolic inputs” — sending some politicians to jail. This makes everyone feel that the formal moral standards have been upheld, but it does not

alter the basic political and economic structures which produced the corruption.

Prof. John Gardiner, a University of Illinois political scientist who has studied corruption for 15 years, has a more optimistic view. Most corrupt politicians are not evil people, Gardiner says, but they are “chameleons” who adapt comfortably to whatever moral standards prevail around them.

In certain locations, Gardiner has found that reform laws did create the checks and incentives which virtually eliminate corrupt dealing, partly by increasing the rewards for integrity — both psychic and financial.

The problem with sealing off public officials from the temptations of corruption is that some reforms also may seal them from public opinion. “A public bureaucracy that tends to be impenetrable to corruption,” said Scott, “also tends to be impervious to popular control.”

Reformers have been trying for at least 100 years. It is impossible to judge whether government is any “cleaner” as a result. Certainly, the opportunities for public corruption have multiplied enormously as government at all levels has grown in the last 40 years, moving deeper and deeper into the affairs of the private economy. Given that expansion, it is possible that the frequency of bribery and extortion in public business is less shocking than the number of indictments suggests.

In any case, the crooked politician hangs on as an American perennial. The corruption moves around, from city to suburbs, and changes techniques, but it does continue. One hundred years ago, it was railroads buying state legislatures. Today, it is the South Korean government buying congressmen.

This suggests that something deeper might be involved, something in American values or economic imperatives which produces crooked politicians or at least tolerates their continuing

presence as necessary to doing business and governing.

Yet corruption, on any level, is anti-democratic. It guarantees that private economic power will shape government decisions which, in theory, are directed in equal measure by every voter, regardless of wealth. On that much, left and right agree.

Marcus Raskin, a left-wing theoretician at the Institute for Policy Studies, argues that only “radical reconstruction” of politics and the economy would eradicate the corruption which favors wealth.

“Everything in the American empire is for sale, indeed should be bought and sold,” Raskin has written. “Operators of the economic system do not necessarily see it as indiosyncratic, unethical or strange that the law itself should be considered a commodity that can be bought and sold . . . The contradiction is that most people do not want to sell or rent to others. They are appalled by such a relationship and sickened by its implications for law and society.”

There is an ironic intersection between Raskin’s radical critique of corrupt politics and the cynicism of the anonymous defense lobbyist. The lobbyist makes this confident prediction.

“The hue and cry will die down and things will settle down and pretty soon there’ll be another hue and cry a couple of years from now. Nothing will change. Things will go forward. Reformers can’t change politicians. As long as man and woman have the right to vote, people will try to influence that vote and they will use their money to do it.”

The idea that big money can be eliminated from American politics is stupid, the lobbyist said — “as stupid really as saying all men were created equal.”

Familiar faces, music? It's the Alpine Trio

by JOYCE HOLLISTER
Staff Writer

Familiar faces, harmonious music, you've seen and heard them at many affairs in the area. Who? The Alpine Trio, who have been singing and playing at private parties and public functions for over two years.

They're popular. They're good. And they live right here, work here, and their kids go to school here.

Rita Keebaugh, from Woodfords, is the female singer. She is married to Chuck Keebaugh, a contractor, and they have two children. She has been taking flying lessons, and last week was notified by the FAA that she had passed her written examination. "Just some hours solo and cross-country, and I'll have my pilot's license," she exulted.

Skip Veatch plays guitar for the group, and set up their first singing date two years ago with the Alpine Historical Society. He was president of the society at the time. Skip is a deputy sheriff with the Alpine Sheriff's Department, and is married to Edie.

Dave Zellmer, supervisor for the California Transportation Department in Alpine County, sings with Rita. Dave's wife Mary Ellen teaches kindergarten in the Gardnerville Elementary School.

Mrs. Zellmer made the shirts for the two men and a dress for Rita of matching material for their performances. On their first performance with the historical society, Dave had a sore throat and couldn't sing, but the show went on anyway.

"After that, it sort of snowballed," Rita said. "We've sung at Kirkwood Inn, the JT restaurant, the Country Club, Club Horizons, Top of the Tram at Heavenly, Minden Inn, and at a private party at Barney's (of Barney's Casino) home."

What got them started? "Well, when Skip first met Chuck, my husband, he said something about having played for a group at one time. Chuck told him he should get together with me. Then, our families used to water ski together, and we'd sing old songs, we thought we harmonized pretty well. And we had fun, so Skip got us our first date."

The trio will play at the Native Sons of the Golden West's bingo party on Saturday at Turtlerock Park, Highway 89 between Woodfords and Markleeville Feb. 26. A roast beef dinner will be served starting at 6:30 p.m., price \$3.50. Bingo starts at 8 p.m., and dancing to the Alpine Trio begins at 10 p.m.

Board Courier
2-24-77

Record Courier 2/24/77

SECTION TWO, PAGE THREE

New books at the Alpine library

FICTION

"Fringe of Leaves," by Patrick White.

Returning to England from Australia, Ellen Roxburgh's ship strikes a reef. Ellen survives the wreck, but is captured by Aborigines, and forced to lead a primitive life far removed from her 19th century, genteel, middle-class civilization.

"Duchess," by Josephine Edgar.

Viola, a Yorkshire shopgirl, has a stunning beauty and aristocratic manner that attract nobility. Her passionate affair with a young lord is interrupted by the Boer war; Viola must accept the fact that she does not belong in her aristocratic lover's world.

"Sagner Darkly," by Philip Dick.

Bob Arctor, an undercover informer for the police of a future society, is so secretive that even the police don't know who he is. His biggest assignment—to report on Bob Arctor.

"Twister," by Jack Bickham.

The story of men and women caught in the path of a massive storm that batters its way across America, spawning destructive tornados in its wake.

"Bluegrass," by Borden Deal.

A nurse inherits a fortune from her patient—and purchases a farm for thoroughbred horses. Contending with skeptical trainers and breeders, she finally manages to produce a line of top-quality thoroughbreds.

246
SEE 3-77

Making It Easier To Vote

Don't let anyone tell you election-day voter registration is going to suddenly and completely end election-day blahs in America. It may help considerably, though, to reverse the recent decline in citizen turnout at the polls.

One fact to keep in mind is that nearly 70 million Americans otherwise eligible failed to vote in 1976 presidential elections. In 18 states, less than 50 per cent bothered to do their duty. The percentage turnout has skidded from 62.8 per cent in 1960 to 53.3 per cent in 1976.

The plan put forward by President Jimmy Carter would mandate election-day registration only for federal general elections, not primaries or state and local elections. However, states would be rewarded financially if they extended the concept to primaries, state and local elections.

States would be able to continue traditional forms of registration in ad-

vance of election day. They would be given between \$20 million and \$25 million in federal funds to help pay additional costs of signing up voters at the polls. States willing to adopt the same system for state elections would be in line for similar financial incentives.

The provisions as outlined by the White House recognize and seek to deal with potential fraud. Details haven't been worked out but election-day registrants either would be required to sign a form to establish their identity or submit an affidavit vouching for their eligibility to vote.

Allowing any citizen who wishes to vote on election day to do so is not offered as a panacea for America's serious problems of voter nonparticipation. But there are few steps Congress and the states can take that can have a more beneficial impact on the country's elections.

P.C.
3-17-77



Class of '06

THE CENTRAL SCHOOL IN 1906. Back row (from left), Otto Heise, Neils Christensen, Pete Wilslef, Fred Cordes, Clarence Heitman, Minnie Heitman, Maggie Heitman, Frieda Heise, Mrs. Scott, teacher, Henry

Lange, Henry Syll. Second row (from left), first person unidentified; Dora Heise, Ida Heitman, Anna Heise, Emma Christensen, Lottie Syll, Ada Fricke, Lizzie Syll, Hilda Heise, Ernest Thran, Fred Wilslef. Lower

row (from left), Chris Cordes, Fred Lange, Henry Cordes, Fritz Syll, Will Lange, Harold Hussman, Bill Wilslef, Sief Heise, George Cordes, Ed Berning, Alfred Thran, Fred Fricke. (Photo, courtesy of Ed Lundergreen)

Record
Courier
3/29/77

Fusion energy talk

Fusion energy, with emphasis on laser fusion, will be the topic of a talk at the Alpine County Library next Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Steve Hibbs, facilities manager at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, will be the speaker.

Hibbs will also answer questions about energy alternatives facing the United States.

There will be no admission charge, and a short film will be shown.

Unique water saving program at Mt. Reba

3-31-77 Record Courier 8.3

A unique water conservation program introduced by Mt. Reba Ski Area in Bear Valley has received special recognition from the State of California.

"After last season's serious drought, we recognized that we needed to do something significant about conserving water at Mt. Reba," said Maury Rasmussen, president of the Alpine County ski resort.

"So last summer we installed a \$32,000 recirculating mineral oil system to control the sewage disposal in the new bathrooms serving the Bear West area.

"In plain language, mineral oil is used instead of water to flush toilets at Mt. Reba. This unique program has helped us reduce the overall Mt. Reba water usage by more than 300 per cent."

The State Department of Sanitation is so impressed that it has declared the innovative Mt. Reba system "an experimental station." And the State is considering installing similar mineral oil systems at a number of winter and summer recreation areas to further

conserve precious water.

The Mt. Reba system uses about 100 gallons of mineral oil annually. It also employs over-size septic tanks and self-purification to meet the public's needs.

Two years after going bankr

By Barbara Bry

McClatchy Newspapers Service

BEAR VALLEY — Nearly two years after going bankrupt, Bear Valley Co. — a \$7-million, 800-acre recreational community in Alpine County — may be getting back on its feet.

"The last two months have been much healthier," said Bill Benson of Bear Valley Real Estate Co., which is selling and managing the project's condominiums.

He credited the sales success — only 13 of the total 128 condominiums are unsold — to lowered prices, attractive financing and a general improvement in the vacation home market because of the economy's upturn.

The Bear Valley community, surrounded by Stanislaus National Forest off Route 4 about 100 miles northeast of Modesto, lies adjacent to the Mt. Reba ski area.

The development contains a lodge, several restaurants offering everything from wienerschnitzel to hot dogs, shops and a recreation center with a stable, swimming pool, sauna, whirlpool and tennis courts.

Off to one side are the condominiums and a 393-lot subdivision on which 170 homes have been built. One hundred lots still are unsold.

Bruce Orvis, a cattle rancher, started Bear Valley

Development Co. in 1962 to develop the area. In 1973 he joined forces with the William Messenger Co. of Newport Beach, which took over the project management.

The causes of this planned community's bankruptcy were a combination of mismanagement, high interest rates, undercapitalization and a general slump in the real estate market, according to Perry Walther, interim manager for Bear Valley.

Orvis attributes the bankruptcy to "mainly being a small and undercapitalized venture."

"When tight money and high interest rates came along," he said, "we weren't big enough or strong enough to pull through it."

William Messenger, president of William Messenger and Co., denied the mismanagement allegation and said, "The conditions in the economy (particularly the energy shortage) eliminated the possibility of any sales" and without sales the company could not repay its debts.

When Bear Valley went bankrupt, the company took C. L. Jones, a Lodi building contractor, with it. Jones said Bear Valley owed him more than \$300,000 and he has yet to see a penny.

"It forced us into bankruptcy," Jones said. Jones owed a good chunk of that \$300,000 to small suppliers from

upt, Bear Valley fights back

whom he had purchased materials and equipment on credit.

Two of the largest unsecured creditors — last in line to collect their money — are Mt. Reba, Inc., and Mt. Reba Ski School.

Bear Valley Co. is completely separate from Mt. Reba, Inc., which operates the nearby ski facilities.

"We've written off the loss (over \$19,000)," said Dennis Rasmussen, general manager of Mt. Reba. "I don't think there's even enough to go around for the secured creditors (those who have some sort of collateral)."

"They tried to do a Sun Valley operation up here and they couldn't throw the money away fast enough," said Peter Brinkman, owner of Mt. Reba Ski School, which still is owed more than \$35,000.

Brinkman said he sold "package" tours (including lodge accommodations, lift tickets and ski school lessons) and that Bear Valley Lodge received all the money.

"I got the lodge filled for them," he claimed, "and I didn't get my money. All the money did was pay their salaries."

Despite all these problems, Brinkman "still has a lot of faith in Bear Valley" because it is a "real destination

resort" — a place where people come and stay because they want to.

First in line in any bankruptcy to collect its money is the government and employes who are owed back wages.

Bear Valley owed \$278,000 to former employes and for federal, state and local taxes. Of this, \$149,682 was for real estate taxes — a significant sum to small Alpine County, which recently raised its tax rate from \$4.40 to \$5.20 partly to cover the deficit caused by Bear Valley's delinquency. A spokesman for Alpine County said Bear Valley is paying off its back taxes as it sells condominiums.

Next after the government are the "secured" creditors — those with collateral. Sherwood & Roberts, a Seattle-based mortgage banking subsidiary of Equitable Insurance Co., provided most of the project's short-term construction financing.

Collateral for its loans — about \$3.8 million at the time of the filing — was the unsold land and condominiums.

Although Bear Valley listed assets valued at \$11,958,278 and outstanding debts of \$6,398,163, most of the assets were land and other items that cannot easily be converted to cash to pay current bills. In addition, when a company must sell its assets to raise funds, it often receives far less than "fair market value."

Gillings' Sentence Stayed by Judge; Sanity Test Set

SR May 2 11:32 AM

Posse Comitatus founder Francis E. Gillings of Tracy was sentenced to prison Friday for income tax evasion but U.S. Judge Robert Peckham stayed the sentence pending a check on Gillings' sanity at the request of the prosecutor.

The sentence and the order for a psychiatric examination climaxed a three-hour court hearing in Sacramento during which:

- The 45-year-old Gillings, a diabetic, accused prosecutor Donald Heller of conspiring with a jail doctor to murder him by cutting off his insulin.
- Heller, calling Gillings "one of the most despicable and dangerous men I have ever prosecuted," declared the Tracy man's statements revealed delusions of grandeur and paranoia and admitted that he had said earlier that Gillings' best defense would be insanity.
- Gillings charged Internal Revenue Service agents with perjury and a "tyrannical conspiracy" of oppression that rivaled the descriptions of Siberian prison camps by Russian novelist Alexander Solzhenitsyn.
- Heller revealed that Gillings is under investigation by the Federal



FRANCIS E. GILLINGS

Bureau of Investigation for land fraud and charged that he had swindled dozens of people in Alpine County land deals.

The judge placed Gillings' wife, Ruth, on probation for three years.

Asserting his innocence as well as his sanity, Gillings charged that the judge's order for a psychiatric examination was just another effort "to humiliate a sane man."

Both Gillings and his wife declared they will appeal the sentences.

Judge Peckham rejected demands by the Gillings for either dismissal of the charges against them or a new trial.

He was about to pass sentence, indicating that he would ignore a probation officer's recommendation for a 90-day psychiatric examination for Gillings, when Heller arose.

The assistant U.S. attorney told the judge he was upset because it was the first time he had been accused of murder conspiracy in a courtroom. He then said he felt Gillings had "severe mental problems," and admitted he had commented that insanity would be the Tracy man's best defense.

When the judge responded "I trust you are aware of the legal implications of what you are saying," Heller said he was. Peckham then ordered a 90-day examination but said he might rescind that order if a briefer sanity check is ordered by the judge who hears another federal case against the Gillings, one in which they are accused of concealing assets. Heller said he would ask that judge for a sanity check also.

The Tracy couple was convicted by a U.S. District Court jury after the government claimed they made \$150,000 from their service station in Tracy in 1971 and 1972.

100 YEARS AGO

July 20, 1877

The Alpine Grand Jury has made its final report. The much-talked-of investigation of county books resulted in a \$250 whitewash of the officers.

\$17,363.23—The foregoing figures indicate the value of a beautiful gold bar which passed through Genoa on Wednesday's stage. It was from the Standard Mine at Bodie.

(Advertisement) A Cure within the reach of the poorest sufferer from rheumatism, sore throat, stiff joints, and all aches and pains—Trapper's Indian Oil. Price, 50 cents per flask.

Rev. S. P. Kelly will preach at the Court House Sunday evening at the usual hour.

Belleville, Esmeralda County, had a \$20,000 fire last week. The best part of the little town was consumed.

Dr. Heath, who returned last Sunday from Hope Valley, in which mountain retreat he spent a week, speaks very highly of that elevated region as a place of summer resort for those who wish to recreate and recuperate.

DIED at Hot Springs Valley, near Markleeville, July 12th, Warren H. Quick, a native of Ohio, aged about 20 years...A private letter from Markleeville informs us of the death of Mr. Grover's little boy at the same place, and also of the sickness of Mrs. Green's son. Dr. Black who was called to attend on them pronounces it diphtheria.

July 24, 1877

We are pained to hear of the death of Mrs. Green's little boy at Markleeville. The little fellow had nearly recovered from his late accident when he was taken down with diphtheria.

An exchange says Virginia has an eight-foot loaf of bread. What of that? Genoa has any quantity of six-foot loafers!

"What," asks an exchange, "are the causes of drunkenness?" Well, we can't answer for all of them, but we believe whisky causes a great deal of it; whisky, sir, resolutely stuck to, will cause about as large a drunk as anything we know of, although a judicious mixing up of various drinks will accelerate matters if a man is in a hurry.

RC
7-21-77

Ex-Supervisor Loses Appeal

Former Alpine County Supervisor Jack Doyal has lost an appeal stemming from a June 8, 1976 election loss to Frederick Thornburg.

Thornburg, who originally appeared a five-vote victor in the balloting for the supervisorial post, had his margin cut to four votes as a result of Doyal's challenge in Superior Court. Doyal then carried his case to the appeals court.

The decision by Judge Joseph Huberty of Calaveras County was affirmed Friday by the 3rd District Court of Appeal in Sacramento after a review of the entire case.

SAC-BEE 7-9-77

Thornburg-Doyal case decided

RC
7-21-77

A decision handed down by the Court of Appeals of California for the 3rd appellate district recently confirmed the election of Fritz Thornburg as supervisor in District III, Alpine county.

The controversy dates back over 18 months to January 1976, when Jack Doyal was recalled from the position. In that election he was replaced by Thornburg. The following June the position came up for election and Doyal, who filed to run against Thornburg, was again defeated, this time by a vote of 69-64. He contested the election, claiming that Thornburg had been elected by illegally registered voters.

Doyal contested the votes of 25 persons, claiming that they were not legal residents of Alpine county. Thornburg cross-contested the names of nine persons on the same basis.

At a Superior Court hearing held in September 1976, Judge Joseph Huberty disqualified five of the voters contested by Doyal, all of whom testified that they had voted for Thornburg. Also disqualified were four of those contested by Thornburg, all of whom said they had voted for Doyal. Thornburg was declared the winner of the election with a vote of 64-60.

The law requires that the names of those nine voters declared to have voted illegally on June 8 not be removed from the voter rolls so all can continue to vote in Alpine county.

Doyal took the matter to appellate court in March of this year, claiming that the superior court had erred in its decision to disqualify two of Doyal's votes and to retain five of Thornburg's.

The three appellate court judges upheld the superior court decision in each and every case.

Asked to comment, Thornburg replied, "I just hope he'll quit now. Two elections and two court cases in 18 months have said that I was elected. I want to see the matter of voter residency straightened out, as many people in Alpine County do, but we knew from the beginning that this election contest thing wasn't going to prove anything about non-resident voters. We've got to handle the voter problem in some other way."

When Doyal was reached for comment, he said, "I believe that the recent court decision was a disaster—especially for our county." He added that he would have an additional comment within the next week.

Alpine gets new librarian

Mrs. Virginia M. York of Markleeville has recently been appointed the new Alpine County Librarian. Mrs. York was associated with the Cooperative Services Division of the Nevada State Library in Carson City before accepting her new position.

She is originally from York, England, and in 1969 graduated from the University of London where she majored in Spanish. She was an assistant in the children's department at the Washoe County Library in Reno in 1973 and librarian and French teacher at the Riyadh International Community School in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 1973-1975. She took her Masters of Library Science degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1976.

Her husband John York is Middle East marketing manager for Josten's Inc., of Minneapolis, Minn.

Gardnerville, Nevada Thursday, August 4, 1977

'The Voice of Douglas County since 1881'



100 YEARS AGO

Aug. 17, 1877

(Advertisement) Professor Rice! To-night! To-night! A rare treat will be offered to the People of Genoa, this Friday Evening August 17, 1877, by the World Renowned PROFESSOR RICE and MISS MAUD RICE, the charming young soprano. Mind Reading! Magic! Music! and Marrionettes!!! Prof. Rice will READ YOUR MIND or refund your money. Admission 50 Cents, children 25 Cents.

(Letter from R. E. Montgomery, Markleeville): It is rumored that in announcing myself as a candidate for the office of County Clerk of Alpine County, I was put forward by Mr. Buell (the present incumbent), that I am a member of the Court House Ring, and that he and I, in case of my election, are to divide the profits of the office. For the general information of the residents and voters of the County, I will state: First, that I am a citizen of the State of California, never having exercised the rights of citizenship in any other State of the Union, having been duly registered I am now entitled to vote, and, with the consent of the people, hold any office in the gift of the County. Second, That Mr. Buell was not instrumental in any manner whatever in causing me to become a candidate for the Clerkship, but at the solicitations of a few of my most intimate friends I became a candidate. Third, I do not know that a "Court House Ring" exists in the County, but if so, I assert most positively and unhesitatingly that I am not a member, nor will I ever be. Fourth, I shall use the "profits" and proceeds of the office for my own general welfare and benefit.

Genoa P.O. is now a money-order office. This does away with a great inconvenience in procuring currency to send East, and at the same time reduces the cost of sending money to a mere nominal sum.

REWARD. M. Harris offers \$100 reward for the recovery of the goods stolen from his store on the night of the 11th instant.

Mert Seamon, late of Genoa, has purchased W. Williamson's property at Markleeville, and intends whiling away a few days in the "Orange Grove" of Alpine.

The bondsmen of the late A. Whitford are hereby notified to settle with the undersigned without any further notice. C.M. Taylor.

Three fights in town yesterday, and the Editor off at the Lake.

Rec
Courier
8-17-77

Alpine man used to marry folks, now he marries

By BRENDAN RILEY

MARKLEEVILLE, Calif. (AP) — Judge-turned-jeweler Jim Lyons used to enforce the laws and marry folks in this Sierra Nevada town. Now he minds his own business but still deals with couples about to get hitched — by making wedding rings.

He and his wife Cathy also turn out “gem trees” and other unique creations made from bits of mineral rock and semi-precious stones — once a hobby but now a full-time business.

Lyons, a native of this tiny hamlet — population about 50 — says his work keeps him busy all the time, but it's better than “being snowed under with paper” as the lone justice court judge in Alpine County.

Cathy agrees: “As long as you're going to play God, it's better to do it creatively than by disciplining people.”

Lyons says he was “kind of talked into” taking the judgeship in 1969. After taking the post, he attended several training seminars and studied lawbooks while bartending at night. He later won reelection to a six-year term but quit the post last year.

Lyons, who sports a bushy beard, says efforts had been under way to get rid of non-lawyer judges like himself in California and that, combined with his growing interest in his hobby, prompted him to leave the bench.

The pay wasn't too hot either, he adds. Lyons took the job for \$250 a month. The pay gradually went up to \$630 a month. The Lyons figure they'll gross about \$35,000 this

year from their gift shop sales and several states.

The Lyons borrowed \$2,000 to start on a limited basis in 1973 when Jim was an avid rock collector, and the shop was a way to get rid of them,” Lyons say.

Now the business keeps them going in their shop. For their last “vacation” six-week rock-hunting expedition returning home with sacks full of petrified wood, turquoise, aquamarine and other stones.

folks, now he makes their wedding rings

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year from their gift shop sales and deliveries to outlets in several states.

The Lyons borrowed \$2,000 to start their business on a limited basis in 1973 when Jim was still judge. Both were avid rock collectors, and the shop "seemed like a good way to get rid of them," Lyons says.

Now the business keeps them going 14 to 16 hours a day in their shop. For their last "vacation," the Lyons took a six-week rock-hunting expedition into several states, returning home with sacks full of quartz, dolomite, petrified wood, turquoise, aquamarine, garnet, jasper and other stones.

Lyons, 48, says he wouldn't want to be judge again. Cathy adds "he'd be single if he did."

"I get great satisfaction from my work now, especially working with silver because I figure that will last as an heirloom forever," he says.

That's opposed to a steady increase in "shuffling paper and filling out useless forms that probably never get looked at," he says. "Being a judge is a thankless job."

Besides the growing caseload, Lyons says he faced a problem unique to small town judges: Residents would stop him on the street to tell him about some criminal activity even before the sheriff had made out a complaint.



State contest winners

THE 5TH and 6th grade at Diamond Valley School in Alpine County, (Calif.) entered a video-taped "broadcast from space colony L-5" in the annual California Student Media Festival and took third place in the theme category,

competing with students from Kindergarten through college. Here photographer Jay Aldrich was on hand to photograph their first taping session last month. Pictured are Hugh Smith, teacher, center; and from left, Clayton Keebaugh, Sam Lacey, Tom Kelly, and on floor, Robbie Osgood.

THE RECORD-COURIER-GARDNERVILLE, NEVADA

Doyal appeals court decision on voters

There may not be any local offices listed on the Alpine County ballots for the voters to consider next Tuesday, but one seat on the board of county supervisors is still the subject of contest.

Fritz Thornburg, who has occupied the seat since Jack Doyal was recalled from it by public referendum last January, stood for election in the June primary and won out over Doyal, who challenged him.

The June vote was close, and Doyal said a

number of people who voted in the primary were not legally qualified to do so. His challenge of some of the voters was taken to Superior Court in September, where Thornburg also questioned the qualifications of some voters. After three days of hearings, Judge Joseph Huberty disqualified some of the voters from each challenger's list, on the basis of residency. The net result was Thornburg 64, Doyal 60 valid votes.

Now, Doyal has appealed the Superior

Court decision and called for a transcript hearings. In addition to the court appeal, also asked the California Secretary of State, the state's chief election officer, to rule whether Judge Huberty's ruling was correct in all cases.

"I contested 23 that I felt didn't live and didn't work here, and whose children didn't go to school here," Doyal said this week. Superior Court judge ruled some of these 23 voters in our county."

Alpine Holiday Bazaar set for Nov. 5, 6

The annual Holiday Bazaar sponsored by the Diamond Valley School Parent Organization in



PICTURED ARE members of the Diamond Valley Parent Organization at a meeting as they discuss plans for the Holiday Bazaar.

Alpine County (known by some as the Mother's Club) will take place Nov. 5 and 6 this year.

This year's bazaar will "be the biggest fundraiser ever" according to a club spokesman. Proceeds will benefit the Perpetual Scholarship Fund at Diamond Valley.

Featured at the bazaar will be a fashion show, Christmas and Thanksgiving decorations, Children's Shop, plants and garden, household

Boutique, bake sale, recycled treasures, puppet shows and "your picture taken with Santa" early enough to enclose in Christmas cards.

Chairmen of the event urge residents of Carson Valley to make "an enjoyable trip to Alpine" and take part in the yearly holiday affair. Admission is \$1 and includes dessert and a chance at door prizes. For more information, contact Diamond Valley School.

Adult classes to be offered in Alpine

The Alpine County Unified School District is considering adult education classes at the Diamond Valley School in the next few weeks, and is asking for input from the community as to the kinds of classes to be offered.

According to secretary Kathony Jerauld, some of the suggestions that have been proffered are classes in piano, oil painting and other art forms, pottery, photography, and physical

fitness. Miss Jerauld said that besides special interest classes such as these, the board would like to sponsor continuing education projects, such as basic adult education and business courses.

For adults who would like to continue their education or simply try something new, please contact Miss Jerauld at the Diamond Valley School, 694-2257 or write to Route 1, Box 42-B, Markleeville, Ca.

Record Courier Oct 21, 77



Holiday bazaar

BEV POWERS pictured left here shows bazaar chairman **Jeannine Price** one of the drummer boys to be sold in her Christmas ornament store at the bazaar, Saturday and

Sunday, Nov. 5 and 6 at Diamond Valley Elementary School off Hwy. 89 at Woodfords. The women are setting up a window display in the Diamond DE Variety Store in Gardnerville.



P is for pumpkin

AT DIAMOND VALLEY SCHOOL, Kindergarten teacher Judy Sandow "sells" things that begin with the letter "P" to

students from a "supermarket." Students are urged to look for items at home that begin with the letter "P". Other days, they do the same for other letters in the alphabet.

GARDNERVILLE, NEVADA

Record Courier
Thursday, Nov. 24, 1977



Keep it up

UPPER GRADE students at Diamond Valley School in Alpine County learn the basics of soccer by keeping a ball in the air without using their hands. Teacher's aide Eberhard

Wiedenmeyer (back to camera) says they can use their heads, backs, noses or feet to bounce the ball to each other. (R-C photo by Jay Aldrich)

Diamond Valley enrollment: 101

by JOYCE HOLLISTER
Staff Writer

Alpine County School District is comprised of two schools, Bear Valley School and Diamond Valley School, with the same man acting as principal for both and superintendent of the district. Richard Martin is entering his third year in that capacity, and recently he toured the Diamond Valley School with two Record-Courier staffers.

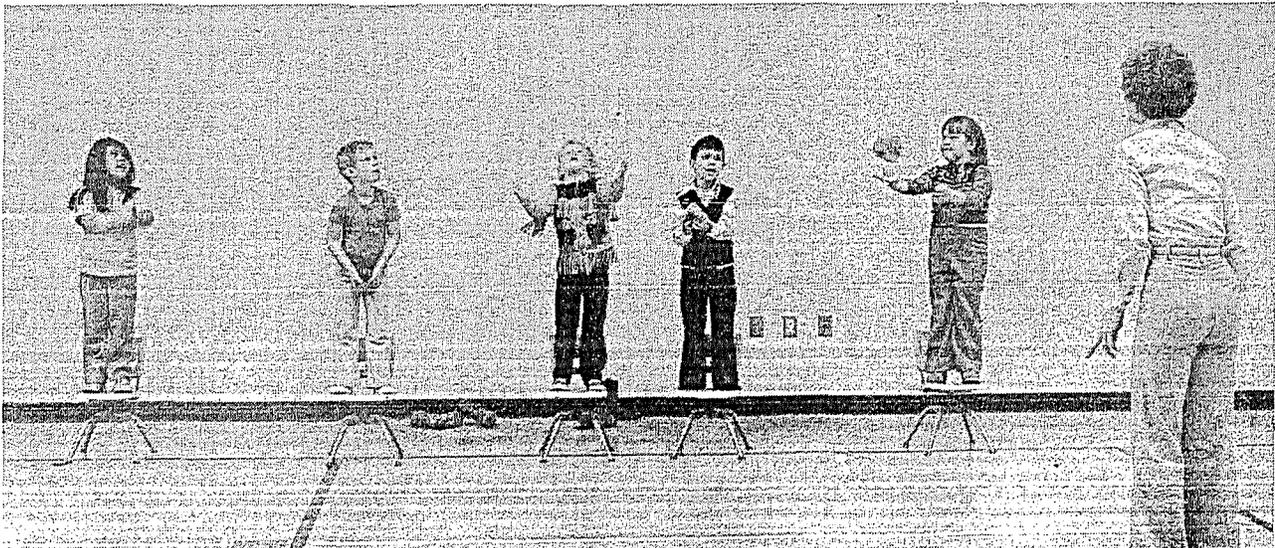
Diamond Valley school contains nine grades, kindergarten through eighth grade. Students who graduate from the eighth grade go to Douglas High School through a special arrangement with Douglas County School District.

Bear Valley School, also kindergarten through eighth

grade, sends its graduates to Bret Harte High School. It is a 48-mile bus ride for the nine high school students, 96 miles round trip.

The Diamond Valley School has a new building, designed in a modified "open concept." The walls are moveable and attached to the floor and ceiling with brackets. There are 101 students in the school, and so the grades are combined: kindergarten has its own classroom, and first and second, third and fourth, fifth and sixth, seventh and eighth are taught together.

Each class has either an aide or teacher's assistant working with the teacher. By law, an aide must be a high school graduate or the equivalent, and an assistant must



IT MAY LOOK PRECARIOUS, but Diamond Valley Kindergarten students toss those bean bags with ease without falling off their chairs. Teacher Judy Sandow is

supervising exercises in the multi-purpose room. (R-C photos by Jay Aldrich).



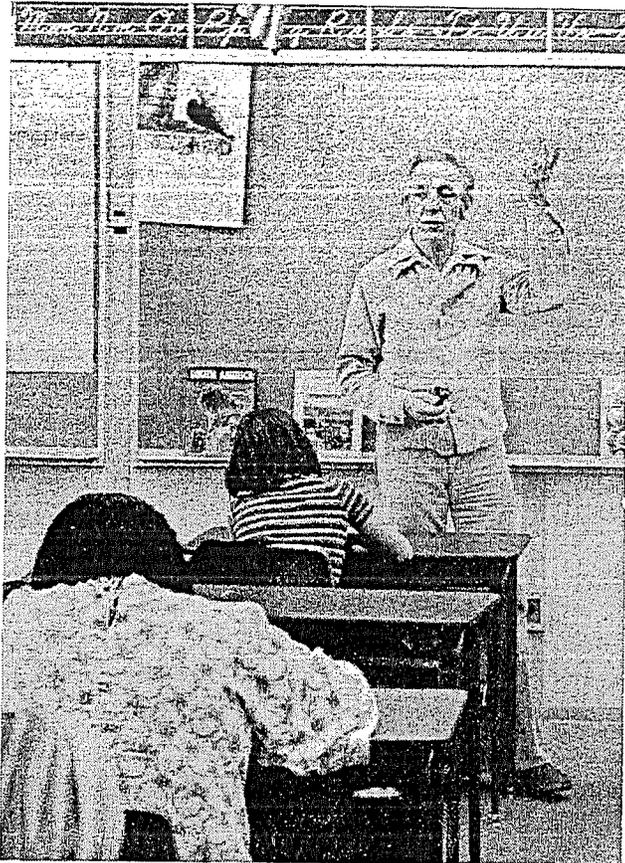
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FIFTH AND SIXTH graders at Diamond Valley School listen to teacher Hugh Smith as he makes a point.

have a college degree or equivalent. But at Diamond Valley, most of the assistants are accredited teachers. Parent volunteers help in the classroom, with special projects, and in the library.

Early Childhood Education, a California state program, is utilized in the primary grades. The students follow individualized programs, progressing at their own rate. Students are divided into groups for specific subjects such as phonics, math, and reading, and work at individualized centers. Each day's schedule is outlined on a chart, and each child's work is also charted. He knows exactly where he stands and what he needs to do, every day.

The ECE program involves a certain amount of bookwork for the teacher and her aide or assistant, but the methods used have shown results in the children's progress.

The upper grades are in the old Diamond Valley School building, and the classes are taught in a more traditional manner. But the grades are not separated within the classroom. That is to say, the students are not seated

according to whether they are fifth and sixth, or seventh and eighth. Many of their subjects are interrelated and can be taught to both groups at the same time. The work can be individualized, too, and with the help of the teacher's aide, each student can get help where he needs it.

"They're all kids, so it doesn't matter what grade they're in," Martin explained.

The school boasts a special education teacher who deals with students in small groups according to their needs. Special education helps children with speech, hearing, or educational problems. New this year is a Title I teacher, a federally funded position. On Mondays and Wednesdays, a band teacher teaches music.

The school and the community are linked in many ways, primarily through sports and recreation and organized groups such as girl scouts. The school's facilities are used extensively by community groups for volley ball and basketball leagues, senior citizen lectures, and meetings. Adults as well as students work out on the Universal Gym weight machine, and the showers are open to the community, since some homes in the area don't have running water.

The school is justly proud of its ski program. Nearly the entire student body skis once a week on a school day during the skiing season.

Grades one through eight and staff members ski both cross-country and downhill at Kirkwood Meadows ski area.

"There are a lot of things happening here," Martin said, adding that he has very strong staff report, "and it shows in the way the school runs." Another unique feature of Diamond Valley is the totally free lunch program. Some of the families in the area qualify for free or reduced price lunches, and the district makes up the difference so that all the students eat free. There's 100 per cent participation in the lunch program.

Martin is especially proud of the cultural program that the school district has worked out with the local Tribal Council. Indian history and culture are taught in special groups, concentrating on tools, basketry, weapons, dancing, and language. Last year, the eighth grade graduation address was given by Tribal Council Chairman Bob Frank. The hope is to involve the Indian families in the area with the school through activities that emphasize their own culture.

A strong parents' club plays a major role in linking the school with the community. The club participates in extracurricular activities and school parties and maintains a scholarship fund. It's major fund-raising activity, the annual Christmas bazaar where a myriad of holiday items are hand made and sold, is slated for next month.

Martin was a vice principal in a large elementary school in Pleasanton, Ca., where he was involved with a special interest program that offered miniclasses in areas such as sailing, karate, body building, magic and horsemanship. Because it was a large school, this type of program worked. Martin hopes to do something similar at Diamond Valley, though on a smaller scale. "But I enjoy a small district," Martin was quick to add, "I get to know all of the students."

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(R-C)

Thursday, Nov. 17, 1977

Bear valley's 'Welcome to Winter'

Bear Valley kicks up a Fashion Storm with the opening of the 1977-1978 Ski Season with a "Welcome to Winter Fashion Show and Party." The opening will be held Saturday 5:30 p.m. in the Cathedral Lounge at the scenic Bear Valley Lodge.

Exciting Ski Fashions for both Alpine and Nordic Skiers are furnished by the Bear Valley Sport Shop and the Winter Lift at Mt. Reba. For Snow-Mobile enthusiasts we have warm

winter cover ups from Bear Valley Over Snow Sales.

Complimentary champagne will be served as guests enter the Cathedral Lounge. Live entertainment is planned to add to the festivities and to top off the evening the all time great Bear Valley Raffle. Dozens of super prizes have been donated by the business men of Bear Valley and Mt. Reba, including a season's pass valued at \$260.00.

Foresters to burn Alpine brush 11/3/77 *Carson Record*

The U.S. Forest Service will soon be burning unusable forest residue in the Raymond and Hawkins Peak south and west of Highway 89, near Markleeville.

These areas were sites of timber sales, later opened to the public for firewood gathering. Leftover materials unusable for firewood will be burned to reduce future

wildfire hazard in this forest area.

The burning will be done over a period of time as proper weather conditions occur.

Firewood is still available in the Hawkins Creek area, with free permits obtainable from the USFS office in Carson City.

Kirkwood fashion show 11/3/77 *Carson Record*

The newest styles of top skiwear manufacturers, as well as the latest skiing equipment, will be featured at Kirkwood's annual fall ski fashion show scheduled for Saturday.

Following both events, there will be a buffet dinner at 6:30 p.m. (nominal charge) and dancing to live music at 8:30 p.m. at Zachary's Bar.

Alpine Happenings

Record Courier 11/27/77

There are a lot of goings-on in Alpine County next week. The board of supervisors meets at 10 a.m. Tuesday in the courthouse at Markleeville. On the same day, flu vaccine will be given to those over 60 years of age, from 1 to 3 p.m.; and at 3, the Diamond Valley girls basketball team plays Smith Valley (at Diamond Valley).

That evening (7-9 p.m.), there will be adult volleyball at the DVS gym.

Wednesday is really loaded with activity, beginning with pre-school story time at 10 a.m. at the library in Markleeville. From 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m., driver's license tests will be given by the Department of Motor Vehicles in the library at Markleeville.

At 7 p.m. the Bible group will meet. For location, call 694-2196. Square dancing will take place from 8 to 10:30 p.m. at Turtle Rock Park, and at 8 the Sheriff's Reserves will meet at the courthouse.

The Diamond Valley girls basketball will play in a tournament at South Lake Tahoe on Thursday. The DV school will give the time, if you give them a call.

At 7 p.m. Thursday, the volunteer fire department will meet at Woodfords fire station.

GARDNERVILLE, NEVADA



Christmas bazaar

HAZEL PAYNE, center, proudly displays the rag rug she has made for the Alpine Holiday Bazaar to be held at the Diamond Valley School in Woodfords, November 5 and 6. Bazaar chairman, Virginia Cook right, shows Fashion Show chairman, Jean Martin, and Mrs. Payne the patch work wrap-around skirt which will be modeled at the 1 p.m. Fashion Silent Auction, Saturday, Nov. 5. All bazaar items are handmade by members of the Markleeville, Woodfords and Kirkwood communities and are donated for the benefit of the Perpetual Scholarship Fund and Diamond Valley School.

Record Courier 11/27/77

Alpine campground closes for winter

Indian Creek campground, located near Markleeville, closed for the winter Monday.

Bill Garrels, recreation planner for the Bureau of Land Management, reported the campground had record-breaking crowds during the spring and summer. Total visitors to the BLM recreation site are

estimated at around 76,000.

The 29-site campground operates only from April to October, but the surrounding recreation and fishing areas and hiking trails are open year-round. Brochures and further information about BLM recreation areas may be obtained from their Carson City office, (702)882-1631.

Alpine highway work

Work is expected to begin within 30 to 45 days (weather permitting) on the

installation of guard railing at various locations on Highways 88 and 89 between

Plasse Road and Woodfords.

The apparent low bid for the work was \$105,779, submitted by Modern Alloys, Inc. of San Ramon (Calif.)

Record Courier 11/27/77

4/27/78

Step Closer to Enactment

Enactment of a bedroom tax ordinance with variable rates throughout San Joaquin County came closer to reality Wednesday afternoon as a committee of county and cities officials unanimously decided to ask their parent bodies to approve this method of helping finance new school facilities.

The committee, meeting for the third time, took swift action on a motion by Stockton Mayor Arnold I. Rue to seek formal action on a revised draft ordinance after a short discussion during which no changes were suggested in the proposed legislation.

County Supervisor George Barber, committee chairman, said the committee will not meet again unless one of the cities fails to ratify the proposed ordinance.

Once enacted, the ordinance would become effective in 30 days. It provides that fees be adopted for individual school districts, allow-

(See Tax, Back Page)

April 27, 1978

Sheriff Candidate Denials

Posse Takeover Plot in Alpine?

MARKLEEVILLE — The text of an advertisement in a Washington D.C., publication—and its possible connection to a candidate for Alpine County sheriff—has rekindled fears of a political takeover in California's tiniest county.

The plot, some residents believe, also involves questionable voter registration practices to elect a sheriff and possibly other county officers in a county of about 850 people.

But the sheriff candidate in question, John Buras, denied this week that he is connected to the controversial Posse Comitatus, a conservative citizen group whose roots are in neighboring San Joaquin County.

"Posse Comitatus" members believe in God, freedom to bear arms, and their interpretation of the Constitution. Sometimes calling themselves "constitutionalists" or "libertarians," they reject the notion that they are vigilantes.

Buras found himself on the hotseat Tuesday at a candidates' night after a current member of the sheriff's department suggested an apparent connection between Buras and an advertisement published in "Spotlight," a gun trade publication.

The ad asked for "federal reserve notes or dollars to help elect a tax fighting sheriff and a district attorney who will not allow illegal government activities to exist in their county."

minimum-security facility. He posed for pictures, but declined to answer any questions. ABC correspondent Margaret Osmer said, "John Ehrlichman told me he felt not guilty but sadness and regret over Watergate and all it brought."

Gazette City Editor Vic Thornton had said prior to Ehrlichman's release that Mrs. Boyles would be on hand at the prison.

"I don't know if we'll get a story or not," Thornton said. "She's got this personal involvement. She's very sympathetic toward him."

Ehrlichman is separated from his wife, Jeanne, who lives in Seattle where he formerly practiced law.

(See Ehrlichman, Back Page)

minimum budget of \$167,000 and is one of the largest on the Weather Service "hit list."

Rep. John J. McFall, D-Manteca, reportedly told the subcommittee that 16-hour service at Stockton might be adequate if full funding for the 19 stations was not restored.

The staff now at the Stockton station includes the chief Robert Lee Storey and forecasters Bob Nelson, Roy Bastian and Corinne Gogue Cook.

A proposal to close 19 weather stations at a savings of \$1.7 million was made in January by the Office of Management and Budget. The service budget is expected to be considered by the House Appropriations Committee in late May.



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✓ Election la decision Wed ing for politic in, the politic

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- Opinion
- Sports
- Sylvia Porter
- Television
- Vitals
- Weather

(See Posse, Back Page)

...but I'll be back in Boston as soon as I can."

There had been no advance announcement from the hospital about when Wayne would be released, but sources close to the actor and his sons Michael and Patrick said "The Duke" did not want to make a fuss over his release.

...in television commercials for a lip moistener, said she got to know Kennedy when she was lobbying on women's rights issues.

She commented after two New York newspapers reported that Kennedy, 46, and his wife, Joan, had separated. Mrs. Kennedy denied the reports.

IN WAYNE

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Continued Posse

Alpine County District Attorney Chris Smith has warned all voters that their registrations better be proper, or they face possible prosecution under a variety of election laws.

Smith says he isn't singling out "Posse" members. He says anyone who registers to vote but is not properly domiciled in the county faces prosecution, and he already sees "a strong probability of charges."

County Clerk Joan Chacon says voter registration has gone up from 563 in January to 679 now, and there are "quite a number of newcomers."

The big concern voiced by many residents is that registrations from "newcomers" will grow enough prior to the May 8 registration deadline to give Buras a chance to win.

He's running against Archie Wood, the 21-year veteran of the sheriff's department who is seeking the post to be vacated by Sheriff Stu Merrill, retiring this year.

Wood thinks it would be tough to register hundreds of new voters, but says there is a danger that two supervisors' seats could be grabbed by conservative candidates.

That's because write-incandidates could still develop in those races, and the number of voters in each district is far smaller than the number in countywide contests, he said.

Residents of Alpine County tend to be conservative. But some say the views of people like Buras, who moved here 2½ months ago, and Gillings, are too much for them.

Ed Fogarty, 62, a retired Navy shipfitter, says he is certain Buras is involved with "Posse" members, whom he termed "rabble rousers trying to get a foothold in government."

Fogarty said one problem is a liberal election law which has enabled the group to set up the plot. "Those election laws have to be changed," he said. "By God, we want something done."

Eric Leffingwell, ranger at the state park near here, admits he is "prejudiced" towards Buras and feels he is "part of a radical group. I don't go along with their thinking."

Leffingwell also said he objected to the voter registration activity. Both men criticized Buras during the candidates night, where Buras later charged he encountered "hate and hostility."

The residents' reactions are similar to fears voiced when a group of homosexuals outlined plans to move into the county in the early 1970s. The move never materialized.

Buras says people should listen to him instead of prejudging him. For one thing, he says, costs of running the sheriff's office would be cut if he were elected, because he would seek volunteers for some help.

That would fit in with views of many "Posse" members, who feel they should step in to give a helping hand when local authorities need help—or when the Posse believes the local officer isn't doing his job properly.

Gillings was arrested and charged with assault with a deadly weapon on a peace officer in San Joaquin County in the fall of 1975 after Posse members attempted to intervene in a farm labor dispute.

Gillings subsequently announced he was resigning from the Posse.

Buras says some of his views are the same as those espoused by "Posse" members, but others aren't. He adds that "I absolutely abhor violence of any kind. It's the worst thing in the world."

He says he moved to Alpine County from Los Angeles, where he worked as an equipment driver, because he saw a chance for "a place where you can have a better life, without being taxed out of existence. Here you can have a little control."

Plaster Conv of Stolen

JACK FRANCIS

SUSD Chief i

Jack Francis, personnel for the Stockton Unified S district for the past seven being reassigned as principal School for Adults to replace Lawrence T. Minahan.

Francis said he requested transfer, which will drop 10 percent from \$30,784 to because "I'm looking for a and this is a new opportunity to try another area, education is the one field I yet been involved with. most exciting."

The reassignment was agreed upon by district trustees at an executive session Tuesday, Francis said, and will be ratified at the next school meeting.

Francis said the switch will take effect July 1, and the vacant personnel director's post will be "as rapidly as possible."

Minahan's resignation, after 32 years as a teacher and principal in Stockton Unified, was accepted by the trustees Tuesday night. Minahan has been principal of the School for Adults years.

A native Stocktonian, Minahan graduated from St. Mary's School in 1934 and St. Mary's College in 1938. He earned a master's degree from University of California in 1961.

After teaching three years at Hopland Unified School District and Mendocino County, Minahan

Lincoln S In School

Gary Davis, 13, a student at Lincoln Senior Elementary School, in good condition at St. Joseph's hospital where he underwent surgery Wednesday after he slipped and severed the third, or ring finger of his left hand while working on a bike saw.

Mrs. Frank Trautz, of 6109

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The Lake County sheriff's office identified the drowning victims as Sharon K. Burgoyne, 20, daughter of Dan Zimm, 3211 E. Anderson, and Patricia Burns, also 20, of Clear Lake Highlands.
 Officers said the two had been on an

spot, and that Mrs. Burns' husband had reported her missing from a night swim- ming party.

Bakery Robbed

A hippie-type robber put the squeeze on the Sunbeam bakery outlet at 1701 N. Wilson Thursday afternoon but didn't get away with much bread—\$31, to be exact.

The clerk on duty, Mercedes Stess, 30, told Stockton police she waited on a youth with long hair and rectangular sunglasses as he was pinching the loaves in the store. Then he displayed a small handgun, she related, and advised her: "I don't want to hurt you; just do what I say and get in the back room."
 She said he stuffed the \$31 from the cash drawer into a pocket of his dirty blue jeans.

Continued

Gillings

when sheriff's deputies moved into the field to arrest him on an outstanding Stanislaus County traffic warrant. During the incident, Gillings' shotgun discharged next to the head of Sheriff's Inspector Daniel Delfatti and Gillings was charged with assault with a deadly weapon on a peace officer and brandishing a firearm. He also was charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, his 14-year-old son, Dennis, who was in the field with him.

The posse had been guarding the field at the request of farmers in the face of United Farm Workers Union organizing attempts.

Gillings, who charged the following day that his traffic arrest was part of a plot against him by Sheriff Michael N. Canlis, said today he missed a scheduled court appearance on the speeding citation in July because he was in South Dakota, where his father was ill. He said a court clerk told him a warrant for his ar-

rest would not be issued because he was filing papers requesting a new court date.

He insisted that in any event, the sheriff's department erred in the way it effected his arrest. He maintained the deputies should have told posse members they had a warrant for him and the posse would have delivered him up.

"I said (on Tuesday), 'Show me the warrant. We'll deliver the man.' And never once did they open their mouths," Gillings declared.

Gillings also asserted that federal agents who asked their agency not be identified have become involved in investigating the Tuesday incident.

"I don't dare go into this any further, but there are some very, very high charges that are going to be brought out of this thing. It's not going to be brought by Francis Gillings but by the federal government," he said, adding:

"I made not one error in what I did in

that field. I was under oath to protect the property rights and the lives of those involved in protecting that property. When the sheriff entered that ground, and refused to show a warrant and refused to say who he was after, we then and there had the full authority of the United States Constitution to cut down every uniformed man on that field."

Gillings also said the incident has caused a new wave of interest in formation of posses throughout the United States.

"This posse is very much alive," Gillings declared. "I would say this will be the greatest building of posses throughout the United States that could have ever happened...It seems like a true act of God. For the building of the posse it was a great incident and Canlis did it himself."

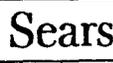
Bus Tour Is Planned

A special overnight chartered bus tour to Hearst Castle and the Swedish community of Solvang is being offered Sept. 27 and 28 by the Stockton Metropolitan Transit District and the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce.

The package tour price includes a Saturday brunch, dinner, motel lodging, Hearst tour tickets, Sunday dinner and all transportation. Reservations made be made through the transit district, 145 N. Grant.

June's Namesake

Authorities disagreed on where the ancient Romans got the name Junius, our month of June. Perhaps from Juno, queen of their gods, possibly from juniores (youths), to whom the month was dedicated, as May was to maiores, the elders.



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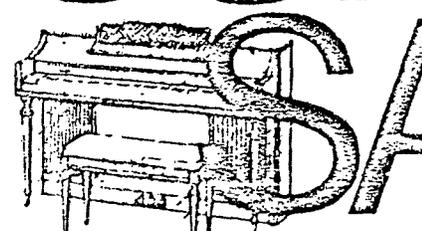
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Alpine's Strange Election



EX-CANDIDATE JOHN BURAS
Critics accused him of leading a right-wing takeover



UNDERSHERIFF WOOD WITH SHERIFF MERRILL
Wood's running to succeed his boss

Would-Be Sheriff Talks of Threats

By George Draper
Chronicle Correspondent

Markleeville
Alpine county

John Buras, a political unknown from Los Angeles who was backed by members of the vigilante-style "Posse Comitatus," suddenly withdrew as a candidate for sheriff of Alpine county yesterday, saying he feared for his safety.

His withdrawal momentarily ended what many permanent Alpine county residents feared was a right-wing attempt to seize control of the county government.

A rash of sudden, shadowy voter registrations for the forthcoming June 6 election are under investigation by District Attorney Christopher Smith and citizens have been angrily saying they, not the right-wing newcomers, are the real patriots.

"I've been threatened. The threat of bodily harm is the only reason I'm withdrawing," the 56-year-old Buras, a onetime Los Angeles ambulance driver, said in a telephone interview.

Undersheriff Archie P. Wood Jr., the only other candidate in the race to replace retiring Sheriff Stuart Merrill, greeted the news of Buras' withdrawal with skepticism.

"It makes one wonder, is it a diversion?" Wood said.

Fewer than 700 persons are now registered to vote in Alpine county on June 6. At the last election for sheriff in 1974, Sheriff Merrill won by only 18 votes.

Merrill has said he is afraid a relatively small number of newcomers could tip the scales against the man he would like to have

succeed him, Undersheriff Wood.

Buras, in response to questions, told The Chronicle he had not received any telephone threats or face-to-face threats in this remote county nestled in the spine of the Sierra. But, he said, "I just sense hostility."

"I have a fear for my safety. I'm sitting here by myself," he said from his campaign headquarters in a little green house on Markleeville's main street.

Asked whether he had a gun, Buras replied:

"No. Even if I defended myself and shot someone they'd hang me for it."

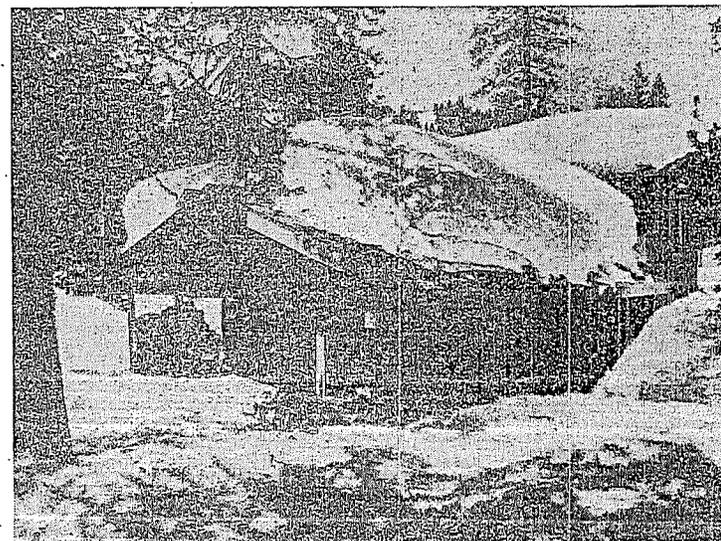
Buras first sensed hostility from the natives about two weeks ago when he attended a candidates night meeting at Turtle Rock Park near here and was shelled by angry questioners.

Sheriff Merrill himself led the questioning by asking Buras if he knew that most of Buras' official sponsors "on the election papers" were "active members of the Posse Comitatus."

"I had heard before that they had been but whether they are now I do not know," Buras replied.

The Posse Comitatus was founded in the late 1960s by a group of strict constitutionalists who claim a strong belief in God, law and order and who vigorously oppose federal taxes and gun control.

The posse also opposes what it believes is excessive interference by government agencies in matters



Three registered Alpine voters, including Buras, claimed this house as their residence

concerning individual and property rights.

One of the 22 persons who signed nomination papers supporting Buras' candidacy was Francis E. Gillings, head of the right-wing Posse Comitatus in San Joaquin county.

Gillings was arrested in a tomato field near Stockton in 1975 after he and 40 or 50 armed followers prevented United Farm Workers organizers from going into the field to talk with farm hands.

At the Turtle Rock meeting, another questioner drew applause from the 230 persons in the audience when he told Buras: "You say the government runs us but I say this is the best government in the world, friend."

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the man shook a bony finger at candidate Buras and shouted: "The only thing that makes it worse is organizations like you belong to."

During his long, hot evening before the voters, Buras said he was not a member of the Posse Comitatus but that he was a director of Sierra Alpine Associates.

Sierra Alpine Associates now owns 600 hilly acres overlooking Markleeville, which were once held in the name of Gillings' son.

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The home is owned and Sandra Hoiles of Hoiles runs the Libert

Three registered Alpine voters, including Buras, claimed this house as their residence

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The then candidate looked slightly distracted, as though he couldn't remember whether he'd left his hat in his make-shift "residence" at Markleeville or his recently established voting residence at Bear Valley or at his apartment in Los Angeles.

When Buras filed his declaration of candidacy with the Alpine county clerk on March 9, he gave as his address "No. 10 Quaker Aspen road, Bear Valley."

Bear Valley is the luxurious ski resort on the west side of Alpine county. It poses a dramatic life-style contrast to the austere, frontier quality of Markleeville.

Buras told The Chronicle he established a residence there three months ago when he decided to run for sheriff. The address he gave when he filed for sheriff should have been No. 10 Quaking Aspen road, not Quaker Aspen road.

The home is owned by Douglas and Sandra Hoiles of Sunnyvale. Hoiles runs the Liberty Bookstore at Mountain View. The last four digits of both his home and store telephone numbers are 1776.

Two persons who signed Buras' nomination papers — Darrell D. Smith and John M. Kitchen — also listed 10 Quaking Aspen road as their address.

Hoiles, reached by telephone, said he is a member of the Sierra Alpine Associates but is not a member of the Posse Comitatus. He said he has known Gillings for several years.

Hoiles said "several people" besides Buras are paying for the use of his Bear Valley home and that he met some of them at a Sierra Alpine Associates meeting.

The recent voter registrations of four other persons at Bear Valley — two of whom were Buras sponsors — are currently under investigation. It is understood the owners of the condominium where they said they lived have claimed they never heard of the four newcomers.

Summing up the antipathy of many residents, Ken Kahn said, "I'm terribly disappointed the Posse Comitatus is coming here to try to take over the valley." Kahn, who lives on Monty Wolf road observed, "This has been a paradise and I hate to see anyone come in and disturb it."

SF Chronicle
5/10/78

'Posse Man' Quits

Only One Candidate
For Alpine Sheriff

MARKLEEVILLE--Asserting he feared for his life, Alpine County newcomer John Buras has backed out of the sheriff's race, ending a controversial campaign in which he was linked with a purported attempt by the Posse Comitatus to take over the county.

When he announced his decision to withdraw, Buras told reporters he felt "like Daniel in the lions' den." He said, "I've been threatened. The threat of bodily harm is the only reason I'm withdrawing."

Later, however, he acknowledged that he had not received any face-to-face or telephone threats. He said, "I just sense hostility".

His action leaves in the race only undersheriff Archie P. Wood, Jr., who has the endorsement of retiring Sheriff Stuart Merrill. Merrill has said that Buras' election papers show that his official sponsors include active members of the Posse Comitatus. The [56]-year-old Buras conceded that he knew some supporters had been posse members but he denied that he is connected with the group.

The Posse, [formed] in San Joaquin County several years ago, first made headlines when members took their guns and went into the farmland to patrol fields being picketed by farm workers seeking union recognition.

It later became a bone of contention in this county when one of the leaders, Frances Gillings, bought 600 acres near Markleeville and an announcement was made that a new community called "Constitution City" would be formed. Posse members denied any attempt to take over the county, and Gillings has since announced his resignation from the posse.

Buras, who moved to Alpine County from Los Angeles less than three months ago, had earlier said, fears of any takeover were figments of local imagination.

transcribed from a deteriorating photocopy of an article which appeared in the Stockton Record, May 7, 1978; pg. 14, cols 3,4,5.

Fear for his safety forces candidate out

MARKLEEVILLE (AP) — A candidate who had been backed by the controversial Posse Comitatus withdrew from the race for Alpine County sheriff Friday, saying he feared for his safety.

"I've been threatened," said John Buras. "The threat of bodily harm is the only reason I'm withdrawing."

The move left only Undersheriff Archie P. Wood Jr. in the race to succeed retiring Sheriff Stuart Merrill.

The race had attracted attention when District Attorney Christopher Smith said he would investigate a rash of sudden voter registrations for the June 6 election.

Merrill has said he is afraid a relatively small number of newcomers could tip the scales against Wood,

the man he has endorsed to replace him.

Buras said that while he had not received any telephone threats or face-to-face threats, "I just sense hostility."

At a candidates forum two weeks ago, Merrill had asked Buras if he knew that most of his official sponsors "on the election papers" were "active members of the Posse Comitatus."

"I had heard before that they had been but whether they are now I do not know," Buras replied.

The Posse Comitatus was founded in the late 1960s by a group of strict constitutionalists who claim a strong belief in law and order and fervently oppose federal taxes and gun controls.

SAC BEE

Reno Evening Gazette

Monday, May 8, 1978 — 5

Alpine sheriff candidate withdraws from the race

MARKLEEVILLE (AP) — A candidate for Alpine County sheriff who had been backed by the controversial Posse Comitatus withdrew from the race, saying he felt like "Daniel in the lions' den" and feared for his safety.

"I've been threatened. The threat of bodily harm is the only reason I'm withdrawing," said John Buras, 56, after he pulled out of the election Friday.

But when pressed in an interview to elaborate, Buras admitted he hadn't received any telephone or face-to-face threats in this remote county nestled against the Sierra. He said, "I just sense hostility."

Buras' backers had attracted attention to the June 6 election. More controversy stirred when District Attorney Christopher Smith said he would investigate a rash of sudden voter registrations for the election.

With Buras out of the running, only Undersheriff Archie P. Wood Jr. remains on the ballot to succeed retiring Sheriff Stuart Merrill.

Merrill has said he is afraid a relatively small number of newcomers could tip the scales against Wood, the man he has endorsed to replace him.

At a candidates forum two weeks ago, Merrill had asked Buras if he knew that most of his official sponsors "on the election papers" were "active members of the Posse Comitatus."

"I had heard before that they had been but whether they are now I do not know," Buras replied, adding he himself was not a member.

MARKLEEVILLE, CA. 96120
951 BOX
THONHURST, BRITZ

RECORD COURIER
5-11-78

'Right wing' takeover?

Bid fails, if there really was one

by SALLY LYDA
R-C Editor

Has a right-wing extremist group tried to take over the governmental structure of Alpine County in recent months, as local residents feared?

If so, the attempt has apparently failed.

John (Joe) Buras, said by some to be the political spearhead of a take-over, has tried to withdraw his candidacy for the job of sheriff, Alpine Dist. Atty. Christopher Smith said yesterday, however, that ballots have already been printed, and Buras is still legally a candidate.

Buras gave as his reason for withdrawal a fear for his personal safety, even his life. The fear, Buras said, was based on comments made by Smith at a candidates night forum in Turtle Rock Park.

Sierra Alpine Associates, owner of a 600-acre parcel of undeveloped land surrounding Markleeville, where the persons "taking over" were expected to live, is negotiating with an Oakland firm which has made an offer to purchase the property, according to Francis Gillings, reputedly the head of Sierra Alpine.

What started talk of a take-over was the sudden registration of over a hundred new voters, beginning early this year—a large number, in view of the 550 or so who were already registered. The new registrants, according to the district attorney, were for the most part people whose Alpine residency was questionable. Smith said this week that he has filed felony actions against five of the registrants, based on perjury charges.

What started the belief that the supposed take-over was being engineered by right wing extremists was the appearance in Alpine County of Nazi and other racial propaganda

The district attorney says Buras's attempt to withdraw does not convince him the problem is over. Smith said that both he and Archie Wood (the other candidate for the sheriff's job) had received pamphlets containing racial slurs within the past few days. The pamphlets, postmarked Van Nuys (Calif.), bore no identification of the sender, according to the D. A., who is himself black.

In interviews with The Record-Courier, both Buras and Gillings denied any connection with the Nationalist Socialist (Nazi) Party, and both denied being racists.

Calling a phone number which had been circulating

Another 'takeover' tempest in Alpine

through Alpine in recent weeks brought the caller a recorded message from the Nazi party. The message was that Holocaust (the TV movie) was a lie; that six million Jews were not killed by the Nazis. The message ends with a comment to the effect that it might be too bad the lie was not the truth.

"That's 180 degrees from what I believe," Gillings said, adding that Alpine County residents had tried to tie him to the recorded message. "They even tried to say it was my voice," he said. Although the message is recorded on a phone at Tracy (Calif.), where Gillings also has an office, he

(see page 3)



FRANCIS GILLINGS, strict Constitutionalist and tax fighter, is reportedly the head of a group of 179 families who bought 600 Alpine County acres as a future home. He is shown here with his wife at a political forum at Turtle Rock Park. (R-C photo)



Alpine combatants

ALPINE D.A. CHRIS SMITH (photo at left) is shown here during a political forum at Turtle Rock Park as he threatened prosecution of anyone who registered

illegally to vote in this year's election. Above are sheriff candidates Archie Woods (left) and John Buras. (R-C photos by Jay Aldrich)

--a tempest in Alpine Was there a 'takeover' attempt?

(from page 1)

says that is the only connection. Buras also denied racial bias. "We are all equal," he said.

The name of another group—Posse Comitatus—came to the foreground. Gillings spoke highly of the group.

According to Webster's Dictionary, the Latin phrase means the entire body of the inhabitants who may be summoned by the sheriff and includes every male inhabitant above 15 years of age who is not infirm.

According to Gillings, this sheriff's power "is the common law right of the people to demand obedience to the Constitution, of their representatives."

Gillings had been quoted in print as saying "the country might shape up a bit if citizens hanged a few public officials."

The question was not put to him during his R-C interview, but it was put to Buras. Had he ever heard Gillings make that statement? Buras said he had not. "But I am willing to make it." Asked how he could reconcile that statement with an earlier one, that he believed in nonviolence, Buras said that when public officials take an oath to uphold the Constitution and then violate that oath, hanging might be the only way to remove them from office.

On the subject of a take-over in Alpine County, Gillings said "If you were going to build a subdivision, and you were going to live in it yourself, you would most likely sell to kindred souls." But a takeover? "No. But if you move in 200 families into any small community, within two to four years, there will be an influence that will make a change of its own natural accord."

Ads were placed on behalf of both Gillings and Buras in the national weekly newspaper "The Spotlight." The one

which gave Gillings' phone number in Tracy read:

"LOAN NEEDED. Need to borrow money for road construction, in county where only patriots will be in charge."

An ad giving Buras's Gardnerville post office box number also asked for money.

"WANTED: FEDERAL RESERVE NOTES OR dollars to help us elect a tax fighting sheriff, 3 supervisors and a district attorney who will not allow illegal government activities to exist in this county."

Whether to describe Spotlight as a "right wing" publication depends on the observer's own political orientation. Among the other classified ads seen in the paper are "Right Wing Newspapers: Don't let Big Brother protect you from the Truth"; "Dictionary of the Right Wing \$10"; "The Ku Klux Klan-A pictorial history"; "Join the White Wing";

"Original Swastika marked German coins"; "Nazi marching songs—3 1/2 hours of music"; "Confederate-KKK paraphernalia, flags, T-shirts, rings, books, jackets."

Although there are other ads of a nonpolitical nature, there are none of a political nature which could be considered in opposition to those quoted.

Both Buras and Gillings speak of themselves as strict Constitutionalists, and both are members of the U. S. Taxpayers Union.

When Gillings told The Record-Courier that Sierra Alpine was negotiating to sell its 600 Markleeville acres, he described the 172 families who had planned to settle there.

"They are retired people," he said, "retired military people, government

(see page 10)

--Alpine 'takeover'

(from page 3)

people, medical doctors—one of the best Congressmen this country has ever had—airline pilots, three school principals, three or four dentists..."

He said Alpine County residents did not know what they had lost; that \$32

million dollars in home construction would have been spent in Alpine County within five years.

He added that the Oakland group dickering for the property consists of "friends of the Alpine District Attorney."

DA probes voter fraud, perjury

TRIBUNE AND AP REPORTS

there was talk of massively removing to Alpine, the smallest county in the state, where 400 to 500 new voters could control any election to easily "open up" the area.

Recently, there has been renewed talk of a possible "plot" by the Posse to do the same thing to elect its own sheriff and maybe a couple of supervisors, but action has been taken by the Alpine

County District Attorney's Office as a result of a probe into a sudden spurt of voter registration.

District Attorney Chris Smith, saying he is not singling out the Posse, has warned all voters that their registrations had better be proper or they face possible prosecution under a variety of election laws.

Smith said anyone registered to vote in Alpine County, but is not properly residing there faces possible action.

His office confirmed today that charges of voter fraud and perjury have been filed against four persons and his probe may turn up more suspected individuals.

The registration activity was believed by some residents to involve Posse

members hoping to elect a sheriff's candidate, and reportedly Smith has evidence that some people have registered illegally.

John Buras, the candidate, has denied the reported takeover as "a figment of their imagination." He attempted to withdraw last week, but apparently his name will remain on the ballot anyway.

Buras, terming himself a staunch conservative, said he doesn't belong to the Posse, whose members say they believe in God, guns and their interpretation of the U.S. Constitution.

No action has been taken against Buras, but reportedly the Alpine County Grand Jury wants to talk to one of his supporters, Francis Gillings, who is a former member of the Posse.

Attention was focused on Buras in recent weeks because of his associations with Gillings, who has been quoted as saying the county might shape up a bit if citizens hanged a few public officials.

Buras also was active in a trust which holds a 600-acre parcel of land near Markleeville that was initially held in the name of Gillings' son and where an attempt

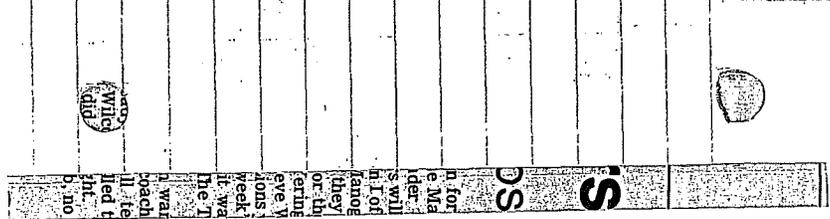
has been made to start a community called "Constitution City."

Buras earlier contended there was nothing illegal about the voter registrations, many by persons who don't live in the county but who have an interest in Constitution City.

Alpine has 850 residents and County Clerk Joan Chacon said the current voter registration has risen to 792.

Tahoe Daily Tribune

Serving All Lake Tahoe — America's All-Year Playground



R-C
5/18-78

Alpine takeover story was disappointing

Editor:

Miss Lyda's article on the threat of a "takeover" of our county by a right wing, radical group calling itself the "Posse Comitatus" was very disappointing to many of your Alpine readers. While technically accurate overall, it certainly left the impression that the writer considered the whole situation somewhat of a "tempest in a teapot" and Alpiners to be a bit paranoid.

We would like to assure you that neither impression is accurate.

Many, many of our residents including most, if not all, of our public officials have shown genuine concern that the threat is real enough. To know anything at all about Alpine and about California's ludicrous voter registration laws makes such concern understandable.

The most important point, in my opinion, which Miss Lyda failed to make clear concerned Mr. Buras's claim that he was threatened by Dist. Attorney Smith. Mr. Smith made it very clear at the Candidates' Night forum that he would prosecute any

and all illegally registered voters. Period. No other threats were made or implied.

Anyone who considers that a personal threat has perhaps "tried the shoe" and found that it fits. For his strong stand on this issue, and for his reminder to everyone that the entire matter must be handled within the law, Mr. Smith got a standing ovation from almost everyone present at the meeting.

Nancy C. Thornburg
Markleeville

The real issue in Alpine County

Editor:

I was taught from childhood that when one hears some one hollering about others, name calling, etc., beware, for that individual has something to hide. This I believe is the real issue in Alpine Co.'s Government, especially concerning District Attorney Smith and a few Sheriff's deputies.

Consider the following if you will. In Sierra Alpine Associates, you will find a conglomerate of 100 per cent professional and skilled labor citizens, with well educated and mannered children, families who wouldn't think of sending their children to a Government school when private Christ centered schools were available. People who wouldn't

cost the taxpayers one thin dime for the education of their children, people who are a great asset to every community where they now live or have lived.

Among these 200 or so families are two Orthodontists, 16 Dentists, 12 Medical Doctors, of which one is a very prominent heart Surgeon, several Chiropractors, eight airline pilots, 3 retired Marine Corps Generals, several former military field grade officers, one former U.S. Judge, one former U.S. Congressman who obeyed his oath of office, two former State Judges who understand the U.S. Constitution and appreciate it, four high school principals, one college professor, two college principals, several highly trained

school teachers, some of which are retired, dozens of small business men and literally every commonly known skilled trade in America.

What, you ask, do these folks have in Common? First and foremost, they all have a firm belief in God, Family and Country, and in that order. They know that the U.S. currency isn't worth the paper it's

(see page 3)

--Alpine letter

RC
5-18-78

(from page 2)

printed on. They belong to several different Church organizations.

They are not people who had formerly been in some Posse Comitatus group as the Stockton Record and other controlled presses would have you believe. The powers to be in Alpine Co. know the one thing which we all have in common, but they don't want voters to know it, because it has become quite popular of late. We are tax fighters. By that I mean we fight or

oppose confiscatory and illegal taxation, but Posse Comitatus most of us are not, nor with rare exception ever have been.

Alpine's problem is a deep and long rooted one. It stems from the fact that in all of Bear Valley, Kirkwood, and Markleeville, there is not so much as one Church nor has there ever been one.

There is a very nice group that have been meeting in homes there for the past few years and my wife and I have met with them and enjoy them but their opposition is tough. The devil always is.

Francis E. Gillings

Diamond Valley students take 1st in video contest

5/1/78

The students in Hugh Smith's 5th and 6th grade class at Diamond Valley School (Alpine County, Calif.) took first place in area competition last week with their video-taped news broadcast from the imaginary space colony "L-5".

Area V, which includes the California counties of Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Modoc, Lassen, and others, generated 26 entries in the 12th Annual California Student Media Festival. This year's theme was "Hello Space."

Among the various criteria for entries were content and organization, technical quality, general effectiveness, totalling 100 possible points. The Diamond Valley students were awarded 86 points in the area competition. The closest competitor earned 80.

The maximum time limit for video taped entries was 10 minutes. The Diamond Valley tape ran 8½ minutes, and teacher Smith said "I have never seen anything better produced by kids." Smith has had 12 years experience in educational media.

The state competition will be held May 20 in Costa Mesa, Calif. The student producer, Jason McKinley, and his assistant, Clayton Keebaugh, and their fathers Dean and Chuck will be flying down to Costa Mesa for the competition. Both boys will be required to make a report on their trip.

Alpine takeover story was disappointing

Read Courier May 18, 78

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Nancy C. Thornburg
Markleeville

The Alpine story

RECORD COURIER

5-18-78

Both sides say there's more to it

by SALLY LYDA
R-C Editor

The Record-Courier did not present a fair picture of events in Alpine County in last week's front-page news story on the subject, according to both sides in the controversy (see Letters, page 2).

The story, which recounted the facts and left the judgment to the reader, should have stated that the migration of 200 like-minded residents into Alpine (and their registration to vote) constituted an attempt to capture the county's government, according to native Alpiner Nancy Thornburg.

According to Francis Gillings, spokesman for 200 people who had hoped to become Alpiners, the story did not make it clear what an asset the new residents would be.

Gillings amplified his letter in a written statement containing strong criticism of Alpine County officials. He was also critical of an April 28 letter to Bear Valley homeowners from "Concerned residents of Alpine County."

The letter says "...there are strong indications that the Posse Comitatus is recording questionable registrations to try to control the vote. There is great concern that they will succeed by registering many more of their members on the 600 acres they own in Markleeville." Bear Valley homeowners were urged "to consider legally registering as many members of your family as possible in Alpine County. The Posse is a serious group." Details were provided concerning the California voting laws.

"They're doing exactly what they accused us of doing," Gillings said.

He also commented on the R-C's reference to ads in "Spotlight."

"And what about those ads in Spotlight newspaper?" he asked. "Just for the sake of argument, let's assume that both those ads were placed by Mr. Gillings. Who, pray tell, can find anything wrong with Patriots being in charge of County affairs?"

Most of Gillings' criticism is reserved for Dist. Atty. Christopher Smith, who is running unopposed in this year's election. "One wonders," Gillings asks, "how much Mr. Smith had to do with the letter sent out by the Bear Valley Home Owners Association?" He also questions Smith's motives in filing voter fraud charges against two Bear Valley residents.

"One wonders if it is because these two families assisted the farmers in stopping Cesar Chavez from taking away all property rights?"

Smith, at a candidates night forum in Turtle Rock Park a few weeks ago, threatened to prosecute anyone, no matter which side they might be on, who violated the state's voting statutes.

Gillings, in his written statement, also criticizes two deputies, Acey and Light, with personal comments.

A spokesman for The Record-Courier said the paper has not expressed an opinion as to whether there was an attempt to take over Alpine County government or whether the group charged with making such an attempt is controlled by right-wing extremists.

Attention, food freaks 5/18/78

R/C

An organizational meeting for an Alpine County food co-op will be held May 25, 6:30 p.m. at the Alpine County library. According to a spokesman, Alpine residents will be joining with their neighbors in Genoa and Carson City who have already formed co-ops. For more information, write to Alpine Food Co-op, P.O. Box 326, Markleeville, Ca. 96120.

Alpine library sale

R/C 5/18/78

The Alpine County Friends of the Library will be holding a Book Sale on Saturday, May 27, and Sunday, May 28 (Memorial Day Weekend) in the parking lot in front of the Library. Donations of books will be gratefully accepted. Paperbacks will be 25 cents per inch. Hard backs will be very cheap. Many big bargains! Everyone welcome.

Los Angeles Times

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE WEST, 1,034,329 DAILY, 1,332,875 SUNDAY

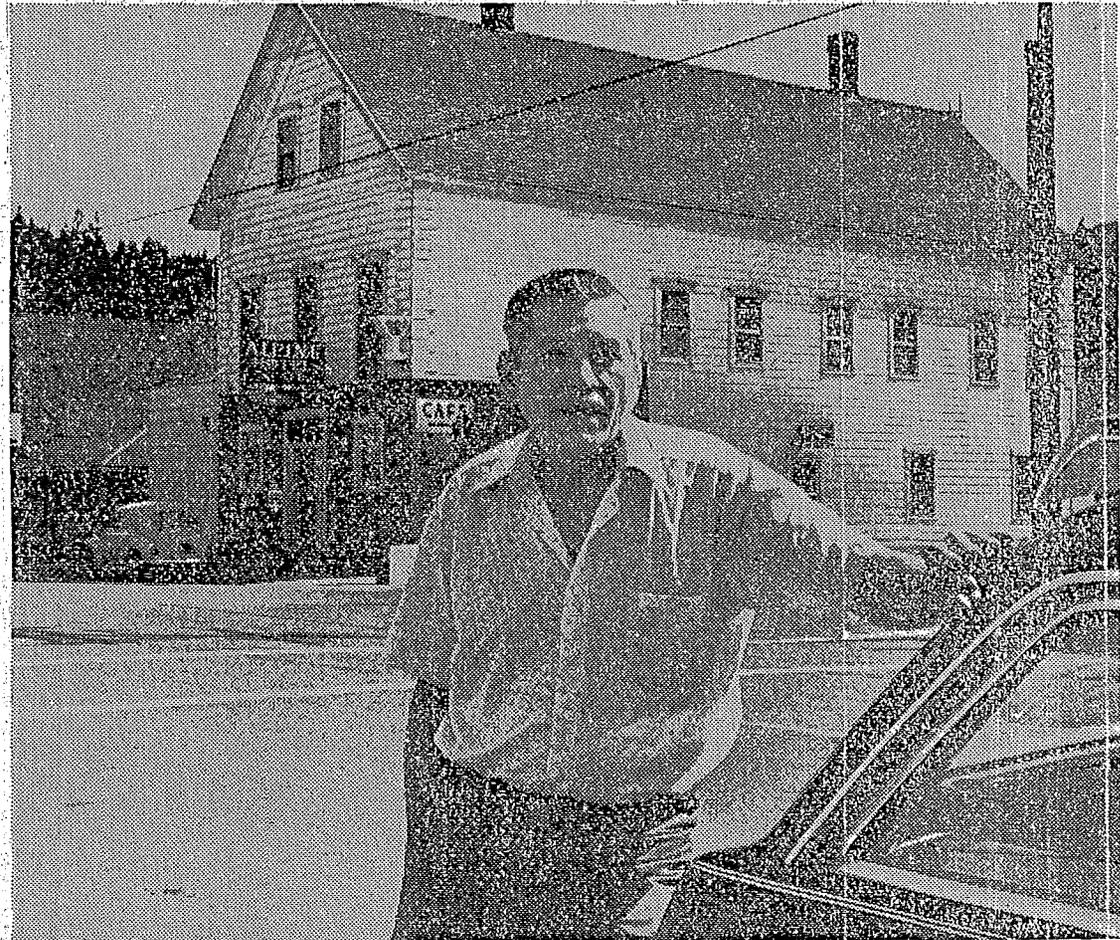
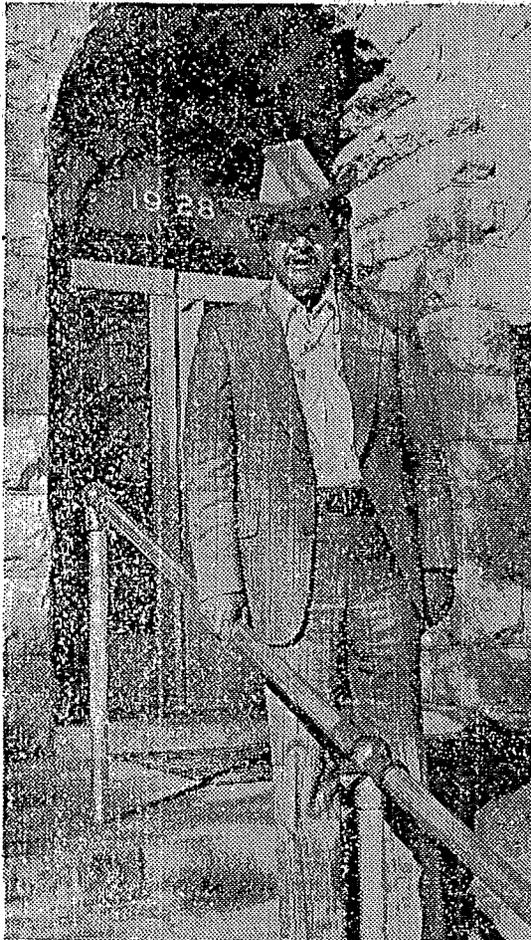
S—PART ONE

116 PAGES

TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 23, 1978

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ADVERSARIES—Alpine County Dist. Atty. Chris Smith, left, is challenging voter registrations of right-wing backers of John E.

Paras, right, sheriff candidate. The controversy revolves around attempt to build right-wing political sanctuary in Alpine County.

Times photos by William C. Rempel

Alpine library sale

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ALPINE COUNTY STRUGGLE

Bid to Build Right-Wing Sanctuary Stirs Concern

BY WILLIAM C. REMPEL

Times Staff Writer

MARKLEEVILLE—In tiny Alpine County, where eight years ago residents feared a takeover by homosexuals, there is concern today that the vigilante-styled Posse Comitatus is after their idyllic corner of the High Sierra.

A posse-backed candidate for sheriff is on the June 6 ballot and the county grand jury is looking into allegations his supporters may have padded voter registration rolls with non-residents.

The controversy has focused critical attention on a proposal to build a political sanctuary for ultraconservatives on 600 acres of pine-covered hillside across the highway from this county seat of 171.

Sheriff's candidate John E. Buras, 56, recently of Los Angeles, has a financial interest in that project, known around Markleeville as "Constitution City."

Buras predicted change "is going to descend upon this town so fast they won't know what happened" once the projected 175 to 200 ultraconservative families start moving into the project area.

Advertisements in a national right-wing publication recently sought loans for road construction on the project "in a county where only patriots will be in charge." A companion ad solicited contributions for Buras "to help us elect a tax-fighting sheriff and a district attorney."

Documents obtained by The Times disclosed that a meeting was held in Southern California last May in which plans to take over Alpine County were discussed by the mastermind of Constitution City—Francis Gillings, leader of the Posse Comitatus in Stockton.

Gillings told a gathering of right-wing activists that a new sheriff and district attorney would be participants in the Constitution City project.

He said the purpose of the project was to "reestablish freedom with our

own bank and law enforcement system," according to the document.

Gillings envisioned the project housing more than 200 families with its own bank, business district and private school—and no taxes. All improvements would be financed by private contributions.

The \$35 million project would, in effect, be the ideological hometown of ultraconservatives everywhere.

There had been little activity associated with the project for the last year, however, since Gillings was busy with legal problems stemming from separate convictions for tax evasion and a 1975 assault on a sheriff's deputy.

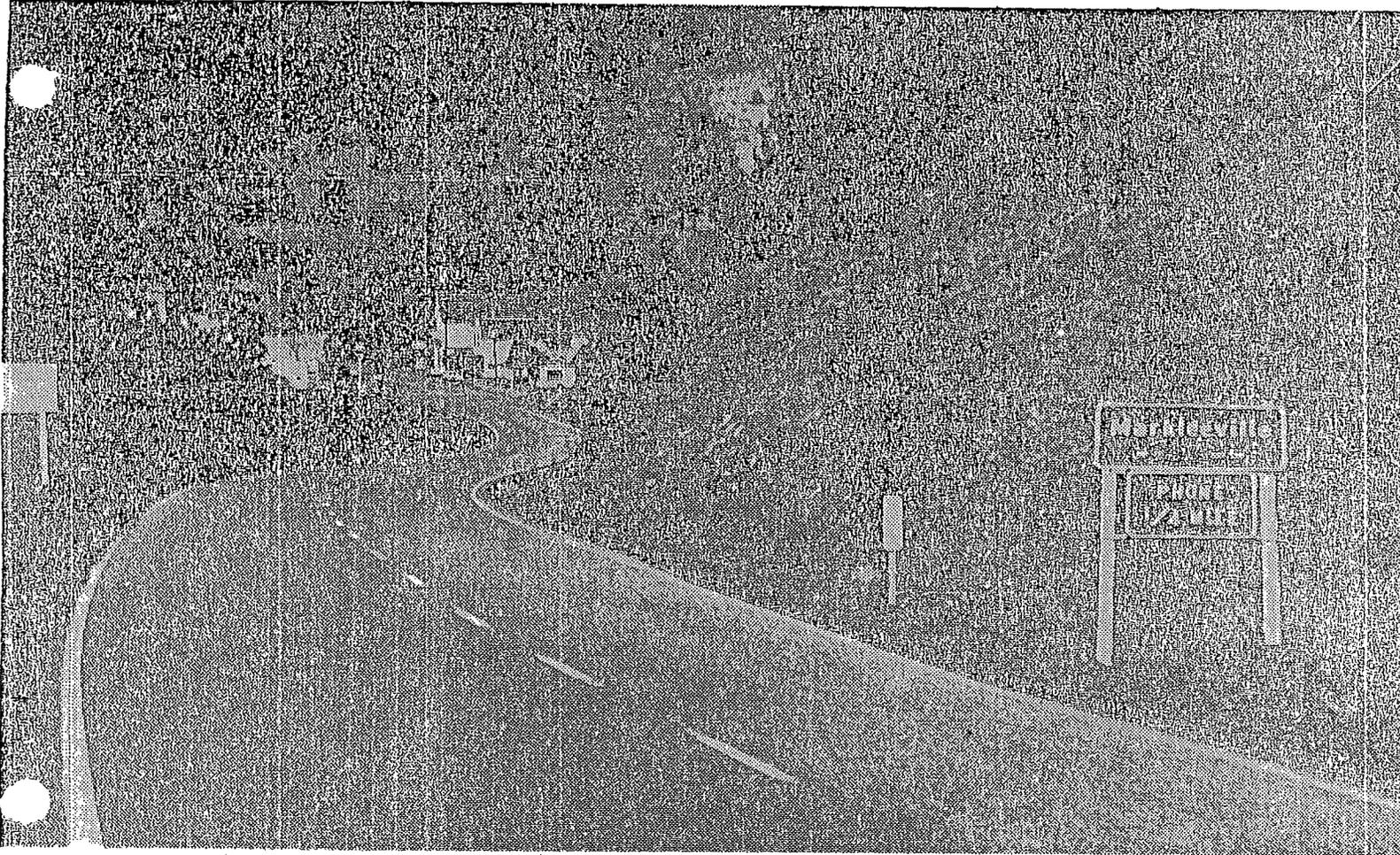
The latter charge came after he led a Posse Comitatus unit into a Stockton area tomato field to block union organizers' access to farm workers. Gillings' shotgun discharged during a scuffle with a deputy. No one was seriously hurt.

Despite that incident with the San Joaquin County sheriff, the Posse Comitatus recognizes the county sheriff as the only legitimate law enforcement agent in America. (Posse Comitatus is Latin for "power of the county.")

The posse also believes in God, guns and tax resistance. Gillings said he "hates government."

Please Turn to Page 3, Col. 2

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Proposal For Constitution City

DECEPTIVE CALM—Road opens on Markleeville, county seat of Alpine County where residents fear takeover by right-wing organiz
Times photos by William C.

LA Times
May 23, 1978

Proposal for Constitution City

Continued from First Page

Alpine County did not greet Gillings, the posse, Constitution City or sheriff's candidate Buras with open arms.

"This place is full of the unfriendliest people I ever saw," Buras said. "It's full of hate."

He announced earlier this month that he was ceasing to campaign against Undersheriff Archie Wood Jr., a native of the area, out of fear for his safety and the safety of his supporters.

Buras left only a "Yes on 13" sign in his home/campaign office window.

He blamed his decision on Alpine Dist. Atty. Chris Smith, 55, a retired Los Angeles Police Department sergeant and former deputy public defender in Los Angeles, whose aggressive prosecution of election code violations has stunned Buras' supporters.

Even before convening the grand jury last week, Smith filed perjury and felony election code violation charges against six Buras backers saying they were not residents of the county when they registered to vote.



MASTERMIND—Francis Gillings seeks to build right-wing political sanctuary in Alpine County.

"Maybe we'll nip this takeover attempt in the bud," Smith said.

County records show that about 200 newcomers registered to vote in the last three months—many of them using post office boxes or vacant lots as residence addresses in the county. Several used the same address or the addresses of Gillings or Buras.

Alpine voter registration rolls swelled from 560 in January to almost 800 last week.

"It's possible that this little county will be taken over by some group some day, but whoever does it is going to have to do it legally," Smith said.

"No one is going to abuse the Election Code to import voters—not while I'm here."

In the Markleeville area there is wide support for the district attorney whom some are calling "our tough black cowboy DA."

"He's the best darn DA we ever had," said one woman who added: "Frankly, we'd rather have the gays up here than these right-wingers."

It is ironic that two Los Angeles men—Buras and Smith—would become the central figures in a bitter political struggle in California's smallest county. (Alpine is 450 miles from Los Angeles, near Lake Tahoe.)

Buras worked 10 years as an ambulance driver for the city of Los Angeles in the 1960s but lists himself now as a truck driver. He has no law enforcement experience.

"I learned a lot about police procedures when I drove the ambulance in Los Angeles," he said.

When Buras last registered to vote in Los Angeles County (in 1976) he listed himself as a member of the "Boston Tea Party."

He moved to Alpine County about three months ago and promptly declared his candidacy for the sheriff's office being vacated by the incumbent.

As sheriff, Buras said, he would rely on volunteer help in order to reduce the size and cost of the seven-man department, and he would take a cut in pay.

"The sheriff in this county isn't worth more than \$1 a year anyway," Buras said.

Smith came to the Alpine DA's job about a year ago, leaving a home in Altadena to take the part-time job in order to write and work a ranch in Diamond Valley.

"I thought I was coming to one of the quietest places in the country," he said, adjusting his ever-present cowboy hat.

Since taking on the election fraud cases he has been the

Please Turn to Page 24, Col. 1

Residents of Alpine County Concerned About Possible Right-Wing Takeover Bid

Continued from Third Page

object of racist hate mail and charges from Gillings that "friends of the DA" want the 600-acre Constitution City site.

"Because I'm black they're using the old 'there-goes-the-neighborhood bit,' Smith said. "No friends of mine are after that property."

Actually, there is considerable doubt the Constitution City project could ever get off the ground in Alpine County. The acreage is zoned for agricultural use and the development has been plagued by legal trouble.

Two years ago a Louisiana woman paid \$800 for what she thought was a subdivided lot in the project only to find out that the land was purchased in the name of Gillings' son.

A Louisiana state investigator told California authorities that the woman's life was threatened when she tried "to expose this scheme."

The California real estate commissioner subsequently issued an order barring Gillings from offering lots for sale, saying Gillings was in violation of state subdivision laws.

Today the land is listed in the name of Sierra Alpine Associates, a trust. Investors hold a beneficial interest in the entire 600 acres, according to Gillings.

Buras, a former member of the association board of directors, said he invested about \$5,000 and will be eligible for a lot in the development when it is constructed.

According to Gillings, the development may end up in some other state. The Times interviewed him last week as he emerged from two hours of stormy testimony before the grand jury. (No charges have been filed against him.)

At times the voices of Gillings and Smith carried into the courthouse hallway during the otherwise secret session.

"The people don't know what they're going to lose if we leave this county," Gillings said as he stormed from the courthouse. "I'll tell you something—there are other counties that want us bad."

He said three counties—all in Western states he refused to name—have invited him to take Constitution City to them.

"I'm not going to move a lot of nice families into a place where there is so much hate," Gillings said. "There are 80 to 90 small counties in this country. We'll have no trouble finding somewhere else to go."

A decision to sell the land and move must be made by the Sierra Alpine Associates board of directors, however, he said. And Buras, for one, would like to stay.

"No one's running me out of this town. I've got a right to be here and I've got a right to run for office. I'm not trying to take over, I'm exercising my right," Buras said.

Undersheriff Wood, Buras' opponent on the June 6 ballot, said Buras and his supporters misread the people of Alpine County.

"People up here like things the way they are—nice and peaceful. They don't want the county turned into a political arena," Wood said.

"These people came up here pushing and shoving and trying to ram rhings like Proposition 13 down our throats. They just stirred people up"

Wood said he was a little concerned about charges that outside voters were being registered.

"In a little county like this every vote counts," he said, noting that his predecessor won election by only 18 votes four years ago.

The grand jury is scheduled to resume hearings into voter fraud charges June 8. There are indications that others besides Buras supporters may have used vacant lots in Alpine as residences for voting purposes.

Two young doctors from the Bay Area did, for example. They told The Times they did so at the urging of Markleeville friends who feared a Posse Comitatus takeover.

"Our friends just wanted to fight fire with fire, I guess," said one of the doctors. Both men later rescinded their registrations.

There are other signs that the issue has stirred uncommon bitterness and resentment in this quiet little mountain town.

A crude mimeographed poster depicting an armored tank bearing a swastika and a noose with the words: "Don't be a fool—fight posse rule" was found tacked to the Markleeville Post Office bulletin board.

Any stranger who asks questions about land around the Constitution City site is reported to the district attorney.

Anyone who is seen in the company of suspected posse members is "considered to be one of them, that's all," according to three Markleeville women.

"We just want them to up and leave us," another added.

Alpine County this time of year is an unlikely place to find such political intrigue. The aspen are glowing, snow melt is swelling crystal streams—and the fish are biting just a few steps from the old stone courthouse where the grand jury will meet in two weeks.

Sally Lyda

Record
Courier
5-25-78



The Alpine take-over

I've written a couple of news stories recently about the large group of people who bought land in Alpine County, registered to vote, and put up a candidate for the job of sheriff. The news stories have reported the reaction of old-time Alpiners who consider the new group's action a take-over.

Not only do the Alpiners resent the idea of their local government being taken over: they are also concerned about the type of government they believe would result if taken over by this particular group.

For weeks, I've been trying to sort out conflicting statements, checking them against fact and logic. I have talked to Francis Gillings, head of Sierra Alpine Associates, the group which bought 600 acres around Markleeville, and with John Buras, the Associates' candidate for sheriff. I've come to some conclusions, and for what they're worth, I'd like to share them with you.

First, about the fear of a take-over: Was the fear justified? Did the Associates hope, by sheer weight of numbers, to change the way Alpine government is run?

Yes, I think they did. People who plan a change of homesite don't usually stop voting in their present community so they can register in the new one, before they move. It is even more unusual for a large group of people to do so, and especially significant when they put a candidate in the field.

The job the Associates chose to seek—sheriff—is another strong indication of intent. Gillings is (or has been) a member of Posse Comitatus. He started a Posse when he was battling Cesar Chavez in California's grape fields. The basic philosophy of Posse Comitatus seems to be that the sheriff is the most powerful of public figures, having common law authority to conscript every able-bodied male over the age of 15—including, presumably, other officials.

Christopher Smith, Alpine district attorney, has filed charges

People were attracted to Topaz Ranch Estates (to all of Douglas County) because of the way it was—the live-and-let-live attitude as well as the physical environment. We are here as individuals, and we join old-timers in the effort to preserve what attracted us in the first place.

What if the hundreds of vacant lots remaining at TRE were bought by a group whose members all thought alike on public issues? What if they registered to vote and fielded a candidate for a job which they believed to be paramount?

I would resent it.

What about the second Alpine concern? What type of government and life style would result from a take-over by Sierra Alpine Associates?

Early this year, after a massive increase in registered voters and after Buras filed as a candidate for sheriff, Nazi literature and other similar material began to appear in Alpine County. Oldtimers say it was brought in by Associates. Gillings said he believes it was imported by others in an effort to link him and his friends with Naziism.

The Posse Comitatus shares some attitudes with both Nazis and Communists, especially a belief in a very powerful law enforcement agency. The Associates, however, have one thing in common which would make it impossible for them to be either Nazis or Communists. That is their unanimous devotion to God and church. One of Gillings' strongest criticisms of Alpine County is what he sees as a lack of such devotion.

Some of the offensive literature which has been seen in Alpine recently has contained racial slurs. Both Gillings and Buras speak strongly against racism, and it is clear they do not think of themselves as racists.

Spotlight, a national newspaper which Buras and Gillings admire and in which advertisements were placed

"18 wooded acres in remote Boston mountains, 11 mi. to Winslow, Ark. Patriot Neighbor. \$350 per acre...

"Group survival retreats—If you are aware of any please send full information for possible inclusion in directory for patriots...

"The anarchist cookbook—The 'how to' book on lethal weapons, explosives, sabotage and booby traps. Only \$9.95..."

The ads placed in Spotlight for Gillings asked for a loan to build roads in a county "where only patriots will be in charge." The ad for Buras asked for money to help him get elected as sheriff.

It would be a long jump from a "Spotlight" subscription to a link between the subscriber and all the other readers who advertise in the paper, and it's a jump I don't plan to take. Still, there is always a certain amount of kinship among readers of a special interest publication, and I think it's fair to consider that in an assessment.

If Sierra Alpine Associates should move into Alpine County in sufficient numbers to outvote the present residents and thus select all elected officials, I would expect to see changes.

Foremost would be a shift to the sheriff as the most powerful county figure. I would expect a person's religion (or lack of it) and his private moral code to be more influential in selection for government office than is now the case.

Church schools would be built and citizens urged to send their children there rather than to public schools. Whether they did so or not might determine their status in the social and political life of Alpine County.

The way it is now, the sheriff is equal in rank and authority to other elected officials. If he should violate the law, the district attorney would have the duty to swear out a complaint for the sheriff's arrest.

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Christopher Smith, Alpine district attorney, has filed charges against some Associates who he says violated California's election laws. A court will decide the legality, but what about the right and wrong of it?

What's wrong with newcomers outnumbering oldtimers? In Douglas County, only a small part of the population has been here more than a very few years.

I have lived at Topaz Ranch Estates for five years, qualifying me as an oldtimer in that relatively new subdivision. The newcomers who moved in after me now outnumber the small group that was there when I moved in. More people will come into TRE this year and in the years to come, outnumbering all of us.

And I don't worry about being "taken over."

But there's a difference between the TRE experience and what apparently has been happening in Alpine. My new neighbors (like us "oldtimers") have been Democrats and Republicans, professionals and tradesmen, affluent people and others who live on small retirements or Social Security, mobile home dwellers and those who build conventional houses, members of every religious faith and some who are members of none.

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Spotlight, a national newspaper which Buras and Gillings admire and in which advertisements were placed in their behalf, has a want ad section containing appeals to racial bias, as well as pro-Nazi offerings. These are not offset by balancing ads calling for racial tolerance and brotherhood.

There are also ads which might be found in any newspaper or magazine: "Cantaloupe custard pie. My grandmother's own creation... Keno secrets revealed!... Do you know how to dry your own fruits and vegetables?"

Numerous ads on religious subjects appear, ads which (like the recipes and keno secrets) could be found in most general interest publications.

And there are ads with another common thread, an idea that has been around a long time. It seems to come from a fear that "patriots" (as defined by the person using the word) are in the minority; that they will some day have to protect themselves from those who are not patriots. The ads look for or offer information about communities of patriots and about self-protection:

"Survive with family & friends. Prepare for trouble times ahead. New directory shows how, where and why...

get elected as sheriff.

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Church schools would be built and citizens urged to send their children there rather than to public schools. Whether they did so or not might determine their status in the social and political life of Alpine County.

The way it is now, the sheriff is equal in rank and authority to other elected officials. If he should violate the law, the district attorney would have the duty to swear out a complaint for the sheriff's arrest. However, under the Posse Comitatus philosophy, the sheriff (and the district attorney) would refuse to uphold laws which they considered unconstitutional.

And instead of carrying questions of Constitutionality to the U. S. Supreme Court, they would make the decision themselves.

I know of no community (county or nation) ruled by military or police officials where individual freedom is guaranteed, and no matter how high the ideals or sincere the intent, the Posse Comitatus concept carries with it the strong temptation for abuse of power.

The Associates might be able to withstand such a temptation. Fears that they would eventually impose a police state regime in Alpine County might be totally unjustified.

But if I were an Alpiner, I would resent and resist a take-over by the Associates, or by any other group with a take-over intent, even if they shared every belief I hold dear.

Alpine DA files charges

Record
Courier 5-25-79

Alpine County Dist. Atty. Christopher Smith has filed criminal charges against six people and asked for grand jury investigation of others, based on charges of illegal voter registration.

Smith responded this week to accusations that while he was prosecuting members of Sierra Alpine Associates, he was ignoring similar registration techniques on the part of others.

Francis Gillings, a director of the Associates, cited a letter to Bear Valley property owners as being "just what he is accusing us of.

The letter urged those receiving it to register to vote and explained the California voting laws as they apply to Bear Valley property owners.

Smith said he had been given a copy of the letter and found nothing in it that violated the law or that encouraged others to do so. According to the D. A., a person who has a home in Alpine County and lives in it part of the time—even if he spends more time in another home in another county—can register to vote in Alpine, provided he shows evidence of intent to make Alpine his permanent home. Such evidence, he said, might include the registering of an automobile in Alpine County.

In other words, Smith said, two conditions must exist: a home within the county and the intent to live there permanently.

"Either one of those conditions without the other," he said, "is not sufficient." In the cases he is prosecuting, Smith said he feels the registrants have failed to satisfy both conditions.

The district attorney also responded to another comment Gillings made when he announced the Associates' decision to sell the 600 acres they own around Markleeville. Gillings said then that negotiations were in process with an Oakland group comprised of friends of the district attorney.

Smith said he has no friends in Oakland, so far as he knows, who are interested in Alpine County property.

"And I have no interest, direct or indirect, through friends or otherwise, in that parcel or any other parcel that is concerned in this matter."

His office is still investigating voter registration, the D. A. said, adding that the problem was not a new one that arrived with the arrival of the Associates.

"We are going to get the voters' list straightened out," he said. "Anyone found to be in violation of the law will be prosecuted, regardless of who they are."

The California primary

P-C
6-1-78

Alpine, Mono to decide tax issue, candidates

by SALLY LYDA
R-C Editor

Although Alpine County has steamed with political controversy during the past few months while Mono seemed to lie quiet, the picture is just the opposite so far as the primary ballot is concerned.

Next Tuesday, Alpine voters will see six local offices with only one candidate each, and only two opponents for the other three.

By contrast, Mono has four candidates for one supervisory seat, three for the other, and three each for county clerk and superintendent of schools.

Both counties will also make decisions on a number of California State propositions, including two aimed at easing the property tax burden: No. 8 and No. 13.

There seems to be little difference in the attitude of Alpine and Mono residents so far as those propositions are concerned. They don't think 8 will do the job, and although they aren't sure 13 will work, most of those who were asked about it said they would vote it. And they expressed confidence that the rest of the state would also.

The major difference between the two propositions is expressed in the "financial impact" at the end of the wording on the ballot. No. 8, it is said, "could result in reduction of local taxes," while the annual loss of revenue from property taxes under No. 13 for the 1978-79 fiscal year would be an estimated seven BILLION dollars throughout the state.

There is little concern and no apparent planning for the expected passage of 13 in Alpine, but the Mono County Board of Supervisors has made some preliminary decisions about where the budget cuts will take place.

CANDIDATES

In Alpine, Frank Jerauld has no opposition in his bid for the supervisor's seat being vacated by Alfred Chain, who chose not to run again. Harold Duarte, the other supervisor whose position is up this year, did choose to run. He is opposed by Jean Martin, a write-in candidate.

Neither of the Mono supervisors up for election this year (Arch Mahan and Don Sharp) filed for the job again. Mahan's slot is sought by Monte McCloud, Buster Norton, and Robert J. Stanford. Norton has unofficially withdrawn from the race, but his name will remain on the ballot.

The four candidates for Don Sharp's seat on the board of supervisors in Mono County are Gerald M. Gilman, Edgar F. Hazelton, L. M. (Luke) Lucas, and Emily C. Maner.

The sheriff-coroner election in both counties is essentially a one-man affair, although two names will appear on the ballot in Alpine. Stu Merrill, the present Alpine sheriff, chose not to run. Candidates are Archie P. Wood, now a lieutenant in the sheriff's department, and John Buras, who tried unsuccessfully to withdraw his candidacy.

In Mono, Martin A. Strelneck Jr. is unopposed for the sheriff's job, which he now holds by virtue of appointment.

There's a race for the clerk's job in both counties. In Alpine, incumbent Joan Chacon is opposed by Doranna Tognotti.

In Mono, Ruby Strait is the incumbent, having been appointed when former clerk Ann Webb resigned. Ms. Strait is opposed by Mary Loeppky (a Walker neighbor of Ms. Strait) and by Bruce Adams, former county administrative officer.

(see page 8)

--California election

(from page 1)

Richard Martin (husband of supervisory candidate Jean Martin) is the incumbent superintendent of schools in Alpine County and is running for re-election to the job, without opposition.

However, Mono superintendent Clarence Dilts has two challengers: Edward Inwood and Gordon Strachan.

In both counties, there are four other offices for which the incumbents are running without opposition: Assessor (Roger Olson, Alpine; Daniel Bryant, Mono), auditor (Barbara Ryan, Alpine; Myron K. Schlaegel, Mono), treasurer (Clyde Brooker, Alpine; Harry A. Stoneburner, Mono), and district attorney (Christopher Smith, Alpine; N. Edward Denton, Mono).

Who's the villain?

RC 6-1-78

Editor:

It's really hard to tell in the soap opera politics of Alpine County who is the hero and who is the villain: the Posse Comitatus (the God and Constitution group hell-bent on a fascist take-over through voter registration fraud) or the present Establishment (the God and Constitution group hell-bent on finding the means, lawful or

borderline, of keeping the PC from that end).

One thing is sure, however, Chris Smith, the big city, big-fish-in-a-small-pond District Attorney who wins through intimidation, is doing more to devalue the currency of justice and to corrupt the democratic process in a community which perhaps more than any other community (on account of its tiny

population) has a chance to be truly democratic and representative.

No man is an island, said the poet, and the microcosmic strange goings-on in Alpine County all-too-clearly reflect the chronic rot and dysfunction of the macrocosmic entity known as these United States.

John MacDonald
Markleeville

Arson fires in Alpine

RC
6-3-78

Eleven fires have been set in flammable terrain in the Markleeville-Woodfords area of Alpine County in the past three weeks, all of them started deliberately, according to Sheriff-elect Archie Wood.

The pattern of the fire-setting, according to Wood, includes the fact that all were started between 3 and 5 p.m., mostly on Sunday afternoons, and all just off of Highway 89.

Wood said there had

RC 6-8-79

Alpine votes voters okay Prop. 13

While the rest of the State of California was voting for Proposition 13 in overwhelming percentages Tuesday, Alpine County voters barely passed it, with a vote of 286 to 224.

In the election of candidates, only three offices had competition. Archie P. Wood, now a lieutenant in the sheriff's office, was elected sheriff by a vote of 521 to 12 for John Buras.

Joan Chacon, the incumbent county clerk, took 379 votes to 138 for challenger Doranne Tognotti.

Harold Duarte, incumbent county supervisor, beat Jean Martin by a vote of 44 to 29.

Candidates who had no opposition were Richard Martin (superintendent of schools), Frank Jerauld (county supervisor), Roger Olson (assessor), Barbara Ryan (auditor), Clyde Brooker (treasurer), and Christopher Smith (district attorney).

Frances Gillings told The Record-Courier yesterday that he expects the validity of Proposition 13 to be challenged. Gillings is a director of Alpine Sierra

Associates, a group which owns a proposed 600-acre subdivision near Markleeville. He is also the founder and a director of the U.S. Taxpayers Union, a group which, in California, strongly supported the measure which forces a 7-billion-dollar cut in property taxes.

"I'm super pleased with the vote," Gillings said, but added that he expects opponents to appeal 13's validity to either the California Legislature or the California Supreme Court.

Gillings also commented on the voter turnout in Alpine County. Of the 793 registered voters, 543 (68 per cent) went to the polls. According to Gillings, 182 of the remaining 250 were Bear Valley residents "who were conned into registering by the Bear Valley Homeowners Association."

Gillings labeled false the reports that the 200 people who registered earlier this year were predominantly Associates.

"Fifteen were our people," he said. He added that his own family did not vote Tuesday. "Simply because I decided it wasn't the safest thing to do," he said. "Besides, Proposition 13 was the only vote I thought was important, and I knew it would pass."

Fear for his safety forces candidate out

5/1/78

MARKLEEVILLE (AP) — A candidate who had been backed by the controversial Posse Comitatus withdrew from the race for Alpine County sheriff Friday, saying he feared for his safety.

"I've been threatened," said John Buras. "The threat of bodily harm is the only reason I'm withdrawing."

The move left only Undersheriff Archie P. Wood Jr. in the race to succeed retiring Sheriff Stuart Merrill.

The race had attracted attention when District Attorney Christopher Smith said he would investigate a rash of sudden voter registrations for the June 6 election.

Merrill has said he is afraid a relatively small number of newcomers could tip the scales against Wood,

the man he has endorsed to replace him.

Buras said that while he had not received any telephone threats or face-to-face threats, "I just sense hostility."

At a candidates forum two weeks ago, Merrill had asked Buras if he knew that most of his official sponsors "on the election papers" were "active members of the Posse Comitatus."

"I had heard before that they had been but whether they are now I do not know," Buras replied.

The Posse Comitatus was founded in the late 1960s by a group of strict constitutionalists who claim a strong belief in law and order and fervently oppose federal taxes and gun controls.

SAC BEE

Alpine County

Residents Fear Right-Wing Rule

By JEFF RABIN
Bee Correspondent

MARKLEEVILLE, Alpine County — Leaders of an ultraconservative group here vow to proceed with plans to develop their own community, populated by tax-fighting, church-going people, despite intense opposition from local residents and the indictment of 10 of their members by the county grand jury.

Local residents fear the group, Sierra Alpine Associates, intends to take over this tiny county by developing 600 acres of rolling land, just outside this county seat, into a "Constitution City" for political conservatives.

As designed, the \$35 million project includes 250 homes, private schools, its own bank, commercial district, law enforcement and no taxes.

If alone would nearly double the population of the county.

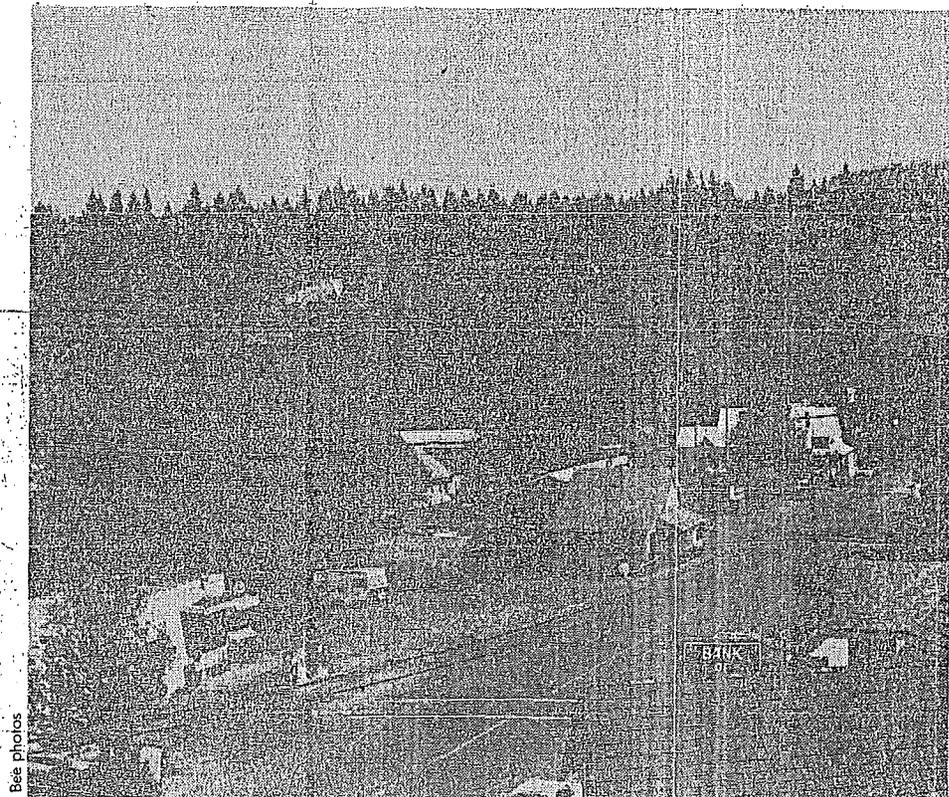
With the state's smallest population — less than 900 residents and fewer registered voters — Alpine County is highly vulnerable to takeover by outsiders. Any influx of newcomers can easily alter the outcome of local elections and fears of a takeover by outsiders has dominated every recent election here.

Eight years ago, county residents feared "an invasion" by gay activists. It never materialized.

Nevertheless, the fears of a right wing takeover persist today after totally dominating the campaign for sheriff during the last three months.

The most recent takeover fears began two years ago, when the site on which "Constitution City" may be built, was purchased by the son of Francis Gillings, a vowed tax-fighter, founder of the United States Taxpayers Union, and organizer of the self-styled vigilante group, Posse Comitatus.

Gillings, a principal in Sierra Alpine Associates, was convicted of assault with a deadly weapon on a sheriff's deputy during armed efforts by Posse Comitatus members in September, 1975 to prevent United Farmworkers Union organizers from entering San Joaquin Valley tomato



Bee Photos

The mountain hamlet of Markleeville: Is it Armageddon?

bles local residents who like the tranquility of their tiny county hidden in the Sierra Nevada, south of Lake Tahoe.

This week, Gillings, his wife, Ruth, and son, David, were indicted by the county grand jury; the latest in a series of criminal complaints filed against Sierra Alpine Associates members for registering to vote when allegedly not bonafide residents of

There, he promised to protect the county from any takeover attempt by outsiders by enforcing the law. Otherwise, he suggested, others might take care of the problem themselves.

Shortly afterward, John Buras, a 57-year-old former Los Angeles ambulance driver and Sierra Alpine Associates member, withdrew from the race for sheriff.

In doing so, Buras cited threats.

Posse was something that happened 2½ years ago in a tomato field in the San Joaquin Valley.

He told the candidates night crowd that Sierra Alpine Associates is a group of people "with the intent of taking a little bit more of the government out of our lives."

Nonetheless, as the election drew near, posters appeared which declared "Don't Be a Fool — Fight Pos-

over this tiny county by developing 600 acres of rolling land, just outside this county seat, into a "Constitution City" for political conservatives.

As designed, the \$35 million project includes 250 homes, private schools, its own bank, commercial district, law enforcement and no taxes.

It alone would nearly double the population of the county.

With the state's smallest population — less than 900 residents and fewer registered voters — Alpine County is highly vulnerable to takeover by outsiders. Any influx of newcomers can easily alter the outcome of local elections and fears of a takeover by outsiders has dominated every recent election here.

Eight years ago, county residents feared "an invasion" by gay activists. It never materialized.

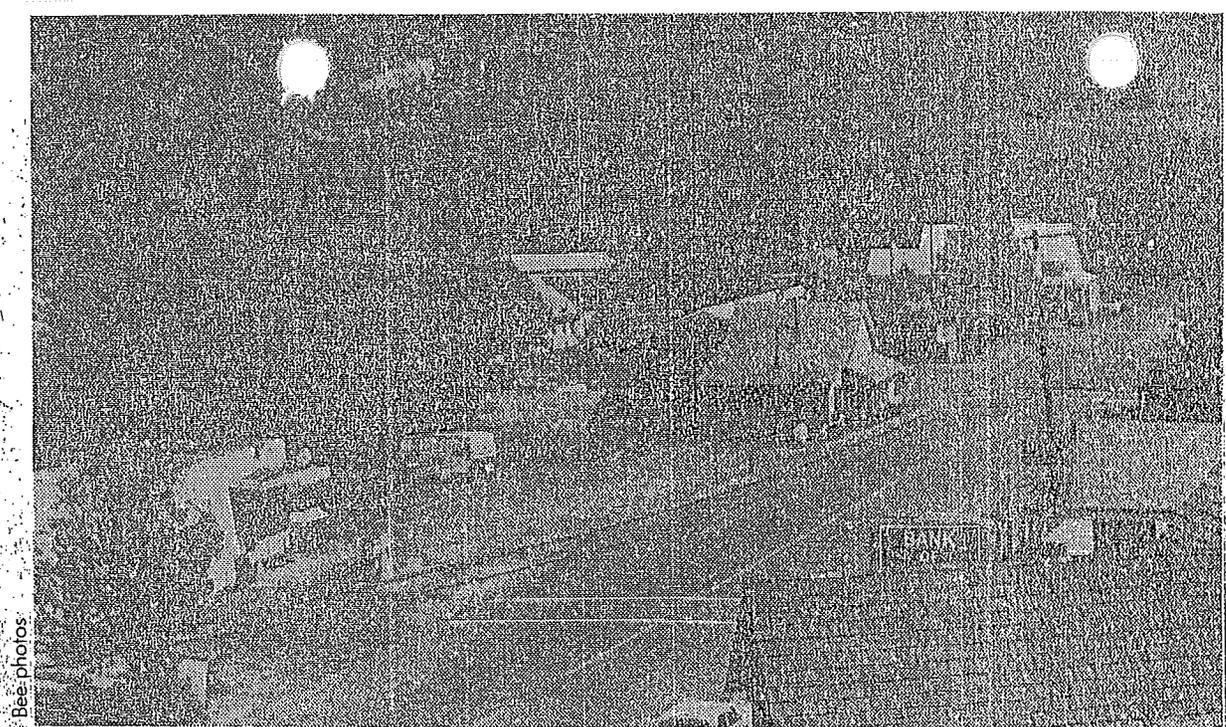
Nevertheless, the fears of a right wing takeover persist today after totally dominating the campaign for sheriff during the last three months.

The most recent takeover fears began two years ago, when the site on which "Constitution City" may be built, was purchased by the son of Francis Gillings, an avowed tax-fighter, founder of the United States Taxpayers Union and organizer of the self-styled vigilante group Posse Comitatus.

Gillings, a principal in Sierra Alpine Associates, was convicted of assault with a deadly weapon on a sheriff's deputy during armed efforts by Posse Comitatus members in September, 1975, to prevent United Farmworkers Union organizers from entering San Joaquin Valley tomato fields. Gillings was also found guilty in 1977 of failing to file income tax returns for 1971 and 1972.

In a recent statement, Gillings said the only thing he is guilty of was "helping to prohibit the seizure of property rights... a very honorable act in any man's language."

Such remarks, Gillings' presence in Alpine County and a promise to bring 600 tax-fighting followers here trou-



Bee photos

The mountain hamlet of Markleeville: Is it Armageddon?

bles local residents who like the tranquility of their tiny county hidden in the Sierra Nevada, south of Lake Tahoe.

This week, Gillings, his wife, Ruth, and son, David, were indicted by the county grand jury, the latest in a series of criminal complaints filed against Sierra Alpine Associates members for registering to vote when allegedly not bonafide residents of Alpine County.

"One vote counts a hell of a lot here," said District Attorney Chris Smith, a former Los Angeles police sergeant and assistant public defender, as he explained his efforts to prosecute those who may have fraudulently registered to vote.

"If you don't live here, you don't vote here," Smith told a crowded candidates night in late April.

There, he promised to protect the county from any takeover attempt by outsiders by enforcing the law. Otherwise, he suggested, others might take care of the problem themselves.

Shortly afterward, John Buras, a 57-year-old former Los Angeles ambulance driver and Sierra Alpine Associates member, withdrew from the race for sheriff.

In doing so, Buras cited threats, intimidation and the fear of being harmed. Throughout the campaign, he had been tagged as the candidate of the Posse Comitatus, partially because he recommended replacing paid deputies with volunteers.

Buras vehemently denied any association with the Posse.

"The Posse has nothing to do with this land, the development of this place or anything," he said. "The

Posse was something that happened 2½ years ago in a tomato field in the San Joaquin Valley."

He told the candidates night crowd that Sierra Alpine Associates is a group of people "with the intent of taking a little bit more of the government out of our lives."

Nonetheless, as the election drew near, posters appeared which declared "Don't Be a Fool — Fight Posse Rule."

On June 6, county residents overwhelmingly registered their opposition to any effort by outsiders to win control of the county.

Archie P. Wood Jr., a 23-year veteran of the sheriff's office, known locally to everyone as "Arch," trounced Buras by a decisive 521 votes to 12.

The hostility of county residents

See Page B2, Col. 1

SAC
Bee
6/18/78

Right-Wing Group Plans Its Own City

Continued From Page B1

was and remains apparent, Buras said: "They look at you and you can see the hate in their faces."

He accuses Wood and District Attorney Smith of creating the "takeover" talk and fomenting widespread hostility toward Sierra Alpine Associates.

"They have to have something to indoctrinate these people and brainwash these people that we are coming in here like a bunch of vigilantes to take over this county and to do what we want," Buras said. "That couldn't be further from the truth."

Buras admitted that his association with Francis Gillings raised questions in the voters' minds, but insisted he is "absolutely not" a Posse member and "there's no such thing as a takeover" planned.

However, in a five-page letter to all county residents last week, Gillings said "part of the takeover rumors could have been our fault."

Sheriff-elect Wood, for one, believes the takeover threat is real.

Wood said that while the Posse Comitatus has apparently "gone underground," many of its old members are now involved with Sierra Alpine Associates.

As evidence of that group's intention to take over his county, Wood points to an advertisement that appeared in a national right-wing publication seeking campaign contributions "to help us elect a tax-fighting sheriff, three supervisors and a district attorney who will not allow illegal government activities to exist in this county." The Gardnerville, Nev.,

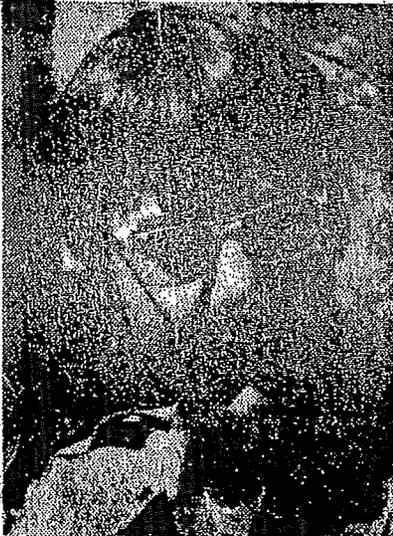
post office box mentioned in the ad belongs to the bank Gillings wants to organize. Buras has admitted picking up mail there.

A second ad in the same issue, bearing Gillings' address and telephone number, sought a loan to help build

roads "in a county where only patriots will be in charge."

"That sort of thing scares the hell out of people," Wood said. "Alpine County residents welcome anyone

See Page B4, Col. 1



SHERIFF ARCH WOOD
the threat is real.



FRANCIS GILLINGS
it's between good and evil.

Dad's a winner.



'Posse' Feared

Continued From Page B2

who enjoys the county for what it is, but we don't want a damn political arena."

Wood said the locals "take offense" at the suggestion their county is unpatriotic when 50 of the county's residents fought in World War II.

Much of the suspicion about a takeover attempt arose in March, Wood said, when Buras registered to vote and filed nomination papers for sheriff when nobody had ever seen him here before.

By this week, 10 of Buras' backers had been indicted on felony voter fraud and perjury charges. If convicted, they could receive up to three years in prison.

Buras believes his supporters are being singled out by the district attorney because they want to develop this rural county and "expose" corruption in county government.

"There's nothing this association is trying to do that is illegal or unlawful," he said. "All we want to do is live in a decent area."

Much of the hostility directed toward Sierra Alpine Associates by county residents is really a fear of both outsiders and progress, Buras said.

"They don't want anyone in here. They don't want any progress. They want it just as it is, so they can do as they please," he said. "They've built themselves a little cocoon and they don't want anyone to shake it or rattle it or do anything with it."

For his part Gillings promises not to give up on plans to develop land in Alpine County.

He said if county supervisors refuse to change the zoning on the land owned by Sierra Alpine Associates to permit its subdivision, his followers will buy already improved property

Until that zoning is approved, Gillings vowed no property taxes on the land will be paid.

Gillings said he knows of 185 families interested in moving to the county, who believe in God, property rights, very limited government, and fighting both taxes and welfare. But the biggest issue is support of private schools, he said, because government schools are teaching children how to turn against their parents.

At a meeting with interested persons in Los Angeles last year, Gillings reportedly said, "Constitution City" is designed "to re-establish freedom with our own bank and law enforcement system."

In a letter to all county residents last week, Gillings wrote, "Many friends ask us, 'Why do you want to live in a place where there is so much hate when it is so alien to your nature?' My only answer," Gillings said, "is that I don't like being driven off the very land we own by an evil force."

Gillings contends the battle in Alpine County is between the forces of good and evil. He believes the county is a Godless community.

"The devil is absolutely ingrained in here, so strongly it's unbelievable," he said. "Show me another community in America where the county seat has never had a church."

That charge draws a sharp reply from Wood, who pointedly noted that local residents attend churches in nearby Nevada communities.

Despite the grand jury indictments and outright opposition from local residents, Gillings repeated his promise to bring tax-fighting church-going people to Alpine County.

To which one county resident could only reply, "I guess they're not through with us yet."

Now that Alpine's election is over

RC
6-22-78

Editor:

Now that Alpine County's insipid elections are over and the sinecural fiefdoms of district attorney and sheriff have been filled by unopposed candidates with embarrassing pluralities, one wonders if the established pattern of selective enforcement of county ordinances and state laws, the non-enforcement of state drug abuse laws, and the conspiracy to deny unpopular political minorities their civil and

constitutional rights (to name only a few anomalies) has been duly sanctified?

In Alpine County (as everywhere), the tawdry pendulum of public opinion swings once again in the direction of "law and order." But at what point does "law and order" degenerate into an arrogant, irresponsible, and illegitimate tyranny manipulated by ambitious, power-hungry, motor-mouth politicians anxious to preserve the survival of their own species—one of

the most remarkably unfit mutations spawned by the process of human evolution?

Not only in Alpine County can the grotesque perversions of the American system of "justice" be observed, of course. But to what authority does one seek redress in this government termited of the bureaucrats, by the bureaucrats, and for the bureaucrats?

John MacDonald
Markleeville

SAC BEE
7-14-78

Gillings' Guilty Conviction Sticks

McClatchy Newspapers Service

The conviction of Francis Earl Gillings of Tracy, a member of a Posse Comitatus group, on a charge of assaulting a San Joaquin County deputy sheriff nearly three years ago, has been upheld by the 5th District Court of Appeal.

Gillings' conviction of contributing to the delinquency of his teen-age son also was upheld.

In the complaint for contributing to delinquency, Gillings was accused of permitting his son to skip school and carry a rifle and pistol during a confrontation with United Farm Workers of America organizers in a Stockton-area tomato field.

The assault charge stemmed from the firing of a shotgun near the head of Deputy Sheriff Dan Delfatti, who had approached Gillings to serve him with a traffic warrant.

Gillings claimed the shotgun went off accidentally as he threw himself to the ground thinking he was about to be shot. He denied he had his finger on the trigger.

His son, Steven, also was taken into custody after he pointed a rifle at one deputy and fought with another deputy before being subdued.

Sheriff's deputies said Gillings and about a dozen members of Posse Comitatus, a private vigilante group,

went to the tomato field armed with shotguns, rifles and pistols to prevent UFW union organizers from going into the field to talk to workers.

When sheriff's officers refused to escort the union organizers into the field, the organizers left the scene.

Meanwhile, sheriff's officers learned there was an outstanding traffic warrant for Giddings and attempted to advise him of the same.

Delfatti said he observed Gillings place a shell in his shotgun and heard him ask the other vigilantes to "back me up" on at least three occasions. As he stepped backwards into a furrow, he raised his shotgun and the weapon fired. Delfatti grabbed the shotgun and knocked Gillings to the ground and placed him under arrest.

Gillings later claimed his arrest was motivated by adverse feelings toward him because of his involvement in a bitter election campaign with the incumbent sheriff, the late Michael Canlis.

Delfatti suffered a concussion as a result of the shotgun blast near his head and was unable to work for about a week.

Gillings was sentenced to serve 90 days in jail and was placed on three years probation.

The confrontation occurred Sept. 2, 1975.

Alpine sets records, too

RC 7/20/78

The Alpine Swim Club broke a couple of records itself in the medal meet last Saturday co-hosted by the Alpiners and their poolmates, the Douglas Dolphins. Alpine swimmers Jeremy Purdy and Jayne Martin broke records in the backstroke and individual medley, respectively. Purdy bettered the old 8-and-under-boys 25-yard mark of 22 seconds flat with a time of 21.5. Martin's time over 100 yards was 1:18.6, beating the old record by four-tenths of a second.

In addition, Alpine pooled two first place teams: the 9-10 year olds' freestyle relay comprised of Greg Purdy, Robby Osgood, Leah Jim and Kelly Craik; and the age-group medley relay comprised of Kelly Craik, Charlene Leffingwell and Jayne Martin.

Best overall improvement for the day was made by Matt Sagues in the 8-and-under division. In a single stroke, the

most improved C-division swimmer was Loreen Butterbredt in the breaststroke. John Craik was the most improved B swimmer for the day, improving his butterfly by 12 per cent.

On July 12 the Alpine team went to Virginia City and took on the hometown Muckers. In spite of a cold wind it was a very enjoyable meet, according to coach Ginger Craik. The Muckers are reportedly much improved. They hosted the Alpiners to a pot-luck dinner afterwards, providing swimmers with a further opportunity to get acquainted.

The most improved C swimmers in Virginia City were Mike Sagues in the breaststroke, Kanani Nahinu in the backstroke and Loreen Butterbredt in the butterfly. The most improved B swimmer was Leah Jim in the backstroke.

The Alpine Swim Club returns to Virginia City Saturday for the Muckers' medal meet.

Alpine swimmers improve

RC 6/29/78

The Alpine swim team will compete along with its good friends, the Douglas Dolphins, today at 2 p.m. The meet will be at the Douglas County pool. Visiting will be teams from Lovelock and Winnemucca.

The Alpiners' first home meet of the year was last Saturday, a four-way affair that included Douglas, Yerington and Virginia City. Alpine placed second. High point scorers for Alpine were Greg and Jeremy Purdy, Nani Thornburg and John and Kelly Craik.

The girls' mixed relay team of Jayne Martin, Jenny Thornburg, Charlene Leffingwell and Kelly Craik took first

place in an exciting race, edging out the Douglas "A" team by a narrow margin.

Other highlights of the meet: Renee Halvorson made the greatest time improvement. She was 20 per cent faster in backstroke and 30 per cent faster in freestyle. Among the "B" swimmers, the most improved in a single stroke was Laura Christensen in freestyle.

LaVelle Walker and Irvin Jim, swimming in the "C" events, placed high in all strokes. LaVelle made "B" qualifying times in four events, improving her times of last year by a large margin.

Where is Marklyville?

Editor:

I have enclosed a photo feature on a Navy man whose parents live in Marklyville. I must admit, that it took some effort to find that your paper covers some local news in Marklyville. First, I had to find Marklyville, which was listed in none of the Atlas' in our office. The telephone information operator told me that Marklyville was a 916 area

code, but could not find any numbers listed for schools, chamber of commerce, police, etc.—anywhere that I could start to determine which paper, if any, covered Marklyville news. Finally, a telephone supervisor gave me the number for the Marklyville store, which led me to you.

After that odyssey, I do hope you will find this story worthy of space in the Record-Courier. If so, it would be

very kind if you would send me a clipping in the enclosed postage free envelope.

Frederick R. Gorell
LCDR, USN

Editor's Note: Although this was not intended as a letter to the editor, we publish it so our readers can appreciate the lengths to which the U.S. Navy goes to give recognition to its members.

RC June 22, 78

Women elect new president

RC June 22, 78

Debbie Hahn has now joined her spouse in the dubious distinction of being a softball league president. She was recently elected to that office for the Carson Valley Women's Softball League. Her husband, Tom, is president of the local men's league.

Presently the teams of Wayne's Glass and New York Life are leading the standings in women's softball with equal 4-0 records. Right behind them is Raley's with a 3-1 posting, followed by Crystal Bay Club 3-2, Dirty Dozen 2-2, Hi Sierra Hot Tubs 2-3, the Courthouse 1-4, Joker's Wild 1-4, Hair & Hair 1-3, and Warren Reed Insurance 1-3.

On June 14 it was Raley's over the Hot Tubs 10-6. Raley's Linda Geiger smacked a homerun while teammate Kathy Feticc managed a double and was an integral part of a double play made by her team. That game was followed by Wayne's bombing Warren Reed 32-3. Many homers were delivered by Wayne's ladies, most notably Carlean O'Neil, who hit two homers and a triple. Teammates Diane Brown and Pam Vosick also toured the bases once, Pam also adding a triple later on.

Joker's Wild 15, Courthouse 12; a close one also June 14. Then New York Life demoralized Crystal Bay 23-3. New York Lifers Judy Mateucci, Wendy Flickinger and Colleen

Bradley accounted for four homers and a triple.

In the first game of the evening last Monday it was Raley's again triumphant, this time over Hair & Hair 24-5. Raley's Vicky Kronenburg wasn't fooling around that night delivering a towering homerun in the first inning and then following with a grand slammer in the second inning. Teammate Brenda Barwig also availed herself of a grand slam homer in the third.

Then it was Wayne's 19, the Dirty Dozen 6. For the filthy ones, Meg Andrews had two doubles and a triple; Liz Duryee hit two doubles; and Robin Feldmiller caught four soaring flies. Wayne's heroines were Susan Hardy with dynamite defense and two doubles and two singles, and Janell Buhlig with similar defense and three hits.

A real close one: Warren Reed 10, Tubs 9. WR's Cindy Wheaton smashed a two-run homer while Tubs Delores Schreiber caught a real nice flyball, Kathy Fessler had two RBIs, and Patty Sanders liberated the ball for a two-run homer.

In the last game of the evening, Crystal Bay shaved Joker's Wild 13-10. The hot action was Georgia Overturf instigating a triple play.

...ured with mementos donated or loaned by descendants of early settlers. Among the items which can be viewed at the museum are photos by willa Oldham)



The Toiyabe National Forest of Courthouse, (left), which was a courthouse was constructed on the

the ground floor. This two-story building was originally the Fisk hotel of Silver Mountain City, a booming mining town in 1867. At the demise of the town the hotel was dismantled with each board numbered, brought to Markleeville and rebuilt as it was when first constructed. It has a record of undergoing name changes.

Turn right on to E-1 County road and you'll note a modest sign within half a block on the right hand side directing you up hill to the Alpine Historical Complex, dedicated as a historical landmark June 17, 1972 by the Grand Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West in memory of Sen. James D. Phelan.

The small, but well planned and furnished museum of the complex gives an excellent picture of what life in pioneer days was like. An outstanding exhibit of Washoe Indian baskets from the collection of Mrs. Albert Chain is on permanent display.

19th century relics

Weathered stables and smithy shops, reminiscent of an age when life was a lot harder than it is today, testify to life in Markleeville the 1800s. The hardwood in the doors remains intact despite

being exposed to the fierce elements for nearly 100 years. (Apple Tree photo)

By CLIFF and WILLA OLDHAM
For much less than a tank of gas and in a minimum of a short day one can explore beauty spots in the outdoors, delve into the history of the 1860's, talk to descendants of early pioneers, fish or backpack in unspoiled areas. All this can be had by taking highway 89 at the Minden rest area and heading for Woodfords, Markleeville and Grover Hot Springs State Park.

having lunch at the Woodfords Senior Citizens Center and meeting residents of the area. Luncheon reservations should be made two days in advance by contacting Mrs. Love. A donation is taken to defray costs, similar to other senior centers which provide a hot meal.

Turn left on Highway 4 at Woodfords, crossing the bridge over the West Fork of the Carson River.

In less than a mile you'll need to decide whether to proceed directly to Markleeville; to turn off to the left on one of two well-marked roads to visit Indian Creek Reservoir and camp grounds; or to turn right and spend time in the new Turtle Back park area.

At the man-made reservoir a day use center and boat ramp appeal to short-term visitors as well as those who enjoy more time in the pines. A tenting area is marked out as are spaces for recreation vehicles. The reservoir banks are popular with Carson City day fishermen.

Hikers can follow the Carson River Trail or the one which leads to Curtz Lake. A Soils and Geology Trail, marked for self-education, appeals to families. A landing strip is within walking distance of the reservoir for airborne visitors. Further information on the

area can be secured by contacting the Carson City office of the Bureau of Land Management. A fee is charged for camping.

A large recreation building, often used for Markleeville benefit suppers and dances, is situated on a hilltop at Turtle Back Park, a few short yards from the main highway. Nearby are camping and day use facilities.

Markleeville may be small in size — at most 150 in population — but it merits spending some

time just walking about the town on foot.

The town is named for Jacob J. Marklee, the first inhabitant of the area. According to the Douglas County records, he located a land claim for the 160-acre townsite in 1861. His cabin stood where the Alpine County Courthouse, erected in 1928, now stands.

A post office has been there since 1863. The most unusual building is the hotel located in the center of town and harboring the Cutthroat Saloon on

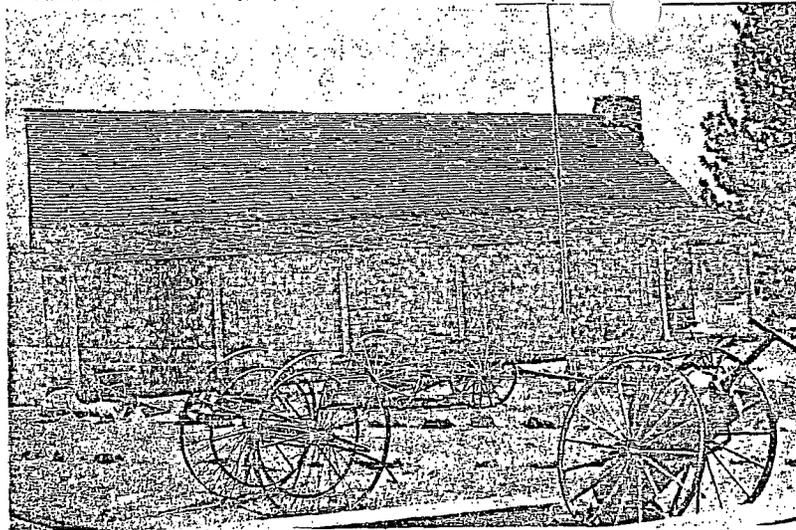
Carson Chronicle
7/5/78

A stop in Woodfords, a short distance over the California state line, can condition one for historic flashbacks further on. Established in 1847, the town was originally called Brannan Springs.
For a brief five weeks, the Pony Express ran through Woodfords until re-directed to carry the mail over Daggett Pass (the present Kingsbury Grade.) For a much longer period emigrants on their way to the California gold fields traversed the canyon beyond the little community. On early maps the area is listed as West Carson Canyon, Rocky Canyon, Emigrant Canyon and Big Canyon.

Observant hikers will still be able to spot remnants of the old wagon trails or wagon marks scraped against the rocks.

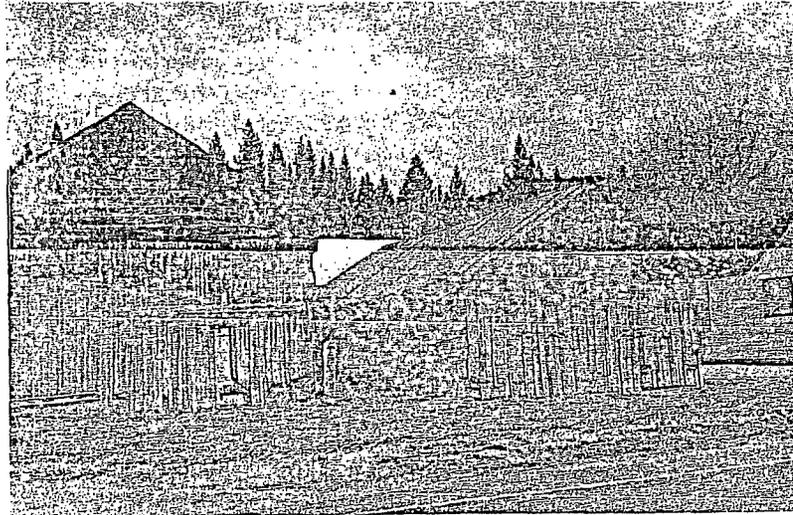
Senior citizens may insure themselves of a special treat by

Outdoor activities go on



Markleeville museum

The Markleeville Museum, in the town's historical complex, is filled with mementos donated or loaned by descendants of early settlers. Among the items which can be viewed at the museum are artifacts of the Indian tribes who still live in the area. (Apple Tree photos by Willa Oldham)



19th century relics

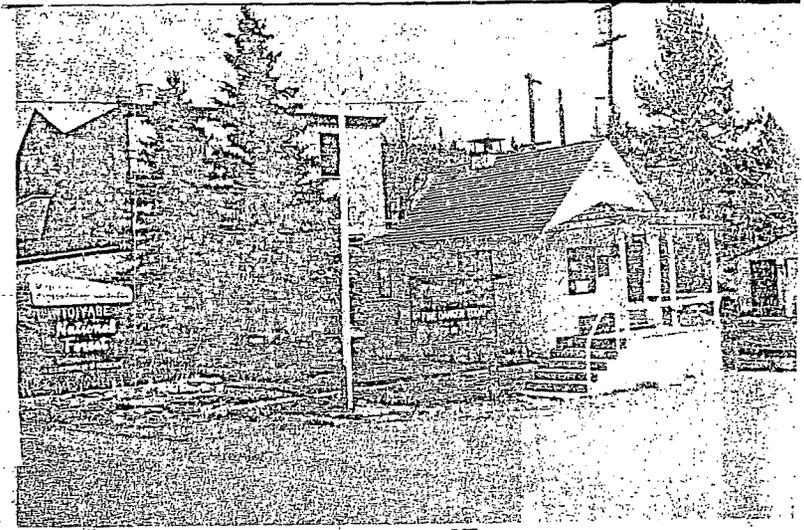
Weathered stables and smithy shops, reminiscent of an age when life was a lot harder than it is today, testify to life in Markleeville in the 1800s. The hardwood in the doors remains intact despite

being exposed to the fierce elements for nearly 100 years. (Apple Tree photo)

By CLIFF and

having lunch at the Woodford's

area can be secured by con- time just walking about the



Forestry office

The Tolyabs National Forest office sits near the Alpine County Courthouse, (left), which was built in Markleeville in 1923. The courthouse was constructed on the cabin site of Jacob J. Marklee,

the first white inhabitant of the townsite which he purchased in 1851. (Apple Tree photo)

the ground floor. This three-story building was originally the Fisk hotel of Silver Mountain City, a booming mining town in 1867. At the demise of the town the hotel was dismantled with each board numbered, brought to Markleeville and rebuilt as it was when first constructed. It has a record of undergoing name changes.

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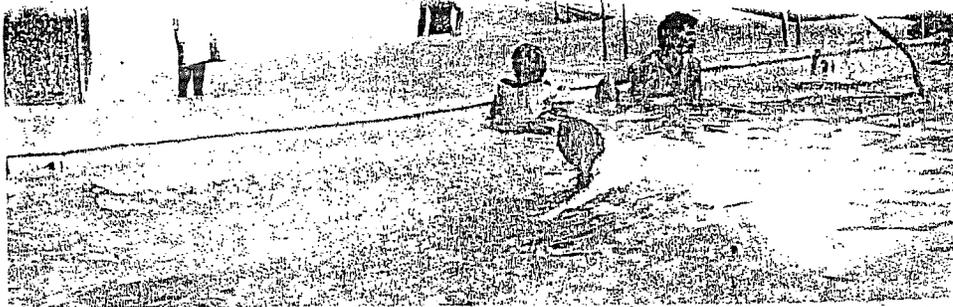
The small, but well planned and furnished museum of the complex gives an excellent picture of what life in pioneer days was like. An outstanding exhibit of Washoe Indian baskets from the collection of Mrs. Albert Chain is on permanent display.

New exhibits this year will include a picture of Jefferson Davis, the confederate president, and his family. Indian crafts have been added as sales items.

The museum was started in 1964 when Al Chain, George Coyan and Lou Weise were appointed by the board of supervisors to prepare for town recognition of the 1964 centennial year. Now the building is flanked by the old Webster School built in 1882 and the old county log jail, both open to the public.

In sharp contrast on E-1 County road are the Markleeville studios where among the places to browse and dine one finds a mini-art gallery that will satisfy those with the most sophisticated San Francisco tastes. An exhibit by Matt Glavin, professor of art at the University of California will be held through the summer season.

Jane Gighly and Caro Wiedenmeyer, Carson City artists, have worked an



Grover Hot Springs

Two pools accommodate a maximum of 75 bathers at Grover Hot Springs. Open year round, the mineral waters often are used by athletes bent on relaxing muscles after a ski outing or back pack trip. (Apple Tree photo)



Woodfords

The old store at Woodfords dates back over a hundred years and has serviced many a weary traveler on his way over the Sierra. Nearby, a marker designates the route the short-lived Pony Express took. (Apple Tree photo)

displayed at the gallery along with artisans and artists of the area. Batik dye work, copper, oils, acrylics, stained glass and water colors are only a few of the mediums featured.

Alpine county claims 222 miles of streams for fishing including a few fly fishing areas. For those interested in fishing, back packing or otherwise exploring the area, a stop at the Tolyabe Forest District office, adjacent to the courthouse, is a must.

Information is available for a variety of specialized outdoor activities for any season of the year. Native to the waters of Alpine county are the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, the Rocky Mountain Whitefish and the rare Paiute Trout. Most of the streams that have been stocked carry rainbow trout of pan-size.

Bird watchers can count on seeing some 40 different birds depending on the time of year. Animals living in the area include foxes, coyotes, black bear, porcupine, badgers, raccoons, marmots, skunks and several kinds of squirrels and chipmunks.

Four miles west of Markleeville, reached via E-1 county road, is Grover Hot Springs State Park. Significantly situated in the east of forested areas with road streams cutting through the meadows, this camp is so much a favorite of Carsonites and residents of California that forest officials recommend reservations be sent in immediately for this season's

camping periods. A 15-day stay is the limit. Two camping areas — Quaking Aspen and Tolyabe — have been established. Assignments are made based on size of vehicle.

Contrary to belief, California Ticketron reservations by telephone may not be made by Nevadans. Mail reservations only are taken from Nevada. Reservation forms may be secured by writing Ticketron, P.O. Box 26430, San Francisco, Calif. 94126 or to Grover Hot Springs State Park, P.O. Box 169, Markleeville, Calif. 96120.

One of the most unusual swimming pools in the world is in this park. In snow or sunshine this mineral pool system is in demand. A 75 maximum is set for the two pools. Arrive early or be prepared to wait.

At the pool you can lie on deck and admire Hawkline Peak, 10,023 feet to the northwest or Markleeville Peak 9,417 feet to the southwest.

Water in the main pool is a constant 80 degrees, having been cooled from the temperature it reaches poolside from the springs. The smaller mineral pool has a temperature of 102-105 degrees. The mineral water as it reaches the spring's surface is 148 degrees F.

For years the springs have been noted for their therapeutic value. Season passes are no longer issued but special rates for 10 swims are now available at the pool office.

The pools are particularly popular with skiers in winter time. Skiing in the morning,

they use the pools later in the day to relax muscles, then invigorate themselves in the European fashion by going out and rolling in the snow.

Fine trails are found in the Hot Springs area beginning with Shay Creek Road (a telephone is available here as is the headquarters of the park naturalist supervisor.) Pleasant Valley Trail and Thornburg Canyon Trail have their take-off at this point. Closer to the pools are Sawmill Creek trail which includes fine waterfall area, and the Burnside Lake Trail take off, the latter ending at Burnside Lake as the trail name suggests.

From Markleeville to Grover Hot Springs State Park turnouts along the road provide parking for fishermen or for

those interested in a family picnic alongside Hot Springs Creek.

*Carson Chronicle
July 5, 1978*

*The
Outdoor Activities Guide*

Voter Fraud Trial Opens In Alpine

SAC
BEE
7-18-78

MARKLEEVILLE, Alpine Co. — Four persons went on trial here Monday in the first of a series of voter fraud and perjury cases arising from an alleged attempt by ultraconservatives to take over this small mountain county.

Judge Hilary Cook promptly granted the motion of defendants Vernon and Harvey Essig and Roseanna and Elby Lee Collins to disqualify himself from hearing the case because of alleged prejudice. A new judge from outside the county is being sought.

The defendants are each charged with four felony counts of voter fraud and perjury for registering to vote while they were allegedly not bona fide residents of the county, and then signing nomination papers for sheriff's candidate John Buras.

The voter registrations in question supposedly took place during a heated campaign for sheriff between Archie Wood Jr., a 23-year veteran of the sheriff's department and Buras, a

former Los Angeles ambulance driver and member of Sierra Alpine Associates.

The group plans to develop 600 acres of rolling land outside this county seat into a "Constitution City" for ideological conservatives, complete with its own bank, commercial district, private schools and no taxes.

If it is developed as planned, the project could more than double the population of this county, which lies hidden in the High Sierra.

Local residents also fear unsuccessful sheriff candidate Buras is allied with members of a self-styled vigilante group known as the Posse Comitatus. Buras vehemently denies any connection with that group.

However, fears of an ultraconservative takeover are widespread.

Despite this, district attorney Chris Smith said he believes the four defendants and eight others whose trials are pending can receive a fair trial in the county.

SF CHRON
7-28-78

4 Convicted Of Vote Fraud In Alpine County

Markleeville,
Alpine county

Four persons who backed the unsuccessful bid of John Buras for sheriff of Alpine county were found guilty by a superior court jury Wednesday of voter fraud and perjury.

They were charged with registering to vote in the June 6 election when they were not residents of Alpine county. They were also convicted of signing nomination papers for Buras, a Los Angeles ambulance driver.

Buras' filing for sheriff raised charges that the rightwing Posse Comitatus, of which he was once a member, was trying to take over the tiny High Sierra county.

Guilty verdicts were returned against Vernon and Harvey Essig and Roseanna and Elby Lee Collins.

From: The Sacramento Bee July 28, 1978 B-1 Col. 1

Four Are Guilty Of Vote Fraud

By **JEFF RABIN**
Bee Correspondent

MARKLEEVILLE — Four persons, believed to be associated with an ultraconservative group that local residents fear is planning to take over this small mountain county, have been convicted of voter fraud and perjury.

After less than two hours of deliberation, the Alpine County Superior Court jury late Wednesday found Vernon and Harvey Essig, and Rose-
a and Elby Lee Collins guilty of four felony counts involving allegedly fraudulent voter registration and false statements made on nomination papers for an unsuccessful sheriff's candidate

An angry supporter of the defendants called the trial "a charade" with "absolutely no pretense of justice."

"There was no way there could be anything but a guilty verdict," he charged. "The district attorney was out for blood, not justice."

District Attorney Chris Smith said the charge did not deserve a reply. "I had a very strong case," he said.

The verdict came more than a week after Alpine County Judge Hilary Cook granted a defense motion and disqualified himself from hearing the case because of alleged prejudice.

Tuolumne County Judge Theodore Vilas was selected to hear the case.

The trial was the first in a series of cases involving voter fraud and perjury, stemming from an alleged attempt by ultraconservatives to take over the county.

The fraudulent voter registrations and false statements took place during an emotion-charged campaign for sheriff last spring between Archie Wood Jr., a 23-year veteran of the sheriff's department, and John Buras, a former Los Angeles ambulance driver and member of Sierra Alpine Associates.

The group intends to develop 600 acres of rolling land on the outskirts of this county seat into a "Constitution City" for ideological conservatives.

From: The Sacramento Bee, July 28, 1978. B.1. d.1

In 'Constitution City' Fight

complete with its own bank, commercial district, private schools, law enforcement and no taxes.

A timber-harvest plan for the property is now being considered by the State Department of Forestry.

If built, the project would more than double the population of this high Sierra county, allowing the potential takeover of the county government.

Fears of an ultraconservative takeover remain widespread.

Local residents fear the unsuccessful sheriff's candidate, Buras, is allied with members of the self-styled militant group known as the Posse Comitatus, despite his denials.

District Attorney Smith defended

the voter fraud and perjury charges, and denied he is singling out the Sierra Alpine Associates group for prosecution.

"The Posse Comitatus or anyone else has the right to be in this county as long as they obey the law," said Smith. "They're not going to be picked on unless there is some indication or evidence that some laws have been violated."

Smith noted he is also prosecuting two San Francisco doctors who registered to vote in Alpine County in an effort to prevent the ultraconservative takeover.

Defendants in upcoming voter fraud and perjury cases include Fran-

cis Gillings, a leader of Sierra Alpine Associates, his wife Ruth and son David.

Gillings was convicted nearly three years ago of assaulting a San Joaquin County sheriff's deputy during an armed confrontation between Posse Comitatus members and United Farm Workers Union organizers in Stockton-area tomato fields.

Gillings was also convicted last year of failing to file an income tax return in 1971 and 1972.

Despite the felony indictments against him, Gillings has vowed to proceed with plans to bring "tax-fighting, church-going" people to Alpine County.

August 3, 1978.

Vote Fraud Trial Brings Civil Suit

B1

MARKLEEVILLE (AP) — Lawsuits were expected to be filed today against a judge, prosecutor and jury involved in a voter fraud trial of four persons suspected to be part of a conservative group's attempt to take over tiny Alpine County's government.

Verna Griggs, spokeswoman for the four persons who face sentencing Aug. 28, said at least 50 civil suits will be filed alleging malicious prosecution, denial of rights and other claims.

The suits, seeking damages ranging from \$1,000 to \$55,000, were to be filed in Alpine County Superior Court on behalf of Vernon and Harvey Essig and Roseanna and Elby Lee Collins, who were convicted on charges of voter fraud and perjury in the case.

Area residents suspected they were involved in a government take-over scheme involving members or former members of the ultra-conservative "Posse Comitatus."

The defendants were charged with registering to vote illegally when they were not residents of the county. They also were accused of signing nomination papers for John Baras, unsuccessful sheriff's candidate.

Mrs. Griggs said suits would name visiting Tuolumne County Superior Court Judge Theodore Bilas, who presided over the trial, Alpine County District Attorney Chris Smith, and the 12 trial jurors.

She added that no government take-over was planned by the group, which goes by the name of Sierra Alpine Associates. It's a trust made up of about 200 families, and holds a 600-acre parcel of land near here.

Mrs. Griggs said, "What we wanted to do was set up a constitutional form of government and free them from government oppression. It wasn't a take-over. We wanted to move up here and educate them."

Sacramento Bee

Right-Wingers Expect Logging OK

By JEFF RABIN
Bee Correspondent
MARKLEEVILLE, Alpine Co. —
Despite continuing concern from officials of this tiny mountain county, the California Department of Forestry is expected to approve today a timber harvest plan for 800 acres of logging land near here on which an ultra-conservative group intends to ouster its "Constitution City."

Ken Delfino, the division's South Sierra Region resource manager, said the logging operation will be allowed if proposed changes in the timber harvest plan's proposed road system are made.

Delfino said a state inspection of the property revealed "the road system proposed was more extensive than was necessary for logging."

According to documents obtained by The Bee, the road system originally shown in the timber harvest plan was identical to that contained in a tentative subdivision map developed by a Sacramento area engineering firm for Francis Gillings, a principal in Sierra Alpine Associates, which is planning the new community. The property formerly was registered in the name of Gillings' son, David, who purchased it in 1976.

Alpine County officials have suggested the original system of logging roads was "an end run" around the state's subdivision laws, because the county never approved of the project.

The property and its new owner, Sierra Alpine Associates, are highly controversial here.

The group intends to build its own community for ideological conservatives, known locally as "Constitution City," complete with its own bank, commercial district, private schools and law enforcement — but no taxes.

If built, the project could more than double the population of this county, which lies hidden in the High Sierra, south of Lake Tahoe.

Sierra Alpine Associates' presence has led to widespread fears of an ultra-conservative takeover of the coun-

The fears arose in part because Gillings participated in armed efforts by a self-styled vigilante group, known as Peak Guardians, to prevent United Mine Workers Union organizers from entering Stockton-area banana fields three years ago.

Gillings said Thursday Sierra Alpine Associates only wants to harvest timber on the 800 acres for income. However, Alpine County District Attorney Chris Smith believes the timber harvest plan is "really the beginnings of a subdivision."

Smith said the Division of Forestry was notified Thursday by telegram that the county does not concur with the modified timber harvest plan's prospective approval.

Under the modified plan, the number of roads allowed for logging would be reduced by approximately 57 percent.

Gillings said the new logging road system "is designed "to destroy the property," because if the subdivision ultimately is approved, a second set of roads would have to be built.

"We tried to do a good job," he said, See Page B3, Col. 3

SAC
BT 8/4/78

Right-Wingers Expect Logging OK

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Bee Correspondent

MARKLEEVILLE, Alpine Co. — Despite continuing concern from officials of this tiny mountain county, the California Department of Forestry is expected to approve today a timber harvest plan for 600 acres of rolling land near here, on which an ultra-conservative group intends to build its "Constitution City."
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The fears arose in part because Gillings participated in armed efforts by a self-styled vigilante group, known as Posse Comitatus, to prevent United Farmworkers Union organizers from entering Stockton-area tomato fields three years ago.

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Smith said the Division of Forestry was notified Thursday by telegram that the county does not concur with the modified timber harvest plan's prospective approval.

Under the modified plan, the number of roads allowed for logging would be reduced by approximately 50 percent.

Gillings said the new logging road system is designed "to destroy the property," because if the subdivision ultimately is approved, a second set of roads would have to be built.

"We tried to do a good job," he said.

See Page B3, Col. 3



Francis Gillings, right, confers with Alpine County Sheriff Stuart Merrill in Markleeville.

Logging

Continued From Page B1

explaining why the original road system contained in the timber harvest plan was identical to that of his proposed subdivision.

"There is no more ideal property in the county for subdivision," Gillings said of the 600 acres on the outskirts of this county seat.

Yet, he quoted a county planning official as saying it would "a miracle" if the subdivision is ever approved.

Meanwhile, Gillings is barred from selling lots on the property by a cease and desist issued by the California Department of Real Estate.

The November 1976 order was issued after Gillings reportedly sold numerous lots on the 600-acre parcel without a required report of subdivision approval.

Real estate department attorney Larry Alamao said the sales were violations of subdivision laws contained in California's Business and Professions Code.

Gillings, his wife Ruth and son David also face trial on voter fraud and perjury charges for registering to vote and signing nomination papers for a sheriff's candidate while allegedly not bona fide residents of Alpine County.

Four other members of the conservative group already have been convicted on voter fraud charges.

"I've never been where I've been on the receiving end of so much prejudice," Gillings said.

Nevada Appeal
Aug. 4, 1978

Markleeville voter fraud convictions were railroaded, defendants claim

By RICK HACKMAN
Appeal Staff Writer

MARKLEEVILLE — Two of the four persons convicted in superior court here of voter registration fraud Thursday filed lawsuits against the judge who presided over the trial and the prosecuting attorney, claiming malicious prosecution, libel, slander and defamation of character.

The plaintiffs, who are awaiting sentencing, said the jury that convicted them also will be sued and they added they expect to file up to 56 separate lawsuits.

During a press conference, members of the Sierra Alpine Associates charged they were railroaded during their criminal trial which was stacked against them, they said, because residents of Alpine County believed they were a group of "Nazis" who intended to move into the county in large numbers and take over local government.

They claimed their residency was a simple mixup blown out of proportion by the press and an overzealous district attorney.

Last week, Elby Lee Collins of Stockton, and his daughter, Roseanna, along with Vernon Essig, of Bear Valley, and his son, Harvey, were found guilty of registering to vote in Alpine County where they allegedly were not legal residents.

They were also found guilty of perjury and making false statements on a nominating petition for a sheriff's candidate and they all face the possibility of more than 15 years in prison.

The county has been in an uproar in recent years amidst rumors that a radical right-wing group planned to move several hundred of its members into the tiny county and elect their own representatives to county offices. Alpine County currently has less than a thousand residents.

The four were alleged to be members of an ultra-conservative group known as "Posse Comitatus."

At least one of the defendants, Vernon Essig, conceded at the Thursday morning press conference that at one time he was a member of the group, but said the organization has since disbanded.

Several years ago, members of the Posse Comitatus armed themselves during a confrontation with supporters of Caesar Chavez. Essig said he and about 50 other individuals were asked to "protect" farms in the San Joaquin Valley against Chavez' labor organizers.

(Continued on page A-2)

continued

Voters case said railroaded

(Continued from page 1)

One of those arrested during that armed confrontation was Francis Gillings, also a former Posse Comitatus member and the leader of the group which has bought 700 acres of land in Alpine County, intending to organize what they call "Freedom City."

The city would reportedly have had its own bank, commercial district, private school, police force and no taxes.

They deny, however, that they intended to take over the county and "educate" its people. Said Essig, "We want to vote in this county. We own land and we're going to make our homes here and have a voice in electing those who will represent us. I see nothing wrong with that."

Essig and the others are hazy on exactly what their political feelings are. Alpine County residents, they say, have painted them as raving Nazis, but they describe themselves as "just a group of people who believe in the law of the land."

"We are not John Birchers, we are not Nazis, as we have been painted to be. We are about as middle of the road as you can get. We're for the Constitution," said Gillings.

"For the most part, of the people of this county, I don't know of one who, if he ever got to know me, wouldn't like to have me as a neighbor. And I think that if anyone spent one hour in my home they would want me as a neighbor too."

Gillings, who wears a lapel pin that proclaims "Freedom is not Free," was convicted of assault during the farm workers' confrontation, a conviction he says is a "badge of honor." He spent two months in jail and was placed on probation.

Gillings and the others quote frequently from the Constitution. They claim that 90 percent of the laws passed in recent years are unconstitutional and they say they don't like what they see is happening to the country. What

precisely they don't like, is hard to get out of them.

One thing they definitely don't like is the system of justice in Alpine County, especially District Attorney Christopher Smith and visiting Judge Theodore Vilas, who presided over last week's trial.

In their lawsuit, they refer to the trial as "stunning, chilling, paralyzing, conscience-murdering and devastating," and charge that the guilty verdicts were the result of a "trumped-up malicious prosecution."

Their requests for a neutral judge and an impartial jury were ignored, they say, and they charged that Judge Vilas, during a conversation with the jury foreman after the verdicts were returned, said, "Well, the circus is over."

"The circus is not over," according to Velma Griggs, a supporter of the four defendants. She said the convictions will be appealed.

Essig described his problems over his residency as a "little error."

He said he rented a home in the Bear Valley portion of the county, but conceded he had not gone through the formality of moving in. Essig claims, however, that the mere fact that he intended to reside in the rented condominium is enough to qualify him as a registered voter.

"It was perfectly all right to register to vote there because we were going to make our home there as soon as the snow cleared," he said. "It was just merely a mixup."

Essig said as far as he's concerned, "if you intend to live there, that's your domicile."

Alpine County authorities obviously feel differently.

"I felt the whole trial was a farce," said a disgusted Essig.

All but one of the defendants remained mute through the trial, presenting no evidence in their own defense. They said when they tried to introduce facts before the trial started that would have cleared them, the judge refused to allow them to be admitted, so, according to one of the defendants, "what good would it have done to say anything?"

They insisted they had a right to a "common law" trial, which means that unlike most normal trials, the jurors would have been allowed to interpret the law and decide for themselves whether the charges were valid, rather than strictly follow the law as explained by the court.

The Constitution guarantees them a right to a common law trial, they said, and they will insist that the lawsuits they filed Thursday are settled in a common law trial. They also want the cases heard outside Alpine County.

The group said their legal troubles began when they signed a nominating petition for unsuccessful candidate for sheriff, John Burxas, a political conservative. Since that time, they have been followed by law enforcement officials and harassed by the citizens of the county, they said.

A local homeowners group aroused the community against them, they claimed, by distributing drawings of tanks rolling into the county emblazoned with Nazi swastikas.

They charged that the jury that convicted them was packed with relatives and friends of county officials. Their requests for a change of venue and separate trials were denied and they claimed the presiding judge "browbeat" some jurors into remaining on the jury even after they admitted they had a bias toward the defendants.

Defendant Collins said if he is sent to prison when he and the others are sentenced Aug. 28 they will consider themselves political prisoners.

jury's indictment of six persons—bringing to 12 the number charged with Election Code violations.

The latest indictments come after a primary election in which sheriff's candidate John Buras—a Posse Comitatus-backed candidate—was defeated 521 to 12.

Listed among those indicted are Francis Gillings and his wife and 18-year-old son. Gillings, leader of the vigilante-styled Posse Comitatus in Stockton, is the mastermind of a proposed residential and commercial development known as "Constitution City" in Markleeville.

Residents of the state's smallest county—population about 850—feared backers of that development were attempting a political takeover when authorities noted an influx of

ing for sheriff after six of his supporters were accused of perjury and Election Code violations for allegedly residing outside Alpine County when they registered to vote there.

He said most of his supporters would be too afraid of attacks to come out to vote for him June 6.

The charges against all 12 are the same—perjury and claiming a false residence. There are four felony counts pending against each of them and each faces up to three years in state prison if convicted.

"We hope this will discourage any future attempts to abuse the Election Code," said Alpine Dist. Atty. Chris Smith, a former Los Angeles Police Department sergeant and retired Los Angeles County deputy public de-

charged with voter registration irregularities in a suspected attempt by conservative political group to wrest control of tiny Alpine County. Superior Court Judge Theodore Bilas set a Aug. 28 sentencing date for the four—Vernon and Harvey Essig, Roseanna and Elby Lee Collins—whom were each convicted by a jury of charges of voter fraud and perjury. They were charged with registering to vote in Alpine County when they were not residents. They also were

charged with signing nomination papers for former Los Angeles ambulance driver John Buras, who ran unsuccessfully for sheriff this year.

SAC BEE
8-4-78

Right-Wing Group Expected To Win Permit For Alpine County Logging

SAC
BEE
8-4

By JEFF RABIN
Bee Correspondent

MARKLEEVILLE, Alpine Co. — Despite continuing concern from officials of this tiny mountain county, the California Department of Forestry is expected to approve today a timber harvest plan for 600 acres of rolling land near here on which an ultra-conservative group intends to build its "Constitution City."

Ken Delfino, the division's South Sierra Region resource manager, said the logging operation will be allowed if proposed changes in the timber harvest plan's proposed road system are made.

Delfino said a state inspection of the property revealed "the road system proposed was more extensive than was necessary for logging."

According to documents obtained by The Bee, the road system originally shown in the timber harvest plan was identical to that contained in a tentative subdivision map developed by a Sacramento area engineering firm for Francis Gillings, a principal in Sierra Alpine Associates, which is planning the new community. The property formerly was registered in the name of Gillings' son, David, who purchased it in 1976.

Alpine County officials have suggested the original system of logging roads was "an end run" around the state's subdivision laws, because the county never approved of the project.

The property and its new owner, Sierra Alpine Associates, are highly controversial here.

The group intends to build its own community for ideological conservatives, known locally as "Constitution

City" complete with its own bank, commercial district, private schools and law enforcement—but no taxes.

If built, the project could more than double the population of this county, which lies hidden in the High Sierra, south of Lake Tahoe.

Sierra Alpine Associates' presence has led to widespread fears of an ultra-conservative takeover of the county.

The fears arose in part because Gillings participated in armed efforts by a self-styled vigilante group, known as Posse Comitatus, to prevent United Farmworkers Union organizers from entering Stockton-area tomato fields three years ago.

Gillings said Thursday Sierra Alpine Associates only wants to harvest timber on the 600 acres for income. However, Alpine County District Attorney Chris Smith believes the timber harvest plan is "really the beginnings of a subdivision."

Smith said the Division of Forestry was notified Thursday by telegram that the county does not concur with the modified timber harvest plan's prospective approval.

Under the modified plan, the number of roads allowed for logging would be reduced by approximately 50 percent.

Gillings said the new logging road system is designed "to destroy the property" because if the subdivision ultimately is approved, a second set of roads would have to be built.

"We tried to do a good job," he said, explaining why the original road system contained in the timber harvest plan was identical to that of his proposed subdivision.

Meanwhile, Gillings is barred from selling lots on the property by a cease and desist issued by the California Department of Real Estate.

The November 1976 order was sued after Gillings reportedly sold numerous lots on the 600-acre parcel without a required report of subdivision approval.

Real estate department attorney Larry Alamao said the sales violated subdivision laws contained in California's Business and Professions Code.

Gillings, his wife Ruth and son David also face trial on voter fraud and perjury charges for registering vote and signing nomination papers for a sheriff's candidate while allegedly not bona fide residents of Alpine County.

Four other members of the conservative group already have been convicted on voter fraud charges.

"I've never been where I've been, the receiving end of so much prejudice," Gillings said.

The voter fraud case

P.C.
8-10-70

Alpine defendants 'political prisoners'?

by STEVE FALCONE
Assistant Editor

"Political prisoners" was one of the terms four persons recently convicted of illegally registering to vote in Alpine County used to describe themselves to reporters last Thursday when they announced they would be filing 56 separate suits in connection with the case.

Elby L. Collins, his daughter Roseanna, Vernon E. Essig and his son Harvey said they would each file suits against Alpine County District Attorney Christopher Smith, Tuolumne County Superior Court Judge Theodore Vilas and each of the 12 jurors who decided the case. Vilas was brought in for the trial after the Alpine County judge disqualified himself.

The four were released on their own recognizance after the jury found them guilty of registering to vote in the June primary election although they were not residents of the county. Sentencing is scheduled for Aug. 28. Charges were filed against them after they signed a nomination petition in support of John Buras, a candidate for sheriff. Buras later withdrew.

The four are connected with Sierra Alpine Associates, a group that many Alpine County residents believed was attempting to take over the county in order to establish a community based on "constitutional" principles. The group reportedly believes that the United States Constitution is not being followed by governments.

The association owns about 300 acres in Alpine County and sells "beneficial units" in its development, usually to people who think along similar lines—lines which are generally said to be right wing, although they claim to be middle of the road, adhering strictly to the Constitution. The association is not subdividing the land, they said.

The man considered to be the group's leader, Francis Gillings, said that the members of the association act as a group on the property—as a business—but "we act and think

as individuals." He said he moved to Alpine County to help his son manage his land investments, which were sold to the association.

Gillings, his wife Ruth, and his son David are also facing trial on illegal registration charges.

The lawsuits are demanding a calendar date for a state court room as soon as possible for the cases to be tried before a "common law neutral" judge and a "common law impartial" jury of twelve "to judge the facts only," according to one suit shown to reporters. The four are denying the jurisdiction of the state courts in a case challenging residence.

Vernon Essig accused Smith of "Deprivation of due process of common law at the county level." He said he was "selectively" investigated and prosecuted by Smith while the District attorney refused to investigate other cases in which voters were not living in the county.

Elby Collins said the trial was based on fear. "They convicted me because they heard a right-wing group was coming here," he said. "No one could come up here and get a fair trial." He denied moving to Alpine County to take over and said he was ready to move out. "I came here to live in peace," he said, "but it's been one

(See page 12)



Vernon Essig

--Alpine voter case

(From page 1)

continuous turmoil."

Sheriff Stuart P. Merrill, who did not run for reelection, agreed that there were non-resident voters in the county. He said he challenged several during his last election but his challenges were denied. The voters causing the concern are those who own property in the county but who use it as either a vacation residence or as income property.

Merrill added, however, that he was suspicious of the group because of publicity they had received. Gillings had been in the news several years ago as head of a group known as the Posse Comitatus, which was called in by landowners in the San Joaquin Valley, according to Gillings, to prevent organizers for Cesar Chavez and the United Farm

Workers union from entering private property.

Vernon Essig admitted that he, too, had been a member of the Posse Comitatus, but the others denied membership. Essig added that the organization has since been disbanded. The four also made a point of noting that they were not John Birchers or Nazis or any other right-wing group.

Markleeville Fraud Trial Resumes

MARKLEEVILLE — The trial of four persons charged with voter registration irregularities in connection with a suspected attempt by an ideological political group to wrest control of tiny Alpine County's government resumed here Tuesday.

Tuolumne County, Calif., Superior Court Judge Theodore Bilas, sitting in Alpine County Superior Court this morning, began hearing charges of voter fraud and perjury filed against Vernon and Harvey Essig and Roseanna and Elby Lee Collins.

Trial for the four, whose legal address is not known in the county clerk's office, started Monday but got stuck when Alpine County Superior Court Judge Hillary Cook disqualified himself on a motion by three of the defen-

dants who claimed he is prejudiced against them.

Each of the defendants has been charged by Alpine District Attorney Chris Smith with four felony counts, including allegations that they registered to vote while they were not legally residents of the county.

Smith also alleges that they signed nomination papers for John Buras, a former Los Angeles ambulance driver, who ran unsuccessfully for sheriff this year.

Buras is a member of Sierra Alpine Associates, a group drawn together by common belief in libertarian political principals, including tightly-limited government and a strong aversion to taxation.

The associates have purchased 600 acres of timbered mountain land surrounding Marklee-

ville, the diminutive county seat, where local residents suspect they have plans to create "Constitution City," a mini-nation including its own institutions and exchange system.

Local residents and some county officials also suspect that the group has plans to overwhelm the voting rolls in Alpine County, where only a few hundred people are legal residents, and put their own people in charge of county government.

Buras was the only associate to run for office this year, however, and he quit campaigning early, claiming the hostility of the local populace had been stirred to a fury by Alpine County officialdom.

Buras lost heavily to longtime Alpine County sheriff's deputy Archie Wood Jr.

New State Journal 8-19-78

The D. A. is different

Law, order in Sierras

MARKLEEVILLE, Calif. — When Chris Smith moved to this High Sierra redoubt a year and a half ago, he doubled the black population of Alpine County, the least populous county in the state of California.

"We are now two," he says. "There's another black who's a lifeguard in one of the state parks."

Chris Smith living in a ranch house in hidden Diamond Valley — which is even more secluded than Markleeville (the county seat, pop 171) — is about as anomalous as Gov. Jerry Brown, the Zen Buddhist, embracing tax crusader Howard Jarvis (which he did).

Chris Smith is a street-smart former cop out of the LAPD (Los Angeles Police Department) who worked his way up from Watts. He went through law school at the University of Southern California to become a public defender in Los Angeles for 10 years before deciding he wanted the rustic life.

Alpine County, which measures 727 square miles and is located just southeast of Lake Tahoe, had a total population of 484 in 1970. The figure has risen to about 700.

Chris Smith is the district attorney, operating from a windowless, cluttered cubicle with exposed wiring in the basement of the old courthouse on the east side of Highway 89, the only paved street in Markleeville.

The job was supposed to be part-time when Chris applied for it — he was chosen from 20 applicants — but he finds himself going to the office five times a week and fully earning his \$1,140 a month in salary.

On this day, Chris is dressed in a smart plaid suit with shirt and tie and cowboy boots that aren't even scuffed yet on the bottom — instead of the string tie and western garb he usually wears.

He has spent the whole day in court because he is prosecuting a significant trial for the little county. Four men are accused of perjury and felony violations of the election code in a classic voter registration fraud case — vacant lots and motor homes that didn't exist were allegedly given as addresses for prospective new voters.

Political opportunists have recognized for a long time

that because of the scant registration list, Alpine is a prime target for takeover by any special interest groups that want to control a whole county. Eight years ago, the natives fought off an invasion of homosexuals.

The latest incursion was by a group that calls itself the Posse Comitatus, an anarchical right-wing bunch of vigilantes that dismays even the John Birch Society. The group came up from the San Joaquin Valley floor in Stockton to try to get its own man elected sheriff of Alpine County in June.

Suddenly the voter lists were being swelled with names and addresses. The Posse Comitatus has a parcel of 600 acres of pine-covered hillside that spreads out behind the Exchange Saloon. The land has been envisioned as a political sanctuary and is called by the locals "Constitution City," but there has been little development. There aren't too many ways to make a living on this eastern slope of the High Sierra, frequently isolated from the rest of California by winter snows.

The posse's candidate for sheriff ultimately bowed out, claiming his life would be threatened if he won. There is still a tinge of the frontier here, where guns and four-wheel drive vehicles are standard equipment.

Smith, campaigning himself for district attorney (he was appointed initially because his predecessor had been elevated to a judgeship), had warned he would not tolerate any padding of voter registration rolls, and would prosecute. That's what he's doing now.

He's tired because, after a full day in court, one of the defendants trying to get a continuance swooned on the front step of the courthouse. Chris, suspicious that the man may be pulling a fake, has Deputy Sheriff Don Light, his lone investigator on the case, checking him out.

Since he bucked the Posse Comitatus, Chris has been getting some hate mail, but, he says, it's all from outside the county.

"The people here," adds, "have accepted. It's a conservative area, decent, hard-working. I'm used to integrating."

But his old training as a cop doesn't permit him even

take a visiting writer at face value. He insists on seeing a press pass before he'll continue to talk. Then he sits back and relates how a black kid raised near Galveston, Tex., wound up a D.A. in a remote mountain land.

He won't reveal his age. "I only cop out to being 38," he says.

You can figure he's in his middle 50s; his moderate Afro hair style is flecked with gray. During World War II, he was a lieutenant in the combat engineers, serving in both Italy and the Philippines.

On the way home from the latter combat zone, he stopped in southern California, liked what he saw and enrolled at UCLA. He also got a LAPD job that lasted 20 years and financed his way through law school. As a public defender, he became the senior trial deputy at \$39,000 a year, "and then I kind of dropped

out from the rat race."

He came to Markleeville because he thought it would also give him time to try a new career, writing. He was once on the same detail with Joseph Wambaugh, the policeman turned best-selling author.

But his typewriter at the ranch — again, cautiously, he doesn't want to reveal its exact location — has received very little use.

"Besides being the district attorney," he notes, "I'm also the county counsel and the public administrator for the county."

"Ye it really shouldn't keep me that busy. We have very few felonies — just a few drunk driving cases, some vehicle manslaughter during the ski season and a few fights."

"I'd like to keep it that way." (Copyright 1978, Newspaper Enterprise Association)

CHRIS S.
and publ
torney in
learned
photogra

Times-Standard,
Eureka, CA 27 Aug 1978



CHRIS SMITH, a street-wise former Los Angeles policeman and public defender, quit urban life to become district attorney in the frontier-style High Sierra Nevadas. He quickly learned the new job wasn't just part-time work. (NEA photograph)

Times - standard
Eureka, CA
Aug. 27, 1978

San Diego Register Mail
Sept? Oct, 1978

Black brings law, order into High Sierras area

By MURRAY OLDERMAN

MARKLEEVILLE, Calif. — When Chris Smith moved to this High Sierra redoubt a year and a half ago, he doubled the black population of Alpine County, the least populous county in the state of California.

"We are now two," he says. "There's another black who's a lifeguard in one of the state parks."

Chris Smith living in a ranch house in hidden Diamond Valley — which is even more secluded than Markleeville (the county seat, pop. 171) — is about as anomalous as Gov. Jerry Brown, the Zen Buddhist, embracing tax crusader Howard Jarvis (which he did).

CHRIS SMITH IS a street-smart former cop out of the LAPD (Los Angeles Police Department) who worked his way up from Watts. He went through law school at the University of Southern California to become a public defender in Los Angeles for 10 years before deciding he wanted the rustic life.

Alpine County, which measures 727 square miles and is located just south-east of Lake Tahoe, had a total population of 484 in 1970. The figure has risen to about 700.

Chris Smith is the district attorney, operating from a windowless, cluttered cubicle with exposed wiring in the basement of the old courthouse on the east side of Highway 89, the only paved street in Markleeville.

The job was supposed to be part-time when Chris applied for it — he was chosen from 20 applicants — but he finds himself going to the office five times a week and fully earning his \$1,140 a month in salary.

ON THIS DAY, Chris is dressed in a smart plaid suit with shirt and tie and cowboy boots that aren't even scuffed yet on the bottom — instead of the string tie and western garb he usually



Frontier D.A. NEA photo

Chris Smith, a street-smart former Los Angeles cop and public defender, quit urban life to become a district attorney in California's frontier-style High Sierras. He quickly learned that the new job wasn't simply parttime work.

wears.

He has spent the whole day in court because he is prosecuting a significant trial for the little county. Four men are accused of perjury and felony violations of the election code in a classic voter registration fraud case — vacant lots and motor homes that didn't exist were allegedly given as addresses for prospective new voters.

Political opportunists have recognized for a long time that because of the scant registration list, Alpine County is a prime target for takeover by any

special interest groups that want to control a whole county. Eight years ago, the natives fought off an invasion of homosexuals.

The latest incursion was by a group that calls itself the Posse Comitatus, an anarchical right-wing bunch of vigilantes that dismays even the John Birch Society. The group came up from the San Joaquin Valley floor in Stockton to try to get its own man elected sheriff of Alpine County in June.

SUDDENLY THE VOTER lists were being swelled with names and addresses. The Posse Comitatus has a parcel of 600 acres of pine-covered hillside that spreads out behind the Exchange Saloon. The land has been envisioned as a political sanctuary and is called by the locals "Constitution City," but there has been little development. There aren't too many ways to make a living on this eastern slope of the High Sierras, frequently isolated from the rest of California by winter snows.

The posse's candidate for sheriff ultimately bowed out, claiming his life would be threatened if he won. There is still a tinge of the frontier here, where guns and 4-wheel-drive vehicles are standard equipment.

Since he bucked the Posse Comitatus, Chris has been getting some hate-mail, but, he says, it's all from outside the county.

"THE PEOPLE HERE," he adds, "have accepted me. It's a conservative area, with decent, hard-working folk. I'm used to integrating."

But his old training as a cop doesn't permit him even to take a visiting writer at face value. He insists on seeing a press pass before he'll continue to talk. Then he sits back and relates how a black kid raised near Galveston, Tex., wound up a D.A. in a remote mountain land.

RC 8/31/78
**Four
sentenced
in Alpine**

Alpine Superior Court Judge Edmund Moor has sentenced four people—Vernon Essig and his son Harvey, together with Roseanna and Elby Lee Collins—on felony fraud and perjury charges following a trial last month in which they were found guilty of registering to vote while they were not legally residents of Alpine County.

Vernon Essig was sentenced to five months in the county jail, his son to three months. Both were fined \$500 and placed on probation for two years.

The other pair, whose jail sentences were suspended, were put on six months' probation and fined \$500 each. Their felony charges will be reduced to misdemeanors after their probation period ends.

Prior to California's primary election in June, Alpine residents charged that a group known as Sierra Alpine Associates, which they labeled "ultraconservative," was trying to take over the small county's government by outnumbering native voters. Dist. Atty. Chris Smith filed voter fraud charges against several Associate members, with the Essigs and Collinses being the first to go to trial.

**Pacific Crest
Trail film to
be shown**

"Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail," a film made by local Woodfords residents Pat and Wayne, will be shown tonight sponsored by the Friends of the Alpine County Library. The showing will take place at Turtlerock Park at 7:30 p.m. and admission is free.

RC 8/24/78
Everyone is welcome to see this splendid film, according to librarian Virginia York. Pat and Wayne spent five months hiking the Pacific Crest trail during which time they took film footage depicting life on the trail. Families are encouraged to come see it, Ms. York added, saying, "It's really something special."

Law and order in the High Sierra

Tahoe Trib. 9-6-78

TRIBUNE AND NEA REPORTS

Chris Smith, a tough, street-wise black policeman and public defender from Los Angeles, apparently has met his first real challenge as district attorney of conservative Alpine County — and has kept his promise in doing so.

Appointed to the post from among 20 applicants a year and a half ago, Smith was retained as district attorney in the June election amidst an alleged attempt to take over control of the county by a group linked with the ultraconservative Posse Comitatus by padding the voter registration.

In campaigning, Smith said he would not tolerate fraudulent registrations in an attempt to gain a majority on the voter rolls. He said he would prosecute, and he did.

Four persons were sentenced Monday in Alpine Superior Court on charges of felony fraud and perjury and the second attempt in a decade to gain voting control died in the dust as law and order in the High Sierra prevailed.

Vernon and Harvey Essig and Roseanne and Elby Lee Collins were found guilty last month of registering to vote in Alpine County while not bona fide residents.

In the sentencing, Vernon Essig was given five months in jail, and his son, Harvey, was to serve three months.



Chris Smith

Both were fined \$500 and placed on two years probation. The Collins couple were given suspended sentences, placed on six months probation and fined \$500 each.

Measuring 727 square miles, the county just southeast of Lake Tahoe is California's smallest, and political opportunists have recognized for years that its scant registration list might easily be overloaded by any special interest group desiring to gain control.

The population of the entire county in 1970 was 484. That figure has risen to around 700 today, but what hasn't changed to any great degree is the tinge of the frontier days when men rode their own fences and shot their own snakes.

In 1970 during the "gay" disturbances in the Bay Area, there was talk of the homosexuals moving to Alpine County and taking over. In an area where guns and four-wheel-drive vehicles are standard equipment, the possibility failed to materialize.

That was before the arrival of Smith, but he was there when vacant lots and motorhomes which didn't really exist were allegedly given as addresses for prospective new voters and he met the challenge.

Since tackling the alleged takeover attempt, Smith has been receiving some hate mail, but he says it's all from

outside the county.

When he moved to Markleeville and made his home at a ranch house in Diamond Valley, Smith doubled the black population of the county.

"We are two now," he said. "There's another black who's a lifeguard in one of the state parks."

In Alpine County, he found that old western attitude that it doesn't matter who or what a person is, but rather it is the deeds and actions that speak the truth.

"The people here," he adds, "have accepted me. It's a conservative area, with decent, hard-working folk. I'm used to integrating."

He won't reveal his age. "I only cop out to being 38," he says.

You can figure he's in his middle 50s; his moderate Afro hair style is flecked with gray. During World War II, he was a lieutenant in the combat engineers, serving in both Italy and the Philippines.

On the way home from the latter combat zone, he stopped in southern California, liked what he saw and enrolled at UCLA. He also got a LAPD job that lasted 20 years and financed his way through law school. As a public defender, he became the senior trial deputy, at \$39,000 a year, "and then I kind of dropped out from the rat race."

SECTION 9-6-78

Lake Tahoe Still Shaking

South Lake Tahoe

Aftershocks continued to rattle homes and casinos here yesterday, after a weekend that brought two strong shocks during a 17-hour period from Sunday night to Monday afternoon.

Dr. Bruce Bolt, director of the seismograph station at the Universi-

ty of California at Berkeley, said the aftershocks were registering less than three on the Richter scale.

Bolt said Sunday night's quake hit 4.5 on the scale and Monday's stronger quake registered 5.2. He said the epicenter of both quakes was a few miles north of Markleeville.

Bolt also said the quakes were not unusual for the area. He said there has been at least one quake a year there since the early 1950s.

He said a quake would have to reach six on the Richter scale before there was a potential of serious damage.

Associated Press

GARDNERVILLE, NEVADA

RC 9-21-78

PAGE NINE



ALPINE VISITOR, California's lieutenant governor Mervyn Dymally, center, lounges against a car with an aide, after he participated Sunday in Alpine County's dedication of its new county services building in Markleeville. (Record-Courier photo).

THE MADDING CROWD

by Dennis Forbes

SAY, HOW ABOUT ALPINE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA? A recent magazine interview (*In Touch*, No. 36) quotes that Kalki-lating social cynic, prolific essayist and doomsday novelist Gore Vidal as saying: "I think gays should claim a piece of land as their own and set up a separate country." Now the acerbic Gore may not be all that serious, and he doesn't go into details, of course; but just the idea of homoseparatism causes all sorts of questions to raise their pointy heads. Would we have to pass a Homosteading Act? Would bisexuals like Vidal himself be welcomed to settle in the new gay sovereignty, with perhaps dual citizenships? And would the favored form of government be a queen-dom? Thorny and horny matters aside, Alpine County or Amsterdam, there'd be no place like homotopia.



The Advocate
September 6, 1978

PH

Alpine building dedicated

by LISA BRUK

Record-Courier intern

Before a group of about 250 persons, William F. Neddenriep of Gardnerville Sunday afternoon cut the ribbon to officially open the 8,000-square-foot Alpine County Administrative Office Building in Markleeville.

The honor was given to Neddenriep, who was a member of the Alpine County board of supervisors in 1928 when the old courthouse was built there, by his son, Wilton, who is now chairman of the board of supervisors.

The new building, financed by a \$375,000 Economic Development Administration grant, is behind the old native-stone courthouse that for the past 50 years has housed the offices of the officials of this the smallest county in California in terms of population. County Clerk Joan Chacon said the county has 933 persons, according to a State Department of Finance certified estimate made in May.

California Lt. Gov. Merwyn Dymally, who is seeking reelection and who was to have been the featured speaker at the dedication, missed the ceremony. Arriving just in time to cut the first piece of dedication cake, he explained that he had been detained at a Reno convention of California refuse haulers, and then was delayed in traffic.

Dymally is a longtime friend of Alpine County District Attorney Christopher Smith, having met him when Smith was a public defender in Los Angeles and he was an assemblyman representing Watts. No strangers to this area, Dymally and his wife Alice were married in Zephyr Cove ten years ago.

"We looked forward to coming here," Dymally told the crowd in the board room, which was enjoying refreshments prepared by the Alpine County School District Parents' Club, "as if we were going on a vacation or a second honeymoon. We are fascinated with this county and despite all the jokes about how small it is, I think it is very unique. This, of course, is an historic occasion, and you have given me the opportunity to participate in it."

By the time Dymally made these remarks, local high school students had already given those attending tours through the new building, custom designed to the specifications of each county department head by a Sacramento architectural firm. Participants were able to view the spacious offices and modern new furniture of the county assessor, auditor-recorder, county clerk, treasurer, tax-collector, planning commission staff, and the board of supervisors. At the same time they listened to the soft music of the building's central music system which can be regulated in each room.

The old courthouse, which the county plans to restore, is still being used by the Superior and Justice Court judges, the district attorney, the sheriff and the probation officer.

Earlier, Superior Court Judge J. Hilary Cook, chairman of the building committee, told the dedication ceremony audience sitting and standing in front of the new building in unseasonably cool and windy weather:

"Some people thought there might have been a bit of a conflict of interest because I was trying to drive other people out of the courthouse. The courtroom will remain the same and my chambers will be the same. Judge Kelley (Judicial District Judge) will finally get himself a permanent location and move out of the library. I do want to thank the board of supervisors for following the recommendations of the building committee in securing this property and being in a position when a federal grant was available to accent those

Duarte, who was chairman of the board of supervisors when the plans were made for the new building, said: "We started in February or March of 1977. I told the board if we're going to go, let's go as fast as we can and let's get this thing done. I feel that this board has set the trend for what is going to happen to this county for the next 75 years."

"My feeling," he continued, "is to give everything, every tool you can, to the staff and then you can expect that they will do everything in their power to uphold their oaths to serve the people 100 percent or better."

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The dedication ceremony began with the music of ten members of the Carson High School Jr. ROTC Drum and Bugle Corps, and a presentation of flags by that group assisted by Alpine County 4-H members Shawn Moor, Kami Stevens, Darlene Stevenson and Debbie Wood.

The "Star Spangled Banner" was sung by Lee Ann Olson, daughter of County Assessor Roger Olson, accompanied on guitar by Bob Lamp, son of deputy Auditor-Recorder Krimhilde Brooker. Lee Ann and Bob are both Douglas High School students.

Among the county officials introduced at the ceremony were Nevada Assemblyman Lawrence Jacobsen of Minden, and Douglas County Commissioner Dan Hickey.

The dedication prayer was given by the Rev. Eberhard Wiedenmeyer of the Alpine Community Church: "I ask the Lord's peace to be upon this building and upon all who shall work within these walls, and that His peace be with all those who shall come here to bring their cares and their concerns..."

Before the ribbon cutting, Board Chairman Wilton Neddenriep stated: "We are very proud of our new building and we're looking forward to using it as an aid for the continued implementation of the efficient and effective government in Alpine County. This is a government that should be dignified and above all should emphasize local control. It is to this end, I think, that it is fitting that this building be dedicated."

County Supervisor Harold Duarte after the dedication said the need for space for county employees was so great that they moved into the new building about a month ago. He said it will probably be another month before the building is completed inside, and the grounds are landscaped. The board plans to have an air conditioning system installed in

Big financial comeback for tiny Alpine County

By Robert Hollis

There's good news in tiny Alpine County. The American system of government works and it isn't costing buckets of money.

Alpine's 933 citizens — the smallest county population in the state — are, in effect, affluent these days. The county, which two years ago teetered on the brink of financial ruin, today has just a shade under \$2 million in the bank.

"The county is in good shape," says Clyde Brooker, the treasurer-tax collector, modestly.

In fact, the county's in such good shape that it could give every man, woman and child living within its boundaries \$2,000 in cash and still have money left over.

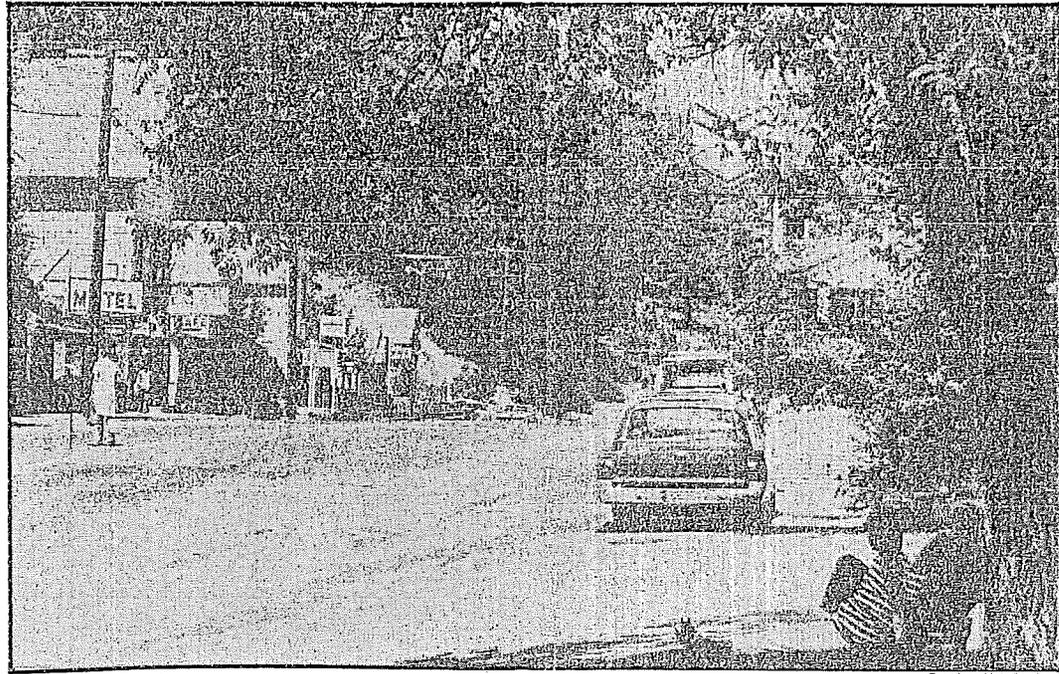
This is quite a turnaround from August 1976, when the county supervisors had to go hats in hand to Markleeville's only bank to borrow \$160,000 at 4 1/2 percent just to meet the county payroll.

Alpine's sad state of affairs was the result, officials said at the time, of a couple of the county's bigger landowners, ski resorts Kirkwood Meadows and Mt. Reba, not paying their property taxes.

At the time, delinquent property taxpayers were charged only 6 percent a year on their unpaid taxes. It didn't take a Ph.D. in mathematics to tell property owners that they could make money on the funds that should have gone to the county.

Further, they had five years to pay the tax collector before the county could legally seize the real estate.

Today there's a different atmosphere here in the mountain-rimmed county seat, some 30 miles southeast of Lake Tahoe. The coun-



The sleepy mountain town of Markleeville, county seat Alpine County — where the American system is alive and well

ty's so flush that it turned down a \$24,000 block grant from the state that was offered to help local jurisdictions ride out the tax shortfalls created by Proposition 13's passage.

Brooker said the county turned down the money because of a state-mandated requirement that county employees' wages be frozen.

The county work force, all 50

of them, took home modest pay increases this year, he said.

There are a number of theories of why Alpine's fortunes so radically changed these past two years, making it, in effect, one of the wealthiest counties — per capita — in the state.

First, there was a change in state law a couple of years back

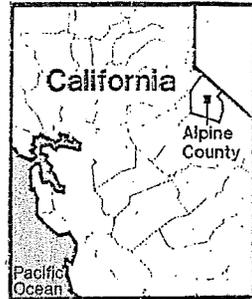
that more than doubled the penalties charged to delinquent property taxpayers. Now, a procrastinating landowner must pay an automatic 6 percent penalty and then 1 percent per month on all unpaid taxes after the first year of delinquency.

This change has had the effect of cutting the tax delinquency rate from 26 percent in mid-1976 to less

than half that figure now, said Brooker.

In view of the fiscal crisis in 1976, county employees agreed to a pay freeze that year and there were some cuts in services. The belt tightening helped the county make it through the year only \$200,000 in the red.

Most observers agree that Alpine County's good fortune is also a



matter of luck. Covering a ruggedly mountainous area south of the Tahoe basin and off the beaten tourist path, the county enjoys the good fortune of having an extremely small population.

In fact, there are more cows in Alpine County than people most months of the year. Cows rarely need police protection, have no use for roads, welfare and aid to families with dependent children. One rarely sees a cow in a public school.

Thus, county social service expenses are very low.

Compare the county's entire work force of 50 against, say, San Francisco. The Department of Public Works has more janitors (74) working here than all public employees in tiny Alpine County.

There are, of course, disadvantages in being small. During the past few years, two special interest groups — homosexuals and a right-wing organization called Posse Comitatus — plotted to capture the political reins of power in Markleeville.

Both groups were thought to be planning a political coup de etat by moving hundreds of supporters into the county who would outnumber local residents. Both plans flopped.

The other disadvantage of being small and wealthy in the post-Prop. 13 era is that newspapers tend to write about it.

To CHRIS SMITH:

10-18-78

The grey Lincoln Continental, Calif. plates 933 PTK, which was seen in front of Greens' Carson City home as well as in Markleeville, and which has two bumper stickers, "Impeach Carter" and "Yes on 13", was (in April or May) registered to Angelic Mfg. Corp., 7205 Chapperal Ln, Newcastle. That house is owned by Richie Strem, a chiropractor. He is also president of Angelic. Robert Charles Strem (age 50) and Ethel Grace Strem (48), which the teletype shows at that same Chaperral Ln. address, were registered to vote in Bear Valley at BV Rd. and Monte Wold Rd.

Richie and Robert Strem are referred to in the enclosed article.

Nancy Thornburg 10-18-78

Developers Of 'Flex' Device Agree To Test Of Gas Mileage Claims

510
SEE
10-18-78

Manufacturers of the Flex unit, a \$487.50 device which purportedly can double or triple a car's gas mileage, will have an opportunity to prove their assertions next week to the district attorney.

Attorney William B. Shubb, who represents Omnewtronics Inc. and its officers, said Tuesday his clients have agreed to test the Flex unit Monday on an automobile before deputy district attorney Thomas G. Minder.

A preliminary injunction, banning the sale and marketing of the device, has been in effect since last December after the district attorney's office

filed a civil consumer fraud suit.

Omnewtronics, a Nevada-based firm, is also prohibited from advertising that Flex passes the air pollution standards of the state Air Resources Board and from selling any units until a feasible production schedule can be shown.

At a hearing last February, witnesses testified that no laboratory tests had been performed yet to support the firm's promises of increasing gas mileage. But after several state-wide meetings, the firm generated about 860 orders for the units.

One expert witness, an engineer specializing in thermodynamics, said at the February court hearing that he attended one of the meetings and concluded that a "monstrous fraud was being perpetrated."

Named in the suit are chiropractor Richie C. Strem; Robert C. Strem; Lonnie Schmidt, a Sacramento dealer; Morris Cleland; Len Clotfelter; Stanley Kobert, and John Eberle.

According to court documents, Omnewtronics is currently being investigated for possible mail fraud charges in Nevada.



The Overland

AN OVERLAND on the old double S curve in Woodfords Canyon-1916.

RC 10/12/78

HUNTER'S

Holiday Bazaar set for November

RC. Oct. 19, 78

Workshops are being conducted now in preparation for the annual, two-day holiday bazaar in Alpine County, at the Diamond Valley School.

This year's bazaar will be held Nov. 4 and 5, from noon to 5 p.m.

Patchwork skirts and handmade items for the fashion show and a silent auction are under the direction of Virginia Cook, last year's co-chairman.

Ethel Fleischer, of Aladdin's Flower and Gift Shop, Gardnerville, is teaching corsage-making. They will be

among this year's many beautiful ladies' accessories to be sold at the bazaar.

Pine-cone items of all kinds will be featured in the Thanksgiving and Christmas workshops, which are held Tuesdays at the home of Jeannine Price.

This year's Christmas Shopkeeper, Jan Kinney, is teaching granny-square crocheting for use in unusual ways, such as for stockings and boots.

Posters around town will give more details. The 1978 co-chairmen are Dody Halvorson and Jeannine Price.

Alpine library program is tonight

A program, "Marking the Immigrant Trail Through Nevada," will be presented tonight at 7:30 in the Alpine County Library, Markleeville.

The speaker will be James P. Anderson of the University of Nevada, Reno.

Refreshments will be served. The public is invited.

Record Courier
11/9/78

GARDNERVILLE, NEVADA

Thursday, Oct. 26, 1978

Alpine bazaar set for Nov. 4, 5

The Alpine Mothers' Club has scheduled its two-day bazaar for Nov. 4 and 5 from noon to 3:00 p.m.

If you attended last year's bazaar on Saturday you will remember the 1:00 p.m. Fashion Show and Silent Auction. Because of the popularity of silent bidding the same procedure will be followed Nov. 4.

Among the items being sold at silent bid is a hand-made Gingerbread House created and donated by Jan and Carl Kinney, new parents in the Alpine community.

Children will have a fishing pond both days for their enjoyment and the opportunity to have a picture taken with Santa and then mounted into a Christmas tree ornament while they wait.

Carol Weidenmeyer and Jane Gigli will present another

imaginative Puppet Show which promises to entertain all.

Just prior to the Fish Bowl Sale at 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 5, the final door-prize drawing will be held, with the grand prize winner being announced. Last year's Grand Prize winners were Ted Bacon of the Jubilee Ranch and Dominique Etchegoyhen. The \$1 admission to the Bazaar includes dessert and a chance on the door prizes.

People all over Alpine, whether school parents or friends, are contributing their talents again this year to make another successful fund raiser for the perpetual scholarship fund and the Diamond Valley School.

The Alpine Mothers' Club cordially invites everyone to begin Holiday shopping at Diamond Valley School at the bazaar.

Wednesday, November 15, 1978

Analysis

Counties key to Tahoe's growth

By JOHN RICE

MARKLEEVILLE — Douglas and Alpine counties hold the future of growth at Lake Tahoe in their hands — and at least a few prominent people in Alpine county think that burden may be too great for them to bear.

Wary ranchers and other Alpine County residents recently hurled a barrage of objections at plans to ship greater amounts of less-treated sewage from the California side of South Lake Tahoe down to Alpine County. The occasion was a public workshop session to ask what will happen if the federal government funds sewage plant expansions on both sides of the state line along the south shore of Lake Tahoe.

If the Environmental Protection Agency's extensive impact study finds that the valleys below the lake can't accept greater amounts of treated sewage from the Tahoe Basin, growth could be choked off at the lake. Laws prohibit dumping of sewage effluent in the Tahoe Basin itself.

"Why should we commit ourselves to restricting our development so they can continue to develop up there when every report has told them to stop?" asked Bud Moll, a former county planning commissioner.

"This seems to be a caricature of bad government," charged Dean McKinley. After spending millions of dollars a few years ago to finally solve the Tahoe sewage problem, "government can only say, 'Let's spend twice as much as we spent last time'...The only consensus I hear tonight is there's no good place to put it."

EPA probably won't fund any sewage plant expansion in the Tahoe Basin if it finds adverse environmental impacts would follow growth allowed by that expansion. The South Tahoe Public Utilities District on the California side plans a \$20 million project which would increase its sewage capacity to about 10 million gallons a day from the current 7.5 mgd, but would reduce the quality of the effluent travelling down the mountain to Alpine County.

(The proposed expansion would result in roughly 8,000 acre feet of water a year flowing into Alpine County, water engineer David Antonucci estimated. That's more than Carson City pulls from its groundwater supplies in a year.)

On the Nevada side, the Douglas County Sewer Improvement District plans a roughly \$17 million project to take its sewage effluent out of the Carson River and spread it on land — probably in the east Carson Valley — instead.

A total of 10 alternatives — five for each side of the state line — are under study by EPA contractor Sedway Cooke and Associates, which is conducting the environmental study. Other possibilities also exist, such as pumping all effluent in the basin to Nevada, which has indicated a greater willingness to absorb it.

Alpine County ranchers at Thursday night's meeting outlined a number of objections to the proposals:

— While they can now use the highly treated tertiary effluent coming down from Tahoe, it will be tougher to absorb the less-treated secondary effluent.

— The costs of keeping the secondary effluent out of the Carson River, and out of Alpine County's high water table, could be crushing. And earthquake faults in the area could damage the systems designed to do it.

— Use of secondary effluent for irrigation might place limits on what the ranchers could grow or what kind of cattle could be raised.

— The sewage plant expansions would just allow "breathing space" at Lake Tahoe. Once that room is gone, there would be more demands for Alpine County to accept even more effluent.

— The need to spread effluent on land could mean growth at Lake Tahoe would limit growth in Alpine County, only 8 percent of which is privately owned.

Thursday, Nov. 16, 1978

THE RECORD-COURIER

Washoe Tribal Council members installed in Alpine ceremonies

Newly elected members of the Washoe Tribal Council of Nevada and California were sworn in at ceremonies Nov. 10 in the Woodfords Community Center, Alpine County, Calif. Superior Court Judge J. Hilary Cook officiated.

Re-elected to the post of chairman for the council was Robert Frank. Jean Dexter was elected vice-chairperson. Other members include Katherine Fillmore, Beverly Frank, Eugene Frank, Romaine Smokey Sr., Wayne Snooks, Claudia Ann Wade, and Vernon Wyatt.

Clare Smokey was asked to continue as secretary-treasurer although she is not a member of the council. According to Tribe by-laws, the secretary-treasurer is not required to be a member.

About 50 people attended the affair, a "good crowd considering the weather," tribal manager Leon Jacobs said this week. Refreshments were served following the ceremony and the first official meeting of the new council took place.

The council adopted a hunting and fishing ordinance for

the Pine Nut allotments, the first time such an ordinance has been adopted by the tribe, Jacobs said. The Indian legal services division prepared the draft.

The council received copies of a job classification study and recommended pay plan for the tribe. The council reviewed both at a meeting yesterday. Also on the agenda at yesterday's meeting was the discussion, first held Friday evening, on the establishment of a health planning board and possible members, including local professional non-Indian personnel and tribe members. A comprehensive health plan is being developed now, Jacobs said.

At Friday evening's meeting, the new council passed a resolution to submit a letter to the Western Nevada Agency (BIA) informing of the tribe's wish to contract for law enforcement. At present, the agency handles law enforcement matters on tribe lands.

Speaking of the new council, Jacobs said, "It will be a joy working with them. They will continue the progress that has been made here in Washoe Country."

RQ 11/16/78

PAGE THREE

CalTrans invites bidders to Alpine

The California Department of Transportation is inviting prospective bidders to a work site review of a proposed \$2.8 million project in Alpine County. Prospective bidders should meet at the Caltrans Maintenance Station at Woodfords on November 28 at 10:00 a.m.

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Suspect held for kidnap

by MARILYN LEARY
Editor

Three men are in custody on federal charges of kidnapping in connection with the Nov. 17 robbery of a Gardnerville gas station, the kidnapping of two employees and the rape of one.

Douglas County Sheriff's Sgt. Gary Minter said the three men, all escapees from Juab County Jail, Utah, face additional charges in Douglas County and in Alpine County in connection with the same incident.

The incident began, deputies said, when three men reportedly robbed the Western Mountain gas station at Raley's Shopping Center at gunpoint, kidnapped the attendants, a 17-year-old man and a 19-year-old woman, and drove them across the state line to Alpine County, California, where the woman reported she was raped.

The couple escaped their bonds after the three men left and sought help at a home in the area.

Patrick Kevin Gibson, 26, is charged with kidnapping by the FBI and is being held without bail in Portland, Ore. He is also charged by Douglas County with armed robbery, kidnap first degree and kidnap second degree. Deputies said a charge of first degree kidnapping is made when a kidnap is done for ransom or the kidnapped person is a minor.

In addition, Gibson is also charged in Douglas County with forgery of credit cards, being an ex-felon in possession of a concealable firearm, carrying a concealed weapon and failing to register as an ex-felon—all charges stemming from an earlier arrest and bail jumping in Douglas County.

Two other men, Elzie Scott Schafer, 20, and Robert James Schafer, 21, are also charged with kidnapping by the FBI. They are being held at Davis County Jail, Utah, where they had turned themselves in Nov. 25 as escapees from Juab County Jail.

Minter, DCSO investigator, said both Schafers face additional Douglas charges of robbery and kidnap and possibly other charges.

Minter said Alpine County is expected to bring a charge of rape because that is where the rape is reported to have occurred.

Deputies said \$688.61 was taken from the gas station in the robbery.

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Rockets and jets

7th & 8th grade at Diamond Valley is busy

by **JOYCE HOLLISTER**
R-C staff writer

The combined 7th and 8th grade class at Diamond Valley School in Alpine (Cal.) launched rockets last Thursday as part of their unit on aviation. The kids had made the rockets themselves and were graded on the work they did on them as well as the final launch.

If the rockets went straight into the air, the parachutes opened completely, and the nose cones fell back safely to earth, teacher Gerald Price said, that meant the rockets had been properly assembled. If, however, a rocket wiggled on its ascent or its parachute did not operate correctly, the student who made it didn't do it right.

As they built their rockets and earlier, their model airplanes, the kids learned about rocketry and aerodynamics. They learned the parts of each, and the differences between solid and liquid fuel and why

which one was used for rockets and which was used for airplanes. They learned why airplanes fly and the factors which influence a rocket's course.

The launch was pretty successful, according to Price. One rocket was still stranded in a tree Friday afternoon, and another crashed back to earth because the student who made it forgot to put the parachute in the nose cone. The rockets ascended to a height of between 1200 and 1500 feet, Price said.

Building the rockets also encouraged the students to take pride in their work, Price said, and helped to increase their manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination. "It's fun, too," he added.

The rockets were made from kits. Each student painted the outside of his rocket a distinctive color and added stripes to suit his fancy. Helping the students with the project was teacher's aide Eberhard Wiedenmeyer.

About a month ago the students toured the Nevada Air National Guard base in Reno. They spent three hours there, trying out emergency harnesses, looking inside of jets, and learning about jet engines.

Price likes to involve the students in participatory projects that teach and are fun, too. For instance, in April or May when the class begins its study on marine life, they will make a field trip to Point Reyes on the northern California coast to look at tide pools. During a unit on biology, they dissected frogs and fish.

Right now, the kids are selling raffle tickets to raise money for the 8th grade end-of-year trip and awards for both grades. They are raffling off a popcorn popper, an air vacuum jug, an electric knife, a toaster, and an electric frypan. The kids buy these prizes, Price said, adding proudly, no one in the community donates them.

It's a busy class, the 7th and 8th grade at Diamond Valley School.



The launch

DIAMOND VALLEY 7th and 8th graders launched rockets last week as part of their unit on aviation. They were, from left, Angle Landaburu, Chris Lamp,

Jason McKinley, Mark Nagel, Shawn Moore, Matt Olson, and John Cralk. (R-C photo by Jay Aldrich)



LANCE LUNDY looks all set to take off.



ERNIE REUTER tried out the ejection seat harness.
(Photos by Gerald Price)



LORRAINE PRICE put on a helmet, too.



Highway 89 meanders between Woodfords and Markleeville—Caltrans will try to preserve its beauty.

Law Requires Expenditure

Expensive Alpine Road Proceeds

By JEFF RABIN
Bee Staff Writer

MARKLEEVILLE, Alpine, Co.

While numerous highway projects in California's urban areas are at a standstill for lack of funds, an elaborate \$2.8 million plan to reconstruct a lonely mountain road is rapidly moving ahead.

The California Department of Transportation intends to request bids this winter for improvements for a highly traveled section of California

Highway 89 from the sleepy Alpine County crossroads town of Woodfords to Markleeville, the county seat, six miles to the south.

Caltrans wants to reconstruct the two-lane, 50-mile-per-hour highway along the basic route of the present road.

To minimize the highway's impact on fish, wildlife and the fragile monarch butterfly, the Caltrans design also calls for construction of a special deer undercrossing, deer fences, one-way deer gates and a new stream channel to replace at least 400 feet of Millberry Creek, where trout now spawn.

Why build a high-speed highway which will reduce travel time by less than a minute between two tiny towns in an isolated area when freeway projects in the state's crowded metropolitan areas go unfinished?

We're required to spend \$3 million in Alpine County every four years," replied Caltrans project development engineer Elton Fletcher.

Without a California Street and Highway Code section, which established minimum levels of expenditures for highway projects in the state's 58 counties, the proposed Alpine County road would most likely never be built.

However, the law requires the state to spend at least \$1 million in Alpine and Sierra counties, and at least \$4 million in all other counties every four years, beginning July 1, 1967.

For sparsely populated Alpine County, hidden in the high Sierra south of Lake Tahoe, the law has been a godsend.

In recent years, Caltrans has built a new maintenance station at Caples Lake, near the Carson Pass, to house

new snow removal equipment.

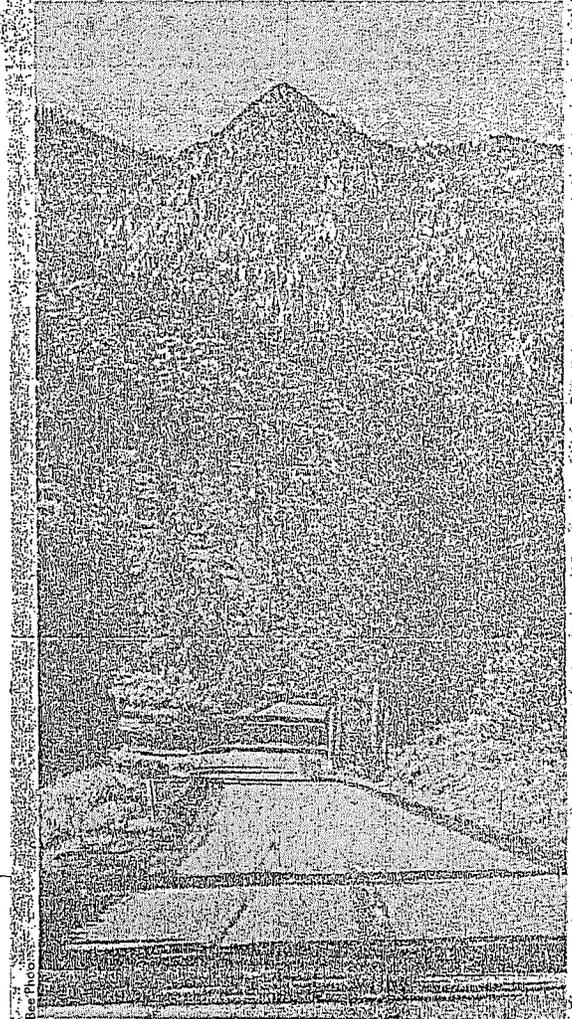
The department also extended California Highway 88 from Woodfords to the Nevada state line, providing year-around access to Alpine County from the east.

Now, the county Board of Supervisors wants Highway 89 to Markleeville rebuilt, and rebuilt soon.

The project could be the last major highway construction in Alpine County for some time to come because the legislature voted last year to eliminate the minimum highway spending requirements for each county effective next July 1.

The Alquist-Ingalls Act, which revamped California transportation planning, requires distribution of available highway funds based on a new allocation formula determined

See Page B2, Col. 2.



Visits and curves characterize the present Highway 89.

Alpine

Continued From Page B1

by state, rather than county, priorities.

Unless the contract for reconstruction of Highway 89 is awarded and work begins before next July 1, the \$2.8 million needed could be lost.

So, in recent weeks, Caltrans crews have surveyed and staked the new highway route and provided interested contractors with a preview of project plans.

As early as 1970, Caltrans engineers had prepared plans for ultimate construction of a four-lane freeway between Markleeville and Woodfords, even though the closest four-lane highway is in South Lake Tahoe, 30 miles away.

The four-lane freeway concept is now dead.

Instead, the department plans the two-lane highway to replace the existing road, which carries an average of 1,100 cars a day, with peak traffic volumes reaching 2,350 cars a day in midsummer.

"The old road is falling apart now," Caltrans' Fletcher said. "We'd like to think the new road is going to be safer."

The proposed project is "the cheapest road with the least impact on the environment," he said.

Yet, Caltrans "never studied" the possibility of simply repaving the existing road and rebuilding only several hazardous curves.

For \$2.8 million, Caltrans' contractor will build two 12-foot traffic lanes designed for 50-miles-per-hour travel and two four-foot-wide shoulders along the 5.9-mile stretch.

To satisfy the Department of Fish and Game, the project includes much more than just road construction.

A 50-foot-long bridge will be built at Indian Creek to create an undercross-

ing wide pass through the undercrossing. Any deer accidentally "trapped" on the highway side of the deer fence will be able to leave the right-of-way through 10 one-way deer gates designed to allow exit only.

Construction of new high-speed curves in the narrow canyon one-half mile north of Markleeville will require relocating and reconstructing 400 feet of Millberry Creek.

A Caltrans "biological plan," prepared in 1974 said the Department of Fish and Game considers the creek "an important spawning stream for the fish populations of the east fork of the Carson River."

The report predicted that uncontrolled siltation and erosion during the road work could have a detrimental effect on the fishery.

Large amounts of silt can work into the gravel, smothering trout eggs and newly hatched fish fry, the report said. "In this manner, spawning beds can be rendered useless for spawning."

To protect the fish, a new relocated, rock-lined streambed, complete with two channels for high and low water flows and gravel-lined spawning pools, will be built.

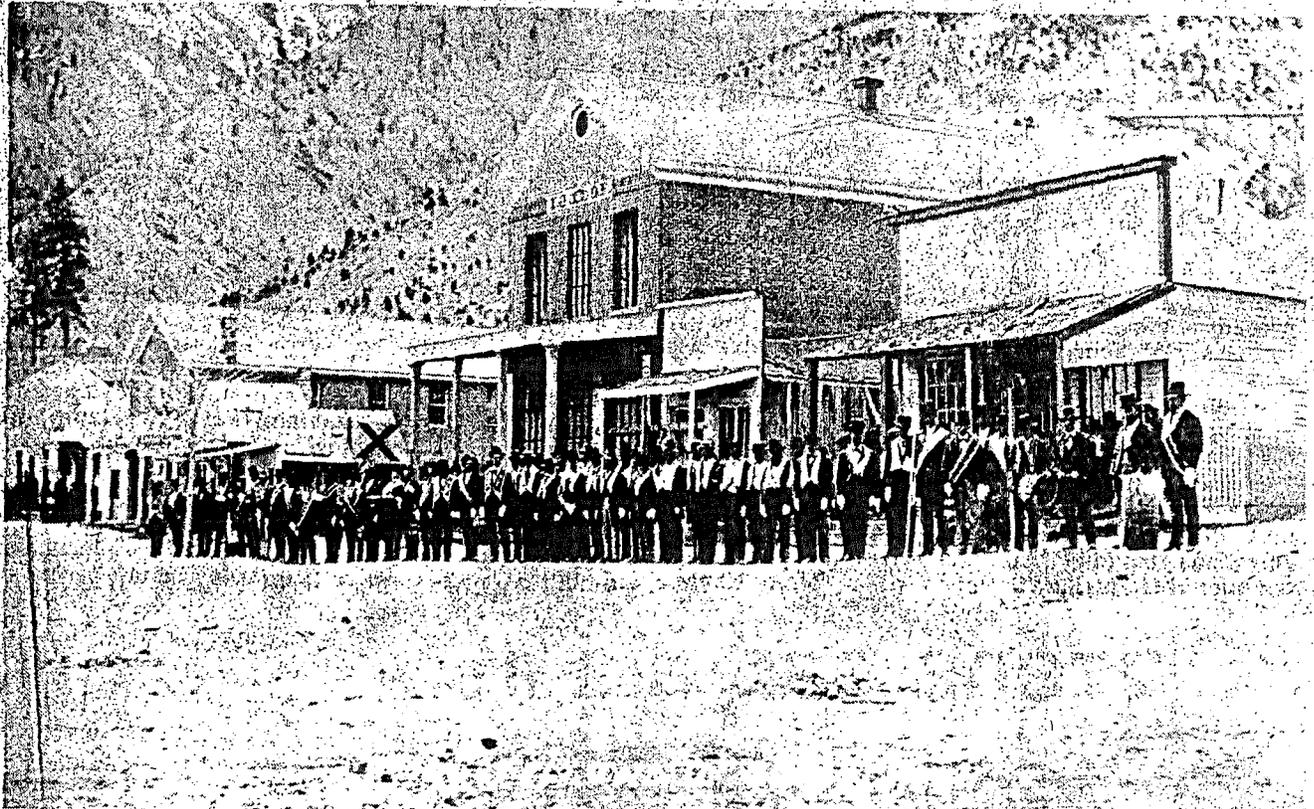
State water quality engineers remained concerned that steep-cut slopes in the narrow canyon will result in serious erosion problems.

Despite the high cost, Alpine County officials place a high priority on Caltrans reconstructing the road.

District Attorney Chris Smith said the present, narrow road, with its sharp curves, is dangerous, particularly during the icy winter months.

"The issue is the cost as against the safety," Smith said.

"It's a needed road for the safety and welfare, not only of Alpine County



Genoa's was first

THE FIRST Genoa Post Office was located in the block on which the Historical Museum now stands. The small building, marked by an X on the roof, was moved to a neighboring ranch before the fire of 1910

destroyed the entire block. Note the lumber flume on the hill. The Odd Fellows are organizing for a parade. (photo courtesy of Arnold Trimmer)

'Outsiders' ... Rightist Views Events In Alpine County

By WARREN WILLIAMS
Modesto Bee Staff Writer

MARKLEEVILLE — The tiny county seat of Alpine County is a town divided. Although it's so small that traditionally everyone soon knows everyone else, it now has a "they" group in its midst.

"They" come and "they" go, like characters from a Franz Kafka story. "They" are busy upon the scenic pine-clad overlook of Markleeville, thinning the forest. They did not disagree with rumors that they were going to found "Constitution City" in the forest area and dominate the county.

"They" are a small group of ultra-conservative, tax-fighting, church-going people, led by Francis Gillings.

They and townspeople speak — perhaps distantly and civilly — when they meet individually. Townspeople watch them and concede their concerns about a group with such takeover designs, watch them enter and leave the greenhouse where their leader lives across Highway 89, and they note that many of the cars have out-of-state licenses.

"They" — 8 or 10 of them — were indicted by the county grand jury as the result of a hectic campaign centered on a sheriff's race in which one of their members was a candidate. The charges stemmed from allegations they were outsiders trying to vote illegally in Alpine County.

Now in the midwinter days, with election fevers and fears eased by time and the fact that their candidate received only 12 votes, a distant truce prevails. The action is now centered in the courts.

Four were convicted after refusing to defend themselves, even refusing to acknowledge they could be indicted.

Meanwhile, the cases against the other five will have to be initiated all over again as a result of the recent



Bee Photo

FRANCIS GILLINGS
... intense, evangelistic

state Supreme Court decision requiring an immediate preliminary hearing for persons indicted by a grand jury.

This was the result of a court hearing in the past week, when their preliminary hearing was set for Jan. 29.

Gillings is made of the stuff of heroes — or zealots. He will go the last mile, and beyond.

And adversity — the court case against him, his wife Ruth, son David and two others for instance — appears to only temper his mettle, preparing him for conflicts that build one upon the other as he parries thrust after thrust from his enemies.

They are out there, in legion. He sees them as enemies of Freedom and the Constitution. As bureaucrats out to tax the average man into slavery. Or as international socialists, capturing the nation from within by making people feel guilty for their rightly-earned riches, destroying their will to fight by denying them victory in war. He also sees courts as the enemy, perverting the Constitution, destroying property rights.

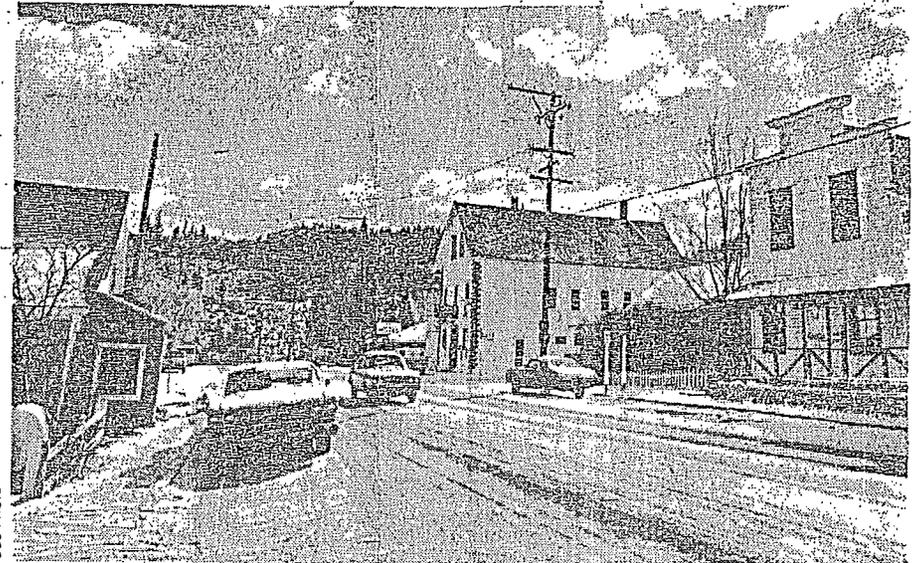
Gillings is intense, reflecting the dedication of a martyr. His voice is evangelistic as he pours out the experiences and beliefs that have shaped his life, leading him step by step from a trusting South Dakota farm boy through the horrifying and bitter experiences of a losing war.

Gillings speaks of "victory denied. I see victory denied every day. The Korean War could have been won in any 10-day period." His experiences extend through college and on to California, finally into a series of confrontations over taxes and property rights leading to indictments, arrests, jailings and court trials including the Alpine cases.

Here, in the sunny uplands of the eastern Sierra, in a county that prides itself on being California's highest in altitude and lowest in population, Gillings speaks of nationwide adherents to the cause, of a new approach that is letting him and other tax fighters take advantage of the same exemptions which, he says, have permitted the Rockefellers, the Dodges, du Ponts and others to escape taxation.

This is done through the non-profit trust, he says, and the Sierra Alpine Trust is his group's vehicle. Its central Alpine holding is the pine-clad overlook of Markleeville, 705 acres of admittedly the choicest land available for development.

Billed during the spring controversy as the site of a future Constitution



Bee Photo

Gillings' house is at left on street in Markleeville.

City, it was to be peopled by those of Gillings' persuasion. It is owned on a shares basis, according to Gillings. He says it is only one among several properties in several states.

The associates, he says, have at least \$25 million in such properties with gold mines or mineral properties high on the list for acquisition.

As he speaks in the aging green house that juts toward the highway shoulder in "downtown" Markleeville, the telephone rings and rings again.

Men enter without knocking, confer and leave. It is well below freezing, and light snow covers the ground. But on the Sierra Alpine property men are at work thinning the timber, harvest-

ing the mature trees and shaping the land for possible subdivision or sale. Gillings is not sure which. He says it cost \$284,000 and he estimates it will be worth \$4 million more than that either through subdivision or sale.

The road system proposed for the forest work would have sufficed for subdivision purposes, but this was cut back after Alpine County officials charged Sierra Alpine with trying to make an end run of the subdivision process. Thus, the total road distance was cut by one-third to approximately five miles and the width was cut to single lane.

Gillings does not admit it was an end run. He concedes a map was prepared, but says the original idea was

advanced by the man from whom the property was acquired three years ago by his son David, who had received an inheritance and was looking about for an investment.

It later was sold to the Sierra Alpine Associates, he says, which had it surveyed and ordered the engineering firm to make a map for a possible subdivision. This was done, designating lots of two to five acres. The property now is zoned for five-acre lots, he says.

Who is the association? "I'll tell you. I suppose this sounds funny. I don't know, simply because I don't want to know. Okay? There's probably 175 families; that'll hit it within 30-

See GILLINGS, Page B3

Gillings

Continued From Page B1

40 families. It is in a trust, all in one piece. And if anyone buys in, they buy a beneficial unit in the trust. They do not buy property," Gillings says.

They might buy any number of units as an investment. Then, he says, if the association should decide to subdivide that or other property, the purchasers could swap their beneficial units for property. "There's people from all over the country in this association, and the association owns land other than right here."

He denies that the group went to Alpine to take it over. In fact, he contends, he first read of "Constitution City" in a San Francisco paper and decided it was an idea worthy of pursuit only in reaction to local hostility. "If they'd used their heads, they could have treated me nice and we'd have gone away."

He says the Alpine trouble was started by a 1976 newspaper story claiming plans were under way for an Alpine County takeover by the Posse Comitatus, which Gillings organized in 1975 while still in Tracy. He later was convicted of assault with a deadly weapon on an officer after he and other posse members carried guns into the Stockton tomato fields to try to block organizational activities of the United Farm Workers.

He says only those previously associated with the posse were indicted in Alpine and points to this as legally significant. The five contesting the charges argue there is "extreme prejudice" in the case against them.

As for his posse action in the tomato field, Gillings says, "I am thoroughly convinced there would be no property rights left in California if it hadn't been for that incident in San Joaquin County over three years ago. Because the governor would long since have taken it away."

So, he says, after the press had written up the "rumor" of Constitution City, he decided, partly in irritation and disgust, "that maybe these guys didn't have a bad idea. Maybe we

ought to set up some kind of tax haven for people who love freedom."

This, he says, is when the survey and map were ordered.

"If I'm guilty of something, I don't mind being charged. But I don't like to be charged with something I'm not guilty of. So I finally decided we (might) just as well try to see what kind of action we'd get on a subdivision. And of course the flack really started.

"We found out that we were very, very unwelcome here. Very unwelcome. I couldn't find a place to live in Markleeville to save my soul. I liked the country, but the people didn't like me. They wouldn't talk to me. This is not only un-American but un-Christian."

Concerning Christianity, he declares Alpine has no church: "This is kind of a devil's stronghold. I think it's rather odd when a county is over 100 years old and never had a church in it. I think that might be part of its problem. I wonder if there's another county in the United States that doesn't have a church."

As for the posse, he says he is not in a chapter now, but, "They're very, very much alive. You can rest assured on that, and very, very many people in them."

Here a strong, brief burst of laughter stops him momentarily; then he adds: "It's a lot different than what it was 10 years ago. But someone had to be out front, and I'm not sorry I was."

Gillings says he grew up a Roosevelt Democrat in the Depression, but began questioning government decisions when he, one of five brothers in the armed forces then, was in Korea during the Korean War. An Air Force observer attached to the 8th Army to direct aircraft fire on the enemy, he says: "I've seen victory denied every day. The Korean War could have been won in any 10-day period we chose. We could have been in Moscow in 30 days. Would have been wiped out. All over with."

Dec 19, 1978

continued



Bee Photo

Sign marks town's boundry

Sac. Bee
Dec. 19, 1978

Teaching traffic safety

awareness to schoolchildren

by **CONNIE BRASHEAR**
Staff Writer

A young child is more likely to die in a traffic accident than from any other single cause. About half of these young victims are passengers in a bus or car, the other half are pedestrians.

In an attempt to halt this tragedy, the state began a program this year teaching traffic safety in kindergarten through third grades. Designed to create traffic safety awareness in children, the curriculum is part of a total program designed to reduce casualties on Nevada's highways and will eventually be expanded through the 12th grade.

A handbook for teachers was designed by a committee of teachers, principals and safety officers from Douglas,

telephone numbers, not talking to strangers, understanding traffic signals, recognizing policemen or other people who can be of assistance, and judging distance.

Once the teacher is familiar with each child's level of knowledge, the handbook provides instructional material and worksheet for teaching and reinforcing safety lessons.

One of the beginning lessons for pedestrian safety involves hearing skills. The teacher is provided with a tape recording of common traffic sounds such as cars, trucks, bus, bike, horns, screeching tires, and the different sounds of a car engine at different speeds. Instructions follow, telling the teacher what role to play and what the students should do. For instance, the teacher is instructed to first have children identify the sounds on the tape, then to take the children outside and play "sound hunt" near a street or intersection by the school.

What can be done to prevent young children from becoming involved in pedestrian accidents?

Lyon and Washoe counties during the last school year. Lyn and Elaine Bawden of Woodfords took a part, Lyn as a committee member, his wife Elaine as the illustrator of the hundreds of worksheets included in the handbook. Lyn, known as Officer Bill to hundreds of youngsters in Douglas County, is a deputy with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office in charge of school and community safety and crime prevention programs.

The handbook is designed for regular safety lessons or to be combined with other activities such as art, play, or field trips, or studies of weather, transportation, or ecology. The material provides the repetition necessary for teaching young children, but in many guises, such as verbal instruction, filling out worksheets, and participating in play-drama.

Each section deals with a different area of safety, pedestrian, bicycle rider, bus or car passenger, and each begins with a checklist designed to both measure the child's level of safety knowledge and indicate what the level should be.

The questions deal with knowing home addresses and

best ways of traversing them safely, under the guidance of the teacher, of course.

The curriculum, as designed, involves principles that can increase a child's awareness in other areas besides traffic safety. Once a child is taught the basic exploration

and thinking techniques, they can be applied to any area. "Stop, look and listen" is probably good advice on the street, in marriage, and on the job. It's possible sharp teachers will find this safety traffic handbook a valuable teaching aid, whatever the subject.

This lesson also includes learning the poem, "At the Curb," a long version of the "Stop, look and listen" most adults still find themselves thinking before crossing a street on foot

AT THE CURB

At the curb before I cross
I stop my running feet
And look both ways to left and right
Before I cross the street.
Some auto running quietly
Might come as a surprise
I don't just listen with my ears
But look with both my eyes.

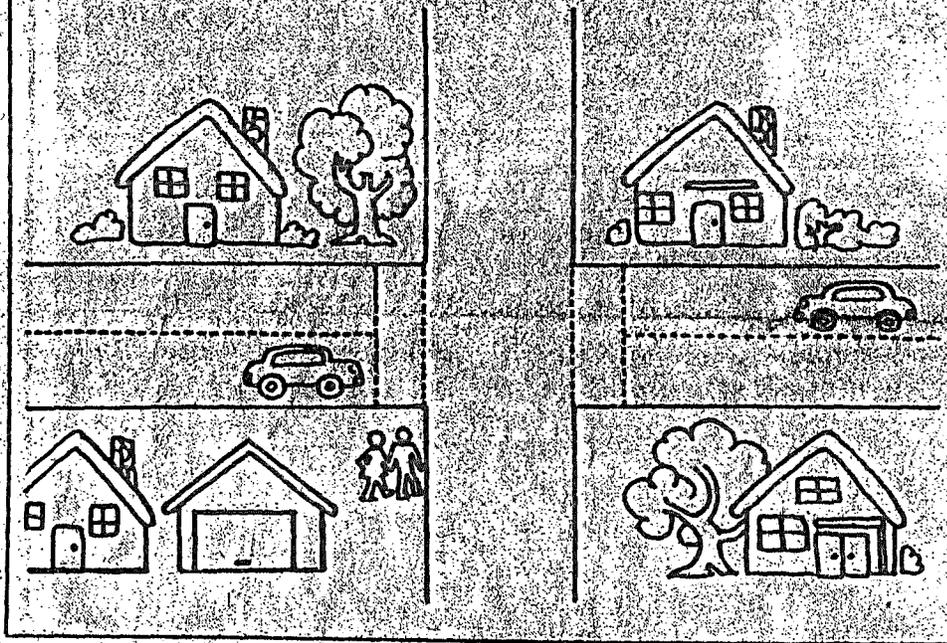
This poem can also be sung to the tune of "Yankee Doodle Dandy."

The important thing about the handbook is that the material is designed to not only teach children what they should do, but how and why. The child is engaged as a participant in his own protection from the very beginning. He is expected to describe hazards and intersections he encounters going to and from school, and to determine the



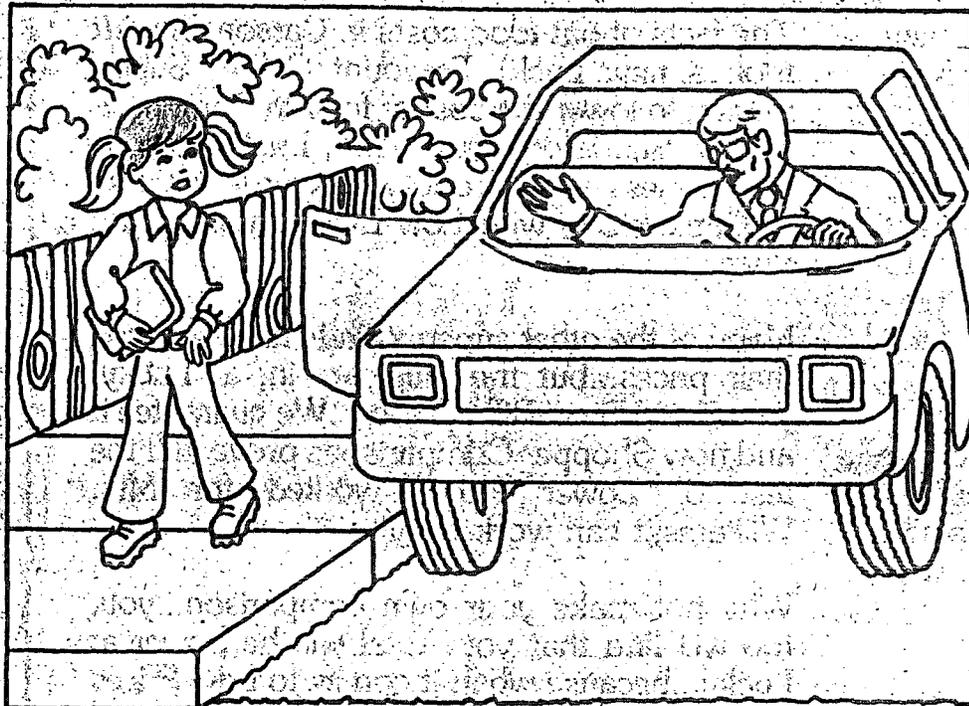
LYN AND Elaine Bawden of Woodfords both took an active part in the new traffic safety program in kindergarten through third grades in Nevada schools. Lyn, left, served on the curriculum committee made up of teachers and safety officers from Washoe, Lyon and Douglas counties. Elaine drew hundreds of worksheets illustrating safety problems designed for children to color, reinforcing what they have learned about safety through other teaching mediums such as verbal instruction and field trips. (R-C photo by Steve Falcone)

NEAR AND FAR



AMONG THE HUNDREDS of worksheets designed by Elaine Bawden for the traffic safety awareness program in Nevada schools are these, titled "Near and Far," above, and "Never go anywhere with someone you don't know." Worksheet instructions for the top picture has the child color the nearest car red and the farthest green. A field trip follows with children watching real cars approach and learning to judge a safe distance for crossing the street in front of on-coming

cars. A child studying the worksheet below will have just heard the story of "Little Red Riding Hood" and will then be involved in a discussion of which people students can go to for help when a stranger offers a ride or a treat or wants to go for a walk. These worksheets are included in the pedestrian safety section of the traffic safety program, which also includes auto and bus passenger safety and bicycle safety.



1907, 1909, 1910 postmarks

From Frieda's files

Snowshoe carries the mail;

Pony Express rides Kingsbury Grade

"Neither snow nor rain nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds"—Herodotus, 48 B.C.

What was true thousands of years ago was just as true in the development of our country. Even before Nevada became a state of the union, there was concern about getting mail through from the eastern states to the fast-growing west, including the area of Nevada that is now Douglas County.

John A. (Snowshoe) Thompson, whose home was in nearby Diamond Valley, Cal., wearing his own hand-carved snowshoes, delivered mail between Genoa and Placerville for twenty years, dating from Jan. 1856-1876. His mail bags weighed from 60 to 80 lbs. He carried no blankets for the 90-mile, three-day trips. When the ground was covered with snow, he made a fire and slept on pine tree branches. Snowshoe Thompson was often asked to bring medicines and other much needed articles from Placerville to Genoa. At one time he was paid 50 cents for carrying a fiddle string for Dick Cosser who played in a dance band.

The "Bird-man of the West" received little compensation for the hazardous trips over the Sierra Nevadas. He went to Washington, D. C. to present his case to Congress, asking for \$6000 but he passed away before Congress took action.

In April, 1860 the Pony Express riders carried the mail along the foothill road on the west side of the valley and on through Woodfords Canyon. A few months later, the Kingsbury Toll Road became the route for these riders who were famous for their bravery, coolness and endurance. Each rider averaged 33 miles a day but was often called upon to do double duty in an emergency. They were paid \$120 to \$125 per month. Five dollars was paid in advance for every letter carried by the Pony Express riders.

The Pony Express had a brief existence of two years and then was supplanted by the telegraph line and the rail road.

With the rail road came the Post Offices. Post Offices sometimes existed but were not recorded until a Post Master was appointed by the Federal Government. Such was the case in Genoa.

The friendly Genoa Post Office, previously known as Carson Valley, where town folk have gathered for more than a century to discuss the topics of the day, had its beginning in the late 1850's under the management of Stephen A. Kinsey. It took care of

mail brought to and from Genoa by Snowshoe Thompson and the Pony Express. John Davis handled the telegraph system and became the first Post Master appointed by the Federal Government on Aug. 20, 1863.

Most work done at the Genoa Post Office, as was the case in nearly all early Post Offices, was done by hand. Feather pens were used, all mail was hand-cancelled and before blotters became a convenience, a sand-shaker was used to absorb blots of ink. The Genoa sand-shaker is now in the Nevada State Museum. In 1951, a commemorative stamp was issued in the celebration of the Centennial of Nevada's first settlement. It was designed from a painting by the artist, Hans Meyer-Kassel of Genoa.

Sheridan, a fast-growing settlement on the Carson River Route on the west side of the valley, became the sight of a Post Office in 1865. This Post Office was located in the General Merchandise Store of Moses Job with James Billis as the first appointed Post Master. He was later replaced by Noah Blossom. It served the surrounding community of Mottsville and early settlers in the valley. Mail was brought in and out of Sheridan by horse and wagon and in snowy weather, by horse and sleigh. Harold Park of Minden tells us he remembers well when the stage delivered mail at Cohn's General Merchandise Store and how the driver always seemed to find time to sit in at a game of cards or for a nip at the bar with the boys. A sign on the door of the store which in the early 1900's was operated by I Cohn read, "As cheap as you can buy any where." The Sheridan Post Office was discontinued in 1920.

Stephen A Kinsey was the appointed Post Master at Mammoth Ledge, south of Gardnerville, when it was established in 1863. It was closed in 1869 when it was moved to Wellington in Lyon County. In the Double Springs area, a Post Office was in operation for less than a year in 1881. L. Sprague was the Post Master. Holbrook had a Post Office from 1883 to 1915 with Chas. Holbrook as first Post Master. There was a Post Office for six short months at Twleve Mile House and one at Walker River from 1872-1883;

All these Post Offices were on the direct route to the booming mining towns of Bodie and Aurora, the route traveled by the 10-16 horse and mule teams carrying supplies and ore to and from these mining towns.

A Post Office was established at Hobart in 1889 and closed in 1901. At Glenbrook, previously known as Lake Tahoe, a Post Office had its beginning in 1872 with M. Spoon as Post Master. Gloria Wilder was the first Post Master at Zephyr Cove in 1930. There is now a branch of Zephyr Cove at State Line.

Buckskin, a small mining town in the Pine Nut Hills in the extreme eastern part of Douglas County, boasted a Post Office for two short years. It was moved to Artesia in Lyon County in 1908.

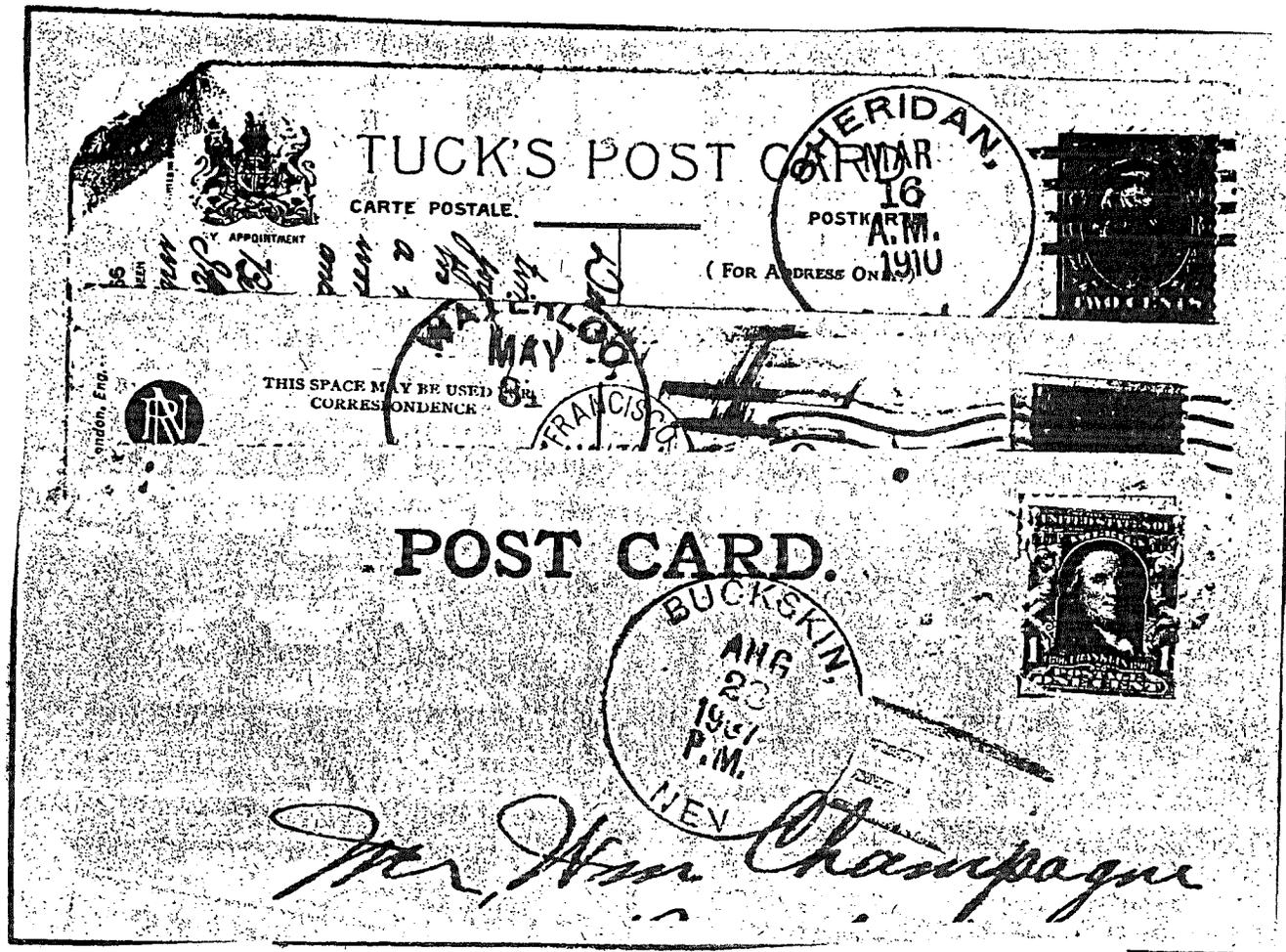
Henry and Fritz Luhrs took care of the postal duties at the Waterloo Post Office during its short existence from 1907 to 1911. The small building stood across the road from the Waterloo Resort operated by the Luhrs brothers and was connected to Fritz Bassman's harness shop. When services were required at the Post Office, it was necessary to go across the road and seek the help of the Post Master at the Resort. Lack of ventilation together with the aroma of ink and smells of new leather and oils from the harness shop, caused the air to be anything but pleasant. The one busy hour at the Post Office was the hour when Charlie Lohman arrived with his horse and wagon or sleigh to deliver the mail.

An early Gardnerville Post Office and quite

possibly the first one was located in the block between the Drug Store and the J&T. Lawrence Gilman was the first Post Master in 1881 and was followed by L.S. Ezell and Charlotte Lundergreen. The office was moved to several locations since that time until its present location in the Raley building south of town.

Herbert Coffin was the first Post Master when it was established in the Farmer's Coop General Mercantile building in Minden in 1906. Horace Meder became Post Master a year later. Unofficially, the Post Office was located at the V&T Depot for a short time before this. The office was moved once again before the new Post Office was built on Highway 395 on the outskirts of Minden in 1974.

The days of Snowshoe Thompson and the Pony Express are days of the past as are the days of feather pens, one and two cent stamps for cards and letters and hand cancelling, but the same friendliness that has always been a part of postal history of Douglas County still exists today. It is not uncommon for the Post Master to personally deliver mail to an elderly shut-in, to deliver a crate of day-old baby chicks that happened to come in late or to see that an unstamped Santa Claus letter reaches the proper destination to be answered. May that same friendliness always be a part of Douglas County postal history!



Trail drive

THIS PHOTOGRAPH, taken by Juanita Schubert, was chosen by the photographic society of America for its one hundred best print of the year schedule in 1944. The picture is of cows and calves of the Dangberg Company leaving on a three-day drive to summer pastures in Alpine County (Calif.). The photo was used for the cover picture of Grace Dangberg's book 'Carson Valley.'



Alpine Bazaar is this weekend

The annual holiday bazaar, sponsored by the Alpine Mother's Club will be held Nov. 3 and 4 at Diamond Valley School. The bazaar lasts from noon until 3 p.m. Special baked apple goods will be served at the Kitchen Shop for the price of a \$1 door ticket. Door prizes will also be given away.

A fashion show and silent auction begins at 1 p.m. Santa will be there to greet guests and the old gentlemen will be available for pictures. Other events are planned.

The Diamond Valley School is located off Highway 89 at Woodfords.

Master plan developed for Diamond Valley School

R.C.
1-25-79

"We are looking to the future, so that we have organized, planned growth as the population requires it," said Diamond Valley principal and Alpine County, (Calif.) school superintendent Dick Martin speaking of the Diamond Valley school master plan unveiled last year.

The architect, Martin added, will offer a more detailed plan and time line for construction in February. It is hoped that construction will begin on the first phase of the project in May or June.

First to come are three new classrooms: two standard classrooms and one large multi-use room that can be divided into two separate rooms. The multi-use room will be used for home ec, science and arts and crafts, and will be equipped with sinks, refrigerator and stoves.

Also to be added will be a teacher's room, handicapped bathroom (required by California State law), and a small custodial room. The playground will be terraced and new equipment installed.

Later to come are four more classrooms, a shop, arts and crafts and science rooms and special educational areas. Eventually, Martin said, the school will become a 5th-through-8th-grade middle school.

Phase two will include a little-league-sized ball field and 300-meter track and play field as well. The present tennis court shown in the accompanying illustration was put in

about five years ago through the efforts of the Alpine Mothers' Club.

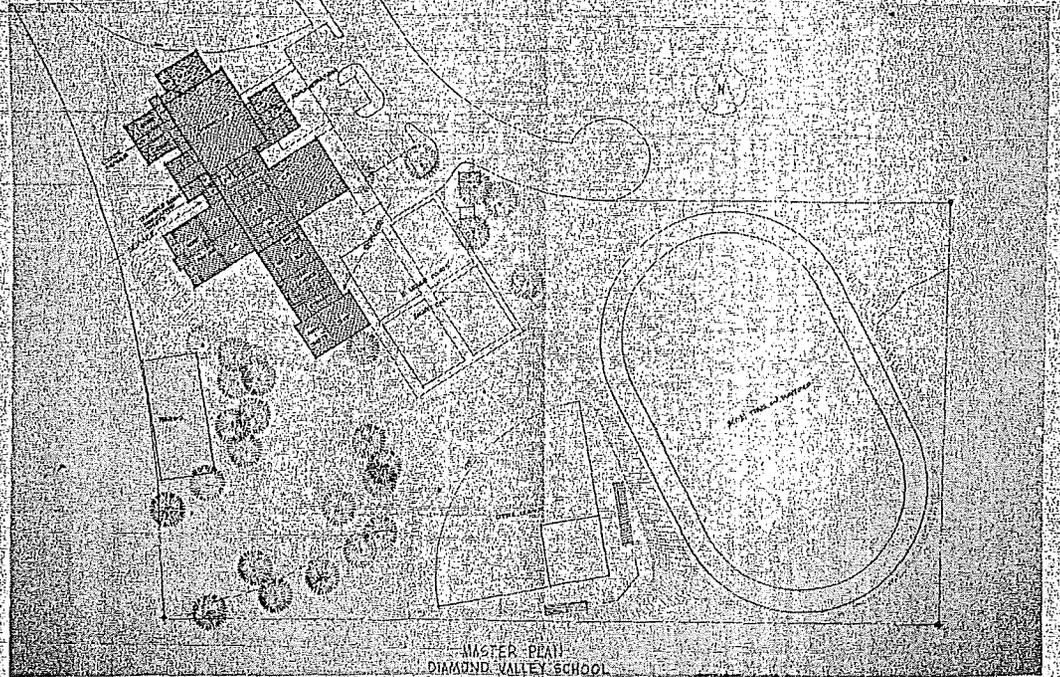
When Diamond Valley School becomes a middle school, Martin said, a new primary school will be constructed at an as yet to be determined location.

The phase one construction will be financed by reserve funds that have been accruing over the years; particularly federal funds through in-lieu taxes benefits. Several federal agencies are located in Alpine County and many residents live on non-taxable federal land. The taxes that otherwise would have been paid are refunded to the county. Funds for the phase one construction will not be raised through a bond issue.

Because of these federal monies, Martin added, Diamond Valley is in somewhat better shape than many California Schools hit by Proposition 13.

Population growth in Alpine County has shown a recent surge and coupled with the proposed construction of 22 new Washoe Tribal houses, Martin expects to see a significant rise in enrollment.

The classrooms now occupied by the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades will eventually be phased out and possibly be utilized as custodial areas, Martin said. The buildings are portable and can't be depended upon to last many more years. They have been used as classrooms for about 15 years.





ALFRED CHAIN, retired Alpine supervisor

Chain honored

Alfred O. Chain, retiring supervisor of District I, Markleeville, of Alpine County (Calif.) was honored last December with a hand-carved seal of the Board of Supervisors.

The ceremony was held in the board meeting room in the Alpine County Administrative Office building in Markleeville with a number of residents and the other county supervisors attending.

Ileen Price read a letter from the people of Markleeville thanking Chain and saying, in part, "This expresses our sincere appreciation for your dedicated service as our supervisor during the past twelve years. Your personal integrity and your selfless devotion to Alpine have added stature to the board and brought honor to the county."

Chairman of the Board, Wilton Neddenriep thanked Chain for his service to the community. Chain's wife, Lucile, was present for the ceremony.

The seal was hung behind the board table in the meeting room for public display. Refreshments were served in the foyer of the administrative office building following the presentation.

Re.
2/8/79

Kirkwood amateur mogul event set

The Rossignol-Nordica Mogul Challenge, an amateur mogul competition event, is scheduled for this Saturday at Kirkwood Ski Resort.

Open to any age competitor of amateur status, the Mogul Challenge will consist of a dual course on Lift No. 6 with run-by-run commentation and music. Held as a benefit competition for the Kirkwood racing team,

the \$3.00 registration fee will go toward that cause.

Trophies and ski equipment will be awarded to first, second and third place winners in each of five age categories. The best overall skier will also receive a new pair of Rossignol skis or Nordica boots.

Contestants should report for registration at the Kirkwood Main Lodge by 10 a.m.



Phillip
Finch

A real-life hero in Alpine County

Dismiss, for a moment, thoughts of traffic congestion and blankets of gray haze sitting over the bay and shoulder-to-shoulder electronics companies and impenetrable layers of bureaucracy.

Those images have no place in thoughts of Alpine County, Calif.

It is a place much different from this one, not so far removed in geographic terms but far, far distant in others. It is a region of spectacular mountains, but the topographic distinctions are almost beside the point, unless you subscribe to the theory that mountain folk are not like the rest of us.

In Alpine County, at least, the theory holds.

This is a glimpse of a way of life and a way of thinking and reacting that we are not likely to find here beside the bay. It is, peripherally, the story of an unlikely champion of that way of life.

Begin with the premise that there is not a more beautiful area in California than the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada mountains. That is subjective, but many people who know the state will say that the austere, forbidding escarpments of

See FINCH, Page A-5

FINCH

Continued from Page A-1
the eastern slope provide unmatched scenery.

Then accept the more objective statement that no place on the eastern slope bears as few traces of human influence as Alpine County, and you get some idea of the nature of area. With 700 square miles (97% National Forest land) and probably fewer than 700 year-round residents, Alpine is the least populous and least densely populated county in this state.

That is germane to an understanding of Alpine County's way of life. So is the fact that two of the four highways into the county are closed by snow in the winter, that its high mountain passes present a physical and psychological barrier to the mess of urban glitter in Lake Tahoe, 30 miles north. So is the absence of a dentist, a practicing physician and an established church.

It all means that only the most self-reliant and independent live there long. By a process of natural selection, those who remain are self-sufficient, proud, possessive of the territory and their place in it. They are reserved toward strangers and that reserve can turn to outright antipathy when they suspect that strangers are trying to exploit the county's miniscule population.

Simple numbers: Since Alpine County voters — fractious by nature — rarely agree on a given issue, a committed group of 500 voters can elect its own slate of candidates and, in effect, can control the county.

That is the setting for the saga of Chris Smith versus the Posse Comitatus.

The Posse, on the face of it, should have found a secure home in Alpine County. It is a right-wing group, fiercely resentful of government intrusion into private life, so extreme in its views that it has operated at the edge of the law by advocating a boycott of income taxes and by interfering several years ago in San Joaquin County when sheriff's deputies tried to grant United Farm Workers' organizers legal access to non-union workers in private fields.

The Posse's individualistic philosophy should have found more than a few adherents in Alpine County. It probably would have, if Alpine's independents had not become convinced that the Posse intended to establish a community and wrest control of the county away from permanent residents, beginning with the spring election of 1978. They suspected that John Buras, who had recently rented a house in the county seat, and had filed to run for sheriff, was a Posse member.

And they were concerned about the sudden increase in the number of unfamiliar faces who were appearing at the county clerk's office to register to vote. In a population of 700, there are few unfamiliar faces.

That put the matter squarely with Chris Smith, who is himself a story — he's in his fifties, an aspiring novelist, a former Los Angeles policeman, deputy prosecutor and senior trial lawyer in the L.A. public defender's office. He had applied for the job of Alpine's district at-

torney a year earlier. It was a part-time position, which seemed to suit his needs. He wanted time to write.

Smith remembers:

"I had never been to the place before. I flew into Lake Tahoe, rented a car and drove. Every mile I got closer, the more I knew I wanted to be here. The place was magic."

He walked into the gray stone courthouse in Markleeville (Pop. 150) and won the job over more than 20 other applicants.

It ought to be mentioned that Chris Smith is black, a noteworthy circumstance in that, when he moved into a home in a setting that could have been lifted straight out of a John Ford western, Chris Smith became only the second black resident of the county.

And, to put it bluntly, Alpine County's heroes usually come in a lighter shade.

But a hero he became, anyway. He announced several weeks before the election that he intended to prosecute every instance of voter fraud that he could discover. That includes perjury, since the process includes a sworn statement that the registrant is an official resident of the county.

Buras withdrew from the race. To date, Smith has prosecuted 13 cases of vote fraud, only nine of them, he says, connected to the Posse Comitatus. The box score shows 10 convictions (including one sentence of 14 months in a state prison) with three cases still pending.

"I'd have done my job whether the people supported me or not," Chris Smith says now. "But I'd like to think they were behind me. They've been good to me. They're my friends. I love this place."

Bear Valley Jazz *R-C* *4/19/79* Festival set

One of the newest traditions to arrive at Bear Valley is the Bear Jazz Festival at the Bear Valley Lodge on April 28. The festival will be held in the Lodge's Cathedral lounge and is directed by Mel Won, leader of the Delta College Jazz Ensemble.

Twenty high school jazz bands will participate in the all day competition plus the workshop by professional saxophonist Mel Martin. Mr. Martin has played with leading jazz bands including Boz Scaggs, Cold Blood, Jesse Collin Young, Cal Tjader, Herbert Laws and many more. Mel Martin was born and raised in Sacramento, and is currently recording with Inner City Records. His latest Album is "Listen".

R-C *4/19/79* Kirkwood's 7th 'Spring Thing' set

The seventh annual Kirkwood Spring Thing is set for April 28 and 29, 1979. The Spring Thing is a weekend full of fun events and zany contests, all open to public participation. Listed amongst Spring Thing activities on Saturday are the Jean Claude Kiddy Race at 10:30 a.m., a Galenda Jump at 12:30 p.m., a Three-Legged Race at 2:00 p.m., a Bikini Race

at 3:00 p.m., a Pie-Eating Contest at 4:00 p.m., Costume Judging at 4:30 p.m. and an Ankle and Knee Contest at 5:00 p.m. All full costume or bikini clad skiers will receive a \$2.00 discount off the daily lift ticket on Saturday.

Closing date for Kirkwood's daily ski operation is April 29, 1979. Weekend operation in May is tentative.

RC
4/19/79

Indian Creek campground opens April 27

Indian Creek Campground, located near Markleeville, Calif., by Indian Creek Reservoir will open for the season on Friday, April 27. The campground, operated by Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Carson City office, has 29 campsites available

on a first-come, first-served basis. Fees are \$3 per night for the 19 vehicle camper spaces and \$2 per night for ten tents-only spaces. A new tents only group camping area accommodating up to sixty people can be reserved in advance and

the fee is 25 cents per person per night. All campers may stay up to 14 days. Drinking water, toilets, firewood, cooking facilities and tent pads are provided. Recreational opportunities include hiking, fishing, nature study and exploring. Eight miles of hiking

trails link the campground to nearby lakes, the Carson River, and a nature study area. A day-use area and boat ramp facilities are also provided. For additional information or reservations for the group area, contact BLM in Carson City.

Plague meeting set

A public information meeting concerning the plague is scheduled for March 27 in Markleeville. Jim Clover, a biologist from the State Department of Health in Sacramento, will inform citizens of the current situation in Alpine County and surrounding areas, and explain what should be

known about plague and how it is transmitted. The meeting is to take place in the Markleeville library at 7:30. It is being sponsored by the Alpine Friends of the Library at the request of Robin Hook, County Sanitarian. The "Friends" are also providing refreshments.

RC
5/22/79

Alpine birthday party

The Alpine County Chamber of Commerce and the Historical Society of Alpine County will sponsor a program celebrating the annual Founder's Day observance March 18 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Turtle Rock Park. Students at Diamond Valley will present a program and refreshments will be served.

RC
3/15/79

Alpine trip to the opera

4/20/78 B/C

The Alpine County Mother's Club is sponsoring a trip to the opera April 27. According to a spokesman, everyone in the community who is interested in going on the bus trip to the opera is urged to call Barbara Walsh at 916-694-2039 to make reservations. The opera, "Il Trovatore," is being presented by the Nevada Opera Guild in Reno. The bus will leave Diamond Valley School at 6 p.m. and return quite late in the evening. Refreshments will be available on board. Cost for the evening, including bus, ticket, and snacks, is \$4.

'Cat Ballou' at Alpine library

The Alpine County Friends of the Library will present the award-winning film, "Cat Ballou," starring Jane Fonda and Lee Marvin, this Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at Turtle Rock Park. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children under 12 and seniors. Popcorn and lemonade will be available.

4-H members from Carson, Alpine, Douglas, Dayton will compete

APRIL 29, 1979

by Jeff Wass
Reporter

This Saturday the Carson Valley and Alpine 4-H Livestock members will be hosting our area livestock show. The show including Carson, Dayton 4-Hers and FFA members will be held at the Springmeyer Ranch (off Hwy. 88 to Mud Lake) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This show is the first phase of our projects coming to an end. Members have worked long and hard feeding and grooming their animals preparing for this day.

Beef members have been working since Nov. 1 taming 1,000 lb. steers to lead. Swine members, since Feb. 1, teaching a hog to walk under control and lamb members have been feeding and working their lambs since Feb. 1.

All animals will be washed and groomed to their finest for the show.

We would like to invite the community to attend our show. We would also like you to know how much we appreciate the support our community businessmen, and clubs have given us in the past.

This year the Carson Valley youngsters have 70 animals to sell, all grain fed and pampered. You can purchase a whole, a half, or a resale animal. Some of the price is tax deductible.

If any of you would be interested in supporting the Junlor Livestock Auction that will be held after the Reno Livestock Show May 10-11-12, you can contact Walt Lund, a 4-H member, a 4-H Livestock leader or the Extension Office.

Please plan to attend--See you there.

...it's this weekend at Mud Lake



Mark Towell



John Scott



John Anderson



Julie Aldax



Jeff Wass



Lisa Witte

Welcome, 'Alpine Enterprise'

Record
Courier 5-18-79

Alpine County now has a newspaper all its own: the Alpine Enterprise, a monthly publication whose Volume 1, No. 1, carried the date of May 1979.

Ads, photos, editorials, news stories, and features in the 12-page tabloid are informative and

entertaining, professionally done.

Our congratulations and a warm welcome to the publisher, Alpine Enterprise; editor Greg Hayes, M.D.; assistant editor Nancy Thornburg; and the rest of the staff for providing the Alpine community with a much needed service.

Letters to the editor

Record
Courier
5-17-79

Where are the parents?

Editor:

I thought about writing a letter when I read about the Sheriff's Dept. "bust" of the big party in the valley a few weeks ago. But I waited thinking others would write. I thought about writing after we heard about the accident and death of Lori Lopes, but again I thought others would.

But I see no evidence either in the "Letters" or the news coverage that either of these incidents has had more than the slightest effect upon the adults in the community, or that the effect on the kids is visible except through vandalism and violence.

Sheriff Maple predicted that this would happen; it was what he was trying to prevent. He got "heat" for the bust, then more heat for not busting this party. He's "damned if he does and damned if he doesn't." His statement that they "weren't notified about that one" is almost pathetic. Is he at fault because he doesn't know the location and nature of every teenage party in every valley home?

Where in the hell are the parents? The parents of the host-hostess of the party in Genoa--where were they that night? At home condoning alcohol abuse among a bunch of kids? Or out? Where were the parents of the kids who attended the party? Did they know where their kids were, who they were with, the type of party it was apt to be, whether it was adequately chaperoned by responsible parents? Have they instructed their kids to "split"

alcohol are present?

Are these ideas really old-fashioned, out of style, square?

There are three main points I would like to make:

1. Three cheers for Sheriff Maple and his deputies for trying, in spite of galloping apathy and outright hostility, to put a stop to the "drinking and drugs" parties and for trying, in many ways, to give kids a more positive direction. I think he deserves a lot more overt parent and community support than he seems to be getting.

2. Come on, parents, let's take a responsible and caring interest in our own kids, who they're with and what they're doing. And those of us who do care and are responsible, let's get together and give the kids opportunities to have activities and parties in our own and each other's homes, free of drugs and alcohol, with responsible adults in attendance. There are--or ought to be--a lot more "fun" things for kids to do, and parents, too, than smoking pot or sniffing coke or getting smashed. And let's let our kids know that if they go to a party where this stuff is obvious in its presence, we expect them to leave.

3. Let's really talk to our kids about mixing alcohol or drugs with driving. If they are going to continue to go to these parties, drink and-or use drugs, the very least they can do for themselves, each other, and the rest of us is to stay out from behind the wheel of a car. Nor should they accept a

using them. There are always other alternatives to finding a way home.

Lori's death was an unnecessary and terrible tragedy. There will surely be more unless the kids begin to accept the responsibilities of young adulthood as well as the privileges, and unless we parents accept responsibility for our own kids. It's not the school's job; it's not the recreation department's job; and it's not the Sheriff's job. It's ours.

Nancy Thornburg

R.C.
5/21/74

Dance at Turtlerock

This is the weekend that the square dancers take over Alpine County! Camp out at Turtle Rock Park.

There is the campground for all of the campers, trailers, etc. The potluck and dance will be held in the hall. Potluck will be at 6 p.m.

Bring a dish and your own tableware. The dance will be 8 p.m. until 11, with the after party 11:15 until ????. The after party will be callers from the floor.

June 2 will be the festival in Mammoth Lakes. There is a campground for the travel trailers, campers, etc. This is always a big weekend. It takes all three days of dancing to get accustomed to the altitude. Friday night will be callers from Reno scheduled at 20-minute intervals. Saturday is Earl Johnson from the Los Angeles area. Sunday is Howard Shoemake from Reno.

June 9 is the Douglas Dudes and Dolls annual Carson Valley Days Dance. This will be an all-singing calls dance. The club is planning some delicious refreshments. This is also open for people that would like to come in and watch the dancing. So far, not much going on in the month of June.

Then we come to July. The Capitol Cutups will be hosting Jett Roberts, the teenage caller from Sacramento, on July 20. This will be at the Virginia City High School.

Then July 27 and 28 is the Tahoe Festival. If you are planning on taking your RV vehicle be sure and make your reservations early. The Tahoe Valley campground on Hwy. 50 just before the Y is very close and is very large with lots of facilities.

As I get any new dance dates I will schedule them, so please watch the paper.

Ford-Cozart reception held

RC 5/17/79

A reception was held recently at the home of Mrs. Laurence Ford of Markleeville for Larry Ford and his bride, the former Elizabeth (Betsy) Cozart of Denver, Colo. Larry is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Ford of Markleeville.

Betsy, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Cozart of Denver, wore the antique Italian satin bridal gown of her mother, the late Mrs. Sarah Hickerson Cozart.

Betsy is a graduate of Douglas County High School at Denver. In 1978, she received her degree from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colo.

Larry is well-known in this area, having graduated from Alpine County schools and from Douglas High School in Gardnerville. He continued his education at Humboldt State University in Arcata (Calif.), where he graduated with a B.S. degree in forestry. They were married at Rockland Church on Lookout Mt., Denver. They now make their home in Fairfield, Idaho, where Larry is employed as a forester

in the U.S. government service.

Thirty-five rel-

Larry's gathered at the Markleeville reception atives, friends, and

former schoolmates of to congratulate the popular couple.



Mr. and Mrs. Larry Ford
Newlyweds

Tom Wixon

Reviewer
5-17-79



Drinking, driving, living and dying

It's that time of year when students don caps and gowns and stroll down the aisle into the future.

At most graduation ceremonies, someone will be asked to speak, to say a few words to those youngsters about to go out and "make their way in the world."

It's a good bet that at least one speaker will fall back on the cliché about youth being the "Future of America," young people growing into adulthood, who will lead the country into a future filled with promise—not to mention challenges too enormous to be ignored.

As long as there have been graduations, the older generation has looked on youth optimistically as the bright new hope of the future.

But events in Carson Valley this year leave room for doubt as to whether some of our young are capable of handling the future.

The news about weekend drinking parties is not so surprising. Young people have been gathering to drink for a long time.

But there's a difference today. In generations past, kids didn't have ready access to cars. Or drugs.

If booze is bad for you, drugs are worse. Taken together, the two can be lethal.

The sheriff's deputies raided one party, to serve notice these affairs would not be ignored. The cops had reason to be concerned. People of any age who drink and drive are dangerous. Young people don't need that much to drink, in order to be dangerous on the road. They lack experience.

Don't take my word for it. The Nevada Office of Traffic

Safety has been keeping score. Their figures show an alarming increase in the number of alcohol-related fatalities among youths in the past few years.

In 1975 there were six highway deaths attributed to alcohol, among youths aged 16-20. The number went up to nine in 1976. Then it jumped to 22 in '77, and last year the number was 43.

The numbers for all drivers under age 24 are scary. There were 140 fatalities in that age group last year, up nearly 50 per cent from the year before.

When a recent party was "raided," several young people resisted the deputies. There was a fight, or several fights. There was violence on both sides. There were hot tempers.

Then the parents got into the act. Were they mad because their children were drinking, taking drugs, breaking the law? Were they concerned that their kids were anywhere near a scene where all that was taking place?

No. They were mad at the cops. Mad, because the police invaded a private party. Mad, because of what they saw as unnecessary roughness.

Deputies admitted frustration. Much of the response from the community was antagonistic. But what about the law? What about the safety of these kids, and of other potential victims on the highway?

The question was no sooner asked, when the answer came in the form of an accident.

A bad accident.

A young girl was killed. A young man stands accused of a crime, his future in jeopardy, his reputation tarnished.

Drugs and booze are blamed for the accident. The victim was at a party attended by other youngsters too young to be drinking.

In the aftermath, a young man was taken to the hospital and treated for injuries because he

thing" in the presence of the victim's friends. Emotions ran high, understandably, but the end result was violence. Is that a rational response, on which to base a bright hope for the future?

Another youngster took out his frustration on the windows of a local business office.

The young vandal scrawled obscenities on the glass, blaming everyone from God to a young girl for the accident. In short, everyone except the responsible party.

And who was that?

Well, you be the judge. But to some extent you'll all be blamed, you who are about to graduate from high school.

It is from your ranks that the victims emerged.

The driver, the victim, the vandal, the boy who was beaten, are all about your age.

One of the writers you study in school wrote that one man's death diminishes all. When you hear the bells ring, don't ask who the bells are for...they're for you. No man is an island, he said.

And no young woman is an island either. We all died a little. We all suffer from a senseless death.

Whether you like it or not, some of the older generation will blame you for this. Because of the behavior of a few of your peers. They'll say, "This generation...." and shake their heads.

They'll be wrong, of course, to blame all of you. The blame in fact deserves to be shared by many: by rebellious teenagers; by permissive parents; by a system of justice that has allowed people to drink, drive, kill and walk away free because of their connections.

But most of you youngsters weren't at the party in Genoa. Most of you aren't using drugs. Most of you aren't using the fact that the world you inherited is in bad shape to excuse your personal behavior.

Maybe that's where the bright hope is.

It's in the fact that some of our young people will start fresh,

Diamond Valley Kindergarten registration

R-C
5/24/79

Next week (May 29 through June 1), the Diamond Valley Elementary School in

Markleeville will pre-register kindergarten students. Hours for registration are 8:30

a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To register, a child must be 5 years old on or before Dec. 1, 1979. A

parent or guardian should accompany the child and must present a birth certificate.

Grover pools closed for repairs

R-C
5/24/79

The pools at Grover Hot Springs State Park near Markleeville are closed for repairs. All other park facilities are open as usual.

The contractor, who has until mid-June to complete the work, has agreed to make every effort to finish before the Memorial Day weekend of May 26.

However, weather and other factors might require a longer period of work.

The repairs consist of resurfacing the concrete decks, installing radiant

heating, and adding discharge skimmers to increase the flow-through capacity of the

hot pool.

Anyone planning to use the pools over the

Memorial Day weekend can get information by calling (916) 694-2248.

Mono, Alpine road contracts

R-C
5/24/79

The California Department of Transportation has awarded two contracts in Mono County and one in Alpine for road construction.

In Mono County, culverts are to be extended at various locations on Hwy. 395 from north of Virginia Lakes Rd. to south of Bodie Rd., about 6.6 miles south of Bridgeport. The apparent low bid was \$36,130, submitted by David R. Sipherd of Auburn.

Alignment and

correction of elevation on portions of Hwy. 120, also in Mono County, will be done from 2.7 miles east to 23.3 miles east of Hwy. 395. C&B Construction of Gardnerville, at \$281,145, was the apparent low bidder.

Hwy. 4 in Alpine County will be resurfaced from 2 miles west of Cabbage Patch Maintenance Station to .3 mile east of Mt. Reba Rd., about 40 miles east of Route 49. The apparent low bidder, at \$324,782.80, was George Reed Inc. of Sonora.

5-24-79

Ski club races to

THE RECORD-COURIER—GARDNERVILLE, NEVADA

finish at Kirkwood



THE DOUGLAS County Ski Club held a race on the club's last ski day. Winning the beginners' 12 years and under category was (L to r) Toby German, Todd Gansberg and Gregg Fricke.



WINNING THE beginners' 12 years and older group were (l to r); Marla Whitney, Pla Saldeen and Machelé Dodge.



THE 13 years and older intermediate were (l to r): Ronny Bosmans, Rick Todd Tobey.



WINNERS OF the 12 years and under advanced skiers' category were: Rick Meadows, Tim Kawcak and Shane Miller.



WINNING THE 13 years and under Intermediate group were (l to r): Rick Chambers, Don Clinger, Bo Jackson and John Erb.



THE 13 YEARS old and older advanced group was won by (l to r) Connie Estabrook, Paul Elliott and Darin Jackson. (photos by Jesus Pedroarena)

Elliott scores fastest time

In Sunday's last trip of the Douglas County Ski Club season, a race amongst the members was held and herewith are the winners by category. The race was held on the Caples Crest run at Kirkwood Meadows, attended by miscellaneous parents and club chaperones.

First were the beginners under 12 years old. Winning that race was Todd Gansberg, followed by Toby German. In third place was Gregg Fricke.

Also in the beginners' group was the 13 years and older category that was won by Pia Saldeen, who is a foreign exchange student at Douglas High School from Sweden. Marla Whitney came in second place while Machel Dodge was third.

Then came the intermediates down the hill. Donny Clinger won the 12 years and under division, followed by Rick Chambers in second place. There was a tie for third between John Erb and Bo Jackson.

The 13 years and older intermediate race was won by Rick Sandell, followed by Todd Tobey in second and Ronny Bosmans in third.

Finally, the advanced skiers showed 'em all how to do it. In the 12 and under group, the winner Tim Kawcak, followed by Shane Miller and Rich Meadows in second and third, respectively.

The over 13 year old advanced skiers' race was won by Paul Elliott. Darin Jackson came in second and Connie Estabrook third.

Paul Elliott, naturally, had the fastest time of the day with a clocking of 36.09 seconds. Tim Kawcak went 36.10 and Darin Jackson 36.11. Close.

Plague experts to begin survey

by SALLY LYDA
R-C Editor

Next Monday, experts on bubonic plague will visit Alpine County and the Carson Valley portion of Douglas County to assess the amount of plague antibodies in the local animal population.

The survey follows a human death from plague in Carson Valley last January and evidence that the bubonic plague organism is widespread in both Alpine and Douglas County.

Bernard C. Nelson, Ph.D. and senior public health biologist for the California Department of Health, will head a team from California's department of health to survey the area around Markleeville.

Two experts from the national disease control center in Colorado will conduct the survey in Douglas County. Dr. John Carr, Nevada's health director, has said that Nevada personnel would join the survey here.

Dr. Charles O. Thompson, Douglas County Health Officer, told The Record-Courier this week that he has not been contacted by state health officials, either about the impending survey or about public health measures that should be initiated in Douglas County.

However, Dr. Thompson provided The Record-Courier with a transcript of a specialty conference held in San Diego where experts discussed the various aspects of plague - where and how it occurs in animals and humans, how to diagnose it, and how to treat it.

The San Diego conference, whose transcript was published in the November 1978 issue of the Western Journal of Medicine, started with a description of the onset and progress of bubonic plague in a three-year-old San Diego girl, from her trip to Lake Tahoe, where the organism was assumed to have been contacted, and her death several days later in a San Diego hospital.

Dr. James D. Connor, a professor of pediatrics, discussed the various ways in which bubonic plague occurs in humans, particularly children and adolescents, and urged that plague be included among the diseases pediatricians look for when diagnosing disease among their patients, "regardless of the fact that we have only seen one case and that in 1977."

According to Dr. Connor, bubonic plague should be tested for in children complaining of infected glands when certain circumstances "favor" a plague diagnosis:

--nonurban residence;

(See page 4)

--plague experts will survey

(From page 1)

- domestic cats or dogs known to have wild animal contact;
- sick animal contact, recently;
- recent camping or sleeping on the ground;
- known flea bites;
- known plague area, visit or residence;
- or plague in the family or community, recently.

"The mortality of bubonic plague, appropriately treated with antibiotics, is low, less than 5 per cent," according to Dr. Connor. "The diagnosis can be established in time to arrive at that satisfactory result."

Dr. Michele Ginsburg, epidemiologist with San Diego's bureau of disease control, spoke of the need for early diagnosis.

"If the person (who has been bitten by an infected flea) does not receive prompt, specific attention," Dr. Ginsburg said, "sepsis occurs and secondary plague infection of the lung may follow. Once lung infection develops, plague may be transported as an airborne disease and has the potential of infecting many people without an insect vector."

Physicians should be alert to the possibility of plague infection, Dr. Ginsburg said. "Patients should be asked about exposure to wild animals and about camping or hunting experience in a plague epidemic area within the preceding week. The only

way to defend against plague and to reduce mortality is by suspecting the problem, making an early diagnosis, and initiating treatment as soon as the diagnosis is suspected."

The swiftness of the disease's progress was emphasized by Dr. Connor:

"Primary septicemic plague comes from already virulent sources of plague infection, such as an infected animal host--from the lick of a dog or from a cat with adenitis in which the infecting bacteria already have achieved encapsulation and virulence. No symptomatic node infection develops. The patient is very soon drastically ill with septicemia and bacteremia and dies in three or four days. Pneumonic plague is a similar kind of syndrome in which human-to-human transmission brings about devastating, rapidly fatal disease. A California veterinarian died recently of this form of disease acquired from an infected dog--not a person--transmitted during postmortem examination of the animal carcass."

Streptomycin is said by Dr. Connor to be "probably" the drug of choice. "Chloramphenicol by the intravenous route," he added, "is probably the drug of second choice as it rapidly controls bacteremia and prevents the late occurrence of meningitis. It is important to use two drugs in bubonic plague and these are the drugs of choice."

Alpine surveyed for plague RC 6/7/79

by LISA BRUK
Staff Writer

Two California specialists in animal disease transmission began an intense effort this week to

determine the extent of bubonic plague in Alpine County wildlife.

Dr. Ruth Jolly, Alpine County Health Officer, said Jim Clover and Ken Hansgen of the California Department of Health in Sacramento are taking blood samples from bobcats and coyotes. By testing these animals, which are being trapped by Alpine County game officials, health authorities can get an index as to the prevalence of bubonic plague in all the wildlife in the area because bobcats and coyotes seldom become ill after they contract the disease. In contrast, she explained, small rodents such as squirrels and chipmunks usually die from it.

California began testing the state's wildlife in early December before the plague death later that month of Marguerite Litsinger, 76, of the Johnson Lane area. She apparently got the disease from one of her pet cats.

So far 11 bobcats and four coyotes in Alpine County have had plague-positive blood tests. One of the coyotes was found in February on the Gansberg Ranch in Fredericksburg near the Douglas County border. A coyote at Mud Lake in Douglas County, two miles east of Alpine County near Hwy. 88, was identified in January by California health officials as having plague antibodies.

Dr. Jolly said during their week-long survey Clover and Hansgen will also test wildlife in the Lake Tahoe basin and Mono County. Results of the current testing will probably not be available from the state health department laboratories in Berkeley until a week after the survey is completed.

"I know there's a lot of plague," Dr. Jolly said. "My concern is that the public will not take the kinds of precautions they can."

She said people out of doors and near wildlife in plague-infested areas such as Alpine and Douglas Counties should:

- never sleep on the ground. They should sleep on a cot, even if they are inside a tent.
- wear long pants and high socks. Portions of the lower body should never be left exposed.
- leave household pets at home so that plague-infected fleas on rodents do not get on them.

Dr. Jolly said her second concern is that health professionals treating a plague case will not be familiar with the symptoms of the disease. The symptoms, she said, resemble those of pneumonia, and the patient also has swollen lymph glands. It's important for physicians to diagnose plague in its early stages by means of a blood test, she stressed, as the antibiotic tetracycline is effective in treating it, whereas penicillin, often used for pneumonia, isn't.

C.A.P. practices 'search and

Thursday, June 14, 1979

rescue' in Alpine County

The Carson Valley Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, one of Douglas County's newest service groups, recently conducted a practice search and rescue mission in Alpine County, together with cadets and adult members of squadrons from Carson City and Reno.

Experience was gained by both youngsters and adults in radio communications and other facets of an organized search for downed aircraft and for people who are missing in other than aircraft incidents.

At the Alpine County airport, cadets also learned about handling aircraft by practicing such techniques as tie-downs.



LISA HOYT (left) learns from pilot

Jlg Taylor the proper way to tie down an airplane.