

# THE CARSON PASS

VOLUME 1 NO. 1

## MAJOR NEW SKI AREA FOR CARSON PASS



OLD KIRKWOOD INN BUILT IN 1864 NOW KIRKWOOD MEADOW INC. OFFICES

### WHAT IS KIRKWOOD? CONCEPT BEHIND NEW CARSON PASS AREA

When you have a valley of incomparable alpine beauty with the best ski area imaginable and summer recreation that is already legend, what do you do with it?

To answer our own question, you take owners who are native to the area and care about it enough to live there, mix them with an architectural firm which stands for both conservation and knowhow, and develop a way of life.

Large lots focused on a meadow with a meandering stream, almost

every one designed to let the home owner ski home from the slopes.

Add sailing and fishing on a 700-acre lake one-quarter mile away, water skiing or sailing on Silver Lake only four miles away, and eventually a golf course, pool, tennis courts and clubhouse.

Form a company that will stay with the residents over many years by leasing, not selling, the lots.

Draw up 99-year leases that give the homeowner complete flexibility in sale, rental, or transfer, and, start with, acquisition, pay-

ments that are small enough to enable him to build at an early date.

Put all utilities — telephone, power, water — underground. Build roads to county standards for dedication.

Have each lot designed for maximum separation and esthetic location by a landscape architect.

Finally, control building design just enough to have a distinctive community with maximum room for individual expression.

This is Kirkwood Meadows.

JACKSON — A \$45 million all-year recreational and residential development is planned for Kirkwood Meadows in the Sierra 56 miles east of here on California 88.

Bardeen E. Stevenot, spokesman for the Kirkwood Meadow Corp., told local businessmen last night the 703-acre meadow, located at approximately the 8,000-foot elevation, has been purchased by Bud D. Klein, a Stockton businessman, for an undisclosed amount.

Klein's interest in prime ski areas led him, Stevenot said, to invest in Bear Valley, where he is chairman of the board of directors of Mt. Reba Ski Corp.

Stevenot said that investors involved is that Kirkwood holds one of the great potentials in California skiing yet undeveloped.

He quoted Stein Thor Jakobsson, well-known ski instructor, as saying: "The area has some of the finest, beginner, intermediate and advanced slopes I have ever seen."

Plans already are on the drawing boards for extensive recreational facilities as well as 700 to 1,000 residential lots, hotels and condominiums.

Stevenot indicated lot sales would begin in the summer of 1969 with the opening of the ski area scheduled for 1971-72.

This, Stevenot said, is predicated by the Division of Highways opening California 88 to winter traffic.

Problems regarding water supply, power, sewage disposal, snow removal and county building and sanitation regulations will also have to be anticipated.

**Capital Is Available**

According to Stevenot, the firm has the capital to proceed with the multi-million-dollar venture. There are two major contingencies, however, which must be resolved, he said.

His group must negotiate a satisfactory exchange of its land out-

side Kirkwood Meadows for the remainder of the public land on the meadows floor.

Perhaps more significantly, the question of snow removal on California 88 to the resort site will have to be settled with county officials and the California Division of Highways.

California 88 closes down at Peddler Hill, about 37 miles east of here, early each winter with the first heavy snowfall.

**Snow Removal Costs**

County interests seeking all-year status for California 88 have been told by the Division of Highways it would require two high-level snow removal stations at a cost of \$1 million or more each.

Division of Highways officials also have said it would cost between \$200,000 and \$250,000 more a year to remove snow the additional 20 miles from Peddler Hill to Kirkwood Meadows.

According to Gil Ward, Amador District Ranger, Eldorado National Forest, the land exchange agreement would take about two years. If it is not consummated, Ward said, the winter sports potential of the area will be still developed in some way.

**Demand Is Noted**

"There is public demand for a major skiing area along upper California 88," Ward said. "If the negotiations fail, we will take other steps to make sure the area is developed in the near future."

The potentialities of Kirkwood Meadows, adjacent Thimble Peak and other Sierra peaks for winter sports development has been studied intensively for at least a decade.

In 1963 national forest teams made studies of sites suitable for development in the Carson Range. Of five sites selected as most suitable, Kirkwood Meadows was destined to be first.

Its major advantage is its accessibility from California 88.

### Ski Beautiful Kit Carson Country

From the days of Snowshoe Thompson to modern times travelers have cursed the abnormally heavy snowfall of Carson Pass.

With the completion of Highway 88 as an all-weather highway, the curses of the traveler become the praises of the skier.

Imagine, if you will, a north-facing valley on the western edge of the Sierra, where the highest snowfall occurs, with an elevation of 7700 feet, surrounded by peaks

as high as 9800 feet. (Squaw, by comparison, ranges from 6200 to 8500 feet.)

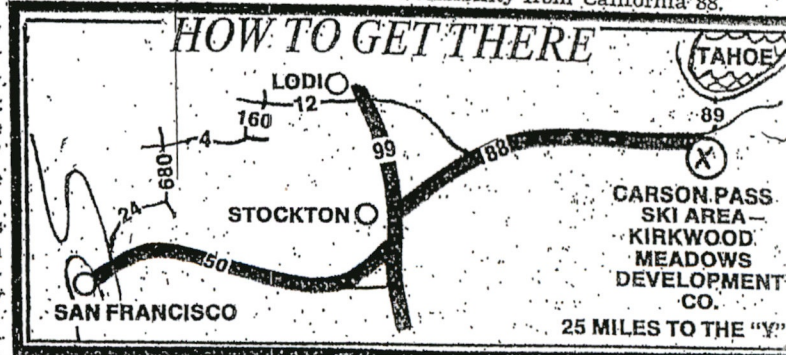
The skiable terrain is over five square miles (twice the developed area of Squaw Valley). The runs are continuous, not broken between many lifts and mountains.

Eleven potential chair lifts with 1000 to 1900 feet of vertical drop. Five of these over 1400 feet of vertical.

Not only that, the unique con-

figuration of the mountains allow the beginner to ride to the very top of the area and ski safely home. The expert, though must use his skill to descend a route that's like "skiing in an elevator." And there's plenty of intermediate terrain in between.

Place all this only 176 miles from San Francisco, 104 miles from Stockton, and 106 miles from Sacramento, and compare it with any area!







## The Men Behind Carson Pass

### Officers of the Corporation —

**JOHN B. ALLEN, PRESIDENT,** is a rancher, developer and member of a noted Amador County pioneer family, has been involved in Sierra projects for a lifetime, including the founding of the Mother Lode Academy school in Sutter Hill and interest in the now-developing Corral Flat Ski Area.

**BUD KLEIN, SECRETARY-TREASURER,** is a resident of Stockton whose varied business activities include the Mt. Reba Ski Area for which he serves as secretary-treasurer. He is also president of Klein Brothers, Inc.

**BARDEN E. STEVENOT, VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER,** is a fifth-generation member of a pioneer Calaveras County family whose interests ranged from gold mining to cattle raising. He is a graduate of Sacramento State College and the Naval Officers Candidate School at Newport, R. I. For three years he served as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal diver, Lt. USNR. After leaving the service he engaged in dredging and diving operations on the Stanislaus River and then became active in real estate in the Sierra counties. He has now closed that operation of his San Francisco office to devote full time to the planning and management of the Kirkwood Meadows project.

### Architect and Planner —

**ARCHITECT AND SITE PLANNER — IAN MacKINLAY, A.I.A.,** is an award-winning Bay Area architect whose firm has built many structures in the deep snow country, including the Boreal Ridge Lodge which won the AIA National Honor Award in 1966. Mr. MacKinlay has also collaborated with Henrik Bull on a condominium project at Snowmass-at-Aspen and is the First Vice President of the Far West Ski Association.

AUGUST 1899

Hunt keeps the hotel at Silver Lake, in the Sierra Nevada mountains; and Hunt knows how to keep a hotel at such a place. He sets a good mountain table, and passes two kinds of whiskey over his bar. He procures the major part of his stimulants from Jim Woodburn, a Sacramento dealer. We met Jim there about a week ago and, while sampling the stock, was informed by him that two qualities of whiskey would be found behind the bar, namely, "staying whiskey"

and "leaving whiskey." The first was sold to those whose further patronage was deemed desirable. It was short range and fair in quality. The second was handed out to the troublesome and impecunious. It was long range and damnable. "Let a man take a drink or two of this 'leaving whiskey,'" said Jim, "and if he lives to get out the door he will never call for another!" He knows, for he manufactures both qualities, and we shall always feel grateful for the care he took in

guarding us against the "leaving" bottle.

The hotel is a large two-story frame structure, capable of accommodating comfortably fifty or sixty guests. It stands naborless and alone at the foot of the lake, and presents a wonderfully cheerful look to the tourist who has toiled up the rocky road from Kirkwood's and Twin Lakes. The attic of the house is one of its most attractive features. It is there, reached by a narrow flight of stairs, that all the dances in the

neighborhood are held, and where the itinerant showman is accommodated with benches and a rude platform. It is there that the herders and dairymen of the lake and adjacent valleys gather at intervals, with the few women obtainable, and to the music of a single violin and horn, or bull-fiddle, beat the plank floor into splinters with their cowhides, and send the echoes of their rude rejoicings along the rocky shores of the lake.

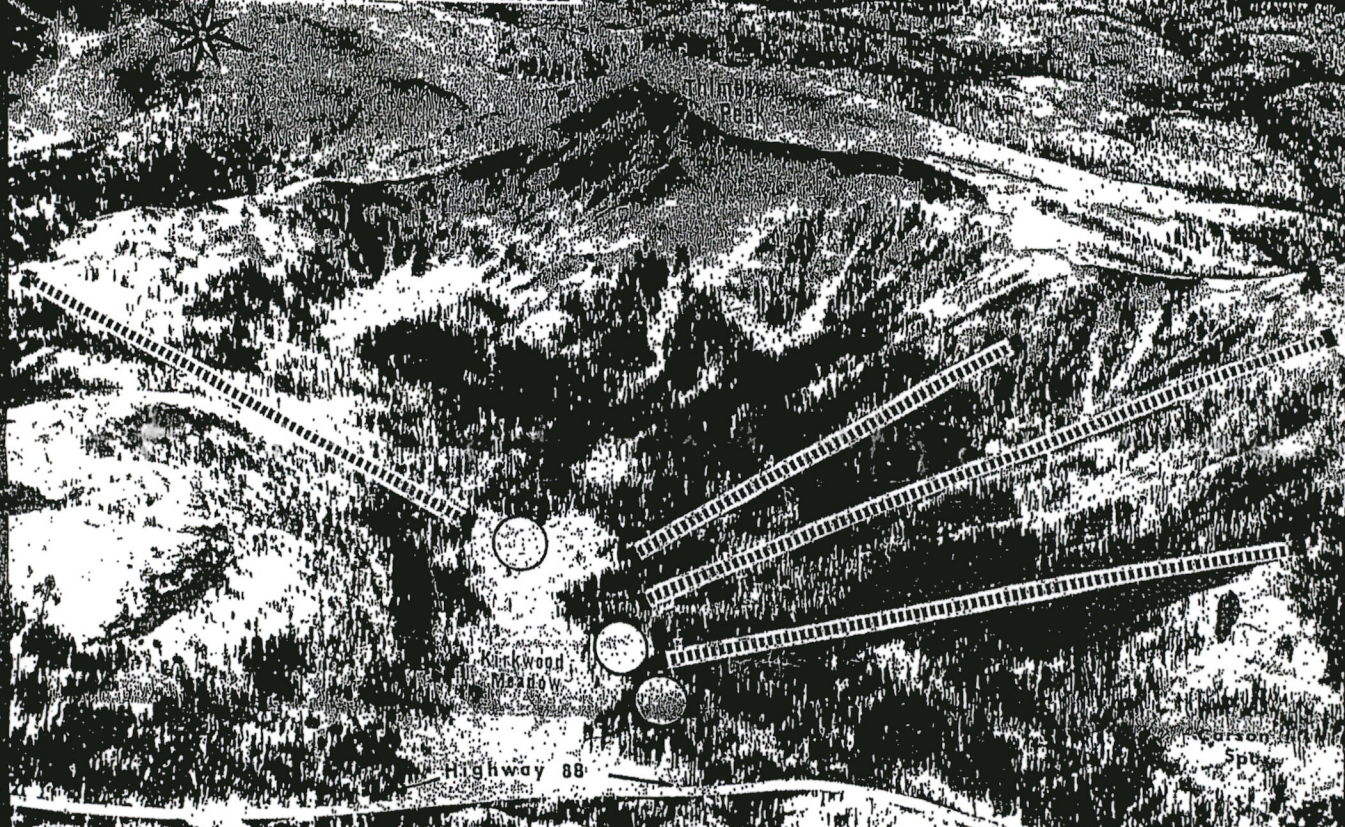
The day our party arrived at the lake, was one of peculiar interest

# CARSON PASS HAS SWUNG FOR

## Here's an Old Account of "Fun at Silver Lake:"

An Excit

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE



CARSON PASS SKI AREA — KIRKWOOD MEADOWS DEVELOPMENT



OFFICERS OF KIRKWOOD MEADOWS INC. L to R: BART STEVENOT, BUD KLEIN, JOHN ALLEN, SKI CONSULTANT

THE KIRKWOODS... ZACHARY KIRKWOOD

## NOTICE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AS WE DEVELOP SEND THIS COUPON TO:

**KIRKWOOD MEADOWS INC.**  
1222 MONTGOMERY ST.  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 94133

YOUR NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY .....

STATE .....

I AM INTERESTED IN: SKIING ONLY ☐  
A CABIN SITE ☐

### CURRENT DEVELOPMENT —

## Respect For The Land Guides Developers

Old Zack Kirkwood knew as ranchers know that if you treat the land right it will reward you. A page from this book has been adapted by Kirkwood Meadows, Inc., developers of the Kirkwood Meadows and Carson Pass ski area.

KMI has employed the conservation-minded architectural firm of MacKinlay & Winnacker to develop a plan which includes every inch of Kirkwood Meadows. This plan covers the use of each piece of land, and the relationship of

this use to the whole. Rewards from this kind of detailed planning are for the people who use the land, not for the financial betterment of the developers.

The planners were given a set of ground rules—no buildings in the meadow or on the highway, low land-use density, glades and open areas held intact. Around this they have built an integrated ski and subdivision development planned by landscape architects to utilize the land in the most esthetic way possible.

KMI directors felt that this high caliber of planning was necessary because of the delicate ecology of the Sierra. Also, the corporation by its nature as a leasor is in partnership with each person who lives here for an indefinite period.

In this framework plans evolved for a golf course, swimming pool, tennis courts, riding stable (already there but soon to be moved to a more integral spot), and, last but not least, a magnificent ski area second to none in its mountains' alpine beauty, and quality of snow.



## OFFICIAL RECOMMENDS HIGHWAY 88

# CARSON PASS SLATED TO BECOME AN ALL-YEAR HIGHWAY

Highway 88 may become an all-year road.

Recommendation that the Carson Pass route be kept clear of winter snows if sufficient development occurs in the area to warrant the expense has been made to the California Highway Commission.

Public works director Samuel B. Nelson told the commission that all-weather road maintenance could be justified on the basis of the economic benefits that would accrue to the state and counties by development of winter recreational facilities.

In addition, Route 88 could relieve some of the winter traffic burden on U. S. Highway 50 over Echo Summit.

The Carson Pass Highway east of Peddler Hill now is closed to traffic from the year's first snows to late spring — an average of six months of the year.

Nelson made his recommendation contingent upon proof that recreational and other facilities proposed for the area are to be constructed.

The development of the recreational potential along the Carson Pass Highway would provide numerous jobs and tend to stabilize the highly seasonal business cycle of Alpine and Amador counties, he said.

Noting that 32 miles of the route are above the 7,000-foot elevation, Nelson warned that winter maintenance costs would be high.

The all-year proposal would require an initial investment estimated at \$4,250,000 for additional and improved maintenance stations, snowplows, trucks, graders and other equipment, and an annual maintenance cost of \$750,000.

Of the 70 miles of Route 88 between Jackson and Route 89 at Picketts, all but two miles at the present time are in satisfactory condition for the use of heavy snow equipment. The two-mile segment just east of Carson Pass, adjacent to Red Lake, is now being relocated.

Route 88 east of Picketts is an all-weather highway for the 12.2 miles to the Nevada state line in Carson Valley.

Additional use of the route would accelerate the need for improving

14 miles of highway east of Pine Grove at a minimum cost of \$7 million.

The Division of Highways has been studying the feasibility of maintaining the route on a year round basis since the spring of 1967, at the request of the U. S. Forest Service, which believes that a major winter sports facility in the Kirkwood area near Twin Lakes will be needed in the next four years.

The Kirkwood Meadows Corporation has proposed an ultimate winter sports development including 21 ski lifts accommodating 9,450 skiers per day on weekends. The combined real estate and ski development investment will ultimately represent about \$41.6 million and generate tax income of approximately \$630,000 a year for the counties involved.

Nelson said the forest service is negotiating an exchange of land with the corporation and has indicated that only minor details remain to be worked out. The Kirkwood Meadows development would consist of 703 acres of private land in Alpine, Amador, and El Dorado counties, plus the use of forest service mountain slopes under permit.

Further economic benefits equalling or exceeding Kirkwood would be realized if owners carry out a plan of development under discussion for the more than 6,500 acres of Hope Valley, according to Nelson. Hope Valley stretches from Red Lake to Picketts.

The owner of property at Corral Flat, about six miles east of the point of present winter closure, has proposed the opening of a ski development in the winter of 1969-70 at an initial investment of \$800,000.

Based on prior studies by the forest service, other potential winter sports areas along Route 88 are in the vicinity of Tragedy Springs and Round Top in the El Dorado National Forest and Forestdale Creek, Red Lake Peak and Stevens Peak in the Toiyabe National Forest.

All-weather maintenance of the route is supported by the boards of supervisors of Alpine and Amador counties, the Amador County Chamber of Commerce, state legislators representing the area, the city council of Sutter Creek and numerous local organizations.

(Reprinted from the Alpine Beacon, August 1, 1968)

## OLD NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

## Show That the Area's Pre-ski Activities Were as Lively as Today's Apres-ski!

### FROM THE KIRKWOODS

1899—Dr. Franks, the popular oculist and optician, who has been sojourning with his wife in the mountains, stopping at Kirkwoods, met with an adventure lately which he will be likely to remember as long as he lives.

Starting out with his gun on a hunting excursion, he wandered too far from camp, and became lost among the most inaccessible cliffs and ravines, where even those well acquainted with the mountains would find it difficult to get out. Finding himself lost the doctor endeavored to follow the creek, climbing precipitous cliffs, descending deep gulches, and scrambling through thickets probably never traversed by human feet before.

In descending a very steep mountain, he pushed his gun in front of him, letting it slide down the canyon, so that he might be able to follow on all fours. He came to a perpendicular cliff, 700 feet to the bottom. Over this his weapon had gone. It was out of the question to follow. He had to retrace his way, leaving his gun behind. By dusk he reached

a bend in the river, where there is a swift current, and on the other side a small grove of trees.

He attempted to cross, slipped on the rocks and fell into the stream, and was carried down some 20 feet. Darkness was growing apace, and wet and exhausted, there was no alternative but to prepare to camp for the night. He found one match untouched by the water, and soon had a cheerful blaze going, by the side of which he spent the night with the music of bears and mountain lions ringing in his ears.

When supper time arrived at the Kirkwoods, and the doctor had not returned the station was in a ferment of excitement. Search parties were organized. Mrs. Franks with lantern in hand went with the first. The woods were made lively with bonfires and the firing of guns, but the doctor was too far off to notice these signals. Next morning Indian trackers followed his trail, and shortly after day-break Dr. Franks encountered these trailers at the foot of a high mountain. Reports had been circulated that he had been drowned,

and eaten by wild beasts, etc. But all funeral arrangements were previous.

The doctor is alive and well, and congratulates himself upon getting out of the predicament as well as he did. The doctor was in mortal dread of wild beasts. He sat awake all night with three big fires around him, and with pocket knife in hand, ready for business. He heard the howl of coyotes, which he doubtless mistook for bears.

This delightful resort possesses almost every requisite to suit the health and pleasure seekers in summer. The facilities for sport are unsurpassed, and for fishing in particular are better than any other place that can be found. With the creek and river flowing nearby, both abounding in trout, the Twin lakes and Kirkwood's lake only a mile distant, also Wood's lake, affording good fishing ground at any time.

The jovial hosts, Z. Kirkwood and wife, provide every comfort and pleasure for their guests. Any one wishing a change from valley heat to mountain climate at a moderate expense, cannot do better than take a trip to Kirkwood's.

### ROUND TOP RUMBLES

were the honored guests. This was the bill of fare:

Soup  
Beef and Turtle  
Cold Dishes  
Cold Shake and Freezeout  
Roast  
Grouse, Lamb, and Gaskill  
Newcom Sauce  
Game  
Quail, Craps, Poker, Old Maid and High Five  
Vegetables  
Skunk Cabbage, Syrup of Figs and Dead Beats  
Pastry  
Dewey Pudding a la Spanish

Fruits, Nuts, Etc.  
Hard Nuts, Doughnuts, and  
Alpine Gum Drops  
Drinks  
Push Club Whiskey and  
Tanglefoot Gall

After two hours at the table, Reale jumped up and offered to run anyone a hundred yards for a bottle of Kirkwood's "Kill 'Em Quick." Murphy took it up, and the start was made. Reale, after 50 yards, bumped his toe and rolled into the creek. When brought to the surface he looked like last year's bird's nest with the bottom dropped out. Reale claimed the race by a foul—Pete Mayo.

### ROUND TOP

July 23, 1901—Things are beginning to get lively here. Campers are coming from different parts like sheep. Many bombarding Kirkwood's Hotel.

Fishing is the chief occupation of the vast populace. I cannot say the fish seem to feel the pangs of hunger, following their winter sojourn in the lake as much as one would think; for, on an average, only about two dozen per diem seem to partake of the tempting bait offered them. Some will just bite; only enough to show that there is no ill feeling; others will hold on until they get to the surface, or even a foot or so out of the water, so that you can see their size, but more for the purpose of hearing a genuine American swear as they return to their friends. (I might add that it is the two-pounders that are mostly gifted with this sense of duty toward their friends.)

The Dye party came in like a

Fourth of July procession. Only one of this party has had a bath, and the next day repeated the operation, and had it not been for Tony Reale I doubt whether this would have happened. While out fishing, Tony, being the heaviest man, always sits at the head of the boat. Well, in landing an enormous trout—weighing about two ounces—he and his purse (containing \$3000 more or less) parted company, the purse preferring the bottom of the lake to Tony's back pocket. Tony's face went blue (and so did the air) for a while. Jimmy Dye took compassion. He did a pearl fishery act and restored the truant to its owner. That was bath No. 1; but bath No. 2 was not of such a restoring nature. Jimmy was showing off before the girls how he could jump rocks in the creek, when he lost his footing—and, behold! a ducking, much to the amusement of the ladies and annoyance of Jimmie.—Mountaineer.

### FROM ROUND TOP

Round Top, July 29, 1900—We arrived here July 1, after a journey of two days over the old Amador and Nevada wagon road. It is a long dusty road and I think we would have fallen by the wayside if it hadn't been for a bottle of shake-makers delight.

Arriving at Kirkwood's Hotel the second day we found everything in apple pie order. There had been very little rain, still the feed looks very good. We were told there was 100,000 sheep in the county at

present. This is a God-send to Alpine County, as they collect a license of 4 cents a head.

There is a mining boom here at present. Will soon have a second Klondyke. Five different companies are prospecting around Round Top.

Fishing, horseback riding and snow tobogganing are the principal amusements, particularly the latter. From the looks of the party that went out last week they must have had a swell old time.



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# MORE THAN A CENTURY

Day at Hunt's Hotel—A Dance in the Mountains—Jollity Among the Pines—The Dancing Sheep Herders—Etc.

in that usually quiet locality. The few camping parties along the margins of the lake were excited; Hunt was excited; all the employees of the hotel were excited; and Horsley, the toll-road keeper, was howling drunk on "staying whiskey," and our own staid little party soon became excited, for our guide, our dragoman, our bear hunter, our director general, Abe Richie, the hardy mountaineer and trapper, came into camp just before dusk, and dashing his wool hat on the ground, declared, in

voice agitated with the emotion of six or seven draughts of tangle leg imbibed at the hotel, that there would be "everlasting hell at Hunt's" that night; that in addition to a dance, there would be a regular show—a real out-and-out show, such as they had in the big cities. We soon became quite as curious, if not as excited, as Abe, and a young fellow from Volcano, in a camp adjoining, who had been agonizing on a leaky accordion all the afternoon, worked himself into a musical frenzy, as half a

dozen wagons, filled with men, women and children, including two fiddlers, rolled up the hill from Kirkwood's and halted at the hotel. The ladies were, plainly clad, and the most of the men appeared in their checked shirts and overalls, with here and there a standing collar or red necktie, as an intimation that they knew what was becoming in dress, even if they did not always observe it. One of our party thought he had been acquainted, in times past, with a lady from Ione valley, stop-

OWNERS PICNIC



WOOD OF PORCH WITH BEARD...

## Fun at Silver Lake (continued from top of page)

ping at the hotel, and with a vanity scarcely excusable in one of his years, proceeded to scrape off and pull out by the roots a week's growth of beard; after which he pulled up a dirty collar up under his ears, and, attired below the shoulders as if he had been drawn through a gutter, strode to the hotel after supper, bent on conquest. We don't exactly know what happened, but he found the lady under the protection of some one else, and wanted to leave the lake at daylight the next day. And then the dancing com-

menced. Twelve or fifteen ladies were present including the professor's wife, and the style in which they were pulled round the floor by the brawny hunters, herdsmen and farmers, to the music of a single violin, was as entertaining to our party as it was intoxicating to them. Those who were not dancing in the sets were drumming on the floor with their feet and cutting terpsichorean antics all around the hall. A young sheep herder, dressed in butternut overalls and a standing collar, utterly unable to keep his feet still,

approached us from the farther end of the hall with a series of steps between a glide and a Virginia breakdown and, with an excitement made ludicrous by the ceaseless motion of his feet, hoarsely whispered: "I shall be called upon in a few minutes to dance a jig—I know I shall—and I shall have to do it!" He was not called upon to dance the jig, but when we left for the camp at 12 o'clock he had danced himself down stairs and was executing a breakdown on the front stoop.

## SKI DEVELOPMENT

### Ski Experts Praise Carson Pass

Although the Forest Service had developed a preliminary ski prospectus on several Carson Pass areas, no detail planning had been completed prior to Spring 1968.

Several winter expeditions had taken place in 1966-67 and 1967-68 by snow cat from Peddler Hill. These were oriented toward land selection and confirmation of the earlier Forest Service ski projection.

In January '68 all the principals involved in Kirkwood Meadows and several ski experts made a day's exploration by snow cat and helicopter. Among the group were Maury Rasmussen, general manager of Mt. Reba, Steinhilber Jakobson, Instructor, and Skip Kinsley, owner of the SkiMeisters.

In that one day using the helicopter allowed an examination of Kirkwood Peak, Thimble Peak, Thunder Mountain, and Martin

Meadows, an area three times the size of Squaw Valley. These four mountains comprise the new area known as Carson Pass Ski Area.

Comments ranged from "fantastic" to "the finest teaching and intermediate slopes now available" and, for the expert, "the fact of Thimble Peak is like skiing in an elevator."

In March, April and May, '68 Jones and Shedd, ski consultants were on the mountain preparing a preliminary plan for the area. Far into spring they found snow when every other major area was washed out.

Current plans, which are being integrated with the ground development by architects MacKinlay & Winnacker, call for an initial three chair lifts, progressing to 18 chairs and two gondolas with room for even greater expansion.

## Kirkwood Meadows on Carson Pass A SHORT HISTORY

Zachary Kirkwood, California pioneer, rancher and patriarch, homesteaded in 1860 the lush meadows that now bear his name. This was the first year of the homestead act and he took up three sites in his name and the names of his children. Two of these 160-acre pieces were in key locations in Kirkwood Meadows and one covered the Emigrant Trail above Caples Lake.

Rancher and dairyman, Kirkwood saw the meadows as pasture and range for his herds. He soon came to realize, however, that the great appeal of this area as a summer resort lent itself to other forms of business.

In 1863 he erected a Bar and Inn called simply "Kirkwood's." Here he served vacationer, cowboy, and traveler alike from his barrels of "Staying Whiskey" and "Leaving Whiskey." As time wore on, the small log homestead cabins crumbled under the heavy snowfalls or were relegated to milkshed status even as the Inn grew and expanded.

In the 1920's the Kirkwoods drew lines on the bar floor designating the three counties on which it was constructed and gleefully outwitted prohibition by wheeling the counter-mounted bar from county to county as alternate sheriffs appeared.

The Inn functioned as a fishing mecca and retreat for many in the ensuing years under the Kirkwood clan or lessees.

In 1966, for the first time no pro-

prietor appeared on the scene, an all was silent where so many voices had echoed through the years. The property was now in the hands of Warden Taylor, grandson of Zack Kirkwood, a resident of Jackson.

Over the years Taylor had heard many times the singing of praise by ski experts on the potential of the Kirkwood Meadows bowl, a nearby Thimble Peak. The Forest Service had issued a prospectus outlining the merits of the area as a ski development. With the completion of Highway 88 as an improved road capable of bearing snow removal equipment, Kirkwood became an undiscovered gem among potential California ski areas.

In 1966 a group formed to negotiate a trade for the Forest Service land necessary to consolidate the Meadows into a workable plan. An option was taken on the Taylor property and studies were made. It soon became apparent that this was the prime potential real estate in Northern California so the property was purchased from Taylor by the group.

New Kirkwood Meadows, Inc. is making the valley ring to the sound of hammer and saw, and the old Inn has new life as company headquarters. With the support of the counties involved, road problems were solved, and soon the area that lay fallow for six months of every year will echo with the sounds of happy skiers.

## Development is in 3 Counties

The Kirkwood Meadows basin and watershed totals about 4,050 square miles. To complicate its developers' problems, 1,65 square miles lies in Amador County, 2,26 in Alpine County, and 14 in El Dorado County.

Development could be simplified through some joint exercise of powers action adopted by Boards of Supervisors in all counties, or developers may have to deal with

separate county planning commissions for zoning and use permits, road departments for road standards and health departments for sanitary sewage disposal.

Since Kirkwood Creek drains the basin, and is a tributary of the South Fork of the American River, the developers will have to make sure they do not pollute the watershed or send pollution down the tributary.



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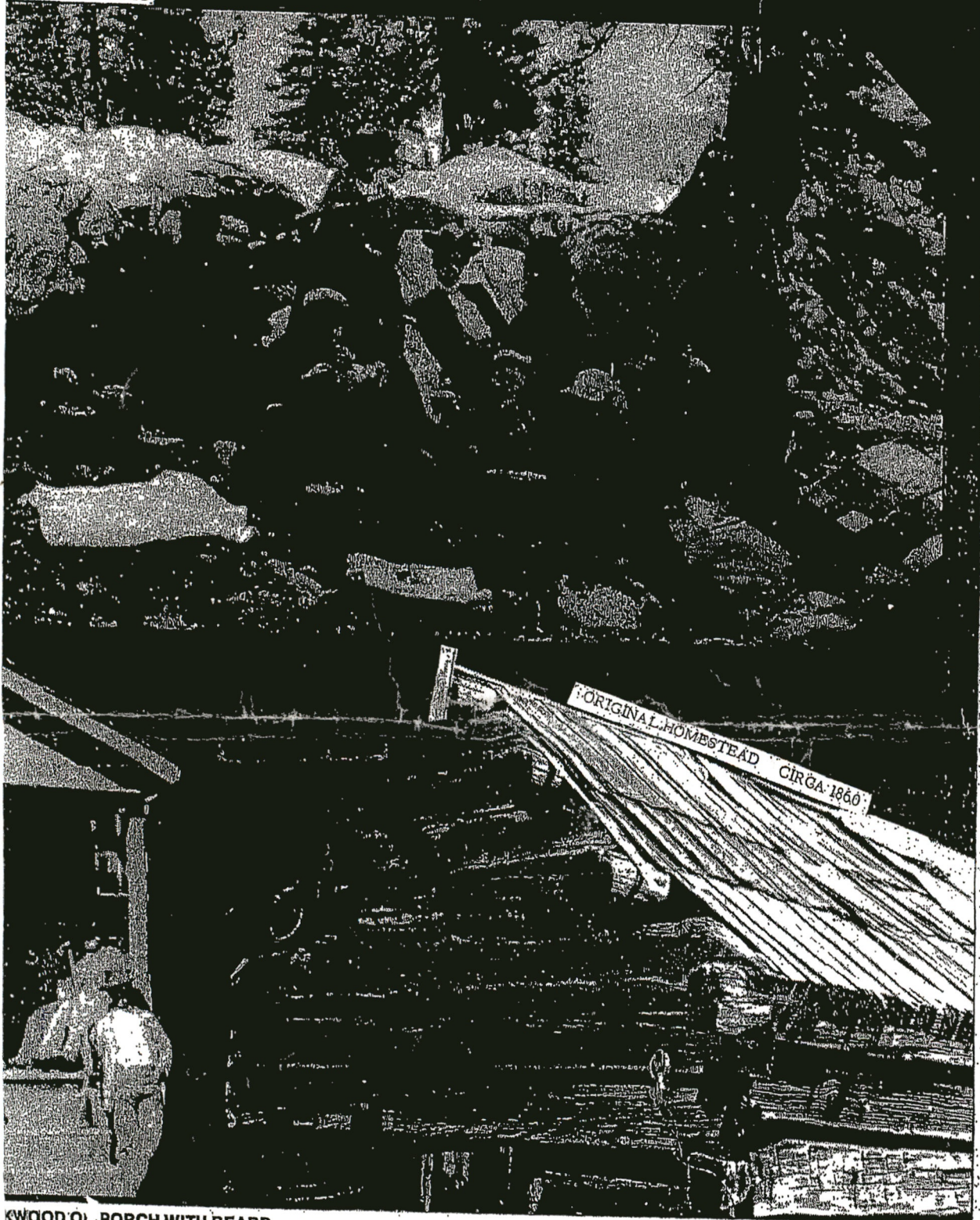
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ping at the hotel, and with a vanity scarcely excusable in one of his years, proceeded to scrape off and pull out by the roots a week's growth of beard; after which he pulled up a dirty collar up under his ears, and, attired below the shoulders as if he had been drawn through a gutter, strode to the hotel after supper, bent on conquest. We don't exactly know what happened, but he found the lady under the protection of some one else, and wanted to leave the lake at daylight the next day.

And then the dancing com-

menced. Twelve or fifteen ladies were present including the professor's wife, and the style in which they were pulled round the floor by the brawny hunters, herdsmen and farmers, to the music of a single violin, was as entertaining to our party as it was intoxicating to them. Those who were not dancing in the sets were drumming on the floor with their feet and cutting terpsichorean antics all around the hall. A young sheep herder, dressed in butternut overalls and a standing collar, utterly unable to keep his feet still,

approached us from the farther end of the hall with a series of steps between a glide and a Virginia breakdown and, with an excitement made ludicrous by the ceaseless motion of his feet, hoarsely whispered: "I shall be called upon in a few minutes to dance a jig—I know I shall—and I shall have to do it!" He was not called upon to dance the jig, but when we left for the camp at 12 o'clock he had danced himself down stairs and was executing a breakdown on the front stoop.

## SKI DEVELOPMENT—

### Ski Experts Praise Carson Pass

Although the Forest Service had developed a preliminary ski prospectus on several Carson Pass areas, no detail planning had been completed prior to Spring 1968.

Several winter expeditions had taken place in 1966, 67 and 1967-68 by snow cat from Peddler Hill. These were oriented toward land selection and confirmation of the earlier Forest Service ski projection.

In January '68 all the principals involved in Kirkwood Meadows and several ski experts made a day's exploration by snow cat and helicopter. Among the group were Maury Rasmussen, general manager of Mt. Reba, Steinthor Jakobsen, Instructor, and Skip Kinsley, owner of the SkiMeisters.

In that one day using the helicopter allowed an examination of Kirkwood Peak, Thimble Peak, Thunder Mountain, and Martin

Meadows, an area three times the size of Squaw Valley. These four mountains comprise the new area known as Carson Pass Ski Area.

Comments ranged from "fantastic" to "the finest teaching and intermediate slopes now available" and, for the expert, "the fact of Thimble Peak is like skiing in an elevator."

In March, April and May, '68 Jones & Shedd, ski consultants were on the mountain preparing a preliminary plan for the area. Far into spring they found snow when every other major area was washed out.

Current plans, which are being integrated with the ground development by architects MacKinlay & Winnacker, call for an initial three chair lifts, progressing to 18 chairs and two gondolas with room for even greater expansion.

## Kirkwood Meadows on Carson Pass A SHORT HISTORY

Zachary Kirkwood, California pioneer, rancher and patriarch, homesteaded in 1860 the lush meadows that now bear his name. This was the first year of the homestead act, and he took up three sites in his name and the names of his children. Two of these 160-acre pieces were in key locations in Kirkwood Meadows, and one covered the Emigrant Trail above Caples Lake.

Rancher and dairyman Kirkwood saw the meadows as pasture and range for his herds. He soon came to realize, however, that the great appeal of this area as a summer resort lent itself to other forms of business.

In 1863 he erected a Bar and Inn called simply "Kirkwood's." Here he served vacationer, cowboy, and traveler alike from his barrels of "Staying Whiskey" and "Leaving Whiskey." As time wore on, the small log homestead cabins crumbled under the heavy snowfalls or were relegated to milkshed status even as the Inn grew and expanded.

In the 1920's the Kirkwoods drew lines on the bar floor designating the three counties on which it was constructed and gleefully outwitted prohibition by wheeling the caster-mounted bar from county to county as alternate sheriffs appeared.

The Inn functioned as a fishing mecca and retreat for many in the ensuing years under the Kirkwood clan or lessees.

In 1966, for the first time no pro-

prietor appeared on the scene and all was silent where so many voices had echoed through the years. The property was now in the hands of Warren Taylor, grandson of Zack Kirkwood and resident of Jackson.

Over the years Taylor had heard many times the singing of praise by ski experts on the potential of the Kirkwood Meadows bowl and nearby Thimble Peak. The Forest Service had issued a prospectus outlining the merits of the area as a ski development. With the completion of Highway 88 as an improved road capable of bearing snow removal equipment, Kirkwood became an undiscovered gem among potential California ski areas.

In 1966 a group formed to negotiate a trade for the Forest Service land necessary to consolidate the Meadows into a workable plan. An option was taken on the Taylor property and studies were made. It soon became apparent that this was the prime potential area in Northern California so the property was purchased from Taylor by the group.

New Kirkwood Meadows, Inc. is making the valley ring to the sound of hammer and saw, and the old Inn has new life as company headquarters. With the support of the counties involved, road problems were solved, and soon the area that lay fallow for six months of every year will echo with the sounds of happy skiers.

## Development is in 3 Counties

The Kirkwood Meadows basin and watershed totals about 4.05 square miles. To complicate its developers' problems, 1.65 square miles lies in Amador County, 2.26 in Alpine County, and .14 in El Dorado County.

Development could be simplified through some joint exercise of powers action adopted by Boards of Supervisors in all counties, or developers may have to deal with

separate county planning commissions for zoning and use permits, road departments for road standards and health departments for sanitary sewage disposal.

Since Kirkwood Creek drains the basin, and is a tributary of the South Fork of the American River, the developers will have to make sure they do not pollute the watershed or send pollution down the tributary.