

Condie Warner

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THE MEN of MAMMOTH FOREST

A Hundred-year History of
a Sequoia Forest and its
People in Tulare County,
California

by
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California

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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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A WORD TO THE READER

As the veteran trees in the forest come crashing to earth in a storm, or topple without warning on still summer nights, so, one by one, fall the men and the women who remember the North Tule country in the days of its eager youth. If the story of these people and their mountains is to be told with any resemblance to the way they would tell it, the time has now come.

The only question is, who is to do the telling? Quite obviously, one of these eyewitnesses should have written this book. Among them are individuals who not only remember the old tales, but are endowed with the knack of telling them in a way that would entertain everyone and hurt no one. That they have not more often put pen to paper is our loss.

Why did one such as myself—who claims no special qualifications for the job—undertake to write it? At first I had no such ambition. My only thought was to work my own woodlot, so to speak (which is the Mountain Home State Forest), digging in any spot that showed promise of historical treasure, and chopping the new wood from some old blazes. But it seemed that whenever I went out to work, neighbors would come across their fields or through their woods, and offer to lend a hand. And they would bring treasures of their own that they had laid by on dusty shelves. In this way my neighbors became my friends, interest grew, and facts and artifacts accumulated.

Now our joint harvest is brought together between these two covers. May all who brought their donations find enjoyment in the common hoard, and may others dipping into it make themselves as much at home as life-long residents. The field is not yet exhausted. There is no limit to the historical gems that more diligent digging might unearth. The Mammoth Forest country is a small one and is now relatively uninhabited, but who is to say how many people are required for an Odyssey, or how many acres for an epic.

A hearty "Thank you" is due all of the old-timers and their helpful descendents who searched their memories for dates and their attics for old photographs and papers. Most, if not

all, are mentioned in the following pages and thus unavoidably share with the writer any credit or blame that may fall his way.

Some special note must be made of some whose contributions were so basic or so broad that the text and references do them much less than justice. This book would not have been undertaken had not Harold G. Schutt, Editor of Los Tulares, laid the groundwork by his numerous anonymous articles, his enthusiastic searches for old landmarks at Mountain Home, and his encouragement and advice. Invaluable as basic references were Miss Ina H. Stiner's two-volume treasure house of pioneer family histories, genealogies, and photographs filed in the Porterville Public Library. I acknowledge with gratitude the patience of my wife, Mildred, and her assistance and encouragement. Others to whom special appreciation is due include Miss Annie R. Mitchell of Visalia, Secretary of the Tulare County Historical Society; Joseph E. Doctor, Editor of the Exeter Sun; Marion A. Grosse, retired, Fresno State College; Tulare County Librarian Josephine Rhodehamel; Supervisor Eldon Ball, Sequoia National Forest; and C. E. Metcalf, Ray C. Clar, Paul Cox, Lee Burcham, and many others of the California Division of Forestry.

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CHAPTER I

THE FOREST - AN INTRODUCTION

Advancing southward the giants become more and more irrepressibly exuberant, heaving their massive crowns in to the sky from every ridge and slope, and waving onward in graceful compliance with the complicated topography of the region . . . The extreme upper limit of the belt is reached between the middle and south forks of the Kaweah at an elevation of 8400 feet. But the finest block of the Big Tree forest in the entire belt is on the North Fork of the Tule River. In the northern groves there are comparatively few young trees or saplings. But here for every old storm-stricken giant there are many in all the glory of prime vigor, and for each of these there is a crowd of eager, hopeful young trees and saplings . . . seemingly in hot pursuit of eternal life.

John Muir, *The Mountains of California*

THIS IS A STORY of people and land and trees. It tells how people not greatly different from ourselves—in many cases our own parents or grandparents—found, and took over from a primitive race, a certain small piece of the world; how they used the nation's land laws to bring much of it under their personal ownership; how they attempted to harvest the giant Sequoia trees and other crops produced by a lavish Nature; and how people and events brought about the pattern of land-use and ownership that we know today.

We do not need to say much at this point about these people. They speak for themselves as we go along. We might, with the wisdom of hindsight, condemn them for over-pasturing their "hoofed locusts" in the flowery mountain meadows or for their "rape of the redwoods;" but we are not required to sit in judgment on our forefathers. There is plenty to praise in their courage, fortitude, ingenuity, and persistence, and in their neighborliness and enjoyment of life as they found it. There are even evidences that at times they took on some of the stature of their giant trees.

The trees, too, have a way of unfolding their own story. They were warmed by the same sun as the people, breathed the same air, formed themselves into communities, struggled with one another and with forces beyond their control, and when their time came to go, they too, lay down and made room for another generation.

The land requires a little more introduction. The Mammoth Forest country is as good a land as lays outdoors. True, most of it is steep as a cow's face and some is so precipitous and lonely that even the wary California condor spreads his mighty wings and wheels and soars above it. But the area is not all rocky and on edge. It has its grassy meadows and sunny glades, and most particularly its forests of the tremendous *Sequoia gigantea*, herein called the Sierra redwood. Some slopes are even so gentle that taking off the timber was, as Springville's lumberman Mal Harris used to say, "like logging a peach orchard."

"Mammoth Forest" is a somewhat fanciful name used here for this area of forested foothills and mountains. Its rains and snows drain into the two northern branches of the Tule River in Tulare County, California. It is a southwestern outpost of the Sierra Nevada, John Muir's "Range of Light." Modern travellers, upon reaching this timbered plateau after the long hot climb out of the haze of the San Joaquin Valley, often sense a feeling of unreality, caused perhaps by the strange brilliance of the sunlight and the sudden change of landscape. The boy in "Jack and the Beanstalk" must have felt this way as he stepped off the top of his magic beanstalk onto the upper-level domain of the giants. The first man to make a written report of his discovery of the Tule River redwoods, Mr. B. W. Farley in 1860, called them "mammoth trees;" and at least one publicity project, Tabor's photographs of 1892, labelled the Mountain Home area the "Mammoth Forest."

Three of the four corners of this area are marked by prominent heights. Brush-covered Lumreau Mountain near the village of Springville is selected as the southwest corner. The Forest Service lookout on Jordan Peak scans the area from the southeast. And craggy Dennison Peak stands sentinel on the northwest. All three are named for men of whom we shall hear later in this narrative. Set like a crown jewel at the fourth and highest corner is Summit Lake near the dividing point of the Kaweah, Kern, and Tule Rivers.

The acreage of this rumpled landscape is only about 95 square miles, but, as the reader will soon discover, its history involves geography, people, and events of a far wider scope. The area ranges in altitude from about 2000 feet to an unnamed peak 10,235 feet above sea level. Five crooked roads enter the area: the three from the west reach an elevation of about 6500 feet; another from the southwest ends at Camp Wishon, 4500 feet elevation; and the fifth climbs into the southeast corner at Hossack Meadow, where the first planned homesite subdivision of recent times is being developed. The cultivated land in the area is limited to four or five commercial apple orchards and a few home gardens. About twenty year-long residences are located near the western and southern edges. Further back, grouped mainly in two areas, are two or three dozen summer-occupied dwellings of one kind or another. Ownership is about 75 per cent federal (Sequoia National Forest), and 8 per cent state (Mountain Home State Forest). The remainder is in private ownership except for Tulare County's 160-acre Balch Park. Most of the six or seven thousand large redwood trees are on state- and county-owned land.

The highest elevations are wild crags of granite, limestone, and metamorphic rocks interlaced with thickets of wild cherry and bush chinquapin. Groups of western white pine, Jeffrey pine, silver-tipped red fir, and ancient gnarled junipers grow where soil has accumulated. Flocks of band-tailed pigeons find sanctuary here and feast undisturbed on pine nuts. This is the type of country in Tulare County that was the lair of the last grizzly in California. It now provides protection for the common black bear and the rare pine marten and porcupine-eating fisher.

The land between about 3500 and 7000 feet elevation is well covered with virgin and second-growth timber of Sierra redwood, sugar pine, ponderosa pine, white fir, incense cedar, and black oak, with undergrowth of mountain whitethorn, prickly gooseberry, dogwood, and hazelnut. The mule deer, mountain lion, blue grouse, and mountain quail are at home in these forests and the noisy chickaree or Douglas squirrel harvests his unfailing crop of redwood cones.

The foothill country has idyllic, grassy blue-oak groves bright with spring wildflowers and throbbing with bird songs. But it also supports vast tangles of ceanothus, manzanita, chamise, redbud, the showy yellow-flowered flannelbush,

FIRST DISCOVERIES

one hunt he shot 21 bucks; his largest bear he killed in 1867. Jacob Cramer, Marvin Wilcox, and Frank Knowles were with him and they have often testified that it weighed, dressed and without hide or head, 1550 pounds." (Menefee and Dodge, 1913) Probably any one of these expert witnesses, after verifying Slocum's story, could have told a bigger one. King (1902) says that the hunters that he visited in the Giant Forest country in 1864 "went on in their old eternal way of making bear stories out of whole cloth."

The last antelope in southeastern Tulare County is recorded by Stewart (1956, p. 55) as having been seen in 1875 near Springville.

Even after 1915 Jay C. Bruce, the famous state-employed lion hunter killed 700 mountain lions in California, according to The California State Employee of March 1963. Irvy Elster of Springville assisted him in killing many of them in the North Tule forests.

CHAPTER V

TRAILS ACROSS THE SIERRA

We sing a song of mountain trails
Through sunny beds of heather:
We chant a hymn of forests dim
Where the tall trees sing together.

We sing the ageless, endless song
Of fur and fin and feather,
Of rivers clean, and meadows green
Where the deer trails come together.

We jointly hail life's sacred source,
Praise sun and stormy weather;
And celebrate our common fate,
The hills and I together.

Floyd L. Otter, "The Hills and I."

ANY HOUND that sniffs footprints made a hundred years ago is on a very cold trail; but for the old Sierra trails a little scent remains.

It is a commonplace observation that highways tend to follow the routes of earlier roads, that these were once horse and livestock trails, and before that they were Indian paths. Indians, of course, followed the trails made by game. The Indians left us no more maps than the wild animals, but there are some hints that the first white men to cross the Sierra in Tulare County were guided by Indians over their ancient routes.

The main concentration of Indian population in the southern San Joaquin was on the Kaweah delta and around Tulare Lake; and the heaviest Indian population on the opposite side of the Sierra was around Owens Lake. These two groups did a good deal of trading (Latta, 1949), and used trails for hunting, food-gathering, visiting, and just "going camping." The evidence indicates strongly that main-travelled trails from Kaweah and

Tule villages led to a common meeting ground near the junction of the Kern and Little Kern Rivers (Round Meadow-Trout Meadows area). If you wished to continue eastward you would travel one of several trails that converged on this meeting place from several Owens Valley points.

The white man's trail work tended to follow this same pattern, with all trails converging at Trout Meadows. P. M. Norboe (1903), a well known surveyor, reported, "There are four well beaten trails entering the valley of the little Kern from Tulare Valley and all unite before reaching the Big Kern." The best route was described as the one through Camp Nelson; the roughest, up the South Fork of the Kaweah. A Porterville party taking a trip to Mt. Whitney in 1878 was described by Anna Mills Johnston in the first issue of the Mt. Whitney Club Journal. She said their route was by way of Dillon's Mill over Chisel Mountain, to the Little Kern without a trail, down that stream to Martin Click's sheep camp, and thence to Trout Meadows.

The Indian "foot paths" (see the account of Hale Tharp's discovery of Giant Forest by Doctor, 1959) were soon modified to suit the needs of the packers, who with their pack mules and horses carried supplies to sheep camps, mines, and other mountain activities. Still later many of the routes were converted to roads and even to paved highways. For instance, the trail (sometimes still referred to as the Old Indian Trail) that connected the Yaudanchi village northwest of Battle Mountain with Balwisha villages on the South Fork of the Kaweah has become the approximate route of the present road over Blue Ridge through Grouse Valley. Another trail undoubtedly connected the main village of the Yokod (Yokohl) tribe, near the present city of Exeter, with the Yaudanchi villages at Rancheria and Milo. This was very likely the route chosen by John Jordan for the western section of his trans-Sierra trail.

The Bear Creek and Balch Park roads apparently follow quite closely the Yaudanchi-Paiute food-gathering and trading trails, as evidenced by numerous Indian grinding holes where these routes cross the black oak belt. Yokuts traders took deer and antelope skins, soapstone, saltgrass salt, and baskets to Owens Lake and traded these articles to the Paiutes for common salt and obsidian for arrow points (Latta, 1949).

The Dennison, Coso, or Farley Trail. Stop some spring day along Highway 65 between Strathmore and Lindsay in Tulare County and look northeastward toward the High Sierra. Their western outposts will still be gleaming white with the winter's snow. Now, mentally "time-machine" yourself back to a corresponding day in 1860.

Word has just reached Visalia that rich silver strikes have been made just east of that mountain range, southeast of Owens Lake in the Coso Mountains. Let your eyes follow the Sierra skyline from north to south. Slightly north of due east from where you stand there appears to be a gap in the "garden wall." This is the timbered ridge now known as the Mountain Home area, lying just south of Moses Mountain. A little further south the mountains rise again where Jordan Peak presents its snowy western face.

Men of the Visalia-Porterville area who heard about the strike probably looked at the Sierra from the Stockton-Los Angeles Road (later the route of the Butterfield Overland Mail and now part of Highway 65) and wondered if there wasn't a shorter, cooler, better-watered route to the Coso silver country than the previously-used Walker Pass route. W. A. Chalfant (1922) says that, by July 1860, parties were leaving Visalia almost daily for the Coso diggings. Many of these parties went by this short-cut route.

B. W. Farley's description of this route indicates that he followed a trail elsewhere called the Dennison (or Denison, or Coso) Trail. This trail apparently preceded the now better-known Jordan and Hockett trails across the same general area. Very little is known about it. Still less is remembered about the man for whom it was presumably named. Mr. Tillman Phariss of Porterville says Dennison was a mountaineer who was killed near the old North Fork waterpower sawmill by accidentally tripping the wire on a set-gun he had rigged up for a bear. He was buried on the spot. There is a Dennison Mountain, Ridge, Peak, and Ditch, and one of the first school districts in Tulare County was the Dennison School District.

According to Farley it was about 95 miles from Visalia to the Coso mines by this route. Menefee and Dodge (1913) quote the Visalia Delta in 1861 that, "Captain George, an Indian, and big Injun heap at that, has commenced running as an expressman between this place and Coso. He makes the trip now in about four days." A Captain George, the following year, was

one of the leaders of the Indian uprising in the Owens Lake country. Perhaps he combined mail-carrying with war-mongering among the mountain tribes.

The route of the Dennison Trail can be deduced from references to it in a toll road application made in 1870 (see Chapter VII), from the official Tulare County map of 1884, from Farley's map mentioned in Chapter IV, and from the memories of a very few oldtimers. Mr. Irvy Elster of Springville has a remarkable memory for stories handed down from his father, many of which can be checked only by reference to old records. He says this trail left the old Butterfield Overland Mail Route between the locations of Strathmore and Farmersville, went through Spanish Camp (which is on the divide between Yokohl and Lewis Creeks), thence south and east past the old Springville rodeo grounds on the Clemmie Gill ranch, crossed the North Fork of the Tule River near the mouth of Sycamore Creek, and then passed northeast over McDonald Hill to Rancheria. From Rancheria it climbed the main ridge between Bear and Rancheria Creeks through the Otis Lawson ranch to the Balch Park Road near Brownie Meadow (Farley's "summit of the first ridge"). From there it followed approximately the route of the road to Shake Camp; then down the ridge to the east, crossed the Wishon Fork, climbed a ridge south of Silver Creek, crossed the Tule-Kern divide over Maggie Mountain, followed the Little Kern down to the Trout Meadows area, and then eastward to Olancho and Coso. This is the route described to Elster by his father who took sheep over the trail in 1879. Mr. Otis Lawson of Springville and Mr. Malvin Duncan of Porterville, who operated pack outfits in that area before 1920, corroborate this routing as far as Shake Camp. The "Dennison Trail" past Summit Lake as shown on the official county map of 1884 may have been a change made later to improve the trail.

As a side-light on the trails through this area, there is a considerable body of tradition about a traffic in stolen horses. This traffic probably reached its peak around 1870. It is said that horses were stolen in the San Joaquin Valley and driven by approximately this route to the Owens Lake country; and there, for the sake of efficiency, stolen Owens Lake horses were brought on the return trip to sell to the San Joaquin people who had so unfortunately lost their means of transportation. The names of Tiburcio Vasquez, Frank Ryan, and Ryan's

son-in-law, Ed Diaz of Porterville, have been mentioned in connection with transportation of horses, not necessarily stolen ones, via this route.

The Jordan Trail. The story of John Jordan, his dream of a road across the Sierra from Visalia to Owens Valley, and his tragic death at Kern Flats make a fascinating story. More legends and misinformation are available about the Jordan Trail than any of the other routes through this area.

B. W. Farley, in his 1860 letter already quoted, wrote, "a good pack trail can be made, over which ordinary mules can pack 250 pounds, at an expense not to exceed \$800-1000" from Visalia to the Coso Mines. There was a lot of verbal and political activity about this time over the matter of building roads across the Sierra. Doctor (1959) wrote that,

"In April, 1860 the County Supervisors appointed a committee to view a road and pack trail from Visalia to Mono" and the Visalia Delta announced on January 30, 1860, that a company had been formed and application made to the legislature to build a toll road from Visalia to Owens Lake. Included among the men interested in this road were Samuel S. G. George, H. L. Matthews, S. Sweet, Henry Bostwick, and John and W. F. Jordan. Chalfant (1922) says the company was granted a charter by the Legislature of 1862, the road to start "between Deer Creek and Kings River. . . , thence across the Sierra Nevada mountains to a point between the north end of Owens Lake and the north end of Little Lake."

While all this talk and legislative action was going on, John Jordan and his son, William F. Jordan, were apparently going ahead with a trail project under authority given by the Tulare Board of Supervisors. The right-of-way was thirty-three feet wide and the trail was to be completed in two years. The Jordans did not petition for a wagon road right-of-way but the Board of Supervisors wrote into their agreement that a wagon road was to be completed within five years. The Jordan petition is on file at the Tulare County Courthouse. The full text is as follows:

"Your petitioners would respectfully petition your Honorable Board to have made and declared open, a pack trail or passway leading from Tulare Valley across the mountains to the South end of Big Owens Lake, said trail to commence at George E. Long's residence (near the site of Exeter), passing

through Yokall Valley and thence Easterly across the mountains to the said lake, and would further petition your Honorable Board, that the right-of-way and privilege of constructing the said trail be given and granted to John and William F. Jordan, the applicants and petitioners herein, and for whom your petitioners will ever pray —."

It included twenty-two signatures (including that of J. B. Hockett) and was filed November 1, 1861. Early in May 1862, Jordan told the Editor of the Visalia Weekly Delta that his trail would be open to pack stock by June and to wagons a short time thereafter. But only a month later he lost his life in the snowed waters of Kern River (Doctor, 1959) while he and his sons, Allen and Tolbert, and a man named Gashweiler were attempting to cross Kern River on a raft at Kern Flats.

Jordan's sons did not carry on the project, but according to Menefee and Dodge (1913) \$1600 was raised by subscription in Visalia, and G. W. Warner finished the trail including the building of a bridge across Kern River some 50 miles from the nearest wagon road.

The Delta says the trip from Independence to Visalia via this trail took three days. The soldiers of the Union Army used it in 1863 in their move from Independence after the Indian trouble there and on upper Kern River (Doctor, 1959; Chalfant, 1922). In 1875 the Wheeler expedition ("Exploration and Surveys West of the 100th Meridian") traveled eastward on the Jordan Trail, according to a message discovered between Mountaineer and Clicks creeks, and reported in the Fresno Bee of September 28, 1926.

The various routes of Jordan's trails are not easy to pin down. Norboe (1903) states, "The Jordan Trail was originally constructed to run from Tule River above where Globe is now, past Rancheria and Bear Creek, through the forests at the foot of 'old Moses' where the charming summer resorts of Summer Home and Mountain Home and the Enterprise Mill are now located. Then it crossed the Middle Tule near Doyle's Soda Springs, and by a very steep, rough, and by no means a safe route, climbed the mountain to Jacobson Meadow." From this meadow it was a relatively good trail to Trout Meadows, and thence, according to Menefee and Dodge (1913), it went "up Big Kern to a point below where Kern Lakes now are, crossed the river and proceeding eastward via Monache Meadows, was to strike Owens River below the lake."

The earliest map found that shows any of the Jordan Trail routes is the government survey township plat of 1878 by P. Y. Baker. It differs from Norboe's routing in that it shows the Jordan Trail following the approximate route of the present Bear Creek road past the section line between Section 10 and 11, and thence easterly toward the river crossing last mentioned above, thus missing Balch Park by over a mile. Claud Jordan of Visalia says his grandfather had a summer route through the higher country and a lower route to use when the snow was deep.

The western terminus and headquarters of the Jordan Trail was his ranch near Rocky Hill east of the site of Exeter. He brought his freight by "bull-team" from Stockton, according to Claud Jordan, and transferred it to pack animals at this ranch. John Jordan came originally from Pennsylvania and had seen service in Texas with Sam Houston in the Mexican War before coming to California. He had experience as a surveyor and is said to have been more interested in an eventual wagon road across the Sierra than in a toll trail. He had twelve children and his descendants are numerous in California. (He is not to be confused with his nephew, Capt. John F. Jordan of slightly later Tulare County history.) A redwood tree in Balch Park has been officially named for John Jordan.

The completion in 1864 of the toll road from the San Joaquin Valley to Owens Valley by way of Walker Pass apparently put an effective damper on the trans-Sierra trail-building activity across the Tule River country. This road was built by the McFarlane Toll Road Company.

The Hockett Trail. The Tulare County Board of Supervisors on December 11, 1862, granted to Henry Cowden, Lyman Martin, and John B. Hockett permission to build a pack trail commencing "at a point in the Tulare Valley near where the Kawiah River leaves the foothills," and thence easterly across the Sierras to the "foot of Big Owens Lake between Haiwee Meadows and the Lone Pine Tree" (now Lone Pine, Calif.).

On August 5, 1864, Cowden presented a sworn statement that the three men above named had completed the trail at a cost of \$1000 and asked permission to charge tolls. The supervisors thereupon set toll rates of 50 cents for a mule or horse, 25 cents per head of cattle, 5 cents per sheep or hog,

and 25 cents for a man on foot. Doctor (1959) says Hockett built this trail while working for the Army.

This trail became the best known of the old trails. Dyer (1898) said it was marked by "peculiar blazes," and that, "the Hockett Trail was made in early days and today it remains a plain, well-blazed track from Lone Pine through to Visalia."

An alternate route led up Yokohl Valley and the North Fork of the Tule by way of Dillon's Mill. This route, according to the Visalia Weekly Delta of July 2, 1874, was "the most direct route to the new mines in the Mineral King and Little Kern districts." Mr. Ira B. Dillon advertised to take passengers by this route for \$3.00 from Visalia to Mineral King (two days one way), and freight for \$1.00 per hundredweight from the Dillon toll gate to Mineral King. Among the freight packed in was a sawmill. A Mr. Wilcoxon was reported to be undertaking to put up a house and corrals "at what is known as Jackass Flat just below Dillon's Mill for the accommodation of travellers." Both Elster and Mr. Malvin Duncan of Porterville say this trail went north over Chisel Peak to Tuohy Meadows. N. P. Dillon must have had a hand in it because he petitioned the Board of Supervisors in 1877 for toll road rights stating that he had already completed five and a half miles of wagon road and three and a half miles of "good pack trail."

In January 1875 the U.S. Government advertised in the Delta for bids on carrying the mail from Porterville to Mineral King via Pleasant Valley and Soda Springs (now Springville).

Clarence King on his way to make his first attempt to climb Mt. Whitney from the south in 1864 followed the Hockett Trail. Menefee and Dodge (1913) wrote that the Hockett Trail commenced "at Three Rivers, proceeded up the South Fork of the Kaweah, passing the Hockett Lakes and Meadows, and joined the Jordan Trail, continuing on its route to Big Kern (River). Instead of crossing the river at the same point, however, it continued up the stream to a point near the lower Funston Meadows, whence crossing and ascending the wall of Kern Canyon it made its way via the Whitney Meadows to the crossing on Cottonwood Creek near the lakes and thence down to Independence."

Other Trails. There are several other named trails in our area. One which was in use when the area was surveyed in 1883 ran from the Wilson (later Kincaid) sawmill site easterly,

passing northwest of Shake Camp, higher up on Moses Mountain than the present road. It can still be found at a few locations described in Norway's survey notes where it crossed the section lines northwest and northeast of Camp Lena. This trail has been referred to as the "Tuohy Sheep Trail" (Brown, 1923). It could well have been built or used by John Tuohy for packing salt to his sheep in the Tuohy and South Fork Meadows country. It was apparently an extension of the Kincaid Mill and Centennial Tree roads.

Sheepmen who went into the mountains between about 1860 and 1900 used these trails and marked out additional ones. Later the U.S. Forest Service built a very extensive trail system. The trail from Shake Camp to Alpine Meadows was rebuilt by Art Griswold about 1930 in connection with his pack station. He reports that he found evidence of an older trail, most likely the Dennison Trail.

The first pack trail up the river into the Camp Wishon area was probably the one built by J. J. Doyle in 1891 (Tulare County Historical Society, 1950) to give him better access to his homestead there than his former trail via Bear Creek and Summer Home. The Porterville Enterprise of November 29, 1907 recalls, however, that "In the winter of 1863 Frank Knowles and a trapping companion were at Doyles Springs when a heavy snowstorm came. They could not go over the Summit by way of Summer Home. So they cut their way down to the Forks, and thus was made the trail that is now the route of the [newly opened] Wishon Wagon road."

was left on the thorniest chaparral beds, or even on the young conifers, which unless under stress of dire famine sheep never touch." He had to quit his exploration of the Rogers Camp or Black Mountain grove of redwoods because the sheep had left no feed for his burro. On this same trip he wrote in his journal, "Nine-tenths of the whole surface of the Sierra has been swept by this scourge. It demands legislative interference" (Muir, 1938).

By 1900 the voices against sheep-grazing in the mountains were even stronger; for example, Dudley (1899) wrote, "From Nelson's Ranch I made four excursions. . . . but I found no space that had not been harrowed to dust by alien hoofs No one can imagine the destruction these creatures have wrought. . . . Probably most of this destruction had been worked by the nomadic Portuguese and Frenchmen. . . . Half a dozen forest fires were raging in sight as one stood on Jordan's Peak, above the old Jordan Trail on the 5th of September." This was the Camp Nelson area in 1898.

Surveyor P. M. Norboe (1903) wrote about two pine trees growing in the broken top of a sixty-foot Sequoia, and added, "They were about the only young trees in the forest that were absolutely safe from the all-devouring sheep."

In fairness to the "good" sheepmen it should be pointed out that most of the damage was done by "get-rich-quick" outfits that tried to beat the established sheepmen to the best ranges, thus grazing too early in the spring and forcing late-comers to over-graze or to use areas not suitable for grazing.

Landslides and Erosion. In December 1876, great landslides occurred in the Southern Sierra. Slides blocked the San Joaquin River and then let it go with a rush that wiped out Millerton, at that time the county seat of Fresno County. On the north side of Dennison Ridge a landslide scoured off the timber and four to twelve feet of soil, blocking the South Fork of the Kaweah and leaving a scar a half-mile wide and one-and-a-half miles long through the Garfield redwood grove (Taylor, 1960).

Kern and Little Kern lakes on the upper Kern River were formed by slides that year—not, as Doctor (1959) says, by the earthquake of 1872. Two of the first Tulare County sawmills were destroyed by similar landslides and floods on Mill Creek east of Fresno (Barton, 1907). The Kaweah and Kern slides

contributed vast quantities of timber to the 1867-68 floods in Visalia and Bakersfield. People now living remember splitting posts years later from redwoods brought down by these floods on the Tule.

The surveyors who mapped the North Tule forest area in 1878 to 1883 reported several landslides, some of which are completely healed over now and barely distinguishable. There are also evidences of many small slides that probably date from 1867-68. In many cases they were stopped by redwood trees as evidenced by small benches around many large redwoods on the slopes facing the Wishon Fork near Shake Camp in Section 19 and 30. Old slides are also found in Section 11—south of State Forest headquarters, on north-facing slopes.

In passing, some mention should be made of a similarity between the events that preceded the severe erosion of the Southern California foothill ranges around 1860, and those preceding the severe mountainland erosion of 1867-68 in the Sierra. Cleland (1922, 1951) says that in the drouths of 1855-56 and 1860-61 cattle grazed everything they could reach and then died by the tens of thousands. This severe over-grazing was followed in 1861-62 by one of the longest rains on record, severe floods, and terrific erosion.

Don Jose Jesus Lopez, who was the major-domo of the Teton Ranch in the 1850's, told Latta (1936) from his own personal knowledge that before this time there were no gullies—"bar-rancas") in the range country. He said that in the Mexican days the two-wheeled "carretas" traveled the bottoms of the dry ravines and they had no use for graded roads until these ravines were gullied out in the late 1850's and early '60's.

Heavy grazing in the high mountains came a little later, mostly after the rains of 1861-62. This was mainly sheep country. Paralleling the cattle situation in the previous decade, prices for sheep began to boom during the "Great Drouth" of 1862-64, and during these years the first heavy grazing of the mountains took place. Improper grazing or over-grazing of the high country by sheep can be very destructive to soil (Meeuwig, 1960). Then came the rains of December 1867. The unprecedented landslides and an unknown but undoubtedly significant amount of hillside, meadow, and stream-channel erosion occurred.

Again, the forest fires that probably swept the mountain areas during the early prospecting and grazing period may

the route of the present Balch Park Road. The two routes joined about two miles west of the millsite.

The earliest written reference found relating to either road is a petition on file at the County Courthouse which was presented July 20, 1870. It asked for a franchise to make a toll road from one mile east of "Sycamore Camp or Spring on the present Tule River Pinery Road, thence through what is known as the South Pinery in an easterly direction to a point on the Denison or Coso Trail."

The "Tule River Pinery" is now called Dillonwood and the "South Pinery" was the name then used for the area later to be known as the Mountain Home country. The "point on the Denison or Coso Trail" was most likely at or somewhere near the present Centennial Stump, because evidence on the ground and in various written and verbal statements indicates that there was a road to that stump before 1880.

Probably this road as far as the mill was built in 1872. The *Visalia Weekly Delta* of October 17, 1872 states that thirty men were "currently employed." The newspaper stated that the road would be used to bring lumber and fencing material from the mountains at reduced prices and also (October 24 issue) that a Mr. Wheaton was going to bring down and store ample supplies of that rare luxury, ice, and sell it for two cents per pound.

This road was in use at least until 1884, the year Coburn moved the sawmill out. It never was declared a county road. At least one part, the private road leading into Luther Carl's ranch house from the Balch Park Road, is still in use. Other sections are easily found on the ridge formerly called Summit Hill (Elliott, 1883) northwest of Churchill's.

Coburn's First Sawmill. Avon M. Coburn bought Rand's interest in this mill in 1883 or '84, reportedly borrowing the money from Haughton at eighteen per cent interest. It was apparently moved twice between the land survey of May 1883 and the making of the Official County Map approved December 4, 1884. The first of these moves was to a site still identifiable just across the road from Churchill's present cabin, and the second to the location shown on the map in this book. This latter site was at the Frank Knowles cabin, and the move probably followed close on the heels of the crew building the Bear Creek Road.

The Bear Creek Road. This was the first road to reach the redwood timber in the Bear Creek drainage-area. It was requested in November 1883 by thirty-nine petitioners, headed by W. F. Vivian, J. R. Hubbs, I. McCutcheon, E. W. Haughton, and A. M. Coburn. Some other legible signatures were those of Frank Knowles, William Dunn, Martin L. Vivian (the man who cut the Grant Grove Centennial Tree in 1875), A. P. Osborn, C. J. Elster, J. E. McDonald, and C. M. Lumereau.

The road was to commence in Section 12 on or near the present Milo Road and "following as nearly as practicable the course of the Jordan Trail to the crossing of Bear Creek. . . and up the Middle Fork, then crossing the township line. . . at a point one mile west of the Twp. corner and from there to the summit of the divide between Bear Creek and Middle Tuly. This route crosses the lands of Jas. McDonald, William Dunn, E. W. Haughton, and Avon Coburn, the rest of the way being over public land." This describes the present road to Coburn's upper millsite a mile north of Knowles Cabin. The road was declared to be necessary because of "almost universal public demand. . . the old pinery being completely exhausted."

J. M. McKiernan was appointed "viewer" and on January 9, 1884, he and a Mr. Bradley (probably Abel Bradley, owner of land in Section 2 above the Knowles cabin) were awarded a contract to build it for \$3,000. The maximum grade was to be "28 inches to the rod" and the road was to be eight feet wide. It was declared a county road August 12, 1884, but the official map of 1884 shows it ending at Frank Knowles' cabin, at least a mile short of the "Middle Tuly" divide. Elster says it was built by oxen, plows, and a "vee," and that his father, Charles Elster, drove the bullteam. The primary purpose of this road, of course, was to get Coburn's mill to the timber and to get the lumber out. The *Visalia Weekly Delta* of April 9, 1885, stated that "J. J. Doyle will continue the road on to his cabin at summit meadow." (Doyle's cabin was a hollow log in what is now Balch Park.)

This brings the road and trail situation to the end of 1884. The famous "Frasier Grade" was not built until 1885 (see Chapter XI).

The Lumber Business. This gives us an outline through the year 1884 of what were and would long continue to be the two main industries of our area, namely, the Dillon and the Coburn

CHAPTER IX

A WORD TO THE WISE

Gain to the verge of the hogback ridge where the vision
ranges free:

Pines and pines and the shadow of pines as far as the eye
can see;

A steadfast legion of stalwart knights in dominant empery.

Wind of the East, Wind of the West, wandering to and fro,
Chant your songs in our topmost boughs, that the sons of men
may know

The peerless pine was the first to come, and the pine will be
last to go!

Robert W. Service, *The Pines*.

THE U.S. CONGRESS passed the Timber and Stone Act on June 3, 1878. Twenty-five days later the Visalia Weekly Delta reprinted the Act. The newspaper called it "an act for the sale of timber lands" and added, "A word to the wise is sufficient." By October of that year surveyor P. Y. Baker was running a survey line north across the Wishon Fork near the present Camp Wishon headed toward the Mountain Home redwood area. By the end of 1883 all the land in the North Tule forest area had been surveyed except some precipitous slopes that have not yet been sectionized.

The Timber and Stone Act provided that any citizen could buy 160 acres of surveyed public land for \$2.50 per acre with no required residence or improvements, if he would swear to occupy or use the land himself (Greeley, 1951). "Undoubtedly this was the most abused in practice and consequently the most criticized of all the actions of Congress in the public domain issue." (Clar, 1959)

It should be said, however, to the credit of the people of Tulare County that no land fraud charge involving lands of the

THE SURVEYORS

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North Tule forest area has ever come to the knowledge of this writer. This seems quite remarkable in view of the way redwood and Douglas fir lands were acquired in the great forest regions of the West Coast, and even as near as Converse Basin in Fresno County (McGee, 1952).

Another way people could acquire surveyed timberland was to buy it from the State. Sections 16 and 36 of each township plus all lands classified as "swamp and overflow" passed to State ownership as soon as they were surveyed. The proceeds from their sale were to be used for school purposes.

In California "school lands" and "swamp lands" were sold as rapidly as buyers came forward with the legal price of \$1.25 per acre. In fact, prior to 1885 much timberland was bought for twenty per cent down (25¢ per acre) and "the rest when you catch me" (Clar, 1959). The surveyors did not classify any land as "swamp and overflow" in the North Tule forest area, but school lands included two Sections 36 (one in the Mountain Home State Forest and the other above Dillonwood) and Section 16 above Camp Wishon in the Alder Creek redwood grove. Some properties outside our area but just east of it were classed as "swamp and overflow." Two of these are known as Peck's Cabin and Junction Meadow. More distant areas so classified included Giant Forest and Log Meadow in Sequoia National Park.

We can imagine that forward-looking people with a little money to invest followed very closely the progress of the public land surveyors in the North Tule forest area. The school and "swamp" lands were probably the first to be taken as the price was less, but it appears from county records that the best of the federal timber lands were filed on very soon after the plats were approved.

The Surveyors. Peter York Baker, the first government surveyor to enter the North Tule forest, was a prominent citizen of Tulare County, one of the founders of the city of Traver, and, in 1882, a County Supervisor (Lewis, 1892). He had been a county surveyor and clerk in Kansas. Baker surveyed the southern part of the Bear Creek area before the end of 1878. His notes and plats are very accurate considering the standards in existence at that time.

The next surveyor in the North Tule forest area was G. S. Collins who surveyed Townships 19 and 20 South, Range 31

East, in 1882. He apparently operated mostly from camps in the plateau area east of Maggie Mountain, because his work is reasonably accurate there. His surveying in the Wishon Fork drainage is very sketchy and some of it was surveyed only on paper. The fourth and last township in the area was surveyed in 1883 by W. H. Norway.

Private Ownership Reaches the Timber. The eighties was a time when nobody expected much from the government except easy access to the natural resources of the West and a free hand in developing or exploiting them. Until this time almost all of the mountain areas were still public domain. This suited the sheepmen well enough because they had been using it for thirty years without paying taxes or fees and had no objection to continuing the arrangement. For lumbering and the summer resort business, however, ownership was desirable and conditions were shaping up that would make it possible.

The year 1884 may be called the year of the "land rush" for timberland in the North Tule mountains. The story can be roughed out from the records of the General Land Office and Tulare County. J. D. Hyde, register of the Visalia Land Office, received and filed the township plat for the first of the four townships of the North Tule Forest area on February 28, 1879, but if this resulted in any activity in the forested area the records do not show it. But after Mr. Hyde filed the other three plats (two on September 14, 1883 and the other on February 9, 1884) he began to do a "land office business."

The earliest record found of a filing was on "school land." Mr. S. M. Gilliam (a Tulare County supervisor) filed a "location" on the north half of Section 36 on December 15, 1883, but apparently did not follow it up. J. J. Doyle, well-known later as a real estate man and owner of the Summer Home resort, filed on the same property March 10, 1884. A. M. Coburn, the Springville lumberman, filed on the south half of this section February 20, 1884, and received a patent in 1889.

On land patented directly from the federal government the earliest record found is a deed from Joshua Seamonds to Mary L. Seamonds dated April 21, 1884 for 160 acres in Section 26 on upper Bear Creek, even though Seamonds did not receive the patent from the government until 1887. In 1885 Mary deeded the property to the lumberman L. B. Frasier.

The map shows that at least twenty-three private citizens had laid claim to lands in the forested region by 1884, all in the Mountain Home area. The earliest date of a patent, however, seems to have been in the Dillonwood area. Nathan P. Dillon's 80 acres in Section 10 was patented January 15, 1885. In addition to the names shown on the map there were several others known to have taken up land in the same area about the same time. They include Mrs. Sarah M. Doty of the Mountain Home Resort in Section 35, W. T. F. Smith and John G. Eckles in Section 26, Elizabeth J. Shirley in Section 19 and 30, Coleman Talbot (father of Courtney and the original California immigrant of the Talbot clan) in Section 31, all in the Mountain Home area; and George Dillon in Section 3 and Clara A. Lindsay in Sections 3 and 10, Dillonwood area.

Four of the men whose names appear in the Mountain Home part of the map (Courtney Talbot, Wm. H. Hammond, S. M. Gilliam, and Wm. J. Newport) were county supervisors. Perhaps the most active families were the Talbots and the Doyles. Courtney Talbot and John J. Doyle married sisters, daughters of Conrad and Sarah Holser.

At least twelve of the entrymen in the Mountain Home area received patents dated the same day, July 25, 1887. All were "entered" from January to May 1884, and six were to J. J. Doyle and his known relatives. All but one was for "cash," from which it is assumed that they were Timber and Stone claims for which the entire \$2.50 per acre was paid upon entry.

Most, if not all, of these people apparently "took up" this timberland in good faith under the Timber and Stone Act of 1878. If there were exceptions they were probably in the area now owned by the State in the upper Wishon Fork drainage-area in Sections 18, 19, 20, and 29. Statements have been made that J. J. Doyle and Smith Comstock about 1890 promoted the filing on lands in this area with the understanding that Comstock's Tule River Lumber Company would buy the claims.

Blocking-up Timberland. Not all of the original entrymen, no matter how sincere their intentions of making personal use of their claims, were able to do so. In some cases they were unable to pay the taxes and lost their properties to the State. One such tract was a 13-acre plot south of the Frasier Mill in Section 35, which was lost to the State in 1887 for non-payment of \$14.66 taxes. The late Chester Doyle of Porterville stated

barley while Jake was away on a camping trip in the back country. The nearest that anyone ever came to catching him was when Charley Elster caught the heel of his shoe in a bear trap. Elster had set the trap in his orchard to catch the thief who had been stealing his apples. Don Witt says that George's neighbors credited him with sitting up on his hill ranch and noting when any of them left for town. Then he would go down and let their cattle out so he could pick them up as illegal loose stock under the No-Fence Law.

George was commonly accused of getting his meat supply by shooting the range hogs and calves of his lowland neighbors, in accord with the time-honored tradition of predatory mountaineers:

"The mountain sheep are sweeter,
But the valley sheep are fatter;
And so we deemed it meet
To carry off the latter."

But it was wild game that got him into trouble with the law. He shot a mountain sheep, an illegal act in California. His general good luck prevailed, however. The judge threw the case out of court because the warden had charged George with shooting a male mountain sheep, whereas the University zoologists to whom the horns and fleece were sent for identification, pronounced the animal a female.

George even figured out how to run his old truck without buying gasoline. The trick, according to Wes Snider, is to run out of gas in a narrow place where nobody can get by without giving you some gasoline.

The new Balch Park Road was all narrow. For at least twelve years after its completion it was operated as a "control road." Uphill traffic was permitted only at four-hour intervals starting at six a.m., and downhill traffic at the same intervals starting at eight a.m. Anyone "breaking control" was subject to a court-imposed fine. "Control stations" were manned at both ends of the section that included the thirteen "switch-backs." It was a dusty dirt road until the first oil was applied about 1956.

Caretakers. The earliest Balch Park caretaker of definite record was Monroe C. Griggs (1955) who was hired in 1938. He was forced to retire the next year because he was

seventy-four years old and uninsurable. C. F. Hedrick looked after the park while he had his little sawmill there working up dead and dying trees. This was either just before or just after Griggs. Then Mr. Dalton "Deacon" Clark was caretaker until gasoline rationing during World War II practically eliminated the visiting public. During the war and post-war period the park was maintained by the California Division of Forestry under a cooperative agreement.

Tulare County officials have usually considered Balch Park something of a white elephant. Twice (see Fresno Bee, July 29, 1928 and Porterville Recorder, September 27, 1945), Tulare County came near to donating it to the State, but the Division of Beaches and Parks, after field examinations, turned it down. The restrictive deed from the Balch family was a deterrent.

The park was improved in 1958 and 1959 by construction of fishing ponds and fireplaces. Mr. William Jordan was caretaker in 1959 and 1960. During the summers of 1961 and 1962 Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Bowdlear took motherly and fatherly care of increasing numbers of campers.

Wishon Power Project. The power development on the Wishon Fork of the Tule deserves more attention. As early as 1905 the San Joaquin Light and Power Company acquired water rights on this stream. Dave L. Wishon, a brother of General Manager A. G. Wishon, was the engineer in charge of surveys and the early construction work. In 1907, a road was built up the Wishon Fork from the Tule Forks where the P. G. & E. power plant now stands. Construction of tunnels to carry the water from a diversion dam near Doyle Springs was begun in 1908.

The project was put into operation January 21, 1914. Water from the natural stream was not considered adequate for dry periods, so it was supplemented by pumping some water into the system from Doyle Springs themselves. After the dry year of 1924 a dam was built across the outlet of Summit Lake at the head of the Wishon Fork. This dam was built by hand tools. About 1930, after a re-survey put the lake inside the Sequoia National Park, the dam was cut through and abandoned.

In 1931 the San Joaquin Light and Power Company sold the controlling interest to the Pacific Power and Light Company. The development since 1936 has been operated under the name of the latter firm. The Wishon Fork water, after passing

survive. In the past it has been influenced; (but) this time I hope improved by its contact with man."

Camp Lena. The eighty acres Jesse Hoskins bought from the government in 1884 to save it from Frasier's sawmill, remained in 1905 almost as God made it. At Hoskins' death in 1908 the property passed to his brothers and sisters. They sold it to Will and Fred Gill in 1913 for \$5,000. John Spees of Springville acted as go-between and received his commission "in kind"; namely, one redwood tree. Fred deeded his interest to Will in 1923 (Keagle, 1946). Will Gill is said to have been the first to drive an automobile into the Mountain Home area. The old Frasier grade was so steep that a passenger had to ride on the fender and pour gasoline by hand into the carburetor.

The Gills did not allow any logging until 1956. They did use the dead redwoods as a source of fence posts for their extensive ranching operations. And they permitted Art Griswold to operate a popular camping center and pack station there from 1928 to 1937.

The Pack Station Business. Taking people into the "back country" developed into a sizeable activity by the 1920's. Art Griswold and Frank Negus—who are still ranching in the North Tule area—and the late "Little George" Dillon, all operated packing businesses from their ranches before 1925. Otis Lawson was another local packer. Malvin Duncan of Porterville states that he ran the first pack station at Camp Wishon in 1914. That year he and young Jim McDonald loaded fourteen-foot lumber on mules and packed it up to Jordan Peak for the first lookout house there. George Haigh of Springville says that a Mr. Kirkpatrick operated the Camp Wishon pack station in 1918. Charlie Smith, a son-in-law of old John Nelson, was operating Camp Nelson about that time with Carr Wilson.

Griswold moved to Camp Lena in 1928 as soon as the Balch Park Road was opened. He made packing a full-time job with one to three hired packers. Dillon moved into the old Mountain Home hotel site about two years later. Art has many happy memories of his years at Camp Lena. "Every night there was a big campfire and singing and cutting-up," he says. "We had lots of vacationing school teachers and they would organize the youngsters and give skits and plays and lead real good singing.

On our pack trips we would take as many as 19 people to a party. Fishing and hunting were the main activities."

The Big Blow. In July, 1933, there was a big windstorm from the northeast. There were thirty-two people camped at Camp Lena that night and thirty-one of them crowded into the soggy 14 x 14-foot room in old Jesse Hoskins' Hercules tree. Dude Sutch says Ed Carter of Porterville, one of Griswold's packers, was the one who insisted on going to bed outside. Trees were crashing down all around. The next morning the road to Shake Camp was blocked by thirty-five windfalls. At Shake Camp a big redwood fell among the campers with no casualties resulting. Griswold was camped that night with a party at Twin Lakes and had "a Hell of a time" getting back through the blowdown. The unofficial fraternity composed of the thirty-one people who spent a long two hours jammed into the Room Tree includes several members of the Maurice Gill, Malvin Duncan, and Griswold families. The same storm caused extensive blowdown around Redwood Meadow at Dillonwood.

Another story is told of a redwood that fell on a calm night about 1911 and killed Will Gill's six-horse team stabled in a barn at Camp Lena. Drivers Archie Ainsworth and Skinny Kirk claimed they would have been killed, too, except that they decided that night to move their beds to a new location in the hay loft.

Griswold sold his pack business to R. G. Murdock and Charles Spangler in 1937. Frank Negus and son Roy took over from them in 1941, and established the station at Shake Camp, where they operated it profitably through 1953.

Camp Lena Logged. During the winter of 1955-56 lumberman Mal Harris of Springville looked around as usual for some timber for his next season's operation. He couldn't find anything that he could buy at what he considered a reasonable price until Ralph Gill, who had inherited the management of the Camp Lena "80" after the death of his father, and who is a relative of Harris, agreed to sell him most of the timber on the property. Saved were the historic Room Tree, the Seven Sisters, a few other large redwoods near the buildings, and the few redwoods that were under six feet in diameter.

Harris started falling timber in April 1956. The cutting aroused some objections. A few newspapers and the Sierra

Appendix A

ORIGIN OF PLACE NAMES

To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln's statement about the common people, God must love the little out-of-the-way places because he made so many of them. And to someone, each little brook, hill, and turn of the road has its name.

The following names are found on maps or are in general use locally.

Arrastre Canyon: For the remains of a Spanish "arrastre," a mule-power ore-grinding mill, found in that area. (It drains into the place called "Packsaddle" north of Long Meadow.)

Backbone Creek: The Dillon Mill Road had, and still has, a half-mile stretch that followed the crest of a very narrow, sharp, low ridge between the North Fork of the Tule and a small creek that paralleled it. This piece of road was called "The Devil's Backbone." The adjacent creek was named from it.

Bear Creek: Probably the oldest named geographic feature in the Tule River drainage-area, excepting the Tule River itself. Was the only creek shown by name on government survey plats of the four townships in the North Tule forest area, excepting "Mill Creek" (now called Rancheria Creek). Possibly Bear Creek, like Deer Creek further south, kept its Indian name, merely being translated into English. If so, its Indian name, according to Don Witt, would have been N'HAWN TUL-TUH (Bear Canyon).

Brownie Meadow: There was a shake-maker known only as "Brownie" who worked near this meadow in the 1890's according to I. Elster and Mrs. Ola Hubbs. Whether he or the meadow was named first, we cannot be sure. It is also said that the

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meadow was named for Clinton Brown, a pioneer sheepman of the area.

Camp Lena: A. C. Tienken of Lindsay says, "Camp Lena was named after Mrs. E. Vande Bogart—maiden name Lena Millinghausen—(daughter of the late August Millinghausen of Lindsay and Springville). A group including the Millinghausens often spent their summers at the Mountain Home and Summer Home area and Lena was always the life of the camp, leading the evening entertainments." One night a group at Hoskins' place "christened Camp Lena after Lena Millinghausen."

Cramer Creek or Kramer Creek: Maps show this creek that drains off Blue Ridge into the North Fork, spelled with a "K." However, it was named for Jacob Cramer, a first settler in the area. He had a daughter, Belle, who married John Hossack, a Porterville sheepman and barkeeper (for whom Hossack Meadow and Hossack Creek are named). Mrs. Harriet Maxey of Redding, one of Belle Hossack's granddaughters writes, "When the CCC camp went in above Springville (about 1934), they made the horrible mistake of spelling it Camp Kramer. I can still see that poor colonel trying to extend the government's apology to my grandmother. Her rocking chair was clocking miles a minute."

Dennison Peak: Don Witt says that Dennison was a bear hunter who rigged up a "set-gun" for a bear near the old water-power sawmill above Jack Flats. Then he was careless enough to walk into his own trap, and trip the wire that discharged the gun. When his body was found it was buried where he died; and the Dennison Trail, and Dennison Peak, Mountain, Ridge, Ditch, and School District inherited his name. This must have happened very early, probably in the 1850's or '60's. If he had a given name or initials they have been forgotten.

Frasier Mill: For L. B. Frasier, who built a road to Mountain Home in 1885 and built a sawmill at this site the same year. (Frazier Valley is spelled differently because it was named for another man.)

Galena Creek and Silver Creek: Old timers say that originally the southern of these two streams was called Galena

Creek and the northern one Silver Creek, the former named for the lead (galena) ore found in its drainage-area, and the latter for similar reasons. All modern maps, however, show Galena Creek north and Silver Creek south, and it seems better to accept what appears to be a map-maker's error rather than try to correct it.

Hedrick Pond: For C. F. Hedrick, sawmill man of Lindsay, who originally built it as a mill pond about 1940.

Jack Flats: Shown as Jack Ass Flats on Dillon Road survey notes of 1877. Undoubtedly this and nearby Jenny Creek were named for Nate Dillon's mules that pulled the empty lumber cars from the lumber dump back up his wooden railroad to the mill.

Jordan Peak: Named for John J. Jordan, pioneer trail builder, whose trail went over or just south of this peak and on to the Owens Lake country.

Lumreau Mountain: For Charles M. Lumereau, whose pioneer ranch was at the western foot of this high brushy hill. He spelled his name Lumereau, not Lumereaux, Lumreau, Lumro, or Lumbro; but the mountain is Lumreau on all modern maps.

Maggie, Mount and Mount Moses: There is usually more than one story about how places got their names. Although the books on California names have their version, a composite of somewhat varying stories current among members of the Fred Wells and Kincaid families is that one time when the Kincaids were on a hunting trip and camped near Mount Maggie, a government surveyor, more or less lost, dropped into camp and stayed with them. His name was Moses Peabody. He praised Maggie Kincaid's biscuits to the skies and asked how she would like to have a mountain named for her. "Well," she said, "today I sat right on top of this mountain and it doesn't have a name." One thing led to another until one of the peaks of the highest group in the Tule watershed became Mount Maggie and its craggy companion across the canyon to the west took the given name of the surveyor. (Mount Maggie is not the highest point on Maggie Ridge. The highest points are two nicely

rounded twin peaks locally known by a descriptive name that map-makers do not put on maps except in French or Indian).

McDonald Hill: For James McDonald, early-day owner of the homestead just below the ranch that has recently been known as the Cypert Turkey Ranch and the Greer place. The hill is southwest of the Rancheria Ranch and northwest of the "Scicon" Camp.

Milo: Don Witt of Porterville says that his Aunt Agatha Richardson was delegated to make up a list of names for the new post-office for the North Tule community. All were invited to suggest names including her children. The children's choice was Milo, which was what they called their dog. Aunt Agatha, to please them, added Milo at the bottom of her list and the Post Office Department chose it in preference to all the carefully considered proposals of the elder citizens.

Shake Camp: Harry Wells of Bakersfield says his father, Fred Wells, was the first man to split "shakes" at this place. It was in 1891. They were split with a "fro" from sugar pine trees for roofing.

Sycamore Creek: This, the first tributary of the North Fork above Bear Creek, was probably named for the "Sycamore Camp or Spring" mentioned in an 1870 petition for a toll road. This old camp was apparently a principal stopping place on the old Dennison Trail between the Lindsay vicinity and Mountain Home, and was located between the North Fork and Greer's Sycamore Creek Ranch. It may be one of oldest surviving place names in our area.

Tule: "The word is derived from tullin or tollin. . . . it designates the cattail or similar plants Tule River . . . appears as 'Tule River or Rio San Pedro' on Derby's map of 1850." (Gudde, 1949).

Watermill Ridge: (South of Dillonwood tract and east of Jack Flats). From the old waterpower sawmill in Section 9, thought to have been built by J. R. Hubbs.

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Wishon Fork and Camp Wishon: Named for the Wishon family who were connected with the San Joaquin Power and Light Company. A. G. Wishon was General Manager and his brother Dave L. had charge of the water-development surveys and early construction. Dave's ashes are at the cabin site at the Tule River headworks.

Appendix B

MEMORABLE DATES

Following is a summary "for the record" of notable natural events and "Acts of God" that are mentioned in livestock histories, weather reports, river run-off records, and other sources:

1828-30 Twenty-two-month drouth in California, 40,000 cattle and horses died (Wentworth, 1948).

1840-41 Another drouth.

1849-50 Excessive rains (Elliott, 1883).

1850-51 Dry period (Schulman, 1956).

1852-53 Flood year (Elliott, 1883). Tulare Lake as high as in 1862 (Thompson, 1892).

1855 One of Visalia's memorable floods (Tul. Co. C. of C., 1959), and a severe earthquake (Doctor, 1959).

1855-56 Extraordinary drouth (Elliott, 1883), 100,000 cattle died in Southern California.

1856 Coast Range and San Joaquin earthquake (Barton, 1874).

1860-61 Dry.

1861-62 The all-time "high-water year" in the San Joaquin Valley (Brewer, 1930). Precipitation 215 per cent of normal in Central Sierra (Schulman, 1956). Tulare Lake covered 760 square miles (Thompson, 1892).

1862-64 "The Great Drouth." A million cattle died in California (Treadwell, 1931). "Perfect devastation" (Brewer, 1930). End of cattle boom (Cleland, 1951).

1867-68 The great landslides and landslide floods. Precipitation twice normal in Central Sierra.

1870-71 Drouth.

1872 (March 26). Lone Pine earthquake, "perhaps the greatest California earthquake on record" (Doctor, 1959), felt throughout the southern Sierra.

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