



## ***LAKEMONT PINES, ARNOLD*** ***History and Memories***

***By, Charity Maness***

The area known as Lake Mont Pines is a quaint little community nestled in the pines along Highway 4 just west of Hathaway Pines in Arnold, California. It lies at an elevation of 3,786 feet and holds within its acreage a small lake known as Tanner Lake.

For many years in the late 1800s through to the 1900s, cattlemen would travel over the pass, leave their cattle at the meadows just above what is now Lake Mont Pines and head to Avery to the half-way house for a hot meal and maybe a nice place to lay their heads. The hotel and stagecoach relay station were named the half-way house as it was halfway between Murphys and Big Trees.

The half-way house in Avery, built in 1851, was originally owned by Joseph and Sarah Goodell, who began operating it as a hotel in the mid-1850s. After the hotel was purchased by the Averys, it was renamed and continued in operation for three generations of Averys: Peter and Nancy, George and Henrietta, Morton and Louise; finally leaving family hands in 1944.



*Avery Hotel, formerly The Half-Way House*  
*Photo Courtesy of Charity Maness*

The Avery's expanded on their hotel and stage business and soon operated a store, bar, dance hall, three large barns, wagon shed, blacksmith shop, and an icehouse, thus becoming the center of commerce and activities for the area. The surrounding lands were used for cattle and highcountry stock grazing.

Evidence of the Lake Mont Pine area being cattle country in the near past is found in the amount of barbed wire pulled from various home sites throughout the subdivisions when building is underway.

“Just recently I found barbed wire when working the land around my home,” said Lynn Glocker, resident of Lake Mont Pines.

Local landowners, the Tanner Family, purchased the meadows and surrounding acreage in 1948. Ormund Tanner was born Ormund Torgeson in Stavanger, Norway in 1831. The first trade he learned was that of a fisherman, but when he emigrated from Norway to America, he learned to be a tanner. This trade lent him the nickname ‘tanner’. On September 13, 1869 he legally took the last name of Tanner.

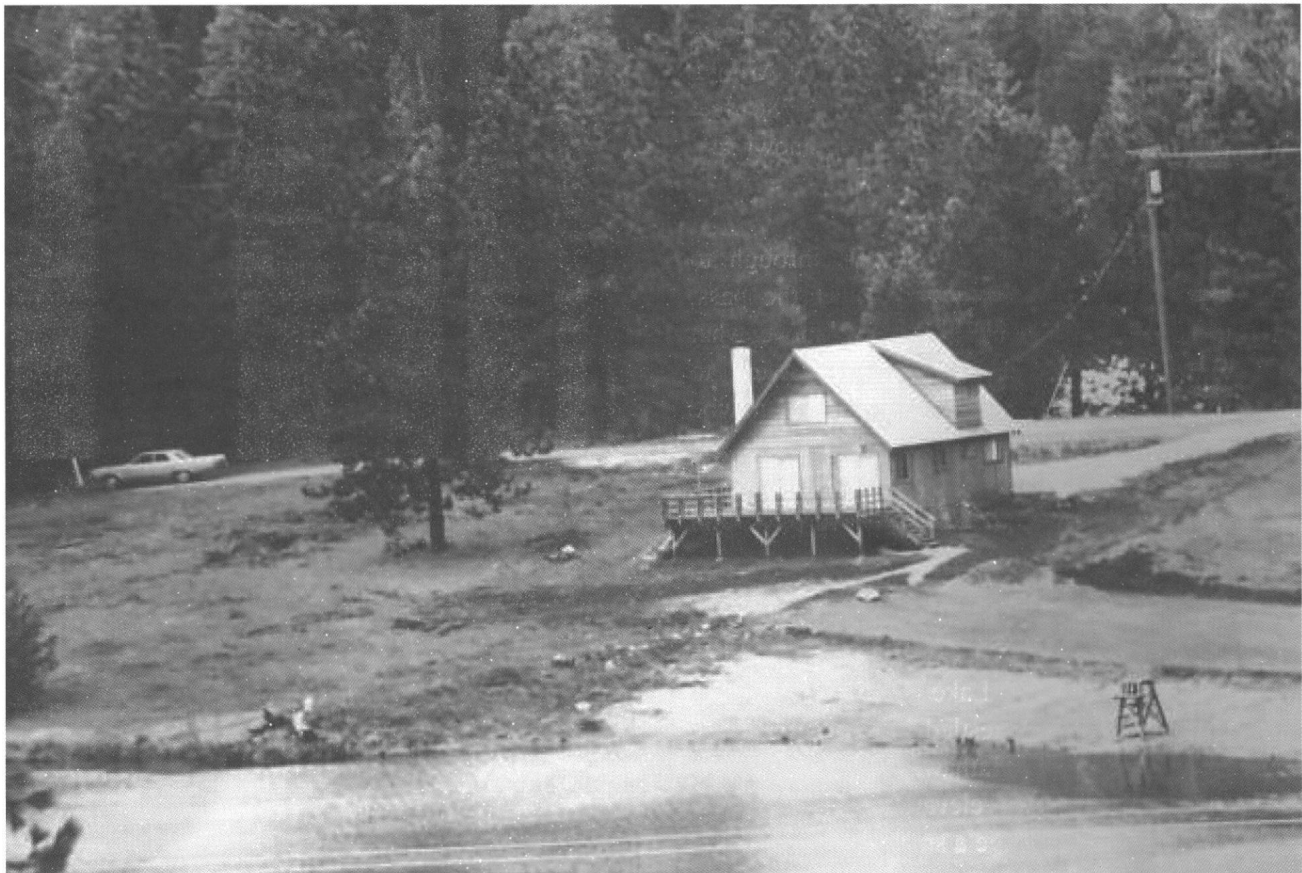
Ormund came west in 1859 to join the Pikes Peak rush and then went on to Dutch Flat in El Dorado County the following year. Following the silver rush, he then headed to Silver Mountain.

Ormund tried his hand at mining at Silver Mountain for several years but was injured when he fell down a hundred-foot mine shaft. He was partially disabled the rest of his life, yet this didn’t stop him from trying his hand at yet another career, that of law enforcement. He ran for Sheriff of Alpine County and lost by a mere 10 votes.

In 1873, he gave up mining and hopes of a career in law enforcement and went to Chicago to marry Anna Gertina Magnusen, a friend of his sister. He returned to Silver Mountain for a short time and then moved to Murphys, where he settled on the 160-acre ranch he had purchased from Charles Fisk in 1871 for \$1200.00.

Charles Fisk’s brother, Frank Willis Fisk, was the proprietor of the Fisk Hotel at Silver Mountain during the time Torgeson (Tanner) worked at the mine. Frank Fisk moved to Murphys in 1869 to work the placer mine he owned.

Charles Fisk had purchased the squatter’s right from “Gassy” Miller, who had originally settled



*1960s Lake View Court...lone home on the lake. Courtesy of Lynn Glocker*

the land in the 1850s and had planted a small orchard. Ormund took great delight in the orchard and expanded on it.

By 1875, the Tanner Ranch had grown to include 255 acres, with approximately 25 acres developed into orchards, gardens and vineyards. Ormund would bring his fruits and vegetables to local towns; Murphys, Angels Camp, Carson Hill. At times he would pick up more produce at Robinson's Ferry and continue his deliveries to Copperopolis and Milton. Ormund would also deliver his fruit and vegetables into Alpine County, the trip taking up to eight days.

Ormund and Anna had many children: Karlotta Marie, 1874; Minna Tarina, 1876; Amon, 1878; Tina, 1880; Annie, 1883; Olive, 1885; and Martin, 1887. Ormund passed away in 1912 and his wife Anna in 1925.

Their son Amon, the third child yet first son, spent all his eighty-four years on the Tanner Ranch enlarging the holdings as well as expanding on the orchards. Amon was also the local mail carrier, carrying mail between Murphys, Big Trees and Dorrington. During the winter months, snowfall would not hinder the delivery of mail for Amon, as he would use skis to deliver to the higher elevations.

Amon's sons Irvin, Norman and Norval continued the family tradition of adding to the family land holdings and producing choice fruits as well as adding logging to the family's long list of job skills.

According to historical records, the land where Lake Mont Pines is located was once a portion of the expansive land holdings of the Tanner family, hence the name of the pristine lake in Lake Mont Pines, Tanner Lake.

The lake was created when the Tanner brothers-Norman, Norval, and Irvin- dredged a section of Cowell Creek in January 1960, with the first lots on McKenzie Avenue being part of the Tanner Lake Subdivision, unit 1, and comprised of lots 1-34. In the process of creating the subdivision, this

family, with deft skill as lumber jacks, clear cut the area and planted yet more apple trees, some, according to Glocker, are still visible by the lake today.

Tanner Lake Subdivision was sold to Marc-Land Development Corporation in the early 1960s. The subdivision name changed to Lake Mont Pines and more homes began being constructed.

The first board meeting of the newly formed Lake Mont Pines was held September 2, 1962. According to the minutes, the two board members present constituted a quorum: Kenneth DeMeuse and James K. Strachan. Absent was David Spurgeon.

The minutes addressed the fact that original articles of incorporation of the corporation had been duly filed with the California Secretary of State on June 18, 1962, with a fee of \$5.00 collected from each property owner for "benefit of the corporation", thus creating the official Lake Mont Pines Home Owners Association.

In 1964, the corporation entered into an agreement with the Homeowners Association, turning over approximately 20 acres of land and recreational facilities. In 1968, Ken DeMeuse (owner of Marc-Land Development Corporation) was released from any financial responsibility for the property and Lake Mont Pines continued to grow. Soon after the sale, the lake had to be dredged once again, as sediment through Cowell Creek had begun to cause a flow issue.

By the late 1960s, Lake Mont Pines was no longer a hidden gem within the foothills, as vacationers would flock to the area to enjoy the beauty of nature and the pristine waters of the lake.

The Argus, in Fremont, California, ran an ad June 29, 1969 luring visitors to the area with inexpensive vacation cabins, "CABIN in Calaveras County, Lakemont Pines, modern, fishing, swimming, golf. \$100 wk". Within a few years, the Oakland Tribune was touting the beauty of the area to hopeful

vacationers with an ad that ran June 4, 1972, "Cabin, modern, Lakemont Pines, Calaveras County, slps 6, fishing, swimming & golf. \$110 wk."

In the summer of 1967, Janet and Albert Glocker built a home in Lake Mont Pines; the shell was built by Hugo Stelte.

"We were given one year to enclose the home, so we spent every weekend here," said Glocker. Lynn Glocker began living in the home as care giver to her father in 2004 and took ownership in 2009, becoming a permanent resident.

"When I grew up, there were only a handful of rental vacation homes," with many of the homes owned by extended families who vacationed with regularity, creating a family atmosphere where "everyone knew everyone," said Glocker. "In summer of 2004, I was swimming in the lake with another friend who had spent summers and weekends at Lake Mont Pines, and we wondered at what had happened to so many of the families we had known." The idea of a reunion was hatched.

"I presented the idea of a reunion at a board meeting and it was approved." The reunion was held in August 2005. "We had almost 190 people who came back for the reunion."

The following are memoirs of those who once were residents of Lake Mont Pines in the early years:

Doug Shackley responded to an info mailer from Marc-Land Development Corporation in 1961. "I got the impression we responded to their first mailer. At that time, the roads in the development had not been installed yet and it was dusty and there was still a lot of barbed wire fencing....my brother and I purchased lot 42 with \$50.00 down and \$30.00 per month payments...\$25.00 applied to principal, \$5.00 per month were the property dues." "In September of 1962, I met the girl I would later marry and in January of 1963, on her 19th birthday, she and I went up for the day. At the

time the lodge was under construction. Tipton Lodge was still across Highway 4 and that was where we had lunch. The lodge was a big room with a fireplace, bare wood flooring. Lake Mont Lodge was opened in the summer of 1963."

After many years of vacationing at the lake, either via motor home, rentals or camping Shackley finally purchased a home in September 1981. "All four of our children have spent every summer in Arnold from 1969 until they were out of high school," remaining friends with many of the children they met over the years at Lake Mont Pines.

Albert Glocker was told by friend Lillian Staple about Lake Mont Pines. "My wife Janet and I took a drive and fell in love with the area. We purchased our lot on Valley View Drive in 1965." The Glockers then built a family vacation home on the lot with daughter Lynn becoming a fulltime resident in 2009.

Greg Stone remembers a fun and adventurous youth growing up at Lake Mont Pines. "Bass fishing in the little Meadowmont pond near Lake Mont ...frustrated about never catching that big bass I knew was in the little pond. I went after it with my mask, snorkel and speargun late one afternoon and speared one of its smaller buddies."

"Chasing the trout truck on our dirt bikes early Wednesday morning with Jim to the Tuolumne past White Pines Lake so we could catch and bring home our limit for breakfast." "Lifeguarding at Meadowmont pool and getting three free lunches per day from kids' kind grandmothers. We would do flipping and twisting dives of all types at the pool. We got more air if someone was behind us jumping up and down on the diving board at the same time; the record was 3 ½ forward somersaults."

"We used to go into Meadowmont golf course pond late at night with our wetsuit bottoms on to retrieve golf balls. A catfish nibbled on someone's navel scaring them half to death; we never



*The erosion of Tanner Lake in 1971 required the lake to be dredged. Photo Courtesy of Lynn Glocker*

returned. That was the same night the police search light started across the golf course from Highway 4, we held our breath under water for some time. And bare footed feeling for golf balls we stepped on hundreds of tiny tree frogs that made weird noises with each step.” On the way out of the pond “we’d get methane gasses coming up from the cattails roots’ into our wetsuits.” Undaunted by his failed golf ball hunt and his frog experience, Stone was open to old timer stories and fables. “An old timer told us we could catch bats [by its claws] by throwing up a rock inside a wool sock. After three continuous nights and not catching a single bat, we concluded we were lied to and that bats didn’t think a sock/rock combination was really a mosquito.”

As with most residents Bob Griffin fell in love with the area at first sight. “We first heard about Lake Mont Pines about six weeks after it opened for lot sales...we fell in love with the new development the first time we saw it and bought a lot on our first visit in 1960 or 1961.”

Unable to build a cabin first and with retirement from the Oakland Fire Department in the near future, the Griffin’s began looking for a home in Lake Mont Pines.

“In 1974, Norval Wyrick showed us a cabin for sale right on the lake. We loved it and bought it; we moved to Arnold one year later. Phyllis was so excited she jumped into the lake with all her clothes on, in October!”

The Griffin’s built a successful jewelry business which required lots of traveling. They sold their cabin and lot yet couldn’t truly leave the area. So, in 1989, they built a cabin on Pine Knoll Drive. However, they ended up selling again in 1997, continuing with short visits to the area. “We still have our love affair with Lake Mont Pines,” and look forward to every visit “seeing old friends and swimming in the best lake we know.”

Arnold reminded Archie Lowry of home. “We bought the lot from Carl Johnson and started

building in 1968. He had seen a picture I had of North Idaho and he said he had two lots in Arnold that looked just like it. Same trees, except oak. We had maple so it reminded me of home.”

Bud Bresnahan discovered Lake Mont Pines with his parents in 1965 when they purchased a lot and built an ‘A’ frame the following year. In 1969 Bresnahan married his wife Mary and she also fell in love with the area. “I married my wife Mary, in June of 1969 and since I was going into the Army in early August, we spent time living in the family cabin. Mary’s father had given us a wedding gift and we decided we liked Lake Mont Pines so much we wanted to buy a lot.” Though it wasn’t until 2006 a cabin was built on the lot, the Bresnahan’s spent as much vacation time as they could at the lake with their children making memories too. “Over the course of forty years we have had many memories: summer activities; movie night, arts and crafts for the kids, 4th of July weekend volleyball and horseshoe tournaments. They always had great activities for the adults and kids.”

Dick Rosso found Lake Mont Pines from a door-to-door salesman. In the 1960s “a representative of Lake Mont knocked on our door in Oakland, asking to show a film in color of Lake Mont. We were delighted and signed up for lot 180. We went up every weekend while our cabin was being built and barbequed by the lake.”

“Our children are now bringing their children and the third generation is beginning to enjoy going up. We loved every minute of all these years at our cabin.”

Memories that the forefather of the area, Ormund Tanner, might have enjoyed were the Glogg parties held by some of the residents during the winter months leading up to Christmas.

A Glogg party is a Swedish tradition, yet also has Norwegian roots, where people gather to drink mulled wine infused with spices such as cardamom, cinnamon, ginger, dried Seville orange, and cloves. Delicious foods also add to the celebra-

tory atmosphere. Delicacies like ginger biscuits, marzipan, saffron buns, toffee, nuts and more.

“I remember the Glogg parties my parents would have around Christmas,” recalled Ellen Anderson Jimerson. “It was cold and snowy outside, and so cozy and warm inside that the windows would steam up. It seemed interesting to me at the time that grown-ups could be so noisy. The yearly Glogging stopped however, when Kathe Scoggins’ aunt (I believe) sprained her ankle leaving the party. What I liked best was waiting until the party was over so I could collect the used cups and eat the soggy almonds”.

Information for this article was gleaned from historical documents at the Calaveras County Historical Society, memoirs of residents, HOA Board meeting minutes dating back to the original meeting in 1962, records and photos in Lynn Glocker’s personal possession. If you have any additional information regarding Lake Mont Pines; history, personal memories, photos, etc., please contact Lynn Glocker at: [lynnglocker@gmail.com](mailto:lynnglocker@gmail.com).

***October-December 2019***

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# Calaveras County Historical Society

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The Calaveras County Historical Society is a non-profit corporation. It meets on the fourth Thursday of each month in various communities throughout the County. Locations and scheduled programs are announced in advance. Some meetings include a dinner program, and visitors are always welcome.

The Society operates the Calaveras County Museum which is open daily from 10:00 to 4:00 in the historic County courthouse located at 30 Main Street in San Andreas; and the historic Red Barn Museum at 891 Mountain Ranch Road, also in San Andreas, which is open Thursday to Sunday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM - Spring & Summer Hours. Saturday & Sunday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM - Winter Hours.

The Society's office is located in historic San Andreas, the Calaveras County seat. Visitors are always welcome to stop by the office for assistance with research, and are encouraged to visit the museums while in the area. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 4:00, and the telephone number is (209) 754-1058, or contact us at: CCHS@goldrush.com; Red Barn Museum (209) 754-0800.

*October-December 2019*

## Donations:

**Larry Allsman** – “Esco-Ladle” Magazine; Photographs of Calaveras Cement quarry and personnel

**Kathy & Kevin Skinner** – 3 photo albums from Mountain Playschool in Arnold, CA

**Calaveras Geneological Society** – San Francisco Chronicle Newspaper Collection

**San Andreas Fire Protection District** – Wooden Bar (Blewett Bar) from Blewett's Café (and a lot of man and woman power helping to move this large and heavy bar into the Red Barn Annex! Thank you, volunteers!)

**DanaDee Ponte Carragher** – Cash Donation in memory of her loving parents, Gloyd & Eloise Ponte

**Phil and Florence Alberts** – Mountain Ranch Post Office (The “World's Smallest” Post Office), on display at the Red Barn Museum

## Correction from Oct. 2019 Las Calaveras Donations:

Steve Cilenti – Collection of books on the Mother Lode; family bible; National Geographic from 1913; war ration books; History of WWII book; photograph, for the archives in the Downtown Museum.

Thank you for the donation Steve!