

THE HISTORY OF LAKE COUNTY'S
MINERAL SPRING RESORT COMPLEX

"Lake County abounds with mineral springs, the waters of which possess great medicinal virtues. Bartlett's, Highlands, Harbins, Pearson's, Seigler and Anderson's are best known abroad, but there are a dozen more whose waters are very fine and that will become famous. A large number of invalids and health seekers visit them annually, and the number will continue to increase as they become better known. It is estimated that from 15,000 to 25,000 persons visit the county annually in search of health or "pleasure", is an excerpt taken from Schellens Scrap Book, vintage 1882.

Lake County was reputed to have more mineral springs and of a greater variety than the whole of Europe, where "taking the waters" and sojourning at these famed Spas, was for generations, practiced faithfully by the very wealthy. Not only for the supposedly therapeutic values of the waters, but also as a gathering place for the socially prominent and elite to spend several weeks or more vacationing at the elaborate and luxurious hotels and resorts that built up around these springs.

This mineral health complex spanned about half a century, with the peak years of popularity running from the 1870's up through World War I. Disasterous fires have been a major cause of many of the old resort/hotels closing down; as is the case of Bartlett, Bonanza, Carlsbad, and Castle Springs. Adams, Harbin and Saratoga Springs were partially destroyed by fires. Highlands was razed to make way for the Highland Springs Dam and Reservoir in the early 1950's. Witter Springs was razed just a few years after the beautiful, castle-like new hotel was constructed. The only major mineral springs resorts still in existence in Lake County today are Howard and Seigler Springs. Bartlett Springs property was purchased after the 1934 fire that completely consumed the three big hotels, more than a hundred cottages, the bottle works, pavillions and resident stores; and a group of rustic cottages have been constructed and used mainly as a remote vacation site for hunters. The Bartlett water is again being bottled and marketed by the Bartlett Springs Company of Visalia. The future of Howard Springs is not known. Since the death of one of the owner-operators it has been closed for several years. Seigler Springs is a Boys Athletic Camp. Harbin Springs was in business until 1966. At the present time this famous old resort is vacant and presents an abandoned appearance.

Let us go back in time before the coming of the White men. The exact date the Indians first learned of the desirability of the hot and cold mineral springs cannot be determined, although these springs are mentioned in their legends dating long before the advent of "civilization". Because of their knowledge of these springs, they established a primitive economic base and the first "resort" business for the nomadic tribes traveling between the Pacific Ocean and the Valleys of the "Plain".

They knew the medicinal values of the hundreds of mineral springs found here and used them extensively to provide relief for many of their physical aches and pains. Undoubtedly, because of these advantages, a great deal of commerce was carried on between them and other tribes in California. They came here as the first tourists or vacationers to enjoy the many natural resources of this area and bathe in the springs. They paid for these services with sand dollars, sea urchin, clam or abalone shells, woodpecker or bluejay crests, fur pelts, wampum, or the treasured red magnesite cylinders known as Indian gold

As the fame of these resorts grew, so did the services. Hundreds of local people were employed the year around. Due to the wide range of accommodations from the maximum of comfort and luxury to housekeeping and camping facilities, the farmers and ranchers were kept busy supplying meats, poultry, vegetables and fruits for use in the resort proper. Some were sold in one of the numerous stores and markets that sprung up around the resort complexes. Hundreds of tons of hay was used to feed the riding horses kept at the resort stables, and herds of sleek cattle grazed nearby in the meadows to supply milk and its by-products. Acres and acres of land was planted by some residents as a sideline to cultivate flowers that were placed throughout the premises daily--one of the requisites of the gracious living atmosphere. Besides the men and women employed in the multiple service capacities for the guests, crews of laborers were kept busy cutting wood and improving or constructing roads.

While the resorts were the hub of activities, other services supplied as a direct result of the vacationing public included post offices, barber shops, express offices, photographers, carriage houses, sundry and dry good stores and ice houses, usually each independently run & staffed. A like number of workers were used in various occupations at mineral water bottling works that were located at or adjacent to the resorts. While this was a sideline that came into existence as the fame and reputation of the mineral springs grew and the demand for the waters increased, it still proved to be highly profitable.

The bottled waters were hauled by wagon to San Francisco and Sacramento for shipment to various markets. Some were sent to Honolulu, Alaska and Central America. Some even found their way to Europe. At one time, bottled Lake County mineral springs water was the only soda water served on Cunard and the White Star Ocean Liners, and on the "crack" trains between San Francisco and New York. Among the springs bottling water under their names and labels were Bartlett, Witter, Seigler, Adams, Highland, Howard, Pearson or Saratoga, Allen, Mills or Castle, Anderson, Bynum, Brizzly and Norman Springs.

Bartlett Springs reported their bottling figures to the U.S. Geological Survey as early as 1888 and Witter Springs from 1899. Between these two mineral water enterprises they reported bottling a total of 7,929,405 gallons of water valued at \$2,812,777.00 during their peak years. A tidy sum when you think of what the dollar value was then. After the Pure Food Act was passed in 1906 the chemical contents of the waters had to be analyzed and listed on the bottle or labels. This eliminated a number of the smaller bottling businesses, due to the costly analysis and the more stringent bottling procedures. Today Bartlett Springs water is still bottled and sold. However, it seems as if the main interest of the general public is not in the mineral water, but the collecting of the old bottles that mineral waters had been bottled in 50 years ago.

A number of the smaller or less known mineral springs in the county lost much of their flow of water. It completely dried up, channeled underground or diverted itself to other sources unknown, as a result of the 1906 earthquake. These were mainly the small springs that rose up in all areas of the county and had never been developed to any extent commercially. Strange to say, the main flows of the major springs were undiminished or not noticeably affected.

When the white men first came here they found where the Indians had constructed rude baths in the streams, making possible the regulation of temperatures of the hot, bubbling mineral spring waters. Well worn foot paths radiated in all directions from around these springs. It was through the visitations of vast numbers of Indians that the early adventurers came upon the natural geologic phenomenon, created from the early volcanic activity that occurred here in eons past, and which eventually became the sites of the huge mineral spring resorts.

Most of these resorts were in the volcanic uplands of Cobb, Boggs, Harbir, Seigler and Pine Mountain sections, where all the hot springs were located, that the earliest and most important development occurred. Other concentrations of resorts were on Bartlett Mountain east of Clear Lake; in the Bachelor Valley area, northeast of Blue Lakes; at Soda Bay at the foot of Mt. Konocti; and in Big Valley, southwest of Mt. Konocti.

By 1880 all the major springs were developed. The primitive accommodations that had sprung up around these springs a quarter of a century earlier and often resembling mining camps, were replaced by the large pleasure palaces featuring the most elaborate in furnishing and decor for the enjoyment and comfort of the wealthy patrons and habitués of these Spas.

This was the golden age of the mineral resort complex here in Lake County. Celebrities, royalty, politicians, the wealthy and often ill, braved the inconvenience and discomfort of the arduous trip over winding, narrow mountain roads that were hardly more than trails; riding in horse-drawn stage coaches that pitched and jolted every foot of the way. After undergoing a day or two of this inconvenience to arrive at their destination, the traveler was satisfied to remain at the resort for weeks on end. They often returned year after year for a season at their favorite resort. This vacation trend and the mineral spring resort commerce, was geared to the family trade. Each advertising extensively their own group of hot or cold mineral springs as the source of rejuvenation and relaxation, and a panacea or cure for all diseases. For generations the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of these first vacationers returned to the resort of their choice annually, for decades on end. (It was after the advent of good highways and automobiles the trend in vacationing changed to a stop-over of one or two days, three at the most, that the lengthy mineral spring sojourn lost favor for the more exciting but less leisurely and gracious mode of vacationing).

LAKE COUNTY, THE NEW PORT OF THE WEST

Turrets and towers reaching nearly to the sky, adorned the multicolored flags waving festively in the mountain breezes, loomed high above the stately evergreen forests in which they were centered. These luxury hotels or baronial castles featured every type of architecture—from the airy Swiss Chalet style, Victorian, with accommodations for 500 or more persons in the main hotel buildings. Often these resorts would have their main hotel and several secondary or smaller hotels that could accommodate from 200 to 300 persons. Also dozens of individual housekeeping cottages, annexes, dormitory type buildings and even extensive campground facilities. Posh casinos, mirrored ballrooms, brocade and satin upholstered salons, music halls redolant with gold leaf and formal dining rooms gleaming with silver and crystal were just some of the luxuries offered the clientele. More energetic or active entertainment included bowling, shuffleboard, croquet, lawn tennis, hot and cold plunges, fishing, golf and riding.

Solariums and professionally staffed massage parlors were maintained at all of the major resorts. Because of the supposedly therapeutic and medicinal qualities of the mineral waters, numerous physicians and doctors were associated with the resorts: either as promoters and developers or as associates.

It was during the 1880's-1930's of the Mineral Spring complex, a half century span that the economic impact was so widely spread throughout the county. It has never been exceeded, or equalled to this day, and probably never will be to this age of automation. The entire county flourished as a result of this by-product of the evolution of our county's volcanic birth and the upheaval of our famed Mt. Konocti. According to early legend, when the body of the great Indian Divinity, Chief Konocti, who with his advisory the young Chieftan Ka-Bel fought to their deaths over Konocti's daughter, the beautiful princess Lupiyoma, who wished to marry Ka-Bel. As the great Chief Konocti fell back mortally wounded, upon the rocks he had previously piled high, in such wild array and confusion, his dying breath set the mountains and countryside steaming. The blood from Ka-Bel dyed the mountain across from Mt. Konocti a deep red, and Princess Lupiyoma's tears, shed in the valley, formed the lake of "Bitter Water", Lake Hachinhama (Little Borax Lake). Finally in her endless grief at the loss of her father and lover, she cast herself into the waters of Ka-Ba-Tin (Clear Lake), where as her body sank, the bubbles filtered up, and continue to roaver more. (Big Springs at Soda Bay).

Thus was explained the origin of Mt. Konocti and the mineral and thermal phenomena that Lake County has been so richly endowed with.

THE RICH REALM OF LAKE COUNTY

The early legend of Mt. Konocti may yet be perpetuated if the exploration for geothermal power and the tapping of the steam fields underlying this area are successful. Today the exploration for thermal development seems to be reaching its peak and indications are the potential of Lake County thermal wells through hot water or steam, appears to be virtually unlimited. This 154,280 acre thermal belt lies between Cobb Mountain and Mt. Konocti, and is believed to be one of the largest and accessible steam fields in the United States.

Natural steam, as old as the earth itself, has long been a familiar source of heat and power, and because of the growing population and the need for more electricity, the Magna Company has started drilling operations in both the Cobb Mountain and at the southern base of Mt. Konocti, where volcanic activity has brought molten lava-like rock known as magma, close to the earth's surface.

The 1500° F. magma either releases its own trapped water as steam or, like a gigantic percolator, vaporizes water that has seeped down into the earth. No matter how much of the steam or hot water is used, the heat is not likely to be used up, and the possibility is good that future technology methods will be able to recirculate the condensed steam back into the ground, giving unlimited life to the steam wells.

From the very beginning geology has played a most important role in the heritage of Lake County. First it was the mining of Borax from as early as 1856, followed by the discovery of a "mountain" of sulphur, and it was during the stripping operations for sulphur, that the rich fields of cinnabar or mercury were discovered. In all, more than a half-million flasks of mercury have been marketed from the Lake County mines, valued in excess of \$20,000,000.00. More than a century later, several of the mercury mines are still being worked. The Mineral Spring Resort complex spanned a century, and as their enterprise faded, the drilling for geothermal power began.

Lake County is a land of great and varied beauties, of mysterious and unexplainable manifestations; a land of legends and historic lore and whose many splendors and riches were bequeathed from the beginning of time. Great cataclysmic effects created our land of lakes and mountains.

OUR MOST FAMOUS RESORTS

HARBIN SPRINGS

It was through the visitations of vast numbers of Indians to the springs, that Captain A.A. Ritchie came to know about this area, and obtained possession of the springs in 1850 or 51 by location. He sold to Madison James Harbin, who was the first man to gain any revenue by operating the property as a resort. At first, there was just a trail on which people traveled by horseback to the resort. Later a wagon road was built from what is now Middletown to within about 500 yards of the building which was built on the side of a very steep ravine. Harbin sold out to Richard Williams and J. Hughes in 1868, and the new owners set to work excavating and forming small flats on the side of the ravine on which they built cottages. By 1881 there was a main hotel building that housed an office, reading room and bar, dining room and its attachments, a number of cottages and bath-houses, making up a total of more than 25 buildings. The bath house contained 1 mud, 5 plunge, and 9 tub baths, and the water that supplied these baths came from the hot sulphur and iron springs.

In 1894 most of the buildings were destroyed by fire, but Williams began rebuilding. He turned the business over to his son-in-law James A. Hayes, who gradually enlarged the resort. Harbins soon became well known throughout the United States as a famous training resort for prizefighters such as Ruby Bob Fitzsimmins, Gentleman Jim Corbett, Jim Jeffries, Jimmie Britt, Jack Johnson and Abe Atell.

These noted fighters had a large following and the resort became a young city during the training period. It was a well known fact that many of the guests, rather than be denied accommodations, slept on pool tables and in the halls of the buildings where small cots were placed. It was not uncommon for as many as 500 persons to demand accommodations where there was an actual facility for little more than 200.

Hayes continued to modernize the resort to what was considered a very high and elaborate standard. By 1900 there were 2 large hotels, a large steam room and hot plunge, barber shop, 15 cottages, bar, dance hall, gymnasium, dining room and facilities.

Fire again wiped out several of the buildings, but were soon replaced and the resort continued to prosper. Hayes ran the resort until he was severely injured in 1907, and following his death the next year, the resort was sold to Mrs. Margaret Matthews of Vallejo, who in turn leased it to Booth, Carr and Booth in 1911. The Booths were from Crockett and Mr. Carr, a brother of Mrs. Newton S. Booth was from Vallejo.

It was under this management that Harbins started catering to the family class of people. In 1916 M.S. Booth bought out his partner's interest and began extensive improvements. In 1918 he opened another hot sulphur spring and installed a second steam bath and swimming tank. The resort was still a favorite training camp for fighters, and some of them training here under the Booths' ownership included Jess Willard, Tod Morgan, Frankie Burns, Frankie Campbell, Battling Nelson and Al Walgost. Besides the fighters, a number of noted baseball players also conditioned themselves at Harbins during the years of the Booth family's enterprise.

In 1929 Booth purchased the Stuparich Resort, the property which was originally owned by a Mr. Soms, and adjoined the Harbin Springs property. This place was also known as the "Old Frenchman's Place" and "Western Town". Other owners of this property included Eddy Hayes, Mr. Hickmont who started the small resort, and Paul Stuperich. The hotel burned in 1929. Harbin Annex, as it was called, had a capacity of 85 guests and was utilized mainly for housekeeping units after the hotel burned.

In 1950 Harbin Springs had 4 swimming plunges, besides the hot and cold mineral baths. In 1957 the Booth's sold the resort to Robert Ramsey. Another fire razed a portion of the property in 1960, but the new owner continued the business which included a health and dietary program, along with vacation facilities. In 1964 the resort was renamed The Golden Spa, and remained open for several years. About 1968 a group called "The Frontiers of Science" took over the property and a commune of a hundred or more persons made this resort their home, until it was closed by the health department. At the present time, this famous old resort property is vacant, and presents an abandoned appearance. The property is owned by the Sandy Estates Co., of San Francisco.

The springs located on the Harbin premises are hot arsenic, hot iron and sulphur with a temperature of 120°, cold iron and cold magnesia, all coming out of the side of the hill at the same level, within a short distance of each other. The main spring has a flow of 2,000 gallons of water per hour. Other hot springs have a temperature of 90 to 116°, and they all rise close together in a ravine on the western side of a branch of Putah Creek.

SEIGLER SPRINGS

In the late 1840's and early 1850's the first white men began to explore this area. One adventurer by the name of Thomas Sigler, a native of New York, came to Lake County, probably in search of gold. At that time he followed a stream up the side of a mountain to an area that abounded with hot and cold springs. Sigler found evidence of where the aborigines had utilized these thermal phenomenon for ages past, having chiseled out a bath in the bank of white stones, making a large communal basin. This basin is still visible today at the outlet of the hot springs, just above the outdoor swimming pool. The Indians name for the springs was Conotok, meaning white appearance of the ground.

Following the discovery of these springs, Terrill Grigsby located them in 1854. The following year W.C.S. Smith from Napa County also took up a claim. At his request, a William Brown moved to the springs and built a log house and barn just west of the springs. Dr. J. T. Boone acquired the property and started preparations to open the springs to the public by constructing a hotel and baths in 1868-69. In 1870 he sold his interest to Alvinza Hayward and W. Kohl from San Francisco. They started an ambitious program of building that included a new hotel, stone dining room, bath houses, and elegant landscaped gardens.

Dissatisfaction at the extremely high assessment rate, in comparison to other similar type properties, caused the closing of this resort by the two owners shortly after 1875. Three years later Mr. Kohl bought out the holdings of Hayward, later leasing the property to Frank McCullough in 1883. Two years later Mr. Kohl with his son-in-law J. Spaulding, began an enlarging and improving program. It included construction of substantial buildings, the springs improved, a very elaborate race track and the addition of a 3 story horse barn with ramp. The present county road was laid out by John Spaulding, who was a utilities industrialist for whom Lake Spaulding was named.

He eventually bought out his father-in-law's interest for \$5000.00 and held the property until his death in 1912. His widow Mabel sold the property to Robert Forbes, Arthur McGill, Ed A. Work, et al, who formed the Seigler Springs Company, with James P. Carr as president and Mary E. Roberts as secretary.

In 1929 G. Wycliff Smith purchased the property from the Seigler Springs Company for \$60,000.00. It included the native stone hotel and dining room buildings, kitchen, the annex, 25 cottages, work shops, ladies solarium, batchelor hall, post office, dance hall and barber shop. Shortly after, Smith took in A. Dunn as a partner. With the business recession, they defaulted in their payments and the property reverted back to Mary E. Roberts (McGills sister) and her daughter Maude F. Carr in 1930.

Four years later Mrs. Roberts and Carr sold to Captain Gudmund "Midnight" Olsen, his son and daughter-in-law, Ernie and Dorothy Olsen, and the Hoberg brothers, George, Paul and Frank. At this time, the resort attained and surpassed its early day fame as the leading Mineral Spring and Pleasure resort in California. For years Seiglers, Hobergs and Forest Lake, (the latter two did not have mineral springs on their premises) all famous Ccbb Mountain resorts, were operated in affiliation with each other, in probably the most successful vacation enterprise in California.

The Olsens bought the Hobergs interest in 1948 and in 1953 Dorothy and Ernie Olsen bought Cap's interest. Seiglers continued as a popular vacation spot until the spring of 1967, when under the direction of their son-in-law Bill Hecomovich, it was turned into a Boys Athletic Camp.

This famous resort was named for the original owner and discoverer, and was listed in the Pacific Coast Business Directory in 1876-78 as Hot Sigler Springs. Official description of the early deed to Alvinza Hayward and W. Kohl called it Warm Springs, Millers Warm Springs, and Sigler Springs. With the publishing

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of the Lake-Napa History in 1881 the spelling was changed to, and still remains Seigler.

These noted springs of which twenty or more contain soda, magnesia, iron and arsenic, range in temperature from 126°F to 50°F. Besides the above named springs, there are borax and sulphur springs. The hot iron spring with a 156°F temperature, has a flow of 3,000 gallons of water per hour. The better known springs are the arsenic springs, 90°F; two hot magnesia springs 106°F; and cold magnesia springs at 50°F. The springs cover an area of 5 acres, but are to be found in an area of 50 acres, bursting out of hillsides in every direction. There are more mineral springs and of a greater variety located at Seiglers than any other resort in the county.

During the Olsen's and Hobergs ownership an extensive building program began. It included elaborate Roman Baths, all tile hot indoor plunge, a tile swimming pool and children's pool, game room and native stone cocktail lounge and bar. New cottages were built to accommodate up to 400 persons. The hotel and dining rooms were enlarged. Public and private bath houses were added over many of the individual mineral springs. Other improvements were tennis court, outdoor game and play area, open pavillion and landscaping. The Hoberg's Airport was built in the meadow east of the resort in 1946, near the old 3 story horse barn built in the 1880's. While no longer operated as a mineral springs resort, a Post Office has been maintained there since 1904. Every summer hundreds of high school athletes attend sessions at the Boys Athletic Camp.

BARTLETT SPRINGS

There are varied stories as to how these famed springs were discovered by Greene Bartlett in the late 1860's. One story is while he was a resident of Napa County he contracted severe rheumatism and was obliged to go to the mountains for his health. In June 1870 while hunting he discovered the springs that bear his name. Another story is he was led to the springs by a band of Pomo Indians, who knew of the medicinal value of the waters. Bartlett was supposed near death when the Indians persuaded him to accompany them to the mountains north of Clear Lake, telling him of a great mineral spring, bubbling with water guaranteed to cure him. They left Bartlett beside waters pouring out of a fault, to continue their hunt for deer. They returned a week later, found Bartlett hale, hearty and enthusiastic over his rapid cure brought on by drinking the strongly mineralized water.

Mr. Bartlett claimed to have personally discovered the springs and on July 14, 1870 a claim was filed in the county courthouse for the Bartlett Springs area. However, B. L. Moore was listed as the "discoverer and locator". Mr. Bartlett was third among ten claimants. On October 12, 1870 Mr. Bartlett and L. Tharp filed a claim for certain mineral springs known and designated as Bartlett Springs. On September 5, 1872 the United States Land Office approved the application patenting 160 acres around the spring.

Immediately Bartlett and Tharp began building a few crude cabins. Early visitors had difficulty reaching the Springs, as they had to travel 15 miles on a rough road and almost impenetrable thicket. The original investment of the two men was \$10,000 for a 2 story hotel and about 40 cabins. By 1874 there were 75 cabins and "tent" units and Bartlett water was for sale throughout the state. It was transported in barrels and later in glass bottles covered with woven tules for protection against breakage.

The successive managers of the resort were William Gordon, W. W. Greene, Mr. Long, Mr. Brown, David Alexander and J.C. Crigler. These men were in charge of the resort for only short periods, and very few improvements were made as the cost was exorbitant. There were no entertainment facilities at this time, as the Springs catered to health seekers and not vacationers.

In 1877 the history of this resort changed radically. Samuel G. McMahan and his brother-in-law Calvin Clarke bought a one-half interest from Mr. Bartlett for \$2,500. McMahan was to perfect the resort, receiving half of the monthly rents from David Alexander. It was under McMahan's directions that Bartlett Springs property was increased in size to 320 acres to the west and a half section northwest of the original hotel. The 320 acres were bought from the estate of William Gordon, the Spring's first manager. The second section came from Perry Conner, bringing the property size to 700 acres.

Mr. McMahan died in 1884. His survivors differed with Bartlett on running the resort, so they paid Bartlett \$1,250 for his personal property, and had Sheriff L.H. Boggs sell the Springs. They were bought by Mrs. McMahan and her two sons, J.E. and Cal for \$60,100 on June 2, 1887. Mr. Bartlett received one-half this amount for his interest. Following the sale, Mr. Bartlett remained in Lake County, living in Upper Lake until his death in 1908.

The McMahans incorporated Bartlett Springs Company in 1892 for \$200,000. Two days later, the property was exchanged for stock. The new owners immediately

proved the facilities. Chinese laborers made a toll road from the Nice/Lucerne
ea to the springs, then a steamer service across Clear Lake to Bartlett
nding from Lakeport. There were 5 hotels, 350 cabins and other maintenance
ildings on the premises.

By 1894 the resort was described as one of the greatest natural sanitariums
the world. The cuisine prepared by chefs of continental reputation could
t be excelled. There was a casino modeled after the one in Newport, Rhode
land; bowling alleys, bottling works, carriage house, ballroom, concert hall,
rd rooms, steam and mineral water baths with therapists and masseurs in
tendance. A post office, Wells Fargo Company, cold storage plant, meat
rket and Scudamore. Reynolds and Co., of Lakeport had a general store there--
reality a city built up around this resort. Besides the big hotels, there
re three additional lodging houses, bungalows, open air cottages, with none
er in the west.

An open-air pavillion for drinking of the mineral water was built. Guests
uld enjoy bowling, shuffleboard, tennis, billiards, croquet, baseball, golf,
rseback riding and swimming during the daytime. An orchestra played for
ncing in the evening. Musicals and concerts were regular features.

Important people visiting the springs included Queen Marie of Rumania,
nators, congressmen and governors. It was also used as a training camp for
J. Corbett for his fight with John L. Sullivan. Sullivan was training at
rbin Springs.

5,000 guests could be accommodated, and the staff of employees exceeded
O at the resort proper. This did not include those in the bottling works,
plying wood or building roads. In 1934 fire destroyed the resort and the
ildings. A house was built so water could be shipped. Hundreds of people
nted the resort rebuilt, but by 1940 the McMahans were dead. The company
ssolved and later owners lacked the interest and capital.

In 1961 Dr. William Murphy of Sacramento purchased the property. Five
ers later he constructed a lodge with 5 apartments that are now open to the
blic. He increased the property holdings to 1,950 acres. Today the mineral
er is transported to Sacramento in specially treated containers for bottling

HIGHLAND SPRINGS

Before the coming of the settlers, this area was the Eastern Pomo head-
arters. Many of the inland people traveled through this section over major
lian trails between the valleys of Clear Lake and the Pacific Ocean. In the
50s this famous spa was discovered by an old hunter named Ripley, who did
ttle more than build a cabin. He sold the land to H.H. Nunnally who in turn
ld to Dr. A.B. Caldwell who built a Hotel in 1871. H. Shartzter and S.M.
uman bought the property in 1872 and in 1875 added 3 guest cottages and enlarged
e hotel until it had a capacity for 60 guests. Other owners of the land was
. C.M. Bates, Mr. Hughes, John D. Stephens and Joseph Craig. After Mr.
ephens death, the heirs incorporated under the Craig Co.

Under the ownership of the last two the resort became a major vacation spot. A new luxury hotel was built for several hundred guests. An annex was added with a bowling alley, dance hall, bar, barber shop, post office, Wells Fargo Agency, pool, mineral baths, croquet, shuffleboard, tennis courts and amusements. This was a major stop-over for travelers. The Pieta Toll Road owned by the Craig Company intersected the property, which contained about 2,300 acres. In 1918 the Craigs sold to C.F. Thomas, W.G. Stephens and F.L. Mattel, and they sold to Clarence Bargewell. The Commercial Centre Realty Company held title to the springs for years before Edward and Gustave Lachman of Lachman Brothers Investment Company took possession. George Thorne managed the property for the Lachmans before they sold to Fred F. Stevens, who used it for stock raising purposes. He sold to the late Neal C. Woods in 1943. Dr. Woods and his wife Winona remodeled the hotel into a spacious home.

It was one hundred years after discovery of the springs by the hunter that Lake County of Lake took over the property. The buildings were razed to make way for the Highland Creek Dam and the 72 acre Highland Lake. Today the area is utilized as a recreational area, under direction of the Lake County Flood Control Office. A Post Office was maintained from 1875 until 1921.

There were 25 mineral springs on the premises, where people would gather to sit and take the waters while socializing with resort guests. Many of the local townspeople regularly included this activity as one of the major social events. It was quite the custom to hitch the horse to the buggy and take the family on their Sunday outing to Highland Springs. Lemons were squeezed and sugar added to the ice cold sparkling waters of the Seltzer Spring for what was considered the "finest lemonade obtainable".

HOBERGS RESORT

is not a mineral spring resort, no history is complete without Hobergs, which was opened to the public in 1971. It was the largest privately owned in the state for many years. It was founded and run by Gustave & Mathilda Hoberg and 5 children. They purchased 360 acres in 1885. Later they got 160 acres more of government land and built a road to connect with the road at Cobb. This road was eventually taken to the county, then state highway system and is a portion of 175.

The resort was started when travelers stopped at the ranch to rest their horses, and have dinner fixed by Mathilda with the fruit, vegetables, livestock & poultry she raised. Fame of their hospitality spread & it was made a regular stage stop. Rooms were added for friends from the "city". As more persons visited there for recreation, they were put in tents. Finally canvas was stretched around four trees for privacy in accommodations. Somewhere in the 1890's Gustav suffered a brain hemorrhage, leaving Mathilda with a family of 6. Mathilda did all of the housework; cooking and canning. The younger children did numerous chores. The older boys worked on farms and in sawmills.

From their humble beginning they grew and prospered. Each year guests were turned away due to a lack of facilities. Bowling alley, pool and social hall was added where guests danced to a band. Cottages, hotel & dining room were added. Mathilda retired in 1917. Her son Max and wife Theresa took over. Years later, Max & Theresa retired. Their three sons, George, Paul & Frank, the third generation took over. The brothers, with Capt. Olsen and Ernest Olsen purchased Seigler Springs; combined efforts, rehabilitated and modernized the famous old Mineral Spring resort. Like Hobergs, it was oversubscribed & guests were turned away annually.

In 40 years they had a staff of over 100. They were the convention center of California, facilitating more than 1000 persons. The airport was built in 1940. After the death of Paul and father Max, the Masonic Lodge placed a plaque at the airport in honor of both father and son. Frank died of a heart attack in the 50's. The last brother George ran the resort until a fatal heart attack took him in July, 1971. The family suffered severe reversals at times. A fire in 1936 destroyed 80 cottages and half the grove of pine trees. The richly rewarding success story of the Hobergs is typical of our pioneers. It was simply to struggle--to live--to prosper.

ALLEN SPRINGS

are developed by their discoverers George and Vale Allen in 1871. A hotel, cottages, dance hall, billiard room, barber shop, general store, Wells Fargo Office and Post Office were built along the Bartlett Creek canyon. The Springs were located 3 miles east of Bartlett Springs near the head of Cache Creek. The springs, issuing from the bed and side of the creek were white sulphur & sod. The business was abandoned 40 some years ago. At the present time there are several of the old cottages still standing alongside of the Bartlett Springs Road which intersects the property.

ANDERSON SPRINGS

were discovered at the head of Loconoma Valley, 4 miles from Middletown in 1873 by Dr. A. Anderson and his brother-in-law J.S. Patriquin. They were opened to the public in 1876 with a hotel, cottages, annex and bath houses built around 8 different springs. For years the resort was run by Dr. Anderson's daughters Barbara, Joey and Rose. The property was sold to A.R. Maede by the Anderson

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airs, and Maede has sold portions of the property.

SODA BAY RESORT

as located on the south side of Clear Lake at the foot of Mt. Konocti prior to 1872, by Capt. Small. Several cottages, bar and other buildings were built. Capt. Small sold to Mr. Souther in 1874. He built a hotel, dining room, reading room and office, billiard room, a barn and stables. He had a pier with sail and row boats for use by his guests.

Souther sold to Rev. Richard Wylie, who leased the land to Mr. and Mrs. A.K. Gregg in 1879. By 1883, the hotel would hold 100 persons. He built a dozen cottages, bath houses, bowling alley, billiard room and ballroom. The resort was on the shores of a small bay, at whose entrance the soda springs from which a half million gallons of mineralized water and carbonic acid gas, bubbled up every 10 hours. The springs are in a reef of rocks which extend a quarter of a mile from shore at the head of the bay, and rise a foot above the lake's surface. Some believe these are an outlet of subterranean tunnels from Konocti, while others refer to the Indian legend of the beautiful Indian Princess Lupiyoma. Besides the giant springs, smaller springs can be observed rising above the lake. Wylie sold in 1904 and in the next 15 years it changed hands six times. In 1919 A.J. & Mrs. McGill, Mary E. Roberts and Herbert Keeling purchased the land and subdivided it. Homes and a number of small resorts are now located along the shoreline.

OTHER RESORTS

no longer in use today are GLENBROOK in Cobb Valley from 1871, accommodating 100 persons. WAGON SPRINGS in 1880, with hotel, cottages, campground, Post Office and stores abandoned in the 1930's. CASTLE HOT SPRINGS, owned by Southern Pacific prior to 1900. During the 1930's it was a W.P.A. camp known as Camp Hood Gibson. Later owned by the Salvation Army, currently by the First Church of Christ Scientist, who named it Verdant Vales and uses it for a youth camp. BONANZA SPRINGS was well known by 1884. It was destroyed by fire in the 1930's and is now a subdivision. CARLSBAD SPRINGS burned to the ground in 1908.

HOWARD SPRINGS

was discovered in 1877 by C.W. Howard. It had hotel, cottages & campgrounds. The camp was abandoned to enlarge the hotel and add cottages, pool, sun decks, enclosed hot and cold mineral baths and massage parlor. These springs were advertised as the world's largest combination of natural mineral waters. The resort is owned by the Pappas family and closed to the public since 1969.

ADAMS SPRINGS

was discovered by Charles Adams in 1869. He sold to the Whitton Brothers in 1870. During the next two years they erected buildings which included a hotel and 6 cottages. In 1878 J.S. Friedman purchased the title from Whitton Brothers. The matter of ownership was under litigation as it was Government lieu land and had been filed on by R.J. Mowry. E.R. Moses took possession in 1877 for 5 years followed by Dr. W.R. Prather in 1888. It was the Prather family that developed the resort to its greatest degree. In 1910 a 3 story hotel with a number of cottages and tents was built accommodating 400. Years later a dining hall and ballroom was built near the largest mineral spring pavillion. In the 1940s the hotel was destroyed by fire and the Prather family sold the property which has now been subdivided by the firm of John Ford and Associates of San Francisco. The resort was in a deep ravine of Pine Mountain; there were 4 springs, all of similar quality. A Post Office was maintained from the turn of the century until the resort closed.

WITTER SPRINGS

were discovered by Benjamin Burke in 1870. The following year they were purchased by Dr. Dexter Witter and W.P. Radcliff. A road was built in 1872 and the original hotel and 13 cottages built in 1873, accommodating 60. More cottages were built by the various owners which were B.Holler, S.R. Emerson, R.J. Robinson and C.J. Arrol. A magnificent hotel, accommodating 500 was built in 1905-06. Due to business reverses the hotel was dismantled and the furnishings and lumber was sold about 10 years later.

A Post Office was opened in 1873. For years after the closing of the resort, mineral water was bottled by several different companies. The resort is 6 miles west of Upper Lake. Five mineral springs are still in existence on the Bachelor Valley location of the former resort.

SARATOGA SPRINGS

The historic Saratoga Springs Resort is the last operating mineral spring resort in Lake County today, although its main hotel building was destroyed by fire on 7 July 1971. The owners Matt and Leda Callan rebuilt the dining room, kitchen, fountain and cocktail lounge. The resort is just off Highway 20, 5 miles west of Upper Lake, on 160 acres of wooded land nestled in a dell of the foothills of Middle Mountain.

The area where the springs are located was given to Presley John Nevill, Lieutenant, Pennsylvania Artillery, War of 1812 under Captain Craig, by the government for his pay for duty. Lt. Nevill never took up the land option, and it wasn't until the mid 1800s when 3 men came to this area to take up the "natural" life, living with Indians who gave them a new kind of drinking water from secret springs that bubbled out of the earth in this secluded valley. Who these 3 men were, history does not record. Very possibly, one was an ancestor of William J. Pearson, who settled the area encompassing Saratoga Springs in 1871. In 1874 he filed a pre-emption claim for the land and a patent was issued by the government in 1879. A year prior to receiving his patent, Pearson sold to J.J. Kebert which at that time had a hotel and several cottages built and the springs were then known as Pearson Springs. Kebert sold to John Martin who ran the resort until his death in 1913. Martin made many improvements and by 1891 they accommodated 350. Fire destroyed a part of the resort in 1910, but Martin again rebuilt.

The property was sold to Mrs. E.R. "Bertha" Keel in 1920 and following her death her son Paul ran the resort until selling to the Callans in 1948. There are 12 small springs on the property, six of them rising from a small area, have been concreted in and surrounded by a circular building. A swimming plunge has been added. A brass plaque has been placed on the property by the Lake County Historical Society.