

Approved

Promulgation authorized
Executive Secretary
Domestic Geographic Names

UNITED STATES
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

CASE BRIEF (Domestic)

Gasparini Creek: stream; 2.4 mi. long; in Eldorado National Forest, heads 0.5 mi. SW of Chaix Mountain at 38°49'37"N, 120°34'46"W, flows SW and W to enter Brush Creek 1.6 mi. SE of Big X Mountain; named for Giuseppe ("Joe" or "Joseph") Gasparini (1854-1937), a Swiss immigrant who was well-known in the early American settlement of the county; Secs10-12&1, T11N, R12E, Mount Diablo Meridian; El Dorado County, California; 38°49'08"N, 120°36'56"W; USGS map - Pollock Pines 1:24,000; Not: Gasparni Creek.

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=38.818792&p_longi=-120.6154828&fid=274939

Proposal: change name to correct spelling of family name

Map: USGS map - Pollock Pines 1:24,000

Proponent: Marijeanne Rende; Danville, CA

Administrative area: Eldorado National Forest

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: Gasparni Creek (FID 274939)

Local Usage: None found

Published: Gasparni Creek (USGS 2012, 2015, 2018; USFS 1991; Eldorado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, 1989)

Case Summary: This proposal is to correct the name of Gasparni Creek, a 2.4-mile-long tributary of Brush Creek in El Dorado County and the Eldorado National Forest, to Gasparini Creek.

According to the proponent, the stream was named for Giuseppe ("Joe" or "Joseph") Gasparini (1854-1937), who was a Swiss immigrant who homesteaded along the stream near the community of Pino Grande and who lived in the area until around 1934. When he was in his late 30s, he reportedly gained the nickname "Butcher Knife Joe" after saving himself from a mountain lion (or grizzly bear) attack using only a small four-inch knife. The proponent, Mr. Gasparini's great-granddaughter, reports that Mr. Gasparini was "a well known and colorful character throughout El Dorado County in the early days of its settlement."

Mr. Gasparini's land claim is shown on the 1895 Punnett Brothers *Map of the County of El Dorado, California* with the proposed spelling; the stream is not named.

The current name first appeared on a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) map in 1991 and was also labeled on USGS maps beginning in 2012. The USFS map is also the origin of the locale named Butcherknife Joe, which is located near Mr. Gasparini's homestead.

Proposed by: Marijeanne Rende; Danville, CA

Submitted by: same

Prepared by: M. O'Donnell

Case ID: 5351

Reviewed by: J.Runyon

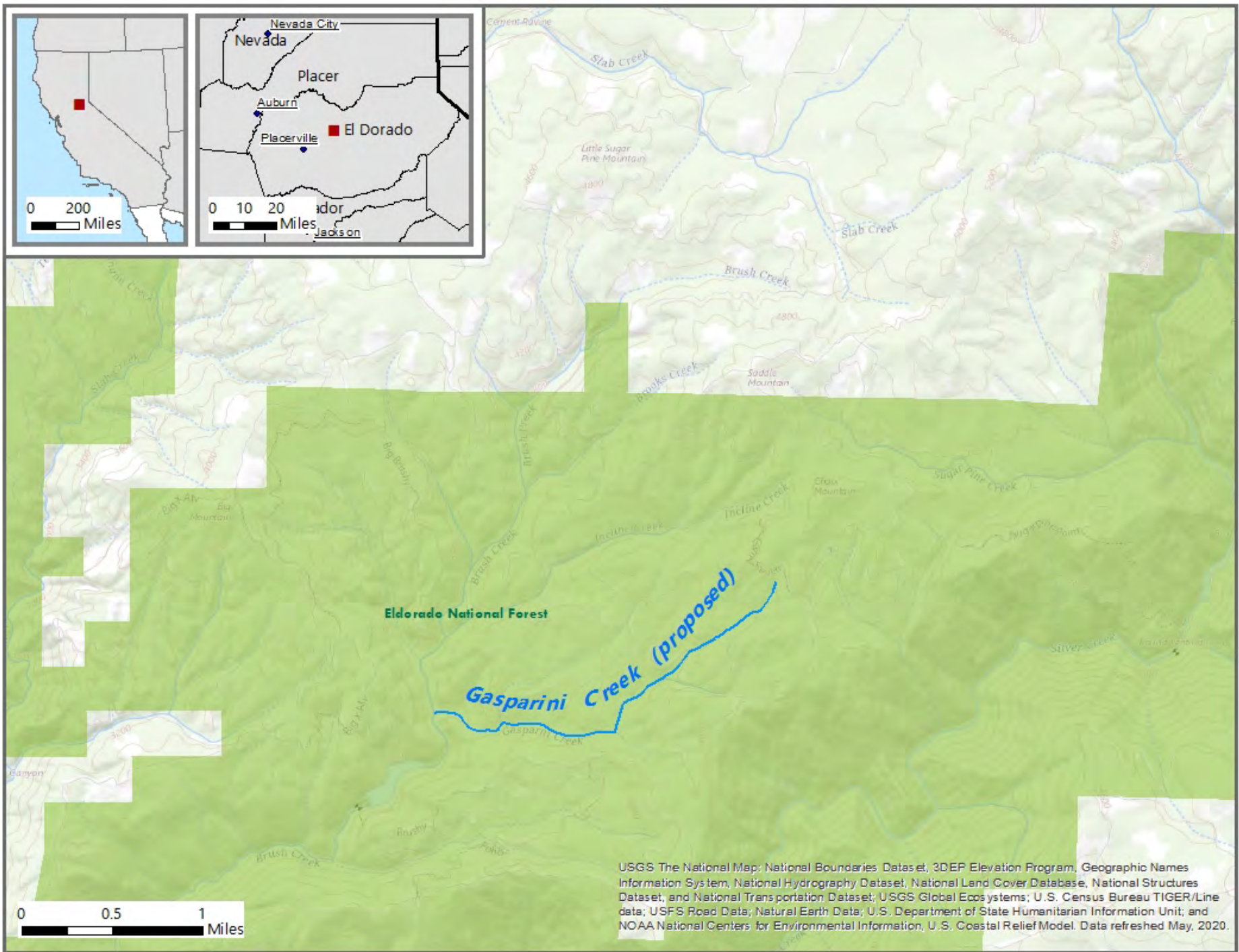
Date: 7/10/20

Date: same

Date: 9/1/20

Quarterly Review List: 441

Date: 9/23/20



DOMESTIC GEOGRAPHIC NAME PROPOSAL SUMMARY

PROPOSE NEW OR CHANGE NAME

Name Proposal ID:

9911

Date Created:

02-JUL-20

Date Submitted:

07-JUL-20

Proposed Name:

GASPARINI CREEK

Action Requested:

Change an existing name

Existing Name:

GASPARNI CREEK

Unnamed Evidence:

-

Locally Used:

Yes

Locally Used Years:

126

Local Conflict:

No

Local Conflict Detail:

-

Additional Details:

Creek is misspelled in GNIS. Original homesteader of property and who developed that land (see attached United States BLM Homestead Patent, granted 27 June, 1894) was Swiss immigrant Giuseppe GASPARINI, locally known as "Joseph" or "Joe" Gasparini. Family memoirs state that he improved the property by building roads, providing an additional water supply, etc. See attached map. He was an early pioneer and famous resident of the County, locally known as Butcher Knife Joe(see explanation below). His closest neighbor was Eugene Chaix, after whom a nearby peak is named. NOTE: Apparently, years ago, the creek did carry a Forest Service sign indicating its name to be Gasparini Creek. One of Joe Gasparini's daughters, Josephine Gasparini Childers, wrote about it when she was in her 90s. An excerpt from her memoirs "El Dorado: Land of Gold", written between 1983-1994, states "Papa found 160 which he could homestead....Through it ran 2 wonderful creeks. One the Forest Service named Gasparini Creek. He also dug a ditch to the fast-flowing springs on Saddle Mountain where he owned the water rights.To this day, everytime the Forest Service puts up a sign with the name Gasparini Creek, someone steals the sign. They also stole the sign the Forest Service had put up before 1941 or 1942 when we took pictures. "

FEATURE INFORMATION

GNIS Feature ID:

274939

Feature class:

STREAM

Descriptive information:

Creek provided water to the original Gasparini homestead. See attached map. Included is a snapshot of the details of the homestead patent from 1894; image snapshot created electronically in the BLM database depicts the creek and its relation to the homestead property; also shows ButcherKnife Joe Road going directly to property .

Meaning or significance:

Early settler and homesteader of property through which the creek runs and who developed that land starting about 1888 (see attached United States BLM Homestead Patent, granted 27 June, 1894) was Swiss immigrant Giuseppe GASPARINI, locally known as "Joseph" or "Joe" Gasparini. He was a famous early resident known throughout El Dorado County as "Butcher Knife Joe", having been given that name after a wild animal attack which happened in the 1890s. The road which Joe Gasparini developed to his homestead still carries the name Butcher Knife Joe Road.

Commemorative:

Yes

Biographical information:

Joe Gasparini, born in Giumaglio, Ticino, Switzerland in November, 1854, immigrated at age 21 to the United States about 1876 and lived/worked in El Dorado County his entire adult life. He proved his homestead near the lumber community of Pino Grande in 1894 and retained his residence there through about 1934. "ButcherKnife Joe" Gasparini died March 6, 1937, and is buried in Union Cemetary in nearby Placerville. His obituary is attached as well as an April 8, 1937, notice in the local paper, Placerville Mountain Democrat, which substantiates his name Giuseppe/Joseph Gasparini. Joe Gasparini was a well known and colorful character throughout El Dorado County in the early days of its settlement. His closest neighbor at the homestead was friend Eugene Chaix, after whom a nearby peak is named. When Joe was in his late 30s, he was in the forest near Silver Creek ridge when he was attacked by an adult mountain lion(though some in the family still say it was really a Grizzly bear). Though he sustained substantial injuries during the struggle, he was finally able to kill the animal using only a knife with a 4" blade. In his daughter's memoirs, she indicates that after the local community and County heard of the incident, they thereafter called him "ButcherKnife Joe, the bravest young man you'd want to know!". When he died in 1937 at the age of 83, he still bore scars of that battle on his chest. The road , which he originally developed to his homestead, still bears the name "ButcherKnife Joe Road" and some topological maps still carry a feature called "ButcherKnife Joe, CA" which I believe correlates to the location of the homestead. See attached map. Three grandchildren of "Butcher Knife Joe" Gasparini who actually knew and spent time with him are still living—one still lives and has been a very prominent citizen in Placerville. This proposal is being submitted by Joe Gasparini's great-granddaughter.

Supporting materials:

Yes

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Filename	Comments
Butcher Knife Joe from Mapcarta.JPG	MapCarta topological map reference to BUTCHER KNIFE JOE, CA...correlates to the location of the original Gasparini homestead
STA_Patent_CA1800__193(1).PDF	Digital download of original Homestead Patent issued to Giuseppe Gasparini June 27, 1894; downloaded from BLM ; includes legal description of property
Gasparini obituary 1937.jpg	March, 1937 Joseph/Joe Gasparini Obituary, substantiating nickname of BUTCHER KNIFE JOE
Inkedplacerville-mountain-democrat-Apr-08-1937-p-16_LI.jpg	April 8, 1937 NOTICE TO CREDITORS from the Placerville Mountain Democrat newspaper in regards to the Joseph/Joe Gasparini estate; annotation indicates location of notice in paper
Inkedplacerville-mountain-democrat-Dec-05-1896-p-5(1)_LI.jpg	Article about Joe Gasparini, who lived in Pino Grande area, but visited the local newspaper once/year to report his activities of note; annotation indicates location of article in page
Screenshot_2020-07-02 Patent Details - BLM GLO Records.png	Patent details regarding homestead property; contains a depiction from the BLM database of the creek running through the original homestead property; am assuming they are using the GNIS databse for physical feature information as the name of the creek shows the misspelling of the name

STATES AND COUNTIES

State Name	County Name
California	El Dorado

GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES

Obtained From	Describe Other	Lat Deg	Min	Sec	Long Deg	Min	Sec	Decimal Lat	Decimal Long	Details

Geographic Information System	-	38	49	8	N	120	36	56	W	-	-	Altitude 3071 feet Meridian Mt. Diablo
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ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS

Administrative Area Type	Administrative Area Name	Details
National Forest or Grassland	-	El Dorado National Forest

MAPS AND DOCUMENTS WITH NAME

Source Type	Details	Source Date
Digital File	SEE ATTACHED --- STA_Patent_CA1800_193(s) file - U.S. Homestead Patent, Certificate #3377, Application 4991 (downloaded from the BLM database) SEE ATTACHED -- Screenshot_2020-07-02 Patent Details downloaded from the BLM GLO records database	1894

OTHER (VARIANT) NAMES AND THEIR SOURCE

No information entered.

AUTHORITIES

No information entered.

SUBMITTERS AND PREPARERS

Role	Last Name	First Name	Phone	Email Address	Physical Address	City	State	Zip	Company	Title
BOTH	Rende	Marijeanne	9258370113	rende49@hotmail.com	-	Danville	CA	94526	-	-

DGNP Guest

North America USA California Gold Country El Dorado County

Butcherknife Joe

Butcherknife Joe is in El Dorado County and has an elevation of 3881 feet. Butcherknife Joe is situated southeast of Claussenius, southeast of Brooks Creek.

 Map
  Satellite
  Directions




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Notable Places in the Area

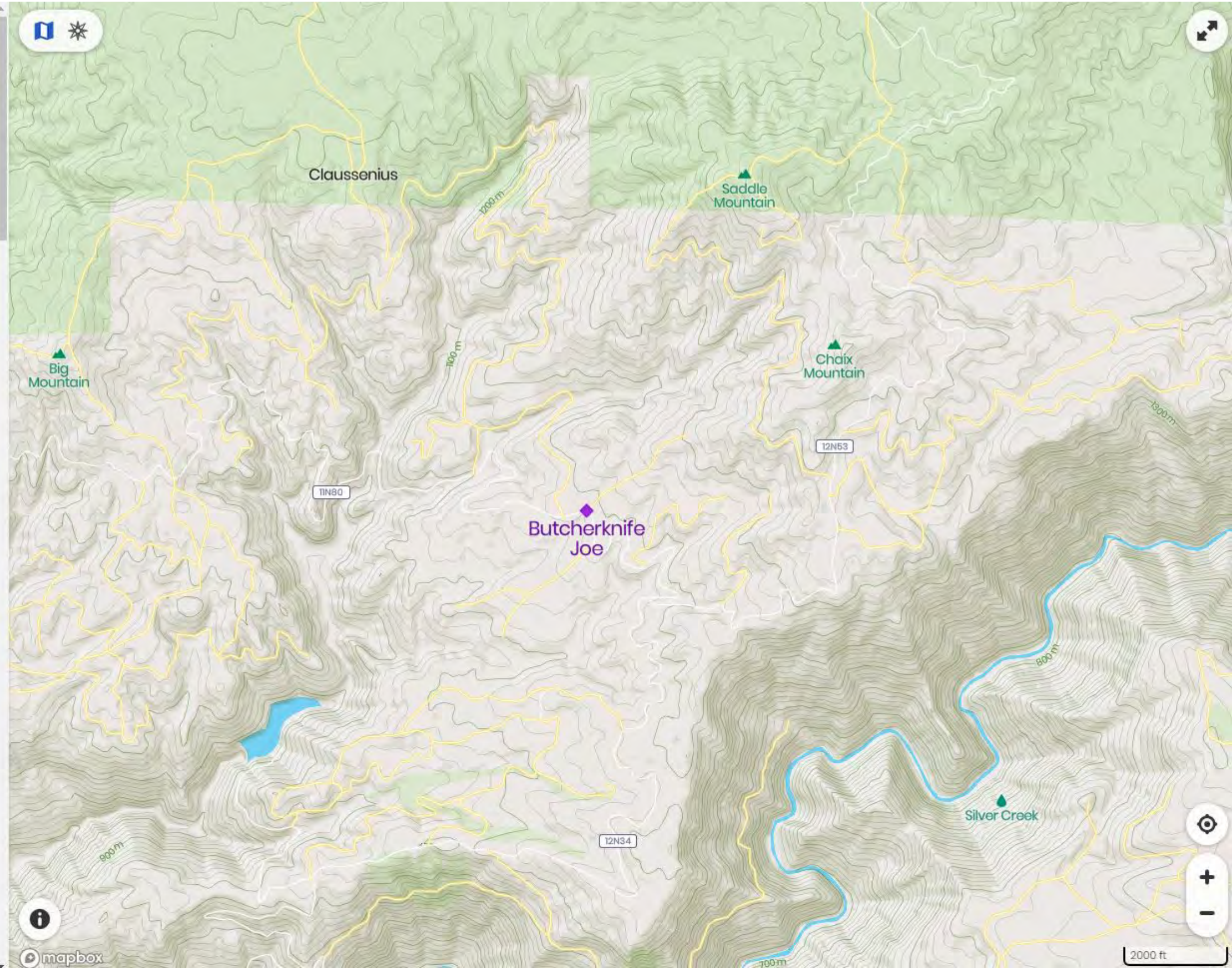
Sportsmans Hall State Historic Landmark 704 Park

Pollock Pines is a census-designated place in El Dorado County, California, United States. Sportsmans Hall State Historic Landmark 704 is situated 5 miles south of Butcherknife Joe.

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The United States of America,

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

Homestead Certificate No. 3377
Application 4991

Whereas, There has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Sacramento, California, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of *Giuseppe Gasparini*

has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the North West quarter of the South West quarter of Section one, the East half of the South East quarter of Section two and the North East quarter of the North East quarter of Section eleven in Township eleven North of Range twelve East of Mount Diablo Meridian in California containing One hundred and Sixty acres

according to the Official Plat of the survey of said Land, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General.

Now know ye that there is, therefore, granted by the United States unto the said *Giuseppe Gasparini*

the tract of Land above described: To have and to hold the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said *Giuseppe Gasparini* and to his heirs and assigns forever; subject to any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agriculture, manufacturing, or other purposes, and rights to ditches and reservoirs used in connection with such water rights as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions of courts, and also subject to the right of the proprietor of a vein or lode to extract and remove his ore therefrom, should the same be found to penetrate or intersect the premises hereby granted, as provided by law.

In testimony whereof, *J. Grover Cleveland*, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the *twenty seventh* day of *June*, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *ninety four*, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and *eighteenth*.

U. S.

By the President: *Grover Cleveland*

By *M. McKean*, Secretary.

L. L. Lamar, Recorder of the General Land Office.

* * *

Joe Gasparini passed away during the week. A county resident for many years, he had numerous friends. Years ago, in the Silver Creek country, he found a mountain lion cub and picked it up. This brought objections from the mother and Joe drew a knife, probably a large pocket knife, and killed the lioness. Thereafter he carried the name "Butcher Knife Joe."

* * *

20-1502 A 8 of 11

WILMER BRADSHAW,
Executor of the Estate of
James Blue, deceased.
Henry S. Lyon & Robert E. Roberts,
Attorneys for said Executor.

Certificate Required by Section
California Civil Code in Order to
Transact Business in this State
Petitioner's Name

1937.
Last publication, April 29, 1937-5t.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of **JOE GASPARI, ALSO
CALLED GUISEPPE GASPARI,**
deceased

Notice is hereby given by the under-
signed, **MARY BRUNELLI**, Executrix
of the estate of **JOE GASPARI**, also
called **GUISEPPE GASPARI**, de-
ceased, to the Creditors of and all
persons having claims against the said
deceased to file them, with the neces-
sary vouchers, in the office of the
Clerk of the Superior Court of the
State of California, in and for the
County of El Dorado, or to exhibit
them, with the necessary vouchers, to
the said **MARY BRUNELLI**, at the
office of **J. D. ELLIOT**, Attorney at
law, at 487 Main Street, in the City of
Placerville, County of El Dorado, State
of California, which said office the un-
derigned designates as her place of
business in all matters connected with
said estate of said deceased, within six
months after the date of the first pub-
lication of this Notice.

Dated this 8th day of April, 1937.
MARY BRUNELLI

EXECUTRIX of the Estate of the
said **JOE GASPARI**, deceased,
J. D. ELLIOT, Attorney for said Ex-
ecutrix.

The first publication of this notice
was made on the 8th day of April, 1937.
Last publication, May 6, 1937-5t.

NOTICE TO
the undersigned
ROSS and **M. L. C**
acting business in
Dorado, State of
name of "Placer
pany";

That the full
of residence of
prietors of the sa
lows:

- H E. West, Pl**
- C. T. Ross, Pl**
- M. L. Cramer,**

Dated this 24th
1937.

State of California
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On this 24th
1937, before me,
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California, person
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official seal, the
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goods, books and other articles suitable for Christmas gifts as well as the toys are worthy of inspection as the stock is

Joseph Gasparini was down from Pino Grande Monday last and paid the DEMOCRAT his annual visit. Besides attending to his little place in the mountains he finds considerable pleasure in the innocent pastime of trapping bears. Last week he caught three bears, the largest of which pulled the 50 pound steel trap loose from the tree to which it was chained, and going to a pile of rocks, pounded the trap until it was broken into fragments. Mr. Gasparini was a witness to this proceeding, and estimates that his brainship would have weighed between eight and nine hundred pounds.

A Fugitive from Justice, Shadowed By A Detective.

Just as diligently as the latest styles in footwear. We have just received from an Eastern Manufacturer who makes a special-

The "New

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OF THE SEA:

- Boiled
- Large
- Soft Sh
- Eastern
- Vermont
- Carload of Pot

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Search Documents Patent Details

Accession Nr: CA1800_.193 Document Type: State Volume Patent State: California Issue Date: 6/27/1894 Cancelled: No

[Patent Details](#)
[Patent Image](#)
[Related Documents](#)
[Printer Friendly](#)

Names On Document		Miscellaneous Information	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GASPARINI, GIUSEPPE	Land Office:	Sacramento
		US Reservations:	No
		Mineral Reservations:	No
		Tribe:	---
		Militia:	---
		State In Favor Of:	---
		Authority:	May 20, 1862: Homestead EntryOriginal (12 Stat. 392)
		General Remarks:	---
Military Rank:	---		

Document Numbers		Survey Information	
Document Nr:	3377	Total Acres:	160.00
Misc. Doc. Nr:	4991	Survey Date:	---
BLM Serial Nr:	---	Geographic Name:	---
Indian Allot. Nr:	---	Metes/Bounds:	No
Coal Entry. Nr:	---		

Land Descriptions							
Map	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Section	Survey #	County
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CA	Mount Diablo	011N - 012E	NW1/4SW1/4	1		El Dorado
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CA	Mount Diablo	011N - 012E	E1/2SE1/4	2		El Dorado
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CA	Mount Diablo	011N - 012E	NE1/4NE1/4	11		El Dorado

