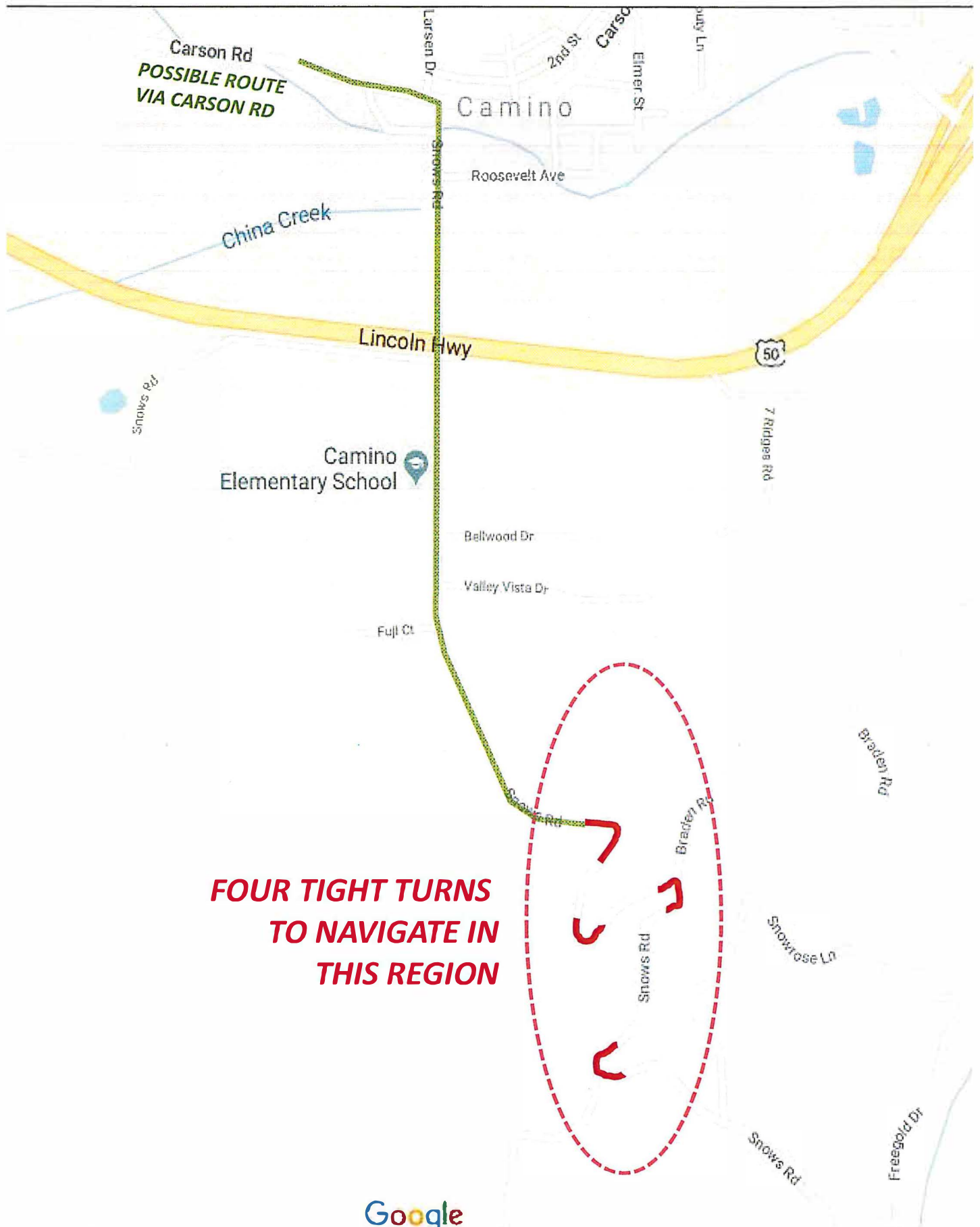
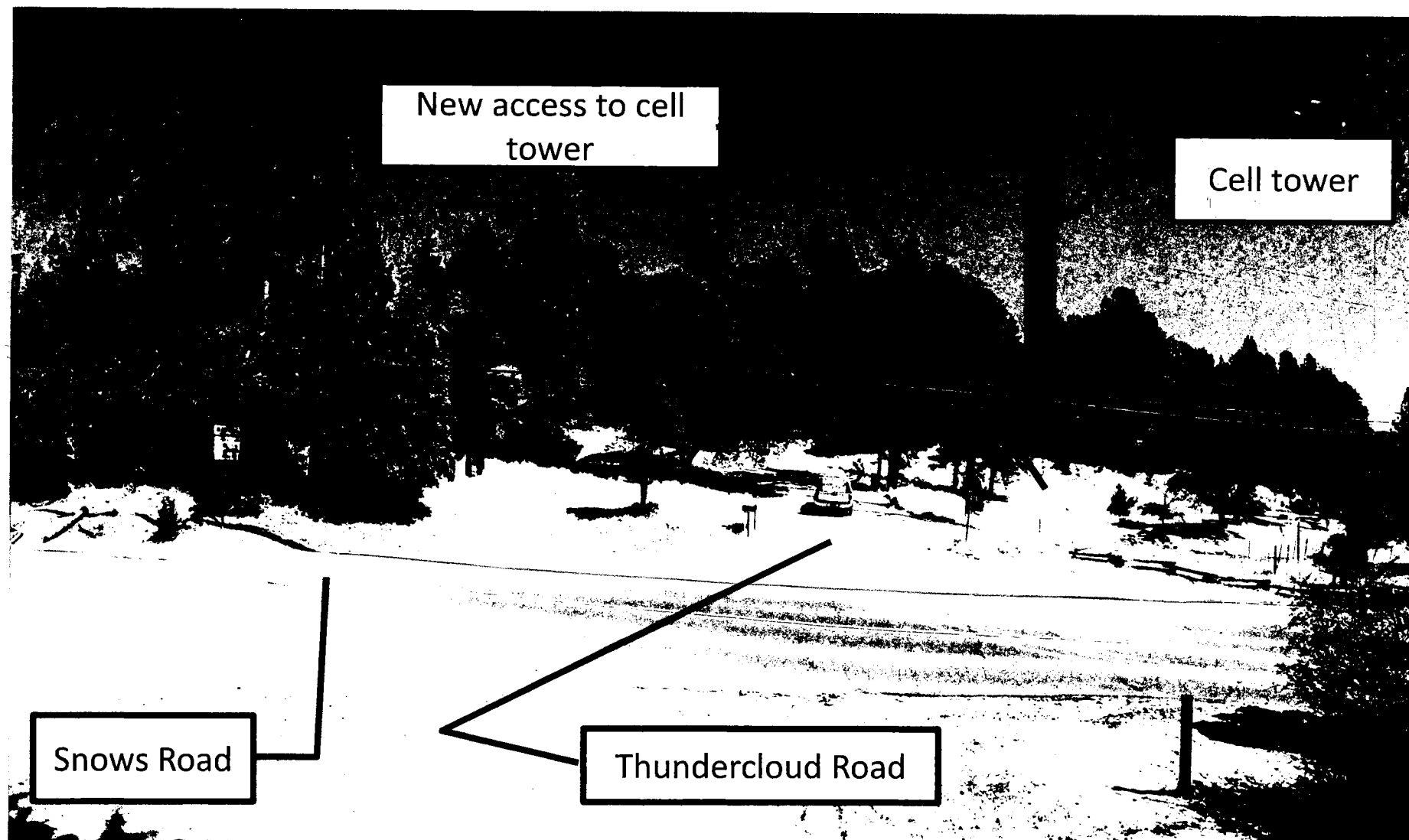


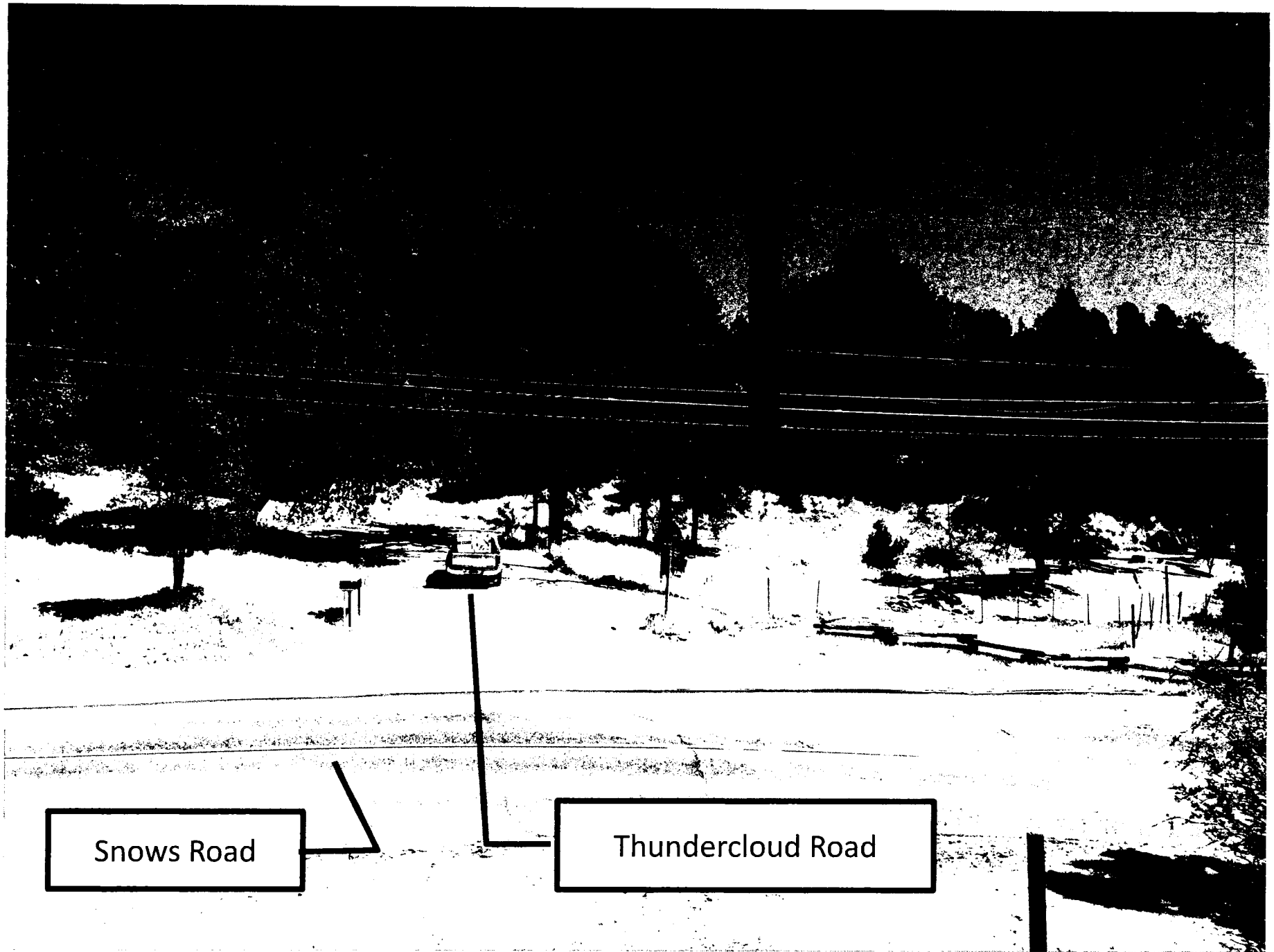
SNOWS RD – via Carson Rd  
DATE 9/11/18

#38



BRUCE PERSON  
Item 38 9/11/18





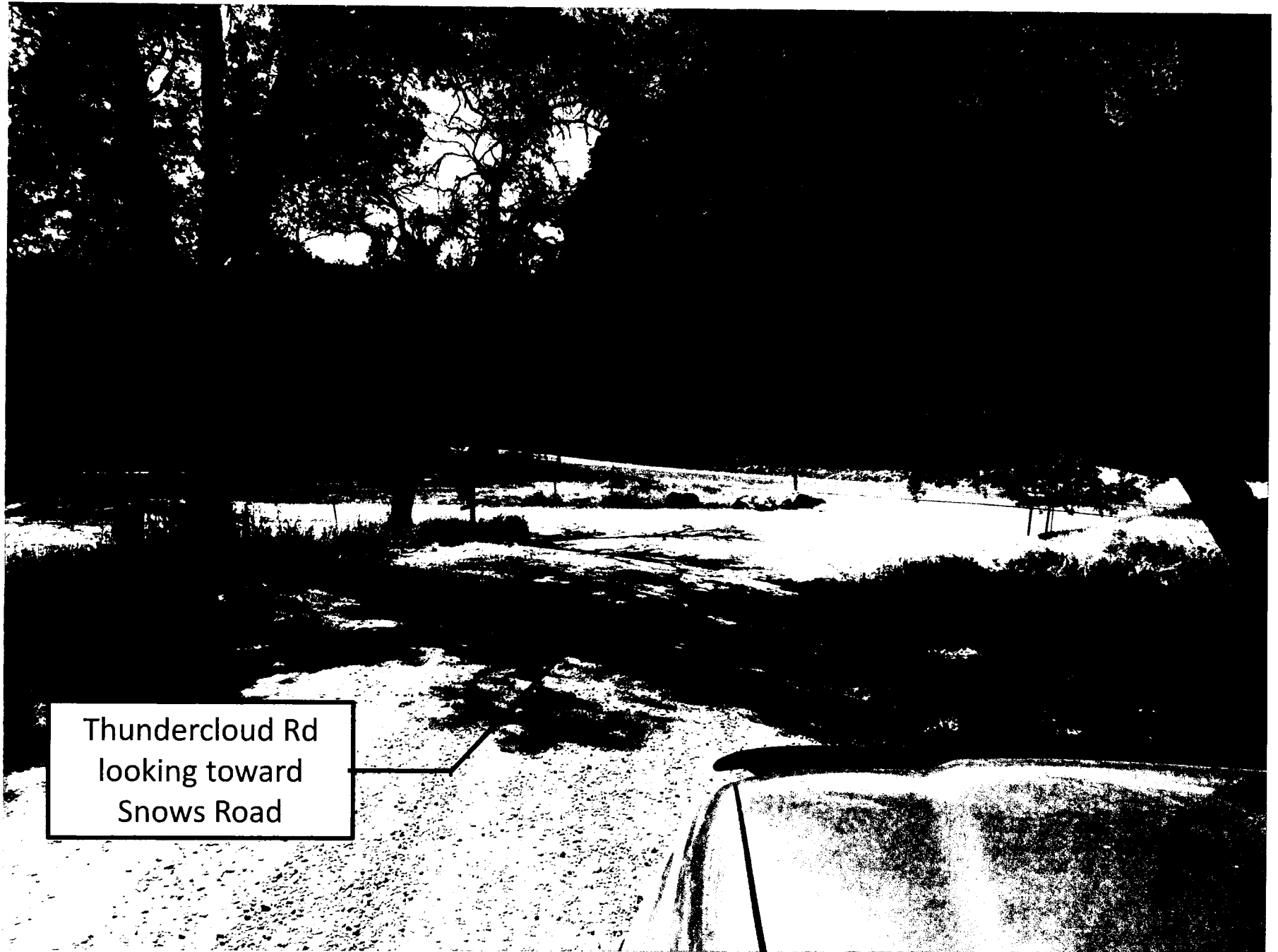
Snows Road

Thundercloud Road

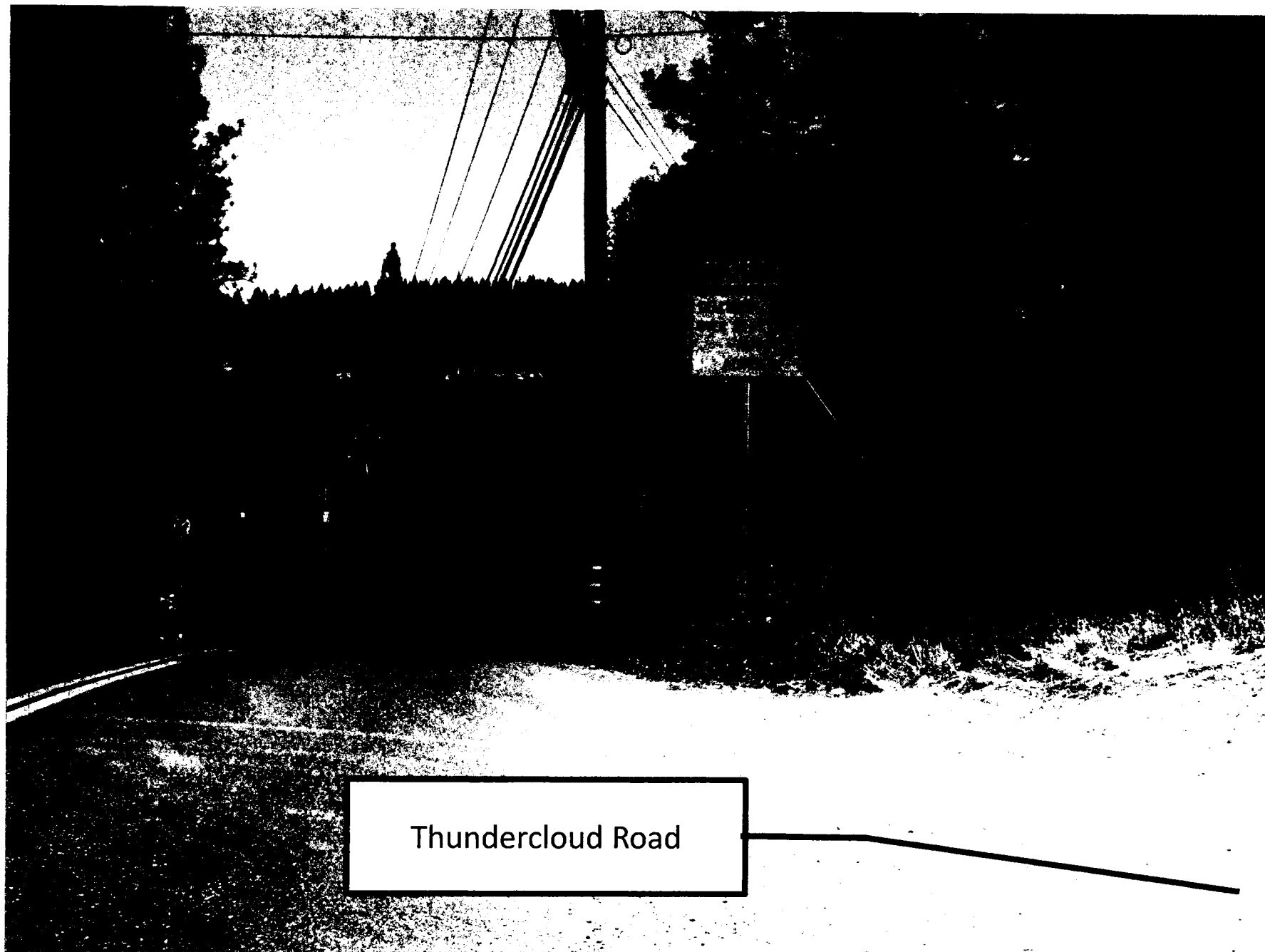


New access road

Thundercloud Rd at  
Cloudsrest Rd

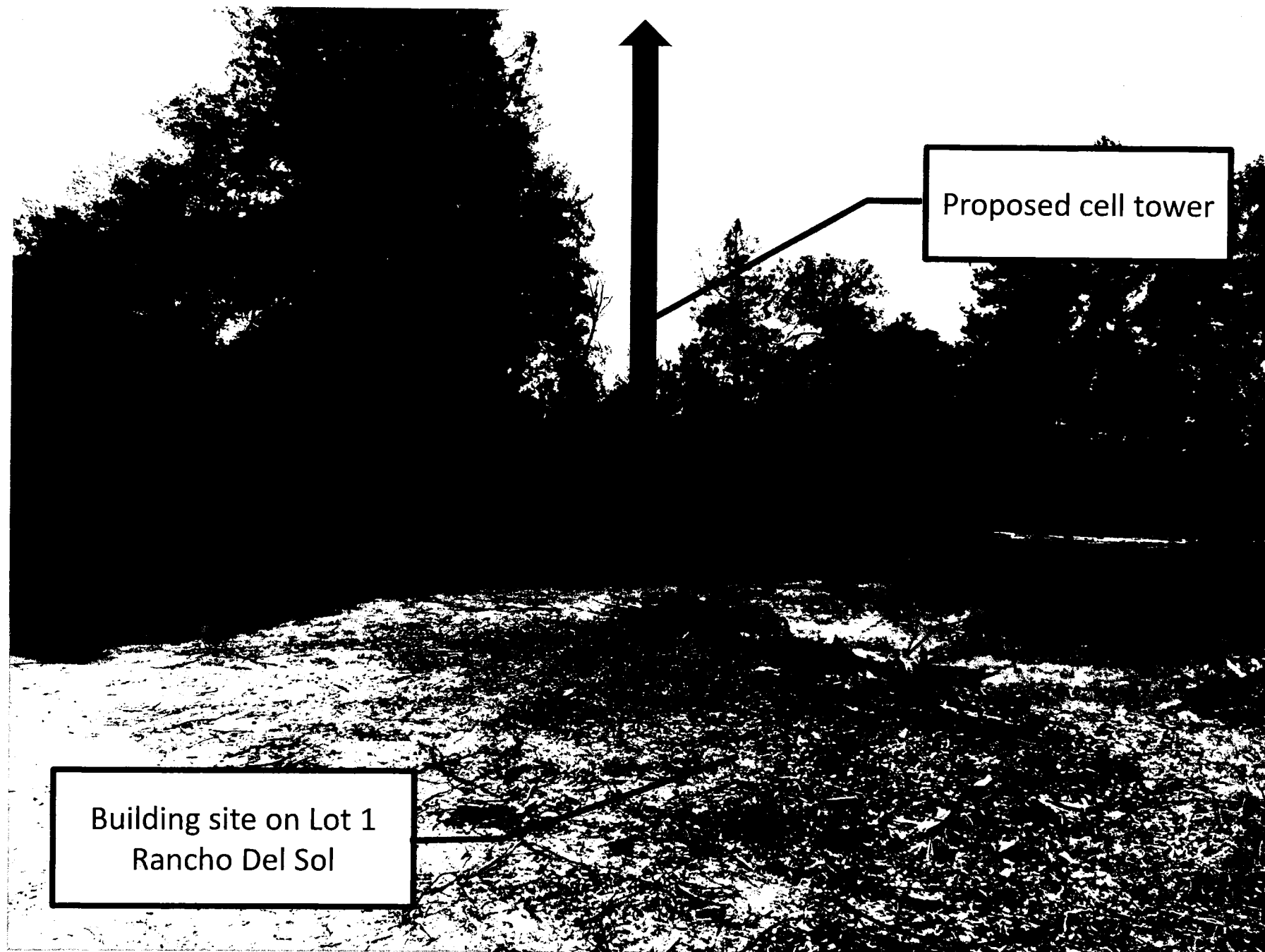


Thundercloud Rd  
looking toward  
Snows Road



Thundercloud Road

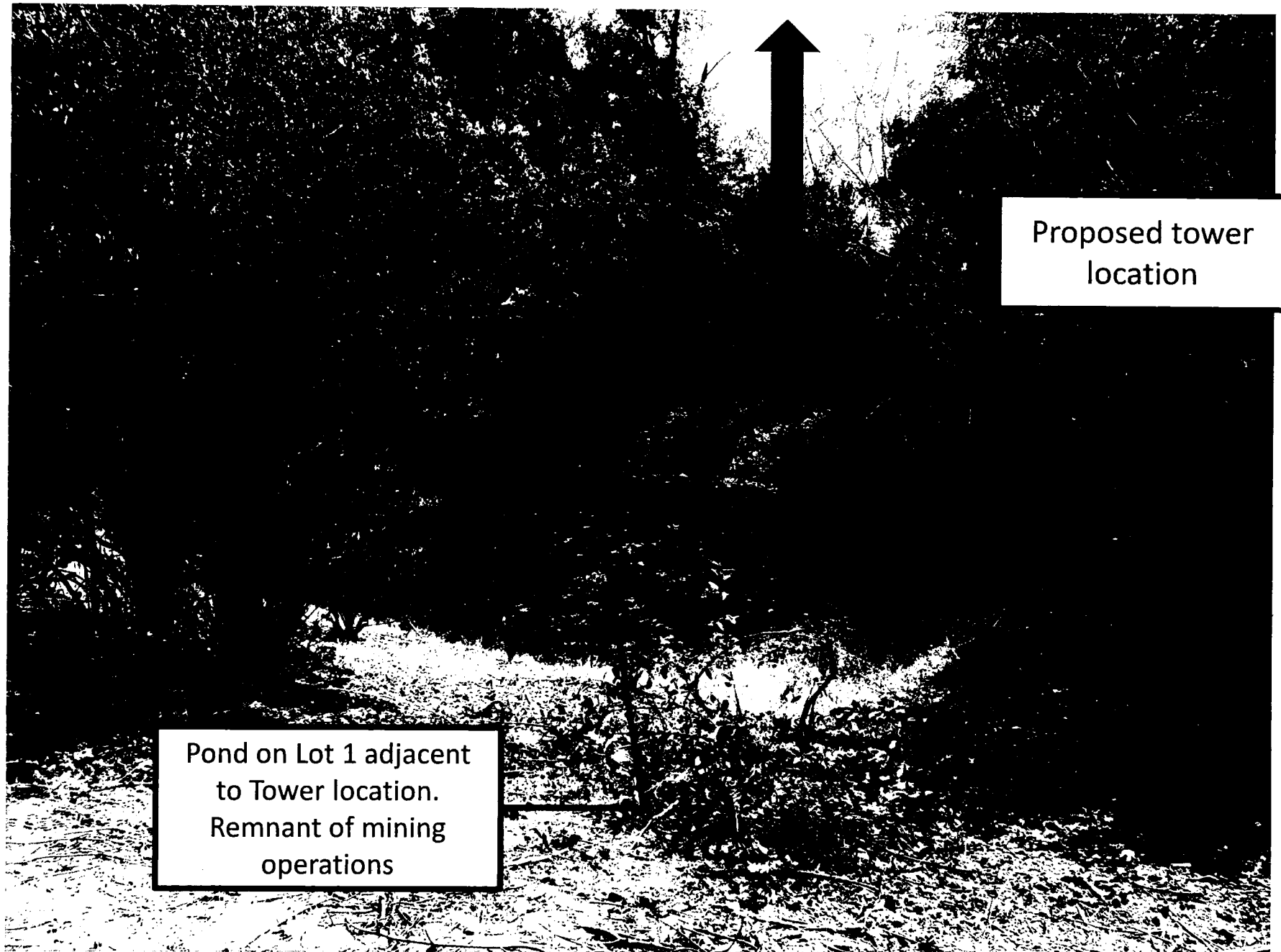




Building site on Lot 1  
Rancho Del Sol

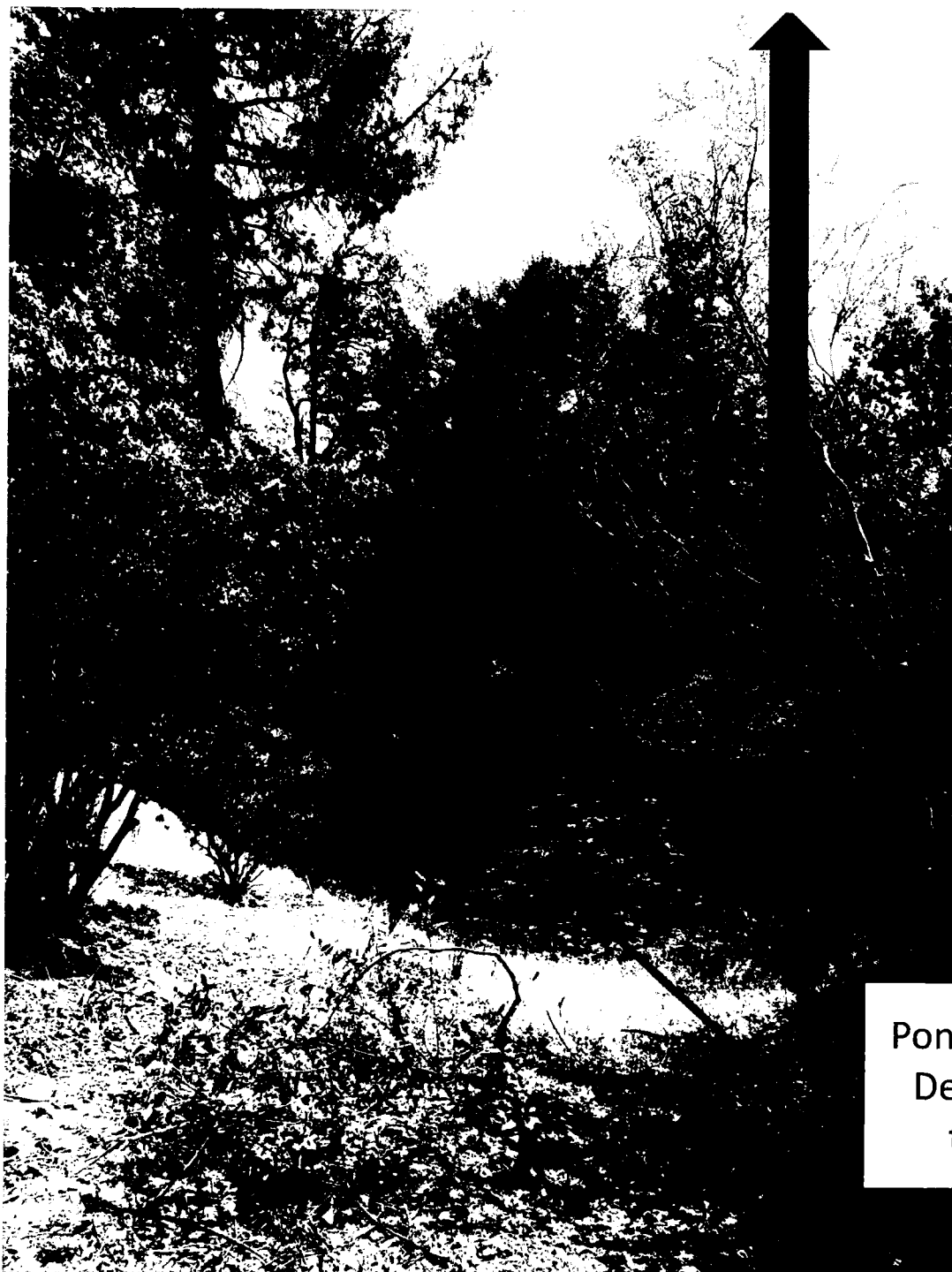
Proposed cell tower





Pond on Lot 1 adjacent  
to Tower location.  
Remnant of mining  
operations

Proposed tower  
location



Pond on lot 1 Rancho  
Del Sol adjacent to  
tower location



Pond embankment

The photograph shows a steep, eroded embankment of a pond. The top of the embankment is covered with dense, dark vegetation. A thin, light-colored line, likely a wire or fence, runs horizontally across the middle of the embankment. The foreground shows the rough, textured surface of the embankment, with some small plants and debris. The overall scene is in high contrast, with deep shadows and bright highlights.

Property line

File # \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Filed: \_\_\_\_\_

EL DORADO COUNTY PLANNING SERVICES  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

2017 AUG 28 PM 1:44  
RECEIVED  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Project Title AT&T Mobility - CAF II Project - New Site Build - Site Name: Newtown  
Lead Agency El Dorado County Planning Department  
Name of Owner Karen Oliver Telephone 530-644-8700  
Address 4160 Clouds Rest Road, Placerville, CA 95667  
Name of Applicant AT&T Mobility C/O Epic Wireless/Jared Kearsley Telephone 916-755-1326  
Address 8700 Auburn Folsom Rd, Suite 400, Granite Bay, CA 95746  
Project Location 3921 Snows Road, Placerville, CA 95667  
Assessor's Parcel Number(s) 077-091-06-100  
Acreage 4.9 Zoning IL

**Please answer all of the following questions as completely as possible. Subdivisions and other major projects will require a Technical Supplement to be filed together with this form.**

1. Type of project and description: AT&T CAF II Project. Site: Newtown  
New Site Build Unmanned Telecommunications Facility. 35'x45' Compound. 122' Monopine Tower.  
35kw LP Propane Generator and 500 Gallon LP Propane Storage Tank. 6'-0" Chain Link Fence
2. What is the number of units/parcels proposed? 1

**GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3. Identify the percentage of land in the following slope categories:  
40 90 0 to 10% 40 10 11 to 15% 20 16 to 20% \_\_\_\_\_ 21 to 29% \_\_\_\_\_ over 30%
4. Have you observed any building or soil settlement, landslides, rock falls or avalanches on this property or in the nearby surrounding area? No THERE IS AN UNSTABLE CLIFF FACE ON THE BORDER OF THIS PARCEL & THE QUARRY
5. Could the project affect any existing agriculture uses or result in the loss of agricultural land?  
No

**DRAINAGE AND HYDROLOGY**

6. Is the project located within the flood plain of any stream or river? If so, which one?  
No
7. ~~What is the distance to the nearest body of water, river, stream or year-round drainage channel?~~  
1,500 Feet Name of the water body? South Fork Weber Creek (SEASONAL)
8. Will the project result in the direct or indirect discharge of silt or any other particles in noticeable amount into any lakes, rivers or streams?  
No

GO TO FROG POND ON  
ADJACENT PARCEL  
USUALLY FULL  
THROUGHOUT  
FALL THROUGH  
SPRING

**S 17-0016**

(Last revised 04/16)

9. Will the project result in the physical alteration of a natural body of water or drainage way?  
If so, in what way? No

10. Does the project area contain any wet meadows, marshes or other perennially wet areas?  
No

### VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE

11. What is the predominant vegetative cover on the site (trees, brush, grass, etc.)? Estimate percentage of each: 50% Trees; 50% Grass
12. How many trees of 6-inch diameter will be removed when this project is implemented?  
6

### FIRE PROTECTION

13. In what structural fire protection district (if any) is the project located? EL DORADO COUNTY FPD (No. 18)
14. What is the nearest emergency source of water for fire protection purposes (hydrant, pond, etc.)?  
Creek (DRY DURING SUMMER & FIRE SEASON) WEBER RESERVOIR
15. What is the distance to the nearest fire station? 7.5 Miles (WRONG! DISTANCE IS LESS)
16. Will the project create any dead-end roads greater than 500 feet in length?  
No
17. Will the project involve the burning of any material including brush, trees and construction materials?  
No

### NOISE QUALITY

18. Is the project near an industrial area, freeway, major highway or airport? If so, how far?  
No THE PARCEL IS INDUSTRIAL ZONE NEXT TO QUARRY
19. What types of noise would be created by the establishment of this land use, both during and after construction? Emergency Back-up 35kw LP generator and two 4 ton HVAC units

### AIR QUALITY

20. Would any noticeable amounts of air pollution, such as smoke, dust or odors, be produced by this project? Minimal, AQMD form to be filed. Equipment is exempt due to low HP engine.

### WATER QUALITY

21. Is the proposed water source: public or private, treated or untreated?  
Name the system: N/A
22. What is the water use (residential, agricultural, industrial or commercial)?  
No water use

HYDRANTS IN RANCHO DEL SOL

### AESTHETICS

23. Will the project obstruct scenic views from existing residential areas, public lands, public bodies of water or roads? No IT WILL IMPACT LOCAL VIEWS FROM RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS

### ARCHAEOLOGY/HISTORY

24. Do you know of any archaeological or historical areas within the boundaries or adjacent to the project? (e.g., Indian burial grounds, gold mines, etc.) None known SIGNIFICANT NATIVE (BIG CRY) AMERICAN SITES IN AREA, MINES, QUARRY, CAVERNS, CRY SITES

### SEWAGE

25. What is the proposed method of sewage disposal? septic system sanitation district  
Name of district: NA
26. Would the project require a change in sewage disposal methods from those currently used in the vicinity? NA

### TRANSPORTATION

27. Will the project create any traffic problems or change any existing roads, highways or existing traffic patterns? No
28. Will the project reduce or restrict access to public lands, parks or any public facilities?  
No

### GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS

29. Will the project result in the introduction of activities not currently found within the community?  
Yes, AT&T Cellular wireless service and Wireless High Speed Broadband Internet
30. Would the project serve to encourage development of presently undeveloped areas, or increases in development intensity of already developed areas (include the introduction of new or expanded public utilities, new industry, commercial facilities or recreation activities)?  
Customers are relying on wireless devices and High-Speed Internet in nearly every aspect of daily life. AT&T's High-Speed Internet will likely increase the home business and home schooling capabilities.
31. Will the project require the extension of existing public utility lines? If so, identify and give distances:  
No FIBER OPTIC CABLE & ELECTRICITY WILL HAVE TO BE EXTENDED FROM SNOWS ROAD TO THE SITE APPROXIMATELY 500'

**GENERAL**

32. Does the project involve lands currently protected under the Williamson Act or an Open Space Agreement? No
33. Will the project involve the application, use or disposal of potentially hazardous materials, including pesticides, herbicides, other toxic substances or radioactive material?  
Yes - Liquid Propane for the Generator
34. Will the proposed project result in the removal of a natural resource for commercial purposes (including rock, sand, gravel, trees, minerals or top soil)?  
No
35. Could the project create new, or aggravate existing health problems (including, but not limited to, flies, mosquitos, rodents and other disease vectors)?  
No YES, RESEARCH INDICATES DISRUPTION TO BIRD, BATS, INCREASING
36. Will the project displace any community residents? THE LIKLIHOOD OF MOSQUITOS AND INSECTS  
No

**DISCUSS ANY YES ANSWERS TO THE PREVIOUS QUESTIONS** (attach additional sheets if necessary)

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**MITIGATION MEASURES** (attach additional sheets if necessary)

Proposed mitigation measures for any of the above questions where there will be an adverse impact:

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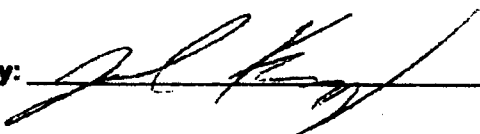
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Form completed by:



Date:

8/24/17



## County of El Dorado

### Minutes - Final Planning Commission

*Gary Miller, Chair, District 2*  
*James Williams, First Vice-Chair, District 4*  
*Jon Vegna, Second Vice-Chair, District 1*  
*Jeff Hansen, District 3*  
*Brian Shinault, District 5*

*Char Tim, Clerk of the Planning Commission*

Planning and Building  
Department  
2850 Fairlane Court  
Placerville CA 95667  
[www.edcgov.us](http://www.edcgov.us)  
phone: 530-621-5355  
fax: 530-642-0508

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Thursday, February 8, 2018

8:30 AM

Building C Hearing Room

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Planning Commission audio recordings, Agendas, Staff Reports, Supplemental Materials and Minutes are available on the internet at:  
<http://eldorado.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

In-progress Planning Commission meetings can be accessed through a listen-only dial-in number at 530-621-7607.

The County of El Dorado is committed to ensuring that persons with disabilities are provided the resources to participate in its public meetings. If you require accommodation, please contact the Clerk to the Planning Commission at 530-621-5355 or via e-mail, [planning@edcgov.us](mailto:planning@edcgov.us).

All Planning Commission hearings are recorded. An audio recording of this meeting will be published to the website. Please note that due to technology limitations, the link will be labeled as "Video" although only audio will play. The meeting is not video recorded.

Persons wishing to speak on a Consent Calendar item are requested to advise the Chair or Clerk prior to 8:30 a.m.

Public testimony will be received on each agenda item as it is called. The applicant (where applicable) is allocated 10 minutes to speak; individual comments are limited to 3 minutes; and individuals representing a group are allocated 5 minutes. Except with the consent of the Commission, individuals shall be allowed to speak to an item only once. Upon completion of public comment, the matter shall be returned to the Commission for deliberation. Members of the public shall not be entitled to participate in that deliberation, or be present at the podium during such deliberation, except at the invitation of the Commission for a point of clarification or question by the Commission.

Matters not on the agenda may be addressed by the general public during Public Forum/Public Comment. Comments during Public Forum/Public Comment are limited to 3 minutes per person. The Commission reserves the right to waive said rules by a majority vote. Public Forum/Public Comment is for comment only. No action will be taken on these items unless they are scheduled on a future agenda.



Staff materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available for inspection during normal business hours in Planning Services located at 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA. Such documents are also available on the Commission's Meeting Agenda webpage subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.

The Planning Commission is concerned that large amounts of written information submitted to the Planning Commission the day of a public hearing might not receive the attention it deserves. To ensure delivery to the Commission prior to the hearing, written information from the public is encouraged to be submitted by Thursday the week prior to the meeting. Planning Services cannot guarantee that any FAX, email, or mail received the day of the Commission meeting will be delivered to the Commission prior to any action on the subject matter.

For purposes of the Brown Act, Section 54954.2(a), the numbered items on this agenda give a brief description of each item to be discussed. Recommendations of the staff, as shown, do not prevent the Commission from taking other action.

**8:30 A.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 8:31 A.M. by Commissioner Miller.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR**

**(All items on the Consent Calendar are to be approved by one motion unless a Commission member requests separate action on a specific item.)**

*Public Comment: K. Greenwood*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Vegna, to Adopt the Agenda and Approve the Consent Calendar, with Commissioner Shinault abstaining from Item #1.**

**Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Shinault, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Vegna

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Hansen

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. 18-0159 Clerk of the Planning Commission recommending the Commission approve the MINUTES of the regular meeting of January 25, 2018.

**Item was Approved on the Consent Calendar, with Commissioner Shinault abstaining.**

**END OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS (Planning and Building,  
Transportation, County Counsel)**

There were no Departmental Reports.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

There were no Commissioners' Reports.

**PUBLIC FORUM / PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

**AGENDA ITEMS****2. 18-0160**

Hearing to consider the Oasis/Conoco Phillips Service Station project (Design Review Revision DR04-0012-R-2)\*\* for a Major Revision to an approved Design Review permit consisting of the following modifications to the existing 76 Gas Station: 1) Replacement of existing fueling canopy; 2) Demolition of existing cashier/mini-mart kiosk; 3) Construction of a new convenience store addition; 4) Removal of one fuel dispenser with associated underground facilities; and 5) Replacement of two monument signs with one monument sign on property identified by Assessor's Parcel Number 121-180-16, consisting of 0.61 acre, in the El Dorado Hills area, submitted by Mr. Sukhabir Bhullar and Mr. Paramjit Bhullar; and staff recommending the Planning Commission take the following actions:

- 1) Find that the project is Categorically Exempt under California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15303(c); and
- 2) Approve Design Review Revision DR04-0012-R-2 based on the Findings and subject to the Conditions of Approval as presented.

(Supervisory District 1)

*Public Comment: L. Johnson, D. Manning*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Vegna, seconded by Commissioner Williams, to Approve staff's recommended actions and correct the typographical errors in the Environmental Review section of the Staff Report on the existing and replacement canopies' square footage to 3,157 and 2,459, respectively.**

**Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Shinault, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Vegna

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Hansen

3. 18-0161 Hearing to consider the AT&T CAF4 project (Conditional Use Permit S17-0016)\* to allow the construction and operation of seven separate wireless telecommunication facilities consisting of seven new monopine towers ranging in size from 120 to 160 feet, with individual ground equipment with fencing on properties identified as follows: (a) Site 1-Cool: Assessor's Parcel Number 071-032-15, consisting of 25 acres, in the Cool area, Supervisorial District 4; (b) Site 2-Newtown: Assessor's Parcel Number 077-091-06, consisting of 4.9 acres, in the Newtown area, Supervisorial District 3; (c) Site 3-Pleasant Valley: Assessor's Parcel Number 078-180-38, consisting of 2 acres, in the Pleasant Valley Rural Center, Supervisorial District 2; (d) Site 4-Soapweed: Assessor's Parcel Number 085-010-13, consisting of 10 acres, in the Swansboro area, Supervisorial District 4; (e) Site 5-Latrobe: Assessor's Parcel Number 087-181-10, consisting of 20 acres, in the Latrobe area, Supervisorial District 2; (f) Site 6-Zee Estates: Assessor's Parcel Number 104-370-24, consisting of 60 acres, in the Pilot Hill area, Supervisorial District 4; and (g) Site 7-Gold Hill: Assessor's Parcel Number 105-110-81, consisting of 10 acres, in the Lotus area, Supervisorial District 4, submitted by AT&T Mobility; and staff recommending the Planning Commission take the following actions:

- 1) Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration based on the Initial Study prepared by staff; and
  - 2) Approve Conditional Use Permit S17-0016 based on the Findings and subject to the Conditions of Approval as presented.
- (Supervisorial Districts 2, 3, 4)

*Public Comment: B. Craft, E. Vaughn, A. Gualtieri, S. Schilling, G. Denney, B. Crawford, A. Goulden, M. Crawford, B. Nicholson, D. Craft, J. Wyatt, P. Agri, L. Craft, S. Ramme, M. Block, L. Allred, P. O'Malley, B. Person, C. Nicholson, S. Person, S. Taylor, R. Hellsvig, C. Story, R. Wolfe, D. O'Malley, K. Greenwood, S. Baker, M. Lane*

**Site 1:**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Shinault, to Approve Site 1 with staff's recommended actions including the amendments identified by staff. The motion FAILED.**

**A vote of 2-2 is not considered an approval by a majority vote, pursuant to the Planning Commission Bylaws, Section 5.c, which states "To be passed, all motions and resolutions must receive the affirmative votes of no less than the majority of the Commission unless otherwise required by law." There were no subsequent motions, therefore, the 2-2 vote, considered a denial, is the Planning Commission's decision.**

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Shinault and Commissioner Miller

**Noes:** 2 - Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Vegna

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Hansen

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Vegna, to Continue Site 1 to the February 22, 2018, to allow staff time to prepare Findings for Denial based on aesthetics, compatibility with neighboring land uses, co-location possibilities, alternative site analysis, and access.

**Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Shinault, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Vegna

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Hansen

**Site 2:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Vegna, to conceptually Deny Site 2 based on the areas of aesthetics, compatibility with neighboring land uses, co-location possibilities, alternative site analysis, and access. The motion FAILED.

A vote of 2-2 is not considered an approval by a majority vote, pursuant to the Planning Commission Bylaws, Section 5.c, which states "To be passed, all motions and resolutions must receive the affirmative votes of no less than the majority of the Commission unless otherwise required by law." There were no subsequent motions, therefore, the 2-2 vote, considered a denial, is the Planning Commission's decision.

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Vegna

**Noes:** 2 - Commissioner Shinault and Commissioner Miller

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Hansen

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Vegna, to Continue Site 2 to the February 22, 2018, to allow staff time to prepare Findings for Denial based on aesthetics, compatibility with neighboring land uses, co-location possibilities, alternative site analysis, and access.

**Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Shinault, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Vegna

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Hansen

**Site 3:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Shinault, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to Approve Site 3 with staff's recommended actions including the amendments identified by staff. The motion FAILED.

A vote of 2-2 is not considered an approval by a majority vote, pursuant to the Planning Commission Bylaws, Section 5.c, which states "To be passed, all motions and resolutions must receive the affirmative votes of no less than the majority of the Commission unless otherwise required by law." There were no subsequent motions, therefore, the 2-2 vote, considered a denial, is the Planning Commission's decision.

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Shinault and Commissioner Miller

**Noes:** 2 - Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Vegna

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Hansen

A motion was made by Commissioner Shinault, seconded by Commissioner Vegna, to Continue Site 3 to the February 22, 2018, to allow staff time to prepare Findings for Denial based on aesthetics, compatibility with neighboring land uses, co-location possibilities, alternative site analysis, and access.

**Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Shinault, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Vegna

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Hansen

**Site 4:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Shinault, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to Approve Site 4 with staff's recommended actions including the amendments identified by staff. The motion FAILED.

A vote of 2-2 is not considered an approval by a majority vote, pursuant to the Planning Commission Bylaws, Section 5.c, which states "To be passed, all motions and resolutions must receive the affirmative votes of no less than the majority of the Commission unless otherwise required by law." There were no subsequent motions, therefore, the 2-2 vote, considered a denial, is the Planning Commission's decision.

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Shinault and Commissioner Miller

**Noes:** 2 - Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Vegna

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Hansen

A motion was made by Commissioner Shinault, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to Continue Site 4 to the February 22, 2018, to allow staff time to prepare Findings for Denial based on aesthetics, compatibility with neighboring land uses, co-location possibilities, alternative site analysis, and access.

**Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Shinault, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Vegna

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Hansen

**Site 5:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Shinault, to Approve Site 5 with staff's recommended actions including the amendments identified by staff. The motion FAILED.

A vote of 2-2 is not considered an approval by a majority vote, pursuant to the Planning Commission Bylaws, Section 5.c, which states "To be passed, all motions and resolutions must receive the affirmative votes of no less than the majority of the Commission unless otherwise required by law." There were no subsequent motions, therefore, the 2-2 vote, considered a denial, is the Planning Commission's decision.

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Shinault and Commissioner Miller

**Noes:** 2 - Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Vegna

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Hansen

**A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Vegna, to Continue Site 5 to the February 22, 2018, to allow staff time to prepare Findings for Denial based on aesthetics, compatibility with neighboring land uses, co-location possibilities, alternative site analysis, and access.**

**Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Shinault, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Vegna

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Hansen

**Site 6:**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Shinault, to Approve Site 6 with staff's recommended actions including the amendments identified by staff. The motion FAILED.**

**A vote of 2-2 is not considered an approval by a majority vote, pursuant to the Planning Commission Bylaws, Section 5.c, which states "To be passed, all motions and resolutions must receive the affirmative votes of no less than the majority of the Commission unless otherwise required by law." There were no subsequent motions, therefore, the 2-2 vote, considered a denial, is the Planning Commission's decision.**

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Shinault and Commissioner Miller

**Noes:** 2 - Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Vegna

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Hansen

**A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Williams, to Continue Site 6 to the February 22, 2018, to allow staff time to prepare Findings for Denial based on aesthetics, compatibility with neighboring land uses, co-location possibilities, alternative site analysis, and access.**

**Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Shinault, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Vegna

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Hansen

**Site 7:**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Shinault, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to Approve Site 7 with staff's recommended actions including the amendments identified by staff. The motion FAILED.**

**A vote of 2-2 is not considered an approval by a majority vote, pursuant to the Planning Commission Bylaws, Section 5.c, which states "To be passed, all motions and resolutions must receive the affirmative votes of no less than the majority of the Commission unless otherwise required by law." There were no subsequent motions, therefore, the 2-2 vote, considered a denial, is the Planning Commission's decision.**

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Shinault and Commissioner Miller

**Noes:** 2 - Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Vegna

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Hansen

**A motion was made by Commissioner Shinault, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to Continue Site 7 to the February 22, 2018, to allow staff time to prepare Findings for Denial based on aesthetics, compatibility with neighboring land uses, co-location possibilities, alternative site analysis, and access.**

**Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Shinault, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Vegna

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Hansen

**4. 18-0162**

Hearing to consider the recommendation from Planning staff for Special Use Permit S10-0009/Villa Florentina Bed & Breakfast to be modified to remove the use of 20 special events per calendar year of up to 189 guests and amplified music on property identified by Assessor's Parcel Number 006-132-28, consisting of 3.57 acres, in the Coloma area; and staff recommending the Planning Commission take the following action:  
1) Modify Special Use Permit S10-0009 based on the Findings and subject to the Modified Conditions of Approval as presented.  
(Supervisory District 4)

*Public Comment: B. Day, J. White, S. Schwartz-Kendall, R. Smay, L. Brent-Bumb, W. Thomas, D. Smay, G. Helms, D. Thomas, K. Harris, M. Lane, V. Harris, D. Lundgrum, C. Maddox, R. Smay, S. Mackey*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to Approve staff's recommended actions. The motion FAILED.**

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Williams

**Noes:** 2 - Commissioner Shinault and Commissioner Vegna

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Hansen

**A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Vegna, to Approve the following modifications to the original Conditions of Approval: (a) Condition 1.c to read as follows, "A total of 15 Special Events shall be permitted annually with a maximum of 130 guests."; (b) Condition 3: Add new sentence to read as follows, "All amplified music shall end by 7:00 P.M."; (c) New Condition to read as follows, "Lawn Area: Use of the lawn during Special Events shall end by 7:00 P.M."; (d) New Condition to read as follows, "Event Noticing: The property owner shall contact the immediate neighbors to the property and the Planning Director to provide notice of Special Events. This shall occur one week in advance of the scheduled Special Event."; (e) New Condition to read as follows, "Eight Month Review: The project shall be reviewed by the Planning Commission in eight months from the date of approval to review impacts as a result of the Special Events allowed under the Conditional Use Permit. The applicant shall provide Planning Services with a report detailing dates of Special Events that were held during the year."; and (f) New Condition to read as follows, "Stay of Enforcement: Enforcement of the County Noise Ordinance and the Conditions of Approval shall be stayed during the upcoming three events that the property owner already has a contract on."**

**Yes:** 3 - Commissioner Shinault, Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Vegna

**Noes:** 1 - Commissioner Williams



**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Hansen

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 P.M. by Commissioner Miller.**

All persons interested are invited to attend and be heard or to write their comments to the Planning Commission. If you challenge the application in court, you may be limited to raising only those items you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing. Any written correspondence should be directed to Planning Services; 2850 Fairlane Court; Placerville, CA 95667.

\*A negative declaration has been prepared for this project and may be reviewed and/or obtained in Planning Services, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA 95667, during normal business hours. A negative declaration is a document filed to satisfy CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act). This document states that there are no significant environmental effects resulting from the project, or that conditions have been proposed which would mitigate or reduce potential negative effects to an insignificant level.

\*\*This project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the above referenced section, and it is not subject to any further environmental review.



**cry site**

1 message

butterfly fly &lt;telrandy@gmail.com&gt;

Thu, Sep 6, 2018 at 2:29 PM

To: Team Minuteman &lt;team@mm-press.com&gt;

## 12. Three Vivid Memories of Indians in Newtown

[Return To Chapter Index](#)

Only a few Indians were living in Newtown at the time about which I am writing. Except for Indian George and Lucinda, they kept pretty much to themselves. Indian George, who spoke better English than the rest, acted as a go between. A week before the Fourth of July celebration, he came to the stone store to tell the storekeeper that he was taking Indian Jesse to the county hospital in Placerville. For the last five years Indian Jesse, who lived at Bartram's mill, had been haunted by the ghost of his dead son Willie. It was said that Willie's ghost was trying to take his father to the happy hunting ground but his father wasn't ready to go. Running away from Willie's ghost one night, Jesse fell and broke his leg.

George was a Maidu. He used to tell us that before the gold discovery, a tribe of Maidu's lived in Newtown. Stone mortars that they had used to pound corn were propped against trees and fences in most of our yards. When the miners came, the Indians fought to keep their homes. That's the time the white men said they had become violent. A trapper scout called Peg Leg Smith went around the county helping Indians and white men to make treaties. A treaty of sorts was made in Newtown, but after it was made most of the Indians moved away. In the 60s and 70s bands of Indians still visited their old home sites. George told us that his father came to Carshum Bowl on Texas Hill where as many as 200 braves met to perform ceremonial dances and hold cries.

I wasn't much over four when one of the last cries was held in Newtown. We were sitting on the porch after dinner. I was leaning against my father's shoulder half asleep. Suddenly I heard dogs barking and saw a small band of Indians plodding up the dusty road.

The faces of the women who pushed the carts were daubed with pitch.

"They must have come a long way," my mother whispered.

"they are on their way to the meadow above Kimmer Flat to hold a cry," my father said. "That's a memorial service for their dead. Bands used to come every year when I first came to Newtown,"

"What's in the carts?" mother asked.

"Offerings to burn to their dead, like woven baskets and rugs and things to eat their dead liked."

That night we saw the flames rise from the memorial fires.

**People who lived near the meadow heard moans and cries all through the night. It was said that the women who had pitch on their faces mourned their men by knocking their heads against trees. The next morning the Indians came by with drooping shoulders and empty carts. They tramped silently down the road toward Fort Jim. No one spoken to them and they had spoken to no one. also**

**<https://www.bia.gov/bia/ois/tgs>**

## THE KILLING OF GENTLE BEAR

One evening, when friends were toasting themselves around the pot-belly stove in Enrico Brandini's Cantina in Newtown, sipping wine and tired of cards, the story teller, old Rocco, began weaving a spell about the murder of an innocent Indian girl named Gentle Bear. She'd been killed by an Italian, and the Italian community of Newtown had refused to defend him. It happened long before the Newtown fire of 1872, that the "bad egg" named Gigio came to town bragging he'd stolen money from his parents to pay his way to America, and that he'd steal again to repay them. One lonely miner, Simon, had lost his partner; so Gigio just moved into Simon's cabin, and ate Simon's food. Gigio quit mining when he couldn't scoop up the gold without using a pick and shovel, and spend hours bending over gold pans full of black sand from the long tom, water washing out the gold.

Twice, men in the camps collected enough gold to send Gigio to San Francisco to find work; but each time, he'd returned in under two weeks, penniless after a good time.

Rocco said it was summer of each year when the Indians from Nevada, expert horsemen, arrived with a drove of wild horses to break and sell locally. They called themselves Pinion Indians and were led by Chief Hila. Their men and women were straight, tall, and handsome; and the women were athletic, equal to their men in horsemanship. The Pinions spoke English, paid their bills, asked no favors; and John Ringer (the unofficial Justice of the Peace at Smith Flat) had reason to wish the white men were as honest and law abiding.

A kindly person, Chief Hila's sister, Sarah was well known for her skill with herbs and Indian healing methods by which she'd restored health to the half dead members of the Donner Party (after their rescue) at Johnson's Ranch on Bear Creek and at Sutter's Fort in Sacramento, during 1847, where she continued to treat them.

While the Pinions were in the Newtown area, they built cedar bark dwellings at Graystone (thought to be a few hundreds yards or so upstream from Rugg Gulch and the old Hesque log barn, in Teepee Ravine below Starks Grade Road) where they staked out corrals and the women wove baskets for sale. (See second note regarding Creighton Valley, page 31.)

Some of the people of Newtown liked to spend Sunday afternoons at Graystone, watching the Pinions lasso and break their horses in the box-like canyon; and the Pinions enjoyed demonstrating their skills. Troublesome Gigio, always carrying Simon's revolver, swaggering, and looking for amusement, went there too. He was warned to keep away from the handsome Pinion women who might as readily break a man as a horse!

Then, one torrid September afternoon, a Pinion couple named Fall Leaf and Gentle Bear came riding their horses to the stone store (now called Gardella's stone store) in Newtown. As was the Pinion custom, Gentle Bear waited on her horse in the heat, holding the reins of her companion's horse, while Fall Leaf purchased the camp supplies of sugar and flour.

Gigio's habit was to sit with the men in the late afternoon shade on the front porch of the stone store; and he tried to get Gentle Bear's attention with gestures. When this failed, he got up, stepped off the porch and walked toward her speaking what English he knew; but, she motioned him away. Before anyone could stop him, he stepped close to her horse; and as he grabbed for the reins, she lashed her quirt across his face. In less than a heartbeat, Gigio drew old Simon's hand gun and fired two shots! Gentle Bear fell from her horse, dying! At the sounds of the shots, Fall Leaf burst from the store, gathered into his arms Gentle Bear's bleeding body, and rode at full gallop toward Graystone.



Though the late afternoon was hot, a trembling chill fell upon the people of Newtown as Stephen (who ran the store) jumped the first saddled horse and streaked for Smith Flat to get deputy Justice of the Peace John Ringer. Meanwhile, men ran from house to house warning the women and children to stay inside.

Gigio was crawling on the ground, groveling, and whimpering, "Get your guns! Those savages will come back to shoot me. You've got to protect me!" The other Italian men paid little attention to Gigio except to make sure he didn't get away.

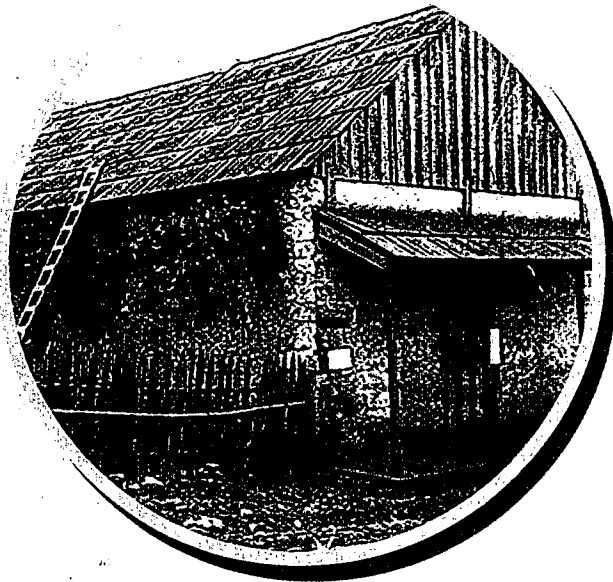
Distances about equal, Stephen returned with John Ringer just as Chief Hila's eight sons arrived in Newtown at sundown. One angry Pinion could be a frightening sight; but here, casting long shadows, were eight Pinions sitting very upright on tall horses, their mouths pressed tightly, their eyes glowering! Anything could happen! The Pinions were perfectly capable of setting fire to brittle dry Newtown, shooting everyone in site, maybe torturing the women! Aside from Gigio's revolver, only a few hunting rifles were available for defense. Not a lamp was lit anywhere in town; and, despite the heat, everyone knew that fearful chill in the air!

John Ringer and Chief Hila's elder son dismounted stiffly from their horses and exchanged guarded greetings. For an hour, they tried to reach some settlement; and the full moon arose. While the Newtown men followed the talks carefully, Gigio was worming his way into the shadows and toward the edge of the woods.

Though Gigio managed to slip away, unnoticed by the townsfolk, one pair of eyes (possibly those of Fall Leaf or maybe old Simon) watched Gigio's every move. Shortly, from a nearby gulch, a rifle shot shattered the troubled night; Gigio's absence was discovered, then his body. That shot could have signaled the Italian men to fire upon the Indians had they any certainty that it was from a Pinion weapon, or if Gigio's life had meant much to anyone. But, the talks between Chief Hila's son and John Ringer continued into the moonlit night. Finally, the two men shook hands solemnly and the Pinions rode quietly into the shadows, back toward Graystone.

John Ringer said it was a temporary truce. Everyone was tense for a week, almost afraid to take a deep breath. Then, John Ringer went alone to Graystone and made a peace that no one felt sure of until the Pinions broke camp and returned to Nevada. Old Rocco, who'd witnessed the event, held always that the people of Newtown escaped with their lives because Chief Hila's sons were men of honor, and because John Ringer was a persuasive man of justice.

The wonderful Pinion horsemen and their fine strong women never again returned to Graystone. It was a grave loss; for their horses were well broken, the baskets were useful works of art which stood much wear, and the prices were fair. The exciting Sunday afternoons each summer at Graystone, watching the skilled Pinions' horsemanship and basket weaving, were a thing of the past.



GARDEZZA'S STORE

NEWTOWN

*NOTE: The names Gentle Bear and Fall Leaf were given to the story as it was being rewritten by this author. The actual names are unknown.*

*NOTE: Graystone, now, is believed to be located in Creighton Valley, S16, T10N, R12E, on the north side of the South Fork of Weber Creek, east of Snow's Road, not in Teepee Ravine below Starks Grade Road as stated above. (1999)*

GEORGIA PINE AND SQUARE NAILS- In 1851, Dr. Snow bought this house from a man remembered only as Mr. Smith. The lumber, all Georgia pine, was shipped around Cape Horn, then hauled to Iowaville by ox teams. Square nails were used in constructing the building. Iowaville was established in 1850, according to Charles Snow, grandson of Dr. Snow, who said that at one time there were 600 residents in the town. When his grandfather bought it, he ran a Hotel, a ten-pin alley and a store on the ground floor. It was a "ghost-town" by 1880.

Picture # 64-14-14

From <sup>LANE</sup>~~Snow~~ collection



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## **SAMUEL SUSSMAN SNOW**

**A Pioneer Finds El Dorado**



By Reva Clar

It is currently the fashion in listing television credits to inform the audience that the show just seen was "created" by "so-and-so," a statement which always induces the thought that, having just witnessed an act of genesis, the spectator should either rise respectfully from his seat or fall to his knees in reverence, depending on his religious background. Such stories and characters are never conceived, originated or simply devised, thus connecting them to human achievements, but by some miracle or Jovian act are "created."

If one of these especially endowed writers were to "ate" a fictional character of the nineteenth century who was a European immigrant to the United States; a practicing physician; a fur trader dealing the Indians; leader of a large covered wagon train leaving Council Bluffs, Iowa, for Sacramento, California, in time to arrive for the gold rush; a storekeeper for the miners; owner of a gold mine that remained in his family and in production for nearly one hundred years; a rancher; father of nine children; and a trustee of the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Placerville – what cries of amused derision would ring out!

Yet the occupations and accomplishments of this versatile hero are a straightforward description of Samuel Sussman Snow, one of the pioneer Jewish settlers of El Dorado County in California's gold rush country.

Samuel Snow's eldest daughter, Carrie, became the wife of Rabbi Herman Davidson of Stockton, California, who was my maternal grandmother's brother and rabbi of Congregation Ryhim Ahoovim (now Temple Israel) from 1876 to 1896. I had known from early childhood that Aunt Carrie came from a family that reached California by covered wagon, that her father had been a doctor, and that her eldest brother was born in Council Bluffs just before the trip west. However, I had made no attempt, as I grew up, to learn more of her family's history.

In the summer of 1965 when I visited Carrie's son Samuel S. Davidson, at his San Francisco home, our conversation turned to his mother's family and its colorful past. Brought out and gave to me an old scrapbook of newspaper clippings compiled by his father and himself, in which were a large number of items relating to the Snows. On two subsequent visits, his recollections were recorded.<sup>1</sup> Later, his cousins, Walter Snow of Concord, California, and Charles Snow of Santa Ana, were interviewed to provide additional material for reconstructing the details of their grandfather's life in the early days of California.

Samuel Sussman Snow was born on March 18, 1818.<sup>2</sup> Although Samuel Davidson gave Snow's birthplace as Dusseldorf, his naturalization certificate lists the place of birth as Demmin, New Prussia. Of his background in Germany, little is known. There is a reference to his father's having been a rabbi.<sup>3</sup> When Snow's father remarried, Samuel did not get along with his stepmother and left Germany for the United States, where he arrived in New York on or about January 1, 1837.<sup>4</sup>

During his years in New York City, Snow studied medicine and received a diploma.<sup>5</sup> According to Samuel Davidson, his grandfather received his medical training at a French hospital. However, the present French Hospital was not founded until 1881 and little is known of the smaller medical institutions that existed in New York City in the 1840's.<sup>6</sup>

While living in New York, Snow married Paulina Fink, whose Catholic family also came from Germany, and whose birth date was June 28, 1827.<sup>7</sup>

After departing from New York, Samuel Snow settled for a time in Wisconsin, where he did fur trading with the Indians.<sup>8</sup> He was living in St. Croix County when he received his naturalization papers on July 30,

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<sup>1</sup> Samuel Davidson, Interviews, May 20, 1969, and September 24, 1969, by the writer. References to Samuel Davidson are to these two interviews, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>2</sup> Naturalization Certificate, dated July 30, 1849, in the possession of Walter Snow, Concord, California. The family name in Germany was Snoek or Snook, but was changed when Snow arrived in the United States. Snow's middle name is also spelled Suisman or Susmon. Samuel Davidson, *op. cit.*

<sup>3</sup> *Stockton Daily Record*, August 11, 1900, p. 3. c.1. "...Dr. Snow's father, who was a famous rabbi in Germany."

<sup>4</sup> Naturalization Certificate, *op. cit.*

<sup>5</sup> Samuel Davidson, interview, December 28, 1969, by Norton B. Stern. This diploma was later lost when fire destroyed Snow's tent store in Dogtown, near Placerville, California.

<sup>6</sup> Williman F. Norwood, *Medical Education in the United States Before the Civil War* (Philadelphia, 1944), p. 147, states: "How many medical schools developed in New York City and its immediate vicinity before the impact of the Civil War...is perhaps not positively known..."

<sup>7</sup> Snow family Bible, list of dates of births and deaths, copied by Mrs. Charles Snow. Bible is in possession of Walter Snow, Concord.

1849. St Croix County, in the State of Wisconsin, is just across the border from Minnesota and close to St. Paul, which was apparently the location of the court in Minnesota Territory in which Snow was naturalized.<sup>9</sup> It was in Wisconsin that this young man, having already attained a medical education, began to demonstrate his resourcefulness and adaptability, his quickness to grasp the opportunities of a new environment. At this period and later, he reached each destination with funds and goods. Unlike the stereotype of the Jewish immigrant who headed for the Far West, Snow spoke the language well and had a profession and some means.



— Courtesy of Charles Snow  
EMANUEL SNOW  
Oldest son of Samuel S. Snow, a  
“covered wagon baby,” born in  
1850.

From Wisconsin, Snow continued on to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where, according to family tradition, he intended to settle permanently, for he bought a ranch there.<sup>10</sup> At this time he had no intention of going on to California, as the gold rush did not interest him.<sup>11</sup> But after spending the winter of 1849-50 in Iowa, Paulina, who was pregnant, found the severely cold weather far too rigorous and asked to move to the milder climate of California. On May 15, 1850, Snow's first son, Emanuel, was born “under the covered wagon,” was born “under the covered wagon,” and shortly thereafter the family started the trip across the plains.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Clippings from San Diego Union, early August, 1932, in Davidson scrapbook: “One of the 10 last survivors of the ‘Covered Wagon Baby Club,’ Emanuel Snow, 82 of San Francisco... was born in a covered wagon on May 15, 1850, at Council Bluffs, Ia. His father was a fur trader with Indians for many years in Wisconsin.

<sup>9</sup> Copy of Naturalization Certificate in the possession of the writer.

<sup>10</sup> Samuel Davidson, *op. cit.*, gives the acreage as 160, Charles Snow as 320. Charles Snow, Interview, December 21, 1969, by Norton B. Stern.

<sup>11</sup> Samuel Davidson, *op. cit.*: “He wanted to pioneer some place. It was not the gold that brought him to California...he was coming for a new frontier to work in.”

<sup>12</sup> *San Francisco Examiner*, September 9, 1925, p. 2, c. 2.: “...Emanuel Snow 75 years old... was born ‘under the wagon at Council Bluffs, Iowa, on May 15, 1850, while his parents were pushing to the Golden West.”

Snow helped to organize the wagon train and was chosen leader, not only because of his being a doctor, but undoubtedly because of his experience in dealing with Indians in Wisconsin and Iowa.<sup>13</sup> As far as we know, Samuel Snow was the only Jewish individual to head one of the many covered wagon trains that traveled from the Midwest to California. His success in this role is told of by his grandson, Samuel Davidson, who stated that the party came across the plains with no difficulties, due in great measure to Snow's friendly relations with the Indians along the way. By riding on horseback beside the wagons and helping to guide them across dangerous river crossings (points at which were seen the wrecks of vehicles that had failed to make the crossings), the Indians provided safe passage for the travelers. One horse was lost on the trip, in Utah, and its place in the team was taken by the cow which had been brought along to provide milk for the infant, Emanuel. The 'Wagon train arrived in Pleasant Valley, near Newtown, El Dorado County, California, in August, 1850.<sup>14</sup>

Continuing on to Sacramento, the Snow family took squatters' rights on land which was located on the present site of the California State Capitol grounds. Snow left his family there with instructions to await his return, while he went back to the Placerville area to look over the situation in the mines. With typical astuteness, he took along a load of trade goods to provide for the needs of the miners when he reached the digs. When Snow failed to appear after some time, the family became concerned, picked up their belongings and followed him to El Dorado County, thus losing their rights to the Sacramento land.

Snow settled first at Dogtown, where he set up a tent store from which he sold miners' supplies. A description of this area and reference to Snow appear in HISTORICAL SOUVENIR OF EL DORADO COUNTY, under the heading "Local History – Newtown."<sup>15</sup>

A cluster of cabins were (sic) erected on the low divide between the Weber creeks. This was called lowaville. Another cluster of cabins was erected on the creek, at the Mormon corral. This place some wag christened Dogtown, a name which stuck to it to the day of its death. A store was started by a man named Smith, which afterwards was kept by Samuel Snow.



A contemporary account also establishes the Snows in the Dogtown-lowaville area:

We were prospecting on the north fork of Weber or Weaver Creek, twenty-five miles east of Hangtown. It was Saturday, the rain had been falling nearly all day, when Sam Hit came into camp with the joyful news that a white woman had come to Snow's camp, sixteen miles away. Next morning, he struck out on foot to see such a wonderful thing as a white woman. When he arrived at Snow's camp it was late in the day, and as Mrs. Snow kept a restaurant, he had dinner at \$1.50. . . . he says he will never forget the day he walked thirty-two miles to see a white woman in California.<sup>16</sup> ..

The United States Census of 1850, for Placerville and its vicinity, lists Samuel Snow, 33, physician; Polina (sic) Snow, 23; and Emanuel Snow, 1/2. Despite his numerous and varied experiences since leaving New York, Snow categorized himself as a doctor at this time.<sup>17</sup>

On September 27, 1851, Paulina gave birth to her second son~ Joseph, in a tent at Diamond Springs.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Charles Snow, *op. cit.*, and Samuel Davidson, *op. cit.*

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>15</sup> Paolo Sioli, editor, (Oakland, 1883), p. 192.

<sup>16</sup> Archer B. Hulbert, *The Chronicles of the California Trail* (Boston 1931), p. 316. Hangtown was an early name for Placerville.

<sup>17</sup> Census, taken on November 27, 1850, p. 616

In 1851-52, Samuel Snow purchased a ranch house at Iowaville. The building, erected in 1850, had a store and bowling alley downstairs, with living quarters for the family upstairs. An interview with Charles Snow, printed in a Placerville newspaper, described the Snow home.

Iowaville: Of course there was an Iowaville in El Dorado County. Charles Snow, who is associated with his brother in the Western Auto Supply store in Placerville, reports that the community was established about 1850, once had as many as six hundred residents, and became a "ghost town" about 1880. It was the old Snow ranch in the Newtown district about midway between Camino and Newtown on the Pleasant Valley Road. "My grandfather, Dr. Samuel Snow, who led a caravan across the plains in 1850, was there in 1852," Snow says. "At one time he operated a hotel, a ten-pin alley and store there. They were built out of Georgia pine, shipped around the Horn. My uncle, Jacob Snow, built a residence on the ranch in 1906, and a great deal of the lumber from the old buildings went into the newer ranch structures."<sup>19</sup>



Entrance to Snow Mine  
Samuel Davidson (left) and Walter Snow, grandsons of Samuel S. Snow, in the mid-1920's



1850 SNOW RANCH HOUSE, IOWAVILLE  
Snow family group in front of the old residence, about 1900

During 1851, Snow purchased the mine which was to produce gold for him, his sons and grandsons, for nearly a century.<sup>20</sup> Snow made a wise choice, geologically, in selecting the site of the mine and ranch, as is shown in this description of the area:

<sup>18</sup> Charles Snow, *op. cit.*

<sup>19</sup> *Placerville Mountain Democrat*, May 22, 1941, p.4, c. 2. The 1906 house is still standing, just south of the North Fork of Weber Creek, on the east side of Snows road, and was seen by Norton B. Stern in November, 1969, and by Stern and William M. Kramer on June 29, 1970, at which time they met the present occupant of the house, Andrew Taylor, who was kind enough to show them some Snow mementos, including the Double-S branding iron. Snow, as well as his sons in later years, continued to buy adjacent land, until the family owned 1,200 acres, extending from Camino Ridge to Newtown (Newtown road today). The ranch is about nine miles east of Placerville.

<sup>20</sup> Samuel Davidson, *op. cit.* This mine remained in the family until 1946, when it was sold to I.M. Johnson. The mine was worked by Samuel Davidson until the early 1930's when, with gold bringing only twenty dollars an ounce,

Surrounding Placerville were a number of less important towns which grew up during the gold days, for the ravines and flats of the entire region seemed to be rich with gold that was easily accessible to the placer miners. At an early date, the miners began to see evidence of an ancient river channel but its direction could not be definitely determined until mining operations had uncovered more of its course. It is apparent now that this was the ancient American River which took its rise in the Sierra near the present source of the South Fork and pursued a course similar to that stream to a point below Bullion Bend when it crossed the present channel to the south side and made its way north of the Sly Park House, Newton, Weberville, Diamond Springs ....<sup>21</sup>

A delightfully worded transaction on record in Placerville, indicates not only the extent of Snow's holdings in 1857, but also his concern for the welfare of his wife:

Deeded Samuel Snow to Paulina Snow, his wife, for and in consideration of the natural love and affection he hath and beareth unto the said Paulina Snow as also for the better maintenance, support and livelihood for her ... certain tract or parcel of land ... commencing at a point on the old emigrant road in Pleasant Valley ... and ditch ... extending through Newton to Lowaville ... also 1/2 of a tunnel and mining claim known as the Independent Tunnel Claim at Lowaville.<sup>22</sup>



*Portrait of Charles Snow*  
**HERMAN AND CARRIE SNOW**  
Fifth son and oldest daughter of  
Samuel S. Snow.

By 1860, the Snow's had five children: the Hebraically named Emanuel; then a Biblical trio – Joseph, 8; Jacob, 6; Benjamin, 4; and two-year-old Caroline (who later chose to be called Carrie). Snow now classified himself as “ditch agent” rather than “physician,” as in 1850.<sup>23</sup>

While this categorization would seem to indicate a loss of dignity, on the contrary, we may assume that Snow was again in command of the situation and that we are observing yet another facet of his career. “Ditch Agent” stresses Snow's involvement with mining and indicates a position of authority, as even today, in the irrigation districts of California, the “ditch tender” is a man of considerable importance who controls the allotment and distribution of water to the farmers. Snow was similarly involved in

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further operation was impractical. Various companies leased and operated the mine at intervals, but discontinued because of small profits.

<sup>21</sup> Owen C. Coy, *In the diggings in Forty-Nine* (Los Angeles, 1948), p. 33.

<sup>22</sup> El Dorado County, Deeds, Book C. March 11, 1857.

<sup>23</sup> United States Census, 1960, El Dorado County, Diamond Springs Township, June 11, 1860, p. 111

overseeing the storage and release of the water so essential to his own extensive mining operations and possibly those of his neighbors.<sup>24</sup> Samuel Davidson, in speaking of the family's mining activities, said:

We did all kinds of mining on this place – shafts, tunnels, hydraulic and everything. We had five miles of ditches running from North Weber Creek to the ranch house at Lowaville, bringing down 300 miners' inches of water. We had large reservoirs on the place, just above the house, for storing the water to fill the flumes. They had machinery to make the water to fill the flumes. They had machinery to make pipe, the old-fashioned machinery that turned the steel into cylinders the size they wanted. For hydraulic, they used pipe all the way from 18 inches in diameter down to 7 inches, all the way from 18 inches in diameter down to 7 inches. The monitor is the nozzle in the fixture with a swivel in it.

In the 1870 Census for El Dorado County, we find a complete list of the Snow family.<sup>25</sup> Snow now classified himself as "fanner."<sup>26</sup> Paulina had borne four more children, of whom three are listed: Herman – 8, Emily – 6, and Charles – 1. A daughter, Jennie, born after Emily, died in infancy and was buried on the ranch behind the old house, her grave marked only by a pile of stones.<sup>27</sup>

Having seen Snow thus far as physician, fur trader, wagon train leader, storekeeper, mine owner, rancher, a man completely in tune with the adventure, romance and daring of that day and an eager participant in the opportunities of a new land., we may now turn to a more personal, inner-directed aspect of this individual: his typically Jewish act of joining with his co-religionists in establishing a new Jewish community. Snow had retained his heritage. Paulina, on the contrary, felt no desire to carry on her Catholicism or to pass it on to her children.<sup>28</sup> While Jewish education was unavailable to the latter, their father's influence and inclinations can be seen through the later marriages of Emanuel, Carrie and Emily, and their identification with the Jewish faith.

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<sup>24</sup> H.E. and E.G. Rensch and M.B. Hoover, *Historic Spots in California* (Stanford, 1933), P. 92: "with the building of ditches to carry water to the mines, Newtown grew rapidly. Later on Hydraulic operations were carried on there, but in 1982, the town was destroyed by fire."

<sup>25</sup> Diamond Springs Township, August 15, 1870, p. 14. From the family bible (see Note No. 7) the following family record was obtained:

Samuel Sussman Snow, March 18, 1818 – July 9, 1892:

Paulina Snow, June 28, 1827 – March 2, 1882;

Emanuel Snow, May 15, 1850 – November 18, 1925;

Joseph Snow, September 27, 1851 – March 13, 1926;

Jacob Snow, September 25, 1853 – October 1, 1939;

Benjamin Snow, March 2, 1856 – date of death unknown

Caroline Snow Davidson, November 21, 1858 – May 7, 1949;

Herman Snow, March 7, 1861 – October 3, 1932;

Emily Snow Davis, December 1, 1864 – April 8, 1891;

Jennie Snow, February 4, 1867 – March 26, 1867;

Charles Snow, September 23, 1868 – September 20, 1932.

<sup>26</sup> El Dorado County, *The Great Register* for 1867, p. 52, No. 256: "Samuel Suisman (*sic*) Snow, 49, Prussia, farmer, Diamond Springs Township."

<sup>27</sup> Samuel Davidson, *op. cit.*

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

Then the Placerville Hebrew Benevolent Society was organized on August 1, 1854, the group bought and fenced a –cemetery and fixed up a synagogue in time to be used for that year’s High Holidays.<sup>29</sup> There is no doubt that Samuel S. Snow participated in these early activities.

The original synagogue structure in Placerville was located on a lot at the corner of Cottage and El Dorado Streets. It was .17 of an acre in size. On April 30, 1878, M(ichael) Simon, E(dward) Cohn, S(amuel) S. Snow, trustees of the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Placerville, sold this lot to James Bailey for the sum of twenty-five dollars.<sup>30</sup> At the same time, Trustees Simon, Cohn, and Snow bought a lot from Henry and Pauline Louis on the south side of Mill Street, 36 by 64 feet in size.<sup>31</sup> A hurricane that year had destroyed the first synagogue and it was decided to rebuild at the new site.<sup>32</sup>

A Placerville newspaper on October 26, 1861, had published the following:

At a meeting of the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Placerville held on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst., the following resolutions were numerously adopted:

Resolved: That the thanks of this society are hereby tendered to the officers and members of the Ladies Hebrew Benevolent Society of this city for their munificent donations to our Synagogue and for other valuable services connected with the promotion of our faith.

Resolved: That the Secretary is hereby ... to transmit a copy ... to the president of said society, and ... publication of same in the Mountain Democrat.<sup>33</sup>

The Placerville City Directory for 1862 lists the Hebrew Synagogue, Cottage Street, H.C. Glauber, Rabbi, and states:

The Hebrew Benevolent Society of Placerville meets on the first Sunday of every month in the Hall of Hope Hook and Ladder Company.”<sup>34</sup>

In 1867, the Placerville Mountain Democrat noted:

Monday last, the 5628<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Jewish New Year, was celebrated by our Jewish fellow citizens at their synagogue in this city, with accustomed religious ceremonies. Masters Samuel Louis and Nathan Kohn, being of the age of 13 years, were at the same time confirmed according to Jewish customs in such cases.<sup>35</sup>

Since Bar Mitzvah ceremonies for boys who had reached age thirteen during the past year were performed at the Rosh Hashanah services when the congregation was conveniently gathered together, it is a possibility that Emanuel and Joseph Snow had preceded the Louis and Kohn boys in observing this ritual.

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<sup>29</sup> *Occident*, Philadelphia, December, 1854, p. 472.

<sup>30</sup> El dorado County, Deeds, Book V, pp. 457-472.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid*, pp. 36-37

<sup>32</sup> Will O. Upton, *Churches of El Dorado County (Placerville, 1940)*, p. 43

<sup>33</sup> *Placerville Mountain Democrat*, p.2, c. 6.

<sup>34</sup> Thomas Fitch and Company, *Directory of the city of Placerville (Placerville, 1862)* pp.17, 19.

<sup>35</sup> October 5, 1867, p.2, c.1.



Samuel Snow's attendance at the synagogue is indicated by the set of five prayer books which belonged to him and which were given to the writer by Samuel Davidson. These books, published by L. A. Frank in 1864 and 1865 in New York, are leather-bound, gold-tooled and gilt-edged, with Samuel Snow's signature on the flyleaf of the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur books. The latter volume bears Carrie's married name (Mrs. Herman Davidson), opposite her father's and her San Francisco address, which would signify her use of the book at a later date.

Through two letters in the possession of Walter Snow, we have verification not only of Snow's ability to read Hebrew, but of the existence of a sister and brother-in-law in Australia and possibly of a brother in London. The letters are written in Hebrew script, although the language is old German.<sup>36</sup>

The first of these communications, which bears the printed ; heading, "L. Levin & Sons, Merchants, Corowa," is dated in English, June 7, 1880. Corowa, in the southernmost part of New South Wales, Australia, is a small town that undoubtedly is in the gold-mining area of that province. Levin, who addresses Snow as "loving brother-in-law," speaks of writing a letter to "Jacob in London." He mentions the long wait for letters from California and England, and comments on Snow's information that he has not received letters written by Levin, since mail service at that time was neither efficient nor reliable.

He wrote:

We heard with consternation that you had such a rigid winter and everything is so expensive. I wish I could send you flour and fuel. I have sent 200 tons of flour to London and am awaiting to see what price it will bring.

Levin then sends greetings and best wishes from himself and Hannah, his wife, to a Cohen family in the Placerville area.

The second letter from L. Levin, which is imprinted with the crowned seal of Parliament, New South Wales, C. A., also has the English heading, "Sydney, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1883." The item of greatest interest here is the paragraph reading:

You will be interested to know that I was elected again into the Parliament. I have an additional two years in the Parliament where Harry Cohen is now the Minister of Justice.<sup>37</sup>

As late as 1880, the United States Census recorded: "farmer." the Snow family as a complete unit, all of the children living on the ranch, even Emanuel, who was noted as married, although his wife was not listed.<sup>38</sup> Samuel Snow again appeared as "farmer." While the youngest son, Charles, was still in school,

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<sup>36</sup> Copies in the possession of the writer. The letters were translated by Rabbi Morris Kaplan, Temple Knesseth Israel of Hollywood. Charles Snow, *op. cit.* said that the Snow ranch house was raided by postage stamp collectors about 1930 and stripped of letters and other material.

<sup>37</sup> L. Levin's business in Corowa was apparently that of a commission merchant dealing in grain and flour.

<sup>38</sup> The pages of the Davidson scrapbook contain a printed invitation: "Mr. and Mrs. H. Davis solicit the pleasure of your company to the nuptial ceremony of their daughter, Miss Sarah Davis and Mr. Manuel Snow, Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1877, at 3 o'clock, P.M., No. 178 Perry Street." The couple presumably lived on the ranch for some time, then moved to San Francisco. Two obituaries for Joseph Davis was probably a brother or cousin of Sarah's father, Henry. Joseph Davis had served as president of Congregation B'nai Israel of Sacramento. Emily Snow married Charles Davis, Henry's son.

each of the five older sons was classified as “laborer,” a forthright description that accurately represented their many duties on the ranch and in the mine.

Unfortunately, Paulina, the recipient of Snow’s “natural love and affection,” lived but a short time beyond this period, her life ending on March 2, 1882. The local newspaper reported:

SUDDEN DEATH – On the morning of March 2d, at lowaville, near Newtown, Mrs. Paulina Snow, wife of Samuel Snow, one of the oldest and most respected residents of that section, and one in usual good health, apparently went to work on the week’s washing. About ten o’clock she felt slightly unwell, lay down, commenced vomiting and about four o’clock, died. It is believed to have been a case of paralysis.<sup>39</sup>

Paulina’s untimely death at fifty-four, stresses the role of his hard-working pioneer wife and mother, in providing for the needs of her large family; for she virtually ran a chuck wagon and laundry at a time when working equipment consisted of such basics as wood stove, wash boiler and washboard, with power provided by her own two arms. Add the fact that her arduous duties were performed through nine periods of pregnancy and no surprise can be felt at her early demise. Her grave in the Jewish cemetery at Placerville is marked by a white marble stone ornamented with a flying dove and reads,

PAULINA, WIFE  
OF SUSMON SNOW,  
BORN JUNE 28, 1827  
DIED MARCH 2, 1882.

With Paulina gone, Carrie assumed the responsibility of caring for her father, brothers, and sister. That she was well equipped for this task is beyond question. Not only was she proficient in housekeeping, but it was she who had been assisting her father as he carried on his medical practice, which he continued to do throughout his lifetime, despite the fact that he did not care enough about medicine to make it his sole vocation. His practice was local, confined to the Newtown-lowaville area, and included miners and Indians as well as his close neighbors.<sup>40</sup>

Samuel Davidson said that Carrie recalled, when she was a child, her father’s going at night on horseback to treat an Indian woman whose husband had come to ask for help. The man brought a horse for Snow to ride and a rawhide pouch of gold for payment, both of which Snow refused, saying that he would ride his own horse and that he wanted no payment. The Indian, in gratitude for the care given his wife, would often stop at the ranch and offer his help in cutting wood or doing any necessary chores. Snow treated patients in a room of the ranch house and medicines were dispensed there with Carrie’s help. A prescription written in Snow’s hand was shown to the writer by Samuel Davidson, who said that a cupping device of Snow’s, once owned, was thrown away in later years by the family, along with other mementos. During her lifetime, Carrie brewed various infusions when any family member was sick. Snow delivered many of the babies born in the vicinity, and in serving as his assistant, Carrie became a qualified midwife.

Charles Snow recalled that during the slow winter days, Jack Raffeto, an old-timer of Placerville, used to come into the Western Auto Supply store run by him and his brother, Walter, to talk –about old times and tell them stories about Samuel Snow. He never failed to remind them that their grandfather brought him into the world. This was in the 1930’s, before Charles left for Southern California, and at

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<sup>39</sup> *Placerville Mountain Democrat*, March 4, 1882, p. 3, c.1

<sup>40</sup> Samuel Davidson, *op. cit.*

that time, Raffeto was an old man, owner of the Raffles Hotel and a great deal of other local property. Mr. Raffeto and Charles' father, Herman Snow, were boyhood friends.<sup>41</sup>

.t age fifteen, Herman Snow had poliomyelitis, and it left him weak and limping. No one knew what this ailment was at the time, but Samuel Snow wisely advised his son to take to the road and go down to a warm, dry climate to regain his strength. He wandered into Mexico and was away about three years. When he returned he was healthy and strong.<sup>42</sup>

During the early summer of 1891, Snow suffered a stroke which left him partially paralyzed. This could have been brought on by shock and grief at the untimely death of his young daughter, Emily Davis, on April 8 of that year, from complications following childbirth.<sup>43</sup> Snow's will, dated June 4, 1891, and undoubtedly drawn up after the stroke, mentions Emily's baby Viola, as a beneficiary in his estate.

A Year later, on July 9, 1892, Snow's life ended.<sup>44</sup> The Davidson scrapbook contains a detailed but unidentified Placerville newspaper clipping on Snow's death:

#### DEATH OF SAMUEL S. SNOW

One of the oldest residents of El Dorado County died at his home near Newtown, last Saturday night about twelve o'clock, at the age of a little more than seventy-four years. Mr. Snow was attacked by a paralytic stroke over a year ago, and since that time has been an invalid, having only partial use of his limbs. Last Saturday afternoon he was seized by a severe pain which continued during the evening and his condition became gradually worse till death ensued at midnight. His intelligence was good and his mind active to the last in spite of the paralysis. Mr. Snow was a native of Germany and of the Jewish faith. He came to California across the plains in 1849 (sic), lived for a time at Diamond Springs and kept a general merchandise store on Webber (sic) Creek during the 50's. After discontinuing this business he engaged in mining and farming near Newtown, which are both continued by his family. Mrs. Snow died about ten years ago. The family surviving the death of these parents is composed of six sons and one daughter, Miss Carrie Snow, now residing at Newtown. All are grown, and two sons now reside outside the county, one in San Francisco, another in Washington. The funeral occurred in this city last Monday afternoon, the remains being interred in the Jewish cemetery, where Mrs. Snow was also laid away for the final rest, years ago. There was a long train of carriages from the vicinity of the residence bearing neighbors who thus testified to their respect for the memory of the deceased. Mr. Snow was a man of much energy, intelligence and business sagacity, and many of his sterling traits of character are reproduced in the family of estimable young people he has left behind him.

His white marble gravestone bears his name at its arched top, with a pair of clasped hands carved below. Its inscription reads:

**SAMUEL S. SNOW**  
**DIED JULY 9, 1892**  
**AGED 74 YRS., 3 MOS., 21 DAYS.**  
**A NATIVE OF GERMANY.**

He estate which Snow left consisted of 365 acres of land in El Dorado County; a lot on Hayes Street, San Francisco; a \$1,150.00 bank deposit, \$500.00 worth of gold dust; plus livestock, farm implements, etc.

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<sup>41</sup> Charles Snow, *op. cit.*

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>43</sup> In the Davidson scrapbook is an unidentified, undated clipping, from a San Francisco newspaper, on her death: "Last Wednesday morning, there died in this city, Mrs. Emma (sic) Davis (nee Snow), the beloved wife of Mr. Charles Davis... only 27 years of age at the time of her death..." She was buried in the Hills of Eternity Cemetery, Colma, California.

<sup>44</sup> *Placerville Mountain Democrat*, July 16, 1892, p. 9, c.2.

Specific bequests were made to Joseph, \$750.00; Charles, \$250.00; Caroline, \$500.00; all others to share in the balance. Emanuel and Joseph Snow were named executors of the estate by the probate court.

Snow's holdings included the water ditch and the dam on the North Fork of Weber Creek, which were appraised at \$500.00. His personal property, such as horses, goats, furniture, wagons, wood, etc., was appraised at \$5,032.92. His El Dorado County real estate holdings were auctioned off on July 13, 1895. The San Francisco lot was sold to Sarah Snow, Emanuel's wife, for \$1,600.00, at public auction. Mention is made, in the records, of the payment of \$40.00 to the Rev. Joseph Leonard Levy (of Congregation B'nai Israel of Sacramento) for traveling expenses and funeral services on July 11, 1892.<sup>45</sup>

During 1895, Emanuel and Sarah built a house on the above-mentioned San Francisco lot. It was in this house that Carrie Snow and Rabbi Herman Davidson, after a courtship that had continued for ten years, were married on June 20, 1897, by Cantor Joseph Rabinowitz of Congregation Beth Israel, San Francisco. Samuel, named after his grandfather, was born to them in April, 1898. Occasionally Carrie would augment the family income by cooking for the miners at the ranch. There were bunk houses on the place to accommodate the men who worked the mine during periods when it was leased to outside companies; and Carrie, in providing meals for them, could clear a good profit, since the ranch produced most of the foodstuffs needed. Samuel Davidson remembers these times and his being cared for by an Indian woman, "Old Susan," while his mother was busy. Carrie, emulating her mother's enterprise of a half-century earlier, could turn an honest dollar by feeding the gold miners.

Of all the Snow children, Carrie had the longest life. She died on May 7, 1949, at ninety years of age, one year short of a century after her father reached California. She is buried next to her husband in Ahavas Achim Cemetery at French Camp, California.<sup>46</sup>

Except for Benjamin, who fades from the family's history after his move to Vancouver (even the date of his death is unknown), the Snow sons throughout their lives continued their activities in mining, ranching, stock raising and lumbering, on the Snow land. Their adventuresome spirits drew them afield occasionally in the years after their father's death, when the challenge of the gold rush in Alaska took Emanuel, Joseph, Herman and Charles to the North Country. On the trip up, the ship on which they were traveling caught fire and all of their equipment was lost, a misfortune which did not deter them. Charles, unmarried, remained in Alaska for two years, 1898 to 1900, but his brothers went home for the winter, then returned north. Apparently no great fortune was made by any of them. The brothers also mined for silver in Nevada at one period, with negligible results.

Manuel was the most colorful and articulate of Samuel Snow's sons, as is shown in the Davidson scrapbook clippings that record various interviews and show his photograph. As a charter member of Placerville's Society of Territorial Pioneers, he took great pride in his status as a "covered wagon baby."<sup>47</sup> During California's Diamond Jubilee in 1925, Emanuel and his companions were honored by the state government on Admission Day.

#### COVERED WAGON BABIES MEET

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<sup>45</sup> El Dorado County, Probate Record, No. 394

<sup>46</sup> During the 1940's, the writer brought her children, Miriam and Richard, to visit Great Aunt Carrie on more than one occasion. Carrie took great delight in talking to them as they sat in the high-ceiling, double-parlor of the Hayes Street house in San Francisco.

<sup>47</sup> Paolo Sioli, *op. cit.* p. 143

The fine old people who made it possible for California celebrate the Diamond Jubilee were the jubilee organization's guests last night at a banquet and theater party. The city paid them tribute. Forty five of them, everyone born in a covered wagon when the emigrants were coming to California, they represented almost every section of Northern California... Emanuel Snow, 75 years old, was the oldest boy-baby there, and so spry that he danced a fandango with his hostess, Mrs. Sears. He was born "under the wagon" at Council Bluffs, Ia., on May 15, 1850, while his parents were pushing to the Golden West.<sup>48</sup>

Mining seems to have been Emanuel's primary interest as demonstrated in a newspaper clipping from Davidson's scrapbook, without date or identification, which says in part:

Emanuel Snow is a miner with a practical experience in the working of auriferous gravels of which few can boast, having been engaged in the business in this State for a period of over thirty-five years as man and boy. He came to California when quite a youth in 1850, and almost continually ever since he has devoted his time exclusively to the exploration of gravel deposits. His vast experience in this branch of the industry is calculated to give weight to any opinion he may express in regard to the value of any property of this class, and more especially when he speaks from a personal acquaintance with its merits acquired by actual working tests.

Emanuel was active until his death at eighty-five on November 18, 1935.

Emanuel Snow, a "covered wagon baby," who came to California in 1849 (sic), died yesterday. Mr. Snow was 85. Mr. Snow was a member of San Francisco Lodge No. 21, B'nai B'rith. The Lodge will be in charge of funeral rites. ... He was also one of the most active members of the Jewish Community Center on California Street ....<sup>49</sup>

Emanuel Snow was buried in Hills of Eternity Cemetery, Colma, California, beside his wife and daughters. Of all the Snow sons, it was he who throughout his lifetime carried on the Jewish tradition and participated in its observances. Unquestionably, his living in San Francisco for a part of his life made it easier for him, than for the other sons, to form Jewish associations. His nephew said of him, "he was a real sincere Jew who kept the Jewish religion."<sup>50</sup>

Although Emanuel was not a dues-paying member of any San Francisco synagogue; he did attend Congregations Emanu-El, Beth Israel, and Sherith Israel. His sister, Carrie, attended Congregation Sherith Israel, because Rabbi Jacob Nieto was her husband's friend, as was Rabbi Myer S. Levy of Congregation I Beth Israel.<sup>51</sup>

The precious yield of the Snow mine was a tangible and familiar commodity to the family. In later years it was earned in a black satchel, by a member of the family, to the San Francisco Mint. When Carrie Davidson wanted a Mogen David to wear as a locket, her son Samuel went to the mine, picked up the necessary amount of loose gold, smelted it, then cast a Star of David in almost pure, unalloyed gold. Carrie wore it for many years.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> *San Francisco Examiner*, September 9, 1925, p.2, c.2.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*, November 19, 1935, p. 8, c. 6.

<sup>50</sup> Samuel Davidson, *op. cit.*

<sup>51</sup> The writer has Emanuel's prayer book for the High Holidays, printed for Congregation Sherith Israel, compile by Rabbi Jacob Nieto (San Francisco, 1910). "E. Snow" is stamped in gold on the cover.

<sup>52</sup> This Mogen David, which weight five-eighths on an ounce on Samuel Davidson's gold scales, and measures one and three-eighths inches tip-to-tip, was given by him to the writer.

In the 1890's, Jacob and Hennis Snow, using some of the proceeds from their mining, bought timberland, opened mills, and went into the lumber business. The Placerville paper carried this information:

In another column of this paper will be found the announcement of the Mariner-Snow lumber company, whose mills and yards are located seven miles east of Sly Park. They have recently added a lot of new and improved machinery to their mill, making the capacity 30,000 feet per day, thus enabling them to compete with any mill in filling all orders for lumber.<sup>53</sup>

The announcement referred to, advertises a full supply of sugar pine, spruce, cedar and fir lumber, with satisfaction guaranteed in quality and price.<sup>54</sup> A Snow lumber mill located in another area was lost by fire in 1931. The paper reported:

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed Snow's saw-mill, located on Weber Creek on the cut-off road leading from Camino to Pleasant Valley, late Wednesday night ....<sup>55</sup>

Twenty-five years after Samuel Snow's death, his son Joseph, whose ranching included stock raising, paid tribute to his father's memory by registering as his cattle brand the initials "SS," to be placed on the right hip of the animal.<sup>56</sup>

The first of the Snow sons to die was Joseph age 74.

After an illness ... Joseph Snow passed away at his home at Newtown last Saturday evening was a native of El Dorado County, having been born at Diamond Springs seventy-four years ago. The deceased was a well known mining man, farmer and stock raiser .... Funeral ... Tuesday from Masonic Temple in Placerville, under the auspices of Placerville Parlor No.9, Native Sons of the Golden West.<sup>57</sup>

Joseph was buried in the Snow plot in the Jewish cemetery in Placerville, the first son to join his parents there. His headstone reads: "Husband, Joseph Snow, 1851-1926. Rest in Peace."

Some years later, two of the brothers died within two weeks of each other: Charles on September 20, 1932, and Herman on October 3, 1932. The first announcement read:

The funeral services for Charles Snow, 64, a native of Newtown, were held on Thursday morning .... Rabbi Norman Goldberg of Sacramento was in charge .... He had spent his life in the Newtown section, being engaged in ranching and mining.<sup>58</sup>

The second announcement, just a short time later:

Unreal services for Herman Snow, who died Monday morning at Newtown, were held on Wednesday afternoon" .. Rabbi Goldberg of Sacramento, officiating .... Snow's death was the second in the family in recent weeks .... Herman Snow was 66 years old .... [He] spent his active life in mining and ranching.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> *Placerville Mountain Democrat*, July 16, 1892, p. 1, c.3.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 8, cs. 3-4

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid.*, August 14, 1931, p. 1, c.2.

<sup>56</sup> El Dorado County, Brand Book, p. 201, date of registration: November 39, 1917.

<sup>57</sup> *Placerville Mountain Democrat*, March 19 1926, p. 8, c. 3.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.* .. September 23, 1932, p. 2, c. 3. Charles was buried in the Jewish cemetery at Placerville. Samuel Davidson said that he brought Rabbi Norman Goldberg of Congregation B'Nai Israel, Sacramento, to Placerville, for both Charles' and Herman's funerals and was present at the interments in the Jewish cemetery. In a letter of March 10, 1970, Rabbi Goldberg, now in Augusta, Georgia, remembers his conversation with Emanuel Snow at the funerals and recalls Emanuel's pride in having been a "covered wagon baby" and a pioneer California settler.

One geographic remembrance of the Snows exists today in Dorado County. It is Snows Road, which runs through the old Snow ranch from Newtown to Camino, about nine miles east of Placerville. Samuel Davidson said that his uncles built the road as a short-cut across the country in the old days, when it was so steep that anyone going up it by horse and buggy, had get out and let the horse pull the empty rig. During the Depression years, the County bought land from the Snows in order that the road could be leveled and graded by the boys who worked in the Civilian Conservation Corps camps.



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Where are the Snows of yesteryear? As irretrievably gone as the winter drifts upon the foothills when the July sun blazes down upon the dry grass. But in the memories of their descendants, in the brittle pages of a scrapbook, in old newspapers, in books about the early days, they can be brought to life again and again. Their old-fashioned virtues, their strong characters, their good names, their eager acceptance of work as a way life, are a continuing source of pride to all of us.

A most familiar and frequently bestowed Jewish blessing confers on the one blessed a lifetime of one hundred and twenty years. In this year of 1970, one hundred and twenty years have passed since Samuel Sussman Snow arrived in California, the land of gold and of milk and honey. Perhaps, as we recount his life's story and look back with admiration at his achievements, the blessing, for him, has been fulfilled.

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<sup>59</sup> Placerville Mountain Democrat, October 7, 1932. p. 8. C. 4. No headstones were placed on the graves for these two 1932 burials. The graves are unmarked, but both Charles and Herman lie in the Snow plot. As Samuel Davidson said that one of the Snow sons was buried in the Placerville Catholic Cemetery, it is probably Jacob, who died October 1. 1939

# SNOWS RD – via Carson Rd

