



History of Lassen Volcanic National Park and Surrounding Region

1821: Don Louis Arguello led an exploring expedition into Northern California and passed near the Lassen region. His padres named the mountain San Jose (later renamed Lassen Peak).

1827: Mt. Shasta named Sastise after a tribe of Indians by Peter S. Ogden who may have been the first white man to pass through the Lassen region. Jedediah Smith named Lassen Peak "Mt. Joseph". Actually, he applied the name to the whole range of mountains from 39 to 41 degrees latitude.

1841: Wilkes map added Saint to the name and restricted it to the peak proper. John Bidwell, Peter Lassen, Burnheim and an Indian guide discovered and named Mill Creek.

1843: *October 11* - Peter Lassen filed for a land grant from the Mexican government.

1844: *July 25* - Peter Lassen became a Mexican citizen. *December 26* - Lassen's land grant, Rancho Bosquejo, approved, aided by John Sutter and John Bidwell. It lay south of what is now Vina and included the mouth of Deer Creek and totaled 22,000 acres, or 5 leagues. Lassen attempted to establish Benton City on his rancho; the city was named after Senator Thomas Hart Benton, Fremont's father-in-law. He also applied the name Sister Buttes to Lassen Peak and Brokeoff Mountain.

1845: Lassen invited William B. Ide to come to his ranch and build a sawmill. Shortly later, after a misunderstanding, Ide moved north to the present site of Tehama.

1846: Captain John Charles Fremont and some of his men visited Lassen's ranch in the spring of the year. Applegate brothers established the southern Oregon Trail.

1847: (*Summer*) Lassen, along with Commodore Robert F. Stockton, backtracked the newly established Oregon Trail from Goose Lake to Missouri in hopes of encouraging emigrants to settle at Benton City. Major Pierson B. Reading was a signer of the Treaty of Cahuenga. He also served as paymaster for Fremont's battalion and was involved in the Bear Flag Revolt. In 1848, he discovered gold on Clear Creek. *June 30* - Lassen granted the land he owned north of Deer Creek to Daniel Sill who was his ranch manager.

1848: (*May*) The Masons of the State of Missouri issued a charter for Western Star Lodge #98 at Benton City, California (currently located at Shasta). Peter Lassen was Junior Warden. (*Fall*) Lassen returned to California leading a wagon train along a route using much of the old Applegate Trail. He deeded a large share of his land to General John Wilson and Joel Palmer. Lassen had now deeded away two-thirds of his land. *January 24* - John Marshall discovered gold at Sutter's Sawmill at Coloma. *July 4* - John Bidwell discovered gold in Feather River, later bought Rancho del Arroyo Chico.

1849: Black Rock mines discovered. J. Goldsborough Bruff arrived in California by way of the Lassen Trail. While still in the mountains, he became sick and remained there while the others in his party continued to the Sacramento Valley. They never returned for him and he nearly starved during the hard winter. Battle Creek named after a bloody battle between Indians and trappers.

October 30 - The Masonic Lodge finally established at Benton City; the delay was probably due to the gold rush.

1850: Bruff used the name Snow Butte for Lassen Peak, a name which had been used throughout the 1840's. (*July*) Peter Lassen led a party in a search for Gold Lake. By mid-August, miners reportedly took out \$100-\$1500 a day at Myers diggings. *January 4* - Legislature passed a bill that created Reading County. *February 18* - The above bill amended and the name changed to Shasta County. At this time, Shasta County was bordered on the north by Oregon, on the east by Nevada, on the southeast by Butte County, and on the west by Trinity County.

1851: (*Spring*) William Nobles, seeking gold, was with a party of men who came to Honey Lake. The party disbanded but Nobles continued eastward looking for the rumored Gold Lake; then he intersected the Oregon Trail at Black Rock Point, Nevada. Realizing that this newer, easier route to California could mean wealth to him, he returned via what is now known as the Emigrant Trail to Anderson and from there went north to Shasta. Masonic Lodge moved to Shasta. This probably indicates that Benton City was declining by this time and that due to gold prospecting in the Trinity mountains, Shasta was on the increase. Grover K. Godfrey made the first recorded ascent of Lassen Peak. Capt. J.W. Maxwell also reported to have climbed the peak. Two prospectors arrived at Georgetown, El Dorado County, and reported passing an active volcano which was thought to be Cinder

Cone. Peter Lassen and Burton built the first log cabin at Indian Valley, 4.5 miles east of present Greenville. Here they raised vegetables which they sold to gold miners. The site of the cabin is now marked by California Historical marker #184.

1852: A license was granted to D.D. Harrill and Co. to operate a ferry across the Sacramento River at the mouth of Cow Creek. It is now known as Emigrant Ferry (there is a memorial on the highway 2 miles north of Anderson). Harrill was also one of the men from Shasta who went with Nobles to verify his route. *May 3* - William Nobles obtained a \$2,000 subscription from the citizens of Shasta in return for his promise to reveal his new route. He then returned to Humboldt River (Nevada) to divert emigrants to Shasta.

1853: Nobles moved to Minnesota to continue a campaign to interest people in his route. Major Reading led a party that surveyed the Nobles Pass as a possible railroad route. John H. Drebelbis traveled Nobles route and wrote about it for Hutchings California magazine, June 1857.

1854: Plumas County created by legislators. (*June or July*) Isaac Roop opened a trading post at Roopstown, later called Susanville. The Minnesota legislature sent Nobles to Congress to make a speech about his route. Congress passed a bill for \$300,000 to improve the route.

1855: Lassen moved to Honey Lake where he and Isaac Roop worked together to promote that community (now Susanville).

1856: Tehama County formed from the southern portion of Colusa County. *April 26* - A gathering of approximately 20 settlers met and drew up a paper setting up laws and regulations for a new territory to be called Nataqua. Isaac Roop and Peter Lassen were chosen recorder and surveyor respectively. *August 19* - The Wood and Long train arrived at Honey Lake under the leadership of General Allen Wood.

1857: *April 28* - Legislature passed an act to provide for a wagon road from Oroville to Honey Lake. The assumption was that when a transcontinental railroad was built, it would go to Fort Reading and they hoped to turn it in their direction. The measure was defeated in Black Butte and Plumas Counties. Perhaps the Central Pacific would have used Nobles Trail eastward if the act had passed. *August 4* - Honey Lake's independence challenged by action of Plumas County Board of Supervisors. *August 8* - A large convention held by settlers west of the Sierras. They desired that a new territory be created between California and Utah. Isaac Roop was elected one of the convention's four vice presidents; later elected territorial governor.

1858: *January 5* - J. Williams, Peter Lassen and Isaac Roop acted as sub-agents of the superintendent of Indian Affairs for California. J.T. Henly signed a treaty with Winnemucca, Chief of the Paiutes.

1859: Local Indians rounded up by militia and taken to Round Valley Indian Reservation (By 1863 most of them had left the reservation because of poor conditions. In 1868 many of them were rounded up and returned to the reservation once again). *April 26* - Peter Lassen was killed by an unknown party near what is now Clapper Creek. He was with two other men at the time, Clapper and Wyatt. Clapper was also killed.

1860: Charles F. Hoffman served as Topographer for the Whitney Survey until 1874. Edward R. Drake settled in Warner Valley. Peter C. Crumbaugh came to Red Bluff and grazed sheep in the vicinity of Crumbaugh Lake. During the 1860's, James M. King lived in Kings Creek Meadows area running horses and mules. He also operated a race track in the Sacramento Valley, at Pine Grove.

1861: *February 11* - F.W. Lander, appointed superintendent of an expedition to map Fort Kerney south pass and Honey Lake Wagon Road as a possible national military route, submitted his report.

1862: Idaho mining excitement broke out, leading to the legislative act of April 14, 1863 granting a franchise to John Bidwell et. al who established the Chico and Humboldt Wagon Road Company from Chico to Susanville.

1863: The C. Brewster-Clarence King party climbed Lassen Peak. In their writing they referred to statements having been made that steam was observed coming from the Chaos Crags between 1854-57.

1864: Lassen County was created. Major Reading and K.V. Bumpass filed a claim at "Bumpass Hell." Reading also led the third recorded party to ascend Lassen Peak. This party included Helen Tanner Brodt, the first woman to climb Lassen Peak, and her husband Aurelius.

1865: The first reference to the geology of the Lassen region is contained in Whitney's Survey Memoir. The party included W.H. Brewster, C.F. Hoffman, and Clarence King. This party first recognized what is now known as Mt. Tehama's crater. K.V. Bumpass's leg amputated as a result of burns when he stepped on shallow crust and fell into a sulphur pool at Bumpass Hell. T.M. Boardman made arrangements for developing the sulphur and clay potential of the "Sulphur Works" area under the supervision of Dr. Supan, a well known chemist. They bought the area from Simmons in 1866. *April 3* - Pierce and Francis, backed by General Bidwell, started a weekly saddle train from Chico to Idaho at a cost of \$66 per trip. There were 40 passengers in the first train.

July 11 - First stage from Chico to Ruby City passed through Susanville. Black Rock Mines rediscovered about this time.

1866: *July 1* (midnight) The first stage of the California and Idaho stage and Fast Freight Company left Chico, arriving in Ruby City 5 days and 3 hours later, a distance of 423 miles. The capital stock of this company was \$200,000; John Millen was the company's president. *August 22* - Yana Indians raided the Dersch place on Bear Creek and killed Mrs. Anna Maria Dersch, wife of George who had settled the place in 1861.

1867: John T. Edwards registered at Shingletown. In 1871 he moved to Santa Barbara. In 1885 he returned to Manton where he operated teams for the Klotz mill and pulled teeth for early settlers.

1871: What was believed to be the last Yahi Indians were killed at Kingsley Cave.

1874: H.W. Harkness, a president of the California Academy of Sciences, described a visit to Cinder Cone in which he verified the activity reported in the winter of 1850-51. Benjamin F. Loomis came to Viola at the age of 18. He became a hotelman, lumberman, amateur naturalist and photographer. He and his wife Estella played an important role in the establishment of Lassen Volcanic National Park. The Tom Malgin family bought a 400 acre sheep ranch in the Drakesbad area. By 1881, they had developed open log conduits and a log bath house which became well known throughout the state.

1875: Jim Payne settled on Antelope Creek.

1878: Lt. S.E. Tillman climbed Lassen Peak; he surveyed a large area including Oroville, Quincy and the Lassen region for the Corps of Engineers.

1883: Professor J.S. Diller first visited the Lassen region and started a series of studies of the area that extended for 40 years. (*April*) William H. Coffey homesteaded 40 acres which he sold to Francis Harris August 2, 1902 (The Herbert Kraft Company Bank in Red Bluff sold this property to W.B. Armstrong April 5, 1904 and he in turn sold to B.F. Loomis on January 6, 1926 for \$1,000. Loomis later donated the land to the U.S. Government). Coffey and John E. Stockton had formed a partnership in the early 1880's and posted a claim to water rights from Little Manzanita (Reflection) Lake in 1883.

1884: Fred Dersch established a sheep ranch on Hat Creek near Raker Peak and built a cabin and corral in Dersch Meadows. He was killed by Indians at his ranch on Bear Creek which lay outside what is now the park boundary.

1887: (*October and December*) William Bartels filed claims to water rights from Manzanita Lake.

1890: Brokeoff Meadows patented by Jeff and John Ogburn. It was known for many years as Hollensworth Flat.

1893: It is guessed that Mrs. Selena LaMarr, Indian of the Atsugewi tribe, was born in this year. Jessen Meadows was sold by Wilson to Andres Jessen and Nelson Stewart who used it for a summer cow camp. It later became a part of the Devastated Area.

1897: Clark and Hillebrand published 48 analyses of volcanic rocks from the Lassen area. Anklin Meadows, which was homesteaded by Richard Anklin, was sold to W.W. Elmore. It was later destroyed by the Great Mudflow of May 19, 1915.

1900: Chief Shavehead, the last chief of the Hat Creek Indians died. Drakesbad was named by Alex Sifford when he bought the property from Edward R. Drake.

1902: (*April and June*) Joseph A. Rossi filed claims to water rights from Lost Creek.

1904: (*June*) Albert W. Smith homesteaded 160 acres near Manzanita Lake. On November 15, 1906 he sold this and adjacent 120 acres to H.H. Noble, who in turn sold these properties to the Northern California Power Company. PG&E, who took over the power company, sold this land to the Federal Government on February 26, 1931 for \$15,000, half of its assessed valuation.

1905: *June 2* - Lassen National Forest established.

1907: *May 6* - President T.R. Roosevelt signed proclamation establishing Cinder Cone and Lassen Peak National Monuments. *October 30* - Badger Flat, also previously known as Pine Meadows and Booker Flat (after John R. Booker of Redding), was patented by Horace Herbert. It was sold to Hugh Addington in 1946 and purchased by the Federal Government in 1948.

1911: *August 29* - Ishi, the last of the Yahi Indians, captured at slaughterhouse near Oroville. *September 4* - Ishi was taken by Professor Waterman to the University of California where he lived for 5 years.

1912: The Northern California Power Company built a small earth dam which raised the water level of Manzanita Lake a few feet.

1913: (*Spring*) A Forest Service lookout was built on top of Lassen Peak.

1914: *May 30* - First recent eruption of Lassen Peak, witnessed by Bert McKinzie of Chester. *May 31* - Forest Ranger Harvey Abbey became the first person to climb the peak after the eruption. *June 9* - G.R. Milford took the first published pictures of the eruption. *June 14* - Lance Graham struck by a rock from the volcano and left for dead on the mountain. He was later rescued. *June 23* - Professor J.S. Diller returned to Lassen Peak to study new eruptions and climb to the top of the peak. He returned on *July 15*. *October 12* - The fire lookout completely demolished by eruption.

1915: *May 19* - True lava issued from Lassen Peak, resulting in a mudflow. *May 22* - The Great Hot Blast and a second mudflow occurred. Professor R.S. Holway, U.C. Berkeley, was the first man to reach the crater after the eruption of May 19 and 22. *June 2* - The name Lassen Peak officially adopted.

1916: *August 9* - The John Raker bill establishing Lassen Volcanic as the 17th national park was signed by President Wilson.

1925: A.L. Day and E.T. Allen published The Volcanic Activity and Hot Springs of Lassen Peak, summarizing most of the numerous geological studies done in the park from 1915-1925.
A road was built from Manzanita Lake up Manzanita Creek to Crescent Cliffs.

1926: (*February*) L. Walker Collins became first park superintendent and served until July 20, 1935. Prior to 1926 Lassen Volcanic National Park was administered by Yosemite National Park. The Warner Valley Ranger Station was the first building constructed by the Park Service. Snow damaged it during the following winter and it was rebuilt in 1927. A volcano observatory was established by the USGS at Mineral on the SW slope of Lassen Peak under the direction of R.H. Finch.

1927: Dr. Howel Williams started his geological research in the park. *April 30* - Exclusive jurisdiction of the park ceded by California legislature to the Federal Government. Summit Lake Ranger Station built in this year. *July 4* - B.F. Loomis dedicated the Mae Loomis Memorial Museum which he built in memory of his daughter who died January 13, 1920 from influenza.

1928: R.H. Finch and C.A. Anderson restudied Cinder Cone and vicinity. *March 27* - Congressional act provided for the naming of a peak for John E. Raker. *April 26* - The land near Mineral on which the headquarters area is located was added to the park. *May 21* - A Congressional act allowed the Federal Government to exchange lands with the state.

1929: *January 19* - A Congressional act provided for enlarging the boundaries of the park. The southern link of the Park Road to the base of Lassen Peak completed. B.F. Loomis donated Loomis Museum and 40 acres of land to the Federal Government. (*September*) Old trail from Sulphur Works to base of Lassen Peak via Lake Helen completed.

1930: *April 19* - A Congressional act adjusted the boundary of the park in Section 30 T30N R5E. *August 11* - Work started on Lassen Peak trail. *August 13* - PG&E granted the Federal Government a 100 foot wide right of way in Section 18 T31N R4E.

1931: Lassen Park Road completed; Raker Memorial built. *January 26* - A Congressional act prohibited any new acquisition of property or rights of way, etc., in the park. *July 1* - Entrance fees were collected for the first time. *July 18* - Sierra Club register installed on Lassen Peak.

1932: Lake Helen snow cabin completed.

1933: Bronze plaque commemorating Helen Tanner Brodt placed at Lake Helen Picnic Area.

1935: Mt. Tehama named by Dr. J. Volney Lewis. It was previously called Brokeoff Cone and Brokeoff Volcano by Dr. Howel Williams, U.C., 1932. 115,000 silver salmon planted in Juniper Lake. Bumpass Hell Trail completed. (*July*) Ten cabins were built by the Lassen Park Company, a former park concessionaire. (*August*) The lecture platform at the Manzanita Lake campfire circle was completed and the lodge dining room opened to the public.

1938: (*November*) Seismograph station at Mineral completed.

1948: *August 24* - Mt. Conard named in honor of Arthur L. Conard, organizer and president of Lassen Park Development Association, who worked hard for the establishment of the park. (The mountain was previously known as Black Butte.)

1951: Mrs. Selena LaMarr started participating in the Indian Lore Program presented during the summer months in the park.

1952: (*November*) Sulphur Works area added to the park.

1961: *August 10* - Section 19 T31N R4E and other parcels of land in Sections 4 and 11 added to the park.

1962: *October 11* - A strong storm caused a large number of the park's large trees to be blown down.

1966: The Lassen Chalet, Sulphur Works Campground and the Southwest Entrance Station completed.

1972: *April 11* - PL 92-272 transferred 482 acres to Lassen National Forest in T31N R5E W 1/2 Section 1 and NW 1/4 Section 12. *October 19* - PL 92-510 established 78,982 acres of the park as wilderness. *December 12* - Red Mountain T30N R5E, Section 34 renamed Sifford Mountain for Alex Sifford.

1973: (*Summer*) Lake Helen Snow Survey cabin torn down.

1974: *April 26* - Manzanita Lake area declared a hazard zone and all facilities (concessioner, campground and employee housing) closed. Temporary employee and visitor use facilities relocated in Section 13.

1975: *April 11* - Loomis Museum entered in the National Register of Historic Places. *November 10* - A 24 mile portion of the Nobles' Emigrant Trail within the park has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

1976: (*May*) Loops C, D, E, and F of the Manzanita Lake Campground were reopened for visitor use. *December 16* - National Park Service in cooperation with USGS increased the monitoring capabilities of the volcanic features. Installed five seismometers, two tiltmeters and two inclinometers.

1977: (*August*) Public meetings on final draft of the General Management Plan were held first week in August. These meetings were held to provide for wide citizen participation through which the National Park Service would receive ideas and suggestions from the public to use in formation of the park's General Management Plan.

1978: Entered on National Register of Historic Places: March 30 - Prospect Peak Fire Lookout, May 5 - Horseshoe Lake Ranger Station and October 3 - Administration Building at Park Headquarters

1981: (*January*) The General Management Plan was approved.

1982: (*Summer*) The chairlift was installed at the Lassen Park Ski Area.

1989: Amendment to the General Management Plan designating certain areas of Manzanita Lake to be reopened for day use.

1993: Last year Lassen Park Ski Area operated. Ski lifts removed in August.
September 17 - Loomis Museum opened to the public as the primary summer contact facility.