

The Independence Lake Progress

VOL. 1 NO. 5 — DECEMBER, 1975

A REPORT FROM THE WALT DISNEY

OUTDOOR RECREATION DIVISION

FOREST SERVICE LAND STUDY DELAYED; DISNEY SUSPENDS INDEPENDENCE PROJECT



THIS INVITING SKI RUN IS TYPICAL OF THE MANY OPEN SLOPES FOUND AT INDEPENDENCE LAKE'S UPPER ELEVATIONS.

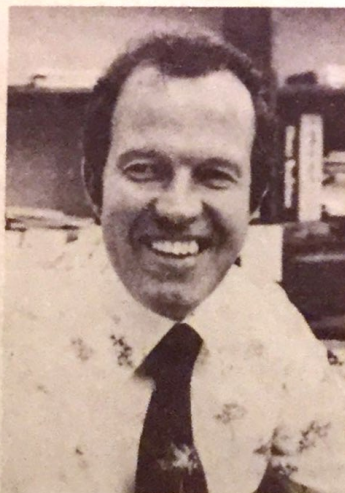
L. Gordon Cooper, Ex-Astronaut, Directs Research

Scientific advances achieved by the United States' multibillion dollar space exploration program are being applied to the planning of a year-round family destination resort at Independence Lake.

And the man directing the application is former Astronaut L. Gordon Cooper, whose record of space flight and historic firsts has been paralleled with broad experience in space-age engineering.

Cooper, 48, a pioneer space pilot in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's manned flights, brought his highly advanced proficiencies to WED Enterprises, (the architectural, engineering, research and

Please turn to Page 2, Col. 1



L. GORDON COOPER, former astronaut, seeks alternate energy sources for Independence program.

JOBS, TAX BENEFITS CITED TO PLANNERS

Construction employment reaching as high as 900 persons at one time, permanent operational employment for an average of 715 employees per year, and tax revenues substantially exceeding the added costs to Sierra County were predicted by Bob Hicks, Independence Lake Project Manager for the Walt Disney Outdoor Recreation Division, in his presentation to the Sierra County Planning Commission on November 12.

These are the findings of the preliminary environmental and economic studies conducted for the Disney organization by a task force of more than 25 individuals and consulting firms during the past year.

In notifying the commission that delays in the completion of the Forest

Please turn to Page 4, Col. 2

Work Halted Until '76 Decision On Land Exchanges

Walt Disney Outdoor Recreation Division has suspended its planning effort for its Independence Lake project until the U. S. Forest Service finalizes its Land Use Plan for the region and land exchanges between project property owners and the Forest Service are completed.

This announcement was made to the Sierra County Planning Commission on November 12 by Robert B. Hicks, project manager.

Hicks also stated that the company would not file its Environmental Impact Statement until this matter was resolved.

"Since the inception of planning in early 1974, we have felt that, in order to develop the best possible project, we would need to use for access and recreational purposes Forest Service lands adjacent to the private lands of our partners, Southern Pacific Land Company and Sierra Pacific Power Company," Hicks told the commission.

"Over the years, our partners have found it increasingly difficult to manage the private lands and natural resources under their control, because these lands are intermingled in a checkerboard pattern with lands owned by the Forest Service," Hicks said. "Southern Pacific and Sierra Pacific have faced a continuing tax burden without a corresponding opportunity to properly manage the resources on their lands. Conversely, the government is prevented from properly administering some of the most highly prized and beautiful natural areas in the state of California."

Hicks told the Planning Commission that the proposed Independence Lake project offers the Forest Service a unique opportunity to consolidate its holdings in such magnificent areas as Castle Peak, the Grouse Ridge Lakes Basin, the Middle Fork of the Yuba River, and along the Truckee River in Sierra and Nevada Counties, making possible the permanent protection of some of the most sensitive primitive and undeveloped areas in California.

Please turn to Page 3, Col. 1

SPACE-FLYING COOPER DOWN-TO-EARTH EXPERT

Continued from Page 1

development division of the Disney organization) this year.

As vice-president of research and development for EPCOT, Disney's internationally-commended Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow under development in Florida, Cooper has become deeply involved in seeking what might be termed tomorrow's answers for today's problems.

Many of his findings can and will be applied to the engineering proposals for the Independence Lake project. These range from antipollution mea-



"... energy systems ... totally compatible with the environment ..."

asures to alternative energy sources, from waste disposal to air and water quality considerations.

"Disney is dedicated not only to meet the requirements for environmental protection and energy conservation, but to go beyond," said the man who has made a career out of "going beyond." Cooper flew 22 earth orbits by himself in the Faith 7 capsule during the Mercury 9 program of 1963, and scored a record 122 orbits as command pilot of the Gemini 5 flight with Astronaut Pete Conrad two years later.

Selected in the first group of seven astronauts for the NASA Mercury program, Cooper's many achievements included training as back-up command pilot on Gemini 12, and back-up command pilot on Apollo 10 space flights.

He received his doctorate in science from Oklahoma City University after attending the University of Hawaii, the University of Maryland's European extension and the U. S. Air Force Institute of Technology as well as obtaining eleven years of graduate level study in space technology, space mechanics, lunar geology and associated subjects.

In contrast with his rich experience in space flight, the Oklahoma-born Cooper is regarded by his colleagues as a down-to-earth technician.

"Gordon can talk theory with you as long as you want," said one associate, "but his main interest is in being practical. He doesn't go after just the possibilities; he wants to know what will actually work."

So far as a basic approach to the Independence Lake project is concerned, Cooper says:

"We have no disagreement with the environmentalists' philosophy. Our desires for the end results are the same. Any energy systems we develop, for example, we expect to be totally compatible with the environment, and as independent as possible of our present short supply of petrochemicals.

"At present we have high interest in two categories of alternate energy sources: solar and wind. The initial capital outlay may come high—but thereafter it's a form of virtually free non-pollutant energy."

Cooper cited installations at Walt Disney World in Florida as illustrations of superior environmental safeguards.

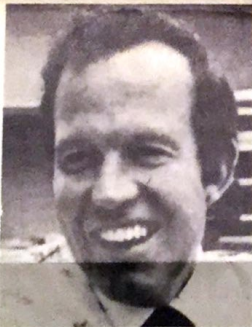
"Russell Train, director of the federal Environmental Protection Agency, recently sent members of his staff to Walt Disney World to examine the advanced controls we have established on air and water quality," Cooper said.

"Mr. Train, who certainly has a broad knowledge in this subject, saw Walt Disney World for the first time while attending the recent Southern Governor's Conference there, and volunteered that he was surprised and delighted that we had accomplished so much in the field of environmental protection.

"Additionally, many members of the federal Energy Research and Development Agency have been visiting our Florida project to study its highly-successful energy applications.

"One of these applications, now in its final design phase, involves an experimental solar energy installation in which the entire roof of a building will trap and channel heat up to 500 degrees Fahrenheit. This then will be used to create steam to be introduced into the present heating and air conditioning systems, as well as provide some excess.

"To give you an idea of the practicality of this project," Cooper said, "this installation will service a two-



"... high interest in ... alternate energy sources: solar and wind ..."

story building containing approximately 12,000 square feet."

Similar installations have been under study for incorporation in Disney's Independence Lake project, Cooper said.

"At Independence Lake we see solar energy as a potential method of heating our facilities, keeping our roads and sidewalks snowfree and icfree, and providing steam to run electrical generators."

Says Cooper, "Solar energy installations potentially offer us the opportunity to conserve energy, and to eliminate the air pollutants which result from burning traditional petrochemicals to provide heat."

Another major energy-source alternate deals with the use of wind.

"I remember when I was 9 years old I had an uncle in Texas who obtained all the electrical power he needed on his



AS AN ASTRONAUT, Gordon Cooper set numerous scientific research records in space.

ranch from a windmill and some storage batteries," Cooper recalled. "It ran his lights, pumps and machinery.

"It seems that, with the advent of cheap electricity that came on with the Rural Electrification Administration and other federal and private projects, we got away from the basics.

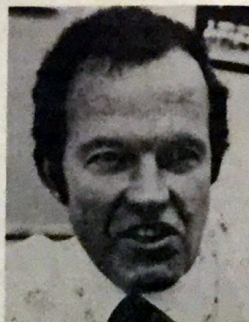
"Now there definitely is a need to develop them again, on a more intense level."

WED engineers already have sized a windmill, Cooper disclosed, which would generate the power needed for the present weather study installations at half a dozen sites in the Independence Lake-Mt. Lola area. These include instruments to take meteorological readings and inscribe them on electrically-powered recorders.

"We're also planning a system which would heat and illuminate the office and living quarters of our supervisory construction personnel with solar and wind sources," Cooper added. "This also gives us some research capability."

Another sophisticated energy study undertaken by Cooper and his associates at WED involves how fuel cells might be applied to maintaining a non-polluting environment as well as conserving energy.

(Cooper was the first man to fly a fuel cell into space for a NASA study on how this combining of elements can generate electrical energy.)



"NASA feels Disney has the interest, the dedication ... the resources."

"We are getting fairly advanced in this field," he explained. "At Independence Lake, fuel cells using cryogenic

hydrogen might be the power source for our railway and people-mover systems. Our visitors will never need to use their automobiles during their stay."

Indicative of the achievements and responsible position of the Disney organization in these fields is the fact NASA has created a committee to interface with the company on a vast area of energy research and application, Cooper disclosed.

"NASA wants to make available to us programs that have come directly out of the space work," he said. "NASA feels Disney has the interest, the dedication to environmental protection through advanced technologies and the resources to pursue further applications of this knowledge to present-day problems and needs.

One such program, Cooper said, deals with solid waste disposal. "At Independence Lake, for example, trash—paper, plastics, food wastes, vegetation clippings and such—would not be put into an orthodox incinerator. Instead, it could be disposed of through pyrolysis.

"This is the process of heating material to a high temperature in the absence of oxygen, causing the material to break down into burnable gases and oils.

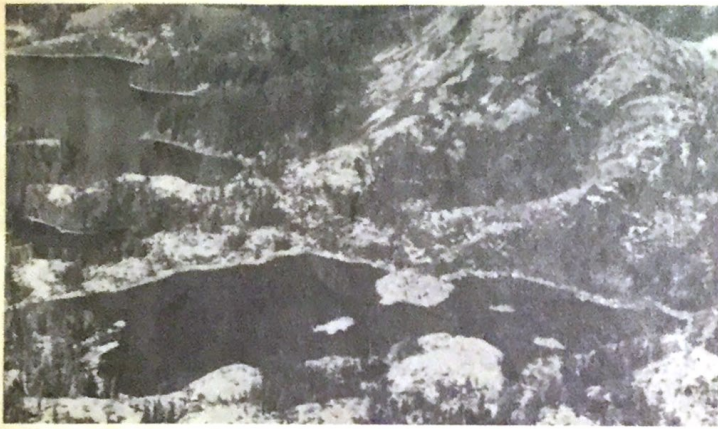
"These fuels can be used to produce steam—which is synonymous with power and heat. The beauty of pyrolysis in this instance is that it converts waste matter to energy in a way that virtually does away with pollution."

Cooper and his colleagues also have been studying anaerobic digestion, which is the process of decomposing organic material in the absence of oxygen.

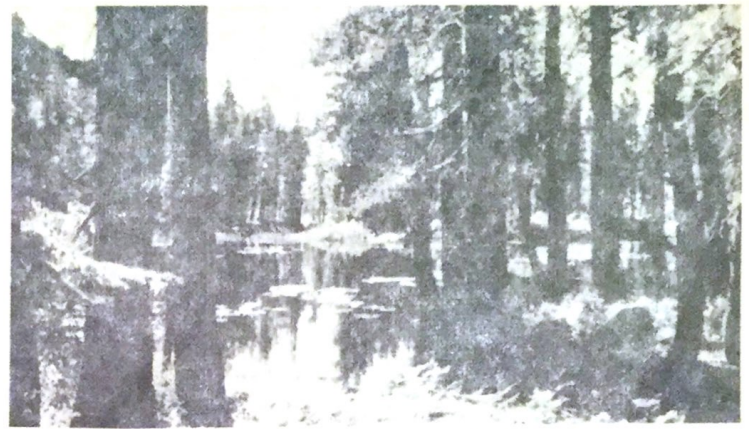
"A product of this process," Cooper said, "is methane gas, which in certain cases has the potential of being used as a natural gas substitute."

(Southern California Gas Company already is producing this natural gas substitute in a plant near Los Angeles.)

"We are deeply involved in seeking high standards of performance for this project at all its levels," said Cooper. "I've come to learn this simply is the Disney philosophy. The future is exciting. We expect to make significant contributions to it."



UNIQUE, pristine lands of the Grouse Ridge Lakes Basin (above) have been offered to the Forest Service by Southern Pacific for equal value acreage near Independence Lake.



FRAGILE wildlands like this Grouse Lakes setting deserve high priority for acquisition, says the Forest Service. Conservationists also want them in public ownership.

UNIQUE, PRIMITIVE AREAS OFFERED TO FOREST SERVICE

Continued from Page 1

This goal could be attained through equal value land exchanges for checkerboarded holdings in the Independence Lake area, which would enable the joint venture partners to better master plan visitor facilities at Independence Lake according to topographical and environmental considerations; improve and maintain the present access road from State Route 89 to the lake, guaranteeing that this entry corridor would always be managed in a manner compatible with the development; and most importantly, make possible the highest standards of planning, management and operation through unified control and administration of the lands within the recreational area, he said.

"In recent discussions with Forest Service officials in Washington, we learned that the Forest Service is now considering a policy under which, in the future, if any Forest Service lands are involved in a private project, it may assert its authority to control not only those activities which take place on Forest Service land, but all administrative and operational decisions regarding the adjacent private lands as well," Hicks told the commission. "We feel that, under the California Environmental Quality Act and the county master plans, there is adequate state and local authority to assure that the highest standards of development and operation will be achieved and maintained at Independence Lake.

"In early 1974, when the Walt Disney Outdoor Recreation Division began serious discussions with its potential partners regarding the Independence Lake area, it was anticipated that the Forest Service Land Use Study would be completed by at least early 1975. Subsequently, we learned that the completion date for that study had been deferred to May of 1976, at the earliest," Hicks revealed.

"Although we are aware that Forest Service officials are in the process of completing several land exchanges in this area, they feel they are not able to make any decisions regarding our Independence Lake project until their Land Use Study is completed," Hicks said. "This means that we currently have no assurance whatsoever that we will be able to utilize the adjacent Forest Service lands in the Independence Lake project, either through permit or land exchange."

Hicks told the commission that it would not be prudent for Disney to make any further investment in either master planning or environmental

studies until it receives a decision as to the availability of adjacent Forest Service lands.

In late 1972, the Forest Service completed a Master Forest Land Ownership Adjustment Plan for Tahoe National Forest, which focused upon the region's "complex land ownership problems." It cited among the goals of the plan: "... to consolidate the Forest to the maximum extent feasible to ensure the most effective economical management of these public properties; and to help solve the problems of management, protection and use of lands and resources arising from intermingled or checkerboard land ownership patterns."

Nearly two-thirds of Sierra County is owned by the Forest Service, which contributes approximately one-third of the county revenues generated locally, Hicks pointed out.

"In recent years, the Forest Service

has acquired or is in the process of acquiring nearly 9,000 additional acres of land in the county, while releasing only 30 or 40 acres back to the tax rolls," he said.

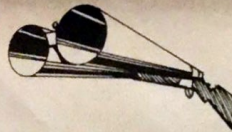
"The Land Adjustment program proposed by our partners could put 5,000 or more acres back on the tax rolls in a portion of Sierra County where jobs can be created and the tax base substantially increased," Hicks stated. "The lands obtained from the Forest Service would result in a higher assessed value and tax income to the counties, and would mean better land management and protection of both the Forest Service and private lands."

Hicks reminded the Planning Commission that all of the lands in the Independence Lake area would still be subject to the environmental, master planning and zoning restrictions of both the state of California and the local counties.

"In order to accomplish these goals, and in fact to make the Independence Lake project a reality, we need the active support of everyone in the local area," Hicks said. He urged local citizens to express their support by writing to Congressman Harold (Bizz) Johnson, U.S. Senators John Tunney and Alan Cranston, State Senators Clare Berryhill and Randolph Collier, Assemblyman Eugene Chappie, and other elected officials on the state and national level.

"Most importantly, we urge you to express your opinions to Tahoe Forest Supervisor Bob Allison in Nevada City and Regional Forester Doug Leisz in San Francisco. We deeply appreciate the widespread support we have experienced in both Sierra and Nevada counties, and hope to move forward, providing both jobs and recreational opportunities for the people of the area, as soon as possible," he concluded.

BOTH BARRELS



Comment:

We moved up here because we like the rural lifestyle. We're against anything that would change it.

Reply:

It would be foolish to say that the Independence Lake project will not bring changes. On the other hand, tourism is a "clean" industry. It brings additional economic growth, employment and tax revenues without the corresponding demand for additional schools and other public services required by manufacturing or other types of businesses.

The whole idea is to build a year-round destination resort where people will come and stay—not run around the region.

In many instances visitors would arrive by public transportation—planes, trains, buses—and stay at Independence Lake throughout their entire visit to the area.

There would be some increased peripheral visitation, of course. It would be misleading to state otherwise. But other new areas like Northstar have not had the dire effects and negative impacts which some people have predicted for us.

Question:

Sierra County is hard-pressed now to provide certain services for the elderly and the ill. Won't your resort require even more county services—at county expense?

Reply:

On the contrary. Establishment of this project should have a most beneficial effect on county tax revenue. As has been noted, under present property tax structures, for every \$10 million in investment, \$153,000 in property taxes would accrue to the county. In addition, another \$338,000 in sales, transfer, franchise and other taxes would accrue to Sierra County during the first year of operation.

Additional costs to the county caused by the project should not exceed \$150,000, leaving a substantial tax surplus to help serve the needs of local residents, or to lower property taxes for everyone.

Relating to just the elderly and the ill, these additional revenues might well be used to expand medical facilities and increase ambulance service, depending on determinations by the counties.

Question:

What's to keep Highway 89 north of Truckee from becoming a forest of signboards, gas stations and hot-dog stands?

Reply:

Zoning and building permits are under control of the county officials. On Forest Service land, the use is determined by federal officials.

Highway 89 could be maintained in its present state, however, if the respective county supervisors apply for its official designation as a State Scenic Route and adhere to the related development restrictions. The State Legislature already has made the highway eligible for such designation.

Question:

Unemployment in Sierra County has become a major problem. I've heard that more than 25 per cent of the labor force is out of work. How many jobs would your project provide—on a permanent basis?

Reply:

Construction employment, although temporary work, would reach as high as 900 during the third summer. On an annual average about 715 permanent jobs will be available once the resort is completed. Wherever possible, local residents will be given preference; a long-standing company policy.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS ANSWERED AT SESSION

How do residents of the nearby communities feel about the Independence Lake project — and what are their chief concerns?

This was the basis of an extensive survey conducted in August by the consulting firm of Dames & Moore, under the guidance of its chief economist, Harry Bridgeman.

The major concerns have been as follows: that the Independence Lake project would increase the number of people in the area, threaten the rural life-style, increase traffic and have adverse effects on the natural environment. Many people were concerned that tax rates might increase.

A large majority felt that the region would benefit from the proposed project. These residents pointed to increased employment, a more stable economy resulting from increased business activity, and economic gains for the county which would result in improved community services.

In his presentation to the Sierra County Planning Commission, Hicks responded to those concerns.

"The project will indeed bring new people to the area," he said, "but tourism, particularly family-oriented tourism, is well recognized as a business which brings economic benefits to an area without a corresponding increase in demands for local government services.

"As to the requirement for employee housing, this will depend on the extent to which local residents take advantage of the new employment opportunities at the project site. However, in the first year of operation, the Disney organization plans to provide on-site housing for 30 permanent full-time employees, 275 seasonal winter employees, 90 seasonal summer employees, and 100 or more permanent part-time employees, if required," Hicks projected.

Therefore, he estimated, there would be a need for off-site housing for about 100 new families, which would require some additional low and moderate cost housing.

As a result of its economic studies, the Company can now confidently project that the taxes generated for Sierra County would far exceed the additional costs to the county which would be generated by the project, Hicks said.

"We plan to accommodate 2,500 overnight guests, and therefore, our economists predict that the county would receive \$215,000 in hotel room occupancy taxes during the first year of operation," he told the commission. "In addition, \$123,000 of sales, transfer and electric power franchise taxes would be retained by the county, and the county would also receive \$153,000 in property taxes for each \$10 million increment of investment in the project."

In return, economists estimate that the project will require additional Sierra County services costing about \$150,000 per year.

The project would add approximately 100 schoolchildren to the present school population. It is assumed that about 10 of these will be added to the Sierra-Plumas District, and most of the rest will go to the Tahoe-Truckee District, while a small percentage might be located in the Washoe School District. This could mean the addition of one more teacher in the Sierra-Plumas District, assuming no further declines in school enrollment. Adequate capacity exists for this projected addition.

Thus, there will be a substantial net tax revenue to Sierra County as a result of the Independence Lake project. These new tax revenues could be utilized to expand and improve the services provided by Sierra County for its local citizens, or these revenues could result in a lowered property tax rate for the entire county.

"The project will, of course, also generate peripheral economic development, and understandably, there has been concern voiced about uncontrolled peripheral development. Yet, this is a matter that is largely under the control of the local Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission," Hicks continued. "On the other hand, continued development in the eastern Sierras seems inevitable — with or without Disney. We can only say that we will work with the local government authorities in whatever way possible to assure an



EXECUTIVES and planners from Disney have made detailed studies on the Independence Lake site. President Card Walker (right) confers with associates on walk-through.

orderly and controlled program of development in the area."

"Studies indicate that the existing public roads are adequate to handle the increased traffic created by our project. The greatest increase in traffic will be on Highway 89 between I-80 and the proposed access road."

According to the California Transportation Department, the peak average daily traffic has not changed much over the past five years — in the range of 2,800 to 2,900 vehicles per day. In August, 1975, peak traffic of 270 vehicles per hour was recorded. Highway 89 is estimated by Cal Trans to have a capability of about 1,500 vehicles per hour.

"The most pronounced increase in traffic on Highway 89 will occur during the early morning and late afternoon

hours. For instance, the total number of additional vehicles traveling in both directions during the peak hour on an average winter weekend would be approximately 400 vehicles," Hicks projected.

Certain peak weekend days in the winter could result in hourly increases of up to 650 vehicles, and in the summer certain peak weekend days could add as many as 500 vehicles between Truckee and the access road to the project. However, the capacity of Highway 89 is certainly adequate to handle these additional traffic counts. North of the access road to the project, between Independence Lake and Sierraville, the total added traffic in both directions is not expected to exceed a range of 25 to 40 cars per hour, Hicks said.

WATER: Downstream Users Unaffected

Continued from Page 1

Service Land Use Study had caused Disney to suspend work on the Independence Lake project, Hicks nevertheless summarized the findings of environmental and economic studies to date.

Discussing such areas as air quality, weather, noise, wildlife, fish, water sources and water quality, geology and soils, vegetation, and archaeology and paleontology, Hicks said, "We have found nothing in our studies that would preclude our proceeding with the development from an environmental point of view. The impacts on such areas as air quality, noise and water quality will all be well within acceptable state standards.

"Our domestic water supply will be obtained from ground water taken from wells at the northeast end of Independence Lake. Our project would not divert any surface waters feeding into the Truckee River. Therefore, the project would have no effect on the water rights of downstream users," Hicks reported.

"Waste water will receive tertiary treatment creating an effluent well within state standards," he said. "The effluent produced by our plant would be reusable for such purposes as landscape irrigation or ground water recharge."

Hicks reported that the Company's top management, during an onsite review of the preliminary master plan in late September, requested that an alternative plan be studied. This new plan would consolidate the base facili-

ties for the project into an even more limited area than was contemplated last July.

"This major reassessment of the preliminary master plan, plus the fact that our management ordered work suspended, has prevented us from developing at this time definitive estimates as to project construction costs," Hicks said. "However, a number of planning parameters for the project have been established which give us a solid basis for determining impacts and developing measures to mitigate these impacts."

For instance, the average winter weekend will bring an estimated 4,790 day-visitors and 2,400 overnight visitors, the latter staying an average of 6 days each. On a peak weekend there would be about 7,900 day-visitors and about 3,000 overnight visitors. Winter weekdays are estimated to drop to only 500 day-visitors.

Estimates for the summer anticipate an average of approximately 2,400 day-visitors, and 2,900 overnight visitors who would stay an average of 3 days each. A peak summer day would bring about 4,500 day-visitors and 3,500 overnight visitors.

In order to serve this volume of visitation, Disney's personnel planners anticipate that the project would employ about 715 people on a weighted annual average. This would include 300 permanent full-time employees; 300 permanent part-time employees who would work a limited number of hours each week for 8 to 10 months per year;

about 300 seasonal, or temporary employees, who would work during the 4 to 5 month winter season; and about 110 temporary employees, who would work during the 3 to 4 month summer season.

"It will be the Company's policy wherever possible to recruit its employees from within the local area, which we define as being within 60 minutes driving time of the project site," Hicks commented.

When Disney began its environmental studies in mid-1974, the company had hoped to be able to offer the first construction employment during the summer season of 1976. Unless there is some improvement in the Forest Service's timetable for its Land Use Study and decision-making process, it now appears that the company will not be able to provide any additional employment in Sierra and Nevada Counties until the summer season of 1977, or perhaps even later.

If you wish to express your opinions regarding the Independence Lake project to the United States Forest Service, please write:

*Mr. Douglas Leisz
Regional Forester
United States Forest Service
630 Sansome Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94111
Mr. Robert Allison, Supervisor
Tahoe National Forest
Nevada City, Ca. 95959*

Press, television and radio media are invited to make use of the material in this newsletter.

Copies of the photos, and supplementary information, may be obtained by writing:

*Editor
The Independence Lake Progress
Walt Disney Outdoor
Recreation Division
500 S. Buena Vista, Burbank, Ca. 91521*



TONOPAH STAGE OF THE 1880s TYPIFIES THE TRANSPORTATION IN THE DAYS INDEPENDENCE LAKE BEGAN TO ACQUIRE FAME AS A MOUNTAIN RESORT. —Courtesy, The Bancroft Library

By Rail and Stagecoach to "a Gem of the Sierra" Since the 1880s, Independence Lake Has Attracted Vacationers

(PREVIOUSLY: Socialites from San Francisco and Sacramento enjoying the "Del Monte of the Mountains" in the 1880s... "Squaw men" living in tents and fishing in the lake... A thousand tons of ice harvested annually... Lola Montez and Old Block and August Moore reported visiting miners at Independence in 1853... Later, dressing for dinner at the Lodge under coal oil lamps... and decor that included flowered wallpaper from Sacramento and Japanese straw thatching as floor coverings...)

(These are some of the recollections of Independence Lake as recorded in history and legend.)

Activity radiated through the Truckee-Donner-Independence Lake area with the construction of the Central Pacific Railroad, which began stretching out from San Francisco in 1863. The goal: Join with Union Pacific in a transcontinental linkup. (Its completion was commemorated by the Golden Spike ceremony in 1869 at Promontory Point, Utah.)

The Central Pacific, which had crossed the Sierra by 1867, opened up Donner Pass, and the surrounding area became noted as a popular summer recreation retreat.

An 1883 publication, Ben C. Truman's "Tourists' Illustrated Guide to the Celebrated Summer and Winter Resorts of California Adjacent to and Upon the Lines of the Central and Southern Pacific Railroads," contains this reference:

"Independence Lake, sixteen miles from Truckee and ten from Webber Lake, is another of those gems of the Sierra fastened in a beautiful setting of tamarack and pine and whose waters are alive and inviting with delicious fish... Four miles north of the lake is Mt. Lola, named after Lola Montez, 11,000 feet above the level of the sea. (Ed. note: Some exaggeration here: Lola's summit is 9,143 feet.)

"... The hotel is owned by Penman and Jansen. It is situated at the north end of the lake, and will accommodate from thirty to forty persons...

"Route of travel, etc. — Take passage by the Central Pacific Railroad at 3:30 p.m. (foot of Market Street), for Truckee, 271 miles, arriving about 5 o'clock next morning. Then take Buxton's stage at 7 o'clock for Independence Lake, 16 miles. (Ed. note: Now 13 miles)..."

"Stages go to these two lakes, Independence and Webber, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, from April to November."

A rival publication, W. F. Edwards' "Tourist Guide and Directory of the Truckee Basin," used similar, perhaps borrowed, material in a descriptive edition the same year. Portions:

"Independence Lake... is indeed a gem set in wild rock... about 19 (!) miles from Truckee... It is reached by stage, the best route being by Webbers Lake... It was named by the once popular but erratic "Countess of Landsfeld," more familiarly known as Lola Montez. On July 4th, 1853, the then fair Lola, in company with Delano Block, Esq. of Nevada county made a trip to the lake... and amid the popping of corks Lola christened the beautiful sheet of water "Independence," in honor of the day they were celebrating.

"Little did the merry party assembled that day dream that the name would live in story and song for centuries to come; and that it would be visited by tourists from all parts of the world, and that in 20 years would become one of the most popular summer resorts on the tops of the Sierra Nevada..."

These and other publications of the era provide some puzzlement as to the actual ownership and/or management of the resort that sprang into prominence.

Truman writes of "Penman and Jansen." Ward reported: "The hotel at the north end of the lake is owned by Sisson, Crocker and Co., of Truckee, and employs skillful managers whose chief delight is to minister to the requirements of their guests..."

"Four miles to the north of the lake can be seen Mount Lola, rising to the

**INDEPENDENCE AND WEBBER
LAKE HOTELS**



Now Open for Guests.

The Table is Unsurpassed, and the Accommodations are all that could be desired.

BEST TROUT FISHING IN THE STATE.

A daily line of Stages runs from Truckee to Independence Lake, and thence to Webber Lake.

SAIL BOATS, ROW BOATS & FISHING TACKLE

Furnished Free to Guests.

BY
GEO. B. STILEM, Lessee.


ADVERTISEMENTS from the Truckee Republican in 1883 (right) and 1885 (above) spoke of the delights awaiting travelers to Independence and Webber.

grand height of 11,000 feet above the sea, (Ed. note: Wrong again) and is said to give the finest view of any point of the Sierras. In fair weather can be seen Lassen Peak, 81 miles distant; Mt. Shasta, 180 miles; Round Top, 60 miles; Tinker's Nob, 40 miles; Mount Diablo, 140 miles. The entire Sacramento Valley lies spread out before the visitor, and the river can be readily traced by the belts of trees that border its banks...

"How to Get There: To Independence: The Buxton line of stages carries passengers to Independence (see Webber). Visitors to either of these places will find Irwin's or Moody's carriages ready at all hours of the day or night. The stage fare is \$2.50."

As it does to all things, change came, of course — particularly concerning transportation. Dr. Frank Kaye, who has many recollections of Independence

INDEPENDENCE LAKE.



THE GEM OF THE SIERRAS!

The Proprietor of the Independence Lake hotel announces that the house will be open for the reception of guests

Friday, June 1st.

A. P. KEACH'S stages will hereafter connect with Buxton's Sierra Valley stages at Independence Junction. Parties will be taken to the lake at any time by private conveyance, at moderate charges, by applying to W. G. Irwin at the Truckee livery stable. A. P. KEACH. 1883

As a resort for lovers of rare and beautiful scenery, excellent fishing and fine drives this Hotel exceeds all others.

TERMS REASONABLE.

BY
A. P. KEACH, Proprietor.

Webber Lake.

THE WEBBER LAKE HOTEL

Will be open for Guests

On and After June 15th, 1883.

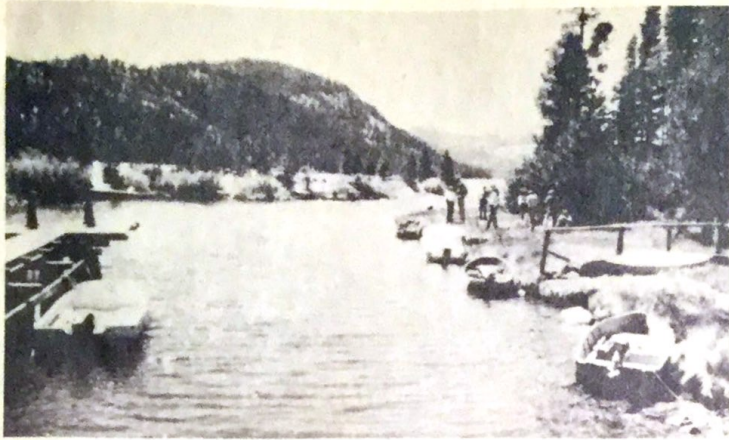
To those who are disposed to give this unrivaled Mountain Resort a trial, we will endeavor to make their visit pleasant and enjoyable. 1883

**T. N. BATTELLE,
MRS. J. CAMPBELL.**

Lake as a fashionable resort, remembers that to get there in the early 1900s he boarded Southern Pacific's Overland Limited in San Francisco at 7 p.m. The "Independence Car" would be detached from the train at Truckee the following dawn. Travelers in this car would be allowed to sleep until about 8 a.m. A four-horse stagecoach would leave Truckee for Hobart Mills, thence to Independence Lake, arriving at the resort at 1 p.m. Visitors would then fish, swim, hike, go boating — and swap stories round the campfire at night.

Eventually, rails were laid through the area to provide access for logging trains. The recreational spirit persisted: Hobart Lumber Company operated an "excursion train" on Sundays during the summer between Hobart Mills and Independence Lake.

The cars of this train were flat cars with just benches mounted on them.



IN SUMMER, Independence Lake is popular with many types of recreationists, including boaters and fishermen. Lakefront acreage belongs to Sierra Pacific Power.

PERSON-TO-PERSON DIALOGUES HELP KEEP AREA RESIDENTS INFORMED

Continued person-to-person dialogues with community groups have been an important factor in establishing the planning concepts and employment policies for a year-round family destination resort at Independence Lake, according to Project Manager Robert B. Hicks.

"From the very outset, our objective has been to get the widest possible exchange of ideas from the community to aid in our general planning," said Hicks, who has been directing a wide range of studies for Walt Disney Outdoor Recreation Division and its limited partners, Southern Pacific Land Company and Sierra Pacific Power Company. "Additionally, our many public presentations have let people know the direction of our thinking, our interest in their concerns and the numerous complexities we must deal with where environmental protection and social and economic impacts are involved.

"Our goal simply has been to keep the communities informed — which is one reason we have not spent time and effort on grandiose speculation."

Indicating the broad extent of the community communications program, Hicks listed some of the groups which

he or other Disney spokesmen have addressed in recent months.

They included:

Sierra County Planning Commission, Sierra County Chamber of Commerce, Truckee Lions Club, Greater North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce, Nevada City Rotary Club, Nevada County Sportsmen's Club, Reno Chamber of Commerce, Reno Rotary Club, Truckee Merchants Association, Carson City Rotary Club, Rotary Club of Sparks, Local Government Citizens Committee (Downieville, Sierra County, Reno South Rotary Club, Loyalton (Sierra County) High School, Downieville High School, Soroptimist Club of North Lake Tahoe, Tahoe City Optimists Club.

Additionally, Disney spokesmen have conducted informational exchanges with the Sierra Club, which several months ago accepted an invitation to participate in the company's environmental studies.

Also, personally conducted tours of the site have acquainted Sierra and Nevada County Supervisors, Forest Service personnel, area residents and students with planning and concepts.

Additional meetings will be held before the year is out.

Ingram, Former Publisher, Joins Staff

R. Peter Ingram, a third-generation Nevada County newspaper publisher, has joined Walt Disney's Independence Lake-Mt. Lola project staff, as the company's public relations representative in the local area.

For the past ten years Ingram has been publisher of the Grass Valley Union, resigning last month. His father, Robert T. Ingram and grandfather Thomas Ingram, had directed the management of Nevada County's now 111-year-old daily newspaper since 1895. In the 1960's Ingram also was owner-publisher of the Downieville Mountain Messenger, Sierra County's 122-year-old weekly newspaper.

His community activities during the past 25 years have been many and varied. Presently he is president of the Nevada Union High School Board of Trustees and president of the Sierra Nevada Memorial-Miners Hospital Board of Directors. Currently he is a Director of the Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce and member of the following organizations: Nevada City Lions Club (past president); Nevada Lodge No. 13 F&AM; Grass Valley Lodge No. 538, BPOE; Hague-Thomas-Hegarty Post 130, American Legion; Grass Valley Sportsman Club; William Morris Stewart Chapter No. 10, E. Clampus Vitus (charter member and Ex-Noble Grand Humbug); Henness Pass Highway Association (charter member and past president).

He has served as director of the California Newspaper Publishers Association on two occasions and is a past president of the Gold Unit of CNPA which encompasses the counties of Sierra, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Sacramento and Yolo.

Following graduation from Grass Valley elementary and high schools Ingram attended Texas A&M, served in the U.S. Navy as radarman on a destroyer, returned to Texas A&M for another year and then completed his education at University of California at Berkeley, graduating in 1950 with an A.B. in Journalism.



COMMUNITY public relations duties have been assumed by R. Peter Ingram, former publisher of the Grass Valley Union.

His newspaper career began in 1943 upon graduation from high school. He progressed through the following positions during his apprenticeship: brakeman on press, stereotypist, floorman and page makeup, linotypist, circulation manager, advertising salesman, auto route carrier, reporter, city editor, managing editor and editor-publisher.

In 1950 Ingram married Genevieve Ellis, daughter of then Tahoe National Forest Supervisor Guerdon Ellis. They are recent grandparents as oldest daughter, Mrs. Frank (Patti) Rowe gave birth to a daughter on September 20. Son Robert is a junior at UC Berkeley and daughter Laura is a senior at Nevada Union High School.

An ardent hiker-fisherman and skier of the High Sierra for many years, Ingram expressed an interest in becoming involved in the Disney project, because he was particularly enthused with its family-oriented recreational concepts, and felt that the development of Independence Lake would be a benefit to the counties in which he has spent virtually his entire life.

500 S. Buena Vista St., Burbank, Ca. 91521

