

Calaveras County

The Calaveras County Courthouse in San Andreas.
Part 1 of 3: San Andreas, Angels Camp, Murphys, Arnold, Big Trees, Sheep Ranch, Mountain Ranch.



Calaveras County

Calaveras County Data

Population: 40,554 (Rank: 45)

Land Area (square miles): 1,020 (Rank: 40)

Calaveras is in the heart of gold country. The county can be divided into two parts. In the western part are the foothills to the Sierras, the part that eroded to reveal the narrow quartz vein that became the Mother Lode. The eastern part is in the high Sierras and much of this land is located in the Stanislaus National Forest. The National Forest also contains the Calaveras Big Trees State Park, which is located on Highway 4.

Gold mining made the county prosper until it was no longer profitable. Today the county produces 2.5% of the state's timber, but tourism and recreation are the primary industries.

One of the original counties created in 1850, Calaveras means "skulls." The Calaveras River, which begins in the county, was given that name by an early explorer who found a large number of human skulls along the river. The Indians either died in battle or from famine.

Calaveras County has several reservoirs that provide recreation opportunities. On the Mokelumne River there are Camanche and Pardee Reservoirs. These reservoirs are owned by the East Bay Municipal Utility District and provide water to Oakland and Richmond. On the Calaveras River is the New Hogan Reservoir that provides water for the city of Stockton. On the southern boundary of the county is New Melones Reservoir and Tulloch Reservoir which are both located on the Stanislaus River.

Introduction

California is comprised of 58 counties. The state, the third largest in the U.S., has the greatest diversity of geography of any of the states. It has huge deserts, high mountain ranges, fertile valleys and a 1000 mile coastline. Beginning in 2001 my wife and I began to travel and photograph the state as a retirement hobby.

In 2009 we published a CD containing about 4,000 photos of the regions of the state. Since that time we have added about 10,000 more photos to our collection. It was also at this time (December 2008) I began to send a photographic diary of our trips to friends and people with an interest in California geography.

Now we are organizing our collection by county using all of our photos dating back to 2001.

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Highway 49 traverses the county north to south and Highway 4 crosses the county east to west.

Cities: Angels Camp. Towns: Mokelumne Hill, San Andreas, West Point, Valley Springs, Copperopolis, Murphys, Arnold, Sheep Ranch, Mountain Ranch.

Calaveras County



San Andreas

The town was founded by Mexican miners in 1848. It got a post office in 1854. Its population is 2,783. (September 2002)



San Andreas

(September 2002)



San Andreas

(September 2002)



Angels Camp

The town is not named for heavenly angels. It is named for Henry and George Angel who established a trading post here in 1851. When the town was incorporated in 1912 it was named for the Angels. (September 2002)



Angels Camp

(September 2002)



Angels Camp

(September 2002)



Angels Camp

The town is famous for its Frog Jump each Spring. The Frog Jump is based on a Mark Twain story. (September 2002)



Angels Camp – Serbian Church

(September 2002)



Angels Camp

(November 2005)



Angels Camp

(November 2005)



Angels Camp

(November 2005)



Angels Camp

(November 2005)



Angels Camp

(November 2005)



Angels Camp

The population of the town is 3,825. (November 2005)



Angels Camp

(November 2005)



Lake City

(November 2005)



Angels Camp

(April 2006)



Angels Camp

(April 2006)



Angels Camp

(April 2006)



Murphys

Murphys is a tourist town. On any weekend the town is crawling with old folks. The population is 2,213. The town was started by John and Daniel Murphy. The post office arrived in 1851. (September 2002)



Murphys

(September 2002)



Murphys

(September 2002)



Murphys

(September 2002)



Murphys

(September 2002)



Murphys

(September 2002)



Murphys

(September 2002)



Murphys

(January 2010)



Murphys

(January 2010)



Murphys

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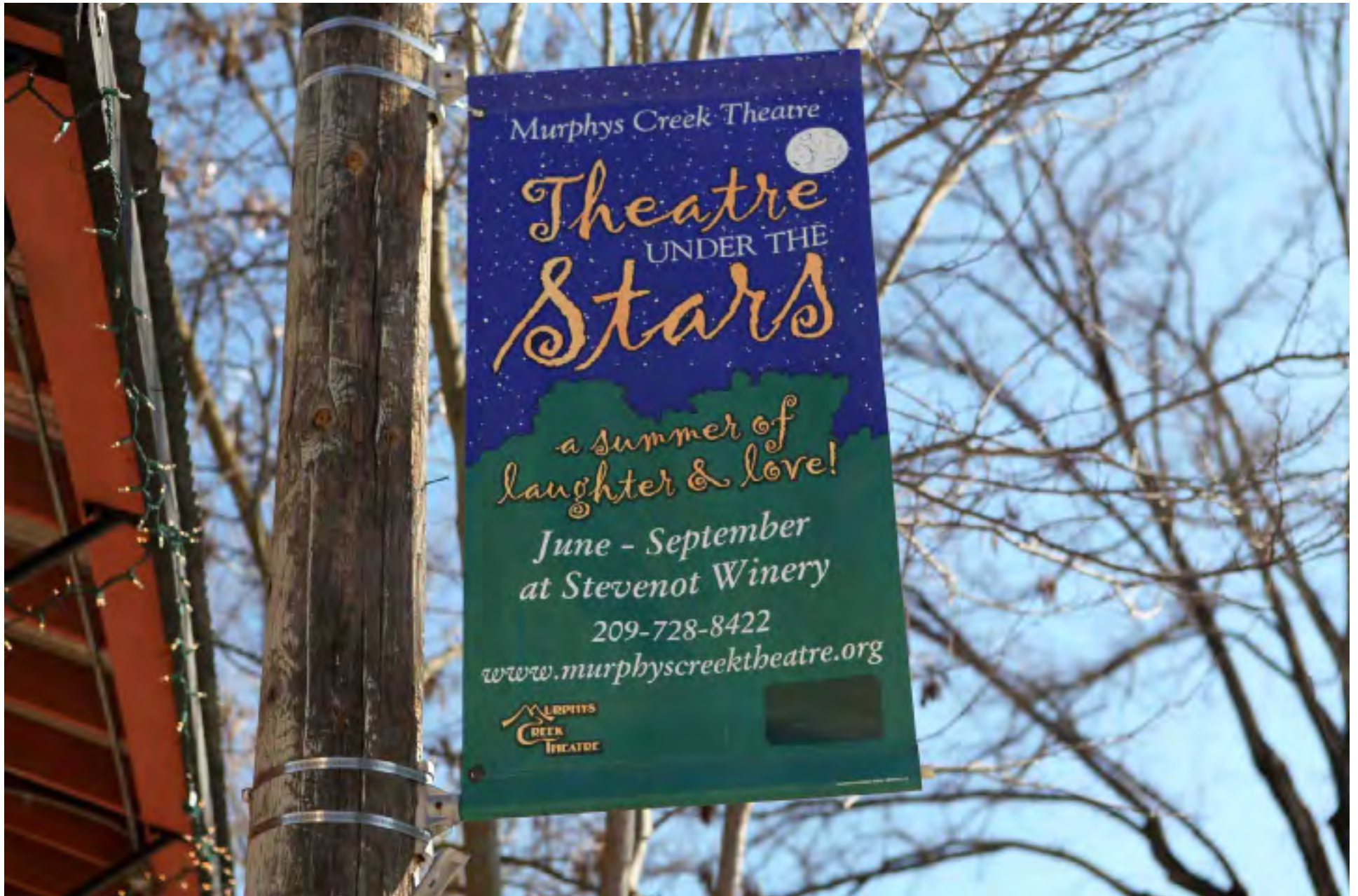
A wall honoring the leading lights of Murphys. The wall is maintained by E Clampus Vitus, a fun loving group dedicated to preserving the history of the region. (January 2010)



Murphys

(January 2010)





Murphys

(January 2010)



Murphys

(January 2010)



Arnold

(August 2003)



Arnold



Arnold



Arnold

Arnold is not a Gold Rush town. It came to life in 1927 when the highway was completed across Ebbets Pass. Bob and Eunice Arnold built the Ebbets Pass Inn to service travelers. Today the population is 3,843. (January 2010)



Big Trees

Big Trees on Highway 4 is the most northern grove of sequoia trees. It became a state park in 1931. (January 2010)



Big Trees

(January 2010)



Big Trees

(January 2010)



Sheep Ranch

(March 2010)



Sheep Ranch

The only business in town. I was here for a post production party at the Pioneer Hotel for the latest film shoot. (March 2010)



Sheep Ranch

This was once the post office and general store. (March 2010)



Sheep Ranch

(March 2010)



Sheep Ranch

The Pioneer Hotel use to serve miners who worked at the Hearst Mine which was close by. It is now owned by a businessman whose hobby is making movies. (March 2010)



Sheep Ranch

The town has its own flock of sheep and an official sheep herder. Note the sheep wandering down the main street of town. The day we were here the locals were upset because part of the flock had been rustled the night before.



Sheep Ranch

(March 2010)



Mountain Ranch

Mountain Ranch dates back to 1858. Today it has a population of 1,628. (November 2005)



Mountain Ranch

(November 2005)



Mountain Ranch

(November 2005)



Mountain Ranch

(November 2005)



Mountain Ranch

(November 2005)



Mountain Ranch

(November 2005)



Mountain Ranch

(November 2005)



Mountain Ranch

(November 2005)



Mountain Ranch

(November 2005)

