

Lassen County

The Lassen County Courthouse in Susanville. (July 2002)



Lassen County Data

Population: 33,828 (Rank: 47)

Land Area (square miles): 4,557 (Rank: 8)

The timber-covered Sierras make up the west part of the county and to the east is the Honey Lake Valley. Logging is an important industry producing 3% of California's timber,

Honey Lake lies in the southeastern corner of Lassen County about ten miles west of the present California-Nevada line. It is nearly 4,000 feet high. It occupies a basin formed by a large uplifted fault block next to the Sierra. The entire basin was once part of the giant inland sea called Lake Lahontan. At its height about 100 AD it covered 8,000 square miles. As the lake shrank it left several lakes: Honey, Pyramid, Winnemucca, Humboldt Sink, North and South Carson Sinks and Walker Lake.

All of these lakes, or playas, are fed by Sierra streams. Since they have no outlets, their waters are very salty. They will also fluctuate in size depending on the mountain run-off. When the first settlers saw Honey Lake it was 15 miles long and 9 miles wide.

Eagle Lake is the second largest natural lake entirely within California. Eagle Lake's water is warmed to 70 degrees in the summer. It has good trout fishing.

When gold was discovered in 1848 immigrants flowed to California. A new pass was sought over the Sierras that was less daunting than Donner Pass. Peter Lassen first explored this area and in 1851 William Nobles began leading settlers over a route that ran from the Humboldt River to Shasta City.

Isaac Roop established a trading post in 1854 at the western end of the Honey Lake Valley. Originally called Rooptown, it is now called Susanville. The valley was fertile with wild grasses providing food for livestock. There was plenty of game to hunt. The land became known as the "Land of Neversweats." By 1856 dozens of people had settled in the isolated valley and 36,000 acres of land had been claimed.

These settlers established a government. The settlers did not think they were part of California and the Territory of Utah was too far away. So they formed the Territory of Nataqua. A survey of California's boundaries in the 1860's indicated that Honey Lake was located in California and Susanville was part of Plumas County. That did not sit well

with the settlers who did not want to pay taxes to Plumas County.

The two-day Sagebrush War was fought in Susanville in February 1863. The residents of Susanville lost the battle with the Plumas County tax officials, but they won the war when Lassen County was created in 1864. It was named for Peter Lassen who settled in the valley to prospect for gold. Paiute Indians killed Lassen in 1859.

The county began to develop with the arrival of the railroad in the 1880's, The Nevada-California-Oregon Railway. This was a narrow gauge railroad that operated from 1880 to 1927. The NCO was nicknamed the "Narrow, Crooked and Ornery."

The western timber resources were tapped in 1913 with the construction of the Fernley & Lassen Railroad. The Red River Lumber Company established the company town of Westwood. Two large lumber mills were built in Susanville.

Cities: Susanville. Towns: Standish, Westwood, Bieber, Nubieber.

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.

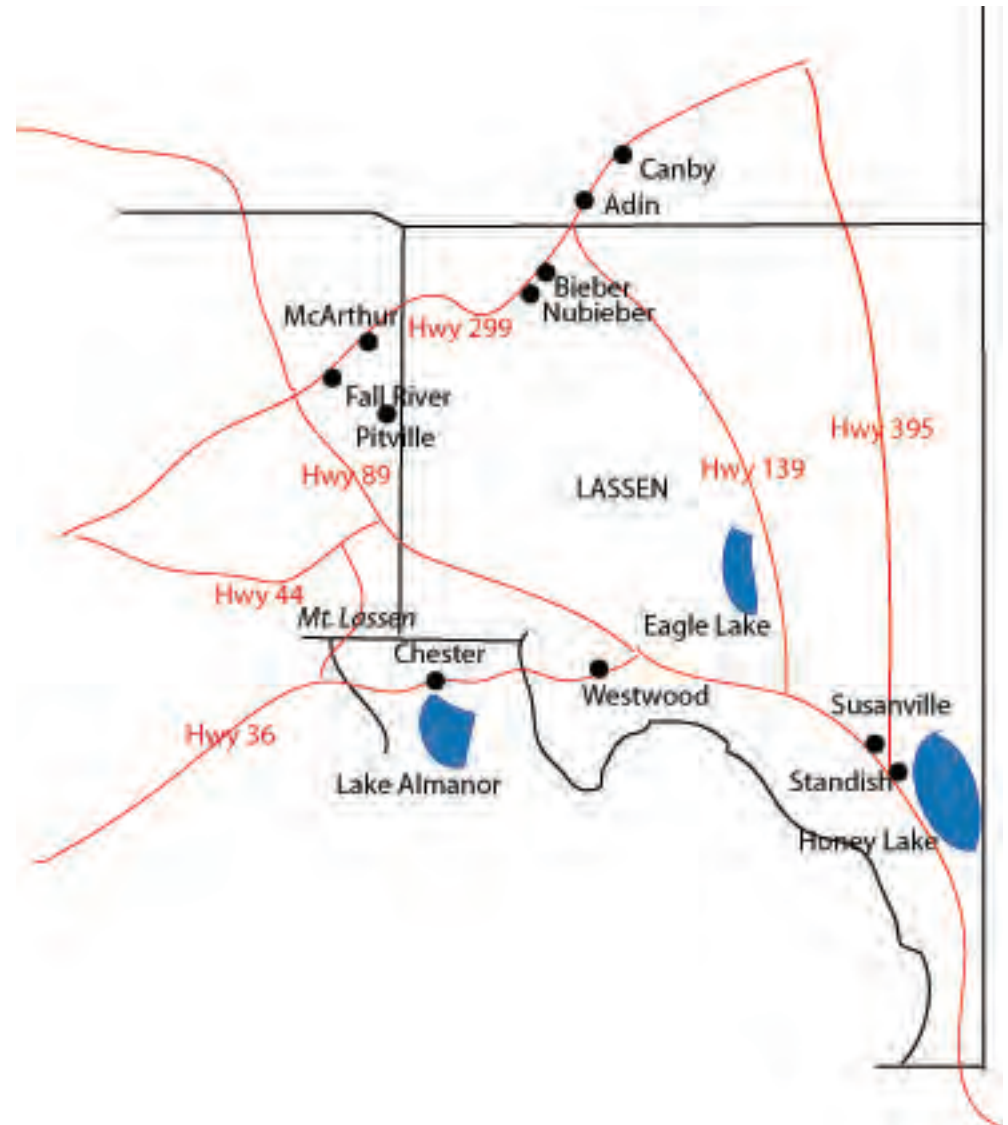
Now we are organizing our collection by county using all of our photos dating back to 2001.

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Photo Trips

July 2002

Our major trip to Lassen County took place in July 2002. We stayed in Susanville and photographed Susanville, along Hwy 299 and Mt. Lassen.



Susanville

Susanville was founded as a trading post in 1854. The original name was Roptown after Isaac Roop. The name was changed to Susanville after Roop's daughter's name. (July 2002)



Susanville



Susanville

The fertile valley the town sits in was nicknamed the "Land of Never Sweats" because it was easy to grow cattle feed. (July 2002)



Susanville

Paiutes are the dominant Native American group in the area.
(July 2002)



Susanville

Roop's original trading post. (July 2002)



Susanville

A Sierra Pacific lumber company mill in Susanville. Sierra Pacific is the largest landowner in California and the largest private lumber operator in North America. It is owned by Archie "Red" Edmerson. (July 2002)



Susanville

(July 2002)



Standish



Standish

(July 2002)



Standish

Standish is on Highway 395. It was founded by William Smythe who also founded San Ysidro and Tujunga in Southern California. (July 2002)



Honey Lake

About half of the nation's wild horses and burros live in Nevada. Honey Lake is next to Nevada. The size of the lake fluctuates depending on winter snowfall. (July 2002)



Honey Lake



Mt. Lassen

Mount Lassen. Mount Lassen last erupted in 1915. Most of the Lassen Volcanic National Park, including the volcano, is located in Shasta County. A small part is in Lassen County.



Mt. Lassen

One of the sulphur vents that emit the rotten egg smell of sulphur on the side of Mt. Lassen. (July 2002)



Lake Helen Mt. Lassen

(July 2002)



Lake Almanor

Lake Almanor, which is in Plumas County, as seen from Mt. Lassen.
(July 2002)





Cinder Cone which is located on the eastern edge of Lassen Volcanic Park which is in Lassen County. (Oct. 2011)

Bieber

Bieber's post office began in 1879. The town is located on Highway 299. The town is named after Nathan Bieber. The town, however, was founded by Theodore Pleisch who sold it to Bieber. (July 2002)



Bieber

Bieber is located on Highway 299. (July 2002)



Bieber

Bieber and Nubieber are located in the Big Valley. (July 2002)



Bieber

(July 2002)



Nubieber

Nubieber was created in 1931 a couple of miles west of Bieber because the rail tracks of the Western Pacific and the Great Northern crossed here. (July 2002)



Nubieber

Nubieber buildings along Highway 299. (July 2002)



Westwood

Westwood is a company lumber town built in 1914 by the Red River Valley lumber company. Red River created Paul Bunyan (and his ox) as an advertising figure. A lot of people think of Paul Bunyan as American Folklore. Not so. Paul is an advertising gimmick. Below is the statue of Paul in Westwood. (July 2002)



Westwood

(July 2002)

