Siskiyou County

The Siskiyou County Courthouse in Yreka. (2002) Part 1 (Pages 1-62)



Siskiyou County Statistics Population: 44,301 (Rank: 44) Area (sq. mi.): 6,287 (Rank: 5)

The county was created in 1852 and was named for the mountain range. There are several versions of how the name Siskiyou came about. Some say that was the name of a local Indian tribe. In another version it is the Chinook name for "bob-tailed horse." Still another version is that it came from the French name Six Callieux meaning "six stones." This was a name given to a ford on the Umpqua River by a French fur trapper, Michel La Frambeau, in 1832.

The county is large, 6,287 square miles, and is mostly mountainous. I-5, which follows the path of the old Oregon Trail bisects the county. Most of the towns and most of the people live along this route.

To the west of I-5 is the Klamath National Forest, Scott Valley and the Marble Mountain Wilderness Area. Highway 96 from I-5 wanders through the Klamath National Forest to Highway 299. Highway 3 connects Yreka on I-5 with Weaverville.

Highway 96 follows the Klamath River for 130 miles. The Klamath is famous for its fishing for steelhead and trout. The Klamath was once a gold rush area and there are several old gold mining towns remaining. These include Horse Creek, Happy Camp and Seiad Valley.

If you drive Highway 3 from Yreka to Weaverville, a 100-mile trip, the first 50 miles takes you through beautiful Scott Valley. There are three towns in the valley, Fort Jones, Etna, and Callahan. To the west is the 400,000-acre Marble Mountain Wilderness with over 200 lakes.

To the east of I-5 are the Cascades and Mt. Shasta, which is the second highest mountain in California next to Mt. Whitney. Shasta is an active volcano. The Trinity Shasta National Forest covers most of the eastern half of the County.

At the far eastern edge of the county are the Tule Lake National Refuge and the town of Tulelake. **Cities: Dorris, Dunsmuir, Etna, Fort Jones, Montague, Mt. Shasta, Tulelake, Weed, Yreka. Towns: Grenada, McCloud, McDoel, Callahan, Happy Camp, Seiad Valley, Klamath River, Horse Creek, Hamburg.**

Photo Trips

April 2002

We started in Yreka and took Highway 3 to Weaverville. We passed through Ft. Jones, Etna and Callahan.

August 2003

We stopped at Anderson , Redding and Dunsmuir. The second day we travelled to Weed, Dorris, MacDoel, and Tulelake.

March 2004

This trip took us down the Klamath River, beginning at I-5, all the way to Hoopa and Highway 299. Passed through Klamath River, Hamburg, Seiad Valley, Happy Camp and Orleans. We stayed overnight in Eureka.

August 2006

We stayed in Redding and toured to Medicine Lake, Burney Falls, Mc-Cloud.

August 2010

A one day trip that started at 2 AM to photo the sun coming up over Mt. Shasta. Stopped at Yreka, Dunsmuir, Shasta Dam, Red Bluff and Turtle Bay on the way home.

October 2011

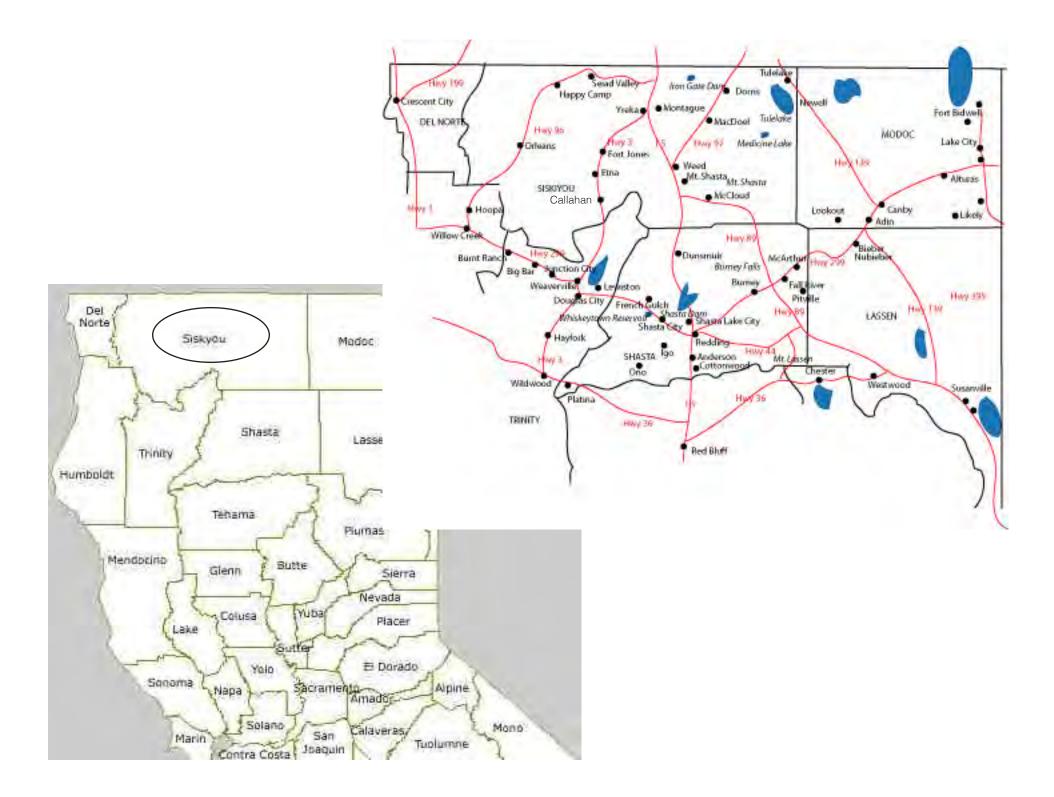
This was a trip to Iron Gate Dam on the Klamath River.

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.

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

© 2012 by Larry Stevens stevens.lawrence@comcast.net



Castle Crags

Castle Crags is a granite formation that is next to I-5 near Dunsmuir. They are over 6,000 feet in altitude. Most of the surrounding mountains are volcanic or sedimentary, This mountain formation is granite "pluton" that rose in the Jurassic Age 65 million years ago. (2002)



Dunsmuir is a little town in the canyon of the Sacramento River. It is a railroad town founded in 1887 where extra engines were added to trains to push them over the mountain pass. In 1991 Dunsmuir popped into the news when a train carrying a deadly biotoxin fell into the Sacramento River. All life in the river was killed for a 38 mile stretch. (2003)

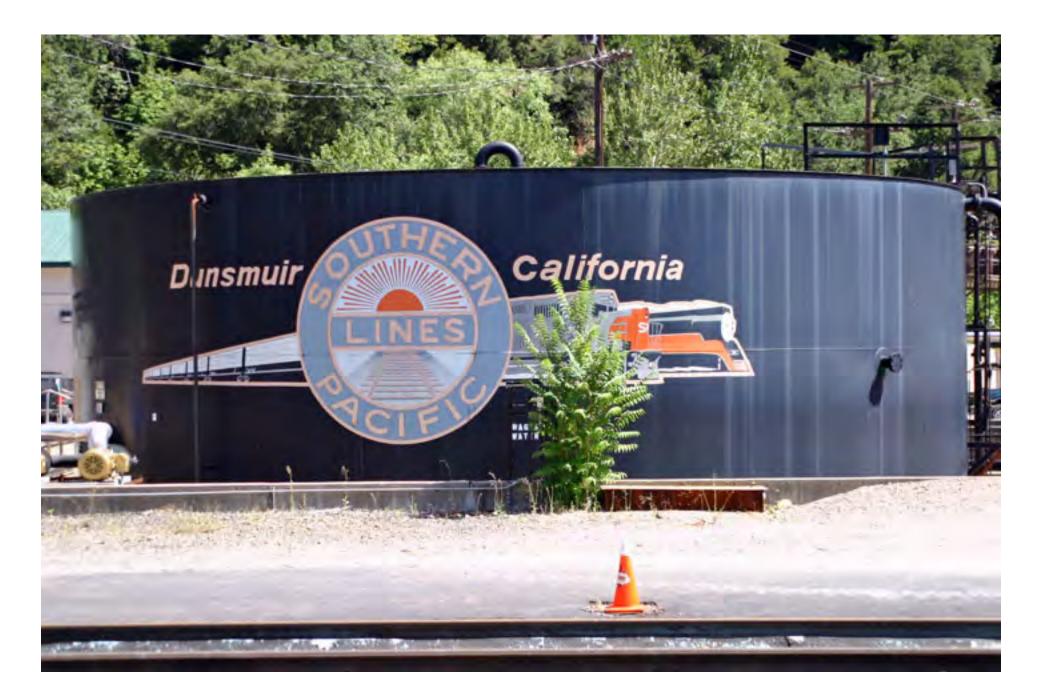


Dunsmuir played a part in the last lynching of California. A lawman was killed by two crooks in Dunsmuir in 1935. A mob from Dunsmuir broke into the jail in Yreka and hung the two culprits. (2003)





The Southern Pacific Railroad which once had a monopoly on rail traffic in the state no longer exists. It is owned by the Union Pacific. (2003)

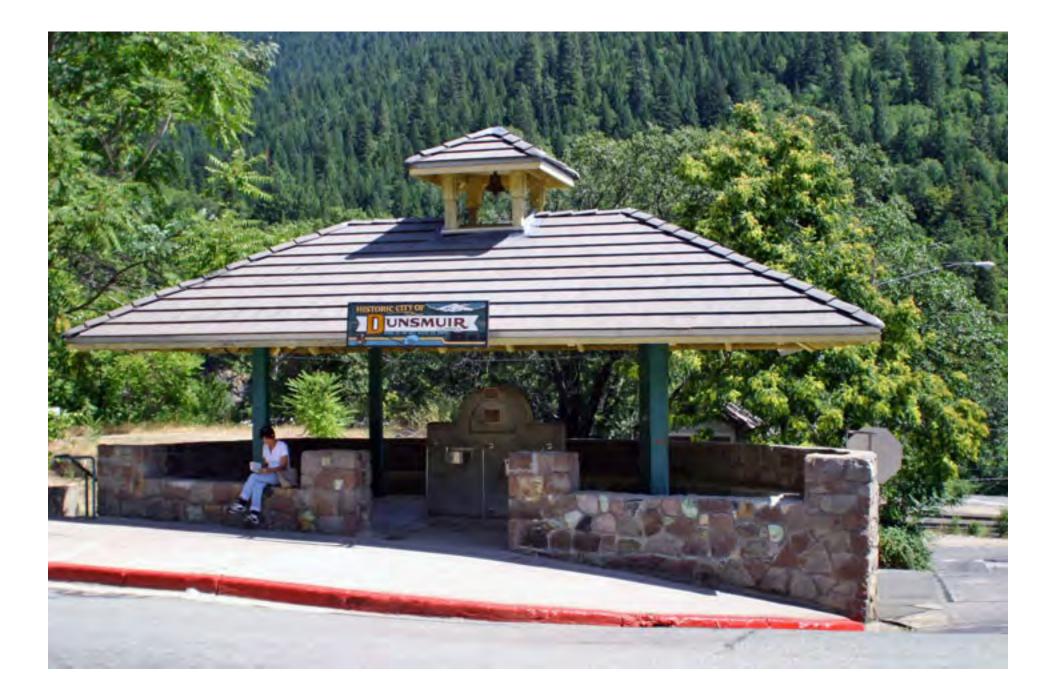












The imposing marquee of the California Theatre was transported here from San Jose. You will find an identical marquee on the California Theatre in San Jose on First Street. (2003)

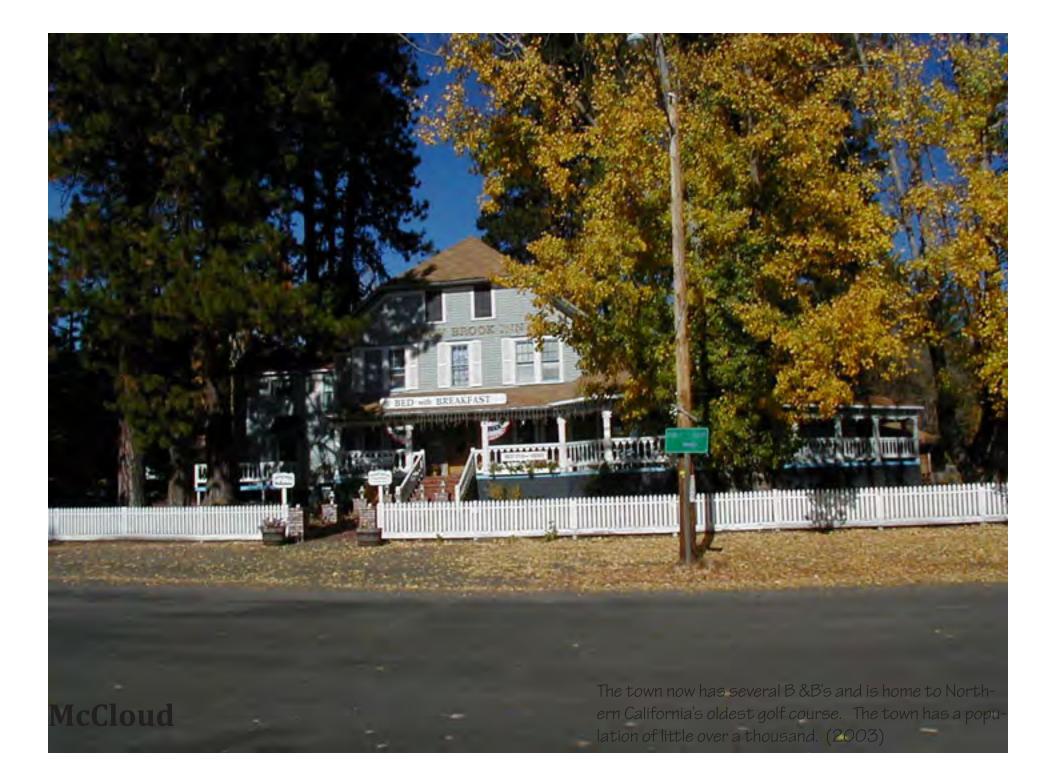




McCloud



1896 when the McCloud River Lumber Company took over operations and turned the town into a company town. Things continued this way until 1966 when U.S. Playwood bought out the lumber company. They sold the homes of the employees and eventually sold the lumber mill. (2003)

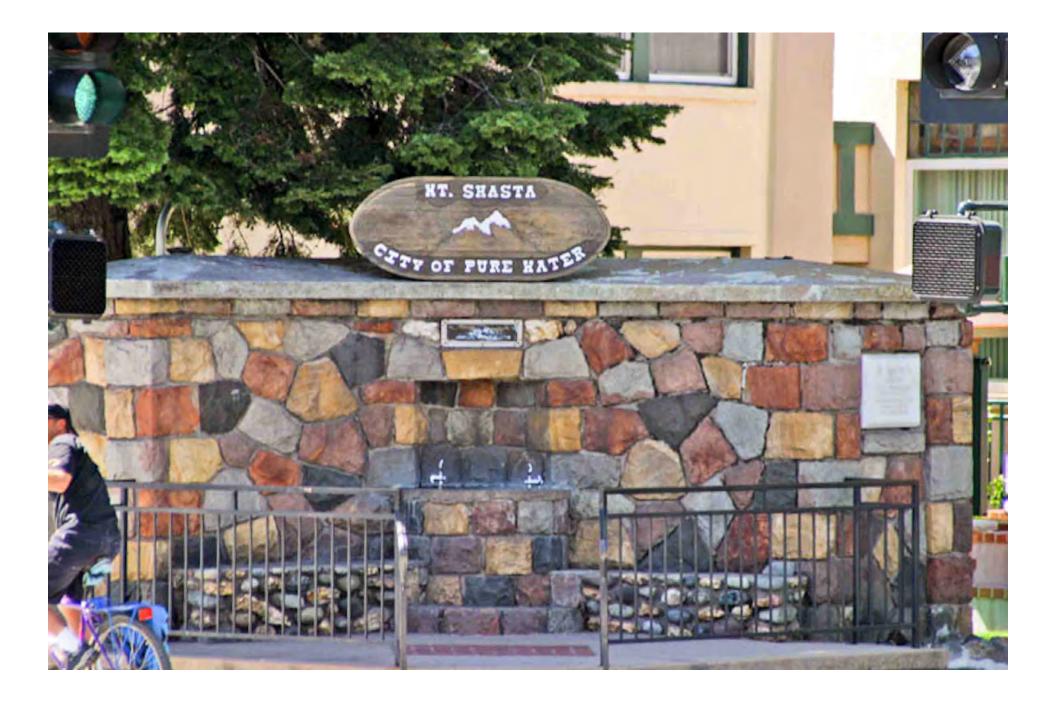




The City of Mt. Shasta has had several names over the years – Strawberry Valley, Berryvale and Sisson. The name of Mt. Shasta City was given in 1924. The population is now is 3,400. (2003)









Weed

Weed is named after Abner Weed who bought the property in 1897 for \$400. In 1901 Roseburg Forest Products was established. Today the population is 2,967. (August 2003)



Weed

Weed is unusual in that it is the only town in this part of the state that has a large African American population. Walter Sexton of Long Bell Lumber Company hired blacks from Lousiana to work at the lumber mill. In the 1920's 1,000 out of 6,000 of the towns residents were black. They lived in a segregated neighborhood in the northwest part of town.



Weed

Long Bell Lumber was bought out by International Paper in 1956. In 1961 International Paper sold its business.



MacDoel

MacDoel was established in 1907 when the Central Pacific was built. Today it is a farm worker town with a population of 133. Strawberries seem to be the crop when we drove through town. (August 2003)



MacDoel



Dorris is another railroad town created in Butte Valley in 1908 by the Central Pacific railroad. It is named for Presley A. Dorris, a cattle rancher. For many years it was a "wide open" town with many whiskey stills during prohibition. Today the population is about 1,000. (August 2003)













The flag pole on Highway 97 is tall and is a local landmark. It is similar to the tall flag pole at Maxwell on I-5. Until 2002 it was the tallest flag pole west of the Mississippi (or so it was claimed). In 2002 a taller one was erected in Laredo, Texas. There is another tall one (193 feet) in Calipatria (August 2003)







Dorris

(August 2003)



Dorris

(August 2003)



Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Highway 161 runs straight along the Oregon border and along the Tule Lake NWR. The refuge, founded in 1928, is 39,000 acres –17,000 acres is leased to farmers. (August 2003)



Water Issues

Klamath River water is a major issue in this part of the state. Farmers complain that they are not getting enough water from the river. Environmentalists complain that dams on the river have damaged the salmon fishery. Indians (who have water rights) and both commercial and sport fisherman complain about damage to the fishery. (August 2003)



Tulelake is just south of the Oregon border on Highway 139. The population of Tulelake is about 1,000. About 50% of the population is Hispanic. (August 2003)



Aside from hunting, Tulelake is famous for growing horseradish. They hold a horseradish festival once a year. (August 2003)



Tule Lake has three public schools which are technologically advanced. The small rural schools of Northern California have trouble meeting the requirements of the University of California. In Tulelake sixty percent of the graduating seniors meet the UC requirements and 50% of the graduating seniors attend college. (August 2003)



Tulelake is often cited as the location of the Japanese detention camp of World War II. Actually the camp was located in the little community of Newell 7 miles south of Tulelake in Modoc County. There were also German and Italian prisoner of war camps there. (August 2003)



(August 2003)



Lava Beds

The Lava Beds National Monument was established in 1925. It cover 46,000 acres. (August 2003)



The Lava Beds National Monument was established in 1925. It covers 46,000 acres. This is the grave of General Canby who was killed in the Modoc War of 1872-73. (August 2003)



Lava has been flowing here for 450,000 years. The youngest flow is 1,110 years old. This is where California's last Indian war was fought. This is Captain Jack's Stronghold where Modocs held off the U.S. Army for months in early 1873. (August 2003)







Grenada

Grenada was founded when the railroad came through in 1886. It was an early apple growing area. Below is the main intersection. (2002)



Grenada



Grenada

The main street of Grenada. (2002)



Montague was founded in 1887 when the railroad arrived. The city went bankrupt when it sold bonds to create a water system and couldn't pay the bonds off. Today the town is spruced up. The population is about 1,500. (2002)









This hay barn sits on I-5 just south of Yreka. The state of Jefferson still lives on in the minds of many citizens and has a website. There was an attempt to create a separate state in 1940. The issue was the lack of good roads. The beginning of World War II halted the effort. (2003)











Siskiyou County End of Part 1 Pages 1 to 62

Part 2 Pages 63 to 110