**Washo Community** – Driving Southeast in Alpine County on sagebrush-lined Diamond Valley Road, a sign whips back and forth in strong gusts of wind. It reads Hung-a-lel-ki – Washo Indian language for the Southern Washo people. The Hung-a-lel-ki members are from the southern branch of the Washo Indian Tribe, living in what is now western Nevada and eastern California. In the middle of the 19th century, there were perhaps 3,000 Washo spread from the valley of the Walker River in the south to Honey Lake in the north. Their homes in early times were tepees made of willow poles, pine and cedar bark. The traditional homelands of the Washo people exceeded 1.5 million acres. Today the Washo have reclaimed 70,000 acres of its ancestral land. Members of the tribe believe their people have lived in the Lake Tahoe area for 10,000 to 15,000 years. Now populated by 402 residents, this reservation extends a mere 80 acres.

**Woodfords Hotel** – An early hotel at this site was known as the “Sign of the Elephant” serving travelers along old Emigrant Trail in 1849. This was consumed in a fire in the 1900’s, then rebuilt as another hotel which also burnt down. Now a newer building stands as the Woodfords Station. Woodfords became a remount station of the Pony Express on April 4, 1860. The remount station is now a California Historical Landmark.

**Kirkwood Inn** – Zack Kirkwood, a cattle rancher who had settled in the area, opened an inn here in 1863 with the opening of the Amador/Nevada Wagon Toll Road, the primary route through the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Eventually, the inn became a fashionable summer resort. After Zack’s death, the inn stayed in the family and continued to operate until 1966, when it was sold to an investment group, who then converted it into the present-day Kirkwood Mountain Resort.

**Bear Valley/Lake Alpine** –

The Bear Valley area was originally called Grizzly Bear Valley, so named by O. B. Powers in August of 1855. Powers led a scouting expedition funded by business interests in Murphys, Angels Camp, and Stockton, to seek a trans-Sierra route. There was already a haying operation, by a Smith & Company. The Grizzly Bear Valley name was never formal; it was also referred to as Stanislaus River at Road House, Blood’s Station or Blood’s Toll Station. The Bear Valley Mountain Resort, originally named Mt. Reba, opened in December 1967, and the construction of homes, condominiums and commercial facilities began about the same time. Nearby Lake Alpine, a manmade reservoir, offers a rustic lodge, cabins, restaurant and store, as well as a large concentration of camping facilities.