

# Twin Peaks History - Campgrounds to Cabin Delights

By Allene Archibald DuFour

Before 1900, visitors to the mountain areas discovered gently rolling land near Strawberry Peak with abundant wild strawberries and wildlife. Coined Strawberry Flats, people moved into the area, built cabins, and used water from numerous artesian wells. Bert Switzer, came to the mountains in 1890 and joined the U. S. Forest Service as a ranger. He patrolled the mountain from Cajon to Grass Valley Lake on an old gray mare. He and his wife Sara lived in Kuffle Canyon while he built the Prairie Flat Ranger Station. In 1919 the Switzers purchased the Tip Top Grocery store and post office near Strawberry Flats Campground. During the summer they provided locals with fresh bread, milk, cured meats, and seasonal produce. By 1916 there were enough people in Strawberry Flats to qualify for a post office, which they named Twin Peaks because it is situated between two mountain peaks. By the early 1920's, Twin Peaks included 62 cabins, a campground, business center, and tennis courts. During the 1930's, Conservation Corps workers put cabins on land maintained by the Forest Service.



By the 1940's and 1950's there was a filling station near the store and an office for what was first known as the Arrowhead Road Resort. The old post office and general store stood where a pool is now located at Arrowhead Pine Rose Cabins. Fred and Helen Dowd purchased the property in 1948, established the Arrowhead Road Resort, managed it for about 45 years, and added additional cabins through the years. In 1993, David and Tricia DuFour bought the property with the promise of keeping it a family resort, changing the name to Arrowhead Pine Rose Cabins for a large tree on their property that grows cones that look like roses.



The cabin resort now serves third generations of some families. "It's really fun to see people who taught their kids to swim in our pool now teaching their grand kids," says Tricia DuFour. Currently the resort includes 18 cabins on six acres, ranging from two person romantic studios to large lodges for family gatherings of up to 22. Cabins themes include *Wild Bill's*, *Ranger*, *Ski Chalet*, *Indian*, *Christmas Cabin*, and *Strawberry Lodge*.

The DuFours are seeking to restore Strawberry Meadows to its earlier form of sanctuary for birds and wildlife. The family has added 800 feet of natural looking stream and two large ponds along with one of the most exceptional wedding sites secluded on the property. Redeveloping as a natural setting for its native inhabitants, Strawberry Flats is coming full circle, at least at Arrowhead Pine Rose Cabins. Come have a look!

Sources: The San Bernardinos, John W. Robinson, J. Putnam Henck, interview, June 2007; Those Who Made Memories, 1890-1990" article by Dorothy Jewell, Rim of the World Communities Centennial, 1990; Saga of the San Bernardinos, Pauliena B. LaFuze; My Mountain, My People, Stan Belamy; Jim and Lyn Daly interview, June 2007; and David and Tricia DuFour.

