

**You know you're  
a Tahoe Local is:**

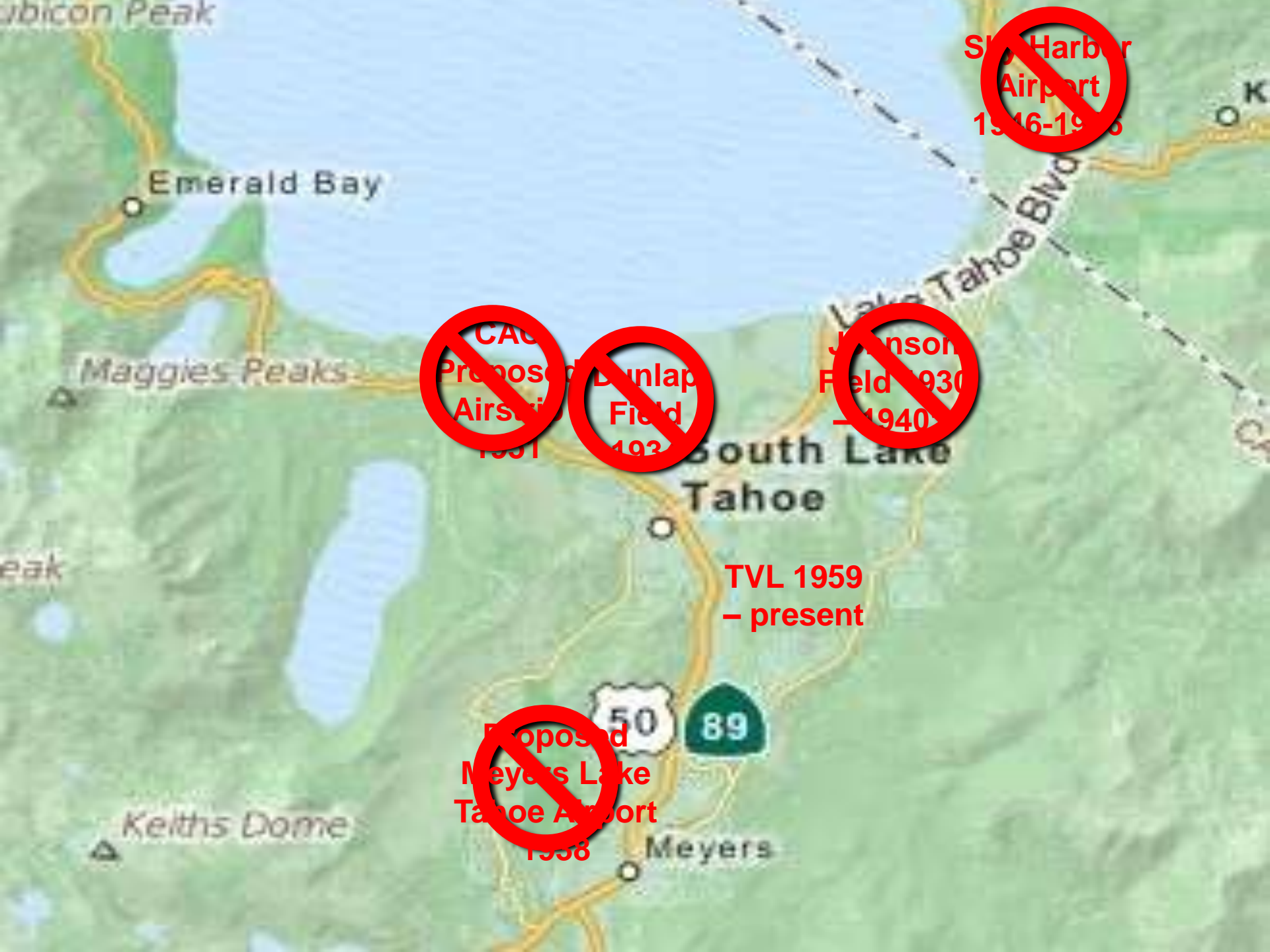


**When you  
realize many  
historical  
sites are  
younger than  
you are.**

# South Lake Tahoe Airstrips

- **Landing on the surface of Lake Tahoe with Float Planes - 1920's**
- **Johnson Field - 1930's to 1940's - Bijou**
- **Horton and Bouchet Crash 1934 – Dunlap Field (Tahoe Keys) never completed**
- **Meyers Lake Tahoe Airport – 1938 proposed**
- **Sky Harbor Airport – 1946 - 1956 (Kahle Dr.)**
- **California Aeronautics Commission proposed landing strip Pope Beach / Tahoe Keys 1951 never started construction**
- **Lake Tahoe Airport (TVL) – 1959 Barton Dairy and other property**





~~Sky Harbor  
Airport  
1946-1956~~

~~CAG  
Proposed  
Airstrip  
1931~~

~~Dunlap  
Field  
1932~~

~~Johnson  
Field 1930  
-1940~~

TVL 1959  
- present

~~Proposed  
Meyers Lake  
Tahoe Airport  
1938~~

# Rick Brower

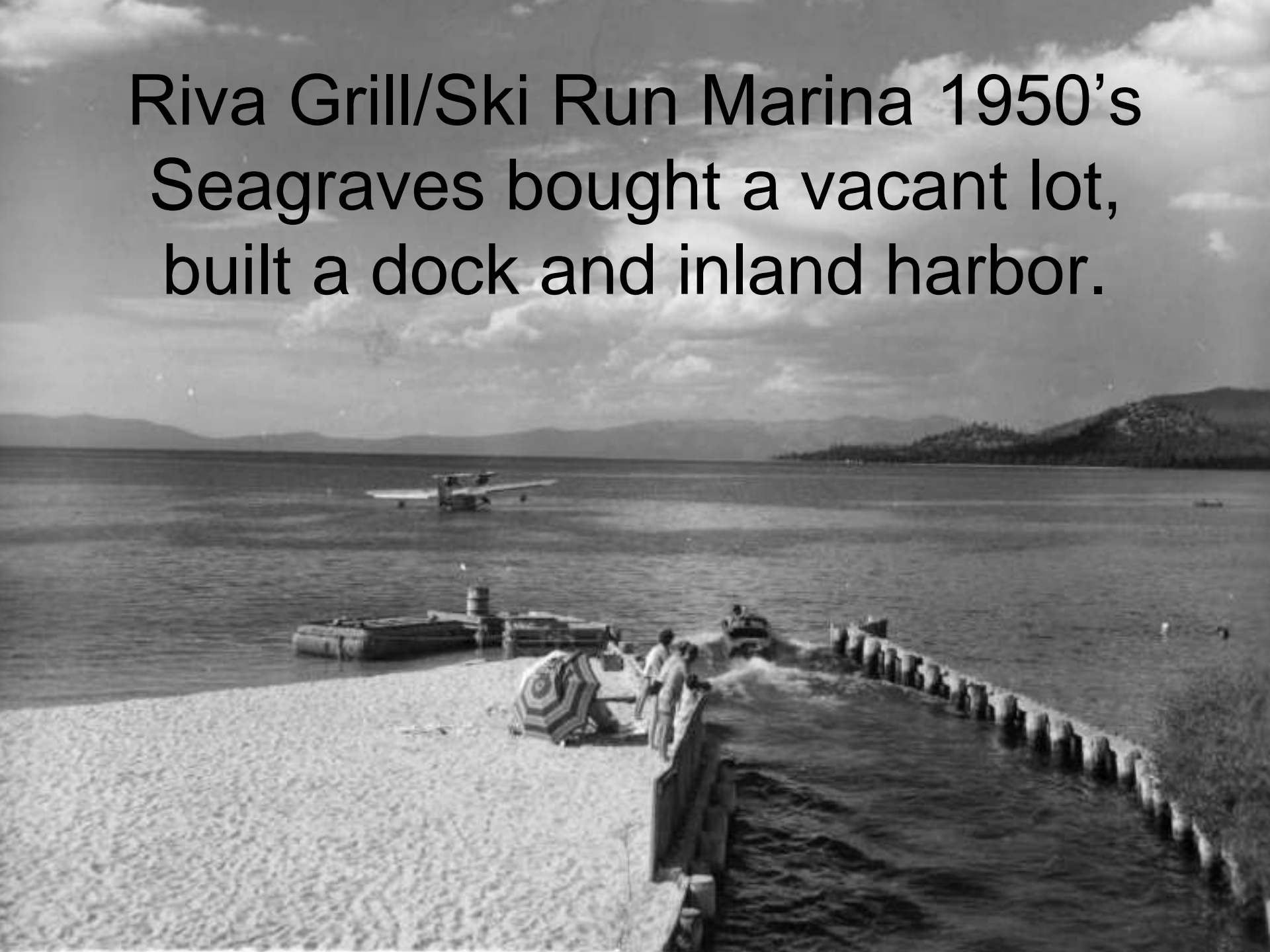
- Most likely, “Early landing strips were not well identified on maps and were not much more than long areas cleared of trees, brush, debris, rocks, etc. and probably on flat ground to begin with. Large trees were removed further in both directions to facilitate a clear path for aircraft approach and departure.”

# First Known Bi-wing Float Plane 1923



FIRST AIRSHIP AT TALLAC

Riva Grill/Ski Run Marina 1950's  
Seagraves bought a vacant lot,  
built a dock and inland harbor.





Wes Stetson would give plane rides in a Republic RC-3 CeeBee  
Cascades West – Emerald Bay Resort.





# Pilot and Passenger Plaque





# Pilot and Passenger Plaque





# Friday September 21, 1934

## METAL PRICES

Bar Gold—London . . . 140 1/2  
112. S. equivalent \$25.20  
Bar Silver—London . . . 22 1/2 1/2  
New York, 1/2 up at . . . 40 1/2  
Quicksilver—New York \$74.00 @ 77.50  
Copper—Electrolytic blue eagle 8 9/16  
Lead—N. Y. 2 3/16; E. St. Louis 2 5/16  
Zinc—East St. Louis . . . 4 0/16

# Nevada State Journal

Established November 28, 1870

Client of the United Press Associations

## THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nevada—Fair and  
mild Friday and Saturday.  
TEMPERATURE YESTERDAY.  
Highest . . . 70 Lowest . . . 33

VOL. LXIII. NO. 313.

Entered as Second-Class Matter at  
Postoffice, Reno, Nevada

RENO, NEVADA, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1934

Has a Health by Charge  
5-10 a Year by Mail

PRICE FIVE CENTS

# Two Die in Tahoe Plane Crash LINDBERGH KIDNAP SUSPECT HELD

## Man and Woman Trapped in Ship, Burned to Death

## Motor Fails and Biplane Tumbles 1000 Feet at Southern End of Lake

## TEXTILE PEACE IS NEARING

### Labor Defers Calling Off Walkout; Board Makes Its Report

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20.—(UP)—  
Textile strike leaders, after reading  
the Warrent board's report, said to-

## HUNDREDS KILLED IN TYPHOON

### Tidal Wave, Fire Sweep Central Japan as 600 Die

TOKYO, Sept. 21.—(UP)—  
Conservative estimates this after-  
noon placed the dead in the

## Alien Fugitive, Caught With Ransom Certificates, Firm In Denial He Abducted Child

### Will His Death Be Avenged?

## PRISONER HELD NO 1



John Horton, 32, and his girl friend, Betty Bouchet, 23, were burned to death last night when the plane Horton was piloting crashed in an attempted landing three miles from Bijou at Lake Tahoe.

The aircraft, a Moth biplane, sputtered and appeared to be having motor trouble as it circled over Dunlap field and suddenly nosedived to the ground from an altitude of 1,000 feet.

Horton, a butler, and Miss Bouchet, a governess for Mrs. I. W. Hellman, wife of the San Francisco banker, were en route to Lukens Resort from San Francisco when the crash occurred.

Both victims were trapped in their cockpits and burned to a crisp before startled witnesses could reach the flaming wreckage.

Horton was employed as a butler by George Pope, Burlingame and Lake Tahoe socialite. He was en route with Miss Bouchet to his employer's estate.

Horton had wired from San Francisco before he took off of his impending arrival and members of the Pope estate had come to the field to greet him. Instead of heading for Johnson landing field where he originally was supposed to have landed, Horton swerved from his course and circled over the uncompleted Dunlap field.

Suddenly, according to John Forster, owner of the Tamarack Dairy, who witnessed the crash, the motor sputtered and the plane went into a nose dive.

Horton was a native of Australia. He was employed by the Pope family for several years and was a frequent visitor to the Lake Tahoe region.

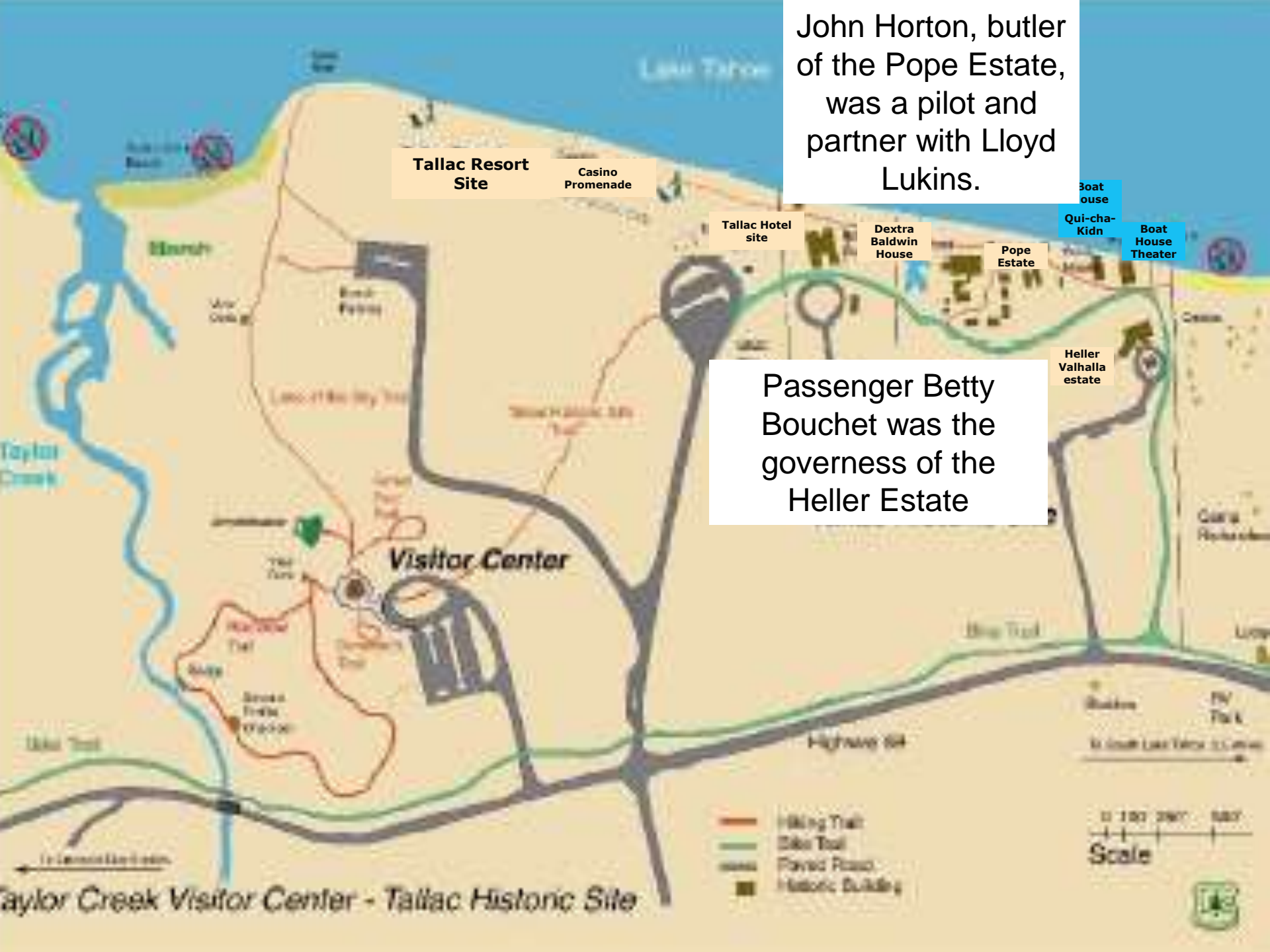
His body was removed to Coroner O'Rell's mortuary at Placerville. Tentative arrangements call for funeral services Saturday on the Pope estate here. Disposition of the girl's body had not yet been arranged.

Mrs. L. O. Lukens, a neighbor and close friend of Horton, said: "He was our best friend. He wired from San Francisco that he and Betty would arrive and asked us to meet them at Johnson field.

"But for some reason, they attempted to land at Dunlap field.

"Betty was Horton's 'best friend'."

John Horton, butler  
of the Pope Estate,  
was a pilot and  
partner with Lloyd  
Lukins.



Passenger Betty  
Bouchet was the  
governess of the  
Heller Estate



A wooden signpost stands in a grassy field. The sign has a dark, shingled roof. The word "POPE" is mounted on the sign using thick, light-colored wooden letters. Below it, the word "ESTATE" is painted in white on a dark background. The sign is supported by two dark wooden posts. In the background, there is a large tree trunk and a body of water.

POPE

ESTATE







A wooden sign with a shingled roof stands in a grassy area. The sign is dark brown and features the name 'HELLER' in large, light-colored wooden letters. Below it, the words 'ESTATE' and '“VALHALLA”' are written in white. The sign is supported by two dark wooden posts. In the background, there are trees and a grassy field.

HELLER

ESTATE  
“VALHALLA”





VALHALLA ESTATE



# British Gypsy Moth



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"Betty was Horton's 'best friend'."

[illegible]



# Rick Brower

- According to U.S. Forest Service heritage office in South Lake Tahoe, Lloyd Lukins, long time local resident and one time deputy sheriff was the one who drew up the plans.
- “Lloyd Lukins, was planning to go into business in an airport scheme with the pilot, John Horten. Lloyd would take care of the airport while Horten would fly people in.
- “Mel Lukins said, ‘After that crash, my Dad, Lloyd did not want anything to do with an airport, and threw away the plans.’”

# 1920 Dunlap Land Purchase

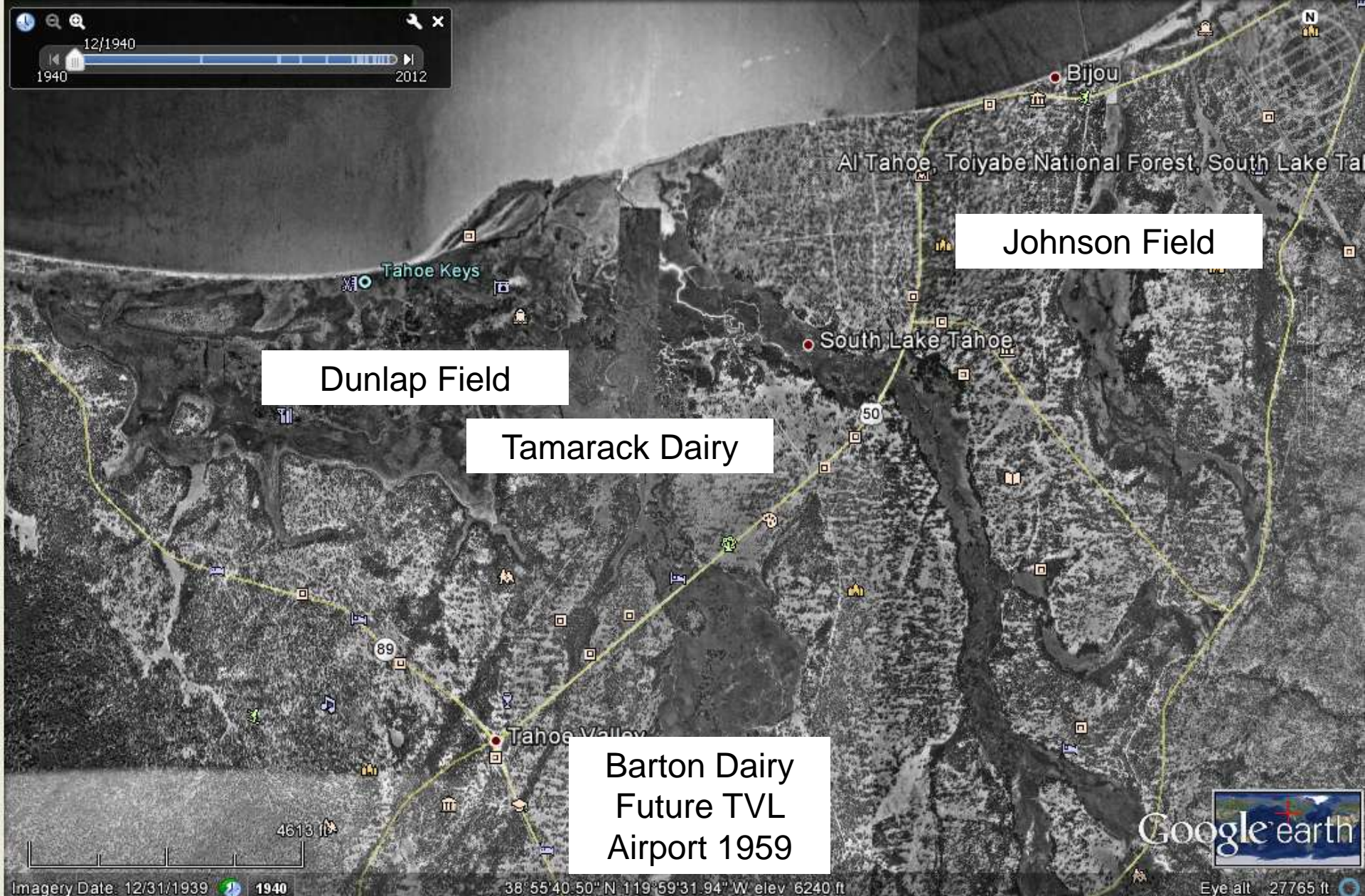
- Lumber Train #13 Engineer John Dunlap started in 1881 on the south shore, moved to north shore 1898, 1920 purchased property from Bliss on the south shore, returned to south shore with daughters Glorene and Helen in 1928. Greuner pg 27
- John E. Dunlap Ranch Tamarack Dairy. 1600 acres West of Upper Truckee River to Pope Beach on the lake.
- Washington St. off of Tahoe Keys Blvd.





# 1934

Future Sky Harbor Airport 1946  
to 1959





**ARMSTRONG REALTY**  
 \$5 \$10.00 DOWN — \$10 PER MONTH  
 Water and All Utilities In  
**EVERY REAL ESTATE NEED**  
 Established 48 Years  
 28, Bijou, Calif. Kimball 4-3446

**Harrah's Club**  
 OPEN 8760 \*HOURS A YEAR  
 \*always open  
 HIGHWAY 50 STATELINE, NEVADA

**S & K SHOPPING CENTER**  
 GIFT SHOP - GROCERIES  
 MEATS - LIQUORS  
 ZEPHYR COVE POST OFFICE  
 Proprietors — Louie & Andy

**CAMP RICHARDSON RESORT**  
 THE RESORT THAT NATURE BUILT  
 HOTEL — COTTAGES — BATHING BEACH  
 CAMPING and TRAILER SPACE  
 DINING ROOM — STORE — SODA FOUNTAIN  
 Telephone Tallac 19  
 Camp Richardson California

**NEVADA CLUB**  
 GAMING - RACE BOOK - BAR  
 THE ONLY RACE BOOK on the  
 SOUTH END of Lake Tahoe  
 GIANT BINGO  
 Clyde and Bud Beecher  
 Stateline, Lake Tahoe Nevada

**CHERRY BOAT SERVICE**  
 STORAGE - LAUNCHING  
 SALES & REPAIRS  
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**HARDSON RESORT**  
 E SOUVENIR SHOP  
**HOE ISLAND PARK - SUBDIVISION**  
**LINEER RESORT**  
**ATCHER Gen'l. CONTRACTOR**  
**ROBINSON - HOUSE MOVING**  
**CAVATING**

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 234 al Tahoe, Calif.

**LAKE TAHOE REALTY**  
 EARLE F. PANKOST - REALTOR  
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# Johnson Field



# Bill Kingman re: Johnson's Field

1940's. Steve Myers built one of California's first drive-in movie theatres near today's Heavenly Village at Stateline.

- At that time it was mostly a pasture behind historic Cecil's Market.
- Steve moved his Tahoe Drive-In theatre to a remote meadow in Bijou called Johnson's Field. 1955 to 1984.





# Johnson's Field or Barton's Field?

Standard J1. The aircraft belonged to Varney Aviation. They had a "field" in Tahoe. Delivered mail as part of Tahoe Aviation.

American 1917 Trainer Aircraft with a Hispano-Suiza engine





# Dunlap Field/Tamarack Dairy/Tahoe Keys





# Proposed Lake Tahoe Airport 1938







# Sky Harbor Airport/Kahle Drive 1 Mile East of Stateline

- Sky Harbor Airport 1946 to 1956 - Kahle Drive, Nevada - Rabe Meadow, (Lam Watah Trail)
- A pilot would fly from the mountain side toward and over the lake to alert the cattle to move, then land flying from over the lake toward the mountain and the Sky Harbor Casino building.





1940s aerial view  
looking along the  
single unpaved  
runway at Sky  
Harbor Airport.

The Sky Harbor Airport was  
poorly engineered and shut  
down before 1956

An aerial photograph of the Sky Harbor Airport, showing a long, narrow runway and surrounding landscape. The runway is marked with four red squares and two red circles. A white label 'Landing strip' is placed over the runway. The surrounding area includes green fields, trees, and a body of water at the bottom right.

Landing strip



1946 to 1956



Steve McLendon  
Collection

# 1946 photo of an Ercoupe & several other general aviation aircraft at Sky-Harbor Airport



Boeing/Stearman



Ercoupe

120 Cessna



# Sky Harbor Airport



WWI trainer BT 13's

Open  
cockpits

Steinman- entire  
plane was fabric

Fabric wings, metal fuselage, cockpits  
were called: Green houses



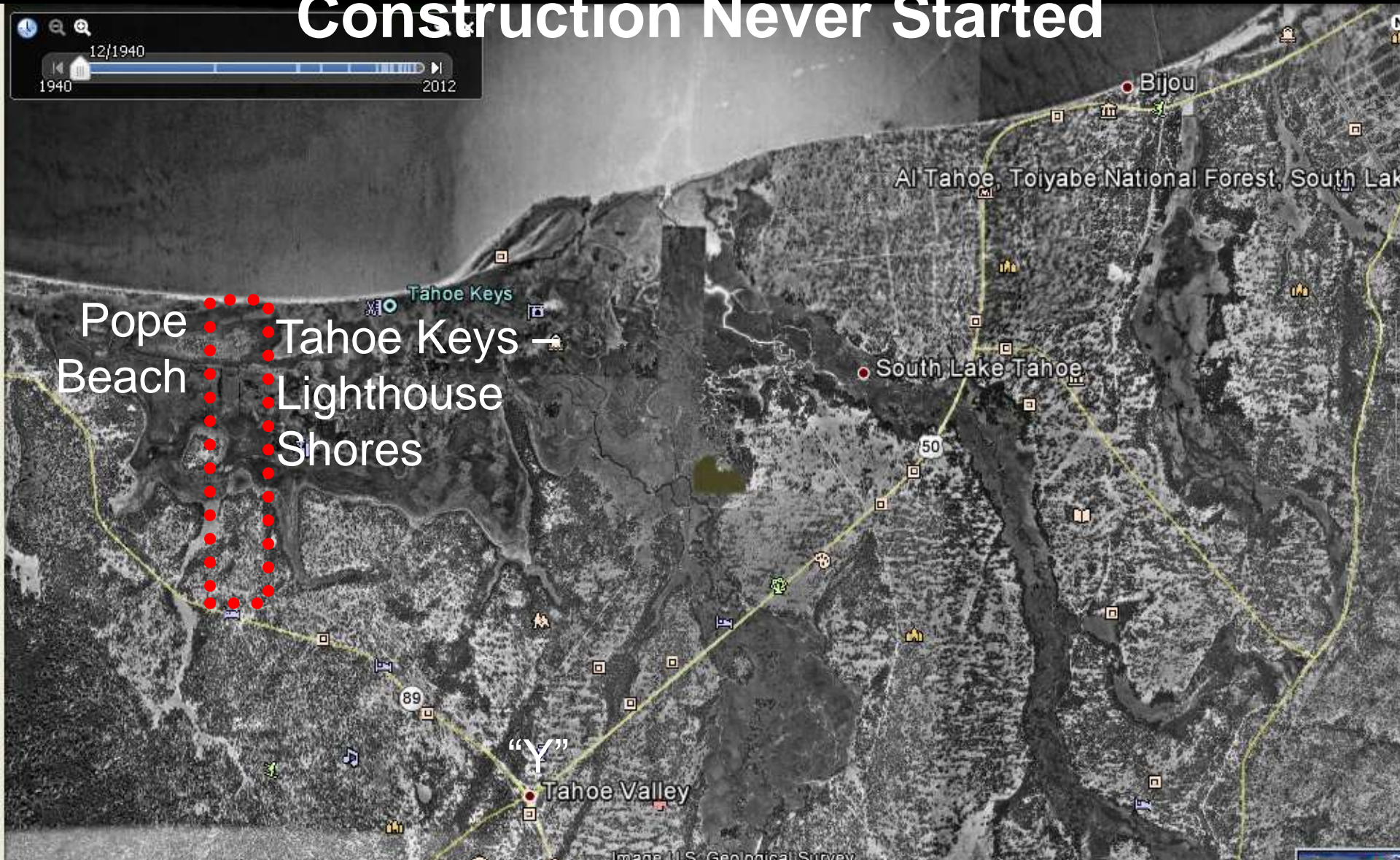
Had to fence in the cows to prevent them from eating the fabric of the wings!

# 1945 Sky Harbor Airport

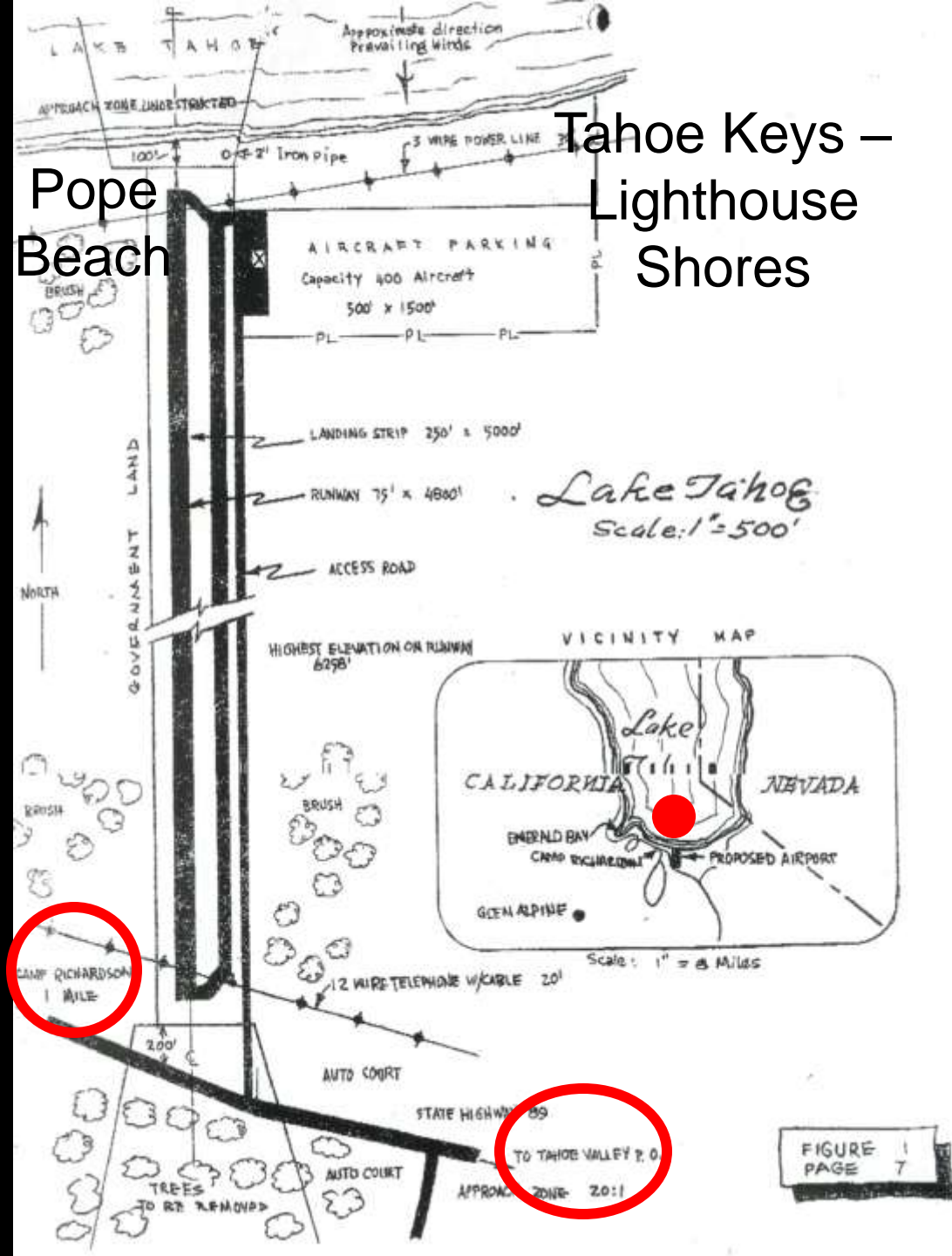




# 1951 PROPOSAL BY THE CALIFORNIA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION – Construction Never Started



**1951 PROPOSAL  
BY THE  
CALIFORNIA  
AERONAUTICS  
COMMISSION FOR  
A 400 AIRCRAFT  
CAPACITY  
TARMAC AND  
LANDING FIELD  
(AIRPORT) TO BE  
CONSTRUCTED  
NEAR CAMP  
RICHARDSON (250  
X 5000 FEET)**



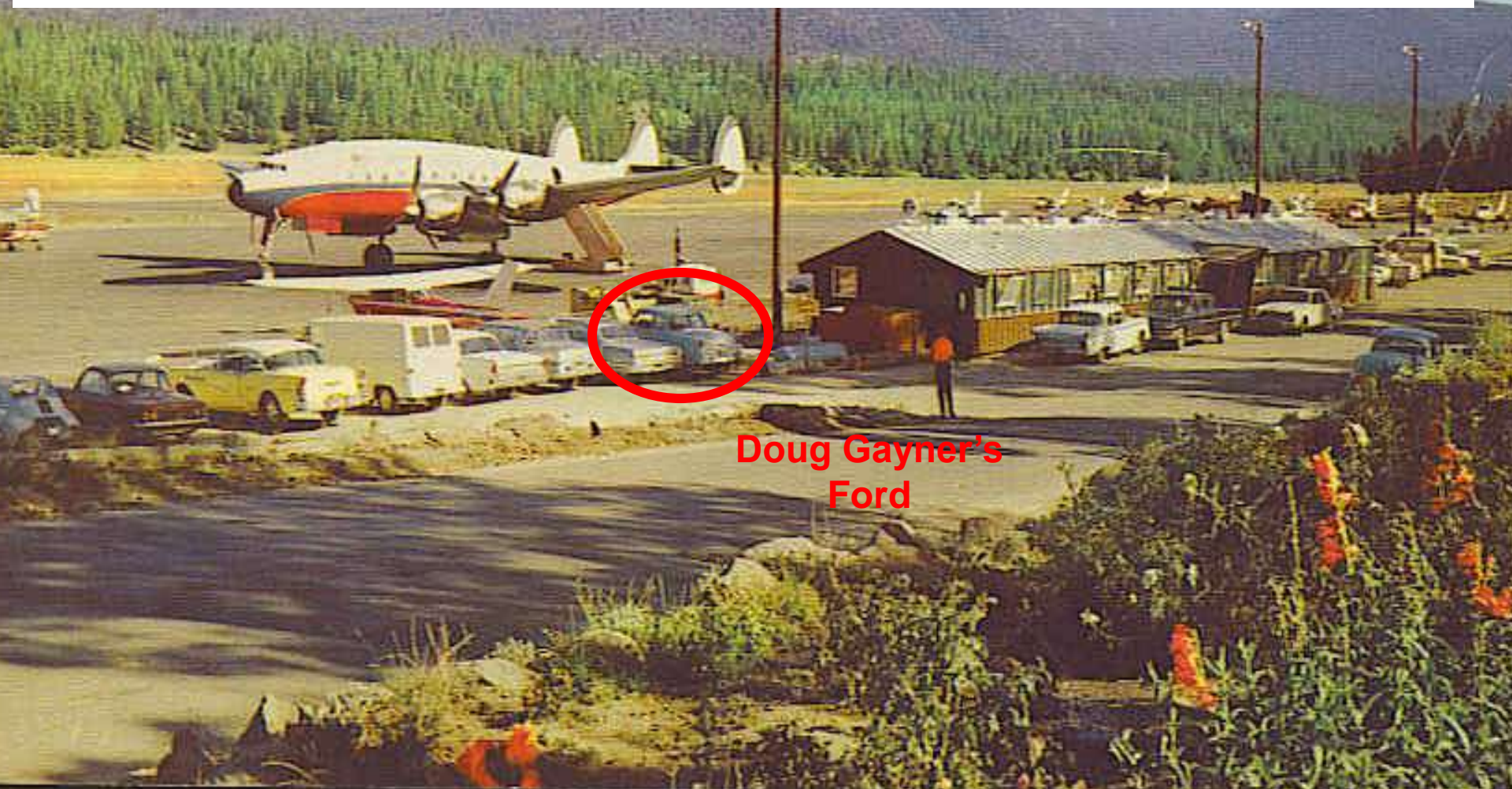


# South Tahoe Airport - Barton Dairy

- 1959. The 5,900' runway was the only airport along the 750 miles of the High Sierra capable of supporting private and military aircraft and scheduled air carriers. The runway was extended to 8,544' in late 1962. Casino money paid for the extension.
- Lake Tahoe Airport usage reached an all-time high in 1978. 294,188 passengers.
- 1959 to 2006. 12 airlines.
- 1982. Strict noise and access restrictions at the airport.
- 1983. City of South Lake Tahoe purchased the airport from El Dorado County for \$1.
- Last scheduled air service was operated by Tahoe Air and Allegiant Air in 1999 and 2000. Due to lack of funding the air traffic tower was closed in October 2004.
- <http://www.tahoedailytribune.com/article/20080131/NEWS/216988398>

# South Tahoe Airport Late 1960's

Lockheed J-049 Constellation (Connie), Eisenhower's Airforce 1



Doug Gayner's  
Ford



March 1,  
1964  
Tahoe's  
worst  
aviation  
accident.  
Mark McLaughlin  
thestormking.com

TRAFFIC DEATHS  
17 in the last year  
100 in the last year  
Traffic will be 100,000

# RENO EVENING GAZETTE

A Newspaper for the Home... Information and enjoyment for every member of the family

WEATHER

Forecast: cloudy

Snow: possible

March 27 - Saturday 16

RENO, NEVADA, MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1964

RENO, NEVADA, MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1964

PHONE IN 5-0000 20 PAGES 50 CENTS

# 85 DIE AS PLANE HITS SIERRA RIDGE



WRECKAGE OF CRASHED PLANE IS IN FOREGROUND  
In lower right-hand corner is tail section and fuselage of plane which crashed near Sierra Peak. Bodies of victims are scattered about wreckage.

## Grim Recovery Work Begins

Recovery of the bodies of 85 men in the crash of the Boeing 707-120, which crashed on the Sierra Nevada mountain ridge near Lake Tahoe, began today. The recovery work is being done by the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force. The bodies of the victims are being recovered from the wreckage of the plane, which crashed on the Sierra Nevada mountain ridge near Lake Tahoe. The recovery work is being done by the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force. The bodies of the victims are being recovered from the wreckage of the plane, which crashed on the Sierra Nevada mountain ridge near Lake Tahoe.



Capt. James H. Doolittle, 62, was in command of the plane.

## Missed By 30 Feet

The crash of the Boeing 707-120, which crashed on the Sierra Nevada mountain ridge near Lake Tahoe, was caused by a 30-foot error in the pilot's calculations. The pilot, Captain James H. Doolittle, was in command of the plane. The crash occurred on the Sierra Nevada mountain ridge near Lake Tahoe. The pilot, Captain James H. Doolittle, was in command of the plane. The crash occurred on the Sierra Nevada mountain ridge near Lake Tahoe.

## No Survivors

## Fun Flight To Lake Has Tragic End

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## 15 Lucky People Missed Fatal Flight 901A

Seventeen people were on board the Boeing 707-120, which crashed on the Sierra Nevada mountain ridge near Lake Tahoe. Fifteen of these people were missed by the crash. The pilot, Captain James H. Doolittle, was in command of the plane. The crash occurred on the Sierra Nevada mountain ridge near Lake Tahoe. The pilot, Captain James H. Doolittle, was in command of the plane. The crash occurred on the Sierra Nevada mountain ridge near Lake Tahoe.

## Weather Wild At Crash Site

The weather at the crash site was very bad. The pilot, Captain James H. Doolittle, was in command of the plane. The crash occurred on the Sierra Nevada mountain ridge near Lake Tahoe. The pilot, Captain James H. Doolittle, was in command of the plane. The crash occurred on the Sierra Nevada mountain ridge near Lake Tahoe.

March 1, 1964, "Connie"  
Paradise Airline Flight 901A,  
from the Bay Area to Tahoe  
crashed after aborting a  
landing at TVL.

The crash was blamed on  
the pilot, ground  
maintenance, substandard  
equipment, altimeter  
malfunction, lack of de-icing  
equipment, and falsification  
of a weather report.







# Thank you

- Bill Kingman 11/20/2012 Then and Now
- Larry Lukins 11/27/2012
- Rick Brower 12/01/2012
- Michael Zwijacz 12/03/2012
- Don Lane 12/05/2012
- Dave Wakeman 12/11/2012
- Danny Lukins 12/12/2012
- John Upton 01/02/2013
- Tom Davis 01/02/2013
- Mark McLaughlin [TheStormKing.com](http://TheStormKing.com) 01/02/2013
- Jimmy Amundson 01/07/2013
- Doug Ross 01/11/2013
- Doug Gayner 01/14/2013
- Krista Eisinger El Dorado County



# Jim Amundson

- Sky Harbor airport BT13 in diapers
- Dad B 17 30+ missions Taught aerobatic flying BT 13 instructor
- Teaching Bob Latin to fly a BT 13 – Near Johnson Meadow the plane stalled, the plane snapped upside down, Bob pulled back on stick instead of doing a roll through. Not enough altitude, clipped and augured in, chopped trees. Bob scalped and Dad had amnesia for 6 months. Totaled the air craft.

- George Stalls David son 10 to 15 years ago set of blue prints of a single sheet. Proposed a Meyers Airport plans 8/24/1938 Forest service rangers station



