

THE COMMUNITY OF
PATRICK CREEK DRIVE

K. Humphry 1989

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PATRICK CREEK

Patrick Creek is short. It has its source east of Dow's Prairie Road between Woody and Baird Roads. It has a fork coming from the north, and although the map doesn't show it clearly, another small fork a bit to the south. That fork is on the Bott Ranch near where Clam Beach Road meets D.P. Road. Bott tiled and covered it. You can see a swamp-like area where it was.

It used to be called Chaffin Creek. Charles Chaffin had several pieces of property to our east, one of which was a ranch that contained the main source of the creek. It was still referred to as Chaffin Creek on the deeds as late as 1920 or so. No one seems to know when or why it was changed.

One source thought that it was named after the same man for whom Patrick Creek State Park is named--Patrick Beegan. He was a well-known property owner at the park site, and a colorful local character. He was killed at the Battle of Christmas Prairie in 1862.

Beegan was the first settler on the point which now bears his name. This was shortly after the Federal Land Laws were enacted in 1841. He stayed a short time before moving to the prairie in the Maple Creek area above Korbelt. He earned a reputation as a scout and Indian fighter. The settlers had a lot of trouble with the Indians at that time, and when he discovered a Chilula hide-out by wounding an Indian dog and following it home, he notified the soldiers at Fort Humboldt. When they arrived sometime later they found Beegan lying dead at the stream near his cabin. The Indians had borrowed his trick. They followed the blood trail from the dog back to him. (The battle that ensued with the Indians was at Christmas). The soldiers fought until dark, and then stopped, at which time the Indians went away. There were many angry discussions about that!

I haven't been able to confirm from any other source that Patrick Beegan is "our" Patrick. I rather doubt that this is where Patrick Creek got the name, but it's an interesting story and just in case.....

Sources: Susie B. Fountain Papers, Martha Roscoe, Al Thoma,
Carol Bott

A detailed topographic map of the Patrick Creek Watershed area. The map features contour lines indicating elevation, with labels such as 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, and 1000. Major roads are shown, including Highway 101, Highway 102, and Highway 103. The map also depicts the Pacific Highway, the Humboldt River, and the Mad River. Key locations marked include Clam Beach, Dows Prairie, McKinleyville, Washington Sch, Fishers Mill, Canal Sch, and Arcata. The map is overlaid with a grid system, with section numbers 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. The map is titled "Patrick Creek Watershed" in the upper left corner.

EARLY STRUCTURES

The first house that I know of in this area is known as Gulch House and was located at the present site of Mr. Jerry Aldoroty's home. Margaret Freeman of Westhaven tells about the time that her parents James Robert Ruth (b. 1882) and Bessie Carter Ruth lived there. They met when Bessie's vehicle overturned on the road in front of us and Mr. Ruth went down to help. Later he and Bessie married, and in 1914 Mrs. Freeman's brother was born. At that time Mr. Ruth raised vegetables which he "carted" to Bullwinkle which was the early name for Crannell. Later they moved to Clam Beach where another small community was located on Strawberry Creek.

A note here for any interested fishermen--Mrs. Freeman said that her dad used to gaff salmon from the fish ladder on Little River (built by Hammond Lumber Co. of Crannell) and could get two of them only in his wheel barrow to take home for canning. They weighed between 85-90 lbs. each!

The Waterhouse family was aware of an old dump on the creek bank between Gulch House and the site of the lot to the west. It had been unused for many years when they came. They discovered, as did Dr. Milne when he was here, that it contained Chinese cans and jars dated in the late 1800s.

There were other early structures here. Across the road from Brian Scott's home, there were two houses. One of these was the home of the Elmer Miller family. The Millers are still in the area having owned land in McKinleyville all this time. In 1957 when we moved here there were no houses but an old barn was still being used to stable a horse or two. During W.W.II when the beach was regularly patrolled, the Coast Guard also kept horses there.

Also in the community was a building where Brian's house now is. I'm not sure when it was built, but it didn't come down until, with alot of help from the elements and termites, Brian replaced it in 197-. In its illustrious career it had been a filling station, redwood souvenir factory, and home to the Waterhouses, and many others. It was a two story affair with a large main room on the first floor that was lined with redwood bark. In those days there was a different road system into Patrick Creek Dr. The entry was on the south side of Brian's house, went in front of the house, over Patrick Creek on a very unimposing bridge, and then followed the hillside where Dorothy Steve's house is to Gulch House. It ended there. Regularly, the winter rains were heavy enough to push Patrick Creek over its banks and flood the house. We'd all run down and try to do something positive about saving the situation, but the house did suffer, as one can imagine. The house became even more delapidated with each spring. As the Waterhouses developed our community, (David), Hal and Ella's son and partner, wanted to do away with the house, but Hal saw it as a profitable

rental so it stayed. In about 1960, when it was being rented by an artist, William Harris, and his family, it caught fire. They were not at home, but luckily(?) an off duty Arcata fireman was driving by, and stopped to save it. David Waterhouse saw this as a chance to get rid of the pesky thing and was hoping that it would burn to the ground. In fact he even gave some thought to putting a foot through a window, but after all, the fireman was right there, so we got to keep it until Brian bought it and tore it down to build the house now there.

During this time Little River Drive was #101. Once over the road you were on the beach. There was a strip of railroad right-of-way owned by Hammond Lumber Company and used until the freeway was begun in about 1958. They had two log trains pulled by a steam engine that each day went to Samoa to the mill.

Before, it was an unimproved road and was used by local traffic when it was passable. The bank slid down on it and also during high water, the wooden bridge would wash out. Then people had to use the road that is now Dows' Prairie Avenue.

Sources: Margaret Freeman, Al Thoma, Margaret Ruff,
David Waterhouse, Hal Waterhouse

Clam Beach Gold Mines

The three ponds on Little River Drive just below our hill are all that is left over from attempts to mine gold from the sands. In April of 1879 J.V. Toller began a mining operation leasing land from Beach's farm near the mouth of Little River. It was successful to some extent for seven or eight years before being destroyed by a tidal wave. Although it was completely rebuilt, with the methods used, the mine was finished. It was evidently common knowledge at the time that before it was resold to unsuspecting shareholders, it was salted with a shot gun loaded with the flaky gold. Even when it was successfully mined, more gold ran off than was saved because the quick silver method could not pick up all the scaly gold.

When the mine was in full operation, one of the biggest takes was over \$3000 in gold. The owners kept it in a fruit jar !

Another mining operation, the Pacific Beach Mining Co., was begun in 1898 south and west of Little River by N.H. Pine and others. It employed 18 men. The owners invested \$4000 in a plant, and spent \$2000 to open it. The residents of Dow's Prairie were enthused by this and thought it would be a good market for some of their produce. Unfortunately, the mine never paid for the high cost of procuring it.

The investors made most of their profit from selling stock to Easterns according to local conversation. Mrs. Kennedy was a winner--she got \$4.00 a day for boarding the men. The mine workers themselves got 25¢ a day.

Sources: Mr. Ruth, Susie B. Fountain Papers, Carmen Schuler

THE WATERHOUSE FAMILY

In 1952 Hal, Ella, and David Waterhouse purchased the 20-25 acres that was to become the residential area of Patrick Creek Dr. They had been living in Illinois where Hal was the private secretary to the President of the Illinois Central Railroad. After deciding to retire in the Eureka/Arcata area, they asked an uncle, Tom Kidder, of Trinidad to find some land for them which he did. They first bought on the Fox Farm Road in the Westhaven area, but the wooded tract wasn't what Ella had expected--she was afraid of bears, and no doubt there were many there too. This area of Patrick Creek Dr. seemed alot better in commparison. This was where they had their first California home. They lived in the house located where Brian Scott presently lives, but not in the same house---it was the one that had once been a redwood burl and souvenir shop. At the same time they began building their own home where J. Aldoroty lives. This took some time as they did everything themselves from developing a water system from existing springs, putting in a more suitable road, and doing all of the building on the house itself. It probably sounds easier than it really was. Taking a look at the hillside behind Aldoroty's house gives an indication of what the whole property looked like. It was covered with dense growth that had to be hacked out by hand before even a bull dozer could tell where to go. Even walking through the area was a job. That first road entered the tract on the south side of the Scott house, passed in front of it, over a home-made small bridge to the present road, followed the south side of Steeve's hill and ended at the Waterhouse house--the site of the "Gulch House".

Water was another challenge. It wasn't that difficult to find. It seems to ooze out all over the place, but developing a good year round spring involved alot of digging, and even when finished, "pipe sitting".

After they finished their own house, David and Hal began to develop the rest of what was to become a legal subvision. The Humphry house was the first one. It was finished in 1957. Next came the Cave and Schenler houses. David had become a contractor by then and built most of the houses here himself. I forget the exact order, but he built almost all of them--the Fowler, Isackson, Neilson, Webb, St. Peters, and Scott houses being exceptions.

Hal had provided water to all of the houses by expanding his system of water tanks (that he built himself) and developing more springs as needed. He took care of all of it himself for a minimum monthly charge--in 1957 it was \$5.00.

In 1968 Hal and Ella moved to St. Maru Lane on Bella Vista Hill where they and David had another building project. This break with the beginnings of Patrick Creek Dr. was a great disappointment to all of us. I guess we thought they were Patrick Creek Dr., and would always be here. I missed our Sunday afternoon two person musicales--Hal on the cello, and I on the piano, and Ella probably as far toward the other end of the house as she could get.

Hal had many interests--business, building, cello, piano, singing in barber shop quartettes and church choir, calculus, tuning pianos, and more.

David and Melva, and son, John, moved from here in 1970. Presently they, and Hal too, reside in Redding..

Hal Waterhouse b. 1902

Ella Waterhouse b. 1900 d. 1987

PATRICK CREEK DRIVE

At first there were two roads--one to the north hill, and one to the south. We all came in the same entrance at the south side of Scott's home, where he parks his car. As mentioned earlier, the road to the north passed in front of his house, and then continued the same as today. The road to the south was a bit more precarious. It came up the hill directly from the entrance by the Scott house making a 90 degree turn to continue up the hill in front of the Humphry property. At best, it was a one lane road. Meeting anything larger than a cat on that turn was not a welcome thought.

The reason for that road arrangement in the first place was Patrick Creek and the rather deep ravine separating the two hills. Hal and David planned from the start that they would solve that problem. What they came up with was to build a large culvert in Patrick Creek and fill in the ravine. The culvert was placed a bit higher than the original creek bed, and the creek became deeper and more narrow at that point. It had been wide and shallow. There was a trail from our house, over a moss covered log, and up a winding path to Waterhouse's home. More sun reached down there in those days, and it was a lovely park-like place. We even talked some of putting a picnic table down there. However, the only action taken was one day when, with parents away, Dennie Barnes and Steve Humphry built a bridge. They sawed up all the 2x4s we had in our garage into 2 ft. lengths and spanned the creek. They then christened it Humbar Overpass. Ken was not over-enthused with the project.

From the beginning the residents have worked together to care for the road. We did the first blacktopping ourselves. All of us helped, spreading it with rakes, hoes, and shovels. Dennis and Greg Barnes packed it down by driving up and down the hills for a day or two. Worked just fine!

We still work on it together. Each spring we go out on the same day to spruce things up a bit. It is not an easy job, but the pain is eased with lots of conversation and a pot luck that follows. Those who can't come usually hire someone to substitute.

The curbs, rock work, and cement drains that look so nice at the entrance were planned and executed (mostly alone) by Glenn Cochran. *former owner of Alderley's Lane*

There has been at least one time when the County of Humboldt wished to hook up our road with Clam Beach Road. The fact that this is a private road didn't seem to be a factor.

Except for the alertness of a couple of the residents who discovered the idea sort of hidden in the newspaper, we would not even have known of it. Not being overly impressed with how the county cared for their roads, and rather suspicious of how many drivers might be added to the road, and for what purposes, we were not in favor. It did not happen. Perhaps we changed their minds. Perhaps it wasn't feasible in the first place.

Patrick Creek Drive Community Services District
McKinleyville, California

<u>Street Number</u>	<u>Assessor's Parcel Number</u>	<u>Owner (s)</u>
5040	511-371-16	1. Ken and Lillian Stodder 2. David and Elaine Cherney
5045	511-371-26	1. David and Melva Waterhouse 2. Steve and Melinda Moser 3. Robert and Sharon Medina
5050	511-371-15	1. Guy and Bonnie Kulstad
5065	511-371-27	1. Bob and Sue Hefner 2. William and Dianne Binder
5078	511-171-05	1. Howard and Lois Barnes 2. Charles and Erna Yost 3. Charles and Marjorie Howard 4. H.L. and J.B. Jost 5. Gene Cave
5104	511-371-37	1. Ken and Kaye Humphry
5121	511-371-28	1. Brian Scott (original structure replaced) 1. Waterhouse
5135	511-371-33	1. Hal and Ella Waterhouse 2. Mr. Milne 3. Glenn and Evelyn Cochran 4. Jerry Aldoroty
5138	511-371-29 & 30	1. Dorothy Steeves <i>a.?</i>
5148	511-371-25	1. Nelsie Pelham
5166	511-371-20	1. David and Melba Waterhouse 2. Jack and Barbara Storm 3. Debbie Storm

5175	511-371-18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Laurel and Lee Richter 2. Dan and Agnes Eastwood 3. Kathy Preston 4. Edward and Judy Webb
5185	511-371-17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joe and Alethia Spehar 2. Bill and Kathi Gaffney 3. Robert St. Peters
5200	511-371-03	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Andrew and Barbara Karoly - new house almost totally destroyed by fire and rebuilt by: 2. David and Edith Nielsen
5222	511-371-36	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. _____ and Wm. Nelson (1st. owners of Towe Restaurant) 2. Gary and Gay Isackson 3. Iver and Elsie Isackson
5230	511-371-13	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. David and Pauline Duran 2. Pauline Duran Webster
5244	511-371-14	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. William and Carolyn Schenler
5300	513-151-17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Robt.(?) and Mary Bradley 2. Jay and Maureen McGee 3. Jerry and Jean Fowler

County Records 1989

PATRICK CREEK DRIVE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

As our community grew from two homes to a full complement of eighteen it became increasingly obvious that the informal group approach to solving our community needs was not working well. Trying to get everyone to a meeting was not easy, but not nearly as difficult as trying to get us, once gathered, to agree on anything. If any decision involved money, it was impossible. We got a good bit of practice in real problem solving when one rainy morning we awoke to find that the culvert beneath the road at the curve going to the south hill had collapsed taking along the road, of course. In due time we were able to get our act together, largely due to the supervision of our resident engineer, Guy Kulstad. It was a mammoth piece of work, took a long time, and cost a great amount.

We had barely recovered from that experience when the road's bank fronting D. Steeve's property slipped. It was at Thanksgiving time. I well remember the night that Bonnie Kulstad came around with a paper that all of us had to sign giving permission to get it fixed. Rain was pelting down and she arrived at our door with a rather weary voice. Easy, you say? Why would anyone not sign? Well for one thing Dr. Yost was off to a far away meeting and wouldn't be back in the time limit that we had. That stopped operations right there. Again we did eventually do the job, but each episode took a toll on all of us.

As has been mentioned in another place, Hal Waterhouse had been maintaining the water system that he had designed and put in for community use. It consisted of four container tanks. There was one, still visible, in front of the Steeves house, one on Aldoroty's property, one on Kulstad's land, and one at the entrance to Webb's and St. Peter's homes. Water was supplied by means of natural springs. It had worked just fine at first, but with more demands on the system, and without Hal to keep tinkering with it in order to keep it going, we all agreed that things had to change--that was one decision that we found easy to make. We started out big with a study being made by Winzler and Kelly. They came up with a system that would serve our water needs nicely, and cost only \$60,000-\$70,000! From that impossibility we went to digging a well. It was on St. Peter's property near the road. It was a good well, but many feared not good enough for all of us. Reluctantly, by most, it was determined that it should serve only those living on the north side. The south side then formed a separate district and dug another well. This one at the back of Brian Scott's lot, next to the bank and near the creek. It was also a very good well. At that time a new distribution system was put in on the south side that would meet the standards of a regular water district. (Those residents reading this who participated in that exercise will no doubt be amused at how quickly I slid over that

one.)

We now had water but were still having to maintain the system ourselves which was not satisfactory. Anything that happened during the day we weren't here to fix, and getting up in the middle of a rainy night to fix it wasn't any better. In 1974 when it became possible for us to hook on to M.C.S.D. we felt lucky. The water didn't taste as good, but it seemed like a good trade off after all of the frustrations that we'd been having.

All of this background gives some insight into just why we formed a legal community services district. Now decisions can be made with a majority of board members. Some of the major decisions have been to:

Add a property tax assessment of 1% so that we will have a regular income to build up for emergencies, and/or regular maintenance.

Ask for the right from the individual property owners to make decisions concerning the road and road sides, fronting their property for the good of the community. This was unanimously given.

Adopt a county zoning ordinance of R-1 for the district.
(see following explanation of what that entails)

The formation of the district worked out the way we hoped that it would. It made it easier for us all--all of us here on Patrick Creek Drive, that is. We are a legal community district--the smallest one in the state, I believe. As such as we are entitled to the rights and responsibilities the same as the large ones. We have the right to sit on some county boards; we have our elections via of the county ballot--with the disadvantage of having to pay to have them counted, just like the biggies, and have to pay for an annual audit, to name a few. At times "when our existence comes to light somewhere in the governmental system, we are encouraged to vote ourselves out of business but we have been able to counter these suggestions so far.

I would like to emphasize that during the years we were going through the problem solving phase of becoming a community united, we were just that--united. Angry words did flow at times, arguments from our assertive and able neighbors were a regular entertainment, more meetings than tired professional people could stand to think of at the end of the day--all of this had no affect on the fact that we are all friends here. We work together, help each other, and like our community.

PATRICK CREEK DRIVE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Board of Directors

Edith Nielsen--President

Dorothy Steeves

Judy Webb

David Cherney

Robert Medina

Buzz Webb--Secretary
(non-voting member)

Meetings: When needed
Advance written notice
President's residence
7:00
Open to all residents

The Residential One-Family or R-1 Zone is intended to be applied in areas of the County in which topography, access, utilities and public services make the area suitable and desirable for low density residential development. The following regulations shall apply in all Residential One-Family or R-1 Zones.

(a) Principal Permitted Uses:

- (1) One-family dwelling.
- (2) Rooming and boarding of not over two (2) persons not employed on the premises.
- (3) Keeping of not to exceed four (4) household pets on each lot.

(b) Uses Permitted with a Use Permit:

- (1) Guest houses and servants' quarter.
- (2) Public and private noncommercial recreation facilities, including golf courses.
- (3) Timber production.
- (4) Mobilehome parks at a density no greater than allowed by the minimum parcel size in the zone or as may be modified by a combining zone.

(c) Other Regulations:

- (1) Minimum lot area - 5,000 square feet.
- (2) Minimum lot width - fifty feet (50').
- (3) Maximum lot depth - three (3) times lot width.
- (4) Maximum ground coverage - thirty-five percent (35%).
- (5) Minimum yard setback:

(a) Front: Twenty (20) feet

(b) Rear: Ten (10) feet

(c) Interior Side: Five (5) feet

(d) Exterior Side: Same as front or one-half (1/2) the front if all parts of the main building are more than twenty-five (25) feet of the rear lot line, and the exterior side yard does not abut a collector or higher order street. In questionable cases, the Public Works Director shall classify the subject street.

(e) Double Frontage Lots: Front and rear twenty (20) feet, except the rear yard setbacks may be reduced to ten (10) feet where such yard abuts an alley.

(f) For flag lots, the Planning Director, in consultation with the Public Works Department, shall establish the minimum yard that is required for a vehicular turn around on the lot.

(6) Maximum building height - thirty-five feet (35'). (Ord. 1235, Sec. 1, 6/13/78; amended by Ord. 1738, Sec. 2, 5/20/86; amended by Ord. , Sec. , / /88)

Humboldt County Planning Department 445-7541

For specific questions about your parcel, please be prepared to give us your parcel number. We have a Planner on duty from 8:30 to 5:30 Monday thru Friday to answer your planning related questions.

Section 313-17. RA RURAL RESIDENTIAL AGRICULTURAL ZONE

A. Principal Permitted Uses.

- (1) Residential Use Types
Single Family Residential
- (2) Agricultural Use Types
General Agriculture
- (3) Civic Use Types
Minor Utilities

B. Conditionally Permitted Uses. The following use types are permitted pursuant to the Development Permit Procedures in Chapter 5 of this Division:

- (1) Residential Use Types
Guest House
- (2) Civic Use Types
Essential Services
Community Assembly
Public Recreation and Open Space
Solid Waste Disposal: subject to the Solid Waste Disposal Regulations.
Oil and Gas Pipelines: subject to the Oil and Gas Pipeline Regulations.
Major Electrical Distribution Lines: subject to the Electrical Distribution Lines Regulations.
Minor Generation and Distribution Facilities
- (3) Commercial Use Types
Neighborhood Commercial (Permitted with a use permit only in the Coastal Zone.)
Bed and Breakfast Establishment: subject to the Bed and Breakfast Establishment Regulations.
Private Recreation
- (4) Industrial Use Types
Cottage Industry; subject to the Cottage Industry Regulations.
- (5) Agricultural Use Types
Stables and Kennels
Intensive Agriculture
- (6) Commercial Timber Use Types
Timber Production
- (7) Extractive Use Type
Surface Mining-2; subject to the Surface Mining Regulations.
- (8) Natural Resources Use Types
Fish and Wildlife Management