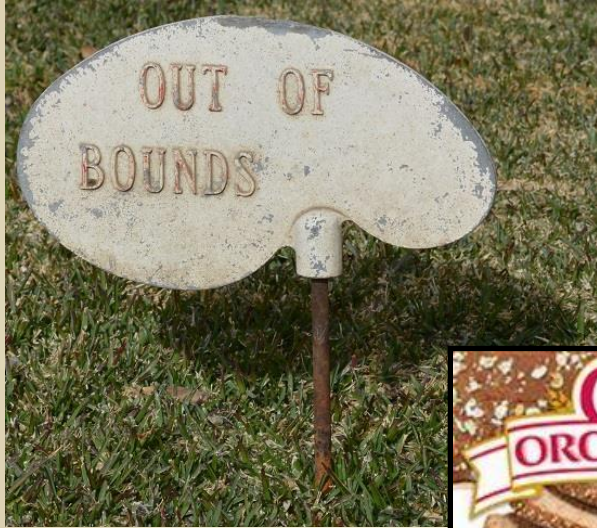


# Aqua Sierra and the Roy Rogers Sports Center Shooting Range, Golf Courses and Fishing Lakes - 1951 to 1969





Trap Stations

Starter  
Shed

Cottage

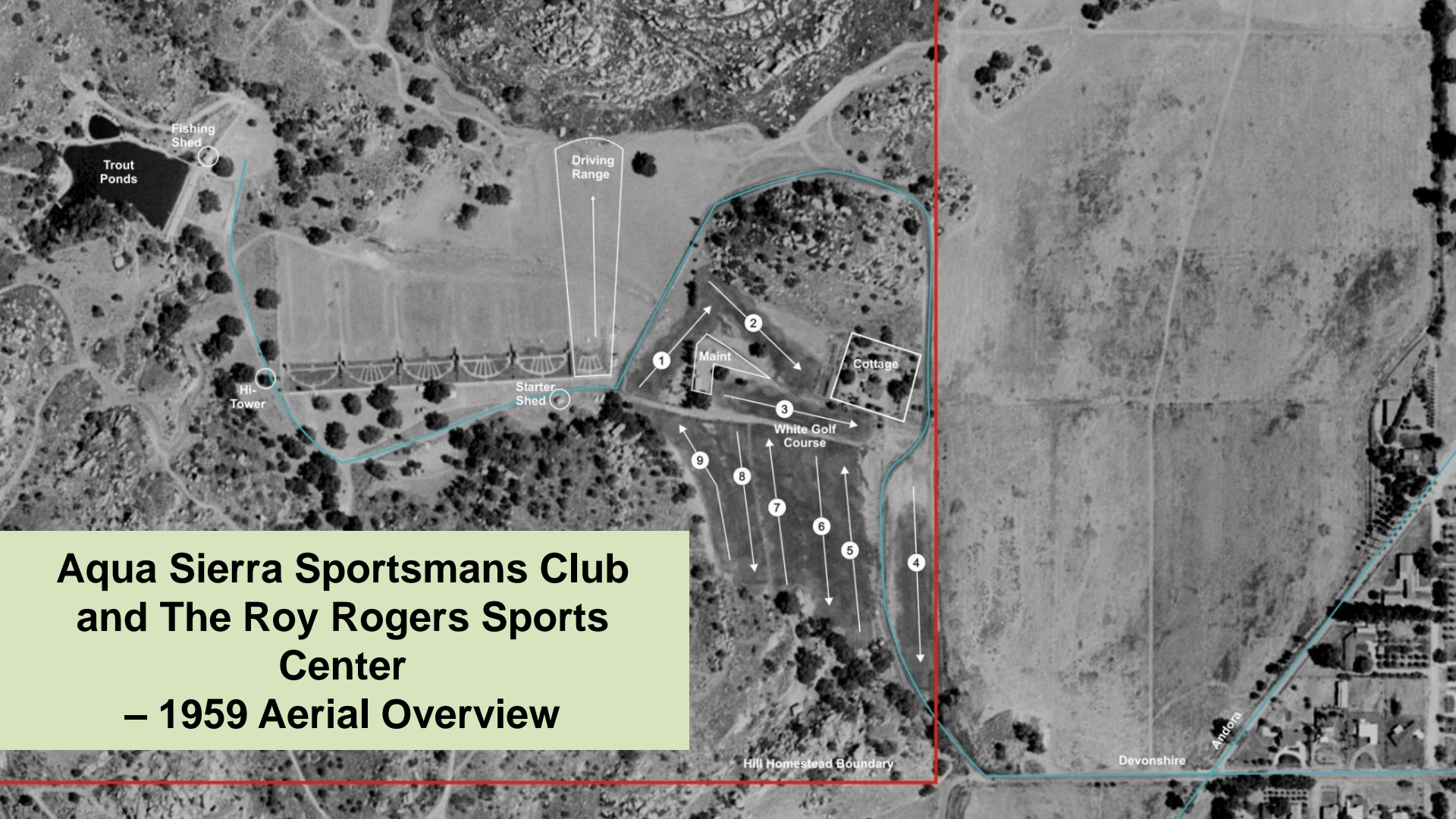
# Aqua Sierra Sportsmans Club – 1952 Aerial Overview

Hill Homestead Boundary

Devonshire

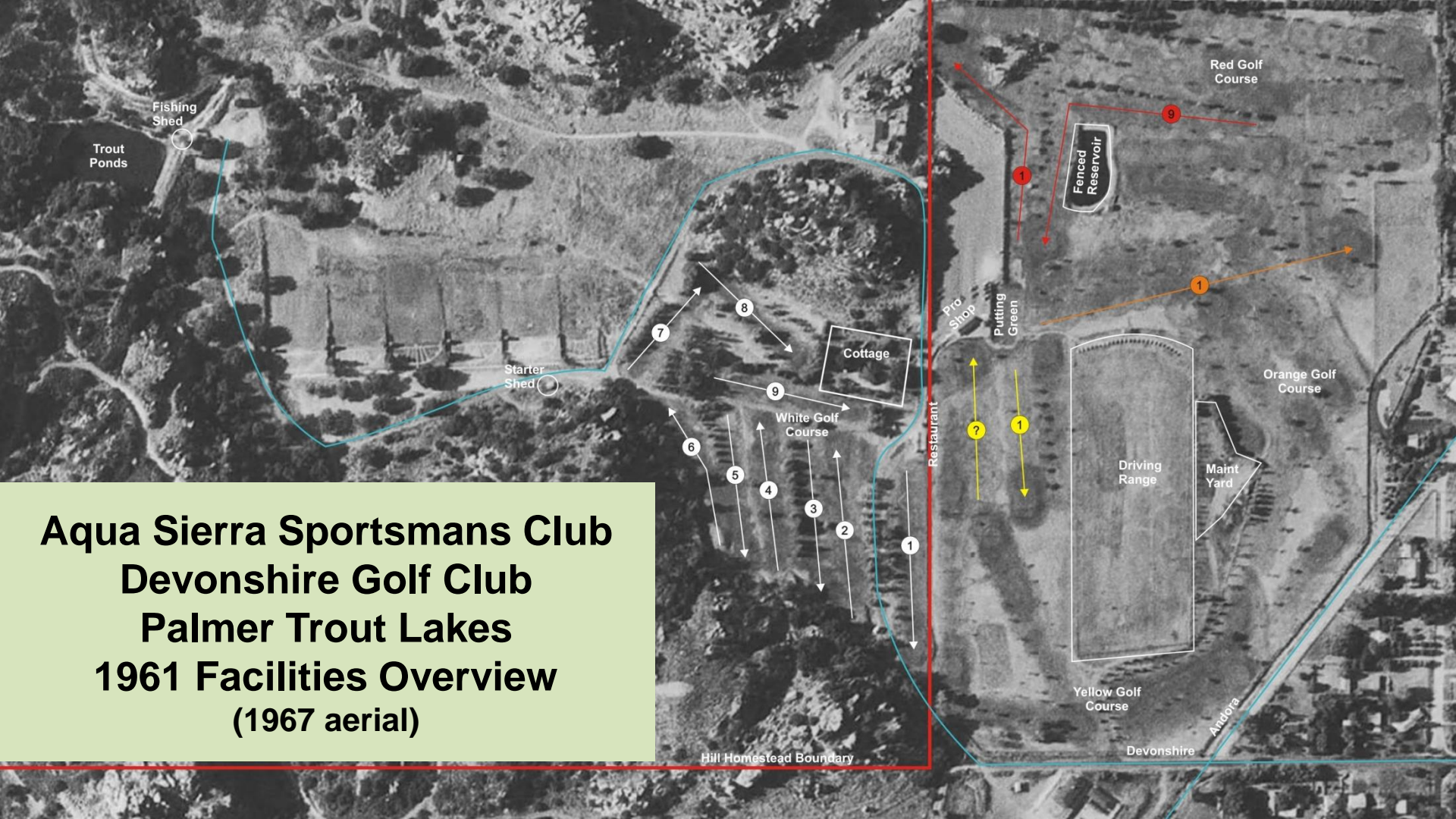
Antora





**Aqua Sierra Sportsmans Club  
and The Roy Rogers Sports  
Center  
– 1959 Aerial Overview**

**Aqua Sierra Sportsmans Club  
Devonshire Golf Club  
Palmer Trout Lakes  
1961 Facilities Overview  
(1967 aerial)**





**Aqua Sierra Sportsman's Club  
Devonshire Golf Club  
Palmer Trout Lakes  
– 1969 Aerial Overview**

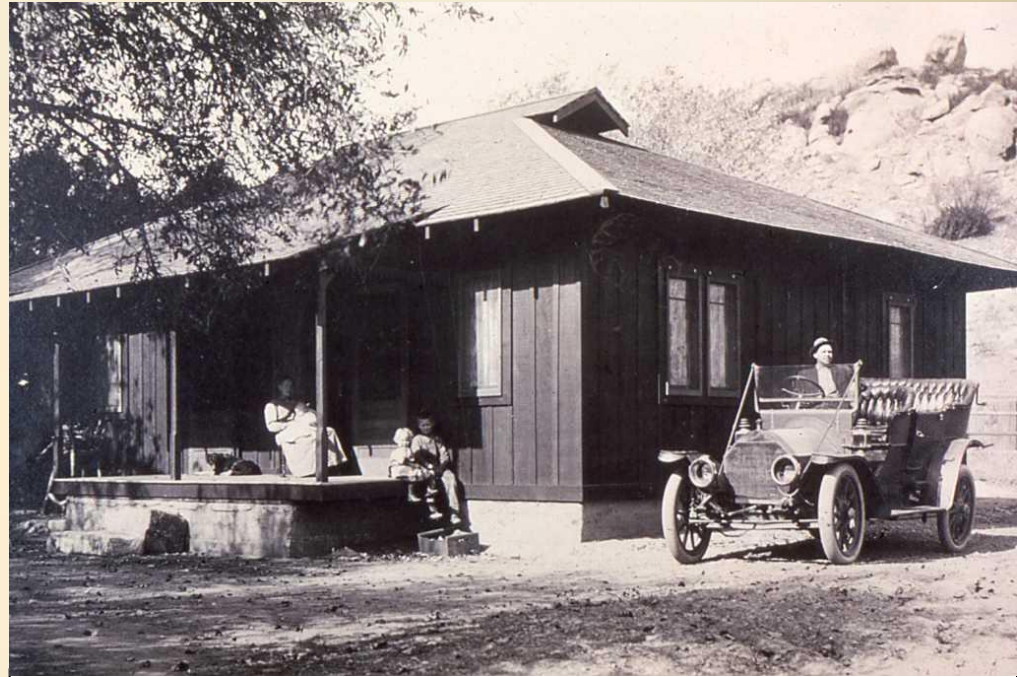


# Aqua Sierra and the Roy Rogers Sports Center

- Two homestead parcels were combined in the 1950's and 60's to create a 127 acre sports center at the west end of Devonshire, on what is today's Chatsworth Park South and part of Rockpointe.
- There are multiple stories involved:
  - The founding of the Aqua Sierra Sportsmans club in 1949, and the building of two skeet and trap stations by 1951/52, before Minnie Hill Palmer sold the Hill homestead.
  - The expansion of Aqua Sierra after the 1956 purchase of the Hill homestead by Henry Berkenkamp of Oroweat Bakeries. By 1959, there were five skeet and trap stations, a 90 foot hi-tower, one nine-hole golf course, a driving range, and two trout lakes. In 1959 it is advertised as the Roy Rogers Sports Center.
  - In 1961, three additional nine-hole golf courses were added on an adjacent 52 acre Butler and Dejeremias homestead parcels. This acreage was leased from the Scheplers.
  - The decline of the sports center began in 1968, when Rockpointe began development on the Butler/Dejeremias homestead parcels. In 1973 the City of Los Angeles purchased the 75 acre skeet/fishing/golf course site and it became today's Chatsworth Park South.

# Homesteader Background

- James Hill and family set up squatters rights on their homestead in 1886. Their 120 acre homestead eventually grew to 229 acres.
- In 1952, their daughter, Minnie Hill Palmer (a widow), still living in the Homestead Cottage, at 66 years of age, leased part of her land to the **Aqua Sierra Sportsmans Club**.
- Minnie continued to live at the cottage until 1976, at the age of 90.
- Minnie was very involved in the community, and worked closely with the Chatsworth Historical Society and the City of LA to maintain the legacy of the Hill Homestead.



The 1913 Hill Homestead Cottage  
L.A. Historic Cultural Monument 133



# The Aqua Sierra Sportsmans Club begins

- The first mention of the Aqua-Sierra Club is in an article in the Van Nuys News in Dec. 1951. The annual turkey shoot is at the club grounds at the end of Devonshire.
- A May 1952 Van Nuys News article introduces Clarence Palmer as President of the Aqua Sierra Sportsmans Club; the club is 3 years old. The article encourages public inspection of the new range at the end of Devonshire Road.

Aqua-Sierra Club grounds at the end of Devonshire Sunday.

The chance is yours this weekend as members of the San Fernando Valley Sportsman's Club hold their annual turkey shoot out on the Aqua-Sierra Club grounds at the end of Devonshire Sunday.

Dec 1951 Turkey Shoot at the end of Devonshire



This 1952 aerial shows two trap stations in Red; Minnie Hill Palmer's house is in Blue to the right





Trap Stations

Starter  
Shed

Cottage

# Aqua Sierra Sportsmans Club – 1952 Aerial Overview

Hill Homestead Boundary

Devonshire

Antora

# Trap Shooting 101 - Introduction

- Before we go further, we need to explain the sport of Trap and Skeet shooting.
- Trap and skeet shooting are two disciplines of clay pigeon shooting (shotgun shooting at clay targets).
- Trap and skeet shooting is a good way to practice before you go on a dove or quail hunt.
- Competitions involve shooting 25 shots, which is how many shotgun shells are in a box.
- Equipment required is a shotgun, clay targets, and a clay target launcher.





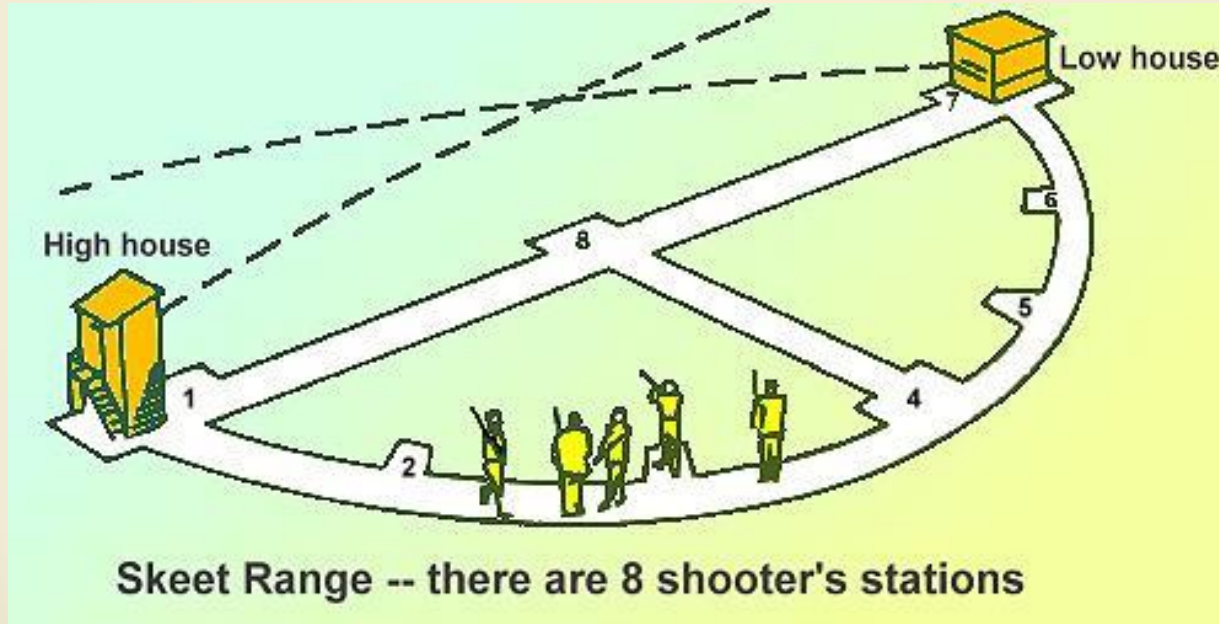
# Trap Shooting 101 - Trap

- In trap shooting, there are 5 shooting positions and one trap. The clay target thrower or trap machine is positioned in a structure, called the trap house, 2½ feet below the ground, 16 yards in front of the stations. The trap machine oscillates left to right and back, launching a single clay target, or bird. The five shooting stations or paths radiating out from behind the trap house are marked with distances from its leading edge from 16 to 27 yards.



# Skeet Shooting 101 - Skeet

- In skeet shooting, there are 8 shooting positions and two traps. Targets are launched from two "houses" in somewhat "sideways" paths that intersect in front of the shooter. The two traps are called a "high house" (10 ft above the ground) and a "low house" (3 ft above ground).
- Trap stations usually are combined with a high and low house, so you can shoot either trap or skeet at a single station.





# A side story on Skeet Shooting

- There was only one accident that made the newspapers from Aqua Sierra, in 1953. A 13 year old boy, Gary Edler, was launching skeet from the high house (10 ft high), when he was accidentally shot in the chest by pellets.
- We were delighted to meet Gary Edler for the first time last month. His story is below:

*"I was in the skeet hi-tower when I was hit. I was also lucky that I was standing on an apple crate, or I would have gotten hit in the face instead of the chest. I had to stand on an apple crate to get enough leverage to cock the clay target launcher. At first I thought the arm of the clay target launcher had hit me in the chest, because it hurt pretty bad. But then I looked down, and my chest was all bloody. I don't remember who was shooting that day. It was called Aqua Sierra Sports Club back then and it was before Roy Rogers was there. I don't remember who was in charge."*

## BOY IN SKEET TOWER HIT BY GUN PELLETS

A 13-year-old North Hollywood boy was being treated in Valley Hospital last night for shotgun wounds received while he was in a skeet tower at Aqua Sierra Sportsman's Club yesterday.

The boy, Gary Edler, 11045 Hesby St., was reported to have seven shotgun pellets in his chest and four in his right arm.

Deputies at the Newhall Sheriff's Substation said that there were five persons on the firing line when Gary was struck.

Gary was in a tower known as the "high house" of the shooting range when he was struck. The sportsman's club is in the hills above Chatsworth. Deputies listed the shooting as accidental.

# Hi-Tower Shooting 101

- Some shotgun shooting ranges include a Hi-Tower, which will launch clay pigeons from up to 100 feet high.
- The picture below shows the Hi-Tower described in a 1958 article, where Roy Rogers discusses the Aqua Sierra Club as a skeet and trap shooters dream complete with a 90-foot tower.



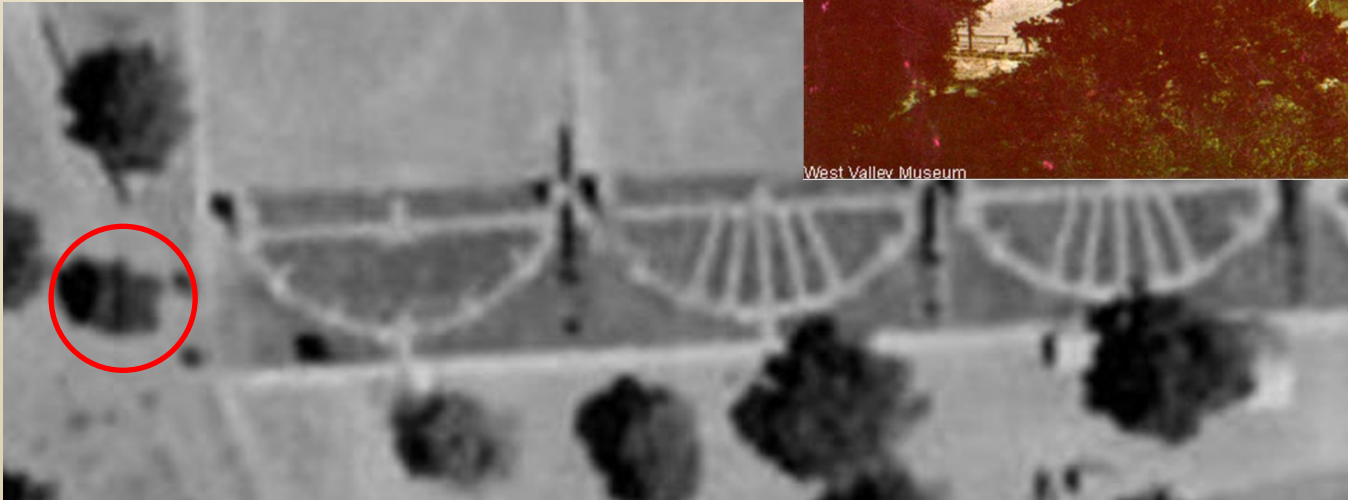
West Valley Museum





# Hi-Tower Shooting 101

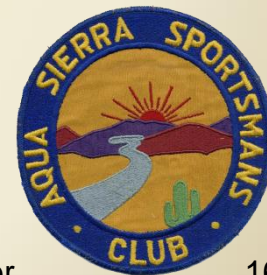
- Another view of the 90-foot tall Hi-Tower in a 1959 HistoricAerials Photo, circled in red below.
- The picture to the right is from the CSUN archives, dated 1956.



West Valley Museum

# The Expansion of Aqua Sierra Facilities - 1955 to 1960

- The Aqua Sierra Sportmans Club facilities began in 1951, but the organization was having some issues in the early years.
- In 1955/56, Heinrich Berkenkamp (known by all as “Berky”, and one of three partners of the very successful Oroweat Bakeries) helped out the club by buying the 229 acre Hill Homestead. The deed granted a life tenancy agreement for Minnie Hill Palmer to live rent and tax free at her 1913 cottage and surrounding 1.3 acre grounds.
- Coincidentally, in 1955, Roy Rogers moved to Chatsworth from Encino and bought the 129 acre Paulson Homestead, renaming it the Double R Bar Ranch.
- Both Berky and his wife Charlotte shot at Aqua Sierra. Their son Karl remembers Clarence Palmer, as sort of a promoter, and that he ran the operation. Berky bought the land as an investment, but also to help out the club. Roy Rogers was involved as well in some way, and lent his name to the Sports Club in later years.





# The Heinrich Berkenkamp Story

- Heinrich Berkenkamp (known to all as “Berky”) immigrated to the US from Germany in 1913 as a baker. He married Leola in 1916 in St. Louis and adopted his wife’s two sons Lynn and Floyd. He raised the boys to adulthood in Southern California, his marriage didn’t work out, and he returned to Germany around 1930.
- Berky re-immigrated in 1933 (leaving Hitler’s Germany), and arrived in Los Angeles again as a baker. He soon went into partnership with Ed Nagel, who drove a milk truck and would deliver bread to his customers. Another partner joined them, and they decided that they could slice the bread and wrap it in cellophane for their customers.
- It was a huge hit, and Oroweat Bakeries was extremely successful. Berky was the operations guy and ran the Oroweat Bakery in downtown Los Angeles.



# The Heinrich Berkenkamp Story

- Berky married Charlotte in 1940, and they lived in Winnetka Estates by 1943. Their son Karl was born in 1947 and graduated from Chatsworth High School in 1965. Their house burnt down in the Sept 1970 Newhall to Malibu Fire.
- Berky's grandson Wayne from Berky's first marriage worked in the bakeries growing up and has many memories. Berky enjoyed hunting and shooting, and shared that hobby with Wayne. There was an area in the bakery where they would practice shooting, they had a special bullet trap set up to catch the bullets. Berky would also ask Wayne to join him with bakery clients on hunting trips.
- Charlotte Berkenkamp won the state single womens trapshooter championships in 1961, 1967 and 1969, and was inducted into the California Trapshooting Hall of Fame in 1977. In 1966 she won a silver medal for the U.S. in the ISSF World Shooting Championships in Germany.
- Berkenkamp sold the Hill Homestead to the DOURENCE Corp (DOUglas and ClarENCE Palmer) in 1966.





# The Roy Rogers Story

- Roy Rogers' career began in 1934 with a recording contract with the Sons of the Pioneers. Roy soon turned to movies, and was in the top-ten money-making western stars list from 1939 to 1954.
- He and his wife Dale Evans also appeared on the Roy Rogers Radio Show for nine years, before moving to television from 1951 through 1957.
- Roy, Dale and family moved to Chatsworth in 1955, lived on Andora, and were very active in the community. They were co-honorary mayors of Chatsworth during that time.
- Roy and Dale sold their Chatsworth home in 1965 and moved to Apple Valley, California, near Victorville.



# The Roy Rogers Story

- Roy was an accomplished sportsman and a big game hunter. He made three trips to Africa, and had a trophy room in his house on Andora displaying the numerous animals that he had shot on safari. One remembrance was end tables made of elephant feet with glass tops.
- A 1960 article mentions that Roy and Clarence Palmer were inducted into the Rotary Club as Honorary members. And that Roy was in charge of the Rotary program that day featuring “films of safari undertaken by the popular cowboy”.
- Roy was also known as a crack shot at trap and skeet. In 1961 Roy competed at the Trap and Skeet championships in Gardena. Charlotte Berkenkamp also competed at that same event.



Sign in 1959 Chevrolet Commercial



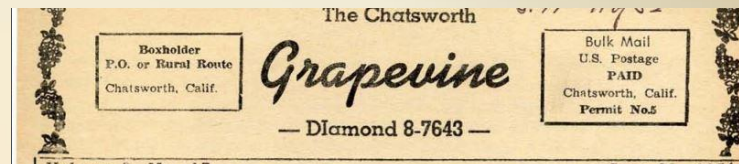


# The Expansion of Aqua Sierra Facilities - 1956 to 1961

- From 1956 to 1961, major facility improvements were completed on the Hill Palmer Homestead.
  - Part of the life tenancy agreement included improving the 1913 cottage by piping water to the house, which up until then had been carried in by a water tank on a truck.
  - In 1956, a **35' deep dam for a 2-acre trout lake was completed**, and later filled with 9 million gallons of water. There is a second smaller trout lake for kids.
  - By 1958, **the skeet and trap ranges are expanded from two to five**; Roy Rogers is interviewed and shares that he operates the Aqua Sierra Gun Club, **a skeet and trap shooters dream with a 90-foot Hi-Tower**.
  - By 1959, a **nine hole, 27 par golf course and driving range** (the “white” course) is completed.
  - Wells are dug just east of the trout lake to feed water to the lake and irrigate the golf course.
  - By 1961, **three more golf courses** are added on the 52 acre Butler/Dejeremias parcels.

# 1956 Chatsworth Parade ends at Aqua Sierra

- The 1956 4<sup>th</sup> of July Chatsworth Parade ends at the Fairgrounds at Aqua Sierra Sportsman's Club. Charles Janess, president of the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce, touts the event.
- The parade begins at DeSoto and Devonshire and ends at Aqua Sierra Fairgrounds.
- (No mention of Roy Rogers Sports Center yet).



## Chatsworth Groups Plan Giant July 4th Fiesta

A mammoth fiesta, sponsored by Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce and other civic groups is announced today for the Chatsworth July 4th celebration now in preparation. Charles W. Janess, president of the chamber, states: "This great celebration, involving all organizations of Chatsworth, will commence with a parade at 10 a.m. Featured will be horsemen and a float from the Youth Coordinating Council.

**Will Run Booths**

"There also will be the West Valley Band, celebrities, cantankerous flivvers and any and all that would help make a joyful parade. If there are any, in any of our outlying communities, who would be interesting in being in the parade, kindly let us know.

**Information Available**

"Our mayors, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, may or may not be available on that particular day, but Jack O'Shea, long-time actor and our honorary sheriff, is the sparkplug for all of our activities. The parade will end at the fairgrounds established at the Aqua Sierra Sportsmen's Club where booths of all kinds and various activi-

June 28, 1956

Chatsworth and Santa Susana

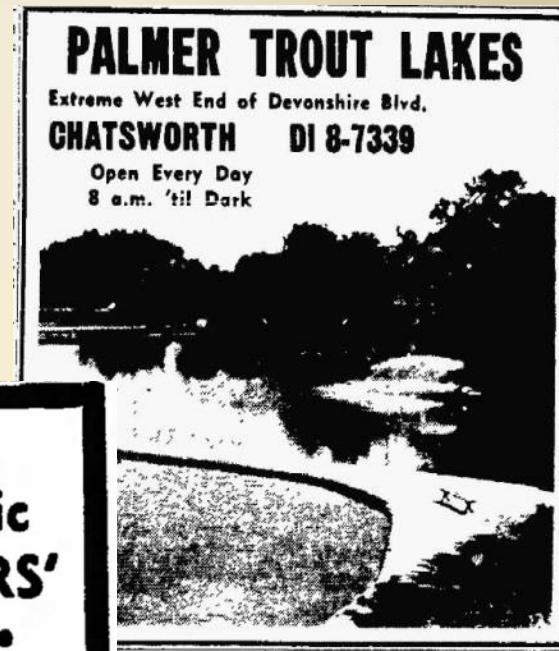
### *Fiesta News*

Everything is going along great guns. The parade has increased by spurts and bounds and to mention all who will participate would take the whole Grapevine, so we won't mention any one's name, but you'll recognize hundreds. Formation of the parade will be at DeSoto and Devonshire, with judging done by Max Schoenfeld, colorful figure here in the West Valley and manager of Devonshire Downs, and his corps of judges.

There will be booths galore at the fairgrounds on Andora, one blk. north of Devonshire. Everything is being done for your enjoyment, even to shade, benches and tables. Ben Boydston is building the stage for the free entertainment, and Al Brain is busily hammering together numerous booths to order.

# 1959 Chevrolet Commercial & the beginning of the Roy Rogers Sports Center

- Advertisements of the **Palmer Trout Lakes** begin in 1958
- A 1958 newspaper article quotes Roy as operating the trap and skeet center.
- The Devonshire Golf Course is first advertised in 1959. In that ad it is identified as the **Roy Rogers Sports Center**.
- And the following commercial says it all.....





Next..... A two-minute  
1959 Chevrolet Commercial  
Trap Shooting at the Roy Rogers Sports Center

Available on YouTube as “1959 Chevrolet Truck Commercial Roy Rogers”

<https://youtu.be/rBhqFjyLwbc>

A two-minute  
1959 Chevrolet  
Commercial

Trap Shooting at the  
Roy Rogers Sports  
Center



On Youtube, search  
“chatsworthhistory”

1/15/2021

Chatsworth Historical Society - Aqua Sierra and the Roy Rogers Sports Center

# Roy Rogers, Clark Gable Shotgun Story

- In 1958 Roy Rogers buys Clark Gable's pump shotgun for \$600 at Aqua Sierra.
- A frustrated Clark shoots only 4 clays out of 25 at Aqua Sierra, then shoots 6 or 7. Clark begged someone to make an offer on the SOB, and Roy bought it.
- Roy then shoots 25 out of 25, and then again 25 out 25. From that day on Roy didn't bother with another shotgun.





Next..... A 3 minute clip  
Roy Rogers, Clark Gable  
Shotgun Story as told by Dusty Rogers


Available on YouTube as  
“Roy Rogers' and Clark Gable's Winchester Model 12, Aqua Sierra clipped”  
<https://youtu.be/YsHEZ862KfQ>

# Roy Rogers, Clark Gable Shotgun Story as told by Dusty Rogers (3 minutes)

[Home](#) / [Brian Lebel's Old West Events](#) / [Denver Old West Auction](#) / [Important](#)

**289 Important and Noted Winchester "Pigeon Gra**

Currency: [USD](#)    Category: [Antiques / Firearms & Armory](#)    Start Price: 15



**SOLD**  
**62,000.00** USD  
 + (12,400.00) buyer's premi

This item SOLD at 2010 Ju

Did you win this item?  
 A full invoice should be en

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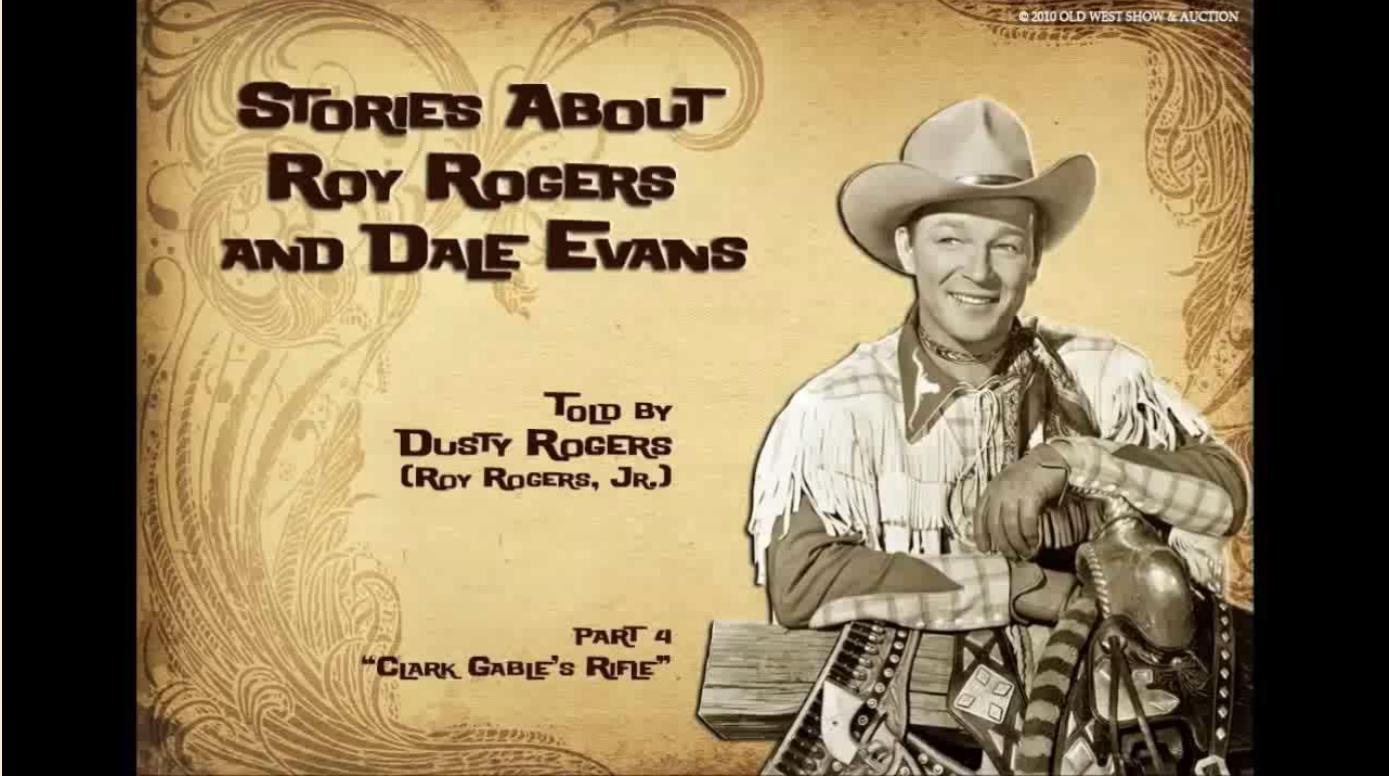
Item Description

Location & Preview

BP, Taxes & Fees

The Clark Gable Shotgun as known and shown in articles, books 1141026. Roy purchased this pump aun from Clark Gable in 1951

Clark Gable’s gun sells for \$62,000 in 2010 at auction.



# Beverly Ulis remembers Aqua Sierra

- Ann interviewed Beverly Ulis, who with her husband Ken were very active members at Aqua Sierra in the 60's.
- Each year there would be an annual potluck and the men worked on the facilities before the dinner. She brought lasagna and everyone liked it so much she had to make more each year for five straight years.
- Ken Ulis and Bill Sesnon were world record holders at the two man team event in Dallas Texas in 1964. Bill Sesnon is related to the Porter family of Porter Ranch.





# Beverly Ulis remembers Aqua Sierra

- Ken's shotgun pouch (which she donated) has a "100 straight" pin attached to the Aqua Sierra Sportsmans club pin.
- Beverly explained that the Aqua Sierra Gun Club was not a public course. It was an exclusive club, and members were invited to join. The most important attribute was that you had to be able to shoot well, and the group included quite a few Hollywood celebrities.
- Celebrities at the club included Clark Gable, Roy Rogers, Robert Taylor, Robert Stack, Robert Sterling, John Wayne, Charlton Heston, Walter Brennan. In 1958 there were over 200 paying members at the Aqua Sierra Sportsmans Club.



# Andy Griffith Show Episode

The following 5 minute clip is from the 1961 The Andy Griffith Show Season 2, Episode 8, "The Perfect Female"

Filmed at the Aqua Sierra Sportsmans Club in Chatsworth, California.

Scenes not related to skeet shooting have been edited out.

The story line is that Andy has a date with Karen. Andy is trying to impress her, but never gave her a chance to tell him that she is a skeet shooting champion.

The full episode can be found on YouTube.

Next..... A 5 minute clip  
1961 The Andy Griffith Show  
Season 2, Episode 8, “The Perfect Female”

Filmed at the Aqua Sierra Sportsmans Club in Chatsworth  
Scenes not related to skeet shooting have been edited out.

Available on YouTube as “1961 The Andy Griffith Show S02E08 Gail  
Davis The Perfect Female Aqua Sierra Sportsmans Club clipped”

<https://youtu.be/R3-fT8KXeUQ>



A 5 minute clip  
1961 The Andy Griffith  
Show

Season 2, Episode 8,  
"The Perfect Female"

Filmed at the Aqua  
Sierra Sportsmans  
Club in Chatsworth

Scenes not related to  
skeet shooting have  
been edited out.

The full episode can be  
found on YouTube.

1/15/2021

Chatsworth Historical Society - Aqua Sierra and the Roy Rogers Sports Center



# 1963 Guns Magazine

The caption below reads:

*"Pictures taken at the Aqua Sierra Sportsmans Club,  
"where the Stars shoot", at Chatsworth, California.*

## THE COVER

In case you just might be wondering about the stock on the gun shown second from right on our cover, that cut-away-sliding-sleeve ahead of the butt plate is a Hydro-coil recoil eliminator, the invention of Ralph Hoge, custom made by Ed Sowers, Pacoima, California. Pictures by Carlyle Blackwell, Jr., taken at the Aqua Sierra Sportsman's Club, "where the Stars shoot," at Chatsworth, California.

GUNS • JANUARY 1963



# The Devonshire Golf Course

- In April 1959 The Devonshire Golf Course is advertised in the Valley News.
- In June 1959 Ashley Loafea is named the Pro of the Devonshire Golf Course.
- In Nov 1960 the Devonshire Women's Golf Club compiled a handbook on rules and etiquette on the greens, and announced that they would schedule tournaments every Wednesday from 8:30 to 10 am.
- Construction of the red, yellow and orange courses began in Aug 1960 and was finished by June 1961.
- In June 1961 there was a pro-amateur celebrity golf tournament featuring James Garner and other celebrities.
- There was a Chatsworth Youth Golf Club formed in the early '60's. It was sponsored by the Chatsworth Rotary Club and George Lorbeer was the advisor.



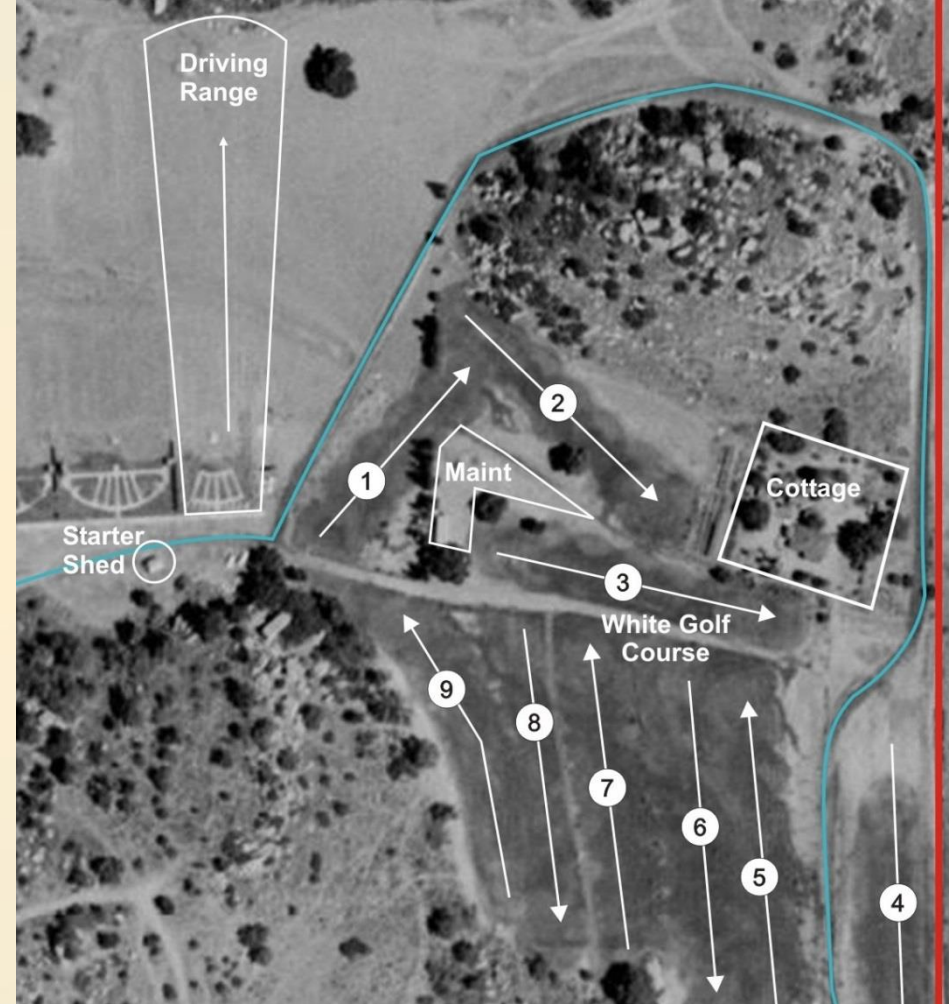


**Aqua Sierra Sportsmans Club  
and The Roy Rogers Sports  
Center  
– 1959 Aerial Facilities**



# The Devonshire Golf Course – 1959 Aerial Golf Starter Shed

- To arrive at the Starter Shed you would travel north past the cottage and around the hill (road marked in blue)
- The Starter shed is where you would rent golf clubs and pay greens fees, or buy a bucket of balls for the driving range.
- Notice how the 1<sup>st</sup> tee, the 9<sup>th</sup> hole, and the Driving Range are all near the Starter Shed.





# Out of Bounds Marker

- The Out of Bounds Marker (below right) used to be between the third hole and Minnie's vegetable garden (see yellow line below).
- Ken Ditto "rescued" it from a trash pile when the pro shop was moved. Ken recently donated the marker to the Chatsworth Historical Society.





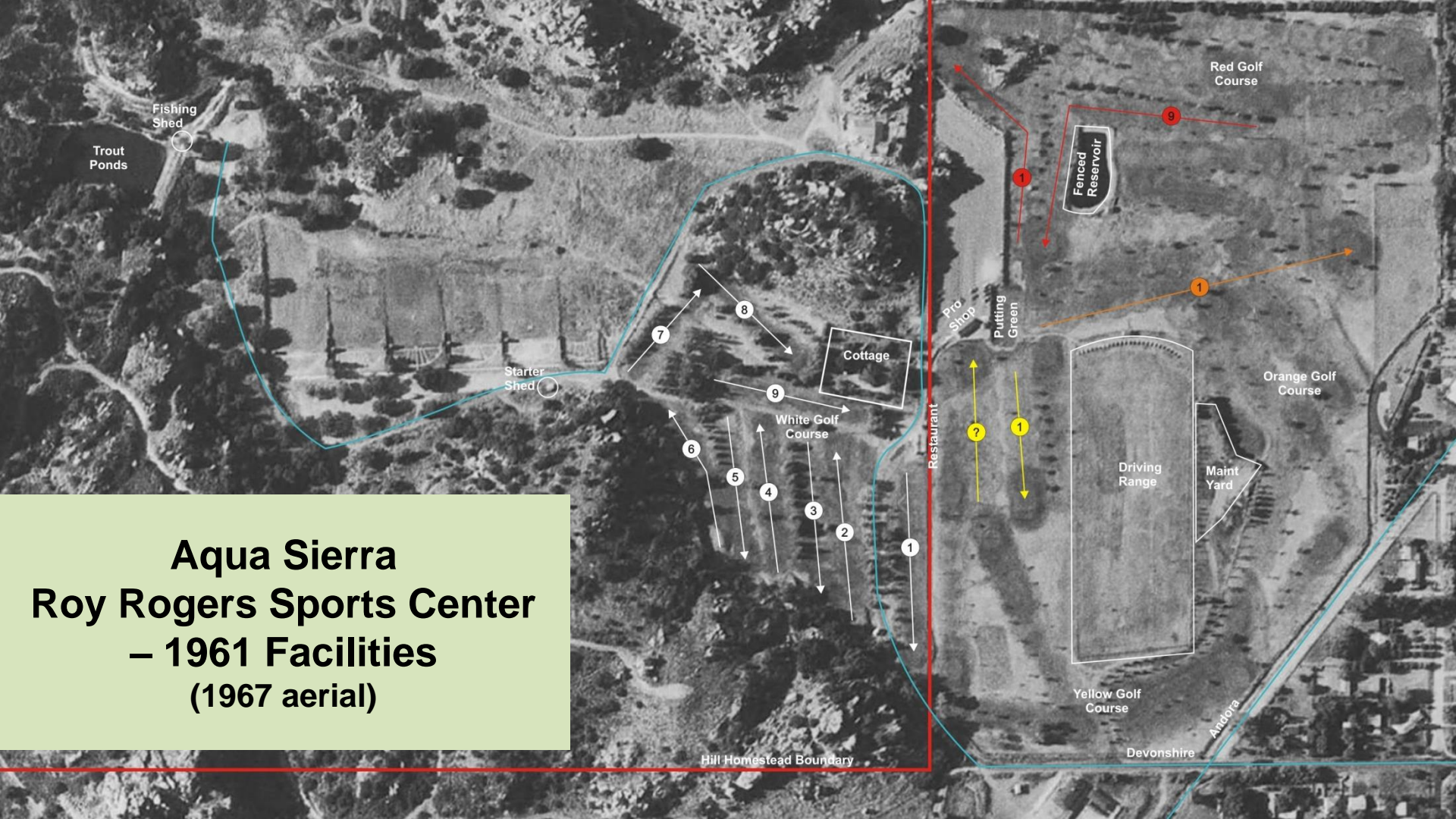
# Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, 1968 It's Minnie Palmer's 82<sup>nd</sup> Birthday

- A newspaper article describes 82 year old Minnie with a routine two to three hours work in her big garden in the middle of Devonshire Golf Course.

*"Well known by many movie stars and television actors, she retrieves the golf balls that are hit into her yard. She turns them into the office at 25 cents a bucket. The money goes to support the Girl Scout program and is usually given to Troop 680."*



**Aqua Sierra  
Roy Rogers Sports Center  
– 1961 Facilities  
(1967 aerial)**





# Devonshire Golf Club

## – 1961 Facilities

(1967 aerial)

- This slide shows the Pro Shop and Putting Green; the Starter Shed is just east of the Pro Shop.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> tees for all four golf courses start near the starter shed, and the 9<sup>th</sup> holes all end near the starter shed.
- The holes for the white course were renumbered when the additional courses were added.
- The Fenced Reservoir was supplied by a well and was used to irrigate the golf courses.





**Devonshire  
Golf Club  
– 1961  
Facilities  
(Schepler photo)**



Office / Restaurant  
& Minnie's Cottage



Pro Shop, Starter Shed,  
Driving Range & Driving  
Range Shed



White benches  
and ball  
washers for tees

- This Golf Course photo was taken from the east fence of the Schepler 52 acres, facing West.
- In 1965, the land that the golf club was leasing from the Schepler's was sold to the Rockpointe Townhome project. Townhomes are being sold by 1969.
- The next few slides will zoom in on some of the items identified in yellow in this photo.

## Devonshire Golf Club – 1961 Facilities Office / Restaurant & Minnie's Cottage



- The photo zoom above show the Office/Restaurant to the left. It was on Minnie Hill's property just south and east of today's Homestead Acre.
- Minnie's 1913 cottage is on the right, you can see the tan building with windows. And the trunk and crown of today's walnut tree are visible in the front right of the cottage.

# Devonshire Golf Club – 1961 Facilities

## Pro Shop, Starter Shed, Driving Range & Driving Range Shed

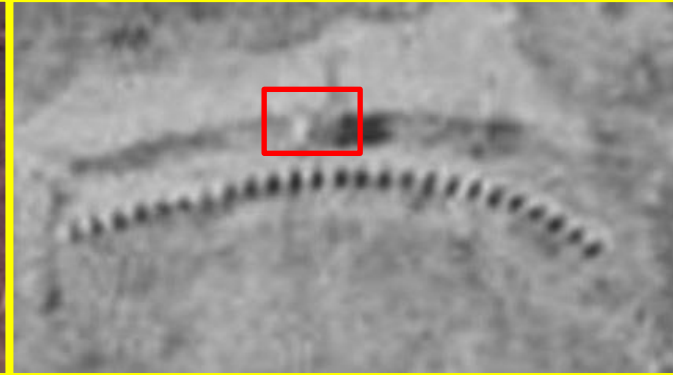


- The building on the left is the Pro Shop, today's Museum. The building in the foreground directly to the right of the Pro Shop is the Starter Shed. In the middle you see parked cars.
- What appears to be a sweeping curved brown wall just below the cars is the Driving Range, surrounded by lights, with a Driving Range Shed behind the Driving Range.



# Devonshire Golf Club – 1961 Facilities

## Driving Range & Driving Range Shed Explained



- The Historic Aerial photo on the right shows the Driving Range Shed in red. And 25 black driving range mats in a sweeping curved pattern.
- Each of those driving range mats was separated by wooden partitions, so the golfers would not hit each other as they practiced their tee shots.
- In the photo on the left, those wooden partitions appear to be a sweeping curved brown wall.
- You would buy a bucket of balls from the driving range shed.

## Devonshire Golf Club – 1961 Facilities

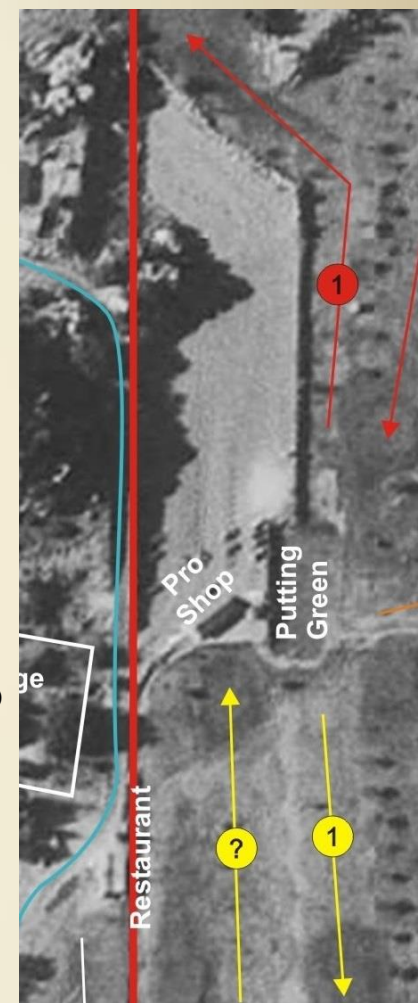
### White benches and ball washers for tees, and the road around the hill



- The lower right of this photo shows two white benches and two white ball washers, with towels.
- The parking lot continues to the right of the picture, it appears as a white “dashed line”, at a slightly higher elevation than the golf courses.
- You can see the road where you travel north past the cottage and around the hill to get to the Palmer Trout Lakes and the Aqua Sierra Gun Club.

# Some interesting stories about the layout of the course....

- Ken Ditto shared some interesting stories about how to play the courses (in addition to always being polite to Minnie because you never knew when a ball was going to land in her yard)
  - There was a huge parking lot north of the Pro Shop, but you always wanted to park at the south end. When people would try to make the first green on the red course in one shot, they sometimes wouldn't make it and your car would get hit.
  - One of the holes on the yellow course was just south of the Pro Shop (? in picture at right), and there was a 30ft high fence at the end of the green to protect the Pro Shop. So your best shot when approaching the green was to just hit the ball into the fence, and the ball would bounce back onto the green.





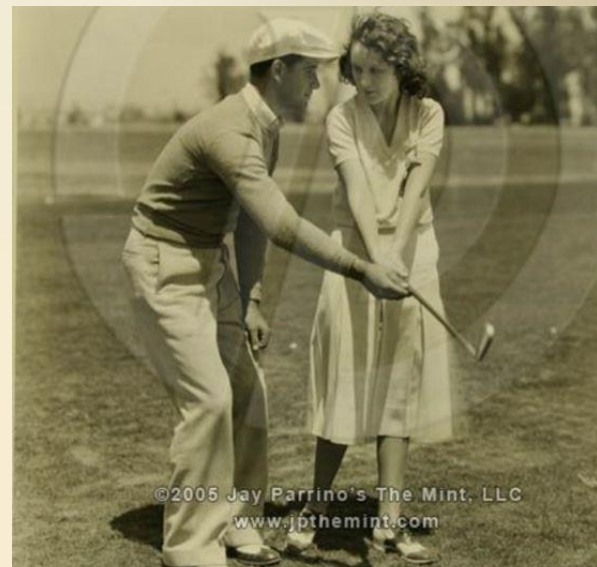
# Some interesting stories about the layout of the course....

- The White Course had lots of fairways that were close together. You had to keep an eye out for errant golf balls bouncing around from other golfers.
- The White Course had no sand traps or water hazards. But occasionally there would be a Chatsworth Rattlesnake near the southern end of the course.



# The Ashley Loafea Story

- Ashley Loafea was named the golf pro at the Devonshire Golf Course in 1959, and was no doubt involved in designing the 1961 expansion of the 4 courses, driving range, pro shop, and restaurant.
- In 1930, Ashley was the Paramount Studios golf professional.
- In 1932, he was teaching golf to RKO-radio celebrities and a technical advisor in two golfing films.
- In 1938 he was on the PGA tour at LA Griffith Park (now played at Riviera Country Club)
- Ashley was still operating the Pro Shop at the Devonshire Golf Course in 1968 at age 57. He had a son Randy born in 1948 that was pursuing a golfing career at that time.
- Ashley was the golf pro at the Santa Paula golf course in 1973.



1944 Ashley Loafea Dorothy Jordan teaching golf

# Aqua Sierra Sportsmans Club and The Roy Rogers Sports Center

## – 1967 Aerial Pro Shop

- This slide shows the Pro Shop, the Starter Shed and the Restaurant in relationship to the Cottage.
- Clarence Palmer talked Minnie into moving the Pro Shop onto the acre in Oct 1969.
- The pro shop was used for storage until 1979 when it was turned over to the Historical Society for their Museum.





# Aqua Sierra Sportsmans Club and The Roy Rogers Sports Center

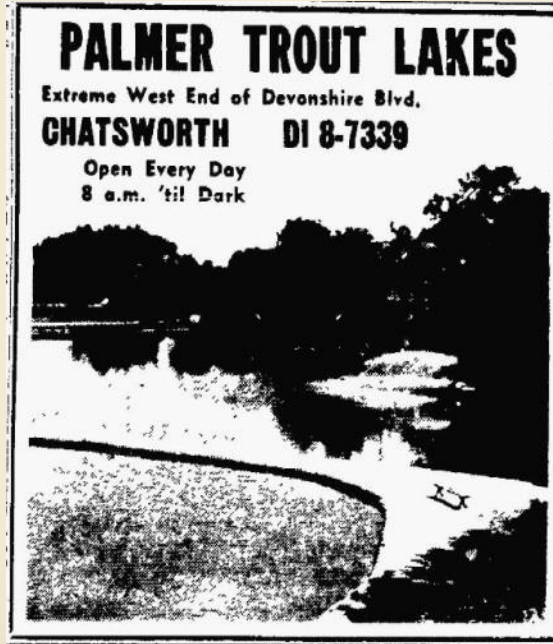
## – 1969 Aerial Pro Shop

- This slide shows the Pro Shop moved to the Acre where it remains today, as Rockpointe construction begins.
- The restaurant was given to a friend of Clarence Palmer's around 1974. It was dismantled and re-assembled in the friend's backyard on Tulsa St., where it remains today, renamed the "Cantina".



# The Palmer Trout Lakes

- July 1958 – Palmer Trout Lakes Open Every Day 8 am 'til Dark



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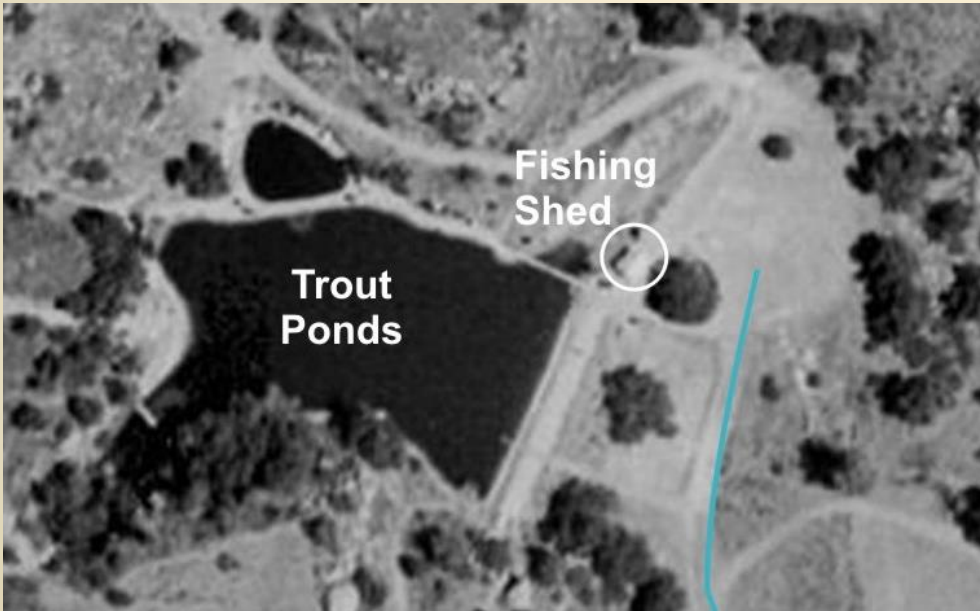
August 23, 1956

Our Aqua Sierra Sportsman's Club are in the process of creating a lake on their premises to be stocked full of trout and for the use of all those with fishing poles.

The 2-acre, 35' deep dam was completed last Tuesday and will be filled with 9 million gallons of water. We will be advised later on when it is completed and then we'll all bring our poles.

# The Palmer Trout Lakes

- July 1958 – Palmer Trout Lakes Open Every Day 8 am 'til Dark





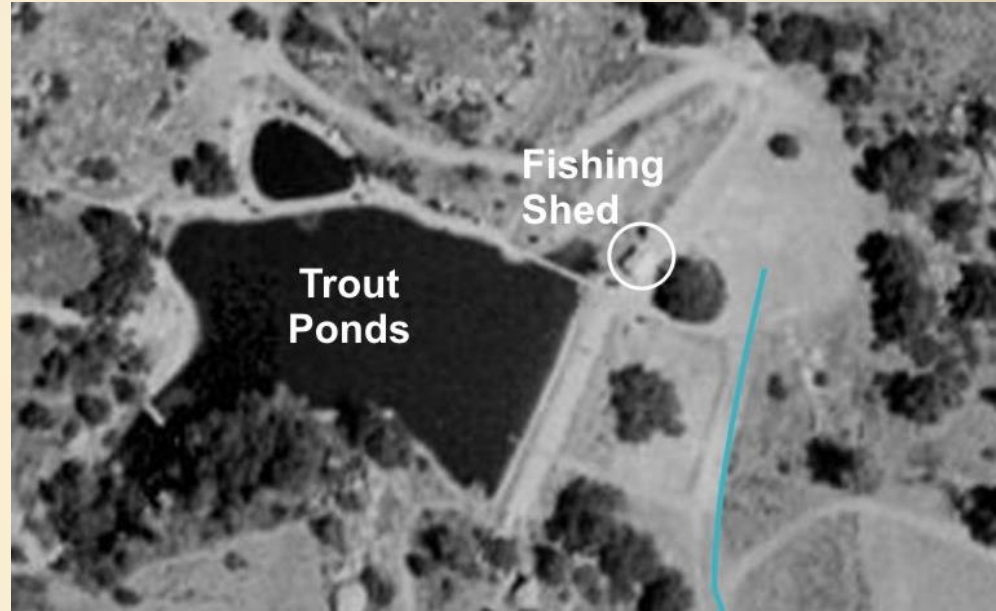
# The Palmer Trout Lakes

- Mike Fender's wife's grandparents are Alice and Albert Biddison. Alice and Albert were caretakers of the Trout Lake, short 9-hole golf course, and the gun range during the 50's and early 60's. His wife spent a lot of time at the "Lake" and remembers her grandfather conversing with Roy Rogers on several occasions. Mike's mother-in-law knew Minnie Palmer.
- Mike forwarded us pictures of the scale (seen at right) used to weigh the fish at the Trout Lakes. One paid by the pound for the fish caught.
- Mike said that when the lakes were drained there were several very large catfish in the larger lake, one being close to 3 feet long.



# The Palmer Trout Lakes

- There was a Fishing Shed where they would rent poles, and they would clean your fish for you.
- There was a small pond for the kids, and a larger pond for the adults.



# What remains of the Sports complex today in 2016

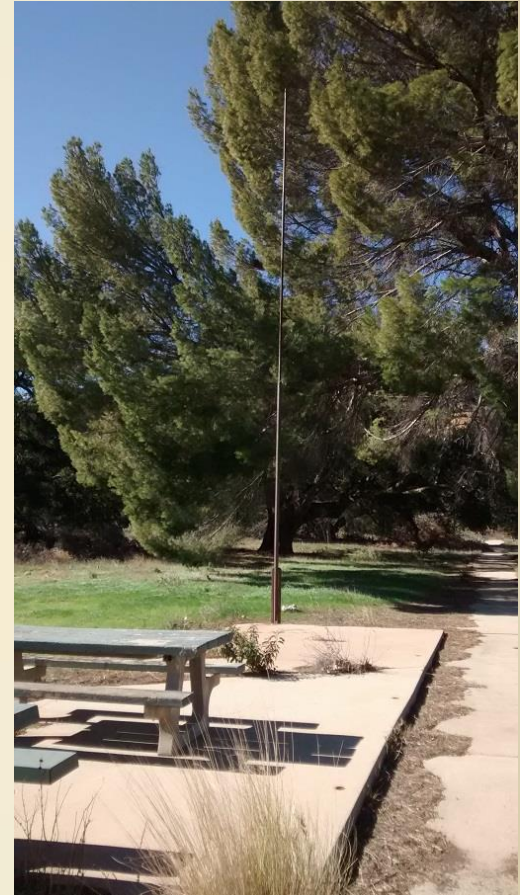
- Entrance road leading around the hill behind the acre (now leads to a State Park Trailer)





# What remains of the Sports complex today in 2016

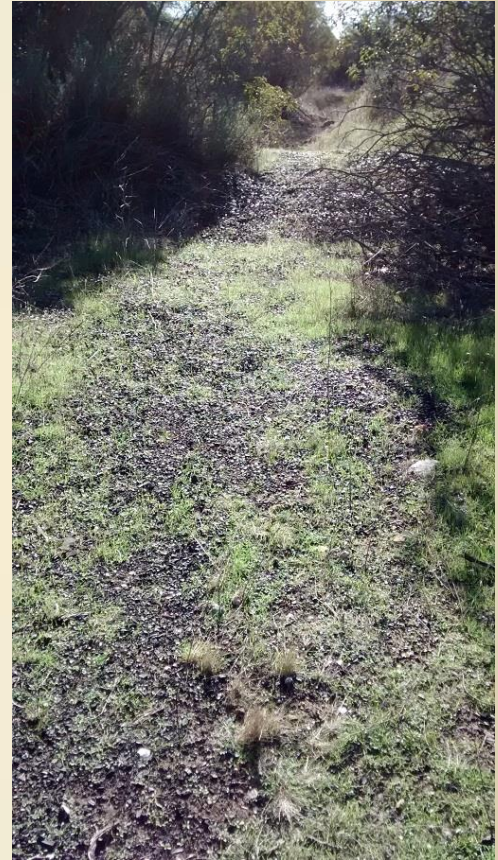
- **Aqua Sierra Shotgun Range**
  - Concrete Path behind the shotgun range stations
  - Flagpole at clearing behind center shotgun station (also seen in 1959 Chevy commercial)





# What remains of the Sports complex today in 2016

- **Aqua Sierra Shotgun Range**
  - Some lead pellets in foothills north of the stations.
  - Some clay pigeon debris piles (which also includes used shotgun shells; only the brass heads remain as the shell casings have been burnt away by fires over the years).





# What remains of the Sports complex today in 2016

- **Palmer Trout Lakes**

- concrete foundation of Fishing Shed and bathrooms
- Fence around tree covered in ivy just east of the trout pond
- Water well to supply water to the trout pond





# What remains of the Sports complex today in 2016

- **Golf Facilities**
  - Concrete steps and patio of Restaurant -- The north part of the building was the snack shack /restaurant, and the south part of the building was the office of Clarence and Doug Palmer.
  - In the golf photo there is a white awning over the patio.



# What remains of the Sports complex today in 2016

- **Golf Facilities**
  - **Pro Shop** – Today the Virginia Watson Chatsworth Museum



# Sources/Acknowledgements

Contributed content by:

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Beverly Ulis, whose husband was a member of the Aqua Sierra Sportsmans Club

Roland Russ, launched skeet during high school, CHS '64

Dennis Muehlenbach, starter at the golf course, CHS '65

Gary Edler launched skeet, Chatsworth Lake Manor resident

Mike Fender - Biddison trout lake caretakers contact

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