

THE QUAIL HOLLOW HERALD



Quail Hollow One Apartments Surpassing Twenty Years!

More than twenty years ago the street locations were on a drawing board in the offices of the Planning Commission. Thirty-three acres of wooded hillside east of Greenley Road were set to become a series of busy construction sites. Eighteen of these acres would culminate in fifty-seven buildings consisting of one and two bedroom apartments. The apartment homes would go up in stages. The swimming pool and clubhouse would be constructed along with the initial twenty-five buildings as part of Phase One. Nearly six years had been spent in the process of installing the infrastructure. How could there be homes without electricity, heat, water, sewers and, most importantly, roads? It was a lengthy process. Now this new location needed a name. Because of the species of wildlife indigenous to the area, the owners chose the quail that had lived in the hollow of the Sylva Ranch to be the namesake for their new community and Quail Hollow One took flight.

It would soon become the largest apartment community within Tuolumne County.

The streets on the hillside would carry names like Grouse, Partridge, Sparrow, Chukar and Covey and all would be an appropriate tribute to the gamebirds that lived on the land that held so much of the history of Sonora. Later, another bird species would be added and Crow Court would become the name on the last street sign to rise in Quail Hollow.

Additional acreage would be earmarked for a mini-storage rental facility which would also carry the Quail Hollow name.

By September of 1986, forty units were ready for occupancy and people began to find their way to these new homes. **M**any of the first residents recall the huge propane tank sitting alone on the hill, surrounded by mounds of dirt and boulders while more of the land was cleared for the next stages of construction. In June of 1987, forty more apartments were completed, and by the spring of 1988 thirty-two additional units would be built, along with all of the carports. This brought the total available apartments to one hundred and twelve,

with two laundry rooms and a maintenance office.

Spring of 1989 saw the second phase commence and by 1990 another seventy-two units were completed. These would constitute sixteen additional buildings and would bring all one hundred and eighty-four apartment units to 100% occupancy.

The third and final phase of the construction of Quail Hollow began in the spring of 1990 at the top of Chukar Circle and would encompass thirty-four single-car garages and sixteen additional apartment buildings. Phase Three was realized in 1991 and brought the total of one and two bedroom apartments to **two hundred and fifty-six** units and included four separate laundry rooms on site.

Improvements continued to be part of daily life as curious onlookers witnessed additions and upgrades to the landscaping around the Quail Hollow community, as well as street lights that appeared on the corners of some of the streets and now help to light the way home for residents.

During Christmas, the poles of these street lights might be wrapped in garlands, strung with tiny white lights to add to the holiday cheer.

The name Quail Hollow now appears on Sonora's city maps. A number of the initial tenants still reside here in their first apartments, a testimonial to the comfort this community has provided over the years. It will be interesting to hear their personal accounts of what life has been like during all the changes in Quail Hollow. Will they recall the time in 1989 when the movie "Back to the Future" was filmed in Tuolumne County and eleven of the apartments were furnished for some of the cast and crew members to rent? Thus began the marketing of the Quail Hollow One Corporate and Furnished Apartments. Perhaps some residents will tell of the time in 1993 when fifty-four furnished units were rented to the cast and crew of the movie "Bad Girls" while that production was being filmed in the area. Their stay must have provided a few adventurous stories and many lasting memories. More recently, quite a few people will remember the numerous companies from surrounding states that sent their employees to stay in the corporate apartments while the expansion of Black Oak Casino was underway. Many interesting stories were told

and anecdotes shared over the many long months of workers coming and going. The excitement that built up over those long hours to the grand opening of the new casino additions and the Seven Sisters Restaurant added even more chapters to the Quail Hollow book of memories. **A**nd there have been the lasting friendships forged between some of the residents and our South American travelers.

No story about the Quail Hollow One community would be complete without the addition of tales of foreign accents and late night forays to the clubhouse exercise room, setting off the alarm system and ending with a visit from the police to check on the safety of all involved. Just imagine the surprised faces of more than one of our young visitors from Brazil, Peru, Chile and Argentina. For most of these young men and women from the other side of the globe, this is their first time in the United States. As they walked in groups with their fellow countrymen around town, many of Tuolumne County residents were surprised at their vast numbers and colorful clothing. When people had the opportunity to actually meet them, often they were delightfully surprised to find these students friendly, courteous and eager to learn about our area and culture. From mid-December until

April each year, university students from other countries are hired as seasonal helpers at the various ski resorts in many states. Here, Dodge Ridge hires between fifty and seventy-five young men and women to fill numerous positions at their resort. Because it is summer in their countries, and thanks to school breaks, the jobs are enticing to many foreign students. As well as the chance to work and have fun, they also are allowed extended time on their Visas to travel throughout the states before returning to their countries. When they arrive in the Sonora area, they carry only backpacks, bare necessities and sleeping bags. Discovering that Quail Hollow One provides Corporate/Furnished Apartments, most of these students find their way to us. Consequently, some of our regular residents have been able to establish solid friendships and have even visited the South American homes of their new friends. At Quail Hollow One, each day offers new opportunities.

Thus, what began as a vision so many years ago of "what might be" has ultimately become "what is... the right place to be."

For many, it has been called "home"..... for more than twenty years.

