

Our Family Camping

Chapter Five

July 1995 – Camp Richardson at Lake Tahoe



Grandpa had his vacation time each year during the month of July. But Grandma was very busy with the Gilroy Garlic Festival in July, so Grandpa took Chelsea and Kevin camping at Lake Tahoe.



Kevin (8), Chelsea (12)

July 1995 – Desolation Wilderness

After taking it easy at Camp Richardson, they drove up the west side of the lake to Meeks Bay. They drove up a service road (Forest Rte. 14N42) as far as they could to a locked gate. They parked the van there, and began walking along the road. It wasn't long before the road ended and they picked up the trail. They started walking at 6,400 feet elevation and followed Meeks Creek upward into the northeastern portion of the Desolation Wilderness.

Finally, they made it up to Lake Genevieve at 7,600 feet. This was a climb of 1200 feet in one day!



Grandpa tells the story: "We climbed and climbed up hill, it seemed like forever. It was steep in places. Suddenly we came upon this pristine lake, and no one else was around. It was so beautiful."

"That afternoon it was warm enough for us to splash around in the lake. When it was time to set up our camp, Chelsea and Kevin wanted to continue playing in the water. But the sun was lower in the sky, and I had to remind them that after the sun goes down, there is no light switch we can turn on to help us see, so we'd better get started with our dinner and preparing camp for the night."

The next day Chelsea and Kevin tried fishing from the shore of the lake. Sadly, they didn't catch anything.



Chelsea and Kevin fishing



After fishing they went on a hike to Crag Lake, and around it to the other side. There they found snow! That was so amazing, finding snow in July.

They spent a couple of hours playing in the snow, sliding downhill every place where they found a smooth looking slope.

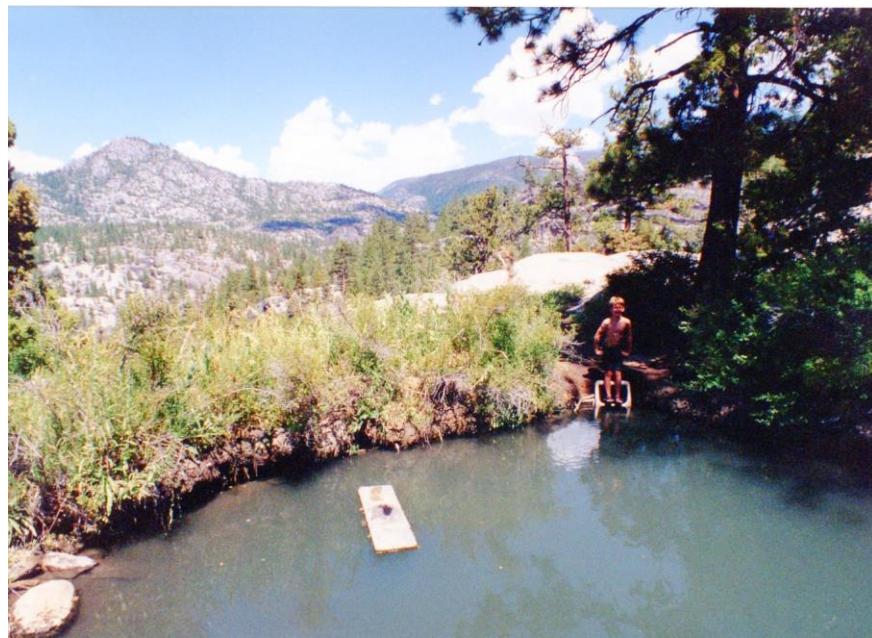


July 1996 – Huntington Lake and Mono Hot Springs

When Kevin was 9, he and Grandpa went on a trip into the Sierra Mountains above Fresno. From Fresno they took Highway 168 to Huntington Lake. They made camp at the lake, and the next day took a day trip to the hot springs. It was only an hour's drive from the campground over Kaiser Pass on a windy road to Mono Hot Springs. To the north they could see Lake Edison.



Above: Lake Edison Overlook. Below: Mono Hot Springs, at 7,000 feet





Above: Mono Hot Springs. Below: Climbing rocks above the hot springs.



Campground at Huntington Lake



July 1996 – Sugar Pine Point at Lake Tahoe

Grandpa, Chelsea and Kevin spent a week at Sugar Pine Point. This was the first of several such week-long camping trips to Sugar Pine Point in July.



July was the only time Grandpa could take a long vacation.

Shawn was not available, either because of work or school.



They enjoyed the beach at DL Bliss State Park, which was close to Sugar Pine Point.

They had fun jumping off the rocks into the lake. At left, Chelsea takes the plunge!

Each year, Chelsea and Kevin were allowed to bring along a friend of their choice. They towed the tent trailer, with bicycles on top of it.



On the last full day of the trip (providing everyone was well behaved), they would rent a personal watercraft.



Chelsea and Erica on a Seadoo



Chelsea and Erica inside tent trailer