

Our Family Camping

Chapter Two

Kevin was born March 2, 1987. Grandma and Grandpa and the children lived on Chapel Court in Modesto for ten years, from 1985 to 1994.

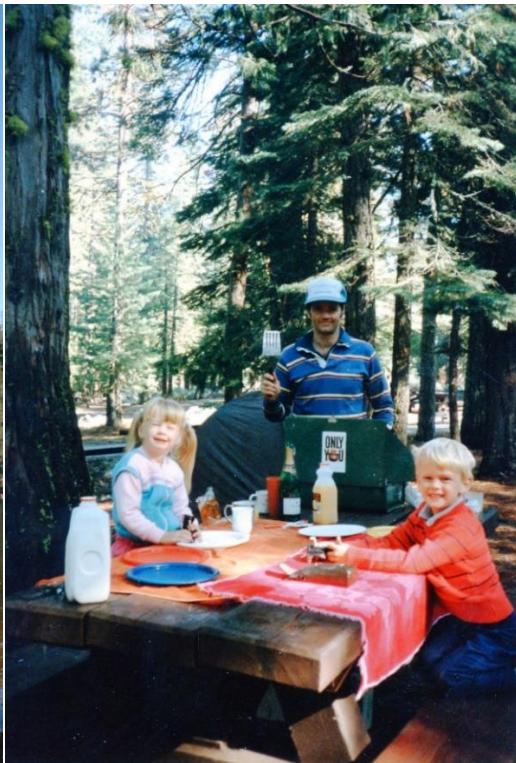
May 1987 – Mother's Day at Pinecrest Lake



Left: Campsite at Pinecrest

Below: Chelsea by the lake, and Grandpa fixing breakfast.

On this trip Grandma and Kevin (two months old) slept in the back of the family station wagon. Grandpa, Shawn and Chelsea slept in the tent.



June 1987 – Tuolumne Meadows

Grandma and Grandpa camped with Jim and Annamarie Peck, and their daughters Emily and Marjorie, at Tuolumne Meadows. It is a beautiful campground inside Yosemite National Park. It lies along Highway 120 near the Tioga Pass, and it was about a three-hour drive from their home in Modesto.

Grandma begins the story: “We arrived late that night (the Pecks were already there), but we parked in the first campsite we could find. We unloaded, set up the tent and left the food boxes outside of the car. We slept inside the station wagon with Kevin, and Chelsea and Shawn slept outside in a little pup tent.”

Grandpa continues: “During the night a bear came into our campground, and began rummaging through our food containers. The first thing I remember doing was crawling over the back seat to get into the driver’s seat, and I started up the car, and moved it as close as I could toward the bear. I turned on the headlights and honked the horn to try to frighten the bear away. Eventually it left. Shawn and Chelsea were okay, because they had no food or sweet-smelling stuff in their tent.” Grandma adds: The bear went through our food boxes and slobbered all over everything, and whatever he could open, he ate.”

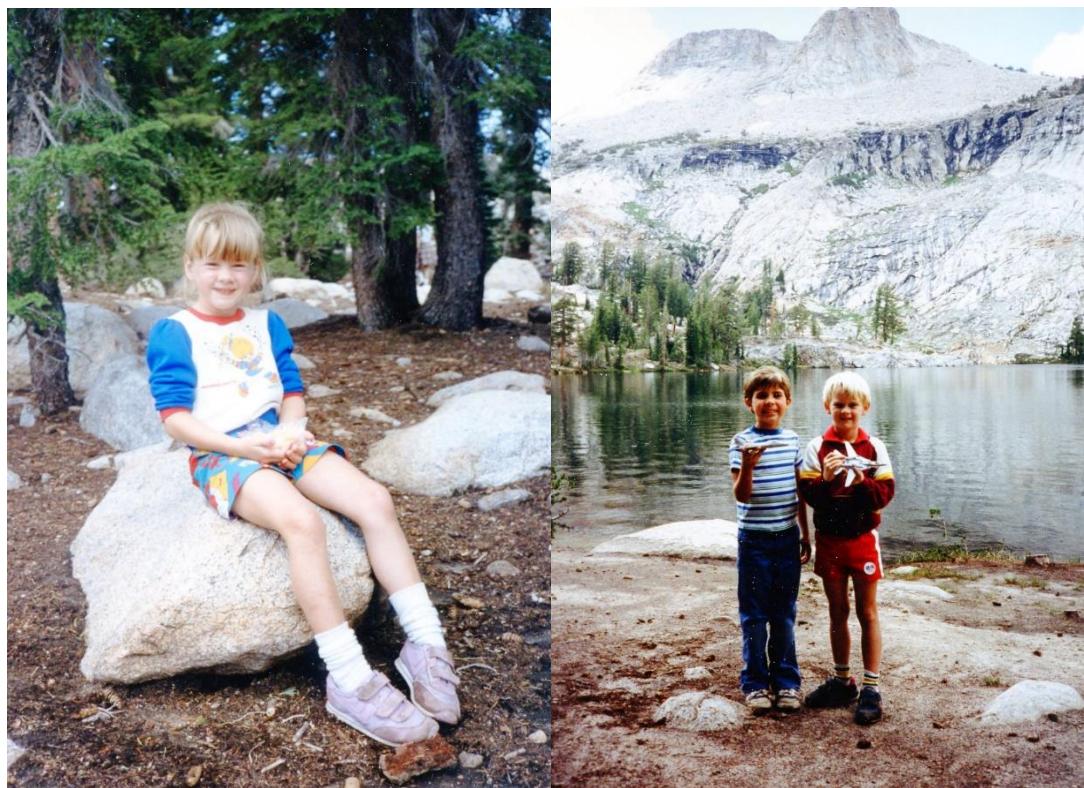
The next day they located their friends, and moved closer to them. But they did not notice that they pitched their tent in a little gully. The next day everyone except Grandma and baby Kevin went for a hike to a river. Then it began to rain. Grandma says: “I went into the tent with Kevin, then it began pouring down, so I moved us as high up on the floor of the tent as we could get, hopefully to stay dry.” Grandpa adds “At that time, we had only this old, large canvas tent. It got swamped. The inside was flooded. We quickly loaded up our car with all our camp stuff and clothing, and then we sat with the Peck family inside their tent trailer for the rest of that afternoon and night waiting for the rain to stop.”

June 1987 – Tenaya Lake Hike

On the way home from camping at Tuolumne Meadows, only about 15 minutes from their campground, they stopped to take a hike up a mountain to Tenaya Lake. The pictures below are from that hike.



Above left: Shawn, Kevin, Grandpa. Right: Grandma.



Above left: Chelsea. Right: Shawn and a friend he met at the lake.

July 1987 – Clark Fork Campground

Another favorite campground was Clark Fork, along the Clark Fork Creek. To get there they drove east up Highway 108, way past Pinecrest Lake, up into the high mountains. It was about a two-hour drive from their home in Modesto.



In the photos below you can see Kevin, just 4 months old.



April 1988 – Pismo Beach State Park



Their campsite and the blue pickup that belonged to Grandpa's dad (Herb Lentz)



Left: Chelsea. Right: Grandpa's dad with Kevin.



Above: Drying off in the sun.



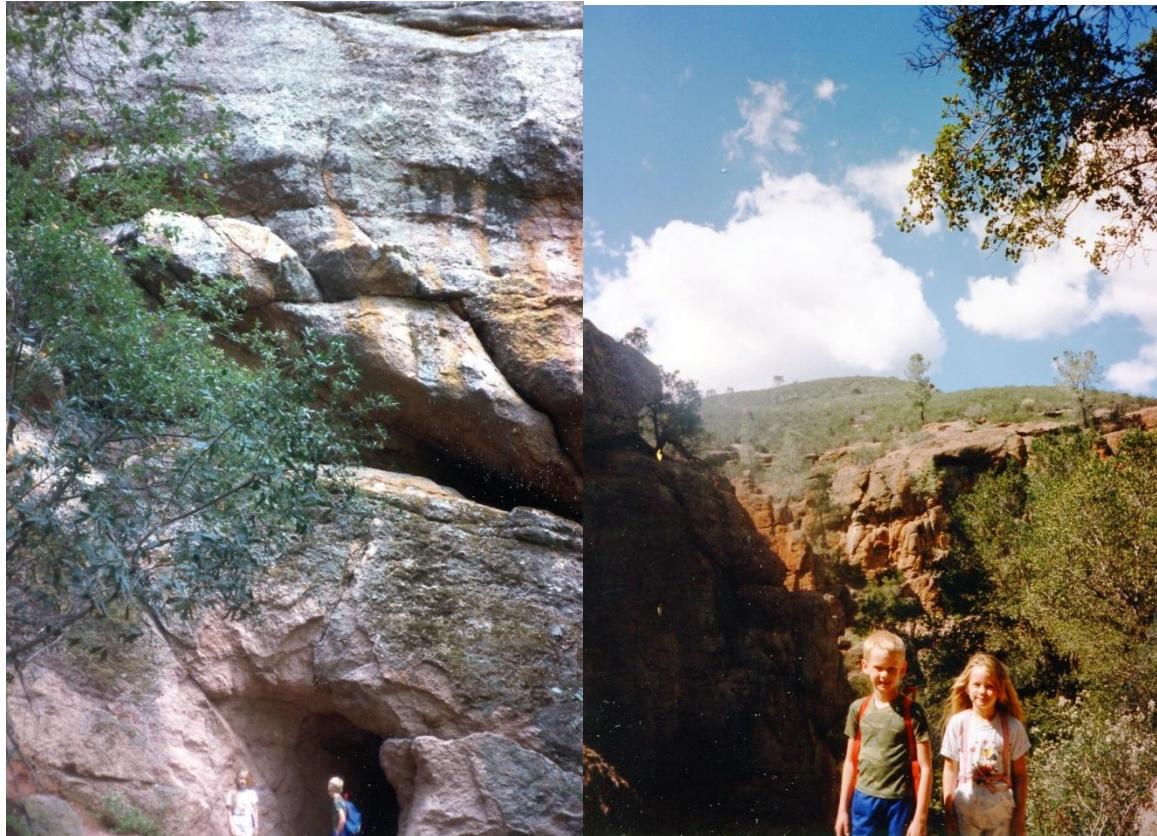
Right: Grandpa cooking breakfast.



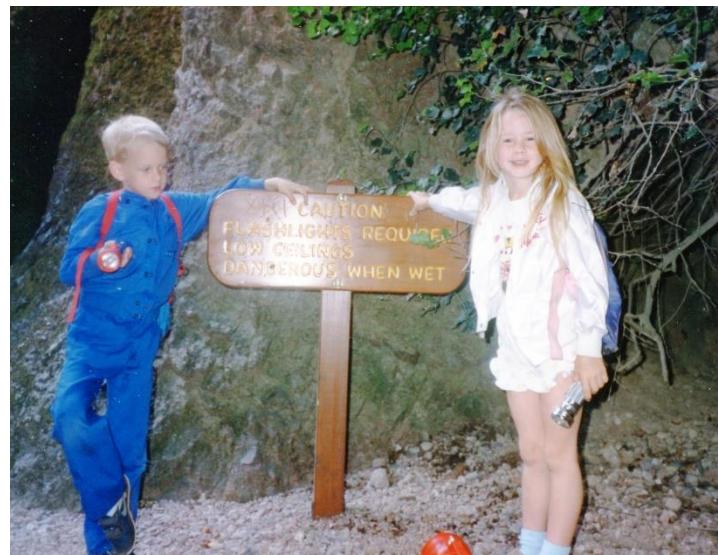
Kevin in a field adjacent to the campground. He was 13 months old.

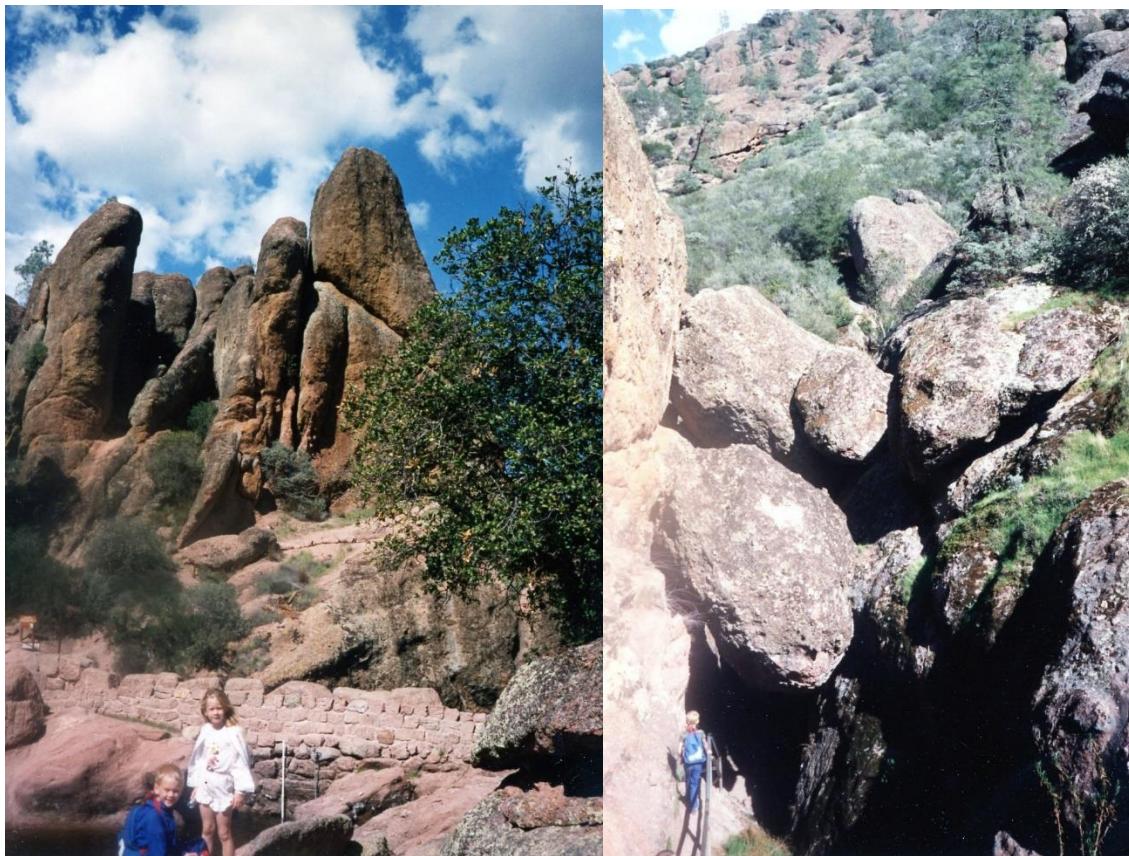
March 1989 – Pinnacles National Monument

Grandpa took Chelsea and Shawn to the Pinnacles National Monument for a special adventure. Below are the photos from their hike through a cave and along the edge of a cliff.



Above left and below: Entrance to cave





July 1989 – Richardson Grove and Benbow Lake

Grandma and Grandpa rented a small trailer for this camping trip. They started out at Richardson Grove, in the redwood forest along Highway 101. During the day they went up to Benbow Lake, just five miles up the highway.



Grandma and Chelsea playing cards. In front of the trailer is the station wagon.



Chelsea and Shawn on a “daredevil walk.” Chelsea was 6 and Shawn was 7.



Grandpa, Chelsea and Shawn in canoe on Benbow Lake

July 1989 – Russian Gulch State Park

After having fun in the redwoods and on the lake, the family headed for the coast. They decided to take the scenic route, Highway 1. This was a narrow, windy road along steep cliffs in some parts. Towing the trailer on this road was scary. They were headed to Russian Gulch State Park, near Mendocino.



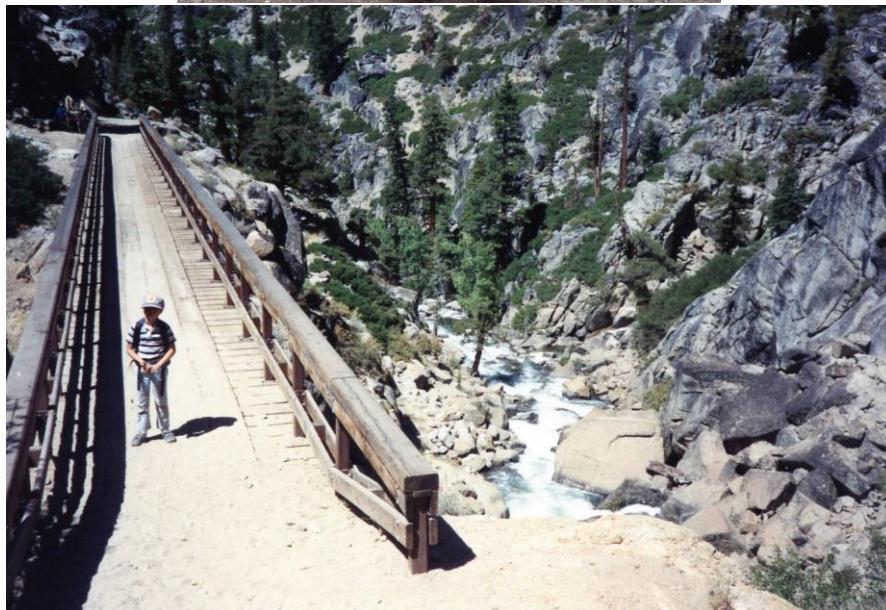
Above left: Shawn and Chelsea with friend. Right: Grandma and Kevin.



Kevin playing in sand. He was 2 years old.

August 1989 – Kennedy Meadows and Relief Reservoir

Grandpa took Shawn on a special adventure into the mountains. They camped near Kennedy Meadows, along Highway 108, way beyond Pinecrest Lake. Then they went backpacking up into the mountains near Relief Reservoir.





They camped one night and returned the next day.



Shawn after hiking six miles up hill.

Lightning had ignited a very small fire – its smoke is in the distance.