

**MILL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**GUIDEBOOK**

**TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL WALK INTO HISTORY**

**HOMESTEAD VALLEY**

**SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2003**

**Mill Valley Historical Society  
Walk into History  
2003**

**To begin, lead the group to the meadow across the bridge**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Today's history walk commemorates the 100th anniversary of the formation of the community of Homestead Valley.

This year marks the 26th Walk Into History sponsored by the Mill Valley Historical Society. Lucretia Hansen Little had been Mill Valley's Town Clerk and official historian. In 1977, illness forced her to retire and move away. A group of interested people established a Historical Society. Their primary goal was to make available all historical material relating to Mill Valley, including the invaluable collection of books, pictures and documents collected by Mrs. Little. Other goals established at the outset were:

1. Work for the library in all matters relating to the History Room
2. Take responsibility for the popular First Wednesday Programs
3. Continue the Oral History Program.

Our walk involves following a gentle slope up through Homestead Valley to Stolte Grove with 20 stops of historical interest.

The time required is less than two hours. The total distance is about one and one quarter miles.

It is about a half a mile walk back from Stolte Grove, although transportation will be provided back to this point for those who wish to ride.

## **HOMESTEAD VALLEY TODAY**

Homestead Valley is an unincorporated area of Marin County delineated generally by the drainage shed of Reed Creek. The community consists of about 1000 homes and over 80 acres of publicly owned open space. It is bounded by the city of Mill Valley, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and three unincorporated areas: Almonte, Tamalpais Valley and Muir Woods Park.

## **EARLY HISTORY OF HOMESTEAD VALLEY AND MILL VALLEY**

During the wilderness era before the Spaniards arrived in 1776, small communities of Coast Miwoks lived in southern Marin, but none in Homestead Valley. However, since Windy Gap (4 Corners) at the head of Homestead Valley

is the lowest point in the ridge between the bay and the ocean, it is thought that Indian trails through Homestead Valley may have connected the bay to the coast.

The Spaniards came to this area from the Presidio to cut down trees for firewood and lumber. Throughout Marin, ranching and agriculture progressed, and by 1817 Mission San Rafael had been dedicated. Following the revolution of 1821, the peaceful transition to Mexican control led to carving up Miwok ancestral lands into cattle ranches. In 1838, William Antonio Richardson received a land grant of about 19,000 acres called Rancho Sausalito. It consisted of the entire Marin peninsula south of a line from Stinson Beach passing over Mt. Tamalpais through Mill Valley to Richardson Bay. Richardson grazed livestock and had fruit orchards and vegetable gardens tended by Indians. During the Bear Flag Revolt of 1846, John Fremont commandeered 30 of Richardson's 300 horses.

After the gold rush, Richardson became involved in ventures elsewhere that resulted in Rancho Sausalito becoming heavily mortgaged. He sought help from Samuel Reading Throckmorton, a real estate dealer and purported financial wizard. By 1857, Throckmorton had taken over administration and ownership of Rancho Sausalito. Around 1866, Throckmorton built a lodge near here. Throckmorton called his lodge "The Homestead" a name later applied to the valley.

Ownership of Rancho Sausalito passed to the Tamalpais Land & Water Company in 1889. Thus began the unique history of Mill Valley upon which many Walks Into History have been based. Our walk today focuses on the history of Homestead Valley as a community.

## **ORIGINS OF THE COMMUNITY**

In 1903, the Tamalpais Land & Water Company issued a subdivision map of Homestead Valley and started selling lots and larger blocks of land. This marked the beginning of the community which this year celebrates its Centennial.

## **HOMESTEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER**

This building was originally a small family home on a one-acre lot with horse stables and a riding ring. For 50 cents per hour one could rent a horse and ride on several trails in and near Homestead Valley. Hughes Call bought the house because his son had won a horse and needed a place to keep it. Hughes and his wife Volinda made a major addition to the house and raised four children here. By 1972, the children had moved on and Volinda had died. Hughes sold the property to the Community Association. The house was completely renovated for use by the community. The Community Center building, the pool and the meadow are used for many community activities. A full time Center director lives in the apartment in the front part of the building.

Homestead Valley has had three community centers throughout its history. The first was Homestead Hall which served the community from about 1910 until about 1930 when it was sold and converted to a home. It was located on Linden Lane near Evergreen. The second was Brown's Hall on Miller Ave, which served from 1934 until 1972 when it was sold to become a Buddhist temple. The third is here next to Homestead School.

## **SAFETY**

Most of the walk will be on the left side of Montford Ave. which does not have sidewalks. Please stay together and watch for cars and bicycles.

### **Walk down the path to the school parking lot**

#### **STOP#1 - In school parking lot**

This is actually the second Homestead School. We will see the original school a little later. In 1920, the Mill Valley School District bought a 1.7-acre parcel here on the corner of Melrose and Montford for \$2,250. A new two-room school was constructed. It opened in November 1921 and was initially named Laverne Public School. Edna Maguire, a UC-Berkeley graduate with teaching experience in central California was the first principal-teacher. In 1927 she assumed the same position at Tamalpais Park School. She retired from the Mill Valley system in 1954. In 1956, Edna Maguire School opened in Alto.

Classes were large in the 1920's. Mrs. Keith McLellan one year confronted 52 children in four grades. Incidentally, she walked two miles to school from her home at 211 Summit Ave. in Mill Valley.

In the 1930's the school, now known as Homestead School, closed for lack of pupils. In 1948 it was reopened for grades one to three. In 1949 a second building with three class rooms was built. In 1954 another building with three class rooms was constructed. In 1966, the original 2-room school built in 1920 was demolished. "Portables" were brought in supplementing the permanent class rooms to serve grades kindergarten through 6.

In 1983 Homestead School was once again closed for lack of pupils. For 9 years the classrooms were leased to various private enterprises. Since 1992 the Mill Valley School District has leased the school to Marin Horizon School, a Montessor school for kindergarten through eighth grade.

**Walk out of the school grounds, cross Melrose and**      **enter**  
**Volunteer Park**

## **STOP #2 - In Volunteer Park at the picnic tables**

This is the site of the Homestead Valley Fire House. In the early years, Homestead's fire protection service came from the Marin County Fire Department. In 1940, Ove Johnson watched helplessly while his home near here on LaVerne burned to the ground. The County fire fighters had responded to the call but they were not authorized to fight structure fires - they were there to prevent the fire from spreading. Ove was furious. He had to do something about this sad state of affairs. After rebuilding his home, he bought an old Hudson truck. He and five friends refurbished it as a fire truck and parked it in the Johnson's garage. In an emergency, Ove's wife would sound the siren on top of their house, and the volunteer fire brigade would arrive, start up the fire truck and speed off to the fire.

In 1950, Mrs. White, who owned a lumber yard, gave the firemen all the lumber they needed to build a firehouse. She also sold them this lot for \$100. Dirt from excavating for a second school building across the street was used as fill. The creek runs through a large culvert under this site. Lee Holden, a contractor, built the firehouse. A dance was held in the new fire house on New Year's Eve, 1950.

In 1962, paid firemen were hired for the Homestead Valley Fire Department - no more volunteers. In 1972 the building was expanded. Later on, the Homestead Valley and Tamalpais Valley fire departments merged. In 1980 the firehouse was closed and Homestead was served from the Tamalpais Valley and Mill Valley fire stations.

The 1989 earthquake caused serious damage and the building was demolished. With financial help from the Homestead Valley Land Trust to pay for a landscape architect and materials, volunteers developed this site into a park. Volunteer Park was dedicated in 1992.

### **Cross Melrose and walk north in front of school**

## **STOP #3 - On Melrose at the north end of the school**

Look past the pink house on Montford up and to the right at the gray house and the white house which are of similar size and shape. Each house is one half of the original Homestead School.

In 1905, the Tamalpais Land & Water Company donated a half-acre parcel on the corner of Janes and Montford as the site of the first school in Homestead Valley. In 1907, the Mill Valley School District voters approved a school bond tax. In June 1907, William C. Mahoney, a Mill Valley architect, with the help of two Homestead Valley residents, staked off the site for the new school house.

Construction of the two room school cost about \$4000. It was described as, “a well built frame structure containing two large, well ventilated, class rooms, ante rooms, and a big basement.” It opened in January 1908 with 60 pupils. It was closed in 1921 when the new school opened.

Here’s what happened to the old school building on Janes in the late 1920’s. It was cut in half, and the two parts were separated to make two large houses. They’ve been modified somewhat since then. The two families who lived in these houses for many years were good friends. When both the husband in one house and the wife in the other house died, the widower married the widow. The couple lived in one of the houses and sold the other.

**Turn left and walk west on the south side of Montford**

**STOP #4 - Opposite Cherry Blossom Lane**

In the 1920’s, the Okubara family lived across the street in a house which was demolished in 2002 to construct a much larger house. Papa Okubara owned 2-1/4 acres. He raised chickens and sold eggs, but he also took an annual trip home to Japan. One year he brought back two girls who he said were his daughters. The children attended the school across the street. In 1942, the family was sent off to a Japanese internment camp. A neighbor a few doors up the lane, Virginia Radenzel, a writer and wife of Chronicle reporter and KQED newsman Ed Radenzel, named the lane Cherry Blossom Lane in honor of the Okubara family. The family returned after the war, grandchildren attended Homestead School, and Okubara descendants still live on Cherry Blossom Lane.

**Walk west on the south side of Montford**

**STOP #5 - #303 Holly on Corner of Montford**

This home was likely built in 1906. In recent times, pages from the San Francisco Bulletin of Sunday, December 3, 1905 were found inside a wall. The Rudebeck family lived here from 1932 and 1942. Holly Street with its 7 houses is typical of other small subdivisions in Homestead Valley. In 1910, this block of land was purchased from the Tamalpais Land & Water Company and subdivided into lots and a street which the developer named Oak Street. In about 1946, the name was changed to Holly. This and other street name changes became necessary when the Mill Valley post office began mail delivery in Homestead Valley. There was another Oak Street in Mill Valley.

**Walk west on the south side of Montford**

**STOP #6 - In front of #341 Montford**

The area across the street was once part of a large subdivision of 175 lots and 9 streets called LaVerne Heights. It extended from Janes Street where the original school was to a long way up the valley and from Montford to the top of the ridge. Dirt roads which are still in evidence were cut into the hillside around 1915. Not many lots were sold, and a few decades later Erik Krag acquired most of the land for his Rancho del Topé.

In early 1973 many Homesteaders sensed that something important could be accomplished to preserve open space, prevent further development and maintain the character of Homestead Valley. County Services Area #14 had been created in 1968 to serve the recreation needs of Homestead residents. This was the vehicle that made possible a \$600,000 bond issue for acquisition of about 80 acres of open space and certain other properties. The vote was 79.3% yes to tax each home an average of \$3.30 per month. A portion of the bond issue money was used to purchase Rancho del Topé and preserve it in perpetuity as open space land.

#### **Walk west on the south side of Montford**

#### **STOP #7 - In front of #343 Montford**

This house dates back to before 1920. It was constructed using lumber salvaged from a Mill Valley hotel that had been torn down. For many years it was owned by Mr. Robertson, an officer in the Longshoreman's Union. All the windows on the street side of the house were painted dark green and there was a peep hole in the heavy front door. This was undoubtedly prudent during the period of turmoil on the waterfront when union meetings and political party gatherings took place here.

#### **Walk west on the south side of Montford**

#### **STOP #8 - In front of #351 Montford**

Sometime before 1916, Tony Perry acquired the 1.07 acre lot across the street. He lived in the existing house until the 1950's and milked cows twice a day on the Dias ranch across the valley. In 1956, the Perry house was occupied by Locke McCorckle, a poet and carpenter. He and his family lived frugally, considering themselves refugees from American consumerism. Tony Perry had built a shack up the hill many years before. Locke's brother-in-law, also a carpenter, rebuilt the shack with the intention of living there, but a better opportunity came up for him in Sausalito. Locke therefore invited his friend Gary Snyder to live in the cabin. Gary accepted and named it Marin-An.

Gary Snyder and Locke McCorkle were both beat generation poets and writers who frequently associated with Allen Ginsberg, Neal Cassady, Kenneth Rexroth, William Burroughs, Peter Orlovsky, Michael McClure, Philip Whalen, Gregory Corso and Jack Kerouac. In the spring of 1956, Gary Snyder invited Jack Kerouac to join him at Marin-An for rent free peaceful living. They both took Buddhism seriously. Jack Kerouac describes the scene in "The Dharma Bums." Beat generation poets and writers hung out there and slept out in the open or in temporary shelters on the hillside. There were poetry readings, meditations, serious discussions and co-educational parties, always with lots of wine and sometimes with nudity.

On May 15, 1956, Gary Snyder left Marin-An to live in a monastery in Japan. His going away party, which lasted three days, was pretty wild. Jack wrote "The Scripture of the Golden Eternity" before he left Marin-An on June 18, 1956 to take a fire lookout job in northwest Washington. In December 1956, his first big successful book "On the Road" was accepted for publication, almost six years after he wrote it. In 1957 he finished writing another best seller, "The Dharma Bums."

The cabin up the hill and the temporary shelters were condemned in 1961 as a fire hazard and demolished. In the early 1970's, the property became part of Homestead's open space. Now and then strangers knock on the door asking to see where Jack Kerouac used to live. Some consider this to be a sacred site with ghosts of the beat generation and Jack Kerouac.

### **Walk west on the south side of Montford**

#### **STOP #9 - In front of #401 Montford**

This house was built as a summer home in about 1905. In 1908, George and Prunella Stutzman of Oakland bought the house and fixed it up as a year round residence. Their daughter, Thelma, lived here until the late 1990's. The house was then sold and completely renovated.

### **Walk west on the south side of Montford**

#### **STOP #10 - In parking space beyond 419 Montford**

Across the valley on LaVerne is the old Eells house. In 1904 Alexander Eells, a lawyer who lived in San Francisco, bought 8 acres between Montford and LaVerne extending from about here to Three Groves near the upper end of the valley. The house was built in 1905. He was sort of a gentleman farmer who came here every weekend to work on developing the farm. In April 1906 when his house on Haight Street was damaged by the earthquake, he moved permanently to the farm with his wife and two daughters. On week days he

commuted to his law office on Montgomery Street, taking the train from Locust station to Sausalito and the ferry to San Francisco.

Eells always had a couple living on the farm, the wife being the maid and the husband a combination hired hand and coachman. With the help of his hired hand and local carpenters and laborers, Eells added on to the house and constructed two barns, a stable, a chicken coop and a children's playhouse. He also supervised the construction of two dams on the creek for irrigating vegetables for the family and hay and corn for three horses, a cow and chickens. His orchard produced many varieties of fruits and nuts. Eells is most famous (or infamous) for having planted eucalyptus trees. He states in his diary that in December 1905 he planted 60 eucalyptus trees along Montford.

### **Walk west on the south side of Montford**

#### **STOP #11 - In parking space across from Pixie Trail**

An English woman named Mrs. Hunsinger lived up the street a ways. When LaVerne Heights was subdivided, this street was called Marin Ave. It goes all the way to Janes near where the original Homestead School used to be. She frequently took several children from the neighborhood with her on her daily walks on the undeveloped part of Marin Ave. They loved her stories about Wee Folk and were enchanted with eucalyptus nuts which she referred to as Pixie Caps. Mrs. Hunsinger saw to it that the street name was changed to Pixie Trail.

Across the valley to the south one can see large areas of open space. The upper slopes are part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Lower down are open space lands purchased with funds from Homestead's 1973 bond issue. In 1974, the Homestead Valley Land Trust began a program of rehabilitating existing trails and constructing new trails using work parties of volunteers and the Marin Conservation Corps (MCC). Trail development and maintenance plus fire fuel reduction on open space lands continue to be the primary objectives of the Homestead Valley Land Trust.

On the south side of the valley, the Eagle trail, which was built in 1974 by boy scouts earning their eagle badge, connects with GGNRA trails that lead to Muir Beach, Tennessee Valley and the Marin Headlands. On the west side of the valley, Cowboy Rock Trail connects with the Dipsea and Pipeline trails and the extensive network of trails on Mt. Tamalpais. On the north side of the valley, the Pixie trail connects with several of Mill Valley's steps, lanes and paths that were featured in last year's Walk Into History.

**Enter the gate into Three groves, walk down the path, turn left at the bottom of the hill, turn at the first right, turn at the first left and walk through the orchard to the lawn**

## **STOP #12 - On the path at the north lawn**

In 1904, Lillian Ferguson bought this property, had the house built and named her 3-acre estate Three Groves. We have just come through the oak grove and will soon go through the redwood grove and then to the buckeye grove. She lived in San Francisco and came here on weekends. In 1906, after the earthquake destroyed her house, she moved to Three Groves.

In 1974, the property was split into two parcels. The house on one acre of land is privately owned. The other two acres were purchased by the community with funds from Homestead's 1973 bond issue. The result is a marvelous public park maintained by the Homestead Valley Land Trust, and a private residence on a beautiful three-acre estate.

**Walk around the lawn and down the steps to the "beach"**

## **STOP #13 - On the "beach" at the bench**

Lillian Ferguson sold Three Groves to George Sandy in about 1930. He had two dams constructed on the creek, one for a swimming pool and one for a concrete-lined lake. This area used to be the beach. Sand was brought in from Carmel, the lake was stocked with trout and there was a row boat. On the bridge over the dam was a diving board. It was a great place for swimming, boating and fishing. All this came to an end in the winter of 1965/1966 when both the swimming pool and the lake were completely silted in with mud washed down from the Flying Y ranch up on Sequoia Valley Road.

**Walk across the bridge and through the Redwood Grove**

## **STOP #14 - On the west end of the lawn at the bench**

The Homestead Valley Land Trust rents this area for various festivities. For example, chairs are set up on the big lawn for wedding ceremonies. Musicians generally are on this smaller lawn. The bridal party marches across the bridge and down the aisle to the altar at the other end of the larger lawn. The reception is normally held in Stolte Grove. Lillian Ferguson was an associate editor for Sunset Magazine. In the 1920's she designed the garden as an oriental tribute. Note that many rooms in her house overlook the garden.

**Walk across the bridge**

## **STOP #15 - At north end of bridge on brick path**

Several of the trees here in the buckeye grove have died of old age in the last 10 years. Replacements are just starting to grow. While walking through the garden, note the brick walks, the Moon Gate, the fountain and the outdoor

cooking structure which was recently rebuilt. The cast iron oven and the Chinese tile are original. Note also the layout of the brick paths and the general Oriental nature of the garden. Up until the 1970's, the garden was a fairyland at night with ship lanterns hung on the buckeye trees.

**Turn left on the first brick path, walk through the Moon Gate, turn right, walk on the path past the fountain, view the cooking structure and swimming pool, walk up the stairs toward the house. Go up the steps onto the deck, view the garden, enter the house, pass through the sun room, living room, dining room and kitchen. Go out the back door, turn left, go around the house, turn right to go up the stairs and exit via the gate onto Montford Ave. Cross Montford and walk up the driveway of #568 Montford**

### **STOP #16 - In parking area of #568 Montford**

In the early 1900's, Fred Stolte worked for the San Francisco Examiner and rented a room in Lillian Ferguson's house in San Francisco. He often came to Three Groves to help her with the gardening. He was so enchanted with the area that he bought the property across the street, and in 1905 built a small cabin for weekends and vacations. In 1906 after the earthquake, when Lillian Ferguson's house was destroyed, he moved here and lived in his cabin until he married in 1913. He and his wife lived in San Francisco and came here on weekends. In 1915 he added the north wing and the family moved here permanently in 1916. They raised two children, Virginia (later to become Mrs. Virginia Spalding) and Frank. In 1929, the south wing was added. The property was sold after Fred Stolte's death in 1951. The deck and driveway were constructed in 1957.

**Walk through the yard down the gravel path to the corner of Montford and Tamalpais Drive**

### **STOP #17 - At the entrance to Tamalpais Canyon**

Note the size of the redwood trees here at the entrance to Tamalpais Canyon which was originally called Camp Tamalpais. In 1908, an 11 acre block of land in this redwood canyon was subdivided into 137 very small lots. In 1910, the San Francisco Examiner advertised these lots for sale at \$75 which could be paid for in \$5 monthly installments after a down payment of \$15. For an additional \$23, the developer would provide a tent platform on the lot with a 10'x12' tent and a folding cot. The creek was dammed for a swimming pool where the parking lot is today. Cooking was done on a large fireplace behind where the mail boxes are today. Water was piped from the Belvedere reservoir at the corner of Edgewood Avenue and Sequoia Valley Road to a small tank below Cowboy Rock on the hillside above Camp Tamalpais, and then piped down to the cooking area. San

Francisco families escaped summer fog by camping out in Camp Tamalpais. Small cottages soon replaced tents. Lots were later combined for larger houses.

The depression of the 1930's caused the demise of Camp Tamalpais as a summer resort. Year-round residents seeking seclusion and privacy moved in. Tam Canyon became a colony of artists and writers.

By the sixties there were quite a few families living in the Canyon. Since then, a few cabins have been replaced with new larger homes, and most of the older cabins have been enlarged and remodeled.

While walking around the Canyon, note the parking area where the swimming pool used to be. Also note the 25 mail boxes. Some houses are secluded in a side canyon. They can be reached only by climbing steps and following footpaths.

**Walk clockwise around the parking lot in Tamalpais Canyon and then to the end of Tamalpais Drive**

### **STOP #18 - End of Tamalpais Drive**

A tragedy occurred here in 1941. The Mill Valley Record called it the most spectacular disaster in the area since the fire of 1929. David S. Murdoch, 68, and William F. Shores, 72, were killed at 2 PM on Friday, April 4, 1941 when a mud slide caused three redwood trees to fall on Murdoch's cottage. At 2:30 PM, a second slide buried them under mud, trees and debris. The winter was a wet one with 61 inches of rain. We now know it was an El Niño year. The slides occurred after 2-1/4 inches of rain in 24 hours. The site is up the side canyon on the right.

Shores had lived here in Tamalpais Canyon for 11 years. San Francisco resident Murdoch had maintained a cottage here for 15 years. The two men had spent a week working on Murdoch's cottage. Shores had come

to say good-bye to Murdoch who along with his wife and son were about to leave. Shores was sitting next to the kitchen door. Murdoch and his son were on the other side of the kitchen table. Mrs. Murdoch was on the porch. At 2 PM, the son heard trees descending and ran toward his mother. He and his mother escaped, but the two elderly men were crushed.

A neighbor placed an emergency call. At 2:15, a score of merchants from the Locust shopping district arrived with the fire chief and a police officer. They saw the men crushed under the walls and beams. 15 minutes later, while they were trying to chop away the shattered walls, the home above on the nearly perpendicular hillside, buckled and burst open. The entire hillside of mud, trees and debris poured onto the cottage. The rescue workers barely escaped in time.

A few seconds difference might have meant death. By 4 PM, large scale rescue work was underway with scores of volunteers. Many worked all night. A dozen trees had come down in the two mud slides. Shores' body was recovered the next day, but Murdoch's body was not recovered until three days later. For nearly 24 hours after the slide had occurred, it was not known whether Mrs. Chase had been at home when it came down the hillside. It was then learned that she had been in Berkeley. She did not learn of her loss until the next day.

**Return to Montford, enter Stolte Grove and proceed to the stage**

## **STOP #19 - On the stage in Stolte Grove**

After acquiring this redwood grove, Fred Stolte built a barbecue pit, picnic tables and even a tree house for his children. Stolte Grove was a wonderful playground for the family and their friends. Fred Stolte also held an annual party in Stolte Grove for his colleagues in the Advertising Display Department of the San Francisco Examiner. One invitation sent out in the early 1930's read as follows: "I Dare You to be Present at the 3rd Annual Bull Roast for Sunday, June 5th." The invitation list included 92 "Gentlemen of the Ensemble." The site was "Camp Where The Road Turns Back, Fred Stolte's Ranch, Mill Valley California." The 1936 Bull Roast was an all-day affair. In the morning there were games and races. Meanwhile, Mrs. Stolte and other ladies brought the food down from the house and prepared everything for the lunch. Then they left the men alone to grill the steaks.

In 1975, the community bought Stolte Grove from his heirs, again with funds from Homestead's 1973 bond issue. It is open to the public and used for many community activities such as the annual Fourth of July picnic and the annual Mozart Festival in September.

Behind the stage is the main public entrance to Three Groves.

**Walk to the picnic tables**

## **STOP #20 - At the picnic tables**

When Virginia Stolte Spalding was growing up, she spent a lot of time here in the family playground. In the 1980's, she lived not far from here as the crow flies, but a three mile drive by car. There were not many reasons for her to come here. The annual Mozart Festival in September was an exception. She usually worked at the barbecue pit preparing food for those attending the concert. She was frequently seen to pause and look up at the trees. Apparently thinking about her childhood, she could be heard to say, "It's so beautiful here." The plaque on the barbecue pit preserves her words.

This concludes the Walk Into History. Now is a good time for questions about the history of Homestead valley.

There are four ways to return to the start of the walk:

1. Take the shuttle back to the Community Center.
2. After exiting Stolte Grove, turn right and walk down Montford a little more than a half a mile.
3. After exiting Stolte Grove, turn left and walk down LaVerne on the south side of the valley. Turn left on Melrose which leads to Homestead School adjacent to the Community Center.
4. After exiting Stolte Grove, turn right and walk a short distance on Montford to Pixie Trail. Follow Pixie Trail past the built up area and straight ahead onto the open space land until you arrive at Janes Street. Turn right on Janes and follow it to Montford. (passing by the two halves of the original Homestead School). Turn right on Montford, a short walk to the Community Center.