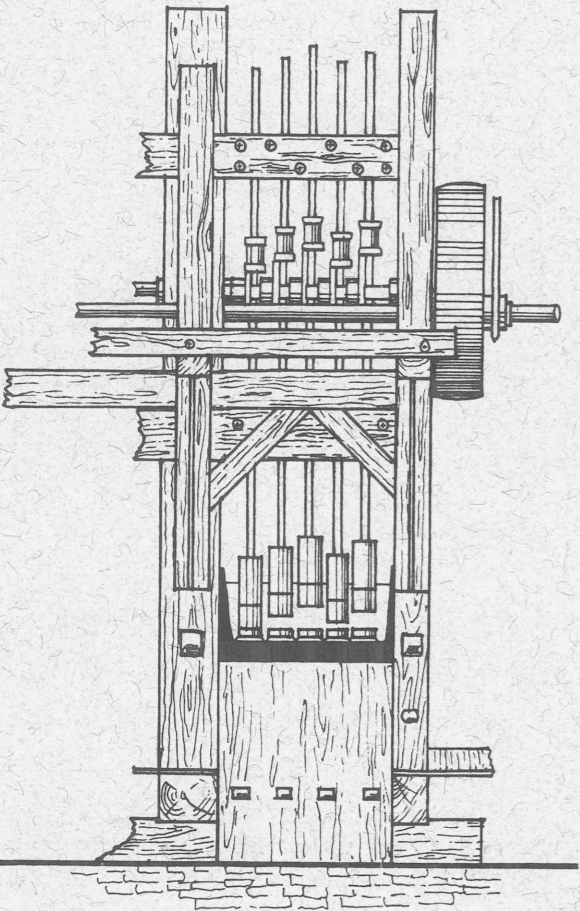


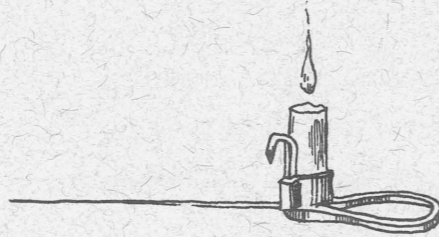
Sierra City: Miners found gold in the nearby streamside gravels as early as 1850. By 1851 hardrock mining proved profitable. In 1855 the camp became more of a town, with a hotel and sawmill.

The Sierra Buttes Mine was active for 80 years and was the second largest gold producer in Sierra County. A continuous body of medium grade ore was processed efficiently, assuring steady employment. As many as 290 men worked at this mine in 1873.



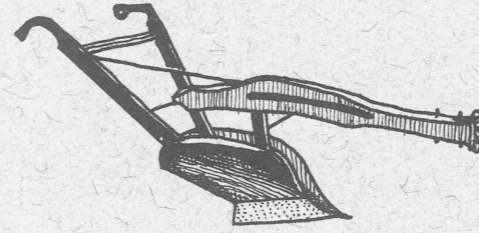
Kentucky Mine and Museum: How does a stamp mill work? After the gold ore is mined, it must be crushed and the gold extracted. Fortunately, the well preserved Kentucky Mine gives us a glimpse of how hardrock gold mines operated in the early twentieth century. This excellent museum and park is operated by Sierra County and the Sierra County Historical Society. Hours of operation vary. Please check with them for their schedule.

Bassetts Station: In the 1860's, this location was the site of a wayside inn known as the Hancock House. By 1870, the Yuba Gap Wagon Road was completed and the place was bought by Jacob and Mary Bassett. In addition to an inn, they had a sawmill, two barns, a blacksmith shop and famous food. By the turn of the century, Bassetts was accommodating a large number of tourists, there primarily to visit the spectacular Lakes Basin area to the north.



Native people appreciated the beauty of this area as well, and used it seasonally. It was shared by the Nisenan, the Northeast Maidu and the Washo tribes.

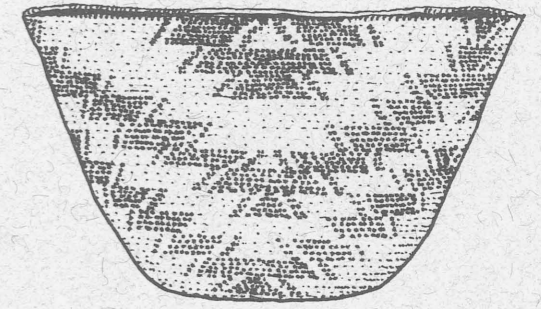
Yuba Pass: In 1870, Sierra County produced over 2,000 bales of hay. After the opening of the Yuba Gap Wagon Road in the same year, hay production increased to 11,000 bales. Most of the hay was grown in Sierra Valley for oxen, horses and mules in the Sierra City/Downieville area. In the winter, sleds and sleighs crossed the gap pulled by horses wearing nine inch by nine inch square snowshoes.



What Next?

We hope you have enjoyed your "Trip through Time". If we have aroused your curiosity about this rich and diverse area of California, please feel free to stop in at your local Forest Service office with your questions. Visit the local museums and displays throughout the county. Stay awhile and enjoy the pleasures of this unique and beautiful "49 mile trail of history". Feel free to return again and again.

**Thank You for visiting,
we hope to see you again.**



This project was done in partnership with, or with the assistance of, the following groups:

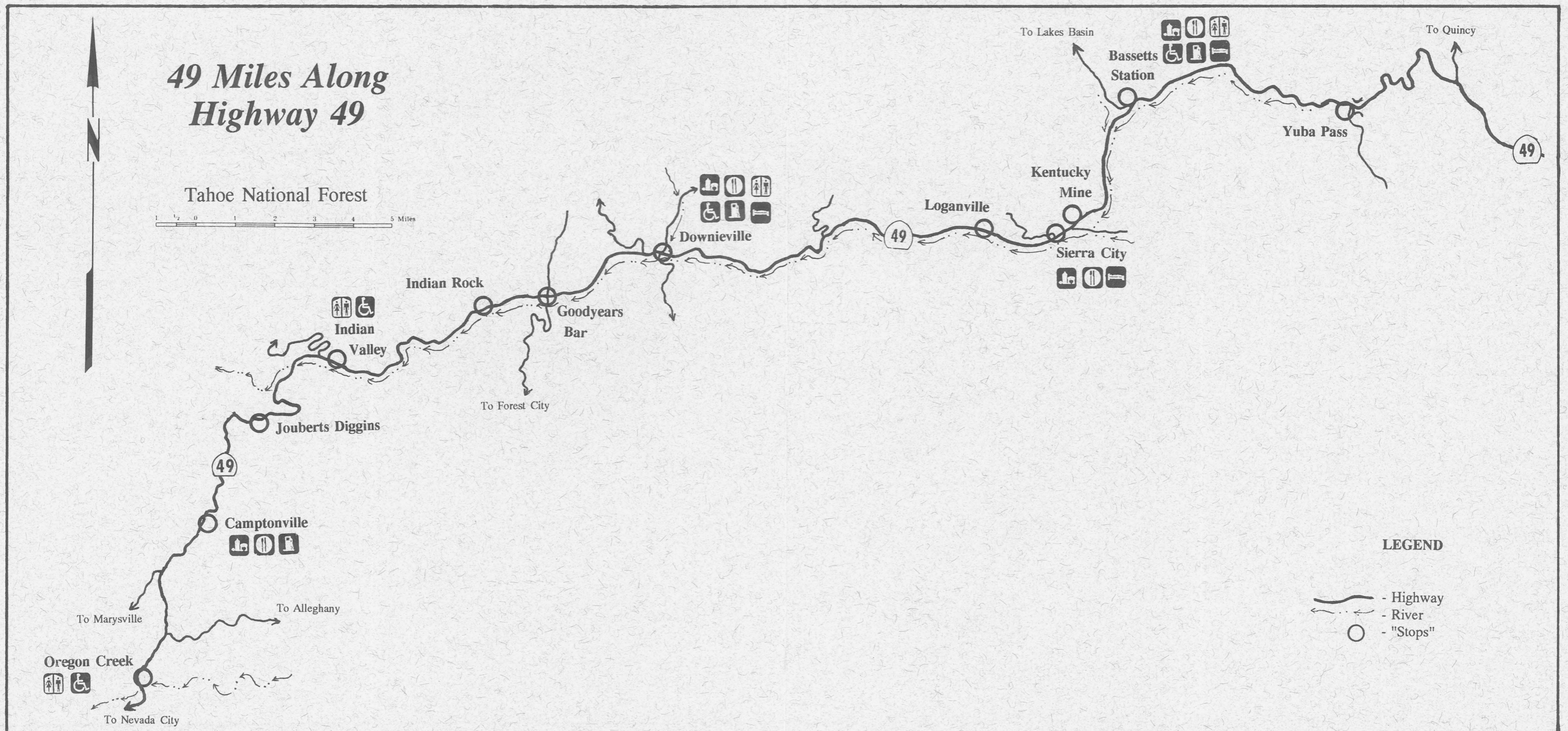
- Tahoe National Forest
- Downieville Chamber of Commerce
- Sierra County Historical Society
- California Department of Transportation
- Downieville Lions Club



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LEGEND

- Highway
- River
- - "Stops"