

Will -  
 This is the history of  
 Mill D CHA Loren wanted  
 me to send you.  
 Call me if you have other questions.  
 Jack Vandenberg 733-2671

MEMORANDUM

October 30, 1995

Heinze,

Per your request, here is the Brief History of Mill "D" North Fork from its inception in 1946 to 1976.

This covers the early part of its history until your arrival in August of 1976. You had advised that you would handle the years 1976 until the present date.

Incidentally, I designed the "Mill D" logo on the letterheads and covers and had a supply printed years ago.

Sincerely,

Bill Vigos

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## *Mill D Summer Homes Association*

MILL D NORTH FORK BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON

### **Mill "D" North Fork Big Cottonwood Canyon**

"This is a Brief Historical Record Since its Inception from 1946 to 1976."

The U.S. Forest Service determined that future expansion on their "leased land" grants was ideal for the "Mill D" North Fork area. It was nestled in a secluded area with a stream of water in the bottom of the canyon, its source derived from two high lakes, Dog Lake and Lake Desolation and also fed by springs at the "Y" intersection of both these headwaters. In dry years, the stream disappeared underground, just above the "Mill D" Summer Home area and reappeared at the Canyon Highway and thence into Big Cottonwood Creek. The "Mill D" North Fork was on the north slope of this terrain. The area was surveyed into approximately 3/4 to 1 acre lots and was plotted into this proposed Summer Home area. It was determined that the building sites would be made available to the public. The year was 1946. Incidentally, most side canyons were named "Mill A, B, C, D", etc. because there were "Saw" mills at the bottom of each canyon and trees were cut and "dragged" down the trails, to the main road by horses. Those "drag" trails, as they were known, became hiking trails later on. Cut timber stumps are still standing "up canyon" to this day and much timber was cut and dangerously harvested; close to extinction of the stands of Evergreen in "Mill D" North Fork and other side canyons. Considerable prospecting was done in "Mill D" but the big finds were across the canyon at "Mill B" Cariff Fork and up canyon to the Brighton area. Gold, silver and lead were mined and a population of over 7,000 miners were employed with related activities common to all mining developments.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, the first leases were approved as follows, to these individuals named and the designated plat numbers for each lease holder indicated. On August 10, 1946 the "Mill D" Summer Homes Association was officially formed and the constitution and by-laws ratified. The 13 signing members are herewith attached. Lot #4, Jack Barrett, was the first cabin built, which later burned down to ground level on October 15, 1973.

Mr. F. C. Kozial was the Forest Supervisor at the time and conducted this first official meeting. Mrs. Stewart was installed as President, Mrs. Florence Shonberg was installed as Vice President, Mr. Clark was installed as Secretary/Treasurer.

The building of the road was the first order of business. Mr. Kozial explained the U.S. Forest Service was unable to build the road or any other installation due to the government position to "cut down" government spending. The association would have to bear all costs for these necessary improvements.

Mr. Kimball advised that his company could put in the road (upper and lower - dead ends) for about \$1,800.00. This was for cutting and grading only. The gravel would be an additional amount. The motion to put in the road was approved at that time. The road "dead ended" at the upper left fork and right fork. Eventually the road was made "full circle" connecting both "dead ends" left and right hand forks.

At that time, mine tailings were brought in from mines near the Spruces and Cardiff Folk. This material made an excellent road base. The road has been greatly widened and several passing turnouts were provided.

The first cabin build was #4 in 1950. The following cabins were being built as follows during 1951-1952:

#2 Noall  
#6 Otterstrom  
#10 Briggs  
#13 Argyle  
#15 Sundberg  
#20 Vigos  
#22 Bailey

Others followed in succeeding years for a total of 23 cabins (summer homes).

### Power

Messrs. Otterstrom, Sundberg and Argyle were responsible for this great improvement. Utah Power and Light Co. issued a work order in late June 1953. The power lines were actually finally installed in the following summer of 1954. There were 9 cabins (owners) who actually signed up for this electric service and made it profitable for Utah Power and Light to make this installation possible. Boy, what a great improvement this made to everyone! It was critical to the full development of the "Mill D" Summer Home area...although some of us "hand sawed" lumber and drove every nail with a hammer and hand mixed concrete in a wheel barrow. We were all ecstatic!

### Water Lines

The water system was installed in the summer of 1961. Grant Borg was in charge of this project and Ed Bailey was an engineering consultant who worked out elevations, pressures and line sizes and both of these qualified individuals worked closely with Mr. Charles Wilson, the director of the Salt Lake City Water Department. Mr. Paul Haven and his son's cabin #11 were awarded the bid to lay and plumb the "on ground" surface 1¼" water lines to the trail source, up canyon from the main stream bed. Bill Vigos and Alton Nance were the first water masters and worked all the "bugs" out of the lines and upper line breakage on the galvanized pipes. The total cost was approximately \$7,500.00, including the three storage tanks above ground.

## Spring Water

Our original source from the "Mill D" stream was inadequate and finally Bill Vigos was asked to select a new source of water supply. In the fall of 1965, October 3rd to be exact, and just before the first snow fall, Bill selected a natural spring site at the confluence of Dog Lake and Desolation drainage at the converging of these natural water sources, which was the headwaters of the "Mill D" creek. This spring has run continuously since that date, over 30 years, and has given us plenty of clean water every year without fail. We had Shirley Nielsen, a well known backhoe operator in BCC, to install a special natural spring fiberglass collection box. Our source was now secure from damage in the "closed" system and the water was not exposed to outside sources of any kind.

## The Asphalt Road

Improvement was assigned to Bill Vigos. Three bids were secured: Hoover - McGan Company, Shamrock Construction Company, and \*Gibson & Reed Road Contractors (\*bid accepted). The bid was accepted August 19, 1966 from Gibson and Reed and the final cost was at \$8,246.46. Bill Vigos took two weeks of his vacation to oversee that the job was done according to specification and time limit. What a great day for "Mill D" to have a paved, asphalt road! Excellent mine tailings were brought in as a firm road base, which is one reason our road has held up as well over 29 years.

## Telephone Service

This assignment was given to Bill Vigos. At this time, wire was at a premium, due to the Korean conflict and the start of the Vietnam War. However, Bill was successful in getting a party line in through the Park City Exchange. We now have access to private lines. Great for emergencies, which have happened to some members. This installation was made October 1, 1965.

## Trails

Bill Vigos worked closely with the Wasatch National Forest Ranger district to get the public trail moved. It was located on our Summer Homes side of the creek and the "users" come through the "Mill D" area. This was unacceptable. We wanted the far side of the creek for the trail, away from our Summer Home area, and down to the highway. The trail was moved across the creek and down to the highway, after the Regional Director, Vern Hamre stepped in and agreed, we were correct in our request. We had been plagued by motorcycle riders for 3 years using the trail and coming into our area from Millcreek Canyon, Park City, and "Mill D". Bill asked the trail to be moved to Butler Fork but the U.S. Forest Service, after a number of years, compromised with Cardiff Fork as the trail head.

## Fee Increase

On April 3, 1974, a letter was sent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture by our counsel. Mr. David West asked for a hearing on the matter as a result of actions from Chandler St. John, Forest Supervisor for the Ranger District, who announced the decision to increase all fees for Summer Home sites of leased U.S. Forest Service lands. Mr. Dave West, an attorney and member of "Mill D" was our counsel and Bill Vigos, President of "Mill D" Summer Homes were assigned to defend our position on the increases, and to get this decision repealed. On June 19, 1975, a delegation was sent from Washington, D.C. to hold this hearing on this subject of increases on "Special Use Fees." We met in the Federal Building, in Salt Lake City, and had an all day session with them. We were unsuccessful in changing their minds and the fees were official increased!

The improvements made in "Mill D" were at the expense of the Lease Holders. One of our most important projects was the double locked security gate at the highway. Verdele Sundberg and his sons, and Lois and Mel Otterstrom and Bill Vigos, and Alton Nance made the installation against the wishes of the U.S. Forest Service, who did not want a gate to our "Mill D" Summer Home area. We prevailed by our insistence that this was the paramount reason to reasonably insure the security of our area and protect, to a degree, our investments and privacy of the "Mill D" area. Something most people do not know was the fact that the Forest Service had proposed a road from Willow Creek, up canyon, to cut across Bear Trap Canyon and come into "Mill D" North Fork above our last cabin #2 Noall, and then up to Mill Creek and Lambs Canyon. The road was surveyed and staked out. We fought the proposal adamantly. The survey stakes were mysteriously removed and the development stopped.

Rifle Deer Hunting was finally outlawed in BCC. Black powder and bow and arrow was allowed by permit only. It is much safer now for all of us. Winter range determines wildlife survival.

Elections were held every two years, a President was elected, with a "President Elect," who would assume the President's office when the President's term expired. A Secretary/Treasurer was also elected for a two year term. It is most important that the officers are chosen wisely, not by rotation. We must have leaders that will get things done expeditiously and have the vision to know what projects are needed for the good of our Summer Home owners and our area.

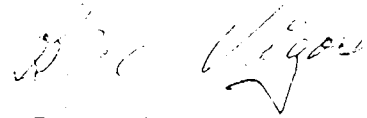
Our annual dues should be channeled for improvement in "Mill D". A newsletter should be mailed twice a year, at least spring and fall would be ideal. We need to keep a closer bond between all members and kept apprised on "what's going on" in the area. Our

annual dues should be channeled for needed improvements, not to build a large bank account. Large projects may require a "special assessment."

A great deal was accomplished by the "Mill D" Home owners at the time period between 1946 and 1976. Nine home owners were the driving force to accomplish all the major improvements during that time and we had a great friendly relationship along with the hard work involved. "Mill D" North Fork is considered the best Summer Home area in the Wasatch Front, under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service. Let's keep it that way, always!

Time marches on and many faces are not with us anymore, but they are not forgotten. We, who pioneered the "Mill D" area, remember them kindly and their contributions were instrumental in our success.

We surely miss the Good Old Days!



Prepared by Bill Vigos #20  
at the request of the  
Secretary/Treasurer

cc: President, Tom Man  
President Elect, Kaare Klough  
Sec./Treas., Heinze Schulzke  
File  
Attachments