

# **Tsnungwe Place Names**

by the

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## **General Description of Tribal Territory**

The Tsnungwe Tribe is located in western Trinity County and eastern Humboldt County in northwest California. We are located on the Trinity River, South Fork of the Trinity River, and New River. This land is our aboriginal tribal territory, where we resided prior to first contact with non-Indians.

We continue to reside on our aboriginal territory to this day, although now our lands fall within the Six Rivers National Forest as well as the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

On the Trinity River we resided between the Willow Creek area and the Cedar Flat area. On the South Fork of the Trinity, we resided from the mouth up to Grouse Creek. Additionally resided also within the entire New River drainage.

This paper gives the names and locations of special places within the Tsnungwe Tribal Territory.

During March and April of 1994, Tsnungwe meetings were held with elders to plot placenames on Forest Service maps. Those involved were: Les Ammon, Wes Ammon, Violet Warren, Toby Ammon, Lincoln Martin, Ed Chase, Danny Ammon, Jim Ammon.

Although the information presented here is from many sources, most came from an interview between J.P. Harrington and Saxey Kidd in 1928, with Carrie Bussell interpreting. Saxey Kidd was the spiritual leader of the Tsnungwe people, and was the great-grandfather of Les, Wes, and Toby Ammon. Saxey Kidd was 4/4 Trinity County Hupa (Tsnungwe), although many anthropologists have incorrectly stated his identity as Chimariko or New River Shasta. The Saxey Ranch is located at tʃ'oh-wa:ne on the South Fork of the Trinity River, near the great Tsnungwe village of ʃe:lding.

Another good source of information is the C. Hart Merriam papers and manuscript at the University of California, Berkeley, Bancroft Library. Although Merriam also worked with Saxey Kidd, most of the information used here came from his son-in-law James Chesbro of tse:nding (or tse:ning-ding) in Burnt Ranch. Also, James Chesbro was the brother of Carrie Bussell.

Another good paper was written by James Bauman concerning the place names of the New River area, and it compares the Hupa names of places with the Chimariko names of the same places. Most of the information Bauman uses with this comparison comes from Saxey Kidd and Sally Noble. Sally Noble resided at qowh-ding on New River. Sally Noble's mother Polly Dyer was a Chimariko Indian, and her father was Tsnungwe. Her father was killed in the early years of conflict with non-Indians, so Sally was raised by her mother as primarily a Chimariko speaker. Sally's father was a brother of Indian Friday, also a Tsnungwe Indian. Sally also spoke some Hupa language as well.

Various Names  
that have been  
applied  
to the  
Tsnungwe Tribe

1.

- South Fork Indians
- Southern Hupa
- South Hupa
- South Fork Hupa

These names refer to us geographically as living on the South Fork of the Trinity River. They also indicate that we are people who speak the Hupa language.

2.

- Kelta
- ʔe:lxwe

These names refer to our Indian name for the village at the mouth of the South Fork of the Trinity River, ʔe:ldin. Kelta is simply a corruption of ʔe:ldin. Le:lxwe means the people of ʔe:ldin.

3.

- Trinity Tribe
- Lower Trinity Tribe

These names refer to us as geographically living on the Trinity River, or more specifically on the downriver or lower part of the Trinity River.

- 4.
- tse:ning-xwe
- tsa-nung-hwah
- tsa-nung-wha
- tsaningwha
- tsnunwe

These are all variations in spelling of the name Tsnungwe that we call ourselves in our own language. tse:ning-xwe is consistent with the current orthography being used to write Hupa language.

tse:ning refers to Ironside Mountain, an important place within our tribal territory. The suffixes -we, -xwe, -hwah, and -wha are all variations in spelling which mean the people of that place.

5.

- Burnt Ranch Band

Although tse:ningdin means specifically Ironside Mountain, it can also refer more generally to the Burnt Ranch area, as it is called in English.

6.

- New River Indians
- New River Hupa

These names refer to the Tsnungwe people who lived on New River, including the grandparents of Saxey Kidd. As Saxey and others such as Sally Noble have stated, these Indians living on New River were Hupa speakers first, not Chimariko, and not Shasta. As a matter of practicality these Indians often spoke languages of those tribes near them. So, many Tsnungwe, including Saxey's family, also spoke Chimariko and Shasta but with a Hupa accent.



7.

- tlo-hom-tah-hoi
- tɬ'oh-mitah-xwe

tɬ'oh-mitah-xwe (= grass-amongst-people in the Hupa language) is the word in our language for Indians living on New River. Saxey Kidd used this term to refer to the New River Indians, noting that they spoke Hupa.

C. Hart Merriam and Roland Dixon argued over the identity of these people and published papers on them. Merriam thought he had discovered his own Ishi in Saxey Kidd, and proclaimed that Saxey was the last survivor of this previously unknown tribe.

Some believe these New River Indians to be the New River Shasta. However, Merriam's tlo-hom-tah-hoi paper is based on working with Saxey Kidd who identified himself as 4/4 Trinity County Hupa. Also Saxey himself used the term tɬ'oh-mitah-xwe to refer to New River Indians which included himself and his family, and Saxey further stated that these Indians were Hupa speakers.

8.

- chal-tah-soom
- djalitasom (in the Chimariko language)

These names in the Chimariko language are equivalent to tse:ningxwe in the Hupa language. In both languages, the names refer to Ironside Mtn.

As the Chimariko were/are our neighbors to the east, most Tsnungwe Indians spoke our dialect of Hupa as our first language, and spoke Chimariko as well, although with a Hupa accent.

9.

- Chimalakwe

The first part of this name is chimal, which is a Hupa speakers pronunciation of the Chimariko word chimar, which means people. In the Hupa Language, there is no r sound, so a Hupa speaker would pronounce chimar as chimal. The second part of this name is the suffix -kwe, or more properly -xwe which is a suffix meaning the people of a certain place in the Hupa language. So, Chimalakwe is a word essentially meaning people-people with part of the word in Chimariko language and another part of the word in Hupa language.

The Tsnungwe Indians that lived from Le:lding up to Cedar Flat, and in the New River drainage were all bilingual, speaking both Hupa and Chimariko. Chimalakwe is a name which has been used to refer to these Tsnungwe Indians.

10.

- e-nah-chin
- yinahch'in

These words are variations in spelling of the same term, yinahchin. This is a Hupa word meaning they come from upriver. This was the phrase used by the Hoopa Valley Hupa people to refer to the Tsnungwe people. yinahchin is a general phrase and could also include Indians farther up the river including Chimariko and Wintu.

- 11.
- e-tah-chin
- e-tahk-na-lin-na-kah
- yidaq-nilin
- yidaq-nilin-qeh

These are all variations on the phrase yidaq-nilin meaning upcountry-river, and is the Hupa phrase which means New River.

## Maps

The following maps are included in this document:

Willow Creek Quadrangle - 1  
 Willow Creek Quadrangle - 2  
 Willow Creek Quadrangle - 3  
 Willow Creek Quadrangle - 4  
 Ironside Mtn Quadrangle - 1  
 Ironside Mtn Quadrangle - 2  
 Ironside Mtn Quadrangle - 3  
 Salmon Mtn Quadrangle - 1.

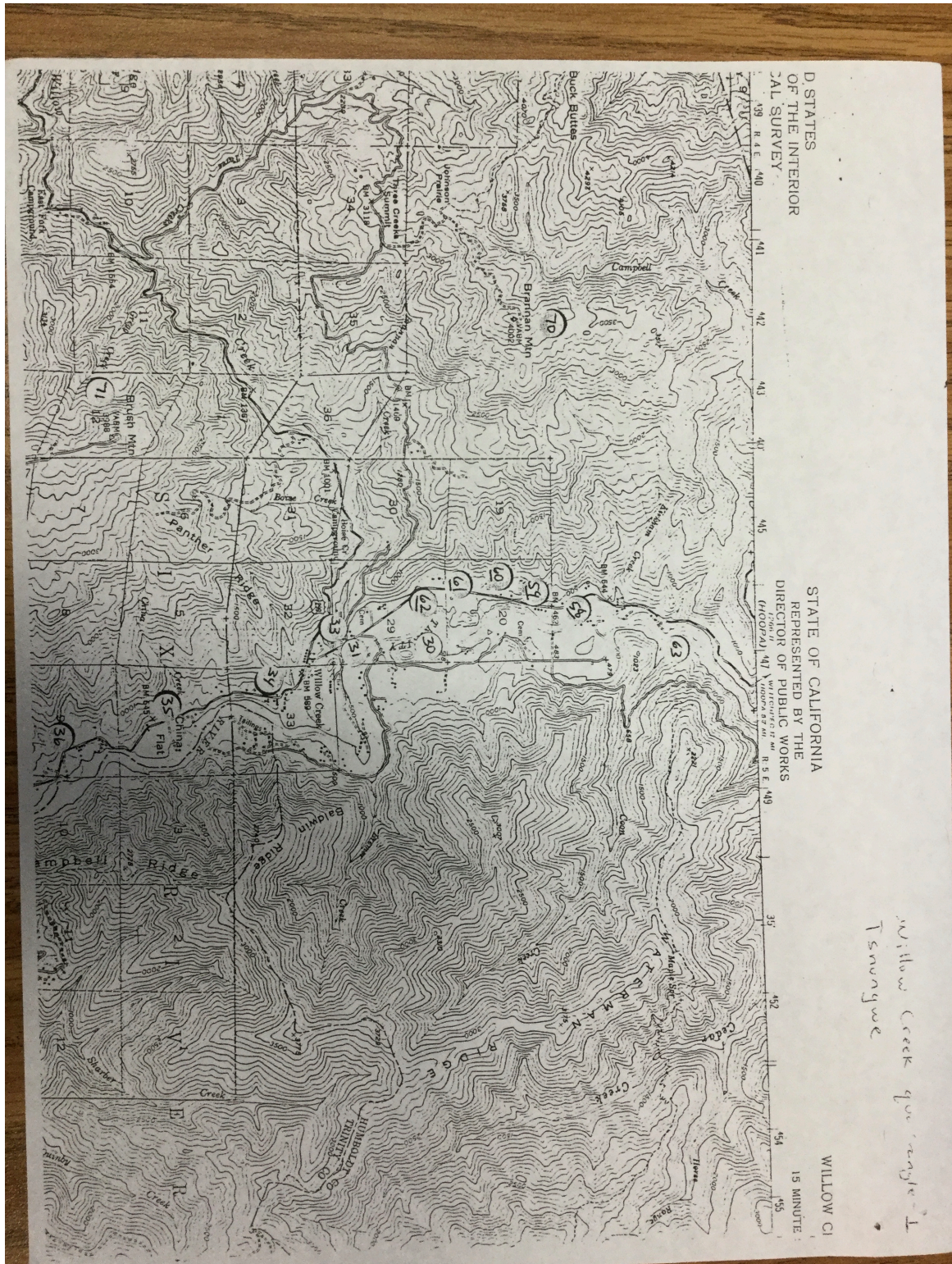
These maps can be attached together to produce one large contiguous map of Tsnungwe territory.

These maps have numbered labels which correspond to the place name descriptions for the areas of:

Willow Creek  
 South Fork of the Trinity  
 Trinity River (South Fork to Cedar Flat)  
 New River.



# Willow Creek Area



Place Number : 63a

Place Name : tse:ding

Translation : rock-place

Description : across river from Knight's trailer park

Comments : across from bluffs

Place Number : 63b

Place Name : xowiyk'ixowh-ding

Translation : where wagons come down

Description : Knight's trailer park

Comments : relatively modern name; old name is k'iqin-sa'an-ding

Place Number : 70

Place Name : yahdz-me'

Description : Brannan Mountain

Comments : a mountain between Willow Creek and Redwood Summit

Place Number : 58a

Place Name : d'ahilding

Description : a creek and little ranch, Whitsons; seh-ach-pe-ya in Yurok language. 4 houses according to Gibbs. This village included in Treaty of 1851, alternately spellings at that time were a-hel-tah in Gibbs journal, and ta-hail-ta in Daily Alta California.

Place Number : 58b  
Place Name : niskinje:ndihding  
Translation : small fir place  
Description : O'Gormans farm  
Comments : Gallup's place

Place Number : 59  
Place Name : saqe:qit  
Description : Between Watermans and Gallups  
Comments : an old village in the Willow Creek valley; gather manzanita berries in summer here; had regular houses. Jurins place. This village included in Treaty of 1851, alternately spellings at that time were so-kea-keit in Gibbs journal, and sock-kail-kit in Daily Alta California. Place where Indians set net to fish at river.

Place Number : 30  
Place Name : saqe:qit mima:n-ching  
Translation : saqe:qit across-from  
Description : Kidd/Bussell ranch, bulb farm

Place Number : 60  
Place Name : misquine:q'it (perhaps nisking-qit = fir trees-on it; see #58b)  
Description : Dick & Sonya live now  
Comments : Waterman's place

Place Number : 61  
Place Name : nants'ing-tah  
Translation : crag, peak-amongst  
Description : Clover Flat



Place Number : 62

Place Name : t'un'-chwing-tah

Translation : pepper nuts place-amongst

Description : school house flat, pepperwoods

Comments : Zack Bussell's old place; waug-ulle-watl in Yurok language, which means pepper nuts place; dances here. This village included in Treaty of 1851, alternately spellings at that time were tash-huan-tat in Gibbs journal, and tash-wan-ta in Daily Alta California.

Place Name : xoxo:ch'e:lding

Translation : water runs out from the creek

(abbreviated from xoxo: - che:-wilin-ding = xoxo: - flows out place)

Description : Willow Creek, mouth of the creek itself

Comments : xo:xolding = Willow Creek from HLC. Where Willow Creek Brizards Store was.

Place Number : 31a

Place Name : da:chwan-ding

Description : near Seely-McIntosh Rd, where Friday lived

Comments : Golla writes village across river from mouth of Willow Creek, a little upstream. Waug-ulle-wutle-kauh in Yurok language, which means across from the Peppernuts place. 1 house according to Gibbs map. Saxey says across from Willow Creek Store. Former home of Annie Leach, Indian Friday, and Fanny Lack. This village included in Treaty of 1851, on Gibbs map.

Place Number : 31b

Place Name : da:chwan-ding mima:n-ching

Translation : across from da:chwa:n-ding

Description : Kimtu

Place Number : 33

Place Name : yinaq-xa:-ding

Translation : upstream - out of the ground? - place

Description : just upstream of mouth of Willow Creek

Comments : where road comes uphill

Place Number : 34

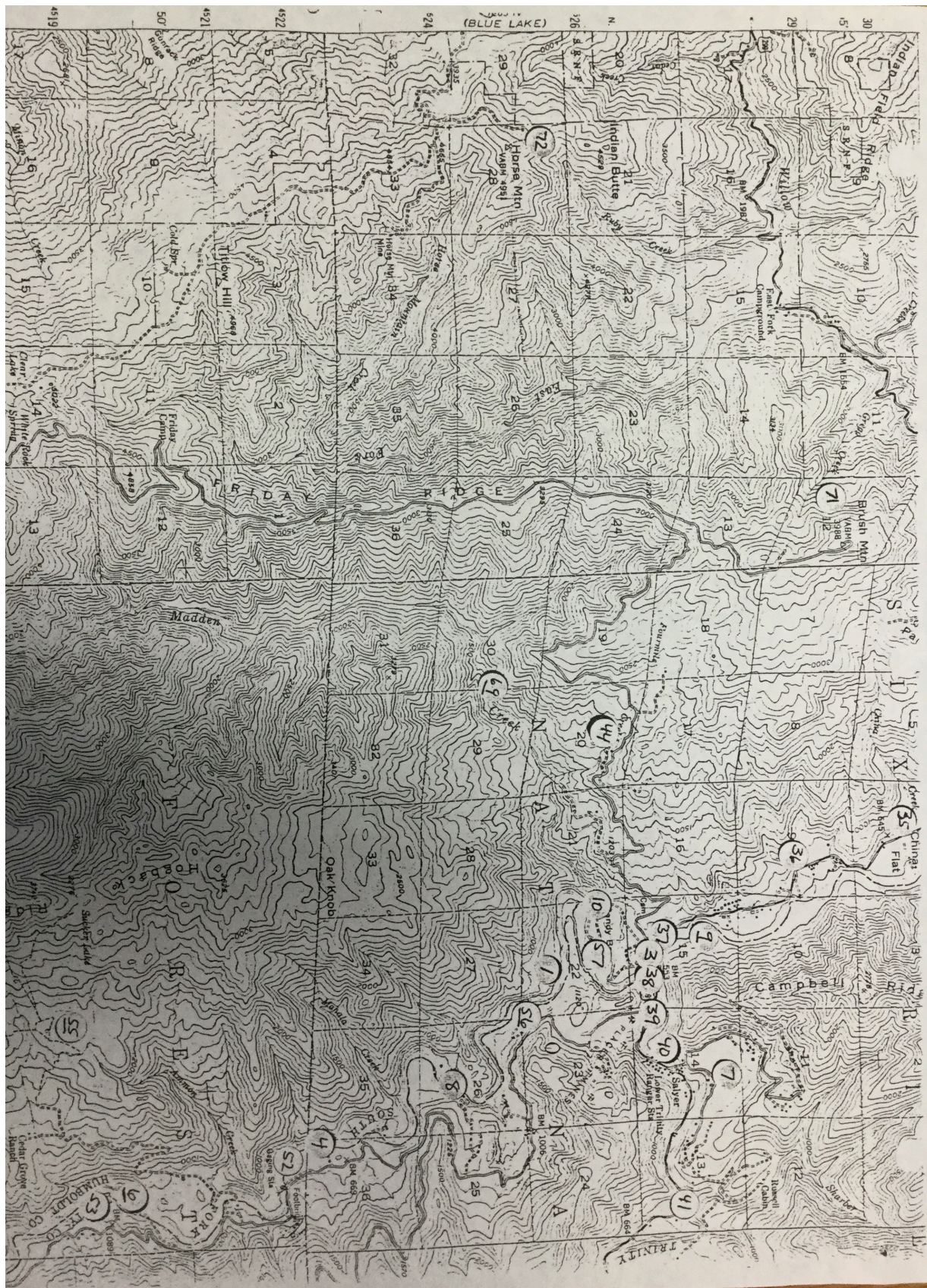
Place Name : tʰohday-kyoh-qit

Translation : grain-large-on it

Description : Young's place where nice road is

Comments : Buddy's auto now







Place Number : 71

Place Name : qawh-me'

Translation : yew- in it

Description : Brush Mountain

Comments : a mtn to the southwest of Willow Creek

Place Number : 72

Place Name : dilchwehk e'ildilme'

Translation : ponderosa pine nut - he throws them in his mouth - in it

Description : Horse Mountain

Comments : near Redwood Summit

Place Number : 35

Place Name : q'aykist che:xahsding

Translation : hopper basket-flies out when you pound acorns

Description : Gambi's, China Flat. Lucinda Henderson lived here.

Place Number : 36

Place Name : minq'it-ch-ding

Translation : pond-on it-little-place

Description : Forest School House, Enchanted Springs

## South Fork of the Trinity

Place Number : 9a

Place Name : ta:k'iwiltsil-q'it

Translation : leaching acorns pit - on it

Description : near Lincoln Martins old house. Six Beans and others lived here. Part of ʔe:lding.

Comments : hachugidji in Chimariko

Place Number : 37

Place Name : me:lchwini-q'it

Translation : a kind of weeds- on it

Description : part of ʔe:lding

Comments : where old road went up to Saxey's. Big rancheria there. Martin Road and Friday Ridge Road side of South Fork.

Place Number : 3

Place Name : ʔe:lding

Translation : rivers flow together place

Description : mouth of South Fork

Comments : weitspek in Yurok Language; a k'ixinay and modern village. Squirrel Tail Tom and many others from here. This name includes #9, #37, and #38. This village included in Treaty of 1851, alternately spellings at that time were weitspek in Gibbs journal, and wish-pooke in Daily Alta California. Corruption of ʔe:lding became "Kelta" tribe of Powers and Kroeber. Powers also uses Kailtas, whose home was anciently on the South Fork of Trinity River. hatsukitse (forks place) in Chimariko. qhore pure (forks) in Wintu. Site of Tsnungwe Jump Dance, formerly led by Saxey Kidd.

Place Number : 38

Place Name : ta:ng'ay-q'it

Translation : point-on it

Description : Wade Ammon's house

Comments : part of ʔe:ldin; village both k'ixinay and modern. South Fork Pole and South Fork Pete from here.

Place Number : 47

Place Name : yisinching-qeh

Translation : coming from downhill - along

Description : South Fork River

Place Number : 57

Place Name : chway-me'

Translation : something covered up

Description : Sandy Bar

Comments : This is not the Campbell Creek village. ha'umkitatce (covered up place) in Chimariko. mukhumeston muk (cover) in Wintu.

Place Number : 10a

Place Name : dilchwehch-ding

Translation : little pine-place. Ponderosa Pine-place

Description : village at mouth of Campbell creek

Comments : also called "hay nahdiyaw tehłchwin-ding" = "the money-it grows-place". An old important town.

Place Number : 44

Place Name : ʔʔ'oh-wa:ne

Translation : always grassy

Description : Saxey ranch

Comments : xo-łitsow-ch-ding = at the little green place; also xołtsowch-ding.

Place Number : 69  
Place Name : dilchwehch-qeh  
Translation : little pine-along creek  
Description : Campbell Creek

Place Number : 1  
Place Name : ch'ilte:lting  
Translation : something (mat, traditional Indian bed) spread out  
Description : Upper Pete's

Place Number : 56  
Place Name : tse:ch-ting  
Translation : little rocky place  
Description : Salyer's place  
Comments : where miner lives

Place Number : 8  
Place Name : qosta:n-ding  
Translation : cap - place  
Description : Westerburgs/Koons. hamiyakchay in Chimariko, meaning hat.

Place Number : 4  
Place Name : fichiwh-ding  
Translation : sand place  
Description : Pikes garden, PG&E flat

Place Number : 52  
Place Name : yahts'ame'  
Translation : throw rocks down there and make it rain (snow)  
Description : Shore's place (Canclini lives there)  
Comments : used to be Boyd Jackson's; no:na:diyahts = the snowfall is reaching down the mountain to that point

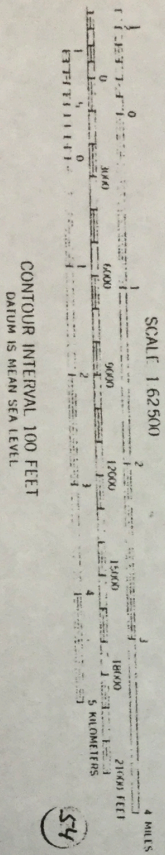
Place Number : 6

Place Name : tl'oh-qa-me

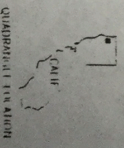
Translation : grassy prairie - in it

Description : Carpenter/Jurin place





THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 MADE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



WILLOW CREEK, CALIF.

N4045-W12330/15

1952

AMS 1265 I - SERIES V795

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

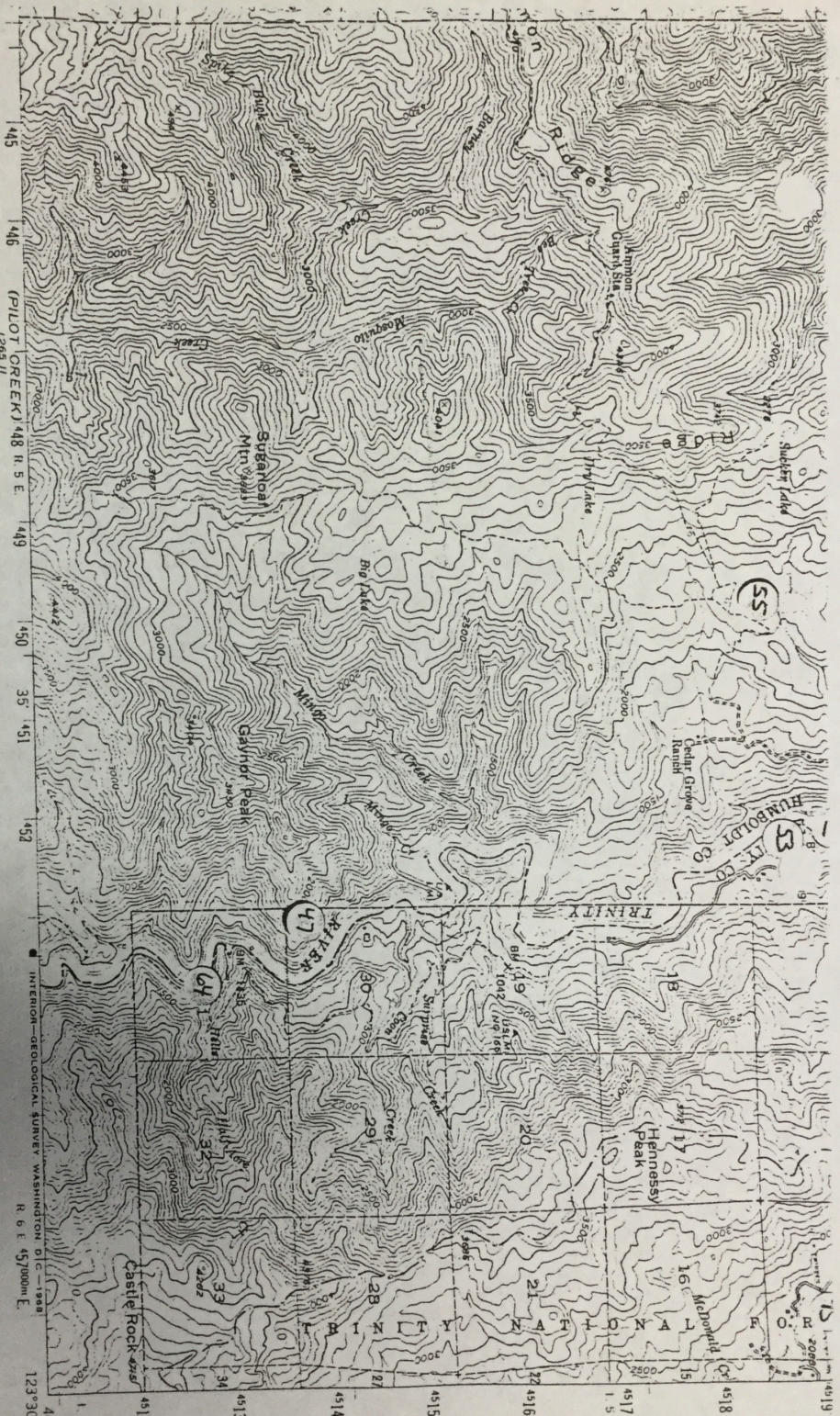
Heavy duty

Medium duty

Light duty

Unimproved dirt

U. S. Route



Willow Creek  
 Quadrangle  
 Tsungwe



Place Number : 53

Place Name : yunihting

Description : Todd ranch (used to be Si and Elsie Jones)

Comments : bench 1/2 mile upstream of Carpenters

Place Number : 55

Place Name : yidahtich'inahding

Description : old Ammon ranch

Place Number : 64

Place Name : dahchiwh-ding

Description : hell's 1/2 acre

Comments : 10 or 12 mile above mouth east side of river

Place Number : 54

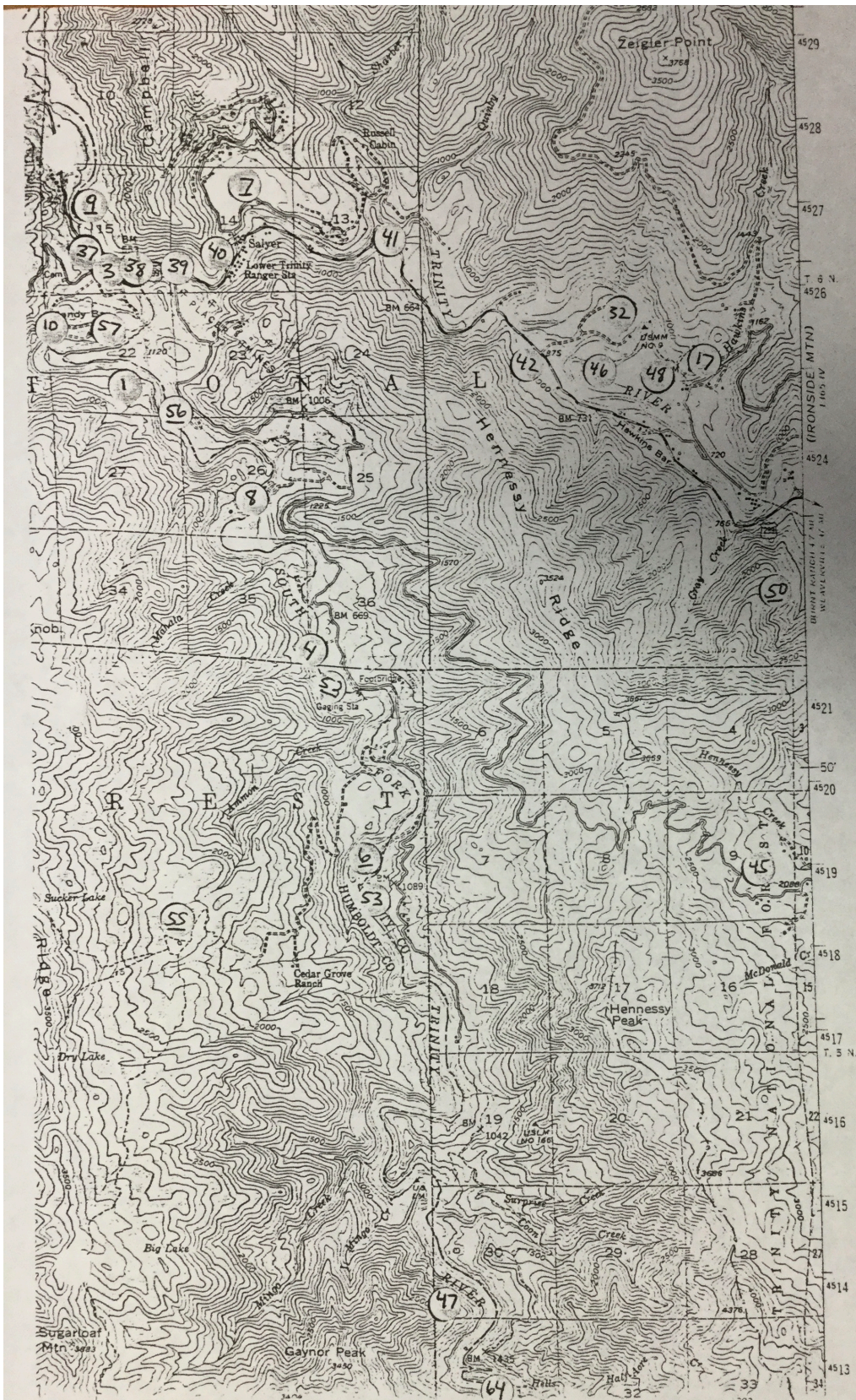
Place Name : niłtaq-tah-ding

Translation : black oak-amongst-place

Description : Mosquito creek

Comments : maybe where Mosquito enters Grouse creek; some Indians dance here





Willow Creek  
Quadrangle - 4  
Tsnungwe



## TRINITY RIVER (South Fork - Cedar Flat)

Place Number : 48

Place Name : xan-kya:w-qeh

Translation : creek-biggest-along

Description : Trinity River. Also called xan-qeh.

Place Number : 39

Place Name : ti-dił-ding

Translation : away - flew (subj. is plural, e.g birds)-place

Description : Frakes place

Comments : across from Whole Enchilada; old community hall.

Recently erected after 1928. just downstream of Salyer

Place Number : 40

Place Name : xoling-kyoh-miye

Translation : there is-big-under; under the little hill

Description : Doc Williams place

Comments : across from forest service in Salyer

Place Number : 7

Place Name : miy-me'

Translation : thunder/something taboo - in it, at the Rain Rock

Description : Old Campbell Ranch / Fountain Ranch

Comments : also miyi-mida:q'it on the bank at miy-me';

himamsu'tse (green place) in Chimariko. Wintu name is tsaruqahas pom, where tsaruq means greens. This village included in Treaty of 1851, alternately spellings at that time were me-yemma in Gibbs journal, and me-em-ma in Daily Alta California.

Place Number : 41

Place Name : k'inunq-ding

Translation : deer lick-place

Description : Billy Nobles place

Comments : where Tommy McKnight lives; The lick is just below Billy Noble's on the river.

Place Number : 42

Place Name : tse:-q'it

Translation : rock- on it

Description : Swanson's place

Comments : Keyes' place

Place Number : 32

Place Name : no:k'iwowh-ding

Translation : drift pile-place

Description : Suzy Q area

Comments : Down from Swanson's; driftwood piled. River makes a turn there. Driftwood comes in there.

Place Number : 46

Place Name : tse:ʔe:nga:ding

Translation : rocks with points together

Description : near Trinity Village

Comments : downstream of Irvings used to be Jerry Smith's place.

Place Number : 17

Place Name : kin-sa'an-ting

Translation : trees-lie there-place

Description : Irvings place, Hawkins Bar

Comments : 'amaitatse in Chimariko

Place Number : 50

Place Name : miq'os-taq

Translation : its neck-between, but here means gap

Description : gap in ridge, up Gray's creek rd, on left by rock pit

Comments : trail went threw gap to Chesbros







Place Number : 22

Place Name : ta:wha:wh-ding

Translation : ford river, wade across river-place

Description : Dave Gray's place

Comments : Gray's flat; Jordan White used to gather acorns here; hissa hadamutse in Chimariko (where the trail comes down onto the level).

Place Number : 12

Place Name : tse:nding OR tse:-ning-ding

Translation : rock-sloped side, face - place

Description : Ironside Mtn.

Comments : tse:ning-qit = on Ironside Mountain. jalita, tcalita, tcalita awu (awu=mountain), waywoli, awu teta (great mountain) in Chimariko; tcalita phuyuq in Wintu (phuyuq - wintu for mtn);Indians gathered at that big mountain and camp and fish in summer, even from Arcata.

Original inhabitants talked both Hupa and Chimariko. Carrie Bussell says they talked a little differently from Hoopa (i.e. different dialect of Hupa Language). Straight opposite Chesbro's place in river; Saxey said caught eels at Burnt Ranch Falls. James Chesbro owned Burnt Ranch Falls. C. Hart Merriam manuscript has notes from Chesbro regarding Burnt Ranch Falls. tsutamtatce = waterfalls in river place in Chimariko language. bohem tcaqhi = big falls in Wintu language.

Place Number : 49

Place Name : xowung-q'it

Description : Bud Carpenters place near Chesbro's

Comments : where Bob Martin lived, and where Mary Carpenter lives now. Natural lake used to be here. Elders say White Deerskin Dance formerly held at Burnt Ranch.







Place Number : 45

Place Name : niŋtuq-tah-ting

Translation : black oak-amongst-place

Description : black oak country (up hill from Hennesy's)

Comments : comprises much territory. "a big name." (means by this an extensive name); yaqha' natse in Chimariko

Place Number : 5

Place Name : xweda'ay-sa'an-me'

Translation : his head-lays there-in it

Description : Wells place (Chesbro lived here)

Comments : Post Office, Hennessey Ranch. hima' hitchutatce in Chim (head lying there) phoyoq wineston in Wintu (he looks at the head)

Indian came along and found a dead mans head there.

Place Number : 43

Place Name : nants'e:lchwe:-q'it

Translation : crag, mountain peak - make - on it

Description : Ridge up along side of road where Chesbro lives

Comments : Between McDonald's and Chesbro's

Place Number : 2

Place Name : yinaq-dinung-ting

Translation : south slope place

Description : McDonald Ranch, Burnt Ranch

Place Number : 51

Place Name : tse:ning-axis-ding

Translation : Ironside Mtn-flies-place, throw rock across river

Description : near China Slide

Comments : up river from McDonald's at Burnt Ranch



## New River Area

Place Number : 13

Place Name : yidaq-nilin

Translation : up country- creek

Description : New River

Comments : tcalitasom in Chimariko

Place Number : 18

Place Name : ch'e:nantiŋting

Translation : Meaning things (fish or anything, or drift wood) comes out.

Description : mouth of New River

Place Number : 65

Place Name : dah-sita:n-qit

Translation : it lays-on it

Description : High Rocky Ridge NW of New River mouth

Comments : Sleeping Indian

Place Number : 19

Place Name : che:na:dawhding

Translation : out it goes again place

Description : Dyer's place [Bell's Flat]

Comments : tsxeposta in Chimariko, possible meaning dusty place

Place Number : 16a

Place Name : tsi ma:n tan-qeh

Description : Big Creek

Comments : hime hakutse in Chimariko

Place Number : 16b

Place Name : kiłna:dil mito'

Translation : wolf water

Description : Hoboken

Place Number : 20

Place Name : k'iyawh-michwa:n'

Translation : Bird Shit

Description : Mrs. Bussell place (on China creek)

Comments : ti'ra 'apxay in Chimariko (bird shit);

xolish chena:xolxolding = melts off quick, name of China Creek, the creek itself

Place Number : 23

Place Name : qowh-ding

Translation : alder-place

Description : Sally Noble's place

Comments : just south of Panther Creek; Frank Noble also used to live here. Big mountain straight across from here is niłtuq-na:san-ding, meaning black oak place. munenatse in Chimariko meaning oak place.

Place Number : 24

Place Name : chixe:ne:wh-din

Translation : he/she talked-place

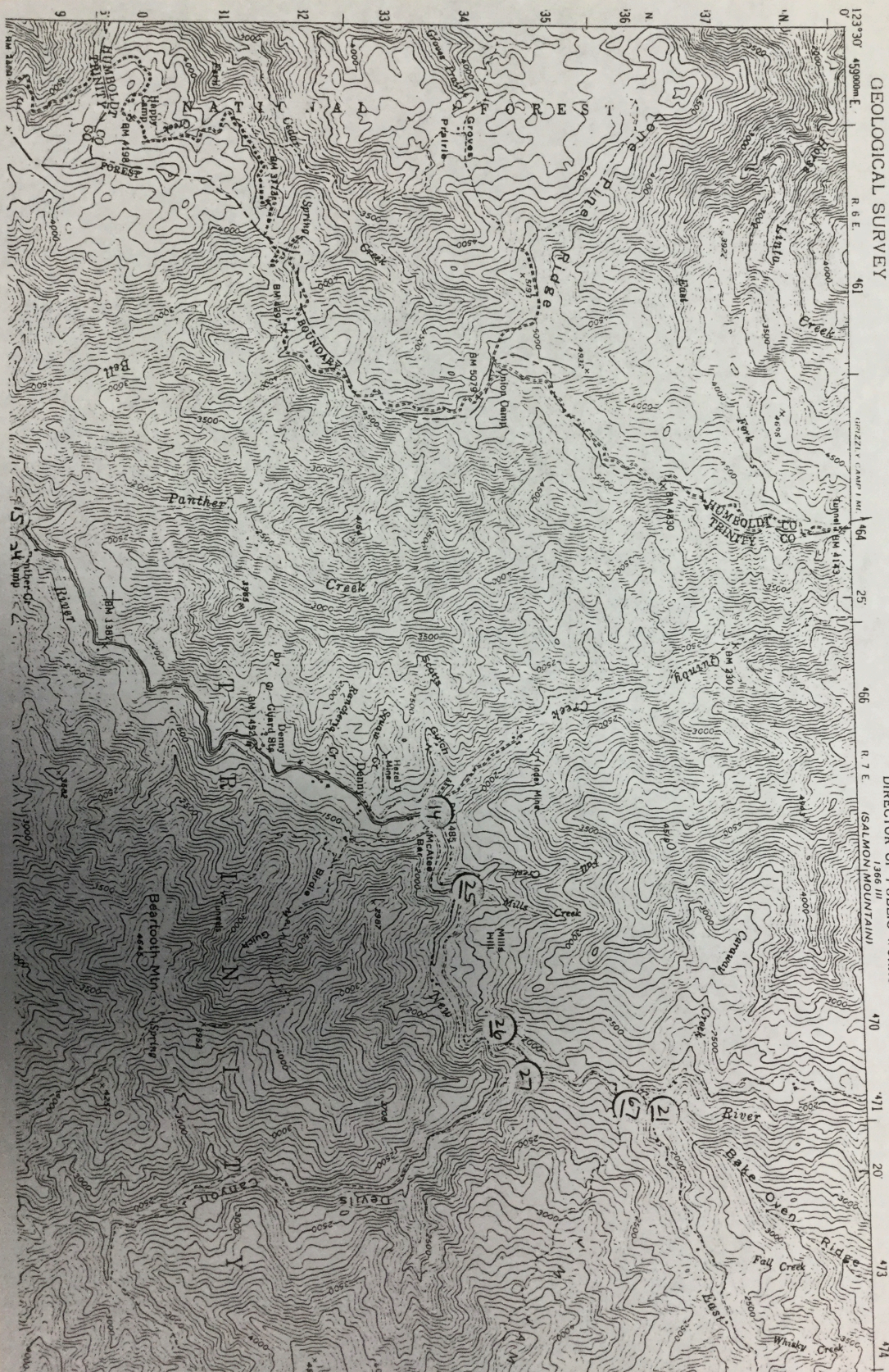
Description : upstream of Sally Noble's on same site as #23, Martha Zieglers place

Comments : Flat between Noble's and Ladds on same side. Above name from Saxey; James Chesbro gave Merriam the same name which he recorded as kek-hah-na-tung. Saxey also gave xolish na:xoxuynta meaning it melts quickly for Martha Dyer Zieglers place.



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Place Number : 15

Place Name : tɬ'ohschile:n-ding

Translation : a strap- people treat it like, hazel brush sticks, hazel bush.

Description : Dailys, Moses Patterson before that

Place Number : 14

Place Name : tɬ'ohne:s-ding

Translation : long prairie-place

Description : Ladd's place, Thomas place, Quimby

Comments : mouth of Quinby creek, west side; maytca so're in

Chimariko = rough field. Sally Lewis from here.

Place Number : 25

Place Name : ɬige:y de:-dilla:t-ding

Translation : pine squirrel into fire-ran-place

Description : Fall creek or Mill creek

Comments : on same side as Noble's upstream of Ladd's

Place Number : 26

Place Name : dilxich-mitah-k'iste:n-ding

Translation : fawn-amongst-bed-place

Comments : where Indians camp and catch fish; upstream of #25

Place Number : 27

Place Name : na:na:kiwila:t -ding

Translation : a limb fell down - place

Comments : women go up and have no axe and pull dry limbs down getting firewood. This was a camping place up there.

Place Number : 67

Place Name : tse:na:ning'a:ding

Translation : rock-hanging down place

Description : at junction of east fork with main New River on bar.

Malinda Kidd from here. qha'a yawismutce in Chimariko (rock goes across place)

Place Number : 21

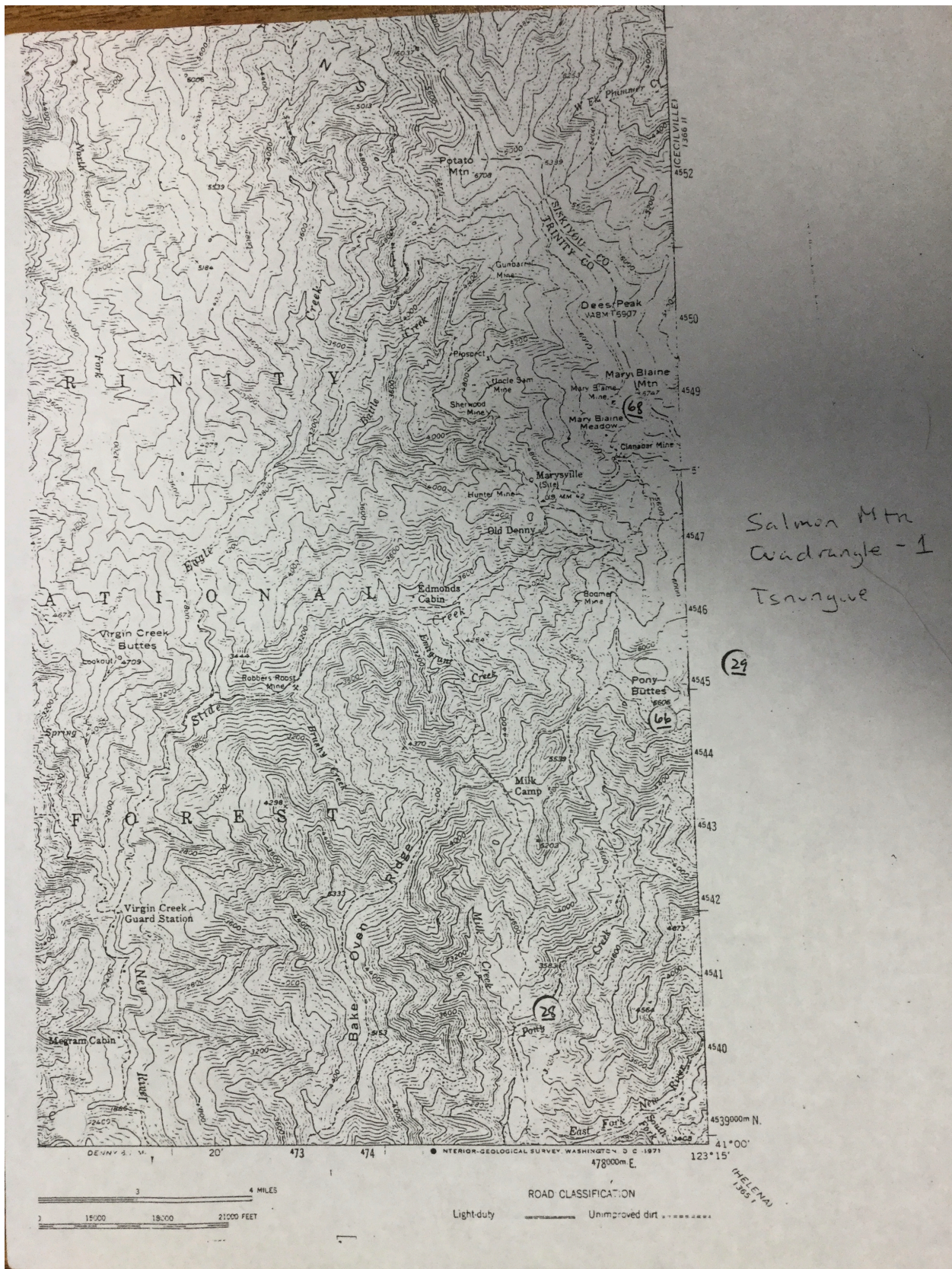
Place Name : yidaq-ʔe:na:lding

Translation : up country- where the streams flow together again

Description : Forks of New River

Comments : four miles up river from Denny;





Place Number : 28

Place Name : miqit-k'ildil-no'ondit-ding

Translation : on it - eat berries - they sit down-place

Description : Pony creek

Comments : to camp or sit down and pick a while.

Place Number : 66

Place Name : tl'ohq'a'kyow-q'it

Translation : bunch grass-big-on it

Description : Pony Butte

Place Number : 68

Place Name : nundil-wint'e:q'it

Translation : snow-eternally on it

Description : Mary Blaine Mtn

Comments : on the ridge to the north of Pony Butte



## Bibliography

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