

Phase 1 Fall of 2010

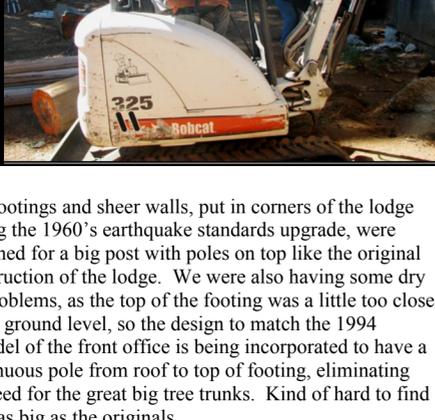
Main Lodge Perimeter Footing Replacement Begins!

On November 19th 1934, the pictures to the right was taken as a part of the WPA project report folder. You'll notice that the concrete footings have a bunch of spots---rocks---that were used as the core of the footings for the lodge. In fact, all the footings are a combination of grout that locks the rocks together, capped with concrete. The conditions of the old Humboldt Road from Chico to Butte Meadows must have made cement a premium. As typical of these mountain projects, you used what you had, and for 78 years these footings held true.



Unfortunately, erosion has undercut the footings at the front of the lodge. The poles and posts reinstalled during the 60's have also rotted away and the need to get the Lodge ready for the next 75 years (not to mention to bring it up to code) has brought us to that point in time where we have to replace the last 14 footings around the main hall.

We started a 3 year project to get them all replaced. Why 3 years? Mostly budget and available volunteer time. But as shown below, we started and are getting them done. A special thanks goes to the Bryant Family from Redding, as this project is being funded by the Barry Bryant Memorial Fund.



Some people have way too much fun! Matt Adema is having a blast breaking the up the old footings at the front of the Lodge. The existing footings were only down 8" to 12" on the west side, and we needed a 24" deep footing.

Fortunately, the "new" 1950's Hwy. 32 allows great tools like the excavator from Nor Cal Excavating to be brought up and put to good use. We could not imagine having to do the demo work by jackhammer and sweat equity.

The footings and sheer walls, put in corners of the lodge during the 1960's earthquake standards upgrade, were designed for a big post with poles on top like the original construction of the lodge. We were also having some dry rot problems, as the top of the footing was a little too close to the ground level, so the design to match the 1994 remodel of the front office is being incorporated to have a continuous pole from roof to top of footing, eliminating the need for the great big tree trunks. Kind of hard to find trees as big as the originals.

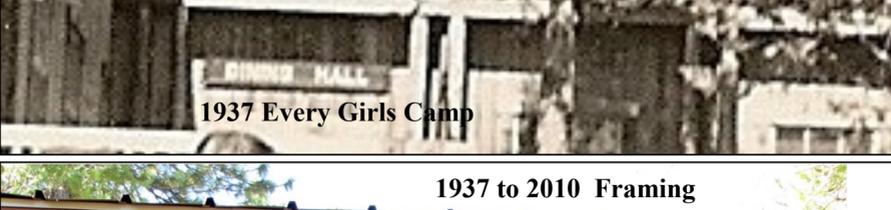
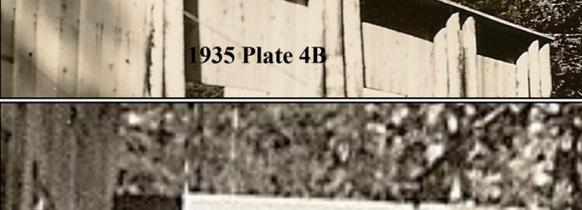


The footings on the east side of the lodge were still deep enough to use the core of the earthquake footing, but some of the old fashioned sweat equity of pounding in the re-bar was earned by Jake Thorup of Troop 2 shown below

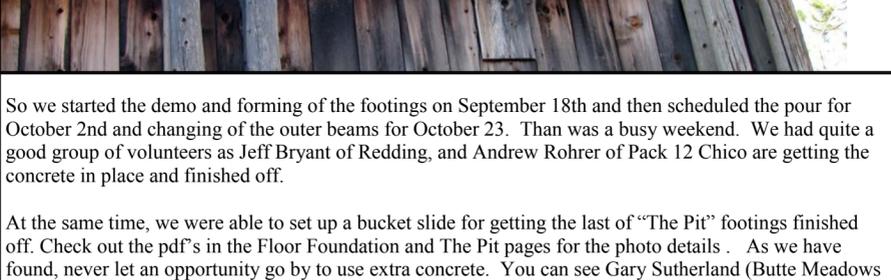


When you go back and look at the original construction of the lodge, you will see some differences in the top plate between the December 13th, 1935 picture and the Bud Price photo from Every Girls Camp 1937. Remember, the main lodge roof collapsed in the winter of 1936-37. In the 2nd photo, you can see the main beams were added not only to the outside of the roof trusses, but also against the wall of the siding.

Unfortunately, the outer existing beams now have dry-rot in various places and will be replaced while the poles are being changed. Too bad we can't find the same dimensional size of the outer beam, but a good old fashioned 4 x 6 will work just fine. Somehow we missed the photos of John and Uriah Bakke, from Precision Construction and Maintenance, and Chico Home Improvement, but without there help and equipment, we could not have been ready for the concrete pour.



1937 to 2010 Framing



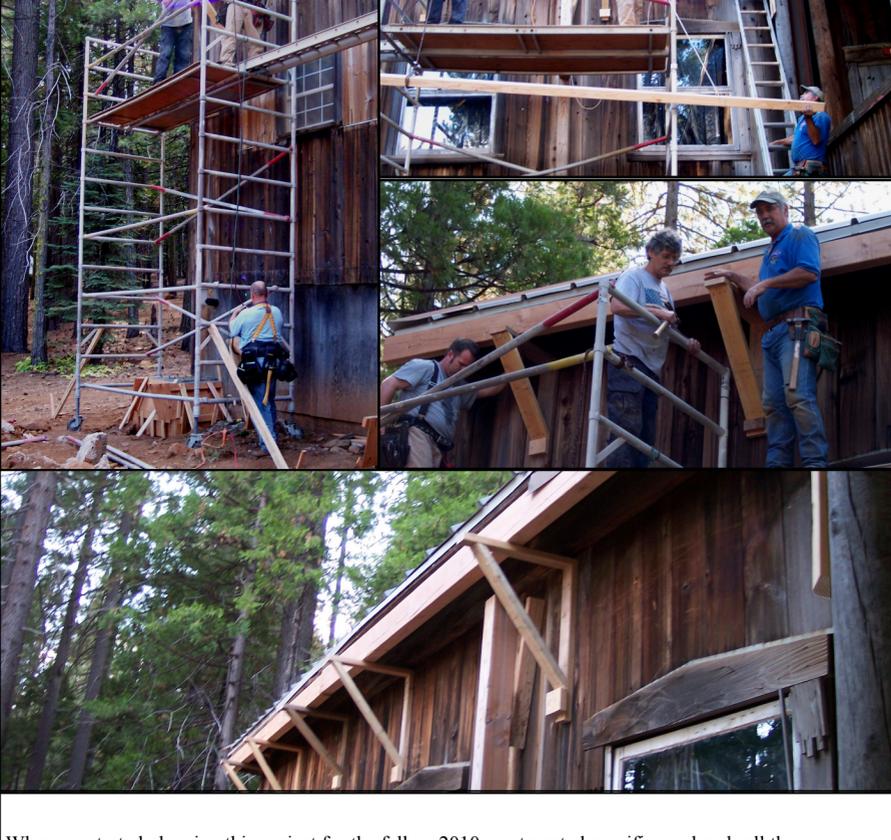
So we started the demo and forming of the footings on September 18th and then scheduled the pour for October 2nd and changing of the outer beams for October 23. Than was a busy weekend. We had quite a good group of volunteers as Jeff Bryant of Redding, and Andrew Rohrer of Pack 12 Chico are getting the concrete in place and finished off.

At the same time, we were able to set up a bucket slide for getting the last of "The Pit" footings finished off. Check out the pdf's in the Floor Foundation and The Pit pages for the photo details. As we have found, never let an opportunity go by to use extra concrete. You can see Gary Sutherland (Butte Meadows Jonesville Community Association) sliding down the buckets and the legs of Joe Matthews filling up the concrete tub.



So concrete is in, the rotten beams are torn out, all the demo is complete and it's time to start putting things back together and its now time for the October 23 work weekend. The next step is to borrow the scaffolding from Stan Thompson of Bestway Painters, gather the gang again and start putting up the replacement beams. It's no easy task to get real long heavy beams up about 20 feet, but if you ask Travis Vodden, Jim Thorup, Jeff Bryant and Jim Anderson, they would tell you its no big deal. Thank Heaven for scaffolding.

By the end of the day, both sides of the front of the lodge have the new beams and are ready for the installation of the poles.



When we started planning this project for the fall on 2010, we targeted specific weekends all the way through to Thanksgiving. Snow usually begin to fly in mid to late December, so we were not too worried about weather conditions. But if the weather was going to change, we had the budget to finish off the project and contract out the placement of the poles.

As it turns out, having a back up plan for an early winter turned out to be a good thing, as we began to receive a lot of indication of a cold wet and early winter. The decision was made not to wait for the late November weekends to finish up, but rather move forward with an early November middle of the week project. As its turns out, we had a sprinkling of snow on the last of October as a warning of things to come, and by November 13th the poles were in place and we were ready for winter.

Special Thanks is due to Uriah and John Bakke, Travis Vodden and Andrew Rohrer for getting the poles in place by November 12th. All they needed was 2 days to knock this out, but a week later, the early winter of 2010 & 2011 hit and we could not get back into camp for work projects till the spring. These contractors did a great job of finishing up, but they were so focused, they did not take any pictures of the progress. Typical of most Scout projects, the lasting testament of their labor, will be the finished project.

Thanks to all that made this possible. Job well done. Four down, 10 more to go.

