



How Two of Sundance Mt. South Association Roads Got Their Names

By Les Strawderman as told to member Tom Gannon on March 25, 2021

During a phone conversation with Mr. Les Strawderman last spring, he told some of the history of our Association that I felt should be shared with all SMSA members. Mr. Strawderman is one of Sundance Mt. South's original property owners and said that the developers left the road names off for the Rockingham side when the Association was built. It seems that fellow property owner Shep Wright, who was on the very first Board of Directors, and helped write the original Covenants and Bylaws, also went to school with Mr. Strawderman's mother. Consequently, Mr. Wright ask Les if he would help him with suggestions for names of the roads on the Rockingham side of the Association.

Naming of Shotgun Spring Road - Putting their heads together and talking with people in the area, they learned that water from a spring ran down the mountain and poured out of a large rockslide. The spring never dried up, so hikers and people walking the road would stop for a drink. Someone actually nailed a drinking cup to a tree and eventually, someone wedged the barrel of a shotgun into the rock and subsequently, water would then pour from the barrel. He added that at the big rockslide, if you put your ear next to it, you could hear water running like a river. They thought it was the perfect name for the road. The Spring may still be there today.

Naming of Berry Patch Lane - Les and Shep came up with the name Berry Patch Lane because where the land was cleared, there were tons and tons of blackberries vines all along the road that people would come for miles to pick. Both names were submitted to Rockingham County, and both were accepted.

The Trail Up the Mountain - Les went on to talk about the old trail that goes to the top of our mountain where there is a large field with a small pond. He related that his great uncle worked for the Forest Department and stated that a number of Indian relics have been found there from time to time.

Just a bit of history for our homeowners we thought they might enjoy, and **we thank Les for sharing it with us.**

As a note - when my own family members hiked the old trail, which is just a short step away from our cabin, they saw a lot of signs of rabbits and deer around the pond. We've also been told that the fire department helicopter may still use the water from the pond in case of fire on the mountain. Fire Rangers used to keep the trail clear and former member, David Whitney, an early SMSA President, plus my wife, sometimes walked the trail cleaning it up. I'm sure it's much overgrown at this time. We once saw a Boy Scout troop with camping gear hiking up the trail to spend the night.

Tom Gannon