



# Hwy 40 Scenic Bypass

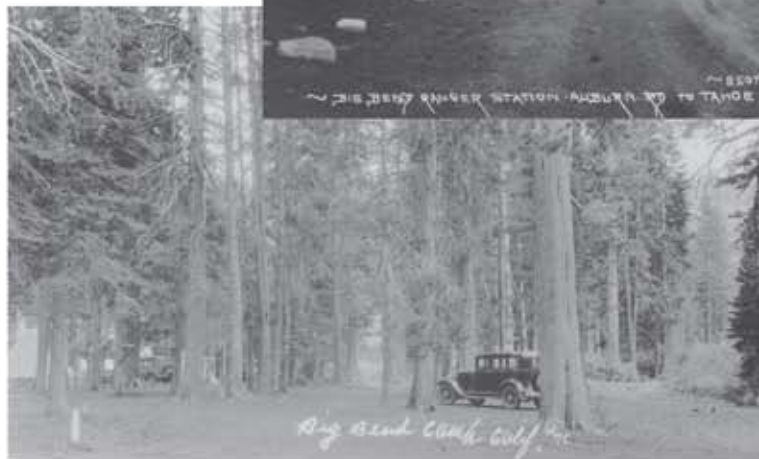
## Big Bend ●

### History

Stop and listen. Be very quiet. People have been traveling past this "Big Bend" in the Yuba River for thousands of years. It's a natural migration route and the Ranger station and museum are only the most recent arrivals. Maybe if you concentrate hard enough you will hear the sounds of those who came before: the sounds of Native Americans incising petroglyphs into the granite, the jingle of harness and clop of oxen hooves of the emigrant wagons on the final leg to their dreams, the wail of the steam engine whistle, the chug of the early automobiles on the Lincoln Highway, and finally, the whoosh of the Interstate.

The first wagon train was the Stevens Murphy Townsend Party in 1844. It was led by Caleb Greenwood who was over 80 years old. One of the first American babies born in California, Elizabeth Yuba Murphy, was born right here, a member of that same party. Other wagon trains regularly followed to this good rest stop on the river. The Dutch Flat Donner Lake Wagon toll road carried commercial traffic and helped build the railroad. The Lincoln Highway came through here in 1913. You can see the monument to the Lincoln Highway behind the garage across from the Ranger Station and walk a nearby section along the river.

In its Highway 40 incarnation Big Bend was a resting stop which included a couple of inns, gas station and grocery store. Across the street from the ranger station sat the Trailsyde Lodge and gas station. Where the ranger station stands sat the Big Bend Inn.



above: Big Bend Inn (1930's across the street from the ranger station; The Lincoln Highway right where the ranger station is today; Big Bend Camp (1920's)

### Things to do right here

You can walk along the river on the old road. Go up Old 40 to the turnout and trail head to hike to Lock Leven Lakes. Stop at the ranger station for the small museum and walk out back along the river to see the old wagon train route and rust marks on the rocks.



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