

## Moskowite Corners: A Short Version of a Long History

by Peter Kilkus, 6/12/22



Known as a rural landmark and roadway stop, Moskowite Corners has been open since at least the 1960s. Entrepreneur and former Napa County supervisor Harold Moskowite's family was the founder of "The Corners" as it is known. George Moskowite built the Corners before Lake Berryessa completely filled. Here's a transcript from an article in the Napa Register of October 1958 where George was also the only bidder for the development of Steele Park Resort.

From the Napa Register, October 1958

Three concessioners, bidding for leases on two of the seven proposed recreation areas at Lake Berryessa, outlined to the Board of Supervisors yesterday planned developments with a total cost of nearly three million dollars. The supervisors opened the bids and referred them to the Lake Berryessa Park Commission



for further study. Six earlier proposals on three other areas were referred to the Commission two weeks ago.

In yesterday's proposal, Wesley B. and Elsie G. Plunkett and Donald J. and Bernice M. McFarland, all of Napa, outlined a plan which calls for \$1,751,000 of improvements in the area just north of Capell Creek over a ten-year period. Construction would start immediately upon the awarding of the 20-year lease, with picnic, swimming, boat launching, rental and storage facilities listed among the initial development. A resort lodge will be part of the ultimate plan.

George Moskowite of Moskowite Corners was the lone bidder on the Steele Canyon area, offering to put from \$250,000 to \$750,000 into the area by 1963. The initial development would be the establishment of camping and trailer sites, launching ramps, and picnic areas.

According to George Moskowite's daughter, Moskowite Corners was established by George Moskowite and his wife Dorothy. It all started when people needed gas and something to drink. They owned a little house on Steel Canyon Road that was converted into a small restaurant. They also moved a building from the town of Monticello and established a service station to take care of people needing gas. There were many additions over the years and eventually a bar was added, and the gas station was moved across the road.

By 1961 Lake Berryessa was on everyone's recreation map, and advertising for new lake homes in the Berryessa Highlands saturated the Bay Area and the Sacramento region.

**WELCOME TO Lake Berryessa NAPA COUNTY**

**LAKE BERRYESSA**

**TAKE ONE HALF HOUR OF YOUR TIME**

**FULLY IMPROVED LAKEVIEW HOMESITES \$4,990 10% down — 7 years**

**INVESTMENT POTENTIAL**

**BERRYESSA HIGHLANDS**

**TO NAPA CUTOFF 14**  
**STEELE CANYON RESORT 5**  
**SPANISH FLAT RESORT 9**  
**SPANISH F. STORES MOBI VILLA 10**  
**FOREST SERVICE 11**  
**SUGAR LOAF PARK 12**  
**PARK HEADQUARTERS 13**  
**BERRYESSA MARINA 15**  
**RANCHO MONTICELLO 16**  
**BERRYESSA SUBDIVISION 17**  
**PUTAN CREEK PARK 19**  
**WRAGG CANYON RESORT 13**  
**MARKLEY CANYON RESORT 15**  
**RANCHO CLUB 3**  
**MONTICELLO DAM 10**

**STEELE PARK**, a recreation playland, is adjacent to Berryessa Highlands. A 20-year free pass to Steele Park for all property owners provides recreational facilities for swimming, boating, sailing, marina for launching, shopping center, and a very fine restaurant.

Walk from your home at **Berryessa Highlands** to Steele Park!

**Gentlemen:**  
 410 Clay Street  
 San Francisco, California 94111  
**PHONE 415/392-1307**

Please send a color brochure on beautiful **BERRYESSA HIGHLANDS**, and my free courtesy pass to Steele Park for a day! **SM/5/13**


Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

March 1963 saw the Corners gas station being advertised. February 1965 saw a description of the growing Corners and its peacocks!


**March 1963**

# MOSKOWITE CORNERS

Forrest H. Barnes, Mgr.



THE FAVORITE STOP  
AT THE ENTRANCE  
TO  
*Lake Berryessa*



★ GAS - TIRE SERVICE  
ICE  
SOFT DRINKS

★ FISHING SUPPLIES  
TACKLE  
BAIT - LICENSE

OUTBOARD MOTOR OIL — WE MIX YOUR FUEL

## MOSKOWITE CORNERS

6003 MONTICELLO ROAD      CORNER ROUTES 37 AND 128  
PHONE BA 6-8831

**Saturday, Feb. 27, 1965**

# 'Corner' Long Popular Spot

Since Lake Berryessa has been in existence, Moskowitz Corner has been a familiar stopping-off point for recreation seekers.

George Moskowitz, who established the enterprise and was one of Lake Berryessa's most ardent backers, died last year. The faith he had in Berryessa's future has been carried forward by his son, Harold Moskowitz.

Moskowitz Corner includes a service station, enlarged grocery store, sporting goods supply outlet, restaurant-lunchroom and cocktail lounge. Additions to these services is a trailer sales organization.

In the works for Moskowitz Corner is a 60-unit trailer court, now being established. And Moskowitz is planning to erect a professional (office) building in the area too.

Further extensive development of the area is also in the planning stages.

One of the special — and unusual — tourist attractions at Moskowitz Corner is the flock of peacocks which may be found in the trees and on the grounds throughout the area. The birds have been raised by the Moskowitz family.

**January 21, 1969**

## County Planners Approve Moskowitz Corners Zoning

A commercial parcel at Moskowitz's Corners that will contain such items as a laundromat, beauty shop and trailer park rental offices was approved by Napa County planning commissioners Monday night.

Commissioners unanimously approved the rezoning of land owned by Harold Moskowitz so he could put in the commercial shops to serve trailer park dwellers as well as the general public traveling to and from the Lake Berryessa region.

However, after some discussion, commissioners agreed unanimously to a recommendation that Moskowitz submit a workable plan for the entire SR 128 Steele Park Road Intersection area to be used as policy for ultimate development of that area as a commercial tract. This plan would have to be submitted before commissioners would act on any further zone changes on Moskowitz's land.

In March 1965 Ronald Berry took over Moskowitz Corners which was still owned by Harold Moskowitz.



**March 26, 1965**



**DANGEROUS MONTHS AHEAD**

Harold Moskowitz, second from left, presents a key to Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Berry to symbolize assumption by the Berrys of operation of Moskowitz Corners, a grocery store, sporting goods store and restaurant in Capell Valley near Lake Berryessa. At left is Mary Ann Fong who managed the store for Moskowitz. (Register Photo)


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By the early 1970s The Corners was in full swing. The ambulance service mentioned in the ad below was started by Harold in 1969. The County asked that each concessionaire at the lake install first aid stations at their resorts.


The County Emergency Medical Committee also recommended that the supervisors accept the offer of Harold Moskowitz to provide an ambulance based at Moskowitz Corners. Moskowitz said he would purchase a new ambulance at a cost of about \$10,000 provided the County would agree to subsidize the operation of the same. He said he would man the vehicle for emergency runs to the lake. The County would also have to purchase radio equipment for the ambulance. The service lasted only to 1974 before it was deemed too expensive to continue. It finally ended in October 1974 at the same time the County was ending its management of the lake resorts and handing that responsibility back to the Bureau of Reclamation.

**NEW AND BIGGER THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT — — —**  
**MOSKOWITE CORNERS**  
 THE GATEWAY TO LAKE BERRYESSA



Here's the new look at Moskowitz Corners

- Lake Berryessa Herald Newspaper
- Mobile Home Trailer Park
- Standard Gas and Oil  
(Fully equipped station)
- Beauty Salon **April 1970**
- Laundromat
- Do-Nut Shop
- Moskowitz Ambulance Service  
24 HOUR RADIO DISPATCHED — — — 224-1144



HAROLD MOSKOWITZ  
OWNER & DEVELOPER

• RESTAURANT • COCKTAIL LOUNGE  
 Stop by and see us on your way to or from Lake Berryessa

**MOSKOWITE CORNERS**  
 ALWAYS PLENTY OF PARKING AVAILABLE

**Moskowitz Corners**  
*The Gateway To  
 Lake Berryessa*

**HAS THE NEW LOOK  
 STOP BY AND SEE US ...**

- MOBILEHOME TRAILER PARK
- STANDARD GAS & OIL
- BEAUTY SALON
- LAUNDROMAT **April 1972**
- RESTAURANT
- COCKTAIL LOUNGE
- AMBULANCE SERVICE

*Stop by and see us on your  
 way to or from Lake Berryessa*

**Moskowitz Corners**  
 ALWAYS PLENTY OF PARKING AVAILABLE

Along with the development of the Corners, Harold Moskowitz also created Moskowitz Lake and a dirtairstrip nearby. Harold was a pilot and member and leader of the Sheriff's Aero Squadron.







**July 1972**

*Goodies, goodies, and more goodies, as shown above, were available at Ed's Moskowitz Lounge last Wednesday. Although the Ladies of the Lake regular luncheon, potluck, had been cancelled, many of the ladies decided to go ahead, came anyhow, and had a good time last Wednesday afternoon. Had there not been so much confusion over whether or not the event had actually been cancelled, there would probably have been more to attend and enjoy themselves. Ed would like to thank Milo King for furnishing the hors d'oeuvres, Maggie Leach and her daughter Pat Hayes for cooking them, and everyone else who attended and brought their "goodies!" We are just sorry that more of you weren't there to get in on the good food and the fun and visiting.*

*(Lake Berryessa News Photo.)*

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In 1975 the Moskowitz Lodge was created.



**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

**File No. 75-47**

The following persons are doing business as:

**MOSKOWITE LODGE**

6005 Monticello Road

Napa, California 94558

John G. Rappenecker

5080 Hwy. 128

Napa, California 94558

Mildred J. Rappenecker

5080 Hwy. 128

Napa, California 94558

This business is conducted by John G. Rappenecker. **March 1975**

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A 1975 article raised the possibility of politics in Harold Moskowitz's future.



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In 1976 Harold ran for Napa County supervisor and won. Political as were a bit rudimentary without fast computers and good graphics software.


**FIGHT THE TAX BITE WITH MOSKOWITE**



- BUSINESSMAN
- CIVIC LEADER
- NAPA COUNTY NATIVE
- UNION MEMBER
- OPERATING ENGINEER
- WORKINGMAN
- WORLD WAR II VETERAN
- GRAPE GROWER
- CATTLE RANCHER
- FAMILY MAN
- PILOT
- CAPELL FIRE CHIEF

**ELECT HAROLD MOSKOWITE**  
**DISTRICT FOUR SUPERVISOR**  
And put a Champion In Your Corner

**HAROLD MOSKOWITE**



**BALLOONING GOVERNMENT**

**IS A Practical Successful Businessman who knows soaring Taxes can't be stopped unless constant Government Expenditure is Stopped!**

**HOW MUCH** has Napa County ballooning government expense 1968-1974?

**HOW MANY** of the jobs you want in Napa County will be lost?

**HAROLD MOSKOWITE** will get you out of high business taxes.

**HE WON'T** let a tax man take your job.

**HAROLD MOSKOWITE**

Wants the

**Property taxes Jump Fleeing Big Property Tax Hike of Napa County Taxpayers STOPPED!**

Help Fight The Tax Bite

**ELECT MOSKOWITE**

**NAPA TAXPAYERS! JUNE 8, 1976, IS THE TIME TO REBEL!**

**FIGHT THE TAX BITE NOW!**

**VOTE QUALITY COUNTY OFFICIALS!**

**VOTE FOR MOSKOWITE JUNE 8, 1976!**

**TAKE ACTION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION IS TREASON!**

Help Fight the Tax Bite

**ELECT MOSKOWITE**



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In September 1983, a news item documented the founding of the Berryessa Senior Citizens, Inc. at Moskowitz Corners. Seventy people gathered at Moskowitz Corners to discuss plans to form a senior citizens group in the Berryessa area. A great deal of enthusiasm was expressed over the prospect of a Senior Center in this isolated location of Napa County. Members of the original Steering Committee were C.D. Barnett, Ruth Ennis, Frances Henderson, Ethel Mason, F. Ogden Miller, Robert Pearson, Betty Pederson, Ruth Spiteri, and George Trapp. The Senior Center was located at Moskowitz Corners until the final center was built at Spanish Flat next to the Monticello Cemetery.

Friday, February 17, 1984      The NAPA REGISTER—15



**February 1984**

**Lake Berryessa Senior Center Opens**

A new senior citizen center, supported entirely by donations from the community, opened this week next door to the Moskowitz Corners firehouse at Lake Berryessa. The center, left, already boasts 125 dues-paying members, according to center chairman Bob Pearson. The center's vice president is Ruth Spiteri, shown at far left in the photo above during open house ceremonies Tuesday. Membership fees are \$10 per person, but the center has been receiving much assistance from service organizations like by the Berryessa Lions Club, institutions like Queen of the Valley Hospital and individuals like Fourth District Supervisor Harold Moskowitz. Donations to the non-profit center are tax-deductible and can be made by calling Pearson at 566-0229. The center already is receiving help from the Napa-Solano Agency on Aging food program and is preparing to apply for federal and state funds. It is open to persons 50 years of age or older from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. (Register photos)

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The 1988 issues of the Lake Berryessa News featured Moskowitz Corners businesses.

**BUSINESS OF THE WEEK**



Bob Pearce

**10th Anniversary for Bob Pearce's Union 76**

It is the tenth anniversary of the "Union 76" gas station operated by Bob Pearce at Moskowitz Corners. Pearce and his wife Darlene vacationed at Lake Berryessa from Thousand Oaks, California many years ago and decided to make a home here. At that time, Bob was the road manager for entertainer Jimmy Durante and several of their daughters were "The Pearce Sisters", a musical group that headlined with Durante's act over the world. (Note: Mr. & Mrs. Pearce have 13 children. Watch for future story about Bob's past career!)

For a semi-retired person, Pearce is one of the hardest working people you could meet. The station provides automotive and marine service, auto towing, marine supplies, bait, tackle, minnows, propane and good conversation to travelers needing direction or information. They are also open 7 days a week, with winter hours of 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Happy Anniversary, Bob. Let's make it another 10 years!

**Lake Berryessa News 1988 Business of the week**



**MONTICELLO GENERAL STORE**  
 Located at the Moskowitz Corners complex where Highway 121 and 128 intersect is the Monticello General Store. Named after an historic town that was once in the Berryessa valley before the flood, this eatery and store has made some local history of its own in the last three years. If you've ever had a chance to try the "Big Dam Burger" or the new prime rib cuts they prepare, you know the "the store" is the place to eat. Owners Bob and Lagonda McDonald describe their style as "OLD FASHIONED" cooking, where their whole staff gets in on the recipes and decides what tastes best. If you've ever wondered why all those cars are always parked out front when you pass the "Monticello General Store," the answer is good food. Breakfast, lunch or dinner we suggest you try this eatery soon.

**Moss Creek Winery near Completion 1988**

**MOSKOWITZ CORNERS** - Perhaps you've passed the lovely stone building being built at Moskowitz Corners and wondered what it will be when completed. No, it isn't a church, it is a winery, called the Moss Creek Winery and it is being built by our 4th district supervisor Harold Moskowitz. The building was designed by architect Bob Keenan of Napa, and with the stone covering, looks as naturally at home as the grapes growing nearby.

In talking with Harold about his new venture, I found out that the winery should be completed in January, leaving him time before the crush to campaign for re-election in June. I had the opportunity to tour the inside of the building, and was very impressed with what I saw. The winery has the facilities for both crushing and bottling, with a tasting room dividing the work areas. There will be kitchen facilities, along with a banquet room upstairs, which can be rented for special occasions. Harold has a small office with a view of Highway 121 - 128 intersection.

Outside, Mr. Moskowitz plans on landscaping around the winery, leaving an area under the oak trees for picnicking. The hill directly East of the winery will be dug out for wine storage and aging.

When asked what types of wines he will be bottling, Mr. Moskowitz said that he was unsure just yet, that he has a consultant to help make the decisions about the wines because this type of venture is so new to him.

When asked what prompted him to try his hand as a vintner, Continued on page 3

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In 1988 Lake Berryessa was a happening place.

**World Class WATER SKI CENTER**  
 Water Ski Instruction Equipment - Skis, Boats  
 Conspicuous Mark, Ladies & Children  
 Schwinn Ice Skis, Ice & Play  
 Consoles, Tables, Tables & More  
 Plus Water Ski Equipment - Call!  
 Schedules SPECIAL:  
 Buy One - Get One FREE  
 on all items in Stock. (Some  
 limited time only)  
 (707) 966-2441  
**California Boat Sales**  
 Stevie Peak Resort, Lake Berryessa

**SWAMP COOLER SERVICE**  
 Reasonable Rates  
 Package Deal for  
 winterizing/summiting  
 Call 966-0036

**Local Auto Mechanic**  
 Free estimates, honest work, etc.  
 "No Job Too Big Or Small"  
 Complete Auto Inspections  
 (707) 966-0632

**New Office**  
 Cathy Conyers Estates  
 700 Central Ave. Ste. B  
 Napa, Ca. 94558  
 (707) 253-0399

**Bob Pearce Union 76 Moskowitz Corners**  
 We have 88 Octane Leaded Gas for Boats  
 Auto & Marine Parts & Repairs  
 Bottom Cleaning • Boat Storage • Tack & Tackle  
 Open 10 7 p.m. Fri., Sat., & Sun.  
 (707) 226-8844 near Mt. Berryessa Blvd. One 1/2 Mile  
 8200 Monticello Road, Napa

**Real Estate Wanted**  
 A Seasonal County clients  
 A Looking for Santa Thomas  
 A Proder "For Sale" by owners  
 A we can negotiate a service  
 A charge  
 A Fish Outdoors Century 21  
 A Agent "Anne Brady" (707) 253-0600  
 A 258-5000  
**Attention Fishermen!**  
 "SCOTTY"  
 Emergencies and Accidents  
 Dredging \$16.00  
 Ditch King \$25.00  
**ASHLAND HARDWARE**  
 San Leandro  
 (415) 551-2663

**Steele Park Resort**  
**BOATING FISHING CAMPING**  
 180 Complete • 87 Park with Hook-Up • Day Use Area  
 140 Boat Storage • 7000 sq. ft. of Covered  
 Garden Cottages with Kitchens  
 Lakeside College of Business with Kitchen  
**MARINA • GROCERY STORE**  
**RESTAURANTS**  
 Harbor Cove Restaurant, Bar, and Diner  
 The Captain's Lounge Restaurant and Bar  
**AND MUCH MORE**  
 Swimming Pool • Tennis Courts  
 500 Motor and Pro Shop • Ice Cream Parlor  
 Great Year Round • 7000 sq. ft. of  
 1000 sq. ft. of outdoor storage  
**STEELE PARK RESORT, INC.**  
 188 Steeles Canyon Road, Napa, CA 94558  
 OR Phone: (707) 966-2151 or Toll Free: 800-422-0258

**Mobilehome for Sale**  
 12 by 56  
 2 bedroom Lakemont  
 expanded living room,  
 Large Deck 3/4 Carpet,  
 Storage Sheds, Totally  
 Furnished, TV,  
 Microwave, Ch. Sofas,  
 Beds,  
 \$51,500  
 415-952-2623

**Mobilehome for Sale**  
 17 X 35 w/ extra room  
 steps to Lake view, with  
 boat dock. Furnished,  
 recently redone, all new  
 kitchen and bath, carpets,  
 wallpaper, seller motivated.  
 \$37,500  
 Don & Julie Cole  
 1825 329-1304

**Berryessa Highlands Red Carpet Camellia Realty**  
 View and no-view, improved building lots... \$6,500 - \$38,000  
 Year-round, custom 2.5, 4, bedroom homes... \$11,000 - \$148,000  
 Country atmosphere, mature facilities  
 minutes away. Maps Available Contact:  
 Audrey Rose 966-8666

**Rancho Monticello Resort**  
 Full Service Resort, Camping,  
 Launching, Store, Restaurant, Gift  
 Lavatories, Boat Repair  
 Multihome Resort  
 Monticello Land Sales  
 13 to choose from, \$12,000 and up  
 Agent available 7 days a week  
 707-866-2719  
 6590 Knoxville Rd., Lake Berryessa  
 (707) 966-2188 (707) 966-2216  
**UNION**

**Lake Berryessa South Shore Resort**  
 Camping  
 Boat Launching  
 Propane  
 Grocery Store  
 Restaurant - Lounge  
 Marina - Gas  
 6100  
 Hwy. 128  
 Napa  
 966-2172

**MONTICELLO GENERAL STORE**  
 Now Featuring a New Improved Dinner Menu  
 Open Year Round For Your Convenience  
 Deep Fried Fisherman's Dinner Steak  
 BBQ Chicken Chicken Fried Steak  
 Homemade Desserts  
 Plus a Nightly Special including  
 Full Course Dinner for \$15.95 (Serves 2)  
 Special Dinners Wed. thru Sat. 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
 Grinders Country Breakfast Lunch  
 Regular Menu 7 Days a Week

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A letter to the editor of the Napa Register in 1999 complaining about the infamous "Rap Concerts" indicates that the Corners was run by Barbara Bray and partner.

## Lake merchant reacts to concert

Dear editor,

In response to the front-page article July 18 regarding the "Berryessa Rap Concert":

The picture was taken at my business, The Corners, formerly known as Moskowitz Corners. It has taken a few days to get my thoughts together in a somewhat intelligent manner.

First, I want to thank the law enforcement agencies that were on hand to keep order.

Next, I want to thank the surrounding community members, Cal Trans, and anyone involved in the massive clean-up of our area. Some of the young people who live here helped with tears being shed because of what was done to the area that they live in. Without this, we would have been unable to open for business. Again, the plans to keep control of this event went array.

Yes, we did not have any serious incidents, but there were drug deals being made in my parking lot. Pot smoking in my business, alcohol consumption beyond legal, urinating and defecating in public, yards and yards of litter, etc., etc. The general response to my concerns was to close the business. Yes, we could and yes we did, much earlier than normal. Is this really fair? Everybody has the right to gather together wherever they wish.

Please understand that this is not racially motivated. Knowing that this was going to happen, perhaps there should have been more receptacles for garbage and portable toilet facilities. I wonder what the response would have been if this event was planned right in the middle of beautiful Napa Valley or if the group invaded down-town Napa? Would the plan be different? Would any arrests have been made for breaking the law? How long do we have to endure this and continue to pay for this?

Can we find a way to have someone take responsibility for the event therefore shifting the

burden by requiring the correct permits, security, parking control, shuttle service, clean-up and so forth? I am sure it had to cost the county a lot of money to pay for the extra law enforcement needed and for the clean-up involved, thus, costing the taxpayers. Is there anyway we can turn this event into a positive conclusion?

I dare those involved in the decision making regarding this event to come up with answers to these questions. It will take much more planning on the part of all of us.

Barbara J. Bray  
Owner/Partner  
The Corners at Lake  
Berryessa

**July 28, 1999**

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On Sunday, August 25, 2002, the Napa Register highlighted the Corners community  
Moskowitz Corners: Community at a crossroads

Moskowitz Corners doesn't look like much. It's a fork in the road near Lake Berryessa where a few small businesses, a church, and a mobile home park have nestled. Anyone racing up to the lake for boating or fishing can zip by and pay it no mind. If they stop for a fill-up or resupply, they quickly move on. But for some, Moskowitz Corners is a community, a place where all the essentials of life come together. Everyone turns out to be friendly, even the guys who roared up Corners Bar on Harleys.

The residents of Moskowitz Corners live a world away from Napa and the Napa Valley. People are up here because it isn't the city. They're ordinary folks. People hang out at Jeri's Got Gas, the Moskowitz Corners Store and the Corners Bar. On Wednesday night the Community Church, a non-denominational congregation, has a weeknight session of singing and prayer. The pace of life is different at the Corners. Some of the 120-plus residents have jobs in Napa in Vacaville but at night come back to the tranquility of their place in the country.

Moskowitz Corners sits at the junction of Monticello Road and highway 128. It's the unofficial gateway to Lake Berryessa, the reservoir and recreation area created by the federal government in the 1950s. With the completion of the dam and subsequent inundation of the Town of Monticello, the Corners grew into the community it is today. Tourism keeps the place alive. Cucina Italiana, the Corners' dining establishment, serves simple fare by day and fancier cuisine at night.



Jeri's Got Gas, run by Jeri Crawford, a single mom with a family to support, reopened early this summer to tap into the stream of RVs and SUVs that sail by. Without many nighttime entertainment options, teenagers from the Corners meet at Jeri's Got Gas in the evening to hang out. Moskowitz Corners may look like just another blip on the landscape, but it's not. For some, it's home.

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In 2007 Ron Watt opened the Corners Café and Shopping Plaza. The owner was one of the co-owners of Spanish Flat Resort, Lee Johnson. The business was unsuccessful. Ron Watt went on to run the Berryessa Quick Stop in the closed gas station across the Steele Canyon Road from the Corners. It too was unsuccessful.



## The Corners Cafe

Under New Management!

Come by and meet Ron & the new staff.



<p><b>Restaurant Open</b>  <b>Breakfast &amp; Lunch</b>            9 A.M. - 2 P.M.  <b><u>Dinners Soon!</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Breakfast</u></b></p> <p>The Corners Slam: <del>\$9.99</del>            3 eggs, 2 pancakes, &amp;            3 sausage or bacon</p> <p>Biscuits &amp; Gravy, Pancakes,            French Toast, Omelets</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Lunch</u></b></p> <p>Burgers, Chili, BLT,            Tuna Sandwich            Chili Fries, Cheesy Fries            &amp; MORE...</p> 	<p><b>Store Open</b>            7 Days / Week at 7 A.M.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Fully-Stocked</u></b></p> <p>Milk, Eggs,            Cheese, Bread            Sodas, Beer, &amp; Liquor            Coffee &amp; Pastries            Home-Made Cookies!</p> <p>Adding New Items Weekly!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>FOOD TO GO!</u></b></p> <p>Pre-Made Sandwiches &amp;            Hot Dogs</p> 	<p><b>Saloon Open</b>            7 Days a Week</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Fully-Stocked Bar</u></b></p> <p>Appetizers, Snacks            Nachos, Chili,            Spaghetti, Hot Dogs</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Big Screen TV</u></b></p> <p>Every Night            Something Different!</p> <p>Mon. Night Football Potluck            Wed. Night Pool Tournament            Sat. Night Karaoke</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Happy Hour M-F, 4-7 P.M.</u></b></p> 
<p>Restaurant            Orders To Go:            Pick up on the            way to work or on            the way home!</p>	<p><b>Call For More Information:</b></p> <p><b>Store: 251- 9458</b></p> <p><b>Cafe: 251- 9458</b></p> <p><b>Saloon: 251- 9784</b></p>	<p>Restaurant Open            for Community            Meetings and            Banquets.</p>

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Jim Keller bought the property in 2008 in a bankruptcy sale for \$1.1 million in September 2008. And in April 2009: Mike Schildknecht and Jim Keller hoped to make Berryessa Corners a community gathering place for nearby residents. The business became the Berryessa Corners in January 2009; the restaurant and the bar were all open by May 2009. Mike's sudden and unexpected death on June 9, 2009, left the whole Lake Berryessa community in shock. The Berryessa Corners enterprise ended with him. An article in the Napa Register at the time described the high hopes that Mike and Jim had for the business.

New store, bar, restaurant at Moskowitz Corners, by Mike Treleven, Apr 30, 2009

Mike Schildknecht and Jim Keller hope to make Berryessa Corners a community gathering place for nearby residents. Keller purchased Moskowitz Corners, which had been in bankruptcy, and is launching a store and restaurant. Some old-timers in Napa County refer to the intersection of highways 121 and 128 as the Corners. Most know the crossroads near Steele Park at the southern end of Lake Berryessa by its more formal name, Moskowitz Corners. The grocery store, restaurant, bar and two outdoor patios at the corner have been shuttered for a while and in bankruptcy.

Napan Jim Keller purchased the one-acre retail center in September 2008 and is giving the place a much-needed face-lift. "We are after all, the gateway to Lake Berryessa. We are the first impression that most people get when driving up here to go to the lake. So it's important to make a good impression," said Michael Schildknecht, who will be operating the retail businesses for Keller.

The two men are changing the name of the retail outpost to Berryessa Corners. "But for many it will always be The Corners," said Schildknecht. Keller said he paid about \$1 million for the 6,000 square feet of store, restaurant, bar and two outdoor patios. He said he has "invested thousands of dollars cleaning the place up" so that improvements can be made. "We are not just investors trying to make money but are trying to blend in and be a part of the community," Keller said. "We are here to cater to the locals and not so much the tourists," Schildknecht said.

For Schildknecht that means having a well-stocked grocery store where residents can buy not just chips, soda and beer, but all the items for fixing a home-cooked meal. Shoppers will now find shelves of pastas, soups, bread, fresh vegetables, eggs, milk and more. Schildknecht said that 75 percent of the area locals have told him they've never come into the place before, and he's aiming to turn that around.

Lake Berryessa is headed for what may be a slow summer, with at least four of the lake's seven private resorts expected to be closed for a second consecutive summer as the transition from old operators to new continues to be hammered out by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Yet Schildknecht and Keller believe that the lake will thrive when things settle down and that they hope to help set the tone. "We are trying to be visionaries. We think this place has a lot of potential." Both men said the locals seem to be embracing the changes going on at Berryessa Corners. Unfortunately, Mike died unexpectedly that year and his Corners dreams ended.



Above: Michael Schildknecht and Jim Keller



Now  
Open  
for  
Breakfast  
Saturday  
&  
Sunday  
8 A.M.

## Berryessa Corners



The  
Corners  
Bar  
Is  
Open!  
  
Totally  
Remodelled

*Mike's BBQ - 11 A.M. - 9 P.M. ~ BBQ, Burgers, and More...*  
*Phone-in your to-go order: 707-255-5502*

Berryessa Corners Store is open from 6 AM until 9 PM every day.  
Coffee & muffins for your morning wake-up. Large selection of groceries and cooking items.

**Berryessa Corners at "The Y" ~ Intersection of Hwy 121, Hwy 128, and Steele Canyon Road**



\*\*\*\*\*

In August 2010 Jim Winchell and his family took the business over under lease from Keller and opened the Crossroads at Lake Berryessa. They had a great pizza shop and restaurant and remodeled the bar. Unfortunately, they did not have a liquor license and could only serve beer and wine. After a couple of years of hard work, with no help from the delayed rebuilding of Steele Park Resort by Pensus, the Crossroads closed in March 2012.

**Grocery  
Store**

Ice  
Beer  
Soda  
Snacks  
Dairy

**Lounge**

8 Draft  
Beers  
Happy Hour  
4 HD TVs  
Weekly  
Promotions



***The Crossroads  
at Lake Berryessa***

**Summer Hours:**

**Grocery Store: 7:30 AM - 9:30 PM**

**Restaurant: 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM**

**Lounge: Opens at 12:00 PM**

**Restaurant**

Breakfast  
Prime Rib  
Friday &  
Saturday  
French Dip  
Deli  
Sandwiches  
Burgers  
Pasta  
Pizza

At the Crossroads of of Hwy 121, Hwy 128,  
and Steele Canyon Road (Moskowite Corners)  
Phone: 707-255-5455  
Email: [thecrossroadslakeberryessa@yahoo.com](mailto:thecrossroadslakeberryessa@yahoo.com)  
Facebook: The Crossroads at Lake Berryessa





## Goodbye from the Winchell Family

It is with heavy hearts and deep sorrow that we are writing this article to inform you, the people who have become like family to us, deep regrets that we are closing the doors to "The Crossroads At Lake Berryessa." When I (Jim), sat in the empty parking lot almost 2 years ago now, counting the cars that passed by as prospective patrons, the path to which I was heading down was much like Rte.121 or Rte.128...a long and winding road. It was a road that led our family to embark upon an adventure we will keep in our hearts forever.

When we opened for business in August of 2010, we were greeted with curious neighbors, thankful bikers, and many more of you that would become "regulars." We made some changes, first and foremost, its new name, "The Crossroads At Lake Berryessa," applied fresh paint here and there, and updated the bar for casual dining or watching the Super Bowl with friends.

We had some of the hardest and dedicated employees. They were always willing to "work over" or "come in early," depending on the specific needs of the day. Eventually as business slowed down shortly after Labor Day and the campers and boaters went back to school or work, we did have to let some of our staff go. We thank them all, especially Molly, Tyler, Steve, Pat, Jenn, and our sons, Jim and Shawn, for hanging in with us to the end.

Whether you came on a bicycle for a banana and vitamin water, on a Harley for hot coffee and warm apple pie or stop in on Friday evening for a rib eye steak for you and tacos for her or stopping by to pick up 6-pack and a pizza on the way up to the Highlands, it was all appreciated. Ice for the cooler and wood for the campfire seemed to fly out the door. We enjoyed the most when the "little ones" would come with pockets and hands full of coins or maybe even a 1-dollar bill and stand and look over all the candy for what seemed to be forever, before they finally made a choice!

Your every purchase, kind words of gratitude for our presence, and the manner in which you took our family into yours, does not go unnoticed. Circumstances beyond our control are unfortunately forcing us to close. So, as we exit the building for the last time as "The Crossroads At Lake Berryessa," the sounds of the motors winding thru the valley let you know the guys and gals in leather are on their way. Sorry we missed you and God speed to you all.

With Great Love For All, Jim, Pat, Shawn and Jim III

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Jim Keller listed the Crossroads at Lake Berryessa in 2011 for sale for \$1.29 million but was unable to find a buyer. After the Winchell family left there was no interest until Yevo Jeworowski opened a brew pub, Steele Canyon Saloon, in early 2016. Berryessa Highlands folks would finally have a place to go again for groceries, food, drink, and socializing. Yevo will open Steele Canyon Brewery and Steele Canyon Pizza in October. He and his partner are installing a mini brewery now. The Steele Canyon Saloon has a liquor license and will serve a full range of cocktails along with delicious craft brews, pizza, and appetizers. Yevo also acquired a partner, Greeley Wright, to open a market in the site.

Yevo had previously run Boone's Saloon in the Spanish Flat Village Center. Under a special California law that allowed liquor to be served in brew pubs, he was able to open a full bar. He invested tens of thousands of dollars in new brewing equipment and improvements. Unfortunately, he had not factored in the new state water quality regulations that had been passed regarding beer brewing systems. His effluent would not pass the new standards without an upgrade to the wastewater system run by the owners of the Capell Valley Estates across the road, which declined to do so. Despite some good bands and great times, he was forced to close the Steele Canyon Saloon before the end of 2016.



## **Steele Canyon Saloon and Pizza**

**Locally Brewed Beer and Full Bar**

**M-T-W: 4 PM - Midnight**

**Th: 4 - 11PM; Fri: 4PM - 2 AM**

**Sat: Noon - 2AM; Sun: Noon - 11PM**

**Hand Tossed Pizza Made To Order**

**Wed - Fri: 4 PM - 9 PM**

**Sat: 11AM - 9PM**

**At "The Corners"**

**6003 Monticello Road**

**707-255-5010**



After the demise of the Steele Canyon Saloon, the Corners site remained closed with no buyers in sight.

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On January 11, 2019, Moskowitz Corners was sold by Jim Keller to Thuyen Tran of Oakland for approximately \$699,000. Tran, who comes from the restaurant industry, said he bought the parcel because he has great confidence he can create a destination for both locals and visitors. Jim Keller carried the financing on it, but it took so long to revive after the pandemic, fires and closure of Lake Berryessa resorts, that Tran decided he didn't want to move forward and essentially, he gave it back to Keller.

Keller recently listed the property for sale for \$649,000. He said that to bring it up to current standards, it would cost probably half a million to a million dollars depending on what the buyer wanted to do there. He said he doesn't see anything really happening for another two years with that property until new concessioners start building their resorts. Napa County in October 2021 decided to negotiate with Sun Communities to redevelop and run Spanish Flat, Steele Canyon and Monticello Shores resorts.

A few years ago, Jim Keller told me that he had approached several mini market chains like 7/11 and Kwik Trip to locate at the Corners. None expressed interest. The success of the Corners has always been tied to the success of Lake Berryessa as a recreation destination, especially the Steele Canyon Recreation Area, formerly Steele Park Resort. The Sun Lake Berryessa revitalization of Steele Canyon Recreation Area and Spanish Flat Recreation Area is scheduled for 2024 completion.


As of June 2022, the continuing history of Moskowitz Corners is still being written.




RETAIL

## FOR SALE

\$975,000



Coldwell  
Banker  
Commercial  
Brokers of the Valley



6003-6005 Monticello Road, Napa, CA 94558

### MOSKOWITE CORNERS

#### Property Information

**SF**

- ± 6,500 SF Building on
- ± 0.7100 Acres

**PRICE**

- \$975,000
- Price per Square Foot: \$150

**Features**

Zoned for commercial such as restaurants, bar, market and more. High visibility and easy access. Extensive frontage on both sides of the highways. The only commercial establishment in the immediate area. Ample parking with 50 plus parking spaces, which attracts numerous motorcyclists and bikers every weekend.

#### Executive Summary

**Property Features**

- Zoned Commercial Limited
- APN#: 032-150-002-000
- Several Vineyards within a 10-Mile Radius
- Downtown Napa just 20 Minutes away
- Located in Historic Moskowite Corners
- Free Standing Bldg, One Story, Built in 1960
- County/Area: Napa County/Berryessa Area
- At the Corner of Major Busy Highway
- Intersections: 128/121
- 10 Min. Away to Lake Berryessa

**Aurora McKnight**  
Broker Associate - CABRE#01329814  
(707) 280-4508 - amcknight@cbnapavalley.com

**NAPACOMMERCIALPROPERTIES.COM**

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1775 Lincoln Ave., Napa, CA 94558  
(707) 258-5200

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Napa County's Moskowite Corner gets new owners, again - July 10, 2022, Napa Register

The Lake Berryessa pit stop at the location known to generations of visitors as Moskowite Corner has new owners. Phil and Tamra McGill of Walnut Creek area bought the parcel from its previous owner, Jim Keller. The nearly one-acre property sold for \$579,000, according to the transfer tax recorded June 24.

“The lake has always been something precious to me,” said Phil McGill. “My grandfather bought a place at Rancho Monticello at 1960s. I’ve been going up there my whole life.”

The McGill family hopes to turn the Moskowite Corner property into a coffee bar, offering quick-service food and beverages and eventually food and wine, said McGill. In the future, it could include a small market.

“My wife and I want that place to be thriving,” said McGill, whose family runs a six-bed care facility in Walnut Creek.