



Pedersen Park History

Floyd and Mel Pedersen were responsible for beginning the Laguna area developments. Floyd made his first land purchase in the area in 1966. By 1970, he had 3,200 acres from Highway 99 to Franklin, on both sides of Elk Grove Blvd., and up to Sheldon Road. Between 1970 and 1980 he and his brother Mel planned a development to cover 5,000 acres in the Laguna area. In 1980, after many years of hearings and environmental studies, their plans were approved. In 1984, property was sold to various developers, while they developed Laguna Woods and built homes on 357 lots adjacent to Valley Hi Country Club.

The brothers were two of nine children born to Alfred and Signa Pedersen. Floyd has 10 children, 34 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Mel has eight children, and two grandchildren. They were born in Danville, California. Their family moved to Brentwood in 1934.

Mel majored in industrial arts in high school. Then he signed up for four years in the Air Force where he learned photo mapping. He used these skills compiling target charts and maps from aerial photos and interrogation reports. After he left the Air Force, Mel attended Brigham Young University, majoring in Art and Architectural Drawing. In 1959, he enrolled in the School of Architecture and Allied Arts at the University of Oregon to pursue a degree in Landscape architecture. His architectural skills were used over the years doing both aerial and ground surveying, designing homes, parks, and sub-divisions, as a City Planner, and Special Projects Planner. He was also active in sports and outdoor life. In high school Mel was named most valuable player in football, at BYU he pole vaulted for the BYU track team. While in Oregon he enjoyed camping, hiking, and fishing, incorporating these activities with summer surveying of virgin forests with the Forest Service.

Floyd spent much of his life involved in various aspects of farming, progressing into real estate, land planning, and contracting. In the early 1940's, he was Labor Coordinator for East Contra Costa County, owner and operator of an 125 acre Delta farm (also leasing and operating an additional 225 acres), and started a Farm Management business focusing on orchards and field crops on 200-1,000 acre farms. For two years he included sales of farm and industrial equipment and prefabricated steel buildings to his busy schedule. In 1948, Floyd became an active Real Estate Broker, specializing in Land Planning and Development in Contra Costa and Sacramento Counties. In 1952, he added contracting custom buildings. Ten years later he retired, but after he began buying land and planning the Laguna development, decided to go into business with his brother. They now own and operate Laguna Creek Landscaping.

The information within this document was created at the time of park dedication and may not be current.