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Deer drink along 43 mile shoreline of man-made lake in 12,000-acre vacation homes project

Swiss-Like Mountains Backdrop For an Almost Forgotten Valley

A \$1 million - plus recreational complex including a restaurant with a 360-degree view is under construction at Century Ranch in Colusa County, 136 miles north of Oakland.

The 12,000 - acre holding, known until recently as Indian Valley, has been almost forgotten since a century ago when it was famed for its health spas.

Now, framing a man-made lake with a 43 - mile shoreline, the land resembles an immense quiet foothill meadow free of both smog and haze.

On the west, Century Ranch is bounded by five million acres of federal forest preserve, Snow Mountain and Mt. St. John, though only 7,000 feet tall, provide an Alpine vista and in winter a place for skiing. In the spring the hillsides are covered with wild flowers.

The developer of Century Ranch is Dr. Rolf W. Peter, of Palo Alto, a Swiss-born electronics scientist, author and inventor. He was taken with the land because of its terrain and mountain skyline.

Although Colusa County was settled in 1850, its pioneers were not gold rush people but farmers attracted by the beauty and fertility of the land.

In later years as railroads and roads developed north from the Bay, none reached into Indian Valley which is hidden from Route 5 by a long row of mountains five miles to the west.

East Park reservoir is stocked with black bass and also contains trout. Boat enthusiasts with sail-

boats and outboards will find a launching facility at Marina Point. There is a stable for riding horses.

A network of green belt has been set aside permanently to connect homesites with the parkland and trails around the lake.

Century Ranch is reached via Freeway 88, turning off on State Route 5 near Vacaville to Williams, thence Maxwell, with a west turn at Maxwell.

The 5,000 - square - foot clubhouse will overlook a golf course, tennis courts, condominium apartments, and a pool.

Bonds have been taken out to ensure completion of the promised facilities, Peter said.

There also will be an airstrip.

To date this year some 350 lots have been sold. Site preparation for another 1,000 is under way.

Price range is \$4,900 to \$39,900 with size ranging from one-third acre to 1 1/2 acres.