

# The Holiday Herald

17 December 2021

Towns of Mount Shasta City and Weed, Siskiyou County, California

*The weather  
outside  
is frightful*



*Montana dog & his pal*

Mount Shasta Boulevard  
Mount Shasta City

A map showing where I shot these pictures and a story about the region are on pages 7 and 8.



# *Klamath Mountains*

College Avenue  
City of Weed



*Dream Inn*

Chestnut Street  
Mount Shasta City



*Pasture*

North Old Stage Road  
City of Weed



*Trees & fence*

W.A. Barr Road  
Mount Shasta City



*Black Butte*

North Old Stage Road  
City of Weed

OREGON

# Where did I go?

City of Weed \*  
Mount Shasta City \*

Mount Shasta  
14,179 ft / 4,322 m



CENTRAL VALLEY  
(Sacramento Valley)

SIERRA NEVADA

PACIFIC OCEAN

# *The weather outside is frightful*

Because of Covid, it's been two years since the last time I made a trip to snow country to shoot pictures for my holiday newsletters.

I've been doing them since 2009, usually by driving into the Sierra around Lake Tahoe. But in [2010](#) and [2013](#), I visited the mountains of far northern California for the newsletters, and I used some pictures from those trips to illustrate [last year's newsletter](#), when I was cooped up at home. I returned this year because it had been such a long time since my last visit and because a blizzard was on the way. Snow, after all, is the active ingredient in this trip's recipe.

Mount Shasta and Siskiyou County, where it's located, are different from the California most people know.

Shasta is a volcano, which immediately sets it apart from ordinary mountains. Its peak was not visible through the snow clouds on my trip this past week. But the mountain's summit, at 14,180 feet / 4,322 meters, means it is snow-capped all year. Seven glaciers flow down its sides: Bolam, Hotlum, Konwakiton, Mud Creek, Watkins, Whitney and Wintun. They formed since the mountain's most recent eruption in 1786, and their meltwater feeds the Sacramento River, which flows 400 miles south to San Francisco Bay.

Siskiyou County covers more than 6,300 square miles / 16,440 square kilometers, [placing it between the states of New Jersey and Connecticut in area](#). But its 45,000 people are fewer than half those who live in my city council district in San Jose. The county supervisors voted 4-1 in 2013 to secede from California, [an attempt to inspire surrounding counties in California and Oregon to join in creating a new state called Jefferson](#), which has been talked about since at least 1941. Neither state's legislature nor the U.S. Congress – each of whose approvals would be necessary – seem interested.

The county is also the site of [Lava Beds National Monument](#), created by prehistoric lava flows from Shasta and the scene of the near death of Alfred B. Meacham – no known relation – [which I wrote about last summer](#).

Mount Shasta City, at the base of its namesake volcano, is a tourist and lumber town of 3,400. Just up the road is Weed, a town of 2,800 named for its lumberman-founder but with a contemporary sense of humor about itself reflected in the widely sold "I ♥ Weed" T-shirts and downtown shops like [The Weed Store](#), [Enjoy Weed](#) and [La Florista Cannabis](#).

Only about 10 feet / 3 meters of snow falls each winter in these two towns – each of them at about 3,500 feet / 1,000 meters elevation. Wednesday's snowfall accomplished 15% of that. Next summer, some of that snowmelt will be flowing our way. For that, we can be thankful.



Soul  
Connections

# *Holiday decorations*

Mount Shasta Boulevard  
Mount Shasta City