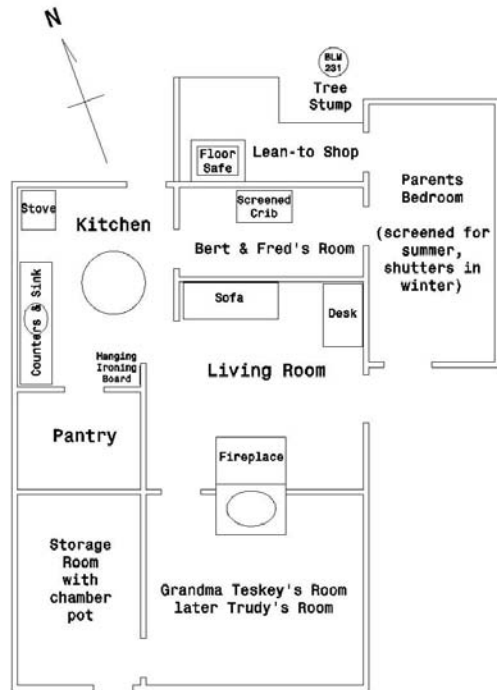




Teskey home site looking south - November 2012



Aerial photo courtesy Joe Vogel December 2009

# Welcome to the Historic Teskey Home Site on Big Bug Creek 1940 - 1948



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## Teskey Home Site

Cornelius “Colonel” Teskey built this home for his wife Phoebe and daughter Trudy in 1940. Their sons Bert and Fred would arrive soon after. All that is left today is the house foundation, chimney and the hand dug well.

They grew hay, grain and pinto beans in the fields south of the house and east of the creek. Irrigation water came down a canal from a mile up stream on the Big Bug and filled a reservoir at the south end of the fields. A canal from the reservoir irrigated the fields south of the house and water was piped across the creek to the fields on the east side. Phoebe had a small vegetable garden near the house.

The family ran a successful cattle and horse operation. Colonel Teskey worked the fields, maintained the irrigation system and ranch buildings and worked at a nearby manganese mine. Phoebe broke horses and rode the range tending cattle. Daughter Trudy, at a young age, helped with the roundup of cattle at shipping time. Sons Bert and Fred played with their toys and piled on the donkey for rides. Occasionally some of the town boys would help out during summer recess from school.

Phoebe’s parents, Fred and Gertrude Dugas, owned the Dugas Ranch about eight miles northeast of here along Sycamore Creek. Phoebe and the children often rode their horses to the ranch to visit. The family moved to Mayer and then to the Dugas Ranch in 1948 after Colonel Teskey sold this property to a neighboring rancher.

The Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument took on the project to preserve the site. The site was fenced with a barbed wire fence reminiscent of a period fence by one of Colonel and Phoebe’s grandsons. Railroad tie steps were put in to create the entrance and an interpretive sign was placed to tell the story of the site. The concrete foundation, chimney and well were stabilized to prevent further decay. Fill dirt was brought in to stop erosion into the site. After the trash was removed from the well, it was filled to ground level to prevent the walls from collapsing.

The Friends and BLM hosted a dedication ceremony on December 12, 2009 with speakers, lunch and cake. Eighty people attended including twenty three members of the Teskey family.

All information provided by the Teskey and Birkemeyer families.

