

# Junk is a scar on the face of Brookdale Lodge

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**BROOKDALE** — She's like a child who scrubs her face clean but is slow to wash behind her ears.

The face of Brookdale Lodge is pleasantly clean these days — its bar and shops doing OK — but neighbors still have reason to complain.

For they see more than her

scrubbed face when they come home, they get a constant view of the lodge's cluttered backside.

A short trip around the back of the lodge toward the Brookdale community is a trip from neat to messy: from clean to a clutter of three or four gut-spilling cars, an abandonment of industrial washers and dryers, and a loosely fenced yard of

hotel debris that includes paint-peeled cabinets and broken window sashes.

The mistress of the lodge says the owner, Allen Hoskins is trying to get it all cleaned up.

"We're putting our best effort to bring this lodge up to its heyday," says manager Marylee Carter from her small office in the historic lodge.

Her office, off the dark wood-paneled lobby, is arrayed with memories of the past. A bevy of beautiful china dolls adorn the desk and shelves.

The office fits the woman behind the desk.

Carter and her husband, Richard, took over as managers and leasees in October 1984, selling a 14-year-old dry cleaning business in Boulder Creek.

A recent article in the Valley Press took the lodge and another Brookdale business to task for failing to keep their houses in order. The publicity made her physically ill, she said.

"I think it's very unfair. There's only one abandoned car left and I think it came from (another business). They're nothing but a problem.

"I've been sick since I read the story three days ago."

But, it's not only the newspaper that has noticed the lodge's condition, it's the county government that listens to neighbors' complaints.

County Planner Bob Leggett said he continues to get complaints from neighbors about the area behind the lodge and about the large lot and old buildings it owns across Highway 9.

The county also has its own list of requests that includes having the lodge install a left-turn lane on Highway 9 for northbound traffic.

Carter said, "The turnout across the road will be built in the near future, the cars have been taken away and the big brown building will be restored and the cabins over there



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

The front of Brookdale Lodge is clean and neat.



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

A car spilling its engine parts lies behind the historic lodge.

are in the planning stage. It's going to work out."

Leggett is again notifying the lodge of the county's demands. The letter is being written, he said.

Carter said, "We have tried to comply. We have every intention of complying with regulations."

One recent complaint was that the restaurant had been reopened without a permit and was staying open nights.

Carter admits there were people in there for three nights.

It was an unusual group.

"I had a 'murder group' here last week with 38 people. It was put

together by Harriet and Larry Stay of San Francisco. They planned a (mock) murder and the group was given clues and had three days to solve it.

"We served them coffee and a catered dinner in the hotel."

She said that otherwise, the hotel is open only for the two or three weddings it gets a month.

The kitchen is not used, all food is catered, she said.

Richard Carter said the lodge has cleaned up the image that drug abuse was prevalent there.

His wife said that no one suspected of using drugs is hired, no drug use is

tolerated and that in the bar "all ID's are checked."

Brookdale Lodge has fallen on hard times this past decade with changeovers in owners, and managers trying to make it pay. The last major effort was washed away in the storm of 1982.

"There's been a lot of problems to get this going but we're running in the black. The bills are paid: all the taxes, all employees and all the distributors. We are in good standing with the Bank of America in Ben Lomond," Mrs. Carter said.

"I put my life savings in this," she said. "It's going to work."