Transcript

My friend Matt told me a story about a yearly experience he had with his family as a child.

Matt: “So about a family story… when I was younger, around the age of six or seven, I remember that my Grandma owned property up in Ukiah, California, where she raised my mom and my uncle. There was a problem with the piping and the irrigation and actually it had to do with the sewage coming down and also the water. We were up on a hill and there was another hill above that and another property above that. They had a problem where the hill slid. It slid up to the house. Growing up, every year we would have to go up there to put plastic on the hill to keep it from sliding when the rainwater would soak into the soil, causing a mud slide. We would have to build a wood wall or something to keep the dirt away from the walls. The mud would seep through the wall or put too much weight on the wall, causing it to collapse.

So every year we would have to go up and change the plastic because it would deteriorate from the sun. I just remember being a little kid and going up and it was a lot of work, but also it was a lot of fun, there were a lot of funny stories from that. I remember climbing up the hill, which was always interesting. There were sometimes that my uncle would come up and help and those were always funny times. There were some times that I would try and help carry stuff up, I was a little kid and the stakes that we would use were pretty damn big. They were pretty thick stakes, so I wasn’t able to help bring up a box like this (gestures size with hands), but I could help bring up the plastic, and try to help there. It was kind of fun. My whole family would help, even my grandma. She was in top shape and she was about 65. She would be up on the hill helping us hammer in stakes. It was definitely a whole family effort.”