

# John Clark, Mining Man, Dies At 79

## Clark, John Adams

March 11, 1947

John Adams Clark, 79, of Yankee Hill, one of the best known mining authorities in northern California, died Monday night at the Good Samaritan hospital.

There is hardly a quartz ledge or placer mining prospect in Butte county that Mr. Clark had not prospected at one time or another. It was only last April that he filed a quartz claim in Shasta county after considerable prospecting that contained gold and several other minerals.

IN 1911 MR. CLARK discovered the quartz ledge at the Surrance Mine that has been operated successfully for the past few years by Hoefling Brothers. In 1893 he located the Morning Star Zinc mine at Big Bend that was operated during the war by Hoefling Brothers also.

He discovered the Washington Placer mine in 1895 and made \$42,000 from it before his work was interrupted so he could join the U. S. Army to go to the Spanish American war. This mine is located on the North Fork of the Feather River.

INNUMERABLE MINERS IN this area often sought Mr. Clark's advice on a mining venture before undertaking to invest money in it.

He was a member of the Spanish American War Veterans and was post commander of the camp. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Redmen in Chico.

Mrs. Clark died several months ago.

He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. A. H. Leslie of Redding and two brothers, Frank and Ransom Clark, both of Yankee Hill.

He is also survived by a sister Mrs. Kate Josephson of Yankee Hill.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 2 p. m. at Hamilton and Riley's under the auspices of the United Spanish War Veterans. Cremation will follow at Sierra View in Marysville.

John and Arilee Clark Circa 1940



# Crain, James Simeon II

## Oroville Mercury Register 3-31-1947

### James Crain, Well Known Resident, Dies

James Simeon Crain II, 75, widely known Butte County land owner and retired Oroville real estate broker, died at 4:05 a.m. Monday at the Oroville Curran Hospital. He had been ill less than a week.

Mr. Crain, whose home was on Robinson Street, had lived in Oroville since 1936 when he retired from active farming to enter the real estate business. He continued his business up until a few years ago. His land holdings extended throughout Butte County.

A resident of Butte County all his life, Mr. Crain was very much interested in the progress of the county. He was noted for his generosity in contributing to worthwhile local organizations.

For many years he operated a large farm near Nelson. He had at various times been engaged in cattle and sheep raising as well as having been a grain grower and orchardist. Born May 27, 1871 near Gridley, Mr. Crain spent his childhood in Gridley. His father, James Simeon Crain Sr. was a native of Kentucky and a veteran of the Mexican War. Julia Lord Crain, mother of James Crain II, taught in Butte county schools for several years before her marriage. She came across the plains from Illinois in an immigrant train.

James Crain II attended Butte County schools and San Jose Normal School. In 1894 he married Winifred Cameron Bacon and they established their home on a ranch near Biggs. Mr. Crain was a member of the draft board during World War II along with Senator Charles H. Deuel and the late B. B. Powers. He is survived by his wife Mrs. Winifred Crain, a daughter Mrs. Harold Cross of Santa Cruz, a son James Donald Crain of Piedmont, two granddaughters Mrs. Richard Pillmore of Boulder, Colo and Mrs. Paul Heffernan of Piedmont, two sisters Miss Della Crain of Santa Cruz and Mrs. Victor Callen of San Jose. The late Charles Crain of Biggs was a brother.

Funeral services are pending under direction of Hamilton and Riley. The time and place will be announced later.

# Clark, Benjamin Frank

OROVILLE MERCURY  
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APRIL 22, 1949

## Benjamin Clark, 83, Dies in Hospital

Benjamin Frank Clark, 83, of Yankee Hill, died last night at the Good Samaritan hospital. He was born in Cherokee and had lived all his life in this district. For thirty-five years he was a member of the Butte county road department, retiring three years ago.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Gertrude E. Clark of Yankee Hill; six daughters, Mrs. Vera McKeen of Oroville, Mrs. Helen Murrell of Chico, Mrs. Arlie Jensen of Oakland, Mrs. Bernice Presley of Oroville, Mrs. Madalene Hall of Chico and Miss Adrian Clark of Yankee Hill; a son, George Clark; a sister, Mrs. Kathy Josephson, and a brother, Ransom Clark, all of Yankee Hill.

**GRAVESIDE SERVICES** will be held Sunday, 2 p. m., in the Yankee Hill cemetery under the direction of Hamilton and Riley's.



Benjamin F. Clark

Gregorie, Dale E.

Oroville Register

5-20-1949

## Dale Gregorie of Yankee Hill Dies

Dale E. Gregorie, 41, of Yankee Hill died yesterday morning. He is survived by his wife Margaret Gregorie of Yankee Hill; two daughters, Mrs. Shirley Hunter of Yankee Hill and Mrs. Jane Hollet of San Jose; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Gregorie of Yankee Hill. He formerly lived in Napa Valley but about 11 months ago moved with his family to Yankee Hill. He was a member of the Napa Valley Horsemen's Association and the California Thoroughbred Breeder's Association.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, 2:30 p. m. at Hamilton and Riley's with the Rev. Mr. Maurice de Vries officiating. Private burial services will be held in Memorial Park.



# Famous Indian Known to Many Dies at Age 80

*Full-Blooded Concow,  
He Lived His Life in  
Woods and Mountains*

DIXIE JOHNSON, famed tracker who could read the footprints in the woods as others can read print, died at midnight last night at the home of Thomas Melvin in Paradise. He was 80.

Mr. Johnson, a full-blooded Concow Indian, has lived his entire life in the mountains surrounding Oroville and Paradise, and has long been known as the nemesis of hold-up men who start out on foot through the forests.

During the past 30 years Mr. Johnson was not often in the lime-



DIXIE JOHNSON

light as he was before then, when he helped solve some of the county's most puzzling crimes.

He has been living at Intake near Las Plumas where he worked a mining claim. His last act was one of helpfulness to a friend. Last Monday Dixie traveled to Paradise to help Melvin, a friend of long standing, to do assessment work on Melvin's mining claim in rugged Big Butte creek canyon.

Apparently his tired heart gave out last night.

It was in 1915 that Mr. Johnson performed a feat that made him famous when he tracked down two payroll robbers near Stirling City after more than 500 men had wallowed throughout the woods in the search.

TWO MEN robbed DM's camp No. 1, of \$2800 in August of that year. Officers and volunteers spent three fruitless days in the area searching for the robbers before Mr. Johnson was called.

For eight days Mr. Johnson and Bill Peachy, a one-time constable, searched the woods until one day Dixie spotted tracks leading from a highway to a clump of bushes. It was as though a man had stepped off the road seeking cover of the brush. It was this track that led Mr. Johnson and Peachy to the spot where the robbers had fled following the robbery. Part way up a long hill, the robbers had resorted to a log chute but Mr. Johnson found where they had stepped on a log, followed the trail to the robbers' hangout.

Odd sequel to the story was that the robbers, when they realized they were being tracked, hid their firearms and the money, but later, after their arrest, it was discovered that a transient had found the can in which the money had been deposited and had made away with it.

DIXIE IS survived by his wife Maude Johnson who lives in Pulga; a son Elmer Johnson of Pulga and a grandson Edward Johnson of Brush Creek.

Funeral services are pending at the Paradise Chapel of the Pines.

## Daylight Saving Initiative Offered

SACRAMENTO —(U.P.)— A move to give Californians a chance to vote on compulsory summer daylight savings time was begun today by the President of the State Junior Chamber of Commerce.

George H. Waite, Sacramento, submitted an initiative measure proposing a state daylight saving law to the attorney general's office here for a legal title.

The State Junior Chamber of Commerce authorized Waite to sponsor the measure on behalf of the organization at its convention in Long Beach last month.

# Thunen, William

Oroville Mercury Register 1-4-1950

## Death Claims William Thunen

William Thunen, 78, early-day Oroville district photographer, who took the first picture of Ishi, last of the Yahi Indians, when he was captured in Oroville in 1911, died recently at the Odd Fellows home in Saratoga.

Mr. Thunen's picture of the "Oroville Wild Man," last of the Deer Creek Indians, who presumably had been wiped out in a foray years before, after the Indians had killed several white settlers, was widely reproduced in the United States. Ishi, who was the subject of study by anthropologists at the University of California and elsewhere, died in 1916 of tuberculosis.

The son of William and Johanna Thunen, pioneer settlers in the Flea Valley district, Mr. Thunen was born Oct. 7, 1871. He came to Oroville in 1911 and at one time was a city mail carrier here. He moved to Weed in 1914, and for many years was a lumber company employe there. He entered the Odd Fellows Home a few years ago. Funeral services were held at the Odd Fellows Home, and cremation took place in San Jose.