

3-23-1951

Elderly Man Lost in Canyon Found During Night Search

Charles Stagmeier, 66, of Forest Hill, was the object of an extensive search Monday night in the canyon of the West Branch of the Feather River. He was found about midnight by Constable R. L. Easley of Paradise, a member of the posse which had been looking for him.

Stagmeier was safe and in good condition when found. One of his companions, Robert Earl Andrews, also of Forest Hill, did not fare so well. He collapsed as the rescue party was coming out of the canyon. He appeared, according to officers, to be dead, and his pulse stopped.

Deputy Sheriff R. L. Easley Jr., of Oroville, applied artificial respiration immediately and revived him.

Stagmeier, Andrews and Alfred H. Phiney had gone to Yankee Hill on a prospecting expedition. Stagmeier wanted to look over some places he used to mine in the canyon. There he became separated from the other two and lost his way near Jordan Hill, across the canyon from the Blue Hog Mine.

Fred "Shorty" Weideman, PG&E ditch tender at the Kunkel reservoir, heard and saw him from across the canyon, according to Constable Easley, and went part-way down the canyon and called across to him. He then telephoned Easley at 6:50 p.m.

Easley contacted the sheriff's office, and Easley Jr. and Deputy Schwab came up from Oroville. They were joined by Assistant Ranger Henry Gaub and LeRoy Shotto, from the Division of Forestry headquarters at Thermalito, who brought three walkie-

talkies with them.

Accompanying Easley from Paradise were Johnnie Williams, who is familiar with the Yankee Hill country, and Fred Lynch and Deputy Leslie Thomas. They picked up a man Williams knew in Yankee Hill, who used to run goats in the canyon and knew it well.

Andrews and Phiney had looked for Stagmeier until it got dark and had then made camp and gone to bed. The posse found their camp and they joined the search.

A group went down the trail on the east side of the canyon to Kanaka Bar, which the old man had gone to look at. They would call out once in a while, and about two-thirds of the way down Easley heard someone answer. They went on down to the river and then down-river quite a way.

Easley said when he reached the river he realized the man could not have heard them shouting above the noise of the water, if he had been down there. So he climbed back up to where he had heard the answer, and then went south through the brush. About 200 yards farther, he heard someone call out, "Are you looking for me?" and found Stagmeier beside a tree where he was preparing to spend the night.

It was on the return trip up the canyon that Andrews collapsed. Easley said that even at night it was hot in the canyon. The Forest Hill men packed up and started for home. The local members of the rescue party got back to Paradise about 3 a.m.

\$100,000 Estate Is Bequeathed By Oroville Resident

OROVILLE, Butte Co., March 31.—An estate valued at approximately \$100,000 was left by the late W. B. Hengy, Oroville civic leader and real estate man, who died here March 17th.

His will was filed for probate by Mrs. Hengy, executrix, who is left the bulk of the estate.

The City of Oroville was bequeathed \$2,000 to be used for park purposes. It was the final gift of Hengy, who only a week before his death gave \$500 for trees to be planted in the park at the baseball field.

Individuals listed as beneficiaries include his sister, Mrs. Jesse H. Coggins of Oakland and brother, Archie Hengy of Oroville.

8-16-1951

Ten Forest Fires Put Out In Ten Days

Ten fires have started in the Plumas National Forest in the last 10 days, it was stated at Forest Service headquarters here this morning, but due to fast work by lookouts and suppression crews all were brought under control before they became serious.

During the past week assistance has been sent from here to help fight major fires in two other national forests.

The most serious fire in this general region occurred in Flea Valley, some five miles north of Pulga. The fire broke out about noon Tuesday of this week on state-owned forest land, and state crews brought it under control a few hours after midnight Wednesday morning. Shortly before 6 p. m. Tuesday the wind blew a considerable quantity of smoke from the Flea Valley fire over the Meadow Valley region, leading to an erroneous report that a serious fire had broken out in the Meadow Valley area.

Of the 10 fires started in the Plumas forest, careless smokers and children playing with matches were the chief causes. Forest Service men commented they were "very fortunate in getting them out when we did."

Monday of this week two calls, for four men each, were received here from headquarters of the Los Padres National Forest, in the vicinity of Santa Barbara. The two crews were sent immediately, and were used for air observation purposes. The fire was reported under control this morning after burning over several thousand acres of timber.

Fire broke out yesterday on Slate Mountain, southwest of Eagle Lake, in timber owned by the Fruit Growers Supply Company. It burned over 1,000 acres, and 500 men were thrown into the battle to get it under control. At 1:30 yesterday afternoon a crew of seven was sent from Plumas Forest headquarters to do air observation.

The Forest Service issued a statement yesterday warning that extreme hazardous fire weather is now threatening Northern California. Operators were urged to use extra precautions in the forests. Wm. A. Peterson, Plumas forest supervisor, again pointed to the devastating fire which occurred in the Plumas forest in 1950 which burned more than 20,000 acres, killing more than 15 million feet of growing timber and destroying other values amounting in all to more than a quarter million dollars.

"We just cannot afford such losses if we are to maintain an active lumber industry and prosperous economy," Peterson declared.

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10-3-1951

Post Office Ordered Closed

Yankee Hill, which has had a post office since the Gold Rush days in the 50's, is to lose it because of insufficient revenue.

Plummer Walsh, Oroville postmaster, said today he had received information that the post office department had ordered the closure, effective Oct. 31. The station cost \$700 last year to operate and revenue was only approximately \$150, Walsh said.

Mrs. Frances Lunt is postmaster.

10-27-1951

Indian Herb Doctor In Butte Is Fined \$2,000 On State Charges

J. R. Dieffenbacher, state food and drug inspector, disclosed today Dewey Conway, an Indian herb doctor operating for 20 years around Chico, Butte County, has been fined \$2,000 for misbranding his herbs and for false advertising.

Dieffenbacher reported Conway, operator of the Arrowhead Indian Herb Company in Chico, paid the fine after pleading guilty to the charges before Justice of the Peace C. W. Hauck in Live Oak, Sutter County.

Long Investigation

The food and drug inspector said the court action climaxes a long investigation of Conway's operations. For several years, he said, federal authorities have refused him the use of the mails.

Dieffenbacher has a two inch thick file on the herb doctor's op-

erations. The case resulting in the \$2,000 fine involved a 13 year old Live Oak girl who purchased some of Conway's herb medicine to help cure a skin rash.

For Many Ills

The herbs were labeled for the relief of nervous prostration, worms, impure blood, sluggish liver, gallstones, poor appetite and similar ailments. Dieffenbacher said the ingredients were not listed as required by law.

State law also prohibits advertising any medicine as a means of relieving gall stones or heart trouble.

The Indian herb doctor has drawn patients from all over the nation, Dieffenbacher said, and action was not taken sooner because of a question of possible federal jurisdiction.