

1-6-1961

Three Generations Tradition Strong for One Family in Company

The tradition of PG&E service is strong in the Lynch family extending through three generations and totalling 139 years so far.

It began in 1900 when the late Frank Lynch began work as a ditchtender for the Oro Electric Corporation, (a PG&E predecessor) in Butte County. By the time he retired in 1937 he had seen the tradition of service well established.

Two of his sons, Lester and George, followed him as Oro Electric and PG&E employees and now two of George's sons, Gerald and Edward are a part of the PG&E family.

Lester has just retired after 46 years of service all of which were spent helping to maintain 58 miles of canals in the company's Butte County water collection system. In fair weather and foul Lester and the crew, of which he was foreman, labored to keep water flowing through the canals and flumes that feed such hydro-electric plants as Coal Canyon, Lime Saddle, De Sabla and Centerville powerhouses.

Wielding 12-foot-long poles equipped with ice-breaking devices, Lynch and his men saw to it that the water flowed in zero temperatures through spillways, tunnels, automatic gates, fish screens, siphons and gauging stations. In spring and summer canal maintenance is important to keep the water moving efficiently since it is widely used for power, irrigation and domestic consumption.

Eighteen months after Lester first joined Oro Electric in 1914, George got a job with him in canal repair work. But the latter soon left the water system in favor of construction work on PG&E's Pit 1 Powerhouse. Five years later he became an operator at this plant and has been in electric and gas operations ever since. As senior service operator in Petaluma he has charge of dispatching servicemen in that area.

Lester was born on a ranch between Pentz and Cherokee while George was born after the family moved to Lovelock, Butte County. Both men attended a one room school at Messilla Valley. As was the case with many youngsters of their generation they went to work after completing the eighth grade.

The Lester Lynches have a daughter, Mrs. Cecil Bray of Chico, son Glen of Yuba City, three grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

George and his wife have three sons, Gerald, employed by PG&E at Guerneville, Edward, who is a field clerk with the company's general construction department, Richard of Palm Springs and a daughter, Mrs. Robert Gaar of Menlo Park. There are three grandchildren. Mrs. George Lynch, the former Leona Porter, is a school teacher.

Preparatory to retiring, Lester and his wife, the former Ferol Wright, moved from PG&E's Camp De Sabla to Paradise where they will indulge their mutual hobby of flowers.

The Lynch brothers reminisce whenever they get together about the half century they have spent in the utilities field. Their recollections span a period that has ranged from horse and wagon service rigs to modern radio dispatch equipment.

In 46 years of handling company equipment, Lester has never had an accident despite many thousands of miles of travel over difficult terrain.

George Lynch finds his outlet in a hobby of prospecting for gold. He admits to little success but has lots of fun scrambling around the Sierra foothills on vacations and weekends. When he retires in 1962 he too will have 46 years service. (Reprinted from the PG&E Progress).

Woman Gets Probation After Jarbo Gap Bar Disturbance

Paradise Post
2-10-1961

Nellie Mae Byers, of Oroville, was placed on probation in lieu of a 30 day jail sentence last Friday after she was found guilty of battery and disturbing the peace.

The complaint against Mrs. Byers was filed in the Paradise district court by her husband, August John Byers, proprietor of the Rock House tavern at Jarbo Gap.

She was taken into custody by sheriff's deputies on January 27 at the tavern after her husband made a citizen's arrest.

Byers testified that he left the room momentarily and left Richard Carpenter in charge of the bar. When Mrs. Byers stepped behind the bar for some cigarets Carpenter and she got into a scuffle.

As Byers returned she slapped him several times before she could be restrained.

Mrs. Byers claimed Carpenter, in the process of putting her out, bruised her arms and kicked her in the leg.

Carpenter denied kicking her or putting her out of the bar. He said he restrained her by holding her arms and escorted her about half way to the door.

When she re-entered the bar Mrs. Hicks was standing by the fireplace about six feet from Mrs. Byers. Without any warning, Mrs. Hicks said, the woman came over to her and hit her with an open hand. The two women then began to fight. Byers said Mrs. Hicks suffered a black eye in the scuffle.

The witnesses said Mrs. Byers used loud and profane language and tore down a metal beer sign, smashing it on the floor.

Frances Woods testified that she drove Mrs. Byers to the Rock House but stayed in her car. She said she heard the ruckus inside, but not any profane language.

She started toward the tavern and was able to see, through a window, Carpenter escorting Mrs. Byers out the door.

Byers is seeking an annulment of the marriage and had been separated from his wife.

Ohr told the defendant that under conditions of probation she is to stay away from the Rock House for the next 30 days.

Mrs. Byers was represented by Frank Sterle.

Feather River Bulletin

3-16-1961

New Location for Bridge Proposed

The W. E. Lovetts of Mayaro Lodge near Pulga have submitted a proposal that the Bidwell Bar Suspension Bridge be moved from the Middle Fork of the Feather to a site across the Feather River near the boundary line between the Plumas and Lassen National Parks.

With the building of the Oroville Dam on the Feather River, the present site of the famous old landmark is doomed and the Division of State Parks, the Native Sons and Daughters and the Oroville Chamber of Commerce have all been debating possible sites for the suspension bridge.

Mayaro Lodge has no access to the highway except by a long route via Flea Valley and Pulga and if the bridge were to be moved to this location it would still remain a landmark and at the same time serve its original purpose of providing access for travelers.

At the present time John and Janice Lovett row across the river in a boat to the highway side of the river and then climb a path up to the highway in order to catch the school bus to Big Bar School at Pulga, and vice versa in order to return home.

Feather River Bulletin

5-18-1961

Camporee Slated For May 20 - 21

A big Boy Scout camporee of the Feather River and Table Mountain districts will be held at the Worcester ranch on Yankee Hill road near Concow May 20-21. Signs will be posted to indicate the way to the ranch.

Bill Nelson, scoutmaster, and Darrell Nichol, assistant scoutmaster of Troop 93, Storrie Boy Scouts have issued an invitation to families and friends of the scouts to attend this camporee and see the troops in competition, noting their friendly rivalry and how they work in contests.

Storrie Troop won the camporee and jamboree in 1960, and the troop is now making plans to win again in 1961. This preliminary competition will show which of the troops will enter the finals later this year.

The Chico Enterprise Record

12-7-1961

Senior Citizens Given Tour of Butte County

PARADISE (E-R) — Members of the Paradise Senior Citizens Association were taken on a historical tour of Butte County by Mattie Lund at their meeting last Friday.

Miss Lund, who recently retired as Butte County Treasurer and Tax Collector, said that she lived in Oregon City as a child and attended school near there. She remembered one student at the school was Peter Burnett, the first governor of California.

The speaker noted that Oregon City is near the famous "Diggin's Drive" which is the road from Oroville to Cherokee, via the Chinese Wall and Morris Ravine. She commented that it is one of the most scenic roads in this area as it follows the Feather River, Morris Ravine and climbs to the top of Table Mountain.

Miss Lund said that an Indian village dating back to the time of Christ has been uncovered in the construction of the new routing of the Western Pacific crossing the "Diggin's Drive." She added that someday a state park may be located at Morris Ravine and that the Bidwell Bar Bridge may be relocated there.

In conjunction with the old time theme of the program a special program of old time music was presented by George Smith, violinist. Smith was accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Cook on the banjo and piano and Weston Bullard, who played the guitar. Dick Kelley participated in the program by dancing several exhibition numbers. Mrs. Frank Hall was program chairman.

A brief business session was conducted by Mrs. Emmons Sawyer, first vice president. Mrs. Roy Fithian served as secretary.

Mrs. Elna Kennedy won the door prize. Mrs. Robert Reynolds was table caller and Mrs. Leonard Andrade was dinner chairman.

Serving on the dinner committee were Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Treppard, Mr. and Mrs. James Snyder, Mrs. Myles Gallagher, Mrs. Lillian Watts, Mrs. R. L. Gilfillan, Gene Bugin, Dave Giraud, Bob Reynolds and A. E. Hodges.

The group will meet again on Dec. 15 for the annual Christmas program. Donations of canned foods are to be brought for Christmas Unlimited.

Note: Peter Burnett brought a wagon train of approximately 150 people from Oregon into California in 1848. The name Oregon Gulch first appeared in newspapers in 1851. The name Oregon City first appeared in newspapers in 1853. It's possible that people associated with the Burnett wagon train may have mined in Oregon Gulch.
Source: Yankee Hill Historical Society