

Weekly Mercury

1-1-1875

Christmas Ball.

E. D. Clark, of Clear Creek, gave a ball at his hotel on Christmas night that has been the theme of praise from all quarters. Long before it was dark they came in pairs from the East and from the West, from the North and the South. In fact they had a little joke fixed up for "mine host." As but few usually attend balls in that section, and our friend is a bachelor with no help for getting up an extra supper, some of the young bloods thought they would turn out a large crowd and eat him out. The house was full. The music delicious. Everybody danced. Men that had not been on the floor for years, rubbed a little linament on their stiff joints, took the first lady they came to and joined in the mazy dance. One of Oroville's sedate judges that wouldn't attend a dance here on account of its immoral influences, suddenly recollected that he was away from home, and more than one of the young and smiling country puellae received a judicial squeeze that sent her heart into her throat, and which she will remember for many a day. In due time came the supper hour. A more astonished set of dancers never looked upon a ball supper. Every thing that could tempt the appetite was there in the greatest abundance. No sooner was a table cleared than another was loaded, and so it continued till morning. It will be many a day before the Cherokee boys again attempt to clean out the Clear Creek hotel.

Weekly Mercury

1-1-1875

Mining on the North Fork.

This week we had a call from one of the honest miners from the region of Yankee Hill, or rather some fifteen miles above that place. He reports that owing to the difficulties in getting food and lumber down to the river, but few miners are now at work. Grampz and brother are still at work on the old claim, having bought out the rest of the company. Although their conveniences for working are somewhat primitive, still the claim pays ten dollars a day to the man; and they have acres of just as good paying ground. All the lumber they use for fluming is cut out with a whip saw and they make a small piece go a great way. When the Feather River Wagon Road is built this will be one of the most populous mining districts in the State. There are a large number of places that pay well, but it is impossible to get either lumber or provisions to them.

Weekly Mercury

1-1-1875

A New Claim.

The following is the claim presented to the Board of Supervisors by Joseph Willet of Cherokee Flat: "By reason of the carelessness and neglect of the Road Overseer of Road District No. 5, in this county, in neglecting to to repair and keep in safe condition for travel a certain bridge situated near the residence of W. H. Farley in Concow Valley in this county, the claimant on the the 3d of day Dec., 1874, while driving his horses and wagon across said bridge, the structure gave way, and claimant with horses and wagon, was thrown into the stream, himself seriously injured in his back and otherwise; and was made lame and sick so that he is unable to work, and will be unable to work for a long time, whereby he was damaged in the sum of \$4,845 50, one horse was killed of the value of \$50; wagon was damaged \$4 50; medical attendance, \$100; making in all the sum of \$5,000. JOSEPH WILLET." The above claim is sworn to.

Sac Daily Union Feb 6, 1875

FATAL ACCIDENT.—On Saturday, the 13th instant, a man by the name of John Kernan was killed in Dana's mining claim, in Concow township, in this county, under the following circumstances: After dinner Kernan went to work in the claim as usual. A large stump stood a few feet from the bank, as he supposed on the bed rock. He went behind it and commenced work. After a little he found the stump moved toward him, and before he could escape he was caught by the stump and jammed against the bank in such a manner as to crush in the back of his head, and literally crush into a jelly his breast. The quicksand prevented him from making his escape, and the same treacherous substance moved the stump upon him. He was a man about 34 years of age, honest, upright, and greatly beloved by all who knew him. His untimely death casts a gloom over that vicinity. He was a native of New York.—[Oroville Mercury, May 18th.]

[For the Mercury.]

Change of Readers--Protest of a Teacher.

MESILLA VALLEY SCHOOL,
Butte Co., Cal., Feb. 9, '75.

ED MERCURY:—As a teacher, I wish to add my protest to the thousands, against the projected change in school readers throughout this State. It is wholly uncalled for, entirely unnecessary, and therefore an outrage! The fact is, McGuffey's Readers are good enough. After having tested their merits for three years, I am ready to affirm that they are in every way adapted to the purpose for which a series of readers is designed. They are graded with an intelligent comprehension of the growing capacity of children. They are compiled with scrupulous regard to variety of style in different lessons; and this feature is one that good teachers have sadly lamented in some other series of readers. I have seen readers that were evidently prepared with an eye single to cramming the young mind full of instruction—readers brim full of information—sketches of all the animals that went into Noah's Ark, all the great men that ever lived, notable events, strange people and places. Of course it is highly important that children should know a little of everything; but it is terribly depressing to a teacher to find the school readers merely a series of little young encyclopedias. I have seen others that would bear the title of "An Epitome of the Beauties of English Literature," so carefully were the selections compiled from Addison, Bacon, Shakspeare, Bryant, etc.—very valuable for the student of English literature, but, quite inappropriate as an elocutionary text-book. In McGuffey's, we have that very great desideratum—variety of style, dialogue, descriptive, diactic, humorous, poetical lessons in widely different styles—so essential in teaching a lively, flexible and attractive habit of reading. McGuffey's First Reader, in particular, I am more and more delighted with, the longer I use it. None but a patient and conscientious teacher could have composed it. This book is as perfectly adapted to the wants of the infant learner, as the Summer shower to tender plants. There is no hurry or worry about. There is that repetition of words so indispensable to the dawning intellect, and the gradual introduction of new and harder ones just fast enough, and not a bit too fast. It is reading made easy. Nothing to dis-

courage; everything to help. Each book of the series is all a teacher could wish, with the exception of the Sixth Reader, and since the Fifth Reader fills all demands to be felt in common schools, and the Sixth has been struck from the list of Text-Books by the State Board, I will not stop to criticize. One objection that has been raised against the readers now in use, I wish briefly to notice. It is their antiquity. Well, the Bible is old; so is Shakspeare; but with all our progress we do not seem to improve upon them. I remember when I commenced the study of Latin at ten or eleven, "Andrews' Introduction" was an old book then. With a great hue and cry about "progress," it was soon thrown aside for "Weld's;" but long after my school-days were ended, I found that the old "Andrews' Introduction" had been reinstated in the Boston Latin School. So with Colburn's Arithmetic. That, too, was old when I was young. Scores of intellectual arithmetics have been foisted into our schools and have died a natural death from constitutional weakness since then, while Colburn still lives, conquering, and to conquer when we shall be forgotten. I am not opposed to progress. No parent or teacher more gladly hails the advent of any actual improvement upon the old methods of instruction, or will do more to effect the introduction of such improvement into the schools, when I am convinced of its merit. It were poor economy to deprive children of the benefits of the Pestalozzian system, or object teaching, from any paltry consideration of dollars and cents. No teacher can be more persistent than I have been in denouncing the miserable petty policy that would limit ample supplies of good pens, paper, crayons, globes, maps, and good teachers—or anything that will aid in education. Change the text-books, by all means; when the good of the school demand it. And they certainly do require a more lucid and attractive grammar. I have not been able to see the Pacific Coast Readers. The proprietors have been quite niggardly about exposing them for examination, as I could not find them in Oroville. But I have seen their advertising tract, full of letters of recommendation. From that I learn that the prominent point of merit in the series is lessons "in reading script." Not having seen these script exercises, I will not say they may not be a good thing. I will simply say that my pupils in McGuffey's First Reader, can not only read but write in script, any word they can spell, when they are half through this reader. I do not, then, for myself consider this "improvement!"

—and it is the only prominent one mentioned, of sufficient importance to warrant the change of readers, since entirely satisfactory results in reading and writing script may readily be obtained without it. And as my pupils are able to write very well when they have finished the First Reader, and can read all I write on the black-board, and can write all their spelling and reading lessons in the Second and Third Readers, and beyond. I should consider script lessons a superfluity in any but the First and Second Readers. I know little about the wire-pulling and chicanery by means of which these changes are effected. Men in public life assure me it is done by corruption and bribery—that there are men, like Judas, who can be bought with money—women do not understand such things. But I know that changes are made for the worse instead of the better. Books are placed in the hands of pupils that convey little instructions to their minds, on account of the peculiar phraseology of the text. Such is the grammar. It is dry, technical, incomprehensible. Pupils come out in open rebellion against studying it. They “can’t see the use of it,” because it is not closely linked with practical application. At last I have been compelled to make my grammar lessons almost entirely oral, to make them at all attractive or instructive. When changes are made with so little discrimination, and against all the protests of an almost united people, the question arises: Do we live in a Republic? What, then, is a Republic? The Geography naively informs us that a Republic is a Government in which the laws are made by the people. The people certainly did not make the law to change the school-readers. They do not want such a law, and if they were not allowed any voice in making it, they may yet claim the privilege of the veto power. Surely, the Legislature can undo the miserable work of one weak or corrupt man, that thousands of better may not suffer for his wrong-doing. I believe in a peace policy, but I do not believe with my learned friend, Dr. Shellhous, that teachers should respect the majesty of the law, when it assumes such monstrous and tyrannical powers. I believe it to be the duty of every instructor of youth to record their candid convictions upon educational affairs, conscientiously and fearlessly, and I hereby endorse the above protest, as a true friend of all Educational Progress.

MRS. L. A. B. CURTIS.

Weekly Mercury

2-12-1875

Suit Settled.

The suit of Creed Haymond against the Spring Valley Canal and Mining Company, for the sum of \$9,700 was settled last Wednesday by arbitration. The matter was referred to Judge Sexton, Judge I. S. Belcher and P. O. Hundley, and the sum allowed was \$3,500.

Personal.

We notice among the new arrivals in town, Creed Haymond and wife, of Sacramento; also Judge Van Clief of Marysville, and M. R. C. Pulliam, of Cherokee.

Weekly Mercury

2-12-1875

New Remedy.

We call attention to the advertisement of Wm. H. Mullen. He proposes to visit each town and mining camp in the county with his new medicine and introduce it. It is very highly spoken of, and a bottle of it in the house might be of great service in time of need.

DR. RADCLIFFE'S GREAT REMEDY,
SEVEN SEALS OR GOLDEN WONDER.
Every Man his own Physician. For internal and external use. A source of happiness to millions of suffering humanity. It will effect a speedy cure of Headache, Toothache or Neuralgic affections, Burns, Corns, Cramps, Pains in the stomach, Coughs, Colds, Diarrhoea, Inflammatory Rheumatism, Indigestion, or any pain that flesh is heir to. It is, in fact, the most wonderful pain-destroyer in existence.

Every bottle sold is warranted. "No cure no pay," is our motto. WM. H. MULLEN,
Sole agent for Butte county.

For sale in Oroville by C. T. Topping. Bottles
50 cents and \$1. fel2-3m

Weekly Mercury

3-12-1875

Sugar Pine Lumber Company.

This company's mill is in Fiea Valley, in one of the best timbered portions of the State. Last Fall the company began a flume that, when completed, will dump the lumber at a point near Pence's Ranch. After building a mile, the early storms compelled them to stop for the season. This week a gang of men has again been put at work and the flume will be pushed to completion as fast as possible. The work is in good hands, and there is money enough in the treasury to meet all demands upon the company. The flume will be completed about the first of September.

Weekly Mercury 4-2-1875

Ranch Sold.

We learn that the Shear ranch, on Dry Creek, was sold to the Spring Valley Canal and Mining Company on Tuesday last, for the sum of ten thousand dollars. This was the last of the ranches on this creek to be bought by the Company. Mr. Shear had commenced suit against the Company for damages for covering up his ranch, but the Company preferred to buy the ranch, and thus end all difficulties. They now own the entire creek down as far as the railroad, and below that they have just let a contract for building eighteen miles of levee, so that hereafter we shall not hear of any more ranches being covered up by by their tailings.

Weekly Mercury

4-9-1875

Goods Sold.

Last Tuesday the hardware house of J. M. Brock sent to Flea Valley to be used in building a flume, a little over four tons of nails. This same house has shipped into the mountains within the past two weeks about twelve tons of goods, most of which are to be used at Flea Valley. Parties living in the mountains and on ranches have found it to be to their advantage to do their trading at this house, since goods are sold here as cheap as anywhere in this part of the State.

Weekly Mercury

4-9-1875

Stolen.

On Sunday night last William H. Mullen put his horse in the stable of C. T. Topping for the night. The saddle and bridle were taken off and put in another part of the stable. On going out at nine o'clock for the purpose of feeding his horse, he discovered the stable door open, and on looking around found that the saddle and bridle were both gone. An old soldier's coat was overhauled which looked as though its pockets had been investigated. The horse was young and would permit no one to enter the stall except the owner, and probably this was the reason the thieves did not take it. It will be well enough for our citizens to keep everything under lock and key, or else provide themselves with a good watch-dog or shot gun, since the town is pretty well filled by a class that have no scruples against taking anything that can be converted into money. The officers have most of the doubtful ones under their eye, and will keep a good lookout for them.

Weekly Mercury 4-9-1875

New Road.

The people living on the road leading from Long's Bar ferry to Cherokee, have banded together and are determined to have a road that will connect them with some road leading to Oroville. The ferry has been discontinued and they have no way of getting here except by traveling a mere trail or going some distance round. George Duensing and some ten others are building a road from the old ferry to connect with the Hendrick's road. In order to do this a few hundred dollars will have to be spent to build a bridge across Morris Ravine. It seems to us that the county should do this work and pay for it; a road has connected these people with us from the earliest history of the county, and the Board of Supervisors, by building a new road in another place, have so changed the line of travel as to render it unprofitable for any one to keep up a ferry at Long's Bar. Still this is no reason why thirty or forty families should be shut out of communication with the rest of the world. Give them a road.

Weekly Mercury 4-9-1875

Gold.

A detachment of men from the Spring Valley Company, at Cherokee armed with rifles and shot guns, and under the command of Gen. Gregory, came into town last Friday, bringing with them the result of a clean-up after running some five weeks. They had three large bars of gold, and one small one, all valued at \$73,000. Thus it will be seen that the returns which this company get from its mines are about the same each month. They usually bring down \$60,000 when they run a month; this time having run longer, they bring a larger amount. It was understood that they would run the gold all into one bar, but we learn that by so doing it is impossible to melt it at the mint until it is cut in smaller pieces. the \$72,000 bar that they sent down some time ago had to be hammered out thin and then cut in pieces.

Weekly Mercury

4-16-1875

Cherokee Lodge G. T.

The members of the Good Templars Lodge at Cherokee, have discontinued their "mite meetings," held through the Winter. These gatherings were very attractive, and successful, owing to the intelligent efforts of several ladies of culture and talent, who spared no pains to render them entertaining. A social dance crowned the meetings, and was well attended. This lodge has effected a great deal of good, gathering the young men from the low haunts, and encouraging them in forming good habits, and in seeking good society. Saloons do not pay as well as they used to do.

A man from Flea Valley, in this county, was thrown from a Spanish mustang, near the Barbara Coast, on Sunday night, and got his face badly bruised.

Weekly Mercury

4-16-1875

Burglary.

The house of J. G. Curtis was entered the other day, in the absence of the family and thoroughly ransacked for valuables. A purse, containing six or eight dollars, was emptied of its contents, and papers were evidently examined in search of bonds or greenbacks. The thief apparently had an eye for gold-dust, too, since he opened a paper of epsom salts. A plate from which he ate half a pie, was left under a buckeye thicket a few rods from the house. A savago bull-dog will immediately mount guard on the Curtis Ranch.

Weekly Mercury

5-14-1875

ARRIVED AT LAST.—The long-delayed and much-needed remedy, "Seven Seals," or "Golden Wonder." It has been over two months on the way, and there are two gross more on the way, that was shipped March 16th. I am sorry to have disappointed the people, but owing to the carelessness of the railroad monopolies, it can't be helped, but I hope soon to have and keep enough on hand to supply the wants of all. Sold at Topping & Co.'s, Oroville, and Parry's Hotel, Cherokee. As soon as I get enough here I intend to introduce it all over the county.

Wm. H. MULLEN, Ag't.

The Plumas National.

5-15-1875

.....There is a good chance for several legal disputes over mining ground, this summer.....Archer & Workman have located and purchased a number of mining claims on Long Bar, East Branch, and it looks as though an extensive mining operation was to be inaugurated at that place... ..An Eastern paper says the Indians in this country are never known to smile, therefore they are grave-Diggers. Just give one of the old Digger braves a bottle of "tarantula juice," and see if he don't smile.....The wire was down between here and Jamison one day

Weekly Mercury

5-28-1875

Bear Killed.

A small cinnamon bear was shot and killed one day last week, by Aaron Burt, of Cherokee, near the flume of the Sugar Pine Lumber Company, in Concow valley. Mr. Burt was walking past a place where some Chinamen had camped, and saw under the table and but a few feet from him, the young bear. Both made the discovery at the same time. The bear ran up a tree with the agility of a squirrel. Mr. Burt fastened his coat around the tree and went back for a gun. He got one and nine cartridges, all of which he fired at the bear without hitting him. We have heard it stated that Mr. Burt was somewhat frightened, but his shooting will disprove that theory. He then went and got another gun and brought the bear down the first shot.

Struck It.

Almost every one in the county has heard of the Porter gold-mine at Jordan Hill, about five miles from Yankee Hill. For a long time this mine has been in court, but now we believe it is owned by an English company, who are engaged in repairing the old tunnels and drifts with a view of again having it worked. Last week the men in the tunnel struck the ledge at a depth of 250 feet and found it to be as rich as any of the owners could wish. There is an old twelve-stamp mill near the mine that has not been used for some seven years, and the building is in a delapidated condition, but now the owners will put it in good repair and prepare to crush the rock. The ledge formerly paid well, but pinched out. Now that they have struck it so deep, they think it will last.

Weekly Mercury
7-16-1875

From Cherokee.

CHEROKEE FLAT, July 13, 1875.

EDITOR MERCURY:—At an adjourned meeting of the Republican Convention of the Fifth Supervisor District, held in Boyer's Hall, Cherokee Flat, July 10th, at 2 P. M., W. H. Williams, of Cherokee, received the nomination for Supervisor. Yours,

JOHN NISBET,
Secretary Convention.

Weekly Mercury

7-16-1875

Gold Bars:

The Spring Valley Mining Company, Cherokee Flat, sent to the banking house of Rideout, Smith & Co., on Thursday, three bars of gold, weighing over 200 pounds, averdupois, and which were valued at \$63,000. The company cleaned up a part of their flume after the usual run of thirty days, and this is the result. This company has about twelve golden harvests each year, the amounts varying from \$60,000 to \$22,000 each clean up.

Weekly Mercury 8-20-1875

Spring Valley Canal and Mining Co.

Some weeks ago we published a communication from Cherokee that was incorrect in some particulars, relating to this company. We now give place to some particulars that we know to be correct: During two years and a half past the Spring Valley Canal and Mining Company have made 7 dividends, amount-

ing to.....	\$ 235,000 00
Expended upon ranches.....	328,500 00
Expenses upon ditches and pipes.....	141,236 00
Claims purchased during that time	96,847 00
	<hr/>
Total.....	\$ 801,583 00

During that time the have taken out \$1,017,157 60

Weekly Mercury

8-27-1875

Population of Butte.

As will be seen by reference to the tables which we publish this week, the estimated population of Butte county is now 20,000. If this return is correct, of which we have no doubt. Butte is one of the largest interior counties in the State in point of population. And as many of the large ranches are to be divided into 160 acre farms, there can be but little doubt that our population will be much increased during the next year.

Flea Valley Mill & Flume Update

Weekly Mercury 8-27-1875

extracted from Butte County Assessor's Report

Saw mills.....	19	
Steam power.....		15
Water power.....		4
Lumber sawed—feet.....	48,700,000	
Shingles made.....	1,600,000	
Quartz mills.....	10	
Tons of quartz crushed.....		4,000
Mining ditches.....	11	
Miles in length.....		330
Average am't water used daily, inches		8,000
Irrigating ditches.....	20	
Acres irrigated.....		2,000
Railroads.....	2	
Miles in length.....		58
Acres of wheat sown in 1875.....	149,600	
Acres of barley sown in 1875.....	16,727	
Acres of potatoes planted in 1875.....		19
Acres of oats sown in 1875.....		1,131

Assessed value of real estate in 1875....\$5,916,233
 Assessed value of improvements on do 1,358,172
 Assessed value of personal property do 2,795,381

Total assessed property for 1875. . . . \$10,069,836

Estimated total population.....do . 20,000
 Registered voters.....do 4,713
 Poll tax collected in 1874.....\$ 10,869

We have, also, in addition to the foregoing, a new steam flour mill at Gridley, just now (September 1st) completed and ready to run, with a capacity of 200 barrels of flour every 24 hours. It is one of the finest and best equipped mills in northern California, being supplied with all the modern improvements. We also have, what is comparatively a new enterprise, viz. : flumes, for the conveyance of lumber from its native forests in the mountains, over the rough hills and canyons, to the valleys below. The only one completed, is that of the Butte Flume and Lumber Company, reaching from the head waters of Chico creek, in Tehama county, to the valley near Chico, in this county. It has a carrying capacity of about 100,000 feet per day, and the cost of transportation has been considerably reduced. All sorts of timber—posts, cord wood, shakes, etc., can be shipped with great facility, and its practical utility and value is now established beyond a doubt. The Flea

Valley Mill Company, also, have a similar one now in course of construction, reaching from from the great timber belt on the divide between the North Fork and West Branch of Feather River, to the valley near Oroville. This flume will cross the West Branch by means of a wire suspension. It is now completed to Concow valley, a distance of about 10 miles, and over the roughest part of the road. This entire belt of timber has remained intact until now, it being impossible to ship it by any other means than a flume. There is also an immense belt of timber, yet untouched, lining the banks and plateaus of Feather River, and stretching from near the valley a distance of 70 to 100 miles, to the summit of the Sierras, which must remain undeveloped until opened up by similar means. Under the present status of our land laws, as applied to the timber belts of this State, it is impossible to induce capital to embark in an enterprise of such magnitude as would be required to fully develop the resources of this wonderful region. It is established beyond a doubt, that besides the immense manufacturing industries connected with the extensive lumbering interests which would thereby be built up, that iron, of the very best quality, and also all the necessaries for its reduction, exist in inexhaustible quantities, and the practical and energetic development of all this dormant wealth, only awaits intelligent legislation by Congress. It is hoped that when our representatives again convene in the councils of the nation, they may be able to distinguish between legislating for monopolies, and the promotion of the legitimate enterprise of the people, in the development of the natural resources of our great State.

J. C. WERTSBAUGER,
 Assessor Butte County.
 By JOHN P. LEONARD, Dep'y.

Weekly Mercury
9-3-1875

For Sale.

A. E. Crum, offers for sale his ranch, on the road leading to Pence's ranch, at a bargain. It is a rare chance for a farmer that does not wish to carry on the business largely.

Weekly Mercury
10-1-1875

Lime Burning.

Those in want of lime will be pleased to learn that work has been resumed at the old Curtis lime quarry, at Nelson's Bar, on the West Branch, and C. S. and J. G. Curtis have just burned a kiln of the finest lime to be obtained in the State. This lime was well known and justly celebrated for its superior quality ten or twelve years ago, but owing to the difficulty of getting it across the river, work was suspended there. The proprietor has commenced the business again this summer, however, in an enterprising manner, has built a store-house on the old West Branch Ferry Road, and is now prepared to furnish lime, which experts pronounce unsurpassed. Orders should be sent early, as lime is an uncertain commodity in a rain storm.

LIME---HAVING REPAIRED THE OLD
Nelson Bar Lime Kiln, we are now ready
to furnish the best article of Lime in the State.
Send orders early to C. S. & J. G. CURTIS,
Pence's Post Office.

Weekly Butte Record

10-2-1875

The Old Curtis Lime Quarry.

We well remember when Nelson's Bar was one of the busiest mining regions in the country two daily stages crossing the old Curtis Ferry, hotel, store, saloons and numerous dwellings: Thousands and thousands of dollars of gold have been washed out of the rich diggings there, and the diggers have passed on, until only a solitary Chinaman remains, solemnly rocking out his "four bittee," "six bittee." But although the gold has all been unearthed, and all the dwellings have disappeared, except the old ferry-house, even the ferry-boat swept away by the floods, there still remains an inexhaustible mine of riches, in the splendid lime quarry across the West Branch. This quarry which appears to be of limitless extent, is composed of the finest limestone in the world, and Mr. Curtis years ago recognized its value, and built a lime kiln on the spot. Old lime burners from Rockland, Maine, pronounced the lime superior to their finest qualities, and it soon became celebrated in Marysville and other places. The difficulties of transportation, however, discouraged its manufacture at that time and the kiln has lain idle for many years. But now the railroad is built, the enterprising proprietor, who is by no means too old to conduct an extensive business, has started up the old kiln, and is now ready to supply the market. He has built a store house at the top of the hill on the old Ferry Road, and has already several tons of lime in storage. The enterprise cannot fail of success, as there is always a demand for the best of everything.