

# Weekly Mercury

## 2-7-1879

### From Cherokee.

CHEROKEE, February 1st, 1879.

EDITOR MERCURY:—Thinking a few lines from this section might be of interest, I will say, that although our storms have been severe and cold weather continuous, we have not suffered from the effects of frost as much as some of our neighboring towns. Flowers, trees and shrubbery of all kinds have received very little injury. Orange and lemon trees are quite abundant in this locality. Mr. Hutchinson has a lemon tree three years old, raised from the seed, ungrafted, full of lemons and blossoms. The tree was twice loaded with snow and ice until borne to the ground. A large orange tree that stands close by is apparently all right. This proves pretty conclusively that this kind of fruit, if the trees are raised here, will stand the coldest weather we have.

The Spring Valley Mining Company continue to send down rich returns from their mines, and although they tear down and deface our beautiful hills, yet their products gladden many hearts.

OLIVA.

# Weekly Butte Record

3-1-1879

## **Cherokee Stage Robbed.**

On Tuesday as the Cherokee stage, which left Oroville in the afternoon, with Harry Morrison driving, was making its way between Pence's and Cherokee, two masked men made their appearance on the road and commanded Morrison to halt, and hand over what loose change he had about him. Fortunately there were no passengers on board, and rather than argue the question with a shot-gun and rifle pointed at him, Morrison concluded to hand over six dollars and fifty cents, all he had, and they allowed him to proceed.

# Weekly Mercury

## 3-14-1879

Johnnie Rogers has established himself in the drug business at Cherokee, having purchased the stock, etc., of the store recently managed by Dr. W. P. McDermott.

# Weekly Mercury

3-28-1879

## **Fine Grain.**

J. W. Corey of Clear Creek, called upon us Wednesday, bringing with him some twenty odd stalks of winter-sown wheat which he plucked from one of his fields. The longest stalk measured 27 inches above the soil, while the average length of the entire lot reached 22 inches. Mr. C. states the crop prospect in the foothills section to be the best known for years. This grain is far ahead of any we have seen thus far the present season, and bears no evidence of cheat.

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## **Lost and Found.**

Miss Dolly Waldyer, daughter of Charles Waldyer, strayed away from her home at Cherokee, a week ago to-day and wandered through the hills until Sunday morning, when she was found in an exhausted condition by an Indian who took her to his cabin and then hastened to inform the afflicted parents. The child is fast recovering from the effects of her experience, but it is a wonder that she did not perish in the storms that occurred during her ramblings.

## Weekly Mercury 4-18-1879

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### **Murder at Spanishtown.**

A Yankee Hill correspondent writes that a Kanaka named Yankee Jim killed his squaw at Spanishtown, on the 3d inst., by stabbing her in the right breast. The murderer came to Yankee Hill, confessed the crime, delivered himself to the authorities, was examined and remanded to the county jail pending the assembling of the Grand Jury. Jim says he did the deed because the woman wouldn't stay at home. The murderer was brought to this State in 1844 by Gen. Sutter, from the Sandwich Islands.

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# Weekly Butte Record

5-10-1879

## **Candidate for Assessor.**

Mr. A. Thompson of Cherokee Flat called on us this morning, and informed us that he would be a candidate before the coming Democratic County Convention, for the office of Assessor.

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## **Painful Accident.**

While engaged in lassoing horses a day or two since, Willie Reavis met with a painful accident, by being struck in the right eye, by the end of a flying lasso. Fears were entertained at the time that the injury might result in loss of sight, but we since learn that no such danger exists.

# The Napa Valley Register

5-15-1879

Dr. J. J. Sawyer, who once practiced his profession as a physician and surgeon in Calistoga, and moved to Sierra, Sierra county twelve months or more since, recently got into an altercation in that town with an Irishman named John Glass, aged 31 years, employed as night-watchman. The difficulty occurred in Ned Lawrence's saloon. It appears that Glass was the first to act on the offensive, he drawing a revolver on the doctor and threatening to shoot his eye out. Sawyer thereupon drew a revolver, fired three shots at Glass' head, one taking effect in one of his eyes and killing him almost instantly. A Coroner's inquest was held which resulted in a verdict, by the jury, of justifiable homicide.

Weekly Butte Record  
6-8-1879

**FOR SALE CHEAP.**

SEVERAL

**Lumber Wagons,**

With fixtures complete.

One 40 inch Gold Medal Separator.

One No. 5 Rice Straw Burning Engine,

With Feeders and Derricks.

The above will be sold on favorable terms,  
by

J. M. DECKER, Chicó.

Persons in need of good pasturage for horses,  
can be accommodated by addressing me above.  
will



Weekly Mercury

7-11-1879

**S. S. BOYNTON'S  
VARIETY STORE!**

Myers Street.....Oroville, Cal.

I have on hand a full stock of

**STATIONERY,**

Including

Note and Letter Paper,  
Bill, Legal and Foolscap Paper,  
Fancy Note Paper of all kinds,  
The Dixon, Faber, Eagle,  
Cash and Specie Pencils,  
Arnold's, Bixby's, Thomas'

And other inks,  
Spencerian, Gillott and Esterbrook Pens,  
Chalk, Slates, Pencils & School Books,  
Memorandum Books,  
Erasers, Rulers, Paper Knives, etc.

# Weekly Mercury

7-11-1879

## **Indian War.**

A Cherokee Indian became so patriotic on the Fourth that his untutored mind yearned for excitement. He got two Digger squaws to fighting. They clawed, chawed and gouged each other until both resembled half-butchered hogs. Bystanders separated them. The affair happened about 3 P. M., in the rear of Perkins, Logan & Co.'s store.

# Weekly Mercury

7-11-1879

## New Quartz Mine.

The McConnell & Duret Quartz Mining Company have started a 10-stamp mill at their mine, one-half mile northeast of Yankee Hill, Monday of last week. After running four days, during which many stoppages were necessitated by reason of the machinery being new, the gentlemen cleaned up the plates, obtaining a 15-ounce bar of fine gold. As yet the batteries have not been cleaned. The ledge is two feet thick at the surface and five foot in thickness at the 120-foot level. They have 130 ton of ore delivered at the mill, the average of the same, judging from past working, is estimated at \$20 per ton. Commencing work on the property in 1877, the company have been to considerable expense in getting ready to extract the precious metal, and now are glad to know that their prospects of reward are so promising.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

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### MINING MACHINERY FOR SALE.

One 20-Horse power engine and boiler, good as new, and 12-stamp mill complete. Also, two smaller steam engines complete, and a lot of other mining material will be sold cheap for cash, For particulars apply to

FRED. WELLINGTON,  
Yankee Hill, Butte County.

**TO PRISON FOR LIFE.**—Sheriff Sprague, of Butte county, passed through the city this morning, en route to San Quentin with a prisoner named James Kahala, who goes there for life for the murder of his wife. Kahala is a Kanaka, about 45 years of age, and came to California in 1844 with General Sutter, in whose service he remained for many years. In a drunken fit of passion he stabbed his wife at Yankee Hill, Butte county, some months since, killing her instantly. When the facts above related became known to parties in the depot a large crowd collected about the Sheriff and his prisoner and gazed at the latter after the manner in which they would at a wild beast. Kahala only glared back at them savagely and showed a disposition to hurry into the car and escape observation.

7-18-1879

# THE WEEKLY MERCURY.

OROVILLE, BUTTE COUNTY, CAL., FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 18, 1879.

## THRILLING ADVENTURE.

### **The Old Banner Mine Struck—A Series of Blasts in the McSmith Mine Breaks Down the Barrier—Narrow Escape of Five Men From Drowning.**

Twenty years ago a cave occurred in the Banner mine, located in Morris Ravine, by which two men lost their lives, and a valuable piece of mining property was rendered useless for the time being. This accident bankrupted the proprietors and the mine laid idle for a number of years. Some two years ago, however, San Francisco capitalists were induced by a member of the old company, J. McSmith, to invest and endeavor to reopen the property. Since that time a shaft has been sunk to a depth of 200 feet then a crosscut of 59 feet made, from which an incline was excavated a distance of 75 feet. At 10 o'clock Tuesday morning, apprehending that they were very close to the old diggings, the management decided to put in several blasts and see what the result would be. This was done. After remaining above long enough for the dangerous effects of the explosions to disappear, the operatives, five in number, mounted the bucket and descended the main shaft. At the bottom they jumped off, but had hardly done so ere a rumbling sound greeted their ears. Remounting the rim of the bucket they gave the signal to hoist in a jiffy. The engineer above re-

sponded promptly, but before he could get the apparatus in motion, the men below were in water up to their chins. From there to the top it was a race between steam and water, in which the former came off victorious. As soon as the dripping workmen had stepped off on terra firma, the bucket was lowered again, when it was discovered that the shaft was filled with 80 feet of water. Though escaping unhurt, the miners were badly scared, one of them, a Chilean, being almost white with fear. Arrangements were at once made to remove the water, a tub holding 80 gallons being used for the purpose; fifty tubs being hoisted per hour. Wednesday morning, this mode of procedure had lowered the water in the shaft ten feet, and it is expected that the mine will be entirely freed of the obstructive element within a few days' time. Tuesday afternoon a piece of candle was brought up in the tub, from which it is evident that the old diggings have been struck. The candle was in a state of good preservation, even to the charred remains of the wick extinguished by the cave of 20 years ago. It is supposed that the explosions crumbled the wall of dirt between the incline and the old diggings, and that the body of water which had accumulated in the latter forced its way through. When the water is removed and work recommenced in the incline, it is quite likely the remains of the unfortunate victims, and the tools buried, will be recovered. We are pleased to know that the efforts of the company to reach the main ledge have been so successful, and the history of the mine prior to the cave warrants them in expecting to soon strike a bonanza.

# Weekly Mercury

7-25-1879

## **New Mining Company.**

Articles of incorporation were filed in the office of the Secretary of State last week, of the Buena Vista Quartz Mining Company; capital stock \$240,000 divided into shares of \$20 each. The Directors are James Rowe, George Medanich, C. M. Durett, Eugene McGrath and Chauncey Wright. The property is located within about two miles of Yankee Hill and is believed to be very rich,

The Buena Vista Quartz Mine is paying well. Jimmy Daney says they will put up five more stamps right away. Ned Rowe is boss of the mine, and reports a fine five-foot vein, and rich at that. The old '49 and '56 company will put up a mill next year, and prove that old Butte is the best quartz mining county in the State. McSmith passed here from his gravel mine and says it looks "O. K."

WEEKLY MERCURY

FRIDAY.....JULY 25, 1879.

**A Relic of the Past.**

While chopping up an oak tree, which they had felled for the purpose of obtaining lumber to construct a cabin, James Reynolds and Joe McCarty, two miners working on Middle Fork of Feather river, last Thursday, found in a cavity in the interior of the tree a piece of parchment, 8x14 inches, both sides of which were covered with hieroglyphics, as they thought, excepting four figures, viz: "1542." Naturally presuming it to be something of a curiosity, the gentlemen very properly decided to preserve the parchment, which they did until Monday of this week, when a San Francisco man, who was hunting in that section, stopped at their camp and upon being shown the document offered \$50 for it. The offer was accepted. Tuesday night the purchaser, who who proved to be F. M. Castronjo, of Madrid, Spain, reached this city, en route to the Bay. We ran across him while in quest of items with this result: He said the characters on the parchment were Spanish letters; that he, being a well-educated Spaniard, had experienced no difficulty in deciphering the writing, and informed us that it was a condensed history of the wanderings, trials and tribulations of three men named Emanuel Sagosta, Jose Gareljos and Sebastian Murilo, deserters from the command of Hernando De Soto; that they were, at the time of writing, the sole survivors of a party of thirteen who ran away from the expedition on the 24th of November, 1539, and that this letter was written and put in a knot-hole in the oak on the 29th day of August, 1542; that the party were discouraged at the prospect of dying in the wilderness and had no idea as to whither their steps were leading them. He kindly permitted us to look at the parchment which was of a dark cream color, the writing thereon being easily perceived by the naked eye, its color being that of a faded blue. Prior to leaving this city, Mr. Castronjo had the precious article securely sealed up in a tin can to keep the air from it and intends disposing of it to the National Historical Society of Spain. In response to our inquiry as to how much the tree had grown in that time, he said the miners told him that the outer edge of the cavity was about five inches within the tree, which had grown over and completely closed the hole.

See Santa Rosa Press Democrat article in the YHHS archives dated 1-15-1950 about Round Valley and Covelo. The following story is part of the Indian culture from that area. The following is an excerpt:

Before my grandfather's grandfather the first white man to visit the area, had long blond hair and was riding a white horse. He came upon the Indians (at Round Valley in Mendocino County, Ca) killing several Ukie (Wailaki) Indians with a thunder stick out of fear when they approached him. After several of the Indians were killed, they killed the man and his horse. They buried both the man and his horse under a pile of rocks.

Many Years later, a Spanish half breed was dug up in Lake County, Ca. His identity was a mystery.

Does this solve the mystery?

# Weekly Mercury

7-25-1879

## **Yankee Hill Items.**

Last week, Charley Wilcox, the surveyor, was up at Yankee Hill laying out a new grade to that place from the top of the West Branch Hill. He made the distance shorter than the present road, and found the grade would not be over one foot to the rod, and only about a half of a mile at that, and the balance was from six inches a rod to nothing. This is a grand improvement. Mr. Wells has a force of men now employed in grading; and will, before next spring, have it completed. It seems very strange that this route was not chosen before. The deepest cut on the road is only six feet high on the upper side, and very little of that to do. Wm. Jones, a teamster up here, says he could travel this new grade now if it was brushed out. Mr. Wells is now sending down from the Defiance mill the material for a new bridge, whic'n will be finished in November.

The Spring Valley Mining Company, of Cherokee, greatly improved the canyon on their side of the river, by making it wide enough for teams to pass each other.

On the 28th the railroad men and Dave Hays hold a meeting at Flea Valley. In the evening Jake Garber gives a ball. All the old and young folks will be there. Even the fat man of Yankee Hill is going, if he has to walk there. Come up, Mr. MERCURY; good place to electioneer; lots of voters around there who would be glad to see you. SPUDS.



7-26-1879

# THE WEEKLY BUTTE RECORD.

VOL. 26.

CHICO, BUTTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1879.

NO. 41

## Twenty Years Under Ground.

In re opening the old Banner Quartz Mine, at Columbiaville, three or four miles above Oroville, on Feather river, candles that had been taken into the mine twenty years ago were found intact. In 1859, while searching for the ledge, a cave occurred, burying three men. The owners of the mine have been unable to re open until the present season. A short time since their shaft struck into the old tunnel, and the shaft was filled with water very rapidly. On the water thus filling the shaft were found several candles that the men took into the tunnel with them in 1859, when the cave occurred, burying them alive from the face of the earth. Mr. McSmith is confident that the men will be found within fifteen or twenty feet of the present shaft, and is of the opinion that their bodies will be found in a state of preservation, owing to the mineral properties of the water in the tunnel. It is understood that the shaft had struck the ledge prior to its being filled with water, and the prospect is that this pioneer quartz claim of Butte county will soon again be paying as in the days of '50 to '59. Mr. McSmith certainly deserves success, for his faith in the mine has not wavered during the past twenty years that it has remained unworked.

# WEEKLY MERCURY

FRIDAY.....AUGUST 1st, 1879.

## THE CHAMBER OF DEATH.

Recovery of the Remains of Two Men After Being Entombed for 20 Years—Our Reporter Visits the Scene—Full Particulars of the Accident as Published at the Time.

Word was brought to this city a week ago this morning that the water had all been pumped out of the Banner mine, and that the skeletons of the men buried by the cave of twenty years ago recovered. Procuring a team we started for the scene, accompanied by Dr. Barwell. L. H. Ayers, foreman of the mine, greeted us cordially upon alighting at the existing works in Oregon Gulch, promptly offering to transport us to the lower regions, if desirable. "Doc" wanted to go down also, but there was several inches of mud and water in the tunnel below and there being no miner's outfit on hand big enough for him to wear he was reluctantly obliged to forego the very enjoyable trip. We shed our good clothes, put on gum boots and coat, an old hat, and clambered into the big iron bucket, Mr. Ayers took station on the rim, the signal was given,

### DOWN, DOWN, DOWN WE WENT!

Two hundred feet isn't but a short distance from the earth's surface, but it seems a terrible long way when descending a mining shaft with nothing between you and the mixed future but an inch and a half wire rope. However, the bottom was reached in safety and we scrambled out into a pool of water and mud about two foot deep. Here the candles were lighted and our journey on foot began. Following the tunnel a distance of fifteen yards, we came to a ladder leading up to the old level broken into by the blasts set off a week or ten days previous. The top of this ladder rested in a fissure hardly wide enough for a man to squeeze through, beyond which was one of the prospecting cross-cuts run by the miners 20 years ago. Ten feet further on, a drift was run off from the cross-cut a distance of about twenty feet which we have seen fit to style

### "THE CHAMBER OF DEATH."

On a pile of dirt thrown back from the face of the drift lay two skeletons. From appearances, the animated forms once surrounding and occupying these ghastly evidences of man's mortality had lain down side by side in obedience to the mandatory summons of the monarch Death. Here lay the empty skull of one by his side, while that of the other had rolled down the dirt pile and found a resting place at its owner's feet. Four boots, from each of which projected a leg-bone, were partially embedded in the mud at our feet. Picks, drills and shovels were all neatly piled up together, just as though the brave men, realizing that escape was impossible, had put their house in order prior to closing up their earthly accounts. There was the piece of candle that flickered out in all probability even as the spark of life deserted them—slowly, peacefully but surely. The walls were coated with lime, the air was tainted with odors impure, and candles shed feeble rays upon a ledge of quartz o'erhead, nothing marred the deathly silence save the monotonous drip, drip of a little spring as it oozed out of the roof and splashed in a puddle on the floor—verily, if ever there was a place deserving such a title, this is "the Chamber of Death." Taking a pick, the piece of candle and a small lump of the lumbago strata in which the unfortunate men were working at the time of disaster, as relics, we wended our way back to the shaft and took passage for the surface.

### PARTICULARS OF THE ACCIDENT.

Under the heading of "Two Men Buried Alive!" the Butte Democrat of Saturday morning, December 3d, 1859, says:

# Weekly Mercury

8-1-1879

page 2 of 2

At nine o'clock on the morning of the 26th inst., a portion of the tunnel in the quartz claim of Messrs. Smith & Sparks, at Table Mountain, caved in, entombing alive, probably, within the tunnel, two of the workmen, David Shine and F. G. Mathews.

On this claim there is a shaft 165 feet in depth, at the bottom of which was the engine which raised the dirt and rocks, and drained another tunnel 100 feet below the engine. The two unfortunate men were at work in the lower tunnel, when the earth immediately under the engine caved in, filling the outlet of the tunnel, rendering the engine useless, and all efforts to rescue them unavailing. It is supposed that the tunnel must have filled with water within twenty-four hours after the accident.

One cannot readily imagine a more horrid death than to be shut up, hopeless of escape, in the very bowels of the earth, 265 feet beneath the surface, in utter darkness, with the water gradually rising, and a lingering death about to ensue, and ensuing.

We understand that it was against the wishes of the proprietors of the claim that the two men entered the tunnel on the morning of the catastrophe, as the heavy rains had so saturated the ground, fears were entertained of such an event as happened. But one of the men was extremely anxious to give one more blast, confidently expressing the belief that he would thereby reach a lost vein of quartz. On the slope of the mountain above the shaft alluded to, four or five acres have sunk three or four feet.

8-2-1879

# THE WEEKLY BUTTE RECORD.

VOL. 26.

CHICO, BUTTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1879.

NO. 42.

## Remains Found.

About a week ago we made mention of the probable finding of the remains of the men who were buried in the Banner Mine, at Columbiaville, near Oroville, in 1859, by a cave, as the re-opening the mine had begun. We learn today that the skeletons of the three men were found in the further end of the shaft yesterday, sitting side by side. Nothing of their wearing apparel remained except the rubber boots.

From Saturday's Daily.

## After Twenty Years.

The men at work re-opening the Banner Mine, a pioneer quartz mine, located some three or four miles above Oroville, on the morning of the 25th, came upon the two men who were buried in the mine in 1859. The two men were found in a tunnel that had been run from a shaft in search for the ledge. A shaft had been sunk a little to one side of the tunnel, in which the men were at work twenty years ago, when the cave occurred, causing the abandonment of work. Upon striking into the tunnel and draining it of water, the men were found in the tunnel where they had been at work. Their skeletons were found in a sitting posture, with their boots on. From their position it was evident they were shut in the tunnel by the cave, and realizing their situation, had sat down on a pile of dirt which they had thrown back in their work and fell asleep, dying apparently without a struggle. It would appear that they perished from the foul air. Clothes and flesh had departed. The mere skeletons remained, their boots still remaining upon their skeleton feet. What thoughts must have passed through the minds of these men as they sat down upon the heap of earth where they were to remain until death relieved their spirits, and where their remains were to be found after a burial of twenty years, can only be imagined. Their remains were decently buried, and the search continued for the ledge they had guarded for a fifth of a century.

# Weekly Mercury

8-8-1879

## **ANOTHER BONANZA.**

### **A Big Strike in the Buena Vista Mine— Rock Worth \$250 per ton.**

Two weeks ago we published an item announcing the incorporation of the Buena Vista Quartz Mining Company, to operate on the Yankee Hill, between West Branch and North Fork of Feather river. Last Saturday, Mr. Williams, of San Francisco, who has recently bought an interest in the property, called on us while en route to that city and left a number of samples of quartz and a small box of decomposed quartz, a large ledge of which has just been struck in the mine. Tuesday information was received from San Francisco to the effect that the latter assayed \$250 per ton. Parties conversant with the property inform us that there are thousands of tons of the decomposed quartz, the ledge being one of the largest ever discovered in Northern California. Unless these gentlemen are sadly mistaken in their assertions, the Buena Vista is a bonanza of more than ordinary magnitude, and its speedy development cannot but attract hundreds of enterprising miners and prospectors to this section and result in the general prosperity of what has long been regarded as one of the richest mineral sections of the coast.

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## 8-9-1879

### A CHAMBER OF DEATH.

Buried for Twenty Years.

[Oroville Mercury, August 1st.]

Word was brought to this city a week ago this morning that the water had all been pumped out of the Bauner mine, and the skeletons of the men buried by the cave of twenty years ago recovered. L. H. Ayers, foreman of the mine, offered to transport us to the lower regions. We shed our good clothes, put on gum boots and coat, an old hat, and clambered into the big iron bucket. Down, down, down we went! Two hundred feet isn't but a short distance on the earth's surface, but it seems a terrible long ways when descending a mining shaft. The bottom was reached in safety, and we scrambled out into a pool of water and mud about two foot deep. Candles were lighted, and following the tunnel a distance of fifteen yards, we came to a ladder leading up to the old level broken into by the blasts set off a week or ten days previous. The top of this ladder rested in a fissure hardly wide enough for a man to squeeze through, beyond which was one of the prospecting cross-cuts run by the miners twenty years ago. Ten feet further on a drift was run off from the cross-cut a distance of about twenty feet which we have seen fit to style, "The chamber of death." On a pile of dirt thrown back from the face of the drift lay two skeletons. From appearances, the animated forms once surrounding and occupying these ghastly evidences of man's mortality had laid down side by side in obedience to the mandatory summons of the monarch death. Here lay the empty skull of one by his side, while that of the other had rolled down the dirt pile and found a resting place at its owner's feet. Four boots, from each of which projected a leg-bone, were partially imbedded in the mud at our feet. Picks, drills, and shovels were all neatly piled up together, just as though the brave men, realizing that escape was impossible, had put their house in order prior to closing up their earthly accounts. There was the piece of candle that flickered out in all probability, even as the spark of life deserted them—slowly peacefully yet surely. The walls were coated with slime, the air was tainted with odors impure, our candles shed feeble rays upon a ledge of quartz overhead, nothing marred the deathly silence save the monotonous drip, drip of a little spring as it oozed out of the roof and splashed in a puddle on the floor—verily, if ever there was a place deserving such a title, this is "the Chamber of Death." Taking a pick, the piece of candle and a small lump of the plumbago strata in which the unfortunate men were working at the time of the disaster, as relics, we wended our way back to the shaft and took passage for the surface.

Under the heading of "Two Men Buried Alive," the *Butte Democrat* of Saturday morning, December 3, 1859, said:

"At 9 o'clock on the morning of the 26th ult., a portion of the tunnel in the quartz claim of Messrs. Smith & Sparks, at Table Mountain, caved in, entombing alive, probably, within the tunnel, two of the workmen, David Shine and F. G. Mathews.

"On this claim there is a shaft 165 feet in depth, at the bottom of which was the engine which raised the dirt and rocks, and drained another tunnel 100 feet below the engine. The unfortunate men were at work in the lower tunnel, when the earth immediately under the engine caved in, filling the outlet of the tunnel, rendering the engine useless, and all efforts to rescue them unavailing. It is supposed that the tunnel must have filled with water within twenty-four hours after the accident.

"One cannot readily imagine a more horrible death than to be shut up, hopeless of escape, in the very bowels of the earth, 265 feet beneath the surface, in utter darkness, with the water gradually rising, and a lingering death about to ensue, and ensuing.

"We understand that it was against the wishes of the proprietors of the claim that the two men entered the tunnel on the morning of the catastrophe, as the heavy rains had so saturated the ground fears were entertained of such an event as happened. But one of the men was extremely anxious to give one more blast, confidently expressing the belief that he would thereby reach a lost vein of quartz."

In our opinion the writer erred as to the cause of death. We think the men died from suffocation. The mine had been settling for several days, and gauges had been placed in position in various portions of the works so that the workmen could keep themselves informed regarding their safety. Shine and Matthews were running a prospecting drift on contract; they were to draw half their pay while the work was in progress, and the remainder when the lost ledge was struck. Both men were confident that they would finish the job that day, and announced when going to work in the morning that it was their last day in the mine. About half-past 8 one of the carmen discovered on looking at one of the gauges that the roof of the tunnel was settling very rapidly. The alarm was promptly given. Everybody hastened to escape, except Shine and partner. Dan Hopkins, who died a short time since at Cherokee, was the last man to leave the mine. He stopped at the mouth of the chamber where the victims were working and told them to come out—that the mine was caving in. Shine was drilling a hole and replied that they would be out just as soon as they got that blast ready to fire. Hopkins had not yet reached the surface when the tunnel was closed by the cave. From the fact that the tools were all together on top of the dirt thrown back by the men as they worked, and that the skeletons laid right beside them, our hypothesis is that the two men were overcome by the foul air, after having returned from a trip in the tunnel for their tools with which to dig out.

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**Quartz Mill Burned.**

The Nesbitt quartz mill, 16 stamps situated at Oregon City and belonging to Perkins and Brock, was destroyed by fire last Friday. When new the mill cost \$35,000. No insurance. As the property had been idle for some time, the fire is believed to have been the work of an incendiary. — Oroville Mercury.

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# BUTTE COUNTY REGISTER.

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page 1 of 2

8-29-1879

## A Candidate's Trip to the Mountains

EDITOR REGISTER – A few items of general interest picked up among the hill precincts may be acceptable to the readers of the REGISTER.

Leaving Pence's shortly after breakfast, we climbed the long hill leading to Dogtown on as hot a morning as the summer has produced. Though there is but little teaming this season, the road was deep with dust. We noticed that the hillsides are rapidly becoming covered with young timber. Dogtown was reached in time for an early dinner, being Sunday, some forty or fifty miners were in town, and all seemed to be having a jolly time. Frank Davis was kept busy in the hotel, while Miller in the store and the saloon men were doing a land office business.

The public school is taught by Miss Pierson, one of our most wide awake and energetic teachers and contains some twenty-five pupils. Six miles further on we halted at Lovelock's, but only had time to visit Strong's hotel and Pomerat's store a few minutes, and then rode to Benner's where we put up for the night and were well treated and well entertained.

The public school at Lovelock's is taught by Miss Bella Grant, a zealous and earnest young teacher, and numbers some twenty pupils.

After a short visit to L. A. Snow's, we rode to Doon's mill. Here we found some fifteen or twenty men at work as the mill was in full blast. After showing us through his mill and yard and introducing us to all the men, Mr. Doon said he had a curiosity to show us.

It was a mammoth boat. High upon the mountain miles away from a stream that would float it, was a huge boat capable of carrying ten or twelve tons. The builder, Mr. Butler, said he was building it to go to Central America in. In 1851 he discovered a silver mine there, and is now going back there with a company of men to work the same. Doon pleasantly suggested that I mention this boat to candidates as capable of holding all who are to take passage up "Salt river" on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September.

A lonesome ride through the woods brought us to Inskip where our old friend Stokes reigns supreme. After a tip-top dinner and an hour's rest, we turned our steps to Carpenter's Mill. Stokes tells us that the hottest day of the season was eighty-eight degrees at Inskip. At Carpenter's Mill, we found a crew of men turning out lumber at the rate of fifteen thousand feet per day, all sugar pine. The mill this season was leased by Geo. Gable & Co.

Our next stopping place was Powellton, where mine host, Carr, furnished us a supper fit for a king. The Powellton school is taught by Miss Kate Leggett, a competent devoted and able teacher, and contains about twenty pupils. Miss Eva Base, an excellent young teacher, has charge of the Inskip school. A ride of three miles brought us to Hasty's Mill, which is not running at present.

Next morning at an early hour, we rode down to a quartz mill just being started, but neglected to note down the name of the owner. Then in company with Mr. Hasty, visited a number of miners along the creek. Crossing the Dogtown road, we rode on alone, passed Snow's and down the grade to West Brach, but found little or no mining



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# BUTTE COUNTY REGISTER.

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8-29-1879

page 2 of 2

where we crossed the stream. We stopped for dinner with the Ribson boys, who fed us on fish and wild honey, and then climbed that tremendous KimsheW mountain. After getting up so high that it made our head dizzy, we rode on to KimsheW, which has an elevation of 5600 feet. We stopped over night with Ben Kendall, a whole-souled miner, and then were piloted on our own way to Geo. Ridley. Ten or twelve men are mining on KimsheW at present and these we stopped to see. Missing the road, we passed without seeing the Rock creek mill, which is being fitted up to start shortly, and further on to the Defiance Mill, the largest and most complete lumber mill we saw on the trip. Forty men were at work and thirty thousand feet of lumber is turned out daily. The mill this season is run by Holbrook & Co. We took dinner at the Flea Valley House, kept by Fairbanks. After a hearty meal, we rode down through Concow, passed the handsome little homes of Marquis, Mullen, and others and pushed on to Yankee Hill, which we reached at night. Judge Wells is the man of the Hill, merchant, landlord and Postmaster combined. He is at the same time one of the most pleasant and genial men of the county. Long before dawn on the following morning, we were on our way home to Oroville, which we reached in time to escape the heat of the day. During our trip, we were pleased to see the REGISTER in nearly all the places where we stopped and were glad to hear all speak in praise of it.

S.S.B.

(original article quality was very poor)

# Butte County Register

## 8-29-1879

### OROVILLE CORRESPONDENCE

(By our Special Correspondent.)

OROVILLE, August 28, 1879.

The old Henrietta mine resumed operations yesterday under the supervision of Mr. Klosterman of San Francisco.

Business is dull in consequence of the approaching election.

The shower of last week and the threatening appearance of the weather to-day indicate an early fall and much chills and fever.

The different political committees are busily engaged delivering ballots to the various outside precincts.

The many candidates are making desperate efforts as the day of election comes on next week. Many old salts will assist in manning the bark that goes up Salt river. I feel sad to see so many friends compelled to take passage on this craft some of them I fear will never again return to their homes, "officially".

Marion Biggs, better known as the "old war horse", spent Wednesday in town.

Jos. McKenna and G. T. Bromley spoke to a large and attentive audience in this place on Wednesday evening.

P. S. Dorney of Caucasian notoriety will address the people of this town on the evening of September 2d.

Mrs. D. B. Hays and children returned home on Thursday from a sojourn in the Mountains.

George Grover the live man of the people is on the alert. He receives the undivided support of the business people here, and should be one of our next Constables.

Juke Snow one of the oldest Justices of Peace and Constables in this county—is out for Constable of Ophir Township—a worthy man.

S. S. Boynton, is making a lively canvass is a good boy, and once gave satisfaction as Superintendent in Plumas County.

After the destruction of the Ophir Four Mills in this place it was an evident fact that, owing to the position this town occupies to the mountain towns of Plumas, Lassen and Sierra counties, it must be replaced. Early in April, J. J. Smith, R. Parker, and the brothers—John and Chas. Ward organized the Oroville Water Mill Company, and purchased the land upon which now stands this fine property. About the 20th of May the contract was let to J. D. Dochstadter, who at once commenced work which is now completed. The entire machinery is driven by a ten inch turbine water wheel, Leffel's patent. For grain cleaning the Eureka Separating Smut machine, located in the basement, is used. E. P. Allis & Co.'s Reliance Works, Milwaukee, Wis, furnished five run of stone, by which the staff of life is manufactured. Much credit is given to Mr. Dochstadter for the beauty and design of the building and the durability of the material furnished. A. McNeil is the miller, and one who knows his business. The services of C. H. Wilcox have been secured as bookkeeper—a better selection could not have been made. The company now have about eight hundred tons of grain on hand, and have begun operation with every prospect of a successful run this Fall. Orders are pouring in every day for the manufactured article. Now the next thing we want is a woolen mill. We have the water facilities and in the center of one of the largest wool producing regions in the State. The only thing needed is man of capital to go at it; there is no doubt of its being a remunerative investment—I might say a gold mine of itself.

One of our hotel proprietors, tired of the labors and duties of his business and oppressed with the heat of the past month, resolved to spend a few weeks in the mountains for health, recreation, fishing and hunting, accordingly he set out. Taking the Flea Valley road, he must of necessity pass Yankee Hill, where there lives a monopolist M. H. Wells, who owns and runs a giant line of Jackasses in the transporting business—and in order to keep his rolling stock in complete repair he must of necessity have them manufactured at home, therefore he has them of all ages running about the hills—our hotel proprietor being on the shoot, killing a deer being the height of his ambition on this trip, he was more than ever on the alert. When near Yankee Hill he spied one in the bushes, and crack went the huntsman's rifle and down come a direct progenitor of the animal that talked to one Balaam; thus in a measure crippling this great monopoly.

# Weekly Mercury 8-29-1879

## CHEROKEE NOTES.

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CHEROKEE, August 25th, 1879.

EDITOR MERCURY:— We had a gala time here last Friday night, the pupils of Miss M. A. Walsh giving a musical and dramatic entertainment in Chamber's Hall. A very large audience was present. About thirty children, ranging from five to fifteen years of age, constituted the company. "Cinderella" was the drama presented. Then came a sketch from "Pinafore," in which the Admiral and a chorus of twenty voices sang the famous "And so do his Sisters and his Cousins and his Aunts" song. The "Cherokee Skidmore Guards," by a squad of boys, was immense. The costumes were decidedly operatic in all the performance, and it is universally admitted to have been the best entertainment ever given in the place. Miss Walsh departed for San Jose, Tuesday. She has resided here for over a year and has made a host of friends by her lady-like qualities as well as by the valuable instruction imparted to our little ones. We shall miss her very much, but hope her lines may be cast in pleasant places.

PILL BOX.

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### Sold the Diamond.

Amos Howard last week sold the diamond recently found near Cherokee to a San Francisco dealer for \$70.

# Weekly Mercury

## 9-5-1879

### Our Stage Lines.

Few of our people realize what an important feature of the town's prosperity the various stage lines centering here have become. In fact, we had but a trifling conception of the magnitude of our stage business ourselves until a few days since when a visit to the general stage office revealed the same. First on the list comes the Quincy, Greenville and Prattville line, E. A. Halstead, proprietor. This route is 110 miles in length, carries the U. S. mail and Wells, Fargo & Co.'s express, and runs tri-weekly, leaving this city Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Mr. Halstead has four coaches, three drivers and five hostlers and 24 horses.

Next in importance is the Susanville line. This route utilizes three coaches and two light express wagons, fourteen horses and three drivers; Mr. Sim Garber, the proprietor, having his stock cared for by ranchers along the road. Stages for Susanville leave here Sunday Tuesday and Thursday of each week, carrying passengers, mail and express. The distance traversed is 110 miles. Mr. Garber also runs a daily stage to Cherokee, 12 miles distant, carrying mail and express, in addition to passengers.

F. N. Morse is proprietor of the Forbestown route. Has two coaches, six horses and one driver. Distance 28 miles. Carries express and mail. Connects at Forbestown with Marysville and LaPorte line. Leaves this city Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Then we have two daily stages, one to Chico the other to Biggs, both owned and managed by J. D. Flinnicum. The former route has one coach, driver, six horses, one hostler; the latter, one coach, four horses, driver and hostler. On the Biggs route express matter is carried, and both lines transport the U. S. mail. Twenty-four miles is the distance to Chico, fourteen to Biggs.

The general office for all these routes is at the Union Hotel, and is presided over by F. R. Danforth, a gentleman who has had years of experience in such matters and whose genial ways makes an impression upon the minds of passengers that is not soon forgotten.

It will thus be seen that the stage lines centering in this city extend over 298 miles of the surrounding country, employs twenty men including proprietors, 54 horses, and have 13 vehicles. That these lines are the means of drawing a great deal of trade to the city, there can be no doubt, and it is but justice to say that there are no more competent stagemen in the State than those managing the Oroville routes.

# Weekly Mercury

## 9-19-1879

### **Gone Away.**

Mrs. Clarissa Roderick has disposed of her ranch in Cherokee Ravine and started for Washington Territory, where she intends embarking in stock raising. The lady has a large band of horses up in that country already as well as quite a number of horned stock. She announced her determination, prior to her departure, of coming back at some future day with more money than she took with her a declaration that her well-known business qualifications lead us to believe will be successfully adhered to.

## Weekly Butte Record 9-20-1879

### Letter from Concow School

ED: RECORD :—The heated term and sickness has reduced our ranks considerably the past month; average attendance about twenty-five. But neither sickness nor warm weather, nor any of the ill's flesh is heir to, can diminish the ambition of the Concow scholars in their sturdy march up the rugged Hill of Science. (Vide Webster's spelling-book, edition of 1820.) Below I give the Roll of Honor for the month of August:

First Roll—Ida M. Horn, Wm. Tobbe, D. B. Thompson, Mary Smith, Geo. Tebbe, Josie Miller, James Smith, Fred Wellington, B. F. Clark, John Clark.

Second Roll—John Tebbe, George Clark, David Gramps; Wendel Miller, Alfaretta Richard, Fred Tebbe, Mina Hodopp, Frank North, L. F. Sweetman, Mattie Smith, George Smith, Artimleia Richard, Albert Lent.  
Mrs. CURTIS, Teacher.

M. H. Wells, Esq., has six men at work on the new Yankee Hill road, making a new grade. The lumber for the West Branch bridge is on the ground, and it will soon be constructed. D. A. C.

The Yankee Hill Quartz Mill has been stopped for a month, but they are now working the ledge again. A road has been made to the mines, and they are now hauling quartz. The owners have found a good prospect lately. D. G.

Mr. Hodopp has just finished baling hay. The coyotes have killed a great many of his pigs. Mr. Feist and his son are cutting timber for the Buchanan Hill Mine. Mr. Lafferty is cutting brush from the ditch. Mr. Nix is making a fence around his ranch. Mr. McLonnen is drying fruit.

L. F. S.

The mining company at Buchanan Hill is very busy now. They are sinking a shaft on the top of the hill to get air into the tunnel, and they are cleaning out the old incline. There is a good deal of water in it, and they have to work the engine night and day to be able to accomplish anything.

J. S.

The Rock Creek Saw Mill has shut down for the present, but the Defiance Mill, at Flea Valley, is still running: F. N.

Mr. Lafferty, the gentlemanly superintendent of the Spring Valley ditch, has forbidden the Concow school boys bathing in the ditch, so we boys must go dirty now.

B. B. C.

There has been a new hospital erected at Deadwood City. It is under the immediate supervision and sole management of Ah Sang, the celebrated Chinese physician. Ah Sang, to whom we are indebted for this information, told me that he had forty-three patients under his treatment, all of whom are in a fair way to recover. Among these may be mentioned Mr. and Mrs. Richards and Mr. Shaw, of Gridley; Messrs. Pierson and Henderson, of Chico; Mrs. Peterson, of Plumas; Mrs. Uplake, Mr. and Mrs. Gilett, and others. F. W.

# Weekly Mercury

## 9-27-1879

### **Killed by a Grizzly.**

One day last week an Indian named Tom, of Big Bar, went out hunting. Failing to return in due season, a search was made for him, resulting in the discovery of his mangled body and Henry rifle by its side. Near the remains lay the corpse of a grizzly cub. It is thought he shot and killed the cub, and was attacked by the old she bear before he had time to reload. The ground in the vicinity was plentifully sprinkled with blood and general appearances of the locality indicated a desperate struggle. So writes a Yankee Hill correspondent.

# Weekly Mercury

## 10-3-1879

### **Big Bar Mine.**

John W. Spencer has leased the Big Bar gravel mine for one year, and will put a force of men at work as soon as the rain falls in quantities sufficient to operate the mine. Mr. Spencer is confident that this is one of the best gravel mines in this part of the State. He is a miner of experience and knows whereof he speaks.



Weekly Butte Record 10-4-1879

First ad with Oroville Lumber Co. name

**OROVILLE  
LUMBER COMPANY!**

—○—  
**C. H. Holbrook,**

**SUPERINTENDENT.**

Lessee of the

**Sugar Pine Lumber, Flume and Mining  
Company's Property.**

**M**ANUFACTURE and Sell at Wholesale  
and retail all kinds of

**Lumber and Building Material,**

**COMMON LUMBER, RUSTIC, FLOORING  
CEILING, SIDING, SHINGLES,  
SHAKES, etc.**

**DOORS, WINDOWS AND BLINDS,**

**For Sale at Lowest Market Rates.**

**Flume Dump, Pence's Ranch, Butte County.**

je2501

**C. H. HOLBROOK.**

**Superintendent**

**FROM OROVILLE.**

[From our regular Correspondent.]

**Board of Supervisors.**

MONDAY, NOV. 9.

Messrs. Williams and Crane, committee to examine bridge across West Branch, report the same completed in good shape, and that \$150 be allowed for an extra stone abutment, and that the bridge be covered.

**BILLS ALLOWED.**

Stover & Co., meats for Hospital for quarter.....	\$ 62 00
H. C. Bell, outside aid.....	30 00
Dr. Bolton, examining insane.....	10 00
Wm. James, conveying indigent to Hospital.....	5 00
Dr. Miller, post mortem examination.....	10 00
M. T. Sparks, brick for Infirmary.....	24 00
G. Chamberlin, Infirmary work.....	8 00
E. Maloyer, conveying indigent.....	6 50
Dr. Miller, examining insane.....	10 00
M. T. Sparks, lumber.....	78 84
D. B. Fryer, drugs for outside aid.....	10 50
Chico Relief Society.....	300 00
J. J. Burkett, carrying meals.....	15 00
Dr. McDermott, examining insane....	10 00
Mrs. Rose, meals for prisoners.....	70 80
Patters & Williams, burying indigent	27 00
Colusa Stage Company.....	11 50
Chas. Burroughs, outside aid.....	49 31
E. A. Halstead.....	4 00
A. M. McDermott, outside aid.....	19 50
Brock & Taber.....	25 97
J. J. Smith.....	4 25
Hancock & Wright.....	6 00

J. D. Finnicum.....	67 00
J. Silverstein, tobacco.....	10 35
H. C. Bell, goods for Infirmary.....	449 85
W. Putnam.....	89 75
J. Silverstein, tobacco.....	14 16
A S Hendricks.....	17 00
D B Hays, orange trees.....	9 00
James C Gray, hardware.....	28 00
A McDermott.....	106 65
H Bird, burying indigent.....	123 00
William J Morgan.....	6 00
E A Halstead, ice.....	7 73
D P Fryer, drugs for Infirmary.....	9 13
M H Wells, for the bridge and road across West Branch.....	1575 00
B Parker, drugs for Infirmary.....	76 60
F A Sprague, board of prisoners and janitor.....	729 00
W A Washburn.....	51 25
Oroville Water Co.....	33 75
J C Flint, Constable fees.....	43 99
S Garber, hire of team.....	3 00
C Flint, Constable fees.....	20 00
S Wagner.....	18 75
G B Springer, Court House.....	2 00
G K Smith, outside aid.....	10 00
Dr Achuff, medical attendance on prisoners in jail.....	37 00
O H Corby, blacksmithing.....	7 38
F A Sprague, Sheriff's fees.....	2 50
" " guarding prisoners.....	165 00
" " fees in criminal cases.....	511 90
H W Matthews, Constable fees.....	31 70
E A Halstead, for.....	27 15

Bills of Yuba county, for examining insane, barred by limitation.

Hospital and other expenses of the county for outside aid foot up for the quarter, ending November 1st, 1879, \$2,103 51. Accepting this as an average would make the amount allowed for public charity by the county for the year, \$8,564 91.

Weekly Butte Record  
11-15-1879

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**ASSIGNEES' SALE.**

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**T**HE undersigned, Assignees of J. M. Decker, will by virtue of an order of the County Court, made on the 5th day of November, 1879, offer for sale and sell at Public Auction, to the highest bidder for cash, U. S. gold coin, the following described property, to-wit :

2 Mowers, 3 Header Beds, 1 Wagon and Rack, 8 Single Plows, 2 Rakes, 3 Harrows, 2 Freight Wagons, 7 sets Harness, 2 Spring Wagons, 3 Hay Racks, 1 Corn Sheller, 1 Fanning Mill, 33 Mares and Horses, lot Fencing,  $\frac{2}{3}$  interest in 25 Mule Colts,  $\frac{2}{3}$  interest in 15 Horse Colts,  $\frac{1}{3}$  interest in Jack known as the "Kentuck" Jack,  $\frac{2}{3}$  interest in 20 Sows and Pigs, Pasture Claim, near Concow.

Sale will take place on

**Saturday, Nov. 29th, 1879,**

At the Ranch of Daniel Bidwell.

DANIEL BIDWELL,  
G. W. GRIDLEY,  
Assignees of J. M. Decker,

Nov. 7th, 1879.

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At the same time and place there will be offered for sale and sold at Public Auction, twelve (12) fine, large Work Mules with their Harness.

no7-20d

D. BIDWELL.

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# LUMBER!

REDUCED FROM

\$18 to \$15

Per Thousand Feet.

—o—

FROM this date, until otherwise ordered, the  
**SIERRA LUMBER COMPANY**

will sell COMMON LUMBER from 12 to 20 feet in length, at its yard in Chico, at the above reduced rate. The rates on all other qualities of Lumber have also been reduced.

Special Rates for Cash and on Large Lots.

A. C. WOODSUM,  
General Superintendent

Chico, Sept. 2, 1879.—M

## OROVILLE

### LUMBER COMPANY!

—o—

**C. H. Holbrook,**

SUPERINTENDENT

Lessee of the

**Sugar Pine Lumber, Flume and Mining  
Company's Property.**

MANUFACTURE and Sell at Wholesale and retail all kinds of

**Lumber and Building Material,**  
COMMON LUMBER, RUSTIC, FLOORING,  
CEILING, SIDING, SHINGLES,  
SHAKES, etc.

DOORS, WINDOWS AND BLINDS,

For Sale at Lowest Market Rates.

Flume Dump, Pence's Ranch, Butte County.  
10251f C. H. HOLBROOK,  
Superintendent

# Weekly Butte Record 11-22-1879

## **A New House.**

Dave Cohn has commenced the erection of a neat cottage house on the corner of Flume & Wall street. Dave says it is not for himself, but that a young man by the name of Marcus Breslauer is expected to go into a life partnership about the middle of January, and he will probably occupy it. Mr. M. Breslauer is partner with M. Goodday.

# Weekly Butte Record

11-22-1879

## **Drunken Indian.**

Last evening an Indian was arrested for being drunk and wanting to fight. The officers are trying to find out where "Lo" got his whiskey, and we hope they will be successful. It is the meanest occupation a man can be engaged in, that of selling strong drink to the Indians, and they deserve to be punished.

From Saturday's Daily.

From Cherokee.

In the Oroville Mercury of November 21st appeared the item, "Sugar Loaf baseball club give a 'break-down' on Thanksgiving night." If the editor intended the above as a sarcastic jest, he failed in the attempt signally, but if he intended it as a slight, so as to prevent outsiders attending the party, it has been so accepted, and indignantly resented. Let it be emphatically understood that the town of Cherokee is not noted for break-downs, can cans, or other such amusements as the above item indicates. Again, Cherokee boys in general, and the members of the base-ball club in particular, are not the rough, uncultured clod-hoppers that the remark would suggest; on the contrary, the Cherokee boys are true gentlemen in every sense of the word—not your white handed, empty-brained, useless fops, but the noble, generous, true hearted men who are the pillars of a nation, the supporters of society, and the upholders of virtue and morality. The inhabitants of Cherokee are as well advanced in points of learning, refinement and respectability as any others in the State; our young men are as noble, and our young women as beautiful, useful, accomplished and good as any in the world; and we will not stand quietly by and see them derogated unjustly by an upstart country editor, whose love for the low and vulgar has been fed, cultivated and developed until all the nobler elements, purer emotions and higher sentiments have been absorbed and assimilated by the smutty

## Weekly Butte Record 12-6-1879

wit. This is only one of the many items relative to Cherokee that have appeared in the Mercury this season, the result of some personal grudge held by the editor, or else the work of some dastardly informant possessed of more conceit than brains, more presumption than truth, which we do not know; but we do know that if the offenses continue, not a Mercury will be received here in three months. Are there no other items of interest to fill the columns of the diminutive sheet? Must the editor publish all the low jests and scenes that occur in the county, and then expect his paper to enter the homes of conscientious citizens and be perused by pure-minded wives and daughters? No, no, it cannot be; he must change the tone of his paper or suffer failure. There is too much pure, sensible, instructive literature in circulation for such an imposition. All we here assume we justly own, and trust that when next the Mercury speaks of Cherokee it be in a more deserving manner. (CHEROKEEITE.

CHEROKEE, Nov. 24, 1879.

# Weekly Mercury

12-6-1879

**WEEKLY MERCURY (Dec. 6, 1879) –**  
Moving to schoolhouse – A general invitation was given to attend a skating rink just afterwards, the principal actor was our school house on twelve rollers. It did not lose it's balance flitting across the creek, but was brought to a final stand not far from the lumber dump. Just after it was fairly over it's glee and straightened into proper shape, a "apron and knecktie" party scoured the floor. Over \$40.00 was raised to give the house a general burnishing before the opening of school.



## The Flume.

We have been unable to ascertain anything definite as to the amount of damage sustained by the Sierra Lumber Company to their flume property. We understand, however, that there is thought to be a good many breaks in Chico canyon, and the telegraph wires being down, there has been no communication between the Chico office and the mills for several days. We understand, also, that the Blue Ridge and Antelope flumes, in Tehama county, sustained considerable damages. Previous to the construction of these flumes the lumber business was a profitable one for all who engaged in it. Now, it puzzles us to name any of those who have in any manner been connected with the flume business who have not been brought to the verge of bankruptcy and carried others with them. The flume property has been looked upon as a great source of profit, but the expense of building it through the canyons, and keeping it in repair after it was built, has cost them more than the primitive method of teaming lumber from the mills to the valley. Perhaps this is a mere assertion which cannot be maintained, but a comparison of the prosperity of the lumber business of 1871, 1872 and 1873 with that of 1878 and 1879 justifies the assertion. But not only has the fluming enterprise proved ruinous to those engaged in it, but it has been a death-blow to all the teaming interests of Chico, retarding instead of advancing our prosperity. It is to-day an apparent fact that not one single redeeming feature of the flume enterprise can be pointed out as conferring a benefit upon any one.