

Weekly Mercury

1-9-1880

Dangerous Traveling.

While returning from a trip to Yankee Hill, Sunday night, Charlie Ehrlich and Louis Ostroski were upset and dumped out of their vehicle. They were coming down the grade in Morris Ravine, above Hendricks' mine, when the accident happened, and drove into a deep rut while the team was jogging at a lively gait. The road is very rough in this vicinity; the night was extremely dark, and the gentlemen were in good luck to get off so well as they did.

Weekly Mercury

1-16-1880

HEAVY MINING TRANSACTION.

Sale of the Spring Valley Mining Property to New York Capitalists.

Rumors were extant on our streets yesterday to the effect that the Spring Valley mines at Cherokee had been purchased by a syndicate of New York capitalists. The report further represented that Charles Waldyer had also disposed of his mining interests in the same locality to the same parties. The latter gentleman being in the city, a MERCURY reporter interviewed him and obtained the following facts: A syndicate of New York capitalists, headed by ex-Mayor Havemyer, have purchased the two mining properties above named for the sum of \$880,000, of which the Spring Valley Company is to receive \$500,000 and Mr. Waldyer the remainder. The final transfer of the entire property will be consummated as soon as the titles can be established and the deeds executed. Professor Edison figures in the transaction, having made a contract with the purchasers to put in all undercurrents and flumes necessary to save the black sand characterizing the mineral deposits of the mines, and has guaranteed the syndicate a return of \$500,000 per annum, providing the samples recently tested by him were an average of the article and the quantity as great as represented. This is the largest sale of mining property that has ever occurred in Butte county. The ultimate result of the transaction will be of inestimable value to this community, and will undoubtedly attract more capital in this direction and hasten the thorough development of our mineral resources.

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1-23-1880

Rare Chance.

Next Thursday, remember, the sale of the estate of E. D. Clark takes place on the premises, Clear Creek,, twelve miles from town, on the Dogtown road. Mr. Clark was an enterprising, practical business man, and succeeded in establishing a reputation for his hotel second to that of no interior house in the county. As a consequence the place possesses a good run of patronage, and the ranch on which it is situated consists of first class agricultural and grazing land. The hotel and ranch can be leased on reasonable terms, while the personal property (see description elsewhere) will be sold to the highest and best bidders. Competent judges pronounce this opportunity an exceedingly rare chance for a live man to step into a good paying business at a trifling expense.

Weekly Mercury

1-23-1880

Items from Pence's.

MESILLA VALLEY, January 21, 1880.

EDITOR MERCURY:—The great "foot race" spoken of in my last, on account of the weather has been indefinitely postponed. A road runner in the mean time appeared on the scene to prove his endurance. Not being present, could not decide on the merits of the trial. The extreme weather just passed will tone down any other attempts to display the several agilities of those who had hoped to become "famous".

"Jack Frost" sported so lively in these parts and cut up such wild fancies that it was feared the orange, lemon, and fruit trees generally were entirely killed, but judging from Mr. Pence's orange trees, loaded with the luscious fruit, but little harm was done here. Nature's freaks in frosting furnished every variety for imitation on Christmas cakes, tarts, etc.; but such delicious honey, in the comb, as we were the recipients of, needed neither the rich nor artificial frosting to give it beauty or taste, and our hearts went out in thankfulness to the giver as we ate it on our hot cakes Christmas morning.

Those "little ones" who famished for the nice presents of prosperous days have much sympathy from all those who experience like changes. "Let not thy right hand know what thy left hand giveth," has almost ceased to be a virtue, since so many rich gifts are heralded from public Christmas trees, while the meager presents of the unfortunate seems in strange contrast. No wonder that those little ones never more wanted to go to a Christmas tree. Yet God dispenseth His gifts alike to rich and poor. Wonder is often expressed why some seem to be forgotten and others are favored. Had we an All-Seeing-Eye these seemingly partial blessings would appear to us in their true light. But let us, if possible forget the past fraught with all its checkered scenes and look forward with hope and renewed vigor for a year of gladness and joy, taking up the thread of life in a resigned way, that "God tempers the wind," and in the sequel "all will be well."

Since the "hygienistic" fraternity have decided that carpets are unhealthy, gives children bronchitis, etc., "rags" are the "mania." The strife seems to be, "Who will make the handsomest?" There is some danger of becoming kleptomaniacs when rich-colored garments are left lying around; but so far they seem to be well guarded, and it may be leap year surprises will be at a discount.

Our debating society "edit" a paper, to which I must refer you for other items of interest.

Yours truly,

T.

Weekly Mercury

1-30-1880

B. P. Hutchinson, formerly of Cherokee, but now running a cigar manufactory in Red Bluff, was in town Saturday. Came back to visit his old friends. We were glad to hear him say that he was prospering.

Missouri Quail.

Ten dozen quail were received by C. M. White, of Chico, Sunday evening, from Sturgeon, Missouri. They were sent in return for the same number of California quail forwarded east some weeks since by Mr. White. The birds have been scattered over the county this week, Louis Glass, of Cherokee, receiving a half dozen. We hope our hunters will refrain from killing the new species until they have time to propagate.

Snow Storm.

Monday, a slight fall of snow occurred here. It lasted but a few minutes and did not succeed in covering the ground. Several inches fell at Cherokee. From our exchanges we ascertain that the storm was general throughout the northern portion of the State, two inches falling in Chico and Tehama, while in Red Bluff the fall lasted from 7 A. M. until noon. In Sacramento and San Francisco the fall was very light.

Weekly Mercury

2-13-1880

Justices' Fees.

Many of the Justices of Butte county might do well to pattern after N. Willoughby Esq., Justice of the Peace for Cherokee, Oregon township. He has filled the position for the past six years, given general satisfaction in civil cases and so run his criminal business, that he has paid into the County Treasury \$180 25 in fines collected, more than his expenses have been. St. John Jackson used to do this in Ophir township, but it is not of frequent occurrence now-a-days, and Mr. Willoughby's course stands out prominently by itself, entitled to honorable mention. Would all our Justices of the Peace exercise a similar prudence, they might assist materially in keeping down the rate of taxation, but most of them seem to be governed by a desire to have the county instead of defendant pay the costs.—Chico Record.

Sale of Property.

J. M. Brock sold his half interest in the Oroville Lumber Company, Monday, to S. C. Farnham, of Vallejo, for cash. Terms private.

**The Law Prohibiting the Employment
of Chinese by Corporations.**

An Act to amend the Penal Code by adding two new sections thereto, to be known as sections one hundred and seventy-eight and one hundred and seventy-nine, prohibiting the employment of Chinese by corporations.

[Approved February 13th, 1880]

To People of the State of California,
represented in Senate and Assembly,
do enact as follows:

Section 1. A new section is hereby added to the Penal Code, to be numbered section 178.

178. Any officer, director, manager, member, stockholder, clerk, agent, servant, attorney, employe, assignee, or contractor of any corporation now existing, or hereafter formed under the laws of this State, who shall employ, in any manner or capacity, upon any work or business of such corporation, any Chinese or Mongolian, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and is punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000, or by imprisonment in the County Jail of not less than fifty or more than five hundred days, or by both such fine and imprisonment; provided, that no director of a corporation shall be deemed guilty under this section who refuses to assent to such employment, and has such dissent recorded in the minutes of the Board of Directors.

1. Every person who, having been convicted for violating the provisions of this section, commits any subsequent violation thereof after such conviction, is punishable as follows:

2. For each subsequent conviction such person shall be fined not less than five hundred nor more than five thousand dollars, or by imprisonment not less than two hundred and fifty days nor more than two years, or both such fine and imprisonment.

Sec. 2 A new section is hereby added to the Penal Code, to be known as section one hundred and seventy-nine, and to read as follows:

179 Any corporation now existing or hereafter formed under the laws of this State, that shall employ, directly or indirectly, in any capacity, any Chinese or Mongolian, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall for the first offense be fined not less than five hundred nor more than five thousand dollars, and upon the second conviction shall, in addition to said penalty, forfeit its charter and franchise, and all its corporate rights and privileges, and it shall be the duty of the Attorney General to take the necessary steps to enforce such forfeiture.

Sec. 3. This Act shall take effect immediately.

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2-27-1880

Minerva Mine.

J. McSmith, superintendent of this property, has a force of men at work clearing out the old tunnel and putting the mine in ship-shape order for active operations. The company intend erecting a fifteen-stamp quartz mill as soon as the weather settles.

Groville Lumber Company.

In our columns will be found the advertisement of this prosperous home institution. Genial Dan Hilton has accepted the position of superintendent. There is not a man in the State better qualified for the place, nor is there one under whose care the business will increase more rapidly.

Weekly Mercury

3-5-1880

Chinese Pills.

The Chinese doctor at Yankee Hill makes his patients swallow pills the size of a base ball. A young lady from Plumas county is the only one who can take her regular medicine three times a day without dislocating her jaws.

Daniel Hilton, superintendent of the Oroville lumber company, was in town taking orders for lumber on Monday and Tuesday.

Weekly Mercury

3-19-1880

From Dumpville.

PENCE'S, March 18th.

ED. MERCURY:—Believing that you want to know how we are getting along, I will start by saying that things out here are looking very dry. If we don't have rain soon there will be no outside feed this season; but the crop outlook is very encouraging. Otherwise we are improving. We have quite a settlement here, now, and have got the most of it fenced in so that it can't run away. Everybody knows that we have a first-class hotel kept by M. Pence. He is a juvenile pioneer—came here in 1849, when the county was well settled with sage-brush and Indians. His house is the best wayside inn in the Sacramento valley. If any man doubts it, let him drop in some time and try a square meal.

Our mainstay in the business line is the Oroville lumber company's dump, and its influence in building up our little burg is far more important than outsiders imagine. Their trade extends throughout the entire coast. They have constantly about 3,000,000 feet of lumber on hand. Dan Hilton is the superintendent of the property, and is making the business boom as it never has before.

Mrs. L. A. B. Curtis, teaches our young ideas how to shoot forth mental darts of weighty thoughts, and makes them behave as well. She has about sixty scholars. I venture to assert there is not a better or brighter lot of school children in Butte county.

By way of diversion and relaxation from the pressing cares of our daily avocations, we have a debating society, which assembles every Wednesday evening in the school house. Henry Fairbanks, presides over its deliberations. The institution is always largely attended. Our last set-to was over the stupendous question—whether or not education prevented crime. The discussion was ably carried on by Mr. Fairbanks in the affirmative, Dr. Allen, of Cherokee, defending the negative.

Messrs. Watt Pence, Ike Kitchin and Eugene Van Ness made our little forum ring with their thunder tones of eloquence, and received salvos of applause. Mrs. Pence and Mrs. Curtis rendered the negative able assistance. Miss Cora Munsil, Miss Abbie Burt and Miss Annie Taylor, seeing the bashful young men taking an interest in the contest, also cast aside their usual quiet demeanor and spoke in earnest tones on the subject. I tell you they had a lively rustle over that subject, and finally proved that education had nothing to do with it. At the conclusion of the debate, we had recitations by Miss Lizzie Parrish, Miss Carrie Allen and Miss May Patterson. We also had vocal music by the Dumpville Glee Club, consisting of Frank Carey, Robert Green, James Klein, Henry Yunker, Billy Moore and Mert Knox. Their rendition of "Father, dear father," etc., brought tears to the eyes of your correspondent. Billy Moore sang "Come and Kiss Me, Little Sweetheart," so feelingly that some of the young ladies became very nervous and fidgety. The others sang several selections of lively songs. I will keep you posted hereafter. OLD SETTLER.

Attempted Incendiary.

About 3 o'clock yesterday morning, some miscreant set fire to Pence's Hotel, at Pence's ranch. John Richards, whose bedroom window fronted the portion of the structure fired, was awakened by the glare before the flames had gained much headway, and roused everybody. The fire was put out before any serious damage was done. Whoever the fellow was he was evidently posted about the premises, as he got a can of coal oil from the lamp room and freely splattered its contents over the kitchen, but in his haste forgot to take the can back, thus leaving an indisputable evidence of the origin of the fire. Great excitement was caused at the Dump by the act, and the residents make no bones in asserting that the limbs of a sound oak tree will support the carcass of the villain should he be caught. There is some suspicion cast upon a Chinese cook who had been discharged from the house a few days prior, but if appears to be founded upon mere supposition. It was a narrow escape, as the rustic on the side was charred clean through.

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Fire at Cherokee.

Ten o'clock, Tuesday morning, the roof of Chambers' Hall, Cherokee, took fire from a defective flue. The flames spread rapidly, consuming the hall building, Vogt's butcher shop and the old Harry Delf saloon. Total loss, \$3,800. Insurance: Vogt's, \$750; saloon, \$1,250. The hall was uninsured. When the fire broke out Miss Gregory was teaching school in the hall and had sixty children present. She maintained a cool demeanor and prevented the little ones from becoming frightened, having them retire in as good order as though they were going to dinner. Everything in the burned buildings was saved except a few benches belonging to the school. Two barns, within forty feet of the conflagration, were saved by the efficient manner in which the people fought the fire.

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The Spring Valley Mine Transferred.

The Havermeyer Syndicate, of New York, purchasers of the Spring Valley Canal and Mining Company's works, made over the first payment of \$100,000 on Monday last, and on Thursday, Louis Glass took formal possession for the new company. We have heard a rumor that Chas. Waldeyer, Esq., will be the new superintendent, and we feel assured that, if such be the case, work will be pushed speedily forward. The price paid for the entire property, including the Waldeyer ground and tunnel, was \$880,000. The deeds were recorded Wednesday night, in which the purchasers are entitled the Spring Valley Hydraulic Gold Company of New York. The transfer includes all the mining land and all that portion of the agricultural land lying north of the Oroville and Chico road.

Butte Record 3-20-1880

Banner Mill Burned.

Parties who came up from Oroville this morning report the Banner Quartz Mill, recently erected on the old Smith & Sparks quartz claim at Long Bar, some three miles above Oroville, as having been burned to the ground. The fire is said to have occurred about two o'clock this morning. The mill commenced running last fall, and took out some \$2,600, when the death of the principal shareholder seemed to bring matters to a halt, and it has been involved in suits in one shape and another. We believe a ditch had been cut that prevented the mill from working, and a suit had just been determined in the Superior Court on that matter. We have no particulars as to the origin of the fire. The claim was a valuable one in the early history of mining in this State. It was interrupted by a cave in 1859, which buried two men. Their remains were found upon opening the claim last fall. It seems to be unfortunate, but the energy that has stuck by it during the past twenty years may yet be able to overcome all difficulties and compel it to yield as formerly.

Fire at Cherokee.

From G. W. Colby and Major J. W. B. Montgomery we learn that a fire broke out in Cherokee about ten o'clock yesterday morning, and destroyed considerable property, among which was a saloon, a meat market, and the public school building. They failed to learn the origin of the fire and the amount of the loss.

LATER — The buildings burned were the Chambers Hall, Miller's meat market and a saloon. The hall was used as a school-house.

Oroville Mercury

3-26-1880

Cherokee Items.

The entire value of the last cleanup of the Spring Valley mining company was in the neighborhood of \$105,000. Tuesday evening, Superintendent Waldeyer arrived from New York, and informs us that a large force of men will be set at work immediately.

Mr. A. Thompson, so rumor says, intends opening a general merchandise store in this burg, before long.

Our old residents feel confident that under the management of the new company, Cherokee's prospects look brighter than for many years past.

Johnny Rogers talks of starting a drug store in Oroville before long, but he will retain his interest in the Cherokee store as well.

George Medanich, the pioneer saloon keeper, is preparing the ground for a handsome garden around his residence. George always has an eye to the beautiful.

Dr. Foley, who formerly resided here, arrived in New York last Monday. He has been unwell for a long time, and has gone east for a change of climate.

During Saturday, Sunday and Monday, those who were lately burned out were kept busy adjusting their losses with the insurance men.

Louis Glass says that he cannot be a candidate for Sheriff, as he was sold with the balance of the property lately transferred to the New York syndicate.

Miss Mary Drinkwater has opened a dress-making and millinery store here, introducing all the fashionable styles. Verily, there is no necessity for Cherokee ladies visiting Oroville for head gear or raiment.

Messrs. Perkins & Fogg, on Monday, insured the property of the lumber company, at the Dump, for a good round sum.

ITEM.

A Mining Company With all the Safeguards.

The following notice of the new Cherokee company we clip from the New York Daily Mining News :

"There are some peculiarities about the Spring Valley Hydraulic Gold Mining Company that are worthy of consideration and must command the attention of investors. In the first place the *personnel* of the organization is remarkable. We do not see how it could be improved upon. It combines all the elements of business experience, repute and success. So far as the standing of a board of trustees can inspire public confidence in a corporation, the Spring Valley Company have secured all that is possible. Following is a list of the directors : Charles M. Fry, President National Bank of New York, 48 Wall street ; A. Foster Higgins, U. S. Loyd's Marine Insurance, 50 Wall street ; R. M. Pulsifer, proprietor Boston Herald ; James W. Simonton, agent of the Associated Press, 195 Broadway ; Edward Bates Dorsey, mining engineer, 61 Broadway ; Edward A. Flint, consulting engineer, Boston, Mass. ; W. S. Nichols of W. S. Nichols & Co., 33 Wall street New York ; Benjamin G. Arnold, of B. G. Arnold & Co., 125 Front street ; and Henry M. Faber, of G. C. & H. H. Faber, 141 Pearl street. Mr. E. B. Dorsey, President of the Company, was one of the first of the old California mine operators to recognize that destiny had marked New York as the mining centre of the country, and for over a year he has been active in promoting mining enterprises, notably the Leadville and the Crysolite. Mr. Dorsey is a practical miner as well as an experienced business man, and he knows as well as any man in the United States what a mine is worth and what it can

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do. The property of the Spring Valley Company also gives strong assurance of the Company's success. Col. H. C. Bidwell, President of the Green Mountain Company, stated to the writer a few days ago that the Spring Valley estate was doubtless as valuable as any hydraulic property in the country. He had been all over it, knew its record, and believed it to be unexcelled by any property of its class. This statement is referred to as showing the standing of the property among well-informed, conservative mining men who have no interest in it. The full reports of the experts employed by the United States Mining Investment Company to examine the property seem to us to be conclusive as to its ability to pay dividends uninterruptedly for a generation at least. Thus it is seen that some of the strong points secured by the Spring Valley Company are : A board of direction, notably for financial strength and business sense and experience ; a mining property of known and proved value far in excess of the capitalization ; and a mine management under charge of practical and capable mine engineers. It seems that it has secured all the safeguards that the most conservative investor could ask."

Oroville Mercury

4-2-1880

Mammoth Butte No. 1.

Fred Wellington—the“Duke”—was in the city several days this week. He showed several specimens of quartz from his big bonanza—Mammoth Butte No. 1—and also permitted us to read the report of the assay made by a San Francisco assayer, which set forth that each ton of the rock contained gold to the value of \$72 34 and \$12 06 silver. Fred says he will guarantee the ledge to contain 20,000 tons of just such quartz, and expresses a determination to hold on to the property until such time as he can develop it. Though not a millionaire, yet Fred has means enough to enable him to be independent as to what disposition he makes of the mine; and everybody who knows him must know that there isn't a man in the State who is more competent to judge of the worth of such property or to thoroughly develop it.

Good Mine.

In the bank, Monday, we saw a batch of No. 1 gold dust taken from the Nesbitt claims, near Oregon City. The mess was valued at \$1,250, and was the result of the labor of three men for seven weeks. The diggings are what miners term drift diggings. Several capitalists are endeavoring to obtain an interest in the property which is regarded as exceedingly promising.

Butte Record 4-3-1880

Edison Coming to California.

An Eastern dispatch says: In a few weeks Mr. Edison expects to start for Butte county, California, to erect some furnaces by which his new process of utilizing the tailings of ores cast off by miners may be put at once to work. It was learned recently that the name of the organization is the Edison Ore Mining Company. The President is Joseph H. Banker, a brother-in-law of Wm. H. Vanderbilt. The Company will have a capital of \$350,000, \$100,000 of which has already been paid in. Accompanying Mr. Edison in his Western trip will be Major Frank McLoughlin, Dr. Held, Edison's chemist, a Mr. Carman, and Col. Lewis, of Boston, said to be a mining expert. It was learned that Messrs. Drexel, Morgan & Co., are interested in the milling project.

Oroville Mercury

4-9-1880

Admitted to Practice.

M. R. C. Pulliam, of Cherokee, was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the State, at San Francisco, Monday.

C H E R O K E E D R U G S T O R E .

—
J. H. ROGERS, late of Oroville, PROPRIETOR.
—

NEW STOCK OF DRUGS,
PATENT MEDICINES,
PERFUMERY,
PAINTS, OILS, Etc.,
ALWAYS ON HAND.

Prices reasonable. All goods guaranteed.
Compounding Prescriptions a specialty.

Give Me a Call.

mr23

The New Census.

The new census office has been established in the Department of the Interior, at Washington, and a Superintendent of Census appointed, who holds office until the completion of the census, and whose compensation is \$5,000. His Supervisors have been appointed in each State and Territory, who receive for their services \$500 each. The maximum cost of the census, including printing and engraving, must not exceed \$3,000,000. The State of California has been divided into four districts, as follows:

First District—Marin, San Mateo, Santa Clara counties, and city and county of San Francisco.

Second District—Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Nevada Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin and Tuolumne counties.

Third District—Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano Sonoma, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Yolo and Yuba counties.

Fourth District—Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mariposa, Merced Mono, Monterey, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, Tulare and Ventura counties.

Henry G. Langley, of the San Francisco Directory, has been appointed Supervisor of the First District; James R. Hardenbesgh, Oakland, of the Second; Alexander Dunn, Fairfield, Solano county, of the Third, and Chas. W. Dana, San Luis Obispo, of the Fourth.

Oroville Mercury

4-16-1880

Curious Fowl.

Fred Wellington, of Yankee Hill, forwarded to W. H. Scantlebury, San Francisco, Monday, one of the most remarkable freaks of nature that we have ever seen. It was a double-breasted, two-headed, three-legged, four-winged chicken, of the white Leghorn species. There appeared to be but one body, but two backbones. Between the latter were located two perfectly-formed but very small wings; while on each side of the critter was a full-sized wing. Both breasts were perfect. The backbones came together at the tail end of the fowl, but in front each terminated in a separate neck. Though possessing three legs the bird used but two, the center one being two inches shorter than either of the others. A pull at the apparently useless member, however, proved that it was as full of life as either of its mates. The curiosity possessed but one tail. Of the heads, one was undoubtedly that of a rooster, and the other bore all the evidences of belonging to the opposite sex. That such is the case was evidenced by one crowing, the other clucking and cackling. Fred informed us that the twins were eight months of age; that they were as active as any other chicken and could fly as high, hop as far, eat more and whip any game rooster he had in his large collection. Mr. Scantlebury is an old chum of Fred's and part proprietor of the Bella Union Theater, and the whatever-you-see-fit-to-call-it was forwarded to him as a present.

Oroville Mercury

4-16-1880

Bold Robbery.

Sunday evening, about 8 o'clock, as Jacob Gaub, who keeps a wayside saloon on the Cherokee road above Hendricks' mine, was preparing to close up, two masked men entered his place of business, bound him, stole \$32 in coin and a shotgun, and departed. Mr. Gaub was barefooted at the time and was obliged to walk almost a mile to his house to get himself release from the ropes. Next day the shotgun was discovered not far from the scene of robbery. There is no clue to the perpetrators and Mr. Gaub is reticent on the subject, the burglars having threatened to burn him out if he revealed aught that would lead to their capture.

New Tunnel.

The Spring Valley Hydraulic Gold Company has had a survey made for a new tunnel running from the head of Saw Mill Ravine, a few rods above Hendricks' flume, towards Hunter's garden and crossing the Eureka tunnel. It will be utilized as an outlet into Saw Mill Ravine. The work of construction will be commenced at once.

Oroville Mercury

4-23-1880

From Cherokee.

CHEROKEE, April 19th. 1880.

ED. MERCURY:—Our town has been roused from its late dullness, by a concert managed by our worthy friend Mrs. Pearson, and participated in by some of our most talented young ladies and gentlemen. The evening being fine a large crowd had assembled at Boyer's Hall, and hailed with gladness the rising of the curtain. The opening song was the "Greeting Glee," a lively chorus which was well sung, Mrs. Waldeyer accompanying the singers on the organ. Then followed a number of well selected and well acted dialogues and plays, intermingled with some very well selected solos. Mrs. D. Williams also performed some very fine instrumental pieces with much taste and spirit. The concert was a perfect success; without a failure and without a prompter. The general opinion is that it was the best concert we have had yet. The actors each and all did well and displayed marked ability. The names of those who participated were: Mrs. Waldeyer, Mr. Lefavorie, Mrs. Parry, Mrs. David Williams, Misses Mary Johns, Lena Grant, Ida Bader, Menia Rapp, Annie Waldeyer, Mattie Johns, Nellie Branan, Lizzie Whalen, Georgie Armstrong, Mamie Lefavorie, Louisa Parry, Ella Wolf, Mary James, Katie Whalen, Katie Bresnan, Bertie Knowles, Susie Drinkwater. Charles Whalen S. N. Grant, T. K. Williams, J. T. Nesbit, John Kelly, A. Debuck, C. Shunin, E. Pearson. The "Little Fairies," enacted by the little folks, was one of the best pieces. Carl Waldeyer as the Fairy King drew forth the praise and admiration of the audience. He certainly did remarkably well. Miss Johns sang a solo with spirit. She has an excellent voice. Miss Lena Grant sang a solo very sweetly. Misses Mamie Lefavorie and Annie Grant each sang a solo with power and spirit beyond their years. We anticipate a brilliant future for them. S. M. Grant and C. Whitelaw sang a comic duet in a pleasing and amusing manner. At the close of the concert Mother Columbia, Uncle Sam, Aunt Betsy and Brother Jonathan led off the first quadrille, and dancing commenced and continued till early dawn. All in all, it was one of the pleasantest entertainments I have ever attended.

J. Vogt has nearly finished his new market shop.

The Good Templars are enlarging their hall, necessitated by their increased membership. The order has done a good work here; restoring joy and prosperity to many a darkened home and saving many a youth from the fatal rum cup. They will give a ball next week to increase their funds for improvements.

A. SPECTATOR.

Oroville Mercury

4-23-1880

Telephone and Phonograph.

Major McLaughlin brought with him from Menlo Park one of Edison's shouting telephones and a phonograph. The former has been placed in position between the residence of A. McDermott and the office of the Spring Valley company at Cherokee. It magnifies the sound of one's voice from an ordinary tone to that of a shout, and is a complete success, as witness the following New York dispatch of Monday: "A connection was made by telephone from Plymouth Church yesterday with Orange, Newark and Elizabeth, and several points in New York, and Beecher's sermon and the music were both heard. The transmitter was placed in front and below the pulpit. The farthest point was seventeen miles distant, Orange, N. J." On the journey the needles of the phonograph were broken, hence the instrument is useless; but new needles have been telegraphed for and will be here next week. After their arrival, the Major, with his usual gallantry, intends to let the ladies test the instrument and hear themselves talk back.

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4-23-1880

GIGANTIC MINING ENTERPRISE.

Millions of Capital—Eleven Miles of North Fork to be Mined.

There was filed in the County Recorder's office, Tuesday, a notice of location of the claim of the Eocene Tunnel and Mining Company. The association claims all that portion of the North Fork of Feather river, from bank to bank, for a distance of eleven miles, designated on the map and commonly known as the "Big Bend of the North Fork of Feather river." It also claims the right of way for tunnels, flumes, ditches or pipes necessary to successfully work the same. The objects of the company are set forth to the diverting the water from its natural channel and the mining or digging of the river bed, and all bars located in it, within the confines above described, for precious metals. It is stated in the notice that the company does not propose or intend to interfere with vested or accrued rights already acquired by other parties. That the company is a powerful moneyed institution is fully demonstrated by the following names of the members: Wm. H. Vanderbilt, Anthony J. Drexel, Chas. H. Lewis, Jos. H. Banker, Thos. A. Edison, R. L. Cutting, jr., Geo. C. Perkins, Chas. Batchelor, Wm. H. Cox, F. McLaughlin, E. W. McKinstry, J. C. Logan, John Hoey, G. W. Cummings, P. O. Hundley. This is beyond question the greatest mining enterprise ever inaugurated on this continent, and it possesses a capital unequalled by any financial institution in the world except, possibly, the Rothschilds. Operations will be entered upon before the close of the present season. The fabulous wealth of our river bed mineral deposits is so well known, and has been so strikingly demonstrated by the few developments hitherto enacted on a small scale, that the feasibility of this undertaking and the profitable character of the investment are questions admitting of no discussion.

Weekly Mercury

4-30-1880

Minerva Mining Company.

J. McK. Smith informs us that the tunnels of this valuable property have all been opened and cleaned out ready for active operations. A slight cave occurred in the air shaft last week, but it will be in shipshape by the middle of next week. As yet the company has not decided what kind of a mill to erect, but are very favorably impressed with the character of the dry crusher pattern. He is confident that from twenty to twenty-five tons of rock can be furnished the mill per week. The intention is to develop and work the property in a thorough manner this season.

Oroville Mercury

4-30-1880

Should be Replaced.

People residing in the vicinity of Pence's Ranch are complaining because the bridge over Dry creek on the road to this city, washed away by the high water of last week, has not yet been replaced. They say that the Road Overseer, Mr. Sorenson, is afraid to have the bridge rebuilt as he believes it is the duty of Charles Waldeyer to do so. The latter gentleman is reported as holding that the county is responsible for the erection of a new bridge. As a compromise, we would suggest that Mr. Sorenson either have a temporary structure put in or make a crossing through the bed of the creek, and let the Board of Supervisors decide the question of responsibility.

LATER—Since writing the above we learn that the District Attorney has notified Mr. Waldeyer to replace the bridge. Under what law this action is taken we know not.

George Duensing is building a new saloon at Thompson Flat. Old residents of the camp are anticipating a revival of the flush times of yore.

Landlord Tebbe, of Deadwood, was in the city Tuesday. He reported matters as very lively up that way, especially in the hotel business.

H. D. Lausen, of Chico, was at the Union, Wednesday. He intends embarking in the mercantile business at Cherokee. Shouldn't be surprised to see his name on one of the county tickets this fall for County Clerk.

Weekly Mercury

5-7-1880

Banner Mine.

E. R. Burke, superintendent of the Banner mine, arrived from the State metropolis, Saturday. The work of erecting a new quartz mill and increasing the capacity of the hoisting works will be commenced as soon as the machinery arrives. The main shaft is filled with water up to the 100-foot level, but two days' bailing will remove the trifling obstruction. When everything is in running order again it is the intention to sink the main shaft to a depth of eight hundred or one thousand feet. It is now two hundred and twenty-five feet deep. The rich quality of the ore taken out and crushed prior to the destruction of the mill by fire justifies the company's belief that they have a bonanza.

Oroville Mercury

5-7-1880

Nesbitt Quartz Mine.

The machinery of the mill on the above property [situated at Oregon City] which was slightly damaged by the fire that destroyed the structure some weeks ago, has been sold to San Francisco parties and is now being transported thither. A company of English capitalists are negotiating for the mine and are likely to purchase. Years ago this mine paid well under the management of John Nesbitt, but no work has been done on the claim for some time. G. C. Perkins and J. M. Brock are the present proprietors and intend selling because of other more important interests demanding their attention.

Mining Operations.

Owing to the recent stormy season operations in the surrounding districts have been less active than usual the past few weeks. Gold dust shipments have consequently been comparatively small. For the three weeks ending Wednesday night, the total amount of dust purchased at the bank aggregated a value of \$4,800

Oroville Mercury

5-14-1880

Nigh to Death.

One of the miners employed at the Spring Valley mine, Cherokee, while working in a shaft, Sunday, was overcome by foul air. It was some little time before the men on the surface realized the cause of their fellow-workman's silence, and many were loth to believe the suggestion of experienced veterans that the shaft was full of poisonous gases. Dave Williams finally persuaded the men to lower him down the shaft. He found the man insensible and the air very oppressive. Hastily grabbing the body, Dave signaled above and was speedily drawn out. The unconscious man was in such a critical condition that his life was despaired of, but physicians succeeded in bringing him to after ten or fifteen minutes' work. He is a stranger in this locality and has been employed at the mine but a short time.

Weekly Mercury

5-21-1880

Hiving Bees.

J. McK. Smith had an adventure Tuesday which he will be very apt to remember for some time. He is the proprietor of a number of hives of bees. Tuesday morning, the occupants of one of the largest hives "swarmed." Mac was hard at work at the mine, but promptly hastened home when hearing of the circumstance. He has had years of experience with the valuable little critters and had never experienced any trouble in "hiving" them at such times. So his confidence was great. Mr. Duncan advised him to put on gloves, cover his face, etc., or he might get stung. "Pshaw," said Mac, "I've 'hived' bees a hundred times and never yet got stung. Just watch me and I'll show you how it is done." Setting the hive down by the side of a rose-bush on which the swarm had camped, Mac grasped the bush with both hands and shook it very vigorously. The bees promptly changed their quarters from the bush to Mr. McSmith's head and commenced vigorous operations with the business end of their bodies. Mr. Duncan made himself scarce on short notice, while the afflicted Mac rushed to a trough of water and plunged his head into it, thus obtaining relief and saving his life—for his head was completely covered with the enraged bees and they were if anything busier than usual. We saw Mac Wednesday, and he had a head on him big enough for an elephant—his cheeks, forehead and neck being fearfully swelled. Despite his ill luck on the first attempt, he persisted in his efforts until the fractious bees were safely hived. He is rapidly recovering from the effects of his exciting and dangerous adventure; but it is hardly probable that he will ever lay himself liable to another such a deal.

Oroville Mercury

5-21-1880

Agent Appointed.

A certificate was filed in the office of the Secretary of State, Monday, that the Spring Valley Hydraulic Gold Company, of this county, with its principal place of business in New York city, has appointed Thomas B^r Reardan, of this city, its agent, on whom may be made service of legal process when necessary. The company has made an excellent selection.

Weekly Mercury

5-28-1880

Big Blast at Cherokee.

Superintendent Waldyer fired a big blast in the works of the Spring Valley Hydraulic Gold Company, at Cherokee, Monday. The charge consisted of twenty-five thousand pounds of Judson powder. Two shafts were sunk to a depth of one hundred and twenty-five feet each, from the bottom of which a "T" extended forty feet each way into the mountain. At the ends of the "T's" six thousand five hundred pounds of the powder was deposited; an electric wire ran from each charge to the surface where connection was made with the main wire running from the instrument. The "T's" and shafts were tightly packed with dirt. At eleven o'clock, all was in readiness and the signal was given Louis Glass to strike the electric spark. Instantaneously the face of the mountain, which was about two hundred and fifty feet high, raised upward and outward for a distance of three hundred feet back from the face and settled in a thoroughly demoralized condition. A low rumbling noise accompanied the explosion, and a huge cloud of dust arose as the enormous mass partially toppled and fell onto the plateau in front. At a distance of five hundred feet back from the shafts, on the top of the mountain, gigantic oak trees trembled like aspen leaves, the earth seemed to parties standing on it to raise upward about a foot, and the shelving table rocks jingled together like dice in a box. Competent judges estimate the amount of dirt loosened and displaced by the explosion at 500,000 cubic yards. The success of the blast is perfectly satisfactory to the management and exceeded their expectations.

Oroville Mercury

5-28-1880

New School District.

A new school district has been established about eight miles above Yankee Hill. It is to be known as the Reservoir district, being located near the Spring Valley company's reservoir. J. B. Mullen and G. G. Marquis are the trustees.

Shooting Scrape.

Yesterday morning, Henry Morrison shot George McGregor, at Cherokee, with a shotgun. McGregor's injuries are very trifling, he only receiving one buckshot in the neck and several in one of his arms. It is rumored that the difficulty was the result of domestic troubles.

Mammoth Butte No. 1.

Fred Wellington arrived in from Magalia District Tuesday evening. He brought with him some magnificent specimens of quartz taken from his bonanza ledge—Mammoth Butte No. 1. Two men are at work on the property, stripping and uncovering. A number of our local capitalists intend examining the ledge at an early day, and it is not at all improbable that a company will be formed to take hold of and work it in a thorough manner.

Oroville Mercury

6-4-1880

Dangerous Fall.

Doc Thompson of Yankee Hill, while getting out of his wagon in front of Perkins-Logan's store, yesterday morning, made a misstep and fell to the ground. The back of his head struck the edge of the sidewalk, causing an ugly gash and rendering him unconscious for a minute or so. He was taken to a drug store, where the wound was dressed, and ten minutes later the aged gentleman was attending to business as though nothing had happened.

Broken Leg.

James Convery, a miner, had his left leg badly crushed by a mass of pipe clay falling on it at Cherokee, some ten days ago. He is undergoing treatment at the infirmary, as a private patient.

Weekly Mercury

6-4-1880

An Acceptable Gift.

At the store of Perkins, Logan & Co., Tuesday, we saw a barrel of California wine, directed to Commodore C. H. Wells, Washington, D. C. It was forwarded to the naval officer by his brother, our genial Mike of Yankee Hill, who manufactured the liquor himself. An association of several years with army and navy officers justify us in predicting that the gift will be an acceptable one and highly appreciated by the "mess."

Lumber Mills Starting.

The Oroville Lumber Company sent a large gang of men up to the Defiance mill, Monday, and the institution is now running with a full crew. Its capacity is 40,000 feet every twelve hours. Superintendent Hilton informs us that the other mills will be in active operation shortly.

Weekly Butte Record

6-5-1880

The Shot Gun.

It is reported that Henry Morrison, the Cherokee and Oroville stage man, emptied a double-barrelled shot gun at one George McGregor, in Cherokee, recently. McGregor was hit in the shoulder, but, it is said, not seriously wounded. The shooting grew out of a misunderstanding in relation to domestic affairs. Morrison was arrested.

The Flume.

The work upon the flume that fell last Sunday will be completed this evening. The break was about a mile in length, and the entire work has been performed in six days. The flume was completed to where it receives the water from the flume of the Sierra Lumber Company on last Wednesday evening at 6 o'clock but the mill did not start up, owing to the fact that there was not enough water in the lumber company's flume to run the mill.

The mill will be started on Monday morning. The flume is now well braced and more substantially built than before, and being so will not be liable to take another tumble of a mile in length.

Weekly Mercury

6-11-1880

Banner Mine.

Superintendent E. K. Burke is having a dwelling and barn erected at the Banner mine, and is making other preparations for taking up his permanent home there and working the mine in a thorough manner. As yet, the company has not commenced putting up the new mill, but arrangements looking to that end are pending with a probability of being shortly consummated, and workmen are now engaged in clearing off the old foundation.

Mining.

The mining interests of the county look brighter than ever before. Immense beds of gravel are only waiting for water to wash out the gold that is in them. And now a ditch capable of carrying three thousand inches of water is fast being built, and thus the great want will be supplied in a great degree. Almost every day men with money—new men—arrive in town to look at the different pieces of mining property. It is true that but few sales are made, for the reason that most of the mines are paying well and those who own them cannot be induced to part with them at any reasonable price.

At the Hendricks mine, in Morris Ravine, rich pay dirt has been struck and work is being pushed ahead as fast as muscle and water can push it. The men are now at work near the south end of South Table Mountain, near where George Rigsby formerly operated. The gravel presents the same appearance of that at Cherokee and is of the same richness.

Just across the river, O. P. Powers is piping away at the bank day and night. His last clean-up yielded him about one-third more than he expected. This mine has been paying so evenly for years past that it was easy to guess the value of the gold taken out each run. But a far richer streak or strata was struck about a month ago, and the result is that it is one of the best pieces of property in the county, and its owners do not care to part with it at any price.

The mines at Cherokee are paying better than for years past. How much of the kind of ground they are now in is uncertain, but the company claim a large amount.

Since the Davis ditch has become a reality, every foot of ground on Thompson's Flat has become very valuable and is located, some of it three claims deep.

Weekly Mercury
6-11-1880

George M. Taylor has taken a contract to run the Oroyville Lumber Company's mill in Concow township the coming season.

Butte Record 6-12-1880

Spring Valley Mine.

Superintendent Waldeyer is anxious to continue his present run until July 1st before stopping to clean up. He is pushing ahead with energy in splendid gravel, and confidently expects to make a better showing than the mine has ever made. In this we believe Waldeyer is right. However much stockholders may desire monthly dividends, they occasion a great deal of labor in taking up and repairing the sluice-boxes. There is no more energetic or better-informed miner in the State than Mr. Waldeyer, and we are much mistaken if he does not make a showing, if left to work the mine as he desires, that will agreeably astonish all interested in it.

Weekly Mercury

6-18-1880

New School House.

Work was commenced Monday upon the school house for the new district known as Reservoir. The structure is located at Concow. It is to be 18x26 and ready for occupancy July 1st, when the school term will begin. Desks and seats have been ordered from below.

Sinclair Flat.

T. L. Vinton and T. H. Williams are working an extensive mining claim on Sinclair Flat, between Cherokee and Pence's. The yield prospect is pronounced "way up."

Patent Medicine Agency.

William Mullen, of Concow, is the sole agent in Butte county for the celebrated patent medicine "Seven Seals or Golden Wonder." It is a sure cure for rheumatism, neuralgia, tooth-ache, headache and a host of other diseases. D. F. Fryer is the agent in Oroville.

Fishing Excursion.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Bell and Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Mathews intend starting for Concow to-morrow evening. They will be absent two or three days and expect to have a good time catching trout.

Weekly Mercury

6-25-1880

New Bridges.

The new bridge over Dry Creek, on the road between this city and Pence's, is completed and ready for use. It is expected that the one over the same stream on the Nelson road will be open to travel by the latter part of next week.

Butte Record 6-26-1880

Big Suit.

There was filed in the office of the County Clerk this week, by F. C. Cusk, attorney for G. W. Colby, of Nord, a complaint containing sixteen pages of printed matter, wherein the plaintiff alleges that the Spring Valley Mining and Irrigating Company, a corporation, has damaged him in the modest little sum of \$41,250, by running sand, tailings and other debris from its mines at Cherokee Flat upon the lands of plaintiff, destroying to a great extent his crops for the past three years. We do not know what the action of the company will be, but suppose that it will have the case transferred at once to the proper United States Court as it has done with the other cases brought within the past two years.—
Mercury.

Weekly Mercury

7-2-1880

Banner Ledge.

The work of rebuilding the quartz mill on the Banner property, in French Ravine, is now under way. G. A. Dockstader, of Sacramento, has the contract for the woodwork, while the Marysville foundry will furnish the iron. The new mill will have room for twenty stamps, but will only be supplied with ten at the start and afterwards enlarged when necessary. Forty-five by sixty-five by twenty-four, are the dimensions of the building. All the machinery will be of the latest improved pattern. A seventy-five horse power engine is to be added to the hoisting works. There will be two compartments in the shaft, one of which will be fitted with a patent safety cage, the other with a patent self-dumping skip. There is only one of the latter appliances in use on the Comstock and none in this State. Each compartment will have five hundred ft. of one-in. wire cable. The derrick over the shaft will be forty feet high. These improvements are estimated to cost not less than \$15,000, and it is quite likely a higher figure would be nearer correct. The work is to be finished within sixty days. When completed, the Banner will be the best equipped quartz mine in the county.

Weekly Mercury

7-2-1880

The Big Bar.

This mining company made a clean up last week. The result was highly satisfactory to all interested parties. J. J. Smith has disposed of his interest in the property to Col. J. C. Logan.

CENSUS RETURNS.

All the census enumerators have not yet handed in their reports. So far as heard from, the various districts possess populations as follows: Oro and Mountain Spring townships, 833; Concow, 530; Bidwell, 698; Wyandotte, 888; Hamilton, east of the C. & O. R. R., 1,680; Ophir, west of the C. N. R. R., 1,588; Ophir, east of the C. N. R. R. (approximated), 2,200; Oregon, 1,891.

Mining Accident.

T. J. Vinton was buried by a large cave of dirt on his hydraulic claim at Sinclair Flat, Monday. He was rescued alive, but had one arm broken in two places and sustained numerous painful though not dangerous bruises.

Weekly Mercury

7-2-1880

Minerva G. & S. M. Co.

From J. McK. Smith, one of the principal stockholders in this company, we learn that the mine is now thoroughly opened and in a condition to put thirty ton of rock on the dump every day. The bed rock tunnel is in a distance of five hundred feet, from the innermost end of which a cross tunnel has been run along the ledge [which varies from three to five feet in width] one hundred and ten feet south and two hundred and twenty feet north. An air shaft of one hundred and eighty feet in depth is also completed. As yet the company have not put up any machinery, but expect to within the next two months. They have contracted for a dry crusher quartz mill and chlorinization works. By this process, Mr. McSmith, judging from experiments made with the rock, is positive he can save ninety per cent. of the gold. The poorest rock taken out has not assayed less than \$55 to the ton, and the expense of operating the mine is rated at not to exceed \$2 per ton. The rock is of the blue ribbon rim variety.

Weekly Mercury

7-9-1880

Sale of Mining Claims.

Wm. A. Washburn, auctioneer, will sell at public sale in front of the Court House door, to-morrow noon, some very valuable mining property belonging to the estate of Conrad Duensing, deceased. They comprise some of the richest land in the Thompson Flat mining district, and persons looking for investment in that species of property should not fail to be on hand at the sale.

Weekly Mercury

7-16-1880

Banner Mine.

The building for the hoisting works is completed and the foundations are ready for the engines and reels, which are now being placed in position. This branch of the works will be ready for operations by the 26th inst. Work on the mill will commence next week.

Weekly Mercury

7-16-1880

Home to the Old Bar,

Justice Willoughby, of Cherokee, started Sunday morning for Erin's green isle. He intends rambling o'er his native heath, viewing the scenes of boyhood's happy hours, for six weeks or so, and expects to resume his duties as a citizen of the American republic on or before the first of October. Our best wishes for a general good time and safe return accompany the genial, whole-souled gentleman.

Centerville Mine.

A five-stamp quartz mill has been ordered for this property. It is expected to arrive the coming week. The claim is located at Oregon City, and is owned by Col. Perkins, Augustus Tache and others. Active operations will be commenced on or before the first of next month. The ledge is well-defined and the rock very rich.

Spring Valley Mine.

The Spring Valley Hydraulic Gold Company has one hundred and thirty-eight men employed in its mines at Cherokee. Sixteen shafts are located in different parts of the mine, four of which are kept constantly running night and day. The extent of the water supply is 2,210 inches of water per diem. It is all used to the best advantage possible, six thousand cubic yards of dirt being the average day's work. Five banks of very rich ground are opened ready for piping. A greater portion of the ground worked, especially down towards the bed rock, is blue gravel and rotten boulders. Large derricks are used in clearing the latter away, though many of them are first blasted, whatever fine dirt results therefrom being washed down the flume to the riffles. Tanks are now being put in with a view of saving the black sand. There is an enormous quantity of this valuable article in the claim. Charles Waldyer, the superintendent, is as much of a working man as any of the employes and can always be found in the workings directing operations or lending a helping hand. A large clean-up will be made before August first.

Sluice Robber Killed.

Venancio Selveira Merchado, a Portuguese, aged twenty-two years, was shot and instantly killed about fifteen minutes to nine o'clock, Monday evening, while attempting to rob the sluice boxes in the mining claims of the Spring Valley Hydraulic Gold Company, at Cherokee. Word was immediately telegraphed to the Coroner, who left this city at half-past nine and held an inquest upon the body at two o'clock Tuesday morning. The circumstances of the tragedy, as substantiated by the evidence at the inquest, were as follows: The water had been shut off of the claim as the company was preparing to make a clean-up. Charles and Fred Thunen—aged respectively fifteen and seventeen years—the night watchmen, were accordingly ordered to closely watch a point where several flumes centered and where the greater portion of the gold washed out accumulates. The boys concealed themselves among the large boulders. About ten minutes to nine, Charlie heard somebody coming down the flume. He informed his brother and they both eagerly awaited developments. In a few moments the deceased came in sight, walking along the side of the

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7-23-1880

flume. He had a box and scraper in one hand and a pick in the other. Being over twenty yards distant, the boys could not discern what the pick was, but judged from the manner in which he was carrying the instrument that it was a gun. When the robber reached the forks of the flumes he laid down the pick and box and started to get down in the flume. Fred at once raised his gun and sent a charge of buckshot at the thief, the entire charge entering the body at the left nipple, some of the bullets passing through the heart. Merchado dropped dead. Charles, for fear the man was not hit, and fearing that he might rise and shoot back, fired both barrels of his gun at the prostrate body, but failed to hit it. The Coroner's jury rendered a verdict of justifiable homicide. The deceased man was a comparative stranger in the neighborhood and had only been in this country about three months. It is thought he was "put up" to the job by others, who, knowing his ignorance of the dangers attending the venture, thought to make a raise should he succeed in avoiding detection and escape with the booty. Parties who know whereof they speak say that the thief could easily have obtained \$5,000 worth of amalgam in five minutes' time had he not been seen and so summarily punished.

Mountain Jots.

DEFIANCE MILL, July 19th, 1880.

ED. MERCURY—I did not promise to write you oftener than I could tell you anything of interest, but for pastime I must indulge myself with my pen, by departing from the usual routine of bills and figures and collect scattered senses, since the Duke of Wellington has taken our census. Some of the celestials took him for the tax collector, but were induced to give him their names when assured no money was required. It will be a big book when everything is written up, for the minutia in detail, is covered by innumerable questions, that one wonders if man is not verging towards omniscience. The road poll tax collector, Mr. Tebbe, has been here followed by our Assessor, Sam McClellan. A sigh of relief went out when the last taxes were disposed of for the present year. Mr. Bellows, of San Francisco, with Mr. Davis, gave us a call. They left here with the expectation of fishing at Concow, which at present has great attractions for all those who have time to recreate.

Then came the "glorious Fourth," which was much celebrated elsewhere on the 3d and 4th as the veritable day itself, while your correspondent has reason to add the 2d. Did you ever attend a moonlight or bonfire picnic in the mountains? Limited time will not permit me to detail the scene, music and supper, which was enjoyed here on Saturday evening until 12 o'clock of the 3d. Our long unused fingers could not paint the splendid picture that our bonfire lighted up, casting its shadows and reflections on the tall oaks, pines and firs. The platform laid for the occasion was filled with ladies and gentlemen, the decorum of all present, the total absence of all that which intoxicates, the bountiful table of everything nice, furnished free by our lady residents, whos cullinary skill can not be excelled, the perfect harmony of the music by Elihu Hilton and Henry Morrison, all combined, left a pleasing impress on the minds of all those who participated in the commemoration of Independence Day, July 4th, 1880.

Mrs. Smiley Patterson has been spending the past two weeks here. Our county Treasurer, DeLancie, with Mr. and Mrs. Vanderhoof, took dinner with us Thursday. We do not envy those who return to the valley to enjoy 109 degrees and upward, of heat.

Weekly Mercury

7-30-1880

The mill was not running when I wrote you last, but started soon after, and each week the increase of lumber sawed shows that everything about it has been put in working order. The big loads of as fine logs as were ever brought to the mill, proves the great timber question, and this week's sawing shows that there are no drones among the crew. The great undertaking required to get everything in shape would utterly discouraged many another one, but experience in my line of business smoothes the rough places when necessity compels an extra exertion to right mistakes made. With such an efficient force of men, many big trees will reach the valley in lumber shape during the coming season.

Through the kindness of some friend "The Republic" is on our table weekly. We heartily indorse its views in regard to woman suffrage. Circumstances often revolutionize one's ideas in regard to many topics of the day, but the thorough development of woman's brain does not of necessity make her a strong-minded woman in the opprobrious sense of the term. How can woman hope to realize untold benefit to her sex by conducting herself in a rowdy manner, as all enthusiasts are so apt to do, in unnatural reforms? T.

Weekly Mercury

7-30-1880

Diamond vs. Diamond.

Not many evenings ago, a mountain rancher whom expensive habits keeps poor, stopped at Pence's Ranch with a broken wagon. He wanted to borrow a vehicle. Pence had none to spare and told him so. The chap, who had been previously accommodated by Pence in this way, didn't believe the latter's statement and waxed wroth. At last he threatened, if his demand was not complied with, to leave his broken wagon in the road, right in front of the hotel, where, he said, "it will annoy and trouble you." Assuring him that such a trick wouldn't annoy him in the least, Mr. Pence told his pestiferous friend to go about his business and do whatever he pleased with his dilapidated conveyance. Sure enough, the man did leave the old wagon standing right in front of the hotel door. Next morning, the intended annoyance was missing. A search disclosed the entire outfit sitting astride of the roof of a building formerly occupied as a store, with the tongue projecting over the front of the building. How it got up there is a question that we are unable to solve. Notices offering \$500 reward for the arrest of the perpetrators were posted, but thus far no clue has been obtained. Since writing the above we hear that an effigy of the owner is seated in the wagon.

Weekly Mercury

7-30-1880

DECIDED.

The case of John Davis vs. the Rock Creek Lumber, Flume and Mining Company has just been decided by the Supreme Court against the former. The case is one of some local interest. A. Wolf, of Cherokee, was the president of the defendant, a corporation. The company became deeply involved, and Mr. Wolf agreed to and did pay off the indebtedness and took a mortgage on the property to himself for security for the money that he paid out for the company. John Davis loaned A. Wolf five thousand dollars and took this mortgage as security. That is, Wolf assigned the Rock Creek mortgage to him as security. The money not being paid Davis commenced suit to foreclose the mortgage, when the Rock Creek company answered that it was true that it got the money and gave the mortgage, but as Wolf was president of the company he had no right to make a mortgage to himself even if he had paid off the company's debts. The Supreme Court sustained the company and John Davis loses every dollar he loaned. The decision is against the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, but accords with the previous decisions of this Court.

Gravel Mine.

J. McK. Smith and W. E. Duncan have a force of eight men at work on the Big Kimshew Gravel Mine, situated about fourteen miles from Lovelock. A tunnel of one hundred and seventy-five feet in length is being made. It will be used as an outlet for the dirt.

Weekly Mercury

8-6-1880

Mrs. John M. Sparks has gone up to Plea Valley to spend a short time and escape the hot weather.

Oro Mine.

L. D. Freer, D. K. Perkins and Superintendent E. R. Burke, of the Banner Mine, paid a visit to the above property Saturday. It is situated on the South Fork of the Feather river, about three miles and a half above Enterprise. The main tunnel is in six hundred and eighty-one feet. Fifteen feet from the face of the tunnel, the prod struck an eight-foot ledge. It is thought to be a cropping, but may be the main ledge which the working force is now tunneling for on double shifts. Mr. Burke, who is an experienced miner, has a high opinion of the mine, and believes the company will soon strike a good deposit of quartz. He judges from the appearance and lay of the strata gone through.

Centerville Quartz Mine.

This property is situated near Oregon City. The proprietors are Col. W. L. Perkins and R. Parker, of this city, and Augustus Tache, of Oregon City. The ledge is in process of development. A large quantity of rock is on the dumps. Assays range from \$20 to \$180 per ton. Arrangements have been made to put up a five-stamp mill, work upon which is now about to commence. It is rumored that J. C. Rhoads, a gentleman of considerable experience in mining operations, is to superintend putting the mill in order. Present indications are that the Centerville is a future bonanza.

Weekly Mercury

8-13-1880

Broken Ribs.

George Miller, of Cherokee, was thrown by a bucking horse at that place, Sunday evening, and had several ribs broken. He is doing as well as the average of such cases.

Narrow Escape.

Major McLaughlin had a narrow escape from becoming the victim of a runaway team Saturday night, while returning from Cherokee via the Pence Ranch road. It was a dark night and when near Martin's saloon, four miles from this city, the team became exceedingly active and the Major, perceiving that one of the horses was tossing its head very freely, pulled them into the fence and succeeded in stopping their flight before a good headway had been attained. Investigation showed that the throatlatch of the bridle was broken and the bit was dangling about the horse's forefeet.

The Cherokee Brick Yard.

Chas. Walderyer, the Superintendent of the Spring Valley Mining Company at Cherokee, passed down to Oroville on Monday with two huge bricks of gold dust, weighing together somewhere between \$75,000 and \$100,000, a little spot that appeared to be knocked from the bottom, of the crucible, about the size of a man's hand, and a sack of coarse gold kicked up on the bed rock of the claim. The latter goes to New York for the syndicate who recently purchased the mine. One of these bricks is about as much as a man can conveniently carry. Mr. Waldreyer feels as though his dream of being able to produce millions of gold dust was being realized, and expects to make a much better showing when again cleaning up, as everything was to arrange for the run just closed. Probably another month or six weeks will witness another yield of this mine, equal to that just sent to the mint, in San Francisco.

Weekly Mercury

8-20-1880

Banner Mine.

The main shaft and levels have been cleared of water. The frame-work of the mill is in position and the machinery is being put up. It is expected that everything will be in readiness to crush rock by the 10th of September. E. R. Burke, the superintendent, is a live man and hard worker and his efforts are making a good showing.

Debris Commission.

Captain Eads, Col. Andrews, State Engineer Hall, Commissioners Parks and Knox, accompanied by L. F. Moulton of Colusa, and Louis Glass, of the Spring Valley Hydraulic Gold Company, arrived from Cherokee Wednesday evening. The first five gentleman are members of the debris commission at present engaged in devising some plan whereby to stop the flow of mining detritus upon agricultural lands. They made a thorough inspection of the operations at Cherokee and were of the opinion that the damage caused by them could be easily averted. The commissioners went below, yesterday morning.

Weekly Mercury

8-20-1880

Nimshew Mines.

J. McK. Smith returned from a trip to the Nimshew mining district, Tuesday. He gives us the following items: A company of Eastern capitalists have purchased the famous Meredith mine, paying \$20,000 for it. The transfer was made last week, a Mr. Danner taking charge of the mine on behalf of the new owners. He is now in San Francisco, selecting machinery. The new company intend working the property thoroughly. That they have a bonanza is evidenced by the fact that Meredith and a companion took out \$16,000 in eighteen months and didn't save one-third of the gold, as Indians have picked nuggets weighing from one to three ounces each out of the tailings. Though only investing \$20,000, the capital stock of the company is now valued at \$250,000. Mr. McSmith says it is the biggest thing in the shape of a mine he ever saw.

A very rich and extensive deposit of blue gravel has been struck by Woodson & Co., in a tunnel they are running at the forks of Rutte Creek.

Mr. McSmith says there is more gold in that section of the county, yet undeveloped, than in any other portion of the State; he also states that there are at least one dozen ledges, situated within a half mile of the Meredith, equally as valuable as that deposit is. He has a force of ten men at work on the Big Nimshew property, preparing for next winter's operations. This claim is promising big returns.

Prospectors are not very numerous in the district, which state of affairs is probably owing to their ignorance of the existence of such an inviting field of labor.

Weekly Mercury

8-20-1880

Major McLaughlin, wife and daughter and Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Cummings and son, went to Concow, Saturday. They whiled away the tedious hours of the Sabbath fishing and returned to this city Monday. There are so many campers in the vicinity that fish are hard to catch, and the party had very poor luck.

Gold Shipment.

William Gregory brought \$7,000 in gold to this city, Wednesday. It came from the claim known as the Gregory & Welsh, situated on Table Mountain near Orogen Gulch. Three-fourths of the amount was in a brick, the remainder being nuggets.

Weekly Mercury

9-3-1880

Miners' Meeting.

The miners and prospectors of Yankee Hill and vicinity met at that place last Saturday for the purpose of changing the boundaries and name of that mining district. M. H. Wells was chosen chairman. The name of the district was changed from Yankee Hill to Concow, and the boundaries located as follows: On the north by township line twenty-two, on the east, west and south by West Branch and North Fork of Feather river. Mr. Wells was elected Recorder. He has held that office for fifteen years and the miners talk some of getting letters patent for his claims upon the office so long as he behaves himself.

Weekly Mercury

9-3-1880

Incendiarism.

About one o'clock yesterday morning an unoccupied building at Pence's Ranch was destroyed by fire. The act was unquestionably that of an incendiary. Loss is estimated at \$200; no insurance. Upon the roof of the structure was located an old wagon and effigy, referred to in these columns some weeks since.

Big Tunnel.

James McGann is engaged in surveying for a tunnel through Big Bend Mountain, on the North Fork of Feather river, from Whisky Bar to Island Bar. The tunnel will be about two and a half miles in length, ten feet high and thirty feet wide. The object of this mammoth undertaking is to change the water course of the stream so that eleven miles of its bed in Big Bend can be mined. Its cost is variously estimated from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. Even at the latter outlay we believe the projectors will realize handsomely.

Weekly Butte Record

9-4-1880

Population of Butte County.

Understanding that there was an error in the census returns of Butte county as furnished to the County Clerk, and upon which the county was divided into Supervisor Districts, we requested Mr. Renfro to correspond with Mr. Dunn, the Supervisor of Census for this Congressional District, and if possible supply us with true returns. Mr. Renfro furnishes the figures as follows:

Ed. RECORD:—Mr. Alex. Dunn writes me that after very careful figuring he found the number in each Enumerator's District and in the county as follows:

Chico Public School District.....	3,637
Remainder of Chico Tp.....	1,603
Kimshew Tp.....	1,455
Bidwell and Concow Tps.....	1,230
Mt. Spring and Oro Tps.....	832
Wyandotte Tp.....	888
Eastern part of Ophir Tp.....	2,172
Western part of Ophir Tp.....	1,556
Oregon Tp.....	1,911
Eastern part of Hamilton Tp.....	1,685
Western part of Hamilton Tp.....	1,079
Dayton Tp.....	686
Total.....	18,734

Very truly,
L. C. RENFRO.

It will thus be seen, we are sorry to say, that the population of Butte county is but 18,734, instead of 19,025, as first reported, and upon which the division into Supervisor Districts was based. By these figures it will be seen that the First District, Ophir Township, has the necessary population for a Supervisor, if we include the 1,633 Chinamen; while the Hamilton District has but 3,450, or some 300 less than they ought to have to entitle them to a Supervisor. Townships are so divided in the formation of the Third and Fifth Supervisor Districts, that the population of each can scarcely be determined. The two Districts together have 7,314. This leaves a population in the Chico District, composed of the town of Chico and Oakdale, of 4,242.

Weekly Mercury

9-10-1880

Banner Mine.

Tuesday, a representative of the MERCURY visited the Banner mine, situated in French Ravine. The main shaft was cleared of water Monday and sinking began on the 223 foot level Tuesday. The north drift is in 200 feet on the 200 foot level, and a vein of exceedingly rich quartz has been struck. We were unable to learn what the rock assays, but gleaned sufficient information from various sources to warrant us in asserting that it is better than \$100 rock and there is plenty of it in sight to keep the mill running for months to come. Seventeen men are employed under ground on three shifts of eight hours each. Seven men are employed on the top. The engineers have twelve hour shifts; the others work ten hours per diem. In the shaft are two compartments, each four feet square. One is occupied by a self-dumping skeep, used for hoisting water, waste rock, earth, etc. Its capacity is one hundred gallons. It is the neatest working piece of machinery of its character we have ever seen, and is furnished with safety clutches to prevent accidents in the event of its becoming detached from the cable. A safety cage, of an improved pattern, is located in the other compartment. It is used for taking the miners to and from the levels, and also for bringing up the quartz, the car being run upon it, lowered to the vein, loaded and brought to the surface, where the vehicle is run off upon the track and down to the dump. This saves a great deal of labor and time. The cage is as safe as human ingenuity can make it and it looks as though an accident is among the impossibilities of mining operations. The engine is of seventy horse power, and a 51-inch tubular boiler supplies it with steam. The reels

for cage and skeep each carry 550 feet of one-inch steel wire cable, and are so arranged that the engineer can in a twinkling change from hoisting the cage to hoisting the skeep, or vice versa. Forty-five yards below the hoisting works is situated the dump, which is a large frame hopper of one hundred tons capacity. Between the two is a miniature railway track over which the quartz is transported in the cars loaded in the mine. It is about four hundred and fifty feet from this dump to the rock breaker at the mill, and the latter is thirty feet lower than the dump. A double-track incline tramway is now in process of construction between the two points. When completed, the loaded car going down from the dump will pull an empty one up from the mill. From the rock breaker the quartz will be run directly into the hoppers of the self-feeders for the batteries. At the mill, matters are being rapidly pushed, as D. A. Dockstader, the contractor, must have it ready for work Monday next, and has business in El Dorado county that demands his presence on that date. The building proper is completed. It is 48x65, with an engine room 48x24. A fifty-horse power engine and fifty-inch tubular boiler will furnish the motive power for the machinery. Eight mechanics were hard at work in the structure putting the stamps and framework for them in position. Although it is intended to start up with only ten stamps, yet the wood-work has been put in for twenty, so that the capacity of the mill can be doubled when necessary. Mr. Cousins, foreman for Mr. Dockstader, informed us that the mill would be ready for work Monday, sure; that the carpenters would have to work nights and on Sunday next to accomplish the task and fulfill the terms of the contract. There is not a mine in the State where the conveniences for working the ore and developing the property are so complete and thorough as they will be at the Banner when Mr. Burke, the energetic Superintendent, shall have succeeded in perfecting the improvements now under way. And we doubt very much whether there is one on the Coast where the prospect for big returns are better, or even as good.

Weekly Mercury

9-17-1880

Deer Hunters.

J. B. Mullen, Andrew Beason and William Mullen, returned to Concow Valley, Saturday night, from a week's hunt on the head waters of Chippa Creek, Plumas county. They got five deer--all bucks--saw plenty of bear signs, but having no dogs did not endeavor to overhaul them. Snow is plentiful in the section visited, but in the little ravines grass is from ten inches to a foot high.

We are informed by Henry Morrison, driver of the Fence's and Cherokee stage, that there is a great deal of sickness in Cherokee. In some families there are not well ones enough to take care of the sick.

Butte Record 10-2-1880

At Cherokee.

About half-past eight o'clock yesterday morning a portion of the President's party, with a large number of the citizens of Chico, went over to Cherokee to view the hydraulic mines of that place. The roads were very dusty, and as the wind was blowing strongly from the north, the excursionists were kept in a cloud of dust during the whole day, and when they arrived at Cherokee one would have been at a loss to ascertain their race from the color of their faces. Gen. Bidwell had lunch prepared for the party and sent ahead, but unfortunately for the General, the man driving the lunch wagon missed the road and wandered up to Dogtown, and did not get to Cherokee until the party were ready to return to Chico. But as Mr. Chas. Waldoyer, Superintendent of the Spring Valley Mining Company, had made ample preparations for the reception of the party, no one went hungry on account of a lack of something to eat. Gen. Sherman mounted the giant and displayed considerable skill in handling the nozzle. Mrs. Hayes tried her luck in panning out a pan of amalgam taken from one of the sluices, from which she obtained about two hundred dollars' worth of gold dust. After viewing the mine and the *modus operandi* of extracting the gold from the hillside, the party returned to Chico at 4:45 P. M., and in half an hour the party were on their way to Rodding.

Weekly Mercury

10-8-1880

It is rumored on the street that the Spring Valley Company intend enlarging their ditch so that it will carry fifteen hundred inches more water.

Important Arrivals.

Messrs. J. P. Robinson, Wm. L. Jenkins, jr., of New York; Chas. A. Batt and A. F. Briggs, of Boston, accompanied by E. N. Robinson and George Geisse, of San Francisco, arrived in town Thursday night, enroute for Cherokee. The first four of these gentlemen are owners in the Spring Valley Gold Mining Company. They are out on this coast to look after their valuable property at Cherokee. They will stay about a week and make a thorough inspection of the mine, after which they will return home.

Population of Butte County.

Understanding that there was an error in the census returns of Butte county as furnished to the County Clerk, and upon which the county was divided into Supervisor Districts, we requested Mr. Renfro to correspond with Mr. Dunn, the Supervisor of Census for this Congressional District, and if possible supply us with true returns. Mr. Renfro furnishes the figures as follows :

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Quartz Mills Burned

The quartz Mill of E. N. Wagner, near Enterprise was totally destroyed by fire, Tuesday, Oct. 5th. An Indian brought word to Mr. Wagner, who was at Enterprise, and he immediately went over, finding nothing but the ruins. No cause can be given for the fire, as there was no one about the mill and had not been for some time. The loss is about \$1800, insured for \$800. This falls very heavy on Mr. Wagner, as he had just got everything ready for the winter rains, and his means were about exhausted.

On Tuesday last, the quartz mill and adjacent buildings on the Porter mine were destroyed by fire. The fire commenced in some of the out-buildings and communicating to the barn and fences, finally reached the mill, completely destroying it. This mine is situated a short distance above Yankee Hill and is owned by D. K. Perkins, who had placed Fred Wellington in charge of it. There was no one at home at the time but Mrs. Wellington. The loss is estimated at about \$1500. Nothing is known as to the origin of the fire.—Mercury.

Weekly Mercury

10-22-1880

Faucher amalgamators are to be placed in the Banner, Minerva and McSmith gravel mines.

The Cherokee school opened Oct. 4th, with a total attendance of 146 scholars.

The Spring Valley Hydraulic Gold Company has been enjoined from washing away the earth carried down from W. C. Hendricks' claim, by the old Spring Valley Company.

Weekly Mercury

10-22-1880

GIGANTIC MINING.

The Contemplated Tunnel Through the Big Bend of North Fork.

During an interview with W. Allstrom, one of the prominent owners of the Big Bend enterprise, the Plumas National, of October 16th, gained the following information in regard to the gigantic mining operations contemplated by that company:

The Big Bend is some thirty miles above Oroville, and probably about that distance below Rich Bar. It is a sharp curve in the river, and is about thirteen miles in length, dotted with bars, which in early days paid enormously. The bed of the river between these bars has never been touched, and many of the bars only partially worked, as the volume of water is so large that it has been impossible to handle it by wing-dams, or any of the incomplete methods in use. The new company, known as the Big Bend Mining Company, will incorporate under Eastern laws. They propose to run a tunnel from the Dark Canyon, which empties into the West Branch of the North Fork, through to the North Fork, and take the river through the tunnel, thus draining the bed of the river for thirteen miles. The tunnel will be twelve by fifteen feet at the commencement, in Dark Canyon, and gradually grow larger until at the head it will be fifteen by twenty feet. It will have about twenty-five feet fall to the mile. It will strike the river just above Whisky Bar, and at this point an enormous dam will be built, of strength sufficient to hold the large volume of water in all seasons of the year. Several gold-bearing quartz lodes will be cut by the tunnel,

and at a great depth. The tunnel will be 20,800 feet, or 300 feet over two miles in length, and will, of course, cost a large amount of money, but we did not learn what the estimate was. When completed, however, the harvest will commence, and will be proportionately large. The bed rock of the bend is slate, standing across the river, and the seams and crevices have acted as riffles for the gold which has poured into this enormous natural sluice-box for ages. Miles of it has never been looked at, and the chances of its being one of the richest spots on the coast are very flattering. In the drained portions are Whisky Bar, Huff's Bar, Stonehouse Bar, Amoon Bar, French Bar, Berry Creek Bar, Lattimore Bar, Island Bar and Bloomer Bar. All of them have been notably rich, and millions have been taken from them by the crude process of mining in early days. When the wealth of the bars is considered, and the facts are shown that in the early days it was one of the most notable spots in the State, the immense amount of gold which is hidden in the slate crevices must be counted into the millions, and an assertion that a hundred millions will result from the draining of thirteen miles of the channel, is not thought to be an over-estimate. Mr. Allstrom has taken a large interest in the scheme, and with his usual energy and "rustle," will push the matter to active operations in a short time. It is a gigantic operation, but in these times of huge enterprises is nothing but what can be accomplished, and it is safe to say that a year or two at most will see the North Fork booming through the tunnel, and the wealth of its old bed laid bare by the combined power of capital and labor.

Weekly Mercury

10-22-1880

From Defiance Mill.

DEFIANCE MILL, Oct. 19, 1880.

ED. MERCURY—News summary is just as plentiful here as in any other mountain retreat, if one only has time to condense and transmit it in a direct manner, instead of its passing through the several versions that everything is subject, by the various angles different individuals view the same from. It has been fearfully dusty for many weeks. A short thunder storm, on Saturday evening, cleared the atmosphere and enabled us to catch a breath of pure air, although the dust rose again as soon as it was stirred, for the greater part of the rain fell west and south of us. Concow must have been well sprinkled at that time as well as the more recent rain of two weeks ago. The dust was well laid here, but we have no increase of water, only just at the time the flume was nearly full. Last week a strong wind blew for a day and night. Twelve boxes of the flume were blown down, about six miles below here, but a force of men repaired it in half a day and are shipping lumber as usual. S. C. Farnham, accompanied by his clerk, R. A. Green, was here three weeks since, looking after his interest in this property. The bills of lumber for the Miocene company's ditch, were supposed to have been almost cut when an additional bill of nearly 260,000 feet, for over a mile more of flume, was brought up last week by Mr. Bellows and D. Hilton. There are logs enough already in the yard to finish the contract of G. M. Taylor, but the superior sugar pine logs make it a necessity to cut may more thousands before the whole of the "bill lumber" can be cut out. The teams are doing big logging, and the timber is just as good as has ever been hauled into the yard. They have not had to resort to the tramway to obtain it, but have built roads in places where the timber had never been culled. Wm. Arnold has moved his family here from Inskip, and is now driving one of the logging teams. Chas. Lambert has lived here with his family the past two

years. Such weather as we are now enjoying does not necessitate any one to go to the valley, for until after one severe rain, it is much healthier here. Through the energy of Maloy and Curran, sub-contractors of running the lumber down the flume, more has been shipped and run through this summer than any season heretofore. Two or three days rain just now would raise the water sufficiently to clear the yard of all the lumber that would float, and carry saw dust by the ton to the Miocene company's ditch, which they so much need to prevent its leaking. The stock men are everywhere through the mountains, gathering up their cattle and horses to drive below, and every day they come across herds of deer. In one band last week, there were eight within rifle shot. Their tracks are seen all around us, and good shootists need never suffer for meat. The miners on Rock Creek have found plenty of gold dust to buy their goods with. Rain would lengthen out the season. Some Chinamen, on their way down to dispose of their dust, were beset upon by some vandals, and whether they recovered their dust and blankets we have not heard. There is a report that there are burglars in this vicinity. Most robbers who get their living by stealing, carry their occupation on their faces. The vigilantes will do well to scour the country and free it of that class which is becoming such a force where officers of the law are wanting. One cabin, two miles above here, was entered, and a twenty-dollar piece taken from a purse containing sixty dollars. It may have been the same twenty that was offered us in exchange for the wherewith to satisfy hunger by one who was sporting through the mountains. A few days afterward the same cabin was entered again and a bottle of catarrh medicine and some other valuables were taken. A close survey of the cabin disclosed the fact that things had been generally tumbled over by some one in search of something special. Locks and keys were of no avail. The boot tracks excused any small man, but the size has nothing to do with natural proclivities.

Quite a serious accident happened to E. Fuller, of Chico, who was on a visit here a few weeks since. While standing upon the logway at the mill, about twenty feet from the saw, something flew and struck his left eye with such force, that he thought the ball fell out. He went down to Deadwood and put himself under the care of the Chinese doctor, where he has remained ever since. His eye-ball was penetrated and part of it ran out. The sight is impaired, but to what extent have not learned. The injured eye looks the same as the well one. The President of our country came so near, and yet so far away, we could not greet him. In imagination we followed him through all his journey. More than a quarter of a century ago we spent a social evening with Gen. Sherman, then only a Senator. His war days and Father Time, must have somewhat changed him, judging from those who met him on this journey. There was something of an interest manifested in politics, but alas, no political aspirants came to keep the ball rolling and therefore all is quiet.

T.

Weekly Mercury

10-29-1880

Mike Wells has changed the name of the Yankee Hill postoffice, to "X Cross Roads."

M. Pence has finished the addition to his house. He has also lathed and plastered the old house. He now has as fine a hotel as any in Butte county.

Big Bend Tunnel.

J. D. Barry, a civil engineer sent up to view the ground for the proposed tunnel in Big Bend and report as to the feasibility of the plan, after spending a week traveling over the country and looking out the route for the tunnel says, that it is a piece of engineering that can be easily accomplished, and he has heard no one place the amount of gold that may be taken out of the river bed as high as he has. He says that the river has been a sluice box for the mountains for centuries, and the wealth that has accumulated in the bottom is simply enormous. He has gone below to make a favorable report, and work will soon commence.

Weekly Mercury

11-12-1880

Meredith Mine.

W. T. Danner the owner of the Meredith mine is rushing things. He has a large force of men at work and has already completed the boarding and lodging houses. Some of the machinery is now on the ground, the rest of it being on the way up. He has engaged E. M. Sparks to superintend the building of the mill, and expects to have the mine ready for work by the 25th of December. Mr. Danner bought this mine for \$20,000 and in a very short time afterwards was offered \$60,000 for it, which was refused.

Fire.

Thursday last, the house of B. T. Hutchinson, in Uppertown, Cherokee, was totally destroyed by fire. Robert McGregor and family occupied the building. The fire started from a defective flue and before the occupants realized that the building was on fire, everything, including \$80 in coin was destroyed. The only thing saved was one trunk containing the wearing apparel of one of the daughters. The building was valued at \$800. We are unable to learn whether there was any insurance on it or not.

Weekly Mercury

11-17-1880

Dance at Concow.

The social dance, given by Mr. Mullen, Friday evening at Concow, was a grand success. The Oroville string band furnished the music, and dancing was kept up until five o'clock in the morning. There were about fifteen couples present, including several gentlemen from this city. They say that the two handsomest young ladies in Butte county were there. Mr. Mullen served a fine supper, and everybody came away well pleased.

The China doctor, at Deadwood, is making \$100 per day.

Two carpenters are kept constantly employed at Deadwood, building houses for the accommodation of patients.

James McGann is finishing up the maps of the Big Bend mining claim.

Weekly Mercury

11-17-1880

House Burned.

Saturday night, about eleven o'clock, the dwelling house of Dr. Allen, in Cherokee, was totally destroyed by fire. The doctor was called to visit a patient, about two o'clock in the afternoon, and left a fire burning in the stove. On his return, about half past ten, he went into the house to light a lantern, and then went directly to the barn. While there, the flames burst out all over the house, and in a very short time was totally consumed. The doctor says that \$2,000 would not make his loss good, as all his instruments, books, medicine cases and furniture were totally destroyed. He thinks that the fire caught during the day, in the roof, and on his opening the door the air fanned it into a blaze.

Butte Record 12-4-1880

From Yankee Hill.

A man named Sweetland was recently appointed Road Overseer of Concow Township. He gave his bond to M. H. Wells, of Yankee Hill, to forward to the clerk to be filed with the auditor. The following correspondence tell the balance of the story.

FRIEND WELLS:—Sweetlands bond received. You know it must be recorded. The fees will be \$1.50, who will pay it, or become responsible for it? Yours,

LEGGET.

The responses came back on the same sheet.

J. O. Mo, big Indian, Captain Concows.

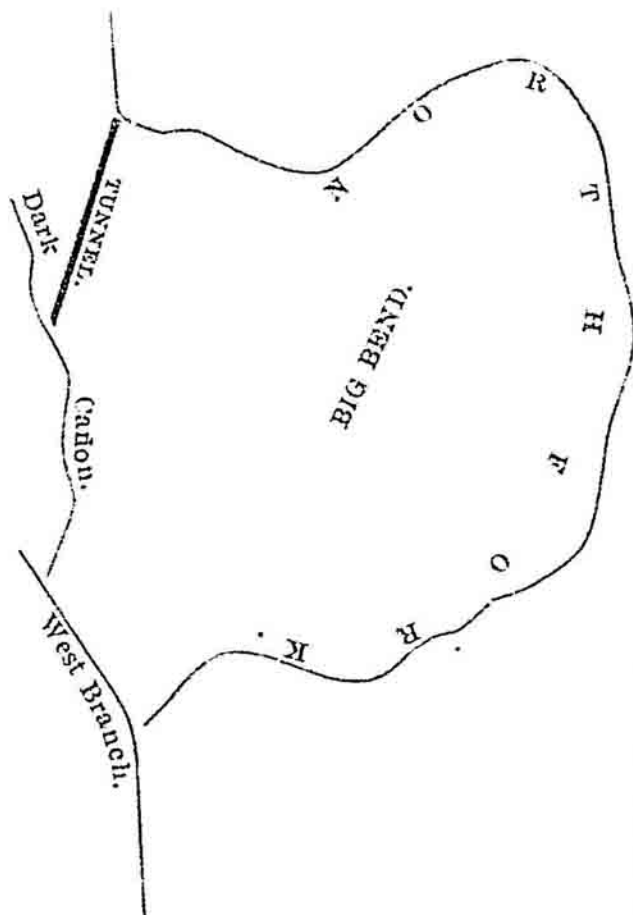
TEDDY.

UNTOLD WEALTH.

The Big Bend Project—A Mammoth Tunnel—Nearly a Million Taken out in Forty-two Days—Diagram of the Proposed Works.

The San Francisco Chronicle of the 4th inst., had quite a long article in reference to the projected tunnel, which the Big Bend Tunnel and Mining Company contemplate running from Hamilton bar to Dark canyon. A MERCURY reporter had the matter written up weeks ago, but out of deference to the wishes of local members of the company, the article was not published. We consider it therefore no breach of confidence to lay before our readers now a short sketch of the proposed works. The report of the several engineers who were engaged by the company, was written by John D. Barry, civil engineer, of San Francisco, after a careful examination of the ground by himself and staff, and considering that he was a stranger to the neighborhood, the document is worthy of careful perusal by mining men, as it will undoubtedly be used as a guide for future operations of a like kind. To James McGann, of Butte county, Deputy United States Surveyor, great credit is due, as it was to his indefatigable energy and perseverance that the surveys were completed. For twenty days he wandered through the course of the Big Bend accompanied by his numerous assistants and three Indians, and during the entire time he did not see a white person outside of his own party, the wild nature of the place precluding the possibility of ordinary miners taking provisions to the many rich bars and gravel banks which thickly dot the ground "taken up" by the company. It has been known for many years, and the fact is substantiated beyond the shadow of a doubt, that Butte county contains some of the richest auriferous deposits in the world. Feather river and its tributaries have added many millions to the world's volume of gold coin, and wherever the beds of the streams have been mined, or in places where mining operations are now being carried on, the returns have been, and are very generous. A notable instance was that of the "Cape Claim," situated about one and a half miles above the town of Oroville, on the Feather river, in Butte county.

In the year 1857, a party of miners organized a company with a capital stock of 200 shares, of \$600 each; at a cost of \$120,000, they built two dams across the river, 3,400 feet apart, with a flume of sufficient capacity to carry the whole body of water in the river past both dams, and discharging into the river below the lower dam, the water between the two dams being pumped out by means of the power afforded by the main flume. When the water of the river bed between these dams was exhausted, men were set at work shoveling the gravel into "long toms," and sluicing in the most primitive manner, yet, the returns were simply enormous—nearly a million dollars being taken out and accounted for in forty-two working days; then, an unseasonable and unexpected rise in the river carried away the entire works in a single night, and the books of the famous "Cape Claim" were closed. The project of turning the river aside from its natural channel at this place, at a cost of a million and a half dollars, is being canvassed now, and is so favorably regarded that it is believed to be only a question of a few months time, until the work will be undertaken. Old residents of the vicinity, being well acquainted with the facts herein stated, are willing to embark their means in such a venture. In the report now before us, a map of the territory is shown, and if the reader will consult the following diagram he will be able to see at a glance exactly what the gentlemen propose to do:



The tunnel will be run as stated above, from Hamilton bar to Dark canyon, and to expedite matters, shafts will be sunk on the proposed line so that at least six gangs of men will work at one and the same time. The dimensions of the tunnel are, 24 feet wide and 18 feet high, the arch in the top beginning 10 feet from the bottom, and over 8,000 miner's inches of water can be discharged every second. A careful examination of the various strata show that the tunnel will run through granite, porphyry, slates of different kinds, and diorite, which are intersected by vast bodies of auriferous quartz, which no doubt will prove to be very rich at the great depth at which the tunnel will cut them. The estimated cost is \$4 per cubic yard, and as the tunnel is only 11,600 feet in length, it can be run for considerably less than one million dollars, which includes houses, roads, machinery, shafts, bore holes for ventilation, engineering and running the tunnel. Capitalists in the East have already written here in reference to the mammoth undertaking, and letters of the most laudatory character have been returned by old and experienced miners, who readily recognize the stupendous amount of wealth that must be uncovered when the work is completed. There is one point, however, that seems to be overlooked in the report of Mr. Barry, and that is this: He says the tunnel will carry the water for eleven months in the year, which is entirely correct, but it seems that there are several creeks that run into the bed of the reclaimed river, and these streams will be utilized to work the heavy banks of gravel, adjacent thereto. Now conceding this fact, we are of the opinion that flumes cannot be built large enough to carry away the waters of Frazier, Berry, French, Cheno and Rock creeks, during at least two of the winter months. Would it not be much more advisable to build a smaller tunnel at much less expense, to carry the volume of water for eight months and thus not be annoyed by the tributaries that flow over the claims. This is merely a suggestion on our part, but of moment enough we think to pay attention thereto. The river will be dammed a short distance below the tunnel in such a manner that one man can manage the sluice gates, and turn the stream into either the tunnel or natural channel at will. It is expected that the entire river bed reclaimed will be cleaned up within five years from the time the tunnel is completed. It is not to be supposed that two thousand cubic feet per second—equal to one hundred thousand miner's inches—will be taken out of the Feather river and allowed to return to the stream. This quantity of water is sufficient to irrigate 450,000 acres of land. Already farmers below are anxious to have this invaluable fertilizer brought to the plains, and offer one dollar per acre, per annum, for the use of the water, and further, as an inducement, to work themselves on the canal with

their horses during the dead farming season, taking pay in water after completion. Experience in Europe, Asia, Africa and the southern portions of this State fully establishes the fact, that land which can be brought under a well regulated system of irrigation, increases in value ten fold. For persons unacquainted with the Sacramento valley, it may be well to state that it contains abundant cereal lands, sufficient to use the whole amount of water of the Feather river. The advantages which Oroville will derive from the prosecution of this work will be immense, and we are pleased to see that such clear headed gentlemen as Col. J. C. Logan, Maj. Frank McLaughlin and G. W. Cummings have gone into the enterprise with characteristic vim, for it is to them that all credit is due, they having gone to considerable expense to place the property in the Eastern market. Col. Jas. C. Logan and Major Frank McLaughlin are members of the Board of Directors, and this fact alone is a guarantee that the enterprise will be pushed to an early completion. The scheme has the best wishes of the MERCURY for its success, and as the stock is nearly all taken, we feel assured that the project will terminate in its being the greatest mining effort of the next decade.

Weekly Mercury

12-10-1880

Concow School.

The following is the roll of honor for Concow school for the last month; Geo. A. Tebbe, B. F. Clark, Wm. Tebbe, Josephine Miller, Fred Tebbe, Geo. Clark, David Gramps, Wendelew Miller, Emil Hodapp, Minnie Hodapp, John Tebbe, Ransom Clark.

MISS CURTIS, Teacher,

Weekly Mercury

12-24-1880

Terrible Accident.

The Chico Enterprise of Dec. 21st, says: "A terrible accident took place this morning at the ranch of Caleb Scott, by which Matthew A. Carter was maimed for life. A boy had been shooting geese and in some way the ramrod got fast in one of the barrels. He snapped his gun and handed it to Carter to draw it out. In trying to do this the gun went off and inflicted a frightful wound to Carter's left hand, mangling the three first fingers and also the end of his right thumb. He was brought to town and Dr. Dawson attended him. He was obliged to amputate the fingers.

Weekly Mercury

12-31-1880

The Way They do it in Cherokee.

For some two or three days before Christmas, a couple of vags had been hanging around Cherokee, begging and picking a precarious living, as is usual with that class. On Christmas day, one of them attempted to steal a coat belonging to Mr. Loomis, but was caught in the act by Bob McCready, who tipped him over a billiard table and kept him stretched out on it until he had notified a number of the boys. Nearly all the young men in town collected together and held a consultation as to how they should punish the rascal. They finally elected Johnny Williams, foreman, and then drafted a set of resolutions. The tramp was then brought before Williams, who read the resolutions to him and gave him twenty minutes to leave the town and not come back again. He was then taken to the edge of town and given a good start with the assistance of several pair of heavy boots behind him. It is needless to say that he has not shown up since. Foreman Williams then ordered his men to bring all the rest of the vags in, which they willingly did, and he notified each and every one to quit the town, and gave them a short time to do it in. One fellow, a bald-headed chap who had a kind of a barber shop there, was run in by the boys, and he told Williams he would not go. With a motion of his hand to his crowd, they picked Mr. Barber up and gave him an airing on a billiard que for a few minutes. After being let down he started down the grade as though he had lost something between Cherokee and Pence's Ranch. They cleaned the town thoroughly, not a vag, tramp or loafer being left in the place. That is the way they do it in Cherokee, and it is what is wanted in this place. For the last week this city has been filling up with a hard crowd of vags, rounders, pimps and loafers. It would be a good idea to import Johnny Williams and his crowd down here, and have them clean the town of this worthless class.

Weekly Mercury

12-31-1880

New Quartz Mill.

Johnny Rhodes and J. B. Treadwell have made arrangements with Augustus Tache, and will put up a mill on his quartz ledge. This ledge is situated a short distance above Oregon City, and as yet is only partially developed. An incline has been run to the depth of forty feet, following the vein down, and a shaft has been sunk on it to a depth of about forty feet. The vein is about four feet wide and is quite rich. Mr. Rhodes informed us that the machinery was shipped last Wednesday, but for some unknown reason had failed to arrive. The mill is to be a two-stamp Huntington mill.