

# Weekly Butte Record

## 1-2-1886

### **Stage Robbers Caught.**

It will be remembered that on Saturday, December 4th, the stage which runs between Oroville, Butte county, and Quincy, Plumas county, was stopped near Bidwell's Bar, by two men armed with shotguns, and robbed of a gold bar, worth \$955, which was in the express box. On Monday three men were arrested at Sacramento on suspicion of having been connected with the robbery. Their names are not given, the usual *foolish mystery being thrown around the case by the police authorities.*

**1-27-1886**

**Workman, Robt—Placer mine at Long Bar known as the Workman claim —\$200; imp thereon 150; total 350. Tax \$9.10, 5 pr ct 45c, costs 50c, total 10 05.**

# The Daily Mercury

## Feb 4, 1886

J. B. Mullen and family, formerly of Concow, this county, are in town and will leave for Phoenix, Arizona, to-morrow, where Mr. Mullen has gone into the stock business on a large scale, in company with two brothers, who are well established there. We wish Mr. Mullen and family abundant success there, but are sorry to lose them from Butte.

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### UNITED STATES HOTEL

Montgomery Street.

LOUIS W. HOOPS,.....Proprietor

**T**HIS HOTEL IS CENTRALLY SITUATED and offers superior accommodations to the traveling public.

All the Stages stop here, both on leaving and arriving.

U. S. Hotel 'Bns will be at the R. R. Depot on arrival of all trains. Patrons conveyed to the Hotel free.

Board (per month).....	\$20 00
Board and Lodging (per month)....	24 00
Board and Lodging (single room)...	28 00
Meals.....	25 cents
Lodgings,.....	25 "
Single Rooms (with board,).....	50 "
Single Rooms (without " ).....	75 cents
	to \$1.

The Saloon is supplied with the Choicest Wines, Liquors and Cigars.

A share of public patronage is solicited.

# SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

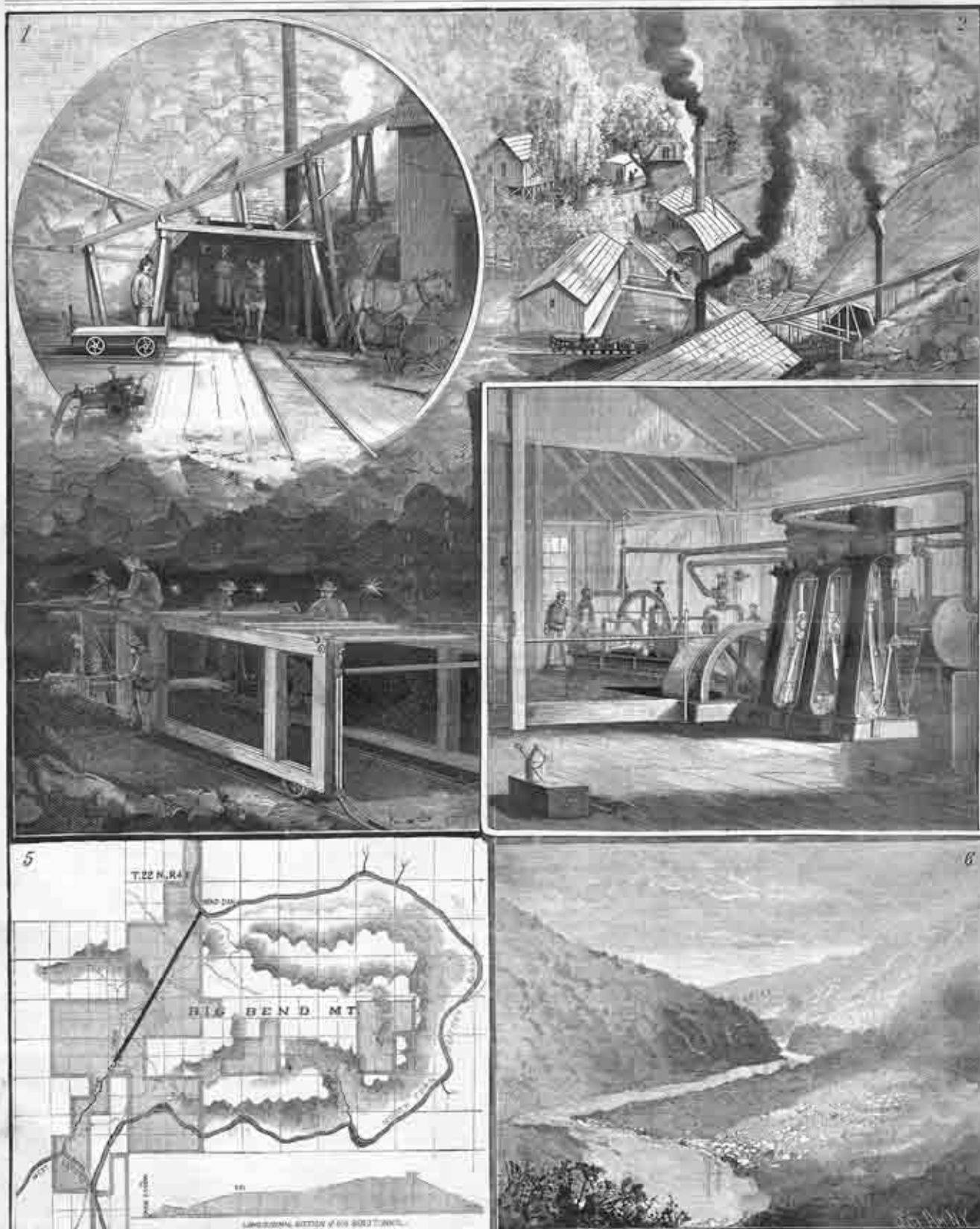
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1. Entrance of Tunnel. 2. Buildings and Plant in Park Canyon. 3. Hill Carriage. 4. Air Compressor. 5. Map of Big Bend and Line of Tunnel. 6. View of Jumbo Dam, Feather River.

THE BIG BEND TUNNEL IN BUTTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. — [See page 85.]





# Weekly Butte Record

## 2-13-1886

### **Cherokee on the Chinese.**

We believe it is to be placed to the credit of Cherokee, in this county, that its people have never allowed Chinese women to settle in their town. When the first batch was introduced there years ago, they were told to depart, and no attempt has since been made to domicil them in Cherokee. The place has recently been the scene of some excitement on the Chinese question. On Sunday, Ah Tai was hung in effigy, and the citizens, headed by a band, paraded through Chinatown. On the evening of the 3d, an enthusiastic meeting was held in the Spring Valley Commercial Company's hall, when resolutions were adopted and a committee appointed to carry out the wishes of the meeting. All the Chinese, except cooks and laundrymen, have been discharged.

## Sacramento Record Union

2-25-1886

CHEROKEE (Butte county), February 24th. The Anti-Chinese Club of Cherokee had its regular meeting Monday evening, and was addressed by E. J. Emmons, from Chico, who spoke principally of the virtues of the present agitation, and was followed by Mr. Gamble, from Durham. Great enthusiasm prevailed, and a delegate was elected to the Sacramento Convention on the 10th of March.

PENTZ (Butte county), February 24th.—An Anti-Chinese Club was organized at Pentz Tuesday evening. Thomas Lockerman was elected Chairman, and George Chesshire Secretary. A Committee on Resolutions was appointed, consisting of Jesse Wood, C. Clarenbach and Mr. Chesshire.

# The Daily Mercury

## March 13, 1886

We have received a letter from J. B. Mullen, formerly of Concow. He and his family reached Phoonix, Arizona, and have gone out to the Mullen cattlo range, 75 miles distant. Mr. Mullen is not entirely satisfied, and says that he doesn't think any section on earth will suit him as well as Butto. We hope he'll get to be a cattle king, and invest his surplus coin in Butto.



For Piles, Old Sores and all Blood Diseases

—USE—

**FRYER'S BLOOD AND LIVER PILLS,**

In connection with the

**OINTMENT.**

PRICE 25 cents.

For Weak Kidneys and Lame Backs, use

**ABIIETENE POROUS PLASTER.**

PRICE 25 cents.

For a Mild and Safe Cough Remedy for Children let them have

Abietene and Yerba Santa Cough Candy.

To be found at the

**CRYSTALINO STORE**

Where Pure Drugs and Chemicals can be found, wholesale and retail.

D. F. FRYER Proprietor.

### ABIIETENE COUGH BALSAM

#### For Consumption.

**DIRECTIONS.**—Half teaspoonful 3 to 4 times a day, and a full teaspoonful at bed time. If there is pain or soreness in the chest, throat, sides or back, bathe freely with FRYER'S ABIIETENE. Practice for fifteen minutes each morning in expanding the chest by drawing (through the nostrils) into the lungs as much fresh air as they will hold, expiring it pass of gradually through the mouth.

#### For Cough and Colds.

**DIRECTIONS.**—Teaspoonful 3 to 4 times a day and on going to bed. If there is pain or soreness in the chest, throat, sides or back, bathe freely with FRYER'S ABIIETENE over parts affected.

#### For Asthma

**DIRECTIONS.**—Same as for Cough and Colds.

#### For Bronchitis.

**DIRECTIONS.**—Same as for Cough and Colds, with the addition of using FRYER'S ABIIETENE as a gargle 3 to 5 times a day.

#### For Croup.

**DIRECTIONS.**—Teaspoonful every 15 minutes until relieved. Bathe throat and chest freely with FRYER'S ABIIETENE.

#### For Pleurisy.

**DIRECTIONS.**—Teaspoonful every 2 hours, and use the hot towel, chest and back freely with FRYER'S ABIIETENE; also saturate a flannel cloth with it and lay over the affected lung.

#### For Pleurisy.

**DIRECTIONS.**—Teaspoonful every hour until relieved, and saturate a flannel cloth with FRYER'S ABIIETENE and lay over the affected part.

If constipated, or you need a cathartic, (which is usually the case, as in most of these diseases there is more or less fever,) use FRYER'S BLOOD AND LIVER PILLS. They are safe, reliable and purely vegetable.

D. F. FRYER, Druggist,  
OROVILLE, CAL.

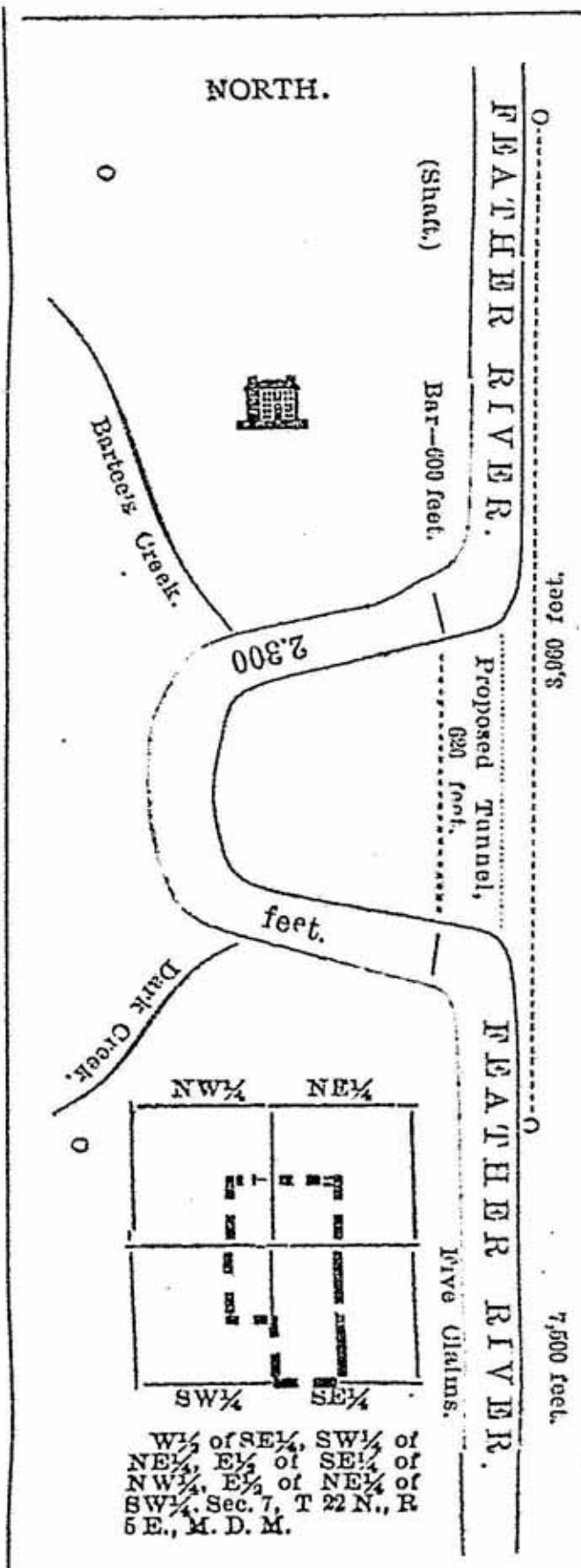
Proprietor and Manufacturer of the  
ABIIETENE REMEDIES.



**Consolidated Golden Channel Mining Company.**

This mine is situated thirty miles north of Oroville, on the North Fork of Feather river, between Rich Bar on the north, and the Big Bend Tunnel Company's claim on the south. It is in Yankee Hill district, and in a vicinity famous in early days for its rich mineral deposits. The claim is located on a horseshoe bend in the river, in which curve there are 2,300 feet of virgin river bottom. The plan is to cut a tunnel through the base of the mountain around which the river bends, and by turning the stream through this tunnel, dry the entire curve of 2,300 feet. The tunnel will be but 620 feet long, as the neck of the horseshoe bend is but that distance in width. The following cut gives an accurate idea of the proposed plan of operations, and the reader will readily perceive the feasibility of the plan:

There are also six or eight hundred feet of bar above and adjoining the portion of the river to be drained, and several streams flowing into the bend, the mouths of which are known to be rich. There are also 7,500 feet of river bed below the mouth of the tunnel, which can and will be worked by the facilities afforded by this tunnel. Old miners who are not interested in this mine, declare that in early days rich gold



deposits were found in the ravines and creeks flowing into the river within this bend, and also when the water was low rich pay dirt was found along the edge of the stream. This company was organized a few months ago, and officered as follows: P. O. Hundley, President; M. Biggs, Jr., Vice President; W. E. Duncan, Secretary; George North, Superintendent and E. McGrath, Trustee. None of these officers are salaried, and they have all had experience in mining. In fact the three last named are expert, practical miners, and have devoted their lives to that business. They are all gentlemen of established reputation, and have long been residents of this county. Judge Hundley, the President, having been District Attorney years ago, and recently Superior Judge of the county. This enterprise is not a speculation, but a bona fide investment of capital with the expectation of realizing rich returns, and we believe that their expectations will be fully realized.



**Big Bend Tunnel Nearly Completed.**

The mining enterprise known as the Big Bend Tunnel, located on the Feather river, sixteen miles above Oroville, is one of the most gigantic schemes undertaken in the State for many years. Superintendent N. A. Harris, who was in the city Tuesday, states that the tunnel lacks but 200 feet of completion, and the work is carried on with the Burleigh drills at the rate of 100 feet per week. The company expect, therefore, to have "daylight" through the mountain by the 4th or 5th of next month. The tunnel will be 1,200 feet in length, 16 feet wide and 9 feet high. At the upper end it will be 32 feet wide, gradually narrowing to the 16-foot width, in order to start enough water in to force the 16-foot tunnel full, when necessary, to carry all the water of the Feather river. The tunnel has thirty feet fall to the mile. Its capacity for carrying water will, therefore, be enormous. The tunnel is cut across the bend in the main Feather, and will free the channel from water for a distance of fourteen miles. This channel is the bottom of an immense canyon, and is believed to be exceedingly rich in gold deposit. What few bars have been worked have been found rich, and the river above and below has paid its millions. The nature of the ground has heretofore prevented working in this canyon, as the river could neither be wing-dammed nor flumed. When the tunnel shall have been completed a dam will be built across the Feather 16 feet in height by about 160 in length. This will turn all the water into the tunnel that it can carry, and whenever all the water in the river is sent through it, the fourteen-mile bed of the river will be open for mining operations. In stages of high water the surplus will flow over the dam, and mining operations below will necessarily cease. The company has been three years and four months in building the tunnel, at a great expense. The Superintendent is of the opinion that better and quicker work was never done under similar circumstances. The rock passed through is of such nature as is believed to be proof against serious erosion by the waters, and will not be damaged by the great rush which will pass through it. There are places however, which will be cemented and ironed to guard against mishap. Several fine quartz lodes have been cut in running the tunnel, some of which are gold-bearing. A six-foot lode was cut at a depth of 1,200 feet below the surface. Nothing will be done toward working these lodes until the river channel is worked out, which will take years to come, except they may be worked in the winter season when high water prevents working the channel. [Marysville Appeal.]

# Daily Mercury

3-31-1886

## **Pamphlet on Butte.**

A full and elaborate description of the resources and attractions of Butte county, we understand, is being prepared by Rev. Jesso Wood, of Pentz, and will be ready for publication in a few weeks. Leading citizens of the county, who are directly interested in fruit growing and other industries, will contribute short articles. The leading merchants and business men of the county are manifesting a lively interest in its publication. We agree with our neighbor, the Register, in its estimate of Mr. Wood's qualifications for this work. There is probably no man in the county more thoroughly acquainted with all its parts, or who is better prepared to represent them fairly. A large circulation will be given to this pamphlet, and we hope that our business men generally, will appreciate the opportunity thus offered to give Butte county a boom, which will be felt in all branches of trade. A pamphlet of Butte county as a specialty is much better for us than simply a part, and perhaps a small part, in an issue for all Northern California.

# Daily Mercury

## 3-31-1886

### Patent Received.

Rey. Jesse Wood has received from Washington a United States patent for his homestead near Pentz. His improvements there have been from the first set forward with much energy. With his title now secure he has one of the most pleasant homes in the county. The locality is finely adapted to citrus and other fruits, to the growing of which he is applying the sunny slopes as rapidly as possible. He has now growing fifteen acres of orchard and 150 orange trees, 60 of which will commence bearing next year.

# Weekly Mercury

4-2-1886

Fred. Wellington — popularly known as the Duke—has a quartz mine at Yankee Hill which will yet make him a millionaire.

# Daily Mercury

4-9-1886

The Big Bend tunnel will be completed to-morrow, Saturday, April 10th. For more than two years a large number of men have been driving this gigantic enterprise, and millions of dollars have been expended. To the energy and foresight of Major Frank McLaughlin this great mining scheme is due. It is the largest and most expensive mining tunnel on earth, being about two and a half miles in length, and has been put through at an immense cost. It will be some time before the river is turned through, as dams, etc., are to be constructed.



# Daily Mercury

## 4-14-1886

### BIG BEND TUNNEL.

**The Most Extensive Mining Tunnel  
on Earth Completed in Butte  
County.**

On the 6th day of July, 1882, N. A. Harris and James McGann commenced surveying the proposed route for the Big Bend tunnel. The surveys were completed late in the Fall, and, after making all necessary arrangements, the gigantic enterprise was commenced on Nov. 18th, of the same year. It was proposed to cut a tunnel 9x12 feet, with a grade of 30 feet to the mile, through a towering mountain, a distance of 12,007 feet. This would drain about twelve miles of the North Fork of the famous Feather river, which at that point curves in a horseshoe bend around the mountain, turn the stream through said tunnel and mine the channel. It was a Herculean undertaking, and there were many doubting Thomases who predicted an utter failure and a squander of millions. The surveyors estimated the cost from one million to a million and a half dollars. The projectors having unbounded confidence in the wealth of the river channel went to work. N. A. Harris was elected Resident Agent and General Superintendent; Ed Harkness was made local Secretary, John Cribbins Tunnel Foreman, and seventy-five sturdy miners were set to work at the tunnel.

A No. 4 Burleigh Air Compressor and a No. 4 Clayton Duplex Compressor were used to drive the drills. Three shifts of men were kept at work night and day during the entire time, and but 15½ days have been lost since the work commenced. Up to

Jan., 1883, 399 feet had been cut. In 1883 3,503 feet were made; in '84, 3,090; in '85, 3,855 and in '86, 1,155, the end being reached and daylight found on Monday, April 12th, 1886, at 8 o'clock P. M. During this long seige of delving Messrs. Harris, Harkness and Cribbins kept their positions with unflinching zeal and confidence, and not one serious accident occurred during the progress of the tunnel. This great tunnel required 154,815 pounds of No. 1 giant and 16,535 pounds of No. 2 giant powder. This mine has attracted universal attention and is justly regarded as the most gigantic mining enterprise in existence.

When daylight was found on Monday evening general rejoicing prevailed at Big Bend. The faithful workers were given a holiday and royally feasted by the managers. Messrs. Harris, Harkness and Cribbins came to town and in company with Major McLaughlin, the prime mover in this great enterprise, and other friends, celebrated the successful termination of the stupendous undertaking. Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, New York, was telegraphed and sent a jubilant reply congratulating the local managers, and expressing great satisfaction. Of this company Dr. Pierce is President, A. Holland, Vice President; L. H. Smith, Treasurer, and P. W. Dorris, Secretary, all of Buffalo, New York. We congratulate all connected with it on its splendid success so far, and on the prospects of a rich yield of gold. It will be some time yet before mining will be commenced, as the river is high, and there is much work in the way of dams, sluices, preparing the tunnel for the river, etc. Work has been suspended for a few days, to give the miners a rest, and for the weather to settle. Within a week or so, however, work will be resumed, and in a month or so the Feather will be turned through the tunnel, and mining will commence.

We hope that a fortune will be realized by each stockholder and every faithful attache of the same.



# Weekly Mercury

4-16-1886

E. McGrath of the Defiance Quartz Mill at Oregon City informs us that he has found a rich vein there and the chances are that he will develop a bonanza. We hope so, for he has stayed with it and deserves success. There is no doubt that the vicinity of Oregon City has many fine quartz ledges.

# Daily Mercury

4-17-1886

## Silver Wedding.

In spite of the terrible weather forty or fifty persons found their way to Eyrie Villa, the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Wood, yesterday, on the occasion of the celebration of their silver wedding. Chico and Oroville, Paradise and Yankee Hill were represented, and Pentz turned out in full force. Rain poured nearly all day, and a strong wind blustered from the south, making it necessary to remain indoors. But the large parlors afforded ample room, and a delightful time was spent. At noon Rev. E. Hoskins offered a very beautiful prayer. Mr. Wood gave some interesting matrimonial memoirs for the benefit of the young people present, and dinner was announced. It was a superb feast and was prepared by Mr. Graham, Oroville's famous caterer. There was sufficient good things for 200 persons, which number would probably have been present had the weather permitted. During the day Mrs. W. M. Pence entertained the guests with several choice songs, and games and a general good time prevailed.

Many elegant and costly presents were taken, and others were sent with regrets from friends in Chico, Oroville and many other places.

The condition of the weather was a great disappointment to Mr. Wood and family, as they had hoped to give their friends a regular picnic at their charming foothill home.

# Weekly Mercury

4-30-1886

Geo. Strang, from Big Bend, left at our office this afternoon some specimens of rock taken from the Louisiana Mine, at Oregon City, the rock is finely speckled with gold, and our informant says that there is lots of it in sight.

Chris. Mortensen, who lives below town, on Feather river, found, the other day, a human skeleton in an old tea jar, buried under a pile of tailings. The skull had a hole in it, as if it had been struck a very severe blow. It is supposed to be the skeleton of a murdered Chinaman.

#### Valuable Work.

Friday last we assisted Hon. L. D. Freer in reviewing Rev. Jesse Wood's pamphlet on Butte county. The greater part of the work consists of original matter furnished by the author, in which he concisely and truly states the character of the soil and climate, topography of the county, condition and nature of its various resources. He has also inserted letters from numerous prominent citizens giving the result of their efforts raising fruits, grains, vegetables, etc., which documents corroborate his statements. The object of the work is to set forth the superior advantages of Butte, as a field in which immigrants can make homes; and to accomplish this end, 5,000 copies will be circulated in the Eastern States. Believing that his long residence, public experience and ability, justified them in anticipating a meritorious production, and desirous of assisting any undertaking calculated to enhance the prosperity of the county, the Board of Supervisors at its recent session agreed to allow Mr. Wood \$300 for 1,000 copies, providing the publication was endorsed by a committee selected by the Board. Messrs. L. D. Freer, Wm. Dunstone, C. L. Stilson, John Nichols and C. N. Reed were appointed as said committee. Mr. Dunstone was unable to attend the meeting last week. Messrs. Freer and Reed, after thoroughly and carefully revising the production in various minor particulars, endorsed its publication. Messrs. Stilson and Nichols will examine it this week. The work is thorough and impartial. Every town and industry receives due consideration. Nothing is overdrawn, and very few underestimated. It is a work that we believe will accomplish great good for the county, and we hope the leading citizens of every neighborhood will subscribe for a number of copies and aid in circulating them among friends in the East. In order to save himself from financial loss, it is probable that Mr. Wood will devote a number of pages to advertisements, in which event the business men of the various communities ought to patronize him in this line. —Gridley Herald.

Daily Mercury  
5-1-1886

Daily Mercury  
5-3-1886

A young gentleman who attended the Cherokee dance last Friday night, informs us that it was a delightful affair. Morrisson and Klein furnished fine music, a splendid supper was enjoyed, and the dance continued nearly all night. This young gentleman was much impressed with the beauty and vivacity of the Cherokee girls.

# Daily Mercury

5-4-1886

We think that river mining in Butte county has just commenced. The Big Bend is sure to pay millions, the Golden Channel will, we think, pay in proportion, and this will give such mining a boom, never before experienced in the history of mining. Old miners think that all the branches of the Feather are lined with gold, and if the enterprises now under way pan out satisfactorily, look out for a boom. This mining cannot be objectionable to the most fanatical anti-debris man, as nothing is put into the stream. On the contrary much is taken out. We anticipate a grand future for river mining in Butte.



# BUTTE'S BIG BEND!

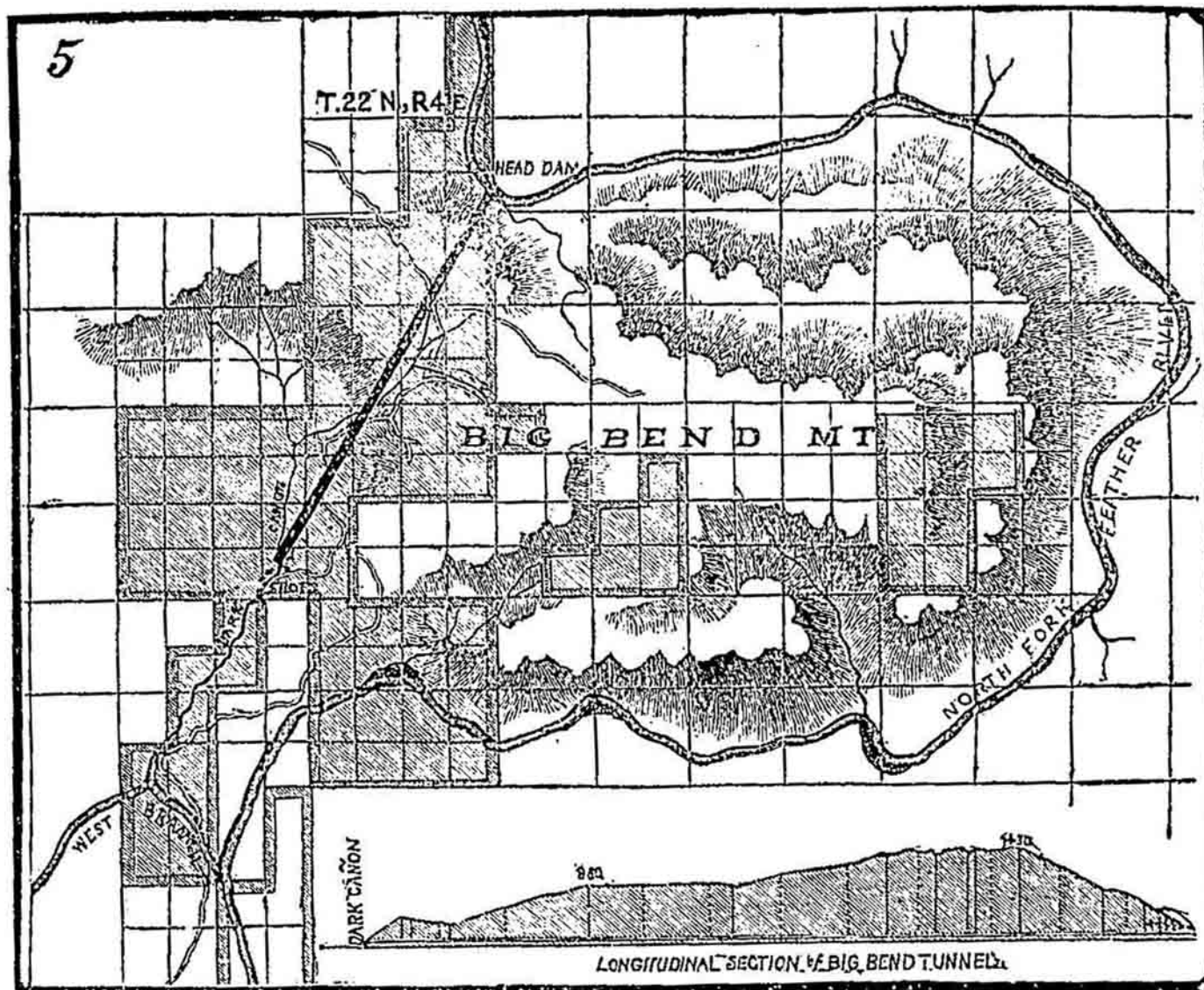
THE MOST GIGANTIC MINING  
ENTERPRISE ON THE COAST.

Daily Mercury  
5-5-1886 page 1 of 3

Mercurial Pen Pictures, Taken From  
Observation and Thorough In-  
vestigation.

Being desirous of obtaining a thorough understanding of the great mining enterprise 16 miles north of Oroville, known as the Big Bend Tunnel and Mining Company, we visited the place last week and made a complete and minute investigation of the entire premises. We published sometime ago, a general account of the work and completion of the tunnel, and it is useless to repeat it verbatim.

On our recent visit, N. A. Harris Superintendent of this great enterprise, with his usual kindness and courtesy, escorted us through all the works and answered candidly, the thousand and one questions we propounded. The tunnel is 12,007 feet long, is 9x16 feet in size, has a fall of about 70 feet, is perfectly straight, and is cut the entire distance through an uninterrupted mass of rock, that it is almost as hard as steel. The cut below, gives an exact and thoroughly comprehensive knowledge of the situation:



# Daily Mercury

## 5-5-1886, page 2 of 3

It will be observed that the mouth, or lower end of the tunnel, opens into Dark Canyon, a deep, dark gorge running north from the West Branch of Feather river. It is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the mouth of the tunnel to where Dark Canyon opens into West Branch, and the junction of the West Branch and North Fork is one-half mile below this point. We had the pleasure of riding through the tunnel,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles, making the dark distance in twenty minutes on a car drawn by a veteran mule. It produced a peculiar sensation to watch the fading daylight at the south end, become enveloped in thick darkness about the center, and in a few moments behold a flood of light pouring in at the north end. The tunnel strikes the river at the exact point located by Superintendent Harris, four years ago.

The tunnel being about completed, preparations are now being made to construct the necessary dams for turning the river. As soon as the water is low enough a temporary crib dam will be put in. Six heavy gates made of iron and steel, and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  by 8 feet in the clear, have been made at the Risdon Iron Works, San Francisco, and have been shipped up for the mouth of the tunnel. These may be closed or opened by screws and wheels. When the crib dam turns the water into the tunnel, a permanent dam 125 feet long and 16 feet high will be built. The river is narrow just at this place. It is 175 feet just above where the crib dam is put in. The slopes of the new dam will be three to one on the lower side. The water rises 30 feet in the river at this point in extreme flows. The tunnel will be able to carry off the river flow for from seven to nine months of the year. When the river gets high, the tunnel will be closed by the gates and the water will then flow in its natural channel.

When the main dam is built the river will be turned through the tunnel leaving 14 miles of river channel comparatively dry. The mining will be done in the old-fashioned river channel manner. The gravel and sand already in the bottom of the river will be washed in sluice boxes 16 by 18 inches. They will put nothing into the river, and take nothing out except gold.

Several different portions will be worked at the same time, as they cannot work a large body of men in any one place. They will work from 50 to 100 men in a place, and work at least four or five places at the same time. Of course, this is not a hydraulic mine, and nothing is to be put into the river, so there is no danger of legal complication. The fall of the river is such that there is no more debris there now than there was 30 years ago. The gravel on the bedrock is not more than four or six feet deep, and the width of the bed is from 100 to 200 feet.

The river for nearly the entire distance, is walled on both sides with a perfect casing of rock, so that it will be impossible to wash debris into it, if the company desired or had the water power to do so.

On account of the steep and rocky banks, it has been impossible to wing-dam or flume this part of the river, except in a few places, and at these places it has been worked, though a very small portion of the river has been mined. They worked enough, however, to know that it is enormously rich in places. The river above and below the Bend has proved rich in gold, but this portion was only possible to work in a few parts. A tunnel such as the one described was the only means by which the water could be turned and the river bed mined.

# Daily Mercury

## 5-5-1886, page 3 of 3

It is scarcely necessary to call to mind of California miners the rich diggings of the Feather river in the early days. The famous old Cape claim, below Big Bend, yielded \$680,000, in 42 working days, from 3300 lineal feet of half worked river bed. The river channel both above and below the Bend, has proven itself rich, so the company naturally expect very handsome returns when they lay bare 14 miles of river bed, which, before this enterprise, the miners could not touch. It is curious that the project was not carried out long since, as there has been no question of the richness of the bed of this river. There is, of course, a possibility of finding many "Capes," in which case the whole expenses of the enterprise would be paid at once.

The company has expended many thousand dollars and much labor in building roads and trails. In addition to the main wagon roads, a trail has been built from the settlement around the 14 miles of the bend. Riding over this trail puts a person's courage and equilibrium to a severe test. It winds along the bluffs, in many places two and three hundred feet above the rushing, foaming Feather, while the animal has, at times, but twenty or thirty inches upon which to walk. Above the river majestic hills tower toward the skies, while below yawns a deep, precipitous canyon. The scenery on either side of the river is indescribably magnificent, and a person's first ride over this trail will leave an impression upon his mind that time cannot erase.

We cannot conclude this article without referring to the great energy, skill and executive ability of Superintendent N. A. Harris, who, true to his past well-known mining record, has carried through this gigantic project with such marked ability. The entire business has been conducted with the precision of well regulated machinery.

The President, Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, New York, to whom all praise is due, after having most carefully investigated the past history of the "Golden Feather," and being convinced of the feasibility of the Big Bend project, immediately invested large sums of money in the enterprise. Mr. Harris having been appointed Superintendent of the company, and selecting none but the most trustworthy subordinates, who, under his immediate supervision, and that of his able foreman, Mr. John Cribbins, has successfully completed, without break or accident, the most gigantic mining tunnel ever projected, for the mining of any of the golden rivers of California.



THE business of hydraulic mining is about to be completely stopped. Representative McKenna on Wednesday, secured the adoption of the following amendment to the river and harbor bill in the House: "Improving the Sacramento and Feather rivers, California—\$40,000 of the money appropriated heretofore for improving said rivers that may remain unexpended at the end of the fiscal year for snagging and dredging operations and for the cost of the proceedings hereafter authorized, the balance of said unexpended money not to be used until the Secretary of War shall be satisfied that hydraulic mining has ceased on said rivers and their tributaries. If he be not so satisfied he shall institute such legal proceedings as may be necessary to prevent the washing, sluicing, damming or discharging detritus, debris or slickens caused by or arising from hydraulic mining into either of said rivers or any of their tributaries, or into the San Joaquin rivers or any of its tributaries, or to such place from which such detritus, debris or slickens may be liable to be washed by storms or floods in either of said rivers or said tributaries; and he is authorized to use such part of said \$40,000 as may be necessary."

# Weekly Butte Record

5-8-1886

## **Teamster Killed.**

At Flee Valley, near Concow on the 5th instant, a fatal accident occurred, resulting in the death of William Mullen. While driving down the hill, the brake of his wagon gave way and he was thrown from his seat by the jolting of the swiftly descending vehicle. The wagon passed over him, crushing him so severely that he died in a few minutes. He was married and leaves a family.

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# Daily Mercury

5-14-1886

Major Frank McLaughlin, will publish the following in the Chico Enterprise, in reply to a letter in said paper: Permit me to correct a mistake in Dr. Pierce's letter, published in your yesterday's edition. Dr. Pierce gives my name in the list of Big Bend Tunnel Co's stockholders, as the owner of 150 shares. This is a mistake on his part, as I do not own one share of the stock. I at one time owned one-half of the original claim, the United States patent on which was issued to the late Col. J. C. Logan, Geo. W. Cummings and myself. On the formation of the company, I owned about one-fourth of the stock, but have sold out some time ago and am now entirely out of the enterprise, the carrying out of which, is largely due to the capital of Dr. Pierce and the brains of N. A. Harris.



# Daily Mercury

## 5-19-1886

The following is the roll of honor for those who obtained 90 per cent in attendance and deportment at the Big Bend school, for the month ending May 14th: Rosa Hall, Maggie Presley, Florence Wakeham, Mary Rogers, Susie Rogers, Lydia Presly, Ida Smith, Josephine Rogers, Frankie Garber, Edward Wakeham, Alfred Wakeham, John Presley, Ruben Smith, Dannie Williams, Hughton Turner, George Turner.

ANGELINE ROSS, teacher.

### Diploma Examination.

An examination of pupils who have completed the course of study for Butte county schools, and who wish to apply for diplomas of graduation, will be held in the public school building at Cherokee, on Thursday and Friday, May 27th and 28th. This examination will be open to pupils of Cherokee and adjoining districts. By order of the Board of Education,

D. W. BRADDOCK,  
Secretary.

W. J. Walker of New York, arrived in town last night and accompanied L. Glass to Cherokee. He is officially connected with the great mine there.

# Daily Mercury

5-22-1886

W. H. Plymire, proprietor of the Excelsior Marble Works, at Marysville, has been in town putting up some work in our cemetery, and to-day he goes to Cherokee for the same purpose. Mr. Plymire has done considerable work in our cemetery, and most of the fine monuments therein are from his shop, and he is now ready to receive orders for any additional work our citizens may be pleased to give him. His prices will be found as reasonable as good work can be done for.

Daily Alta California May 24, 1886

**Dr. R. V. Pierce of Buffalo, N. Y., writes to the Chico Enterprise, protesting against the statement that the "energy and capital" of any other man than himself is due the building of the Big Bend Tunnel. Of the 200,000 shares of stock issued by the company, Dr. Pierce holds 163,017. If the enterprise proves a success, the millionaire pill-maker will add a handsome sum to his fortune.**

# Daily Mercury

5-25-1886

The school at Pentz closed last Friday, and on Saturday the community enjoyed a delightful picnic. Miss E. A. Wilson, as teacher, has captured the community, as she always does, and will soon return to Prattville where she will resume teaching.

Daily Mercury

6-1-1886

Notice the advertisement of the Concow Hotel. Under the management of Caleb Scott this hotel ranks among the best in the mountains. There are splendid boating and fishing facilities and the climate is perfection. The temperance camp convention meets there every August, and a more pleasant camping locality cannot be found in the mountains of Butte. If you desire to take a mountain trip give Concow a call, and you will be delighted.

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## CONCOW HOTEL.

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**T**HE MOST DELIGHTFUL SUMMER Resort in the Mountains of Butte. Situated 25 miles north of Oroville, at the great Spring Valley Reservoir, which affords fine boating and fishing. Delightful climate. Excellent hotel accommodations.

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CALEB SCOTT, Proprietor.

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# Daily Mercury

6-3-1886

The Cherokee schools closed last Friday. The Primary and Intermediate Departments gave a combined entertainment, and wound up with a fine dance for the children in the evening. Mr. Slaven, Principal, and Miss McGregor, Intermediate, and Miss Johns of the Primary Departments have given great satisfaction during a long term. There are now 232 census children and the District will employ four teachers next term.

# Daily Mercury

6-8-1886

J. C. Bolinghouse brought to this office yesterday, a specimen of crystallized quartz, in which a quantity of pure gold may be seen. The crystal, about as large as an almond, is as clear as a diamond and the gold is scattered through it. This is a very rare specimen, even to old miners. Crystallized quartz is very common, but gold is rarely seen in it. This specimen was found in Mr. Bolinghouse's mine near Flea Valley, in Concow Township, and is a great curiosity among miners.

# Daily Mercury

6-9-1886

Rowe Brothers, of Cherokee, have leased the house formerly occupied by Ben Ephraim, and are fitting it up nicely for a saloon.

# Daily Mercury

6-14-1886

August Klos went to Big Bend Saturday with a six-horse load of cement. While going down the steep grade, this side of the river, near Big Bend, his brake rod broke, the wagon rushed on the horses, Klos jumped off, and as the team was going pell mell down the hill, a wheel struck a huge rock and was crushed, while the tongue struck a tree and assisted in stopping the team. The wagon was considerably mashed, but no serious damage was done to driver or team.

# Daily Mercury

6-25-1886

Mrs. Johns, of Cherokee, intends to give a splendid ball in the town hall at that place, on Monday night, July 5th. Balls in Cherokee always attract large crowds and are universally popular. Good music has been secured, and the supper will be an unusually fine one. Mrs. Johns is famous for her splendid party suppers, Cherokee is noted for its pretty girls, and the people generally are good natured and sociable. You can take in the whole business for \$2 50. Go up and have a jolly time.



# Daily Mercury

6-26-1886

The Golden Channel Mining Company, just above Big Bend, is progressing finely with its work. Roads have been built, and they are now constructing a bridge. About the middle of July the tunnel will be commenced, and as it is to be only 700 feet long it will not require many months to put it through. It is probable that the mine will pay immensely. This short tunnel will drain over 2,000 feet of virgin river bed, and in early days the gulches and ravines leading into it were fabulously rich.

Superintendent Harris of the Big Bend Company, was in town last night. Everything is progressing finely there. They have used several hundred barrels of cement in flooring and ceiling the tunnel and are pushing the great scheme vigorously.

## Butte County.

[Written for RURAL PRESS by C. E. HEATON.]

Butte county has been greatly favored by Nature in the variety and extent of its natural resources. Lying partly in the Sacramento valley and partly on the western slope of the Sierras, it has a total area of 1746 square miles, or, in other words, 1,117,440 acres. It is bounded on the north by Tehama county, east by Plumas, and south by Yuba and Sutter, while its western boundary is washed by the Sacramento river. Its greatest length from north to south is about 60 miles, and its greatest breadth, east and west, from the Sacramento to the summit of the Sierra, is nearly 50 miles. About 550,000 acres of the county's area are timber lands, between 250,000 and 300,000 acres are agricultural lands, and the balance mineral. The agricultural area is capable of being greatly extended, as there is a large belt in the foothills containing much land valuable for farming and fruit-growing purposes. The principal industries of Butte are mining, farming, fruit growing, lumbering and stock raising. The total population at the present time is estimated at 25,000, which is an increase of about 7000 since 1880. The county is a prosperous one, and occupies the twelfth place in property rank among the 52 counties of the State.

### Watercourses.

This is one of the best watered counties in the State. Up amid the perpetual snows of the Sierras, numerous streams take their rise, and, flowing thence to the Sacramento, intersect the county in all directions, making fruitful as a garden large tracts of agricultural land, furnishing water for hundreds of miles of mining ditches and lumber flumes, and affording excellent manufacturing facilities. Of these streams the largest is the famous Feather river, so closely connected with the early mining history of Northern California. Its three branches, after forcing their way through the mountains, unite just above Oroville, the county seat, and from that point the river flows through rich alluvial lands to the southern boundary, 20 miles distant. Next in importance comes Butte creek, flowing from the northeast corner to the southwest corner, the entire length of the county. There are some rich placer mines along its borders in the mountains, and where it flows through the valley and lower foothills may be found the choicest fruit and vine land in California, a fact that is attested by the fine orchards and gardens lining this stream. Honcut, Chico, Mud Rock and Pine creeks, besides numerous other living streams, all contribute toward the advancement of the mining, grazing, agricultural and manufacturing interests.

"What is the climate like?" As this is one of the first questions asked by the intending settler, and having visited at all seasons all the different localities, the writer feels justified in stating that nearly every kind of climate or degree of temperature may be found within the borders of this favored county, from the, at times, almost tropical heat of the valley portion, where the mercury sometimes stands at 115° in summer, to the cold, bracing climate of the ever-frozen mountain peaks. At the town of Chico, near the foothills, the mean annual temperature is 62.46°, and the mean for the coldest month is 45.19°, a slightly higher mean temperature for the year than either Rome or Madrid, and about the same mean temperature for the coldest month as those two cities. At an altitude of 2000 or 2500 feet a most delightful climate is experienced both summer and winter, the fall of snow at this height never exceeding a few inches in depth. The rainfall in the county averages about 24 inches annually.

### Scenery.

For the tourist and geologist Butte possesses a great many attractions, with its cozy mountain retreats, beautiful orchards and extensive mines. Among the objects of interest are the falls of Fall river, which is a clear, bold mountain stream rising in the mountains near La Porte and emptying into the middle fork of Feather river, about 18 miles above Oroville. The river falls in an unbroken sheet over a precipice between 400 and 500 feet, and striking on the rocks below produces a sound like volleys of musketry fired in rapid succession. A short walk of a few hundred feet from the head of the falls brings one to a point directly in front of them, where a splendid view may be obtained of this miniature Niagara. A cloud of mist or spray rises from the foot of the falls to a height of 200 feet, and when the sun plays upon the waters the effect is very beautiful. As the falls are comparatively easy of access, the tourist who loves wild natural scenery will be amply repaid for visiting them.

### Mines and Mining.

This is one of the most celebrated of the early mining counties, and has passed through all the exciting scenes and experienced many of the ups and downs of those stirring days. For over 30 years its mountains and hillsides have poured forth a steady stream of golden treasure that has gone to swell the great gold product of the State. Still the supply of the precious metals holds out, new claims are being constantly developed, and at the present time Butte is the center of some of the heaviest mining operations in the State. Mining is carried on chiefly by hydraulic methods, though some very rich quartz lodes have been discovered and worked, and many more discovered that yet remain to be developed; while in some localities the old-fashioned cradle and rocker are still profitably used in washing out the golden sands.

It is reported in mining circles that several new quartz mills will be put in operation during the present year. The principal mining localities are Oroville, Cherokee (Cherokee Flats), Forbestown, Magalia (Dogtown), Lovelocks, Inskip, Mountain House, Wyandotte and Bangor. Five miles above Cherokee the Big Bend Tunnel and Mining Company, of which R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, is president, have just completed their great tunnel, which has occupied three years and four months in building, and upon which a vast amount of capital and labor has been expended. This tunnel cuts straight across the big bend in the main Feather river where it flows through Dark canyon, and is designed to lay bare the bed of that stream for 14 miles. The tunnel is 1200 feet long, 16 feet wide, and 9 feet high, with much larger openings at both ends. It has a fall of 30 feet to the mile. A dam 16 feet high and 160 feet long is now being built across the river near the head of the tunnel. When that is completed, the entire body of water in the river will be diverted from its old channel and sent through the tunnel, and mining operations will then commence in the river channel thus laid dry. This river bed to be mined is the bottom of an immense canyon, and the indications are that gold exists in great quantities; but, owing to the nature of the ground, which made it impossible to build wing dams or flumes, it has never been worked, though thousands of dollars' worth of gold have been taken out of the river above and below this section. This great work was originated by Major F. McLaughlin, of Oroville, to whom is due the credit of interesting capital in it. The surveys were made by ex-County Surveyor Jas. McGann, who at times was forced to carry on his work while suspended with ropes from the top of some high precipice. In cutting the tunnel a six-foot quartz lode was struck at a depth of 1200 feet below the surface, besides many smaller ones. It is said that the company will not work these lodes until the river bed is mined out, unless during high water in winter when the river can be turned back into its old channel, while the quartz lodes are being worked. Besides gold, nearly all the valuable minerals have been found in this county, and many of the precious stones, the latter being mostly diamonds, found at Cherokee Flats. These are small, and generally range in value from \$10 to \$50 each, though some of much greater value have been unearthed.

#### Soil.

Nearly every kind of soil is found in the county, ranging from black adobe to red, gravelly, and sandy tracts. The western or valley portion embraces nearly 200,000 acres of fine level land, a large body of which is rich alluvial, and produces large crops of grain every year.

#### The Principal Productions.

The principal cereals are extensively raised, as the following statistics will show: To afford a comparison, we give the figures both for the years 1880 and 1884. In the former year there was cultivated 127,189 acres of wheat, which yielded 2,244,770 bushels; 23,288 acres of barley yielding 516,474 bushels, and 1325 acres of corn that produced 31,210 bushels, which placed Butte for that year third on the list of wheat-growing counties. In 1884 there was sown to wheat 123,715 acres, which produced 2,227,500 bushels, 49,500 acres devoted to barley, yielding 1,485,000 bushels, and 11,000 acres sown in oats, yielding 330,000 bushels, while corn was planted on 950 acres which produced 30,600 bushels.

Among the other crops are included hay, rye, broom corn, alfalfa, and fruit and vegetables of every description.

#### The Fruit Interests—Orange Culture.

Fruit-growing, including orange, lemon and olive culture, is making rapid strides in this county, and is destined in the future to prove the principal source of wealth, the horticultural resources being practically unlimited. Aside from the great belt of land in the foothills adapted to fruit-growing, all that part of the county lying in the Sacramento valley proper is capable, with the well-adapted climate, of producing profitably and successfully all the products of the temperate and semi-tropical countries. Here are to be found the principal orchards and vineyards, the largest fruit-grower

being Gen. John Bidwell, proprietor of the famous Rancho Chico Orchards, the fruit from which has an excellent reputation in the San Francisco and Eastern markets. During 1885 there was an increase in the area planted in fruit trees, berries and vines in the county of about 3000 acres; while, for the present year, tree-planting has been especially active. The cultivation of citrus fruits is receiving a great deal of attention. It is estimated that there are 1500 bearing orange trees in the county and as many more to come into bearing within two years. An association was formed during the past winter and a tract of land purchased in the foothills near Oroville, which was cleared of brush and planted with 3000 orange trees; while it is estimated that as many more were planted in other places by private parties.



Oranges begin to ripen in November and are in shipping condition the last of the following month. It is claimed that acclimated fruits (seedlings) thrive the best and are not affected by frosts. The oldest orange tree in the county is one that was planted in 1859 at Bidwell's Bar, a famous old, abandoned mining camp on the Feather river, eight miles above Oroville, but where some of the best fruit in the county is now raised. Most of the seedling orange trees in the county sprung from this tree, which came from Acapulco, and has borne fruit for 20 years. The native or seedling orange trees bear at ages varying from 7 to 12 years, though some have been known to produce fruit at the age of five and six years. For many varieties of fruit the foothill region is the true home; here, on the sunny slopes and in the warm, sheltered little valleys, the orange, lemon, lime, olive and Japanese persimmon all thrive better than on the open plain, while the wine and raisin grape grow to perfection. The olive flourishes at an altitude of 1500 feet and the orange at 1000 feet, while peaches, pears, plums, cherries, figs, quinces, berries and vegetables of all kinds grow luxuriantly at an altitude of from 1500 to 3000 feet. Apples thrive well at this and much higher elevations, and are of a finer flavor and much more juicy than when grown in the valley. Though irrigation is not considered absolutely necessary in fruit-raising in this county, it has been found a great aid in many places, many of the old mining ditches being drawn on for this purpose.

#### Forests—Lumber Manufacture.

The timber of the foothills, from the edge of the valley to the altitude of 2000 feet, consists mostly of oak and digger pine, and is valuable only for firewood. From that point to the summit the mountains are densely covered with fine qualities of sugar pine, pitch pine, yellow pine, fir, spruce and cedar. There are about a dozen large saw mills in the county, and 10,000,000 feet of lumber is manufactured annually. Six hundred carloads were shipped from Butte in 1885. A large number of men and teams are kept busily employed during the summer months, hauling supplies to the saw mills in the mountains, and transporting lumber to the valley. Common lumber, such as is used for fencing, generally sells for \$10 per M at the mills, and about \$18 per M in the valley.

A large force of men scattered throughout the mountains are engaged in making shakes. These, when of fair quality and put up in bunches, sell for about \$5 per M in the mountains and about \$9 per M in the valley.

#### Live Stock.

Stock-raising is profitably and extensively engaged in; the number of live stock in the county being estimated as follows: 100,000 sheep, 25,000 hogs, 17,000 head of horned cattle, 10,000 horses and 2000 mules.

The dairy business is also of considerable importance, and is a paying industry.

#### Railroads—Communication.

The California & Oregon Railroad extends lengthwise through the county, running through the valley portion, and the California Northern, starting from Marysville and proceeding north, extends for about 20 miles up into the southern part of the county, following the general course of the Feather river on the east side, to Oroville, the present terminus. This is one of the oldest lines in the State, and but one fatal accident has ever occurred upon it. Considerable traffic is also carried on by the Sacramento river. In addition to these lines of travel, four splendid stage roads lead over the mountains into Plumas and Sierra counties, with which a large trade is carried on.

The principal towns and villages are Chico, Oroville, Cherokee, Biggs, Gridley, Nelson, Durham, Dayton, Magalia (Dogtown), Moores and Live Oak.

#### Chico—A Beautiful City.

Chico is a flourishing young city of about 6000 inhabitants, situated on the C. & O. R. R., in the northwestern part of the county, close to the foothills, and a few miles east of the Sacramento river. It is about 100 miles north of Sacramento City, and is frequently spoken of by visitors as the garden city of Northern California. The rich, level farming country surrounding the town is dotted with widespread oaks of noble proportions, many of them showing great age. This is one of the best shaded towns in the State. Its streets are wide and regular, and one may stroll for hours along the well-kept avenues lined with beautiful shade trees, without being exposed to the rays of the sun. Elegant private residences,

set in the midst of tastefully-arranged lawns and gardens, and pretty little vine-covered cottages, are to be seen on all sides, while an attractive feature of the place is a handsome little park, occupying a square in the center of the town. Chico creek, a clear, cool stream from which the town takes its name, flows through the place; and Recreation Park, Bidwell's Park, and other fine groves in the suburbs, contribute to the beauty of the surroundings.

The town has well-equipped gas works and water works, and an effort is being made to place electric lights on some of the main streets. The press is well represented by several live weekly and daily newspapers. Chico is noted for the large number and variety of its well-filled stores and the many different business establishments. The High School building, a fine brick structure, the different private schools, and the several large churches, show that educational and religious matters are not neglected.

The new opera house, the commodious public halls, the many hotels and restaurants, and the elegant equipages seen on the streets, give the place quite a metropolitan appearance. Chico has two solid banks—the Bank of Butte County and the Bank of Chico. Both are located in fine brick blocks on opposite corners of Broadway and Second street. The former has a capital of \$250,000, with a surplus of about \$24,000. N. D. Rideout, the well-known banker of Northern California, is president, and Charles Faulkner cashier. The Bank of Chico, organized in 1872, has a paid-up capital of \$100,000, and a surplus of \$30,000. W. D. Heath is president; and Alex. Crew cashier. Both banks carry on a general banking business, and buy and sell exchange on all the principal cities of the United States. Among the manufactories are included planing mills, box factories, foundries, breweries, soda works, carriage and harness factories, and two large roller flour mills fitted with the latest improved machinery. On the east side of town is situated the extensive lumber yard and planing mills of the Sierra Flume and Lumber Company, whose great V-shaped flume extends for 40 miles up into the fine timber belt of the Sierras. The company manufacture extensively sash, doors and blinds of all kinds, and give employment to a large force of men. The immense lumber yard, embracing 15 acres, is filled with lumber and building material of every description. A side track from the railroad, running through the yard, affords excellent shipping facilities. Chico has lines of stages running to Oroville, Prattville (Big Meadows), Cherokee, Deadwood, Colusa, and to Newville, Colusa county, by way of St. Johns and Orland.

#### Rancho Chico.

Adjoining Chico on the northwest side is General John Bidwell's princely estate, the famous Rancho Chico, which embraces over 20,000 acres of the most fertile land, and is noted for the great variety of its productions. Here are to be seen miles and miles of beautiful avenues, lined with stately trees laden with the choicest fruits of many different climes; northern and tropical trees and plants flourishing side by side. One famous fig tree on the ranch never fails to attract the attention of visitors. It was planted in 1856, and has attained a marvelous growth. One foot above the ground the trunk measures 11 feet in circumference; the wide-spreading branches have been trained toward the ground, and taking root there, banyan-like, they now form a wonderful inclosure over 150 feet in diameter. The tree is loaded every year, and has produced tons and tons of figs. A short distance in the rear of the General's residence is a pretty little deer park, which adds much to the beauty of the grounds. Chico creek flows through the ranch, and irrigating ditches run in all directions. On the estate is a flour mill, a fruit cannery, a dairy, and numerous hothouses, fruit-driers, packing-houses, etc. A curious feature of the place is the large Indian rancherie situated on the back part of the ranch. The dusky inhabitants of this village live very contented lives here in their primitive fashion, and fare much better than their brethren in many other parts of the State. They are wedded to many of their old customs and traditions and have an immense sweat-house, in which, at certain times, they hold their usual orgies and go through the famous melting process. A brass band, composed of about a dozen of the younger bucks, is much in demand at picnics and outdoor celebrations. Many of the Indians find profitable employment on the ranch and prove valuable help during the fruit gathering season. The prosperity of Chico would be further advanced by the subdivision into small farms of several large tracts of land in this vicinity now held by a few persons. The Reavis ranch, the Pratt grant and the Parrott grant include immense tracts of land of more than ordinary fertility, which at present is almost exclusively devoted to wheat-raising on a large scale, but should be divided into 20 and 40-acre plots and set out in fruit trees and vines. It is estimated that in this county there are 102 land-owners whose holdings vary from 1000 acres to 116,000 acres each. That these large tracts will in the near future be subdivided and sold off in small-sized farms seems very probable, as the land must soon become too valuable for farming by the present methods.

#### Oroville—Its Surroundings.

Oroville, the county seat, is situated just in the edge of the foothills, on the right bank of the Feather river, and is the terminus of the C. N. R. R. It was born in the flush and exciting times of the early mining days, and was





THE SIERRAS - EASTERN BOUNDARY OF THE VALLEY.

originally called Ophir, a most appropriate name, and one suggestive of the fabulous wealth of precious metals which have literally been taken out of the earth in this vicinity. The town contains a population of about 3000, and is very advantageously located as a trade center and distributing point of supplies for the mountain localities. Stretching away to the south and east is a fine farming country; while in the foothills in the vicinity extensive mining operations are carried on. The town has splendid gas works and water works. The water supply—it is claimed by the citizens—is the best in this part of the State. The court-house and the county hospital are fine large buildings; the former was erected at a cost of \$25,000,

and is well arranged in all the different departments. The town has first-class hotel accommodations and boasts some conspicuous buildings. Business in all its different branches is well represented. Rideout, Smith & Company—established since 1866—have a bank here and conduct an extensive general banking business. Among the manufacturing industries is a fine four-story roller flour mill, with a capacity of 150 barrels of flour per day. The press is ably represented by the *Mercury* and *Register*, two papers that have contributed greatly toward the development of the resources of the county. To the editor of the latter paper, S. S. Boynton, is due the honor of having originated the Northern California Citrus Fair, which has so thoroughly demonstrated the fact that Northern California is the home of the citrus family of fruits. Oroville bids fair to become as famous for its orange groves in the future as it

has for its mines in the past. Already there are 700 bearing orange trees in the place, besides hundreds of others more recently planted, many having been set out the past season. Handsome residences, surrounded by beautiful gardens in which the orange, lemon, lime, pomegranate and Japanese persimmon flourish side by side, now charm and astonish the traveling visitor who has heard of Oroville chiefly as a mining town. All through the foothills the same fact is being demonstrated, that the old mining localities generally possess the soil and climate especially adapted to fruit-growing. Reliable information in regard to real estate in this section may be obtained from Judge J. P. Leonard, real estate agent, who has been estab-

lished here for 30 years. Oroville claims the distinction of having been the home, at the time of his election, of ex-Governor Geo. C. Perkins, who first embarked in business here away back in the fifties. He still retains valuable interests at this place, being connected with his brother, D. K. Perkins, in an extensive wholesale and retail business under the firm name of Perkins & Company. Oroville is connected by stage with Chico, Quincy, Prattville, Laporte, Cherokee, Dogtown and intermediate points.

### Cherokee—Great Gold Mines.

Twelve miles north of Oroville is the important town of Cherokee, better known as Cherokee Flats, the center of the heaviest mining operations in Butte. The town is not a handsome one, as it stretches in one street for nearly a mile along the side of a canyon in which the

mining is carried on. The town contains several hotels and saloons, two stores, a number of shops, several public halls and a fine school-house. The population numbers about 800. The Spring Valley Company, an English corporation, owns the principal mine here, and at present is employing more men than ever before. The mining is mostly heavy hydraulic, and several hydraulic chiefs are kept at work both day and night, electric lights, placed on tall masts, being used to mine by at night. This mine has paid its millions. The company has about 80 miles of ditches and six miles of iron pipe leading to the mine. The water supply is gathered in two large reservoirs in the mountains, one near the summit and one at Concow valley; the latter is two miles long by half a mile wide. The supply of water at the mine is between 2000 and 3000 inches daily. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been expended on the ditches and reservoirs. The tailings from the mine run down the canyon and empty into the valley along Dry creek, about two miles below this place. As many of the farms along Dry creek were being covered up by the tailings, the company was obliged to purchase them, and also to build expensive levees along the creek, which has necessitated an outlay of over half a million dollars, but has secured to the company perpetual dumping grounds without violating the law against hydraulic mining.

### Pentz

¶ Lying just in the edge of the valley, about two miles below Cherokee, in the midst of a

perfect labyrinth of mining and irrigating ditches, pipes and flumes, is the little village of Pentz, named after the late W. Pentz, a pioneer of Butte, and long proprietor of the well-known Pentz ranch and hotel, one of the finest farms and most popular hostleries in the county.

There are some fine orchards and vineyards in this vicinity, some of the fruit having secured prizes at the Sacramento Citrus Fair. The Flee Valley and Rock Creek Lumber Co. have a yard and planing mill here, and conduct an extensive business. The saw mills are situated in the mountains at Rock Creek and Flee Valley, about 25 miles distant, and the lumber is shipped to this place by means of a V-shaped flume.

**Gridley—A Growing Town.**

Situated on the C. & O. R. R., a few miles from the southern boundary, in the midst of beautiful groves of live oaks, is the enterprising town of Gridley. It contains about 800 inhabitants, is surrounded by a wealthy farming community, and is a great grain center. The town is well built up and boasts a weekly paper, a bank, a fine public school building and several churches. There are large grain warehouses, hotels, livery stables, and several first-class general merchandise stores, a well-stocked hardware store, and a well-filled lumber yard, besides several mechanics' shops. A fine roller flour mill, with a capacity of from 200 to 300 barrels per day, a planing mill, and a broom factory, are among the manufacturing industries. The broom factory has a large trade throughout the northern counties, the broom-corn used being raised at this place. A splendid one-span wagon bridge, built at a cost of \$18,000, to which the town contributed \$10,000, spans Feather river near the town. Gridley has long been known as a wide-awake town. It has many natural advantages, its people are enterprising, and its future certainly looks bright.

**In and Around Biggs.**

Biggs is a thriving place, and claims to be the third town in importance in the county. It is located on the railroad about seven miles north of Gridley. The town contains about 1000 inhabitants, and is pleasantly situated on the open plain about midway between the Feather river on one side and Butte creek on the other. To the east of town the soil is red loam, and to the west it is black adobe. Good crops are the usual result of farming in this section. The town contains some mammoth grain warehouses, two large hotels, several well-filled stores and mechanics' shops of different kinds. There is a weekly paper, a bank and a fine two-story brick public school building, in which four teachers are employed. Several religious denominations have places of worship and some of the fraternal societies are represented. Biggs also has a system of water works, with pipes laid throughout the town. The citizens have long wanted a flour mill, and, considering the large amount of wheat raised in this section, there would seem to be a fine opening for one here.

**Other Towns.**

Nelson is a prosperous little town on the same railroad, ten miles north of Biggs. It lies in the richest part of the valley, is a shipping point for an immense amount of wheat and boasts of one of the handsomest public school buildings in the county.

Next comes the village of Durham, located on the railroad seven miles south of Chico. It has the usual store, hotel, saloon, blacksmith shop, etc. Like the other towns on this road, it is an important shipping point for grain and derives additional importance from its fine steam flour mill, which is the means of drawing a large trade to the town.

Nord, Dayton, Moores and Live Oak are small towns and important fruit and grain centers in other parts of the valley. Centerville, Dogtown, Nimshew, Lovelocks, Powellton, Forbestown, Deadwood, Yankee Hill and Mountain House are important mountain villages in the mining and lumber districts. According to a late report Butte has 78 school districts, maintains 98 schools and has 4083 school census children; 500 miles of mining ditches, 125 miles of telegraph lines and 150 miles of telephone lines. The assessed value of property of all kinds in the county in 1885 was \$17,066,271, an increase of \$4,178,177 since 1880. In the mountains there is some Government land yet remaining subject to location, much of it adapted to fruit growing, but from which the brush and trees must first be cleared before it can be brought under cultivation. Land adapted to farming and fruit-growing can be purchased all the way from \$12 per acre for partly cleared foothill land to \$50 and \$100 per acre for rich valley land, such as is now offered for sale in the vicinity of Gridley and Biggs. Butte county is easy of access, and to parties seeking homes in California we say, pay it a visit and carefully examine its resources and attractions.



7-7-1886

## THE PIONEERS.

### Annual Meeting and Presentation of Reports.

The Society of California Pioneers held its monthly meeting in Pioneer Hall on Monday night, President John Nightingale in the chair. The following new members were elected: Titus Hale, Caspar S. Ricks, H. C. Deal, W. C. Deal, William Currin, John Cushing and W. G. Lee. Arrangements were made for the annual election of officers, which will take place to-day, the polls to be open from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M. For the first time in several years there are two tickets in the field; and the contest promises to be spirited. One of the tickets is composed chiefly of the younger element of the society. Two amendments to the constitution will also be voted upon at the election to-day. One provides that no man can join the society after his name has been dropped from the roll for two years for non-payment of dues, etc. The other amendment provides that August 25th, the birthday of James Lick, the donor of the land of the Pioneer building, shall be included among the celebration days of the society.

The annual meeting of the society was held last evening, President Nightingale presiding.

Secretary H. T. Graves submitted his annual report as follows:

Total debt for the year ending July 1, 1886.....	\$80,849 17
Total Disbursements.....	60,792 62
Balance on hand.....	<u>\$10,056 55</u>
Relief Fund July 1, 1886, was.....	\$14,243 52
Relief Fund July 1, 1885, was.....	14,983 27
Gain.....	<u>\$ 740 75</u>
Out of this fund the interest accrued for the relief of needy members is \$115 15.	
A comparison of receipts and disbursements for the past year with the previous year showed as follows:	
June 30, 1888.....	\$58,757 52
June 30, 1885.....	8,106 78
Increase.....	<u>\$50,650 74</u>

Of this amount \$40,000 was from the sale of the society's bonds and \$7613 from rents of the new building.

The total disbursements for the year ended June 30, 1886, not including the amount expended by the James Lick trust for the society on account of mortgage, and exclusive of the amount deposited in bank to the credit of the relief fund, were \$49,159 78.

From other reports it was shown that during the past year there have been 111 persons elected members of the society, of which 103 have qualified, and twelve persons qualified who were elected prior to July 1, 1885, making 115 new members for the year, while four persons were restored to membership.

The deaths for 1886 were forty-seven, an increase of seven over the year prior.

Seventy-four members have been dropped from the roll and one member expelled. The total loss of membership during the year was 122, or a net loss of three since the last annual report. The whole number of life members is 636; contributing, 535; minors, 33. Total, 1204.

John F. Bidwell presented to the society the diary kept by John A. Sutter and his clerks while at New Helvetia, from September 9, 1845, to May 25, 1848, with its contemporaneous record of the events of local interest during the eventful times of the conquest of California and the discovery of gold deposits in the Sierra Nevada by James W. Marshall.

John S. Hittell offered a resolution of thanks to Mr. Bidwell, which was unanimously adopted.

# Weekly Mercury

7-16-1886

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## The Concow Camp Convention.

The fifth annual assembly of the temperance people of Yuba, Sutter and Butte counties takes place at Concow, Tuesday, Aug. 10th and continues one week. The water being very high this year in the Spring Valley Company's reservoir forms a beautiful lake for boating, fishing, and bathing. The new proprietor of the property, Caleb Scott, on which the camp ground is located has made various improvements in building, fencing, etc., and offers board at the low figure of \$5 per week, while campers will find a spacious new barn, with unlimited well fenced pasture, with good supply of hay, grain, etc., at cheap rates. Plenty of good running water is supplied from hydrants on the camp ground. O. C. Wheeler, D. D., L. L. D., and other speakers of acknowledged ability will address the Convention. It is a good place for a quiet rest in the cool shade of pines and oaks, with combined facilities for intellectual culture, physical recreations and social intercourse. Being only 25 miles from Oroville and 30 from Chico it is easily reached from all parts of the county either by way of Pence, Cherokee, or Big Bend affording an opportunity to visit the celebrated Big Bend tunnel and Spring Valley Hydraulic Gold Mine. Let's go.

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Daily Alta California July 23, 1886

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**California Postmasters.**

WASHINGTON, July 22d.—The following Postmasters were appointed for California, yesterday: Edward Harkins, Big Bend, Butte county; S. J. Perkins, Borden, Fresno; George Weist, Cerro Gordo, Inyo; Lewis Glass, Cherokee, Butte; B. V. Christinet, Parksburg, Yolo; J. H. Skinner, Durham, Butte; Joseph Peyton, Forbestown, Butte; William P. Walker, Glenville, Kern; F. Alves, Jamestown, Tuolumne; E. E. Baldwin, Lompoc, Monterey; C. A. Bader, Garalia, Butte; J. H. Perry, Naibo, Fresno; J. R. Annelly, Paradise, Butte; J. R. Buffington, Dentz, Butte; Michael O'Brien, Tiburon, Marin; P. Perdue, Leesville, Colusa; William Potts, Smith Flats, Colusa.

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Aug 21, 1886

# THE WEEKLY BUTTE RECORD.

VOL. 13.

CHICO, BUTTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 1886

NO. 47

## Oak Temple Camp Convention.

Concow, Aug 12th, '86.

ED. RECORD.—Arriving at Concow at noon to day, we found an unusually large crowd on the camp grounds and the hotel well filled. Many improvements have been made during the last year, both on the camp grounds and also on the premises of the hotel, which add greatly to the comfort of those in attendance. The water is very high in the lake and exceedingly clear. From early in the morning till midnight the stroke of the oars upon the water and the merry laughter of the boaters and bathers may be heard almost constantly. The temperance meetings held each morning and evening are well attended and very interesting. Rev. W. M. Woodward, pastor of the M. E. Church at Marysville, has delivered two addresses, which receive the highest praise from all who heard them. Miss Amanda Way, G. W. C. T., of Kansas, and also Grand Lecturer of the W. C. T. U., of that State, who is in California on a short visit, arrived here to-day. Miss Way is a lady of commanding and intelligent appearance, and no doubt her lectures will add much to the interest of the Convention. All were very much disappointed yesterday by the arrival of a telegram from Dr. O. C. Wheeler,

stating that he could not attend on account of sickness. Among those who are camping on the grounds are the following gentlemen and their families Dr. W. S. Read, Judge John P. Leonard, Jas. C. Gray, H. S. Curtis, Wm. Mellen, Harry Bird, Jas. Hardy (of Yuba county), H. S. Graves (of Sutter county), Dr. Todd, J. S. Matier, Jacob Onstott, G. L. Douglas, Thos. Knox, E. R. Lunt, Leve Johnson, Wm. Melon, Oscar Cane, Rev. Jesse Wood, G. G. Marquis, and many others. Every stage that arrives is well filled, and crowded private conveyances are constantly pouring in; so that it is likely there will be a large crowd here by Sunday. Temperance and Prohibition is the principal theme of conversation and all seem quite enthusiastic on that subject. B.

## CONCOW HOTEL.



THE UNDERSIGNED HAVING PURCHASED and refitted this hotel in all its departments is prepared to accommodate the public and those seeking a Summer Resort to spend a few weeks. Large and commodious barns have been erected and Pasturage enclosed for those who desire to graze their animals. There is also near the hotel fine camping-grounds for those who wish to adopt that method of enjoying a Summer vacation. Plenty of boats always on hand, and the Lake affords ample space for boat riding and fishing. As a Summer resort, Concow Valley is unexcelled. Come and see and enjoy its invigorating mountain breezes  
CALEB SCOTT, Proprietor

Aug 21, 1886

THE WEEKLY BUTTE RECORD.

VOL. 13.

CHICO, BUTTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 1886

NO. 47

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**Communicated**

CONCOW, CAL., Aug. 15, 1886.

ED. RECORD;—The fifth session of the Oak Temple Camp Convention held at this place closed this evening. There were not as many campers as at some of the previous meetings, but during the last few days large numbers come from Oroville, Cherokee, Pence and other places, so that the woods were alive with people yesterday and to-day. This morning Rev. Jesse Wood preached a good sermon at 11 o'clock, and this afternoon and evening Miss Amanda Way delivered two rousing temperance addresses to large audiences. The meeting closed with a general hand-shaking, nearly all expressing their regrets that it could not continue another week.

B.

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# Daily Mercury

8-24-1886

W. M. Thunen, of Cherokee, had the great misfortune last Saturday night, to lose his residence and all its contents by fire. The fire occurred about midnight and it was difficult for the family to save themselves. Mr. Thunen and several of his family were badly scorched in their efforts to save something. There was no insurance, and the loss is estimated at \$1,500. Mr. Thunen is an old and respected citizen of Cherokee, and his friends deeply sympathize with him.

# Weekly Mercury

9-17-1886

There are about 100 teams and 250 men at work on the Cherokee Company's canal, below the railroad bridge in the vicinity of Nelson. The canal is being put in splendid condition, so as to protect the lands along it from the usual Winter overflows.

Dr. Pierce, of the Big Bend Tunnel, is in town. The machinery for enlarging the tunnel is being replaced, and work will soon begin.

Adam Heckart, of Pentz, secured the contract to build the bridge over Honcut Creek, on the Bangor road.

Rich gravel is being discovered in Jordan Hill Mine near Magalia.



Weekly Butte Record  
9-18-1886

# Daily Stage Line



## CHICO & CHEROKEE!

**H. P. MORRISON, Propr.**

**L**EAVES CHICO EVERY MORNING (SUNDAYS  
excepted) at 5:30 A. M. and arrives at Cherokee at  
9:30 A. M. Returning leaves Cherokee at 2:30 P. M.  
and arrives at Chico at 6:30 P. M. No stoppages on the  
road. Fare to Pentz, 75 cents; Fare to Cherokee, \$1.00;  
Fare to Deadwood, \$2.00 Office at the Union Hotel,  
Chico.

H. P. MORRISON, Prop'r.

Chico, July 12th, 1886.

Jyl2-11

# Weekly Mercury

9-24-1886

Three masked men with pistols and knives went into the saloon of Geo. Miller, of Cherokee, last night, bound and gaged him and his wife, banged them both up considerably and took everything the old couple had. The villains escaped, although the outrage occurred at 8 o'clock.

# Daily Mercury

## 10-30-1886

### Collision of Stages.

This morning about 9 o'clock, as the Morrison and Messer stages were coming from Cherokee, a disastrous collision occurred, which did considerable damage, and came near being fatal to some. Fred. Morrison was ahead, with four male passengers, and Dooley, with five ladies, attempted to pass him at Mrs. Leaman's, where the regular road runs in a half curve around a bend and an old one goes directly across over the hill. Both the young drivers were coming at a break-neck gait, and Dooley's stage ran into Morrison's, where the old road comes in, upsetting both vehicles and unceremoniously dumping the passengers, drivers and other contents upon the grade. Fortunately the horses were controlled, or terrible consequences would have ensued. As it was, several passengers were bruised, and Mrs. Chandler, an aged lady from San Francisco, had her scalp cut from the forehead across the crown, and suffered a great deal. Misses Lynch and Maack were hurt also. Morrison escaped without a bruise and no damage to his stage. Dooley was cut in the face, and his stage lost its top. A breeze of excitement was created in town when the news reached here. Dr. Karsner was called out, and several others went out to offer assistance and bring in the frightened passengers and demoralized rigs.

These young stage drivers were probably taking desperate chances to get into town first, and to that fact is due the catastrophe. This should teach them a lesson in caution. The boys no doubt regret the accident, and it is to be hoped this experience will be of value to them.

In the December *Overland Monthly* Mrs. L. A. B. Curtis, of Pentz, Butte county, has a highly entertaining story, entitled, "An Episode of Chub Gulch." The place bearing this euphonious cognomen is situated up near the famous old mining camp known as Frenchtown, alias Toad-town, and the story in a very pleasant manner relates incidents of the early days. Mrs. Curtis weilds a versatile pen, and her stories are excellent.

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