

# Oroville Daily Register

1-3-1907

## Affray at Big Bend.

C. C. Zettler, a foreman employed by the Great Western Power Company, and in charge of a gang of carpenters at Big Bend, had his left hand completely cut in two on Tuesday by what he alleges to have been a blow received from a hatchet in the hands of Frank Essom, a carpenter whom he had discharged. Essom has been arrested, and is now lodged in the County Jail on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to commit murder.

The two accounts of the affray differ widely. According to Zettler's story, he had taken exception to the way in which Essom was doing his work and finally discharged him. Essom asked for his time, and Zettler had made out his check and started to walk toward him with it, when Essom picked up his hatchet and threw it at Zettler with full force. The weapon was coming straight at Zettler's head, and he threw up his hand to protect his face. The blade of the hatchet struck him in the hand, cutting through the palm, and leaving half of the hand dangling, almost completely severed from the other part.

The prisoner upon his part alleges that the fault lay with Zettler. According to his story, Zettler censured him for the way in which he was doing a certain piece of work, and later discharged him, calling him a "careless workman."

"I may be careless," replied Essom, "but I am no worse than you are. You are particular about things which do not count, and pass over things which do count without giving them proper attention. Come around here and I will show you some of them."

One word lead to another, according to Essom's story, until he told Zettler to "Shut up," at the same time cursing him roundly. Then, according to the tale which Essom tells, Zettler picked up a piece of scantling and knocked him down, continuing to beat him. He saw a hatchet on the ground, and picked it up to shield himself from the blows which Zettler was raining upon him. Zettler brought his hand down with full force upon the blade, almost cutting the palm in two.

Essom was arraigned yesterday before Judge Ward, and entered a plea of not guilty. The date for the preliminary examination has not been set. He was admitted to bail in the sum of \$2500. Not being able to furnish it, he was remanded back into the custody of the Sheriff.

Dr. Kusel attended the injured man, and was forced to remove the hand.

# Oroville Daily Register

1-4-1907

## OLD INDIAN CAVE FOUND ON DEER CREEK

---

CHICO, January 3.—I. N. Speegle, a man well known here, while in Deer Creek Canyon about two weeks ago stumbled upon an old Indian cave long known of by tradition, but never before visited by white men of this decade. In it he found bear skins and furs in a more or less good state of preservation and also a lot of old coins, one being a dime of the date of 1840. He will not say what he found in detail, but it is surmised that he made quite a nice little haul in trinkets, coin and so on.

# DEMENTED MAN IS LOST IN THE MOUNTAINS

---

JAPANESE LABORER ESCAPES  
FROM KEEPERS AND SEARCH-  
ING PARTIES FAIL TO FIND  
ANY TRACE OF HIM.

---

## Clothing Most Scanty

---

Another Laborer Suffers Severe In-  
jury at Corey's Camp in Pow-  
der Explosion, but Will  
Recover.

---

Parties of men are scouring the mountains above Big Bar for a demented Japanese who escaped a couple of days ago from Corey's Camp Number 4. Despite the fact that a large number of men have been hunting for two days for the man, not a trace had been found of him up to last night, and it is feared that he has lost his life.

The Japanese was employed as a laborer at Corey Camp. He suddenly became violently insane, and his companions determined to stand guard over him until such time as it was possible to bring him to Oroville to be examined for his sanity. He appeared to grow calmer as night approached, and finally went to bed. The watchers were thrown off their guard, and some time in the night the man escaped, having hardly a stitch of clothing upon him. As soon as his companions realized that he was gone a searching party was organized and started to scour the mountains in search of the missing man. The search has been maintained for two days, and as yet has been absolutely fruitless of results. Hope of finding him alive has been given up, as it is thought if he has not thrown himself into the river, as some think, he has surely died as the result of cold and exposure.

### Injured in Explosion.

A Japanese laborer whose name could not be ascertained, was seriously injured yesterday at Corey's Camp Number 2. The injury was the result of a powder explosion. Medical attendance was hurriedly summoned, and it was stated last night that the injured man would recover.

Oroville Daily Register  
1-4-1907

Charles Morton Mullen  
Arizona Republic  
1-29-1907

## **BLACKSMITH BUSINESS SOLD OUT.**

C. M. Mullen the well known blacksmith who has conducted a shop on North Macdonald street for some time yesterday sold his business, stock of tools and leased his building to Stoddard & Bush. Mr. Mullen will remain in town until school is out, when he will move out on his ranch. Mr. Stoddard comes here from Oregon and is a brother-in-law of George Taylor. Mr. Bush is a son of Mrs. Joe Bush and is quite well known in the city.

ATTEMPT TO DEPRIVE CAROLINE HOGAN OF TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE WAS CRUEL AND COWARDLY ATTACK.

---

Unsigned Accusations Presented, and When Hearing Was Called Attorney for Her Prosecutors Confessed That He Had No Evidence With Which to Substantiate Charges—Resolutions Exonerating Her.

---

Miss Caroline Hogan, a comely young lady who taught a coup'e of years in the public schools of this county and resigned as teacher of the Concow district school last December, was in Oroville yesterday on the painful mission of defending her name against charges that had been preferred by Trustee Miller of the Concow district.

It is a well known fact that the Concow district has a reputation for soiling the names of its lady teachers; that no female teacher has ever come out of there without being cruelly criticised by some, but not until Miss Hogan stood the fire of criticism for five months and proceeded to collect her salary regardless of whether the parents would send their children to school, have charges of sufficient seriousness been preferred as to warrant the Board of Education in summoning the teacher to show cause why her certificate should not be revoked.

## CHARGES AGAINST YOUNG LADY TEACHER DISMISSED

The hearing on the charges preferred against Miss Hogan was set for three weeks ago, but for some reason summons were not issued and the hearing was postponed to yesterday.

Trustee Miller and his adherents were represented by Attorney W. E. Duncan Jr., and Miss Hogan came all the way from Nevada City to be present at the hearing, and she was also represented by Attorney Warren Sexton. The Board of Education caused District Attorney Lon Bond to be present to advise them.

The charges which had been preferred by Miller were seriously damaging to the character of Miss Hogan, but they were not signed.

There were quite a number of people who expected that the hearing would develop some spicy testimony, and were present to listen, but the Board of Education ruled that only those who were to be witnesses in the case should be allowed to remain.

Attorney Sexton, on behalf of Miss Hogan, had filed a demurrer to the charges on the ground that they were not signed, but the Board overruled the demurrer, believing that justice could be done the young lady without allowing a technicality to occasion delay.

# Chico Record

2-17-1907 page 2 of 2

Attorney Duncan, who represented the prosecution of the young woman, was then called upon to present his case, and to the surprise of all he was compelled to admit that he had no witnesses; that some woman, who had filed an affidavit, could not be prevailed upon to attend at this time, but she would come later. He therefore asked for a continuance of the case.

Attorney Sexton demanded, in justice to the young woman, who had come a long distance to defend her good name, that the hearing proceed at once. Miss Hogan had come with affidavits of prominent people where she had resided and was best known, sustaining her reputation, and she was prepared to combat any charges that might be made.

The Board of Education ruled in favor of the accused and insisted that, inasmuch as abundant time had been allowed those who would prosecute the girl, to prepare their case, they should do so at this time.

Attorney Duncan confessed that he had no testimony.

The Board then passed a resolution exonerating Miss Hogan, and severely censuring those who had brought to the Board charges based upon the gossip of a community to defame her character. A copy of the resolutions was presented to Miss Hogan.

It appears that before M'ss Hogan accepted the position as teacher of the Concow school, she taught in the Nimshew district, and it was in fact here that the criticism which led to the charges originated. When she went to Concow to teach, stories were maliciously circulated in advance of her arrival and the Concow parents determined to deprive her of the school by refusing to send their children. She was plucky, and determined to stay with the school at whatever cost. The records show that she had four days' attendance the first week, two pupils attending two days, and after that there were none. She reported at the schoolhouse daily for duty, but the pupils were kept away from the school. Each month she collected her salary, until December 1st, the close of the half year, when she resigned.

Two of the trustees, Messrs. Stoneman Dorn and Welch, recognized that the young woman was being made a victim of cruel tongues of another district, and they sustained her in her rights to hold the school.

The trustees have now agreed that in hiring another teacher they will select one to be recommended by County School Superintendent Mrs. Abrams.

# Oroville Daily Register

3-8-1907

## *Judge Spencer Arrested By United States Marshal*

---

FEDERAL GRAND JURY RETURNS TRUE BILL AGAINST HIM ON A  
CHARGE OF VIOLATING PROVISIONS OF PENSION LAWS.  
TRIAL SET FOR MARCH 23.

---

Judge Frank J. Spencer, of Yankee Hill, was yesterday placed under arrest by the United States authorities upon a charge of violating a provision of the United States pension law. Mr. Spencer had been notified that a Federal Grand Jury had returned a true bill against him, and that a Deputy Marshal would be in Oroville yesterday to place him under arrest. He accordingly came down from Yankee Hill and met the officer here. The bond had been fixed at \$1000, and after the formality of the arrest had been made, Mr. Spencer was released upon bonds.

The arrest is the outcome of a suit which was brought in February before Judge Anderson, of Cherokee. The title of the suit was Spencer vs. K. D. Brennigan, and its purpose was to obtain an attachment upon \$200 which the defendant had in the Bank of Rideout, Smith and Company. The money was a portion of \$1100 which the defendant had received as back pension money from the Government, and Spencer sued upon a contract whereby the defendant had agreed to give him one-half of whatever he should receive in case that the pension should be awarded him. This according to the United States pension regulations, is in direct contradiction to the law, inasmuch as a pension agent or any one obtaining a pension for another person is expressly forbidden to take a greater fee than \$10 for his services.

The United States authorities became aware of the transaction, and Mr. Spencer was summoned a few weeks back to appear before the Federal Grand Jury sitting in San Francisco. Evidence upon the case was taken there, and the indictment found

upon which he was arrested.

It would appear from the statements of those who claim to be cognizant of the true conditions, that Mr. Spencer has violated the letter rather than the spirit of the law, if he has violated the law. According to the stories told by these persons, Judge Spencer had befriended Brennigan for years, grubstaking him two or three times, and giving him the necessaries of life when he stood in need of them. When Brennigan desired a pension, he went to Judge Spencer for aid. His record was very much involved, and at no little trouble and expense Judge Spencer obtained the information that made it possible to obtain a pension for him. In return for these services Brennigan promised him repeatedly in the presence of a large number of witnesses that he would give him one-half of whatever he should receive. He was granted a pension and \$1100 back pay, but upon receiving the money, refused to live up to the contract. He paid a few sums due Judge Spencer, but persistently refused to make any payment for the work involved in obtaining the pension. Suit was brought in Judge Anderson's Court, and an attachment placed upon \$200 Brennigan had in the Rideout, Smith and Company Bank. After the attachment had been levied, Brennigan became aware of the provision of the law forbidding a fee greater than \$10 to be made, and promptly informed the United States authorities.

The arrest yesterday was made by Deputy United States Marshal Towle. J. F. Hall and A. Cohen went sureties upon Mr. Spencer's bond. The case will be called in the United States Circuit Court on March 23d.

# DEAD BODY FOUND NEAR DREDGER- VILLE

BOYS HUNTING FOR DRIFTWOOD,  
MAKE GRUESOME DISCOVERY  
IN RIVER—CORONER'S OFFICE  
IS NOTIFIED.

Verdict of Unknown

Causes at Inquest

Body Thought to be That of Greek  
Who Lost His Life Attempt-  
ing to Swim River to  
Secure Deer.

Yesterday forenoon two boys, Lee Otis and a companion named McDaniels, who were hunting for driftwood in the river near Dredgerville, found the dead body of a man fast on the bank of the river. The boys immediately notified their parents, and the Coroner's office in this city was notified. Coroner Wallace came over from Chico, and he and Deputy Coroner Ward went to the place where the body had been found and took possession of the remains.

The body was found to be entirely destitute of clothing. It had been in the water for a number of weeks, and was so badly battered, bruised and decomposed that any identification was absolutely impossible. The body was brought to this city, and an inquest held last night, the jury returning a verdict that death was due to unknown causes.

It is thought that the body is possibly that of the Greek who was drowned above Big Bar some weeks back. It will be remembered that two Greeks shot a deer across the river, and attempted to cross to obtain their prey. Both disrobed, and one reached the opposite bank only to be frozen to death. The other was swept down the stream and his body lost. It is thought that in all probability the body found yesterday was that of the Greek who was swept down the river.

Oroville Daily Register  
3-9-1907

SAYS HE WAS ASSAULTED  
IN BIG BEND TUNNEL

Mexican Swears Out Warrant for Ar-  
rest of Countryman for At-  
tempted Murder.

A warrant for the arrest of Joseph Scrilla was yesterday issued upon a charge of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to commit murder, the complaining witness being Superino Lopez. Both men are Mexicans employed by the Great Western Power Company. According to the story that Lopez tells, the two men were working in the tunnel at Big Bend, when Scrilla suddenly struck him over the head with a shovel. As proof of his statement he exhibited a deep gash over his eye which he claimed was inflicted at that time. The warrant was issued, and Constable Tobin will go to Big Bend to-day in order to serve it.



# City Awakening To Big Bend Project

CHRONICLE DEVOTES MUCH SPACE TO DISCUSSION OF POWER DEVELOPMENT NORTH OF OROVILLE — CLAIM POWER WITHIN A YEAR.

Among the prominent arrivals of the week was Frank L. Brown, the well-known backer and promoter of San Francisco and New York and member of the firm of Brown, Wilson and Company, which is engaged in the development of great electrical power plants on the North Fork of the Feather River, says the Chronicle. The ultimate purpose of the company is the development of 420,000 horse-power of electrical energy from the stream, the largest in volume, as it is most constant in flow, of all the affluents of the Sacramento River. The company is now actively employing 500 men at a point known as Big Bend, some twenty miles north of Oroville, in completing a great tunnel, through which the entire flood of the river will be conducted. In this vicinity the Feather River describes a horseshoe about fifteen miles in circumference, and at the lowest point the two channels approach within 15,000 feet of each other.

Nature has here provided ideal conditions for the creation of electrical energy. The descent of the river is very rapid, and in fifteen miles falls 525 feet. Years ago the Big Bend Mining Company constructed a tunnel through the neck in an ambitious attempt to exploit the placer gold in the channel of the river, but after spending \$1,250,000, the plan was decided as impracticable and afterward abandoned. The tunnel referred to had been driven by the mining company for 12,000 feet, or within 3000 feet of the proposed point of discharge.

## To Tunnel 3000 Feet.

As soon as the route of the Western Pacific Railroad, which follows the channel of the North Fork of the Feather River to its source, was definitely settled upon the properties of the mining company were acquired by the Great Western Power Company. The project is one of the greatest engineering conceptions in the world. Though exceeded in the amount of energy available in Niagara, the problems to be solved at Big Bend are vastly more complicated. In the first place, the tunnel across the neck, as driven by the mining company, was but 200 feet square in dimensions, and the vertical fall at outlet was but 325 feet, but by enlarging the dimensions of the tunnel to 350 square feet and changing its direction so as to discharge lower down stream, a vertical fall of 525 feet was gained, thus securing vast increase in power with the same quantity of water. The company is now lining the interior with concrete, by which an unimpeded flow of water is secured from end to end. On the bank of the river, 525 feet, below the outlet of the tunnel, the power plant is building. In this will be sheltered the largest electrical units ever constructed. With the immense volume of water and the high vertical fall it is estimated, a year hence, 120,000

horse-power of energy will be ready for distribution. The machinery has been ordered and will be in place as soon as the power-house is ready to receive it. From Big Bend to San Francisco bay the distance is 180 miles. Energy will be transmitted over copper wire cables, supported by steel towers, fixed in concrete, seven towers to the mile. With recent improvements and inventions engineers declare power can be transmitted even a greater distance than to San Francisco at an inconsiderable loss in transmission.

### To Dam Feather River.

The greater project of the company, however, is the development contemplated in Plumas County, at a point about fifty miles northeast of the Big Bend plant. Every map shows Big Meadows, through which the North Fork of the Feather River follows its tumultuous course; also Butte Creek, a considerable tributary of the Feather. The company last week completed the purchase of 24,000 acres of land on both streams, with the view, after constructing large dams, of creating reservoirs, available in times of drought.

The reservoir at Big Meadows will be the largest artificial body of water in the State, about twenty-one miles in length and in places 125 feet deep. It will be capable of storing water enough to run the plant for upward of a year. The reservoir on Butte Creek will be smaller, but very capacious. At these two plants, the company's engineers declare, 300,000 horse-power of energy can be maintained with a fall of 1950 feet.

Funds for the entire project have been provided by the sale of \$25,000,000 of the bonds of the company.

The president of the Great Western Power Company is Edwin Hawley who is also a director of the Western Pacific Railroad, president of the Iowa Central, and director in many other financial and industrial corporations. For twenty-five years Mr. Hawley was an assistant of the late C. P. Huntington.

### To Have Power Within Year.

Within a year the power company will have 120,000 horse-power ready for distribution from Big Bend, and in two years more 300,000 additional from the upper Feather, or a total of 420,000 horse-power of electrical energy, or enough to supply all domestic and industrial enterprises in the State from San Francisco bay north. Still there would remain a large surplus, which, it is believed, will be absorbed in the electrification of all the lines of the Western Pacific in the State, not alone over the mountain division, but over every mile of the system in and out of San Francisco. With electricity a saving can be effected of 25 per cent over oil or coal, and besides an economic increase of 60 to 75 per cent in efficiency and carrying capacity of trains.

The probabilities of bringing about a consolidation of all the electric light and power plants in Northern and Central California was discussed by Mr. Brown with considerable frankness. He admitted that an expert examination of every company of any importance had been made in the interest of the Great Western Power Company, with a view of uniting them in some working arrangement that would insure common benefit. San Francisco and Oakland companies are included. The contemplated unification of electric consumers in the territory named in conjunction with the company can be effected on terms that will insure ample power and other facilities, economically furnished, for the development

# MISSING MAN MAY BE DROWNED

---

C. L. Haskell, a prospector, and quite well known here, has disappeared, and it is believed that he was drowned.

He was employed by Manager Clark Standiford of the North California Mining Company to prospect, and on the 18th supplies were purchased for him at a local store. They still remain there uncalled for.

The next day several men saw a man on a raft going down stream, and Mr. Standiford believes that the unfortunate person was Haskell. He must have been swept to a speedy death.

4-1-1907

## 2 MEN KILLED IN POWDER EXPLOSION

In a powder explosion which took place at Corey's camp on Saturday last two men were killed and a third wounded. The details of the accident could not be ascertained, Deputy Coroner Ward not having reached the scene of the accident. It is known, however, that the men were on a blasting crew, that the powder was accidentally exploded, and that the two men were instantly killed. The name of one of the dead men was James Miller, while the other was an Italian, and it was impossible to ascertain his name.

A son of Mr. C. F. Gallagher, superintendent of the camp, was working with the men, but escaped with only slight injuries.

H. T. Hills, an employee of the company, dropped dead at the hospital at Big Bar on Saturday. He had been sent to the hospital from one of the camps, and had been there less than fifteen minutes, when he suddenly expired.

John Forden, a veteran of the Civil War, died at the company's hospital in this city on Saturday. Mr. Forden leaves four children, who reside at the original home in South Dakota, and a fifth child, Mrs. Walter Mettlehorse, who was with her father in California.

# MET THEIR DEATH IN TERRIFIC EXPLOSION

DEPUTY CORONER WARD GIVES  
DETAILS OF TERRIFIC EXPLO-  
SION OF TWENTY-SEVEN  
KEGS OF POWDER.

Deputy Coroner Ward returned last night from a trying trip to the mountains. During his absence he held three inquests, and returning, brought the three bodies to Oroville with him.

Two of the bodies were of the victims of the recent powder explosion at Corey's Camp Number 2. In this explosion J. H. Miller, the powder foreman, and an Italian laborer, E. Zinnia, lost their lives. At the time of the accident the men were preparing an immense blast. The place to be blasted out had been loaded with twenty-seven kegs of powder. There had been some blasting previous to this, and it is thought that some of the powder came in contact with a "hot hole." It suddenly exploded, tearing up the whole country. Miller and Zinnia were instantly killed, while a son of Superintendent Gallagher was injured, although not seriously. A strange freak of the explosion was found in the fact that another Italian laborer standing barely eight feet away, escaped without the slightest injury.

Nothing could be ascertained regarding Miller's home or previous life.

The third body brought down was that of M. F. Wells, who dropped dead at the hospital at Big Bar. He had been employed by the Utah Construction Company for a comparatively long period, but nothing is known of his previous life.

Oroville Daily Register  
4-3-1907

## HENRY JAMES LYING ON DEATH BED

A telephone message to the Utah Construction Company's hospital at Big Bar last night elicited the news that it was doubtful whether Henry James would survive the night. Mr. James was working in a tunnel with two other men, when a rock fell upon him, crushing his hip and fracturing his leg. He was taken to the hospital at Big Bar, where it developed that he was suffering from severe internal injuries. His condition rapidly grew worse, and the members of the family were notified that his condition was most serious, and that it would be well for them to come to Big Bar.

The report of the physician last night was that Mr. James was still living, but that the worst could be expected at any time.

The injured man is well known in Oroville, in the vicinity of which he has lived the greater part of his life. His many friends will read with great sorrow the account of the accident which has befallen him.

Oroville Daily Register

4-11-1907

# CONCOW SCHOOL BURNS TO THE GROUND

---

CONFLAGRATION STARTS IN  
EARLY MORNING — FIRE SUP-  
POSED TO HAVE BEEN  
STARTED BY TRAMP.

---

CONCOW, April 10.—The Concow school-house burned to the ground at an early hour this morning. The destruction of the building was almost completed before anyone noticed the fact that it was in flames.

The origin of the fire is not known, but it is supposed that a tramp went into the building to spend the night, and leaving it in the morning neglected to take due precautions with the fire he had lighted.

The school started on Monday last, with Miss Porter in charge.

# SQUATTERS' LAND LOCATED

## Diamond Miners Claim Town of Cherokee.

A peculiar condition has come to light through the operations of the United States Diamond Mining Company in this county. Not only have they purchased land near Oroville, but they have also pre-empted 100 acres at Cherokee, and placed a bond upon 25 acres belonging to Mr. James Laferty of that place. It is upon the land which they have pre-empted under the mineral laws of the United States that the complication has arisen. It appears that their claim embraces the whole village of Cherokee, and that once their patent is secured, they will be owners in fee of the whole town, not only the land, but fixtures as well.

The explanation of this condition is to be found in the fact that from the settlement of Cherokee on to the present time the residents in the village have had but squatter's rights. They have made no attempt to patent their land, and owing to the fact that, living as they were, they were exempt from all taxes. As a result of this there are no valid titles to offer in opposition to the location made by Mr. M. J. Cooney, and later transferred to the United States Diamond Mining Company.

Despite the fact that they can obtain a legal title at any time, Mr. Cooney has stated that his company if the land is patented, will transfer a title to all those who now hold by squatter's rights.

In the 125 acres which have thus been secured by location and a bond the company has secured all the ground in Cherokee which gives any index of being diamondiferous. All of the 200 diamonds found in the shallow placer mining have been found upon this ground. It lies upon one side of a ridge. Upon the other side there is not a record of a single diamond having been found.

In addition to this evidence, their ground has other indications of containing a diamond chute. Menaccanite has been found, small garnets, and many of the satellites of diamonds. The ground will be thoroughly prospected. Whether or not it will be patented will depend upon the results of this prospect.

The Mining Topics, of New York, in its issue of last week, contains an extended article on the diamond mine here.

# DREDGERS ARE NOT TO BE ENJOINED

## Miners and Farmers

### Reach an Agreement

As a result of the meeting of the Dredging Committee of the Anti-Debris Association and the Executive Committee of the dredging operators held in this city yesterday, it can be definitely stated that the threatened injunction suits will not be brought, and a settlement will be reached satisfactory to both. News of the amicable agreement will be received with joy both in Oroville and among the conservative and wiser residents of the valley, none of whom were anxious to carry the matter into the courts if a peaceful settlement could be reached.

The meeting yesterday was the result of the advice of the older and wiser heads of the Anti-Debris Association. As stated before, these men were not anxious to carry the matter into the courts if a settlement could be reached otherwise. Through their good offices they secured the meeting of the dredge operators and the Anti-Debris Association which was held yesterday.

There were present at the meeting Supervisors White, Walton and Graves, of Sutter County, and all three members of the Dredging Committee of the Anti-Debris Association. In addition to these, Supervisor Bull and Mr. Gavin Hutchins, of Yuba County, were present. The latter two are members from Yuba County of the Advisory Board of the Anti-Debris Association. They were met here by Messrs. Leggett, Hamlyn, Carr and Helman representing the Executive Committee of the dredge operators.

The whole day was spent in investigating conditions in the dredging field as they actually were. In the evening the meeting was held in the Union Hotel, and there the settlement was reached.

The representatives of the Anti-Debris Association held to two main contentions: First, that all debris must be kept out of the river; and second, that it was the duty of the dredge operators to devise ways and means of so doing. On the other hand they did not for a moment countenance the slogan of the radical element of the association, "Clear Water or No Dredgers." They willingly acknowledged the contention of the dredge operators that the water seeping through piles of dredging tailings carried no debris within the meaning of the word, and that there was no injury resulting

from the extremely fine silt that this water carried, a silt which it holds in solution for a week and more.

The fact that the representatives of the Anti-Debris Association would offer no objection to the seepage of discolored water into the river immediately cleared the way for an agreement. All the parties to the discussion were of the opinion that it would be possible to restrain the debris.

The dredge operators then proposed the following plan for the restraint of such debris. It was proposed that all the companies, acting together, should throw up a continuous wall of tailings upon the banks of the river. Each company is to operate upon its own ground, but to operate in the same general direction, with the tailings of each company joining upon that of its neighbors'. This wall will probably be thrown up 150 feet in width on the first cut. The boats will then operate behind this wall of tailings, throwing up another wall against it, until they have a wall of tailings between 500 and 600 feet wide. The boats will operate back of this wall, allowing the water to seep through the tailings.

A careful study was made by the members of the Anti-Debris Association of the effect of the water upon the tailings piles. They found that where the pile of tailings was comparatively small that they were swept away and leveled down. Where, however, they were at all formidable, the water had had no effect upon them. It was the unanimous opinion of all that the wall such as the dredge operators outlined would be amply sufficient to prevent the piles from being swept away or the flood sweeping in upon them.

The construction of this wall is to be started with the first low water, and completed before the ensuing winter. The boats may then operate back of this as they see fit.

The Anti-Debris Association was far from displeased with conditions as it found them here. They proved to be much better than they had anticipated. One member stated that the river was in a better condition than it was a year ago.

The settlement of the threatened trouble will be welcomed by all who desire to see the prosperity of both the farmer and the miner promoted.



# Chico Record

5-1-1907

## YOUNG PATRICE IS HELD TO AN- SWER

The preliminary examination of Pat Patrice, the Italian lad arrested several days ago on a charge of grand larceny, was held in Justice Strout's court yesterday afternoon. The people were represented by District Attorney Lon Bond and the defendant by Park Henshaw. After a consideration of the merits of the case, the district attorney moved that the boy be bound over to answer before the Superior Court, and this was accordingly done.

Patrice is charged with stealing a horse from Thomasson's several weeks ago, and was arrested in Sacramento and brought back to Chico to face the charge of grand larceny. It is possible that he will be sent to a reform school, as he is but a lad.

The mother of the defendant attended the examination yesterday and after the result of the same was learned she fainted as she was leaving the city hall.

# Oroville Daily Register

5-28-1907

## POWER COMPANY HERE ONCE MORE

---

GREAT WESTERN AGAIN MAKES  
THIS CITY ITS HEADQUAR-  
TERS AND CENTER FOR ITS  
BUSINESS.

---

## IT IS WELCOME NEWS

---

CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN LET FOR  
THE HAULING OF 2,000,000  
POUNDS OF FREIGHT  
TO BIG BEND.

---

Oroville is again practically head-  
quarters of the Great Western Power  
Company and the office at Durham,  
where the company's headquarters  
were transferred after the loss of the  
bridge across the Feather at this  
point, will be closed. When the com-  
pany was assured that a temporary  
bridge would be built it was decided  
to return here.

W. H. Bissell, purchasing agent of  
the company, with his corps of clerks  
and assistants have taken up their  
quarters in their former office, near the  
Southern Pacific depot, and the place  
has again assumed a businesslike ap-  
pearance. Dating from last Saturday  
all shipments of supplies and ma-  
chinery were ordered billed to Oroville.

A daily stage will at once be put on  
between Oroville and Island Bar, J. A.  
Huntington having purchased the line.

Contracts for the hauling of an im-  
mense amount of freight have been let.  
T. C. Lee and George Taber have se-  
cured contracts for the delivery of  
20000 tons, or 2,000,000 pounds, at Big  
Bend.

The loss of the vast amount of busi-  
ness transacted by this company was  
blow to Oroville, and the transfer of  
their headquarters back here will be  
welcomed by the citizens of this city.

# MURDER MYSTERY AT PENTZ

## Workmen Uncover Body Secretly Buried

Yesterday workmen employed by the Oro Water, Light and Power Company in digging a reservoir near Pentz uncovered the body of a man a few feet from the surface. As to when the man was buried and by whom is a mystery, but the circumstances in the case strongly point to foul play.

From the appearance of the body the man has been dead and buried for about five or six months. Decomposition had set in to an extent that the workmen were unable to identify the body or ascertain the cause of death. No one in the community, however, knows of the burial nor the death of the man. The mystery of the thing indicates that he must have been buried by a person or persons desirous of keeping the matter hidden from the public.

Coroner Wallace and Sheriff Chubbuck will leave for Pentz this morning andn conduct an investigation into the meaning of the mystery.

Sacramento Bee

6-28-1907

## **RIG UPSETS.**

---

### **Young Woman Has Narrow Escape on Steep Grade.**

**(The Bee's Special Service.)**

**OROVILLE (Butte Co.), June 28.—**Miss Maula M. Jones, of Yankee Hill, had a narrow escape from serious injuries a few days ago. She was driving up the grade near the West Branch bridge and when she turned out to allow a big team to pass her horse began to back, cramping the wheels into such a position that the young woman was thrown out, landing on a rock wall near the edge of the grade, receiving numerous bruises, none of which, however, were serious. The horse was caught by Mr. Roderick, the driver of the big team, before any further damage resulted.

Chico Record

7-3-1907

# EDITOR DAVIS OF MARYSVILLE IS AFFLICTED

---

Editor Winfield J. Davis of the Appeal, who is, it is stated, soon to return to his old home in Sacramento, has been almost blind for a week or more owing to an affliction to his eyes, which, however, he believes to be but temporary. He has been unable to keep up his regular duties, but has been dictating all his editorial work and having it copied. He believes he will soon regain his sight, and his numerous friends sincerely hope that he will.—Marysville Appeal.

# CELEBRATION AT BIG BAR MOST SUCCESSFUL

Oroville Daily Register  
7-8-1907

(Special to the Register.)

BIG BAR, July 5.—We had quite a patriotic celebration of the Fourth at Big Bar. Mr. and Mrs. King were host and hostess of the day. Mr. and Mrs. Welsh, accompanied by their granddaughter, Jessamine Welsh, and the Misses Callie and Mary Hogan, of Concow, were among our number. Mr. Jullan Wolfsohn, S. I., was the master of the musical program. His work was superb, and was appreciated by all. Mr. Jules Hanique handled the clarinet very effectively.

The program was as follows: Opening piece, "Star Spangled Banner," by the Big Bar Orchestra; reading of the Declaration of Independence, by Mr. S. C. Dorn; then followed the oration of the day, by Mr. Tobe Welsh, of Concow; closing song, "America."

Then followed free-for-all races and lively athletic performances, in which R. G. Clifford did some remarkable work in throwing a baseball in both distance and height.

There was a delightful dance in the evening, with music by the Big Bar Orchestra.

The day was a pronounced success in every way.

## **MEEKER RELEASED FROM CUSTODY**

---

### **No Case Against Man Arrested for Grand Larceny.**

William Meeker, accused of stealing \$800 in gold dust from three companions working at Big Bend, came before Judge Parks yesterday for his preliminary examination. Attorney W. E. Duncan, Jr., appeared for the defendant, while the District Attorney's office was represented by George Gardner. The examination resulted in the dismissal of the prisoner.

Mr. Duncan, for the defense, brought out that the men were not partners, but were working independently, and that practically all the mining done had been done by the prisoner. Upon the showing made the charge of grand larceny was immediately dismissed.

# FRENCH CREEK POWER PLANT TO BE BUILT

**Project Supposed to Have  
Been Dropped Will Be  
Pushed Through**

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE CALL

OROVILLE, July 11.—It has been learned from authentic sources that the work of developing the French creek power plant will be begun shortly. Nearly four years ago a large amount of money was spent in surveys, road building and in purchasing water rights, machinery, etc., with the object of establishing an immense power plant at French creek, a tributary of the North Fork, about 28 miles from Oroville.

The Pacific gas and electric corporation, which is a merger of the Bay Counties power company, was behind the proposition, and after a great deal of preparatory work had been done the project was given up and it was thought abandoned.

The plant as originally proposed was intended to generate from 16,000 to 20,000 horsepower, but the new project is said to be of greater magnitude and it is thought may rival the Western power company's plant at Big Bend, as the promoters have in their possession water rights which will give them facilities for furnishing unlimited power.



# FELL FORTY FEET TO HIS DEATH

## C. E. ZEITLER IS KILLED WHILE WORKING AT BIG BEND

C. E. Zeitler, one of the boss-carpenters of the Great Western Power Company, was killed yesterday afternoon by falling off a scaffolding forty feet to the ground below. Zeitler had been working upon the smokestack of the boiler-room of Camp 3. He stepped backward and lost his balance, falling from the scaffolding. He dropped a sheer distance of forty feet, striking upon his head and fracturing his skull.

The accident occurred at 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon. Three hours later Zeitler was dead.

It will be remembered that some months ago Zeitler quarreled with a carpenter named Esson, who threw a hatchet at him, cutting off his right hand. Esson claimed self-defense, and the first jury disagreed. The case was then dismissed on motion of the District Attorney, who claimed that the evidence was insufficient to convict.

# Oroville Daily Register

9-3-1907

## BUTTE DREDGER NOW AT WORK IN AN OLD INDIAN GRAVEYARD

---

A few weeks ago the Butte dredger made a ghastly discovery. Its buckets came to the surface freighted with skulls and various bones belonging to human skeletons. The workmen, curious as to the reason, began to look closer, and soon found Indian relics of various kinds. These they have preserved and now the dredger has a choice collection of Indian relics, as well as an equally choice collection of skulls and skeletons of the braves of former days.

The presence of this Indian graveyard is a commentary upon the manner in which the river has filled. The relics are being found 25 and 30 feet below the surface of the ground, showing how great the deposit of gravel and sediment has been since the Indians buried their dead there.

Chico Record

9-7-1907

## HENSHAW SETTLING UP AN OLD ESTATE

The estate of John Nicholl, who died in 1890, has never been settled up, and thereby hangs a story which, generally known, might cause some lawyers to hesitate before accepting the attorneyship for the estate. Park Henshaw of Chico does not read evil omens out of ordinary facts, consequently, when called upon to settle up the estate of John Nicholl, he accepted in the face of the facts he well knew, that the estate had not been settled earlier because both of the attorneys previously connected with the estate had died before they could complete the proceedings in probate.

Soon after the death of Nicholl, about seventeen years ago, Leon Freer became the attorney for the estate, and before a settlement of the estate was attained, he died. After this, the estate remained dormant for several years, and finally R. E. Robinson, an Oroville attorney, undertook to attend to probating the estate, and again before the estate was settled, death claimed him.

Now comes Park Henshaw to finish up the proceedings, and he expects and doubtless will live to carry the estate to a settlement.

Notice to creditors is published in another column of today's Record.

# INDIAN BURNING TONIGHT MARKS LAST IN HIS- TORY

## WEIRD CEREMONIES AT ENTERPRISE

**SUPERSTITION GIVES WAY AND  
ANCIENT RITE IS TO BE  
ABANDONED AFTER  
TO-NIGHT.**

Another relic of the olden days will pass away to-night when the Indians of Enterprise will hold their last burning. The civilization of the paleface has made its impression on the Indian, and at a grand pow wow held recently it was decided that with this year the ancient custom of offering sacrifices to the spirits of the dead would cease. The superstitious fear which made of this a religious duty, no longer exists, and the Indian, with true American thrift, looks askance at burning baskets worth good American money, and clothes in which the squaws and bucks might bedeck themselves.

The burning to-night, however, will be made a memorable affair. From Yuba County and from Plumas County Indians are coming to participate in the ceremony, and the passing of the burning will be made a signal occasion. Everything is in readiness in Enterprise. The poles have been put in place and laden with baskets, with clothing and with the other sacrifices that the Indian offers as a burning offering to the spirits of his dead ancestors.

Oroville Daily Register  
9-27-1907

The ceremony this year is to be attended by an unusual feature, the burning of the devil. A huge bear-skin has been erected in the form of a canopy, and under this bear-skin is a great ball made of the hides and pels of various animals. This represents the Bad Spirit. Food and provisions will be placed under this canopy to-night, that the Evil Spirit may eat and drink before the end comes. Early Saturday morning a fire will be built about sixty feet away. The Indians will then divide into two bands, some representing the Good Spirit and some the Bad Spirit. A contest between the Good and the Bad will take place, the former attempting to roll the effigy into the fire, the latter resisting these efforts. This struggle will be kept up for some time, until finally the forces of Good will be victorious and the Devil will be cast into the flames.

During the early part of the evening, when the baskets and clothes are being burned, the Indians sit around in groups and gamble the whole night long.

A large number of the residents of this city will attend the burning, which will be held about a mile from Enterprise.

# Oroville Daily Register

9-30-1907

## **WEIRD SCENE IS ENACTED AT BURNING IN ENTERPRISE**

---

### **ANCIENT RITE IS ABOL- ISHED**

---

A large delegation from Oroville attended the Indian burning held at Enterprise on Friday evening last. They report that the place was crowded with Indians, and that the ceremony was held upon a larger scale than it has been for years. This was due both to the fact that the Indians have decided to do away with the ceremony after this year and further to the fact that the chief of the tribe passed away during the past year and that this was the first public mourning of the tribe held in his honor.

The Indians became most intense in their celebration of the ceremony. As they danced around the fire, the old squaw of the chieftan suddenly broke away and attempted to throw herself into the flames. She was only deterred from accomplishing her purpose through the other Indians laying violent hold upon her and forcing her away from the flames.

About forty baskets were burned, in addition to clothing and other articles of value.

Among those present at the ceremony from Oroville were Judge Parks and Miss Parks, Mrs. Voorhees, Miss Mildred Hayes, Dr. Goodearle, Mr. Robert Butler, Mr. Toms, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Ward, Mrs. Schneider, Mr. O. W. Jasper, and Mr. Henry Anthony.

Oroville Daily Register

10-8-1907

## **BIG BEND STAGE HAS RUNAWAY**

**Coach Overturms, but No One is  
Injured.**

What might easily have been a most serious accident occurred yesterday when the four-horse team attached to the Big Bend stage became frightened and started to run away. At Camp 3, where the road turns sharply down to Island Bar, the stage overturned against the embankment, and the driver here managed to stop his team. Luckily none of the passengers were injured, and the stage escaped without serious damage. There were about fourteen passengers on the stage.

# GIANT POWDER BLOWS FIVE MEN TO PIECES

---

*Special by Leased Wire to The Call*

OROVILLE, Oct. 8.—By an explosion in the new tunnel of the Great Western power company at Big Bend Saturday evening five men were killed and three injured. The dead are: Giovanni Mareldi, John Oliveira, Antonio Varzia, Paul Peoolkoyek and an unknown Mexican.

All of the eight were experienced powdermen and were making their way into the tunnel to connect the electric wires for a second shot. They were carrying a box of giant powder to put into other holes to be fired. The concussion from the first explosion resulted in the detonation of the box the men were carrying. The bodies were frightfully mangled.

---

## **BIG BEND STAGE AGAIN OVERTURNS**

---

### **Second Accident of Kind Within the Week.**

The Big Bend stage overturned again last night, the second time within the week. The accident occurred while the team was making the trip to this city. There were sixteen passengers aboard, one of them a woman, Mrs. McDonald. When the stage overturned most of them jumped to safety.

Mrs. McDonald suffered some superficial injuries, and another passenger, Charles W. Frisch, was badly battered and bruised.

The stage was slightly damaged, but was repaired sufficiently to allow the trip to be made to Oroville.

The accident took place during a runaway.



Oroville Daily Register

10-30-1907

**PUBLIC SALE OF**  
**76-Short Horn Gattle-76**  
**Thursday, November 14th**

**Sale Begins Promptly at 12:30 P. M.**

T. B. Gibson and H. P. Eakle, Jr., will sell at public auction 76 head of shorthorns, on the farm of Mrs. W. B. Gibson, one mile from depot, Woodland, Cal.

This offering consists of 30 bulls, including the pure "Scotch" bull Saturn, 37 cows and heifers. In this offering is the get of Noble Knight, Saturn, Barmton Hero, Senator Lad and King Spicy.

Everything will be offered in good breeding condition and will prove useful to the buyer.

Remember the date and come to the sale.

Write for catalogue, mentioning this paper.

H. P. EAKLE, Jr., MRS. W. B. GIBSON and T. B. GIBSON,  
WOODLAND, CAL.

Col. Geo. P. Bellows, Marysville, Mo., Auctioneer.

## TO TURN RIVER INTO BIG BEND POWER TUNNEL

San Francisco to Obtain  
53,000 Horsepower  
From Plant

*Special by Leased Wire to The Call*

OROVILLE, Nov. 2.—Every effort is being made by the Great Western power company to finish the immense power plant at Big Bend. Between 1,200 and 1,500 men are employed constantly. These are divided into seven camps, one of which numbers 400 men.

A trolley line five miles long is being built to transport material and men from one part of the works to the other. Three giant rock crushers and as many cement mills are being erected to mix the product of the rock crushers.

An entire river will be turned into an 18 foot tunnel for use in generating electricity for the Big Bend system. The flow will measure 70,000 miners' inches, with a fall of 400 feet. From this one plant 53,000 horsepower can be delivered in San Francisco.

The work now going on will enlarge about 11,000 feet of the present Big Bend tunnel to an 18 foot tunnel. The bore will be lined with concrete throughout its 15,000 feet of length. Dams are being built and foundations laid for great power houses.

11-9-1907

## FATAL ACCIDENT

### AT BIG BEND

MEN ARE CAUGHT

IN A SLIDE OF  
FALLING  
ROCK

1 KILLED AND 3 IN-  
JURED

A serious accident took place early yesterday afternoon at Big Bend, in which Ralph Raye, an electrician of San Francisco, was instantly killed, and three other men were injured. Among the injured is Mr. Williams, a resident of the Veatch Tract in this city.

The men were working under what is known as Jumbo Number 9. Suddenly the rock started to fall, and before the men could get away they were engulfed by it. Mr. Raye was struck upon the head and buried to the neck. He died instantly. Five men in all were working at the place, and three of these were struck by flying pieces of rock, although none are injured seriously.

The dead man was the electrician, and came to Big Bend from San Francisco. His relatives there have been notified of his death. Deputy Coroner Ward was also notified of the accident.

# STRINGENCY WILL NOT AFFECT BIG BEND WORK

---

## COMPANY IS AMPLY PROTECTED

---

ONLY LARGE POWER PLANT TO  
CONTINUE ITS CONSTRUCTION  
WORK.

---

Mr. M. A. Viele, of the Great Western Power Company, was in Oroville yesterday, on his way to Big Bend. Asked as to whether or not the stringency in the money market would affect the work that that company is doing, Mr. Viele emphatically replied that it would not. He stated that the company was amply protected as far as its funds are concerned, and that the work upon the tunnel at Big Bend would be continued, no matter what the state of the money market might be.

Mr. Viele further stated that the project at Big Bend was the only large proposition in course of construction in the United States that had not been forced to suspend operations. Construction work has been stopped upon all the large plants of the East, as well as upon other plants building on the Coast. It is not expected, however, that this condition will be of long duration.

Oroville Daily Register  
11-9-1907

Work at Big Bend is progressing rapidly. About 600 men are at work there, and the work upon the tunnel is proceeding with great rapidity. Some disappointment is felt over the fact that the Western Pacific has not completed its line to the work, as it was expected that the company would be able to get freight there over the Western Pacific by November 15th. It will probably be the first of the year now before the road is completed to Island Bar.

The freight will be swung across the river at Island Bar by means of a huge cable and car. Arrangements on that end have been perfected so that the Great Western Power Company will be ready to receive the freight whenever the railroad can deliver it.

11-11-1907

# FOUR TONS OF POWDER GO OVER ROADWAY

## 5 MEN INJURED TERRIFIC EXPLOSION IN ACCIDENT RESULTS NEAR BIG BEND

One of the most peculiar accidents that has happened since a start was made in building the Western Pacific occurred on Saturday afternoon at one of the Corey Brothers' camps, about fifteen miles from Big Bar. At this point the wagon road passes directly above a large cut which a steam shovel is making. A wagon loaded with four tons of giant powder was passing along the road, when the roadway gave way beneath the hind wheels. The six-horse team proved absolutely incapable of holding the wagon, and it started to slip over the grade.

A portion of the load slipped down from the front end of the wagon, and exploded. Strange to say, this did not set off the remainder of the powder. The wagon continued to slip, and finally overturned, lodging partially over the grade. Despite the fact that the powder boxes were thrown about in an indiscriminate manner, it did not cause an explosion.

The teamster started to unhitch and free his horses, and had succeeded in freeing three of the team, and in taking them away he suddenly noticed that the powder was burning. He started to run, and was hardly away when the whole load exploded with terrific force.

The three horses still remaining attached to the wagon were instantly killed. A craneman on the steam shovel, who was standing near, had a foot blown off. Four other men were injured, and it is stated that one is so seriously injured that his leg will have to be amputated at once.

The teamster was not injured.

A hurry call was sent to the hospital at Big Bar, which in turn summoned the company's physicians from this city. Dr. Whiting left for the scene of the accident, and Dr. Myers, who was in San Francisco, was summoned home, and arrived last night.

The names of the injured men were not obtainable last night.

# Oroville Daily Register

11-11-1907

## INQUEST HELD OVER BIG BEND MAN

Coroner Wallace and Deputy Coroner Ward returned on Saturday from Big Bend, where they went to hold an inquest over the remains of Ralph Raye, who was killed in a cave-in on Friday.

It was found that deceased was 30 years of age, his home was in San Francisco, he was a member of the San Francisco Electrical Workers' Union and the Foresters, and has relatives in the Bay city.

Tom Williams, brother of Dave Williams of Oroville, and who was a sub-foreman in one part of the tunnel, had one leg broken. Earl Drieschman was severely bruised, while G. Chiatti, another laborer, had his feet badly injured.

The men were engaged in enlarging

the tunnel. Foreman Williams noticed a large rock overhead in the tunnel, and tapped it with a crowbar before he pronounced it safe for the men to continue. They had just proceeded to go forward with the work when the rock, with many others, fell upon them. Raye was struck on the head and his skull was crushed. The others were buried in the three tons of dirt and rock which fell.

Richard Jones, head foreman of the tunnel work, testified to examining the rock before the accident and having declared it safe to proceed with the work.

The verdict returned did not hold the power company responsible.

The remains of Ralph Raye were taken to San Francisco by his brothers for interment.

## Frank McLaughlin Kills Daughter and Himself at Santa Cruz

Photograph of the late Major Frank McLaughlin taken during the recent streetcar men's arbitration, a portrait of his daughter, Agnes, whom he killed yesterday, and a picture of Golden Gate villa, the home of the McLaughlins in Santa Cruz, which was the scene of the dual tragedy yesterday.



### BULLET AND POISON USED

Beautiful Villa Is  
Scene of Double  
Tragedy

*McLaughlin Carries Out  
Plans Formed Months Ago*

Shoots Daughter as  
She Sleeps After  
Mass

*Father Seeks to Save His  
Offspring From Poverty*

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE CALL.

SANTA CRUZ, Nov. 16.  
Major Frank McLaughlin, known throughout the state as a man whose every want was gratified by fortune, ended his brilliant career today as a murderer and suicide.

In the home which he had built in his affluence, and where he had prepared to spend the days of his old age, surrounded by family and friends, he enacted the tragedy, which is the more terrible because he killed his only daughter, Agnes McLaughlin, the child in whom his love and affection was centered before he took his own life. The wife and mother died two years ago today. The crime marked the anniversary.

The daughter was killed with a pistol, after she had been to the Catholic church to offer an early mass for the repose of the soul of the mother she was so soon to

# Ball and Poison Used by Santa Cruz Capitalist to End Lives

Continued From Page 17, Column 7

join in death. McLaughlin took poison.

Poverty threatened the old age of the man who had made fortunes and kept them, who had made fortunes and lost them.

At 10 o'clock this morning, while the woman was sleeping in her chamber, McLaughlin went to her side and shot her through the head, the bullet piercing the skull. Calmly he left the dying daughter, who, he said in a letter, he wanted to take from the world's distresses.

He went to his own luxurious library and drawing room, the room overlooking the sea. He coolly rang up his friend, William Jeter, former lieutenant governor of the state.

"Jeter," he said in an even tone, "come up at once. I have just killed Agnes and I am going to take poison."

In the office of the bank Jeter got the message. It was an incredible communication, but the friend took the alarm and hurried to Golden Gate villa in an automobile. He entered the house and there found McLaughlin dead from the effects of a dose of cyanide of potassium. In the bed chamber was the woman, dying from the bullet wound in her head. Death came to her at 6:35 this afternoon.

Fear of poverty for his daughter caused McLaughlin to commit the double crime. He saw want coming up the hill toward the luxurious Golden Gate villa. He preferred death and sought it eagerly, and death took them both.

Coolly and deliberately McLaughlin planned and perpetrated the deed.

He was unable to raise another dollar on the handsome villa he held on the aristocratic heights, and obligations pressed. His own and his daughter's jewels were in pawn; only the wife's wedding ring and diamond solitaire were saved. Even the heavy silver plate that last appeared at the famous convention banquet, at which Abe Ruef's hand was photographed on Gillett's shoulder, had been pledged for funds. Thus at the limit McLaughlin, accustomed to the luxuries affluence affords, waited only for the anniversary of his wife's passing to join her in death. When that time came he crept up to his daughter's apartments, and fired a shot through her brain.

Miss McLaughlin had lain down to rest after a long early morning vigil at church, praying for the repose of the soul of her mother. She never awakened.

Going back downstairs the father arranged letters he had written weeks before, telling of the deed he contemplated. "I am up against it" he said in nearly all of these. In others he was more explicit and said that the Big Bend electric power manipulators had brought him face to face with death.

One of the letters was addressed to Patrick Calhoun, for whom McLaughlin acted as a car strike arbitrator in 1906.

"Think as lightly as you can of me," it said.

Another gave his regards to Abraham Ruef, the imprisoned ex-boss grafter.

He left his will in the care of Jeter, whom he made executor. The banker also received a letter in which McLaughlin told him that the tragedy of today had been in his mind every day for eight years. Optimistic by disposition, he said, he fought off the approach of despair, until the future became entirely black. Then, rather than let his daughter face the world without him, he took her life.

"She's going with me because I love her so," was his extenuation.

The revolver he used to slay the young woman, however, was an afterthought, for in his goodby note to Dr. F. E. Morgan, his family physician, McLaughlin said he had intended to give his daughter poisoned wine and drink some himself.

Before slaying the sleeping girl the broken promoter arranged for a double funeral, for the removal of his wife's body from the receiving vault where he had allowed it to remain, probably in waiting for the tragedy today. He also instructed an undertaker to send all three bodies to the home of his daughter's aunt, Mrs. Terhune, in Newark, N. J. Finally, to complete the obliteration of everything connected with his family, he asked Dr. Morgan to "please chloroform our poor old cat."

Whether it was deliberate or unconscious McLaughlin planned the slaying and suicide for dramatic effect. Miss McLaughlin was shot while her father's written farewells were being delivered by the servants. Postmen also delivered several sent through the mails.

All were received about the same time and excited groups immediately gathered on the streets.

Among the letters left by Major McLaughlin was one addressed to his friend, Dr. F. E. Morgan. The kindness of the deceased was manifested even at this time, for he appended a postscript to the Morgan letter this morning, saying: "Dear Doc—Please do me one last favor, and that is to chloroform our poor old cat.—Frank McLaughlin."

The letter to Dr. Morgan follows:  
November.

My Dear Good Friend:

May God bless you and reward you for your constant kindness to my dear ones and myself.

I take my own dear Agnes with me so that we can rest from worry and certain distresses. I cannot mention all my good friends, for, thank God, it means all I know in Santa Cruz, but through you I bid them all a fond farewell, particularly Tan, Jim Leonard, Peakes, Anderson, Eddy, Rufe, Oliver, O. J. Lincoln, Ed Lilly, my good friend George Wilkes, all—all my many friends. God bless them all. Ever your sincere friend,

FRANK McLAUGHLIN.

One of the politician's goodbys went to the editor of one of the newspapers and was posted on the bulletin at once. Ed Lilly, one of McLaughlin's intimates and a businessman, rushed across the street and, discrediting the tale of tragedy the letter told, threatened to kick the newspaperman down stairs if he did not take it down.

Two minutes afterward Jeter rushed out of his bank and, shouting to Lilly to hurry to the McLaughlin home, dashed up the hill. Dr. Morgan followed and found Miss McLaughlin dying from the wound in her head.

"McLaughlin was a man of exquisite taste," said Jeter tonight. "For his mode of life he needed money, lots of it, and he could not get it at once. I think the strain, coupled with the advent of the anniversary of the death of the wife he loved, unhinged his mind."

Reticence marks the attitude of every one of McLaughlin's friends. They refuse to give details of his financial difficulties, which caused him to take his own life and that of his daughter, who was one of the most beautiful young women in this city and much sought socially before her mother's death.

Other friends hurried up the hill and tonight they form a guard to keep vigil over the dead and discourage the curious.

As executor Jeter will have little to do. The mansion the politician occupied for the last 20 years and from which he directed more than one republican campaign will go under the hammer. So will its costly furnishings.

To several businessmen McLaughlin remarked several days ago that the crash in New York had ruined for him the Big Bend power deal on Pitt river. This was only one of many promotion schemes in which he had been engaged. He had interested eastern capital in it as well as in other mine and power deals about Oroville, but he had depended upon the success of the Pitt river company to rehabilitate his fortunes. Ruin lay beyond its failure, so he decided to leave the world.

"There is nothing left but his library, the big dog which was the familiar companion of his walks about the town, and his wine cellar," said Ralph Thompson, one of those who were grief-stricken by the news of the tragedy, this afternoon. "These go to Jeter and the Elks lodge. McLaughlin was a prince among men, but he was too prideful to accept defeat. He could not give his daughter the luxuries she was used to. He had not the heart to tell her of his ruin. So he died and took her with him."



## McLaughlin's Career in This State Was Remarkable One

### Came West Twenty-five Years Ago With Building of Railroad

Major Frank McLaughlin's career in California was a series of successes and disappointments, but the successes always predominated, at least in the spirit of the man. As civil-engineer, mining engineer and "good fellow" he was known 25 years ago; as politician, bon vivant, engineer, jovial companion, affectionate father, he was known yesterday. He had the manners of a clubman, the air of a capitalist, the hospitality of a southerner and the story telling facility of the Irish race from which he descended.

He was not always on top, but he weathered every storm except the last with buoyancy, and reverses did little to alter his course of living or cool his generosity.

He enjoyed his military title of major as a member of a governor's staff, and clung to it with pertinacity and quaint sentiment. Once, at the inauguration of a succeeding governor, Major McLaughlin was given the rank of lieutenant colonel. But he refused the altered shoulder straps. "I'm known as Major Frank," he said, "and I won't go after another title."

McLaughlin was born in Newark, N. J., of Irish parents. When a young man he was on the police force of his native place, but did not stay in that position long. He went in for engineering work. Then he became a friend of Thomas A. Edison. The two men have been friends ever since, and when McLaughlin went east he always visited the inventor at Menlo Park, N. J.

While the Union Pacific railway was being built McLaughlin was a civil engineer and came west as the track was being laid. He reached California about 25 years ago and studied the mining situation. After giving attention to the auriferous deposits in the sands of the Feather-river McLaughlin conceived the ambitious scheme of mining the river bottom for gold. He interested British capital in the venture and at the expense of several millions of dollars set about to divert the river from its bed by a system of dams. The work was undertaken near Oroville and so far as the water work was concerned it was successful. But the mining operations did not "pan." McLaughlin's scheme failed and the British capitalists lost their investment. This failure put the engineer down for a while, but the depression did not last.

While McLaughlin was interested at Oroville he spent the summers at Santa Cruz, where he had the Golden Gate cottage. In those days the state militia held its annual encampments at the beach city, and McLaughlin entertained the officers sumptuously.

Eighteen years ago he moved to Santa Cruz permanently, building Golden Gate villa, a large house overlooking the town and sea, and it was in this home that he shot his daughter and killed himself. Then McLaughlin took an interest in politics and public affairs. He was a frequent guest at the Palace hotel in this city, being a familiar figure around the lobby.

McLaughlin was a handsome man and always appeared fresh shaven and well groomed. He wore always an ascot tie pierced with a diamond stick-pin. A slouch hat assisted the title of major, giving McLaughlin a military air.

He was a prominent figure in politics 10 years ago. In the campaign of 1898, which carried the state for McKinley and brought about the election of Henry T. Gage for governor, McLaughlin was chairman of the republican state central committee and handled the affairs of the republican party. The state was considered doubtful by some before the votes came in. But in spite of the success of the campaign McLaughlin was not considered eminently successful as the executive and he retired from his position, but retained the friendship of his associates, and his personal popularity retained its force. In clubs and hotels McLaughlin became known as a bon vivant. He could not only enjoy good cooking, but he could accomplish it. It was one of his favorite delights to assemble a crowd of congenial spirits at his Santa Cruz home or in a club, don white apron and a huge cap and stir up a dish for an epicure. He furnished the best of wines to go with the menu. As an originator of dishes his fame went wide, and several toothsome modes of food preparation are denoted "a la McLaughlin." In drinks he had his own formulas, which were better than other people's.

McLaughlin continued an active interest in the republican party up to the time of his death, but he never ran for office, though when he was chairman of the state central committee his name was mentioned as a possible candidate before the legislature for the United States senatorship.

Two years ago McLaughlin's wife died. He was a devoted husband and took the loss much to heart. His last appearance in public affairs in this city was a year ago when he was selected by the United Railroads as its arbitrator in the adjustment of the differences between the streetcar company and the carmen's union. With him on the committee were Chief Justice Beatty and Father Yorke.

McLaughlin always placed great store in the value of friendship. He cultivated friends and shared hospitality with them. He made good feeling a cult. In his early experiences in Oroville he had difficulties with Senator A. F. Jones and for years the two men did not speak, but recently McLaughlin declared a truce and the pair formed a friendship which lasted substantially to the time of the death of the major. The bounty of the man, when he was in his prosperous years, was great. At one time he sent from this city for an aged sexton in Oroville to go down to see the city, and he paid the slight seeing expenses of the man with a lavish hand.

That the farewell letters left by the suicide were dated in some instances as early as the first of November caused surprise among his friends in this city, who had received correspondence indicative of good spirits recently. R. G. Gatley of the Majestic hotel received a letter dated November 12 from McLaughlin saying that his daughter and her maid would be at the hotel on the following day and concluding: "My daughter will only be with you for a day, but we will all be up Monday for at least a week, so please make arrangements."

In other recent letters to friends McLaughlin wrote encouragingly of his financial prospects.

McLaughlin's last venture was an electric power enterprise on the Pitt river, which was seriously affected by the New York money flurry.

Miss Agnes McLaughlin, the daughter whom McLaughlin tried to take out of this world's trouble, was devoted to her father, as she had been to the mother before her death. She was an accomplished woman of striking appearance and was frequently in this city with the major.

She had many suitors, but remained unmarried. For some years it was reported that she was engaged to a businessman of San Jose, but recently she told her friends that she was to marry an eastern man. This later statement was not fully credited by the friends, who believed that the daughter wished to remain undisturbed with her father and care for him in his last years and did not desire suitors.

## CAREER THAT READS AS BOOK ENDS IN AWFUL CRIME

### LOVE AND LIFE OUTWEIGHED BY POVERTY

❖ Saturday morning Major Mc- ❖  
❖ Laughlin, known to a host of Oro- ❖  
❖ ville people, and a former resi- ❖  
❖ dent of Oroville, killed his daugh- ❖  
❖ ter, Agnes, and then committed ❖  
❖ suicide at his beautiful home in ❖  
❖ Santa Cruz.

❖ Fear of poverty for his daugh- ❖  
❖ ter caused McLaughlin to com- ❖  
❖ mit the double crime. He saw ❖  
❖ want coming up the hill toward ❖  
❖ the luxurious Golden Gate villa. ❖  
❖ His last venture was an electric ❖  
❖ power enterprise on the Pitt ❖  
❖ River, which was seriously af- ❖  
❖ fected by the New York money ❖  
❖ market.

❖ To several business men Mc- ❖  
❖ Laughlin remarked several days ❖  
❖ ago that the crash in New York ❖  
❖ had ruined for him the deal on ❖  
❖ Pitt River.

❖ He was unable to raise another ❖  
❖ dollar on the handsome villa he ❖  
❖ held on the aristocratic heights ❖  
❖ His own and his daughter's jew- ❖  
❖ els were in pawn; only the wife's ❖  
❖ wedding ring and diamond soli- ❖  
❖ taire were saved. Even the heavy ❖  
❖ silver plate that last appeared at ❖  
❖ the famous convention banquet, ❖  
❖ at which Abe Ruef's hand was ❖  
❖ photographed on Gillett's shoul- ❖  
❖ der, had been pledged for funds. ❖  
❖ Thus at the limit McLaughlin, ac- ❖  
❖ customed to the luxuries afflu- ❖  
❖ ence affords, waited only for the ❖  
❖ anniversary of his wife's passing ❖  
❖ to join her in death. When that ❖  
❖ time came he crept up to his ❖  
❖ daughter's apartments and fired ❖  
❖ a shot through her brain.

❖ The murder was committed at ❖  
❖ 10:30 o'clock on Saturday morn- ❖  
❖ ing. At 6:30 in the afternoon the ❖  
❖ girl passed away.

❖ Immediately after shooting his ❖  
❖ daughter, McLaughlin drained a ❖  
❖ bottle of cyanide of potassium. ❖  
❖ Then he rushed to a telephone ❖  
❖ and called up ex-Lieutenant-Gov- ❖  
❖ ernor Jeter, one of his most inti- ❖  
❖ mate friends. He begged Jeter ❖  
❖ to come to the house immediately. ❖

❖ "You must come," replied Mc- ❖  
❖ Laughlin. "I have just killed my ❖  
❖ daughter and taken poison. I ❖  
❖ will be dead before you get here. ❖  
❖ Jeter tried to reply, but the ❖  
❖ telephone receiver was hung up ❖  
❖ with a snap. He rushed into the ❖  
❖ street, found an automobile, and ❖  
❖ sped to Golden Gate villa, the ❖  
❖ home of McLaughlin. When he ❖  
❖ arrived, the Major lay dead on a ❖  
❖ couch in his bedroom. His ❖  
❖ daughter Agnes was lying on her ❖  
❖ bed in a dying condition, a bullet ❖  
❖ having crashed through her ❖  
❖ brain.

❖ Though he had been planning ❖  
❖ the deed for months, none of his ❖  
❖ friends noticed that he was un- ❖  
❖ usually thoughtful. He had the ❖  
❖ faculty of hiding all his private ❖  
❖ griefs behind his geniality. But ❖  
❖ his pride had been broken and ❖  
❖ he saw himself and his daugh- ❖  
❖ ter gradually descending into the ❖  
❖ depths of poverty. Family jew- ❖  
❖ els had been pawned and old ❖  
❖ heirlooms had found their way ❖  
❖ to the loan shops. The wolf was ❖  
❖ not far from the door, and Major ❖  
❖ McLaughlin was too proud to ap- ❖  
❖ peal to any of his friends for aid. ❖  
❖ He had been used to giving with ❖  
❖ a lavish hand too long.

❖ On November 2d he began to ❖  
❖ write farewell letters to his ❖  
❖ friends during the night. He did ❖  
❖ this so quietly that even his ❖  
❖ daughter, who was with him all ❖  
❖ the time, did not notice anything ❖  
❖ unusual. Even as he wrote them ❖  
❖ and thought of the end that was ❖  
❖ not far off he wore the same ge- ❖  
❖ nial smile that marked the Ma- ❖  
❖ jor McLaughlin of old, a little ❖  
❖ worn, but the same kindly good ❖  
❖ fellow.

AGNES McLAUGHLIN WAITED  
ONLY DEMISE OF FATHER  
TO BECOME WIFE.

The Chronicle prints the following  
article:

"The tragic shooting of Agnes Mc-  
Laughlin and the suicide of her father,  
Major Frank McLaughlin, at Santa  
Cruz yesterday, was a terrible blow to  
Sam Rucker, ex-Mayor of San Jose  
and president of the Rucker Desk  
Company of this city, who was en-  
gaged to be married to the unfortu-  
nate young woman.

"The devotion of Sam Rucker to the  
beautiful daughter of Major McLaugh-  
lin has been the subject of comment  
by all who knew the couple. Rucker  
was one of the most attentive lovers.  
On every occasion when business per-  
mitted he visited her at the palatial  
McLaughlin home in Santa Cruz, and  
whenever the Major and his daughter  
came up to this city one of the first  
to call upon them was Sam Rucker.

"By a strange coincidence, when John  
Tait, the restaurateur, received a dis-  
patch from Santa Cruz yesterday aft-  
ernoon, notifying him of the suicide of  
Major McLaughlin following the kill-  
ing of his daughter, Sam Rucker was  
eating luncheon at Tait's cafe. Tait  
was one of the Major's most intimate  
friends and was aware of the engage-  
ment of Miss McLaughlin and Rucker.  
He summoned Rucker into his private  
rooms and broke the sad news to him  
as gently as possible. Rucker was  
prostrated.

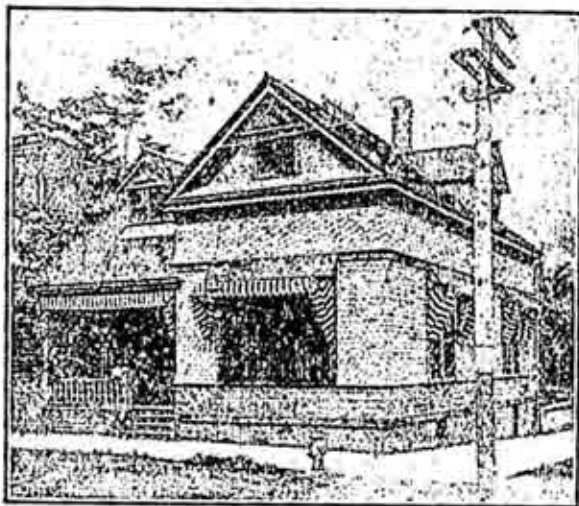
"My God, Agnes dead! I cannot be-  
lieve it!"

"It was some time before he could be  
brought to realize what had happened,  
so stunned was he with the news of  
the tragedy. As soon as he recovered  
from the shock he started for Santa  
Cruz to take charge of the remains.

"George A. Knight, the attorney, who  
was one of the best friends and the  
legal adviser of Major McLaughlin, is  
the authority for the statement that  
Sam Rucker was patiently waiting for  
Agnes McLaughlin to marry him, but  
the young woman, although she had  
plighted her troth to Rucker, felt that  
she was unjustified in leaving her  
father since the death of her mother  
two years ago. Ever since her  
mother's death Miss Agnes acted as  
housekeeper for her father and took  
general charge of his household. She  
was considered an exemplary daughter  
in every respect, and all her life had  
been most devoted to her father's wel-  
fare, his interests and his comfort.

"Her engagement with Rucker dates  
back several years, preceding the  
death of her mother. Rucker's mental  
agony when he received the news of  
the death of his fiancée was pitiful to  
behold."

# MAJOR McLAUGHLIN'S LIFE HERE LIKE CHAPTER FROM FICTION



The McLaughlin Building, built as an office for Major McLaughlin, now the property of the Oroville Realty Company.

Major Frank McLaughlin's career in California was a series of successes and disappointments. As civil engineer, mining engineer and "good fellow" he was known twenty-five years ago; a politician, bon vivant, engineer, jovial companion, affectionate father, he was known yesterday. He had the manners of a clubman, the air of a capitalist, the hospitality of a Southerner, and the story-telling facility of the Irish race from which he descended.

He was not always on top, but he weathered every storm except the last with buoyancy, and reverses did little to alter his course of living or cool his generosity.

He enjoyed his military title of Major as a member of a Governor's staff, and clung to it with pertinacity and quaint sentiment. Once, at the inauguration of a succeeding Governor, Major McLaughlin was given the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. But he refused the altered shoulder straps. "I'm known as Major Frank," he said, "and I won't go after another title."

McLaughlin was born in Newark, N. J., of Irish parents. When a young man he was on the police force of his native place, but did not stay in that position long. He went in for engineering work. Then he became a friend of Thomas A. Edison. The two men have been friends ever since, and when McLaughlin went East he always visited the inventor at Menlo Park, N. J.

While the Union Pacific railway was being built McLaughlin was a civil engineer and came west as the track was being laid. He reached California about 25 years ago, and studied the mining situation. After giving attention to the auriferous deposits in the sands of the Feather River McLaughlin conceived the ambitious scheme of mining the river bottom for gold. He interested British capital in the venture and at the expense of several millions of dollars set about to divert the river from its bed by a system of dams. The work was undertaken near Oroville, and so far as the water work was concerned it was successful. But the mining operations did not "pan." McLaughlin's scheme failed, and the British capitalists lost their investment. This failure put the engineer down for a while, but the depression did not last.

Eighteen years ago he moved to Santa Cruz permanently, building Golden Gate villa, a large house overlooking the town and sea, and it was in this home that he shot his daughter and killed himself. Then McLaughlin took an interest in politics and public affairs. He was a frequent guest of the Palace Hotel in San Francisco, being a familiar figure around the lobby.

He was a prominent figure in politics ten years ago. In the campaign of 1898, which carried the State for McKinley and brought about the election of Henry T. Gage for Governor, McLaughlin was chairman of the Republican State Central Committee and handled the affairs of the Republican party. The State was considered doubtful by some before the votes came in. But in spite of the success of the campaign McLaughlin was not considered eminently successful as the executive and he re-

tired from his position, but retained the friendship of his associates, and his personal popularity retained its force. In clubs and hotels McLaughlin became known as a bon vivant. He could not only enjoy good cooking, but he could accomplish it. It was one of his favorite delights to assemble a crowd of congenial spirits at his Santa Cruz home or in a club, don white apron and a huge cap, and stir up a dish for an epicure.

McLaughlin continued an active interest in the Republican party up to the time of his death, but he never ran for office.

Two years ago McLaughlin's wife died. He was a devoted husband and took the loss much to heart. His last appearance in public affairs in San Francisco was a year ago when he was selected by the United Railroads as its arbitrator in the adjustment of the differences between the street-car company and the Carmen's Union. With him on the committee were Chief Justice Beatty and Father Yorke.

The dispatches from Santa Cruz in the evening papers of Saturday and in yesterday's morning papers telling the news of the murder of Miss Agnes McLaughlin and the sensational suicide of Major Frank McLaughlin following the act, created a profound impression in Oroville, the scene of his most extensive operations. Major McLaughlin was known to practically all the residents of the city who lived here previous to what may be termed the dredging era. He spent in the exploitations of different schemes hundreds of thousands of dollars in this community, and gave employment to thousands of men. His wife and his daughter lived with him for a number of years, and the murdered girl was also known to a large circle of Oroville friends. While regret was expressed upon every side at the rash act of the Major in taking the life of his daughter and then killing himself, the fact of his suicide occasioned no surprise among those who best knew him here.

"Major McLaughlin was a plunger," said one of these friends, "a man who demanded the good things of life not only for himself and his family, but for his friends as well. He could not stand reverses, nor could he bear the thought of poverty. Money was to him the essence of life, not for the mere possession of the money, it is true, but for the goods things of life and the luxuries with which it would enable him to surround himself. He had played out his game. He could no longer secure money from sources which previously had spent money like water at his word. He saw poverty staring him in the face, and rather than poverty, he preferred death. He had nothing to leave his daughter, and knew that she could not continue to live in the style to which he had all his life accustomed her. Rather than that she should be left impoverished, he preferred to take her with him. There you have the story of Frank McLaughlin."

Expected Visit to Oroville.

To another friend, George Matthews,

Major McLaughlin wrote, under date of October 9th, that he expected to be in Oroville this month, and would bring his daughter with him. They were to visit with Mr. Matthews here.

#### Operations in Oroville.

The operations of Major McLaughlin in Oroville read like a chapter from some fabled tale. Neither a practical mining man nor an engineer, he was able to get hundreds of thousands of dollars for the promotion of mining schemes from which one cent was never realized. The failure of his schemes did not, apparently, lessen the confidence that capital placed in his judgment, as all that he had to do was to broach another scheme and capital was forthcoming from the self-same sources.

The Major's operations here were largely during the '80s and the '90s. He came to Oroville first as the repre-

sentative of Mr. Thomas A. Edison, the famous inventor. At that time fully 10,000 Chinamen were in Oroville, and about 7000 of these Chinamen were actively engaged in mining on what is even yet known as the Lava Beds. With the gold found here no little platinum had been found, and the Major was particularly interested in the discovery of some process whereby the platinum could be obtained in commercial quantities. It was for this purpose that Mr. Edison sent him here, but apparently nothing came of the scheme.

#### The Miocene Mine.

While here in the interest of Mr. Edison, Mr. McLaughlin's attention was called to the mining property across the river where the diamond mine is now located. It was considered feasible to hydraulic this property, and he succeeded in interesting New York capital in the venture. The sum of \$250,000 was spent in the construction of the Miocene ditch, now owned by the Oro Water, Light and Power Company, in constructing flumes and preparing to mine the property. The mine ran for two weeks, when it was enjoined by the Anti-Debris Association, it being the first mine in California to be so enjoined. The lawyers for Mr. McLaughlin secured permission to make a clean-up, and two weeks were spent in cleaning up. At the end of the two weeks it was found that \$10,000 in gold had been obtained. The injunction was made permanent, and with the cessation of hydraulic mining the Miocene mine passed out of existence.

#### Thermalito Colony Company.

After the courts had compelled the Miocene mine to cease operations, with Mr. E. W. Fogg and Major Jones, Major McLaughlin conceived the idea of obtaining possession of the ditch as an irrigation ditch and put-

ting the water on Thermalito lands, and colonizing the tract. This was done, but the scheme was attempted just twenty years too soon, and it proved a financial failure.

#### Big Bend Tunnel Company.

The attention of Major McLaughlin was then called to Big Bend, where the Great Western Power Company is now operating. He conceived the idea of tunnelling through the bend, diverting the stream and mining the bed of the river. He interested Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Golden Medical Discovery fame, in this proposition, and Dr. Pierce advanced the money. The tunnel was started, and in order to place stock, Major McLaughlin went to Europe, where he became acquainted with a group of English capitalists.

The operations at Big Bend were continued. It was currently reported that the magazines and papers in which Dr. Pierce was spending thousands of dollars in advertising were taking stock in the Big Bend Company for their advertising. At any rate, Dr. Pierce continued to put up the money, until finally all was ready for the turning of the river. The engineering feat was a success, but gold was not found in sufficient quantities to justify the enormous investment.

#### Golden Gate Mining Company.

The Golden Gate Mining Company was the next project broached by Major McLaughlin, and here his English acquaintanceship stood him in good stead. His plan was to dam the Feather River, carry the water down in an immense flume along the edge of the stream, and mine the bed. The first year the dam went out, and the second year was required in rebuilding the dam, one of such strength that it stood through the winter's flood. The third summer the river bed was laid bare, but it was found that the

boulders were so large and the gold so difficult to get at that the scheme failed financially.

#### The Golden Feather.

While the dam and flumes were being constructed for the Golden Gate Major McLaughlin conceived the idea of mining an additional strip of the river bed below the foot-dam of the Golden Gate. English capital again came forward. This time it was proposed to divert the stream by means of a dam and a solid wall of masonry, which latter would confine the river between the right bank and the wall, allowing the original bed of the stream to be mined. This wall was built, and to-day stands and will stand for all time, as it has resisted the worst flood that the river has ever known without any portion of it being swept away. The Golden Feather failed for the same reason that the Golden Gate failed, as the gold was lodged in the crevices between huge boulders and it was impossible to get at it.

#### The Rancho Golden Grove.

About this time Major McLaughlin set out the Rancho Golden Grove, for a long time known as the McLaughlin grove. This is situated across the river in Thermalito, and is now the property of Mr. W. P. Hammon. It was heavily mortgaged, and as Major McLaughlin was unable to meet his payments, he was finally forced to surrender the property.

#### Banner Mine.

Despite the fact that the English capitalists had spent between \$400,000 and \$500,000 on the Golden Gate and the Golden Feather without receiving even one cent in return, Major McLaughlin interested them in the exploitation of the Banner mine, a quartz proposition. Nothing was taken from this mine.

#### Magalia Ridge.

From the Banner mine Major McLaughlin changed the scene of his operations to the Magalia Ridge, the English syndicate still continuing to put up. The Perschbacher mine was then owned by Mr. N. D. Rideout, and was flooded. McLaughlin proposed that the mine should be freed of water, and if further work revealed that it was a paying proposition, he agreed to furnish capital for its purchase. The mine was drained of its water, and in the first 38 feet in which work was continued \$21,000 was taken out. For some reason or other Major McLaughlin turned down the purchase of the mine, and proposed to his backers that they should buy adjacent property, known as the Mineral Slide. This was done, but the Mineral Slide again proved a total failure.

This was the beginning of the end as far as Major McLaughlin's Oroville operations were concerned. Oft repeated failure aroused suspicion in the mind of the syndicate of English capitalists who had backed him, and they sent an agent, named Evans, out here to investigate. After Evans had been here for some time Major McLaughlin became cognizant of his mission, and he quarreled with his English backers and could no longer get their backing. He attempted to promote other propositions, and at one time attempted to finance the Forbestown mine. He had gone his limit, however, and no longer was able to obtain money as easily as he had obtained it in his more palmy days.

#### Great Western Power Company.

When the attention of the present owners of the Great Western Power Company was called to the Big Bend proposition as a possible power producer, it is stated that Major McLaughlin's aid was obtained in getting property rights from Dr. Pierce. Option upon the property was first offered at \$100,000. McLaughlin failed

to take the option. The next time it was offered at \$200,000, and again McLaughlin failed to take the option. Finally when the Great Western Power Company, then the Western Power Company, desired to secure the property, it is stated that they were forced to pay \$500,000 for it. It is also stated that Major McLaughlin was given a share in the company for the part he had played in negotiating for its purchase, but that, owing to financial difficulties, he was unable to meet his assessments and was forced to surrender his stock.

# DIAMOND FIELDS MAY BE KNOWN WORLD OVER

---

A BEAUTIFUL GEM FROM CHEROKEE RECENTLY CUT.

---

Mr. H. Jacoby, the prominent jeweler of this city, has had among many diamonds from Cherokee one recently cut that surpasses in beauty most of the best diamonds on the market from any part of the world. It is a sparkling gem that may be classed among diamonds as "fancy."

The consensus of opinion is that before the world is one year older the Cherokee and Oroville diamond fields will be known to the world as producers of the gem of gems in commercial quantities. The conditions are favorable and development alone is needed to make the diamond fields of Butte County famous.

# Chico Record

12-7-1907

## **FLEA VALLEY MAN THREATENED TO KILL.**

---

D. R. Johnson came to Oroville today for a warrant for the arrest of E. H. Clark of Flea Valley. Johnson says he went to the place where Clark lives for apples. Clark came out of the door with an ax and threatened to kill him and abused him. Clark is past 70 years of age, and Johnson is a young man. So the latter went away. He thinks Clark is crazy.

# Oroville Daily Register

12-7-1907

## **SMALL-POX BREAKS OUT IN A PENTZ HOME**

**Son of Mr. John Baker Afflicted by the  
Disease.**

Health Officer Caldwell has been called to Pentz to take charge of a case of small-pox that has broken out there, in the family of Mr. John Baker, of that place. The patient is a son, Gene Baker, and the disease gives every evidence of being of a virulent character. As a number of the residents of that section have been exposed to the disease some apprehension is felt lest there should be an epidemic there.



Dec 9, 1907  
**Oroville Daily Register**

OROVILLE, CALIFORNIA MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 9, 1907

## GREAT WESTERN POWER DEAL DROVE McLAUGHLIN TO SUICIDE

SANTA CRUZ, December 8.—C. E. Lilly applied yesterday for letters of administration on the estate of Major Frank McLaughlin. President W. T. Jeter of the County Bank, who was named in the will as executor, requested that Lilly should act.

The property left by Major McLaughlin includes a half interest in the Golden Gate villa, valued at \$25,000, and personal effects worth \$2500. The legatees are: Mrs. Louis R. McNeil, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Jeter, M. C. Hopkins, Fred McEachen, Eugene Johnson, J. Lenkun, Lena Coleman of Santa Cruz, the last four being servants, and Mrs. J. A. Terhune and Helen Terhune, of Newark, N. J.

The will is one of the most remark-

able documents ever filed in the California courts, the testament being a defense for his crime. The will says:

"Hon. W. T. Jeter, Santa Cruz, Cal.. My dear, kind, patient, generous friend, May God bless you and yours for your constant kindness to me. This is an ungrateful return for all your friendship, but I cannot help it. I have lived in such a sea of trouble so long that at last I see madness ahead of me if I don't leave this weary world of trouble. To leave my darling child, helpless and penniless, would be unnatural, and so I take her with me to our loved one. She is the very last one who could face this world alone.

(Continued on Page Three.)

(Continued from Page One.)

Her's would be one long longing for our dear one and myself. I have shielded her, as I did my dearest wife, from all knowledge of my poverty, my losses, my shifts, and I have laughed at an idea of poverty and distress. You are the only one who knows my true condition. Only God himself knows how I have kept up and smiled to the world."

Then follows the disposition of his personal effects to servants and friends and property to his sister-in-law, Mrs. Terhune.

"I have absolutely nothing to look forward to since E. T. Earl bought out my G. W. Power stock last May," the will states. "If Cananea under the management of George F. Hatton et al. is successful, I know my dear friend, M. M. Ogorman, 212 Henney Building, Los Angeles, will look out for my interests. If Judge Logan is successful

with Pitt River, through my friend DeSabra, I know he will do right. My dear friend, M. J. Green, U. S. Post-office Building, San Francisco, will tell you how I was wronged in the G. W. Power Company matter by Earl."

Then follows a list of indebtedness incurred by the Major in San Francisco: Majestic, \$130; Goldberg, \$110; Weniger, \$25; Hammersmith, \$16, Bullock and Jones, \$12.

"If you can save anything out of the wreck, after the bank is paid, please see that Judge Henshaw and my friends are repaid for burying us East. Nearly all my jewelry is pawned or sold. I tell you this to save others from suspicion.—Frank McLaughlin."

# BIG WAGON, TEAM AND DRIVER WENT OVER EMBANKMENT

Chico Record  
12-10-1907

News reached Oroville of a runaway accident near Big Bar in which William Haskell of Stirling City had a leg broken and the four mules he was driving went over an embankment. Luckily only one of the mules was injured, and the loss will consist largely of damage done the wagon, says the Oroville Register.

The accident was caused by the wagon striking a deep rut. Haskell was thrown from his seat in front of the wheels, and the heavily loaded wagon passed over his leg, breaking and crushing the member. The team started to run, and the wagon slipped over an embankment, pulling the mules after it. One of the team was injured, but the others escaped unhurt.

A peculiar accident happened to the six-horse team of B. F. Robinson, near Island Bar, on Friday afternoon. The team started to run away, and plunged over a precipice nearly fifty feet in height. The strange part of the affair is that only two of the horses were killed, the rest escaping as if by a miracle. It was necessary to build a plank staging to rescue the horses from their plight.

Added peril was given to the fall by the fact that the horses went over the road at a point almost directly above a deep pool of water in the river. They fell on a little bench of rock on the edge of this pool. Had it not been for this bench, those horses which escaped death from the fall would have been drowned.

The teamster escaped without injury. The team was hauling freight to the Great Western Power Company.

# Oroville Daily Register

12-20-1907

## ANOTHER CASE OF SMALLPOX.

---

Another case of smallpox has been discovered. This time it is a Mrs. Streeter, daughter of Mr. John Baker, of Pentz. She was found in Oroville, and was told that she could either go home or to the pest-house. She preferred to go home, objection not being made, as the home is quarantined on account of the fact that Gene Baker, a brother of Mrs. Streeter, has the disease.

# Chico Record

12-24-1907

## BELLE OF INDIAN VILLAGE MARRIED

Miss Maggie S. Lafonso of the Rancho Chico Indian village, and Joseph Charles Mitchell of the Indian tribe at Grand Island, Colusa county, were united in marriage with Christian ceremonies at the Rancheria Saturday night by Rev. W. G. White of the Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Mitchell is the daughter of the late Chief Lafonso, the last leader of the Rancho Chico Mechoopda Indians, and has been a leader in the social and religious life of the village. She attended the Normal Training School for a period and later the Chico Business College. She is also a member of the Presbyterian Church of this city, and during the absence of Mrs. Bidwell takes charge of the religious service at the Indian village. She is Americanized in dress and manner.

Mr. Mitchell for several years past has come from Colusa county to Chico to work on the Bidwell rancho, and during his presence here he met his bride.

The wedding was devoid of the Indian ceremonies, the Christian service prevailing. Mrs. Annie K. Bidwell was present at the ceremony.

# Chico Record

12-24-1907

## W. H. BISSELL IN A RUNAWAY ACCIDENT.

OROVILLE, December 23.—W. H. Bissell, assistant superintendent of the Great Western Power Company, and J. H. Le Pla, forwarding agent of the same company, had a narrow escape from death last night.

The men were returning from Oroville to Big Bend, and were at Thompson's Flat, a mile out of town, when they met a big team just as they were going upon a small bridge.

The horses driven by the two men became frightened and threw the buggy off the bridge. The occupants were saved from death or serious injury by reason of the fact that the bottom of the creek they were crossing was soft mud. The bridge is fifteen feet high.

---

**WESTERN POWER COMPANY  
BUYS SUBSTATION SITE**

---

**Entire Block to Be Covered by  
Plant for the Distribution  
of Electricity**

OAKLAND, Dec. 24.—An entire block in East Oakland, at White and Prospect streets, has been purchased for a substation by the Western power company, according to deeds filed for record today. Wilson C. Carter bought the property at first hand from G. Vanderpeereboom, Catherine Mine and Arthur W. Finn, afterward transferring it to the company. The price was not given.

The site will be used for the erection of a substation at the end of the great high tension line to be run from the Big Bend water plant on the Feather river. The high voltage currents brought over the cables will be reduced in voltage at this substation in order to make them available for commercial purposes. The plant will be part of the general plan for the transmission of electric power from the mountain valleys to the bay cities. Work on the substation will be commenced soon and plans for the structure and equipment are well under way. A main steam plant auxiliary of 30,000 horsepower is to be erected at Sessions basin, at the foot of Sixth avenue.

---