

# Oroville Mercury

1-7-1919

## HOW THEY DO IT UP IN CONCOW

The Butte County Board of Supervisors is down on petition and petition signers. In fact, one of the members at the first meeting of the year yesterday was so disgusted that he declared his belief that if a petition were circulated in his district to hang a man, he believed it would be liberally signed.

The trouble came when "Dixie" Johnson, Indian scout, and B. F. Clark, both of Concow township, filed petitions asking for the appointment of constable for the township to succeed William Peachy, named as undersheriff for J. B. Webber. Peachy had resigned as constable.

When the board examined the petitions it found that each had twenty-four signers, but that fifteen people had signed both petitions in their zeal to further the ambitions of the respective candidates for constable.

The board was incensed and laid the matter on the table until some suitable way can be found to impress upon the people of Concow that they can't pull such stuff on the Butte County Board of Supervisors.

## **PLAN BUTTE HISTORY**

**Oroville Women Consider Organization of Historical Society; Would Mark Historical Spots**

**OROVILLE (Butte Co.), January 16.**

A movement to organize a Butte County Historical Society has been inaugurated by Miss Essae Culver, Miss Maude Middleton of the County Free Library and Miss Caroline Sexton.

The plan of the society is to assemble data and original material as far as possible which relate to the early history of Butte County, and to preserve them for the use of future historians.

### **May Place Markers.**

It is also planned through the society to promote an interest in marking with tablets and otherwise historic spots in the county, and to promote a more general interest in and knowledge of the history of the county.

Sacramento Bee  
1-17-1919

## **GIVE PAPERS TO STATE**

**Early Newspapers of Butte County  
Are to Be Turned Over to  
State Library.**

**OROVILLE (Butte Co.), January 17.** At the request of the State Library, the Board of Supervisors has voted to turn over to the custody of that institution early newspaper files now in its possession. These files contain the only contemporaneous history of early life in Butte County. They begin with the publication of the Butte Record, now the Chico Record, in Bidwell Bar in 1853.

Miss Caroline Sexton has the first volume of this publication, and as far as is known this volume is the only one in existence.

Oroville Mercury

1-25-1919

**Not Neglected;  
8-Yr-Old Boy  
Shows Court**

Lee Hunter, 8 years old, appeared before Superior Judge H. D. Gregory today for investigation into a charge made by Probation Officer Edward Gibson that the boy was a dependent child.

After hearing the boy testify, Judge Gregory dismissed the case.

The boy whose real name is Durett apparently convinced the court by his appearance that he was not being neglected.

The little fellow proudly told the judge that he had plenty to eat and good clothes to wear.

His father, Charles Durett, testified that the boy was being well taken care of and that the charge of neglect was without foundation. Other witnesses were Mrs. Sweetman and Mrs. Smith.

Oroville Daily Register  
7-2-1919

IS DISCHARGED FROM  
UNITED STATES NAVY

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Frank Kroeplin, well known Oroville boy, arrived in this city the first of this week with an honorable discharge from the United States Navy. Kroeplin crossed the Atlantic seventeen times and served on six different transports.

He entered the navy shortly after the United States entered the war.

He has accepted a position with the Swayne Lumber Company.

# THUNEN SAYS AUTO IS CHEAPEST MEANS OF TRAVELING TODAY

C. G. Thunen, of Thunen's Cyclery, local representatives of the Chevrolet and Oakland cars, returned early this week from Oakland after making the trip both ways by automobile. "The automobile is the cheapest method of travel today," said Thunen this morning. "My expense on the round trip, with four in the Chevrolet going down and five coming back as far as Vallejo, was only \$5 for oil, gasoline and the cost of ferrying across the bay. And the wear and tear expense can be counted as light on a trip where the majority of the miles covered are represented by state highway."



# Oroville Daily Register

## 7-3-1919

### Spend the Week-End at Cedar Glen

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Escape the heat on July 4th by coming up and spending the week-end at Cedar Glen Resort in the Feather River Canyon. The fisherman's paradise—unexcelled climate—beautiful scenery. Enjoy a good home-cooked meal—sleep in a tent or open room—catch a mess of trout (fishing at its best now)—dance, if you like, and have a real time at moderate cost. Form a party among your friends and come.

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MRS. W. H. DAY  
Tobin, Calif.

48 miles from Oroville on the  
Western Pacific Railroad

7-18-1919

## CAR SMASHED ON CHEROKEE ROAD; NO INJURIES

That death was averted last night was due entirely to the presence of mind of George Aldrich, taxi man, of this city. Aldrich was bringing a party to Oroville from Cherokee when near the Leeson place on Table Mountain his brake rod broke and his brakes refused to hold as he was rounding a curve. The machine was proceeding at a slow rate of speed but at the refusal of the brakes to hold it plunged over the grade. Aldrich promptly steered the car against a tree, which is probably all that saved the lives of the four occupants. As it was they were all precipitated into the front of the machine. No one was injured.

A passing car was hailed and the party brought to Oroville. Later James Wyckoff proceeded to the scene of the accident with his truck and an attempt was made to pull the car out of its perilous position.

However, at each effort the rope broke and the car was precipitated into its old position, inflicting more damage each time, so the attempt was given up. Aldrich will make another trial this morning when he will have better facilities.

Just how badly the car was damaged it was impossible to judge in the darkness, but it was the opinion of Aldrich that it was not injured so much the first time as in the attempts to remove it. It was left standing almost perpendicular. The machine was a new one, just purchased.



# BETTER WATER FOR OROVILLE IS ASSURED

Plan Irrigation Of 20,000 Acres North Of Feather River

## CONCOW DAM TO BE BUILT IF LAND ASKS IT

That if an irrigation district is organized in the Thermalito and Table Mountain sections, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company will guarantee to furnish water sufficient for at least 20,000 acres, was the statement made last evening by President John A. Britton of the Pacific Gas & Electric Company to the Chamber of Commerce.

For some time William Boucher, manager of the Chamber of Commerce, has been quietly corresponding with the officials of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company relative to ways and means of increasing the irrigated area north of the Feather river. It was as a result of this correspondence that Mr. Britton came to Oroville yesterday to confer personally with Mr. Boucher in the matter.

Mr. Britton stated that the rehabilitation of the Thermalito distribution system, of the construction of the Concow impounding dam, and a more careful use of water would enable 20,000 acres to be irrigated in Thermalito and Table Mountain.

In response to a question by Mr. Boucher as to whether he would prefer to have an irrigation district formed and to wholesale the water to that district, or would prefer to have the land signed and the company to distribute the water, Mr. Britton stated that the company would prefer the organization of an irrigation district and to wholesale the water to the district.

"As far as the price is concerned," said Mr. Britton, "we will abide by the decision of the State Railroad Commission."

Of particular interest, however, was the statement that the company would expect no interest upon its investment in the system except from the point that it left the power plant to the intake of the irrigation district system. The interest and upkeep of the system from the power plant up, Mr. Britton stated, would be charged against the power department.

# BETTER WATER FOR OROVILLE IS ASSURED

## Plan Irrigation Of 20,000 Acres North Of Feather River

The company, Mr. Britton further stated, has ample funds to proceed with the work. He stated, however, that the construction of the Concow dam would not be undertaken unless an outlet was found to use the water there impounded for irrigation purposes.

Full data as to the impounding capacity of the Concow reservoir and other engineering facts concerning the proposal will be forwarded to the Chamber of Commerce by the engineering department of the Company.

According to Mr. Boucher active steps will be taken at once to interest landowners in the project with the end in view of organizing an irrigation district north of the Feather river.

7-26-1919

# MOVE G. W. P. CAMPS FROM BELDEN

It was learned in Oroville yesterday that Stone and Webster, contractors for the Great Western Power Company, are moving their camps from Belden to the Caribou Junction, as the result of a complaint made by the Pacific Gas & Electric Company. It seems that the Great Western Power Company had permitted Stone and Webster to establish camps on the property of the P. G. & E., without first receiving permission.

# Oroville Daily Register

8-6-1919

## PIONEER NEWSPAPER

## DAYS IN BUTTE COUNTY

As proof that newspapers, unlike other commodities of the present time, have gone down in price instead of doubling and quadrupling in price, in January, 1879, Biggs Station had a weekly newspaper, the Butte County Register, the same size of the present Biggs Blade, published and edited by William Sharkey, issued on Fridays, and the subscription price was \$4.00 per year.

There were four other weekly newspapers in Butte county, one in Oroville, the Mercury, published on Fridays, a little smaller in size, subscription price, \$4; two papers in Chico, the Butte Record, published Saturdays, a little larger in size but the same number pages, subscription price, \$3 per year; the Enterprise, published on Fridays, same size as the Record, subscription price, \$5 per year.

This information comes from a directory of American newspapers, published by Geo. P. Rowell & Co., of New York, and was the property of Col. Frank F. Carnduff until he recently sold his books to Judge T. A. Kirk, who in turn presented this to the Biggs Blade.

The present price of the four papers now Oroville Daily Register, \$5 per year mentioned, all of which are

still being published and all of which are now eight page dailies, instead of four page weeklies, are: Register, year (old price, \$4 for weekly); Mercury, now Daily Mercury, \$5 per year (old price, weekly, 04); Chico Record, now \$5 (old weekly price, \$3); and the Chico Daily Enterprise subscription price for the eight page daily is \$4 per year, while it charged \$5 for the old four-paged weekly, or \$1 less for twice as much paper, six times per week.

This book was issued just 40 years ago, but even at that time Colonel Carnduff, with war days just a few years behind, was editing and publishing the "Wheatland Recorder," which later became the Biggs Recorder, and that is why he had this book.

It might be noted that there was no paper in Gridley and that the Biggs paper was but two years old, having been established in 1877.

# Oroville Daily Register

8-8-1919

## EARLY DAYS IN BUTTE

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## BECKWOURTH, SCOUT

According to his neighbors, the reputation of Jim Beckwourth, for whom Beckwith Pass is named, for veracity was far below par. Beckwourth lived for some time at Forbestown and in Oregon City. The late Henry Vail, who knew him, relates that at one time a computation was made of the number of horses he declared he had stolen at various times, and it was found that he claimed to have stolen more horses than there were in the United States. It appears that Beckwourth was born in 1789, in Virginia, and was either a mulatto or a quadroon. The family moved to Missouri, and he began life upon the plains as a trapper. For years he lived among the Crow Indians, and he claims to have been their chief head and ruler. He came to California in 1844 and remained

until the war with Mexico. He says he stole eighteen hundred horses in this war, and got out of the country, leaving the fighting to be done by others. In 1849 he again returned to California.

The Beckwith Route followed approximately the route of the present Oroville-Quincy wagon road, with the exception that of necessity it followed the ridge. The steepness of the pitches often necessitated the emigrants' letting their wagons down the mountain-side with ropes, and the scarred trees can still be seen where this took place. In other places the oxen would be yoked to the rear of the wagon, and in this manner the steep declivity would be accomplished.

Note: Research indicates he was born in 1798.



# Oroville Daily Register

8-8-1919

## THREE SCHOOL DISTRICTS' IN COUNTY ELAPSE

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The Bald Rock school district was annexed to Berry Creek yesterday. The Bald Rock district had an insufficient number of pupils in attendance to permit them retaining a school. Cottonwood, Emeryville and Reservoir districts were also elapsed for the same reason.



8-12-1919

## **MANY TOURISTS REGISTER AT BELDEN**

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According to Charley Belden, proprietor of the Belden summer resort on the Western Pacific Railroad, who was in Oroville yesterday, more tourists are registered at his resort this year than have been for a number of years. The visitors are representative of Southern California, the Western States and Middle West.

Belden also reported fishing in that district to be better than during former seasons.

8-12-1919

# Concow Reservoir Approved

That the Concow Valley offers an ideal location for a reservoir, is the statement of William Boucher, manager of the United Chamber of Commerce, who made an inspection of the valley on Sunday. The inspection followed the receipt of a formal report upon the site compiled by engineers of the Pacific Gas & Electric Company.

Mr. Boucher states that there is no question but that the construction of a dam at the outlet of the valley together with the present supply of water would afford sufficient water to irrigate 20,000 acres. The development cost, he also states, would be relatively low.

The matter of the organization of an irrigation district is now being discussed, and a number of landowners have indicated that they are favorable to the organization of such

a district. Mr. Boucher plans to call a meeting of landowners in the near future to further discuss the matter.

At a recent conference held between Mr. Boucher and General Manager John A. Britton of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Mr. Britton stated that the Company would construct the dam if a sufficient acreage could be assured to use the water thus impounded. He also stated that the company would prefer that the matter be handled through an irrigation district.

Before turning the water over to the district, it would be used for the generation of electric power. Mr. Britton stated that the district would be chargeable only with the investment in the system after the water left the power plant.

# 4 MORE POWER PLANTS PLANNED

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## G. W. P. Tells Plans For Feather

The most interesting feature of the annual report of the Great Western Power Company, which has just been issued, is a map showing the plants that the company proposes to erect upon the Feather river. In addition to the Las Plumas plant and the Caribou plant, which is in process of construction, the map shows four other plants that are to be erected. These plants are located at Oroville, above the intake of the present Las Plumas system, at a point on the river between Big Bar and Belden, and at a point adjacent to Belden.

### New Tower Line.

The report states that the huge 165,000 volt steel tower line is now under construction.

The first section extending to the Big Bend plant, should be in operation in the late spring of 1920. The plan is to utilize this line in also carrying the surplus output of Big Bend plant. The present line, which has been in operation since 1909, was designed to carry 40,000 kilowatts and is now greatly overtaxed, as the capacity of the Big Bend plant has been increased to 65,000 Kilowatts. The new line can, therefore, be most advantageously used in relieving the present overloaded conditions.

### The Caribou Plant.

Concerning the Caribou plant, the report says:

"Work on the Caribou plant is now under way, Stone and Webster having been retained to design and superintend its erection. From present indications it appears possible that the first two units of 40,000 Kilowatts

may be in operation by the end of 1920.

"When this new plant is completed the Company will have a generating capacity of 105,000 Kilowatts of hydro-electric power, which together with the present 34,500 Kilowatts from steam plants will give a total capacity of 139,500 Kilowatts.

"The principal profit is derived from the sale of hydro-electric power, and the new development will increase the output of this power over 50 per cent. All of this additional power can be sold within a reasonable time after the plant is installed and every effort, therefore, will be made to hurry its completion."

### Western Canal Earnings.

Interesting figures relative to the Western Canal Company are contained in a report of the Great Western Power Company, which has just been issued. The report says:

"The Western Canal system has also reflected the general prosperity of the district. These properties, which serve as a selling agency for the waters of the Feather River for irrigation after they have passed through the plants, have cost to date about \$600,000. According to the articles of incorporation of this subsidiary, each acre of land to be irrigated must represent the ownership of one share of the Canal Company. The Great Western Power Company acquired 195,000 shares for the building of the properties. As of February, 1919, 19,241 shares had been sold at a total of \$398,845. Earnings from this subsidiary for 1918 were satisfactory and should steadily increase."

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Daily Register  
8-13-1919

# Oroville Daily Register

## Aug 14, 1919

### SOCIETY EVENTS

**Social Dance To Be  
Given at Pulga.**

The residents of Pulga are planning another of those enjoyable social dance events, which have made Kingvale Resort a popular center for canyon visitors this summer.

The event is scheduled for Saturday night, August 30th.

Invitations in the form of quarter-sheet posters, have been sent broadcast to all points in the Feather River Canyon section, and a large attendance is assured.

The posters announce that the dance will be staged on the big open-air platform and that there will be good music and a big time for all.

A fine supper will be served in the dining room at Kingvale Resort at midnight.

All aboard for Pulga! Remember the date—Saturday, August 30th.

# POWER COMPANY DAM AND STATION ARE BOOMING BELDEN

Daily Mercury  
8-23-1919

BELDEN, Aug. 23.—This is a regular place now, since Stone and Webster, Great Western Power Company contractors, have started operations. The force at the Western Pacific station has been increased by the addition of three operators and an assistant agent, and the business of the station is averaging \$500 a day. O. S. Aldrich, formerly agent at Keddie, is at present acting as agent in place of Mr. Mosher, away on vacation. Upon his return Mr. Aldrich will act as assistant agent.

Stone and Webster have a large force of men at work grading and laying steel for the railroad that is to connect Belden with the new power station and dam some twenty miles west of here and all supplies for this work are coming through Belden and a receiving station two miles east of here.

From these points everything is transported inland to the various camps by teams, which are constantly going and coming. It is estimated that three years or more will be required to complete the great task. Prospects are that Belden will, in that length of time, become quite an important point on the Western Pacific railroad and a good sized trading center in Plumas county.

# FIRE IS RAGING IN CHEROKEE DISTRICT

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Fire Warden Arthur W. Ford received a hurry call for aid from Fire Warden Harry Burket, stationed at Paradise this afternoon and at once departed for the scene.

No information was given out as to the extent of the fire except that it was a serious one and assistance was needed to fight it.



# EARLY DAYS IN BUTTE

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## FLUMING THE FEATHER


Nowhere in the State were fluming operations carried on during the early days upon as great a scale as on the Feather River above Oroville. The North Californian, a newspaper published in Oroville, in its issue of September 5, 1856, gives a contemporaneous description of these mammoth operations, as follows

"Yesterday we took a look at the fluming operations on the main Feather. The Junction and Montezuma Claim flume surpasses in magnitude any work of the kind heretofore attempted in this county or in the State. In the instance before us, a river almost large enough for steamboat navigation is carried through a flume twenty, thirty or forty feet above its accustomed bed for nearly two-thirds of a mile. To do this, a head dam three hundred feet long and twenty feet high, watertight, and a flume thirty-five feet wide and six feet high, nearly watertight, supported upon heavy timbers and of the most substantial construction, had to be built. After all this is accomplished the claim is covered by a body of water almost equal to a small lake, which has to be pumped dry before mining can be commenced. If the pump should be badly con-

structed, if the flume should break, or if there should be found any considerable leak, which should prevent the draining of the claim, the vast expenditure which has already been made would be almost a total loss. When we consider that this outlay has all to be made to obtain one or two months' work in the bed of the river, some idea may be formed of the courage and nerve possessed by our river miners."

Another and earlier comment upon the magnitude of the construction involved in fluming operations upon the Feather River, and a comparison with earlier operations, are contained in a description of a dam constructed by the Junction Fluming Company. This description appears in the North Californian of August 15, 1856. To quote:

"The dam at the head of the Junction Claim is three hundred feet long and about twenty-two feet high, built of strong cribs, filled with rocks, and planked on the upper side. It is so constructed that the water in a very short time can be turned from the flume into its old channel and back again without injuring the work. This is an improvement in dam building introduced last year. Those who worked in the rivers in 1850 and 1851



would be somewhat astonished to behold the vast improvement which has been made in all departments of this important branch of mining. The miners in those doys, after several attempts, declared it impossible to grade and drain a claim in the main Feather in one season. At White Rock, where several companies have been at work since 1849 the river has never been fairly drained. At the Old Sailor Claim after wing-damming two or three years, \$25000 was paid in 1852 for building a flume, which was carried away by the water before it was completed. In 1853 another attempt was made; and after a series of accidents that would have discouraged any other company, the claim was completely drained on the first day of November, and in twelve days about \$200,000 was taken out, when the water rose and washed away the flume.

"The Rock Island claim was flumed in 1854 at an expense of \$45,000; but just as they were getting ready to work, about the middle of September, the flume broke and a few days' work in a cofferdam was all that was done in that year. The next season the claim was drained about the middle of September, and worked out before the rains came. This year the company is about a month in advance of previous operations."

The years 1856 and 1857 appeared to be the banner years in flume operations. In September, 1856, the following comment appeared in the Butte Record:

Butte Record  
9-18-1919  
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"The success of the river claims this season is unparalleled in the history of gold mining. From one end of the river to the other, we hear of the richest strikes that we have known of in this or any other section. Not one claim is there on the river, whether it be flume, coffer-dam or wing-dam, but what reports good success. The countenances of our miners are most pleasant to look at. They are as full of laughs as their blasted skins can hold."

In another issue of the same paper relative to mining activities at Ororelatice to mining activities at Oroville in July of the summer of 1856:

"The river bank is lined with busy miners from the sawmill nearly two miles down the stream. Fluming, wingdamming, and Chinamen working with rockers all are to be seen. The bank and bar in front of the town has been worked several times, and is reported to be still paying."

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## BIG FIRES RAIN EMBERS UPON TOWN OF OROVILLE

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Oroville.—Cinders were falling in the streets of Oroville Monday while 10,000 acres of timberland were burning in the foothills.

Four disastrous forest fires are spreading rapidly under the urge of a strong northwest wind.

Six thousand acres are in flames in the Big Bend district. The fire jumped the river at Enterprise and is threatening the big Sweetman place.

Fire five miles east of Las Plumas has burned several thousand acres of grazing land.

The Zink place has been consumed. Phone messages from the intake of the Great Western Power plant state that point is threatened.

Bloomer Hill is endangered. The fire is still raging at Rogers' Place. Grain fields have gone, and they are calling for help, as is Bidwell.

Fire Warden A. W. Ford reports dangerous fires at Browns Valley. The Colgate Gas and Electric plant is out of commission.

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11-10-1919

# Oroville Daily Register

BUTTE COUNTY'S HOME NEWSPAPER

OROVILLE, BUTTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1919.

## BIBLICAL NAME GIVEN TO BUTTE POSTOFFICE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9.—Isaiah is the name of a new postoffice established in Butte County, with Mrs. Gena Roberts as postmistress. Mrs. Roberts' present address is Las Plumas.

## PERSONAL

CHARLES HELLMAN, formerly of this city and a well known dredger man of this vicinity, is now a successful operator in Manchuria, China. He is in a district that is thickly infested with bandits and several times has narrowly escaped being captured and held for ransom. During his working and sleeping hours Hellman is guarded by twenty-six soldiers, whose principal work is to see that he carries on his mining operations unmolested.



**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF COUNTY  
BOND ELECTION**

**BIG BAR PRECINCT**

Location of Polling Place:  
King's Store.

Board of Election.

Inspector, Geo. Henry Phelps.  
Judges, David E. Gramps and  
Harry E. Gramps.  
Clerk, Mrs. Mary J. King.

**OREGON CITY PRECINCT**

Location of Polling Place:  
School House.

Board of Election:

Inspector, Mrs. Mary A. Johnson.  
Judges, Mrs. Hattie Jones, Claude  
Campbell.  
Clerk, Mrs. Retta Morgan.

**CHEROKEE PRECINCT**

Location of Polling Place:  
School House.

Board of Election:

Inspector, Joseph Miller, Jr.  
Judges, Jos. H. Davis, James G.  
Nisbet.  
Clerk, T. M. James.

**PENTZ PRECINCT**

Location of Polling Place:  
Good Templars' Hall.

Board of Election:

Inspector, Mrs. Florence Merrifield.  
Judges, Miss Bertha Graves, Mrs.

**CONCOW PRECINCT**

Location of Polling Place:  
Reservoir School House.

Board of Election.

Inspector, Claude B. Wright.  
Judges, Oliver J. Burress and Mrs.  
Mary S. Taylor.  
Clerk, Edgar L. Denny.

**STANWOOD PRECINCT**

Location of Polling Place:  
School House.

Board of Election.

Inspector, George Gable.  
Judges, John C. Martin and Frank  
J. Murphy.  
Clerk, Leonard A. Hemsath.

**LAS PLUMAS PRECINCT**

Location of Polling Place:  
Great Western Power Company  
Warehouse.

Board of Election.

Inspector, Robert L. Bohannon.  
Judges, Edward H. Pinkston and  
Albert F. Menzel.  
Clerk, A. W. Smith.

**YANKEE HILL PRECINCT**

Location of Polling Place:  
Mrs. Wells' Store.

Board of Election.

Inspector, John Wells.  
Judges, Clarence B. Edmunds and  
Oliver C. Josephson.  
Clerk, William H. Cox.



Oroville Daily Register  
12-15-1919

# HUNTOON STREET BUILDING IS SOLD

Announcement has been made of the sale of the two-story brick building on the east side of Huntoon street, just south of Montgomery street, to Ole Hesbol. The sale was made by J. M. McGee, the former owner.

Mr. Hesbol has a force of men now at work on the property. The lower story will be made into a modern store, and it is understood that Mr. Hesbol will enter business there himself. The upper story will be converted into a flat.

# Interesting Letter From Chas. Helman In China

The following letter from Charles Helman has been received by friends. Mr. Helman is now in China and will be joined this spring by Mrs. Helman and Miss Jessie Helman. Mr. Helman's many friends will be pleased to read of his experiences as told by himself:

Peking, Nov. 5, 1919.

Dear Friends:

We left Chang Chun and went to Mukden where we took rooms at the Yamato hotel and had a good night's rest. The South Manchurian railroad is a Japanese operated line with their hotels that I have previously described. Next morning we took the Chinese government railroad for Peking, traveling all day, and all night, arriving at Peking at 10 a. m. the following day. The Chinese railroad is much different from South Manchurian railroad. The latter is like our American system, sleeping cars, no diner, while the Chinese has diner and sleepers arranged with a passage way along the sides of the car and rooms opening from this passage way with sliding doors, containing two births, washstands and running water. Everything is very clean and neat. The bedding is not carried along but is put off at stations to be cleaned and aired ready for the next trip and is taken on just before bedtime.

The farther south we go the more densely populated the country becomes.

When Teinsin is reached I see evidence of a real live stirring city.

When Peking is reached I see something very different in the way of a city than what I had expected. Not a street car line in the place, but rickshaws by the millions, autos and carriages.

Kwong Wu has engaged rooms for me at the Oriental hotel. On entering and going through the halls and lobby I might imagine that I were in a large conservatory—no end to the plants in full bloom, just as thick as they can stand—small lemon trees with ripe lemons. Looking high and low blooming plants everywhere. An army of boys to wait upon me. The hotel is owned and run by Chinese, but the service, style, is English or American. All the boys speak English more or less. The dining is American plan, you are supposed to go through the whole menu. The cooking is "bully!" Fine coups, fish is the best ever and different each meal, seven or eight different kinds of game, and puddings—"out of sight!" In my room a fine tea service and promptly at 4:30 the boy appears with tea and French pastry. On the roof is a garden and arrangement for moving picture entertainment for the guests. When the dining room is full at the dinner hour

# Oroville Daily Mercury

12-24-1919

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I notice that all are using knife and fork and the ladies and girls are dressed very plainly, and with their hair not done in the usual pigeon-wing effect with many decorations, but in a plain style and all so very much different from what I had expected from what I had seen in the other part of the country. The men are mostly dressed in Chinese costume, but many in English, or American style.

I go shopping with Kwong Wu for a suit of underwear—\$15 for a combination suit, gee! I order a good overcoat made to order, heavy English cloth, lined throughout with much heavier cloth to make it warm, extra long in length, well-made and the price is only \$45. This coat in the United States would cost at least \$75.

We have made a sight-seeing tour of Peking in auto. It is nearly all Chinese. I did not see one foreign store. Peking at night is not as gay as New York or San Francisco, but it is certainly ahead of those cities in traffic. Rickshaws like swarms of ants going in every direction. Visited what is called the "Palace of Heaven," an immense amount of brick and stone work in a beautiful park. I shall try to get some photos of it. We saw many parades, gay colors, tom-toms, kettle drums. One parade Kwong Wu tells me is a wedding. In

a little draped car the bride is being carried. I could not locate the groom, but I suppose if it was a wedding he must have been somewhere. We have seen so many of these processions since arriving that I asked Kkong Wu if weddings were epidemic. "No," said he, "we have a population of three million and some one is apt to be marrying occasionally."

Outside of the Legation street all is Chinese. And the Chinese people here, I am sure, if they should all join hands they would encircle the earth.

In many of the buildings the corridors are lined with chrysanthemums all of different colors and at intervals grafted plants with all colors on the same plant. Perfectly grand!

By appointment we meet General Chaing. All his guests are English and American.

Kwong Wu gives a dinner here tomorrow evening, the occasion being a farewell to a mining engineer who is leaving Peking. He is to be presented with a large silver loving cup, such as our yacht clubs present to the winning yacht. There will be some talks and possibly I will be called upon. "Some" talk I will give them!

Shu is coming this morning to take me out to visit an anthracite coal mine where he was engineer.



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Later.—We take rickshaws to the railroad station and it is fully an hour's run. About 40 miles run, and we are at the coal mine. Strings of donkey mules and camels packing coal. The mine is shut down—same old story, shaft put in the wrong place, everything unhandy and expensive. Good property but no profit. Very interesting but hard on the investors.

China is famous for mounds and towers and all over this part of the country we see many of them. There are graves with pyramid shaped mounds all over. The largest mound is the Great Grandfather or the "Head Guy" and the others are the lesser personalities. A great many sheep of many different colors running over this country.

As you perhaps know the railroad is a recent happening in China, and I am informed that the rickshaw is also much more recent than the railroad. Formerly they used a cart, very cumbersome with mule power to draw it. And it took all day to go from one end of the city to the other. Some of these are still in use but are not so popular as the rickshaw. One horse carriages are the thing with the higher ups and of course if they are high enough up an auto.

Mrs. Kwong Wu called on me the other day at the hotel and brought two of their "kids," the baby and the next boy to the baby. She is very nice and jolly looking, but speaks no English. The little boy could say, "How do you do," and "Good-bye." My boy was on the spot with some tea, a large dish of French pastry and some candy.

Next came an invitation to "Tiffin" from General Chiang. One of the clerks brought it to my room to read it to me as it was written in Chinese and must have been very formal. I responded in plain English. All the functions heretofore have been English, American or French, but this was strictly Chinese. Kwong Wu was on hand to show me where to go. It is the Old Emperor's Palace converted into a sort of park. His collection of vases still in tact. And it is a wonderful display all very old and very rare pieces, some 4,000 to 6,000 years old. In one building there was wonderful display of chrysanthemums, about 3,000 varieties, some one-half the flower red and the other half white in ever-hemispheres. The tiffin was great. I can not describe the dishes but they were supposed to be the "best ever." One was duck tongues with mushrooms. We sat as is usual at these functions at a large round table, and of course you are supposed to reach for whatever appeals to your fancy or your curiosity. I think I tried most everything and found it all very fine. The General's little daughter, three or four years old, sat at the table with us, next to her father, used chopsticks very well and did not muss things up.

They are now building a Triumphant tower or "Whatnot." We took some photos of it which I will send you, if they are good.

With kind remembrances to all I know.

CHAS. HELMAN.

## Abstract of Records

(The following is a report of documents filed in the office of the county recorder of Butte county for the date named below. Compiled by the Butte County Abstract Company, Oroville, California.

Filed, Dec. 20, 1919.

### Deeds

C. F. Stolp et ux to E. F. Truseil et ux, Dec. 18, 1919. Part of Secs. 8, and 9, Tp. 22 N., R. 1 E.

George Swingle Hall et ux to G. C. Hall, Dec. 19, 1919. Part of Sec. 6, Tp. 22 N., R. 4 E.

### Marriage License

Merle Knight, 35, Chico, and Marie Schonlan, 22, Chico. Dec. 18, 1919.

### Notice Of Intention To

### Hold Mining Claims

George Springmeyer, Dec. 17, 1919. Florence, Florence No. 1, Florence No. 2, June and Atlanta.

F. S. Rohrer, December 19, 1919. Claim in Fall Creek Mining District.

F. S. Rohrer, December 19, 1919. Claim in Fall Creek Mining District. Part of W. half of Sec. 36, Tp. 23 N.,

F. S. Rohrer, December 19, 1919. R. 4 E.

H. C. Gramps, December 19, 1919. "Big Eight."

H. C. Gramps, December 19, 1919. "Lucky Strack."

H. C. Gramps, December 19, 1919. "Gramps & Ginder Saw Mill Bar Mining Claim."

H. C. Gramps, December 19, 1919. "Little Boulder."

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D. C. Reynolds, December 19, 1919. "The Woodrow" and "Big Bar Chrome."

D. C. Reynolds, December 19, 1919. "Pea Soup Bar."

Peter Godfrey, "Florence," Florence No. 1, "Florence No. 2," and "Juno"

### Proof of Labor

Forrest H Snow, Dec. 20, 1919. "Boston Hill Claim."

Forrest H Snow, Dec. 20, 1919. "Double Eagle Mine."

Forrest H Snow, Dec. 20, 1919. "Double Eagle Tunnel Right."

Forrest H Snow, Dec. 20, 1919. "Morrison or Jordon Placer Claim,"

"Victory Nos. A, B, 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7," "Eagle Placer Claim," "Eagle Placer

Claim No. 2," and "Lucky Louise." Filed, Dec. 22, 1919.