

4-1-1926

Initial Forest Fire Of Season Checked Friday

PULGA, April 1.—Several acres of valuable timber, north and west of this place, were burned Friday by the first forest fire of the season in the Feather River Canyon. Prompt action by District Ranger Frank B. Delaney, of the Magalia District, and a crew of four men, extinguished the blaze before it had spread over a large area.

W. H. King, of this place, was notified of the fire late Thursday afternoon by Dan Johnson, a young Indian lad, and in turn telegraphed the alarm to Delaney, who arrived upon the scene Friday morning.

Delaney found two men doing their best to hold the blaze in check, and these, with his crew of four, had little difficulty in surrounding the fire and placing it under subjugation.

Sacramento Bee

4-24-1926

BUILDING OF NORTH FORK HIGHWAY IS DEMANDED

**Yankee Hill Correspondent Declares
That District Needs Outlet.**

Editor of The Bee—Sir: May I ask an opportunity to boost the proposed new road through the North Fork Canyon?

I wish to say a few words in behalf of the people living along this route. So far, I have heard nothing but Oroville's view on the subject. And being bitterly opposed to Butte County's co-operation with the Great Western Power Company in building the twelve-foot road through the canyon, I feel that this part of Butte County is not getting a fair deal. Not only will the North Fork route open up one of the richest districts in Northern California, rich in minerals and timber, and with a wonderful climate, ideal for health, fruit, berries and vegetables, also unexcelled in scenic beauty, but it will also be open to travel the greater part of the year, as it is below the snow line, which is no small item.

Also, the people here have been handicapped with no good roads over which to take the produce raised on the farms; the only outlets being the Nelson Bar and West Branch grades, famous for their steep and dangerous hills. This proposed route will be a great asset to this part of Butte County, as well as Plumas County.

EVELYN HENDRICKS.

Yankee Hill, April 22, 1926.

5-8-1926

AGED VISITOR STRUCK, INJURED AT CHICO

CHICO, (Butte Co.), May 8.—Plaski Brown, elderly resident of Yankee Hill, who has been visiting his son, Clifford O. Brown here, was seriously injured shortly after noon yesterday when he was knocked to the pavement by an automobile driven by Lewis O. Wing, 607 Boucher Avenue.

It was necessary to raise the car to extricate Brown from the under part of the car.

His right leg was broken below the knee, his scalp and face badly lacerated and ~~his body~~ severely bruised along one side.

Feather River Bulletin

5-27-1926

Plumas Jurist For Compromise In Oroville Suit

OROVILLE, May 27.—Granting C. C. Welch of Concow a new trial in the condemnation proceeding instituted against him by the Thermalito and Table Mountain Irrigation Districts, Superior Judge J. O. Moncur of Quincy, in an opinion Monday, suggested the two parties compromise the case, taking a valuation of \$150 an acre for Welsch's property as a basis.

The condemnation case was tried recently in the superior court and the jury returned a verdict of \$150 each for two parcels of land, and \$2,000 severance damages in favor of Welch. Welch owns thirty-seven acres in the Concow damsite. Following the acceptance of the verdict, it was discovered the words "per acre" had been inadvertantly omitted.

The new trial, asked by the defendant, was granted on the grounds that the verdict is contrary to the evidence. "The second part of the verdict fixing severance damages in the sum of \$2,000, is absolutely unsupported by any evidence in the case," says Judge Moncur in his opinion.

7-20-1926

BUTTE CONDEMNATION SUIT IS COMPROMISED

OROVILLE (Butte Co.), July 20.—
The condemnation suit brought by the Thermalito and Table Mountain Irrigation Districts against Columbus C. Welsh of Concow was settled yesterday. This was announced by the attorney for Welsh.

Welsh received \$5,632.50 for thirty-eight and two-tenths acres of land which he owned in the Concow dam site.

At the trial Welsh asked \$47,000 for the property and severance damages. A jury brought in a verdict of \$150 for him, but neglected to specify whether \$150 per parcel or per acre. Judge J. O. Moncur, trying the case, recommended that a settlement of \$150 be agreed upon. This was satisfactory to both parties and the case came to an end yesterday.

The Sacramento Bee

7-27-1926

PULGA WOMAN CRASHES INTO STEAM ROLLER

OROVILLE (Butte Co.), July 27. Mrs. Ora Garnett of Pulga is today recovering from serious injuries received Saturday night when an automobile in which she was driving crashed into a standing county road roller and scarifier on the Oroville-Chico road.

George Bidleman, local restaurant man, who was in the car, received a serious laceration of the left leg.

An investigation of the accident was made by State Traffic Officer W. H. White of Chico. White reported that the automobile crashed through a detour sign and barrier before hitting the roller. The roller was visible because of danger signals placed before it.

Plumas National Bulletin

7-29-1926

Search For Jacob E. Brandt, Missing Service Engineer, Is Abandoned By Plumas Officers

Search for Jacob E. Brandt, service engineer for the Nathan Manufacturing Company of New York, who disappeared at Portola July 12, has been abandoned by Plumas County officials as hopeless.

Brandt, who last was seen alive about noon the day of his disappearance, was sought for a number of days by searching parties who combed the woods in the vicinity of Portola and the country between Portola and Calpine.

Several reports of Brandt's appearance at sheep and logging camps were traced down and found to be misleading and valueless.

An Indian trailer, Dixie Johnson, was brought to Portola from Las Plumas. Johnson tried for several days to locate authentic tracks of the missing man, but without success.

A reward of \$1000, posted by Brand's employers for his discovery dead or alive, still holds good.

Oroville Daily Register

8-19-1926

FIRE BREAKS OUT ALONG PULGA ROAD

A crew of fire fighters arrived in Oroville from Pulga where they have been fighting a brush fire along the right of way of the new road the Great Western Power Company is building there. The fire started from a spark from a steam shovel. It was brought under control but broke out again. Sixty men were employed in fighting it before it was finally controlled. The fire was in a brush country.

DOGS - PORCUPINE IN BATTLE AT YANKEE HILL

YANKEE HILL, August 31.—Dr. A. McDaniel of Gridley was called to the Perkins and Hilgren ranch, near Yankee Hill, at a late hour Sunday night to treat two Gorman police dogs that had made the mistake of tackling a porcupine.

When he arrived the dogs were in almost a frenzy from their misery. He administered an anesthetic and went to work. He took 350 quills from the mouth, tongue and nose of one dog and two hundred from the other. In some cases, the quills had gone clear through the tongues of the dogs. It was necessary to use instruments in extracting many of them.

Seemingly the dogs did not take warning from the first attack, but went at the porcupine again and again. No one saw the battle and the porcupine has not been seen by anyone, so it is not known whether the dogs finally killed the animal or that it escaped.

Chico Pioneer, 90, Finds Fun Hunting Game

OROVILLE, Oct. 13.—Though he has passed his nintieth year, John Moak, of Chico, still delights in hunting.

He recently went hunting sage hens in Modoc county and bagged the limit long before his companions, men much younger than he. Moak, an old Indian fighter and pioneer of California spends his winters raising chickens near Chico. His brother, Simon Moak, 81, of Oroville, also an Indian fighter of early days, has gone to spend several weeks with his elder brother.

Boundary Line Between Plumas And Butte Counties Established In North Fork of Feather River

11-4-1926

Arch Rock, Heretofore Considered In Plumas County, Found To Belong In Butte—Survey Also Adds Approximately 2300 Feet To Length of Canyon Highway In Plumas County—Bears Annoy Workers.

OROVILLE, Nov. 4.—Completing the survey of the boundary line between Butte and Plumas Counties in the North Fork of the Feather River, B. L. McCoy, representing Butte county, and A. J. Watson, county surveyor of Plumas county, returned to Oroville Friday, together with the crews that for the past week have been engaged in the work.

The outstanding result of the survey is that the celebrated Arch Rock, one of the scenic features along the Western Pacific, was found to be located in Butte county. Under the Keddie map that heretofore has been used, Arch Rock was located in Plumas county.

The survey also added approximately 2300 feet to the length of the North Fork highway in Plumas County.

Difficult and Perilous Task

That the survey was in the most difficult country imaginable, was the statement of Messrs. McCoy and Watson. The line was found to run along the very edge of Arch Rock in a country where by reason of broken and slippery rock, the task of surveying was almost difficult and the peril engaged in the work was ever present.

At one point, located beneath a cliff it was found impossible to establish a mark, as neither the men could get to the place or instruments could be placed to establish the exact location for a stake. Here a monument was placed at a distance from the spot, stating the distance that the boundary line was from the monument.

To add to the interest of the survey, two big bears visited the camp

where the surveyors were nightly, prowled around, robbed the garbage container and threatened visits into the tent.

On account of the roughness of the country, this portion of the boundary line between Butte and Plumas counties had never been determined by survey. The construction of a highway up the North Fork by the Great Western Power Company, and the two counties, made it necessary that the line be determined.

Line North And South

A peculiar feature of the canyon, where the line runs, is that the river runs almost directly north and south at this point. The result of the survey was to give Arch Rock to Butte County, which has been generally considered in Plumas County, and to add to the road mileage that Plumas takes care of.

North Fork Highway

Approximately eleven miles of the highway is now complete, the surveyors state. The road runs from 800 to 900 feet above the river. Extending out from Big Bar the old Utah Construction Company's road has been used. Here grades run up to ten per cent. On the new road constructed the grades do not exceed six per cent. The road runs from fourteen to twenty feet wide.

The crews went from Oroville to Big Bar on the Western Pacific, and there transferred to trucks and were taken to the point where they established camp. Dixie Johnson, veteran Indian trailer, was taken along and assisted the crews in finding government monuments at which the survey could be started.

11-25-1926

Rewed At Half Century Mark

Golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hendricks of Yankee Hill, Butte County, is occasion for public marriage of pair in old-time costumes and a grand ball.



YANKEE HILL (Butte Co.), Nov. 25.—With the district schoolhouse filled to overflowing by friends and relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hendricks of Yankee Hill recently celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

The occasion took the form of a grand ball and guests appeared in pioneer costume. The schoolhouse was beautifully decorated in white and gold, which made a fitting background for the wedding ceremony, which was repeated fifty years after the first ceremony was performed in Artois, Glenn County.

Original Costumes.

The bride and groom were attired in costumes similar to those worn during their honeymoon.

Mrs. J. C. Miller, sister-in-law of the bride, who was present at the original ceremony, was bridesmaid and Andrew Armbruster attended the groom. The ceremony was performed by John Clark.

Mr. and Mrs. Hendricks were the recipients of many beautiful presents suggestive of the golden anniversary.

Hendricks is 80 years old and Mrs. Hendricks is 70, yet both are hale and hearty, caring for their home and farm work and taking an active interest in affairs of the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Hendricks have but one child, Miss Evelyn Hendricks, who makes her home with her parents in Yankee Hill.

The bridegroom is a native of Dansville, Mich.; the bride was born in Iowa and crossed the plains with ox teams in 1864.

Note: Name is incorrect in this article; should be Mr. Elbert D. Hendricks, not Robert

Monument Unveiled Saturday At Bidwell Bar Marking California Mother Orange Tree and First Suspension Bridge Built In State

OROVILLE, Dec. 2.—Impressive dedication ceremonies were held Saturday afternoon at Bidwell Bar where monuments were unveiled marking California's Mother Orange Tree and the historic Bidwell Bar Bridge, first suspension bridge in the state.

High officials of the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West participated in the ceremonies, and the stately concrete monument, with its bronze plaque, was unveiled by J. H. Leggett of Oroville, nephew of Howard Burt, first tender of the Bidwell Bridge and the man who planted the Mother Orange Tree.

The plaque commemorating establishment of the bridge and planting of the tree has the following inscription:

"In commemoration of the Mother Orange Tree, planted at this spot in 1856, and the Bidwell Bar bridge, the first suspension bridge of California. Brought around the Horn in 1853. Completed in 1856. Dedicated to the pioneers of California by the Board of Supervisors, Gold of Ophir Parlor No. 190, N. D. G. W. and Argonaut Parlor No. 8, N. S. G. W."

On the reverse side is a marble tablet on which is chisled:

"In commemoration of Isaac Reeves Ketchum, faithful caretaker, 1859-1905."

The marble was mined at Marble Creek, Butte county.

Following is the history of the discovery of gold in the Feather river, the planting of the Mother Orange Tree and the erection of the first suspension bridge in California, as prepared by Mrs. Boyle.

"Two months after the discovery of gold in California by James Marshall, at Coloma, General John Bidwell was returning to his home in Chico, after a trip to San Francisco.

One evening the party made camp on the banks of the Feather River at a place later known as Hamilton.

"While the evening meal was being prepared General Bidwell walked down to the banks of the river and discovered small particles of gold in the waters edge.

"He then knew if there were small particles of gold to be found in the valley it must be in large quantities in the mountains. So, immediately after returning to Chico, he got together a few men and made his way up the Feather River, locating at the point on the Middle Fork that ever since has been known as Bidwell Bar. In a few months Bidwell Bar was a flourishing mining town, being located on the Beckwith Trail.

"As the town was located on the banks of the river it was necessary to have some means of transportation across the river. Ferry rights were granted to individuals and a large iron pin wedged in the rocks to hold the ferries. This iron pin still is in evidence.

"After a short time it was found this means was too slow, so the Bidwell Bar Bridge Company was organized and, in 1853, the cables and iron braces of the bridge were brought around the horn and the bridge completed in 1856 as a toll bridge, at a total cost of \$34,600. The bridge was purchased by the County of Butte in 1884 for \$6000. Howard Burt, uncle of James Leggett of Oroville, was the first bridge tender, serving until March, 1859. Isaac Reeves Ketchum then became bridge tender and served until 1905.

"The cables of the bridge are sunk in great bowls of lead in the native rock. This lead was gathered by Alfred Clark and brother from boxes of tea used by the miners, and then melted."

Plumas National Bulletin
12-2-1926
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Dedication of Bidwell Bar Bridge and Mother Orange Tree November 27, 1926.

Sacramento Bee
12-14-1926

BUTTE MAN WILL REPRESENT INDIANS

OROVILLE (Butte Co.), Dec. 14. Acting as a representative of the Indian board of co-operation, W. C. Clark of Yankee Hill leaves here January 1st for Washington, D. C., where he will lay before congress the claims of the California Indians. He has been selected to serve as delegate by popular consent of the Indians.

Accompanying him will be Peter Williams of Requa and Clyde Thompson of Round Mountain.

Butte Officers Seek Motive In Death Of Pentz Wife, Who Died In "Friendly Scuffle"

Sacramento Bee
12-27-1926

**Coroner's Jury Says Death Caused By Broken Neck, Inflicted
By Albert G. Coan, "Probably With Homicidal Intent;"
Accused Husband, Despondent, Begs To Die**

OROVILLE (Butte Co.), Dec. 27.—Although a coroner's jury yesterday decided the death of Mrs. Alleta Coan of Pentz early Christmas Day was at the hands of her husband, officers to-day are searching over every clue in the mysterious case before formal charges are filed against Albert G. Coan.

Coan was unable to convince the jury that his wife's death was due to an accident during a scuffle of a friendly nature. Meanwhile he occupies a cell in the county jail in a despondent condition and reiterating a desire to die and that his wife's death was accidental.

JURY BLAMES COAN.

The verdict was that Mrs. Coan's death was caused by a dislocated vertebra of the neck caused "probably with homicidal intent."

"And we further believe," said the verdict, "that Albert G. Coan was the person by whose act the death was occasioned."

Yule Party Aftermath.

The Coans attended a Christmas Eve party at the home of Mrs. Coan's brother, Tyson L. Lockerman near Pentz Friday night. Drinks were served but no one became intoxicated, those present declare.

The Coans returned home shortly after midnight. At about 3:30 A. M., Lockerman was awakened by Coan who cried:

"My God, Ty, I've killed Alleta. I put my knee on her and choked her to death. Help me! Help me!"

SON SEES MOTHER.

Robert Childress, 15, Mrs. Coan's son by a former marriage, was called and with Lockerman went to the Coan home. Seeing his mother, the boy threw himself at Coan with an oath.

"You've killed my mother," he cried.

"Don't swear at me or I'll hit you in the jaw," replied Coan.

"WERE JUST PLAYING."

When Sheriff R. N. Anderson was summoned Coan explained that he and his wife had retired. "We were just playing," he said. "Then I discovered 'hat

hanging out. I threw water on her but she was dead."

The bed sheets were wet and a kettle was on the floor nearby.

Begs For Death.

Coan's talk at that time was incoherent and disconnected, and it was not till he had been taken to the county jail in Oroville by Sheriff R. N. Anderson and Constable Herbert Taylor that a connected account could be obtained. While he was in the custody of Taylor, and Sheriff Anderson was investigating the case, he repeatedly said: "Oh, why don't you kill me; I'm done for now."

PAIR WERE HAPPY.

At the inquest Con Ford, one of the guests at the party who accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Coan part way home, stated that the pair seemed to be very happy and were singing. The nearest approach to a quarrel was when the husband suggested they should open the Christmas presents he was carrying from his brother's home that night. To this Mrs. Coan objected and the packages were not opened and are still in the condition they were when Coan had them under his arm taking them home.

Was Native Of Paradise.

Coan has been an employe of the Chico Meat Company for the last two months at their ranch at Pentz. Before that he lived in Salinas.

The deceased was born in Paradise forty-one years ago and is survived by her son, Robert Childress, 15; her mother, Mrs. Adella Lockerman; a sister, Mrs. E. M. Irwin, of San Francisco, and two brothers, Tyson Lockerman of Pentz and L. L. Lockerman of San Francisco.

She was afflicted with paralysis in one arm. She married Coan last June, and the marriage seemed to be happy, according to Lockerman's statement.

12-27-1926

YULE GAYETY FINDS CLIMAX IN DEATH OF BRIDE OF YEAR

**Chico Rancher Accused of
"Homicidal Intent" Fol-
lowing Party**

**Jealousy Believed Cause of
Struggle Resulting in
Yule Tragedy**

Special Dispatch to The Chronicle

OROVILLE, Dec. 26. — Albert Coan, 35, a stockman, held in custody here since the death of his wife, Leta, from a broken neck early Christmas morning, was accused of "probable homicidal intent," in the verdict of the Coroner's jury which held an inquest over the body today.

Coan is being held in the Butte County Jail pending action by the District Attorney.

The verdict was based chiefly upon the testimony of Pyson Lackerman, brother of the dead woman. Lackerman testified that Coan and his wife had attended a party at his home at which drinks were served and left about 12 o'clock midnight.

Reports Death Tilt As Party Climax

At 3 o'clock Coan returned, the witness said, and told him that he had killed his wife during a friendly struggle on the floor of their home.

Coan said the witness stated, that he had realized his wife had lost consciousness and he had tried to revive her but found she was dead.

The Coroner's jury found that death was caused by a dislocation of the neck. The fatal struggle took place in the Coan home at Pentz, a lumber town about fifteen miles east of Chico.

Couple Married Less Than Year

The couple had been married less than a year and it is known that Coan frequently displayed jealousy of his wife. She left a son, Robert Childs, 15, by a previous marriage, who was not at home when Mrs. Coan came to her death. She was the member of a well known family in this part of the country.

Sacramento Bee

12-28-1926

Charge Is Expected In Butte Slaying

OROVILLE (Butte Co.), Dec. 28.—A charge of murder will probably be placed to-morrow against Albert G. Coan of Pentz, confessed slayer of his wife, Mrs. Alleta Coan. This is the declaration of Clinton W. Johnson, assistant district attorney.

While awaiting filing of the charge, county authorities are endeavoring to uncover additional clues which might shed light on the killing. Coan claims that his wife's death was due to a "friendly scuffle" in their bedroom, following a Christmas Eve party.