

San Francisco Chronicle

2-7-1927

Work Discontinued

Special Dispatch to The Chronicle

OROVILLE—The work at the Surcease Mine, near Yankee Hill, has been permanently discontinued, is the announcement made by operators of the property.

After taking over \$250,000 from the ore shoot, pay ore appears to have been exhausted. Extensive attempts to find other ore by sinking deeper cross cutting have failed to reveal another shoot of pay ore.

2-23-1927

Stirling City to Get New Telephone Line

A new telephone line extending from Stirling City to Flea Valley is now being erected under the direction of Frank B. Delaney, district ranger of the Magalia region, and W. S. Williams, of the Mineral region. Twelve miles of wire will be laid.

The line, which will be used by the United States Forestry Service, will take the place of the old wire between Concow and Big Bar. The new line will run parallel with the road and will be easy to repair, according to those in charge of the work.

3-23-1927

OROVILLE MURDER TRIAL IS MARKED WITH SENSATIONS

Woman, Identified As Wife,
Admits Bigamy, Clear-
ing Defendant.

(By Bee Bureau.)

OROVILLE (Butte Co.), March 23.—Hardly had spectators at the trial of Albert G. Coan of Pentz, charged with killing his wife, Mrs. Aleata Childress Coan, recovered from the surprise of the introduction of an undivorced wife by a prior marriage when a second sensation was provided to-day. The woman admitted she was wedded at the time she was married to Coan and that her first husband, William Ward, is serving time for murder in a state penitentiary.

It was brought out that she posed as single when she married Coan, and Coan's alleged discovery that she had a husband living led to the quarrel that caused their separation.

Jury Is Excused.

Bitter arguments between opposing attorneys marked all of the testimony of Mrs. Ward Coan. The jury was excused a large part of the time during arguments to exclude the testimony of Mrs. Coan and of her daughter, Miss Eva Ward of San Jose, a flaming haired girl of 19 years.

The state attempted to introduce testimony by Miss Ward, the step-daughter of Coan by the alleged bigamous marriage of her mother, that Coan was brutal to Mrs. Ward Coan and that he attempted violence to her similar to the alleged act which caused the death of Mrs. Aleata Childress Coan.

The court has taken the matter under advisement and a decision is expected this afternoon as to whether the testimony will be presented to the jury.

WAS "STAR" BOARDER.

A feature of the testimony was that Coan met both wives under the same circumstances. He was taken by Mrs. Ward as a boarder in 1911, shortly before their marriage in Monterey. He met Aleata Childress when he went to her home in Cherokee as a boarder.

Oroville Daily Register

4-1-1927

YANKEE HILL CLAIMS GOAT CHAMPIONSHIP OF BUTTE COUNTY

YANKEE HILL, March 31.—

Yankee Hill lays claim to the goat championship of the county.

The birth of four kids to one nanny goat is announced by V. A. Josephson of this place.

Two were nannies and two were billies.

Mother and "kids" are all reported as doing well.

Spanishtown, Roaring Camp, Now Forgotten

Oroville Daily Register
5-8-1927

Spanishtown, near Concow, was one of the most lively of the early mining camps of Butte County. A correspondent writing in the North Californian under date of September 10, 1856, gives the following description of that place:

"Spanishtown is going ahead very rapidly. There have been thirteen fine new buildings put up in the last three weeks. There are a number of others in course of erection, but the difficulty that we find is lack of lumber. There is no sawmill for fourteen miles, although we have now made arrangements with Mr. Nance of the Dry Creek Mills to establish a lumber yard here. He has four ox-teams daily hauling lumber, and there will be plenty for all to build. You would say this was a young Oroville, to hear the sound of the hammer and the saw.

"The ditch so long talked of will be in full operation next week. If we had water here now, with the diggings that we have, I would venture to say that there would be more gold taken from this precinct this winter than from any other in Butte County. There is a company of Chilenos just below the town that take out daily from three to five ounces to the hand. There is an old colored man that has been mining here that took out a little over \$700 as his share in three weeks work, and then he sold out his claim and went below to get his wife. Yesterday he prospected the same ground to show his wife the prospect and washed out \$11 the first pan. We have but one American lady living in this vicinity, Mrs. Moquis. She washed out

one pan of dirt yesterday and got \$1.37. We have a daily stage from Oroville here.

"This is a new place and the diggings here were first struck last winter by a company of Chilenos and Mexicans. The town is situated on Spanish Ravine, which empties into Chub Gulch. There is a good mountain road from Pence's Ranch to the place. Mr. Snyder, Mr. Pierce and Mr. Reed have been sinking a shaft on what on what is called Yankee Hill for diggings."

Oakland Tribune

5-11-1927

Oroville Theaters Sold to Partners

OROVILLE, May 11.—Sale of the two Oroville theaters to Harry C. Seipel and A. C. H. Chamberlain, and plans for the erection of a new theater in Oroville have been announced.

The two local playhouses, the Rex and the Gardella, were sold by the heirs of the late Lewis Slissman estate. Slissman died several weeks ago. The new owners will take possession immediately.

The Chico Enterprise

7-23-1927

WIDOW OF INDIAN CHIEF NEAR DEATH

WILLOWS, Cal.—Ann Brown, widow of Jim Brown, the deceased chief of the Grindstone Indians, is nearing the end of her career of remarkable longevity, according to a report today. She is 110 years old and is oldest survivor of a tribe of Indians that

General Bidwell in 1844 estimated numbered 10,000.

Ann Brown is the great-grandmother of the remaining Grindstone Indians and is beloved by her tribe. Up to within two months ago she attended to her domestic duties and even last year worked in the harvesting of prunes for what "she called her winter stake."

The veteran squaw, up to the time of her present illness, possessed a wonderful memory. She remembered Willows when antelopes roamed at large here. It is also on record that Ann Brown

was the first housekeeper for a white man in the Sacramento valley. She was employed in this capacity by Granville Swift, an early settler in the valley. When a girl she was kidnaped by Mexicans but eluded their watch and made her escape, rejoining her tribe at Stony creek.

Ann was asked to go to the county hospital, but she refused, expressing her desire to die in her present time, and among her own people.

Sacramento Bee
7-30-1927

Missing People Sought

MARYSVILLE: (Yuba Co.), July 30. Mrs. J. M. Sweetman of Palermo, whose husband died a few days ago, has asked the authorities to locate her brother, Charles Durette, whose company and assistance she is sadly in need of. Durette works as a fruit picker and is accompanied by two children.

8-18-1927

Canyon Road Is Now Open As Far As Pulga

Formal announcement that the North Fork road was open to travel now as far as Pulga, was made this week by H. M. P. Birkinbine, engineer of the Great Western Power Company.

Within the next few weeks the road will be thrown open to travel from Pulga to Storrie.

The distance from Hog Wallow Gap where the road leaves the county road to Pulga, is nine miles. From Pulga to Storrie the distance is fourteen miles.—Oroville Register.

BARRIERS OF CANYON ROAD ARE BROKEN

North Fork Highway Open for Public Travel

By JACK WILSON

The North Fork Highway, which at present leads from Hog Wallow Gap to Storrie, was opened to public travel for the first time Sunday afternoon when Ray L. Jones, state senator from Marysville, battered down a wooden gate at Pulga.

Assisting Jones in formally opening the route was Assemblyman Charles H. Deuel of Chico. The opening of the gate was met with cheers from the delegation of 100 people who toured the road as far as Rock Creek and Storrie. Bunting was draped on the bridge on the west side of the gate and overhead was hung the American flag.

Starts From Oroville

The tour started from Oroville at 10:30, with Oakland, Sacramento, Plumas and Butte County delegations present. The groups from various sections came to Oroville by train and from here made the tour by auto. The Plumas delegation continued to that county by train from Rock Creek late in the afternoon.

Those present on the tour were enthusiastic over the opening of the road, and it was the hope of each to see the completion of the route to Quincy. At present the road ends at Storrie in a dead head, with approximately 16 miles yet to be constructed before it would give a direct route to Nevada and the east.

How Road Financed

An appropriation of \$50,000 from both Plumas and Butte Counties was voted to build the road, with the Great Western Power Co. agreeing to give \$50,000 or more, toward its completion from Hog Wallow Gap to Storrie.

The 24-mile stretch of road through the canyon was built at an approximate cost of \$300,000. At Rock Creek, where the road is cut through solid granite, \$36,000 was expended in approximately 300 yards.

The route follows on the northwest side of the mountain and opens a scenic wonderland of the Feather River country, heretofore inaccessible to motorists. Directly beneath the route for a portion of the distance is the Western Pacific tracks. The railroad crosses to the northwest side of the canyon at a point below Pulga.

Old Road Utilized

Several miles of the old Utah Construction Company's road, built to haul supplies when the Western Pacific was constructed, have been utilized and converted into the present road.

Luncheon was served at Rock Creek and was followed by a number of impromptu talks. Supporters of the road were called upon by C. E. Porter, chairman of the Butte County board of supervisors. The following spoke:

L. O'Rourke—Plumas county Supervisor—"This 24 miles of road will eventually see Butte and Plumas counties joined by a highway. The road will be a route which will be open to motorists all the year around and will be the logical route for motorists to enter California from the east."

Predicts Success

C. E. Porter, chairman of the Butte County board of supervisors—"B. B. Meek, director of public works, will see from the funds from the gas tax that this road will be completed."

C. M. Mardel, chief engineer of the Great Western Power Co.—"We were very glad to start this road. It is a big ball that has been started rolling, which eventually will see a through highway to Quincy and the east."

Senator Ray Jones Batters Down Gates of Road at Pulga

(Continued from Page One)

....**Assemblyman Deuel**—"It is a pleasure to pass over a mountain road built at such a low cost. Roads must justify themselves before they are built. We may be able to go over this road to Quincy in high gear soon."

Senator Jones Talks

Senator Ray L. Jones—"It has been the dream of many to get a good road through this canyon. No doubt the through highway will be built in several years. While this road is incomplete and narrow in places at the present time, all we can do is to hope that it will be completed through to Quincy."

District Attorney Stanley Young—"I'm glad to see the opening of the present road, and I hope soon to see its completion on through to Quincy."

Oroville Mercury Register

10-4-1927

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Marysville Interested

H. H. Dunning of Marysville—

"As a Marysville resident I am very deeply interested in the completion of this route because I feel that not only northern California, but the entire state will benefit greatly by it."

F. E. Bonner of San Francisco—district engineer of the federal power commission— "This road was a difficult thing to get started. Wonderful progress has been shown. The main thing is to get an all year around road through. This is a fine start for a highway leading to the east which will be open 12 months of each year."

"No Money Wasted"

W. C. LAWRENCE, Plumas county supervisor — "Even though this road ends in a dead head, no money has been wasted. Butte and Plumas county and the Great Western Power Co. have forced the highway commission to take action for a road through this section. If it is found by the reconnaissance survey that another route other than this is best suited for a highway through the Feather river country, then that is all right with us."

F. L. ROOHR, Butte county supervisor— "This is the only chance in California to get an overland road below the snowline. This route has been the dream of many. The work so far is a great accomplishment toward gaining the through route."

H. H. HUME, Butte county engineer— "When this road was planned it was done so with a view of future development. It has a maximum grade of six percent. Should this be converted into an overland highway, the present road could be widened easily."

Others On Trip

Among the officials presents on the trip were the following:

A. L. Long, A. J. Jacks, B. F. Pauly, Plumas county supervisors; F. R. Young, county clerk of Plumas county; F. L. Miller president of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce.

James Craig, Henry W. White, George T. Meeker, Butte county su-

perisors; B. L. McCoy, clerk of the board of supervisors of Butte county; Harry Wormley, W. B. Taylor, Charles Stearns, of the Butte county engineer's staff.

H. E. Brillhart, division manager, Monty Pfyl, assistant division manager; Harry F. Cauthard, Oroville manager Western Canal Co. H. P. M. Birkinbine, resident engineer of Great Western Power Co., Charles Shinn, superintendent of construction, and L. P. Cornell, engineer of the Great Western Power Co.

F. W. Haselwood, division engineer of the state highway commission; Frank B. Durkee, right of way agent of the highway commission.

J. B. Orrell, district manager of the California State Automobile Association, and O. A. Fisher, Oroville representative.

Sacramento Bee

11-29-1927

BUTTE MAY DISMISS CHARGE AGAINST COAN

OROVILLE (Butte Co.)- Nov. 29. District Attorney J. A. McGregor says he is undecided whether he will move for the dismissal of the manslaughter charge against Albert G. Coan, convicted Pentz slayer.

Coan was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter for the death of his wife, Pearl Aleata Coan, at his Pentz home last Christmas, following a gay Christmas party.

Coan is now in San Quentin. His appeal for a new trial was granted by the Third District Court of Appeals, after it had been denied here by Judge H. D. Gregory.

12-9-1927

Pentz to Use Lights at Community Hall for the First Time

PENTZ, Dec. 17.—(Special)—Electric lights, just installed in the Pentz Community Hall, will be used for the first time by the Pentz Farm Center at its meeting Tuesday evening.

For the first time in the history of the organization, moving pictures will be shown. Movies were not screened in the past, because of the absence of electricity.

All center meeting places in the county are now equipped with electric lights, according to B. L. Smith of Oroville, acting county agent. This is considered a remarkable asset to rural communities, as many of the meeting places of centers in other counties are without electric lighting.

12-9-1927

Report Given on Road Conditions in Feather Area

The following is a report from the National Automobile Club on road conditions in the Feather River region:

Oroville to Lake Almanor, via Humbug Road, 78 miles. Paved to Pentz, rough to Inskip, inadvisable beyond. Oroville to Rock Creek, via Feather River, 46 miles—Paved short distance out of Oroville, thence fair dirt road to Hog Wallow, about 15 miles, inadvisable beyond. Yuba Pass, Sacramento to Truckee, 144 miles. Paved to Nevada City, gravel to Downieville, rough, narrow dirt road to Sierra City, gravel to Sierraville, fair dirt Hobart Mills, improved road to Truckee. At time this bulletin goes to press, Yuba Pass is open. There are 10 inches of snow at the summit and cars are getting through with chains. Snow line 7 miles this side of summit. This route is likely to be closed overnight and late report should be obtained before attempting the trip. Sierra City to Mohawk via Gold Lakes, 20 miles.

Not advisable. Chester to Truckee via Quincy and Mohawk, 131.5 miles. First 6 miles rough gravel, thence good dirt and gravel road to Greenville, fair to good dirt mountain road to Quincy and Spring Garden. Dirt mountain road to Clio and Calpine, closed to Truckee. Chains advisable. Oroville to Mohawk via La Porte, 80 miles. Paved to Bangor and Challenge. Not advisable beyond. Oroville to Quincy via Buck's Ranch, 67 miles. Paved to Miner's Ranch, good to Bidwell Bar Merrimac and Bück's Ranch, next few miles extremely rough and not advisable. Greenville to Susanville, via Westwood, good. Mohawk to Reno via Clio, Beckwith and Plumas, 58 miles. Fair dirt road to the State line, paved to Reno.

Power Line Near Completion; Camp Will Close Soon

PULGA, Dec. 13 —(Special)—The Great Western Power Company's new transmission line is nearing completion in the canyon, so the camp at Pulga will soon be abandoned. A few social affairs have been planned in honor of those who will be leaving as soon as construction is completed.

Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Phelps of Mayaro Lodge entertained a number of their friends at a farewell dinner on Friday. A delicious turkey dinner was enjoyed by all, and a delightful evening passed.

Jack Hansel and Steve Toland of Las Plumas were business visitors at Pulga, making the trip here by auto.

Superintendent of schools, J. E. Partridge visited Big Bar school at Pulga last week.

Oroville Mercury Register

12-13-1927

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THE MERCURY-REGISTER

Tuesday, December 13, 1927

Woman Crushed in Machinery Dies Enroute to Local Hospital

DRESS SWEPT BY WIND INTO SHAFT'S GEARS

**Accident Occurs at Surcease
Mine Near Yankee Hill;
Body Here**

Crushed when her dress caught on a shafting and dragged her into machinery at the Surcease Gold Mine three miles from Yankee Hill, Mrs. Charles A. Reno, 36, died late yesterday while enroute to the Oroville hospital in an ambulance. The body is at the Thomas Funeral Home.

While watching the machinery work, a gust of wind blew a part of Mrs. Reno's dress into the nearby shafting, with the result that she was dragged into gears before she could free her dress from the rapidly revolving iron.

Remained Conscious

Hearing the woman's cries for help an employe at the mine rushed to her aid, forced the belt from the
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Dress Swept by Wind Into Shaft's Gears

(Continued From Page Two)

pulley and stopped the machinery. Mrs. Reno was conscious when removed to the house and was able to converse with her husband, who was asleep at the time of the accident. He operates the machinery at night.

J. W. Phillips is associated with Reno in operating the mine. Phillips left Mrs. Reno to watch the machinery while he went to look at the stamp mill.

Dr. C. B. Griggs of Oroville was called following the accident and administered medical treatment. An ambulance was called to bring her to Oroville, Mrs. Reno died near Pentz, while enroute to this city. Thomas, Deputy Coroner, said.

Survived by Son

Mrs. Reno is survived by the widower and a son, aged three years, and her parents, who reside in Boone, Iowa. The body will be sent there for burial.

Mrs. Reno and her husband arrived at the mine this spring from Los Angeles.

No inquest will be held, as authorities are satisfied that death was accidental, it was announced today.

FINISH WORK ON G. W. P. LINE NEAR PULGA

PULGA. Dec. 20.—(Special)—
Work on the new Great Western
Power Company transmission line
connecting Bucks Creek power
house and Brighton substation, was
completed at Pulga last week and
construction crews have left.

Before leaving, the men were
served hot coffee and lunch by Mr.
and Mrs. W. H. King. Automobiles
and trucks of the men made a long
procession on-going down the road.

Big Bend School Holds its Annual Christmas Party

LAS PLUMAS, Dec. 26.—(Special)
—The Big Bend school held its annual Christmas party in the Las Plumas theater Friday night. The program arranged by the teacher, Miss Camille McCarthy, was greatly enjoyed by the parents and friends.

At the conclusion of this program the social club acted as host for the rest of the evening at a party given in the clubhouse. The club-rooms were decorated with evergreens and holly, and a beautifully decorated Christmas tree stood in one corner.

Santa Claus appeared and distributed nuts, candy, oranges, and a useful gift to all those present. D. B. Ogle was chairman of the committee in charge of the club entertainment.

The school program included:

Greeting by Jack Hansell; Santa's Letters by primary grades; piano solo by Dorothy Rozich; wreath drill by six girls; recitation by Florence Toland; piano solo by Nelle Jeanne Ogle; and a play, "A Christmas Entertainment Fifty Years Ago," by the school.