

Oroville Mercury Register  
1-4-1929

# W. P. BUILDS SPUR TRACK NEAR PULGA

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PULGA, Jan. 4.—(Special)—  
Ditcher No. 16 of the Western Pacific is excavating for a short spur track that is to be installed just west of Poe.

While doing this work the work train ties up on the Pulga siding over night.

Mr. and Mrs. William Sanford, are visiting friends in Pulga during their short stay here. Sanford is the ditcher engineer.

1-29-1929

# CHEROKEE ODD FELLOWS, REBEKAH, LODGES CONDUCT INSTALLATION OF OFFICIALS AT A JOINT SESSION

PENTZ, Jan. 29.—(Special)—The Cherokee I. O. O. F. Lodge No. 92 and the Cherokee Rebekah Lodge No 18 held a joint installation Saturday night in the Cherokee I. O. O. F. Hall.

A large crowd was present Among the lodges represented were Biggs, Gridley, Chico, Durham, Stirling and Oroville. The work was well put on by the two teams.

Those installed into office were: I. O. O. F. Noble Grand, Arthur Baker; vice grand, Leslie Stone; secretary, Joe Davis; treasurer, James McDonald; warden, Ivan Baker; conductor, Lester Lynch; chaplain, William Johnson; R. R. N. G., Frank Lynch; L. S. N. G., Andrew Armbruster, R. S. V. G., William Darby; inside guardian, Archie Lucke; outside guardian, Charles Thunen; right S. S., George James; left S. S., Gordon Nesbit.

Rebekahs: Noble Grand, Therese McDonald; vice grand, Alice Esman; secretary, Ferol Lynch; treasurer, James McDonald; chaplain, Matty Armbruster; warden, Clara Stone; R. S. N. G., Frank Lynch; L. S. N. G., Joe Davis; R. R. V. G., Gordon Nesbit; L. S. V. G., Andrew Armbruster; outside guardian, William Johnson; inside guardian, William Darby.

Following the installation refreshments were served in the hall below.

## **\$3,000 Estate Left By Cherokee Man**

John N. Hufford, pioneer resident of Cherokee, who died Sunday, accumulated an estate valued approximately at \$3,000, according to a petition for letters of administration, filed by John R. Moseley yesterday afternoon. Hufford left a will dated September 3, 1910, in which he disposed of his property to relatives.

His personal property included a savings account of \$53.03, two certificates of deposit, one for \$800 and the other for \$225; two horses valued at \$50, and 90 acres of foothill grazing land at Cherokee of the estimated value of \$1,900.

# Oroville Mercury Register

## 2-18-1929

### **Pulga**

**PULGA, Feb. 18.—(Special)—** MR. MRS. AMIEL AUSTIN left Pulga on Tuesday on a business trip for San Francisco.

**JACK GRIFFIN, Mrs. Lillie Fultz Mrs. Ada Thomas and H. H. Hunter** made a trip to Oroville on Thursday as Hunter received word to appear at the Sheriff's office on that day in answer to a warrant sworn to by Mart Gramps.

**MR. and MRS. H. H. NICKOLS** and their daughters Rachael and Anna May left Pulga on Friday for Arboga where they will reside in the future. Nichols, who was section foreman for the Western Pacific at Pulga, has transferred to Arboga.

An 8 pound boy was born to the wife of C. B. Gramps in Pulga on February 15th.

**A. ANDERSON** is acting as section foreman for the Western Pacific at Pulga until an appointment is made.

**MISS GLADYS BAUER** motored to Chico Friday afternoon to spend the week-end with her parents.

### **Pulga Students Have Valentine Party**

**PULGA, Feb. 18.—(Special)—**Miss Gladys Bauer, teacher of Big Bar school arranged a Valentine box for the pupils on Friday afternoon.

The pupils have been making valentines' during their spare time for two weeks prior to the day.

The Valentine box, being the first one in the recollection of the children attending school, was a great event, and was enjoyed by all.

All the pupils received many pretty valentines.

### **Carload Soapstone Shipped From Pulga**

**PULGA, Feb. 18 —(Special)—** W. H. King shipped a carload of soapstone to the bay region by Western Pacific last week.

The soapstone was taken from King's mine, which is on the county road about one mile south of Pulga hauled here by truck and then loaded into the car.

# Farewell Party For Chas. Heyer At Yankee Hill

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YANKEE HILL, Feb. 22 — (Special)—Mrs. Ralph Miller entertained a number of friends and neighbors at a farewell party for her father, Chas. Heyer at Deadwood Monday evening.

Two of the spacious rooms of the old Deadwood Sanitarium were cleared, and a very pleasant evening was spent in dancing. Refreshments were later served the guests by the hostess, who was assisted by her sister, Mrs. Charles Odneal of Pentz.

Heyer recently sold his Deadwood ranch and left Tuesday for Oakland where he will make his home in the future.

# Oroville Mercury Register

## 3-5-1929

### **Pulga Feud Brings Large Gathering to County Courts**

Residents of Pulga crowded the superior court room here today for trial of H. H. Hunter, charged with disturbing the peace, as a result of a feud of several years' standing between Hunter and members of the Gramps family.

Hunter is alleged to have engaged in a fist fight with Martin Gramps near the Western Pacific pump house in Pulga February 12, while more than a half dozen persons looked on.

The case is being tried before a jury with Justice of the Peace Harry S. Hills conducting the trial.

"How many of the Gramps has Hunter licked?" District Attorney James A. McGregor asked Henry Gramps, uncle of Martin Gramps.

"Practically all of them," Gramps replied.

"No. I don't remember how many of them he has whipped more than once."



# Oroville Mercury Register

3-5-1929

## \$3837 Worth of Trout Rescued At Concow Dam

Figured at the commercial rate of \$1 a pound \$3837 worth of trout were rescued from stagnant ponds below Concow reservoir in northern Butte county this week, said A. J. Stanley, deputy fish and game commission inspector, today.

Stanley with representatives of the Feather River Rod and Gun Club of Oroville, E. P. Biggs, state forset inspector; The Chico Sportsman's Assn., and Yankee Hill sportsmen, took the fish from the ponds and placed them back in the reservoir.

The fish were swept from the lake through open reservoir gates when a sudden rainstorm swelled the little water in the lake last week. Over 15,000 fish were swept away, over 11,000 of which have been lost, Stanley said.

The rescue work was directed by

## Oral Clashes Mark Lighting Session of City Council

(Continued from Page 1)

A. Woodward sent here by George Neale, who is in charge of fish rescue work for the state fish and game commission.

Stanley figures that 5,000,000 eggs were saved for the season by rescue of the 3837 trout. Two-thirds of the trout rescued were females each of which produces 3000 eggs every season.

The deputy blames the irrigation district for loss of the fish. He said screens, measuring up to state requirements should be placed over the reservoir outlet.

## "Andy" Mellon Once Owned Famous Cherokee Mine; "Ghost" City Quiet

By WALLACE KUNKEL

**W**HEN Andrew W. Mellon was retained as treasurer in the cabinet of Herbert Hoover, millions of citizens read the announcement with general interest.

To a handful of "old timers" at Cherokee the news held a peculiar significance. Mellon, they recalled today, owned at one time the controlling interest in the Cherokee mine, once the world's most extensive and best-known hydraulic property.

### Vintin Now Owner

D. L. Vintin of the Vintin family, which now owns the historic mine, north of Oroville, is one of the few persons, even at Cherokee, who remembers Mellon's connection with the gigantic venture. For the mine is no longer the renowned producer that it was once. And the past is the past, even for Cherokee, save for the old residents who still talk of the days that are gone and the gold that was found—and the gold that remains—in a region where man washed away a mountain to salvage millions of dollars worth of the precious metal.

It was in 1903 that Mellon bought the controlling interest in the mine from bondholders. He operated it for two years. During this time he built a dam to restrain the tailings which had covered thousands of acres of land below the gulch in the valley land below the gulch, Vintin said.

### Other Notables

Nor was Mellon the only national character whose name is linked with history of Cherokee.

A president of the United States inspected the property. He was Rutherford B. Hayes, who visited the mine in 1880 with General William Tecumseh Sherman and John Bidwell.

It was when the mine was at the height of production, and when agitation against hydraulic mining was rampant.

While there were men then, and have been many since, who never had such "luck" Hays washed a single pan of dirt which panned \$76. History is silent as to whether Hayes thought that every panful on the property contained as much gold as that particular one.

### Did Things Right

But the men at Cherokee who always "did things up right" are reliably reported to have smiled pleasantly, if a trifle knowingly, when the ample yield of pay dirt glistened in the pan. Hayes was permitted to keep the gold.

Mrs. Hayes also obtained a gold memento of her visit—with even less effort. Engineers presented her with a handful of amalgam taken from the riffles, and estimated to contain \$200 worth of gold.

No one seems to know whether General Sherman did any panning, but he did spend an enjoyable half hour washing away the side of a cliff with a stream of water piped for nearly 30 miles.

### How Much Gold

There are various estimates as to how much gold has been taken from the Cherokee mine. Vintin said to-

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)



## President Rutherford B. Hayes Was A Visitor to Cherokee Years Ago

(Continued from Page 1)

day that the total value would reach between \$12,000,000 and \$13,000,000. How much gold still remains in the property no one knows. Vintin himself believes that it is still tremendously rich.

Besides the gold, numerous precious stones have been found at Cherokee, among them diamonds, said by lapidaries to equal those obtained in South Africa. The first diamond was found there in 1864.

Hydraulic operations were started at Cherokee in 1871 and continued until 1916, when the anti-debris law compelled hydraulic mining companies to impound tailings.

### Water for Mining

Water for mining operations was brought from Butte creek across the West Branch through Concow valley, a distance of 30 miles. It was carried through a 30-inch pipe. The stream of water, thrown through an 8-inch nozzle was projected as far as 400 feet. The force of the water was powerful enough to move immense boulders.

The mine was supplied with eighteen hydraulic monitors, nine miles of gold saving sluices, and many powerful water pressure derricks

and other equipment.

Of 1400 acres of land included in the mine, only about one-quarter has been mined.

From 1871 to 1888 Cherokee had an estimated average population of 1500. Today there are only 75 people in the famous camp.

### Few Old Timers

Only some half dozen of those who lived in the mining town in 1887 still are residents there. They include T. M. James, Daniel Williams, Daniel Morgan, Thomas Darby, Edward Campbell, Mrs. V. Vangooden and D. L. Vintin, of Vintin's Store.

Cherokee wasn't as "hard boiled" as many of the camps which made mining history in California—it didn't even have a jail. It did boast the Bader brewery, which had a reputation for making excellent beer, and there were plenty of places to buy "hard liquor."

The mine is now owned by members of Vintin family, D. L. Vintin, Maggie Vintin, Ruth Vintin, and Marquis Vintin, all residents of Cherokee.

EUGENE C. GOLDEN of Sacramento was a guest at the Union Hotel yesterday.

3-20-1929

## **BUTTE MEN PAY FINES ON CHARGE OF FISHING WITH NET**

OROVILLE (Butte Co.), March 20.—George Taber, Oroville groceryman, and James Kirby of Yankee Hill, his father-in-law, were fined \$150 each by Justice of the Peace W. H. MacAnarlin of Durham on a charge of taking trout in a dip net on the West Branch of the Feather River above the Concow Dam.

Taber appeared for both himself and Kirby and entered pleas of guilty yesterday.

The men were arrested by state game wardens. The pair are alleged to have had two large trout in their possession. The fish are said to have been among those rescued by Butte County sportsmen and fish and game department men after they had become stranded in two shallow pools below the dam. Two thousand fish were saved after several days' work.

# MEN CAPTURED NEAR PULGA BY G.W.P. LINEMEN

Oroville Mercury Register  
4-5-1929

## Four Questioned by Phelps; Suspensions Aroused; They Flee to Woods

An intensive search was being conducted near Pulga today for Francis Wooster and J. R. McCumber, escaped convicts, following the capture yesterday afternoon of their two companions, Floyd Wilkins and M. Comly, on the county road five miles north of Pulga.

The pair were taken into custody by V. V. Ricketts, Great Western Power company employe, E. B. Phelps, R. H. King and Oscar Johnson, all of Pulga. The men, who escaped from Feather River road camp No. 17 the evening of March 27, were unarmed and did not resist arrest.

### Brought Here

They were brought to the county jail here last night awaiting return to San Quentin prison. A reward of \$400 had been offered for their capture.

E. B. Phelps who was driving to Pulga noticed four men beneath a tarpaulin selter a mile and a half north of Pulga. He ordered them to line up outside the tent while he questioned them. Not certain that the men were convicts, Phelps continued to Pulga, where he notified Ricketts and the two returned to the temporary camp. They found it deserted. The escaped prisoners, in their haste, had left blankets and provisions and the remains of an unfinished meal. Two of the convicts apparently had gone north along the railroad tracks, while foot prints showed that the others had started up the mountain to the county road.

### Started After Them

Ricketts and Phelps started in pursuit of the two men who had started up the mountainside. In the meantime they telephoned to King at Pulga, and King and Johnson, in an automobile, met the first two searchers near Camp 17.

The two convicts are believed to have obtained supplies from the prison camp and by raiding section gang camps. They had blankets and eggs, bacon, flour and other edibles, and had changed their prison garb for working clothes. The men said they had spent Wednesday night near Intake.

### Records of Four

Comly, 27, was sentenced in San Mateo county to serve 15 years for robbery. Wilkins, 26, was under a four-year sentence for violation of the motor vehicle act. He was committed to prison from Alameda county.

Wooster is 25 years of age and was serving five years from San Diego county for burglary. McCumber, 30, received from Los Angeles county was under a four-year sentence for violation of the state motor vehicle act.

5-14-1929

## Class Of Four Students Meet Sixty Years Later At Oregon City School Mates Club Reunion; Talk Old Times

**F**OUR men and women who, as children, learned their A B C's together in the little schoolhouse at Oregon City met sixty years later Sunday at the same spot to talk over school days.

The occasion was the thirteenth annual picnic of the Oregon City School Mates club. The members of the A B C class, all living, were G. H. Nisbet, Oroville; Mrs. Sarah Brandt, Oroville; Mrs. Lucy Mengler, Thermalito, and Miss Mary Logue, Oregon City.

One of the original scholars was there, too. He was Dan Williams of Cherokee.

Women members of the first grade class of '69 were presented with boxes of candy by Nisbet.

### Officers Elected

The picnic brought former Oregon City school students from various parts of the country. Mrs. Eva Missinger was present from Burlingame. Mrs. Ray McGaughy of Berkeley was there, and Mrs. Jessie Coggins of Columbia, Mo., attended the reunion.

A. M. Hengy was elected president of the club, Charles Fisher, first vice president, Frank James,

second vice president, G. H. Nisbet, secretary, and Robert Strang, treasurer.

There were 135 persons present for the reunion and picnic, including about 60 former students. Highway camp employes attended as invited guests.

The club was organized in 1917 when someone suggested that the "boys and girls" who went to the school renew old associations. Robert Strang was one of those who took an active part in organizing the club.



# Marysville Appeal Democrat

5-18-1929

## JURY FREES TWO ON CHARGE OF KILLING DOE; COURTROOM FILLED AS GRAMPS BROS. ARE TRIED

GRIDLEY, May 18 John and Walter Gramps, Pulga Indians, were found not guilty on the three counts of possession of deer meat and tracking of four deer in closed season and the killing of a doe, in a jury trial in the justice court yesterday.

Flaws and contradictions in the testimony of two of the star witnesses for the prosecution, H Hunter and Alec Johnson, another Pulga Indian, had resulted in the case against Corbert Gramps, the third of the first group of defendants standing trial yesterday, being dropped.

Hunter had testified to seeing all three of the defendants shoot at the doe while Alec Johnson named only John and Walter Gramps as the ones he had seen raise their rifles near the scene of the killing of the doe found by three deputy game wardens, A. D. Miner, Cliff Barnes of Quincy, and Taylor London of Oroville.

It was on information given the game wardens by Johnson and Hunter that the remains of the doe, a fresh hide and two unborn fawns, was found by the wardens, it was brought out in the trial.

A piece of pickled deer meat, alleged to have been found in a shed on the Gramps property, and the two unborn fawns in a glass jar, were used as evidence by the prosecution.

The jury verdict, brought in shortly after 5 p. m. climaxed a full day of court battle between the prosecution and the defense with some comedy touches being brought in both sides of the entertainment of spectators. A large portion of the town of Pulga was present at the proceedings.

Justice C. M. Gilleece frequently used his gavel for quiet and finally warned the court room that the trial was not an entertainment for their benefit.

Testimony by prosecution witnesses occupied the full morning session and part of the afternoon.

Deputy Game Wardens A. D. Miner and Taylor London were called to the stand and testified.

Following their search of the house they said that they searched the shed in which the piece of pickled meat was found. In the cross examination, it was brought out that the game wardens had been led to the spot where the doe was found by Hunter and Johnson

after they had searched Hunter's place.

V. V. Ricketts, deputy constable of Pulga, defense witness, testified that the reputation of both Hunter and Johnson was bad. He said they had been warring on the Gramps family for years and recalled the trial of Hunter in Oroville some time ago on a charge of assault of one of the Gramps boys.

Walter and John Gramps, on the stand, declared they were kept home on the day of the alleged doe killing by heavy rainfall.

E. Phelps, business man, and Mrs. Anna McGregory, Pulga school teacher, both told of the bad reputation of Hunter and Johnson in the Pulga community.

Attorney W. E. Duncan charged in rebuttal, that Johnson himself had killed the doe, instigated by Hunter, and planted it for a "frame-up" on the Gramps brothers.

The date of the trial of the remaining five Gramps brothers, Martin, George, Dave, Albert and Harry Gramps on the blanket charge has not yet been set.

Jurymen in Friday's trial were: Mrs. Florence F. Criddle, Mrs. Don B. Robb, D. C. Cone, Hugh Borrowman, Walter L. Harkey, Mrs. Frances Walden, J. H. Matlock, Ribert L. Fenton, L. Christensen, F. L. Bratton, James C. David, and Geo. W. Beale.

Oroville Mercury

6-1-1929

## **Pulga Brightens Up For Summer Season**

PULGA, June 1.—W. H. KING has remodeled several of the cottages on his grounds this spring and outside painting of the cottages is now being done. They are being painted a light green color with white trimmings.

King intends to make other improvements in the near future, which will add to the beauty of the place, together with the planting of the lawn and flowers.

Superintendent of schools, J. E. Partridge, accompanied by Mrs. Partridge, motored to Pulga on Monday to give the final tests to the pupils of the Big Bar school from the 4th to 3th grades inclusive.



6-3-1929

# MRS. SOBRERO RESIGNS POST AT CHEROKEE

CHEROKEE, June 3.—(Special)—  
The Cherokee school closed Wednesday. Mrs. Mable Sobrero will not teach at the school next year, and Mrs. Rose Churchman will succeed her. Mrs. Churchman was formerly a teacher in the Clear Creek district.

MRS. MABLE SOBRERO was a visitor in Chico Thursday.

MRS. ROSE CHURCHMAN and her brothers, James De Long were visitors in Chico last Saturday.

J. L. JONES has returned from taking his cattle to the mountains.

MR. and MRS. IRL JONES have moved to Oroville, where Jones is employed at Taber's grocery store.

MRS. PERCY SLACK and daughter, Clara, expect to leave for Oregon this week where they will join Slack.

Oroville Mercury

6-6-1929

# **PULGANS LAND THREE AND SIX POUND TROUT**

**PLUGA, June 6 (Special)**—Fishing at Pluga and Mayaro has been reported as good during the past week.

Several limits of trout were caught at Mayaro from Dogwood and Camp Creeks which are in that vicinity.

**CORBETT GRAMPS** continues to be the best fisherman in Pulga having caught the limit twice last week. One fish weighed approximately six pounds.

**L. G. Dedmon**, another fishermen, caught the limit during the past week. His largest fish weighed about three pounds.

# Oroville Mercury

## 6-6-1929

### WOMEN LOST IN WILDS OF CANYON COUNTRY FOUND AFTER LONG HUNT

YANKEE HILL, June 6—(Special)—How two women became lost in the wild regions near Yankee Hill Monday while on a fishing trip became known today. The women are Mrs. Ace Miller and Mrs. Mark Simmons, both of Yankee Hill.

They accompanied their husbands on a trip to Swamp Creek in the canyon country and arriving at their destination they decided to explore the country.

They followed by-paths for some time and then realized that they were hopelessly lost. After wandering aimlessly for several hours in an attempt to find their bearings, they decided to wait for searchers.

Miller and Simmons found their wives late that evening several miles from camp. They were tired but were none the worse for the experience.

# Oroville Mercury

6-6-1929

## Yankee Hill

**YANKEE HILL, June 6.** (Special) —**MR. and MRS. CHARLES UPTON** of Concow returned to their home Saturday from Redding where they were called by the illness of Mrs. Upton's brother.

**JIM HAUSEMAN** of Oroville spent Memorial day at the home of his parents on Jordan Hill.

**MRS. J. C. MILLER** and son John of Chico were visitors here Sunday.

**MRS. E. L. MERRITHEW** and son Lloyd, of Durham, visited friends and relatives, here and in Concow Sunday.

**GUSS PIPENSTOCK** of Long Beach was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Upton over the weekend. He left for Shasta county Monday to look after his mining interests at Harrison Gulch.

**MR. and MRS. JOHN WASHBURN** of Oroville have moved to their ranch near Yankee Hill.

**MRS. LUELLA WILKISON** and Miss Emma Stewart of Los Angeles are spending their vacation at the home of the latter's sister, Mrs. Guss Streuble at the Royal Ann Mine.

**MR. and MRS. TAYLOR SIMMONS** of Ontario, Oregon, are visiting at the home of their daughter Mrs. Orego Harrison in Concow.

**GRANT CROGHAN** who was injured in an automobile accident some time ago, is much improved and plans to return to his work with the highway survey party at Susanville about the 10th of June.

**EVELYN HENDRICKS** and Grace Miller visited Mr. and Mrs. John Williams at the highway camp in Big Bend Tuesday evening.

**ANDREW AURMBRUSTER** who has been ill for some time is improving slowly.

**JIM KIRBY** has recently completed an addition to his farm house in Concow.

**M. E. CARPENTER** and son and daughter-in-law of Redwood City are the guests of M. P. Simmons. M. E. Carpenter plans to spend the summer in Concow.

**MR. and MRS. CHARLES CROGHAN** have moved to a camp on the Pulga road, where Croghan is employed with the road crew.

**FRED CHRISTIAN** who spent the winter at the Taber ranch in Concow returned to his home at Saw Mill Peak, last week.

**MR. and MRS. CHAS. ODNEAL** have gone to Oregon for the summer.

# 3 PUPILS AT YANKEE HILL TO GRADUATE

Oroville Mercury  
6-6-1929

Concow, Yankee Hill Gram-  
mar Schools Close May 31  
with Joint Exercises

YANKEE HILL, June 6.—(Special)—The Yankee Hill and Concow schools closed May 31 with a joint entertainment given by the teachers, Miss Catherine Cooney and Mrs. Jessie Tarter. The three pupils who graduated were Zelma Williams, Lyman Mook, and Laverna Griffith.

Program of graduation exercises:  
March, by Miss Josephine March of Chico.

Songs, by school—Music in the Air, and Welcome Sweet Spring.

Songs by Grace Miller—Painting Pretty Pictures—Somewhere a Voice Is Calling, accompanied by Miss Josephine March at the piano.

Valedictory, by Zelma Williams.

Talk on education by Mr. Johns, principal of Palermo schools.

Violin duet, Donald and Joseph McKinnon accompanied at the piano by Miss March.

Farewell to 8th grade, Laverna Griffith.

Farewell to 7th grade, Heneritta DeLonong.

Songs—At Dawning—On a Hilltop—Mrs. Shingleton—encore the Lilac tree.

Class prophecy, Lyman Mook.

Presentation of diplomas, by John Clark.

Closing song—I Love You California, school.

March—by Josephine March.

# Oroville Mercury Register

6-7-1929

## INDIAN WOMAN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH NEPHEW'S DEATH SAYS HE KILLED SELF

Elements of mystery in the death of Dempsey Roy, 31, an Indian, were cleared today when Mrs. Emma Roy, his aunt, admitted that the man had committed suicide by hanging himself.

The woman, who has been held in the county jail by Sheriff C. W. Toland in order that circumstances concerning the man's death might be explained satisfactorily, will be released, the sheriff said this afternoon.

Although Sheriff Toland and other investigators have expressed the belief repeatedly that Roy took his own life, Mrs. Roy insisted stoically until today that she did not know how he died.

Then following a talk with Roy's

brother, Sandy Roy, she told Sheriff Toland and District Attorney J. A. McGregor that Roy had killed himself. She said that she found his body hanging in an outbuilding near the place of M. J. Kelly, for whom she keeps house. She removed the body and the rope, and then, becoming alarmed, had someone call the sheriff's office, she said.

At first it was thought Roy, who was in ill health, died a natural death, but examination showed marks of strangulation about his neck. An investigation was immediately started by Sheriff Toland and W. M. Thomas, deputy coroner, and Mrs. Roy was lodged in the county jail.



Oroville Mercury Register

6-12-1929

## **Big Fish Hooked In Concow Lake**

**YANKEE HILL, June 12.—(Special)—Fishing in the Concow Lake is reported good, the last few days. M. E. Carpenter made an especially good catch Monday. He landed one fish that measured 20 inches and weighed four pounds. One still larger broke his line and escaped,**

# Oroville Mercury Register

6-18-1929

## **PULGA IS NOW TOLL STATION ON PHONE LINE**

**Oroville Representatives of P.  
T. & T. Install System  
in Canyon**

**PULGA, June 18.—(Special)—J. A. Whan, manager of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company of Oroville was in Pulga on Tuesday to see about the installation of a toll telephone station.**

**Gene Dobbas, wire chief of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company of Oroville was in Pulga on Wednesday to install a telephone in the general store, which is owned W. H. King.**

**Pulga now is a toll station on the line that is being built by the Pacific Telephone Company from Oroville through the Feather River canyon to Quincy.**

## **Siphon Installed at G. W. P. Gauge**

**PULGA, June 18.—(Special)—J. Hansell and L. Cattirolo of Las Plumas were in Pulga two days last week installing a siphon and staff guage in the Big Bar Guaging Station of the Great Western Power Company located on the north fork of the Feather River half a mile above Pulga.**

Oroville Mercury Register

8-21-1929

**MR. and MRS. EARNEST MERRITHEW and son, Lloyd of Durham motored to Pulga over the Feather River road Sunday returning by way of Flea Valley, the Dixie Ranch and Concow Merrithew caught some fine trout in Concow Lake.**

# Strange Tales In The News

## Butte Man Is Struck

### By "Dead" Rattlesnake

YANKEE HILL (Butte Co.), Aug. 21.—Ace Miller is almost ready to believe the story that snakes don't die until sundown.

He killed a rattlesnake with a rock—or thought he did. But when he went to cut off the rattles the snake struck him on the back of the hand. Its jaws had been broken by the blow from the stone, and its fangs failed to penetrate. However, Miller has given up the practice of collecting rattles.

Oroville Mercury Register

8-26-1929

# TREADS SNAKE BELIEVING IT LIMB OF TREE

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**YANKEE HILL, Aug. 26—(Special)—**Butte Williams, who is employed as ax man for the highway survey party at Pulga, had a thrilling experience Monday. While chopping brush he felt something moving under his feet. Thinking it was a branch of the tree he was chopping he reached down to remove it and discovered he was standing on a large rattlesnake which was striking viciously at his feet. Williams lost no time in chopping the snake's head off.

Oakland Tribune

8-28-1929

## ***Bear Invades Camp, Scares Chico Woman***

YANKEE HILL, Aug. 28.—  
Camping near the Flea valley  
ranger station provides its thrills,  
Mrs. Nettie Moak of Chico, can  
testify.

Mrs. Moak was asleep when she heard a noise and looked up to see a large brown bear standing with his front paws on one of the beds. She told him to "git," but Bruin, intent on exploring the camp, had no such intention. Instead he sniffed about inquisitively. The woman's son, Toby, awakened, ran to the ranger station for help, but the bear, in the meantime, ambled off into the woods.



## Evidence Found of Old Civilization In Canyon Section

Additional proof of an ancient population and civilization in California has been discovered recently in the Feather River country, east of Oroville.

Carvings of the people of this early civilization have been found in the vicinity of Pulga, near where Rock Creek enters the North Fork of the Feather River, and on the granite slopes of Rock Creek, near where one of its branches has its source in Campbell Lakes.

Deposits of jade have been found in the vicinity of the carvings, and it is hoped that by deciphering the carvings the origin of the jade may be disclosed.

The carvings, while not deep, are extremely plain. They indicate great age, are in various shapes and designs, some like a checkerboard, others in long, snake-like design, but most frequently as circles, some of which appear to represent the sun with the light radiating from it.

Some express the belief that the hieroglyphics may have been made by an ancient race who discovered gold in ages long before the arrival of white men drawn here by the finding of gold in 1849.

Oroville Mercury Register

9-13-1929

## Hausman Comes to Oroville To Have Big Sliver Removed

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YANKEE HILL, Sept. 13.—(Special)—Al Hausman, Jordan Hill rancher, received a painful injury to his finger while cutting corn for his hogs last Wednesday.

A sliver from the cornstalk stuck into his finger. He was unable to remove the sliver and was obliged to go to Oroville for medical attention.

9-25-1929

## Yankee Hill Woman Asserts World War Veteran Fired Past Her Head When Refused To Drink With Him

Napoleon Southers, alleged to have terrorized residents of the Yankee Hill district with a pistol and a shot gun, will be examined to determine if he is insane, it was indicated today.

Southers, who pleaded guilty to a charge of disturbing the peace, was sentenced to serve 90 days in the county jail when brought before Justice Harry S. Hills today. At the same time an insanity complaint was filed with Hills by Mrs. Grant Croghan of Yankee Hill.

Mrs. Croghan told Sheriff C. W. Toland and Constable William Fitch that Southers came into her house early Monday morning and fired twice with a pistol. Both bullets barely missed her head.

### Threatened Woman

"He wanted me to drink with him, and when I refused he held down my head and fired twice past the side of my face to show 'how good he could shoot,'" Mrs. Croghan said.

He had threatened several times previously to kill her, Mrs. Croghan said.

He also threatened to shoot Mrs. A. A. Miller of Yankee Hill and her dog because the dog barked at him, according to Mrs. Miller.

"I'd just as soon kill a person as a dog," Mrs. Miller quoted him as saying.

E. Lee Denny of Yankee Hill declared that Southers had come into his house at 4 o'clock Monday morning and had flourished a revolver.

### Killed his Dog

According to Sheriff Toland Southers killed his dog because the animal wouldn't eat ham and eggs.

Southers was taken into custody at Hendrick's Corners by Warren Peck of Las Plumas, W. H. Peck, Mark Simmons and Tobe Welch of Yankee Hill and was disarmed. He was arrested by Sheriff Toland, Constable Fitch and Manny Toland, who hurried to the scene when word was received that he was running amuck with a pistol and shot gun.

Oroville Mercury Register  
10-5-1929

# TOLAND GETS STILL IN RAID

Jordan Hill



Federal agents, accompanied by Sheriff C. W. Toland, seized an 85-gallon still at Gordon Hill in Deadwood and destroyed 50 barrels of mash yesterday afternoon. W. H. Moore, his son, Milton Moore, and Frank Moore, brother of W. H. Moore, were arrested and booked at the county jail for alleged possession of a still. Their bail was fixed at \$2500 each.

According to arresting officers, W. H. Moore claimed that he was the owner of the liquor making paraphernalia. Moore was sentenced in federal court in Sacramento some time ago to serve 30 days in jail for violation of the national prohibition act.

The three men are said to make their home in Thermalito.

10-9-1929

## Butte Bridal Couple Separated By Government's Immigration Rules

**Pentz Man Rushes English Bride And Ailing Mother-in-Law To Vancouver To Avoid Deportation And Now Stands Lonely Vigil Over Home Until Wife Can Re-enter United States**

CHICO (Butte Co.), Oct. 9.—When Tyson W. Lockerman of Pentz, near Oroville, after a swift courtship, married a British subject who was visiting the United States on a passport, he knew nothing about the immigration laws and cared less. To-day, however, he is much wiser, just as ardent a lover, but is living a lonesome life on his little ranch because he had to take his bride back to a British possession to avoid her deportation.

### Came In On Passport.

Mrs. Lillian Gascoine and her daughter, a charming and typically English girl, Doris Lillian Gascoine, departed from their London home in 1927 to visit their only son and brother in San Antonio, Texas, an engineer of note, who had taken out his first papers as an American citizen. Mrs. and Miss Gascoine came into Texas through the Galveston port of entry on a passport, which permitted a prolonged but not an interminable visit, and, after staying in San Antonio for some months, proceeded on their tour of the United States as far as Oakland. They stayed three months in the East-bay city and then took an apartment in San Francisco to tarry a while longer, to visit a daughter.

Then the younger visitor met Lockerman, and if it was not love at first sight, it was a case of love very soon afterwards, and a visit to a justice of the peace in the bay city made Miss Gascoine Mrs. Tyson W. Lockerman.

### Home Set Up In Pentz.

Bride and groom, and Mrs. Gascoine, quite oblivious to immigration laws, then established a happy family home at Pentz, where the groom is employed by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

All went well until the immigration authorities asked information as to when the two visitors to the United States would make their departure.

The laws passed by congress for the regulation of visitors to the United States make no provision for such cases, while Senator Hiram Johnson has a bill to meet such emergencies in preparation for presentation to congress, it is not law as yet.

Another dilemma presented itself in the Lockerman case. Mrs. Gascoine, the elder of the two women, suffered a stroke of paralysis, which for some weeks incapacitated her from movement or from being moved. The passport papers

were forwarded from Galveston to Angel Island, San Francisco, and a bond of \$500 for each woman was furnished.

### Authorities Are Firm.

The immigration authorities were considerate, but firm.

But that was not all the difficulty.

The two women had to return to a British possession, come in on the quota or await call on the preference list.

The nearest port of exit being Vancouver, British Columbia, Lockerman, when the elder visitor was able to be moved, took his bride and her mother to that city. He, being an American citizen, had the right to, and did, petition for the readmission of his bride to the United States on the preference list.

The delay therefore, in that case, might not have been serious, but he had no right to petition for the admission of his mother-in-law. She has the right to come into the United States on the preference list only on petition of her son, but he cannot make such a request until he gets his second papers, and becomes a duly qualified citizen.

### Not Alone In Trouble.

That is the situation of the parties, according to the most recent information.

Mrs. Gascoine, in Vancouver, has an apartment and cannot come to the United States, even were she physically able, until her son is naturalized in Texas. Mrs. Lockerman might come on the preference list, if she could leave her mother. Lockerman is back in Pentz, and finds that, temporarily at least, the immigration law has separated he and his wife.

His only consolation, as he expressed it the other day to his lawyer in Chico, is that he is not the only one in such a predicament.

"There are fifty couples in Vancouver waiting to get into America on the preference list," he said.



# Plumas National Bulletin

10-10-1929

## Flames Burn Large Tract Near Pulga; Section Hand Falls Over a Steep Cliff

PULGA, October 10.—Thursday afternoon of last week W. R. Luther, Western Pacific lineman, reported a fire burning above the railroad track at the east end of the Rock Creek spur.

Before the nearest section crew could reach the fire, it had rapidly traveled up the steep mountain-side, fanned by a strong wind.

Firefighters were quickly gathered together, under the direction of Fire Warden Frank Dedmon of Belden Bar and Fire Warden W. H. King of Pulga. Men were brought from Pulga, Tobin, Cresta and Rock Creek.

The force of 25 men on hand was not adequate to cope with the blaze so reinforcements were called for.

District Ranger of Plumas National Forest Henry Kloppenburg arrived from Quincy with two fire wardens and a crew of 29 men furnished by the Western Pacific.

Much difficulty was encountered fighting the fires because burning logs and hot stones came rolling down the steep sides.

After three attempts a fire trail was finally cut around the burning area at about daybreak. Back firing was kept abreast of the trail blazes and at the completion of the trail the fire was under control.

The full force of men remained with the fire on Friday. Most of the men were released Friday evening, a small crew of men remaining to watch the fire Friday night.

Due to the dryness of grass, brush and woods and the strong wind, the fire burned over an estimated area of 600 acres in a few hours.

The fire passed under the tower lines of the Great Western Power Company, but as brush and tall timber had been cleared from the lines, they were in no danger from the fire, but were, however, carefully watched.

A section man from Tobin, whose name could not be ascertained, fell over a steep cliff while fighting the fire. He was badly shaken up and bruised and it was not known how badly he was hurt as he returned to Tobin.



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## Fall Creek Camp Site For Farm Bureau Projected

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Development of the Fall creek camp site of the Butte County Farm bureau will be considered early next week when Woodbridge Me. calf Extension forester with the University of California, members of the camp committee of the Farm Bureau and members of the Extension Service visit the locality.

The camp is near Flea valley, in the Lassen national forest.

The problem of handling the water supply and construction of a permanent building to house cooking and camping equipment, will be the principal matters discussed.

Members of the camp committee who plan to make the trip are Guy Adams, Thermalito; J. R. Snyder, Wyandotte, and A. L. Chaffin, Penz.

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Oroville Register 10-26-1929

## **Bay Man Examines Jade Mine at Pulga**

PULGA, Oct. 26.—(Special)—Dr. and Mrs. W. S. Rice of San Francisco made a trip to Pulga Wednesday to examine the jade mine owned by W. H. King.

Dr. Rice who is a mineralogist, has just completed a tour over the country visiting mines en route. He took several samples of the jade with him for further inspection.

11-9-1929

# State Fire Fighters Bring Lassen Blaze Under Control

SACRAMENTO, Nov. 9.—(AP)—Checked by the United States forest service fighters late yesterday on its northern front, the disastrous Flea valley fire in Lassen National Park is expected to be brought under control by this morning, State Forester M. B. Pratt reported last night from Oroville.

Pratt assumed personal charge of the state's force of 165 fire fighters who were battling the flames yesterday, when it was reported that the fire had split and was sweeping north and east, out of control.

Pratt reported the fire fighters were aided by a change in the weather and subsequent dying down of the stiff wind which had been driving the flames onward despite the efforts of the state forces and the federal crew of 259 men, working under the direction of Ranger Frank Delaney of Magalia.

Burning on a 10-mile front, before its split, the fire had destroyed valuable timber on approximately 10,000 acres of land, it was reported.

Pratt was called to Oroville yesterday to take charge of the state forces in quelling the most disastrous late fall forest fire in recent years.

Fourteen incendiary blazes converged Wednesday night in the Flea valley section, sweeping along a ten mile front through valuable federal and Diamond Match company timber into state

land at the head of a stiff north wind.

Changing weather conditions, bringing a south breeze, was a break for the fire fighters, Pratt stated, and under present plans, the entire fire should be under control by late today.

The state fire camp was established at Concow with every available man and piece of equipment concentrated to corner the two fire lines advancing on state property. With the north line under control of the federal forces, Pratt was confident. He denied vehemently that fire fighters had been conscripted from Western Pacific trains or automobiles, stating that all men were secured from labor centers.

From a season which until fall had been mild with successful fire control on nearly every front, this blaze alone will add thousands of dollars to fire losses. More than 7,000 acres of timber, including much of merchantable stand, burned in this blaze. Pratt made no estimate of the losses or costs of control tonight, other than it would run well into the thousands of dollars.

No reports had been received last night on a fire said to be burning near Placerville. This conflagration was not considered serious, however.

Other fires reported controlled were burning near Armstrong Grove, Sonoma county; Guerneville Newton in Eidorado county and two minor blazes in the Plumas National Forest.

Woodland Daily Democrat

11-9-1929

# Butte Holds Indian Fos Setting Fires

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(By Valley News Alliance)

OROVILLE—Dan Johnson, Indian, was held in the county jail here Saturday as suspected of having set the Flea Valley forest fire. He was arrested by Federal rangers and turned over to the sheriff here, at Puiga Friday night. The fire was reported Saturday to be under control after burning more than 15,000 acres of timber and brush land.



# Oakland Tribune

11-12-1929

→ The Flea Valley fire, the largest of the month, was all but extinguished after burning over 20,000 acres, much of which was heavily timbered land in Lassen national forest. The ranch homes of George Suensing, cattleman, and Mrs. Charles Campbell were reported destroyed with a loss in buildings and contents of \$25,000.

## **SONOMA COUNTY BLAZES CONTROLLED.**

Dan Johnson, Pulga rancher, was due to be arraigned in court at Oroville today on a charge of having started the fire. He has been held there since Saturday, when he was arrested as he moved away from his camping place near the source of the flames.

Note: Suensing misspelled.....name is Duensing

Woodland Daily Democrat

11-14-1929

# Lack of Evidence Frees Fire Suspect

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(By Valley News Alliance)

OROVILLE—Dan Johnson, Indian, son of Dixie Johnson, famous Indian scout, arrested as a suspect in the setting of the Flea Valley fire, which burned 20,000 acres of timber land last week, was released from the county jail here Thursday because of insufficient evidence against him.



## Fire Fighter At Pulga Dislocates Three Vertebrae

PULGA, Nov. 16.—(Special)—R. E. Wisner, of the California state highway commission, dislocated three vertebrae in the back of his neck while attempting to save some buildings that were in danger of being burned.

He was taken to Oroville where he received prompt attention from a chiropractor.

## Forest Officials Taking Charge Of Fires in Sierras

PULGA, Nov. 16.—(Special)—W. G. Durbin, forest supervisor of the Lassen national forest; Pete Hansen, senior forest ranger of Susanville; F. B. Delaney, district forest ranger from Magalia; R. A. Deering, assistant district forester of San Francisco; and C. Jordan, superintendent of roads and trails, were in Pulga this week and nearby vicinities, attending to forest fires which were endangering all surrounding territory.

## Flea Valley Fire Breaks Out; Halted

PULGA, Nov. 16.—(Special)—The Flea Valley fire broke out again in the vicinity of Mayaro Lodge yesterday.

W. N. Phelps, manager, summoned help from Pulga to try and protect his buildings. W. H. King, Jr., fire guard at Pulga, responded immediately with **twenty-one men.**

Serious results were **narrowly averted**, although King received slight burns on hands and head.

# Do You Know Your City? Here's Its History From Beginning By The Mayor

By W. T. BALDWIN

Mayor of the City of Oroville  
Oroville is 74 years old.

Prior to 1854, it was called "Ophir" which was established in 1849. Gold was discovered here in October, 1849.

The present site of Oro Vista was known as "Lynchburg" and at about



Mayor Baldwin

the present location of the Southern Pacific depot, was "Mid-dletown."

Gold mining along the river bar and drifting from shafts in the higher grounds was the principal occupation of the people in and about Oroville at this time. The

water from the mining operations on the higher grounds would at times submerge Myers street to a depth of a foot or more.

## Wide Open Town

During 1855 and 1856 Oroville was one of the wildest of "wide open" towns in the state. There were 65 saloons and no churches at all. It is told that a Methodist preacher one Sunday morning preached to a large audience at Long's Bar and anticipating a larger crowd for the afternoon, he announced that services would be held in the afternoon, but when he came to preach, he found only about 20 persons, the others were too drunk to attend divine services.

Sunday in Oroville was always a busy day. It is related that on Sunday, October 10, 1856, "there were three places in town where divine services were held, one horse race, two theatres playing to full houses, and a third theatrical company waiting to get a place to put on their performance, numberless belligerent individuals filled with whiskey, and two courts of justice levying fines."

While drinking and gambling flourished, yet there was very little thieving. Gold in pans and rockers was left while miners were at their meals and gold would remain untouched in the tents while the miners were at work in their claims. Conditions gradually changed so that by about 1860 Oroville was practically normal as to vice conditions.

## First Post Master

In December, 1854, a post office was established at Oroville, Peter Garlow being the first post master.

The first express company to serve the community was Captain W. E. Singer's Feather River Express which connected at Marysville with Wells, Fargo & Co., giving weekly service from Ophir to American Valley and way points. In 1858, Fenton B. Whiting, father of Dr. Frank M. Whiting, instituted a dog express service over the mountains for winter service. His first dog team consisted of three dogs of St. Bernard and New Foundland breed. The dog express continued in service until the introduction of snow shoes for horses in 1865.

On February 26, 1857, the "Gazelle", the first steamboat up the Feather river reached Oroville after an eight hour run from Marysville. The people of Marysville did everything that they could to block the navigation of the Feather river above their town and finally succeeded in getting the boats pulled off.

The school of Ophir district was one of three schools first organized in Butte county in the year 1853. In 1854 the school in Ophir was conducted for three months, had 95 pupils enrolled, and was apportioned \$194.04 of state moneys. The first county levy for school purposes was at the rate of 3 cents on each \$100 of assessed valuation. In 1856, Oroville school district was organized from a portion of Ophir district.

## No Church Services

Prior to 1857, there were no regular church services held in Oroville. The Methodist church was represented by a circuit preacher during 1855 and 1856 and again in 1858. On February 22, 1857, a Congregational church was organized at a meeting held in the Courthouse; the meeting was called to order by the Rev. B. N. Seymour and the church was organized with eight members. In 1858, the Methodist church commenced maintaining regular services at the Courthouse and a brick parsonage and church was built by the Congregationalists.

The first newspaper of Oroville was the Butte Record. This was the first paper published in Butte county and its first publication was made at Bidwell Bar on November 12, 1843. When the county seat was moved to Oroville, the Record also moved to Oroville and for two years thereafter was published daily.

In 1873 Oroville's first daily news-

paper was founded. It was called The Oroville Mercury. It was followed in 1878 by the Oroville Daily Register. These two newspapers merged in 1927 and since have been operating under the name of the Mercury-Register.

In 1856, Oroville was said to be the fifth in population in the state and the third as to voting numbers. On September 24, 1856, Oroville was declared the county seat after a hotly contested election held on April 19, 1856, in which Oroville received 2296 votes, Bidwell, 1685, Lynchburg, 273, and Wyandotte, 129. The fact that the polls were kept open at Oroville until the returns from the balance of the county were heard from, probably accounts for Oroville being third in the state in voting numbers.

Oroville was first incorporated in 1856 and the bill providing for its incorporation was passed by the legislature and received the signature of the governor, General Bugier, on March 14, 1857. However the mining operations soon after began to wane and on February 18, 1859, a bill disincorporating Oroville was approved.

## Chico in 1860

Even in the early days there was much rivalry between Oroville and Chico and Oroville and Marysville. The town of Chico was laid out in 1860 while Marysville was established in the latter part of the 40's.

As early as 1865 a route for a wagon road to Quincy by the way of the Beckwourth Pass route was agitated.

The first railroad to Oroville, it being the first in Butte county, was the California Northern and was completed in February, 1864, this being the fourth railroad to be built in the state of California. The first train to arrive in Oroville was on February 9, 1864, and on February 15, 1864, a big celebration was held in honor of the event. On April 2, 1867, articles of incorporation of the Oroville and Virginia City railroad were filed in the office of the Secretary of State at Sacramento, the avowed purpose being to build a railroad up the North Fork of the Feather river, but owing to financial troubles in the beginning, the project failed although grading was done in 1869 between Thompson's Flat and Morris Ravine for quite a distance and this grade was utilized and is now being used as a part of the road from Oroville to Cherokee.

## Influx of Chinese

During the years 1873 to 1876 there was a large influx of Chinese

to Oroville on account of mining operations in the lava beds immediately south of Oroville, and during 1874 it was estimated that there were 10,000 Chinamen in and about Oroville.

Up to 1872, titles to land in Oroville were very insecure. W. S. Safford, then county judge, on May 16, 1877, made application to the United States Land Office for a patent to the townsite of Oroville, covering about 288 acres of land, and on June 1, 1872, a patent was issued to W. S. Safford, county judge, in trust, for the benefit of the inhabitants of the townsite of Oroville. Claims for lots were filed by property holders, certificates issued to them, and after the expiration of six months, if no contestants appeared, deeds were given to the claimants for the ground claimed.

In 1880, Thomas A. Edison made a proposal to erect a reduction works in Oroville for the extraction of gold from black sand. A company known as the Edison Ore Milling Company was organized and experiments with black sand shipped from here were made at the Edison laboratory in New York, but Edison's theory failed and the reduction works did not materialize.

#### Anti-Hydraulic Mining

After the passage of the Anti Debris law, hydraulic mining which was one of the most important industries that supported Oroville, was stopped, which brought about quite a business depression. In 1886, twenty citizens met at the Courthouse to listen to a plan presented by E. W. Fagg for the growing of oranges on a commercial scale. A company was formed known as the Oroville Citrus Association with a subscribed capital of \$20,000. They purchased a tract of land at Thermalito and planted it to oranges. The company is still in existence and is producing oranges today.

The first citrus fairs to be held in northern California were held at Sacramento in 1885 and again in 1886. The third fair was held at Oroville, being our first local fair. In 1887 large tents were erected in the Courthouse plaza and under these tents were the orange trees now growing there. Of course the trees were not as large as they are now, but visitors to the fair were quite skeptical as to whether the trees were actually growing there or not. Since that time Oroville has conducted a citrus fair as a yearly event and as time has proven, each fair is enlarged upon until now the exhibits include all semi-tropical fruits.

#### First Olive Planting

In August, 1887, John C. Gray, who was the superior judge in Butte county for more than 25 years, and a resident of Oroville, made the first commercial planting of olives at the Mount Ida Ranch in the Wyandotte section. Also, later in the same year, E. W. Fagg at Thermalito and C. E. Kusel and Emile Kusel on the

Marysville road, south of Oroville, planted olive groves. The Kusel grove succumbed to dredging operations later on, but the Mount Ida grove and the Fagg grove are now two of the most productive groves in California.

The olive industry grew so rapidly that C. E. and Emile Kusel and the Ekman-Stow Company each erected olive oil factories, primarily to take care of their own productions, but also processed olives produced by other growers. Ekman-Stow Company was awarded the highest award at the Paris Exposition in 1900 for exhibiting the finest olive oil displayed there. In 1899, the Ehmann Olive Company established its plant in Oroville for packing ripe olives.

#### Growth of Citrus

The Mt. Ida Packing Company, which is a comparatively new concern, has taken over the Ehmann plant and also operates their own large plant. The Wyandotte Olive Growers also have a large plant and the combined output of these plants exceeds the output of olive products from any other city in the world.

The growth of the orange planting has also been great as is shown by the planting of the famous Rancho Golden Grove just across the Feather river from Oroville. This grove was planted by Major Frank McLaughlin in 1891. At about the same time the Hearst grove was planted at Palermo which has been a big producer. Numerous groves have been planted in the Oroville, Thermalito, Palermo and Wyandotte sections and all have proven to be quite productive.

While the stopping of hydraulic mining was rather a hard blow for Oroville, yet by the cessation of this class of mining, the problem of irrigation was solved and now these old mining ditches are used to carry water for irrigation.

#### Form Canal Company

Thomas Fleming of Biggs and Duncan C. McCallum of Oroville worked on irrigation projects for irrigating the valley lands as early as the year 1900, but it was not until 1905 that they got capital interested sufficiently to put up any money. A company was organized known as the Butte County Canal Co. and on June 9, 1905, water was turned into the Butte county canal. This system is now owned and operated by the Sutter-Butte Canal Co.

Ten years later, in 1915, the first unit of the Western Canal was completed. This system is owned and operated by the Western Canal Company, a subsidiary of the Great Western Power Company, and was also constructed to serve valley lands lying west of Oroville.

The third irrigation project was the purchase by the South Feather River Land and Water Company in 1918, of the old mining ditch known as the Forbestown ditch. This system is now owned and operated by the Oroville-Wyandotte Irrigation District which embraces a large

acreage lying east and south of Oroville which is planted mostly to citrus fruits. These three irrigation systems are contiguous to Oroville.

A fourth irrigation district was organized at Paradise in 1918. While this district is not as near Oroville as are the other three, yet Oroville derives a considerable benefit from the territory embraced therein.

#### First Gold Dredger

The first operation of a gold dredger began at Oroville on March 1, 1898. W. P. Hammon and Thomas Ocuch were the first persons to attempt to get capital interested and their scheme was looked upon with much skepticism. After it was shown that gold dredging was a success, the Oroville field was soon purchased by the operators. At one time there were 24 gold dredgers operating in this field and the pay roll was \$600,000.



The extraction of gold from the land left large piles of cobble and gravel which at the time appeared worthless and a blot upon the scenery of the country. While millions of gold were taken from the soil, millions are being realized from the sale of crushed rock obtained from these cobbles.

Work started in Oroville on the construction of the Western Pacific Railroad in September, 1886, and was completed in 1910. The building of this road gave Oroville its first transcontinental railroad. The first train arrived in Oroville in August, 1910. This train carried officials and contractors and stopped here over night. Oroville is a division point of the system.

In 1905, construction work was also started by the Northern Electric Railroad Co. between Oroville and Chico and operation of this portion of the road began in April, 1906. Subsequently the road was completed to Sacramento with a

branch to Colusa, and another to Woodland.

#### First Postal Savings

In 1892, the Oroville Union High School was formed under the state law providing for the organization of union high school districts.

In October, 1910, the first postal savings bank in the state of California was established by the government at Oroville in connection with the postoffice.

In February, 1890, an attempt was made to incorporate Oroville as a municipality, but it failed. Again in August, 1891, a petition was presented to the board of supervisors asking that an election be called for the purpose of voting upon the incorporation of Oroville. The petition contained 1504 names, but in October of that year only 242 voted upon the proposition, 142 votes against incorporation and 100 for it. In October, 1902, Oroville again attempted incorporation but it was defeated by a vote of 272 against and 205 for incorporation. In July, 1904, the question was again taken up and at that election the vote stood 319 against incorporation and 166 for it. In December, 1905, Oroville again voted upon incorporation and it was carried by a vote of 477 to 58. G. W. Braden was the first president of the board of trustees.

#### Civic Improvement

After incorporation, Oroville entered upon a period of rapid municipal improvements and the growth of the improvements has continued since then as rapidly as has been possible for the city to do. Many miles of sidewalk and pavement have been laid, a concrete faced levee, school buildings, sanitary and storm water sewer systems, Carnegie library, exposition building, opening of new streets and widening of old streets, and last, but not the least of all these, perfecting the fire

fighting facilities by the installation of an up-to-date fire alarm system and the purchase of a large combination ladder and pumping engine. Our fire apparatus now consists of one hose and chemical engine, one large combination chemical and pumping engine and the combination ladder and pumper just purchased.

Oroville has three public parks which are not yet improved.

A flouring mill operated on upper Montgomery Street for a number of years but on June 15, 1904, it was destroyed by fire.

#### Swayne Lumber Co.

The Truckee Lumber Company acquired large timber holdings northeast of Oroville the citizens furnished a site for a mill and the mill was erected. Then the matter of building a railroad to the timber was undertaken and after spending a considerable sum of money on building a grade to connect with the Western Pacific, it was abandoned and a narrow gauge road was built which was called the Butte and Plumas railway. Later the holdings of the Truckee Lumber Company were taken over by the Swayne Lumber Company which now owns and maintains the lumber operations.

The Sunnical Packing Company

operates a cannery establishment which operates part time.

The Hutchinson Lumber Company built a large saw mill plant, complete in every detail, upon a site just south of Oroville, which site was furnished by the citizens of Oroville. This company has large timber holdings in the Lumpkin territory, they operated their plant until October, 1927, when the whole plant was completely destroyed by fire.

#### City Never Dormant

Oroville has passed through many phases of civic life. Has had its times of affluence and its times of depression, but never has been dormant. If things look dark as they have in the past, the citizens get their shoulders to the wheel and Oroville is boosted over the hump. One of the greatest factors in holding the people together has been its chamber of commerce and the neighborly feeling that exists.

So I say to you, put your faith in Oroville. If the Great Northern is allowed to get entry into California, nothing can hold Oroville back. With her land for citrus fruits acknowledged as the best in the state, plenty of water and diversity of products, we are bound to go ahead by leaps and bounds and 10 or 20 years normal growth will be crowded into the space of 5 or 6 years.

# Plumas Independent

## 12-5-1929

### **MINERALS WERE ON DISPLAY AT BUTTE COUNTY'S FAIR**

The glitter of the Oroville Orange and Olive Exposition was enhanced by the display of Butte county's mineral resources, which attested that mineral production is still one of the predominating industries of that section at present.

Silver and gold ore from the Stevenson ranch, situated in the center of Butte county's citrus belt, shows a value of 54 ounces silver and \$171 gold.

Rich ore from the Belk mine at Forbestown, operated by Wm. Belk and Portland capital, and specimens from the Banner mine near Oroville were on display. The latter is being operated by J. H. Clark of San Francisco.

Black diamond granite from the John Clark mine at Yankee Hill, barium ores from the Bohannon mine, also at Big Bend, magnificent quartz crystals from Yankee Hill mine, and clay specimens of fine

brick from Table Mountain brick properties were attractive.

Many exhibits of a mineral nature show conclusively that the once famous mineral district of Butte production of \$450,000,000 is still claiming recognition.

Many visitors to the fair, former residents of Chico, proudly wear diamonds recovered from the old Cherokee mine, 12 miles north of Oroville. In 1860 this was the largest hydraulic mine in the world. It was closed down by the anti-debris law. However, Henry Gage of Chico and Berkeley has shown the fallacy of the argument by planting an unusually productive orchard on land fertilized by the silt of the Cherokee hydraulic mine. Gage's father was a large stockholder in the old Cherokee mine.

12-6-1929

## J. H. Hogan Recalls Pictures Taken In Early Day Oroville

Oroville of today resembles only slightly the Oroville photographed by John H. Hogan, dean of the city's photographers, fifty years ago.

Hogan made his first views here in 1879, and since then has taken many thousands of pictures. He took a picture in 1881 of the flood which carried away the gas house, and has depicted many other events in a half century of the city's history. Many of the pictures were shown at the Orange and Olive Exposition.

Hogan took photographs of Cherokee when it was in the height of its renown, of several fires which spread through Chinatown, of the fire which destroyed the Ostroski building many years ago, and has taken many photographs of mines and gold panning sluicing operations in the early days. Some of his views are of the famous "dragon parades" held by the Chinese when the Oriental population was numerous here.

Highwaymen who held up stages were arrested in the days when Hogan did much of his work, he recalled today, but there were no photographs taken of bandits then for the press.

The gold miners were among Hogan's best customers, he said. They sat for pictures to be sent to the folks "back home."



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## Pulga

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PULGA, Dec. 6.—(Special)—E. J. COUER of San Francisco spent the week-end at Maryaro Lodge.

MRS. WILLIAM DRURY of Oroville motored to Mayaro Lodge Sunday.

LOU DAHLMEIER of Oroville motored to Mayaro Lodge last week-end.

The California state highway party that has been stationed at Pulga for the last five months, is moving to Merlin, about eight miles north of here.

Among those who spent Saturday in Oroville were R. E. Wismer, R. E. Milton, Jack Wiegand, W. H. King Jr., M. E. Harlan, G. Sundman.

ELSIE and EDNA KING, W. S. Wiegand and E. M. Adams motored to Oroville to attend the Orange and Olive Exposition.

MRS. J. B. GRAHAM of Sacramento is visiting her family here for a few days.

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## Indian Enrollment To Take Place At Oroville Dec. 16-17

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Fred A. Parker, examiner, department of the interior, Washington, D. C., will be at the Indian reservation, at Chico, December 11, 12, 13 and 14, and at the county courthouse, at Oroville, December 16 and 17, for the purpose of receiving applications from persons of California Indian blood for enrollment under the Act of Congress of May 18, 1928, providing for the enrollment of California Indians.

The object of this enrollment is to ascertain what persons are entitled to share in a judgment against the United States which the California Indians are now endeavoring to obtain by a suit in the United States Court of Claims, at Washington, D. C. The Attorney General of the State of California, in his official capacity is acting as counsel for the California Indians. Suit has already been instituted. A judgment for \$12,800,000.00 has been asked for in the petition on file.

All persons who claim descent from California Indians, and all other Indians not of California Indian descent, are urged to take advantage of the opportunity afforded them to be enrolled. There will be no cost of expense to any applicant.

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12-26-1929

## **Truck Driver, With Ribs Broken, Walks Mile For Assistance**

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LAS PLUMAS, Dec. 26.—Charles Johnson, 35, employed by the Great Western Power company, is in Providence hospital in Oakland, receiving treatment for two broken ribs and severe bruises, sustained Thursday last when a heavy truck he was driving up the Las Plumas-Yankee Hill grade, near here, skidded and plunged backward 500 feet down a ravine.

Johnson, thrown clear of the truck in its wild backward plunge, and severely injured, nevertheless managed to get himself upon his feet and walked something like a mile back to the Las Plumas power house, where first aid was administered. He was removed to the hospital in Oakland Friday.

# FOUR CONFESS GOLD LARCENY

CHICO (Butte Co.), Dec. 31.— Theft of gold dust, valued at \$40, from the Knox Mine, near Yankee Hill, resulted in the arrest of six young men. They have pleaded guilty before Justice W. McAnarlin in Durham.

Five were given suspended sentences and one, who was under age, was turned over to the probation officer, E. S. Bybee.

The arrests were made by Constable W. G. Wageman on complaint of Edgar Knox. The four adults gave the names of Ben Clark, Adrian Clark, William Josephson, Ellory Scott and Edward Miller.