

Chico Record

1-16-1930

## **Seven Feet of Snow**

### **Falls at Ramsey Bar**

Jack Webster, who is mining near Ramsey Bar, came into Stirling City last week. Webster was four days making the trip, as he broke one of his skis and had to travel part of the distance afoot. He reported there is seven feet of snow at Ramsey Bar.

# Oroville Mercury Register

1-17-1930

## YANKEE HILL, CONCOW FACED BY FOOD EXHAUSTION; SNOW IS DEEP

YANKEE, HILL, Jan. 17.—(Special)—The Yankee Hill, Concow and Big Bend districts are snow-bound.

Over four feet of snow fell in Big Bend and Concow, while thirty-eight inches of snow had fallen at Yankee Hill and Hendricks Corners Tuesday.

Roads are blocked to automobile travel.

Only those who are fortunate enough to have horses and bob sleds are able to travel. Those who are less fortunate are obliged to mush

through snow several miles to reach the store and postoffice.

All telephone communications with the outside have been cut off by the heavy snows.

Being unprepared for the unusual snowfall many residents are temporarily in hard circumstances as food supplies are almost exhausted at the Pines.

Unless a thaw or rain melts the heavy snow a great loss of range stock is expected. Little or no feed is available here.

Several residents are ill and one or two accidents have occurred.

Oroville Mercury Register

1-17-1930

# **METEOR HISSES WAY TO EARTH AT YANKEE HILL**

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YANKEE HILL, Jan. 17.—(Special)—Residents of Yankee Hill and Concow were treated to an unusual and spectacular display of fire works in the heavens about 6 o'clock Thursday evening when a blazing meteor was seen passing through the air with a hussing roar. The blazing ball of fire was seen to disappear below the horizon. Apparently it fell to earth within a few miles of this place.

# Oroville Mercury Register

1-29-1930

## COUNTY DRIVE WILL BE STAGED AGAINST FIRES

An educational campaign that will be carried into every farm center of the county, and will be taken before the American Legion posts, chambers of commerce and fraternal and civic organizations will be started in Butte county commencing February 1 by Miles Young, state forest ranger.

Young today said he planned to speak before these bodies and asks co-operation of all members to keep down the cost of fighting fires in the county.

The ranger is in charge of fire suppression forces for the state board and forestry in this county.

The plan as outlined by Young is to make the people fire conscious.

He cited illustrations of great losses caused by fires in timberlands. One of the worst fires of last season was the Flea Valley fire which started in November after the fire season had officially closed. This fire destroyed 15,000 acres much of which was in valuable timber land. The cost of suppression for the one fire alone was \$35,000 and it is believed that the fire was of incendiary origin.

Co-operation of all people in all walks of life will be sought to stop these fires from destroying valuable timber that must be replanted in order to reforest the foothill and mountain slopes.

Besides the loss in timber, Young pointed out that prevention of fire would lessen the tax burden. Funds to fight fires come from state and county taxes.

### Some Early History of Magalia and Yankee Hill

Through courtesy of the secretary of the Oroville Chamber of Commerce we are bringing our readers some interesting data concerning what is now Magalia and Yankee Hill. The two articles were copied from Well's History of Butte County. In connection with this history we might add that in the changing of the name from Dogtown to Magalia was caused by the inability of the one writing to the postoffice department to spell Magnolia—the name adopted, hence Magalia being as close as he could get in spelling the word—Magalia it is. Another item of news which is known to most-folks here is contained in the following communication which we reprint as originally written:

"Dogtown, 14th August, 1859.

"Editor of Butte Record: Sir—

"Messrs. Willard & Co. took out of their claim one small nugget, weighing the small sum of fifty-four (54) pounds, and fifty (50) ounces, fine gold. Pretty good pay, this. Beat it who can? The claim is superintended by our worthy citizen, Dr. A. K. Stearns."

This one chunk of gold netted \$10,690 and the claim was owned by Wetherbee, Willard and Smith until 1861.

Following are the accounts from Well's History.

County 1852

#### MAGALIA OR DOGTOWN

In the spring of 1850, Abraham Decker, Sam McClellan, Sr., and Sam McClellan, Jr. came to the ridge where Dogtown is located, and so far as is known, were the first white men ever at that spot. In the fall of 1850, a man named Bassett built a cabin on the ridge, and others soon settled in the

vicinity. E. B. Kison one of the first settlers, built a saw mill here in 1852. The origin of the peculiar name which still clings to the place is ascribed to the fact that Mrs. Bassett raised a great many dogs to sell, finding it a very profitable business to supply the miners with a good breed of man's faithful friend. Prior to this nomenclature it bore the name of Mountain View. In early days letters for this point cost a dollar apiece to be brought from Marysville. The first store was opened by Abe Folk in the fall of 1851, and it soon became a lively camp. A year afterwards there were five hundred miners in and around the place.

The first mining done in the Dogtown neighborhood was by Tom Neal in 1851, who delved for the yellow ore four miles above. The Willard Claim, one mile northeast of town, was located and worked in 1852. In 1854 a piece of pure gold was taken out of it, weighing nearly six ounces. In 1859 the great fifty four pound chunk was found and the same week, this claim yielded \$30,000. Two week's mining on this claim resulted in the finding

of several pieces, the smallest of which was worth over \$2,000.

Dogtown, in 1855-56 became one of the most important towns in the county. A postoffice was established here in 1857, called the Butte Mills, but was changed to Magalia in 1861. In 1859 a man by the name of Jake

### TWIN PINES

Furnished Cottages  
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Convalescents, Hay  
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Patients Solicited  
NO CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

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PHONE 3-F-4, PARADISE

**The NEW  
and IMPROVED**

**EASY  
NO-WRINGER  
WASHERS**

**are  
MORE COMPACT  
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- 1. Improved suction type washer**
- 2. Marvelous new agitator type washer**

**EXCEPTIONALLY  
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**Nichols Hardware  
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Drop us a card or phone us  
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We will pay the postage

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"The Better Drug Store"

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Broadway at Fourth

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**Bank of Oroville  
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Invites your inspection  
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**SAFETY DEPOSIT  
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L. R. Brown  
CASHIER

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Have Pumps All Sizes  
And for Every  
Demand

Repairs for All Makes  
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**Conery Pump Shop**

828 Oroville Ave. Phone 937  
CHICO, CAL.

Radio  
Battery  
Electric

**Shop**

**DON BROWN**

PARADISE PROGRESS REVIEW

Greer stabbed and killed a man known as Dutch Fred, in a quarrel caused by the Dutchman refusing to drink with him. Greer was tried by the district court and sentenced by the district the sentence was commuted by the governor to imprisonment for life.

YANKEE HILL

Parties from the east discovered the mines in what has since been known as Rich Gulch, as early as 1850. It was one of the first camps on the east side of the West branch. Hundreds of miners soon congregated there, who were largely from New England. Owing to the beauty of the location and abundance of timber, several of their number erected their cabins on the hill, and were designated as the Yankees, by which means the hill got its singular name. Yankee Hill was the successor to Rich Gulch and Spanishtown, both places having faded from the memories of all but old settlers.

The first store opened in Rich Gulch displayed its wares in 1851. In 1854 a supply depot was started at Yankee Hill in the interest of the Frenchtown Canal Mining Co. In 1856 Yankee Hill became a village, and in 1858 M. H. Wells erected the first regular store kept in the place. It continued to grow in importance, and at one time there were three hotels, with a town population of three hundred souls.

The development of the Comstock and other rich mines in Nevada called most of the men of means and enterprise away from the embryo village.

The Yankee Hill ledge has proved very productive. Six thousand dollars have been taken out in a day. In 1856, the first mill was erected by the Virginia Co. on the Yankee Hill ledge. In the same year the '49 and '56 ledge

was located by M. G. Wells. These ledges have produced in the aggregate some \$800,000, both are covered by patents and owned by S. F. capitalists. The southern end of the township is a mass of unprospected ledges and when capital is employed on them it is thought that they will prove the finest quartz mining section in the State.

At the present writing, 1882, Yankee Hill has one store and hotel, both kept by M. H. Wells, who is also postmaster. Mr. Wells has been actively concerned from the time he settled there in developing the country about him. He has one of the finest libraries in the county. Yankee Hill is one of the most sightly and beautiful locations to be found on the western slope of the Sierras. Should the proposed railroad from Quincy ever be built, Yankee Hill will probably be a point on the route, in which case it is 1,900 ft. above the sea level.

JESSIE'S  
BEAUTY SHOP

Phone 5-F-13. Hours 9—6

House Facing Rear of  
Community Hall

Haircut .....	\$ .50
Marcel .....	.50
Fingerwave .....	.50
Eyebrow Arching .....	.50
Manicure .....	.50
Shampoo .....	.50
Facials and Packs....	75c and 1.00
Hot Oil Shampoos and Scalp Treatments .....	75c and 1.50

And Other Things

# Oroville Mercury Register

5-10-1930

## EARL HARRY GETS LIMIT WITH WORMS

PULGA, May 10.—(Special)—MR. and MRS. GRANT GROGHAN and sons, Ole and Fred, of Yankee Hill were visiting at the home of H. H. Hunter one day this week.

CLARK HALL and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Voight of Sacramento were visitors in Pulga recently. Voight is presumably going to be the new patrolman for the Great Western Power Co. He is taking the place made vacant by A. U. Eckstrom, who was transferred to Quincy.

H. S. COMLY was a business visitor in Pulga last Saturday.

A. STURTEVANT and A. U. Berry of Calime were business visitors in Pulga this week.

MISS FRANCES KING is spending the week-end in Chico visiting friends.

MISS GLADYS BAUER, grammar school instructor, motored to Oroville this Saturday to place on exhibit at the art show some of the fine work of the students of this vicinity. She will spend the rest of the week-end with her mother, Mrs. E. Bauer, in Chico.

MRS. J. B. GRAHAM of Sacramento was visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. King, of Pulga, a few days this week.

H. H. KING motored to Oroville one day this week on business.

V. V. RICKETTS of Storrie was in Pulga Wednesday. He walked over the tower line from Storrie to Pulga trying to detect trouble.

J. F. PRESLEY, Ford Presley, J. A. Hansel and Jim Hendricks of Las Plumas were in Pulga Wednesday in search for the trouble on the high powered lines.

HOWRD CATON, chief of the highway party at Pulga, is spending the week-end in Sacramento.

Edna V. Greig of Mayaro Lodge has returned home after enjoying a few days in Sacramento, visiting friends.

WILLIS BARTLETT of the California highway party at Pulga spent last week-end in Redding on business.

TOMMY KEENE and Wallace Wiegand of Pulga motored to Oroville one evening recently.

EARL HARRY of Pulga was one of the fortunate ones so far to bring home the limit of fish in a few minutes. He caught them out of Flea Valley creek. There have been several other limits caught here, and some of them very good size. The chief bait that has been used is angle worms.

# SNOW, FROST ARE FELT AT YANKEE HILL

Oroville Mercury Register  
5-10-1930

YANKEE HILL, May 10.—(Special)—MR. and MRS. E. D. HENDRICKS and daughter, Lena, were motored to Oroville by L. L. Brown Thursday. They plan to spend a few days in that city while Mrs. Hendricks is under medical care.

MRS. GRANT CROGHAN returned home Thursday eve. after a short visit to relatives in Palermo.

W. H. PECK was a business visitor in Oroville Thursday.

MISS CLARICE UPTON was a guest at the home of Mrs. Harrison at Chico Wednesday.

MRS. CAROLINE HAUSMAN is spending a few days in Oroville with friends. Mrs. Hausman plans to return to her home at Yankee Hill Sunday with her son, J. Hausman, of Oroville.

WILLIAM ROBBLEE and friends, Frank Tompkins and Manfred Cochran, of Palermo, were visitors at Yankee Hill Thursday evening. They plan to return Sunday for fishing.

MR. and MRS. JIM PINKSTON of Big Bend were guests at the home of Mrs. Pinkston's mother, Mrs. Chas. Upton Thursday afternoon. The Upton baby is improving rapidly.

O. B. CROGHAN returned to Storrie Wednesday after a six day lay-off.

MR. and MRS. GRANT CROGHAN and sons, Orley and Fred, were visitors at the home of H. Hunter at Pulga. They were also visitors at the home of Geo. Hubbard at Stirling City during the past week.

Snow was reported at the Carlyle place near Flea Valley Monday afternoon.

MR. and MRS. R. E. MILLER motored to Chico Wednesday. Mrs. W. H. Peck is in charge of the Hendricks home place until their return.

LEE DENNIS was a visitor at the home of Chas. Croghan Tuesday.

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Snow fell Wednesday in the Yankee Hill district. A heavy frost followed Wednesday night.

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MR. and MRS. CHAS. ODNEAL and family motored to Durham Thursday.

The Chub gulch point was surveyed this week for the cut that is to be made through that point.



# Oroville Mercury Register

5-22-1930

## YANKEE HILL TO DECIDE ON PHONE LINES

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YANKEE HILL, May 22.—(Special)—A meeting was held at the Concow school house Monday evening in regard to the telephone line which the forest service is considering building from Oroville to Yankee Hill.

Presiding over the meeting was Miles H. Young, state forest ranger, of Oroville. D. U. Bock, government ranger, was also present.

Young explained in detail the benefit this line would be to the community at all times, to say nothing of the service for both community and forest service in case of forest fires through the summer.

As far as was decided Monday evening, the new line will follow the present line from Old Yankee Hill to Oroville, and all of the old wire that is in suitable condition will be used.

Young advised that only five phones be on this line.

Most of the people of the community were present. John Wells and Albert Bush were spokesmen

for the community. Others made short speeches. Henry Gaub, ranger of Oregon City, and Ralph Gray of Oroville, were also present. Nothing definite has been decided upon.

Young has decided to call another meeting May 29. In the meantime the line is to be surveyed and what changes are necessary will be made known at the next meeting.

# YOUNG TRIO SPENDS NIGHT OUT OF DOORS

Ralph, Harold, Gladys  
Moore Lose Way at  
Swim Party

Lost overnight in the mountainous Jordan hill country near Deadwood, three children were found at 9 o'clock this morning by members of a searching party.

The children, **Ralph Moore, 6, Harold Moore, 5, and Gladys Moore, 3,** apparently suffered no ill effects from an all-night exposure to cold, or from their wanderings. **All were scantily clad and were bare-footed.**

## Went Swimming

The two boys and the girl, children of Mr. and Mrs. Winnie Moore, left Jordan Hill with two older companions yesterday afternoon to go swimming in the east branch of the Feather river, three-quarters mile away.

The smaller children found the water deeper than they had anticipated, and, afraid to go in, started home about 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, before the other members of the party left.

When the older children reached home and found that the two small boys and the girl had not arrived, Yankee Hill district residents started a search.

## Searchers Find Tracks

At 11:30 o'clock last night members of the searching party found tracks of the boys and the girl. They led over a mountain north of the swimming hole. However, the search was virtually abandoned last night until this morning, when daylight aided members of the posse who were combing the hills.

The three wanderers were located this morning as they were climbing a steep hill, 2 miles north of the point where they had left the river, and in the opposite direction from their home.

## Something to Eat

The first request of the wanderers was for something to eat.

Although they did not discuss their plight, it was believed that they had kept warm most of the night by huddling together or by walking in an effort to find their way through the underbrush and trees.

When the children were not found, it was feared they might have drowned and Sheriff C. W. Toland was notified early today. Sheriff Toland and Manny Toland, deputy sheriff, aided in the search, in which more than 15 residents of the section took part. Sheriff Toland returned to Oroville shortly before noon today with word that the wanderers had been found.

8-21-1930

## FLAMES BURN UNCONTROLLED IN MOUNTAINS

### Historic Old Mining Town in Path as Wind Changes

Cherokee, historic mining town, nine miles north of Oroville was threatened last night by a grass and brush fire which was still burning out of control today.

Wind was blowing the flames toward the town, once the scene of the country's most extensive hydraulic mine operations, when the wind direction changed.

As fire fighters were concentrating their efforts on saving the town, the flames jumped the west branch of the Feather river and burned up Dark conyon. This afternoon efforts were being made to control the fire, burning in a rough area of brush and sparce timber.

No estimate was available here today of the area burned, but it was said to cover considerably more than several hundred acres.

#### Flames Visible Here

Smoke from the fire was carried for many miles across the valley last night, and flames were visible from points near Oroville.

A dozen additional men were dispatched from Oroville today to aid in suppressing the fire, which was reported late yesterday afternoon. The blaze started near the watering trough on the old Yankee Hill road.

From 80 to 90 men were on the fire lines, working under direction of Miles H. Young, state forest ranger, Henry Caub, assistant, and Fire Warden W. E. Gordon of Chico. The state fire truck from Auburn was sent to the scene yesterday afternoon.

The Pacific Gas and Electric company sent out twenty men yesterday afternoon to assist on the fire lines.

Reports were received here last night that a fire had started at French Town, in Yuba county last evening. The flames were believed to have spread into brush lands after a house caught fire.

Oroville Mercury Register

8-23-1930

# YOUNG SIFTS INCENDIARISM IN LOCAL FIRE

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Possibility that the fire in the district between Cherokee and Yankee Hill, which blackened approximately 4,000 acres of land, was of incendiary origin, was being investigated today by Miles H. Young, state forest ranger.

The blaze was brought under control late yesterday afternoon. It burned grass, brush and some timber. Fifty men were on the fire lines yesterday.

The flames burned to the head of Rich Gulch, nearly two and a half miles, and across part of the Josephine place before they were halted.

Young said the fire started on both sides of the road near the watering trough on Cherokee Yankee Hill Road.

## **Grass, Brush Fires Raging In North**

SACRAMENTO, Sept. 3.— (A) — Six grass and brush fires were reported by the state forestry department to have burned over a total of 3,770 acres in four counties since Saturday.

Two fires reported in Butte County burned 1,200 acres. One conflagration in the vicinity of Yankee Hill, covered 800 acres before controlled, another near Oregon City, Schoolhouse burned 400 acres. The Yankee Hill blaze was said to have been of incendiary origin and a careless smoker was blamed for the other.

One thousand acres were burned in Warthan Canyon, Fresno County. Another thousand acres burned at Moffitt Creek, Siskiyou County, and 400 acres were burned near Grass Valley.

Two fires, both blamed on incendiaries, burned in Sonoma County; one twelve miles northeast of Ukiah burned 125 acres, and the other fourteen miles northeast of Ukiah burned over 145 acres.

# Oroville Mercury Register

10-4-1930

## Seven Busses Transport 188 Students To Local Hi School

There are now seven busses running to high school, covering eight routes. One bus, by running to Thermalito and Palermo covers two routes. The other districts served are Honcut, Yankee Hill, Cherokee, Bangor, Mooretown, and Berry Creek.

One hundred and eighty-eight students are carried in these busses, nearly one-half of the school attendance. The bus running to Thermalito and Palermo, with Henry Giese as driver, carries forty from Palermo, and thirty from Thermalito. Twenty pupils ride on the Honcut bus which is driven by Harry Kister. The Yankee Hill bus, whose route goes through Pentz, is driven by George Moak, and transports twenty-five students.

The Cherokee bus, whose driver is Arthur Campbell, only carries five. From Bangor come thirty-five students, driven by Clyde Milligan. G. A. Lowery, driving the Mooretown bus, transports twenty-five. The bus from Berry Creek, driven by Lloyd Rippey, carries but seven. About six or seven pupils from out of town come in their own conveyances.

An approximate cost for the year is five dollars per pupil. This not only covers transportation, but keeping the busses in good condition, which is done by a local garage.

# Oroville Mercury Register

10-17-1930

## PICNIC HELD ON SITE OLD MINING TOWN

YANKEE HILL, Oct. 17.—(Special)—Mrs. Ralph Miller entertained a number of friends at a camp fire luncheon at her home at The Pines Tuesday in honor of her mother-in-law, Mrs. Laura Miller of Anderson, who is visiting at the Miller home.

The guests were served at tables arranged under the pine trees from which the place gets its name. The tables were decorated with autumn leaves and small baskets of fruit and grapes. Special features of the luncheon were coffee boiled on a camp fire and served in tin cups, and biscuits baked in a Dutch oven over the hot embers.

The afternoon was spent by the older guests toasting marshmallows over the camp fire, and in social conversation, while the younger explored the ruins of Old Spanish Town located on the Miller ranch.

When gazing at this sweet and peaceful spot it is hard to believe that not so many years ago here was the scene of active life, that the forests echoed with men in feverish search for gold, that from the ravines came the rattle and splash of the Long Toms and the musical singsong of the Chinese calling to each other while cleaning the bed rock, and at evening the tinkle of guitars and violins mingled with the shrill voices of the dance hall girls.

So completely has Mother Nature reclaimed her own, that save for the scars that the hand of time has been able to erase, and the few rock chimneys that remain standing as monuments to the memory of one of the most thriving mining towns in the early history of northern California, the scene is apparently untouched by the hand of man.

On another hill, the party visited a spot known as the Indian Pit. Numerous mounds and pits are all that remain as evidence of the picturesque Indian village, that graced the crest of this pine clad hill. Many pieces of pottery and arrow heads were discovered by the explorers.

# Oroville Mercury Register

11-15-1930

## 4 MEN HELD IN PULGA WOMAN'S SLASHING CASE

Sheriff Toland announced this afternoon that Mrs. Fred Johnson had told him that she had cut herself accidentally. Toland was convinced that she had not attempted suicide.

Four men, including the woman's husband, were held in the county jail today in connection with an investigation into the apparent suicide attempt late yesterday of Mrs. Fred Johnson of Pulga.

Johnson told Sheriff C. W. Toland, who investigated the case, that he was sleeping when his wife slashed her abdomen with a razor.

He gave no reason for her action, but admitted that he and his wife had been drinking, Toland said. Johnson was awakened by his wife's screams and found her bleeding profusely, he told the sheriff.

### Made Previous Attempt

Toland said that he was informed Mrs. Johnson had previously attempted to end her life by hanging herself.

Besides Johnson, the other men taken into custody for questioning are Jack Wade, Maurice P. LaFleur and Fred Blakeslee. Sheriff Toland said that he arrested them in an effort to trace the source of liquor that had been sold to the Johnsons. In the tent of LaFleur and Blakeslee, above Pulga, Toland said, he found a gallon of beer. No liquor was found in the Wade tent.

Hopes for Mrs. Johnson's recovery were held today. She was brought to Oroville Curran hospital by Western Pacific train late last night, after she had been given first aid treatment at Pulga yesterday by Dr. L. J. Price and Dr. B. C. Epperson, county physician.

### Take 2-Mile Walk

The sheriff, his men and doctors were compelled to walk two miles over a stretch of the Pulga road just this side of Pulga, where the highway has been closed to permit construction work on the Feather river highway.



# INDIAN TRIBAL WEDDING RULED OUT BY COURT

Oroville Mercury Register  
11-20-1930

Refusing to acknowledge an Indian tribal law marriage, Superior Judge Raglan Tuttle of Nevada county today held that Margaret Nuckolls of Chico was not entitled to the wife's share of the estate of Earl N. Nuckolls, Indian veteran of the world war.

Request of Mrs. Nuckolls, administratrix of Nuckoll's estate, that she be given \$1,500 in veterans' insurance comprising Nuckoll's property was denied by Judge Tuttle, sitting in superior court here. However, the court allowed her \$500 for services as a "nurse" to Nuckolls, who was gassed overseas.

#### **Brother Protests**

Roy Nuckolls of Kennett, a brother of Nuckolls, protested that Mrs. Nuckolls was not Nuckoll's wife, and that she was not entitled to his entire estate.

Mrs. Nuckolls claimed that she married Nuckolls in 1924, through an Indian tribal ceremony. Evidence was introduced, however, to show that the woman was married to Thomas C. Steele, in Red Bluff, June 15, 1918, and that a final divorce was granted June 27, 1928.

#### **Had Nursed Man**

Mrs. Nuckolls testified that for several years she nursed and supported Nuckolls after his return from the war, and that she went to Livermore to be near him when he was in the veterans hospital there, where he died February 9, 1929.

The court decided that the remainder of the \$1500 estate should be divided among brothers and sisters of Nuckolls.

Wesley Marten appeared for Mrs. Nuckolls. Roy Nuckolls was represented by Attorney W. E. Rothe.

# OLD SPANISH TOWN BOOMED IN FIFTIES FADED, NOTHING NOW

Oroville Mercury Register  
11-24-1930

By EVELYN HENDRICKS  
Yankee Hill Correspondent

Two miles north of Old Yankee Hill, and back of the Pines, a small store and service station, lies a quiet pasture, where no sound save the song of birds, the tinkle of cow bells and the gentle sighing of the breeze through the pines breaks the stillness.

In the year 1851 or 1852 it was discovered that these ravines and creeks were rich in gold, and many men came to mine.

And in 1852 Old Spanish Town sprang up like a mushroom over night. In two years time it had reached the size of a small city, its main street being over a mile in length,

The buildings were chiefly of logs, pine slabs, shakes and tents though about this time lumber was obtained for building purposes from a small saw-mill in Yoloobumum a short distance from Spanish Town.

## Two Stores There

The business section of the town consisted of two stores where food supplies, clothing and mining equipment could be purchased and paid for with gold dust.

Two hotels were erected, built of logs, the sleeping rooms were furnished with bunks, nailed to the wall one above the other. Few of the windows had glass and the door hinges were of leather.

## Numerous Saloons

Numerous saloons, gambling houses, and dance halls, were to be found.

The water supply was hauled to the town from the springs and creeks in barrels on sleds, by oxen and mules.

The population of Spanish Town was a mixed lot, principally Mexican, Spanish, French, German and Chinese with a small percentage of New Englanders.

In 1864 the Yankee Hill ditch which carried water from Little Kimsheew Creek furnished water to mine the rich diggings surrounding the town.

## Richest Diggings

Spanish Ravine, Blairs Ravine, and Slug Gulch were considered the richest of these diggings.

Ground sluices, Long Toms and the pick and gold pan were the methods used by the miners. Gold was plentiful and in many places the gross roots were found to be rich. A story is told by old timers of a woman, a Mrs. Nix who made a fortune mining the gross roots in a small ravine where Hendricks Corners is now located.

In 1856 the town was at its best and two four horse stages commuted daily between Spanish Town and Oroville.

## Mines Exhausted

Within the next two years the mines were exhausted and Spanish Town was on the decline and vanished almost as suddenly as it had appeared.

Save for a few Mexicans and Chinese who remained to snipe and clean bed rock, it had become a deserted village. Forest fires swept the remains of this once thriving little city into oblivion. Only a few rock chimneys and the guttered ravines remain as evidence.

## Medicine Spring

In Spanish Ravine is a mineral Spring known to the Indians and Mexicans as the Medicine spring.

This spring still endures and its crystal waters bubble up out of the solid bed rock. Its overflow nourishes the luxuriant growth of shrubbery below.

An interesting story is told of an old Mexican Saustine Valensuela, one of the few survivors of old Spanish Town who when he was very old

was suffering from lung trouble. He made his way back to this spring and was found by a prospector, Robert Hendricks in an old cabin near the spring. The old man was very weak from hunger, and loss of blood from a hemorrhage of the lungs. Hendricks returned to his home and asked his wife to take some food and bedding to the old man, which she did. They cared for him for a few weeks. After a few months Saustine was so much improved that Hendricks built a cabin for him on his ranch where the old man lived for several years and worked as gardner for Hendricks.

## Two Lonely Graves

Under a buckeye tree on the bank of Spanish Ravine two lonely graves confirm the story of another Mexican who lived in Old Spanish Town Salvadore and his Indian wife Louisa. On the other side of the town lived Kanaka Jim with his wife Naomi and their eight children. Naomi and Louisa were friends from childhood. After a night spent in drinking and gambling in one of the saloons of Spanish Town Kanaka Jim returned to his cabin where he tried to kill Naomi who fled to the home of her friends.

The next morning Jim came and asked to see his wife, apparently sober and repentant.

When she came to him, he stabbed her through the heart with a Machetee. Naomi died in the arms of Louisa and was buried near their cabin. Louisa mourned long for her friend. A few years later she sickened and died, and Salvadore buried her beside Naomi. Salvadore was the last of the Mexicans who lived in the exciting days when old Spanish Town flourished. He was a well known and familiar person. For many years he and Saustine played the violin for the community dances. When Salvadore was very old he became demented and was sent to an asylum where he died.

Plumas National Bulletin

12-11-1930

# CONTRACTS LET FOR BRIDGE NEAR PULGA

The contracts have been let for construction of a steel and concrete bridge over the Feather River at Pulga, it was learned here this week.

The concrete sub-structure and the steel superstructure represent two separate contracts.

The total cost of the job will approximate \$175,000.

# Oroville Mercury Register

12-17-1930

## Contractors Present King With Check

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PULGA, Dec. 17.—(Special)—The contracting firm of Granfield, Farrar and Carlin presented William H. King Jr., with a twenty dollar gold piece, in appreciation of his service in recovering the bodies of the two men killed in the landslide December 5.

In view of fifty men who were vainly trying various means of reaching the bodies of the men, King risked his own life by creeping along the face of the cliff, hanging above the river to the rocks where the men lay. He carried the bodies to the water and fastened ropes to them so they could be taken across to the railroad.

He then scaled the cliff to the road five hundred feet above. He is the first person that has even attempted to climb this cliff.

The danger was enhanced by the shovel which was balancing on the edge of the precipice high above, held in place only by the tons of rock which rested on its upper track.

# Marysville Appeal Democrat

## 12-19-1930

### Established Over 30 Years

# HERB SPECIALISTS

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#### For Treatment Of All Diseases

Including Heart, Liver, Lung, Kidney, Bladder and Stomach Troubles, Hemorrhage, Asthma, Croup, Dropsy, Gravel, Dysentery and Appendicitis, Rheumatism and Piles, Nervousness, Broken Down Health, Catarrh, Rupture, Venereal Diseases, Eczema, also Abscess, Boil Ulcer and Cancer. All Kinds of Female Trouble.

Biggs, Butte Co., Cal., July 8, 1900.

To Whom It May Concern:

I hereby certify that I was successfully treated by Ling at Deadwood Chinese Sanitarium for stiffened and withered limbs. My feet were drawn back to my thighs and the cords hardened, and knees set. This was caused from severe case of Peritonitis. I was in a hospital at San Francisco, had two operations performed and received no relief. I was unable to use my limbs for a period of 8 months, that even to move them was an impossibility. After one month's treatment at Sanitarium I began to improve and end of second month was able to use my limbs to a limited degree, and at the end of the fifth month was able to do my housework and have been exceptionally well ever since.

Signed--MRS. SAM M. BOYLES.

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# Indian Funeral at Yankee Hill Described; Writer Recounts Progress From Old Times

In the following article the Yankee Hill correspondent for the Mercury-Register gives a true description of an Indian funeral held several years ago at that place. She also describes a historical region famous for its hunting and fishing.

By EVELYN HENDRICKS

YANKEE HILL, Dec. 22.—(Special)—On a hot July day many years ago, when the Indians inhabited the Concow valley through which the east branch of the Feather River flows was an Indian village.

There was sorrow and mourning in the village on this day, as the son of the chief had been killed and the tribe mourned the loss.

All that night the relatives sat in a circle around the body and chanted the death song, four or five chanting or wailing until exhausted, then four or five of the others would take their place, and so on until day break when preparations were made to start with the body to the burying ground many miles up in the mountains.

A stretcher was made of skins fastened to two poles and the body fastened securely to the stretcher with buckskin thongs. Four warriors carried the stretcher.

### Strange Procession

It was a strange procession that followed this equally strange funeral cortege up the winding trail through the North Fork Canyon. First was a small bay pony led by a young Indian girl, a sister of the slain warrior, and carrying in a pack the earthly possessions of the dead man, followed closely the stretcher bearers. Then came the other members of the tribe some on horseback, some walking and some of the women carrying papooses in baskets on their backs.

Mile after mile they slowly wound their way up the steep narrow trail that wound around the almost perpendicular walls of the canyon, where a stone loosened from its bed in the loose granite sand by a pony's hoof would go loping and bounding down the mountain to find a resting place in the river below.

### Over Hanging Cliffs

Some places the trail led around the face of an over-hanging cliff of rocks when in a sheer drop of hundreds of feet below the turbulent waters of the North Fork thundered and churned. In places the path was so steep that the dead Indian on the stretcher was in an almost upright position, many times the procession halted beneath the friendly shade of a tree to rest.

### Reach Destination

Late in the afternoon they reached their destination, a lonely spot in a small clearing on the mountain side overlooking the canyon.

At the grave side the death chant was resumed and was carried on throughout the burial. The dead Indian, securely wrapped in his blanket was placed in the grave in a coffin made of small logs, the pack was then taken from the back of the pony, and as many of his belongings as could be placed in the coffin were packed around him; his bows and arrows, headdress, blankets and furs, strings of money beads, and many beautiful baskets woven by the women of the tribe.

### Basketry Artists

The women of the Concows were artists in basketry. These baskets each bore a different design and each design had a meaning. Many of these baskets were too large to be placed in the grave so they were cut into small pieces and put in the sides of the coffin.

Then the lid of logs was placed on the coffin and the earth filled in. When the echos of the last death song had died away, the Indians made their way back through the twilight down the canyon, the rugged beauty of which is unsurpassed.

At dark that evening they camped on the banks of Dogwood Creek.

When the first grey streaks of dawn appeared in the east, they resumed the march back to their village in the Kan Kan to take up again the care free existence which was theirs.

### Plenty of Hunting

The forest clad mountains that sloped gently to this valley provided plenty of game, deer, bear, and the smaller animals, for meat.

The Crystal streams that tinkled so merrily through the canyons were well stocked with fish. In the forests, nuts, berries, acorns, roots, and herbs were to be had for the taking.

In the thick grass and vegetation in the lowland, grass-hoppers, ants and worms were to be found.

Each season brought a new beauty to this land.

In the balmy days of spring with its delicately tinted foliage, soft green grass, the hills and valley were a mass of wild flowers and the air heavy with the scent of wild cherry, wild plum, and sweet birch.

In the summer the breeze was laden with pine and fur scent.

Through the pale violet haze of Indian summer the hills and valleys were a riot of color. The green, red, yellow and browns of autumn transformed the valley into vista of blazing glory.

When winter came the scene was wrapped in a clear white blanket of snow, and only the drumming of a grouse, or the wail of a hungry coyote broke the stillness.

This valley is beautiful now, but in a different way.

The white sandy road way that winds through the valley is fringed on either side by giant pines and firs. The wild azelias and dogwood blossoms are beautiful. The sloping hills and levels are dotted with small farms.

### War Cry Passes

The death chant and war cry of the Red Men has given way to the sounds of civilization.

The music of cow bells comes from the meadows where cows and horses graze. Cornfields wave in the summer breeze and vegetable gardens flourish in the rich, sandy loam.

A few years ago the Thermalito Irrigation District built a dam in the east branch forming a beautiful lake. This place is in the heart of the best hunting and fishing grounds in California. It is a play

# Oroville Mercury register

## 12-22-1930

### page 2 of 2

ground for tourists and pleasure seekers in the summer time.

#### **Now Highway Comes**

The trail over which the Indians traveled in this story was used later by traders and trappers, then supplies were carried in over this route to the Chinese and miners who panned the river bars in early days. Still later it was graded and used for a pack trail and long trains of pack animals carried supplies to the

engineers camped in the canyon when the survey was made for the Western Pacific.

It was then made into a wagon road by the Utah Construction Co., and trains of freight teams hauled supplies and materials to build the railroad.

Once again the canyon echoes to the sounds of activity where the much talked of North Fork Highway is under construction.

**Summons No. 13608**

In the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Butte.

J. WILSON RENO, Plaintiff,  
vs. THOMAS B. PHEBY, MOSES KINCAID, LOUISE S. PHEBY, ARTHUR L. WILLIAMS, GOLD-FIELD CONSOLIDATED MINES EXPLORATION COMPANY, a corporation, GEORGE J. MOAK, JOHN DOE, RICHARD ROE, JANE COE, MARY POE, THE WHITE COMPANY, a corporation, THE JOHN DOE COMPANY, a co-partnership, and also all other persons unknown, claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real property described in the complaint, adverse to plaintiff's ownership or any cloud upon plaintiff's title thereto, Defendants.

Action brought in the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Butte, and the complaint filed in said County of Butte, in the office of the clerk of said Superior Court.

The people of the State of California send greetings to:

Thomas B. Pheby, Moses Kincaid, Louise S. Pheby, Arthur L. Williams, Goldfield Consolidated Mines Exploration Company, a corporation, George J. Moak, John Doe, Richard Roe, Jane Coe, Mary Poe, The White Company, a corporation, the John Doe Company, a co-partnership, and also all other persons unknown, claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real property described in the complaint, adverse to plaintiff's ownership or any cloud upon plaintiff's title thereto, Defendants.

You are required to appear in an action brought against you by the above named plaintiff in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Butte, to answer the complaint filed therein within ten (10) days after the service on you of this summons, if served within the County of Butte, or if served elsewhere, within thirty days.

AND YOU are hereby notified that unless you so appear and answer the said complaint as above required, the plaintiff will take judgment for any money or damages demanded in the complaint as arising upon contract, or will apply to the court for any other relief demanded in the complaint.

The following is a description of the property as it appears in the complaint of the plaintiff, which

is affected by this action and is situated in the County of Butte, State of California, and more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Parcel No. 1—The South half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 5; the Southeast quarter of Section 6; and the North half of the Northeast quarter, the Southwest quarter of the Northeast quarter and the East half of the Northwest quarter of Section 7, all in Township 21 North, Range 5 East, Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian.

Parcel No. 2—Lot 2 of the Northwest quarter; Lots 3 and 4 of the Southwest quarter; and the Northeast quarter of the Southeast quarter of Section 7, Township 21 North, Range 5 East, Mt. Diablo Base & Meridian.

The object of the above entitled action is to have a judgment entered therein and by said Court determining the adverse claims of the defendants thereto, and clouds upon plaintiff's title and ownership of the real property described in the complaint and herein described, and quieting title of the plaintiff thereto and the ownership thereof.

Witness my hand and the seal of the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Butte, this 17th day of November, 1930.

C. F. BELDING, Clerk.  
By EILEEN NIEHAUS,  
Deputy Clerk.

Seth Millington, Attorney for Plaintiff.

First publication 12-9-30.

Last publication, 2-10-31.

J. Wilson Reno seeking clarification of ownership on Surcease Mine Property at Big Bend. Challengers to respond to this summons. Court awarded Reno sole ownership in March 1931. (Apparently no challengers, people listed in summons were former partners in Surcease mining venture. Reno sold property to Hoefling Brothers in 1933, who operated mine until Dec 1944 when it flooded).



# Chico Indian Gets 1 To 15 For Burglary

John Azbill, 24, Chico Indian, must serve from one to fifteen years in San Quentin prison for burglary. Sentence was imposed today by Superior Judge H. D. Gregory after Charles Melne, acting as county probation officer, had recommended that probation be denied. Officers claim that the Indian confessed to seven burglaries, to acting as an accomplice in two others, and that he had loot in his possession taken from four more houses in Chico.

## Pleaded Guilty

The defendant pleaded guilty last Monday to burglary of the home of Dr. Herbert S. Behring of Chico, and asked leniency.

Burglarly of the Behring home was declared by the court to be burglary in the first degree, but Azbill saved himself from serving from five years to life on a first degree burglary charge when he informed the court that he had agreed with officers to plead guilty to second degree burglary only. Because of Azbill's claim, the court fixed the crime at second degree burglary. Under this sentence Azbill will serve

## Chico Indian Gets One to 15 Years

(Continued from Page One)

a lesser sentence of from one to fifteen years.

## Told to Plead Guilty

"I was told to plead guilty to second degree burglary," Azbill told the court after Judge Gregory had found the crime to be first degree burglary because it was committed in the night time.

Questioned by the court, Azbill

Oroville Mercury Register  
12-27-1930

said that Chief of Police Tovee of Chico had told him that other charges would not be pressed if he pleaded guilty to second degree burglary. W. E. Rothe, assistant district attorney, was present at the conversation, Azbill said.

Rothe denied that any such promise had been made by Tovee or by himself.

## Rothe Explains

"The only promise made was that if he would plead guilty to one charge we would not file other charges against him," Rothe told the court.

Representing Azbill, Attorney Coyle Bybee said that he had talked with Tovee and that officer had told him at first that he would not press eleven other charges of house-breaking if Azbill would enter a plea of guilty to second degree burglary.

Later it was brought out that the charge would have to be defined as first degree burglary, Bybee said.

Rothe insisted that at no time was

Azbill told he might plead guilty to the lesser charge, but Judge Gregory held that inasmuch as Azbill believed he was pleading guilty to second degree burglary the court would fix the burglary as a second degree offense.

The court added, however, "that he had no doubt that the statement made by the Assistant District Attorney was correct."

Because Coyle Bybee is the son of E. S. Bybee, county probation officer, the latter was disqualified from acting as probation officer in the case.