

# AWAIT WORD OF M'DANIEL, LION HUNTER

Oroville Mercury Register  
1-1-1931

Local sportsmen were awaiting word today from J. P. McDaniel of Stonyford, Colusa county, who went into the Flea valley country Tuesday to hunt mountain lions.

Taylor London, game warden, and Jack Reid, who accompanied McDaniel to Flea valley, returning Tuesday night, said today they believed that he will be able to bag at least one cougar. London said that fresh tracks were discovered by McDaniel 300 yards from a cabin owned by Henry White, in which the hunter will stay. The dogs immediately took up the trail.

McDaniel is accompanied by Preston Thompson of Elk Creek. The men have six dogs.

White said today that the country where McDaniel is hunting is a favored winter feeding ground for deer and that mountain lions are staying about the edges of the herds and making their kills.

White said that he and his party saw 15 deer in the vicinity several days ago when he went to Grizzly Creek with Tony Nunez, Claud Campbell of Oregon City, Harold Johnson and Dan Johnson of Flea Valley.

Three weeks ago, according to White, George Stone of Concow, saw a mountain lion track between Flea Valley and Camp Creek, and the day before saw a lion track on the road between Stirling City and Rag Dump.

Dan Johnson said that there were two lions ranging in the Flea Valley country.

Oakland Tribune

1-14-1931

## ***Police Abandon Hunt For Holdup Suspect***

OROVILLE, Jan. 14.—Unable to corroborate a report by O. B. Croghan, of Yankee Hill, that he was held up and robbed of \$50 by a gunman in Chinatown, Saturday, police here have dropped the case.

They say Croghan did not report the alleged holdup until the following day after it is reported to have happened.

Police have been unable to find any clues to the holdup man.

1-16-1931

## Clark, Grandson Of Indian Chief Heads War Vets

(Additional report on social page)

**T**HROUGH the selection of John A. Clark as its commander, the local Spanish-American War Veterans, bear the distinction of having as their leader a man who is the direct descendant of an Indian chief. Clark's mother, Kit-Yohema, Little Flower, was the daughter of Chief Buchi, who ruled the Concow tribe at the time of the gold rush. At that time, it is estimated, the tribe numbered 7,000 and the tribal name still clings to that area of Butte county where Clark resides.

### Born at Frenchtown

Clark was born at Frenchtown, a canvas mining town of the Concow district January 21, 1868. Only the old cellars and a few piled up rocks remain of the town that at the time of Clark's birth had a population of about five hundred people. Clark's father, who came with the gold seekers, engaged there in the butcher and cattle business under the firm name of Clark and Cannon. Cannon was one of the early members of the California assembly.

### Mined Most of Life

Reared in a mining atmosphere Clark has mined most of his life though his third grade graduation certificate entitled him to teach two months of teaching in the government Indian school at Covelo, Mendocino county, ended when news of a gold strike in Humboldt county reached him. He went to the strike at New River and from there into Trinity county where, in 1887 he found evidence of a mine that in 1910 was re-discovered and proved very rich.

### Enlisted in War

In 1895 Clark found the Clark Placer Mine, near Concow, which he worked for twelve years, gaining \$38,000 from his find. It was while his workers in this mine were producing half an ounce of gold daily to the man that the call for volunteers was issued in the Spanish-American war. Clark walked eight miles from his mine to Yankee Hill, hired a buggy and was brought to Oroville where he took train for San Francisco, the nearest point of enlistment. He served during the war in Company G, 8th Infantry. In 1910 he took up the study of law but after two years again resumed mining as the work he liked best. The Surcease Mine at Big Bend was one of his finds.

### Saw Service Again

In 1916 Clark again saw military service when I Company, of Oroville, was called for Mexican border patrol duty. "Too many gray hairs," as Clark puts it, kept him from the World war, but even in this he had a part, serving as a member of the Butte county exemption board and a worker with the Red Cross.

Clark has constantly worked for the advancement of the Concow district where his grand-father was chief. For thirty-five years he has been a member of the board of school trustees, serving much of that time as clerk of the board and working for advancement of the school. He was also the first president of the Yankee Hill Improvement Club formed for advancement of the interests of that district.

### Now Raising Walnuts

He is a member of the Improved Order of Redmen, Winoka Tribe No. 152, Chico. He is a charter member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1747, of Oroville.

After mining nearly half a century he has decided to devote time to walnut culture. He has 30 acres of walnut trees on his 100-acre ranch at Yankee Hill.

Oroville Mercury Register  
2-3-1931

## COUNTY BOARD OKERS CLOSING PULGA ROUTE

### Closing Necessary Because of Construction on Feather River Road

Authority to keep the Pulga county road closed until March 2 was given to Granfield, Farrar and Carlin, contractors, by the board of supervisors late yesterday. Closing of the road is necessary because of construction work on the Feather River highway, which crosses the county road at several places. Because of slides, travel on the Pulga road is dangerous during winter months, it was pointed out.

## King Is Pulga Health Officer

W. H. King today had an appointment from the board of supervisors naming him deputy county health officer at Pulga.

The appointment was made on recommendation of Dr. B. Caldwell, county health officer, who said that the Pulga road is closed, making it inconvenient for him to reach the locality.

2-13-1931

# **WEARY WILLIE MINE PROSPECT SAID TO BE OK**

YANKEE HILL, Feb. 13.—(Special)—Al LARSEN and Pete Gavan who are sinking a shaft on the Weary Willie mine at Hendricks Corners have reached a depth of about twenty feet, and report the prospect favorable.

## **Friendly Dog At Hausman Home Is Killed Strangely**

YANKEE HILL, Feb. 13.—  
(Special) — Mystery surrounds the death of Pal, family watch dog and pet of Mrs. Carolyn Hausman, on their ranch at Jordan Hill.

The Hausmans found the dog lying dead by their door Thursday morning. So far they have been unable to account for the strange actions of the dogs at a late hour Wednesday evening when they set up an unusual barking in the back yard. Thinking some one was passing, the Hausmans did not investigate the cause of the disturbance and are at a loss to account for the death of Pal, a friendly, harmless dog.

Oroville Mercury Register  
2-18-1931

## **Mrs. Kirby Will Be Isaiah Instructor**

Selection of Mrs. Esther Kirby as teacher at the public school to be established for children at Brother Isaiah's religious colony near Garden Ranch was announced today by Jay E. Partridge, county superintendent of schools.

The school will open Monday in one room of the large stone community building at the colony, Partridge said.

There are approximately 15 children of school age in the colony. A survey for the purpose of ascertaining the number of students and preparing for opening of classes will be made today by Partridge and Mrs. Kirby.

The regular school course of study will be given.

Mrs. Kirby has had considerable experience in the teaching of one-room schools. She formerly taught at Clear Creek school.

Oroville Mercury Register  
2-19-1931

## **Pentz Dances To Raise Money For Repairs to Hall**

PENTZ, Feb. 19.—(Special)—The Pentz Community Hall Association is planning on giving a series of dances to raise money to make repairs on the hall and also to pay the insurance on the building.

The first dance is to given next Saturday night. Oroville music has been secured. A large crowd is expected at the opening dance.

# Oroville Mercury Register

2-20-1931

## Story Of Concow Indians, One Of Strong Tribes In Sierra Region

The author of the following article, Miss Evelyn Hendricks, Yankee Hill correspondent for the Mercury-Register, has made a study of the Concow tribe of Indians in Butte county and has lived among them all her life. She received the information contained in it from older members of the tribe:

### A LEGEND OF THE CONCOWS By Evelyn Hendricks

YANKEE HILL, Feb. 20.—(Special)—In the heart of the Sierras nestles a valley surrounded by snow capped mountain peaks, and forests of pine and fir.

On the banks of a clear bubbling stream that raced joyfully down the mountain side and through the valley there dwelt a small tribe of Indians. No one knew from whence they came or when.

They were a happy peaceable lot whose existence was as undisturbed and care free as the waters of the stream that sang and danced on its way through the valley.

One morning there appeared in their midst a stranger who came over the mountains from the north. He could neither understand nor speak their language.

The tribe welcomed him and gave him food, and bade him rest in their lodges. Many days passed and still the stranger lingered, and it became evident that he had fallen in love with Wild Flower, a beautiful Indian maiden who loved and was loved by a young man of her tribe.

Always the stranger sat near her lodge, watching her as she wove baskets of the willow bark and

hummed or chanted a song to the Great Spirit that some good would come of her labor.

And in the evenings when the light from the camp fire fell upon her as she sat dreaming, the strangers' silent gaze never left her.

One evening she wandered from the lodge of her parents to sit beside the stream and watch the moon rise. The northman stealthily followed, seized her and carried her away into the mountains of the north.

When the parents discovered their daughter had not returned to her lodge, they sent a messenger to alarm the tribe. It was then they discovered the stranger was missing also, and the young Indian set out to overtake them which he did after several days of following their trail which led deeper into the mountains of the north. Often he found evidence that the girl had tried to escape and return to her people only to be recaptured and bound with buckskin thongs.

Just at twilight of the evening of the third day, he came upon them where they had camped for the night. Securely bound, the maiden greeted her lover with a cry of joy.

**A desperate battle followed in which the young Indian in his weakened condition, for he had neither rested nor partaken of food since setting out upon his journey, found he was no match for the sturdy Northman.**

Horror stricken, the girl strained at the cords that held her captive in an effort to help her lover.

Just as he was making a last feeble effort and realizing the battle was lost, from out of the forest appeared a strange creature, half man and half bear. He took sides with the young Indian and the northman was slain.

The bear man was joined by a following of his own people who returned with the girl and boy to the home of their tribe in the valley.

The bear man and his tribe robbed the Indians, made them prisoners and took them over the mountains to the north. From these two tribes after many years, came the Concows, a large and powerful tribe who inhabited the mountains and valleys of the Sierras.



# Oroville Mercury Register

2-25-1931

## Hieroglyphics On North Fork Hills Explained

Here is another of a series of stories written by the Yankee Hill correspondent of the Mercury-Register on legends of the Concow tribe of Indians. It deals with Indian hieroglyphics found in the Feather river canyon.

By EVELYN HENDRICKS

In the beautiful canyon of the north fork of the Feather river at a point near Barteas Bar, is the old Indian fishing ground.

It was here that the Indians caught the salmon that were dried and made into meal by being pounded in the rock mortars to be used as food during the winter.

### Mysterious Writings

On the face of some of the cliffs that bank the stream at this point as well as a place on Rock Creek mysterious writings or characters are cut into the rocks. So far, no one has been able to decipher these hieroglyphics. But they are accounted for by the Indians in the following legend:

### The Indian Legend

Many years ago when the country was inhabited by a prehistoric race long before the existence of the Concows. Out of the West came an immense man.

So large was he that he could step easily from one mountain top to another.

When he stepped across the north fork canyon, he saw that the stream was filled with fish and being tired and hungry he sat down to rest, and catch fish.

### Scratched On Rocks

Where he sat to rest on the mountain side his tremendous weight sank into the earth, leaving an imprint or chair shaped hollow in the bank of the stream. While he sat there resting and eating fish he noticed the smooth face of the cliff and taking a sharp stone he cut the mysterious inscriptions into the rock.

### The Storm God

This immense creature was the Storm God who controlled the elements. When he spoke the rumblings of his voice echoed through the canyons and caused the thunder.

When he was angry he spat lightning from his mouth.

When he was happy the sun shone. When he climbed the mountains from the north his breath caused the north wind to blow as well as the wind from the south, east and west. Always the wind blew from the direction in which he traveled when he wept his tears fell upon the earth and that was rain.

### Left Marks on Rocks

They were always able to trace his travels by the mysterious writings on cliffs and rocks.

The old Indian fishing grounds is a well known place. It seems here the fishing was best for the Indians and in later years for the white man.

The Concows often permitted other tribes to come to this fishing ground to catch fish in exchange for salt and other necessities.

### Indians Hold Feasts

It was here also that the Indians held their feasts, or fish bakes, when a large number of Indians gathered and caught salmon, for the occasion.

The fish were wrapped in maple and wild grape leaves and baked in an oven, or hole in the ground which was covered with hot embers. Even in later years these fish bakes were held by the Indians and many white people enjoyed the feast with them, as the salmon cooked in this manner is delicious.

### Interesting Place

The fishing ground is one of the many interesting points of the north fork canyon and may be seen from the Western Pacific railroad on one side and from the new canyon road on the opposite side of the river.

The Storm God's chair and the hieroglyphics may be seen by anyone visiting the fishing grounds. The chair has since been named Hell's Gate owing to the almost unsurmountable difficulty encountered in road building through the canyon at this particular point.

3-16-1931

## Indians Fear Dark Cave On Big Rock Creek

Another of the legends of the Concow tribe of Indians in northern Butte county is presented here by the Yankee Hill correspondent of the Mercury-Register. Several of these articles have appeared from time to time.

By EVELYN HENDRICKS

In the higher mountains north of Concow valley, where the Concows made their home is a stream known as Big Rock Creek, so named because of the large granite boulders that line the creek bed.

There are many deep pools along this stream where the speckled brook trout make their home.

At a point on this creek about three miles east of Lynche's Meadows there is a steep granite bluff on one side while the other bank slopes gently to the creek bed. Here again the Indians were able to trace the travels of the Storm God. On the smooth face of the bluff are more of the hieroglyphics. Only here the inscriptions are more in the form of picture writing.

There are pictures that represent the sun or moon, pictures of men, deer, horses and trees—as well as many strange characters. Some of them are very clear and distinct, and some are almost erased from the face of the bluff by the hand of time.

At the foot of this bluff is a cave and it is said the Indians when fishing in this stream would never pass this cave. The following legend explains their superstition:

Many years ago, a small band of Concows set out on a fishing trip. They followed the course of Big Rock creek far into the mountains of the north and as they failed to return to the village in the valley and no word was received of their whereabouts the chief sent out another party of braves to look for them. They followed their footprints to the top of this bluff, and all but one Indian went down into the creek bed to search for the missing fishermen.

The Indian who was watching from the bluff, saw his companions approach the cave, as they neared the entrance, a very terrible creature in the form of a man with long beard and eyes of fire who walked on his hands and knees came crawling out of the cave.

When the light from the fire in his eyes fell upon them they threw up their hands and fell on their faces in the sand and died.

When the watchman on the bluff saw this, he ran back to the village in the valley and reported the fate of his comrades and then the people knew why the fishermen never returned.

So messengers were sent to warn all the tribes not to go near this spot. When fishing in Big Rock creek, it is said that even yet some of the Indians will not go near this cave.

This spot and the legend is well known to many of the miners and cattle men who ride the trails in the Rock Creek country.

Oroville Mercury Register  
4-23-1931

# **YANKEE HILL FIGHTS FIRST FOREST FIRES**

**Students Will Present Exhibit  
of Their Work at School  
Tomorrow**

**YANKEE HILL, April 23.—(Special)—**Several forest fires have been started in this vicinity in the last few days but have been checked before much damage was done.

Rangers Ruhlen, Box and Cooper with a crew of men came to Yankee Hill Tuesday to corral a forest fire near the Joan Clark ranch.

# Oroville Mercury Register

4-29-1931

## Rattlers, Lizard, Bull Snake Take Part In Tub Fight

YANKEE HILL, Apr. 29 (Special)  
—Lyman Mook, Bill Josephson and Ted Porterfield, prospectors from the Big Bend country, were exhibiting two rattlesnakes captured by them near their cabin recently. The rattlers were captured by means of a forked stick placed back of the head and carried to the camp where they were placed in a wash tub, with a lizard and a Bull snake.

The boys report that though the Bull snake was bitten several times by the rattlers and the fangs of one was broken off and remained in its flesh the bull snake was apparently not affected by the poison from the bites.

The lizard how-ever was not bitten as it was too quick to be caught by the snakes.

The rattlesnakes were recaptured and placed in fruit jars, the boys plan to place them in a museum.

## YANKEE HILL FARMER BAGS TEN COYOTES

YANKEE HILL, Apr. 29. (Special)  
—While prospecting in the Bold Hill Country near Patten Peak recently Jack Hughes shot a mother coyote which he had followed to her den.

He dug out ten Coyote pups. Coyotes are reported numerous in this vicinity. Al Hausman killed one that was raiding his goats on ranch at Jordan Hill.

Mountain lions have also been seen near here it was reported recently.

Oroville Mercury Register

5-4-1931

## Hook Big Trout At Concow Lake

GRIDLEY, May 4.—(Special) — Concow lake was the favored spot of several Gridley parties for successful first day trout fishing at the opening of the season Friday.

Gerald Bolt and C. W. Chase of Gridley and Elmer Ashley of Oroville had claimed limits of big fish.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. DeBell, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Tucker, Mr. and Mrs. Farr and O. E. Barrow made good catches of large-sized trout. Tucker and Farr each landed a 15-inch trout.

5-12-1931

## **OREGON CITY PIONEERS HOLD ANNUAL PICNIC**

**OROVILLE (Butte Co.), May 12.** Officers for the Oregon City Schoolmates Club were elected Sunday when the fourteenth annual Oregon City picnic was held at the school house of the lapsed district.

The officers are:

Frank James, president; Nite Cole, vice president; Gordon Nisbet, secretary and Archie Hengy, treasurer. Trustees are James G. Nisbet, Frank Logue and Henry W. White.

About 100 former schoolmates or residents of the early mining district were present from various sections of the state. San Jose, Vacaville, Sacramento and Fair Oaks were represented. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Nisbet and son were present from Colorado.

Oroville Mercury Register  
6-1-1931

## Joint Memorial Services At Yankee Hill

Joint Memorial ceremony, using the United Spanish War Veterans ritual, was held Saturday at Yankee Hill cemetery by the U. S. W. V. and the V. F. W.

Commander John Clark of the U. S. W. V., was in charge of the impressive ceremony, and the senior vice commander, George Lowery, U. S. W. V., acted as chaplain. Bert B. Green, V. F. W., in charge of the firing squad of eight members of V. F. W.

Roy Herbert, Boy Scout, was bugler, and Miss May Lowery and her assistant, took charge of the Yankee Hill school children.

Mrs. Simmons of Yankee Hill, the widow of a Mexican War veteran, read Lincoln's Gettysburg address.

Commander Clark read the U. S. W. V. Memorial address, and following the benediction pronounced by the senior vice commander, three volleys were fired over the graves.

Members of the two organizations returned to Oroville to take part in the afternoon observance of the day.

# Oroville Mercury Register

## 6-8-1931

### Old Eakle Ranch Bought; Southern People Moving In

YANKEE HILL, June 8. — (Special)—Many new homes are being built in Yankee Hill, Concow and Big Bend and several ranches in Concow valley have changed hands in the last few weeks.

The Old Eakle ranch was purchased recently by Mr. Stead and family of Berry Creek who are moving to the Concow property. They moved a herd of very fine dairy and range cattle to their new home Thursday.

The Salmon ranch in Concow was purchased recently by Mr. and Mrs. Evans of Santa Monica. They are now moving onto the property.

It is reported that a part of the Stag ranch has also been purchased by Santa Monica people who plan to improve the property and make their home there.

Henry Reed of Montana who recently purchased the Meethvin homestead of J. S. Crain is camping on the place and plans to build a new house and further improve the property as soon as the routing of the Feather River Highway through his property has been completed.



Oroville Mercury Register  
6-8-1931

**RATTLERS DRIVE  
MAN FROM CAMP;  
TOO MANY THERE**

Found Behind Kitchen Stove,  
Coiled Around Table Leg  
At Barteese.

YANKEE HILL, June 8.—(Special)—Rattlesnakes are plentiful at Barteese Bar according to George Huston who has been camping there while working on the Feather River Highway. Huston recently killed a large rattler that crawled out from under his cabin. Later in the evening he heard a rattler and finally discovered it coiled behind the kitchen stove. Still another was discovered near the cabin but it escaped. On the same day the small daughter of G. Shepherd who is also camped at Barteese, discovered a large rattler coiled around the table leg, the snake was killed by Shepherd.

Huston decided there were too many snakes to suit him so moved his camp to the home of his sister, Mrs. Tex Zander at Hendricke Corners leaving the rattlers in undisputed possession of the camp at Barteese.

Oakland Tribune

6-10-1931

# MAN ROUTED BY RATTLESNAKES

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YANKEE HILL, June 10. — George Huston saw so many snakes that he moved out. And they were every one real, wriggling rattlers, he avers.

Huston was in camp at Bardees Bar. He killed a large rattler that crawled from under his cabin. Later in the evening he found a rattler coiled behind the kitchen near the cabin but escaped. Another was found coiled around the table leg. It was too much. Huston left.

Oroville Mercury Register

7-13-1931

# **Auto Camp Open At Yankee Hill**

**YANKEE HILL, July 13.**—(Special)—The auto camp recently established by Howard Stagg and Phil Evans on the Stagg ranch in Concow is now in readiness to accommodate the traveling public.

This camp is located in the heart of some of the best hunting and fishing grounds in Butte county, conveniently near a grocery store and service station.

# Oroville Mercury Register

## 8-1-1931

### BUDGET FOR CONCOW SCHOOL DISTRICT

In Butte County, State of California.

To the County Superintendent of Schools of Butte County, State of California:

By order of the governing board of Concow School District made at a regularly held meeting, the undersigned were instructed to submit the following budget for the school year ending June 30, 1932:

#### ACTUAL AND PROPOSED EXPENDITURES OF CONCOW SCHOOL DISTRICT.

	Expended for Year 1930-1931	Estimated for Year 1931-1932
1. General Control .....	\$ 17.35	\$ 2.50
2. Teachers' Salaries .....	1,400.00	1,400.00
3. Other Expenses of Instruction .....	47.68	70.00
4. Library .....	50.00	50.00
5. Operation of School Plant .....	147.06	140.00
6. Maintenance of School Plant .....	24.41	30.00
7. Fixed Charges .....	137.55	35.50
8. Capital Outlays .....	234.14	
A. Purchase of Land .....		
B. Expenses of New Buildings .....		
C. Expenses for Improvement of Grounds .....		
D. Expenses for Alteration and Repair of Buildings .....		30.00
E. Expenses for New Furniture .....		
F. Expenses for New Instructional Apparatus .....		
G. Expenses for Other New Equipment .....		
9. Auxillary Agencies .....	130.98	
A. Salaries of School Physicians, Dentists, Nurses and Other Health Inspectors .....		
B. Other Expenses of Health Service .....		
C. Expenses for transportation of Pupils .....		70.00
D. Expenses for Cafeteria .....		
E. Expenses for Community Lectures and Community Social Centers .....		
F. Expenses for Recreation .....		
G. Other Expenses for Auxillary Agencies .....		
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 2,189.17</b>	<b>\$ 1,828.00</b>

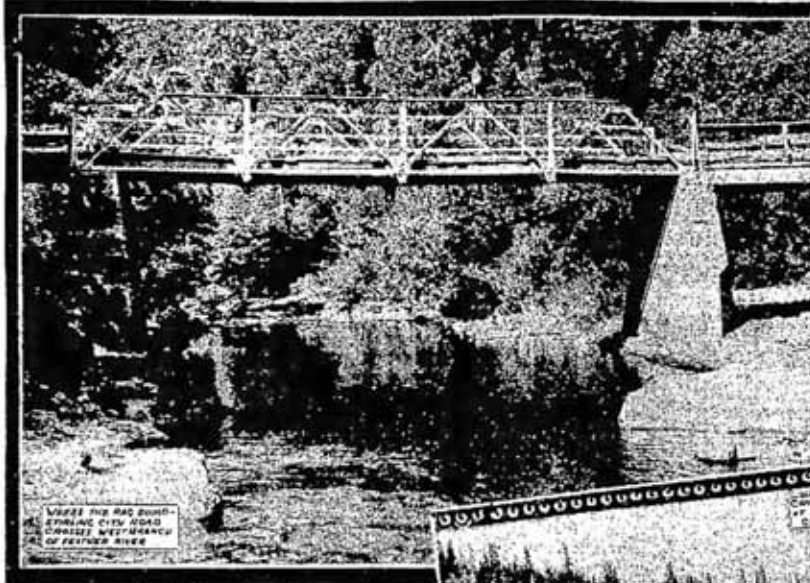
(Signed) A. C. BARTON, Trustee  
L. L. BROWN, Clerk

#### RECEIPTS OF THE CONCOW SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM EACH SOURCE, 1930-1931

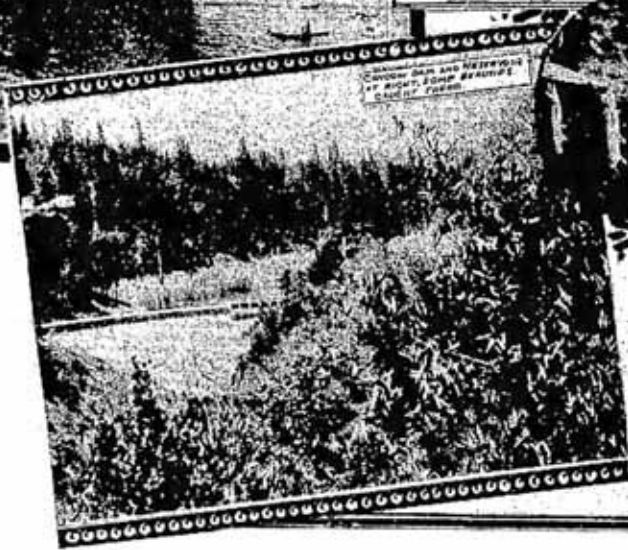
1. Balances in Various Funds July 1, 1930 .....	\$ 125.76	
2. Receipts from State Apportionments .....	793.12	
3. Receipts from County Apportionments .....	808.00	
4. Receipts from United States for Indian Pupils .....	44.80	
5. Receipts from District Maintenance Taxes .....	255.57	
6. Receipts from District Building Taxes .....	202.44	
7. Receipts from Sale of Bonds .....		
8. Receipts from Other Sources .....	14.15	
<b>9. Total Receipts of District .....</b>	<b>\$ 2,243.84</b>	

# AUTO AND OUTING

## -o- The Flea Valley Ridge -o-



8-29-1931  
page 1 of 4



## Mountain Scenery, Camping And Fishing Provide Lures; No Place For Tenderfoot

**I**MPROVEMENT of the road to the Flea Valley Ridge brings this Butte County section into the category of desirable places for a motoring trip.

This section has always been renowned for its excellent fish and game prospects, and its camping possibilities, but only the strong and hardy ventured there by automobile, pack train or on foot.

# Modesto News Herald

8-29-1931

page 2 of 4

## For Mountain Lovers.

Even now, it is not a place for the person who finds pleasure only in paved highway driving, for the Flee Valley Ridge road is far from that. It is for the mountain lovers who want to fish, hunt, camp or make a drive through interesting country.

There are lots of turns, hills, narrow roads and bumps, but it can be classed as a fair mountain country and forest service road.

## Work Done.

The road up the Flee Valley Ridge from Pentz has been improved and the road from Stirling City to Flee Valley Ridge has been partially rebuilt this Spring and Summer. Grades have been reduced, turns cut down, the road-bed widened generally, and made smoother, and brushed out on the sides.

As a consequence the motorist finds fairly good going all the way, and a good loop trip is provided. The ridge divides the North Fork of the Feather River and the west branch of the North Fork.

## Past Concow Dam.

In case you enter by way of Pentz, the route will lead out of Oroville by paved road to a point two miles beyond Pentz and fourteen miles from Oroville.

At this point the Concow-Yankee Hill road turns to the right. Follow this and drive into the West Branch of Feather River Canyon and then up the grade past Yankee Hill post office. The Concow-Flee Valley Ridge road misses the town of Yankee Hill by a couple miles. Presently the road brings the motorist within view of the Concow Dam and swings around the south edge of the reservoir.

## Good Fishing.

Concow dam is twenty-four miles from Oroville and is reputed as full of large trout. Almost any day there are several fishermen on the concrete dam with lines in the deep reservoir water.

There are many camping and picnicking spots in this neighborhood, too, although the country isn't as pretty as it is beyond, in the, timbered region.

#### Climbs To Flea Valley

After leaving Concow the road climbs through on uninteresting country for several miles, first going through a barren rocky region and then through a strip of land once timbered, but now swept clean by fire, with only blackened stumps standing stark as mute evidence of the forest tragedy.

Shortly before reaching Flea Valley, eight miles beyond Concow, the road passes out of the burned-over area and into a refreshing green

#### Forks Of Road.

Flea Valley is an empty name, for neither are the fleas bothersome nor is there a valley. The name is applied to a place where the roads fork and where a few abandoned buildings occupy a level place on the ridge. The road to the right runs toward Pulga on the North Fork of Feather River and the road to the left runs on up the Flea Valley Ridge.

The left-hand road runs for two miles through a dense forest to a place called Rag Dump. This is a large meadow, surrounded by flowering bushes and towering pines and firs, with an ice cold stream running down the center. It is also the headquarters for the forest service and the intersection of the Stirling City and Ramsey Bar-roads.

#### Two Flourishing Periods

There were two periods in Rag Dump's history when it was a flourishing place, and its name is just another example of how the

early-day people named their towns.

The first flourish came in 1876 when the Defiance Sawmill was built there. It was a large enterprise and a thirty-mile V-flume was built to carry the lumber from the mill to the Sacramento Valley. The sawdust pile is still visible at the lower end of the meadow.

When the sawmill project died down, the place was quiet for many years until early in the 1900's when the Western Pacific started construction of the railroad up the North Fork of the Feather River.

#### How Rag Dump Was Named

The story goes that the company forbade saloons within a certain area of the work, so some enterprising people built saloons and other buildings at the site of the old Defiance Sawmill on top of the ridge out of the restricted area, and the railroad workers came up the trail from the canyon to spend their evenings and days off at the new amusement center. The workers would exchange their old clothes for new ones here, so someone hit on the idea of calling the place Rag Dump. This is one story of the naming. There may be others.

#### Serene Now

Anyway, it is serene enough now. There are no signs of the former activity and it is just a beautiful, restful place to camp. There is no fishing at Rag Dump, as it is on top of a ridge and several miles to a stream.

If one wishes, he may continue six miles on up the ridge to Ramsey Bar on Little Kimsheew Creek. This is a favorite camping place and early in the year Little Kimsheew is good fishing. The road leads on to Big Kimsheew, a good fishing stream, but it is reported that it is too rough and rocky for comfortable automobile travel. Ramsey Bar was the headquarters of the Diamond Match Company logging operations twenty years ago. One may walk from Ramsey Bar down Little Kimsheew to Big Kimsheew or over the road to Big Kimsheew for fishing.

#### Down To West Branch

To continue the loop trip, however, one must turn left at Rag Dump and make the eight-mile drive to Stirling City.

Half way over the road crosses the West Branch of the North Fork of Feather River, the road descending four miles from Rag Dump to the bottom of the canyon and then climbing four miles to Stirling City.

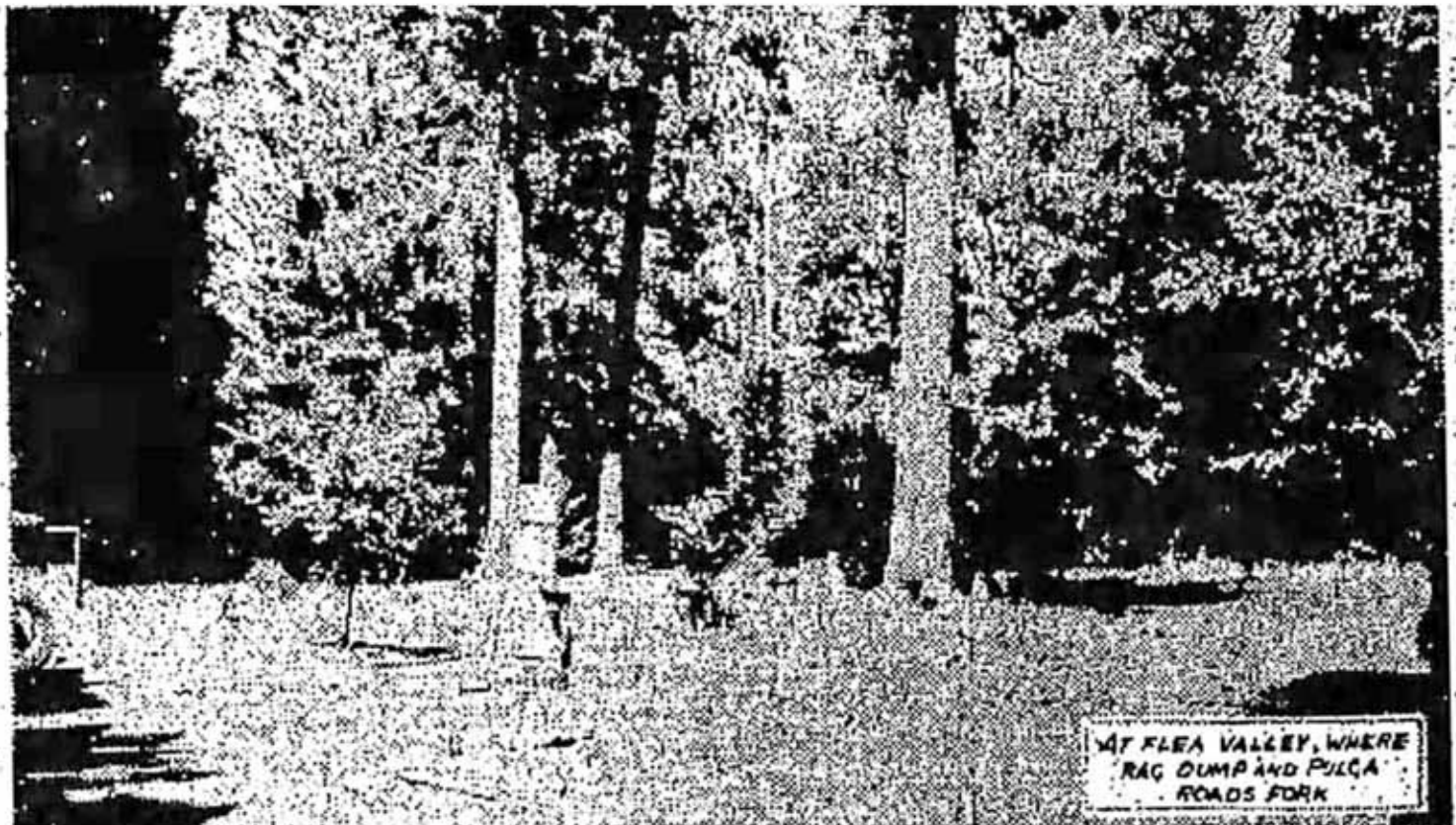
#### Highway To Valley

Once at Stirling there is paved highway most of the way to the Sacramento Valley either at Chico or Oroville, Stirling being approximately thirty-five miles from either place.

This makes a round trip loop from Oroville back to either Oroville or Chico of seventy-seven miles. Of this distance forty-nine miles is high class highway and twenty-eight miles is dirt road through the Fica Valley Ridge country.



RAG DUMP A MEADOW FRINGED WITH TIMBER-A NICE PLACE TO CAMP



AT FLEA VALLEY, WHERE RAG DUMP AND PULCA ROADS FORK



9-1-1931

# YANKEE HILL MAN ESCAPES MINE CAVE-IN

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Wall Loosened by Blast Falls,  
Almost Burying One of  
Operators

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YANKEE HILL, Sept. 1. — (Special) Work on the Weary Willie mine has been temporarily suspended owing to a cave-in that occurred recently after a blast in the mine.

Dick Johnson who was sounding the walls of the incline with a pick to determine their safety narrowly escaped serious injury when a part of the wall caved in, striking Johnson's hat brim in the fall.

While Johnson and Miller were cutting timbers in the dump to re-timber the mine another block of the wall loosened by the blast and a flow of water, caved in covering tools and other equipment in the mine. Miller and Johnson plan to resume work on the mine soon.

# CHICO INDIAN MEDICINE MAN FORMS COMPANY

## "Dr." Conway, Long Fought By State Board, Organizes Remedies Concern

William Jennings Conway, Chico Indian medicine man who long has been a "heap big thorn in the side" or a "heap big pain in the neck" to the state board of medical examiners, is going in business on a big scale.

Together with Dewey Conway, Stella Conway, Jodie Conway and William J. Isaiah, he filed articles of incorporation yesterday with Secretary of State Frank C. Jordan for the Indian Arrowhead Remedies Company. It is a \$25,000 corporation for the sale of herbs and other Indian remedies.

### Has Large Clientele.

Records in the office of "Dr." Conway seized by the medical board reveals the medicine man had a large clientele of persons from all parts of California, as well as from other states.

He maintained his offices in a modest, not to mention somewhat ramshackle house in the Chico Indian village, to which his "patients" went in a steady stream of delapidated automobiles of obsolete vintage, or high-powered, freshly-polished limousines.

### Charges Filed Four Times.

"Dr." Conway has faced charges filed against him by the medical board on four occasions. The first time the case was dismissed. The second time he pleaded guilty and was fined \$100. The third time he also pleaded guilty and was fined \$200. The fourth charge still is pending. The complaints alleged violations of the state medical practice act.

The Sacramento Bee  
9-11-1931

On one occasion, the arrest of "Dr." Conway was made while his inelegant waiting room was filled with "patients." As the medicine man was being led away, his "patients" applauded him.

### "We'll Be Seeing You."

"We'll be waiting when you come back," shouted the patients to the medicine man.

"If you want any money for bail, just call on us."

### Has Many "Patients."

J. W. Davidson, special investigator for the medical board estimated the number of patients calling on Conway daily ranged from thirty or forty to as high as 70. The charge for consultation and a bottle of the mysterious Indian herbs is said by the investigator to be \$5.

Because "Dr." Conway pleaded guilty on both prosecutions, the state has not had the opportunity of presenting its evidence against the medicine man.

Hanging on the wall in the "waiting room" of the Conway office is a sign on which the medicine man claims he is not a doctor. He claims to effect cures by prescribing ancient Indian herbs of his tribe. He is the son of an Indian chief.

Oroville Mercury Register

9-12-1931

# **BUSSES CARRY 203 STUDENTS**

Local high school busses are serving approximately 203 students of the local Elementary school and the high school. This announcement was made yesterday by Principal J. C. Nisbet.

The Yankee Hill-to-Pentz bus carries eight children, the Cherokee-to-Pentz bus carries six pupils, and the Pentz-to-Oroville bus carries about thirty. The Honcut bus carries eighteen, Palermo, forty; Thermalito, forty; Bangor and Wyandotte to Oroville, 35; Berry Creek, eight; and Mooretown, eighteen.

The Berry Creek and Mooretown busses pick up Olive students, and the Honcut bus doubles back to the Olive district for more children from that section.

## BUTTE COUNTY PLANS EXTENSIVE HIGHWAY WORK

### Engineer Announces Start Of Heavy Oiling. Schedule

OROVILLE (Butte Co.), Sept. 23. County Engineer J. A. Bumgarner states that provisions have been made to improve roads leading into the Oroville trading area.

The Oroville-Pentz-Magalia Road will be oiled from the Lockerman place, two miles north of Pentz, to the Paradise-Stirling City Road at Magalia. The section to be oiled

is eight and one-half miles long. The work was commenced three weeks ago and will be completed in two weeks.

The engineer states that the road has been brought by stage construction to a point where it now conforms with engineering standards, and to preserve it with heavy travel it must have a preliminary coat of oil. This will lower yearly maintenance cost and give a smooth, dustless surface.

Long radius curves have been established and the road widened. Eight thousand dollars has been budgeted for improvements on the Oroville-Pentz-Magalia Road. Of this amount \$1,000 will come from gas tax money and the remainder from the highway maintenance fund.

### Paradise Road Oiled.

The Paradise-Stirling City Highway has been oiled, while the road has been armor-plated from Magalia Dam to Hupps Ranch, a stretch of five and one-half miles. Gas tax money was used for this work, the total cost being \$3,000.

A portion of the Oroville-Concow Road will be graded. The road extends through Oregon City, Cherokee and Yankee Hill. The section to be graded is about three miles long and extends from the Gaub place on Table Mountain to the Elias Jones Ranch. Some of the work is to be done this Winter.

Part of the road will be surfaced with crushed rock and it will be realigned. Grades will be reduced from the present 12 per cent grade to 7½ per cent, making a high gear road. From the Jones place on the Oroville-Concow Road to a point a half mile north of Cherokee, the county road department has finished the road with armor plate coating. These improvements will cost \$4,500, and will be paid out of gas tax money.

### Surfacing Applied.

A mile of the Derrick Road connecting Oregon City with the Oroville-Concow Road also has been finished with armor coat surfacing at a cost of \$500 taken from gas receipts. A light coat of oiling has been applied from the Oroville-Concow Road to the Oroville-Pentz-Magalia Road at Pentz.

It is proposed to oil the Bangor-La Porte Road from the Marsh place to Bangor, three and one-quarter miles. This will be accomplished through a \$1,900 budget. The Oroville-Forbestown Road will be improved at a cost of \$4,000, while in the Spring, if funds permit, it is planned to do some work between Sunnyslope Ranch and Bangor on the Bangor-La Porte Road. The Canyon Highlands Road has been improved with crushed rock from the Ben Skopp place to the Quincy Road.

Original plans to widen the Oroville-Marysville Road and eliminate

four curves on the Oroville-Marysville Road and three on the Oroville-Chico Road have been abandoned this year.

Oroville Mercury Register

10-16-1931

# Driver Looks At Deer; Auto Goes Off Steep Grade

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**YANKEE HILL — (Special) —**  
Charles Heyer narrowly escaped injury and possible death Tuesday when his car left the road on the Nelson Bar grade.

Heyer's attention was attracted by a big deer as he was going down the grade, and in turning to look at the deer he lost control of the car, which went over the grade.

Luckily for Heyer it did not turn over. Passing motorists assisted in getting the car back onto the road. Heyer was uninjured and the car was able to proceed under its own power.

Oroville Mercury Register

10-28-1931

## **Mrs. Hausman Hurt In Fall from Loft**

YANKEE HILL — (Special) — Mrs. Carolyn Hausman was painfully injured recently when she fell from a barn loft while feeding cattle on their ranch during the illness of her husband, Al Hausman.

Mrs. Hausman received a badly sprained and lacerated arm as well as a possible injured spine. However she is able to be out and about her housework.

Oroville Mercury Register

11-17-1931

# **27 STUDENTS ENROLLED AT YANKEE HILL**

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**Six New Students Enter  
Classes During the Last  
Week; Number Large**

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**YANKEE HILL—(Special)—** The Concow school now has an attendance of twenty seven students. Six new students were enrolled last week.

# Site Of Historic Old Sanitarium At Deadwood Improved; One of Show Places Of District Built There

By EVELYN HENDRICKS

YANKEE HILL—(Special)—Near a spring in the cow pasture on the old Deadwood property stands a few scarred and gnarled old fruit trees and near these a shapeless pile of stones which mark the place where once stood the cabin of Mr. and Mrs. Neddy, who in the late forties or early fifties took up their abode on the bank of a mountain stream now known as Deadwood Creek.

They were what is known as squatters. Mrs. Neddy, a young woman possessing true pioneer spirit and courage, helped her husband build their cabin and worked with him mining gold in creeks and ravines and it was she who planted the fruit trees. She was one of, if not, the first white women to make their home in this part of the country.

Some years later Mrs. Neddy was deserted by her husband and later she became Mrs. Nix. About this time a young man named George Tebby, who with his parents were mining in the Northfork canyon became afflicted with a white swelling on his leg. He was advised to visit a Chinese doctor, who was living at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Merrithew on Clear Creek. He did, and was cured of the disease. The doctor and the Tebby family then came into possession of the Deadwood place, and started a sanitarium.

There was very little money to put into the enterprise to start with, but they managed to build a rough two story building with two rows of small bed rooms upstairs, with a kitchen, dining room, living room and office occupying the ground floor.

The fame of this doctor soon became known far and near and many people came to be treated by Dr. Ah Sang. As his practice increased he built more houses. Many rows of cabins and cottages were built besides the several large rooming houses and the doctor's private residence. Several large stables were erected which sheltered the herds of imported milk goats, cows and horses, as well as the doctor's fleet footed saddle and driving horses.

The grounds surrounding the building were set out to flowers and shrubs, and hedge bordered cobblestone paths and driveways wound in and out through the gardens.

After a few years Doctor Ah Sang sent to China and purchased a wife. In due time her parents arrived with the frightened little fourteen year old Chinese maiden and for whom the doctor paid fourteen hundred dollars.



# Oroville Mercury Register

11-20-1931

page 2 of 2

There was a grand celebration and they were married according to the Chinese laws and also the American law. Mike Wells of Yankee Hill, who was justice of the peace, performed the American marriage rites. The nuptial ceremonies lasted three days, during which there was much feasting and drinking of gin and Chinese beverages.

Two children were born in the Ah Sang family, the first a daughter whom they named Jessie. Many people came to see the little Chinese baby. Jessie lived only a few weeks and a large, marble slab almost completely hidden with poison oak, pine and manzanita on the hill-side above the hospital marks the resting place of the wee Jessie.

Then came the second child, a son, and he was given the American name of Willie. The arrival of a son in the Ah Sang family was a great event, and the doctor refused to let curious visitors see this child, saying "they looked the first one to death."

At the age of three months Willie's que was started and another celebration was in order. Friends and relatives came from China to attend the ceremonies, bringing many beautiful and costly presents to the little boy and his parents. A favored few of the doctor's white friends were invited to this celebration, the baby's head was shaved except for a small patch of his hair on the crown of his head. Then his head was bound tightly with red silk to shape the head, according to the Chinese custom, as were both his hands and feet to make them small, for Willie was to be a real gentleman.

For several years Deadwood grew and flourished, many cures were made, and Doctor Ah Sang was well liked both as a physician and as a man.

When his little son was old enough to attend school the doctor sold his sanitarium at Deadwood and moved with his family to Indiana, where he established another sanitarium. After a good many years rumors came back here that he had become insane and his wife had eloped with the Chinese cook.

Deadwood then changed hands frequently. Several doctors both white and Chinese attempted at different times to re-establish a sanitarium at Deadwood, with but little success. It was later owned by John Evans and family who made their home there for several years, Evans sold the property to J. G. Odneal who several years later sold it to Charles Heyer of Wisconsin who sold it in separate tracts to the present owners. The upper eighty acres lying in the Blue Ridge canyon and known as the old China gardens were purchased recently by Lawrence Brotherton and William Osborne of San Francisco who are improving the property and building a modern residence.

An interesting feature of this new home is the combined living room, dining room and kitchen with its many built in cupboards and conveniences. An attractive fire place with little window seats beneath the large casement windows which occupy the south end of the living room gives an added air of charm and comfort to the room. The fire place is made of cement and washed stones with an occasional piece of quartz where small flakes of gold are visible.

The other eighty acres where remain a few trees and shrubs and a part of the Ah Sang residence, all that is left of the once famous Deadwood sanitarium, was purchased recently by Oroville people, who are remodeling the buildings, taking down the only remaining stable, and building pens and cages for the silver foxes, that are to be the chief industry of this ranch.

This work is progressing rapidly under the supervision of the present care taker who with his family have moved on to the property.

# The Sacramento Bee

12-3-1931

## Chico Woman, Once Held By Indians, Recalls Event

CHICO (Butte Co.), Dec. 3.—

Mrs. Arenia Thankful Carson, who believes she is the only white person now living in California who escaped after being captured by Indians, celebrated her seventy-eighth birthday anniversary yesterday in her home on the Center-ville Road.

In full possession of all her faculties and with mental keenness and clear memory she related to many of her callers the exciting events of her life in July, 1863. It was then her two little brothers met their deaths in a revoltingly cruel way at the hands of the Indians and she managed to elude her captors by hiding in some driftwood along the banks of Big Chico Creek, then wading the stream and finding shelter at the Thomasson Ranch, several miles from her father's cabin.

### Crossed Plains.

Mrs. Thankful Carson, who laid claim to that Christian name yesterday by baptismal right, although she might also claim it by virtue of her Indian experiences, was born on December 2, 1853, at Salem, Mo. In April of the following year her parents, Samuel and Mary Ann Lewis, and one brother, Jimmy, who was then only 2 years old, started across the plains with ox teams for California. They were accompanied by Joe Miller, the father of the late Wendell Miller, the Williams family and other immigrants.

That year the Lewis family reached Butte County and Miss Lewis, now Mrs. Thankful Carson, has been here ever since.

### Indians Murder Brothers.

The capture by Mill Creek Indians in July, 1863, was made while her father was harvesting. Her two brothers, Jimmy, aged 11, and Johnny, aged 6, and herself, then 9 years old, went to school three miles from home on the Cherokee Road, near where her grandfather lived. On the way to school after Johnny had taken a drink in Little Dry Creek, he was shot in the back by four Indians, who afterwards threw rocks at the boy to make sure that he drowned in the creek.

Six other Indians joined them and took Johnny and herself away into the mountains, abusing them for hours. They crossed Hamlin Canyon to the Neal Road and into Nance Canyon, where they camped



MRS. A. T. CARSON.

on the creek, which was then dry. The next morning they made their way up the hill. When the party reached the ridge four Indians took Johnny into the woods and murdered him.

The party, having been rejoined by the four Indians, who denied they had murdered the boy, continued their journey to Butte Creek, about five miles from Chico, crossed Little Chico Creek and Humboldt Road, and continued their journey until they came to Big Chico Creek just above the Thomasson old home.

### Girl Escapes.

One lone Indian was left behind to guard the girl while the others reconnoitered, from whom she was able later to make her escape by rolling over and over into the ravine. When she returned to the bank of Big Chico Creek she crawled under some driftwood that was hidden by brush while the Indians searched for her. She was eventually able to reach the Thomasson Ranch, whence she was returned to her parents' home.

Mrs. Carson has been married three times. Her first husband was John Bidsworth; her second Jerome Winders, and her third George H. Carson. All died natural deaths. She is now living with her son, Williams Bidsworth.

# ISAIAH ROAD TOO COSTLY, SAYS VIEWER

Oroville Mercury Register  
12-12-1931

Cost of providing a road to Isaiah, on the Western Pacific railroad in the Feather river canyon below Intake, would be prohibitive, according to a report by J. A. Bumgarner, county engineer, on file with the board of supervisors Saturday.

Bumgarner estimated the cost at \$72,860, and declared that the expenditure would not be justified because few persons would be served.

"I fail to see any real reasons for opening the road between Blinzig and Isaiah at so great a cost as would be entailed in this undertaking," Bumgarner said.

The report was read and filed by the board.

## Ask for Connection

Residents of the Isaiah section appeared before the supervisors recently and asked for road connection with the outside world. They requested that the French Creek road be extended. There is no road into the town at present.

Bumgarner and Charles Stearns, assistant county road engineer, went over the suggested route.

The county maintains 7 miles of highway from Oroville-Quincy road at a point 2½ miles from Oroville to Stanwood. The road is known as the French Creek Road. The road traverses at an elevation of 3,000 feet a heavy snow belt for about two miles around the head of Mosquito Creek. From Stanwood to Blinzig, 7 1-4 miles, the road is not in the county system, but was recently opened by the forest service. Originally it was built by the Pacific Gas and Electric company to the French Creek reservoir site. The old Utah Construction company road extends from Blinzig to Isaiah. An old road already is built to by wagon road, it would be necessary to construct a highway over three large slides, Bumgarner said in his report.

## Built One Road

"We have already constructed one road over a slide in the same kind of ground, south of Las Plumas, which cost the county over \$5,000," the county engineer said. "These

three slides would cost the county at least \$5,000 a piece."

He estimated the cost of earth and rock excavation at \$71,400, and other costs as follows: Ram Creek bridge, \$240; French Creek bridge, \$450; Chino Creek bridge, \$120, and culverts and underdrainage \$650.

New rights of way also would have to be obtained as the present road is within the 100 foot width right of way of the Western Pacific and in many places is almost perpendicular above the Western Pacific grade.

## For Mail Purposes

Bumgarner said that it appears that the reason for wanting a road is to serve people with mail from Pearl Orchard and Stanwood. These places already are served by the forest service road from the end of the present French Creek road.

People on the top of the mountain have an outlet through the present county road up to the Oroville-Quincy Road and residents of Isaiah, now Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Roberts, and also the Walter S. McLean soapstone quarry are served by railroad facilities, the report pointed out.

Bumgarner said that if it is necessary to get the Isaiah residents to Oroville he would recommend opening the road to Intake, and thence to Knowelton Creek, which is only a half mile across the river, to Isaiah. An old road already is built to a point near Knowelton Creek, and the river below the dam can be forded most of the year, he explained.

He said that a road from the river crossing could be built to David station on the Western Pacific, where it would cross the tracks at grade and extend to Isaiah.

"At some future date, if traffic should demand it, a road to connect Isaiah directly with Pearl Orchard and Stanwood districts could probably be constructed up Chino Creek with moderately steep grades," the engineer concluded.

## **OREGON CITY BOOM COMING**

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Carl E. Tharraldson, who for many years has been a resident of Oregon City, near Oroville, and saw the boom in the gold days of that section, says there are prospects of another boom in his neighborhood.

There are four mines being operated there at present.