

Oroville Mercury Register

1-4-1932

# **CONCOW DAM NEARLY FULL; RAIN HELPS**

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**Warm Rains Melting Deep  
Snow Covering Hillsides  
In That Region**

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**YANKEE HILL**—(Special)—Owing to heavy rains and snow that melted during recent warm rains Cowcow lake was reported to be over two-thirds full. It is thought the dam will be full very soon if the rain continues. The hills surrounding Concow valley are well covered with snow. More rain has fallen to date than during the winter of 1930 and 1931.

# FEARS FELT FOR TRAPPERS IN MOUNTAINS

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**Men Left Yankee Hill In No-  
vember and Have Not Re-  
turned for Supplies**

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**YANKEE HILL—(Special)**—Some fear is felt for the safety of John Jones and O. W. Osbourne who left their homes here November 23 for a few weeks trapping and prospecting in the Saw Mill Peak region.

So far no word has been received from them and they have not returned for mail or supplies. The men drove their cars to a point near a cabin north of Saw Mill Peak where they planned to make camp. Heavy snows have fallen since that time and it would be impossible to move the cars. It is, however, possible that they may have obtained supplies from Magalia where they would be obliged to walk several miles through the snow.

# Plumas Independent

1-7-1932

## INDIANS FIRST FOUND GOLD AT CHEROKEE

Some interesting side lights on the discovery of gold in the famous Cherokee region is given in the following article by Mildred Churchman:

Cherokee is a foothill town, situated at the north end of Table Mountain and seventeen miles from Oroville, the county seat of Butte. Its elevation is 1250 feet above sea level and the highest peak, Sugar Loaf, can be seen for great distances because it has been partly washed away by hydraulic mining and stands as a ghost of former days.

Members of a tribe of Cherokee Indians, whose chief was Buckshot and who figured in Indian troubles, were the first to find gold. When the news spread that the Indians had found gold, the white men came and many claims, one hundred feet square, were taken up. As high as twenty and fifty dollars daily were taken from the claims by the simple mining methods. The settlement was named for the Indians and in their language, Cherokee means Upland Fields.

Later the small claims were consolidated and the mine was known as The Spring Valley Mining and Irrigation Company and was mined on a big scale as living water was brought in from a great distance and at a great cost.

A reservoir was built at the source of the west branch of the Feather River, above the present site of the Chaparral House. The water was carried in a ditch to a point below Magalla, where it was syphoned in pipes across the west branch of Feather River and thence in a ditch to Concow, where a storage reservoir was made. From there it was brought in a ditch to a point southwest of Yankee Hill and thence thru a second syphon across the west branch into a ditch, where it flowed to a series of reservoirs—three in number.

Oroville Mercury Register

1-12-1932

## **Annual Party Held By Club At Yankee Hill**

YANKEE HILL—(Special)— The New Year watch party held in the Concow school house and sponsored by the Get Together Club was well attended and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

Games, music and dancing kept the guests well entertained after which refreshments were served.

The coming of the New Year and passing of the old year was hailed with much noise and tooting of horns, and ringing of bells.

The entertaining program was arranged by a committee composed of three of the leading club members, Mrs. G. R. Streubel, Warren Peck and Merl Stead. The club plans to hold a number of these enjoyable events during the winter months.



1-26-1932

# FOXES ARE STRANGE ANIMALS; SOMETIMES THEY KILL YOUNG

**R**AISING pure-bred silver black foxes is just like rearing babies—you must be careful of their diet. Mrs. A. E. Treichler of Oroville knows all about it for she has raised and reared both.

Four years ago Mr. and Mrs. Treichler invested in a pair of the foxes. Now they have two pair and two pups and have sold a number of pelts.

The fox business comes more or less natural for Mrs. Treichler for up in Modoc county, where she came from, she once trapped for foxes, raccoons and other animals, skinned them and sold the pelts.

The Treichlers raise foxes as a sort of a hobby turned into a business proposition. They kept the foxes at their home near Treichler's sheet metal works on Myers street for awhile. Then they moved them to the Hipp ranch near Garden ranch and last December they moved the foxes to a higher altitude—to a ranch of their own at Deadwood.

### Revel in Snow

Foxes like a coolish climate and when they were taken to Deadwood, near Yankee Hill, snow fell and the foxes revelled in the snow. Yes, they did more than that; they rolled in it. It is good for the fur, moreover.

Foxes, especially the purebreds, are strange creatures in their habits, likes and dislikes.

When Mama Fox has young ones, she doesn't want to be disturbed. If she is upset, she turns cannibal and eats the young. Sometimes both parent foxes will turn on their young and kill them. That means several hundred potential dollars in furs lost, for a hide is valued at anywhere between \$40 and \$150.

If Mama and Papa Fox get along amicably, Papa makes a point of getting food for the children or pups as they are called. Then he grows even more domestic and picks out a pet for his own. This favored pup follows his dad all around the pen, all the time. The others stay with the mother.

### Cat Raises Fox Pups

When a she-fox dies and leaves a litter of pups, there is only one way to save them and that is to get a female cat with kittens and allow the cat to raise the pups with the kittens. It seems that a fox has some of the cat blood in its veins and the pups like cat milk and thrive on it.

If the foxes are healthy, they grow quickly. If they sicken, they die quickly. They are gone almost before you can snap your fingers, is the way Mrs. Treichler puts it.

As to diet, foxes like meat. They are fed horse and sheep meat. They like vegetables and fruit.

There is money in foxes in good years. The Treichlers purchased their foxes from the U. S. Fox Farms in Shasta county. Full grown foxes sell for between \$500 and \$600. Those that have plenty of silver in the fur bring the best price.

### 4 Pups in Litter

There are generally four pups in a litter. Sometimes there are five. Foxes pair up once and they have one litter a year. You can't let a family of foxes roam around together in one pen for they'll fight and howl. And the result is generally several casualties. More losses to be taken on the chin with a grin.

After raising pups to maturity the hardest part of the business is disposing of the pelts, Mrs. Treichler said.

The fur is best at a certain time of the year. The fox fancier must watch for this time very carefully. It usually comes in November and sometimes in December. When the fur turns glossiest is the time when the fur is best and this is the time to dispose of it. The condition depends largely upon the weather and upon feeding.

### Look Like Bulldogs

The fur can be sold either to associations or to auction markets in the large metropolises of the United States. If the market is good, furs bring over \$100. If the market is poor the price goes under that figure. Right now hides can be bought for the lowest price in years for some reason or other.

And before we forget it the most interesting time in a fox's life is shortly after its birth.

**"They look almost like bull pups and are the color of a mouse," Mrs. Treichler said. "You can**

hardly determine whether they have a nose or not and you can't make out their ears. The face of the pup is like that of a pug dog. But in a few weeks the sharp features of the fox becomes noticeable and the pups begin to look like foxes.

There is money in the fox business but like every other business the market can be overdone if everyone goes into it. That's what is wrong with it right now. To cite an instance of money making, Mrs. Treichler said that one raiser she knows of has 17 or 18 pairs of foxes and regularly makes \$3000 a year off the pelts.

# Oroville Mercury Register

2-9-1932

## MAN SUPPOSED TO BE KILLED APPEARS, ALIVE

### Pulgan Surprised To Learn of "Death;" Comes Here

Ernest Fultz, 30, whose reported murder in December, 1928, at Pulga, was the subject of a grand jury investigation, walked into the office of Sheriff C. W. Toland Tuesday very much alive.

"When I appeared in Pulga everyone seemed very much surprised to see me," said Fultz.

He explained that he had left Pulga December 9, 1928, and had gone to Keddie by train. Since leaving Pulga, he said, he has worked on retards in the Sacramento river near Grimes and Colusa for the state, and has worked in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. At present he is working at Cresta for the Western Pacific.

"I did not know that I was supposed to be dead until I returned to Pulga recently," he explained.

#### Searched for Body

Members of the sheriff's office searched for a month for Fultz' "body" and the grand jury on two occasions in November, 1929, questioned various witnesses regarding the young man's death.

"I was satisfied that he had not been murdered," said Sheriff Toland Tuesday, "but this office couldn't convince some of the residents of Pulga that he had not been killed."

A pair of shoes, identified as belonging to Fultz, were found three miles south of Pulga, near the old fishing place, and witnesses told of seeing a huge bonfire there shortly before Fultz disappeared. It was the contention of some Pulga residents that the body had been cremated.

#### Described Killing

Sheriff Toland said Tuesday that Dan Johnson, 21, former brother-in-law of Fultz, had given the sheriff's office a sworn statement describing in detail how Fultz had been shot. Johnson also was a witness before the grand jury. The grand jury refused to return an indictment.

Johnson accused a Pulga resident, with whom Fultz was said to have engaged in a quarrel, of shooting Fultz twice. Afterward, another Pulga man helped the murderer carry the body down toward the river, according to Johnson's story.

# ROAD WORK AT PULGA STOPS, BAD WEATHER

Oroville Mercury Register  
2-11-1932

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## Steel Workers Sent to Sunny- vale Dirigible Base; Start Here March 1

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PULGA—(Special)—F. W. Haselwood, J. B. Hodges of Redding and W. Gillis of Sacramento were business visitors in Pulga this week. They made an inspection trip down over the 1.8 mile contract of the North Fork Highway and gave J. J. Granfield permission to discontinue work until the weather clears.

He stated it was too dangerous an undertaking at the present time. They had nearly reached the end of the job but claim there are as many yards of dirt to move now, due to slides, as there originally was. The weather conditions have been very disagreeable this winter. Nearly thirty-five inches of rain having fallen to date.

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N. E. Pomeray and "Whitey Rutter" are in Pulga, shipping out equipment for J. H. Pomeray Co., to Sunnyvale, where they are beginning work on the dirigible hanger. Most of the steel workers that were employed here, after a two months vacation are at Sunnyvale, awaiting weather conditions, to resume their duties.

Pomeray informed residents of Pulga yesterday that they will be ready to continue their work on the bridge here about March 1. They expect to have around forty men in their crew, exclusive of the painters.

According to reports the contract across the river from Pulga is to be advertised for bids around March 15. Pulga expects to be quite a center of activity this next summer.

# YANKEE HILL. WOMAN DECLARES LIONS SCREAM; HAS HEARD THEM

Oroville Mercury Register  
2-13-1932

Several experiences with mountain lions are given by Evelyn Hendricks of Yankee Hill, in the following article to substantiate her claim that mountain lions do scream. The M-R printed several articles in recent weeks quoting game hunters and sportsmen on whether a lion screams. Jay Bruce, state lion hunter, asserts lions do not scream.

BY EVELYN HENDRICKS

I have been reading with interest the articles appearing in your paper from time to time as to whether or not mountain lions scream and with due respect to the opinions of Jay Bruce and other lion hunters who have voiced their opinion through the Mercury-Register, I would like to say, I am in a position to state definitely, that mountain lions (some mountain lions at least) do scream.

Having lived the greater part of my life in the mountains, and tramped the woods with my father, a woodsman and trapper in both the Sierras and Coast Range mountains, I have had opportunity to become familiar with the voices of most of the animals that inhabit these regions, and the scream or cry of the mountain lion once heard is not easily forgotten.

At one time while going over a trap line with my father after a light snowfall, we came upon the freshly killed carcass of a small deer which had been partly eaten, and the tracks showed that a lion was the killer. Soon we spotted him, crouching on a ledge of rocks a short distance above, where he could watch the remains of his kill.

My father took aim and fired just as the lion rose to a sitting position. The bullet grazed the breast of the cat, which as he leaped down the cliff emitted the most blood curdling scream I have ever heard.

While living on our homestead in the wilds of the North Fork canyon, I had ridden out early one morning to look for cows that had failed to come home the night before. I was sitting on my horse listening for cow bells when I heard a great commotion on the hillside above me.

Glancing up I saw a rabbit closely pursued by a mountain lion.

The frightened rabbit ran under my horse. The lion realizing too late that something blocked its path turned sharply and bumped into a tree.

Whether injured or not, I could not tell. I sat on my frightened horse, which save for the twitching of his muscles and the loud beating of his heart which I could plainly hear and feel, he might have been a graven image, watching with fas-

ination this handsome beast which giving no further notice to me leaped lightly on to the trunk of a fallen tree and stood lashing his long tail from side to side, alert and watchful for a sign of the escaping rabbit.

Then realizing his quarry had escaped, he turned facing me and partly closing his bloodshot eyes, and opening his mouth he gave voice to his anger and disappointment in a low throaty growl or moan which gradually rose to a shrill scream, much like the terrified scream of a woman or child.

It sent my horse racing madly down the trail for home where he slid to a halt before the pasture bars, all but throwing me headlong over the fence.



Sacramento Bee

3-8-1932

## **QUARTZ CRYSTAL CLUSTER IS PUT ON DISPLAY IN BUTTE**

**OROVILLE (Butte Co.), March 8.—A cluster of quartz crystals about two feet in width, said to be larger than the specimen that was awarded a prize at the state fair last September, has been added to the collection of mineral specimens at the offices of the Butte County Mining Exchange. The formation was found by John Clark in a claim he is working at Yankee Hill, and has attracted considerable attention from mining men.**

# Indians Go East To Speed Claims For \$12,800,000

The Press Democrat  
3-11-1932

Seeking appointment of their own counsel to speed up claims against the federal government, two California Indians left San Francisco yesterday for Washington, D. C.

They will ask the United States court of claims, before which their case is to be tried, for permission to retain J. W. Henderson, San Francisco attorney and chairman of the Indian board of cooperation. They want Henderson to succeed State Attorney General U. S. Webb, who is conducting their case.

The 20,000 Indians of the state are suing for \$12,800,000 which they claim is due for usurpation of lands in 1852 and other violations of treaties with the federal government.

The emissaries are William G. Walker of the Chuck-chansi tribe of Fresno county, and Peter Williams of the Requas of Del Norte county. They took with them a cartoon, drawn by Ransome Randolph Clark of the Coneow tribe, in which the government was pictured as delaying payment of the claim.

Peter Williams is a son-in-law of Thomas Johnson of this city, formerly of Sebastopol.



# Oroville Mercury Register

3-16-1932

## Oldest Voter



William W. Reece, 101, of Isaiah, Calif., who claims to be the oldest voter in Butte county and possibly the oldest in the state. One of 20 registered Democrats in his little mountain town, Reece is planning to cast his ballot at the next election. He is strong and healthy despite his years. Reece registered for the first time this year after a voting precinct had been established by the board of supervisors at Isaiah in the Feather river canyon east of Oroville.

**EXCITING FAMILY LIFE OF WM. JAMES RECOUNTED; 5 CHILDREN PURCHASE BRICKS FOR PARENTS**

Two Pioneer Memorial Bricks to be placed in the relics hall here were taken out in the name of William James who came to California in 1850 and one in the name of his wife, Mrs. Katherine James who arrived in California in 1856. These bricks were taken out by the five children now living, Mrs. Lucy Ann Mengler and Miss Maggie James of Thermalito, Mrs. Katie Marie Tegrunde of Oroville, Ed James and Frank James of Thermalito, and Dr. R. F. James of Boston.

William James was born in Killgerrine, Wales, January 8, 1828. As a young man he became a sailor. He left his ship at Boston, Mass., and boarded a sailing vessel called the "Race Horse" for California, arriving in San Francisco in 1850. At the time the Race Horse left the Boston harbor, another sailing vessel known as the "Sea Witch" left Boston bound for California. These vessels raced around Cape Horn and up the Pacific ocean to San Francisco, the Race Horse winning by a small margin. James came here as a seaman.

**The Lure of Gold**

When arriving at San Francisco, the lure of gold was too much for him and he left the vessel and went to McKelumne Hills to mine. He then went to Rich Bar, Plumas county, which at that time was located in Butte county. Here he stayed for one or two years.

In 1853 James returned to Boston by vessel.

February 1, 1855, he married Katherine Forest, a native of Ireland, who was born October 16 1837. After their marriage James returned alone to California, coming again by vessel.

In 1856 James sent for his wife, and Mrs. James started on her way to California to join her husband. She came by way of the Isthmus Panama.

**Witnessed Tragedy**

While crossing the Isthmus a tragedy was enacted before her eyes. Mrs. James with other people were standing by a banana stand. A sailor fired a shot at some man, missed aim and killed a little girl who was standing by Mrs. James. She therefore had to stay as a witness and wait for the next vessel to California. A Chilean woman took her in and while she could not speak a word of English, was very kind

Mrs. James arrived in San Francisco in 1856. Here she was met by her husband, where they stayed a few days before going into the mines.

While in San Francisco, waiting for his wife, a Vigilante badge was pinned on James. Some days later Mrs. James, looking from her hotel window saw the crowd gathered around the hanging of Casey and Corey, one of these men having killed the editor of the Bulletin.

**Indian Neighbors**

Mr. and Mrs. James then located on the West Branch of the Feather River where he engaged in mining. Their only close neighbors were Indians, all in "native dress." The nearest white woman, a Mrs Kunkle, lived about 2 miles away. The first white man that Mrs. James remembered meeting was Jake Sturmer, who was running a pack train into the mines. Here they made their home in a tent for some little time, then moved to Frenchtown.

Frenchtown was located about where the present Yankee Hill post office now stands. Here was a large settlement. The first six children of this union were born here.

At this time Spanishtown was on the "boom." This was the neighboring town, located about where the present Yankee Hill school house is, or between Yankee Hill and Deadwood. There were many Spanish people here then, hence the naming of the mining town.

**EXCITING FAMILY LIFE OF WM.  
JAMES RECOUNTED; 5 CHILDREN  
PURCHASE BRICKS FOR PARENTS**

**Children Killed**

Mr. and Mrs. James were living here at Frenchtown at the time of the uprising of the "Mill Creek" Indians, near Chico. It was in this vicinity that the tragedy of the Lewis children took place. After the rising the Indians then were making their way by way of Pence and up toward Frenchtown, when they came across the three Lewis children, 2 boys and 1 girl, returning home from school. One boy, while drinking from the creek was shot in the back, the other boy was thrown over a cliff, after having had his head crushed by beating it on the rocks.

The girl was taken prisoner. She was given a heavy rifle to carry. One old Indian was fascinated by the ear rings in her ears and started to snatch them from her ears. She then took them off and gave them to the Indian. A little later he then took the rifle from her and

walked on ahead thus giving her an opportunity to run away and hide. She was nine years of age then and hid all night in an arbor of grape vines. The next days she made her way to a neighboring ranch, and these people in turn took her to her home in Clear Creek. When she arrived home, her mother exclaimed how thankful she was to have at least one of her children returned to her alive, thus this little girl carried the name of "Thankful" from then on.

**Another Attack**

In the meantime when the children did not return from school a search was made and the body of the one boy was found. The little

girl was returned home at the time of his burial. She then led them to the cliff over which the younger boy's body had been thrown.

A few days later, Joe Miller while riding after cattle, where the present Hodapp place now is, saw smoke. He rode in that direction when he noticed a rifle sticking through the brush. He wheeled the mule he was riding and was shot at but not injured. The Indians burned the home of Workman's beating Mrs. Workman over the head with rocks and leaving her for dead. They also cut the throat of her sister and shot a man at work in the garden. Mrs. Workman was later found and survived.

**Helped to Safety**

During all this time, James was over at Jordan Hill where he was working while Mrs. James and the little family were at home. The youngest child was but six weeks old. When news of these tragedies came, messengers were sent out to the different homes asking all to congregate at the Miller place. A Mrs. Dollie brought word to the James home in the night, and helped Mrs. James and the six little ones to a place of safety. Here they all stayed for several days until all was quiet again.

**To Thompson Flat**

After living at Frenchtown for about 10 or 12 years they moved to Thompson Flat, which was then a thriving mining town. The move was made on account of better schools. Here the children had to walk 4 miles to the Morris Ravine school. Miss Belle Clark was one of the teachers. Later Judge Gray then a young man, taught in the Thompson Flat school where the children attended. This school house was situated across from the present Cole place in Thompson Flat.



**EXCITING FAMILY LIFE OF WM.  
JAMES RECOUNTED; 5 CHILDREN  
PURCHASE BRICKS FOR PARENTS**

They only lived here about a year or so, when the children had malaria so bad, that they moved to Oregon City, where a large house was erected and was the home of the James family for 64 years, and is still in their possession. The other five children, being all boys, were born here.

**Continued Mining**

James continued mining and while in the employ of the Cherokee Mining Company at Cherokee, he lost his eye sight, by the explosion of giant powder. This was one of the first places in the county that giant powder was used. This accident happened on May 23, 1872, when one of the children, Ed., was just one year and one day old. James was blind for 34 years.

There were eleven children born of this union: Maggie, William Henry, Alice, Katie Marie, Lucy Ann, George David, John Edward, Daniel Reuben, Edwin Thomas, Frances Even, and Richard Forest.

James died at Oregon City on April 24, 1905. Mrs. James died at Oregon City on her 83d birthday October 16, 1920.

**Indian Friendship**

Many stories are told of the great friendship that existed between the James family and "Susie" and her husband "Charlie" who were neighbors for years.

Susie was the daughter of Chief Chino of the Toto Tribe of Indians.

Charlie was the last survivor of the Wyama tribe. When Charlie was about 10 years of age the Indians from Stringtown, in their war paints crossed the river at Union Bar and camped at a point that is now known as the Logue place at Oregon City. The miners thought they were planning an attack on them, so got their defense ready. However, in the morning, the Indians passed them and made an attack on the Wyama tribe in Beatson's Hollow, on the edge of Table Mountain. This property is now owned by Openshaw and Johnson. All the tribe men were killed but Charlie. Mr. and Mrs. Guy Morrison of Oregon City took the boy and reared him to manhood and he was afterwards known as Charlie Morrison.

# Oakland Tribune

4-4-1932

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## **Banner Mine Sold To L. A. Group**

OROVILLE, April 4—In what is reported to be one of the most important mining deals consummated here in years, the Banner Mine near Oroville was sold to Los Angeles business men for a sum involving \$100,000. Announcement of the sale was made by Alex F. Wilson of Oroville.

The quartz mine property, one of the oldest in Butte county, was sold to Fred Irwin, millionaire oil man of Signal Hill, Hugh R. Smith, vice-president of the Metcalf of America Co., Ltd., and a former associate of William Wrigley, and Jack Mordhenk, president of the Los Angeles Manufacturing Co.

The mine was owned by Mrs. Jennie Livesley of Oroville and C. B. Lastratta, San Francisco coffee importer.

Development of the mine will start immediately.

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4-4-1932

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## **Sale of Banner Mine Reported at Oroville**

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*Special to The Chronicle*

**OROVILLE, Butte County, April 3**—Sale of the Banner mine, with a production record of \$4,000,000, has been made to Carol Low, vice president of the Monolith Portland Cement Company, for approximately \$100,000. Alex E. Wilson, local realty man, through whom the deal was made, announces that other purchasers are Fred Irwing, millionaire oil man of Signal Hill; Hugh R. Smith, vice president and chairman of the board of directors of the Meterice of America Company, Ltd., and Jack Mundnenk, president of the Los Angeles Manufacturing Company. The sellers were Mrs. Jennie Livesly, Oroville, and C. B. Lastretta, coffee importer of San Francisco.

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# 'Indian Doctor's' \$8,000 Estate Left To Three Sons

Made five days before his death, the will of William J. Conway, Chico medicine man, will be filed for probate in the superior court at Oroville today. The estate is valued at approximately \$8,000.

Isaiah and Dewey Conway, sons, are named executors in the will, dated March 29, 1932, and prepared by Wesley E. Marten, attorney.

Conway, reputed to have grown wealthy in his disposal of herbs to ailing persons, willed his entire estate to his three sons, Isaiah, Dewey and Jodie. Each son was given \$500 in cash, according to the terms of the will and full interest in the Indian Arrowhead Company, organized a few months before Conway's death.

In the petition for probate are listed \$1700 cash in the bank, household furniture at the Conway home, valued at \$1500; and \$500 due the deceased from the legacy left each Indian residing on the Bidwell estate by Mrs. Annie E. K. Bidwell.

The will directs that Dewey be given his father's home at 1035 North Ivy, which he now occupies with his brother, Jodie. Other assets listed are half interest in a ranch in Round Valley, Mendocino County, and one automobile. The will directs that any cash that might come to the deceased from the federal government in payment of losses suffered by Indians during American civilization, be given to the three sons.

Oroville Mercury Register

4-30-1932

## **Streams High But Clear In Yankee Hill Mountains**

Condition of roads leading to trout streams in the Pulga district were reported upon today by B. F. Clark of Yankee Hill.

Clark said the Pulga road is open to the county line. Camp Creek Swamp Creek and Dogwood Creek are in this territory.

The Ramsey bar road is open to Cooper Creek, 3 miles north of Rag Dump. This road takes fishermen to Concow reservoir, little Rock Creek and the head of Swamp Creek.

Streams are high but clear and bait is best, Clark said.

# Oroville Mercury Register

## 5-12-1932

### DAYS OF '49

Come join us friends and celebrate the  
days of forty-nine.  
When the glorious fields of our grand  
old state  
Were a jungle of brush and pine.

And we'll give three "cheers" for those  
golden years,  
Those days when your dad and mine,  
Dragged forth their freight from some  
eastern state  
On the trail to our western mines.

Though the ways were rough,  
And the days were tough,  
They never were heard to whine  
For hearts grew bold  
With the lure of gold  
In the days of forty-nine.

So they held their course  
Though the trail grew worse  
Midst lava and stunted pine,  
Till with many a cheer  
They landed here  
In the days of forty nine.

And they've labored on  
Through the years that are gone  
In forest and fields and mine  
Till one by one has answered the call  
Since those days of forty-nine.

And now they sleep  
Where the willows weep  
Their perilous labors o'er  
Midst the sweet perfume of the orange  
bloom  
On "The Feather's" golden shore.

—George Moak.

# Oroville Mercury Register

5-12-1932

## CHANCES OF DYING NATURAL DEATH IN 1849 WERE GOOD

By WALLACE KUNKEL

Maybe the chances of dying a natural death in the gold mining days were just as good as they are now, and not so many miners went west with their boots on and a six shooter in each hand.

At least an examination of the official justice court docket of Oregon township for the ten years from 1855, when the first entry was made, until 1865, fails to reveal any murders.

Several men died without having opportunity to remove their boots, but one of these passed away from exposure on a certain cold Christmas evening, due to the fact that he was woefully intoxicated and went to sleep in a neighbor's yard. Several others met death when mines caved in and one came to an untimely end when he was thrown from a wagon and one of the wheels passed over his body.

### Shooting Ability

The shooting ability, or lack of it, on the part of would be bad men may have accounted largely for the absence of murder cases, for there are a number of cases in which defendants were accused of assault with a deadly weapon. The only inference is that the shots missed their mark.

The first suicide inquest was held in the township when "James C. Murdock, aged about 35 years, and from the state of Virginia" came to his death by voluntarily taking an overdose of laudanum, at Spanish-town.

The inquest was held at the Union Hotel (kept by Ripley and Clemens, a house situated at Yankee Hill.)

### Horse Thief Tried

They may have lynched horse thieves in 1864 in some parts of the country, but one man accused of stealing a horse was given a hearing before M. H. Wells, then justice of the peace.

The defendant, a Mexican, testified that he got the horse from "a native Californian" and sold it to a resident of Little Kimsheew, but the man was held under bond pending final disposition of his case.

There was only one record of anyone being accused of stealing gold dust. That was in 1865, when a defendant was accused of taking gold, silver coin and gold dust to the amount of \$326.75.

# Oroville Mercury Register

5-12-1932

## Rich Gulch Mine Records Reveal Struggle For Ore

Records of the Rich Gulch mining district, now Yankee Hill, in the 50's when Rich Gulch was just what the name implied and when miners sought to wrest fortunes from the gold laden "diggin's" are owned by M. W. Wells, Oroville druggist.

A book, in which mining claims of the district were entered, was in possession of Wells' father, the late M. W. Wells, who was quartz recorder in the Concow district, formerly the Rich Gulch district, in 1868.

### The First Entry

The first entry in the book, made November 15, 1851, tells of a meeting of citizens of Rich Gulch "and the adjacent mining district" to formulate articles. Up to that time there was no mining district, and the miners sought a way to record and legalize their claims.

The articles adopted at that time provided that all persons or companies intending to hold claims in quartz have them recorded within 30 days after discovery. Further provision was made that such claims could be legally held until such times as machinery could be put up, provided that the time did not exceed six months.

The discoverer of new diggings reaped a reward in those days, besides the gratitude of other miners who rushed to the new ground to stake out their claims.

### Locating Claims

The articles provided that "all persons or companies claiming and working a ledge of quartz shall be entitled to 150 feet of each ledge so worked and also one extra claim for discovering the same."

L. C. Goodman was elected recorder. The recorder's fee then was 25 cents. A few year's later the recording cost was boosted to \$1. The first claim was put on record December 2, 1851.

By recording their claims the miners were able to protect their finds against those who came later and might attempt to work the ground. Riffles and bars in the west branch of the Feather river yielded much gold.

### Yellowed Entry

A yellowed entry in the book under date of January 16, 1852, served notice that such a bar was already spoken for. It read:

"This is to notify all persons passing up and down this river that we the undersigned claim this riffle or bar from this tree down one hundred yards and shall work the same early as possible this coming season.

"Lorenzo Yeagur and Com. Six in company.

"N. B. This riffle or bar is just below the two miles east branch of the west branch of the Feather river. This bar shall be known by the name of Eunekah Bar."

Names of the home states of those who had heard the call of gold were favorite designations for mining companies. There were the Wisconsin Quartz Mining company the Tennessee Quartz Mining company. Jenny Lind, the Swedish nightingale, had her admirers among the citizens of Rich Gulch and one claim was named for the opera singer. A group of Germans organized the German Quartz Co. The name of James Marshal, discoverer of gold in California, was

used by the discoverers of the Marshal Independence Quartz Mining company claim. Seafaring men who had left the ocean to seek their fortune located a claim over Blair Town, which was recorded as Sailors' Lodge.

### Land Reduced

The amount of land that could be held by a single company or individual was gradually reduced. At a convention held at the store of George Barmore at Rich Gulch, November 19, 1854, new by laws were adopted. The miners voted that no person could hold more than 100 feet square on ravine or gulch and "one hundred feet square on Flat Hill, or Coyote Diggings."

No person, it was decided, should hold more than one claim by pre-emption and one claim by purchase or inheritance and "no more under any pretense whatever."

The miners also decided that it was better to settle disputes by arbitration rather than six guns.

### Settling Disputes

The system of arbitration recommended was set down in the records as follows:

"That all disputes in regard to claims shall be decided by three arbitrators who shall be disinterested men, one to be chosen by each party, and the third to be named by those two; their decision shall be final provided always that the disputing parties may by mutual consent have their case decided by a jury of twelve disinterested men or by a majority of a general meeting of the miners, in either of which cases, however, the decision must be considered final."



5-12-1932

# 1ST DISCOVERY OF GOLD HERE MADE IN 1849

## Several Rich Strikes Made Almost Simultaneously Along Feather

By IRMA TIECK

The first discoveries of gold in this vicinity were made in the fall of 1849. The precious metal was almost simultaneously found at Ophir (Oroville), White Rock, Longs Bar and many other places along this part of the river. The earliest settlements were made in this region about October 1, 1849.

### Staked Off Claims

For several miles along the river they staked off their claims, and in a few days the silent wilderness became lively mining towns.

The Long brothers opened a store at the bar two miles above the present site of Oroville, and for them the place was named.

This was a general establishment to supply the people with the necessities of life. There was a grocery, saloon, hotel and bakery all in one.

J. M. Burt opened another store in November and both mercantile concerns did a big business.

### Flour Came High

Flour was sold at \$1.25 per pound. A drink of whiskey was valued at a pinch of gold dust, which rarely fell below \$1.50.

A barrel of whiskey often brought \$4,000 when sold over the bar.

Molasses and sugar were in great demand, and before the winter was over the supply was very limited.

And during the winter the high water and heavy rains made the wagon roads impassable, many wagon loads of goods became mired down and had to be packed to the bar on the shoulders of men.

### Buys Long's Store

In the spring of 1850 Burt bought out the Long's store, and another store was opened by Dr. Smith and J. W. McCorkle.

There was one little iron safe in one store where many of the miners deposited their gold dust.

In a short time it became so full that not another ounce could be crowded into it, so the banker had to refuse more deposits.

### Gold Safe in Tents

However, they claim the gold dust was about as safe, lying unprotected in a tent, as it is now in a bank vault behind time-lock and iron doors.

It was not unusual to see thousands of dollars left unprotected, while the owner was away.

Gambling halls and saloons became numerous at Long's bar, and much gold was won and lost every day.

One bright Sunday morning in the summer of 1850, a gentleman rode into camp, and asked if he could hold religious services.

The only suitable place he could find was a large gambling hall. As he entered the play was running high, and \$10,000 in gold was stacked on the table.

### Listen to Sermon

The men stopped the game and listened to the sermon. After it was over, a hat was passed around, and about \$300 was collected.

Thanking them the preacher, Rev. S. V. Blakeslee, mounted his horse and rode away.

The first ferry license was granted to establish a ferry across the Feather river, at Long's Bar July 22, 1850.

### First Masonic Service

It was at Long's Bar that the first Masonic lodge services were conducted in Butte county, in the fall of 1849. The meeting was held in a shake shanty, with guards stationed around so no outsider could intrude.

Mr. Morse, a member of the grand lodge of Illinois, called the meeting together. No lodge was ever chartered at Long's Bar.



# Man Fearing For Life In Indian War Pens Letter

Oroville Mercury Register  
5-13-1932

A lock of hair cut by his father, the late M. H. Wells, when he feared massacre at the hands of the Indians while employed at a trading post on the Roque River in Oregon territory, is a prized keepsake of M. W. Wells.

Wells placed the hair in a letter December 17, 1854, addressed to his mother, Mrs. E. Wells, 260 Franklin street, Philadelphia, but the letter was never mailed.

"This is my hair, cut this morning. Keep it as a remembrance of your son Michael," the letter read.

## **Will, Handed Down**

A will written by Wells after several of the members of the post had been slain by Indians in 1856 and Wells feared for his life also is owned by the son.

It follows:

**"Miners Fort," March 17, 1856.  
Mouth of Roque River,  
Oregon, Territory.**

"As there is a possibility of my losing my own life and the accounts of the H. C. Snow Co. I have drawn up this statement. I have taken note for H. C. Snow Co. of those who are alive. My books are correct. I hold a note of my own on Dan Richardson. My box of gold specimens I wish sent to my sister Mary Jane Wells, Philadelphia, and all my personal and real effects I give and for her as her own. My gold watch is in San Francisco. Mr. John Woods will send it home. I am a Master Mason of Lodge 126, Philadelphia. I have a mother living in Philadelphia besides three brothers. My letters are usually addressed to the care of my uncle Benjamin Silvers No. 77 North Third Street, Philadelphia, Pa. This is all.

**M. H. Wells.**

I wish a brother Mason to attend to my things, forward them to some lodge in San Francisco. My trunks are packed. Send home. They are at Mr. Snow's store.

5-13-1932

## State May Try To Find Source Of Cherokee Diamond

Expressing the belief that the surface of California only has been scratched so far as gold mining is concerned, Walter W. Bradley, state minerologist, predicted today that other great quartz mines will be developed, probably probing as deep as two miles into the earth.

Bradley was speaking before the Kiwanis club and others. He referred briefly to the trend towards economy and said the state should continue those activities that tend to develop the state's resources, bringing in outside money.

### More Gold Mined

Bradley said that the stress of the times forced about 10,000 persons to try various forms of mining last summer and that it is estimated these brought out between \$800,000 and \$900,000 in gold. Their success was due partly to the dry year and the low water in the streams. He predicted that with high water the coming summer they would not find so much gold.

Bradley referred to the diamonds found in this vicinity and said that the original volcanic neck from which the diamonds came never has been found. He indicated that with proper geological survey work this might be located and spoke of it as a proper function of the state bureau.

"We hope that we shall be able to find it," he said.

# Oroville Mercury Register

6-17-1932

## ISAIAH P. O. BANDIT GETS 25 YEAR TERM

### Bowers Convicted By Sacramento Jury in 20 Minutes

Convicted of assault with a deadly weapon and robbery in connection with the holding up of the post office at Isaiah, in the Feather river canyon October 2, 1931, Joe Bowers, alias Joe Miller, 36, was under sentence Friday to serve 25 years in federal prison. Sentence of Miller was imposed by Federal Judge Frank H. Kerrigan in Sacramento late Thursday.

After hearing evidence all afternoon, a jury was out only 20 minutes before finding Bowers guilty. A sentence of 25 years was imposed on one count and ten years on the other, but Judge Kerrigan ruled that they run concurrently, so that the prisoner will serve only 25 years, less time off for good behavior.

#### Bowers Identified

L. E. Roberts, postmaster and store keeper at Isaiah, Lillian Johnson, and James Akin, were called as witnesses at Bowers trial.

Bowers was identified as the bandits who held up the witnesses while a companion tied them with ropes to posts in the building.

The bandits took \$16 in the robbery.

Bowers, known to local authorities as Miller, was arrested in Seattle in March, 1932, on information furnished by Sheriff C. W. Toland, who conducted an investigation of the post office robbery.

#### French Sentenced

Jack French, 42, who also participated in the robbery, was arrested by Toland in Oroville in October, 1931. He was sentenced to serve three years in federal prison.

After the Isaiah robbery, the men implicated are believed to have gone to Minden, Nev., where they held up a store, and post office, Toland said.

The gang also are believed by Sheriff Toland to have been responsible for at least half dozen burglaries in Oroville, including those at the homes of W. T. Baldwin, Harry Cauthard, O. H. Hermann and Charles Countryman.

Oroville Mercury Register

6-18-1932

## **Burglars Attempt To Enter Vintin's Store at Cherokee**

Three youthful burglars were frightened away from Vintin's store in Cherokee Thursday night, according to information brought here by Cherokee residents Saturday.

Lew Vintin, who sleeps in the store, was awakened by a noise and one of the trio, who already was inside, fled. His two companions, who were outside, also made their escape in an automobile which had been left outside. Nothing was taken, it was reported.

Oroville Mercury Register

6-24-1932

# **Pentz People Hold Big Annual Picnic**

**PENTZ—(Special) —** The annual Concow picnic which the Pentz community people hold every year was held last Sunday on the Welch property in Concow. An extra large crowd attended this year. One of the main events of the day was the ball game. As the teams were about equally matched the game was an exciting one. A delicious picnic lunch was spread under the pines on the bank of the lake.

San Francisco Chronicle  
6-30-1932

## Three Sentenced for Spotlight Hunting

*Special to The Chronicle*

OROVILLE, Butte county, June 29 —Three men, pleading guilty to hunting deer at night with a spotlight in the Las Plumas country were given thirty-day sentences each Monday by the Justice Court. They are S. L. Lickteig, P. V. Rowe and W. S. Peirce of Yankee Hill. Judge H. S. Hills said investigation shows that certain hunters in the Yankee Hill-Las Plumas country are doing much damage in promiscuous shooting of deer, cattle and hogs and many of the animals are left dead in the forests.



The Chico Enterprise  
8-6-1932



**ARROWHEAD**

**Indian Herb Co.**

**CHICO, CALIFORNIA**

**INDIAN HERBS CURED AND  
COMPOUNDED ACCORDING  
TO NATIVE FORMULAE  
USED BY THE INDIANS FOR  
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**Indian Herbs Sent  
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# The Chico Enterprise

8-6-1932

page 1 of 2

## Sons of Famous 'Medicine Man' Own Herb Co.

By F. B. CURREY

"The very leaves of the trees will heal the Nations."

Bible students will recognize the above quotation from the words of the Saviour used by him in addressing the multitude. Thus it will be seen that the healing qualities of leaves, herbs, plants, and bulbs are recognized by Diety. The early Red Men, closely associated with Nature, made use of these natural and healthful agents, and in time those requiring special knowledge of the helpful properties of the various plants became especially gifted in their use, and in recognition of their ability to compound the proper combinations of plants were acclaimed, "Medicine Men." Soon every tribe had its properly accredited Medicine Man, and this title was a highly honorable one. These "Wonder Workers" established a reputation for healing, and their secrets were jealously guarded. Father, by word of mouth, transmitted to his son his health secrets, his knowledge of plants and herbs, and upon his death the favored son continued the father's work for the tribe. The system became a general custom, and the tribe's Medicine Man stood high in the respect of his fellow tribesmen and was given a seat of honor and importance in the tribal council circle.

Chico has an institution engaged in preparing and gathering herbal medicines in the Arrowhead Indian Herbs Company. Annually hundreds of people visit the offices of this company and purchase the desired herb remedies. Following the Indian custom in vogue, this company, a co-partnership, composed of Isaiah Conway, Jodie Conway, and Dewey Conway, members of the Machopea tribe of Indians, once the owners of the territory surrounding Chico, is continuing the work carried on by their father, who for many years administered to the needs of his brother tribes-men, and also to his white friends. William Jennings Conway, the noted father passed to his great reward April 3, 1931, and his body now reposes in the Indian cemetery beside the graves of his fore-fathers. Since his death the Arrowhead Indian Herb Company has been manufacturing and selling the medicines successfully sold by the father of the company.

Dewey Conway was born in Chico, and educated at the great Chemawa Indian School near Salem, Oregon. Realizing that his destiny was to some day carry on with his brothers the work began by his father, and having a natural hereditary tendency for the work, it was but natural that he should major in chemistry. After completing his course at Chemawa, he spent several years traveling, thus broadening his circle of acquaint-

# The Chico Enterprise

8-6-1932

page 2 of 2

ance with Indian tribes, and also with the scientifically learned whites, ever and always adding to his knowledge of plant chemistry, and Indian legendary lore, in order that he might fit in with the work of his illustrious father, which continued to increase as his powers became more generally known. Therefore it became necessary for Dewey Conway to discontinue his travels, and associate himself directly with his father. Upon the death of the Senior Conway, the sons naturally assumed the management of the business.

Isaiah Conway of the Arrowhead Indian Herb Company, secured his education in English speaking Schools. When a student of the Chico High School, was active in athletics and an enthusiastic supporter of school activities.

Botany, chemistry, and the laboratory held an especial fascination for Isaiah, and the knowledge thus acquired has been of inestimable value to the Arrowhead Indian Herb Company in the compounding of its herbal medicines.

Jodie Conway is likewise a graduate of Chemawa. His work there was calculated to be of assistance to him when he took up the work of his father, though technically he majored in lines which would prepare him for dentistry, thus fitting him for the work in the laboratories of the Arrowhead Indian Herb Company.

The herbs used in the preparation of the Arrowhead Indian Herb Company's remedies are gathered from many and often far-distant localities. Indians, familiar with the required herbs, go out into the forests, plains, and deserts, collect the proper plants, prepare them according to Indian methods known to preserve their qualities, and in times these plants, thus prepared, find their way to the laboratory in Chico where, as necessity demands, they are made ready for use. The offices of the Arrowhead Indian Herbs Company located in Chico, are ample and modern in every way, and daily scores of health seekers who have been told by friends and acquaintances of the opportunity offered here can be seen purchasing the famous herbs in which nature has stored the properties necessary to the relief of their ailments.

9-13-1932

## Indians At Pulga Battle; One Is Cut In Drunken Fight

OROVILLE (Butte Co.), Sept. 13. Charles Gramps, 28, a half-breed Indian, is in the Butte County Infirmary suffering from a knife wound said to have been inflicted by Albert Gramps, also a half-breed, at Pulga, thirty miles northeast of Oroville, Saturday night, following a drinking orgy.

Albert Gramps, 19, is in the Butte County jail, where he was brought by Sheriff C. W. Toland and Constable William Fitch. The Gramps are cousins.

Charles Gramps was cut in the leg. He was brought down from the little mountain town by Ben Schmidt and Ed Pinkston. Alvin Kister, special investigator for District Attorney Charles A. Walker, was sent to Pulga to inquire into the matter.

The wounded man said he had accused the younger man of stealing a gallon of wine, and that the younger man drew a hunting knife and attacked him.

# Oroville Mercury Register

## 9-14-1932

### **MAN FEARED DEAD**

With 10 days elapsed since D. N. Hyde, 71, disappeared from his cabin in Concow Valley, searchers who returned to Yankee Hill Tuesday night had given up all hope of finding the aged man alive.



# Oroville Mercury Register

9-14-1932

## I Cut Myself Is New Plea Gramps Makes In Court

**A** MOVE to dismiss charges of assault with a deadly weapon filed against Albert Gramps of Pulga as the result of a cutting scrape there last Sunday was made today when Charles Gramps, his cousin, through W. E. Duncan, local attorney, filed an affidavit in the court of Harry S. Hills, justice of the peace, saying "it is my belief that I cut myself."

Charles Gramps in his affidavit declared that he was intoxicated last Sunday, that there was no fight, and that he did not see a knife in his cousin, Albert's, hand. Gramps said he had a knife in his hand and expressed the belief that he accidentally stabbed himself, inflicting the wound from which he is recovering in the county hospital. Late this afternoon District Attorney C. A. Walker had not asked Judge Hills to dismiss the charge against Albert Gramps.

After the cutting, Charles Gramps told officers that his cousin had pursued him with a hunting knife and had overtaken and stabbed him.

The statement was made at the Oroville hospital last Monday, according to Constable William Fitch, who questioned the knife victim.

Fitch said that drinking had preceded the cutting.

Oroville Mercury Register

9-14-1932

# Good Prospects At Yankee Hill Mine

**YANKEE HILL—(Special)—** Promising prospects are reported at the Streubel mine at Buchanan Hill near here. G. R. Streubel, Wm. Osborne and Matt McCullen are working in the mine.

**PHARES STUDIO**

1738 Montgomery Street

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# Oroville Mercury Register

9-14-1932

## YANKEE HILL

YANKEE HILL — (Special) —  
MERLE STEAD, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Stead of Concow, who suffered a badly fractured arm when he was thrown from his horse recently while driving cattle, is still in a Chico hospital and improving slowly. Mr. and Mrs. Stead visited their son Friday.

MRS. McCLURE of Biggs who will teach the Concow school, has moved into one of the cottages at the Pines. She is accompanied by her father and mother. Mrs. McClure will open her school Monday.

MRS. MARGARET ODNEAL and children, Dick and Verna, are working in the almond harvest at the home of Mrs. Odneal's sister-in-law, Mrs. L. V. Stephenson of Chico.

RALPH MILLER motored to Chico Saturday to get Mrs. Miller and their infant son. Mrs. Miller has been in a Chico hospital for a few weeks.

M. P. SIMMONS of Concow was called to Lake county recently to help fight a forest fire. Simmons will be in charge of a crew of fire fighters.

J. D. WARD was a business visitor in Chico recently.

MR. and MRS. O. E. SUNDBERG and family of Chico have moved to Yankee Hill where their children will attend the Concow school. Sundberg is employed on the highway near Pulga.

MR. and MRS. J. E. HENDRICKS of Intake are spending a few days vacation at their home in Palermo.

GRANT CROGHAN who has been ill at the home of his daughter, Mrs. W. T. Robblee in Palermo has returned to his home here. He is improving slowly.

MR. and MRS. W. H. PECK were patronizing Oroville merchants Tuesday.

MR. and MRS. JOHN CLARK were among the Yankee Hill people who were shopping in Oroville Tuesday.

MRS. ELLA PECK and daughter, Norine and Leslie Wellington motored to Sacramento recently to visit Warren Peck who has been in a hospital in that city for six months. He is improving slowly and the casts have not been removed from his injured knee.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES SHAY of Stockton are moving to their property here where they plan to build a house and make their future home.

MRS. J. W. WILLIAMS who has been visiting relatives in Thermalito has returned to her home here.

## 14 INCENDIARY FIRES CHECKED; MAN CREMATED

Fourteen incendiary fires, started in Dogwood Creek in the Flea Valley country, burned over approximately 20 acres of young reproduction timber before a crew of 65 men from Stirling City brought them under control yesterday.

Eleven fires were spotted by the lookout at Big Bar above Pulga, in the Plumas National Forest shortly after 7 a. m., yesterday. Yesterday afternoon three more fires were sighted three miles west of the 11 discovered earlier in the day.

Crews patrolled the burned areas throughout the night in anticipation of outbreaks this morning due to the expected north wind which springs up about 3 a. m. daily.

Reuben Box, federal fire warden, was scouring the fire district last night in search of the incendiary. All fires were set about a mile from the road.

A virgin stand owned by the Diamond Match Company was threatened by the fires.

While he fought a fire that burned in the Feather River Canyon between Berry Creek and Intake Wednesday afternoon, Ruperto Saliz, 24, Mexican section hand employed by the Western Pacific, was caught within a wall of fire and burned to death.

An inquest held at the scene of the fire established that Saliz had met his death accidentally. A wrist watch on Saliz's hand had stopped at 2:30 p. m., indicating that he had met death at that hour. Three hundred acres were blackened in this fire before it was brought under control.

Sacramento Bee

10-4-1932

## **THE DEPRESSION OF '32 IS NEW BUTTE CLAIM**

**OROVILLE (Butte Co.), Oct. 4.** A mining location describing the property and named The Depression of '32, has been filed for record with B. F. Hudspeth, Butte County recorder, by Evelyn Hendricks.

The claim is located near Deadwood Creek and the east branch of the Feather River, and is a quartz proposition.



Sacramento Bee

10-4-1932

## **PROSPECTS IMPROVING**

**OROVILLE (Butte Co.), Oct. 4.—**

**G. R. Streubel, Matt McMullen and William Osborne are operating the Streubel Mine, at Buchanan Hill, in the Yankee Hill district, and claim prospects improving with every foot of development. This undertaking is claimed to be one of the most promising of the smaller mine developments in the Yankee Hill section.**

# Oroville Mercury Register

## 10-17-1932

### CONCOW INDIANS HOLD BURNING FOR DEAD IN BALD ROCK REGION

Indian Women Wail as They Toss Offerings of Clothes, Foods On Flames at Weird Religious Ceremony at Midnight Hour; One of Last Sacrifices Held

By GEORGE WANGELIN

WHILE a full moon shone down on the wild Bald Rock country at midnight Saturday there was enacted a strange, primitive scene reminiscent of the days when Indians roamed the Sierra mountains and hunted and killed at will.

Gathered at the Bald Rock burying grounds, approximately 75 Indians of the Concow tribe held their sacrificial burning to the dead of their tribe.

#### Follow Old Custom

It was the first burning held in five years and one of the few burnings that are yet to take place. Burnings are held by the older Indians who still follow the customs of their forefathers. When they die, the ancient practice dies with them.

Sacrifices, consisting of offerings of flour, coffee, fruits, nuts and clothing, are thrown on to a fire where they are consumed by the flames as aged Indian women chant and moan to their dead.

#### Old Indian Camp

The scene is one that grips the imagination.

The burying ground is located at the bottom of cup-like vale, hemmed in on all sides by mountains. It is reached by a tortuous, one-way road. Here more than 100 years ago, before the first whiteman ever set foot in the mountains, Indian tribes from the mountains and valleys gathered for their winter camp. The hillsides were dotted with teepees and the dead placed in graves in an enclosure.

#### Sign of Full Moon

For years at the sign of the full moon in October, Indians have gathered at the Bald Rock grounds for their burnings—a religious ceremony to them and the highest honor they can pay to the dead.

Foods of which the departed were fond in their lifetime are scattered on the graves and in the fire. This was to insure them their favorite foods in the life beyond. They believe that warriors and their women exist in the Happy Hunting Grounds.

#### Sacrifices on Poles

Clothes of the dead are also

thrown in the flames. Poles, 20 feet tall, placed in rows across the burying grounds, are hung with shirts, colored bandanas and dresses.

As the aged Indian women, dressed in old sweaters and calico dresses, stood with their faces turned toward these poles they chanted and moaned and occasionally one of their men relatives would take down a pole from which the women removed all the clothes. Then as they continued to chant and wail they turned to the fire and cast the offerings in the flames.

#### Weird Shadows Cast

As they moved about with their backs to the fire, shadows were cast by the flames on the bedecked poles intensifying the weirdness of the scene. On two or three of the tall poles were hung fine-woven Indian baskets ranging from a size of 18 inches in diameter near the bottom to small cup-size baskets at the top. These baskets were made by Indian women and for many years exorbitant offers of money by white people at the burnings were refused for the baskets. They were thrown into the flames as offerings too.

#### Lasts Many Hours

But of late years money has been of more value to the Indians and they have sold some of the baskets after the burnings were completed.

The ceremony lasts for hours, beginning at near midnight and ending only as the sun climbs over the hills and dispels the shadows cast by the glow of the fire.

Wailing is kept up by the women all night long as shirt after shirt and dress after dress is put in the fire one by one. Then as a fitting climax a ceremony which is called "burning the devil" takes place.

#### Many Spectators There

Not only were Indians gathered around the fire in their burying ground in one of the wildest spots

of the county but whites were there in large numbers—men in conventional city clothes, men in mountaineer and logger costumes—drawn by the mysterious rites of the red-skin. Women and children were there too. The children appeared to view the burning in the light of a picnic; the older spectators as a curious site and those who knew the Indians for years viewed it in the light it really was, a religious rite. One or two young Indians were stationed at the burning to prevent children from approaching too close to the mourners.

Before the ceremony started Indians flocked to the grounds in automobiles and afoot. They built campfires on the slopes of the hills.

#### Wait in Silence

Women placed blankets before the poles hung with clothes and baskets and sat down, waiting for hours in silence. A semi-circle of manzanita, built for a windbreak, broke the sharp night wind as it came over a hill.

As the hour approached for the burning, Indians gathered in small knots inside the enclosure and talked or stood about silently. The center of the group was Henry Flynn, a Bald Rock Indian and captain of the Berry Creek district.

The captain presides at burnings held in his district.

The last chief appointed by the tribe was Dick Harry, who died several years ago in Quincy. Since Harry's death captains have ruled the tribe of Concows.

Flynn was characteristic of the older Indians in the district. His iron-grey hair hung below a battered felt hat on his head. He was dressed in old blue overalls and blue shirt.

He spoke seldom during the burning over which he presided as head man but spoke politely to whites who approached him before the burning started. His wife was one of the chief mourners and she officiated at the burning of a pole on which hung half a dozen white starched dress shirts. These shirts, it was learned were offerings to Chief Dick Harry.

Offerings were burned to six Indians who died in the past several years.

Burnings have been held in the

past at burying grounds at Bloomer, Fire Ranch, near Fall River; at Enterprise, and Bald Rock.

When the old Indians die off the burnings will end, it is believed. Some of the younger Indians, questioned at the burning, said the new generation has absorbed too much of the white man's education to carry on the old custom. They do not consider the burnings in the same light as do the older Indians who look upon it as a part of their religion. This was the view expressed by Levi A. Johnson, a Mooretown Indian, by Bill Martin, also of Mooretown and John Johnson of Bald Rock.

As the last wail of the women died away and after all the offerings were burned the Indians took themselves off for a feast and card games with which they wound up their annual burning.

### Have to Get Up at Night?

#### Deal Promptly with Bladder Irregularities

Are you bothered with bladder irregularities; burning, scanty or too frequent passage and getting up at night? Heed promptly these symptoms. They may warn of some disordered kidney or bladder condition. Users everywhere rely on Doan's Pills. Recommended for 50 years. Sold everywhere.

## Doan's Pills

A Diuretic for the Kidneys



# Oroville Mercury Register

10-24-1932

## FROM OTHER PAPERS

### INDIANS RECALL PAST

Like a page out of the past was the ceremony enacted in Butte county last week when remaining members of the Concow Tribe of Indians gathered in the rugged mountain country at Bald Rock, near Oroville for a sacrificial burning. This old Indian custom is fast disappearing with the deaths of older members of the race. To the younger generation, imbued with the white man's ideas of religious customs, the burning ceremony is a waste of time, not to mention good materials which are consumed by the flames. To the Indian elders it is a solemn rite enacted out of respect and reverence to the memory of some chief or prominent tribal member who has died. Two years ago Dick Harry, of Quincy, chief passed on. Last week members of the tribe gathered for the ceremony. On high poles were hung garments and woven baskets, the latter filled with coffee, flour and other articles which were to be thrown into the fire. One somehow is inclined to sympathize with the youngsters when it is known that half a dozen white starched shirts were sacrificed by Henry Flynn, aged Indian, who presided over the burning. Despite his Celtic name, Flynn is typical of the older Indians. He sat before the flames his iron gray hair shoulder length. He was clad in overalls and shirt and one felt that his wearing clothing was a concession wrung from him by the laws of the land. As the burning proceeded the garments, baskets and other articles were torn from the poles and flung on the flames. Throughout the night the ceremony proceeded, ending only with the coming of dawn. Contrasts were evident with the crowd of whites that gathered to witness the event. Men, women and children crowded in the background as the dozen or more old Indian women chanted and wailed and flung more fuel on the flames. The white children played and romped as at a picnic. Their elders smoked and talked, lounging about and looking curiously on as the ceremony proceeded.—Knave in Oakland Tribune.

10-25-1932

# BUTTE DREDGES ARE PROJECTED

## New Yorkers Would Recover Gold In River By Suc- tion Process

OROVILLE (Butte Co.), Oct. 25. Preparations are being made by John Clark of Yankee Hill, E. D. Phelps of Mayaro and Wallace C. Price of New York to work a three-mile stretch of the bed of the Feather River between the Yankee Hill district and Mayaro by means of suction dredges. Title to the claims has been recorded and material for the first dredge is being assembled.

Engineers have been employed for some time in making surveys and properly marking the richer deposits of placer gravel. Clark expresses the belief that a good portion of the ground to be worked is virgin ground, only the surface having been skimmed over by men inexperienced in extracting the precious metal.

Present plans include the construction of one dredge with a ten-inch suction pipe, through which an attempt will be made to draw gravel and sand from the bottom of the stream. If the process and equipment come up to expectation additional dredges will be put into use.

Clark says that during the past Summer a dozen or more men, working with crude equipment, have been recovering from 50 cents to \$3 per day each in the territory secured by himself and associates.

The system under which the river bed is to be worked has proven successful in other districts, but is comparatively new in Butte County, and is being watched with interest by a number of mine operators.

11-18-1932

## SECOND INDIAN BURNING HELD NEAR ENTERPRISE FOR MARTINS

By AGNES PARKS ALM

ENTERPRISE —(Special)— The second Indian burning to be held this winter took place Saturday night on Oregon Creek a few miles west of Enterprise.

This burning was held under direction of George Martin, his wife, and their son-in-law, Lew Wagner, for the departed members of the Martin family at the Indian burying ground.

The purpose of the burning was to provide ghosts of the Indian dead with proper raiment and food, the Indians believing that these offerings tend to make the departed ones more contented in the Happy Hunting Ground.

### Last Kakina Burning

All burnings are practically alike except when a kakina is to be burned. The last kakina burning was held 20 years ago and was witnessed by the writer. Previous to that it was over 20 years that a like burning was held.

The "kakina" is a doll shaped figure, made of a stuffed wild-cat skin. Sticks placed in the forelegs, make them stand out as arms; in each was a small basket containing sacred meal, made of sweet briar and birch. In place of the head, was a knitted cap, stuffed with grass and over the semblance of a face was a scarf of feathers from the yellow hammer bird. Bunches of

hawk feathers were attached to the head, indicating the rank of the individual it represented. This image was placed at one of the entrances—facing the center, just inside the enclosure.

### Wailing Breaks Out

The weeping and wailing which had become subdued through the night, was vigorously renewed, and many of the tribe who showed but little—if any—interest in the burning, joined the others around the big bon-fire in the center of the burial ground, when one of the leaders of the tribe took hold of the "kakina" from behind, and moved it slowly to a sing-song wail to the fire.

The leader was followed by all the men. The "mahalias" were standing about with their arms full of offerings. When the "kakina" was thrown into the flames, with the balance of other articles not previously burned—pandemonium reigned. Old men wiped away the tears that streamed down their faces, and many were completely overcome by grief for their lost ones.

### Costly Baskets Burned

The baskets and animal skins burned that night were estimated to be worth over \$250. About \$100 was realized from the sale of baskets during the night. George Martin estimated there were about 200 persons at the burning the past Saturday night.

There were about sixteen bonfires scattered about with logs for seats placed around them. These fires were made by men of different groups to take the cold tang off the air.

Several days are spent in feasting and playing by the Indians after these burnings.



Oroville Mercury Register

12-5-1932

## **Gun Discharges; Yankee Hill Man Shot Through Leg**

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Sherman W. Pierce of Yankee Hill was in Mare Island naval hospital Monday suffering from a bullet wound in the right thigh and ankle received when a .38 calibre revolver accidentally discharged as he was removing it from its holster Saturday night at Yankee Hill.

Pierce was brought to the office of Dr. C. B. Griggs here where he was given first aid treatment and then sent to the hospital. The bullet had lodged in the right ankle joint. Pierce is a war veteran.

# Oroville Mercury Register

12-10-1932

## **Old Clear Creek House, Landmark, Razed by Owner**

**A**NOTHER old Butte county landmark fell before the onslaught of time when the Clear Creek stage house on the Clark grade to Paradise was razed this week by H. W. Lewis, owner of the property.

The old Clear Creek house, once noted as a stage station, dance hall and postoffice, is believed to have been built over 80 years ago by a man named Clark who homesteaded a large section of land in that vicinity and later built the Clark grade to Paradise by Chinese labor.

When the house was dismantled, Lewis found valuable early day relics in it including a dipper made of an oak knot, an old well bucket, old candle sticks and ox shoes.

The house has been one of the historic spots in Butte county.

Lewis plans to rebuild on the property which he now owns.