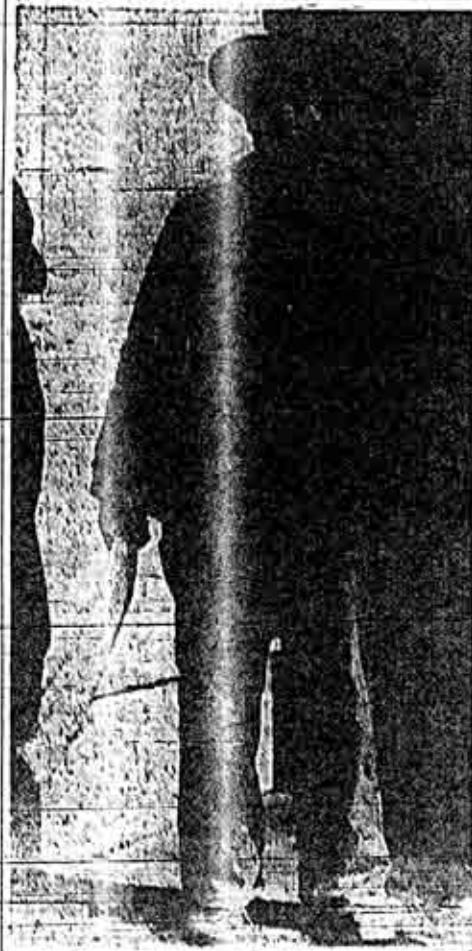


INDIAN CHIEF SHOWS WAR AXE



"Old Man Smoke" is the picturesque translation of the Indian name Ponne Carno, by which Fred Johnson, 77-year old chief of the Pulga branch, is known to his fellow Con-cows. Holding a vicious looking old war axe dug up by Carl E. Tharaldson, Yankee-Hill miner, Fred is shown above as he looks today. Despite the loss of his arm in youth he has made a living for years as a wood-cutter.

Concow Chief Recalls Battle In Which Tribe Was Subdued

Fred Johnson Known As Ponne Carne To Own People, Aids Them In Troubles

By DAVE LOEWING

Old residents of Oroville know him only as Fred Johnson, the aged, one-armed Indian woodchopper who for as long as they can remember has eked out a living swinging an axe with his single arm, panning out tailings at the Cherokee mine and guiding hunting parties. They designate him as a "character."

But to his own people, the Con-cows, he is known as Ponne Carno—"Old Man Smoke," chief of the Pulga tribe.

Fred inherited the title of chief after the death of Frank Johnson, his uncle. It is more than a title, however. As chief he watches over his people as carefully as any paternal chieftain before the advent of the white man.

Conducts Last Rites

It is Old Man Smoke who is called in when any member of the tribe is sick or in trouble. Though many of them are half-breeds and most now are accustomed to the ways of the whites, he is often asked to conduct last rites in the language of their forefathers when one of the members dies.

Fred and Kitty Williams are all

who are left of the old-timers of the Concow tribe in this district and as such they are properly revered by the youngsters.

Wandering through the territory between Cherokee, where he now lives, Yankee Hill and Pulga, Fred recalls the landmarks of another era when as a lad he saw his elders looking askance at the steady encroachment of the white people.

Engraved on his memory is the day when the soldiers came and, after a great battle in which many of the Cowcow braves were slain, subdued the wild people.

Remembers the Battle

"I was only a little one," says Fred. "I did not fight. I stayed in camp with my mother. But I remember the excitement before the battle—and afterwards the sadness."

"I saw the other day the place where the new sweat house was to be. It's in the Big Bend country about two miles from Intake. It was never finished. They had dug a big hole, pretty deep, and started to put up the sides when the battle came."

As Fred talks of the battle, his still

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 3)

Read More About CONCOW

Continued From Page 1

bright eyes shine fiercely. One feels that he regrets his inactive role in it.

Like all of the old Indians, Fred is uncertain as to his age. On his pension application he is registered as over 70. "As near as I can figure out, I was born about 1859," he says.

A Crack Rifle Shot

Fred is one of the best deer hunters in that district. He is a crack shot with the old rifle given to him by his friend Carl Tharoldson who swears that Fred can hit a half-dollar every time at fifty yards.

At the age of about 15 Fred lost his arm. "I saw an old blind man trying to get a load of wood up on his back. I laid my shotgun against a log and helped him. When I picked up the gun by the barrel, the hammer caught on a log and it blew my arm off."

Until about two years ago he

made most of his living by chopping wood with his strong right arm. Now a government pension solves his living problem except for the little gold panning he is able to do. This nets him about fifty cents a day when he feels strong enough to do a day's hard work.

⌘ Mining News ⌘

NATURE CARVES GOLDEN "SERPENT"



Mercury Photo and Engraving.

"Natural" sized photo of nugget described in story below. It was found in a placer mine at Yankee Hill.

\$30 Dragon-Shaped Nugget Found In Old Mine At Hendricks Corners

BY DAVE LOEHWING

MOTHER NATURE once again proved herself an accomplished sculptress when she formed the outstanding and extremely interesting gold nugget taken out of a pocket recently by Jack Lockridge and Ralph Miller on Miller's property near Hendricks Corners.

Of unusual beauty, the nugget resembles a crested dragon or sea serpent with open mouth and scales that graduate from the larger and more prominent ones at the neck to smaller ones which fade out entirely at the tail of this golden serpent.

The nugget weighs approximately 1 ounce, 1 pennyweight and 3 grains and is valued at slightly over \$30.

It was mined on what was formerly the Mary-Evelyn mine where "Uncle Billy" James took out a considerable sum of money in 1915.

The property has since been purchased by Ralph Miller and is now known as the Miller mine. Miller and Lockridge have taken out some fine specimens of gold on this property which is still showing good prospects.

Miller has several specimens of this crystal gold on display at his service station at the Pines.

3-10-1937

Two Hitchhikers Arrested Soon After Arrival

An hour after they had arrived at Concow CCC camp on a visit following a 5-day hitchhicking journey from Missouri, two youths were arrested at the camp last night by Undersheriff William Nisbet and Constable William Fitch.

The boys, Clarence West and Alfred Neal, are wanted in Texas county, Mo., for a felony, according to information received from the sheriff of the county.

West's brother is in the CCC camp.

The youths told the officers that they had no knowledge of any charge against them in Missouri.

Concow Chief Waiting For Land Payment

Fred Johnson, 70-year-old Indian chief of the Pulga tribe of Concows, was today hoping for the passage of two bills in congress that would recompense him and his fellow tribesmen for lands taken by the whites when Butte county was first settled.

Taking collections from members of his tribe, the aged one-armed chieftain has for more than 15 years contributed to the support of an organization of California Indians which have attempted to force legislation through congress to gain payments promised under old treaties.

Fred, known among members of his race as "Old Man Smoke," yesterday received word of the two bills from F. G. Collett, executive representative of the organization.

The bills, introduced in the senate by Elmer Thomas of Oklahoma and in the house by John Steven McGroarty, provide that Indians can sue for \$1.25 per acre for the limited acreage of land they originally "used and occupied."

About 25,000 Indians in California would be eligible as beneficiaries under the bills, according to Collet.

Oroville Mercury Register

3-20-1937

Tribal Songs Of Maidu Indians To Be Preserved By L. A. Museum

CHICO—Music and songs of the Maidu Indian tribe, the few surviving members of which live in Chico, have been recorded for posterity by Miss Frances Dinsmore, field worker for the Southwestern Museum of Los Angeles.

Miss Dinsmore, who has done several years' work for the Smithsonian Institute, plans to leave Chico today for Los Angeles, after spending several days in research work among older members of the tribe who still remember the songs.

Mrs. Amanda Wilson and Pablo Sylvers, two of the tribe's oldest survivors, aided Mrs. Dinsmore in her research by singing the old songs into a recording apparatus. From these phonograph records,

Miss Dinsmore will write out the notes. The records are kept by her, and are never, said the museum representative, copied or used commercially.

Many of the Maidu songs, Miss Dinsmore said, tell stories or are interwoven with tribal customs. The field worker found the Butte County Indians extremely interesting, and willing to assist her in order to have the material preserved for their grandchildren.

She also made a study of the musical instruments of the tribes, and found them different from other groups.

4-26-1937

Butte Youth Will Lead Search For Pigmy Indian Artifacts

PENTZ (Butte Co.), April 26.— Alfred Elliott Gaumer, 22-year-old Pentz youth, who says he recently discovered evidences of an extinct tribe of small-statured Indians who populated the Desert Canyon country of southern Utah 5,000 years ago, expects to return to the area during the Summer, leading a party of four archeologists for the Pacific Geographic Society.

Gaumer, who first entered Utah in 1934, motivated by tales related by an old prospector who told of seeing pictographs carved on canyon walls, said the purpose of the second expedition is to determine to where the tribe migrated.

In his first trip the youth found a string of beads, which he claims is a real archeological find.

The beads, 2,771 in number, are strung on an animal sinew string eleven feet in length. The string contains black beads made of stone and white beads fashioned from bone and a single red stone bead. They are not strung symmetrically, thus leading Gaumer to believe the string was not made for ornamental purposes, but to keep a chronological record of the tribe.

The beads were beside the mummified body of a small-statured woman, which was found wrapped in cedar bark in a cave. The body of a mummified dog and several baskets also were found.

Gaumer believes the canyon was inhabited by 500 to 1,000 of the tribe. The Indians did not use bows and arrows, but employed a



ALFRED ELLIOTT GAUMER

short, stone-tipped spear called an atlatl, thrown by means of a sling.

The Concow Dam Country



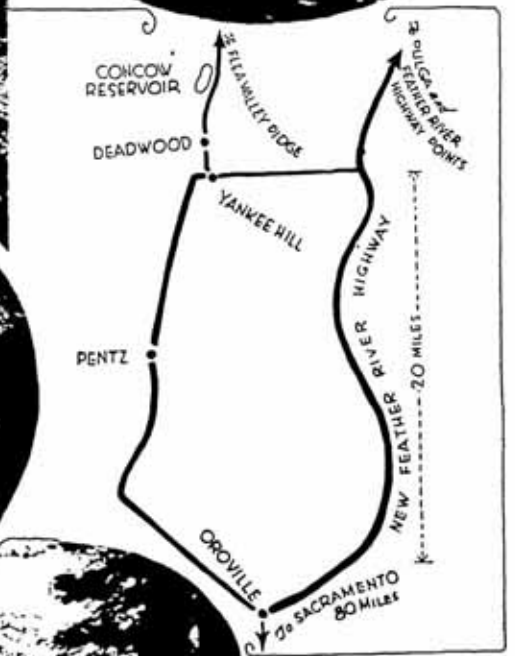
*The APPROACH to
CONCOW RESERVOIR*



At DEADWOOD, OLD TOWN on the route to CONCOW



*On the NEW FEATHER RIVER HIGHWAY
near the YANKEE HILL TURNOFF*



See Photos



*CONCOW RESERVOIR is framed in the trees
at the many picnic spots along the shore.*

**Side Trip Off New Feather
River Road Is Interesting**

By **HAMILTON L. HINTZ**

While the Feather River Highway will not be completed in its entirety until August, its completed portions offer interesting driving and in a few instances provide a main artery connection with back roads to interesting spots in the Feather River country.

One such connection that is of interest to Spring motorists is the connection with a side road that runs to the Concow Dam in Butte County.

Pretty Sight

The dam is at a pretty, wooded spot in Concow Creek Canyon and backs up water for approximately a mile. A road, leading from the Sacramento Valley to the Flea Valley country, runs around the southern rim of the reservoir and provides views of the body of water, framed in the trees, from many angles.

Along the shores are many places to picnic, or to park for awhile, and the reservoir is reputed to be fair fishing.

Via Yankee Hill

The Concow road takes off the new Feather River Highway about twenty miles east of Oroville, and about seven miles below Pulga.

It turns to the left and runs through Yankee Hill, then to the right to Deadwood and Concow. There is a network of roads in the Yankee Hill district, none of them very good, but the better ones are fair mountain dirt roads.

The shortest route is two miles to Yankee Hill and three miles on to Concow.

Old Mining District

Yankee Hill is the name of an early day mining district, but apparently there is much that the early miners did not get, for several mining operations are being carried on in the district, both underground and digging with steam shovels on the surface.

The Yankee Hill district while not particularly scenic, is heavily wooded and has several little streams that are a delight to the picnicker and to the motorists who like greenery.

One Road To Concow

At Deadwood a new forest service road turns off the Flea Valley road and runs over to Sawmill Peak and Magalia. With the Yankee Hill road network behind, however, there is only one road from Deadwood to Concow.

It runs around the side of the canyon below the dam and recently has been brushed out to provide wider vision. First in view is the concrete dam, with the excess Spring runoff water going over the perpendicular spillway into a rugged canyon forming a foaming waterfall. This view is framed in trees and shrubbery.

Around The Shore

Soon you are opposite the dam and a clear view is had of most of the reservoir. There is no place to park, however, and you must drive around the shore for several hundred feet to where the country flattens out before you find ample room for any activity you wish.

This country is no sparkling scenic gem to cause anybody to go a long way to see, but it does offer pleasant surroundings and a worthwhile side trip if you should be in the vicinity of Oroville or Chico or are on the Feather River Highway and have time to spare.

The return to Oroville can be made by a different route from Yankee Hill via Pentz.

Oroville Mercury Register

5-17-1937

\$6000 Mausoleum Constructed In Cherokee Plot

Erection of the Vintin family granite mausoleum built recently in Cherokee cemetery by Marcus Vintin at a cost of more than \$6000 is entered in the report of the Cherokee Cemetery association following the annual meeting held Sunday at the cemetery.

The date of the 1938 meeting was set at the third Sunday in May.

There will be a picnic in the morning in Pine grove. The meeting will take place at 2 p. m. In case of rain, the session will be held in the schoolhouse.

Tom James, secretary of the board of trustees, reported that Bert Paxton has completed the survey of the cemetery.

Lew Jones was re-elected trustee and will serve a three-year term. Other trustees are Tom James and A. M. Wilson.

Widening of the road taken over by the county in the south end of the cemetery was discussed. The road at present is too narrow to allow for car-turning.

Russell Vaughan, chairman of the meeting, was re-elected president for the next year. Will Darby was elected vice president, and Miss Wanda Wilson was re-elected secretary.

A representative attendance was present at the meeting yesterday.

Oroville Mercury Register

7-28-1937

Treichler First To Commute On New Highway

A. E. Treichler, local sheet metal man, is the first business man to commute from the mountains to Oroville along the new Feather River Highway.

He owns 68 acres of land at Deadwood where his wife and family live and raise silver foxes.

Every evening after work he drives out about twenty miles on the new highway, turns left and drives a couple of miles north into the hills.

He says the nights are delightfully cool and pleasant.

It takes only a half hour for him to drive to Oroville in the cool of the morning.

Oroville Mercury Register

2-13-1937

SHEET METAL WORK

A. E. TREICHLER—Sheet metal works. Plumbing our specialty. Headquarters for Johns-Manville roofing and insulation. Also asbestos wall tile. Estimates given. 2111 Myers St., Phone 555.

Old Indian Legends Centering About Barteas Bar Retold

Concow Indians Worshipped Sun God Who Helped Them With Herbs and in Fishing

By EVELYN HENDRICKS

The official opening of the new Feather River Highway tomorrow will not be merely the opening of a new highway to the traveling public.

It will open up a vast rugged country rich in historical events and Indian legends.

The Feather River country is also rich in historical events and Indian legends.

The old Indian fishing ground mentioned in the following legend is located near Barteas Bar below Pulga and will be remembered by many of the older settlers, as it was a favorite fishing ground for both the Indians and the white men.

Fish Traded For Salt

It was in the canyon of the North Fork of the Feather River that many legends were told by the tribes of the Concow Indians. Salmon were more easily caught at this waterfall where in the early day Indians caught salmon and traded the dried smoked fish to the Indians of the Coast Range for salt.

It is said that this place had all that was required to make a perfect fishing ground. I've heard the Indians and some of the old miners tell of the natural resources of this particular spot.

Also they talked of a large pillar of rock evidently worn round by the swirling water and moving gravel. This pillar, grown smaller toward the top, supported the overhanging rock, which formed a recess or cavern back and to one side of the waterfall, where fishermen were able to spear salmon and even trout. There are many stories of the still visible picture writings of some prehistoric tribe of people.

Place Changed Now

However, this place is greatly changed. It is no longer a fishing ground, since dams and other construction work make it impossible for the salmon to swim up that far. Debris fills the long stretch of deep water up to the level of the top of the waterfall—debris from construction work along the North Fork Canyon.

I have heard many versions and many contradiction as to how the Feather River got its name. Can some reader furnish authentic information on this subject?

LEGEND OF THE NORTH FORK FISHING GROUNDS

Many moons ago, long before the white man came to this land, a Paradise or Happy Hunting Ground was being prepared for the Concows, a tribe of Indians who inhabited the northern part of California, by Wan-a-mankua, "the Great Spirit."

Many years he toiled in the canyon of the north fork of the Feather River. For here it was that the gods of storm and of the sun were active in helping Wan-a-manku in his work by causing the rain to water the vegetation and to keep water in the river, so that fish might be had for food.

Sun, Wind Sought After

The sun gods sent out heat to warm the earth, and grass and

herbs grew in abundance. The wind god came puffing up the steep mountains from the north and his breath was the north wind which helped dry the fish and venison hung on bushes to dry for food.

Wan-a-manku remembered all these things and caused them to take place so that his people might be provided for and have a free and happy life. He made for them a fishing ground, a small waterfall in the river, above a deep, still stretch of water where salmon were to be found in both the spring and fall run.

Salmon Jumped In Nets

Across the waterfall grew long grape-vines, which he taught the people to use as pulleys to pull the nets of straw and mile-weed, so that when a salmon jumped up the waterfall it landed in the net and the waiting fisherman hauled in the net and took out the fish and once again replaced the net so that the next traveler who came along could also have fish. In a crevice or pot hole at the side of the waterfall, a fisherman could always reach in with a spear and catch trout and other smaller fish. It was while Wan-a-manku was busy at his work on the fishing ground, which was only partly finished, that "Hen-o-cano" (the devil) entered and drove Wan-a-manku out of his unfinished paradise. He was loath to leave, as he wanted so much to finish this fishing ground for his people.

Sad For His People

Sadly he took up his bow and arrows and started up the river into the north. After a while he became weary and hungry. He paused to rest on the sandy shore of the river, when a flock of quail whirred past him. Swiftly he took up his bow and holding the quiver between his crossed legs he drew out an arrow and killed a quail. The print of his moccasined feet still remain in the sand. As he continued his journey up the canyon, still having the good of his people in mind, he paused occasionally to perform some act that would make life easier for them. On the steep sides of a mountain (Ben Loman), at the north of a swift stream (Grizzly Creek), he killed a deer. Then, making a level place on the mountain side, he made a nice clean carpet of leaves on which he butchered the deer.

Left Head As Marker

High upon the side of the mountain he left the head and entrails of the deer so that the people might know that here was the place to hunt for deer, and to this day the entrails and jaw bone of the deer may be seen from the opposite side of the canyon. The skin of the deer he spread to dry on a huge pile of rocks on a sandy bar (Shorse's Bar) so that the people he had been forced to desert might know that the skins were to be tanned and used for shoes and clothing. Thus they were able to trace the exiled Wan-a-manku and to know that he watched over and provided for them even though they no longer saw him.

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8-13-1937

Aged Indian Helps Inspire Search For "Healthy" Water

GENE PHELPS of Mayaro Lodge attributes to the chance remark of an aged Indian, nearing death at the age of 105, the discovery of a mineral spring that is the most famous feature of his picturesque resort.

Doxy Reece, who was born and raised in the Indian village that formerly was located where the lodge now stands, used to come back to his birthplace once a year to sit and watch Phelps work and once in a considerable while make a remark or two.

On one of these visits he watched Phelps for a while and then the old man's mind reverted to his childhood days.

"Where is the medicine water?" he finally asked.

Phelps heard him and asked to be told more about the "medicine water." Finally he got from the old man the story of a fabulous spring that the Indians had considered of

such a healing nature that when they became sick they would travel to it from many miles around, and remain there at the village until they felt well again.

Mineral Spring Found

The scene had changed so much under the white man's hands and because of nature's work, too, and Doxy Reece had not heard of the spring for so long that he was not sure he could point out the location. Finally, he waved his hand down towards the river and expressed the opinion that the spring was "down there."

This wasn't much help to Phelps, for since the days of the Indians the mountainside, with its plentiful water, had grown into veritable jungle, with ferns and mould of dead leaves from the many years combining to hide all traces of a spring. The search continued, however, off and on, for two years, when one of the men noted traces of iron stain. Then the digging began and finally the spring was uncovered.

Water from this spring has been analyzed by physicians, who report that two minerals, iron and calcium, predominate. They report that it has an alkaline reaction, so

probably the sick Indians were suffering from acidity. Several rather remarkable "cures" led Phelps to inquire of his physician friends as to curative properties of the spring. He was informed by them that it does not cure, but that it builds up the blood and cleanses it, and that once that has been done the body itself throws off disease.

The water of the spring is cold and very pleasant to drink, which is unique as mineral springs go.

Phelps has named the springs "Noxage" after the famous spring in the Nebbs comic carried by the Mercury.

TRAIL MARKED

The Native Daughters of the Golden West, have marked old Emigrant Trail at Elizabethtown with a handsome monument, so that all who may chance to go the short distance off the present highway may become acquainted with the fame of a mining town that was outstanding in the days of old.

The Butte County Free Library was established Sept. 3, 1913, in Oroville.

Plumas Independent

9-2-1937

FOREST FIRE STARTS IN BIG BEND COUNTRY

A forest fire which broke out in the Big Bend country, near Intake, late Monday afternoon, has been put under control by a force of 200 men brought in from the C C C camps at Brush Creek, Humbug and DeSabra, got away on the west end Tuesday morning, whipped by a high wind which was blowing in that vicinity.

The fire started when a cabin at Intake, belonging to a Mr. Reese, caught fire. The flames traveled upward and for a time was thought that the Big Bar lookout station was doomed.

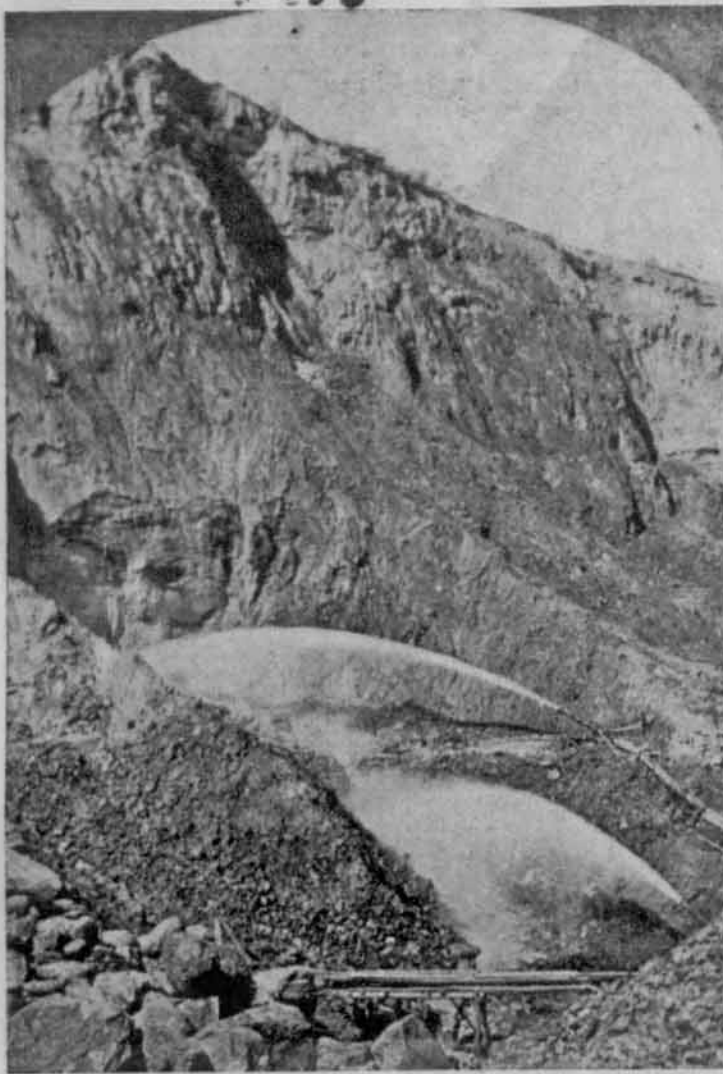
Ranger Frank Embree of Brush Creek station is directing the fire fighting. He is being aided in the work by the Government airplane, which was summoned from the bay region, patrolled the area and reported spot fires.

Radio was being used as a means of communication and T. B. Caferty of the Quincy office was dispatched to that locality to have charge of the operations.

Besides the fighters from the C C C camps, men have been put on the fire by the Western Pacific Ry., the Blister Rust Camp at Butt Valley and a crew from the Swayne Logging Camp.

Late Monday evening some 450 acres of cut over and standing timber had been burned. Part of this land belongs to the Government, and the remainder is the property of the Swayne Lumber Company.

Hydrauliciking at Cherokee



This picture of hydraulic operations at Cherokee mine, 13 miles north of Oroville, was taken by William Thunen of Weed, former resident of Oroville and Cherokee prior to 1900. Note the heavy streams of water coming from the two monitors. At the upper monitor the small figure of a man can be seen standing nearby. This gives an idea of the size and power of the streams of water. The cut in the hill in the background was made considerably deeper than is shown before this hydraulic work is stopped. It is reported that operators of the mine expect to start work there again shortly after years of inactivity. This print from the original photograph was made by Robert Sorenson, local photographer.

By MYRTLE STRAM

William Thunen of Weed, has been a photographer for 45 years, and is still actively interested in it. For many years he made his living taking pictures, but for the past 20 years he has done it only as a hobby.

Thunen was born in Cherokee, and lived there until 1911, when he moved to Oroville. He stayed here until 1920.

The picture shown above was taken in the old Cherokee hydraulic gold mine at the turn of the century. Thunen used, for this and

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10-22-1937
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Thunen Explains Peculiar Process Of Taking Pictures 40 Years Ago

similar shots, an old-fashioned view-camera made of mahogany, which was one of the first dry-plate cameras made. It was very heavy. Thunen made the shutter himself from cigar-box wood, and the motive power was an elastic band. The plates were exposed for different lengths of time, according to how fast the shutter would operate.

"Shot" Indian Burnings

Indian burnings were the subjects of many of the pictures Thunen took while in Oroville. During these ceremonies to the dead, clothing, food and furs were burned, and the rites often lasted all night. One photographer offended the Indians, and they destroyed his camera and other equipment. Thunen, however, was not molested.

He used flash powder to take flashlight pictures at night, and the shots were remarkably good considering the crude equipment he worked with, he said. He took pictures of the Indian burnings at Bald Rock, Oregon Creek, and Mooretown. One picture shows about 200 Indians taking part.

To make friends with one chief, Thunen paid 50 cents for a small basket. Later he decided he did not like the basket, and wanted one that cost \$2.50. He gave back the smaller basket he had purchased, and with it \$2 to pay for the more expensive basket. This required a great deal of explaining to the chief, but when he understood the white man would not cheat him, he became very friendly, and allowed Thunen to take all the pictures he wanted. The chief's nickname was "John Chinaman."

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10-22-1937

page 2 of 2

Mine Run By Water

Some of the cliffs at the Cherokee mine were 500 feet high. Everything was run by water power, and derricks 80 feet high were operated by huge water wheels. Approximately \$13,000,000 in gold was taken from the mine, which was owned and operated for several years by the late Andrew Mellon, one time U. S. secretary of the treasury. There were about two miles of flume at the mine.

Thunen did home portraiture work in Cherokee for a number of years. No amateur snapshots were taken then, even though the cost of plates and film was less than now. Daylight loading film was unknown; film was kept in film holder and loaded in a dark room. Thunen bought his camera in 1892, and used it until 1920, when it and all his equipment were destroyed in a fire at Cherokee.



Oroville Mercury Register

11-19-1937

Concow 4H Club Formed

*Eddie Brown Elect-
ed President*

At a meeting held at Concow last evening attended by thirteen boys and girls and a few parents, an election was held and plans were laid relative to the organization of a new 4H Club.

Eddie Brown was elected president with Donald Williams, vice president; John Williams and Eleanor Morton tied for secretary-treasurer.

The group decided upon the name of Concow 4H Club as their official title.

Other charter members present were Floyd Lindsay, Charles Vance, June Johnson, Agnes Morton, Max-

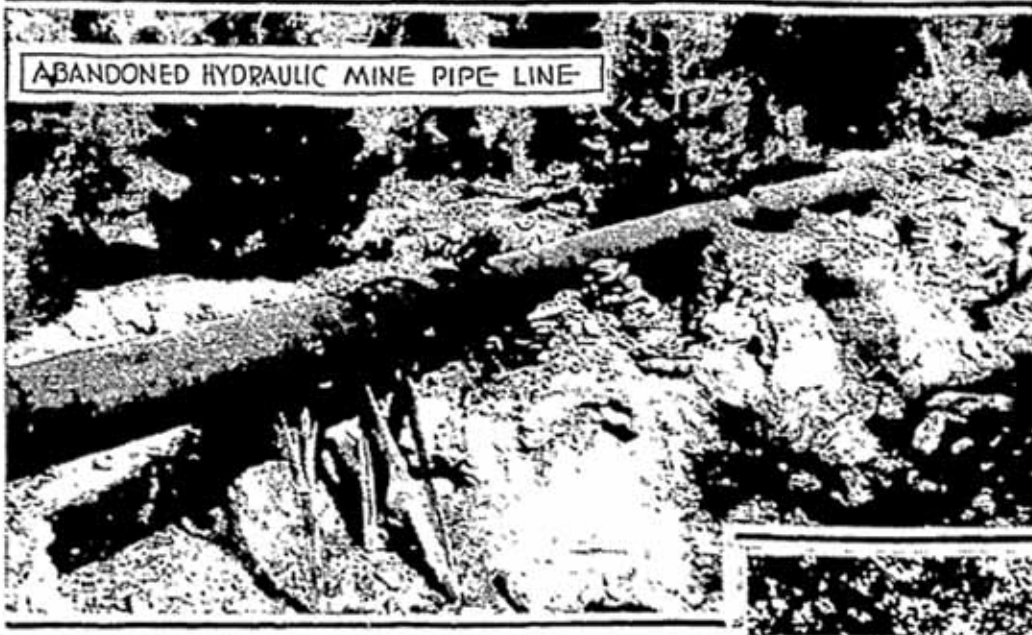
ine Brown, Norman Williams, and Frank Lindsay. Parents and friends were Mr. Vivian Josephson, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Brown, Mrs. E. Balsaley, Katherine Vance, teacher at the Yankee Hill School, and Margaret Flanagan, teacher of the Concow school. Eldon Azevedo, assistant farm advisor, was also present and assisted with the organization.

Scenes Of Mining Glory Await Cherokee Visitors

Sacramento Bee
11-24-1937
page 1 of 2

In Cherokee, State's Diamond Field

By HAMILTON L. HINTZ



ABANDONED HYDRAULIC MINE PIPE LINE

Motorists who enjoy trips where three lane highways are conspicuous by their absence and where scenic panoramas await, will find pleasure in visiting Cherokee, a romantic gold spot of early days northeast of Oroville, Butte County.

From Oroville, eighty miles from Sacramento, Cherokee is reached by crossing the Feather River and proceeding along the Chico-Oroville Highway about six miles out of Oroville, where a paved side road runs six miles to Pentz and then three miles on to Cherokee. The road is good all the way.

This quiet little community, now populated by little more than 100 persons, saw its best days after 1871 when water was brought by

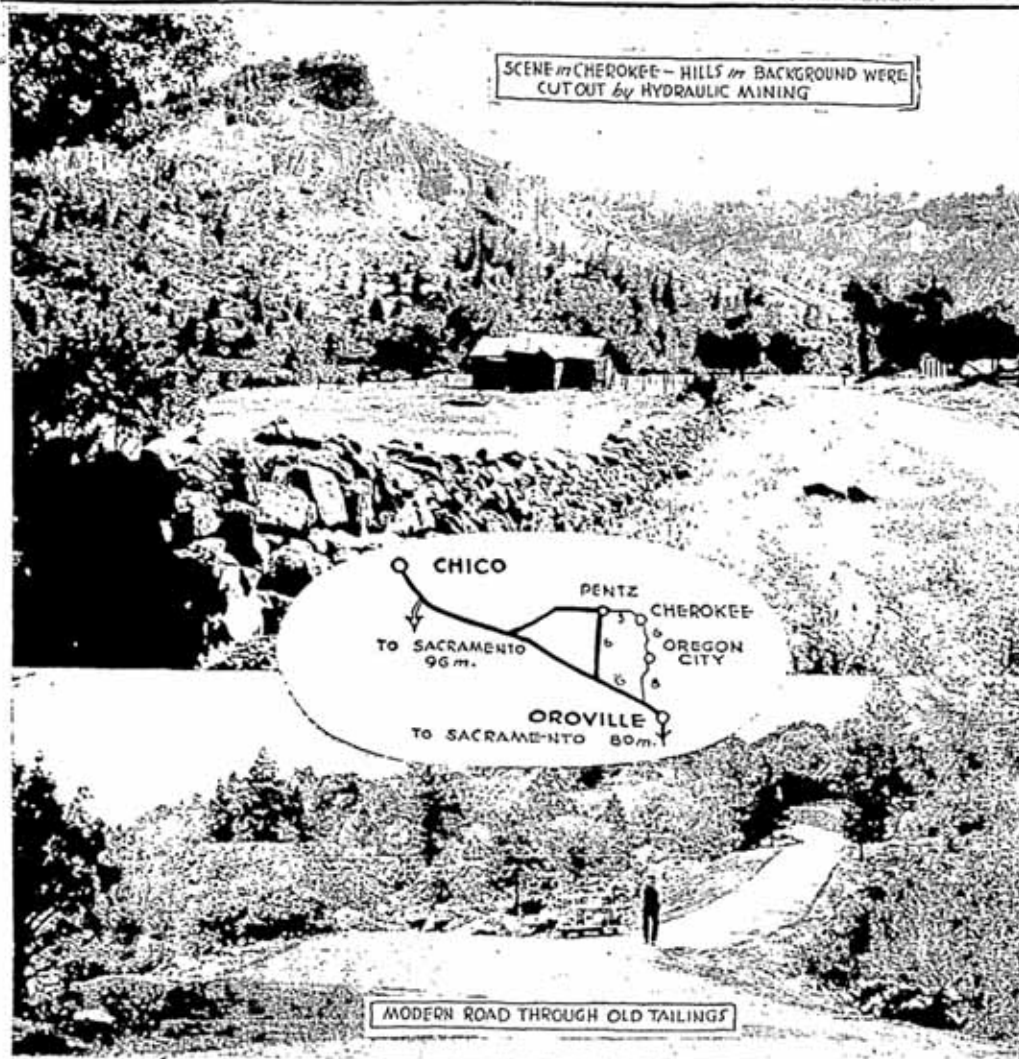
ditch from high in the Sierra, then piped to the Cherokee hydraulic workings.

Started In 1871

Hydraulic mining was started here in 1871 by the Spring Valley Hydraulic Irrigation Company, which operated until 1880, when the works were taken over by the Cherokee Mining Company.

In order to keep operating in conformance with law it became necessary to construct a large dam in the valley below Cherokee to impound the slickings from the works. The intensity of operations varied until 1888, when mining was abandoned.

At one time more than 1,000



SCENE IN CHEROKEE - HILLS IN BACKGROUND WERE CUT OUT BY HYDRAULIC MINING



MODERN ROAD THROUGH OLD TAILINGS

Hydraulicking Exposed More Than Gold



Bee Photos

Cherokee Offers Interesting Trip In Butte County

Discovery Of Diamonds Followed Cessation Of Gold Mining

miners and prospectors crowded the booming community.

Huge Operation

When mining was going at full boom \$480,000 in gold yearly was taken. The company paid \$500,000 in dividends, spent \$500,000 in the purchase of land to be used for debris purposes and built levees to keep the mine tailings in bounds at a cost of \$250,000.

Sacramentans who lived in Cherokee as children include James T. Doyle, director of the Capital National Bank and Capital Federal Building and Loan Association, and his sisters, Sarah and Mary Doyle, teachers in the school department. Their father was the mine superintendent for many years before it was closed down

From Cherokee, high on a ridge, one can see the slickings from the hydraulic mining, spread in a huge, fan shaped lake far below in the valley. The Marysville Buttes loom in the distance.

Diamonds Found

Diamonds have also been found here. The first and largest stone was found in 1856 and weighed five carats. Altogether about 300 stones have been discovered, several recently.

As the road from Pentz leads into the almost deserted town of Cherokee it passes along the rim of a great mined out area, and provides a panorama of a vast gash in the earth laid waste by the hydraulic nozzle.

Passing through the crumbled ruins of the town and into the pit beyond the upper end, to the left is seen the water washed heights of Sugar Loaf Peak, part of the lava cap of which was undermined and tumbled in great fragments into the pit.

Vast Rock Fields

To the right of the peak and before the spectator is a vast field of rock piles and ditches, while in the distance stands the clay bluffs of Sawmill Ravine, stripped of gold by the great streams of water.

Thomas Edison, who was seeking platinum for electric light manufacture, and W. K. Vanderbilt were directors of the Spring Valley Mining Company, and about 1900 Andrew Mellon was the owner of the property for a time.

At the upper end of the pit the road runs near the old pipe lines that fed water to hydraulic nozzles, water that was brought thirty miles or more through an elaborate system of dams, ditches, reservoirs and pipes.

If the motoring party does not wish to return to Oroville, or Chico, by way of Pentz, an alternate route, fourteen miles to Oroville, leads past the old town of Oregon City, through the Table Mountain country and along the edge of the Feather River where some fine views are obtainable. The Oregon City route, however, is not near as good a road as the Pentz route.

12-16-1937

Butte County Is Striving To Restore Transportation Lines

OROVILLE (Butte Co.), Dec. 16. Rehabilitation continued in Butte County today after the weekend storm disaster which struck hardest in the areas west of Chico, near Biggs and Gridley, and in the Feather River Canyon.

Western Pacific work trains which reached Belden yesterday hoped to reestablish service through the canyon by the first of next week.

J. A. Filter, the section superintendent in charge of maintenance on the Feather River Highway, said there is still no definite assurance as to when the route will be reopened.

He said engineers have made a survey of the large fill which was washed out near the Yankee Hill cutoff, with a view toward establishing a detour.

Slides between the Yankee Hill cutoff and Pulga were cleared yesterday and it is now possible to reach that town over the old Cherokee and Yankee Hill roads.

Additional food and supplies, some of which were taken to Pulga by wheelbarrow, have been carried to Pulga and Storrie via the Western Pacific.

At Biggs, the valued possessions of many families were lost in the water which reached high into their homes.

County road crews had reestablished transportation to most points today, although more than thirty bridges were washed out by the flood.

The Red Cross fed 300 persons in the Biggs area Sunday and Monday.

Last Building On Site Of Chinee Doc's Sanitarium Razed By Flames

Last remaining building at the old "Chinee Doc's" sanitarium and health resort at Deadwood, near Yankee Hill, was destroyed by fire at about 8:15 a. m. Monday, according to A. E. Treichler, owner.

The house, which was occupied by a Mr. Westlake, caught fire while the man was away from the building. He had built a fire early that morning, using pitch and paper, then went out to milk the cow. While he was gone the roof caught fire, and fanned by a strong north east wind, flames quickly destroyed the entire building. A county road crew, seeing the flames, stopped and saved a piano and bed.

The building which burned was that which had been used by a Chinese doctor, Ah Sang, in the 1870's, as an office and waiting room.

Ah Sang was famous throughout the northern part of the state for his wonderful powers. His abilities were first discovered by the Genhardt Tebbe family, when he cured one of the sons of an affliction of the muscles of one leg. The family opened their large house as a hotel or boarding house, in which the patients stayed while being cured. In a nearby building the doctor, who was also a miner, had his office.

Business Was Good

He was said to have been able to

quickly diagnose ailments by studying the pulse action for eight or ten minutes. Business soon became so good, according to Dr. Fred H. Tebbe of Oakland, whose family "set up" the doctor in business, that it was necessary to run two daily stages, one from Oroville and one from Chico, to handle the customers. The Tebbe family stayed at Deadwood until about 1885, and then sold the place to Ah Sang, who remained there for several years. Then he moved to Chicago, where he continued to work until his death several years later.

The Deadwood Fox Farms now mark the site of the old health resort. The place has been owned by Treichler for about five and one half years. Many interesting relics, including a Chinese tea jar, some cast-iron kettles, and some Indian grinding stones were destroyed.
