

Oroville Mercury Register

1-12-1938

Celebrates 82nd Birthday At Party

YANKEE HILL — When Harry L. Parker was ushered into the large dining room of the Old Yankee Hill hotel, on Jan. 4, he was agreeably surprised to be greeted by a group of friends and neighbors singing Happy Birthday. The event was a jolly surprise in honor of his 82nd birthday.

A large dining table occupying the center of the room was laden bountifully with the birthday feast, the center of which was occupied by a huge birthday cake decorated with candles. The happy surprise was arranged by Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Morton.

The guests were entertained with songs and music. Mr. Parker received many gifts in honor of the occasion.

Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Morton and family, Mr. and Mrs. Joesphson and family, D. B. Thomas, Frank Clark, R. C. Davidson, Fred McNemar, Miss Vance, teacher and the children of Yankee Hill school, the hostess, Mrs. Jenny Parker, and the guest of honor.

Fear Boyd Drowned In Creek At Pulga

Ritz Employe Missing Since Monday Afternoon; Made Lone Hike Up Mountain

Officials and friends of Charles L. Boyd, 26, Ritz cigar counter clerk, who has been missing in the rugged Pulga country since Monday at 4:15 p. m., are waiting until water subsides in Flea Valley Creek before taking up the search again.

Crews of men Tuesday and Wednesday failed to find a trace of Boyd who had gone to a lonely cabin four miles north of Pulga late in the afternoon to see a Kit Carson, a prospector friend, in connection with a mining claim.

Boyd was accompanied from Oroville Monday by Cy Owens and Mrs. Mildred Mathis Wilson, both of this city. At Pulga he left his two friends in an automobile, saying he would return soon as the hike to the cabin would require only half an hour.

Started Hunt Tuesday

It was later learned that the hike would take over an hour each way.

When he failed to return by evening, Owens and Mrs. Wilson decided Boyd planned to stay overnight at his friend's cabin due to the storm. They stayed over night with friends in Pulga and at 10 a. m. Tuesday they and a group of men walked to the Carson cabin to search for Boyd.

They found the cabin unoccupied. It developed that Carson had not lived in it for several months. Boyd was not there either but a note signed with his name was found on a table. It read:

"I was here Kit—am about frozen—balled out of a plane—no one at home—I dried out my clothes and left—am still cold. Charles L. Boyd."

Unable to find any trace of Boyd on Tuesday, Owens and Mrs. Wilson returned to Oroville and that night notified the Ritz and city and county authorities.

Searching parties went out early Wednesday and by early afternoon had covered every bit of ground between Pulga and the Carson cabin. It was reported that the men had difficulty crossing Flea Valley Creek which was reported to be booming. Ordinarily a small head of water is carried in the creek but it was swelled to large proportions by the heavy rainfall.

Found Boyd's Tracks

Owens, who was among the searchers who included Police Chief Jay Spencer and Constable Tom Reeves, said the men Wednesday afternoon found tracks believed to have been made by Boyd leaving the cabin and heading for the creek. The tracks were followed a quarter of a mile and then they were lost. This was at a point near the creek.

It is believed that Boyd had stumbled down the old trail in the dark and had possibly fallen into the creek while trying to make his way across. Owens said the tracks indicated that Boyd had slipped and possibly had fallen several times. It is believed that darkness had fallen soon after Boyd had reached the cabin from Pulga.

Owens said Boyd had looked him up Monday and had asked him to drive Boyd and Mrs. Wilson to Pulga where he wanted to see Carson, whom he had visited last summer, in regard to a chrome mine in that vicinity.

Owens said he didn't report

Missing



—Mercury Engraving

Charles L. Boyd, 26, employe of the Ritz, who has been missing for three days in the Pulga country.

2-10-1938

page 2 of 2

Boyd's disappearance sooner because he was not worried Monday night, believing that Boyd had decided to stay at the cabin fearing to return to Pulga in the dark over the steep trail.

During Wednesday's search, four men on one side and six on the other walked the entire distance down the creek from the point where it first crosses the trail to the river but found no trace of Boyd's body.

Owens said there are several deep "pot holes" in the creek in which it is possible that a body might be caught. When the creek lowers sufficiently, searchers will make another trip along its banks. Sheriff Herbert Taylor, who kept in touch with searchers by telephone from Pulga, said the hunt had been called off Wednesday afternoon due to the storm.

Boyd came to Oroville about six years ago from the east.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hudgen who operated a lion farm in North Carolina where they trained lions for circuses. Upon their death, Boyd was adopted by W. Boyd, a ringmaster for Barnum and Bailey circus.

Star Trapeze Performer

In the circus he became a star trapeze artist and was one of a troupe of five aerial fliers. Boyd was the swing man, flying in the air from one bar to another.

During a performance of the circus at Madison Square Garden in New York over six years ago, Boyd was performing when one of the ropes slipped from the bar, it is reported, and he fell from the top of the tent to the floor, missing the net. His right side was crushed and doctors gave him a short while to live.

However, he traveled west and arrived here where he stayed. When he first came here he was walking on crutches.

Aviation His Hobby

When he recovered sufficiently, he obtained work and then took up aviation as a hobby. This why, it is believed, he mentioned in his note found in the cabin that he had "baled out of a plane."

Boyd has three sisters in the east, one of whom, an airline stewardess, was recently married to a pilot.

"Probability that that Boyd accidentally fell into the creek is very great," Chief Spencer said today. "If he did so, there was not a chance in the world to get out alive."

Spencer said that several members of the searching party had narrow escapes and that a person could easily fall into the stream while traveling over the trail.

He said he had not joined in the search in his official capacity, but had taken the day off and hunted for Boyd because he knew him. A stretcher and medicine was carried by members of the party for use in event Boyd was found alive.

Pentz Center Holds Lively Gathering

To Repair Commun- ity Hall; Conference Report; Flood Talk

By FEROL LYNCH

Calling members and friends of the Pentz Farm Center together for their regular monthly meeting, Director A. D. Crawford presided over a lively group at the Pentz Community Hall Wednesday night.

Present from Shasta Union as guests were Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Canfield, Mrs. R. C. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Grinnell, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Crum. Other visitors included Mrs. John Caughey and Miss Luella Knott from Thermalito.

A report from the home department was given by Mrs. Geo. Potter. Del Chaffin reported on the directors' meeting. W. H. Graves reported on the membership committee. Mrs. Lynch reported on the county home department, and under new business a committee was appointed to study the problem of fixing the south side of the hall to make it more weather proof.

Mrs. Potter read the farm bureau paper.

Reports On Conference

Assistant Farm Advisor Stanley Walton reported on the economic conference covering the history of the group and listing the active work now being carried on. It includes the support of the reorganization of the Associated Farmers in Butte county, a resolution to Washington asking for a United States army survey of the overflow problem in lower Butte county, and a resolution to Secretary Wallace opposing the inclusion of regulation of wages in conservation programs.

Oroville Mercury Register
2-17-1938

Walton also announced the annual banquet to be held in Gridley, March 7, by the Manzanita Farm Center. This is to be a county-wide pot luck supper to which all farm bureau people are invited. It is hoped, Walton said, that this will approach the old-time county-wide pot luck suppers, and a good time will be assured.

Ord Canfield, visiting director from Shasta Union, outlined the present activities of his center and gave the group a few pointers on how to get new members.

Mrs. Anderson reported on the activities of the Shasta Union Home Department. Grinnell was called on for a few words. Miss Knott, county auditor, gave a worthwhile talk on co-operation and commended the Pentz group for the evidence of co-operation shown there.

Should Dredge Creek

O. W. Baker, member of the Pentz group, gave a discussion of the flood situation in lower Butte county with which he is quite familiar. Baker brought out the need of dredging out a canal in lower Butte Creek in order to handle high water conditions.

Mrs. Caughey announced the completion of Thurman Hall and thanked the Pentz group for their fine co-operation in getting this hall built.

Director Crawford called for an open discussion, and the meeting was adjourned at 10 o'clock to refreshments and an old-time dance. Roy Kenyon, blind musician from Pentz, furnished some very fine and lively music, and the group danced far into the night to the tunes of "She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain" and "Red Wing."

2-18-1938

New Search For Boyd Is Failure

Men Fail To Find Cigar Clerk's Body In Shallow Creek

Disappearance of Charles L. Boyd, 26, Ritz cigar counter clerk, who dropped from sight Feb. 7 near Pulga, became even more baffling today when an intensive search of Flea Valley Creek failed to reveal his body.

For six hours Thursday, J. O. Mc-Attee, Harold Cundy and Constable Tom Reeves probed holes in the creek, now only two or three feet deep.

Taylor Requests Search

The men, who made the search at request of Sheriff Herbert Taylor, also visited the cabin formerly occupied by Kit Carson, the man Boyd said he planned to visit.

They said they inspected the cabin thoroughly, but were unable to find any paper of the kind of which a note, signed by Boyd's name and found in the dwelling, was written.

The note read:

"I was here Kit—am about frozen—bailed out of a plane—no one at home—I dried out my clothes and left—am still cold."

Sheriff Taylor said today that the search near Pulga will be abandoned, at least temporarily.

To Work On Case

"We have done all we can do under present conditions at this time," he said. "We expect to continue working on the case, but far as searching in and around Pulga is concerned, we feel we have covered the ground thoroughly."

He said a report that Boyd had money on deposit at a local bank had proved erroneous. Inquiry at both banks showed he had no account, Taylor said.

He said he had been informed that Boyd had purchased four packages of cigarets and some matches at Pulga before leaving for Carson's lonely cabin on Flea Valley Creek.

Taylor revealed he had communicated with Boyd's father, in Chesnee, South Carolina, and that the latter had telegraphed asking that any information concerning his son be telegraphed to him.

Sure Body Not In Creek

If Boyd fell into the river near Pulga, his body could have been washed into the Feather River and carried far down stream, members of the searching party and Sheriff Taylor agreed today.

The men said a narrow log spanned the creek three or four hundred yards above Pulga, and that it would have been necessary for Boyd to cross this going to and from Carson's cabin.

The group not only probed every hole in the stream between Pulga and the cabin with a grappling hook, but even hunted for the body along the creek a mile and a half above the cabin, they said.

"The body may have been in the creek, but I am positive it is not there now," said Constable Reeves.

In searching the creek the group left the trail leading to the Carson cabin, and at times had to make their way along steep rocky stretches 50 feet above the stream.

New Homes Built At Yankee Hill

Auto Wrecked In Plunge; First Report Of Storm Damage

YANKEE HILL — Several new homes are under construction in this locality. Robert Newman is building a modern bungalow on his property. Mr. and Mrs. Al Freasen, who recently sold their home in Orland, and J. D. McQuarry, formerly of this place, are building attractive cottages, on the G. R. Streubel property. Mrs. Freasen was formerly Miss Bertis Streubel. J. D. Lockridge is building a four room cabin at Hendricks Corners. Several new cottages have recently been completed at the cross roads, near the Surcease mine.

TWO ESCAPE DEATH

A new pickup, belonging to Emil Hodapp, was recovered from the 350 foot plunge into the West Branch canyon on Nelson Bar road when the car skidded over the narrow grade near Buckeye turn during the recent storm. Frank Rowe and the Stevenson boy who was riding with him were thrown clear of the wreckage after the car had turned over several times and escaped what seemed would be almost certain death. The full extent of Mr. Rowe's injuries have not been determined. The car was completely demolished.

Oroville Mercury Register

3-2-1938

Dispute Arises Over Will Of Thomas James

Dispute over provisions of a will left by the late Tom James, Cherokee cattle man, caused Mrs. Rose Churchman, one of the heirs, to file a complaint in superior court today asking for an interpretation of the document.

The action was brought against the estate, and against Mrs. May L. Thomas individually and as an executrix.

Following admission of the will to probate, Mrs. Thomas claimed that she was entitled to receive all real and personal property of her brother with the exception of \$500 bequeathed to Leonard Campbell, according to the complaint.

Mrs. Churchman and Mrs. Thomas teacher, contends, on the other hand, that she is entitled to receive \$10,000 and all real estate owned by Mr. James in Cherokee.

Their dispute also concerns a clause regarding the setting up of a trust fund for Mrs. Thomas in the Bank of America. Mrs. Churchman asks that this provision be declared void and as not affecting the plaintiff's inheritance.

Mrs Churchman and Mrs. Thomas were named as joint executrices under the will, which disposed of an estate estimated to be worth more than \$25,000. James died Jan. 11, ten days after he had made the will, written and signed in his own handwriting.

J. Oscar Goldstein of Chico is representing Mrs. Churchman.

The provisions in question follow:

"I being of sound mind I give all my personal and real estate property to my sister, May L. Thomas, she to give Mrs. Rose Churchman the sum of ten thousand dollars and all my real estate in the Town of Cherokee out of my estate. If my property is ever sold it must go in trust for Mrs. May L. Thomas in the Bank of America."

Oroville Mercury Register

5-20-1938

Oldest, Newest Methods Used To Carry Air Mail From City

Swift Feather Delivers Air Mail



—Photo by Sorenson.

—Mercury Engraving

In observation of air mail week, Swift Feather, Indian boy, is seen here delivering a pouch of mail to Larry Martin, pilot, at the air port. Martin and the Indian boy then flew the mail to Sacramento.

Combining the oldest and newest methods of communication, an Indian runner and a plane pilot carried the mail here Thursday afternoon to commemorate air mail week.

Swift Feather, 19-year-old Quincy Indian, took the pouch from the hands of J. E. Byrne, Oroville postmaster, at 3:30 p. m., ran to the city limits and was picked up by automobile. At the airport, Larry Martin, local pilot was waiting for the mail pouch. At 4:05 p. m. Martin and Swift Feather, whose real name is Billy Epperson, were headed for the Sacramento airport, where Martin sat down the plane at 4:40 p. m.

800 Letters In Pouch

Eight hundred letters bearing the special stamp commemorating the twentieth anniversary of letter service by air were immediately turned over to postal clerks for re-dispatch by plane.

Nearly 75 persons stood on the steps of the Oroville post office to watch Swift Feather, in native costume, start his run. Others watched from the street as he jogged down Robinson street.

At Oroville Municipal Airport another crowd waited. Several persons obtained photographs of the runner and the pilot.

Crowd At Sacramento

Those who gathered on the post office steps to see the start of the run included Mayor A. R. Hoke, D. M. McLeod, president of the Chamber of Commerce, Clarence Pierce, Gridley postmaster and H. A. Brown, postmaster at Honcut.

C. F. Huntington, representing the Oroville Chamber, drove Swift Feather to the airport.

At Sacramento, crowds gathered at the airport to see the Indian runner. Scores of Sacramento women were on hand to welcome him and many amateur photographers and others who wanted to preserve a record of the occasion took pictures.

Gets Much Attention

The Indian runner carried the mail pouch from the plane to the post office on the airport and was shown through the building.

The Indian's picture appeared in a Sacramento newspaper this morning.

Swift Feather and Martin left the capital airport at 5:15 p. m. and arrived in Oroville on the return trip about 40 minutes later.

Oroville Mercury Register
6-3-1938

Rose Churchman Asks Dismissal Of Thomas Suit

Notice of dismissal of the suit brought by Mrs. Rose Churchman of Cherokee against Mrs. May L. Thomas, executrix, asking an interpretation of the will of the late Tom James, Cherokee cattle man, has been filed in superior court by J. Oscar Goldstein, attorney for the plaintiff. A compromise is believed to have been reached in the action, originally set for trial today.

Mrs. Churchman asked that she be awarded \$10,000 and all real estate in Cherokee owned by James. Mrs. Thomas, a sister of the decedent, had contended she was entitled to all real and personal property with exception of \$500 bequeathed to Leonard Campbell.

The dismissal was "with prejudice," which means that a new suit cannot be filed.

6-18-1938

DANCE

Pentz Community Hall

JUNE 18th

Given by the Concow Hill Club

Music by Jim Pinkston's
Mountain Music

Last Meeting Of Pentz Department

PENTZ— The last meeting of the Pentz Home Department was held Tuesday at De Sabla, at the home of Mrs. Ferol Lynch. The project for the day was "Simple Desserts."

The project leaders prepared refrigerator pie, cheese torte and date swirls which were served at the lunch at noon which was eaten on the lawn under the trees.

Miss Verda Frame, home agent, showed the many different prepared desserts now on the market which can be served in a short time and discussed their merits. In the absence of Mrs. Potter, chairman, Mrs. Elsamae Blum, vice-chairman, presided.

Mrs. Ferol Lynch, county chairman at large, installed the officers for the new year. She presented the outgoing officers with gifts.

Those installed were Mrs. Ida May Lambert, chairman, Mrs. Elsamae Blum, vice-chairman, Mrs. Louise Grimshaw, secretary-treasurer. Each of the members present wrote a few words on a letter to be sent to Mrs. Potter, who is visiting in Cushing, Oklahoma. It was decided to hold their next regular meeting in September.

THE
WOODEN
BOX MAN
Says



To Keep The Whistles Blowing DEMAND GOODS PACKED in WOODEN BOXES

A. W. Grunberg

Hermann Furniture Co.

Stiller's Clothing Store

Pink Elephant Cafe

L. Costa

State Beauty & Barber Shop

E. O. Hutson, 5c & 10c

U. M. Damon, Postal Telegraph

Benjamin's Radiator & Fender Works

Tourist Garage

Modern Shoe Repairing Shop

Money Back Jack

Ruffins

Peter Karageris

R. A. Williams--Jeweler

Sportsman's Shop

Gus R. Smith

Sorenson's Studio

The Golden Feather

Frank's Barber Shop

Vaughan's Red & White Store

KEEP THE LUMBER INDUSTRY MOVING

6-22-1938

Al Pearce Buys Land At Concow; Plans Game Farm

Al Pearce, San Francisco radio entertainer, has purchased more than 700 acres of land on Concow lake and plans to spend from \$40,000 to \$60,000 on improvements, it was announced today by A. W. Stormes, of Oroville, who acted as broker.

Much of the money will be expended for establishment of a game farm, Stormes said.

Stormes, who, with the fish and game commission, interested Pearce in the game possibilities, said he will co-operate with the commission and possibly may establish a preserve for protection of wild life.

Ideal for Game Birds

August Bade, superintendent of the state game farm at Yountville, passed on soil and food conditions and pronounced them well adapted to bird raising.

Bade was quoted as saying that the location appeared ideal for a point of release for birds that will be available from the state game farm soon, such as Mexican red turkeys, chukor partridges and Mongolian pheasants.

Pearce, who is keenly interested in game preservation, also will create pools on the property for rearing trout and will release crawfish and frogs at other locations.

The acreage is on the north and east sides of the lake. It comprises the old Tobe Welch property. It was sold by his son, George Welch. Consideration was not revealed.

Yankee Hill Man Injured

Henry Reid of Yankee Hill was brought unconscious to a local hospital this afternoon after the car which he was driving left the road about eight miles east of Oroville on the Feather river highway at 1 p. m. today.

There were no other cars near when the accident occurred and it is thought that something went wrong with the steering gear of Reid's car. The car went over the south shoulder of the road and rolled over several times down the bank towards the river.

The car was badly damaged but according to reports Reid received only a few cuts and abrasions, and was not seriously injured.

Highway Patrolman Roy Freitas is investigating the accident. Reid was brought here by ambulance.

Oroville Mercury Register

7-2-1938

YANKEE HILL--

YANKEE HILL—Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Beasley and brother, Louis Vance of New Mexico, who have been visiting at the home of Mrs. Beasley's sister, Mrs. Charles Bainbridge of Concow, plan to make their home here. Beasley and Vance are employed at the Surcease mine.

MR. and MRS. A. A. MILLER and daughter, Mildred, passed through here recently enroute to their home near Virgilia after a few days visit with relatives in Chico.

GENEY MILLER of Oroville is spending his vacation with his father, R. E. Miller, of the Pines.

MR. and MRS. J. A. CLARK returned from St. Helena Saturday where they went to attend the funeral of Mrs. Clark's brother, Thomas.

MR. and MRS. CAMBY CLARK of Long Beach and small son are visiting at the home of Clark's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Clark.

MISS HAZEL HIGGLE of Colusa, who has been attending college in Stockton, has a summer camp on the Stowell ranch in Concow where she plans to spend her vacation.

JACK SNYDER of Oroville, who recently purchased the Old Stone ranch in Concow, has moved his cattle to the property. Snyder plans to make his home on the recently acquired property.

MRS. GLADYS CROGHAN recently entertained a number of friends at her home in Blue Ridge Canyon, in honor of her daughter Lois' birthday. Miss Lois received many nice gifts in honor of the occasion.

HARRY PARKER is ill at his home in Old Yankee Hill.

EVELYN HENDRICKS and Jack Lockridge were visitors at the home of Mrs. Sadie Edwards of Grass Valley Sunday. Mrs. Edwards, who was formerly a resident of this place, has been ill for some time.

MRS. A. E. TRIEHLER and family of Oroville spent Sunday at their fox farm at Deadwood.

L. L. DENNY of Palermo is spending the summer months at the Charles Croghan ranch.

MRS. WINNIE MOORE and family of Nelly Hill have moved to Blue Ridge Canyon. Mrs. Moore recently bought the Garris property.

PAUL THAYER was a business visitor in Chico and Oroville recently.

MR. and MRS. DEL DAVENPORT spent the weekend with relatives in Oroville.

FRED AYERS and family of Sacramento have moved to their mine here. Mrs. Ayers and daughters, Ruth and Pauline, returned to Sacramento Wednesday, for a few days and plan to return to the mine for the 4th of July holiday. Ayers, who recently underwent a

serious operation, will remain at the mine for the summer while recuperating.

BILL BROWN and family of Virgilia spent a few days camping and fishing in the Flea Valley country.

MR. and MRS. AL LESLIE and small daughter returned to Redding Monday, after a few days visit with Mrs. Leslie's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Clark. The Leslies also enjoyed a visit with Mrs. Leslie's brother and family of Long Beach who are visiting at the Clark home.

MRS. ALICE GIBSON of The Pines who has been visiting at the home of Evelyn Hendricks, returned to that place Monday after spending the weekend with friends in Oroville.

MR. and MRS. FRANK COTA and baby have moved from Los Angeles to the home of Mrs. Cota's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Newman where they plan to make their home. Mr. Newman has his new home almost ready for occupancy. The new house consists of six rooms and bath, and is on what was formerly the Durett property.

Many homes are changing hands in this vicinity. The Whimm's ranch in Concow, formerly the Eakle ranch, was purchased last fall by Frank Stowell of Colusa. Stowell is improving the property and plans to raise stock and farm the property. The Tobe Welch ranch, also in Concow valley, was sold recently to Al Pearce.

Oroville Mercury Register

7-13-1938

1884 Paper Found In Old Cabin

Hikers Find 54- Year-Old Register In Deserted Cabin

Four young hikers made an interesting find in an old cabin on Cherokee road yesterday.

The hikers were Mickey and Donald Knapp, and Lorraine (Jimmy) Kroesing and her sister, Pat. Their find was an Oroville Register dated March 27, 1884. At that time the Register was issued as a weekly. S. S. Boynton was the editor and publisher.

The paper is in fairly good condition, considering its age and its location in the deserted cabin. It is stained and mouse-eaten. A name written on the outside page in indelible pencil, Joseph Entzman, is still legible. Many people will remember Entzman, who lived on his ranch near Table Mountain.

Items in the 54-year-old paper are interesting. Here are a few samples:

"The depot feed yard is being put into first class condition." "The mud being hauled on Huntoon street will have to be hauled off again to make the street in decent condition." "Grain looks magnificent all through the foothills." "E. A. Kusel is having a new picket fence built around his residence on Montgomery street." "Roads in many places are like a poor man's pocket, without any bottom to them."

And no doubt some of our readers will have fond memories of the grand mask ball which had just been held in McDaniel's Hall at Biggs. Under the management of Prof. LaFrance everything went smoothly and the revellers danced to the music of Prof. Gainard until 4 a. m. Those were the good old days!

Oroville Mercury Register

7-13-1938

MRS. ALLIE SWALLOW of Chico who taught the local school during the year of 1936 has accepted a position to teach the Concow school the coming year. Miss Elsie Channon of Gridley who was a teacher here for the two previous years is now visiting relatives in Michigan and attending summer school there. She expects to teach in Gridley next year where she taught last year.

Board Refuses Cherokee School District Shift

The Chico Enterprise
7-20-1938

OROVILLE, July 20.—A petition asking that 800 acres of land in Messilla Valley school district be included in the Cherokee district was rejected by the supervisors after a hearing yesterday in which several residents of the Messilla Valley district protested against the proposed boundary change.

They argued that it would reduce the valuation of the Messilla district and would affect some families whose children now attend the Messilla Valley school.

Reference was made at the hearing to the recent trial of Elmer J. Wright, charged with battery on Kenneth Baker at a Cherokee school election June 3. Baker assertedly was struck when he challenged the vote of Wright, a son-in-law of Mrs. Rose Churchman, who sponsored the petition.

Refers to "Public Enemies"

"We've had Public Enemy No. 1 and Public Enemy No. 2 who have been dealing us trouble in Cherokee because we lived on that property and then came to Cherokee to vote," Mrs. Churchman said.

She said that Wright had been told to vote in the Cherokee district and that residents on her property had voted in Cherokee school districts for two years.

"I ask that my land be included in the Cherokee district so that we can end this feud," she said.

Mrs. Kate Robinson said that the boundary lines as proposed would divide her ranch in two, and that the change would affect two families, both of whom have children.

"It's very uncalled for," she said, adding that the children and not the voters should receive first consideration.

Woman Opposes Move

Mrs. Mae Thomas, whose property would be included in the proposed change, said that it had always been in the Messilla district and that she can't see any reason for changing it.

Explaining that she signed the petition, but "wasn't aware of anything of this kind," Mrs. Alice Campbell said she was well satisfied to have the boundaries remain as they are.

Dan Cory, another signer, said it was his understanding that only Mrs. Churchman's property was included and that he wouldn't have signed if he had known other land was affected.

He asked whether the description was on the petition when it was circulated.

"I presume the boundaries were described," said Jay E. Partridge, county superintendent of schools.

Mrs. Churchman said that she intended to include only the Keystone Mining Co., property, that of Mrs. Thomas and her own, and that none of the other families mentioned were to have been affected.

Followed Section Lines

Mrs. Churchman said that when she took up the matter with Partridge, he had suggested that section lines be followed as nearly as possible and that this had been done in working out the description.

"There was some mistake in that. I did not want Mrs. Robinson's land in there," she said.

"It seems to me that if Mr. Partridge knew of any families he should have told me," she added later.

"I didn't know at the time," Partridge said.

Partridge, who had formally advocated the change, said he wished to change his recommendation if children were to be affected, and suggested that the boundaries be left as they are.

He said another petition could be circulated to include only Mrs. Churchman's property.

Mrs. Churchman indicated that she would do this.

Oroville Mercury Register

8-9-1938

Indians Leave Messages Upon Rocks Smoothed By Glacier

A great area of inscribed rocks, covered with signs pecked by Indians into the stones left smooth in the path of a glacier, has been discovered in the Feather river canyon near the head of Rock Creek by Eugene Phelps of Mayaro, Ed Russ of San Francisco and Frank Kester of Oakland.

The glacier is believed to have moved along in the Sierras north of the Feather river at about the 7000 foot elevation, then moved south down the slopes, and eastward to form canyons at the head of Rock Creek. Centuries later, Phelps said, bands of roving Indians crossed this region, leaving the signs and markings as a record of their visit. The inscribed rock area is believed to be the largest in this state.

The glacier left the smooth granite stones sloping to the east with about a twenty degree dip, he said. All the signs and marks are found on the eastern side, facing the rising sun.

Phelps has notified forest service officials of the location of the area, and said he believes steps should be taken to improve the present rough road leading to them, and to preserve the ancient inscriptions.

Indians of the Kimshew and Concow branches of the Maidus, living in the region now, said they have no traditions in their tribes telling of the writing of the inscriptions, and had only seen and heard of them a year ago.

The Chico Enterprise

10-17-1938

Hunter, Lost In Snow Storm 3 Days, Found

OROVILLE, Oct. 16.—Walter Rucker, 63, of Oroville, lost two nights and a day in the snow-blanketed Sierra, was found by forest rangers near Ramsey's Bar, 35 miles northeast of here, yesterday morning.

Rucker was suffering from exhaustion and exposure, but by building fires had escaped frost bite or other serious effects, the rangers said. After rest and sleep, he would be returned here, they stated.

Caught in Snowstorm

With three companions, Rucker had gone deer hunting Friday in the rugged Stirling City country on the west branch of the Feather river.

Caught in a snowstorm, the three companions, William Bacon and Bert Walsh of Oroville and William Campbell of Las Plumas, had found their way back to the camp, but as night fell they waited in vain for Rucker. The storm blanketed the region with four inches of snow.

Had Found Camp

The forest rangers who found Rucker disclosed yesterday that he had made his way to the camp Friday night. Finding no one there, he left a note, stating he was heading for Ramsey's Bar. The rangers found the note Saturday night and overtook Rucker on the Ramsey Bar trail shortly after daylight yesterday.

Rucker is a cigar store employe here. Sheriff Herbert Taylor immediately notified a sister in Oakland that her brother is safe.

LO! THE POOR INDIAN—HE'S LOST



On the forest trails, Chief Fred Johnson, 79-year-old one-armed tracker of the Concow tribe of California Indians is a sensation. But his cunning bogged down in San Francisco's traffic and he got lost. The Travelers' Aid is going to help him to get back to Oroville.—Tribune photo.

Indian Confused, Loses Trail in S.F. Traffic Hubbub

The arts of finding concealed trails and tracking elusive game through the wild woodlands were of little avail to Chief Fred Johnson, 79, of the Concow tribe of California Indians, when he became lost in big city traffic today in San Francisco.

Traffic at Third and Market Streets proved too much for the one-armed veteran tracker, and he was forced to avail himself of the assistance of the Travelers' Aid Society and police to get located.

He told officers that he had left Oroville on a borrowed \$5 bill, but that the wampum was exhausted and he wanted to get back to his tepee.

Johnson told police he came to the city in response to a summons from F. G. Collett, to attend a convention of Indians at a San Francisco hotel, but the convention could not be located, and at Collett's hotel at 340 Stockton Street, it was learned that he was out of the city.

Collett, according to officials at the Indian Affairs Office in San Francisco is endeavoring to seek legislation to aid the Indians in land matters.

Travelers' Aid workers assured Chief Johnson that they would assist him to return to his home.

Oroville Mercury Register

12-6-1938

FBI Trails Man To Pulga Where Arrest Is Made

THE G-Men, like the Northwest Mounties, always get their man.

After tracking John Rohrer, 45, for 12 years, an FBI agent assisted by county authorities, made the arrest Saturday afternoon near Pulga where Rohrer had been prospecting.

Rohrer was jailed here until the arrival of a United States marshal from Sacramento. He was arrested for violation of his parole from Leavenworth federal penitentiary in 1925.

Announcement of the arrest was made in San Francisco by Nat Pieper, special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Rohrer's record, Pieper said, goes back to 1904. Later he enlisted in the army at Fort McDowell and was sent to China where he reportedly deserted and committed a murder. He was convicted in Shanghai in 1915 and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The sentence was later fixed at 20 years. Rohrer served time at Manila prison and then was transferred to Leavenworth in 1922 and released on parole in 1925. When Rohrer allegedly broke terms of the parole, the hunt for him by the FBI started.

"It may take time but we never stop until we get our man," Pieper said.

Rohrer, it was learned, had lived near Pulga as a prospector for about six years.

Assisting an FBI agent with the case were Undersheriff Herb Forward and Constables William Fitch and Tom Reeves.

Oroville Mercury Register

12-6-1938

Concow Indian

Sees Sights As

Guest Of S. F.

SAN FRANCISCO —(U.P.)— Fred Johnson, 79-year-old Concow Indian from the Oroville district, awoke today in one of the best suites in the Sir Francis Drake hotel after city officials helped him celebrate a "one-man" convention.

Johnson borrowed \$5 and came to town yesterday for a scheduled meeting of the Indians of California Inc. He found out later the "pow wow" had been postponed. He was referred to the travelers aid bureau and was due to be put up for the night in a waterfront hotel.

That was before the city's convention and tourist bureau heard about it. Deciding that San Francisco's reputation for hospitality was at stake, they took Johnson out of his humble quarters, escorted him to night clubs, let him have a look at Sally Rand and then left him for the night in the "luxury" suite at the Sir Francis Drake.

12-9-1938

Contractor Recalls Diamonds Taken From Old Cooney Mine

CONTRACTOR in charge of work at the Cooney diamond mine near Cherokee in the early part of this century, John M. Wallace, 77, returned to Oroville this week to visit the district where he once was employed.

Wallace arrived here Wednesday from Sacramento, where he now lives, according to Donna James, Chamber of Commerce secretary. He told of his work as an employe of Cooney, Vail and Laramie, at the mine. Diamonds were found at the 110-foot level, and about 200 taken out, he recalled.

Kimberlite, ground in which diamonds are found, runs through most of the rocks between the Feather river and the Cherokee mine, Wallace explained. It is hard near the river, and in the softer ground at Cherokee, rubies and garnets once could be found in abundance. The diamonds taken from the Cooney mine ranged in size from chips to 1 and 1½ carats.

Wallace returned to his home this morning. He expressed pleasure at the growth and improvement in appearance of Oroville since he worked here.

12-10-1938

Money Gone, Concow Chief Won't Attend Convention

TRAVELING money gone, spent to attend a "ghost" convention of Indians of California Inc., Fred Johnson, chief of the Concow tribe here, is making no plans to attend the powwow which will be held Dec. 19.

A letter from the office of Indians of California Inc. in San Francisco telling of the deferred convention, arrived for Johnson after he had left.

"Now I've spent the money for the convention that didn't happen. I don't expect to be able to go down again on the 19th," he said.

FIRST IN 15 YEARS

His trip this week was the first he had made to San Francisco in 15 years. At that time he went down to confer with the White Fathers regarding the rights of Indians and to plead for their just dues.

"In 1921," he said, "there were 20,000 Indians in California. Today there are only four left in the Concow tribe. That shows how fast we are disappearing. I don't count the younger generation. I mean real Indians."

He was born at Belden in 1857. He had no schooling as at that time "the whites never allowed the Indian boy to mingle with them. We couldn't go to the same school. So I never went to school," he said.

ONE-HANDED, SAWS WOOD

Johnson is typical of the older Indians. His shock of gray hair, thick, overhangs a broad brow. His soft brown eyes are clear and his copper-colored skin is firm and glossy with outdoor living.

His left arm is missing, amputated after a gunshot wound when he was quail hunting. Undaunted by the loss, Johnson "saws wood" by holding the pieces with his left foot.

SHOWN GOOD TIME

He had good words for his treatment at the hands of Indians of California Inc. whose officials, hearing of his plight from Travelers Aid bureau where he had appealed for information, gave him a tourist's time of his stay.

Bedded and boarded luxuriously at Hotel Sir Francis Drake, he was shown the sights of the city, visited Treasure Island, was given a glimpse of glamorous night life and received "fine treatment." Johnson takes it all with native stoicism.

He could hardly believe, the Indian chief said, the great changes that have taken place in San Francisco during the last 15 years.

Everywhere he went, he said in answering the question, he was the center of crowds. He told them he was from Oroville, was of the Concow tribe and was really an Indian.