

Kososo Won't Answer

Isaiah Miner Dying From Dynamite Blast, 3rd To Try It

WHEN the names of applicants for United States citizenship are called in a naturalization hearing in superior court Wednesday there will be no response from Austrian born George Kososo, 61.

Kososo, known also as George Sabol, was dying today in the county infirmary from three skull fractures received early Sunday when he lighted a stick of dynamite under his head with suicidal intent in his cabin in Isaiah.

HAD THREATENED LIFE

None of the men in the little Feather River canyon mining community knew why the miner had lighted the blast. They only knew that he had threatened in the past to end his life. Always when he had spoken to them about it, after the mood had passed, he had said: "I guess I am a coward. I guess I'm afraid."

But early Sunday morning, his courage bolstered with wine, he reclined on his bed, lighted a dynamite fuse and waited.

J. L. Miles, 45, who had seen Kososo the night before, heard an explosion, but didn't know what had caused it until Sunday morning when he found the door to the Kososo cabin open. Kososo was lying on the bed unconscious.

Oroville Mercury Register
1-9-1939

THIRD DYNAMITE VICTIM

In the cabin, miners found a religious tract which read:

"Awake. Awake, Troublous Times Are Here."

Kososo was placed on Western Pacific Passenger Train No. 1, and brought to Oroville by Miles and Antone Jacowitz. They reported the case to Sheriff Herbert Taylor. He was transferred to the infirmary in the Oroville Community Ambulance, driven by Cyril Grafe.

If Kososo dies, he will be the second prospector who has taken his life by dynamite at Isaiah in less than three years, and the third in Butte county in the same period.

ANOTHER ISAIAH DEATH

Maybe he was thinking of the Isaiah prospector who wrote a note Feb. 23, 1937, saying nobody understood him, signed it "Funny Guy" and then lighted two sticks of dynamite on his chest. The suicide was identified as Victor Vinogradoff, 26.

At the county hospital, March 19, 1938, Robert T. Bass, a former miner, who had been an inmate of the county infirmary eleven years, put a stick of dynamite under his coat, leaned against a tree and waited two minutes for a fuse to burn down to the powder. He was killed instantly.

Oroville Mercury Register 1-19-1939

To Install Quartz Mill

A ten-ton quartz mill will be installed within 60 days at the Bumble Bee Mine near Oregon City and operations will begin immediately. Willard Harrington announced today.

Harrington and Clem Baker have taken over the mine from Jack Upton of 2750 Yard street, former owner, he said.

Concow Camp Quarantined By Illness

FOURTEEN enrollees of Concow CCC camp are isolated, and the entire camp is under quarantine, because of an epidemic tentatively diagnosed as scarlet fever, Dr. L. A. Jacoby said today.

The 14 youths are ill, Dr. Jacoby, county health physician, said. A few boys, living outside the camp at present and eating at the camp dining room, do not contact those under quarantine, he added.

Oroville Mercury Register

2-16-1939

Boot, Foot Inside, Is Canyon Find

*May Be That Of
Charboneau, Missing
Fireman; Not Boyd's*

When Ben Meyers, Isaiah prospector, picked up a man's boot at the edge of the Feather river near Blinzig yesterday he turned it upside down to pour out the sand.

He saw something then that horrified him.

In the boot was a foot and part of an ankle.

The boot apparently had been exposed to the elements for a long period.

County authorities learned of the discovery when Meyers brought the boot to the sheriff's office today.

CHECK MISSING PERSONS

Endeavoring to solve the mystery officers checked records of missing persons.

One possibility being investigated this afternoon was that the boot may have been worn by L. C. Charboneau, 27, fireman, whose body was never found after an engine and mail car on a Western Pacific passenger train toppled into the Feather River near Pulga, Nov. 11, 1937.

The Western Pacific was checking today to determine whether Charboneau wore boots on the run which resulted in his death and that of Halsey S. Potee, 53, engineer.

NOT BOYD'S BOOT

Presumption that the boot might afford a clue to disappearance near Pulga of Charles Boyd, Oroville cigar store clerk, on a stormy February night in 1938 proved groundless.

Cyril Owens of Oroville, who was with Boyd before he dropped from sight, said today that the boot was not one of the pair worn by the young Oroville clerk.

OLD AIDER MISSING

Owens told Constable William Fitch that Boyd wore a pair of black officers boots with a strap on top. The boot found by Meyers was brown.

It was 14 inches high, and appeared to be a No. 8

The boot may have been worn by a man named Andrews, an old age aider, who failed to return to his cabin near Bloomer Mountain more than a year ago, it was pointed out.

A composition sole on the boot, which appeared to have been of good quality, was marked "commander."

SHIRT WAS BUTTONED

Meyers reported to the sheriff's office also that he had found the top part of a blue shirt two weeks ago about 200 yards below the point where he picked the boot from the sand yesterday.

There was a strange thing about the shirt. It was still buttoned, but Meyers gave it little thought until yesterday's gruesome find.

The prospector returned to Blinzig today with instructions from the sheriff's office to make further search in the vicinity.

But late this afternoon the question of who the boot belonged to and how its owner had met death remained a mystery.

Note: Article in Oroville Mercury Register 2-20-1939, the identity of the owner of the boot was never found.

2-21-1939

Concow School Burns At Loss Of \$20,000; Overheated Flue

Concow school, near Yankee Hill, burned this morning in a fire that apparently started from an overheated flue, Jay E. Partridge, county superintendent of schools, said.

Loss was estimated tentatively at approximately \$2000, partly covered by insurance.

Residents carried a piano and part of the desk's from the one room building.

Partridge said he did not learn whether the 20 students who attend the school were in the building when the blaze started.

The fire was reported to the county school superintendent by trustees.

Partridge is to confer with trustees Thursday at Concow to make provisions for a temporary school building.

2-23-1939

Concow To Decide On New School

A community meeting to discuss plans for construction of a new school building at Concow to replace the one destroyed by fire last Tuesday will be held at 7:30 p. m. next Thursday, according to Jay E. Partridge, county superintendent of schools.

Trustees, meeting with Partridge in Concow this morning, tentatively discussed issuance of short term bonds to finance the structure.

TEMPORARY CLASSES

The building was insured for \$850 and the contents for \$400, Partridge said. Loss is expected to be considerably higher.

It was decided to hold classes temporarily in the Hendricks residence, beginning next Wednesday. Later classes will be established in a cabin being constructed on the Hendricks property until provision is made for a permanent building.

Children attending school when the fire started at 9:30 a. m. Tuesday marched out in order under direction of their teacher, Mrs. Allie Swallow when the blaze was discovered, it was learned today. The piano and other articles of furniture were saved by the children and stopping motorists who stopped to help.

The flames are believed to have started from a spark from the flue.

It was the second time fire has destroyed the school.

Yankee Hill Vote Mar. 21

An election to decide on forming of a union elementary school district will be held in Concow and Yankee Hill school districts Tuesday, March 21. Jay E. Partridge, county superintendent of schools, announced today.

The election, to be held from 1 to 5 p. m. was called by Partridge on basis of a petition bearing names of a majority of parents of school students in the two districts.

Polling places will be at the two school houses, he said.

Following this election, he said, a second election, for issuance of bonds to build a new school building, probably will be called.

Seek Election To Unionize Two Schools

Second Election Will Determine Size Of New Building

Residents of Concow and Yankee Hill school districts will begin immediately to circulate petitions asking an election to decide on unionization of the two districts, Jay E. Partridge, county superintendent of schools, announced today.

This action is the result of the burning recently of Concow school building. Last night approximately 25 residents of the two districts met at Concow to discuss construction of a new building.

Within a few weeks, after results of the election are known, Partridge said, the residents plan to call a second election to decide voting of construction bonds either for a union school building or for Concow alone. Whether both districts will be included will be decided by the first election, he explained.

The petitions require signers who represent a majority of the heads of families in the two districts, and who have children attending either of the schools, Partridge said.

Yankee, Concow School Merger Proposal Loses

A proposal to unionize Concow and Yankee Hill school districts lost Tuesday when a majority of Concow residents turned it down, the county superintendent of schools' office reported today.

Unionization was favored unanimously in the Yankee Hill district, with 10 votes for merger and none against it.

In Concow district, however, 15 residents voted against it and only 3 favored it.

An election probably will be held in the Concow district to vote on the issuance of bonds for erection of a new school to replace the one which burned recently according to the county school office here.

Oroville Mercury Register

4-13-1939

Detlow Resort On Highway Is Leased

Detlow's restaurant on the Feather River Highway, 21 miles east of Oroville, has been leased to O. A. Sorenson, Mrs. Esther J. Detlow, owner, announced today.

Mrs. Detlow is moving to Richmond for a short time, but will return and make her home on the Feather River Highway soon.

Over 100 Attend Eastern Picnic At Yankee Hill

Oroville Mercury Register
4-19-1939

YANKEE HILL—The Easter picnic given by the Concow school at Lake Concow was an enjoyable affair and it is estimated that over one hundred people attended. There was an Easter egg hunt with prizes given the winners of several contests.

Mrs. Allie Swallow, teacher of Concow school, supervised the program.

Work on the gravel mine on the Hodapp property has been temporarily suspended owing to shortage of water. Work will be resumed as soon as water is available.

MRS. LYMAN BROWN and daughter, Maxine, and son, Eddie, returned recently from San Francisco where they attended the fair at Treasure Island.

MR. and MRS. J. D. McQUARRIE and small daughter, Barbara, were weekend visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Butte Williams.

MR. DAWSON of Chico has organized a Sunday school, in the Concow district. The first meeting was held April 16.

DIXIE JOHNSON is looking after business interests in the Flea Valley district.

RALPH MILLER of the Pines was a business visitor in Chico Tuesday.

WALTER WAGNER, who has been ill in an Oroville hospital, has returned to his home at the fox farm.

MRS. MAY BAKER, who recently purchased the old Jarboe ranch, is having her orchard and garden plowed. Mrs. Baker plans to remodel the old farm house and otherwise improve the property.

EMIL HODAPP, who made a business trip to San Francisco, returned to his home here Monday.

New Schools At Big Bar, Concow Talked

Proposed erection of new buildings for Big Bar and Concow schools were discussed with Jay E. Partridge, county superintendent of schools, Tuesday by Dr. Charles Bursch, chief of the division of schoolhouse planning of the state department of education. Dr. Bursch also conferred with trustees of the two school districts.

Residents of Concow district will vote Friday on a proposal to issue \$6000 worth of bonds to erect a new structure to replace the one which burned several months ago.

Big Bar district residents voted \$6000 worth of bonds last summer to replace the old building now being used, built many years ago.

Concow Votes \$6000 School Bond Issue

Eighteen favorable votes were cast yesterday for a \$6000 bond issue to build a new school at Concow, it was reported today by J. E. Partridge, county superintendent of schools.

There were no dissenting votes.

It is proposed to construct a new building to replace that which burned several months ago. Present attendance at the school is 15 but as many as 40 pupils have attended.

The next step in the matter is to have the board of supervisors sell the bonds and then let a contract to proceed with construction.

Oroville Mercury Register

5-16-1939

SCHOOLMATES CLUB MEETS AGAIN AT OLD OREGON CITY SCHOOL HOUSE



Mercury Photo and Engraving.



Mercury Photo and Engraving.

At the left is the Oregon City school house built in 1871. Members of the Oregon City Schoolmates Club hold their annual picnic in the grove opposite the school and hold the business meeting in the school building after the victuals are enjoyed. One of the

annual picnics was held Sunday. The picture above shows some of the picnickers. Oregon City is about half way between Oroville and Cherokee and once was the scene of much mining activity. Now the school and a few farms are all that marks the spot.

Oregon City An Attractive Spot, Reporter Finds

By GEORGE WANGELIN

Stepping inside the Oregon City school house is like turning back 50 years of time and it was one of our experiences Sunday at the Oregon City Schoolmates picnic.

The school apparently is unchanged from the time it was built in 1871 and the atmosphere is definitely that of another period. The bare floor shows no signs of paint and is definitely worn. There are rows of old fashioned desks in the one-room building, many with initials carved in them. Oil lamps are on the walls.

Up front is the teacher's desk and at it on this occasion were seated G. A. Grummet, the secretary of the club, and Archie Hengy, the treasurer and temporary chairman for the meeting Sunday.

Other members of the club sat at the desks, some of them rather cramped, while business was taken up.

OLD BELL TOWER

The exterior of the building is interesting too. The porch in front is reminiscent of another day as are the two anterooms built on either side of the school house at the rear.

A flagpole is placed above the bell tower on the roof over the porch.

The building hasn't been used for 20 or 25 years as a school but before that when gold mining was an industry at Oregon City many a class graduated from the old building.

The school was built on the site of an Indian camp and it is reported that the people of the community bought the ground from the Indians. Some of the older residents remember seeing Indian huts made of bark there.

The club was started in 1917 by older residents who once went to school at Oregon City. The founders were R. J. Strang and the Lynches of Stirling City, W. P., Jack, Katie, Maggie and Mary Lynch.

SCHOOL ACQUIRED

The group met every year on the first Sunday in May, held a picnic in the grove and then elected officers. Several years later when the school was abandoned for lack of children, the club purchased the building as a meeting place.

The club was first known as the Enmeto Club, according to Grummet. Enmeto is an Indian word said to mean pleasant spot and this exactly describes the place. The picnic grove is very attractive. In later years the club name was changed to the Schoolmates Club.

When the school was first built the necessary money was raised by dances and by subscription. It was built by George Parry and Johnnie James, Cherokee contractors, at a cost of \$1250.

GHOST MINING TOWN

A visit to the old ghost mining town of Oregon City is one not to be forgotten. Other ghost towns may be more publicized but they don't have more atmosphere than this place. It is reached by way of the Cherokee road. One route branches off past the Banner mine, one of the oldest in this locality. The other drive is by paved road entirely and the turnoff is about half-way to Cherokee.

The scenery is spectacular on both roads with mighty Table Mountain for a background and abandoned mining spots seen at frequent intervals.

At the picnic grounds we met many old friends, some whom we hadn't seen for 15 or 20 years. As at most of these country gatherings, hospitality was the keynote.

If you've never attended such a picnic you've missed a lot in the life you've lived.

The Sacramento Bee

6-21-1939

Butte County

On Your Way To
The Feather River Wonderland
Stop At

DETLOWS

23 Miles East of Oroville
Meals—Wine—Beer. Fishing Information

Even Logging Has Progressed



(Left) An enormous sugar pine log being swung into position by a high powered crane. The loader, with calked boots firmly set, guides the log as the crane gently lowers it on the truck. (Right)

On the way to the mill pond with logs enough to make four-inch boards which if laid end to end would reach over three and a half miles.

It's a far cry from the ox team method of logging to the present diesel powered trucks that haul logs for The Diamond Match Company. Five trucks like the one pictured above have been recently put in operation to haul logs from Flea Valley, Butte county, to the company's saw mill at Stirling City.

Capable of hauling up to 70,000 pounds, these enormous trucks operate over a private road constructed for their exclusive use by The Diamond Match Company.

"Aside from the capability of hauling loads aggregating up to 7,000 board feet, these trucks are unique in that the eight wheeled trailer is pulled up on the truck tractor for the return trip," according to P. O. Young, manager of the local Diamond yard and store.

"The operation is entirely mechanical and places the trailer over the tractor wheels and immediately behind the cab. This provides a greatly reduced wheel base for the return trip from the saw mill to Flea Valley."

While the distance from the site of the present logging operations is only eight miles, it requires a full hour for the trucks to haul their loads to Stirling City. The only level spot in the entire road is the bridge over the West Branch of the North Fork of the Feather River. The Diamond Match Company is driving the new logging road deep into the most remote parts of Flea Valley and when completed will be approximately 15 miles from Stirling City.

Logging operations at Flea Valley augment the regular logging camp at Butte Meadows from where logs are transported by rail to Stirling City over the company's own 37-mile standard gauge railroad. The saw mill at Stirling City cuts approximately 40 million board feet of lumber annually for distribution to the 60 Diamond yards and stores that serve Northern California.

8-3-1939

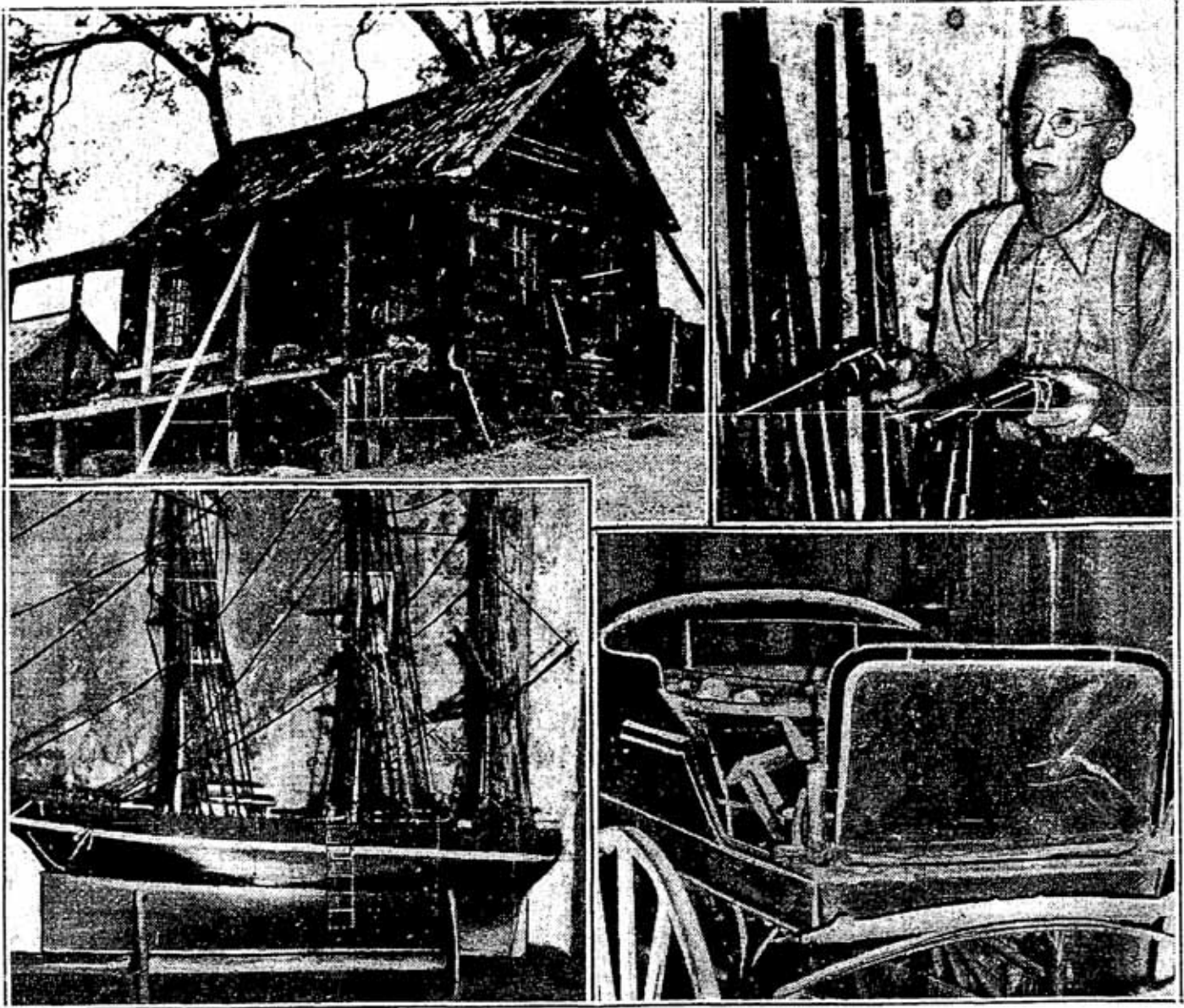
STUDENTS FROM CAMP VISIT GREENVILLE

A group of students of the Salesian House of Studies of Richmond, who are spending a vacation in a summer camp at Detlow Station near Yankee Hill, on the Feather River highway, were in Greenville Sunday. Rev. Ernest Giovanni, S. C., who is in charge of the school, was in Greenville with the students, as well as his assistants, Father John Dal Masos, Father Alfred Pauk, Brother Fred Arata, Brother Anthony Di Falco, Brother Paul Maniscalco and Brother Stanley Jaruzel.

There were some 30 of the students in a truck which carried them to this part of the country, while the fathers rode in another car. They went up to Lake Almanor and returned to their camp Sunday night. They will remain at the camp for another two weeks before returning to Richmond.

Early Day Mementoes Are Saved By Centerville Man

Butte Home Contains Many Relics



Nestled in the Butte County hills near Centerville at the end of a one way road, the James Nicholl home and an old house at the rear of it contain many ancient relics. The exterior of the old house at the rear is shown in the upper left. The upper

right shows Nicholl with some old time firearms. The lower left is a three foot model of a brigantine built by George Jackson, a sailor, in 1864. The lower right picture shows an eighty year old buggy, once used to carry mail. Bee Photos

Sacramento Bee

9-2-1939

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CHICO (Butte Co.). Sept. 2.—Tucked away in an isolated section of Butte Creek Canyon at the site of the historic Helltown, fifteen miles east of here, is an interesting collection of relics.

The collection is at the Nicholl place and is under the charge of James Nicholl, last member of a family that settled on Butte Creek in the early '50s.

Is On Side Road

The place is seldom visited because it is at the end of a side road that is used by local travel only, the side road running for two miles from Centerville via Boneyard Flat to Helltown. It is rough, crooked, has a steep grade in Butte Creek and crosses the creek by a ford that can be used only in the low water periods.

Most of the collection is kept in the old Nicholl house, which was built in 1857 of lumber packed over the mountains by the Indians who inhabited the canyon in early days. The lava bluffs near the top of the canyon at Centerville have Indian caves in them, there are several campsite grounds in the vicinity and Boneyard Flat got its name because it was an Indian burial ground.

Has Old Guns

Fifty guns, one of which was manufactured in 1818, heads the collection. About two thirds of them are guns gradually collected on Butte Creek during the last eighty years, while the others are army rifles brought out from the East. There are guns of the flintlock, ramrod, bolt and other early types.

There is one old French army gun with the three angled bayonet—a vicious weapon, and a French cane that serves as a sword scabbard.

Has Box Of Pistols

There also is a box full of all kinds of pistols, two army swords, early day books, magazines and gorgeously framed pictures and numerous other trinkets and doodads.

In a bedroom of the eighty two year old house is a four piece marble top bedroom set, including bed, bureau, dresser and wash stand, and in other rooms are spool beds of early type.

Buggy Is Ancient

A prized possession is a buggy stored in a barn on the place that was built by hand at Pentz more than eighty years ago and used for many years in the Centerville-Helltown mail and express service. Testimony to the good workmanship and care is the fact it is in excellent condition today.

The barn contains other old things of interest, such as harness and tools.

Collecting the relics was made a hobby by the three Nicholl brothers—James, John and Charles—since early days and they felt complimented when persons came to view them and chat over old times. John and Charles are dead, only James remaining to guard the collection, run a stock farm and supervise mining property.

Many Stories are Told

There are many stories of Helltown in the roaring '50s and '60s. It originally was named Hilltown, but a letter arriving from the East misspelling it Helltown caused the name to be changed by the miners.

Another story is of the hanging of seven Indians on charges of horse stealing. As the story is handed down by word of mouth—there appears to be no written record of it—tobacco juice was spit by imbibing miners in the eyes of the Indians to get them to confess. The Indians held to their denial, but asked for a chance to go find the horses. They were released to do this, but were told if they came back without them they would be hanged. They came back several days later without the horses and promptly were hanged. Later the horses appeared back in Helltown, and it was a subject of discussion for some time whether or not justice had been done.

Oroville Mercury Register

11-8-1939

Union First With Totals

AS usual, Union precinct was the first to report election returns last night.

For many years past, this farming community a few miles southwest of Oroville has been the first precinct in this part of the county to finish counting votes and report results.

However, Isalah broke a precedent last night by sending in the results by one of the election board. Usually Isalah is one of the last precincts to report.

Mrs. Hattie Cardwell was driven to Oroville last night by her husband, Ed Cardwell with Isalah's ballots. They had to drive 27 miles over rough mountain roads, via French Creek.

This year, Gridley and Biggs were among the last precincts to report results at the court house. Early returns are usually available from those cities.

Pulgan Recalls Ceremonials Of Concows Held Years Ago

HEADS CLAN OF GRAMPS



Mercury Photo and Engraving.

Introducing Henry Gramps of Pulga and his pet dog Teddy. Gramps was born in the Feather river country. His father was a German and his mother a full-blooded Indian. Read this story as told to a Mercury reporter.

By **RICHARD DUDMAN**

An old man in jeans and a worn sweater looked up from the dismantled automobile engine where he was watching a couple of younger men tinker.

"Yes, I'm Henry Gramps," he said. "I'm half-blooded Indian; you couldn't say I'm the last of the Concow tribe, but there's getting to be mighty few of us left."

Asked if he was the oldest member of the tribe still living, Gramps snorted, "Hell, no. I'm only 73, but Harry Edwards—he lives up the hill there—is around 80 or 85. They say he's 102 sometimes, but Indians don't often know their exact ages, and that's putting it too high."

FATHER A GERMAN

Not the last nor the oldest, Henry Gramps, with his straight black hair and two-weeks' growth of sparse gray beard, is an interesting person to meet. Living with his wife and a daughter on his 46 acres across the river from Pulga, he centers most of his activities there, getting into Oroville only about once a month. Down the road 100 yards lives his son's family.

Oroville Mercury Register

12-5-1939

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"Quite a clan we have," he admitted. "I must have more than 20 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Quite a number of them are in Billy Woods' family—he's my son-in-law—in Oroville." He's dead, but his wife, Laura, lives there and has three children in school—Ivan, Adeline, Jennie, and Billy. Gladys went to the high school, but now she's in Sacramento."

Every since he was born, Gramps has lived in the Feather River country, he says. His father, a German, Martin Gramps, owned a large section of the mountainous land across the river from Pulga. Martin Gramps married a full-blooded Indian girl.

HIS INDIAN NAME

"Mother never told me her Indian name," says Henry Gramps. "We never kept records of anything like that. I don't even know her regular maiden name, but I know she had one."

He knows his own Indian name, however. It is "heeby-mono," as nearly as he can spell it, and means "burr on bush," the bush being a type of birch that grows in the region and is called deer birch.

Henry attended school in the '70's at the Yankee Hill school. He boarded there and kept on through the fifth grade.

It was before Henry was born that his father sold most of the land to B. K. Perkins, who was an Oroville merchant at the time—it was 1855. Straining to remember the details, Henry said that Perkins was killed in '85 when his horse and buggy ran away with him. The land was sold subsequently for taxes, and now, says Gramps, 90 acres

of it is owned by George Matthews of Oroville. Gramps' 46 acres adjoins the Matthews' property.

REMEMBERS CEREMONIALS

Land in that region used to be very valuable on account of the gold deposits, he says, but it has been almost worthless since hydraulic mining was prohibited in 1888 because the silt was blocking the river.

Gramps remembers some of the Indian customs, but they're mostly discontinued now, he says. He remembers the tribal dances, when the chiefs would put on their head-dresses and other regalia.

"We weren't allowed to touch any of the ceremonial dress," he explained. "When a chief died, they burned the regalia with him. They haven't had one of those burnings for a long time now—I think the last one was in 1925."

Although Gramps is half Indian, most of his life has been tied up pretty closely with white civilization. Last century, when Oroville was a booming mining community, he used to spend a lot of time down there. He used to shoot rabbits, getting 10 cents a scalp, out towards Winters, going hunting with Henry Strohman, who still is a bricklayer and plasterer in Oroville.

KEEPS WELL POSTED

He learned the carpenter's trade at one time, and for two years in the middle '80's he had his own carpenter's shop in Oroville.

Gramps says he still knows a lot of the older men when he drives into town—mostly the ones around the court house. L. L. Winters, retired Western Pacific clerk who lives at 1715 Hammon avenue, is a close acquaintance of Gramps.

One of the last members of a race

that rapidly is dying out, Henry Gramps seems healthy enough as he watches his relatives work on one of their three not-so-old automobiles. He likes to talk over his experiences, but he keeps up with the present besides. He has the figures on how many deer were killed last hunting season. To talk to him, you don't realize he is 73 years old, that his ancestors probably roamed north as a branch of the Incas of Peru.