

Sacramento Bee

3-1-1940

Settlement Ends Battle On Estate

WOODLAND (Yolo Co.), March 1.—The long legal battle between a son and two grandchildren of the late Mrs. Mary Ellen Eakle for possession of her \$15,000 estate has ended in a compromise.

Under the terms of the settlement William Harrison Eakle, a son, will receive half. Two grandchildren, Stephen Smith Eakle, Jr., and Mrs. Mary Helen Sweitzer, will get one quarter each.

Last year the grandchildren brought action against Eakle to break Mrs. Eakle's will in which all the property was left to him. He was charged with exerting undue influence over his mother.

A jury found for the grandchildren, but the verdict was reversed by the third district court of appeal on the ground the jury was instructed improperly by Judge J. O. Moncur of Plumas County.

Oroville Mercury Register

4-29-1940

Child's Skull Fractured In Freak Mishap

*Auto Door Flies
Open Catapulting
Boy, 3 To Pavement*

Three-year-old Lee Lawson is in Oroville Curran Hospital with a fractured skull received Saturday night when he was catapulted from an automobile traveling 40 miles an hour on the Feather River Highway near Pulga.

The child was being brought to Oroville and was riding in the rear seat of the car with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Lawson of this city. Driver of the car was Bryan Beevers who with Lawson operates the Virgilia mine near Belden.

Lawson said his son, whom he thought had been sleeping, apparently decided to play with the door handle on the 1939 Oldsmobile sedan. The door suddenly shot open pulling the child out of the car. The boy hung for a moment and then was thrown to the pavement and tossed 30 feet.

Lawson said the child was still rolling when the car was stopped. He was rushed to the hospital here for treatment.

The Lawsons were on their way to Oroville from their mine and Mrs. Lawson was to have gone on to San Francisco by train, there to undergo a serious operation. The operation must now be postponed for about a week.

The injured boy was reported improved today by Dr. G. A. Frost.

The child is the grandson of H. R. Lawson of Palermo Road. E. R. Lawson has been operating the Belden mine with Beevers for 18 months.

Over the Sierra

(By THOS. P. BROWN)

Plumas National Forest—This forest, which is traversed by the Western Pacific, comprises the original Plumas Forest Reserve and the Diamond Mountain Forest Reserve, which were combined by executive order of Theodore Roosevelt in 1908. Both the Plumas Forest Reserve and the Diamond Mountain Forest Reserve had previously been created by Roosevelt in 1904.

Within the outer Plumas National Forest boundaries, according to S. B. Show, regional forester, there are 1,474,710 acres, of which 1,140,472 acres are government owned and 334,238 acres privately owned. The timber includes sugar pines, ponderosa pines, Jeffrey pines, white and Douglas fir and incense cedar.

The amount of saw timber on the government land is estimated at ten billion board feet. Approximately 200 million board feet constitute the annual production from both government and private lands, there being a number of sawmills in this territory.

The Plumas National Forest also produces forage for sheep and cattle. Grass and herbage of the valleys and meadows and the browse on the mountain slopes afford food annually for 10,000 head of cattle and 40,000 head of sheep.

The beautiful forest lands also include splendid recreational areas.

Pulga (239.1), is the Spanish name for flea and was probably so-called because of Flea Valley, which is not far distant. In early days this point was called Big Bar on account of the bar in the river. Near this point was one of the larger gold strikes of the Argonaut period. At Pulga the Feather River highway leap-frogs the canyon by a bridge which is erected above that of the Western Pacific. At Tobin (253.1) the Western Pacific bridge is above the highway bridge.

Indians were numerous at one time in the Feather River Canyon, and not a few names of places are of Indian origin. Pulga (Big Bar) was once the site of a large Indian camp where the redmen rendezvoused to hold their pow-wows and their feasts. On one occasion Indians killed a white family living at Concow, which is a short distance southwest of Pulga. Whereupon the whites organized and killed all the Indians they came across in the vicinity of Big Bar and Consow. One Indian woman, who had been cooking for a white miner, escaped. Later they were married and reared a large family, some of whose descendants still dwell in the Feather River Canyon.

Tobin is one of the many points in the Feather River country which has caused it to be known as the paradise of trout fishermen.

Over the Sierra

(By THOS. P. BROWN)

Fishing—Tobin, Calip Rodgers (255.3) and Belden (260), along the main stream, and the North Fork, above Howells (261.7), have been especially noted for their rainbow trout, the average being about two and one-half pounds, with some running up to five pounds. Bait fishing is customary in the main streams, hellgrammites being the natural and most successful bait, although salmon roe may be used with good results.

The smaller tributary streams, such as Grizzly Creek (246.2), Rock Creek (248.67), Bucks Creek (251), Jackass Creek (259), Chambers Creek (half-way between Tobin and Camp Rodgers), Milk Ranch Creek (255.76), Chips Creek (about one mile west of Belden) and Yellow Creek (262) contain Rainbow, Lochleven, Eastern Brook, German Brown and Dolly Varden trout. While these are not as large as those which may be caught in the main stream, they afford sport for those who enjoy fishing in the smaller streams.

Farther up the Canyon, the Middle Fork, between Sloat (301.6) and Blairsden (310.3), with its tributary streams, including Jamison Creek, Frazier Creek and Graeagle Creek, provides fishing similar to that of the lower river, except that the fish are not generally so large.

In the higher country around Blairsden and at altitudes ranging from 5,000 feet to 6,500 feet, more than 40 Alpine lakes provide generous sport for fishermen who prefer lake fishing either from the shore or in a boat. Among the lakes in this region are Gold, Salmon, Bear, Long, Sardine, Grass and Jamison.

Belden (260) is the starting point for popular side trips to the Three Lakes Country and up Chips Creek.

Movies on Location—Anita Stewart was on location at Belden for her play, "A Question of Honor," and Dolores del Rio came here for her scenes in "Evangeline." Among other points in the Canyon where movies have gone on location on account of the picturesque settings and the clarity of the atmosphere are: Pulga (239.1) where thrilling

scenes were recorded for "The Limited Mail," a railroad story starring Monte Blue; Paxton (277.5) where Jack Pickford and James Gleason were on location, the latter for his railroad story, "Oh, Yeah!"; Keddie (280.9)—Monte Blue and Mae McAvoy in the railroad film "No Defense"; and Blairsdon (310.3) where pictures were made for Rin Tin Tin (Wolf's Fangs) and also for House Peters and Wanda Hawley in "The Rowdy."

Rich (264.6) was the scene of the greatest gold strike in the Feather River Canyon. It was a veritable bonanza. The amount of gold taken out at Rich Bar and vicinity is fabulous. There are no official records extant, but estimates range from \$14,000,000 to \$23,000,000. The old histories record that in July of 1850 a man named Greenwood realized \$2,900 from two pans of gravel from the river bar, whence the name Rich Bar. Thereupon a stampede of gold seekers ensued and Rich Bar's population rose to 2,500. "So rich was the gravel," says George Manswield in a booklet on the Feather River Canyon,

"that claims on the bar were limited to ten feet square."

By comparison with the early days Rich Bar, which once was a trading post and the principal town in the Feather River Canyon in the gold rush days, is now a ghost town. All that is left of the former building used by Sincerity Lodge No. 32, F & A. M., are the excavations. Sincerity Lodge did not perish, however. It was removed to Greenville and is now Greenville Sincerity Lodge. A number of persons still dwell at Rich Bar, which has a little hotel-resort and the old diggin's are still being worked and valuable nuggets are still being found.

Rich Bar Monument is on the canyon side, not far from the tracks of the Western Pacific. On this monument is engraved the following inscription: "Erected by the Native Sons of the Golden West to the memory of pioneers who settled on this spot, some of whom found rest on the hillside near this monument; and, as typifying pioneer motherhood of California, this monument is particularly dedicated to Nancy Ann Bailey who died in the performance of duty to God, Country and Race, June 1, 1850."

Nancy Ann Bailey was the first white woman to come to Rich Bar. She was only twenty-five years old when she died.

Indian Valley Record

5-23-1940

page 3 of 3

Paxton (277.5), formerly called Soda Bar on account of mineral springs nearby, is the point from which the Indian Valley Railroad, now abandoned, wound away to Engels copper mine.

The Last Spike in the construction of the main line of the Western Pacific was driven at Mile Post 280.51 on November 1, 1909, by Leonardo di Tomasso, foreman of the construction gang supervised by Major Arthur Thomas. The Western Pacific was incorporated under the laws of California, with headquarters at San Francisco, on March 6, 1903. After the surveys were made, construction was begun in 1905 and the line was completed in November, 1909, when informal freight operation was begun. The first through passenger train, a special, from Salt Lake City, arrived in Oakland on August 22, 1910, and regular passenger service was then inaugurated.

Keddie (280.9), in the heart of the Feather River Canyon, was named for Arthur Walter Keddie, who did the pioneer surveying which was the basis of the final surveys for the location and construction of the Western Pacific. Keddie, who is known in the Feather River Country as the "Father of the Western Pacific," was born in Scotland in 1842. After coming to Canada, he left for California via Cape Horn in August of 1863, arriving at San Francisco in September of that year. Soon he was at work in the Canyon at his chosen profession. It was truly a "wild and wooly West" at that time as shown by letters, treasured by his daughter, Mrs. Helen Keddie Palmer of Portola, which he wrote to Maggie Barnes Whitty in Canada. To her, his wife-to-be, he took pains to explain the meaning of "two-bits", "grub", and "pack", as these words were not at that time in the eastern vocabulary.

continued in Indian Valley Record

5-30-1940

Over the Sierra

(By THOS. P. BROWN)

The Northern California Extension, or Bieber Line of the Western Pacific Railway, extends northerly from Keddie, via Greenville in the Indian Valley, Westwood and Lake Norvell to Bieber, a distance of 112 miles. There a connection is made with the Great Northern Railway's extension southerly from Klamath Falls, Oregon, a distance of 88 miles. By these connecting extensions, which were completed in 1931, new routes have been created between the Pacific Northwest and the Inland Empire, on the one hand, and California, Arizona and New Mexico, also Nevada, Utah, and states beyond, on the other. These connecting extensions are operated for freight service.

Lake Norvell, on the Northern California Extension, 52.5 miles north of Keddie and situated in a high mountain meadow, virtually on the summit of the Cascade mountains, and through which Susan River flows to Honey Lake, has proved an ideal site for snow sports, including skiing, tobogganing and ice-skating. The Western Pacific operates special trains between San Francisco and Lake Norvell each winter season.

Lassen Peak 10,453 feet in altitude, and scene of volcanic eruptions in 1914 and 1915, may be reached via Keddie, from which station stages depart for the splendid trip through Lassen National Park and Lassen National Forest to a point 1,500 feet below the summit of the peak. Lassen Peak is named for Peter Lassen, who blazed Lassen Trail and was a guide to General John C. Fremont.

Wild Flowers and Plants—Near Keddie and in Butterfly Valley, which is south of Keddie, are to be found specimens of the pitcher plant (*Carlingtonia californica*). This is one of the very few regions in the Golden State where the pitcher plant grows. Specimens of the pitcher plant, which is carnivorous as well as insectivorous, in the horticultural building on Treasure Island, Golden Gate International Exposition, were fed raw hamburger to keep them thriving.

There are many wild flowers and interesting plants in the Feather River Canyon. Verse by Jeanette Heintzen Lawrence, entitled "Plumas-Sierra," and found in the scrapbook of Arthur W. Keddie, reads:

“On the slope of the hill
Stands the old water mill;
With its rafters decadent and
rotten,
Now an idle old shed;
The wheel, listless and dead,
And the men who once ran it,
forgotten.
O, the flowers I knew, how
grandly they grew,
By the old water mill
On the slope of the hill.”

Sierra (284.5) is the site of a summer vacation camp maintained by the City of Oakland.

Vacation Land—The Feather River country is a favorite vacation playground, in which the recreation areas of the Plumas National Forest form an important part. Many vacation enthusiasts rough it, pitching their own tents and laying their own camp fires. Along with this simple, quiet mode of recreation, are the sports of horseback riding, swimming, golf, tennis, hiking and climbing.

The Sierra Nevada Mountains—“Sometimes the Sierra is emerald-clad, sometimes

glittering with snow, and the air is redolent always with the fragrance of growing things.”
—Aubrey Drury, in California, an Intimate Guide.”

The word “sierra” is Spanish, meaning saw or saw-toothed mountains. Nevada means white as snow and was the name given this towering range of mountains by Father Francisco Garces when, in 1775, he crossed what is now the southern part of the state of Nevada.

Extremely interesting is the geological history of the Sierra Nevada. By contrast with the Cascades, which are of volcanic origin, the Sierra Nevada owe their rise to a gigantic folding of the earth's crust. From a very broad viewpoint, and reaching back into the far vistas of time, the Sierra Nevada constitute a batholith or single solid mass, forming a huge block 350 miles long with a maximum width of 80 miles. This block is inclined—its Pacific slope relatively gentle, its Nevada face abrupt. After the preliminary upheaval, known as the Cordilleran revolution or the Nevadian movements, a great fault occurred on its eastern side, causing the depression

known as the Great Basin, which extends to the Wasatch Mountains of Utah. The story of the Sierra Nevada is not a simple one. There were subsequent upheavals; geologists say this range is still rising; there were great lava flows from vents in the earth's shell; and the forces of erosion played their part through the eons. While the Rocky Mountains of Colorado have the greater number of lofty peaks, the Sierra Nevada embrace the highest mountains in the United States proper, that being Mt. Whitney, altitude 14,494.7 feet. Although the greatest elevation of the Sierra Nevada but slightly exceeds that of the Rockies, the Sierra Nevada present a much more massive and impressive appearance because they rise from a much lower level.

Quincy Junction (287.8). It is from here the Quincy Railroad leads off to Quincy, county seat of Plumas county. Although this little city, which lies in the American Valley,

protected by pine-clad mountain slopes and snow-capped peaks, is five miles distant, it may readily be seen from the Western Pacific. Quincy is headquarters for the Plumas National Forest.

Williams Loop (294.54). Here the railroad traces a complete circle, ninety-ninth of a mile in circumference, in order to maintain the ruling grade of one per cent, thus obviating a steeper ascent. The diameter of this loop, which is enclosed in a high mountain meadow, surrounded by forest trees, is approximately 1,500 feet.

Spring Garden Tunnel (297.18). In driving this tunnel, 7,343.7 feet in length, at an elevation of 3,965 feet, construction engineers were compelled to fight for months against obstacles in the way of boulders and sands of an ancient river-bed, and also the waters of an underground stream.

Feather River Inn (309.8), built of massive logs, with chalets ranged about, fits harmoniously into the picture of mountain grandeur and is one of California's larger outstanding mountain resorts. In the Feather River Canyon and adjacent territory, are many other hotels, resorts and camps, with modern appointments and conveniently located with reference to fishing streams and lakes, and available as bases from which hunters or fishermen may sally forth.

Blairsdon (310.3), situated in Mohawk Valley—Indian name for "eater of live meat"—is the starting point for trips to Johnsville which lies in the shadow of Mt. Eureka where the famous Plumas-Eureka mine, discovered in 1851, is located. The trail leads also to the Lakes Basin country via the Gold Lake road. The name Gold Lake is said to originate from the fact that legends of this territory told of a lake of gold with golden shores.

Portola (321.4), named for Gaspar de Portola, discoverer of San Francisco Bay and first Spanish governor of California, is still a frontier town of the Far West. Portola is a division point on the Western Pacific, being the end of the western division and the beginning of the eastern division. The Western Pacific's general hospital is located here.

Hunting—Looking from the railroad line toward the mountains which range on both sides of Portola, one truthfully may say: "Thar's bar in them thar hills." The bear are black bear inasmuch as the historically famous Grizzly (he deserves a capital initial), who was the model for the California Bear Flag, has virtually disappeared from his former desmesnes.

The Feather River country is visited every year by numerous hunting parties. Black bear, mountain lions, Columbia black-tailed deer and Rocky Mountain mule deer, valley and mountain quail, ducks, geese, pheasants, grouse and sagehens, provide, at various localities, sports for nimrods with rifle or shotgun. There are three game refuges in this general territory.

Beckwourth (327.17) named for James P (Jim) Beckwourth, noted Indian scout and guide, who discovered the relatively low pass, normally free from heavy snowfall, through which the Western Pacific crosses the Sierra Nevada, this being at a lower elevation than any other western railroad. In fact, Beckwourth Pass is the lowest pass for hundreds of miles in either direction through the mountain barriers between the coastal plain and the interior plateaus.

It was in 1852 that Jim Beckwourth rescued an emigrant train which was lost while trying to make its way west through the Sierra Nevada. One of the members of the emigrant train was Ina Coolbrith, subsequently California's poet laureate. Beckwourth lifted Ina and her sister on his horse before him, and piloted the emigrant train to safety through the Beckwourth Pass and along the way that became one of the early emigrant trails. Many years later, Ina Coolbrith, having crossed the portals of literary fame, recalled that Beckwourth had remarked, on arriving at the California line:

"Here is California, little girls. Here is your kingdom."

"And California is my kingdom and has been my kingdom ever since," said Ina Coolbrith.

Mount Ina Coolbrith, named for her, is in Sierra county, directly south of the line of the Western Pacific.

At the town of Beckwourth, which is about one-half mile northwest of the station, Beckwourth established a trading post for emigrant trains.

Hawley (328.1). From this station a 12-mile branch line runs to Loyalton in Sierra county, where scenes of stories by Bret Harte were laid, among them were: "The Outcasts of Poker Flat," "M'liss" and "The Iliad of Sandy Bar."

Chilcoot (339.6). Near this station was the old Chilcoot Summit House which was used as a resting point for emigrants in prairie schooner days, and later as a stage station. According to the United States Bureau of Ethnology, the name is Indian and is probably derived from Chilacatha, one of the four tribal divisions of the Shawnee. As this point was named long before Alaska became a territory, it is not to be connected with Chilkoot Pass, near Skagway, Alaska.

Chilcoot Tunnel (340.34). Within this tunnel, which is 6001.7 feet in length, and at an elevation of 5,019 feet, the Western Pacific crosses the Sierra Nevada.

Reno Junction (341.7). This point is just beyond the eastern portal of Chilcoot Tunnel and marks the beginning of the descent by the railroad of the Nevada face of the Sierra Nevada. From Reno Junction, a 63-mile branch line, operated primarily for freight service extends to Reno, metropolis of Nevada and nearest point to Virginia City (Comstock Lode) and Carson City, capital of Nevada.

Reno Junction first was named Rainbow. The story of how it first came to be so named comes from the correspondence of Virgil Gay Bogue, chief construction engineer when the railroad was built.

Bogue had had difficulty in driving the Chilcoot Tunnel. However, as is typical of engineers whose goal is to put a project through, Bogue had courage, optimism and imagination. And in this connection there is quoted the following extract from one of his letters to his superior:

“A few days ago, having inspected the progress on Chilcoot Tunnel, and having had a very hard day, I walked over the surface of the ground. It had been raining all day, but as I neared the eastern portal of the tunnel, the sky cleared and there was a beautiful rainbow. I took this as a good omen and a promise that our efforts would be crowned with success.”

(The End)

Plumas Independent
6-13-1940

ALLINGHAMS PURCHASE BIG BEND RESORT

Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Allingham, former Quincy residents have recently purchased the store and cabins formerly owned by Mr. and Mrs. Claude Bass and Carl Wilson at Big Bend, about 3 1-2 miles from the Feather River highway, between Oroville and Quincy. The Surcease mine is one mile from the Big Bend Village. The Allinghams are making many changes in their recently acquired property by installing a gas station and will build some more cabins to accommodate their guests.

Plumas Independent

9-5-1940

BELDEN

Belden, Aug. 31.—The finding of a skull in this area late Wednesday evening, led to the uncovering of what is believed to have once been part of an Indian burial ground. The discovery was made following the finding of a skull while Charlie Gramps of Pulga, employed in highway repair work for the State Department, was getting pre-mix for road patching. He notified Dan Pengree, Highway Foreman of his find.

Further examination disclosed two skeletons on one side of the point, and three on the other, indicating that the point was possibly part of high plateau, recalled by older county residents. It is believed that with time, and the jar accompanying the construction of the highway, part of the plain sloughed off, to slide toward the river.

Sheriff L. A. Braden and Coroner Alice Rees were summoned to investigate.

That the Indians were of a mig-

ratory type, and different from others that inhabited this area was indicated by the positions of the skeletons, which had been buried in a lying-down position rather than the usual sitting posture. Personal effects had been buried with the bodies, and several fine arrow and spear heads, made of a red flint, found in Lassen and Modoc counties, were unearthed as well as black and white ones. That some of the bodies may have been squaws was assumed from the fine example of a pestle that had been interred.

The site where the interesting find was made is four miles west of Belden in the Chambers Creek area.

Oroville Mercury Register

9-12-1940

Pulga Indian To Fort Miley

Frank Reese, Pulga Indian, who is suffering from a gradual paralysis in the right side of his body, will be transferred to Fort Miley hospital at San Francisco for treatment. Dr. Dan Kilroy, resident physician at Good Samaritan hospital, said today.

Reese was brought to Oroville on the Western Pacific train last night, and was taken from the depot to the hospital by ambulance. He is a war veteran.

Oroville Mercury Register

10-10-1940

Gets Special Draft Rights

ISAIAH, small mining community on the Western Pacific railroad above Oroville, is in the spotlight in next Wednesday's draft registration.

Because there's no road into the Feather River community, the county clerk's office could not follow instructions to deliver draft supplies directly to the chief registrar and receive a receipt.

After communication with selective service headquarters in Sacramento, County Clerk Matthews received authority to send the supplies by express over the Western Pacific. The train will stop briefly while the supplies are thrown off.

Dixie Johnson Slated To File Murder Charge

*Sheriff Says Com-
plaint Will Name
Roy Scott, Slayer*

BULLETIN

A murder charge was filed against Roy Scott this afternoon.

A murder complaint was to be filed this afternoon in connection with the death of Dan Johnson, 28, whose body was removed from beneath a bridge near Pulga late Monday.

Dixie Johnson, the young man's father, was taken to Gridley this afternoon so he could swear to a complaint. Sheriff Taylor said it would name Roy Scott, 35, held for investigation in the case.

Harry S. Hills, justice of the peace here, was not in the city.

The case may be referred to the grand jury after the charge has been filed, according to Taylor. He said, however, that such action would rest with the district attorney.

A coroner's jury late Wednesday found that Johnson came to his death Dec. 8 by drowning following a beating after which he had been thrown into a creek. The verdict did not name the person responsible.

It was returned after Leah Simmons, a witness, had described a fight which she said occurred between Johnson and Roy Scott preceding discovery of Johnson's body.

DRAGGED TO CREEK

Sheriff Taylor testified there was evidence that a body had been dragged from the place where the woman said the battle occurred, to the bridge over Flea Valley Creek, where Scott reported he had found it.

The Simmons woman said that she saw Willie Gramps and Johnson near her place at Pulga Sunday morning, but that they left. Later Scott and Dan Johnson came there, she said. Johnson was intoxicated, she reported. She said that she and Scott told Johnson to leave and that she took him to Flea Valley Creek and told him to return home. However, Johnson twice came back to the house, and threatened to fight, she related.

Oroville Mercury Register 12-12-1940

WANTED TO FIGHT

"Roy and I took him to the car nearby," the witness said. "He wanted to fight, and he and Roy finally fought. Roy hit him with his fist and he was lying on the ground near the car."

Mrs. Simmons said that when Johnson went down she returned to the house and told the children the men had been fighting.

"Roy came back and told us he had hit Johnson, and we went to bed," the witness said.

The next morning after Scott had arisen and gone outside the cabin he returned, according to the woman, and said:

"There is a man down there in the creek."

The witness said she asked Scott who the man was but he wouldn't tell her.

The fight occurred during Sunday evening, the witness said.

Taylor related that he received a telephone call from Las Plumas power house about 4:30 p. m. Monday informing him that a body had been found under the Flea Valley bridge. The discovery had been reported at the power house by Scott, Taylor was informed.

The car near which the fight is reported to have occurred is 15 yards from the bridge, under which the body was lying.

There were indications of a struggle near the car, and evidence that some object had been dragged along the ground toward the bridge. Taylor said. There were blood stains on rocks and sticks.

The water in the creek was only 10 inches deep at the deepest part, and much of it was only 3 or 4 inches deep. The body was face down under the bridge, where it could not be seen unless someone looked for it, he said.

In response to a question by one of the jurors who sought to determine whether Johnson could have wandered under the bridge, about

4 feet high, Taylor expressed the opinion that the body had been dragged there by someone.

Deputy Coroner C. O. Hamilton told the jury a hat and a coat had been found near the automobile:

A report from Dr. Charles Benninger Jr. that Johnson had died from drowning, and that his right ear had been cut, his lips bruised, and 12 of his teeth knocked out, was read.

Deputy Coroner William Gaylord also described the injuries.

TRACKER A WITNESS

Dixie R. Johnson, Indian tracker and father of the dead youth, the first witness called, testified that his son was 28 years old.

L. S. Kirby was foreman of the jury, which included also Fred Ulrich, Ed McCoy, Greta Gaylord, John Church, Larry Martin, Tom Couris, Randall E. Warmack and Wallace Lee.

Hamilton and Riley announced that the body would be taken to Pulga today and that burial will take place in Dogwood cemetery Friday afternoon.

Johnson is survived by his mother and father, a brother, Elmer Johnson, and a daughter, Lilly Johnson of Sacramento.

Dixie Johnson Reads Woods As Another Reads His Newspaper

*Famous Indian Tracker Has Helped Law Solve
Crimes; Natural Instinct With Him*

A man who reads the story of between Flea Valley and Mayaro the woods as another might read his evening newspaper. That, perhaps, is the best description of Dixie



Mercury Photo and Engraving

DIXIE JOHNSON

Johnson, 72, full-blooded Concow Indian, famous for years as a tracker. Johnson lives on Camp Creek,

Lodge.

Johnson, who has helped solve some of the county's most puzzling criminal cases by his ability to track a man when the going is tough, hasn't been in the limelight in recent years, but he believes he still has the gift of being able to read the signs on the trail.

PRINTS TELL STORY

"I suppose it's natural for me," Johnson said. "But I've made a business of it."

To one who knows about such things, a man's footprint tells many things.

Johnson can look at your print in the woods and have a pretty good idea of where you were going and why.

"No one walks the same way," Johnson said.

PICKED UP TRAIL

There's always a characteristic to watch for, he explained. Because of their habits of walking some people's shoes show wear in one place, some in another. Some walk with their toes straight ahead. Others turn their feet out slightly.

Johnson practiced tracking as a

Oroville Mercury Register

12-26-1940

page 2 of 2

boy. It was an Indian game, similar to hide-and-go-seek. Sometimes a boy climbed a tree, swung on a branch and dropped to the ground to throw the pursuer off his trail. But Dixie was so expert at picking up the tracks that the trick seldom worked.

One of Johnson's best known accomplishments was the trailing of two men who robbed the Diamond Match Company's Camp No. 1 of approximately \$2800 in August, 1915. The work of Johnson, and the late Bill Peachy, one time constable, aided finally in the capture of the holdup men.

HE FOUND A LEAD

Officers had spent two or three days trying to learn the identity of the robbers before Johnson and Peachy were called upon.

Five hundred men had walked the railroad track going to and from the camp. For eight days Johnson and Peachy hunted, questioned workers about who may have come in or gone out by horseback or railroad. Then one day Johnson saw a track leading from the main road to a clump of brush on a nearby hill. It was as though the man who made it had stopped in the protection of the brush to watch what was going on below him.

That single track later led to the robbers' undoing.

ROBBERS' CAMP FOUND

After the robbery, in which a dollar watch stopped a bullet fired at a clerk and saved his life, the two robbers fled along a road used by hundreds of employes. However, Johnson finally discovered where they had left it and started up the mountain. At one point the men apparently had stopped behind a log to divide their loot. Part of the way they traveled up a log shoot, but their pursuers found, finally, where they had stepped across a tree to leave it. However, when their camp was reached the men had gone.

MONEY WAS GONE

The camp was four miles from the logging camp.

Three quarters of a mile farther on the two robbers were trapped on Big Rock Creek, near Merlin station. Realizing that they were being surrounded they hid their rifle and revolver under a pile of ties and concealed their money in a hobo camp near the railroad tracks. Later, after the men's arrest, when officers took them to the scene, it was discovered that a transient who had stopped at the camp apparently had found the can in which one of the robbers had placed his share of the money. It was gone.

Johnson also worked on the Watson murder case in the Southside a few years ago.

Frequently he has been called on to help hunt persons lost in the mountains.

"I think I could still track as well as ever," he said, as a reporter questioned him about his experiences in reading the message written by man's footprints in the past.