

Sacramento Bee

2-23-1942

Water Is Plentiful in Wyandotte District

OROVILLE, (Butte Co.), Feb. 23.—J. E. Alley, superintendent of the Oroville-Wyandotte Irrigation District, said there will be an ample supply of water this year for irrigation in the Oroville area.

Heavy rains and an ample snow pack in the Sierra have filled the reservoirs to capacity.

The Lost Creek Reservoir was full December 3rd with a total capacity of 5,600 acre-feet. While the Wyandotte Reservoir with 1,300 acre feet capacity is overflowing.

Walter B. Taylor, superintendent of the Thermalito Irrigation district, reported that Lake Wilenor, which holds 8,100 acre feet, already is 80 per cent filled.

Oroville Mercury Register

4-18-1942

OLD DAYS IN BUTTE

CHAPTER 62

QUARTZ MILLS PUT UP

By Florence D. Boyle

Concow Valley is about 25 miles north of Oroville. The first settlers of the valley were Dr. A. W. Thompson, and his nephew, who came from Illinois. They erected the first house. Charles W. Mullen and son, W. H. Mullen, located about the same time putting up a log house.

The valley took its name from a tribe of the Concow Indians, numbering about seven hundred, and who were camped there when it was first settled. G. G. Marquis came to California in 1850 and settled here in 1856. He was very successful in mining and merchandising. He had kept a store at Stringtown and then in Thompson's Flat before settling at Concow Valley. He was one of the first men in the county to investigate quartz mining.

CONCOW TOWNSHIP

Concow township was a most important mining region. It might almost be termed a "hotbed for Ghost towns." The following mining camps or towns now extinct were: Frenchtown, Spanishtown, Blairtown, Rich Gulch, Stone House, Chub Gulch, Spring Gulch, Jordan Hill, Hermitage, Dark Canon, Island Bar, Berry Creek Bar, Huff's Bar, Yankee Bar, Shore's Bar, Bartee's Bar, Nelson Bar, Kanaka Bar, Ohio Bar, Big and Little Kimshew, Big and Little Rock Creek, Last Chance, Brown's Ravine, Lindsay's Bar, Crane Valley, Flea Valley, East Branch, Jordan Creek and Buchanan Hill.

We seldom ever hear any of these names mentioned in the present day, yet at one time, each camp played its respective part in the building of the early history of Butte county.

At one time Concow township had five saw mills. The first was propelled by steam. Two years later another was put up at Dark Canon, and run by waterpower. This mill burned in 1859. Another water-power sawmill was in Concow Valley and which was burned in 1864. A fourth one, the Defiance was built in 1873. The last one was the Rock Creek Mill built in 1876.

A number of quartz mills were also built here. The Virgin mill was built in 1857 and ran for about six years. The "49 and 56" was erected the same year but was burned in 1868. Fuller's mill, built in 1859 met the same fate by fire in 1860. A water-power mill, built in 1859 erected in 1861 known as the "Pioneer" on the Virgin ledge was also burned. In 1865 the "Jordan Hill Mill" came into existence and burned in 1880. The McGrath mill was built in 1879.

The southern part of the township was the scene of the operations carried on by the Big Bend Tunnel and Mining Company.

The "Big Ben" of the north fork of Feather River had long been the object of many plans to drain the riverbed, and then mine the gold that was believed to be hidden in the bed of the river.

BIG BEND TUNNEL

In the year 1880, Col. J. C. Logan of Oakland and Major Frank McLaughlin of New York became interested in the plan to drain the "Big Bend."

John D. Barry, a prominent engineer of San Francisco, made a careful survey and examination giving a very favorable report. The ground was patented and the Big Bend Tunnel and Mining Company, with offices at Buffalo, New York, was organized.

Plans were to start at Whiskey Bar, running a tunnel through the main ridge of the mountains in a southwesterly direction to Dark Canon, a distance of 11,600 feet. At Whiskey Bar, a dam was to be thrown across the river, thus forcing the water through the tunnel. This would allow 14 miles of the river bed to be mined. Plans were made for canals to be built to take water to areas rich in soil but without production on account of lack of water. N. A. Harris was made superintendent, and proceeded to build roads and houses preparatory to commence work on the tunnel. When the work of building the tunnel was completed, it was found not large enough to carry the water. The tunnel was then enlarged, but in 1889 the project was given up as a failure.

Oroville Mercury Register

7-6-1942

They Gave Rubber

At the request of the service station dealers who feel that it will reassure those involved, the Mercury is publishing the list of those who have donated rubber in the present campaign and the weight.

OROVILLE	POUNDS		
		F. W. Chaplin	50
Mrs. Clara Thatcher	10	Wong Ming	48
Edward Stram	11	N. A. Rankin	38
Curley's Shoe Shop	19	Julia Fisher	3
Mrs. Reams	12	H. Gasend	36
E. E. Vance	10	A. K. Church	5
Freida Beik	5	Virginia Gregcry	12
Mary Silver	20	Laura Lee Childs	25
Tom Reeves	10	L. Lindin	3
Walter Joslyn	16	T. H. McMillian	59
Mrs. Hewey	10	R. Winslow	11
M. L. Marders	25	Bud Richter	139
Al Vaughan	18	R. A. Dodson	35
Mrs. Floyd Daniels	46	Norman Owens	33
Geo. R. Ward	4	Wendel Brown	5
V. J. Rasmussen	124	Lacy Downen, Berry Creek	34
Dwight Hammon	8	K. McMahan, Berry Creek	10
Mary Keifer	38	Elma Jelmyer, Yankee Hill	350
V. C. Cortell	10	Hoefling Bros. Yankee Hill	1610
M. Baker	33	Harry Drobish, Bangor	313
W. Willies	5	M. V. Taber, Palermo	13
John Cowee	12	M. J. Willis, Feather Falls	17
Jack Kemper	10	Jim Nimalay, Feather Falls	18
Jack & Helen Schenerman	40	Lee Hockaday, Feather Falls	12
		John Beik, Forbestown	25

J. S. Grisley, Roy Six, Are Victims

Oroville Mercury Register
7-7-1942

Firemen Attempt To Revive Pair With Inhalator

John Grisley and Roy J. Six were found at 3 p. m. today in the bottom of a partially empty wine cask, believed dead from gas fumes.

Six, an electrician, from Indiana, driving an automobile with License No. 149745, Indiana, came to work for Mr. Grisley this morning at the Feather River Winery.

At 2:30 they were discovered after Mrs. Alta Clark of Feather Falls and Mrs. Nina Gramps of Pulgo, who had gone to the winery looking for Grisley, had inquired among the various people there as to Grisley's whereabouts. After half an hour of search, Clarence Gross climbed on top of the 6000-barrel oak cask and peered down through the manhole. His flashlight disclosed the two bodies lying on the bottom, both bodies lying face down in the empty cask.

Immediately after the alarm was turned in, Chief of Police Lund and Undersheriff Gillick arrived. Shortly thereafter firemen arrived with the inhalator. Dr. Kusel was summoned.

There was no one who could tell how long they had been in the cask. Among those first to arrive was Mrs. Grisley who herself found an ax and took it down in the basement of the large building to the officers.

The men apparently were overcome by gas formed by the wine saturated wood of the cask. The opening at the top was large enough to allow a man to enter but not large enough to supply oxygen in competition with the gases forming in the bottom of the cask.

It was the opinion of those about the cask that the men were dead. An ax was used to break through it, which was accomplished quickly.

Undersheriff Gillick, Police Chief Lund and city firemen, with the resuscitator, went to the scene as soon as the emergency call was received.

Dix was identified by means of electrical books in his automobile. He was about 35 years old. His body was being removed from the basement at 3:25 but it was believed there would be no chance to revive him. Up to that time there had been no response shown by Grisley.

As Dr. Kusel arrived at 3:20 firemen had just taken Grisley's body out and were wrapping it in blankets preparatory to an attempt to restore breathing. They expressed hope that his life might be saved. The work was being done in the shade on the lawn.

Later the other man's body was being worked on manually on the lawn.

Dr. Kusel said, "I don't think they have a chance, but I may be wrong."

7-28-1942

Concow Forms Defense Body

The Concow Valley home defense council met at the Frank Stowell home Friday evening.

After a pot-lunch dinner the business meeting was called to order by Frank Clark, presiding officer. Plans were discussed to perfect an efficient method of fire control. The ladies will organize a mobile kitchen ready for any emergency. The group voted to meet every Friday evening and the next meeting will be held at the Frank Clark home. A barbecued dinner will be served followed by a business meeting.

The following members attended Friday evening: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Clark and two grandchildren, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lane and nephew, Mr. and Mrs. George Ashton and nephew, Mr. and Mrs. Frisbie, Mrs. Lucile Wanker and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Peck, Mrs. Ruth De Albert, Kenneth Nelson, Miss Eve Thompson, Mrs. J. C. Giesler and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stowell.

Oroville Mercury Register

7-31-1942

John Clark Home Burns

A large crew of firefighters and volunteers set backfires near The Pines, at Yankee Hill, late Thursday to control a fire that spread when the John Clark home burned to the ground.

Mrs. Clark was preparing to bake bread shortly after noon Thursday when she discovered the entire roof of the house was ablaze. She was able to save only two suitcases before flames enveloped the dwelling. She was unable to tell how the fire had started.

Two fire trucks from Stirling City went to the scene, and Surcease mine workers and all available men from Yankee Hill and Concow Valley were called to help control the fire.

The Gridley Herald

11-17-1942

Facts About Butte County Listed By Speaker

Interesting facts relating to Butte county were given by Fred Dealey, assistant county road engineer, at a meeting of an Oroville service club last week.

Dealey said Butte, comprising 1680 square miles, is bigger than the state of Rhode Island. Its geographical center is one mile north of Pentz and its population center is 8 miles south-west of the other point, 2 miles off the Chico-Oroville road, on Dry Creek.

Butte's highest mountain pass is 6660 feet elevation on the Humbug road. The next highest is 6649 feet on the Humboldt road. The longest county road is Oroville-Concow, taking off the Chico road, just out of Oroville and winding through Concow, Flea Valley, Ramsey Bar, Big KimsheW and Philbrook Reservoir to join the Humbug road at Chaperal.

Butte has an area ranking high in rainfall in continental United States. It extends from Las Plumas to Brush Creek and frequently hits 100 inches a season, although the county average is 27.06 inches.

Butte county has 8 lakes, but all of them are artificial.

12-12-1942

Hills To Urge Pair's Release

City Judge Harry S. Hills will recommend to the county parole board that it release Roy Johnson and Wanda Johnson, Pulga Indians, from the county jail before they have completed their 90-day sentences imposed Wednesday on peace disturbance charges.

He summoned the defendants into court Friday afternoon and questioned them following reports that they had not been guilty of the offense on which the charge was based, although each had pleaded guilty.

Both said they had not committed the offense on which the sentence was based. They were arrested in the Hewitt Claim Tuesday afternoon.

Hills said he would ask the parole board to release Johnson after 15 days, and Wanda Johnson after 30 days.