

Reno Gazette Journal

4-3-1944

OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER IN STATE CHANGES HANDS

Democratic Editorial Policy Discarded For First Time in Seventy-Nine Years

Nevada's oldest daily newspaper and one of the oldest publications in the state changed hands today with Wesley L. Davis, jr., taking over the Carson City Daily Appeal.

Henry R. Mighels and Bernice Mighels McDonald, heirs of the late Ida B. Mighels, announced sale of the paper.

A change in editorial policy of the Appeal was announced by the new publisher under which the newspaper will discard its political affiliation with the Democratic party which has prevailed for seventy-nine years and become independent.

Davis, for the last seven months operator of the Carson City Chronicle, a weekly, purchased the paper from George R. Burris, owner of the Placerville Times. Burris purchased the paper from the Mighels' estate March 25, but before he took over operation discovered that due to 'manpower shortages he would be unable to publish both the California and Nevada newspapers, so the sale to Davis was arranged.

Recently Davis purchased the Virginia City News. Davis is well known throughout Nevada. He obtained his early newspaper training on the Solano County Republican at Suisun, Calif., under his father, Wesley L. Davis, sr. Davis said he believed it was particularly significant that the Solano Republican is the oldest newspaper in continuous operation in California and the Appeal is the oldest daily newspaper in Nevada.

"I plan to eventually develop the Appeal not only as a newspaper which will adequately fill the need for an active daily newspaper in the Nevada state capital but to make it into a bona fide commercial printing center." David said. He explained he plans to add new equipment as need develops and as such machinery becomes available.

"We feel that its new owners will carry on the sound newspaper policy that has served the people of Nevada so well for the past seventy-nine years," a statement signed by the Mighels heirs said.

Chico Record

6-17-1944

Fire Destroys St. James Catholic Church In Durham

By GLADYS SPEEGLE

Fire, early yesterday afternoon, believed to have been started in a defective flue, completely destroyed the St. James Catholic church in Durham which was covered by insurance, at an estimated damage of \$5,500.

The homes and Victory gardens of Yearsleys on the south side of the church and of Mrs. Genevieve Foster on the north side of the church each suffered damages of \$75. A shed in the rear of the Foster property was burned but the wood was saved.

Two other homes nearby were also slightly damaged. One house, part of the old Conrey place, was occupied by a caretaker, Fred Gwinnup and another house on the same property, occupied by Shorty Tippton was also slightly damaged.

Durham residents were especially proud yesterday of their fire alarm systems which operated efficiently. During the period when blackouts were all the rage hereabouts, Durham installed a siren atop the Standard station and used it as a blackout warning signal. After the danger of Tojo and Adolph had passed the siren was officially designated as the fire signal and it was pressed into service efficiently yesterday by Mrs. L. H. Gebauer, whose husband operates the station. The Durham U. B. church bell also summoned aid yesterday. Harley Colbert tugged lustily at the bell cord to give Durham residents the additional warning.

Fire Chief E. H. Brown, his assistant, Kenneth Smith and the Durham fire crew with the aid of county trucks from Oroville, Co-hasset and Chico, did an excellent job in fighting the fire.

The St. James Catholic church was erected 23 years ago of wood salvaged from the old Catholic church in Cherokee. This church in Cherokee was one of the first Catholic churches built in Butte County.



7-21-1944

Mrs. De Rego Says Husband Beat Her Badly

Alleging that as a consequence of her husband's extreme physical cruelty, she is now confined to the Enloe hospital, Chico, Mary Ella De Rego today filed suit for divorce against James Joseph De Rego of Pentz.

The complaint, prepared by Attorneys Goldstein and Goldstein of Chico, states the DeRegos were married in 1932 and that at intervals of three to six months over the past five years, De Rego has inflicted physical violence on the plaintiff.

De Rego is charged with one instance of particular brutality at Pentz in November last.

She claims he knocked out one front tooth, displaced three vertebrae, put a hip out of place by twisting her leg, blackened both arms, so injured her chest that she still is spitting blood in July, 1944.

Mrs. DeRego asks a restraining order to prevent him from selling community property. Among the property is listed the home ranch of 275 acres at Pentz, valued at \$20,000; furnishings, \$1500; a 165 acre ranch in Flea Valley, Butte county, \$5000, and horse, cattle, hogs and farming machinery.

Stating that her husband's income as a rancher is in excess of \$5000 annually, Mrs. DeRego asks \$350 monthly, \$1000 attorney fees, and \$250 for costs of suit.

There are no children.

Chico Record

9-19-1944

Forest, Brush Fire Rages Near Pulga

A forest and brush fire was still raging unchecked in the steep country near Pulga yesterday evening as crews tried to check the fire before it got into the Sawmill Peak and Flea Valley section which was blackened by fire in 1929.

Over 275 men were battling the flames, including 100 soldiers from Camp Beale.

Sheriff Forward and ranger E. P. Biggs investigated the fires, which started about 100 yards west of Pulga. There were four fires in a row and a fifth started three-quarters of a mile up the mountain, all merging later into the present wide front blaze.

A truck, loaded with a bulldozer tipped over near Jarbo Gap about 22 miles up the Feather River canyon. Roy MacCormack, driver of the truck, escaped injury. The truck was slightly damaged as was the bulldozer which was to be used in fighting the fire.

9-29-1944

War Objectors Assigned To Belden Camp Lead Own Lives

*For Most Part CO's Don't Mix With Public;
District Accepts Camp As Wartime Measure*

(To learn how the conscientious objector lives in war time, what he thinks about and how he is accepted by a neighborhood, Wallace Kunkel, Mercury writer, has visited the C. O. camp near Belden on the North Fork of the Feather. Following is the first of several articles on the subject.)

By WALLACE KUNKEL

You hesitate about walking up to a man and asking him why he's a conscientious objector.

If you have someone in your family, who came through D-day, someone who is sweating it out on Peleliu, or someone who has been on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific for months, you don't want to hear any explanation.



When you see a "C. O." you turn your head and try to think of something else. The young man there, as strong as your boy, doesn't belong in your world and your boy's world, and you put him out of your mind, as you would some unpleasant memory. And you're glad your boy, who doesn't like war either, is taking the unpleasant, grotesque interruption in his stride as something to be finished, so he can get back to what idealists call the normal course of life.

INTERVIEWS THE NEIGHBORS

We tried to think the thing out as we drove into Belden, on the way to the Belden conscientious objectors' camp at Gansner Bar, but arrived nowhere.

What do their neighbors think of them, we thought. That would be a good starting point. We made a casual inquiry at Belden, about two miles from the camp. The men probably would come there on nights away from camp.

While we were in Belden a "C. O." arrived for the mail. He walked quietly into the store, got the mail and left. No one paid any attention to him. He spoke to no one, except the postmaster.

THEY'RE QUIET FELLOWS

One Belden resident told us most of the residents accepted the establishment of the camp as a wartime measure. The men didn't come to Belden often. For one thing, they didn't have much money. Many of them didn't smoke. Some took a glass of beer.

They were quiet. While some people resented their presence, the residents generally didn't have much to do with them. That was the adult view.

Near the camp we met a youth of 18. He was carrying an automatic rifle and, with his dog, had walked down the mountain to the road. Our first thought was that he had come from the camp, but we couldn't reconcile it with the fact that he was carrying a gun. If these fellows don't believe in killing men, we concluded, they probably wouldn't shoot deer, either.

WHAT THE BOY THOUGHT

The boy was waiting for his companions, and we struck up a conversation. We asked him about the camp.

He said quite a number of persons had mistaken him for a conscientious objector, because they had seen him in the vicinity. You could see that he resented being considered in the same class with anyone from the camp.

He related that he had tried unsuccessfully to get into the navy, and later, becoming 18, had been taken for army service. He hadn't told the army surgeons that he had a punctured ear drum, although he knew that the drum was punctured. He felt pretty tough later when the ear injury was discovered during a routine monthly checkup by the army and he was given a medical discharge.

HIS IDEA OF THEIR VIEW

Had he talked with any of the

men from the camp regarding their views on the war?

"Most of them don't say anything," he answered. "If they do, it's only that it is against their religion to kill. A lot of other fellows don't want to kill either, but they're doing it. Maybe some of these C. O.'s are sincere, but I believe most of them are afraid of it.

"And then they say we should talk things over and settle things peaceably. I suppose they believe we should have talked things over with the Japs after they blasted Pearl Harbor!"

(Tomorrow: Kunkel visit the C. O. camp.)

9-30-1944

Army Atmosphere Lacking At Gansner Bar Objectors Camp

Barracks G.I., But Resemblance Ends There; Visitors Don't Follow Military Formality

By WALLACE KUNKEL

A large sign on the Feather River Highway directs the way to the Belden CPS camp, over the dirt road that skirts the North Fork, the stream fishermen dream about on hot summer days.



Wallace Kunkel

The initials puzzled us, but we knew the location of the camp. (We learned later CPS means Civilian Public Service.)

At the camp itself, not half a mile along the river road, there are other signs.

One reads "CCC camp." That was a holdover from the days when the Gansner Bar location provided quarters for some of the thousands of young men who worked in the forests because they couldn't get jobs, but didn't receive military training for the reason that the nation wouldn't have tolerated it then.

The other says "Army Headquarters." That was put up when army troops were stationed at the old CCC camp to guard bridges and tunnels along two vital military routes, the Feather River Highway and the Western Pacific railroad.

NO SENTRIES THERE

The buildings themselves look G.I. A dozen barracks structures, brown-painted, clean-looking. But no guard stopped us to ask our business, no young men in fatigue clothes were policing the company streets. A dark young man, bare to the waist, as tan as the boys in the Pacific, was landscaping the ground near one of the buildings. Two others passed carrying tools. On the steps of one structure two young men sat talking.

We asked them where we could find the Rev. Mr. Williams, camp director. He was in his office, inside the building, they said. A blond young man was filling out forms at a desk inside the long room, and we told him we wished to see Mr. Williams.

"He's in his office, just go in," the young man said. He was soft-spoken.

"THIS AIN'T THE ARMY"

This, you realized definitely, was-

n't the army. You weren't required to obtain a pass, and you didn't have to see a private, who referred you to a sergeant, who referred you to a first lieutenant, who turned you over to a captain.

You walked in, and there you were.

The Rev. O. P. Williams, camp director, was busy writing at his desk when we entered and told him we wanted to write some newspaper articles on the camp.

(Tomorrow, camp director is interviewed.)

Colleges Have Many In C. O. Belden Camp

By **WALACE KUNKEL**

We told the Rev. Mr. O. P. Williams, director of the conscientious objectors camp, that we wished to write some articles on the camp. He arose, shook hands, and explained that he was quite busy. However,



Wallace Kunkel

he'd have Mr. Maiden, the assistant director, show us about.

I told the director I'd like to interview some of the men, too, and obtain their viewpoints.

"Just ask them any questions you wish," he replied. "I'm sure they'll be glad to answer them."

The assistant director was out of the office at the time, and we went on with the interview.

USED TO FIGHT FIRES

The minister-director said there were 152 men at the camp. Their main function was to fight fires, he said. Fifteen or 20 were at each of five spikes, or branch camps, in the Mendocino, Lassen and Plumas forests. On the day we visited the camp, the men were fighting a fire in Mendocino national forest. The few at the camp, probably 20, were on standby orders, or were working in the laundry, the bakery the kitchen or on other jobs.

"When they are not fighting fire they do other jobs," Williams said.

"They thin trees, make roads, work at experiment stations, haul gas, sharpen tools and do other work in the forest."

Ages of the men range from 19 to 38 years, with an average of 23.4 years, he told me. Only two are 38.
COME FROM "ALL OVER"

Where do they come from? I wondered. Was there something in environment, or home training that tended to make a man a pacifist?

They were from Virginia to the Pacific coast, I learned. Their homes were in Kansas, Illinois, Colorado, New Mexico, Oregon, California. . . .

"They're just a cross section," the director went on, "with perhaps more tendency toward higher education than would be found in some other groups."

MANY ARE COLLEGE GRADS

Many had their college degrees. The majority were at least high school graduates.

Half the men at the camp came from rural communities, many from the middle west. I wondered whether there was any relationship between isolationism and unequivocal objection to war.

The director continued . . .

And while he talked I wasn't thinking of figures, and average ages. I was wondering about the men themselves. What were they like? What were their thoughts?

The director was saying:

"Some are members of churches, and some are non-affiliated."

ONLY ONE THING IN COMMON

"The one thing they have in common is an objection to war. Not merely a negative objection. It is our intention to better world conditions and make for its prevention. In other words, to do something constructive."

I felt that he was anxious that the men get a "break"

"It is lawful and permissible for a man to come to a Civilian Public Service Camp in lieu of active military service," the director said.

"There is a general feeling that the men are using this as an escape mechanism. I believe, however, that nine out of ten are sincere."

(Tomorrow, the camp director tells how the camps were organized and explains their operation.)

10-2-1944

Concow Officer Nabs Two Youths For Reno

OROVILLE (Butte Co.), Oct. 2.—Sheriff W. H. Forward said Donald Williams, 21, and Douglas Stevens, 19, were arrested in Concow by Constable Robert Easley of Paradise for the Reno police.

The Reno authorities said the young men were wanted for receiving stolen property. They were booked at the county jail awaiting arrival of Reno officers.

Churches Run 15 C. O. Camps Through U. S.

Oroville Mercury Register

10-3-1944

By WALLACE KUNKEL

(No. 4 in a series on the Conscientious Objectors Camp near Belden.)

The Belden conscientious objectors camp, like those in other parts of the country, was established by the National Service board for Religious Objectors, the Rev. Mr. O.



Wallace Kunkel

P. Williams, camp director, informed me.

The program was worked out with the approval of Selective Service.

Different religious groups had a voice in the formation of the board.

Fifteen camps are operated by individual churches, with each church assuming responsibility for operation of one camp.

RUN BY BROTHERS CHURCH

The Belden camp is conducted by The Church of the Brethren and the director is a Brethren minister, he told me.

"This is a base camp," the Rev. Williams said. "The men have the privilege of going from here to detached service in veterans and mental hospitals."

Fifteen hundred conscientious objectors are serving in mental hospitals throughout the country, and 2000 others are engaged in soil erosion control and the rehabilitation of rural areas, he said.

IN NATIONAL SERVICE

It was agreed between Selective Service and the National Service Board for Religious Objectors that the men classified by their draft boards as conscientious objectors should do work of national service. Forestry work, such as that done at Belden, was one of the activities considered to be in this classification.

The men spend from 90 days to a year in base camp.

"Half of the men are interested in social work, and at times when they are on standby duty camp life seems humdrum to some of them," the Rev. Mr. Williams said.

THEIR LIFE AMBITION

"Many want to go into reconstruction and rehabilitation activities overseas after the war, as missionaries or to help rebuild devastated areas. They hope to care for the sick and to help build up the health of the war-stricken peoples through nutrition programs."

The camp director said the men engaged in fire fighting and other forest activities work under direction of the forest service, and that forestry officers in immediate charge of camp crew members have praised their work.

The men work 8½ hours a day, the director reported.

For this they receive no government compensation. No issue of government clothing, no GI meals, no hospital and dental care, nor the right to obtain government insurance at low rates. Nor are there allotments allowed to dependants.

Each man receives \$2.50 a month from the churches that support the camps. Whatever other money he receives, if any comes from his wife, his mother or his father or other relatives.

GET 30 DAYS OFF A YEAR

"The camp is under the same regulations as the army," the director told us when we asked about rules.

"The men get 30 days furlough a year."

The terms which mean getting away from camp are a mixture of army and navy designations, it developed.

The men receive a weekend "leave." You can have "liberty" every night, except when there is a fire danger and everyone is held in camp.

When a C.O. leaves camp for the night he punches a card and signs out. And he must report by 6 a. m. the next day, the director reported.

A C.O. who overstays his leave loses three days of his furlough time for each day he is overdue at camp.

THEY CAN BE AWOL

If the men walk out they become as AWOL as the toughest German hating-Jap bating Pfc. in Uncle Sam's fighting army.

"Anyone who is AWOL is picked up by the FBI," the director said, "but we've had every few such cases."

(Tomorrow, Kunkel talks to some of the men at the C.O. camp.)

10-4-1944

Belden Group Of COs Willing To Go To Work

By WALLACE KUNKEL

(No. 5 in a series on the Conscientious Objectors Camp near Belden.)

The interview with the Rev. Mr. Williams, director of the Belden conscientious objectors camp had ended, when Harry Maiden, the assistant director, came in.

He had been swimming in the river during the noon hour.



Wallace Kunkel

Williams told him I was from the Mercury and wanted to write some stories on the camp. Would Harry kindly show us through the various buildings?

"I'd like to talk to some of the boys, too," I said.

I felt a little sensitive about

the whole thing.

WALLIE WAS EMBARRASSED

I hate to ask a fellow why he doesn't conform. Why he doesn't think the way you do, or the way your neighbor does.

It wasn't as though there was anything illegal about being a conscientious objector.

Maiden, slender, polite, was introducing me to Fred Heckman, 25, the blond young man who sat at the desk outside the director's private office, working on forms.

HECKMAN'S VIEWS

He told me: "We're opposed to the militaristic method of settling things. We all have that one point of agreement."

The men at the camp differed from the so-called absolutists. An absolutist, he said, is opposed not only to bearing arms for his country, but also doing any kind of work for it.

The interview seemed to be on an objective plane and I tried to personalize it, asking whether he had undergone any particular hardship because of his decision to take the course he had taken.

"I think everyone has felt discrimination to some extent," he replied, "considering the types of work that were open to them before they made their declarations as conscientious objectors and the types of work that were open to them afterward."

He didn't elaborate.

It wasn't until later that some one told me Heckman had been an instructor at the University of Colorado.

"Many of the men could have slipped by, and the fact that they were conscientious objectors might never have been brought out," he said, "but they chose to claim exemption as provided in the Selective Service Act.

He brought out that the men who receive a 4E classification as conscientious objectors must satisfy their draft boards and also the FBI that their claims are legitimate.

TREATMENT AWAY FROM CAMP

How were the men treated away from camp? I asked.

"Those on furloughs have found little opposition to the C. O. as individuals," he replied.

With the help of the man at the desk, Maiden produced the information that 42 of the 152 men in the camp had attended college. In addition, 51 others had been graduated from high school. There are 23 professional men in the group.

Thirty are married men, many of whose wives and children are supported by the churches.

DISCIPLINE NOT A PROBLEM

There are few discipline problems, Maiden said. But if a man doesn't comply with regulations his case can be referred to Selective Service for action.

There must be many cases, I remarked, in which men had suffered considerable hardship by their decision to claim conscientious objection.

"We've had three in which wives have divorced them, and one in which a father has disowned his son," Maiden said.

Tomorrow, more about the men at the Belden C. O. Camp.)

C. O. Gives His Idea Of War And Violence

By WALLACE KUNKEL

(No. 6 in the series on the Conscientious Objector Camp near Belden.)

Fred Nora was working in the library of the Belden conscientious objectors camp when I entered with Harry Maiden, the assistant director.

The moustached, slightly graying assistant director, himself a conscientious objector, introduced Nora as the editor of a weekly newspaper.



Wallace Kunkel

Nora, 27, said he was editing a Yellow Springs, Ohio, weekly at the time he was drafted. Yellow Springs is a town of 2000 population.

LA VERNE COLLEGE MAN

Nora also had been employed in a movement to promote small towns as desirable places of residence and was interested in the co-operative movement. He had obtained his master's degree in journalism. He is accredited by LaVerne College, a Brethren institution in Los Angeles county, as an instructor in social sciences at the camp. He doesn't receive any money for it. He was recently guest editor of a Methodist student magazine.

"There is more to the way we feel than just opposition to something," he said. "With all respect to those who are carrying on the war effort it is more natural for men to be brothers than enemies. I personally feel that you don't have to beat a man's brains out to make him your friend, and that the more force you use the less likely he is afterward to continue to be your friend."

Oroville Mercury Register
10-5-1944

HOPES TO JUSTIFY HIS STAND

I asked him whether he thought the men would be handicapped after the war by their stands as conscientious objectors.

"It will depend upon the community they go back to," he said. "In the community in which I lived the people were quite tolerant.

"We'll have to justify our stand by what we have done, by working and studying, by doing something to advance the peace plans."

There are 2000 books in the library. I glanced over some of the shelves quickly, but I can't remember the title of any except the Harvard Classics. But there wasn't anything trashy. Non-fiction books were more popular than fiction, Nora told us.

Many of the books were owned by the men at the camp. Others had been donated. Some came from the Plumas county library.

BOOKS ON PEACE IN LIBRARY

Near the desk was a group of books on how to prevent wars and promote peace. Books whose authors are trying to obviate the periodic madness of war.

Books by idealists who believe you can promote peace by understanding, as opposed to the realists who believe peace is something you may have to fight for.

(Tomorrow, Kunkel visits other buildings at the Belden C. O. camp.)

10-6-1944

Churches Pay Medical Bills Of C. O. Camp

By WALLACE KUNKEL

(No. 7 in the series on the Conscientious Objector Camp near Belden.)

In a closet in the recreation hall at the Belden conscientious objectors camp is a clothes closet in which I saw some dozen or 15 men's coats and trousers. For the most part,



Wallace Kunkel

they appeared to be discarded business suits.

"They were given to us by some friends," Harry Maiden, the assistant camp director explained.

"The men aren't supplied with clothing, so we leave these here. And if anyone sees something that fits him he is welcome to take it."

THE RECREATION CENTER

There was a pool table in the room, a ping pong table, and a sewing machine, probably for mending torn clothing.

At one end of the room was a canteen. The camp is a member of the California Co-operative Society and buys its supplies through the society, Maiden explained.

In another building was a crafts room. The men had brought a band saw, a drill press, a planer and other electrically operated wood-work equipment from their homes. Some had made wooden brooches to be sold for pocket money. Others were making wooden salt and pepper shakers. They worked at night.

RED CROSS MAN THERE

There is no hospital on the grounds, but the camp has a six-bed infirmary, freshly painted. The man in charge was working on some forms covering an injury case. There is no physician at the infirmary, and no nurse, but the infirmary attendant has graduated from a Red Cross course.

"Any serious cases are taken to Quincy or Oroville where we have doctors, paid at church expense," Maiden told us.

CHURCH PAYS MEDICAL BILLS

The church pays any medical bills incurred by the men, even when they are injured while fighting fires. The church paid a \$100 charge because one C. O. was hurt in a cement mixer accident while making pathways at the Santa Barbara camp before the camp was moved to Belden.

"You remember that fellow Ralph Ziegler, who was burned this month in the Blinzig fire?" Maiden asked. "He is one of our men."

I recalled the incident, but didn't know at the time it happened that Ziegler was a C. O.

Ziegler, a member of a Brush Creek forest fire fighting crew, was credited with having saved the life of Edwin Bauman, another fire fighter.

Bauman had become separated from his companions when fire nearly trapped a crew of men. Ziegler dashed through the flames and led him to safety. Ziegler suffered severe burns on one arm, and was hospitalized in Oroville.

The church paid the bill.

(Tomorrow's article describes preparations for meal time at the Belden C. O. camp.)

Finds Martyr Complex In C. O. Quarters

Oroville Mercury Register
10-9-1944

By WALLACE KUNKEL

(No. 8 in the series on the Conscientious Objectors camp near Belden.)

With the assistant camp director I walked from one building to the other in the conscientious objectors camp.

"You might just as well see the sleeping quarters," he said. "Things aren't as strict as the army, but you ought to see for yourself."



Wallace Kunkel

The army furnishes blankets and the army beds, once used by the CCC enrollees.

The barracks room might have been part of an army camp, except the beds weren't as carefully made. There was the same drabness.

LIGHTS OUT AT 10

One man had rigged up a bed light with the aid of a large discarded can, a wooden fram and some clamps.

"There's an unwritten rule that the center lights must be turned out at 10 o'clock," Assistant Director Maiden said.

We walked through the latrine, and it was as wide open and as public as anything in the army. Rows and rows of wash basins and other equipment, without partitions.

The fellow who had been landscaping the grounds near the executive building when I entered was getting a drink from one of the combination fountains and wash basins.

THEY MISSED IT A YEAR

Maiden introduced us. The fellow said that because he was opposed to war he had not signed his draft questionnaire, and Selective Service hadn't discovered the omission for a year.

"The federal judge asked me whether I would rather go to prison for a year or to a conscientious objectors camp," he said, "and I wouldn't

make a choice. So they sent me here."

FROM JAIL TO CAMP

A companion, who, I learned later, had come from a farm in New Mexico, had served three months in jail rather than consent to enter the army. Then he had been sent to the camp.

I felt that he took a certain satisfaction in the fact that he had suffered imprisonment for a principle. I thought I could sense something of the religious zealot in the man who was the gardener.

Maiden told us the man was a graduate of the University of California at Davis.

"He reads his Bible every day and conducts services for the boys," said the assistant camp director.

We walked through another room into the mess hall.

THEY'RE SERIOUS ABOUT IT

The table was set. In the kitchen three or four men were busy preparing the meal. One was cutting vegetables for a salad, and another was making the main dishes. There wasn't any horseplay. The cook went on with his work while he talked with us.

The menu was chili, squash, corn bread, carrots, baked potatoes, orange juice, a vegetable salad and bread pudding.

The men have coffee for breakfast, and sometimes milk at other meals.

CAN THEIR OWN FRUIT

We went into a back store room where there were jars of peaches.

"We do all our own canning," Maiden said. "Some of our friends in the valley who have orchards give us fruit."

We went into the bakery where another C. O. was operating a bread mixer.

The assistant director explained that the bakery had been added by the church after it had taken over the camp.

(Tomorrow, more about operation of the camp.)

Oroville Mercury Register

10-10-1944

C. Os. Drafted But They End Up Elsewhere

By WALLACE KUNKEL

(No. 9 in a series on the Conscientious Objectors camp near Belden.)

It seemed singular at first when the men in the Belden conscientious objectors camp referred to having been "drafted."

Then I realized that they had gone through Selective Service and had passed their physical and mental examinations at induction centers.



Wallace Kunkel

Instead of going to an army camp or a navy training station, they had been sent to the C. O. camp, with their transportation paid by the government.

GOT THEIR "SHOTS" TOO

At the camp they received their typhoid shots, and were vaccinated against smallpox.

The inoculation and vaccination had been given during a 12 day conditioning program, in which they became used to camp routine. It is during this period when every man must take an American Red Cross first aid test.

Without reveille call to summon the men to their day's duties, they are awakened by the banging of a gong at 6:15 a. m. They have breakfast at 6:45 a. m. and work until 4:30 p. m., six days a week.

"OVERHEAD" KEPT DOWN

A report is made out every working day showing the assignment of every man in camp and giving the

names of those on the sick list.

The number of men on "overhead" or in supervisory capacities is strictly limited by Selective Service, Malden said.

They include himself as an assistant director, a non-salaried post. The assistant director and the recreation director are elected by the men.

Twice a year Selective Service inspects the camp.

The camp has its own laundry.

When we visited it a man was busy washing clothing and the towels for the men in the various branch camps, who send in their soiled clothing each week.

It is placed in containers and returned to the camps.

One of the men, as business manager of the camp, buys supplies. Sometimes they are bought on the retail market in Oroville or Quincy. More frequently he drives to Sacramento to the wholesale markets and returns with foodstuffs.

The men have their own motion picture theatre.

They remodeled a barracks building to provide a stage, constructed a projection booth and made benches for the audience. In the winter, feature motion pictures are to be purchased and shown with a 16 millimeter projection machine.

Now, while many of the men are working in the forests most of the films are educational pictures obtained without cost from various agencies.

The last bill consisted of a film from the Bureau of Mines on the manufacture of synthetic rubber, a British Bureau of Information release showing the position of the have and the have-not nations regarding world resources, and a short on the invasion of France.

Kunkel Finds Two Kinds Of Americans

Oroville Mercury Register
10-11-1944

By WALLACE KUNKEL

(No. 10 and final article on the Conscientious Objectors Camp near Belden.)

Harry Maiden, the assistant camp director, told me, with a British accent, of the "guinea pig" volunteers and the hospital workers as we walked back toward the administration building.



Wallace Kunkel

Ten men from the camp have volunteered to be subjects of government-sponsored experiments in starvation diets and in tests to determine minimum Vitamin B1 requirements

of the human body.

It is anticipated that others will sign later, he said.

2500 WORK IN HOSPITALS

While acting as "guinea pigs" the men devote from 20 to 32 hours a week training for relief and rehabilitation work. The instruction cost is paid for by the church.

"Fifteen of our men have volunteered to work in the Lyons (N. J.) veterans hospital," Maiden told us. "There are 2500 C.O.'s working in hospitals."

I asked Maiden about himself.

He is the oldest man sent to the camp. In December he will be 39.

CONTROLLED BY CONSCIENCE

He is a cable operator, and had been one of the operators of the Atlantic cable. He was in America when he was called under Selective Service through an agreement for the drafting of Allied nationals.

"I suppose I would have been exempt from service because of my occupation but I did not feel I could conscientiously transmit a message that would send other men to their deaths any more than I could kill them myself," he declared.

He said he intended to make his home in America after the war.

"I'd like to do social service work in this country, or to do rehabilitation and reconstruction work abroad

if C.O. units are allowed to go abroad," he remarked.

There was an air of quiet sincerity in his voice.

LIKED THE LOCATION

The sun was putting millions of highlights on the famed North Fork.

"It's a nice location we have here, isn't it?" Maiden remarked politely.

Were his people in England? I asked.

"My mother is living there," he replied. "I had a letter from her today. My father was killed in the First World War. He was a member of the Grenadier Guards. Of course, the name doesn't mean anything to me, but over there the Grenadier Guards are regarded as something special."

KUNKEL DOPES IT OUT

I was still trying to figure it out as I drove down the Feather River Highway. Perhaps it simmered down to a question of individual sincerity. A man is entitled to his own individuality, his own beliefs. It's one of the privileges that make America.

Then we saw the troop train on its way down the Western Pacific, carrying hundreds of men to San Francisco on their way to the islands of the Pacific, eventually to Japan itself. There was a rush of coaches and a waving of hands, smiling and serious faces. I had forgotten about the camp. I was thinking of the kid sweating it out on Peleliu, the boy who came through D-Day in France; the youngster on the aircraft carrier, and the men on the troop train. And I thought, proudly, This, too, is America.

It may interest some of our readers to know that I have a son, Wesley P. Kunkel, radio technician first class, who has been on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific for six months.

10-21-1944

Old Pentz Ranch Near Oroville Changes Hands

OROVILLE (Butte Co.), Oct. 21. Sale of the historic Pentz Ranch 10 miles north of Oroville was disclosed here in the filing of papers for a deal in which a total of 6,300 acres of cattle land changed hands.

It is one of the largest land transactions in many years.

The contract for the sale of real property involves the holdings of the Chico Meat Company, Inc., to the Kesterson Lumber Corporation, also reported to be in the market for additional cattle lands in this area.

The Butte County lands of the meat company largely are east of the Oroville-Chico Road and extend as far as the Cherokee community.

Used In Early Days

Descriptions of the property in several instances use the oldtime markers, including fence posts and various trees, in listing various portions of the acreage such as the Pentz Ranch itself, where cattle were grazed years ago to supply the various mining towns centering around Oroville.

No financial consideration is mentioned in the papers filed here at the instance of the Oroville Title Company, which handled the deal.

Reference is made, however, to a previous agreement and contract made October 15th between the two concerns and Irving Kesterson, vice president of the lumber company, in San Francisco, and G. R. Snow and W. F. Snow, both of Chico, as owners of the meat company.

One Of Largest

The Chico Meat Company is one of the largest meat concerns in this area, with a large wholesale business and retail outlets in Chico and Oroville. The Oroville market, recently burned down in the second of Oroville's large downtown fires, was sold two months ago to Dr. F. I. O'Neill of Oroville and never was rebuilt.

W. F. Snow said in Chico today the lumber company, which operates a mill in Klamath Falls, Ore., is acquiring only the meat company's lands.

The price was not disclosed.

Sacramento Bee

11-3-1944

1,000 Acre Yankee Hill Ranch Is Purchased

OROVILLE (Butte Co.), Nov. 3.—
The sale of the 1,000 acre Frank
L. Stowell ranch at Yankee Hill,
14 miles east of Oroville, has been
recorded here.

The new owners are Mr. and Mrs.
Arnell S. Hamilton of San Fran-
cisco. Ernest Clewe, attorney for
the new owners, said the price was
\$56,000.

Oroville Mercury Register

12-4-1944

Lou Vintin Dies; History Is Recalled

Long Identified With Cherokee And Mining

David Louis (Lou) Vintin, 77, once part owner of the famous Cherokee Mine and Cherokee store-keeper for 55 years, died Sunday at 3:30 a. m. at Oroville Curran Hospital. His death resulted from a stroke following a month's illness.

Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Vintin, he was born in Cherokee where his parents and their parents before them had played a large part in settling the community.

HISTORY OF THE STORE

After finishing school at Cherokee, Mr. Vintin engaged in mining, the occupation his father had followed for many years. In 1889 the father opened the Cherokee General store that has since become a landmark of the area. After his father's death, Mr. Vintin and his brother Marcus, who died four years ago, ran the store. For a time the Cherokee post office was also operated at the Vintin store. This was closed about 20 years ago. In later years, Mr. Vintin became part owner in the Cherokee hydraulic mining operation, once the largest of its kind in the world. An estimated 13 to 14 million dollars in gold was produced there up to the early '80's when the Debris Litigation Act of 1876 brought an end to that type of mining there.

DIAMONDS FOUND THERE

Cherokee diamonds, some of which ranked with many produced in the South African Kimberly mines, were collected by the Vintins. In an old desk at the general store, there was kept a Cherokee diamond that had been overlooked by burglars when they robbed the store several years ago of cash, currency and gold dust.

Mr. Vintin was the last of three sons in the family. Of three daughters only one survives, Miss Ruth Vintin, who is staying with relatives in Oakland. None of the children married and the entire family made their home together in Cherokee until death claimed them one by one.

Mr. Vintin was noted for his generosity. He was said never to have been known to refuse credit to anyone. He kept the store open every day in the week and residents of the town often gathered there for cracker-barrel conversation. A post on the front porch of the store has been worn nearly through by the feet of miners who liked to steady themselves in their tilted chairs by placing a foot against it.

MANY PASSED THAT WAY

At one end of the store a stone step was hollowed out where countless miners entered the company building, adjoining, to receive their pay from the mine.

People who left Cherokee after the mine closed always stopped to see Mr. Vintin when they came back years later to visit the few remaining dwellers there or to place flowers on the graves of those they left in the old Cherokee cemetery.

Funeral services for Mr. Vintin will be held Thursday at 2 p. m. at Hamilton and Riley's with the Rev. Mr. Maurice de Vries officiating.

Entombment will be in the family mausoleum at Cherokee.

12-27-1944



Joseph Shallet

Murder Charge Is Sworn To In Pulga Slaying

OROVILLE (Butte Co.), Dec. 27. A murder complaint has been filed against Joseph Shallet, 42, held in the county jail here since early Sunday morning following the fatal shooting of James F. Nisbet, 32.

Shallet was arrested at the scene of the shooting in Pulga, 25 miles east of Oroville.

Attorney Is Absent

An arraignment on the murder charge is pending the return of Ernest Clewe, Oroville attorney, who Shallet wants to defend him. Clewe is out of town for the holidays.

Sheriff W. H. Forward said Nisbet named Shallet as his assailant in a dying statement. His body was riddled with seven pistol shots.

Claims Self Defense

In a statement to Harry Gray, special investigator for the Butte County district attorney's office, Shallet admitted the shooting, but claimed Nisbet lunged at him. The authorities said two or three witnesses were present at the time of the gun play, but the officials refused to reveal what statements had been made.

Funeral services were held this afternoon at 1:30 o'clock in Hamilton & Riley's. Burial was in the family plot of the Cherokee Cemetery.

Nisbet is survived by his mother, Mrs. Agnes Nisbet of San Francisco; a sister, Miss Burnice Nisbet of Eureka; an uncle, J. C. Nisbet of Oroville; his aunts, Mrs. Hazel Coombes of Oroville and Mrs. Nell Johns of Oakland, and a great aunt, Miss Nellie Wilson of Oroville.

MINING

BIG BEND MINE WINS FAVORABLE NOTICE

An Oroville district mine that has made a success after having mastered difficult and unique problems is allowed feature space in the November issue of the Engineering and Mining Journal of New York. It is the Big Bend Mine operated by Hoefling Bros., of Oroville, in the Big Bend country of the Feather River.

This mine, which started producing two years ago next May when gold mining was closed by the WPB., has milled 18,000 tons of ore and produced 4,500 tons of concentrates.

In all, 4,150,000 pounds of zinc metal 621,000 pounds of copper and 62,000 pounds of lead concentrates have been produced during that stretch and shipped in 95 freight cars. The cost in freight alone was \$47,500.

Forty men are employed at the mine, and the management is starting to build the force up for higher production of strategic metals.

The article, written by William E. Messner, superintendent, and Hugh H. Bein, geologist and metallurgist, is of technical nature and explains an intricate method used in separation of chalcocite and sphalerite by carefully controlled reagent feeding and intensified conditioning.

The mine was at first seriously handicapped by the lack of roads, and during the first winter men frequently were transported the five miles between this mine and the Surcease property, also operated by the Hoeflings, by the use of tractors. Although there is no snow at this 2500-foot elevation, there is snow at the 2600-foot level, rain in one season runs between 80 and 100 inches.