

1-20-1949

One Is Killed As Car Plunges Off Highway

OROVILLE (Butte Co.), Jan. 20.—One man was killed and two companions were hospitalized when the car they were riding in plunged off the Feather River Highway four miles from Pulga yesterday afternoon.

The body of Millard Carpenter, 30, of Yankee Hill, was taken to the Sanford Funeral Home.

The injured are Wayne D. Batchelor and his brother, Everett, both of whom are being treated in the Butte County Hospital for injuries.

They told officers of the highway patrol they were driving toward Pulga and steered too far over toward the edge of the road, where a snowbank had the appearance of the roadway limit. The car toppled over sideways and plunged 250 feet down the canyon wall.

Justice Sets Hearing Day For April 1

Oroville Mercury Register
3-25-1949

Bail Is Refused; Remanded to Jail

Merle Metcalf, about 45, special deputy at the T. E. Connelly Co. camp in the Feather river canyon, was arraigned before Harry S. Hills, justice of the peace, this morning on a charge of "killing and murdering" George Elmer Schwartz, 42, PG&E project worker. Schwartz died at the Connelly camp Monday afternoon, allegedly from blows struck by the special deputy with his fists.

Hills set the preliminary hearing in the case for 10 a. m. next Friday in Oroville justice court.

Hills said he was setting the date as a result of an agreement between District Attorney Raymond A. Leonard and King and Savage, representing Metcalf.

After he had read the complaint to the defendant, Hills explained that King and Savage had been unable to appear in court today for the arraignment, but had requested the April 1 hearing date. Albert M. King was in Auburn and William Savage was in superior court, Hills said.

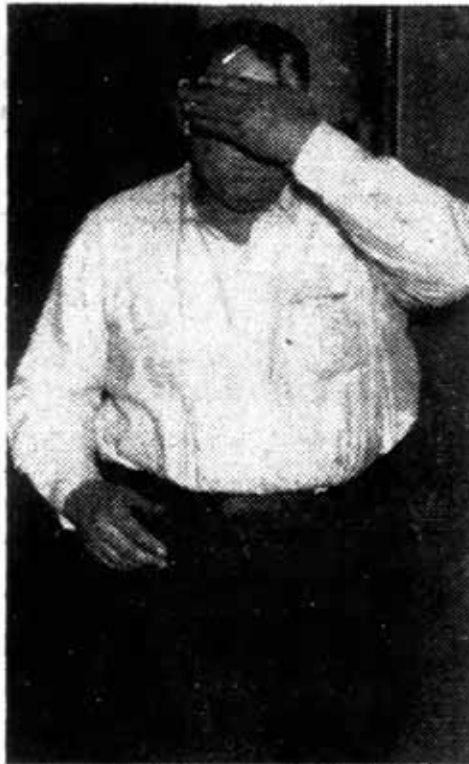
During the arraignment Metcalf said, in response to a question by Hills, that his given name is Merle, and not Meril, the name previously given by authorities.

Hills ordered the defendant remanded to the county jail without bail pending hearing. Metcalf was brought into court by Undersheriff Gordon Fairchild.

District Attorney Leonard said today that additional statements from other witnesses obtained Thursday at the camp by representatives of his office and of the sheriff's office agreed with those obtained from several witnesses to the alleged beatings, obtained at the district attorney's office Wednesday night. The witnesses questioned Wednesday said that Metcalf, using his fists, had beaten Schwartz on three separate occasions Monday afternoon, and that Schwartz had died after the last alleged encounter.

Photographs of the location where the encounters allegedly occurred were taken by Harry Gray, special investigator for the district attorney's office.

Not Photogenic



Merle Metcalf, 45, covers his face when he spotted a Mercury photographer today as he stepped out of justice court following arraignment on charges of "killing" and murdering a fellow human being. Metcalf is alleged to have beaten George Elmer Schwartz to death with his fists.

Man Alleges He Has Been Fired By Connelly Co.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY Raymond A. Leonard said today that he had been told by Dennis Fiocca, a truck driver for the T. E. Connelly Co. that he had been discharged from his job because he appeared as a witness Wednesday night before Leonard and Deputy Sheriff Frank Rhodes in an official investigation in the case of Merle Metcalf, special deputy sheriff, charged with the murder of George Elmer Schwartz.

Fiocca told the District Attorney that he was fired at noon Thursday by T. E. Connelly. Leonard quoted Fiocca as saying that the discharge order would be taken up with "the union," presumably the teamsters organization.

The Mercury endeavored to obtain a statement from T. E. Connelly today by telephone at the Connelly camp, about 5 miles above Pulga, in the Feather river canyon, but Connelly was not in the office when the telephone call was put through.

AN EMPLOYEE said he would endeavor to contact Connelly to ascertain whether he wished to comment on the asserted firing, but at press time the company's version of the reported incident was not available for publication.

Leonard said that Fiocca was a witness to two of the three beatings the district attorney's office maintains were administered to Schwartz, a P. G. & E. power project worker, by Metcalf before the latter's death Monday from a cerebral hemorrhage. Metcalf, now under arrest, was a truck driver and a special deputy sheriff at the Connelly camp.

Yankee Hill

YANKEE HILL — Mrs. Louise Craft of Jordan Hill is visiting at the home of her mother in Los Angeles, where she went to attend a birthday party given in honor of her mother's 82nd birthday.

WORD HAS been received here that Frank Clark who recently underwent surgery in an Oroville hospital has been moved to his home in Thompson Flat. The Clarks formerly lived on the John Clark ranch here but the Clark property is being sold so Mr. and Mrs. Frank Clark have moved to Thompson Flat temporarily.

MR. and MRS. ENOS BROWN lost a valuable milk cow recently when another cow crowded her into a deep cut. The cow fell on her back and was unable to get up. Mrs. Brown who was alone at the time, tried to get the cow up and in the struggle the cow fell on Mrs. Brown who was held prisoner by the weight of the cow for approximately 2 hours. The cow was so badly hurt by the fall that she died.

THE YANKEE HILL Ladies club met Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Ione Sheen. After the regular business meeting a social hour was enjoyed and delicious refreshments served by the hostess. Many problems were discussed and plans made for the summer activities were under discussion. Those in the immediate future, were a picnic auction to be held in the Concow school, April 23rd to help raise money for the May day picnic which is to be a community affair and contribution bottles will be placed in several central places to raise money for the ice cream and prizes for the contests. A large crowd is expected as there are many people in this community.

The picnic is being sponsored by the Ladies Club. Also plans for a swimming pool to be built on Deadwood Creek were being made by the club. A bulldozer will be employed and work to be donated by the husbands of the club members.

THE CONCOW Grange held its regular business meeting in the Concow school Wednesday evening three new members were initiated.

ED CHADWICK is under treatment for a badly injured hand, received when he was injured by a tractor while plowing.

WORD HAS been received here that Mr. and Mrs. Frank Andrews of San Leandro are moving back to their home on Nelly Hill.

RAY GILES is bulldozing and

leveling a plot of land on his place for a garage.

MRS. FRANKIE MOAK and Mrs. Mary Ellen Brown were business visitors in Marysville Monday

FRANK TAYLOR of Hayfork, formerly of Concow Valley, who received a badly crushed leg when a log rolled on him last November, is not able to walk yet and has been returned to the hospital for further treatment for his leg.

MRS. ALBERTA BALSLEY has returned to her home in Big Bend after a few weeks spent at the home of her son and daughter-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Balsley in San Francisco. The Jerry Balsleys have a brand new son. Mrs. Alberta Balsley was accompanied to her home here by her son Jerry.

MRS. BEA TIGNER, Mrs. Farmer and Mrs. Walker were guests recently at the home of Mrs. Reynolds at old Yankee Hill.

ELDRIDGE PETTEYS of Woodland was a business visitor in this vicinity recently.

JACK SCOTT is a patient at the Oroville-Curran hospital in Oroville.

Oroville Mercury Register

4-21-1949

Yankee Hill

YANKEE HILL — Among those from this vicinity who attended the Easter wedding of Grace Marshall and Jack McConnel in Atherton were Mrs. Louise Craft, Mr. and Mrs. Art Lane of Concow, and Mr. and Mrs. Al Leggett of Deadwood.

WORD has been received here that the condition of Jack Lockridge who was taken to Woodland a few weeks ago for medical attention is unimproved.

FRED WOLFF who has been staying at the Lockridge place for some time has returned to his home in Carson City.

MR. and MRS. W. H. PECK attended a picnic and family reunion in Chico Easter Sunday. Relatives from Woodland and Sacramento were also present.

JACK SCOTT who was a patient at the Oroville-Curran hospital has returned to his home here and is much improved.

THE NEXT MEETING of the Ladies Club of Yankee Hill, will be held Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Pearl Prevett near old Yankee Hill.

MR. and MRS. G. R. STREUBLE are doing some work at the home of Mrs. Streuble's sister, Mrs. Mary Butler of Oroville who is ill in an Oroville hospital.

THIS COMMUNITY received a much needed shower of rain accompanied by thunder and lightning, Monday night. The rain was badly needed as grass was going to seed and is still very short.

CLIFFORD WILLIAMS, who received a badly injured shoulder in a logging accident recently in Big Bend is in the Oroville Curran hospital for treatment.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES CROGHAN and Mrs. Croghan's mother, Mrs. Hazel Jones all of Oroville were guests recently at the home of Croghan's sister and brother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Williams.

SCOTT LUMBER CO. has resumed operations at their saw mill in Concow valley and are sending out several truck loads of lumber every day.

MR. and MRS. TED FLANDERS of Butte, Mont., plan to leave May 1 for that place where Flanders will be engaged in mining. Mr. and Mrs. Tompkins of the Peck ranch will move to the Flanders cottage at Pines, when the Flanders leave.

MR. and MRS. JESSE BORDENKRIEGER and children Patricia and Michael of Yuba City were weekend guests at the home of Mrs. Bordenkriechers parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Scott and also at the Scott Mill in Concow Valley. The Bordenkriechers have purchased a home in Yuba City and are building a new house and garage on the property.

Yankee Hill

YANKEE HILL—The residents of this place who attended the Easter services held in the Concow school feel that a vote of thanks is due Mr. and Mrs. Baggley of Paradise, president and teacher of the Sunday school here for their presentation of the beautiful Easter program.

MRS. D. L. YATES of Chico was pianist and the piano prelude included "Ivory Palaces" and "Hallelujah! He Is Risen," followed by prayer, by Ronald Priddy. Then hymns by the congregation, "All Hail the Power," "Nothing But the Blood of Jesus," a scripture reading by M. Baggley and also several beautiful accordian solos by Bill Camper.

"Message in Song, by Mrs. Sherrod, "The Love of God," and the "Old Rugged Cross" were sung by Mr. and Mrs. Sherrod.

A beautiful poem written by Mrs. Walker of this place, entitled "Christ Arose From the Dead," was recited by Miss Janice Farmer. The Easter message was by John W. Morris.

Yankee Hill News Notes

YANKEE HILL—The Ladies Club of Yankee Hill, held its regular business meeting Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Pearl Prevetle near old Yankee Hill. New officers were elected as follows: Mrs. Geane Leggett, president to succeed Mrs. Louise Craft; Mrs. June Giles, vice president; Evelyn Hendricks, scribe. A number of committees were appointed to take care of the various activities for the coming season, including the May day picnic and numerous other events sponsored by the club for the entertainment and betterment of the community. After the business meeting a delightful luncheon was served by the hostess. Mrs. Harry Hode was a guest. Two new members were initiated into the club.

LOGS from Jordan Hill are being hauled to Paradise as the pond at the Surcease Mill is full, and until the pond has been cleared of logs it will be necessary to haul to Paradise, by way of Oroville.

MRS. FRANKIE MOAK and Mrs. Ione Sheen accompanied by Mrs. Nellie Moak of Big Bend were among those from this place shopping in Oroville Monday.

JACK SCOTT who was returned to the Oroville Curran for a few days after returning to his home here, came home again Monday and is improving.

WORK has been started on the swimming pool in Deadwood Creek near Deadwood. The pool is being built by the Ladies Club.

Yankee Hill

YANKEE HILL—Ace Miller and party of friends from Chico were visitors in this vicinity Sunday.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES OD-NEAL of Woodland were renewing acquaintances in this vicinity Sunday, when they visited at the home of Evelyn Hendricks and also at The Pines.

MR. and MRS. CHARLEY RYAN and friends of Canada were visitors Saturday at the home of J. D. Lockridge. Mr. Ryan and Lockridge came to California from Idaho together more than 20 years ago.

YANKEE HILL is experiencing unusually cold weather for this time of year and numerous cases of colds and flu have been reported as a result.

JESSE BORDENKRICHER of Yuba City is working for the Scott Lumber Co. in Concow Valley. Mrs. Bordenkricher and children returned to their home after a few days visit with relatives here.

CONCOW GRANGE held its regular business meeting in the Concow school Wednesday evening.

WORD HAS been received here that J. D. Lockridge who has been ill in Woodland for some time has entered the Woodland clinic for medical attention.

MRS. FRANKIE MOAK and Joan Brown who have been ill for a few days are much better and able to be out.

MR. and MRS. TED HEIMANN who spent several weeks visiting in Los Angeles and other cities have returned to their home on Big Bend road.

JOHNNY WILLIAMS is employed at the Red and White store in Oroville, now, operated by W. Sitton. Williams formerly worked for Sitton at The Pines.

Yankee Hill Hotel Burns

ONE OF BUTTE county's historic landmarks, the old hotel at Yankee Hill built in the 70's, burned to the ground Thursday night leaving four families homeless.

The structure was linked to Oroville because it was built by M. H. Wells, father of Mike W. Wells, Oroville druggist, and was constructed throughout with clear sugar pine.

Mrs. John Crawford, one of the residents, was the only casualty. She suffered burns when flames flashed in her face, and received emergency treatment on the spot by neighbors and forest service officers.

The disastrous fire started on the roof of a small adjoining building that had been converted into living quarters, E. P. Biggs, state forest ranger, announced today. He was in charge of the fire-fighting crews from Oroville and Paradise who responded to the call. The first word of the fire was received at 5 p. m.

Those who lost their places of residence and their personal belongings included the J. M. Prevette family and their two children; Mr. and Mrs. Green with six children; the Crawfords with two children and Mr. and Mrs. Carr. The latter were absent and only a few belongings were rescued by neighbors.

With Biggs on this call were David Hall, Henry Gaub, assistant rangers, the Oroville and the Paradise crews.

Oroville Mercury Register
6-3-1949

FOUR OTHER FIRES last night kept the men from the State Division of Forestry busy. It is believed, said Biggs, that they were set fires. At 6:30 and 9:10 p. m., fires were discovered near the city limits along the Western Pacific right-of-way, one above the tracks and the other below. On Wednesday evening, a fire in the same place was discovered and controlled. About 11:30 p. m. last night two fires were discovered between Baggett's Crossing and the Western Pacific lines, south of town, and were controlled by the crew.

Yankee Hill

SEVERAL FAMILIES were left homeless Wednesday evening when the old hotel at Yankee Hill burned to the ground, the fire was said to have started from kerosene that had been accidentally spilled. The hotel formerly owned by Mike Wells and his wife Dora was one of the few remaining landmarks of the once thriving mining town of Yankee Hill which was named in the early days Yankee Hill, because a party of miners called Yankees settled on the hill and engaged in mining the then rich ravines and streams. The mining property is now owned by the Hoefling brothers who recently sold the grazing rights to Mr. Smith who is engaged in the cattle business.

MRS. FREIDA MILLER and Evelyn Hendricks returned from a few days visit in Woodland recently.

JACK SCOTT who has been ill at his home here for a few days is improving and able to be out.

MR. and MRS. ROBERT OAKS of Concow Valley have moved to Grass Valley where Oaks will be employed on a ranch.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Ladies Club of Yankee Hill was held at the home of Mrs. Frances Harris where plans were made for the refreshments to be served by the club for the outdoor pageant to be held at the Hopkins ranch in Concow, at the close of school here.

GRADUATION exercises were held Friday evening at the Concow school followed by a dance and refreshments were served.

6-9-1949

Famous Indian Known to Many Dies at Age 80

*Full-Blooded Concow,
He Lived His Life in
Woods and Mountains*

DIXIE JOHNSON, famed tracker who could read the footprints in the woods as others can read print, died at midnight last night at the home of Thomas Melvin in Paradise. He was 80.

Mr. Johnson, a full-blooded Concow Indian, has lived his entire life in the mountains surrounding Oroville and Paradise, and has long been known as the nemesis of hold-up men who start out on foot through the forests.

During the past 30 years Mr. Johnson was not often in the lime-



DIXIE JOHNSON

light as he was before then, when he helped solve some of the county's most puzzling crimes.

He has been living at Intake near Las Plumas where he worked a mining claim. His last act was one of helpfulness to a friend. Last Monday Dixie traveled to Paradise to help Melvin, a friend of long standing, to do assessment work on Melvin's mining claim in rugged Big Butte creek canyon.

Apparently his tired heart gave out last night.

It was in 1915 that Mr. Johnson performed a feat that made him famous when he tracked down two payroll robbers near Stirling City after more than 500 men had waded throughout the woods in the search.

TWO MEN robbed DM's camp No. 1, of \$2800 in August of that year. Officers and volunteers spent three fruitless days in the area searching for the robbers before Mr. Johnson was called.

For eight days Mr. Johnson and Bill Peachy, a one-time constable, searched the woods until one day Dixie spotted tracks leading from a highway to a clump of bushes. It was as though a man had stepped off the road seeking cover of the brush. It was this track that led Mr. Johnson and Peachy to the spot where the robbers had fled following the robbery. Part way up a long hill, the robbers had resorted to a log chute but Mr. Johnson found where they had stepped on a log, followed the trail to the robbers' hangout.

Odd sequel to the story was that the robbers, when they realized they were being tracked, hid their firearms and the money, but later, after their arrest, it was discovered that a transient had found the can in which the money had been deposited and had made away with it.

DIXIE IS survived by his wife Maude Johnson who lives in Pulga; a son Elmer Johnson of Pulga and a grandson Edward Johnson of Brush Creek.

Funeral services are pending at the Paradise Chapel of the Pines.

Daylight Saving Initiative Offered

SACRAMENTO —(U.P.)— A move to give Californians a chance to vote on compulsory summer daylight savings time was begun today by the President of the State Junior Chamber of Commerce.

George H. Waite, Sacramento, submitted an initiative measure proposing a state daylight saving law to the attorney general's office here for a legal title.

The State Junior Chamber of Commerce authorized Waite to sponsor the measure on behalf of the organization at its convention in Long Beach last month.

Yankee Hill

MISS BEVERLEY WOUSTER who has been staying with relatives in Arizona and attending school arrived recently at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. Wouster for the summer vacation. The Wousters recently purchased the Lyman Brown ranch and are making ceramics as well as farming.

ELABORATE preparations are being made by Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Hopkins, teachers of the Concow school for the outdoor pageant to be held at the Hopkins ranch in Concow Valley Saturday night, June 11. The pageant depicting early days in California is to be held at night near Lake Concow by fire light. There will be covered wagons, horsemen, Indians and many other scenes taken from the history of the early days in California. There is also to be a romance and wedding.

Refreshments will be served by

the women's club of Yankee Hill after which there will be dancing and other entertainment. Preparations are being made for a large crowd.

MR. and MRS. MILFORD ATHA were visitors Sunday at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Oaks of Grass Valley.

MR. and MRS. G. FINKENBINER and sons Rolland and Kilpper and wives, Mr. and Mrs. Voricini of Sacramento, were Sunday visitors at the home of Evelyn Hendricks. Kilpper Finkenbiner is a former resident of this place.

W. E. WOMACK of Paradise was a business visitor in this vicinity Sunday.

DONALD WILLIAMS formerly of this place now of Paradise, moved his service station from Hendricks Corners to his home in Paradise recently.

Thermalito Irrigation District Board Hears Secretary's Report

THE BOARD of directors of the Thermalito Irrigation District were jubilant at their regular monthly meeting Friday night when Secretary Mrs. Hallie Gibson reported all delinquent property contract payments had been made and none were in arrears.

The campaign to bring all contracts up to date was inaugurated at the district's meeting in May after Mrs. Gibson had reported a large number of payments were in default.

These payments plus quarterly tax returns and larger sums coming in for water sales has placed the district in an excellent financial condition, according to a statement made to the board last night by Chairman Loy E. Hibbs.

Directors attending the meeting

included Hibbs, Dan Raynor, Phil Cope and Howard Moseley. Director Ambrose Hoefling was absent. Superintendent Joel Langdon and Attorney P. J. Minasian, attended the meeting.

Mrs. Gibson reported that there were now 670 domestic water users among an estimated population of 2300 in Thermalito and that there were 1300 acres of land under irrigation.

Water consumption each day reaches a peak of 15 million gallons with an average in summer time of 10 million gallons a day down to three million a day in winter time.

THE REPORT from which Mrs. Gibson read was prepared by Brown and Caldwell of San Francisco, a firm of chemical engineers, as a basis for the district's application for certification from the State Department of Public Health as sellers of domestic water.

Included in the report was approval of the operation of the Thermalito chlorination system installed last year. There are a number of rules to which the district must comply before the department will issue the certification.

Thermalito water sources include the Miocene ditch from Lake Concow, from which the bulk of the supply is obtained, and two wells, one on Feather avenue that has been in operation for a long time, and the new well on Biggs street, recently completed.

Minasian suggested that the directors accept the engineer's report and that the application be submitted.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to routine matters including issuance of deeds to buyers completing contracts and reading of minutes of the previous meeting.

Minimum Wage Bill Fails to Get Group Okeh

WASHINGTON — (U.P.) — The house labor committee, after a two-hour squabble, failed today by a 10-to-1 vote to approve a bill to raise the minimum wage from 40 to 75 cents.

Chairman John Lesinski, D., Mich., said he would try again next week to get the bill out of the committee.

Republicans and southern Democrats oppose the measure. The administration has asked for legislation boosting the minimum wage to 75 cents an hour and broadening coverage to about 5,000,000 more workers.

Lesinski said the committee refused to accept proxy votes he held from two absent members who were for the bill.

Every Man, Woman and Child Will Pay \$363 to Support Government This Year

WASHINGTON —(U.P.)— The cost of our federal, state and local government will average this year about \$363 for every man, woman and child, according to a survey published by the "U. S. News and World Report."

That compares with the peak wartime figure of \$380 per head to show that the spending trend is down, but not much. The 1949 cost of government roughly will divided about like this:

Federal government, \$270 per person; state, municipal and local government. \$93 per person.

Americans steadily have been buying more government, especially federal government, for many years. The rate of increase is astonishing. The cost of federal government for each man, woman and child in the United States in 1915 was a modest \$6.94. World War I drove the figure to a peak of \$51.82 per person.

In the boom year of 1928 the cost was \$30.24. In the first year of FDR's first administration it averaged \$40.95. After that the trend was steadily upward until the 1945 World War II peak—a dizzy \$719 per head.

Last year the figure was \$268 and an upward trend apparently has begun again. According to figures assembled by Rep. Daniel A. Reed, R., N. Y., the federal tax take in the fiscal year which begin July 1 will in every state exceed the sum of taxes collected by all state and local agencies.

"EVERY DOLLAR of the record-breaking peacetime \$41,900,000,000 spending budget proposed by President Truman for the next fiscal year must be raised by direct and hidden taxes exacted from the people.

Reed said five states would bear the major burden of Mr. Truman's spending program. He listed them with their estimated direct and indirect federal tax contributions, as follows:

California, \$3,486,000,000; Illinois, \$3,301,000,000; New York, \$6,486,000,000; Ohio, \$2,442,000,000; Pennsylvania \$3,251,000,000.

Five other states contribute \$1,000,000,000 or more in direct and indirect taxes to the federal spending program, according to Reed's table. They are: Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey and Texas.

Yankee Hill

By EVELYN HENDRICKS

THE PAGEANT HELD on the Hopkins ranch in Concow Saturday night was a most enjoyable affair. A large and appreciative audience enjoyed to the utmost the thrilling scenes portrayed by firelight of the early days in California. First came the scene of Indians in their native habitat, next the covered wagon followed by scenes of pioneer days through it all was woven a romance culminating in the marriage of the pioneer couple in a home of an early day settler. The home was furnished with antiques loaned by members of the early day families of this community.

A VIVID DESCRIPTION of each scene was ably given by the narrator Lloyd Sheen. After the program refreshments of cake and coffee was served by the Ladies Club of Yankee Hill and those present were invited to the Hopkins home where dancing was enjoyed for the remainder of the evening.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES ODNEAL and son Dick accompanied by Jack Lockridge, all of Woodland, narrowly escaped serious injury Saturday afternoon at the intersection of the Big Bend and Concow roads when their car ran head-on into another car driven by Lulu Irwin of Wings auto court. Dick Odneal who was driving said he was momentarily blinded by the reflection of the sun shining on the windshield. Mrs. Odneal suffered a knee injury and a badly sprained ankle. None of the other occupants was injured. Mrs. Irwin and a lady passenger were uninjured save for a few minor cuts and bruises. The Odneal car was badly damaged and it was necessary to call a wrecker from Oroville. The Irwin car received only slight damage.

MR. AND MRS. WILLARD SCOTT and family have moved from Hendricks corners to the West ranch in Concow Valley.

MRS. FREIDA MILLER who has been a guest at the home of Evelyn Hendrick for some time has returned to her home in Woodland

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES ODNEAL were week end guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Peck.

MR. AND MRS. HUMES of the McQuarrie apartments were recent business visitors in Sacramento.

AMONG THE newly-weds who were weekend visitors here were Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Williams of Oroville, and Mr. and Mrs. Michaelson of Bay Meadows. Mrs. Michaelson was formerly Dolores Williams of this place, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Williams.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES CROYHAM and family of Oroville were visitors here Sunday.

JACK LACKRIDGE of Woodland was a weekend visitor at his home here. Lackridge, who has been ill for some time, is a patient at the Woodland Clinic.

MR. AND MRS. ORIN DUNCAN of Paradise were visitors Monday, at the home of Mrs. Duncan's brother Ralph Miller of the Pines.

6-25-1949

PG&E Seeks Right-of-Way

The Pacific Gas and Electric Co. has filed an eminent domain suit in superior court seeking to obtain a 100-foot wide right of way through property along Big Bend Road, near Intake, for erection of an electric transmission line.

In the suit, filed against J. W. and Ruth Armstrong, Leo L. Neher and Betty J. Neher, and Lorin Balsley and Elberta Balsley, the company asks that the court set a value of the property it seeks to condemn. The company asks a 100-foot right of way across lots 11 and 14, of section 36, Township 22 North, Range 4 East. The strip contains 5.88 acres. It also seeks to condemn two-tenths of an acre on the Armstrong property so that brush and trees can be removed from the parcel.

IF THE 100 FOOT strip is condemned, removal of the five-room Armstrong home would be necessary, it is understood.

The complaint states that the land is needed in erection of a power line from Bucks Creek Power House, in Plumas county, to Bellota substation in San Joaquin county.

The company is represented by Robert H. Gerdes and P. H. Pearson, San Francisco attorneys, and Peters and Peters of Chico.

8-12-1949

Hunter Held in Death of Boy

UKIALI, Aug. 12.—(AP)—The Mendered James Moural, 29, held pending "amplification" of a report that a bullet from his rifle killed James Bussey, 15, on a hunting trip Monday.

Moural was jailed after David G. Bird, a Sacramento criminologist, found that a bullet from Moural's seven-millimeter rifle pierced Bussey's heart.

No charges were placed against Moural until Bird's full report was received. Bird told Sheriff Beverly Broaddus that the bullet was fired from a gun identified as Moural's.

Moural was one of a party of six hunters that set out Monday morning on the Clark ranch, 25 miles north of Willits. Later in the morning all members of the party except Bussey suddenly returned to the ranch-house packed up and left.

After an all-night search, Bussey's body was found Tuesday morning.

A "hold" order was sent out for all members of the party, and their rifles were impounded pending a ballistic test.

The party included, besides Bussey and Moural, his brother, George Moural, 34; their father, James Moural Sr.; Don Jones, and Adrian Clark, owner of the ranch. The Mourals and Jones are from Chico.

The Press Democrat

8-14-1949

Brothers Are Released in Hunt Mishap

By VIRGINIA SNIDER
Staff Correspondent

UKIAH, Aug. 13 — Mendocino county authorities today released James Moural, Jr., and his brothers, Charles, 39 and George, 34, of Chico.

The men were being held in connection with the accidental shooting of James Bussey, 14, Monday near Longvale. Ballistic tests indicated that the bullet which killed the youth came from James Moural's gun.

The men were released on the recommendation of James Busch, district attorney of Mendocino county.

James Moural will probably be arraigned on a manslaughter charge next week, officers said.

9-14-1949

Vice Conspiracy Case In Butte Is Reset For Monday

OROVILLE (Butte Co.), Sept. 14. —The arraignment of four men charged with conspiracy to violate the state's laws controlling vice and slot machines has been postponed until next Monday.

The continuance was granted on the plea the defendants have not had time to obtain the services of an attorney. They were arrested on grand jury indictments August 24th:

Indictments Released

In the meantime, at the continued hearing in the Butte County Superior Court, the indictments of the four men, plus that of Edgar L. Pipplin, not yet apprehended, were released to newsmen for the first time.

The men indicted include Pipplin, Robert Hartung, Joe Slavick, John Pursell and James Echols. Pipplin was indicted as head of the vice squad of the sheriff's office and Slavick as a deputy sheriff and chief identification officer. Hartung, still in jail on the grand jury indictment as well as a prior check charge, came here to promote a Butte County Peace Officers Association, and Pursell and Echols were arrested as the operators of a bawdy house. Echols, Pursell and Slavick are at liberty under \$2,500 bond.

Protection Charge

The first count of the indictment charges the five men met in the Oroville Inn June 28th, when both Pipplin and Slavick were officers in the sheriff's office, and made plans to open one or more houses of prostitution under a protected basis. It is charged the amount of payment for the protection also was discussed.

The indictment continues with the allegation that July 22nd Pursell and Echols opened a house of prostitution at 1850 C Street, Oroville, and later moved it to a new location in the Yankee Hill area.

Another count charges that on July 11th Pursell and Echols paid Hartung, and through him to Pipplin, \$250 for protection against arrest because of the house being operated. (The Yankee Hill house was raided and Echols and Pursell arrested August 12th by a party of officers led by District Attorney R. A. Leonard and Sheriff W. H. Forward, who by that time had dismissed Pipplin.)

Slot Racket

The indictment further charges Pipplin and Hartung with having conspired to control the slot machine racket in Butte County under a similar protection scheme. The indictment states a meeting was held July 7th and again on July 15th, with Elmer Londorgan of Oakland, at which Londorgan was asked for a payoff of \$1,500 a month for such protection. Londorgan was one of the witnesses before the grand jury.

Superior Judge Harry Dolrup has appointed Robert Kutz of Chico as attorney for Hartung. Slavick told the judge he will obtain the services of a lawyer before the arraignment date. Pursell and Echols are represented by Albert M. King.

10-4-1949

Missing Persons

HARRY L. CHURCHMAN

OROVILLE (Butte Co.), Oct. 4.—
The sheriff's office has issued a statewide bulletin in an effort to locate Harry L. Churchman, 75 year old Oroville man missing from his home since last Wednesday.

Mildred H. Wright, a daughter, reported he left home to take a walk and expressed a fear he wandered from familiar surroundings and may have become confused.

He is described as being five feet four inches tall, weighing 120 pounds, light complexioned, having sandy hair and mustache with little gray, and blue eyes. He wears spectacles. He walks with a noticeable stoop. When last seen he was wearing dark trousers with a narrow white stripe, dark work shirt, suspenders, dark sweater, forest service hat and black, ankle length soft shoes.

Oroville Mercury Register
10-31-1949

Rock House Owner Takes Over Property

Mrs. Esther J. Detlow, of Richmond, announced here today that she is moving to her property at Rock House where she will take over active management of the restaurant and bar. She said she was buying out her brother, Fred Holzen, who has been operating the business.

She has owned the property for the past 13 years, and has seen it grow from the one rock building to its present size with a grocery store, a trailer camp, a school and the restaurant and bar.

Fred & Dora Holzen of the Rock House are selling to Esther Detlow, and appreciate the patronage accorded them during their stay in business.

Mrs. Detlow will appreciate your continued patronage.

THE ROCK HOUSE