



EMPIRE

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'Howdy Neighbor'

COVELO



COVER PICTURE—Carrie McLane, one of the last of the basket makers in Round Valley, and organizer of women's group in Reservation Indian Mission church, demonstrates the art of her ancestors. The basket she is holding was made by her great - grandmother more than 100 years ago. Conical basket at right is a rare "grinding basket," used in conjunction with a flat stone to grind meal from acorns and wild grass seed.

COLORFUL HISTORY WAS MADE IN THIS AREA . . .

This Was Pioneer Country

By **MIKE PARDEE**
Redwood Empire Editor

High up among the blue canyons and white topped ridges of the Mayacamas (Coast Range) mountains of northeastern Mendocino county the little town of Covelo will probably be snowbound this winter.

That's more or less a foregone conclusion. The folks expect such an eventuality almost every winter — in spite of the fact that many "old timers," among them



Mrs. May Perry, oldest "native daughter" of the community—say the winters aren't what they used to be. It is an unusual winter, however, that the little town isn't cut off from the rest of the world for at least a few days because of snows or slides — or both blocking the road that leads to "the outside."

But if they're snowbound again this year, Covelo folks won't spend much time worrying about it. They know that sooner or later their contact with the rest of the Redwood Empire will soon be re-established — and they'll use their time to good advantage—planning 1950's activities. They're like that in Covelo. They're friendly, self-reliant, neighborly folks who haven't forgotten the pioneering days of their town, which is located 32 miles from the nearest point on the Redwood Highway—Longvale, 13 miles north of Willits.

They're winding, tortuous miles, those miles to Longvale. They're on a road that is a far cry from the average "citified" motorists' idea of motor roads. But still they're a far cry, too, to the Covelo "old timers" from the "mule train road" days when it took two days—and hard days at that, to travel to Ukiah over San Hedrin mountain and through Redwood valley to the county seat.

Covelo is isolated. There isn't any doubt about it. It is centrally located in beautiful Round valley, one of the richest agricultural sections of Mendocino county, but one of the most isolated.

There is only one road of ingress and egress in the winter-time. In the summertime it is possible by dint of uncomfortable driving, to travel over a road through the Mendocino National forest to upper Sacramento valley points. But that road is a memory only during the winter months. The first rains make it as slick as glass and the first snowfall closes it until warm spring weather dries up the mud and melts the snow.

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THAT LEAVES the Longvale road the only means of travel to the "outside," excepting for a steep, winding unpaved grade from Dos Rio to 16 miles from Covelo on the Longvale road to Laytonville.

It is a drive of 32 miles over a winding dirt road from the turnoff at Longvale, 13 miles north of Willits on the Redwood highway to Covelo.

The view invites closer inspection. The road winds in broad curves down the slope to the valley floor. As soon as you leave the wooded slopes of the hillside and reach the valley floor a view of fine far well kept farm houses and well leaded acres on which fat white faced Herefords graze on irrigated green pastures, meets the eye.

Some of the homes are large. They are the substantial homes of some of the early day settlers who braved the rigors of difficult mountain travel when roads were far more sketchy than they are now to settle and develop the region into one of economic importance in the area that has since become the world famous Redwood Empire.

As the road enters Covelo the "washboard" topping gives way to a macadam surface and becomes Commercial street, the "main drag" of the town.

The town itself is picturesque in the extreme. It is as close to a "frontier" town as can be found in the whole Empire.

Perhaps that can be explained in the words of Ralph McCombs, whose book "Watch the Chute" is an historical account of the valley and a description of the old days of the cattle industry.

"Covelo was the last place visited by the slow moving prairie schooner," he says.

"**MULE TRAIN,**" means more to Covelo folks than just the name of a badly overworked popular song. The words bring to mind to many of the oldsters the days when everything that came into the valley was brought over the mountain roads by four, six and eight mule teams and when travel was a slow and tedious process indeed.

Visit the town on a Saturday afternoon or evening and there'll be no doubt in the minds of the "outside" visitor that he has stepped into "frontier days."

It is a road not particularly recommended to timid motorists, particularly in the winter months. It is gravelled. It is sufficiently wide to safely pass at almost any point, but at times during the winter the gravel topping is covered with inches of skiddy mud and there is the

ever present danger of falling rocks and slides.

It is a road that is frequently blocked by heavy snowfall. Last winter it was impassible for several days at a stretch. Frequently parts of it slide out during heavy storms, cutting off the little town from all travel until county road crews can remove the obstruction.

But it is a road of unsurpassed beauty. To the seeker of unspoiled rugged beauty it has a lot to offer at any season of the year. For some 15 miles out of Longvale it skirts Outlet Creek and the South Fork of the Eel river, a favorite fishing stream.

From the Dos Rios bridge across the Eel it winds up and down and around hills of startling beauty where firs, pines, liveoaks, brilliantly hued "Redbud" in the spring months and the brilliant red berries of the Toyon, California's famed "Christmas berries" make an ever-changing kaleidoscope of color. Broad vistas of tumbled mountain peaks and varied colors of mineral formations are present at every turn.

And when "Inspiration Point" is reached and the almost circular floor of Round Valley — called "Hookum Holtz," the Place of Big Water by the Indians centuries before the white man came—is spread out before you, the washboard surface and the winding curves of the road are forgotten.

IT IS A SCENE of breathtaking beauty at any time of the year. It is particularly awe-inspiring in the spring when the broad irrigated pastures, the dotting of orchards and well-tended farms, the lush green growth of the hop fields are highlighted by other shades of green in the leaves of giant oaks and walnut trees.

From "Inspiration Point" the main Round Valley road stretches "straight as a string" for five miles to become Commercial street as it traverses Covelo.

Its members can point with pride, too, to sponsorship of the Covelo 4-H Club and sponsorship of a livestock marketing association.

The center has a membership of 100 farm families and is look-



NEWEST business in Covelo, Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Mabey, who came to Round Valley in June, recently opened the Rock Inn, a modern, concrete block tourist motel.

ing forward to increasing this shortly.

Officers include Glenn Barrass, chairman; David Dresbach, vice chairman; Fillmore Duncan, meeting secretary and treasurer; and Harriett Cuffe, corresponding secretary.

Fred Vincent is the center director and Rev. De Ford, the alternate.

The 4-H Club has 21 members under leadership of Ralph McCombs, agricultural leader and Mrs. Enid Breeze and Mary Jane Bird, clothing leader. Yvonne Walters is the president; Claudia Williamson, treasurer; Teddy Goforth, secretary; Warren Clark, vice president and Katherine Martindale, flag bearer.

THREE CHURCHES function in the valley in addition to the Methodist mission at the Indian reservation.

The Pentecostal Church, also on reservation property, has as its pastor Rev. Mildred Charles.

The Assembly of God, operat-

ing in Covelo, has as its pastor Rev. David Alford.

Oldest church in town is the Federated Church, a federation of the Baptist and Presbyterian congregations.

Rev. Gray Alter is the minister.

Social affairs of the church are in the hands of the Ladies' Aid Society, organized in 1883 and which functions with 25 members as a Mutual Aid and a Missionary Society.

Mrs. Evan F. Rohrbough is the president; Mrs. Edith Walker, the vice president; Mrs. Charles Lovell, the secretary and Mrs. Leslie Conner, the treasurer.

He'll find the sidewalks thronged with Indians, the men wearing broad brimmed hats, narrow legged levis, silver studded belts and high heeled boots—the women and children, instead of the colorful traditional bright silks of their forebears, wearing costumes as modern as can be found in any Redwood Empire town of far greater size.

Here and there he'll find a horse tethered at a telephone pole, or see a youngster dashing in for the mail at the big, modern, concrete postoffice, or for an order of groceries at Gravier Brothers, Hurt and Bailey or the Covelo Commercial Company's general merchandise store.

Far and away the majority, though, will be traveling by automobile. Roadsters, coupes, sedans, an occasional station wagon and here and there a "hot rod job" bulging with smiling black haired, jet-eyed Indian youths from the nearby reservation jam the streets.

Covelo has been an "Indian town" and Round Valley the Redwood Empire's biggest Indian reservation since the late 1850's when the government moved approximately 1,000 Indians of eight tribes from various parts of the state into the valley and declared it an Indian reservation.

Some of them, the Concows, came from the upper Sacramento Valley. Others, the Pomos, Yokayos, Little Lakes, Redwoods, Pit Rivers, and Wylakies were brought in from various other parts of Northern California to add to the families of the Ukies, the natives of the valleys.

SAYS REV. Ernest B. De Ford, Methodist missionary at the Reservation mission:

"They were people of different tribes and different tribal customs. None of them spoke the same language as the others, nor had the same customs. They were dumped here regardless of all that."

In 1856 the farm at what is now the reservation, was established by the government two years after the valley was first visited by white men.

It was called "Nome Cult Sta-



Mrs. ISSOLENA English and her two brothers, Sam, left, and Rollie Gray, are among the "oldest old timers" in the valley. Their father built the first sawmill and the first flour mill in the valley. Remains of the old water powered flour mill that burned years ago, can still be seen.

tion" and was used only as a stock range, principally to raise and fatten beef to supply an Indian reservation on the coast.

Two years later, in 1858, it was declared a reservation and the tribal members brought in by covered mule train. At first it was to cover only 25,000 acres. Then, says an account published in a 1914 history, "the troubles of the settlers began."

"In 1868 its limits were extended northerly to the summit of the range. On March 30, 1870, by proclamation of the president, all land embraced within its boundaries was set aside for reservation purposes. In 1873 the boundaries were limited and set at 102,118 acres."

The reservation was managed first by civilian appointees, then by a military officer detailed for that purpose. Later still it was turned over to the Methodist Episcopal Church and by them relinquished again to civilian appointees.

At present the reservation is administered by the department of Indian Affairs office at Sacramento.

It occupies some 10,000 acres in the northern half of the val-

ley and about 100,000 in the entire reservation area, which includes hill land to the north, used as cattle ranges.

IN 1894 APPORTIONMENT of land was made to individual Indians and families. Heads of families were granted 10 acres of valley land and each child 10 acres. Wives received five acres each. While much of this is still held in trust for the families by the government, some, says Rev. De Ford, have acquired full ownership.

Much of the fine beef cattle raised in the valley—Round Valley produces most of the beef raised in Mendocino county—is on Indian land.

The Indians have their own cattle association, headed by Bill Frazier as president.

Through it they market their livestock each year, following much the same procedure as is followed by a livestock marketing association sponsored by the Round Valley Farm Center for its members.

For years the government issued rations to the Indians. Then when they became self sufficient on the land alloca-

tions, using "starter stock" of cattle contributed by the government, the rations ceased except to a few older residents who were unable to work.

The warehouse used at one time to store government supplies for distribution on "ration days," has since been remodelled into the little Mission church on the reservation where Rev. De Ford and Mrs. De Ford, who is also an ordained minister, hold regular services for a congregation that at times numbers more than 100.

Tireless workers with their charges, Rev. and Mrs. De Ford have been in Round Valley as Indian missionaries for five years, coming there from Galt, Sacramento county.

It isn't just a case of handling church services with them. They are leaders in all sorts of civic activities in Covelo and the valley area. Mr. De Ford is past chairman of the Farm Center, head of the Red Cross, and a sort of unofficial farm advisor among the Indians.

"We have considerable farming equipment that is available for them to use," he said. "Last spring we cleared off five acres of brush land near the Mission and planted it to a vegetable garden that was a show place of the whole valley."



THIS RHYTHM band, composed of tiny tots in the Indian Reservation School at Covelo, is in demand at all community gatherings. Left to right, front row, Ronald Hostler, Mervin Button, Paulette Dalsen, Linda Britton, Martha Delgado, Wanda Britton. Second row, Georgina Wright,

Ernest Merrifield, Jean Frank, Thomas Hanover, June Washburn, Vivian Hostler, Myrna Duncan. Third row, George Hoaglen, Everett Merrifield, Muriel Britton, Lola Frazier, Glenda Frank, Frances Lowden, Fern Hoaglen, Edward Whipple. Youngsters are descendants of tribe which moved into valley in 1850's to establish reservation.

NEAR THE MISSION is the Reservation School, one of three schools in the Covelo area, and one designed solely for Indian youngsters from the first to the eighth grades inclusively.

A three-teacher school it is conducted for 75 youngsters in a government-owned building that is state maintained as far as the school itself is concerned.

Close to 5 years old, the stucco school building replaces two wooden structures that burned in past years.

A complete state approved curriculum for primary grades is available for the youngsters who are descendants of the original tribes people brought in by the government and the Ukies who were the original inhabitants.

The principal, Carl Delgado, is a descendant of the Concow tribe in the upper Sacramento Valley. "Some of the same tribe were brought into the valley," he said. "I have traced relationships between some of these folks and those in the area of Chico."

A graduate of Chico State College Mr. Delgado has been

in the school 10 years as principal and teacher of the sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

Mrs. Isabelle Mooey teaches the intermediate grades, third to fifth and Mrs. Eunice Jamison, the primary grades.

Mr. Delgado estimates that there are approximately 250 Indians in the valley at present. "Although," he says, "the official rolls list 500, but the population fluctuates."

Forty of the youngsters in the primary grades have been organized into an unique Rhythm Band that is in great demand at all sorts of entertainment programs in the valley.

Their last public appearance was at the Round Valley Community Christmas Party, a traditional yearly event under sponsorship of the Covelo Women's Improvement Club, held at the Round Valley Union High School Saturday evening, Dec. 17.

UPPER GRADES of the school presented a Nativity Scene, joining with high school and elementary grade pupils at Covelo to supply bulk of the program for the party.

Biggest public events of the year in Covelo are two Indian celebrations, revived recently under direction of Rev. and Mrs. De Ford with assistance by the Reservation Group, an informal organization termed by Mr. Delgado as the "Mothers Club."

"It functions as a parent-teacher organization," he says, "and does all sorts of things for the school."

However Mrs. Carrie McLane, one of the few remaining women in the valley who occasionally follows the basket making art of her ancestors, who organized the club, says "It isn't exactly a mothers' club. It's an informal group that handles a lot of things."

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With Annabelle Frazier as president, Jack Willits as vice-president, and Margaret Cachora as secretary-treasurer, the group meets regularly in club rooms in the Mission church building and directs among other events the annual Round Valley Fourth of July celebration and the annual "Indian Fair and Roundup" each September.

Both these events are traditional affairs of long standing that slumped during wartime years, but which have been revived in recent years largely through efforts of Rev. and Mrs. De Ford and several volunteers among the Indian civic workers.

The "Roundup" is particularly a famous affair. For years it was one of the few remnants of this typically Western type of entertainment. Round Valley's rodeo performers are known throughout all parts of the Redwood Empire and the best amateur "bronc busters" and bulldoggers in the West participate each year in the roundup.

IT'S REALLY a "roundup," its leaders assure visitors—not just a rodeo performance.

It is staged primarily to roundup the cattle on the reservation ranges and "brand the dogies" in traditional manner. While they're at it, they have fun at the same time and play host to as many visitors as can crowd into the valley.

dogies" in traditional manner. Last year, the first day of the two-day event was an all-Indian pageant and Indian fair with a cast of more than 25 youngsters presenting a pageant depicting a century of Indian life.

"The youngsters had the time of their lives 'playing Indian,'" said Mrs. De Ford. "The older folks helped teach them the traditional dances. We had a parade and a display of Indian artifacts and all sorts of events that showed the Indian culture."

Nearly 2,000 persons visited the valley for the event. This year they're hoping for a bigger crowd.

The July Fourth is more than an Independence Day event, too.

It is a Round Valley "Home Coming" event during which invitations are issued to everyone who has ever lived in the friendly valley to return and visit the home folks.

"It's getting bigger every year," says Rev. De Ford. "Last Fourth we had around 1,500 here from all parts of the state."

During each Fourth of July event the Pentecostal church, which also functions on the reservation, holds its annual camp meeting, an event that brings in added visitors.

ROUND VALLEY has been known to white men since 1854. That much is certain of the early history. The date has been definitely fixed. But as to exactly who discovered it there remains some element of uncertainty.

There are several stories told. Some historical accounts give to Frank Asbill, Lake county pioneer, credit for discovering the almost completely circular valley one spring day in 1854 while he was tracking down a strayed horse.

He, himself, during his lifetime, advanced the claim for naming it "Round Valley" from its shape, and also for naming nearby "Eden" Valley, a small valley of extreme beauty on which the famous Henshaw ranch is located.

Another man, named Williams, has claimed to have been the first man in the valley.

Still another, Charles Kelsey, blazed a trail from Clear Lake to Round Valley in 1854.

Just which of the three actually was the first is uncertain.

The most commonly accepted version is that Frank Asbill, who with his brother, Pierce, was seeking pasturage for their horses, traversed the rugged country up the Russian River to Calpella, crossed the South Fork of the Eel River and climbed over San Hedrin Mountain.

At camp one night one of the horses strayed.

The next morning, leaving Pierce in charge of camp, Frank Asbill took off to find the strayed horse. He topped a rise and saw spread out before him the green wonderland of the level, circular valley.

He promptly named it "Round Valley," just as he had named "Eden" the small valley he had traversed a few days earlier.

Returning to camp he told of his discovery and the next day he and his brother entered the valley and blazed a trail across it.

One version has it that Charles Kelsey was with the Asbills at the time of the discovery.

When the Asbills returned to Lake county they told of having a fight with Indians in Round Valley and killing 40 of them.

Some historians term this "unnecessary and doubtful."

"As these Indians were never known afterwards to stand up and fight even in defense of their women and homes, the slaughter may be doubted," one account reads.

THE INDIANS of Round Valley themselves have another story of the first white man to arrive.

The story is told by Rev. De Ford, who heard it from a friend who knows the Indian dialect and reported that he "crawled up to an Indian meeting and heard it."

The story is to the effect that a white man with long blonde hair and blue eyes rode a white horse into the valley.

It was the first white man and the first horse the natives had ever seen.

Curious, they pressed around the stranger, who apparently became panicky and pointed a "stick at one of the Indians. The stick made thunder and the Indian dropped. He had a hole in his head."

Still curious they continued to press around the intruder, who, with his "thunder stick," killed two more.

That was enough even for the patient Ukies. With their obsidian tipped arrows and clubs they killed both the man and the horse and buried the bodies under a pile of rocks.

Whoever the long haired blond blue-eyed stranger may have been has been lost in antiquity.

He may have been an early Argonaut—a seeker after gold in the mining camps to the east. Or he may have been one of the two deserters from Cortez' forces in Mexico, known through meager traces found throughout the area to have actually traveled as far as Lake county long before the country was known to white settlers.

The curious Indian story, handed down from father to son of an occurrence that was "way back before my grandfather's grandfather," in the words of the Indians, may be a link in the chain that someday might lead to identity of a Spanish half-breed dug up in Lake county many years ago and of a strange piece of parchment found near

Note: See Oroville Mercury 7-25-1879 in YHHS archives

Chico and which now reposes in a museum in Spain. The document told of the tribulations of two of Cortez' men who deserted during the conquest of Mexico and wandered into the strange land of "Los Indios."

THE INDIANS themselves called the valley "Hookum Holtz," or "Place of Big Water." The valley is very patently a prehistoric lake bed. Evidence of an early day earthquake having opened up a channel in the hills and causing the lake to drain into the Eel River can be found today.

Earliest settlers sometimes called it "Tule Valley" from the vast growth of reed-like rushes that grew there.

Some time after the discovery of the valley, George White led a party of travelers in. They reported seeing signs of Indians, and of finding the Asbill trail—initials and blazes cut in tree trunks.

Mr. White built a log cabin—some of the hewn oak logs could be found up to a few years back—and became the first settler.

He located a claim and left one Charles Brown in charge. Later, as if to claim proprietorship of the valley, he built a second cabin.

Devinna and Craft built a third cabin on what later became the Melendy farm.

A man named Lawson and another named Arthur built the next house on site of property later owned by George Henley.

These first settlers brought hogs into the valley—"progenitors," says an early account, "of untold thousands"—and launched stock raising.

During the winter of 1857-58 a total of 19 people were in the valley. Among them were two women, whose names cannot be ascertained, who made buckskin clothes for the men.

THE FIRST MAIL was by private subscription and was carried on horseback by Jesse Holland in the summer of 1858. It was continued by this means for several years. The first mail contract was let by the government in 1870 to C. H. Eberle.

The year 1869 saw a road completed into the valley to Ukiah, mainly by private subscription. The two forks of the Eel River were bridged in 1870, but both bridges washed away before the planks showed any indication of wear. The early builders refused to believe stories of high water old settlers told them, and built the structures too low.

In 1859, 61 soldiers came into the valley, but remained only a short time.

In 1863 a military post, called Camp Wright, was established by a troop of cavalry.

The post was maintained until the reservation was turned over to the Methodist Episcopal Church in accordance with President Grant's policy toward the Indians.

First industry came to the valley in 1862 when Andrew Gray, whose two sons and a daughter still live at Covelo, built a water power sawmill on a stream that is still called Mill Creek.

A few years later he added a flour mill and ground flour from the first wheat grown in the valley.

Around the same time another sawmill was established by Brown and Cummins and the Henley Brothers, among the early settlers, established a third.

The valley and the little town of Covelo, named by C. H. Eberle from a Swiss village of the same name, became a "hell roaring" lumber camp.

An early magazine writer described it as the "most profane place anyone can imagine.

Covelo is pronounced "COV-el-lo" by the folks who live there and "co-VEL-loh" by the folks who don't.

Regardless of pronunciation, it started to grow when the building of the Lawson and Arthur house. Benjamin and Murphy built the first store from lumber milled at Andrew Gray's sawmill. Then B. M. Gorman and Sandy Hornbrook built a saloon and Jacob Updegraff started a blacksmith shop.

THE FIRST SOLDIERS came, according to historical accounts, ostensibly to protect the settlers from the Indians. "But," the same account continues, "their officers reported the protection was needed the other way."

Coal was discovered in the valley at one time and the vein of Lignite was worked for a while by the Flood and Mackey interests. Tunnels were run in for a distance of 75 feet and several tons of coal were taken out by land owners in the area. For a time "wild stories" were rife of "big developments" in the coal field, but, as one account put it "were proved to be myths."

There are "old timers" galore in Round Valley who recall stirring tales of "old days."

There's Ralph McCombs, who wrote one of the histories of the area. A third generation resident, he now owns the ranch property his grandfather, the late A. E. McCombs, who came in the late '60's traded a horse and wagon for. "He got 160 acres for the four horses and the wagon," his grandson says.

His father, the late W. F. McCombs, was one of the first butchers in the valley. "He bought beef at \$25 a head and butchered them to supply meat on contract to the reservation

school," his son recalled the other day.

Then there's E. A. (Ed) Gravier, another "old time" butcher in the community.

"Born and raised" in the valley, he's now 78 years old. "Not many of my age left." He is the son of one of the cavalymen who were stationed in the valley in the 1870's at old Camp Wright—sometimes called "Fort Wright."

"My father and mother came from Redwood City," he said the other day. "It was a wild and wooly place in the old days, I'll tell you."

HE REMEMBERS the mule teams and wagons that once were the sole means of contact with "the outside."

He sees need of better roads into the valley. "We've been trying for years to get the road fixed up over into the Sacramento Valley, and to have the state take the roads over," he says. "But they're still county roads."

There is no passenger service into Covelo.

The mail stage runs daily, bringing mail to the post office, established in 1870 and now operated by Frank E. Hagne, postmaster since 1935.

There are motor express and freight services operated by E. H. McClure Sons, Banks and Ogle and Russell Gray.

But, says Mr. Gravier, "if you haven't got your own transportation, you just don't get out."

Living not far from Mr. Gravier's home are Sam and Rollie Gray and their sister, Mrs. Wylie English, the sons and daughter of Andrew Gray, who built the first mill in the valley.

"You can still find burned wheat up where the old mill burned many years ago," Sam Gray says.

Mrs. Mary Perry, mother of Mrs. Russell Sierck of Santa Rosa, remembers, as the oldest woman resident of Round Valley, when it took "two days' travel—and hard days at that"—to go to Ukiah via the San Hedrin road through Redwood Valley.

"We just didn't go very often," she says.

Mrs. Perry was born in the valley in 1868, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Peter O'Ferrall, who were among the first settlers. She is a sister-in-law of Judge Robert Redwine, the beloved veteran former justice of the peace, whose 60th anniversary was occasion for a community party last summer.

THE WHOLE community "turned out" to play host to Judge and Mrs. Redwine on that occasion. Superior Judge Lilburn was over from Ukiah to be master of ceremonies.

Although not able to recall the name of the intrepid motorist, Mrs. Perry vividly recalls the first automobile ever to venture into the valley. "The driver gave every youngster in the valley a ride—and everyone turned out to see the car."

Three mercantile stores supply needs of Round Valley residents at Covelo.

They are the Gravier Brothers store, operated by Mervin and George Gravier, members of a family that has lived in Round Valley for four generations; Hurt and Bailey—two other names long associated with the development of the area—and the Covelo Commercial Company, operated for 20 years by the Winters brothers.

The Gravier Brothers store was operated for many years by Sen. Thomas M. Biggar, a resident of Round Valley since 1902, who served Mendocino county in the State Legislature as both assemblyman and senator for 14 years—two years in the assembly and 12 years in the senate—from 1930 to 1946.

Owner of extensive ranch property, which he sold recently, the Senator, as he is fondly called by all valley residents, now owns one of the few pear orchards in the area and is currently planting a five-acre walnut orchard.

He is owner of the town's postoffice building, and built the first garage in Covelo—now a part of the Gravier Brothers store. In addition he recently erected a medical center, first in the valley.

WALNUT GROWING is becoming an increasingly important feature of the agricultural life of the valley.

Earliest settlers planted American black walnut trees, which, says Ralph McCombs, "became natives."

Many of the giant trees are being "top worked" to English walnut varieties while in recent years a market has existed for the nuts of the black walnut variety to specialty houses.

Tradition marks the only hotel in Covelo. It is the Covelo hotel, built in 1930 by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hill on the site of an old stable.

They opened the hotel with a New Year's Eve dance, 1929-30.

The opening dance was such a success that the affair has been repeated every year since, except during wartime.

While tourists generally have not "found" Round Valley, the area is extremely well known to sportsmen.

Lying as it does, within 14 miles of the western edge of the famed Mendocino National Forest, one of the West's most popular deer hunting sections, the circular valley is frequented in the deer season by hunters from all parts of the state.

It is partly to accommodate these hunters and to serve also as accommodation for tourists who will soon be seeking "out of the way" places to go on pleasure jaunts, that the newest business in town has been established.

It is the "Rock Inn," a modern six-unit motel, soon to have a cafe added, under management of Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Mabey and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stockton, the latter of whom operate the "Shady Corner" cafe in town.

THREE FAMOUS trees are pointed out by Covelo residents.

They're a giant black walnut growing on the Indian reservation, claimed to be the largest of its kind in the world, the famous Henley Oak, growing on the pioneer Henley Brothers farm, later called the Newhall ranch, the valley's only hop ranch, now owned by the Rocky Hill interests of Exeter, Tulare county, and the Max Wolff live-oak, growing in a nearby canyon.

The tree was "christened" the "Max Wolff" oak by Robert Madison, former Santa Rosa mayor, widely known magician and, during the 1930's manager of the Newhall ranch, when it was the Wolff Hop farm.

A 54-acre hop farm that includes all the latest features in handling of this important crop, the property was included in a purchase by the Rocky Hill interests during October, that included 1,000 acres of bottom land, and property on the Redwood highway north of Ukiah.

The Henley Oak is fondly re-

ferred to by Covelo folks as the "biggest mush oak."

Its dimensions are somewhat staggering.

It is 165 feet tall, 41 feet in circumference, 12 $\frac{2}{3}$ feet in diameter at two feet above the ground, and towers into the air 20 feet before the first limb juts out. Its age is estimated at 1,476 years—all of which indicates that it was probably a long, long time ago that Round Valley was "Hookum Holtz," the Place of Big Water.



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FARM BUREAU leader and Indian missionary, Rev. Ernest B. De Ford "has his fingers in about everything in Round Valley." He is helping Indians reclaim brush land for planting to productive crops. A vegetable garden, grown near the mission on land that had been brush covered a year before, was a valley "show spot" last spring and summer.

THIS COMMUNITY IS 'ORGANIZED' TO THE UTMOST, SAYS REVEREND

COVELO—Rev. Ernest B. De Ford says Covelo is "the most organized place in the world."

While there may be some who take issue with the good Reverend for taking in so much territory, it does appear that the friendly folks in Covelo haven't overlooked much in the line of organizations.

The organizational life dates from organization of Covelo Masonic Lodge, organized in 1873 to the PTA, formed six months ago as far as age is concerned.

In activities the various groups "handle about everything to be handled," says Rev. De Ford.

Perhaps the most active from the viewpoint of civic activities is the Covelo Women's Improvement Club, the largest women's organization in the community.

A part of the state and national federations of women's clubs, the group organized in 1927. It now boasts a membership of 100 women from various parts of Round Valley. Meetings are conducted in the club's own building, donated by Mrs. Myrthe Rohrbough, a charter member. Officers include Mrs. O. H. Setterle, president; Mrs. Callie O'Farrell, vice president; Mrs. Elmer Bauer, second vice president; Mrs. Leslie Conner, treasurer; Mrs. Edna Bond, secretary; Mrs. Jack Langland, parliamentarian; Mrs. Byron Hurt, program chairman.

ACTIVITIES range from landscaping the grammar school

grounds, installation of traffic signs in the town, a cemetery cleanup campaign, marking all unmarked graves, planting a redwood tree memorial for Round Valley boys who lost their lives in World War II, installing a memorial bench honoring veterans, on the high school grounds; installing street lights in the town, to memory gardens at the clubhouse.

On the list for future accomplishments are plans to mark with an historical marker, the grave of Captain Henry L. Ford, member of the Bear Flag Party at Sonoma—some historians say he designed the Bear Flag—who was killed in Round Valley in the early days of its settlement; making old Camp Wright, scene of an early military outpost in the valley an historical landmark and a marker at Inspiration Point—the point on the highway where the traveler gets his first view of Covelo and Round Valley.

The Masonic lodge was instituted in 1873. First officers were J. M. Ellis, worshipful master; T. L. Barnes, senior warden; J. Updegraff, junior warden; J. W. Anthony, treasurer and W. L. Bransford, secretary.

Records of the lodge now date only to 1902 because of fires destroying the early lodge halls. Present officers who head the membership of 75 include Jack Allen, worshipful master;

Charles Gutscher, senior warden and Mervin Hill, junior warden.

Organized in 1884, Augusta Chapter, Order of Eastern Star was the 80th to be organized in California. Mrs. Frances Henley of Santa Rosa, now confined to a hospital in Ukiah, is the last charter member.

Officers include Mrs. Edna Langland, matron; Fred Vincent, patron; Eunice Jamison, associate matron; Cecil Williamson, associate patron; Nellie Hamm, secretary; Winifred Hurt, treasurer; Louis Millet, chaplain.

ORGANIZED just six months ago Parent-Teacher Association in the Round Valley Elementary School is the "baby" organization in the community. Its 30 members are headed by Dave Dresbach as president.

The Round Valley Farm Center functions "something like a chamber of commerce as far as affairs outside of town are concerned," says Rev. De Ford, a leader in the organization for several years.

Two years old last July, the Center, one of eight in the Mendocino County Farm Bureau, has been instrumental in organization of a drainage district in Round Valley.

A Junior Ladies Aid functioning in the same church, has a membership of approximately 50. Its officers include Barbara Hauck, president; Maxine Allen, vice president; Mrs. Ted Wilson, secretary; Helen Wright treasurer.



EASTERN Star ladies are active in other organizations in the community as well as the lodge. Left to right, front row, Mrs. Winifred Hurt, treasurer; Mrs. Edna Langland, matron; Mrs. Ferol Rhyne, Electa. Back row, Henrietta Fitzhugh, past matron; Louise Millet, chaplain; Mary Citterle, Ruth. Eightieth chapter to organize in California, OES formed in Covelo in 1884, has 105 members now.

Covelo FFA Youths Are Strong on Stock Projects

COVELO—Organized in 1930, Covelo Chapter No. 51, Future Farmers of America has become one of the leading units in the famous American Farm Youth Movement in Mendocino county.

Members have long taken a leading role in activities at the 12th District Agricultural Fair in Ukiah, and this year with increased livestock project activity the members are looking forward to "corralling" a record number of ribbons at the show.

Members are "strong," say officers, "on livestock." There is very little crop activity. The

members follow the lead in that regard set by their oldsters. For Round Valley is primarily a ranching, not a farming, area.

There are 19 members to the chapter this year, including several Indian youths from the nearby Round Valley Indian reservation who are taking a lead in livestock, particularly beef, project activity.

Officers are Richard Gravier, president; Robert Brown, vice president; Ronnie Schultz, secretary; Don Bauer, treasurer; Roger O'Farrall, reporter and Mickey McLane, sentinel.



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BORN in Round Valley 81 years ago, Mrs. May Perry is the oldest resident in area. She recalls when it "took two hard days to go to Ukiah by horse and wagon over the old San Hedrin road." Mrs. Perry's son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Sierck, live on Burbank avenue, Santa Rosa.



LADIES AID Society of the Covelo Federated Church are guided by these ladies. Left Beatrice Lovell, secretary; Adelaide Rhorbaugh, president; Mrs. Mabel McCombs.



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POPULAR girl students in the Round Valley High School, these two comely young Indian maidens are learning the art of proper table setting from Mrs. Frank Le Fevre, home economics teacher in school. The girls are Marlene Stilwell, center, and Irma Britton.



THREE GENERATIONS of Covelo "Native Sons" are represented here as Ed Gravier, his sons and a grandson meet in the Gravier Brothers Store. Left to right,

George E. Gravier; Ed. A. Gravier, born in the valley 78 years ago; Cecil Hart, his grandson; Arlow E. Gravier and Mervin E. Gravier.



MEMBERS OF 4-H Club are looking forward to 12th District Fair next fall when they'll display their wares. Front row, left to right Shirley Bauer, Sandra Williamson, Carol Cates, Sally Rohrbaugh; Darlene Brush. Second row, Dusty O'Ferrall, Richard Brush, Don Goforth, Margaret

Hurt, Charlene Shields. Third row, Wallace O'Ferrall, Katherine Martindale, Gwen Lovell. Fourth row Warren Clark, Eloise Breese, Yvonne Walter, club president; R. V. McCombs, agricultural leader; Letha Page, Yvonne Thomson, Claudia Williamson, Thomas Swayze, Ira Barrass. Club is sponsored by Farm Center.



A WEEK before Christmas this was a typical scene in Covelo as members of the Women's Improvement Club prepared for the annual community Christmas party,

held in the high school. Left to right, Mrs. Grace Weymouth, Mrs. Callie O'Ferrall, Rose Kalebrough, Easter Hopper, Marie Bauer, Mrs. Ella Henderson, Mary Sitterle, organization president.

The Farm Editorial

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter was received from I. C. Adams, Calistoga, with the comment from Mr. Adams, "I am enclosing an article which I think will be interesting to your readers" We believe Mr. Adams' article is, indeed, interesting, also informative, concerning as it does, first hand reports of "the good old days" in an area to which The Press Democrat has said "Howdy."

'Good Old Days' in Covelo Remembered by P.D. Reader

I have just received from my sister, Mrs. C. A. Carner of Potter Valley, a copy of your Sunday Magazine section, in which there is a fine "write-up" about Covelo, in Round Valley.

This was extremely interesting to me as I was born there in 1874 and lived there for eight years when we moved away on account of my father's health. Inasmuch as I was born there, you may be sure that I was intensely interested and, believing that I know a few things that may be interesting to your subscribers that did not appear in the article in the Jan. 15th edition, I am sending you these few lines with the hope that you find a place in your paper for them.

My father and family went to Covelo in the Fall of 1873. He formerly was employed at Petaluma but through a friend, a minister named Treffen, he got the position of gardener on the Covelo Indian reservation. He had charge of all the agricultural activities. The Indians, by themselves would do nothing in the way of raising corn, wheat, potatoes and other products and so a gardener was hired to oversee this work, and under his guidance the land was cultivated, crops of the various kinds were raised, and in turn this produce was rationed out to the Indians. For everything they wore or ate, they received from the agent, who was the "head man" on the reservation, ration cards, and each Saturday afternoon the Indians came to the office and storehouse where these ration slips were cashed in.

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I REMEMBER having seen an old Indian going home with two hats on and two or three shirts that he had won from some other Indian who was not as skillful in handling cards as he was. The Indians at that time were inveterate gamblers.

The building now used by Rev. De Ford and his good wife, was at that time the storehouse and office.

After having been gone from there for 54 years I went back and found that the office had been changed but very little and I saw some of the Indians who lived there when I was there. I saw, also, several people whom I knew and who were friends of ours. Among them were Mrs. Vincent English, who, when I lived there was little Fannia Brown. Albert Brown was not at home when I went to see him so I was denied the pleasure of seeing him. I saw an old Indian woman, Susie Williams, who remembered me and my folks; remembered how, when I was only a few months old, I was carried around on a pillow for I was too emaciated to be handled in any other way. I afterward saw her in Potter Valley where she lived and died.

As far as I know, Rev. H. L. Burchard was the first Methodist minister to be the agent after the military officers left and the reservation was turned over to the Methodist church. Rev. H. B. Sheldon was the next agent and I am not sure, but I believe a minister named Simmons was the next one to hold the position. He was very well liked.

In speaking about Fort Wright as it was generally known when I lived there, my sister's mother-in-law, Mrs. Martha Bryant, went there to teach the Indian school at the camp. I believe she was there for a year or more and came away about 1881.

THE LITTLE HILL that is not very far away from the Mission, was known as "Medicine Hill" for it was there the "medicine men" went to make their incantations. This reminds me of an incident that no doubt will be doubted by most people,

though it is true and there may be some one who will remember it. It happened this way:

The agent and another man or two besides my father were discussing the weather. There was a severe drought and they all decided that unless rain were to come inside of three days everything would be completely gone.

An old Indian was near by and, hearing what was said, came closer and said, "You want it rain; I make it rain for you if you give me sack of flour."

The Agent turned and said, "All right, you make it rain and I'll give you a sack of flour."

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The old Indian walked away and nothing more was seen of him. The weather continued hot and dry that day but the next afternoon it commenced to cloud up and soon a copious rain was falling and the crop was saved. This was considered a miracle as the rain was practically a local condition. The old Indian was given his sack of flour and went away happy.

No one knows whether or not he prayed to the "Great Father" but he certainly got results, and there is no reason why the sincere prayer of an Indian should not be heard as well as those made by anyone else.

There are many very familiar names given in your article and I remember at one time the Whites and others had a feud on.

It was somewhere in this neighborhood that the Indians claimed there lived a two-headed snake which they had seen several times but had never been able to kill.

Referring to the big black walnut tree, which the people of the valley claim is the largest in the world, I do not know whether or not this is a fact, but I do know that this tree and two or three more were planted by my father, and a photograph taken by my uncle, Oscar Cromwell, who was visiting us at the time, shows these trees about three feet tall at that time. That was in the late '70's. Mrs. Vincent English of Covelo has this photo of my sister, Mrs. C. A. Carner of Potter Valley, sent it to her because her folks were in the picture.

NO DOUBT there are people in the valley who remember my father, Ira W. Adams, who "got up" Sunday School concerts while he lived there. We left Covelo in May, 1882. Grant Reed of Middletown came for us and we left in a big wagon drawn by two mules. We stayed all night in Eden Valley and the next night at Middletown, and got to Calistoga the third day.

This trip can now be easily made in four hours in a modern car.

When I lived there the Eel river had to be forded at one time as there was no bridge. When I was there Mr. C. M. Brown was running the grist mill and L. B. Frasier was running the sawmill. -My father was hired as gardener, but the agent, noticing the beautiful penmanship of my father, had him promoted to clerk (book-keeper) and Mr. Philo Handy was given the position of gardener. Mr. Handy afterwards became postmaster at Ukiah.

I remember seeing the strings of horses and mules come in with two or three deer on each one, after being out on a hunting trip. Indians were sent out to get meat which was distributed to the Indians Saturday afternoons along with other rations.

There was a lower quarters and an upper quarters and we lived at upper quarters. Our house was small and was near where the big walnut tree now stands. I notice in your article that it speaks of the Melendy ranch. I do not know what the connection is, if any, but I remember a Jack Melendy and also I remember Billy Bechtel (spelling not guaranteed correct) and Tony Metock.

Rev. DeFord and his wife visited Calistoga at one time a few years ago and told of his activities on the reservation and I enjoyed very much meeting them and learning about the present conditions there. My father died in Potter Valley in 1913 and had he lived 11 days more he would have seen his 81st birthday.

I. C. ADAMS,
Calistoga.

Oroville Mercury Register

4-27-1950

Hearing Called On Joe King's License Appeal

*Plea to Sell Liquor
At Pulga Resort to
Be Heard Tuesday*

HEARING on the state board of equalization's denial of a seasonal on-sale general distilled spirits license to Joseph R. King Jr., former Butte county district attorney, and Lillian King, as operators of Pulga Resort Tavern, will be held at the courthouse at 3 p.m. next Tuesday, May 2.

The hearing was asked by the applicants following action of the state board March 14 in denying their original application. The denial was on the ground that "public convenience and necessity" do not warrant issuance of the license.

AT PRESENT none of the resorts between Quincy and Oroville on the Feather River highway have seasonal on-sale distilled spirits licenses. This fact has caused the hearing to attract more than the usual attention.

The Pulga Resort, although not on the highway, is approximately only one mile off Route 24, a main transcontinental thoroughfare. It is 30 miles above Oroville.

In order to obtain the license, the applicants must show that public convenience and necessity justify its issuance. There are 70 cabins at the Pulga Resort.

A SEASONAL license would permit sale of distilled spirits, or hard liquor, during up to nine months of the year. The premises now have an on-sale beer and wine license.

Notice of the hearing, at which interested parties will have opportunity to testify, was received today by A. C. Woodhouse, state liquor officer here.

Hearing also will be held here on the same day on application of Lyman Q. Clark and John H. Hall, operators of a grocery at 20th and Grand avenue, Thermalito, for an off sale beer and wine license.

Tavern Ruling Due On May 18

IT WAS UP TO the State Board of Equalization today to say whether Joseph R. King, Jr., former Butte county district attorney, and Lillian King can have a seasonal on-sale hard liquor license for their Pulga Resort Tavern.

Testimony on the question of whether the license should be granted was taken here late yesterday by E. A. McDonald, hearing officer for the board. At the proceedings half a dozen persons present to object to issuance of the license were prevented by state administrative procedure from testifying, and a Mercury photographer was barred, by board rules, from taking pictures during the hearing or in the room before it got under way.

SOLE ISSUE taken up at the hearing and on which the state board is expected to announce its ruling at its meeting in Sacramento May 18, is whether "public convenience and necessity" warrant issuance of the license, previously denied by the state board March 14. The hearing yesterday was held at request of the applicants.

Present to object to issuance of the license but precluded from testifying were four members of the Oroville Ministerial Alliance, an officer of the Butte County Council of the Parent-Teacher Assn., and a state highway patrolman. The latter was prepared to describe dangerous traffic conditions on the Feather River highway and testify regarding a number of fatal canyon accidents in which liquor was a contributing cause.

THE "SILENT WITNESSES" were Dave Neptune, YMCA secretary here, who attended the hearing as president of the Oroville Ministerial Alliance; the Rev. Mr. Ellis Peterson, vice president of the alliance, and pastor of the First Methodist Church; the Rev. Mr. Byron Eshelman, pastor of the First Congregational Church; The Rev. Mr. Doyle Dorrance, pastor of the Church of the Nazarene; Mrs. Clifton J. Barnes of 717 Robinson street, president of the Butte County Council of the Parent Teacher Assn., and A. T. Cumings, state highway patrolman. The latter appeared at request of the ministers.

Only witnesses heard were Russell Dickson, supervising liquor control officer from the Marysville office of the state board of equalization, King and Mrs. King.

DONNELL GREELY of Marysville, district liquor administrator,

conducted the questioning of witnesses as a representative of the State Board of Equalization, and King was represented by his brother, Albert M. King, Oroville attorney, and by himself.

The hearing, held in the large courtroom at the courthouse, came to an abrupt end after the waiting "protestants" had been informed by Greely that their testimony was not admissible.

McDonald and Greely explained afterward to a reporter that the question at issue was not a "protest subject," and anyone wishing to protest granting of the license should have done so at the time the application was filed.

"The hearing today was a matter strictly between the petitioner and the board" McDonald said. "Those opposed to granting of the license could have become parties during the 15 day-period after notice of application for license."

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5-3-1950

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IN BARRING TESTIMONY of those opposing the issuance of the license, he said, he was governed by the state administrative procedure act relating to hearings conducted by all state administrative agencies.

"The sole issue is whether public convenience and necessity warrant issuance of the license," he said.

Testimony taken at the hearing concerned the location of the resort, the number of cabins, and its location in relation to other licensed premises in the general area. If the license is granted, the tavern would have the only seasonal on-sale distilled spirits license between Oroville and Quincy in the Feather River Canyon.

DICKSON TESTIFIED that the canyon from Oroville to Tobin has three licensed premises other than the Pulga resort, which now has an on-sale beer and wine license. (There are four in that distance counting the one at Tobin.) (The seasonal hard liquor license sought would be for a period up to nine months of the year.)

He said that the canyon is frequented by vacationists and sportsmen and that the resort is 1.1 miles off the main highway, on a road that takes off near the Pulga bridge.

Asked by the hearing officer what type of patronage the resort has, Dickson replied that when he visited it Feb. 6, 1950, it was "patronized by railroad men." Of the cabins at the resort, two sets of five double cabins on a spur road to Flea Valley creek and approximately 20 "board and batten cabins" north of the main part of the resort were not occupied, he said. He described the double row of cabins as not suitable for occupancy.

On cross examination, by Albert M. King, Dickson said the road from the highway to the resort was only 15 feet wide, and difficult of approach from the Quincy side.

"Would the resort particularly attract the tourist trade?" the attorney asked.

"The way it stands today I don't think it would," replied Dickson.

JOSEPH R. KING JR. said that while power projects on the river were being constructed the cabins at the resort were occupied principally by construction workers, but that during the past year half the patrons had been construction men and one-half vacationists and sportsmen.

"We have no drop in trade at all," he said. "Most of those who come to the resort come to stay overnight or a week.

He said 65 of the persons who came to the resort in the last few weeks requested "something stronger than beer or wine."

Frequently these people drove to Tobin, 14 miles away, or to Oroville, for a "bottle" he said.

"It causes them inconvenience and takes them away from their pleasures," he added. (The bar at Jarbo Gap, where distilled liquors are served, is 5.8 miles distance.)

KING WAS ASKED by Greely what change had occurred to merit

granting of a distilled spirits license now when one was denied in 1947 to King and to Donald J. Sapp, on the ground that "issuance would result in a police problem and that public convenience and necessity does not justify issuance of the license."

King replied, that "the fact that construction work is over is the material thing," and added that the resort has over 50 new buildings and the store and tavern business has been separated so the premises can be operated on a seasonal basis.

He said there are 56 cabins, 16 tent houses and other cabins at the resort.

Mrs. King testified that the resort had a hard liquor license in 1936 but surrendered it for lack of adequate business.

She explained presence of the train crew members who were at the resort when Dickson visited it to the fact that trains had been held up in the vicinity by storms.

5-19-1950

Pulga Resort Plea Rejected

THE STATE BOARD of Equalization today turned down an application by Joseph R. King Jr., former Butte county district attorney, and Lillian King for a seasonal on-sale hard liquor license for their Pulga Resort Tavern in the Feather River Canyon.

The board approved recommendations of a hearing officer and A. A. Whitaker, associate state liquor administrator, that the license be denied because it was not warranted by "public convenience and necessity," United Press reported from Sacramento.

The board previously denied the application March 14 and the applicants asked a hearing, held in the courthouse here May 2. Sole issue taken up at the proceedings, conducted by E. A. McDonald, hearing officer for the board, was whether "public convenience and necessity" warranted issuance of the license.

Oroville Mercury Register

5-24-1950

California Indians To Get \$150 Each

WASHINGTON — (U.P.) — President Truman today signed a bill permitting California Indians to collect \$150 each from U. S. treasury funds deposited to their credit.

As a result of a claim against the federal government, the California Indians had been awarded a \$6,000,000 judgment. After each eligible Indian receives his \$150, it is estimated about \$2,000,000 of the judgment fund will be left in the treasury.

6-16-1950

Concow Grange Plans Barbecue

CONCOW — The Concow Grange will hold a barbecue at Lake Concow, August 6 it was decided at a meeting of the Grange recently.

Also at the meeting, Roy Prevette resigned as Overseer and Elbert (Al) Legett was elected to hold that office for the rest of the year. Jack Lockridge was initiated by Master Giles.

The Palermo Grange Degree Team will be present at a meeting of the Grange at 8 p.m. next Wednesday and will put on the First and Second degrees.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Brightwell were guests of Mrs. Lonise Crafts over a recent weekend. Brightwell is Master of the Eel River Grange in Humboldt county.

7-20-1950

Fire Destroys Lumber Mill

THE SCOTT LUMBER CO. mill on Concow reservoir was destroyed by fire yesterday, throwing 12 millworkers out of work and causing upwards of \$15,000 worth of damage.

The mill, owned by W. R. Scott of Route 1, Oroville, and his two sons, Elza Scott and A. D. Scott, both of Durham, was not covered by insurance.

Henry Gaub, assistant state ranger in charge at the fire, said today that it evidently started at the end of a waste chain and possibly was caused by a spark from a burner about 150 feet away. It was fanned by a strong breeze.

Gaub said that crews from the Garbo Gap, Paradise and Stirling City were called.

W. R. Scott said that about 12,000 feet of lumber, valued at \$5400, was salvaged. He said he is not sure as yet whether the mill will be rebuilt.

8-10-1950

Gate Is Dedicated To Cherokee Pioneers

A LARGE WROUGHT GATE dedicated to the pioneer residents of the early-day mining community of Cherokee has been donated to the Cherokee Cemetery Assn. by Mrs. J. H. Threlkeld of Carmel, trustees announced today.

The gate, which swings on two large granite pillars, was erected at the cemetery entrance last week.

Mrs. Threlkeld's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cheshire, are buried in the cemetery. Mr. Cheshire was a blacksmith in Cherokee in the late 50s.

FARM NEWS

Cooperation, Ideal Conditions Instrumental In Spelling Doom Of Oregon City Brush Tract

By ROBIN DAGER

Ideal burning conditions and the cooperation of interested parties teamed together Saturday and Sunday to spell doom for brush that was competing with and crowding out forage grasses that provided livestock feed on a 3,300-acre tract east of Oregon City.

Cooperating in what was Butte County's biggest controlled brush burn this year were the five ranchers who owned the land, Charles Johnson, Charles Kaah, H. R. White, G. J. Moak and H. S. Nether, the State Division of Forestry, University of California Agricultural Extension Service and the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Financial assistance was given by the Agricultural Conservation Program of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Throughout the actual burning of the long planned and talked about project, each of the cooperating persons and organizations had warm praise for the cooperation of the others.

The ranchers and land owners carried out the bulk of the work; the State Division of Forestry lent its experience and knowledge of how brush fires burn in recommending what protection measures were necessary and how the fire should be set to obtain maximum results; The PG&E not only loaned men and equipment, including a bulldozer, but philosophically watched four of their power poles go up in smoke when the heat along the right of way became very intense; approximately one-half of the cost of the project was provided by the USDA Agricultural Conservation Program; and the wives of the ranchers supplied lunches and refreshments.

The State Division of Forestry, acting on legislative direction, also provided a Range Management Improvement Crew of experienced fire fighters that stood by to be on guard in the event the fire jumped from the area being burnt.

Starting at 8:30 a.m., the 50-man burning crew set the fire in the eastern section of the tract. Part of the crew worked around the east end of the tract and started burning as they moved down a pole line parallel with State Highway 24 that marked the southern boundary of the burn area.

The major portion of the crew worked west along the three-mile northern border of the tract setting the fire as they steadily moved west.

The slow progress of the fire during the morning had the experienced fire fighters shaking their heads and wondering why a fire that started accidentally would not burn as slow.

By noon the crew along the west boundary had reached the halfway point and the fire was burning faster. The hills in the center of the area were in the early part of the afternoon a sheet of flame and smoke.

During the afternoon, while the crew along the south made slow but steady progress, the crew on the north started down the Oregon City-Oroville road where the brush was considerably heavier and consequently when lit burned with excessive speed which sent the fire racing.

By Saturday evening the western boundary of the burn was being ignited and complete encirclement was made early Sunday.

During the night a small crew patrolled the edges of the burn to put out any fire that might have jumped the perimeter.

Sunday the remainder of the perimeter was covered and then crews went to work relighting areas that did not burn completely.

Jack Scholey, of the State Division of Forestry, stated during the burn Saturday, that weather conditions for the burn could not have been more ideal. The humidity was 22, fuel moisture was 3½ and a light wind was blowing. During the afternoon Saturday the temperature stood at 112 degrees, in an adjacent area not being burnt.

During the burning the State Highway Patrol warned motorists of the burn on Highway 24.

With the brush gone from the area Bur Clover, Filarie or Black Oats will be seeded to provide forage grasses. Seeding that is required will be done under the direction of the University of California Agricultural Extension Service.

The Chico Enterprise Record
8-22-1950

Sacramento Bee
11-25-1950

Cattlemen Will Head Pentz Farm Center

McClatchy Newspapers Service

OROVILLE, Butte Co., Nov. 25. Earl Parker, a cattleman in the Pentz district, has been elected chairman of the farm bureau center in Pentz for one year.

Other officers named include L. L. Castle as vice chairman and Mrs. Parker as secretary.

Members heard Fred R. Platt, Butte County agricultural commissioner, discuss control of parlatoria scale on fruit trees and the attempts here to control Klamath weed by importation of the Australian beetle, which feeds on the weed exclusively.