

Paradise Progress Review

4-1-1956

PG&E TO BUILD POE POWERHOUSE BENEATH GROUND

Award of a contract for construction of an underground powerhouse on the Feather River is announced by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. The Bechtel Corporation of San Francisco was the successful bidder. The plant is part of the Poe Project, which will develop 106,000 kilowatts of electric generating capacity at a cost of about \$34,900,000.

The powerhouse will be located on the river southeast of Jarbo Gap and about 24 miles by road from Oroville. It will contain two generating units with their turbines and control equipment. All that will be visible above ground will be a relatively small control house, a concrete platform for the switchyard and a 240-ton gantry crane. The plant itself will be entirely below ground, constructed in a deep excavation through a gravel bar to bedrock. The ground will be filled in again around the concrete structure to provide yard space. The crane will enable machinery and equipment to be lifted

in and out of the plant through a hatchway.

Water will be carried to the turbines through 6½ miles of 19-foot-diameter tunnel and an underground penstock. The tunnel is now under construction by the Utah Construction Company and Bates & Rogers Construction Corporation.

The diversion dam and tunnel intake are located about a mile upstream from the railroad community of Pulga. The Bechtel Corporation holds the contract for dam construction. Work on the dam began in February but is now temporarily suspended because of high water in the river. It will be resumed in several weeks.

PG&E also will begin driving tunnel in early summer for two more plants, the Butt Valley and Caribou 2 powerhouses, further upstream on the Feather River. This project will develop a total of 145,000 kilowatts at a cost of about \$32,600,000.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pfffer of Camptonville were recent week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Meggers. Miss Romona Rodriguez, a teacher in the Camptonville high school, motored over with the Pfffers to visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfredo Rodriguez.

Man, 78, Composes Poetry, But Seldom Puts It Down On Paper

George Moak, 78, of Big Bend Road is an old fella with gray hair and wide gray mustache to match. He is a man who likes to read and compose poetry. There is nothing so unusual about that, except Moak seldom puts his works on paper. He thinks them up and then files the verses in his mind.

Moak says he remembers when he wrote his first poem. It was to a sweetheart he was going with during his youth.

"I wrote a poem for my girl friend and one day when I went to visit her at her home, the mother, who was a widow, held the poem in her hand and just teased me to no end."

"I Fixed Her"

Then Moak went on to describe the widow's boyfriend, who used to visit her.

"I fixed her," he recalled.

"Valentine's Day was not too far away and I composed a poem to her, disguising my hand writing."

From memory he recited the poem, which described the widow and her boy friend in a humorous love scene.

Recited To Ranch Hands

He chuckled, saying, "I've had more fun composing poems."

He explained that he would make up poems about some character or foreman on a job. He would recite the poem to other ranch hands, or to miners, when he worked in the mines.



POET COWHAND—George Moak, Butte county "old timer," chooses a poem from his memory and scribbles it on a note pad. Moak has many poems describing the early west and life in Butte county.

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"When do you get inspired to compose poetry?" he was asked.

Moak said where-ever he worked and when he was alone, thoughts would come to him in story form and he would then in turn think of verses to fit the story.

Some of his poems are not jokes. He recited one that described an Indian on a hunt. Another told of the early miners deep in the side of a mountain searching for gold. As he recited, one could almost see the half-naked men sweating in a hole with muscles tensed as they worked with pick and shovel, loading a small rail car.

Here is one of Moak's short poems telling of a traveling cowboy who is growing old and is tired of wandering.

Carry me back to my own home ranch.

On top of a mountain high,

Where I can ride and shoot and cuss, While the rest of the world goes by.

There I'll follow the track of my white faced herd o'er the trails I so often trod,

Until I'm face to face with the Reaper grim

Alone with myself and God.

Never Sold Poems

Moak said he had not tried to sell any of his poems but he did, however, loan a poem to a friend who had it published in a company magazine.

Moak is a real old timer of Butte county. He was born about three miles north of Chico, an area then known as Little Chico Creek.

His father, John J. Moak, was a young lawyer from Albany, N. Y., who came to California in 1850, a year after the big gold rush began, to seek his fortune in gold.

In his younger days, George Moak worked as a cow hand and miner and later acquired four teams of horses and went into business hauling freight out of Chico and Gridley.

In 1910, he moved up to the Feather River Big Bend area, near Jarbo Gap, where he hauled power poles and equipment for the Great Western Power Company. It later sold out to PG&E.

Moak continued to reside in the Big Bend region and went back to being a hired hand for ranchers. He has been living in Big Bend village ever since.

Moak and his wife, Willamina, whom he calls "Minnie," were married in 1902. The Moaks have four sons and two daughters.

One son, Lyman, is a mine caretaker and rancher; another son, John, is a labor foreman for the PG&E in Las Plumas. A daughter, Huldah, is married to Oscar Carlson, Chico contractor and another daughter, Mary Ellen, resides with her husband, William Brown at Yankee Hill.

The Moaks have 14 grandchildren.

7-27-1956

Agreement OK'd For Public Use Of Logging Roads

A contract with Diamond Match Company for public use of company logging roads in the Ramsey Bar area east of Stirling City was approved by the board of supervisors Monday.

The contract provides for public use but not commercial traffic. The company will retain the right to control traffic on its roads.

Maintenance of the roads will be shared by the county and Diamond Match, with the county maintaining them when Diamond Match is not using them. The county will guarantee that the company will be held clear of any liability.

The contract covers the Ramsey Bar, Vandegrift, and Keyser Creek roads.

Marshall Jones, director of public works, was authorized to negotiate an agreement with the company for the use of the Retson road. County bridges across the West Branch on the Retson county road and across Big Kimshew creek on the Oroville Con cow road are washed out.

10-3-1956

O r o v i l l e - M e r c u r y
Oroville, California
3 Wednesday, Oct. 3, 1956

Mining Record Book Gift By Maurice Stiles

A Record book of the Concow mining district in Butte County was presented to the Native Sons and Native Daughters Pioneer Relic Building in Oroville, by Maurice Stiles, Yankee Hill.

First entries in the book are in 1889 by M. H. Wells, recorder. Notices of mining locations; both placer and quartz; mining rules of the Yankee Hill mining district. Last entries of locations are in 1904.

Visitors to the relic building Sunday afternoon came from Modesto, Rancho Cordora, Chico, Sacramento, Yuba City, Oroville and New Albany, Ind.

Hostesses for the afternoon were Mrs. Elmer Wade, Mrs. W. B. Davis and Mrs. F. W. Boyle.

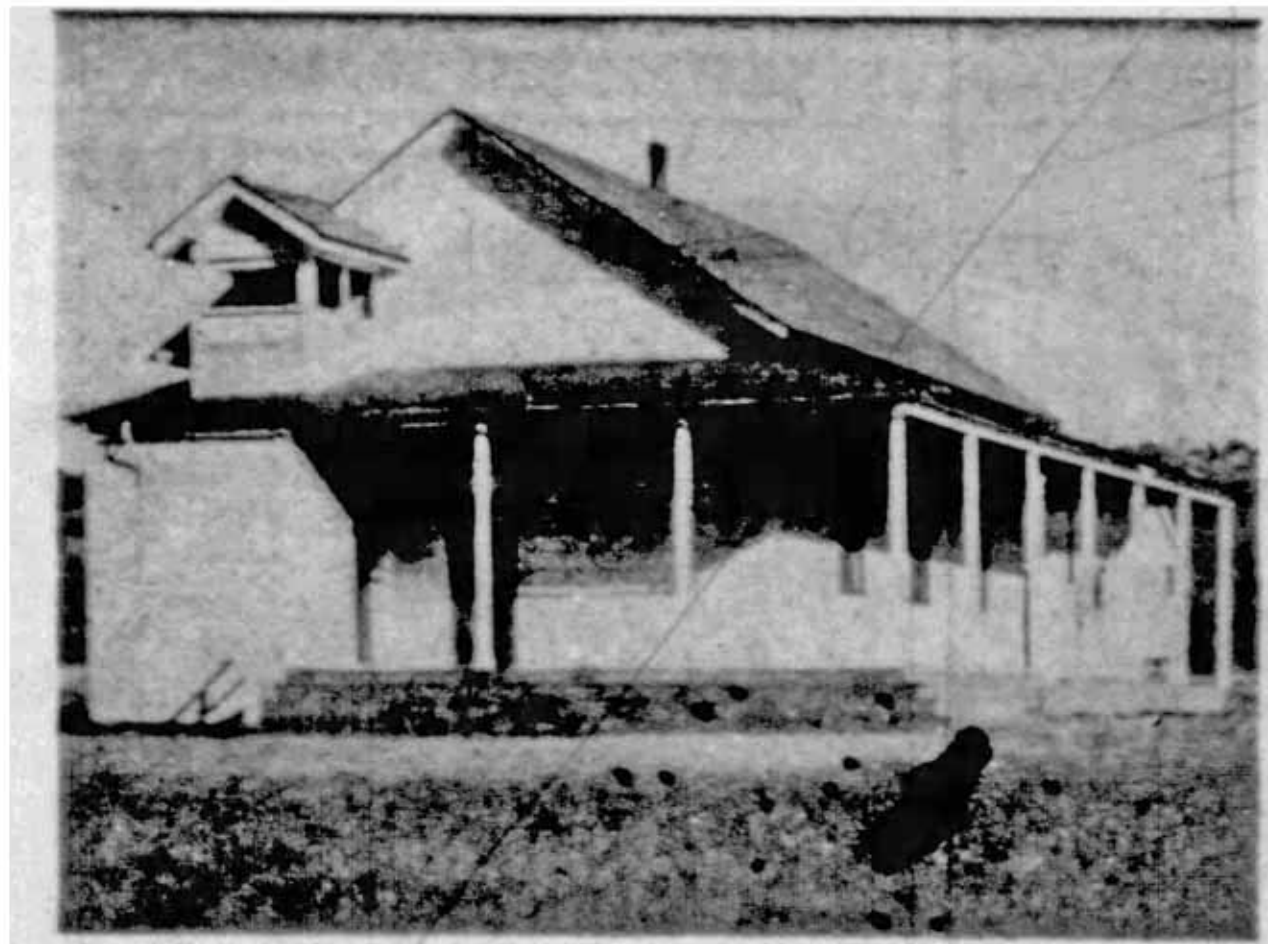
In charge of register book, Miss Sandra Davis.

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11-19-1956

School Will Celebrate 100 Years Of Classes

Messilla Valley School at Pentz will celebrate its one-hundredth birthday Tuesday with an open house at the school from 1 to 5 p.m. Mrs. Olive Carpenter, teacher announced. The social studies class at the school discovered the fact that this was the centennial year when they were doing research for their class unit.

Founded as Oregon school of Messilla Valley, it now has 20 pupils. Miss Alma Hesbol, who retired in 1955 was teacher there for 37 years and has been invited to attend the celebration. Old fashioned games will be played and a number of very old textbooks will be on display. Refreshments will be served.



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12-1-1956

Yankee Hill Personals

THE FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE students in Mr. Neeley's room at the Concow School, in keeping with their social studies of the Westward Movement, prepared a turkey dinner which they served to their visiting mothers. The menu included roast turkey with dressing, baked corn, cranberry sauce and a beverage. The room was decorated in a Thanksgiving motif, and the pupils wore Pilgrim costumes made at school. Room mothers who assisted were: Mesdames Gene Sloat, Grace Watson, Vera McKeen and Bettie Morris.

WHAT COULD BE MORE FUN than a hayride in a big truck with a lively group of young folks? In that fashion, Judy Brown celebrated her birthday last week. At the end of the trail appetites were appeased by participating at a weiner roast with all the trimmings, followed by the birthday cake and gift opening.

Those present were: Kathleen, Linda and Sonny Moak, Barbara, Brenda and Jimmy Giles, Tommy and Clinton Derrick, Bob Smith, Calvin Schager, Jeanette and Barbara Phillips, Allen Privette, Norman McQuarrie, Joyce Simmons, Herbert and Colleen O'Neil and Johnny Brown.

LARRY BARR was home on furlough. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Barr of Yankee Hill. Before his leave, he was stationed in Hawaii where he completed

a course in metallography. He was very enthusiastic about the nice weather in Hawaii but somewhat disappointed to find the cities looking much like any other, sans their native charm. On his return he expects to go to Pearl Harbor. He had a short visit with his brother, Max, in San Diego, where Max is in training, having recently joined the Navy.

GEORGE SHIER and family spent Thanksgiving in Chico with his parents, and the weekend with Mrs. Shier's cousins, the Ken Billeus, in Sacramento. Louie Harding, who is in the naval service at Oak Harbor, Wash., visited for a few days with the Shiers. He is Mrs. Shier's brother.

BILLY G. PATTERSON and his mother from Park Hill Trailer Court, on Big Bend Road, spent the past week end with Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Udell of Ceres. The Udells have a dairy ranch and Patterson enjoys giving his brother-in-law a hand, for that was the kind of work he did formerly.

MR. AND MRS. WARREN PECK from Deadwood Lane, have been on the sick list. Both are improved and able to be up and out again.

MRS. MARGARET TUCKER'S Thanksgiving dinner guests were: Mr. and Mrs. James Moak and children Kathleen, Linda and Sonny; Mr. and Mrs. Chester Petty and daughter, Peggy. The Tucker home is at the Park Hill Trailer Court.