

1-3-1958

Cup Of Tea Reminds Oroville Couple Of Renowned Deadwood Sanitarium

HEALTH RETREAT This is how Ah Sang's sanitarium looked when Deadwood, Butte County, was a thriving community. The health center was noted for herbs and teas and generally was popular except among businessmen and doctors.



Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kirby of Oroville, Butte County, have a cup of tea and recall Ah Sang and his sanitarium which later became a hotel. Bee Photo

OROVILLE, Butte Co. — Whenever Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kirby of Oroville sit down to enjoy a cup of tea they think back to the early Butte community of Deadwood, Dr. Ah Sang and his renowned — although medically opposed — sanitarium.

"Everybody there," Kirby thought back, "drank tea twice each day. That was part of the cure."

Kirby is a native of Oregon City near Cherokee, Butte County, and his wife was born in Morris Ravine, a booming mining settlement outside Oroville.

Visited Hospital

Kirby's family moved to a ranch near Deadwood when his father became caretaker of the Concow Reservoir. It was then, as a boy, he used to visit the nearby Deadwood Sanitarium and see the small but busy Chinese doctor supervising the brewing of the famous tea, checking on patients or directing the planting of the

hospital's truck gardens.

"I heard them say one time when I was there they had 100 patients," Kirby recalled. "Many of the people were in tents although the doctor had built a number of buildings."

"The doctor drew patients from all over the country and was especially good in treating blood poisoning."

Opposed By Doctors

"Of course, he wasn't very popular with the businessmen here in town or with the doctors. They tried to run him out but couldn't seem to do it."

Kirby recalls the doctor settled in Deadwood in the 1870s and remained about 12 years. In that period he managed to send through college three sons of Garrett Tibbe, on whose land the sanitarium was built, as well as start a family of his own.

About all that remains of the site, now owned by Al Treichler of Oroville, are graves in the Tibbe homestead

plot and 10 to 20 graves in an adjoining cemetery where Dr. Ah Sang put the incurables.

Recalls Reports

Mrs. Evelyn Hendricks of the Nelson Bar Road sheds more light on Dr. Ah's origin and end. She also grew up in the area and her father operated the main hospital building as a hotel after Ah's departure.

She reports, as told to her, Ah was one of the many Chinese who came to labor in the gold streams. He prescribed an herb treatment for a miner dying of blood poisoning and the man recovered. The reputation of the young Chinese grew, and he was able to give up mining and start his hospital.

No reason is known for his departure but it is believed he went into the midwest and opened a new sanitarium. Within a matter of years news of his death in an institution for the insane drifted back to Oroville.

Note: "Garrett Tibbe" is Gerhard Tebbe



Mrs. John Peirano sweeps out some of the pots while her husband and his brother, Joe, right, clean out more in another, nearby area. These pots are a short distance from the road.

Indian Grinding Pot Find Numbers 200

By Mary Lemcke

ON THE NEAL ROAD about half way from Highway 99E to Paradise (See map.) is one of the largest clusters of old Indian grinding pots in this part of the country.

John and Joe Peirano of Durham are cleaning them and have counted 200.

The cluster is in lava rock and the pots range in diameter

from about 2 inches to a foot. The Perianos call one set the punchbowl. It consists of a large pot surrounded by almost regular distances by smaller ones.

Others are arranged in rather straight rows along the lava flow.

The collection is on range land belonging to the Llana Seco Rancho. It is thought the Indians had a campsite at this

spot, an ideal location with oak trees and a deer crossing. There were also rabbits and other animals.

The Neal Road runs up a saddleback and on either side as one descends to the creeks can be found Indian caves.

The creeks were filled with fish. Frequently the Indians made trips down into the valley where they killed birds and gathered weed seeds and reeds for their baskets.

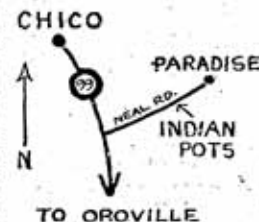
It was the acorns which were ground in the pots and Kenneth Clarke, instructor in anthropology at Chico State College, says the acorn of the black oaks was the favorite. If the meal of the valley oaks was used it was necessary to mix it with other ingredients to make it palatable.

For someone making a trip to see this large cluster of Indian pots it is possible to go on up the historic Neal Grade to Paradise and then return by a number of routes going over the Skyway into Chico or by way of the Clark Road to Oroville.

If one is venturesome he can detour by way of Pentz and Cherokee dropping down to the Feather River Highway.



It is believed this pot in a large rock was used by Indians for ceremonial purposes. See Photos By Mary Lemcke



Paradise Post
1-31-1958

Several County Roads To Get New Names

Eleven new road names will come into being as the result of the relocation of Highway 40A around the Feather River Project site, the supervisors decided Monday.

The new names were contained in a "resolution of intention" adopted by the supervisors upon the motion of Supervisor Paul Kepple, in whose supervisory district the roads are located.

Marshall Jones, director of public works, pointed out the new 40A alignment cuts across and through present county roads serving the area, leaving their current names meaningless and confusing.

Local residents, long familiar with the Oroville-Pentz-Magalia and Oroville-Concow roads, will now have to become familiar with such names as Coal Canyon, Lunt, Vinton Gulch, Dark Canyon, Detlow, Philbrook, and Truex roads.

A public hearing on the proposed road changes will be held
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Several County Roads To Get New Names

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by the supervisors February 24, but this is considered a mere formality by county officials, who foresee no opposition.

Included in the proposed road name changes are the following:

Oroville-Pentz-Magalia: lower portion changed to Coal Canyon road, upper portion to Pentz-Magalia road. Durham road from 99E to 40A, to Pentz road; Oroville-Concow road from state route 87 to 40A, to Cherokee road; Oroville-Concow road to the south line of section 21, changed to Vinton Gulch road.

Oroville-Concow from state route 30A to Pine Store, changed to Yankee Hill road; Yankee Hill road to Nelson Bar, changed to Lunt road; present 40A from Big Bend road to 900-foot elevation, changed to Dark Canyon road; Big Bend road from 40A to a dead end, changed to Detlow road.

Oroville-Concow road to the east end of Philbrook creek, changed to Concow road; Oroville-Concow road upper portion, to Philbrook road; Oroville-Concow road from 40A to a dead end in section 16, changed to Truex road.

Paradise Post

9-5-1958

Two Fires in Vinton Gulch

Local Division of Forestry crews were called out Sunday to fight two brush and timber fires in Vinton Gulch, between Cherokee and Yankee Hill.

The fires, which broke out along the road at the same time in two places, were in such steep and rugged country that fire fighters could not get to them. Planes were used to drop chemicals, which stopped the spread of the fire and slowed it down enough so the men could reach the fire line.

The fire, reported at 3 p.m. Sunday, burned out of control for

eight hours. Mop-up crews worked on it until Monday at 6 p.m.

Half the CDF crews in the county were called out to battle the blaze, including the Paradise crew and men from the state honor camp at Magalia. The Stirling City crew was sent down to Oroville for standby duty and helped load the aerial tankers at the airport.

Cause of the fires, one of which burned over 70 acres and the other 15 acres, is being investigated. They were within half a mile of each other and burned nearly to the top of the hill.

Fifty men were on the larger

fire and 18 on the smaller. Three bulldozers were used, and 4600 gallons of chemicals were dropped by the planes. Ranger Charles Campbell directed the tanker operations. Assistant Rangers Lee Friberg of Paradise and Henry Gaub of Oroville were in charge of the fire fighters on the ground.

The Paradise crew helped fight a 150-acre grass and brush fire near Bangor Wednesday afternoon. Efforts of the men were hindered by wind, and it was 10 p.m. before the fire was brought under complete control. Part of the Stirling City crew was sent to Paradise as standby.

Yankee Hill, Paradise Fires Controlled; Both Believed Set

PARADISE (E-R)—What is the cost of a careless deer hunter—or one with incendiarism in his heart?

Fires in Butte County over the weekend spread county division of forestry crews in all directions and required crews from all parts of the north state along with attacks by tanker planes and heavy equipment to bring under control.

According to California Division of Forestry officials, all the forest and brush fires were set and most of them were on property posted against hunting.

Two major fires exploded Saturday afternoon about 2 p.m., one at Yankee Hill in rugged forest country, and one on Clements Ridge paralleling Clark Road below Paradise. Both gained headway only hours after forestry crews had fought five stubborn, difficult-to-reach fires in the area south and east of Oroville.

Crews under the direction of Assistant Ranger Lee Friberg of the Paradise Station fought the Yankee Hill fire, located on the Worcester property just above Lunts, on the Yankee Hill-Conrow Road.

A frontal attack on the Yankee Hill blaze, confined to 100 acres of timber and range land, was made with prompt aerial borate spraying by three planes which were "on the fires" by 3 p.m. Twenty "drops" of 100 gallon drums of wet borate were made to knock down the fire. Called in were numerous pieces of heavy equipment in the area at the construction headquarters of McCammon-Wunderlich, contractors of roadbuilding there.

The Clark Road fire burned over nearly 900 acres, and during its 30-hour course came within three miles of the Pearson Road at Paradise, threatening the Barthel-

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Six Appear in Court to Answer Drinking Charges

Minors consuming alcoholic beverages took six young men into district court this morning on charges of violating the Alcoholic Beverages Act.

Robert Gary Klander, 20, of 731 West Sixth Street; Oran Gary Plunkett, 18, of 390 Ash Street; Robert Allen Martin, 20, of 742 West Fourth Street; Kenneth Lloyd Pershall, 17, of 128 West 20th Street; Charles LeBaron Heyl, 18, of 588 White Avenue; and Jerry Floyd Foreman, 19, of 585 East 10th Avenue, all appeared on the charges.

Klander, Plunkett and Martin were arrested by Chico police last Friday night after they were found in an off-street parking lot at West Sixth and Orient Streets and Klander was seen emerging from the Drive-in Liquor Store, at 372 East Sixth Street.

Klander admitted purchasing eight quarts of beer at the liquor store for a beer-bust at his home where officers also found six other teenagers ranging from 17 to 19 who apparently had taken part in the party.

Klander, Plunkett and Martin pleaded guilty to the charges before District Judge W. E. Rothe this morning and were fined \$100 each and given a 30-day sentence

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Yankee Hill, Paradise Forest Fires Controlled

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son home on Lower Clark at the north end of the blaze, and the farmhouse and ranch buildings of Leonard Kendall in the valley at the end of Clements Ridge.

The burn reached east and west from Clark Road ravine across Clements Ridge, through the ravine and to the crest of Berry Creek Canyon before being halted by firebreaks and backfiring.

During the afternoon, six drops of borate were made on the ravine perimeter by tanker planes. Heavy equipment and additional crews began arriving before sundown.

Saturday night five bulldozers were hauled in to cut firebreaks for the rapidly spreading fire. Dozers worked in rough terrain unbroken by roads or prior fire trails; the lighter equipment toiling with effort up the steep ridges until arrival of a D-8 loaned by McCammon-Wunderlich.

Crews from Paradise, Cohasset, Forest Ranch and Oroville formed fire line divisions together with their pumper trucks, pickups and specially equipped jeeps to augment machinery for the far-flung firelines required.

Fire boss for the operation, designated as Fire Camp No. 1 with headquarters set up on the Kendall property above a small reservoir there, was Larry Kirtin, assistant ranger from Cohasset, who remained on duty for the 30-hour tour of firefighting, and the all-night patrol action Sunday night.

Associate Ranger Harry McKeen was line boss Saturday until Sunday afternoon, when he was relieved by Joseph Caparuso, assistant ranger from the Redding District office.

Virtually all firefighting crews and officials had been without sleep for 24 to 48 hours before the weekend of fires fighting flames from southern Butte County to as far north as the Trinity-Shasta county line and Shingletown east of Redding.

Reporting to the Paradise fire, they were given a hearty hot meal, coffee, a canteen of water and an assignment for round-the-clock duty along the canyons, sidewalls or ridges of Clements Ridge and Berry Creek Ridge.

By mid-morning Sunday 80 men were on duty, the total augmented during the night by arrival of one 18-man crew from Magalia Honor Camp.

Shifting winds around 3 a. m. Sunday harassed the fighters and caused the fire to break over two dozer-cut firebreaks at the south end of the fire leading to the valley. Fire burned past fire camp headquarters and threatened farm buildings. A wide backfire was undertaken from the floor of the ridge into the flames to halt them a few hundred feet from the barns and farm buildings on the Kendall Ranch.

Backfiring was done all along Clark Road early Sunday morning also to add to the holding power of the road itself in case winds sent flames across the firebreak running north and south in the ravine.

Sunday at 8 p. m. the main fire had burned out and backfires were smoking ribbons around the burn, except for hot spots along the lengthy mountain ridge where large fallen logs were glowing.

Equipment and most of the

crews which had been working for many days and nights without rest were released for reassignment, with a roving patrol remaining to walk the firebreak lines to check for any flareups or sparks which could cause spot fires outside of the controls.

Parts of a Paradise and Oroville crew and a second 17-man crew from Magalia Honor Camp went on roving patrol duty Sunday night, and will remain until all hazard of breakthrough is eliminated, according to fire boss Kirtin.

Late Sunday night the fire camp was closed at the Yankee Hill fire, and moved to Cherokee, where tired crews under direction of Assistant Ranger Friberg are fighting three smaller fires which broke out in succession Sunday afternoon. The trio involved 20 acres, 10 acres and three acre areas in separated terrains in Vinton Gulch. Officials are of the opinion that all three are also "set" fires.

Burned over on Clements Ridge were lands owned by Charles Beckett, Erol Coleman and Kendall, with damages to range grass and trees. The fire burned to the boundary of Round Valley Ranch owned by Don Flesher, but did not reach his property.

Yankee Hill Personals

YANKEE HILL — Work done on the Crain Memorial Park this summer includes development of water, installation of two cook stoves, table and benches, and two toilet facilities.

THE WATSON'S Picnic Grounds by the shore of Lake Concow was the site of the annual Concow Grange barbecue. The food basket prize went to the Dave Dions, mystery box to Mrs. Peggy Schanconey, Joanna Nalley won the attendance prize, and Mrs. Warren Peck gained a beautiful bread basket filled with packages.

THE YANKEE HILL Social Club in addition to its regular monthly business meetings, held a potluck family picnic for club members and their friends at the Leo Nehcr's on Big Bend Road.

TEENAGER activities this summer have varied from swimming in Paradise, a hayride and weiner roast at Crain Memorial Park at Lake Concow, a birthday party for Robert Smith, charter member of the teen group, and dancing at the Concow schoolhouse every second and fourth Saturday of the month. Harvey Roth, director of Paradise Recreation District, and Jerry Cain, dance instructor have been in charge of the activities. The Concow School District board of trustees has permitted the use of the school bus for transportation of the youth group to special functions, including trips to the Paradise pool every Friday.

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LARRY AND MAX BARR, on Navy duty aboard the USS Obannon, report that, from Pearl Harbor, they went to Australia, Guam, Singapore, and Japan. They will return to their base about Oct. 15. According to letters received by their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Barr, they frequently see Cecil Phillips, another boy from Yankee Hill.

CARL SEQUEST of Big Bend Road is employed as pile driver with the Pacific Bridge Company. His wife, son, Richard, and daughter, Mrs. John Varni, of Rodeo, spent a weekend with him.

Oroville Mercury Register

11-25-1958

Yankee Hill Items

YANKEE HILL — Formerly of Pinole, Calif., now living at Pulga, the William Adair family has three children attending Big Bar School. Six-year-old Edward Allen is in the first grade, Linda June, eight, in the third, and Anna Louise, nine, in the fourth grade. Anna Louise fell and broke her left arm while coming down the back porch steps at home. Being left-handed, naturally, she is enjoying sympathy for her efforts of right hand usage. Adair is working for the Pacific Bridge Company.

IT WAS more like fun than hard work for Mrs. Pauline McCabe assisting Mrs. Mary Petty at the Park Hill grocery store while Mrs. Margaret Tucker was away on a month's vacation. Plane and train accommodations took Mrs. Tucker to Durango, Colo., and stops in New Mexico for visits with relatives.

WELCOME TO the George M. Good family who will soon be moving to our wooded hills. Good is employed as bus driver and custodian at the Concow School.

S. F. FRISBIE of Lake Concow has been quite ill, but present report shows much improvement. Several of the children came home for the weekend.

A BOX SOCIAL recently held at the Concow schoolhouse for the community was well attended by all age groups. It was a costume affair with prizes for the best outfits. Chosen by applause first prize went to little Rusta Legget and Tommy Truex for the children's group, and Jean Legget and Dean Malone for the adults. The greater part of the evening was spent in dancing to records. Ray Giles was the box auctioneer, and Paolo Grieco kept the records spinning. Hot coffee, milk and fruit punch were served all evening. Box lunch was held about 9:30 p.m. Proceeds went into the fund for the community Christmas party. Mrs. Pauline Malone and Mrs. Nona Banta were on the program committee and Mrs. Barbara Sevey had charge of decorations. The Yankee Hill Social Club sponsored the party.

REGULAR business meeting and luncheon was held at Mrs. Ella Peck's home on Nov. 12 by the Yankee Hill Social Club. Mrs. Mary Wing was recipient of the mystery box. Mrs. Peck was given her birthday gift from the club.

Special meeting of the social club met at Mrs. Paolo Grieco's home Nov. 18 to further plans for the annual Christmas community party. Mystery box went to Mrs. Tobin. Next regular meeting Dec. 3 at Mrs. M. Banta's.