

Yuba Man Gets Indian Sign On Weather, Gains Fame For Predictions

By Melvin N. Gagnon
Bee staff writer

RACKERBY, Yuba Co.—It rained today just as Charles Buren Gramps of Rackerby predicted to this writer two weeks ago. What is more, he said it was going to be a "pretty good rain but not too much." And so far it has been just that. Gramps, 71, basis his predictions on methods taught by his Concow Indian ancestors and observable signs in nature. He goes by the signs of the moon and makes comparisons of current months to similar periods of other seasons.

He also considers some of

Right Either Day

RACKERBY, Yuba Co. Charles Buren Gramps changed his mind when interviewed two weeks ago.

At first he predicted rain for yesterday but at the last moment said, "Better make it January 22nd."

Regardless, rain fell on both days.

the signs taught by his Pennsylvania German grandfather.

"He could tell rain was coming by the aches in his joints and the hurting of his corns," Gramps mused.

Predictions Awaited

In the small community of

Rackerby, residents waited from the first part of December to see if their neighbor was right in saying the long drouth would be broken December 22nd.

"They circled the dates on their calendars," the retired highway worker said. "A lot of them like to kid me about my forecasts but they always ask. It did rain on the 22nd; it began about 10 AM. It rained for three days, just like I said it would."

Signs Of Rain

Some of the more apparent signs of rain, Gramps stated, are provided by wild animals. Pets in the woods become playful and more active. Deer come out of hiding. Birds appear in thicker flights.

One of the more positive signs, he added, is when the water dogs (salamanders) begin to desert the creeks for higher ground.

"When there are rings around the moon and sun," he asserted, "rain will come within 24 hours."

"If you hear the night birds calling or the owls hooting, they are expecting rain. But when you hear a rooster crow, it means the rain is going to stop."

Prayers Answered

"I also pray a lot. All of my needs have been answered by prayer."

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1-22-1960



Charles Buren Gramps

Bee Photo

Pentz Group Hears School Union Plans

New Organization Is Considered

Two proposals for reorganization of elementary school districts north and east of Oroville were considered by a crowd of some 40 people at the Messilla Valley (Pentz) School last night during a meeting of the county committee on school district organization.

The first plan, brought to a head by a petition signed by six Pentz residents, was rejected by the committee because of opposition from the other two districts involved.

The plan proposed creation of a new union elementary district composed of Messilla Valley, Cherokee, and part of the old Clear Creek district, which is now part of the Durham Unified District.

The second plan, which is in the early discussion stages, was broached by members of the Concow district, and involves the creation of a new mountain union elementary district, composed of four or five existing small elementary districts. The districts are Concow, Messilla Valley, Las Plumas, Big Bar (Pulga) and Cherokee.

A discussion of the first plan disclosed that Messilla Valley, now a two-teacher school, is in

need of a new school plant, with a better water supply.

In considering possible ways to handle the future elementary school situation in the area, signers of the petition pointed out they are not trying to force any revision, but wanted the possibility of a larger district, with a school at Messilla Valley, thoroughly considered.

Howard Solnrev, Durham, board member, and Louis Edwards, superintendent, said they did not want to give up assessed valuation, which would be involved should the former Clear Creek district be removed from the Durham unified district.

Mrs. Madeleine Castle, Mrs. May Johnson and Mrs. Zelma Saville, trustees of the eight-pupil Cherokee school, said they wanted to retain their district. One Cherokee parent of two children, however, favored a larger district.

Petition Rejected

Although the county committee voted to reject the petition from Pentz, it brought out that the aims of the Pentz people is to obtain an improved school situation, and that the proposal from the easterly districts would be worth further consideration.

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In fact, the assessed valuation is so favorable that some thought has been given to the eventual extension of the proposed plan to include creation of a separate mountain high school district. This, however, is not part of the immediate plan, and the suggestion met with some opposition from Messilla Valley.

Four School Houses

The three Concow trustees, E. H. Leggett, Ray Giles and James Moak, brought out in their remarks that they envisioned the maintenance of schools at Pulga and Las Plumas because of their inaccessibility; continuation of the recently enlarged Concow school; and construction of a new school at Messilla Valley.

The Cherokee school is only three miles from the Messilla Valley school, and at present the forecast for enrollment next year is only five, the minimum number to prevent lapsation of a district.

Thomas E. Evans, county superintendent of schools, brought out that there would be educational advantages in creation of a large union mountain district, even though most or all of the present attendance centers are maintained. He said a more diversified course of study could be offered.

Educational Advantages

Evans also mentioned the possibility of sending the sixth, seventh and eighth graders to a central school. Reaction from the crowd appeared to be favorable on this point.

Parents previously had voiced objections to any requirement that very young children be required to make long bus trips.

The county committee suggested to trustees and residents of the five districts that they give the proposals more consideration, and offered to help.

Throughout the discussions there were frequent references to the threat from the state of forced unification, which was opposed by almost all those attending the meeting.

Unification Threat

A. W. Bonham and Carl Hubbel, Big Bar trustees, said they would rather retain their own district, but strongly favored creation of a union mountain district over a unified Oroville high school district.

Ray L. Trabucco, Las Plumas trustee, voiced similar sentiments. He said the Las Plumas district would be in existence probably 10 more years, even if Oroville Dam goes ahead on schedule. Eventually the powerhouse, and the school, would be under water.

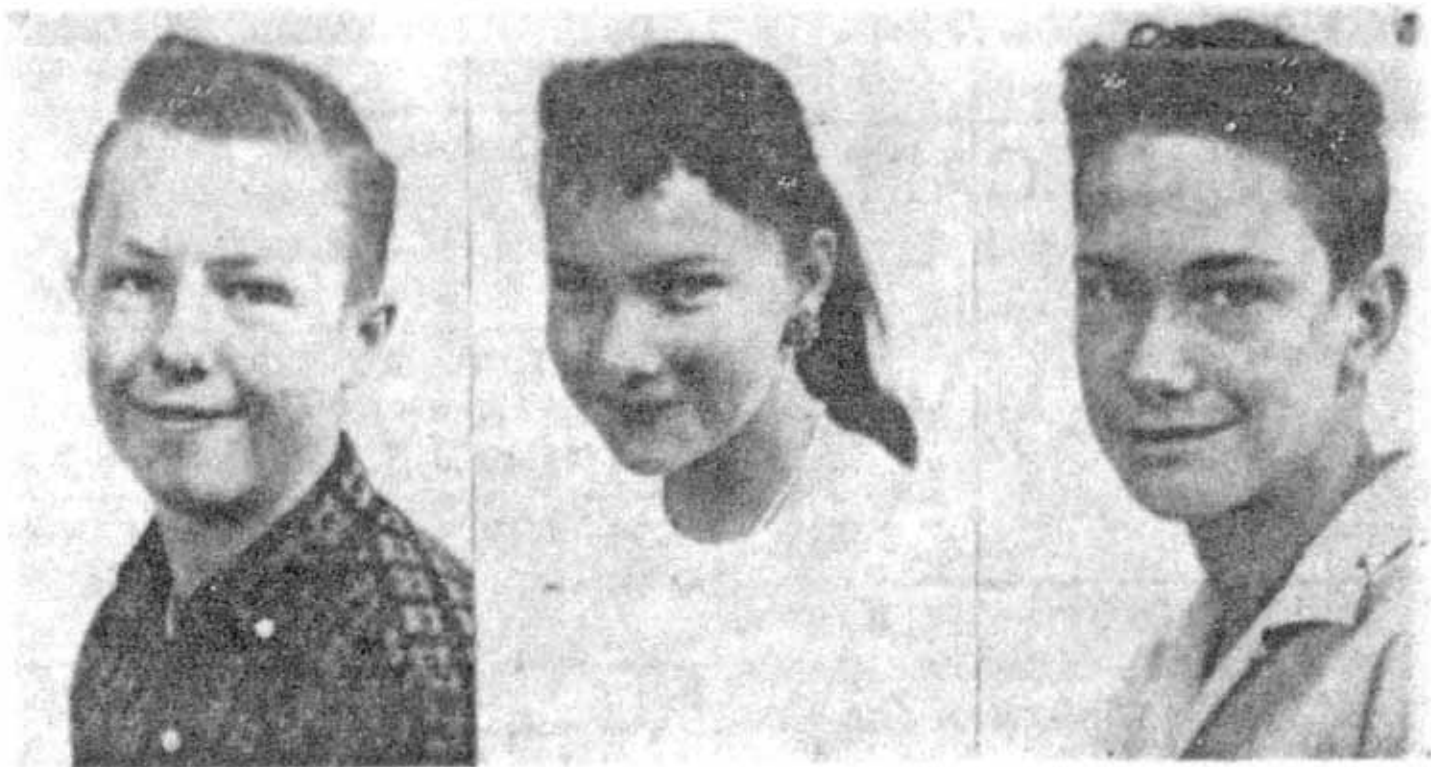
The Messilla Valley group of 20 trustees and parents, stated strong favor for retaining their own district, and brought out that they have the financial ability to build a new plant.

However, they participated in the consideration of the new proposal, which could proceed with or without Messilla Valley.

Members of the county committee present were Mrs. Betty Randolph, Oroville; Wilbur Rutherford, Gridley; Mrs. Cleo Anderson, Bangor; Bud Hennigan, Chico, and Charles Randolph, Oroville, vice-chairman who presided in the absence of Chairman Roy Grell of Richvale.

Oroville Mercury

6-10-1960



CHEROKEE GRADUATES — From left, Robert Saville, Linda Boatright and Don Greer.

Cherokee School Graduates Three

CHEROKEE — Three eighth grade students were graduated from Cherokee School Thursday night.

They are Robert Saville, Linda Boatwright and Don Greer.

Graduation ceremonies in the school were preceded by a community potluck dinner and a puppet show.

Teacher of the graduates is Mrs. Irene White.

Sacramento Bee

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Wall Near Oroville Recalls Mining Venture

Sunday Trip

By Wallace Kunkel

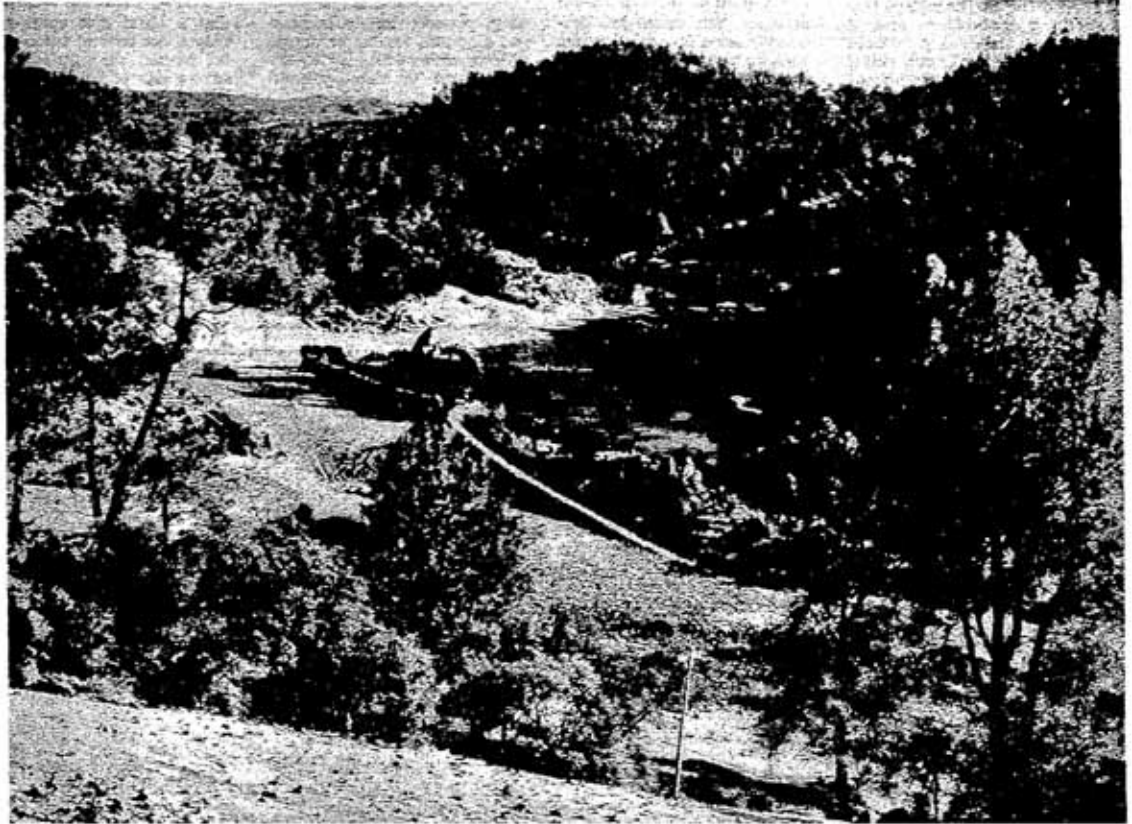
NORTHEAST of Oroville, Butte County, along the Oroville-Concow Road, stand the remains of one of the most ambitious, and unprofitable, mining ventures in California's history, the McLaughlin Wall.

Constructed at the close of the 19th Century, the concrete and rock dike held the Feather River in a man made course to permit recovery of supposedly rich gold deposits from its normal channel. Not until diversion was accomplished did the builders learn that earlier miners achieved the same result with wooden flumes and worked the bed-rock.

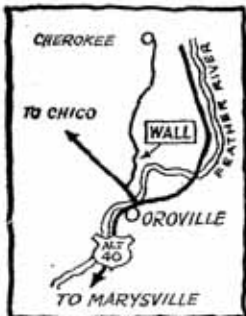
The development which seemed original and promising was promoted by Major Frank McLaughlin, prominent in Butte County mining lore. McLaughlin, who traveled to Oroville to search for platinum for Thomas A. Edison, financed the undertaking largely with English capital.

Today there is little of the 6,000 foot wall of concrete and rock, four feet wide on top, to indicate that millions of dollars went into its construction and the building of a dam and flume which were part of the project. In round the clock shifts, 1,000 men worked on the project, which was started in 1892 and ended in 1896.

To reach the wall, called by some the Chinese Wall though actually built by Italian labor, turn off Highway 40 at Oroville onto the highway to Chico. One mile northwest of Oroville is the intersection of the Oroville-Concow Road to Cherokee (the road is sometimes called the Oroville-Cherokee road). The wall is about a mile from the intersection on the road to Cherokee.



The McLaughlin Wall parallels the Feather River northeast of Oroville.



A group of picnickers walk along the top of the wall.



The wall is four feet wide at the top, 12 feet at the base. In some places it is 20 feet high.

History Class Tours Pioneer Sites in Yankee Hill Area

The adult education class in Butte county history took a six-hour field trip recently to the Yankee Hill-Concow area and ended at the Yankee Hill cemetery where many pioneers are buried.

At present the class is making a study of pioneer families of Butte county. Portions of the route were along the old road which is rapidly falling into disuse as the new highway under construction is completed.

The class visited the old Josephson ranch and the nearby burial ground. Sites of the Yankee Hill store, post office, hotel, and school were stopping points.

The group lunched at Crain Park and then made a study of the Deadwood locality. The homestead here was originally settled by Gerhard Tebbe and later a Chinaman named Ah Sang operated a sanitarium on the spot. Here he used herbs in treating a large number of patients.

Any individuals in Paradise who have information concerning pioneer residents of the county are especially invited to share these facts by contacting the

teacher of the course, Mrs. Ruby Swartzlow.

Class research is also progressing concerning the location of old roads and trails in the county. Any help which can be given to determine these routes will be appreciated.

A group in the class is investigating the origin of road and street names in Paradise to help round out historical records.
