

23 School Students Of Butte County Make Special Trip

Last year Big Bar School at Pulga, of the Golden Feather Union School District of Butte County, paid a visit to Injun Jim School in the Feather River Canyon.

This year Mr. Quilter of the Concow School asked if both Big Bar and Massila Valley school pupils and their teachers Miss Maas and Mrs. Peterson could visit this year because of the informative visit of 1963.

Twenty three students and the two teachers arrived Tuesday morning March 3, at Injun Jim School as guests of its first, 2nd and 3rd grade students and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Leiby, teachers.

The outside drill and flag salute came first, then classes joined for patriotic songs led by each Injun Jim grade. This was followed by the regular teaching subjects.

Mrs. Peterson's group sang "What Do We Do In Our School" and "My Pet."

Miss Maas' group presented a game: "Great Granny's Glasses." Injun Jim second graders then gave a choral reading entitled "The Monkeys and the Crocodile" and 3rd graders played the game The Lad and the North Wind. They had made their own props.

Miss Maas had brought cookies for everyone during the snack period following which the entire primary groups played a game The Fire in the Forest, and so ended a very happy and busy activity day for all three schools and their pupils.

Feather River Bulletin
3-12-1964

Civilization 2000 Years Old Dug Up

Chico,

Butte County

Archaeologists are daintily but hurriedly using trowels, brushes and spatulas near here to ease away the deposits of centuries from fossilized remnants of an Indian civilization 2000 years old.

Unless there is speed, the sites will be inundated by the man-made lake behind Oroville Dam, or buried further under new earth construction.

The State Department of Water Resources authorized a survey of sites of the Maidu tribe, who were rugged hill dwellers.

ARTIFACTS

A stocky construction worker, Charlie Smith, a full-blooded Maidu, helped locate more than 200 tribe sites, including a burial ground.

From the earth the diggers have taken the bones of an infant, abalone shells, arrowheads, stone vessels and a burned, circular Indian hut.

STUDENTS

All the artifacts uncovered will be taken to Sacramento for further study, along with

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3-29-1964

photographs of the soon-to-be lost excavations.

William Olsen, assistant to State Archaeologist Francis Riddel, is supervising the excavation. He is being assisted by several archaeology students from Sacramento State College and American Junior College.

Some of the artifacts, made of materials not native to the area, such as the shells, indicate there was extensive trade between the Maidu tribe and the Indians of the Sacramento Valley and those along the coast. Olsen said.

Our Correspondent



Charlie Smith, a Maidu Indian, points to an obsidian arrowhead in the diggings near Oroville Dam

Oroville Mercury Register

5-5-1964

Labor Of Love Demolished By Vandal Who Stole Jade From Grave At Cherokee

A labor of love that extended over eight years was erased by vandals who stripped a grave in the pioneer section of the Cherokee Cemetery some time in the last part of April.

Missing is the jade covering on the grave of Mrs. Patterson, who died April 1, 1939. (This was brought to light in the Mercury's letter department Monday.)

For eight years after her

passing until his death Nov. 24, 1947, her husband, Albert, collected the pieces of jade to cover her grave as a lasting monument.

Most of the pieces were grubbed from the rocks of the Magalia area and carefully cleaned and polished by his loving hands.

He outlined the grave with bricks to provide a frame for the glittering pieces of green stone.

"A beautiful work of art" is the way Mrs. Jessie Eddy, secretary - treasurer of the Cherokee Cemetery Association, described his handiwork.

Mrs. Eddy described the theft of the jade by vandals as the latest and lowest act committed against the cemetery.

She said the sexton, Leonard Campbell, who lives about a mile from the cemetery is kept on the run by persons leaving the gate open and littering the cemetery with whiskey bottles, lunch wrappers, old rags and beer cans.

The Chico Enterprise Record

8-29-1964

Bookmobile Schedule

The Butte County Bookmobile will make the following stops next week:

M o n d a y — Oroville area, Barnes Rainbow Village Market (Olive Highway and Skyline Blvd.), 9:45-10:30 a.m.; Oakdale Heights (Las Plumas Avenue and Rosita Way) 11-12:15 p.m.; El Medio (Collins and Denny Market, 3515 Palermo Road), 2-4:30 p.m.

Tuesday — Yankee Hill area, Messilla Valley School, 9:15-9:45 a.m.; Rock House 10:15-10:45 a.m.; Pulga Division of Highways, main station, 11:15-12 noon; Concow School, 1:30-3 p.m.; Clear Creek (P. A. Lawrence, Box 169, Clark Road), 3:45-4:15 p.m.

Wednesday — Central County area, Rio Bonito School (East Biggs), 9:45-11:15 p.m.; Honcut School, 1-2:30 p.m.; Palermo Post Office (Palermo Road and Palermo Honcut Road), 3-4:30 p.m.

Thursday—Oroville area, Wyandotte School, 1-2:30 p.m.; Garden Ranch Store (Oroville-Wyandotte Road), 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Friday—Oroville area, Golden Oaks Mobile Estates (Highway 40A, South), 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Baggett-Marysville Road and Rose Street (Roundhouse area), 1:30-2:30 p.m.; Robertson's Market (Lower Wyandotte Road and Oro-Bangor Highway), 3-4:30 p.m.



KNAYE



Landmark to Museum

RAY REEVES of Hayward tells us that it appears more than a rumor that the famous old Bader home in Magalia is in the process of being restored and will be opened soon as a pioneer museum. Magalia, a picturesque mining town of the 1860s, is on the Feather River's west branch five miles east of Paradise. "It is fitting," Reeves says, "that this last visual evidence of the Bader holdings, which included hotels and breweries in Magalia and nearby Cherokee as well as the prolific Bader mines, should be preserved as a memento of the halcyon days in the Northern mines. The two-story multi-roomed residence of semi-Victorian design is an excellent reminder of life and times in the past century. Although almost continuously occupied during its 100 year existence, it has seen but little modernization beyond basic electrification. Once restored, it should arouse nostalgic memories of the rough and tumble days in early California mining towns. More mute credence to the era are the Bader burial plots

in Magalia and Cherokee. The big house looks out over the foundations of the old Bader Hotel, but still hides from casual passersby. The rutted road to the once fabulous Bader Mines lies buried in a second growth of brush in the canyon behind. These mines yielded some of the largest gold nuggets in the west. The last Bader to be in permanent residence in the old Bader house was the patriarch of the present fourth generation Californians, the respected Charlie W. Bader who died there in 1938 at the age of 86. Esteem of the community for the old pioneer (a 32nd degree Mason and lifelong Shriner) was reflected in the funeral, largest ever held in Butte County. The procession from Chico to the Cherokee cemetery was estimated to be more than a mile long.

CHARLIE Bader's father, Charles W. Bader Sr., and his Uncles Hank and Matt, were all active in the ill-fated California Republic uprising back in the 1840s. "They served with dignity under

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9-27-1964

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such early Californians as John Bidwell and Capt. John Sutter," Reeves continues. "Among the Bader daughters who grew up in the old home are Mrs. Hilda Bader Fults of Oakland, Mrs. Wilfred Kroeger of Oroville, and Mrs. Eva Storey of Sacramento. Charles Bader III, who retains the mineral rights to all of the old Bader properties, is a master mechanic for the Pacific Gas & Electric Company at Sacramento when he isn't plodding the ravines behind the old home, searching for new out-cropping of the Bader lode lost beneath the tons of water in the old mines. Two other Bader girls, nieces to C. W. Bader Sr., formerly made their homes in the East Bay region. One is the former Eva Lott who became the socially prominent Mrs. Joseph Brock of Piedmont, and the other



was 'Dodie' Heinrichs who, under the stage name of Josephine Adair, will be remembered as the prima donna of an early day opera company, later becoming the wife of Joseph Rosborough, former Oakland postmaster. Traditionally, with all other memorabilia of the Golden era, the Bader home has its typical 'ghost in residence.' In 1910, according to legend, the upstairs west bedroom was the scene of a tragic suicide. An ardent suiter of Hilda Bader, undisputed belle of the town, took his life over the unrequited love for this teen-aged Bader girl. The room has been kept

locked all these years in respect to the memory of the impetuous swain. The youth's body lies in sylvan peace in the picturesque Magalia cemetery. An even more ironical ending to the fabled era is the modern day realization that the same underground rivers that forced the closing of the lucrative mines in 1900 may be the salvation of the faltering summer colony that now encroach of the quietness of the little cemetery on the hill. Plans are said to be in the engineering stage for the tapping of this underground water source and augment the water supply for the new colony and that of nearby Paradise. In a similar ironical vein, the 'tailings' from the old Cherokee Hydraulic Mines, curtailed by endless law suits, are now being reclaimed as gravel and grout to anchor the foundations of the world's highest embankment dam at Oroville."

Oroville Mercury Register

9-30-1964

Golden Feather School Trustee Districts Asked

A hearing will be held Oct. 19 in the Golden Feather school at Concow on a request by the district trustees for the study of a proposal to create trustee election areas. The hearing will be conducted by the county committee on school district organization.

If the committee decides to create the trustee areas, which it may do without a vote of the people of the district, each of the five trustees will have a residence requirement. The entire district, however would vote on each candidate.

The Golden Feather district was formed about two years ago by the joining of four small districts. They were Concow, Messilla Valley (Pentz) Cherokee and Big Bar. The Cherokee school since has been closed for class use.

The Golden Feather trustees

asked that the study be made on the basis of one trustee each for former Messilla Valley, Cherokee and Big Bar districts, and two from the heavier populated Concow district.

The request for the hearing was placed before the county committee at a meeting this week.

Feather Falls Request

The committee also heard a request from the Feather Falls district that attention be given to annexing part of the Mountain Spring district to Feather Falls. The latter school is educating Mountain Spring's three pupils this year.

The committee asked Thomas E. Evans, county superintendent of schools, to make an analysis of the situation, looking toward a possible recommendation of dividing the Mountain Spring district between Feather Falls and

the Atkins district. An arm of Lake Oroville, on the completion of Oroville Dam, will divide the Mountain Spring district.

The county schools office reported that another historic school district, Forbestown, will go out of existence this year. The school district will become a part of the Yuba Feather joint elementary district in Yuba County. The Yuba Feather district previously annexed the former Butte County district of Clipper Mills.

To Attend Marysville

One effect of Forbestown going in with Yuba Feather will be that students in that area will attend Marysville High School, unless special arrangements are made. Oroville high school has served the area, including a number of students each year who lived in the Marysville district but preferred to attend

Oroville. Bus service has been offered by Oroville.

The county committee also decided to take up again unification of Biggs High School District, or the joining of the district to one or more existing districts. A previous recommendation for the unification of the district was turned down by the state board of education on the grounds that the school district is too small to meet state standards of district organization. No definite program was adopted for the re-study of Biggs.

LONDON — A British sleepwear maker has withdrawn a line of pajamas said to have been responsible for several recent fires.

Six out of 10 men in the U.S. are smokers.

History of Area Discussed by Ridge Historians

The Chico Enterprise Record
10-8-1964

PARADISE (E-R) — The history of Cherokee Yankee Hill and Concow region was discussed at the Monday evening meeting of the Northern California History class.

A tour of this area was made by 44 members of the class on Oct. 3. The group stopped for a picnic lunch at Crain Park after a drive past the site of the Deadwood Sanitarium, operated by a Chinese named Ah Sang during the last 20 years of the 19th century.

Mrs. Ruby Swartzlow, class instructor served as tour guide.

A report was given Monday evening concerning the tour of the LaPorte diggings in Plumas County. Color slides of Port Wine, St. Louis and Howland Flat, as well as other stopping points along the way, were shown and described. A brief history of each area was recounted.

A portion of the class hour was taken up with a lecture on the pre-American period of California history with special emphasis on California missions and some discussion of the Indians who lived in Northern California at that time.

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The Work of Mrs. Bidwell

Time Has Done Much to Change Chico's Indian Village

By JOYCE BARKLEY

(Enterprise-Record Women's Editor)

The Little White Mother, as she was affectionately known, would look with disbelief if she could drive up West Sacramento Avenue towards the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks and see what time has done to her little Indian Village.

The Little White Mother, more familiarly known as Annie K. Bidwell, wife of Gen. John Bidwell, founder of Chico, would certainly have to look long and hard before she would recognize the little rancharia on which she had lavished so much time and love during her lifetime.

Even after her death in 1918 her love for these Indian people continued by way of the provisions she had made in her will for their welfare.

Time has changed a lot since those years when General Bidwell carved a city out of a bit of wilderness and his wife brought culture, compassion and Christianity to fellow towns-

men and Indians of the area.

When Annie K. came to Chico following her marriage in 1868, she was charged with the care of the Mechoopda Indians by her husband. The Indians were brought from as far away as Durham to the village, the little rancharia that was a part of the Rancho Arroyo, Bidwell's ranch.

Historians have noted that Mrs. Bidwell took her responsibility seriously. She taught her charges to sing, to cook, to sew and to read by means of charts and pictures.

The Indians were encouraged to speak in English and today's Indians are as fluent in speech as anyone.

S. E. Wilson, who lives on the rancharia and is one of the decendants of the Indians named in Mrs. Bidwell's will, recalls hearing that the first school house was built more than 80 years ago and was first used as a sewing school for the Indian girls and women.

He said a sweat house adjoined the cemetery. This building was used mostly by the men, but on occasion the women were permitted to use it during their dances.

Next to the sweathouse was the famous Indian Church that attracted artists from far and near until it burned about three years ago. Many paintings and sketches of the church hang in Mid-Valley homes.

The little church was first built on the south side of West Sacramento Avenue and it is said Mrs. Bidwell went there to preach before she attended the Presbyterian Church for its regular services.

It wasn't long after Mrs. Bidwell began her work with the Indians that they asked her to perform the baptismal, marriage and burial services. In 1879 she was ordained a minister of the Presbyterian Church.



... Thelma Wilson, secretary of the Mechoopda Indian Band Association that handles the business of the Indian Village ... discusses some of the problems of the Mechoopdas. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Wilson of 620 W. Sacramento Ave., and is a teacher ...

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Apparently the Mechoopdas were encouraged in their native crafts. Each July 4 they held a fair in the church where they displayed their baskets and beadwork and exercises were held in the adjoining grove where they sang, danced and their brass band played.

In 1882 the church was moved across the street. There it stood until destroyed by fire.

Of interest, too, is the fact that the Indians eventually came up with strictly Americanized names. The reason for this, according to Wilson, was that the white settlers, writers and employers of early Chico were unable to pronounce the native names and so they dubbed the Indians with the names of their employers or some common name.

As the times changed so did the Indians.

On April 17, 1955, the Chico Rancheria Indians met in the little church to organize a committee to investigate problems such as boundary lines of property belonging to the Indians and the funds from a parcel of unused land, referred to as "the 14 acres" on the south side of West Sacramento Avenue.

This committee was to report at a May 22, 1955, meeting. Serving on the committee were Sherman Wilson, chairman, Luther Clements, Ihah Conway Juanita Simpson and Genevieve Aranda.

This group, in trying to deter-

mine the legal status and meaning of their village, became the basis for the organization of the Mechoopda Band of Indians of Chico Rancheria.

This group was at work to implement Public Law 85-671, which was approved Aug. 18, 1959, which provides that Indians who hold formal or informal assignments on each rancheria (about 42 in the state) named in the law, or the Indians of such rancheria, or the Secretary of the Interior after consultation with such Indians shall prepare a plan of the distribution of the assets of each rancheria.

It was decided that Indians of the Chico Rancheria who were eligible for distribution of assets would be those who were beneficiaries or descendants of beneficiaries listed in the will left by Mrs. Bidwell.

The organization sent out information to all those who might be eligible. It drew up a constitution and bylaws with a general council as the governing body. It is still at work administering rancheria affairs.

The preamble states: "We, the members of the Mechoopda Band of Indians of the Chico Rancheria, in order to improve our tribal organization and prepare ourselves for assuming more fully our obligations as citizens, do ordain and establish this constitution and bylaws."

"Membership is open to all persons of Indian blood living on March 1, 1958, whose names appear on the list of beneficiaries in the will of Mrs. Annie E. K. Bidwell, and all children born to members of the Mechoopda Indian Band, including children born to beneficiaries named in Mrs. Bidwell's will, even although such beneficiaries were not living on March 1, 1958."

On Jan. 7, 1962, articles of association of nonprofit association were listed under the name of Mechoopda Band Association. The village was divided into 46 lots or shares of stock. Three lots, one including the cemetery, were declared as community property.

Since some of the beneficiaries are not living on the Rancheria, some of this property has been sold.

Fourteen acres, on the south side of Sacramento Avenue, has been acquired by Chico State College. A street, Rancheria Drive, has been put through the middle of the village on the north side.

Earlier in the spring of this year graders and trucks invaded the village. Natural stream depressions were filled, building materials came in by the load.

The Indian Village of Annie K. Bidwell's day is no more.

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... The Indian Village Church is no more. A few years ago it burned, and on its ashes is rising a new era. The church, long a favorite subject of area artists was also the gathering place of Mechoopda Indians, first as a place of worship, and in more recent years, as a meeting place to discuss Indian affairs ...



... The gate stands open to the Indian Cemetery at Mechoopda Rancheria ... Headstones and few flowers mark the graves of both recent and long dead Indians. The cemetery is probably the only real landmark left of the Indians who were the charges of Mrs. Annie K. Bidwell many many years ago ...

Instead there is a four apartment building, constructed by Al Weinrich, housing college students on the new street. On the Sacramento Avenue side Benoit Realty is putting up another apartment building.

Near the railroad track Mrs. Juanita Simpson is building a new herb store to be topped by a couple of apartments. Several houses are being torn down.

Nine of the 46 lot holders have sold their properties. They are Mrs. Dolores Sylvers McHenry, Homer Sylvers Sr., Elmer N. Aranda and Jimmie Durant, all of Chico; Edward N. Wilson Jr. and Lewis Wilson and Harold Wilson, all of Ukiah, Carl Delgado of Clearlake Park and Mrs. Genevieve Aranda of San Francisco.

Indians who were named in the lot distribution are Carl Delgado, Dolores Sylvers McHenry, Raymond Sylvers, Donald Sylvers, LeRoy Nuckolls, Alfred Nuckolls, Homer Sylvers Jr., Luther G. Clements, Lillian Stubblefield, Darwin Nuckolls, Barbara Beasley, Marie Van Syckle, Earl Clements, Ruth Payne, Bud Bain, Luther L.

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Clements, Ivan Conway, Virgil Nuckolls, George Aranda, Elmer Aranda, Homer Sylvers Sr., Vernon Conway, Thelma Wilson, Harriet Ramirez, Jimmie Durant, Norma Ramirez, Frances Potter, Marvin Wilson, Maynard Nuckolls, Edward Wilson, Bernice Rogers, Joyce Drenon, Donna Rickard, Juanita Simpson, Mary Pomeroy, Jon Azbill, Kenneth Azbill, Eva Pierce, Genevieve Aranda, Henry Azbill, Sherman Wilson and Jodie Lee Conway, plus the three community property lots.

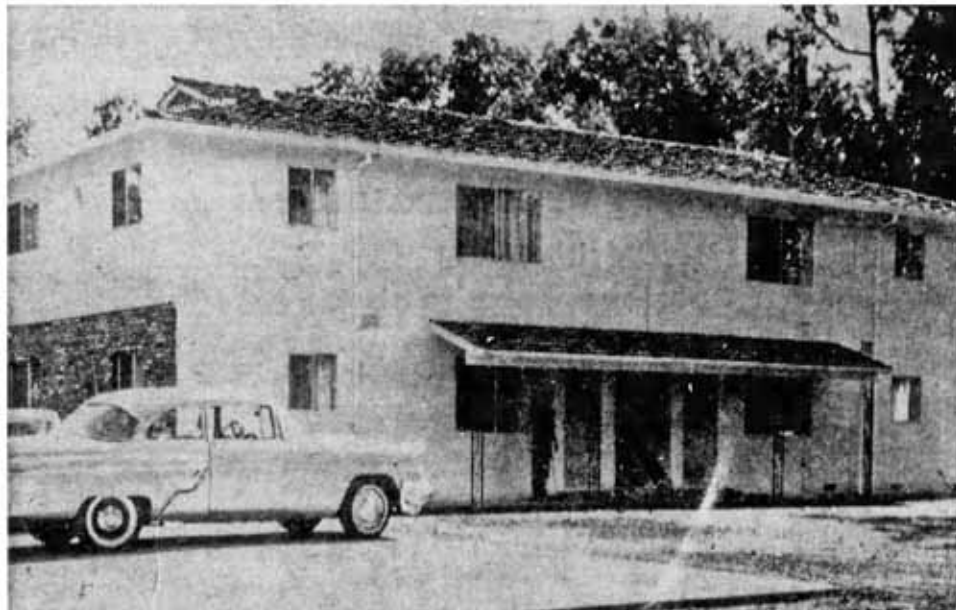
There are four homes occupied by Indian families and several dilapidated buildings in the rancheria bound by First Avenue, Mechoopda Street, North Cedar Avenue and Sacramento Avenue.

The Little White Mother would have difficulty recognizing the little Indian village. Most of the Indians are gone, old landmarks like the little church have disappeared. The little cemetery is still there though.

Now the Weinreich apartments are filled with college students, Mrs. Simpson's herb business will soon get going in the new modern building. Other apartments and other businesses will be rising from the ashes of a bygone era.



... Customers who have been getting their Indian herbs at Conway's Store will soon be buying them at a new location. Mrs. Juanita Simpson, who has operated the business at the Indian Village since 1954, is building a new structure at the corner of West Sacramento Avenue and North Cedar Street. The Conway family has been in the herb business for some 30 years ...



... This past year has seen many changes at the Mechoopda Indian Village. One of the changes is this new apartment house on Roncheria Street. The building was built by Al Weinreich, Chico builder and houses college students. Pictured under the roof of the porch is the apartment house manager, Fred Gauer, a recent immigrant from Germany ...