

The San Francisco Examiner

2-14-1965

NEW LOCATION

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Large chunk of Cherokee sold to newspaper owner

50 YEARS AGO

Reprinted Feb 9, 2015
Chico Enterprise Record

Large Portion of Cherokee Sold To Oroville Man

The sale of a portion of the historic community of Cherokee to a local businessman was recorded last week.

James Lenhoff, owner and publisher of the Virginia City Territorial Enterprise, intends to turn one of the old buildings into a museum and to make the town a tourist attraction. He already owns considerable land there.

The community, prominent in 1853 with the discovery of gold, developed one of the world's largest hydraulic gold mines that reached peak activity in the 1880s. Diamonds also were discovered at Cherokee. Although several hundred were reported found, they were never mined commercially.

The community was settled in mid-19th century by a band of Cherokee Indians under the guidance of Maine school teacher S.O. Potter, who taught at an Indian school.

He reportedly led his Cherokee band there to

find a place of refuge from poor conditions at their reservation.

— *Chico Enterprise-Record, Feb. 15, 1965*

Sacramento Bee

12-5-1965

Preserving North State History Is Mission Of Butte County Man

McClatchy Newspapers Service

OROVILLE, Butte Co. — The recent election of James Lenhoff as vice president of the California Heritage Council for Northern California is a reward which has been earned through dedicated service to a principle.

For years Lenhoff, 32, has conducted a vigorous campaign, sometimes by himself and sometimes with the help of others, to preserve the history of the state and of Butte County in particular. As a result of his efforts, many landmarks have been saved, and many of the exciting and interesting vignettes of California's colorful past have been passed on to the present generation. He is recognized as an authority on the subject of the history of the gold rush period.

Lenhoff was born in San Francisco and moved to Oroville in 1945. From the time he entered Oroville High School he has been vitally interested in the background of the Feather River country, which has been overlooked by most of the experts on California history.

Founded Magazine

After completing his schooling at Chico State College, Lenhoff began to delve into the old newspaper files and the old records of the courthouse. He began to collect relics of the past and as his collection grew, so did his enthusiasm. When the Butte County Historical Society was

formed, he became a charter member and founded "The Diggins," the society's quarterly magazine. He was its editor for five years.

When the Oroville Dam Project was approved by the state legislature, Lenhoff saw that its construction could easily erase



James Lenhoff

Bee Photo

many of the old landmarks that existed in Oroville. He quickly founded the Oroville Heritage Council with the avowed purpose of preserving as much of the history as possible. Through the efforts of the council, such landmarks as the Mother Orange Tree and the historic

suspension bridge and toll house at Curry Bidwell Bar State Park in the reservoir site were saved from destruction. Miners Alley, a thoroughfare used by thousands of bearded prospectors in the Oroville of the gold rush, was saved when efforts were made to turn it into a parking lot.

Going farther into the hills, Lenhoff succeeded in having Oregon City, residence of Peter Burnett, California's first governor after admission to the Union, approved as a historical landmark. He also made application for the same approval for Cherokee, site of the state's most spectacular hydraulic mining venture.

Newspaper Publisher

For a time Lenhoff published the Feather River Territorial, a quarterly which portrayed the history of the area in pictures and articles, and he revived the North Californian, the first newspaper printed in the upper Sacramento Valley. When it appeared that the Territorial Enterprise in Virginia City, Nev., was about to go out of existence, Lenhoff took over the newspaper and operated it until it could be steadied.

Lenhoff frequently takes time off from his real estate business to contribute articles on Northern California and Western Nevada history to newspapers and magazines.