

4-30-1966

## To Be Dedicated May 8

# Quartz Base for Monument Made of Ore From Mines Beneath Oregon City

A new state monument will be dedicated at Oregon City at 11:30 a.m. May 8 and an old fashioned country potluck picnic will be hosted afterward by the Oregon City Schoolmates Club.

Oregon City was first settled in 1848 by members of the first wagon train over what became the Lassen Trail from Oregon City, Ore. The wagon train, led by Peter H. Burnett, first civil governor of California, overtook Peter Lassen and his party who were lost in the wilderness.

Under Burnett's direction, the two groups managed to forge the first path over what would later be named Lassen's Trail. Lassen had never been over the trail which bears his name before the Burnett episode, it is said.

For a time, Oregon City was a bustling mining camp of several stores and saloons. Rich quartz veins were located right under the town. Then it declined to almost oblivion.

However, Oregon City looks forward to rejuvenation when

the big Oroville Dam is completed next year, because it is on the scenic Diggin's Drive and will be connected to the Oroville Dam-Potter Ravine - Bidwell Bar Historical Park complexes by a new access road.

The first deed for this road will be presented to Butte County at the dedication ceremonies.

Actually, the old roadway still exists. It originally terminated at Potter's Bar on the Feather River.

John Potter was one of the members of John Bidwell's first gold mining expeditions. Although his bar will be submerged beneath 700 feet of water, with the completion of the dam, his name will be immortalized in the Potter Ravine Recreation Area adjacent to the dam.

The quartz base for the monument has already been finished and the Butte County Department of Public Works has landscaped the area around it. The base was erected with ore taken from the six major gold mines under Oregon City.

Several organizations are cooperating in the ceremonies. They are the California Heritage Council, the Butte County Historical Society, the Oregon City Schoolmates Club, the Feather River Heritage Council and the State Park Commission.

Speakers of the day will be James Lenhoff, sponsor of the monument, and James C. Nisbet, past president of the Butte County Historical Society and former student at the little Oregon City schoolhouse, which is still standing.

Lenhoff's topic will be "The Trail to Oregon City."

Nisbet will speak on "Personal Recollections."

Master of ceremonies will be Mattie R. Lund, president of the Feather River Heritage Council and former pupil of the Oregon City school.

The plaque will be unveiled by Herbert Hoover III, president of the California Heritage Council; Edward Dolder, deputy director, Parks and Recreation; and Don Maxon, Butte County Supervisor, who will accept the monument on behalf of Butte County.

Those desiring to participate in the potluck picnic are requested to bring a hot dish, dessert or salad each and their own table service. The club will provide beverages, according to Lem Castle, president.

After the noontime potluck, club members will hold their annual meeting and election of officers.

Non-members will adjourn to view historical displays at the Relic Building, the Judge C. F. Lott Home and the Chinese Temple, all in nearby Oroville.

5-28-1966

## Indian Cemetery Getting New Look

The old Indian Cemetery on West Sacramento Avenue is getting a new face lifting for Memorial Day.

Bob Stryker and his wife, Juanita, owners and operators of Juanita's Indian Herb Co. at 846 W. Sacramento Ave., have been employed by the Mechoopda Indian Association to clean the cemetery area.

The acre and a half site, located between Cedar and Warner Streets, is enclosed by a mesh wire fence. Stryker said he and his wife have been working with other volunteers the past three weeks clearing the brush and debris from the cemetery.

He said the area was first mowed of three-foot high weeds then the "big" job of clearing old garbage — mostly beer and liquor bottles and cans — was started.

Stryker said after he and his wife started the clearing project, many people stopped to say they were not aware a cemetery existed there.

No memorial services are planned at the cemetery for Monday but several of the graves have been decorated. Stryker said anyone wanting to visit the cemetery can do so.

Late next week Stryker plans to sow a lawn at the graveyard and make improvements on the watering system. He said he hopes "to make the area green and keep it that way."

The burial ground is still used by only full-blooded Indians he said.

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dian but said he has been interested in the early settlers since childhood. His wife of less than a year is a full-blooded Mechoopda Indian. He said she was born and raised within two miles of the cemetery site.

The burial ground's present location is its third, Stryker said. It was first located where Raley's Drug Center, Second and Wall Streets, is now; then it was moved to just west of Bidwell Mansion.

6-14-1966

## Radio Contact Established With Hiking Scout Troop

OROVILLE (E-R) — Radio contact was established for the first time yesterday with Boy Scouts of Thermalito Troop No. 33 who are en route on a 60-mile hike over rugged mountains between Jarbo Gap and Belden.

Clyde Love, pilot overseeing their efforts, said he was to have met them at Ramsey Bar yesterday but did not locate them at first. Looking further into the next canyon, he found them when they caught his attention with a signal mirror about five miles northeast of Ramsey Bar. They were in a mountain canyon beside a creek on the trail to Campbell's Cow Camp.

Love made radio contact and established that they were all right and making better time than previously estimated. He said they had had a good night's rest, and that everyone was in excellent shape and thoroughly enjoying the hike.

Love said the Scouts expected to be at Lynch Meadows by last night. Total mileage covered by the Scouts for that day was estimated by Scoutmaster Dean Lantrip at eight miles, making a total of 29 miles the Scouts have covered to date.

Love said the scheduled parachute drop of cake and ice

cream has been changed to Wednesday because of the good progress the Scouts are making.

The idea for the cake and ice cream drop, Love said, was inspired because one of the Scouts will be celebrating his birthday while on the trip. The Scout is Danny Agee, who will be 13 Thursday.

Lantrip came back Sunday night because of work requirements and the fact that he was relieving Goerge Sweet, a schoolteacher at Sierra School in Thermalito, who took over leadership of the Scouts Sunday night.

Lantrip added that the Scouts are performing a public service while making this trek. He said the Scouts were picking up trash left behind by other people. They are burying the trash and performing the service at the request of U. S. Forest Service.

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The Chico Enterprise Record  
6-27-1966

## **Blaze Severely Damages Store On Concow Rd.**

OROVILLE (E-R) — The Pine Store on Concow Road sustained extensive damage in one of several fires fought by the California Division of Forestry over the weekend in eastern Butte County.

Six units from the CDF and a water wagon arrived to find the store totally involved. The fire occurred about 10:35 p.m. yesterday.

Damage had not been estimated yet this morning.

The fire was the worst of several, CDF officials said. Many minor fires were confined to brush and grass.

6-27-1966

# Fires Level Home, Store In Rural Areas of County

All three Oroville area fire fighting agencies were kept busy Sunday with two major structural blazes and several lesser vegetation and vehicle fires.

Considered a total loss, the damage estimate was placed at \$12,000 in the destruction of the C. G. McCauley residence at Larkin and Richards Roads shortly after 9 a.m. yesterday. McCauley suffered second degree burns on his face, back, hands and chest fighting the blaze before three California Division of Forestry units arrived on the scene.

McCauley is being treated at Gridley Memorial Hospital.

Cause of the fire was still unknown this morning and under investigation by the CDF.

CDF officials did not have an estimate this morning on damage or cause of a blaze that leveled the Pines Store on Concow Road in the Yankee Hill area. Six forestry trucks and a water wagon were called to the store at 10:35 p.m. yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Legget, who owned the store equipment and all its stock, placed their loss at between \$7,000 and \$8,000.

The store housed a U.S. Post Office substation and all the equipment and supplies for that outlet also were destroyed. Oroville postmaster Harold James was on the scene of the fire today but no decision has been made yet as to the handling of mail for the substation patrons.

The building was constructed before 1930 by Ralph Miller, father of present owner Eugene Miller of Yankee Hill, at the same time the Las Plumas powerhouse was constructed. The Leggets became proprietors of the store a little more than two years ago.

Five CDF trucks and a bulldozer were joined by three units each of the Oroville and El Medio Fire Departments at a seven acre grass and brush fire yesterday afternoon at Grand Avenue and Morningside Drive in Thermalito.

A 60-acre blaze apparently caused little trouble for one forestry truck and a bulldozer in the rock pile area at the county dump Saturday afternoon. A roof fire late Saturday morning threatened the Western Pacific roundhouse, but CDF, El Medio and Oroville Fire Dept. units contained it.

11-4-1966

# Dozer Operator Killed Fighting Canyon Blaze

By BOB EDKIN

A 600-acre fire raging out of control in the Big Bend Canyon of the North Fork Feather River this morning claimed the life of an unidentified bulldozer operator.

The fire, which broke out yesterday morning, is located in extremely rugged terrain about 15 miles north of Oroville.

Details of the mishap, which occurred at 10:15 a.m., were not readily available and the identity of the victim was not released by coroner's deputies.

A spokesman for the California Division of Forestry said the sketchy information available indicated the bulldozer was operating about 450 yards up a mountainside from actual fire.

Crews and equipment were cutting through a fire line to halt

the blaze's advance when the bulldozer apparently toppled over and rolled halfway down the hillside.

Rescue crews were at first fearful they would not be able to reach the victim before the fire burned over the area, but the CDF spokesman said this was apparently not a problem.

It was the first forest fire-connected fatality in Butte County since 1961, when an aerial tanker crashed, killing the pilot.

It was not known whether the bulldozer operator was a state firefighter or one of a number of construction and reservoir clearing workers battling the blaze.

The Butte County fatality raised to 15 the number of men killed in California while fighting forest fires this week.

Ten crack firefighters from the U.S. Forest Service died when they were trapped by a brush fire near Los Angeles Tuesday night and four Marines died in a brush fire at Camp Pendleton Wednesday.

The Big Bend fire broke out yesterday as 650 firefighters were battling to bring the 3,300-acre Concow Valley fire — about 10 miles to the northwest — under control.

Most of the 520 men now battling the Big Bend fire were transferred from the Concow Valley blaze, but 100 men were still on duty to the north conducting mopping up operations.

The Concow Valley fire was brought under control at 6 p.m. yesterday. Forestry officials are hoping for control of the Big Bend fire by 6 a.m. tomorrow.

In addition to the 520 men, more than 100 pieces of equipment, including trucks, bulldozers, six aerial tankers and three reconnaissance aircraft, are being used to combat the fire.

# Oroville Mercury Register

11-7-1966

## Wind-Spurred Fire Doused by Rainfall

By BOB EDKIN

Wind - driven rains that drenched the Sierra foothills with up to three inches of rain Sunday also snuffed out an 875-acre brush and timber fire that raged for three days in the Big Bend area on the North Fork Feather River.

While the rains provided a much-needed helping hand to firefighters, the muddy roads they brought and the strong winds that preceded them caused some problems.

The high winds Saturday night and early Sunday morning jumped the fire across the river canyon and put a 40-acre section raging out of control.

Officials of the California Di-

vision of Forestry said they pulled all crews off the blaze yesterday, but reported considerable difficulty in getting the firefighters out of the rugged canyon area because of the muddy, slippery roads.

The blaze broke out Thursday morning as fire crews were struggling to control a 3,300-acre blaze 10 miles to the north.

It claimed the first fatality on a Butte County forest fire since 1961 Friday morning, when Ernest Arthur Leitner, Red Bluff, was crushed beneath his overturning bulldozer.

Leitner was one of a number of employes of C.J. Langenfelder and Son, Inc., contractor on

the Oroville Dam reservoir clearing project, pressed into firefighting duty by the CDF.

At the fire's peak, 773 men, including CDF crews, inmate crews and Langenfelder employes, were on the fire lines.

The heavy rains have hopefully brought an end to one of the driest fire seasons on record, but CDF officials warned that a spell of dry, north winds could renew the danger, though on a lesser scale.

They also reported plans to close down this evening some of the fire stations manned only during fire season. They said the others would probably be closed down next week if the fire danger is not renewed.

Most of the temporary crews put on by the CDF during the summer should be released within two weeks, officials said.