

Oroville Mercury Register

2-10-1978

page 1 of 2

PUBLIC NOTICE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Thermalito and Table
Mountain Irrigation Districts)

Project No. 488

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR NEW MINOR LICENSE FOR CONSTRUCTED PROJECT (January 10, 1978)

Public notice is hereby given that an application for a new minor license has been filed under the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. Secs. 791(a)-825(r)(1970)) by the Thermalito and Table Mountain Irrigation Districts (applicants) for their constructed Concow Dam Project, FERC Project No. 488, located on Concow Creek in Butte County, California, in the vicinity of the Town of Paradise and the City of Oroville. The project affects lands of the United States in Lassen National Forest. Correspondence regarding the application should be sent to: (1) Thermalito Irrigation District, 410 Grand Avenue, Oroville, California 95965 (Attention: Elden J. Brown, President, Board of Directors); (2) Table Mountain Irrigation District, Route 1, Box 153, Oroville, California 95965 (Attention: Margaret B. Chaffin, Chairman, Board of Directors); and (3) Minasian, Minasian and Spruance, 1681 Bird Street, Oroville, California 95965 (Attention: William Spruance, Esq.).

The project, which has no power-producing facilities, consists of: (1) Lake Wilenor, a 300-acre reservoir at elevation 1,970 feet, with approximately 8,200 acre-feet of storage available through a drawdown of approximately 90 feet, impounded by Concow Dam, a 90-foot-high concrete arch dam, with a 300-foot-long crest; (2) a low concrete diversion dam, approximately 1,000 feet downstream of Concow Dam, which diverts part of the releases from Wilenor Reservoir into; (3) Spring Valley Ditch, a 12-mile-long canal leading to; (4) Wilenor Siphon, a 24-inch-diameter, 4,000-foot-long pipe, crossing the West Branch, North Fork, of the Feather River, which discharges into the Miocene Canal of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) licensed Lime Saddle-Coal Canyon Project.

Applicants use the water impounded by the project for agricultural and domestic purposes. Table Mountain Irrigation District allows PG&E to use its share of the water to generate power in PG&E's Lime Saddle-Coal Canyon Project while Thermalito Irrigation District's share of the water flows through natural channels to Lake Oroville and eventually through the power facilities of Project No. 2100. Applicants are reimbursed for the use of this water.

Oroville Mercury Register

2-10-1978

page 2 of 2

Any person desiring to be heard or to make protest with reference to the subject application should, on or before March 28, 1978, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20426 protests or petitions to intervene in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 C.F.R. Secs. 1.10 or Secs. 1.18 (1977)). All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it in determining the appropriate action to be taken but will not serve to make the protestants parties to a proceeding. Persons wishing to become parties to a proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file petitions to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules. The application is on file with the Commission and available for public inspection.

The public should take further notice that on October 1, 1977, pursuant to the provisions of the Department of Energy Organization Act (DOE Act), Public Law 95-91, 91 Stat. 565 (August 4, 1977), and Executive Order No. 12009, 42 Fed. Reg. 46267 (September 15, 1977), the Federal Power Commission (FPC) ceased to exist and its functions and regulatory responsibilities were transferred to the Secretary of Energy and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) which, as an independent commission within the Department of Energy, was activated on October 1, 1977.

The "savings provisions" of section 705(b) of the DOE Act provided that proceedings pending before the FPC on the date the DOE Act takes effect shall not be affected and that orders shall be issued in such proceedings as if the DOE Act had not been enacted. All such proceedings shall be continued and further actions shall be taken by the appropriate component of DOE now responsible for the function under the DOE Act and regulations promulgated thereunder. The functions which are the subject of this proceeding were specifically transferred to the FERC by section 402(a) (1) or 402(a) (2) of the DOE Act.

The joint regulation adopted on October 1, 1977, by the Secretary and the FERC entitled "Transfer of Proceedings to the Secretary of Energy and the FERC," 10 CFR , provided that this proceeding would be continued before the FERC. The FERC takes action in this proceeding in accordance with the above-mentioned authorities.

Kenneth F. Plumb
Secretary

TID Authorizes Tree Harvest

Emergency harvesting of pine trees infested by pine beetles in the Lake Wilenor-Concow area was authorized by the Thermalito Irrigation District (TID) Thursday night.

The board's action is a cooperative effort between TID, the Table Mountain Irrigation District and the California Department of Forestry. The emergency harvestation exempts the project from filing an Environmental Impact Report.

The board named Oroville Contractor Oliver Elam to carry out the timber harvestation. Louisiana-Pacific of Oroville will receive the logs. A land survey will be carried out by Ron Graves and Associates of Oroville to insure trees located on private property are not cut.

TID Manager Jim Schmidt said the Department of Forestry gave a 60-day estimate before additional damage was done to the trees, located about 25 miles north of Oroville.

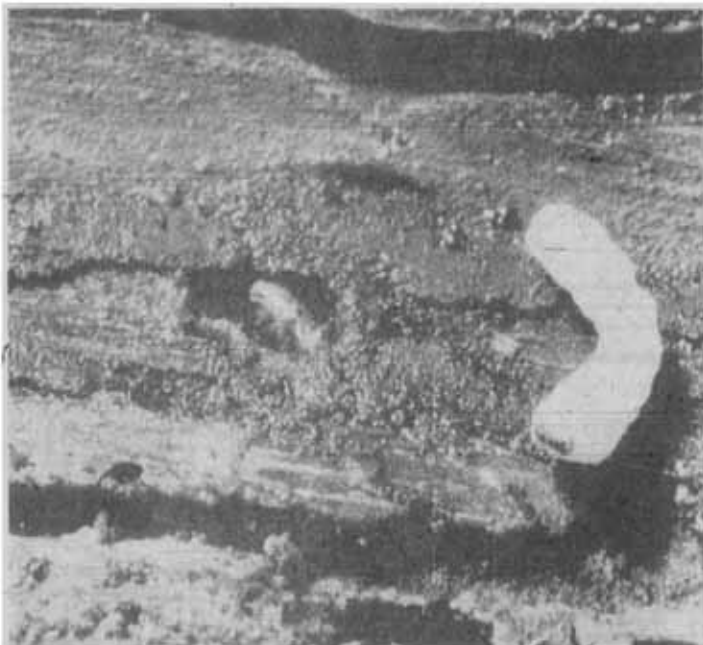
Schmidt made a rough



BARK BEETLE SIGN— Ernie Reynolds, Thermalito Irrigation District board chairman, left, points to the white pitch seepage that denotes the entrance of the Red Turpentine Beetle, commonly known as a "Bark Beetle." Henry Schultz, Concow Lake patrolman, right, and Jim Schmidt, TID manager-

superintendent, look on. Many of the pine trees on the 400 acres co-owned by TID and TMID are infested, dead and dying. Action is being planned to harvest the infested trees before the bark beetles can do more damage than already exists. The drought has brought about the over population of the native insects.

Photo by Barro & Shadin



INDIGNANT CULPRITS—The obese larvae glaring at the macro lens on the right is known as California Flathead Wood-borer, usually a johnny-come-lately, but a pine tree nemesis during drought years. The bashful chap hiding in the hole to the left is the Adult Pine Engraver, usually the bark beetle responsible for the initial attack on the tall conifers. With other nefarious compatriots, these creatures are responsible for the infestation of the pine trees around Lake Concow (Wilenor). If trees are harvested before the bark beetles leave, about 85 percent are trucked away from the area.

Oroville Mercury Register

2-17-1978

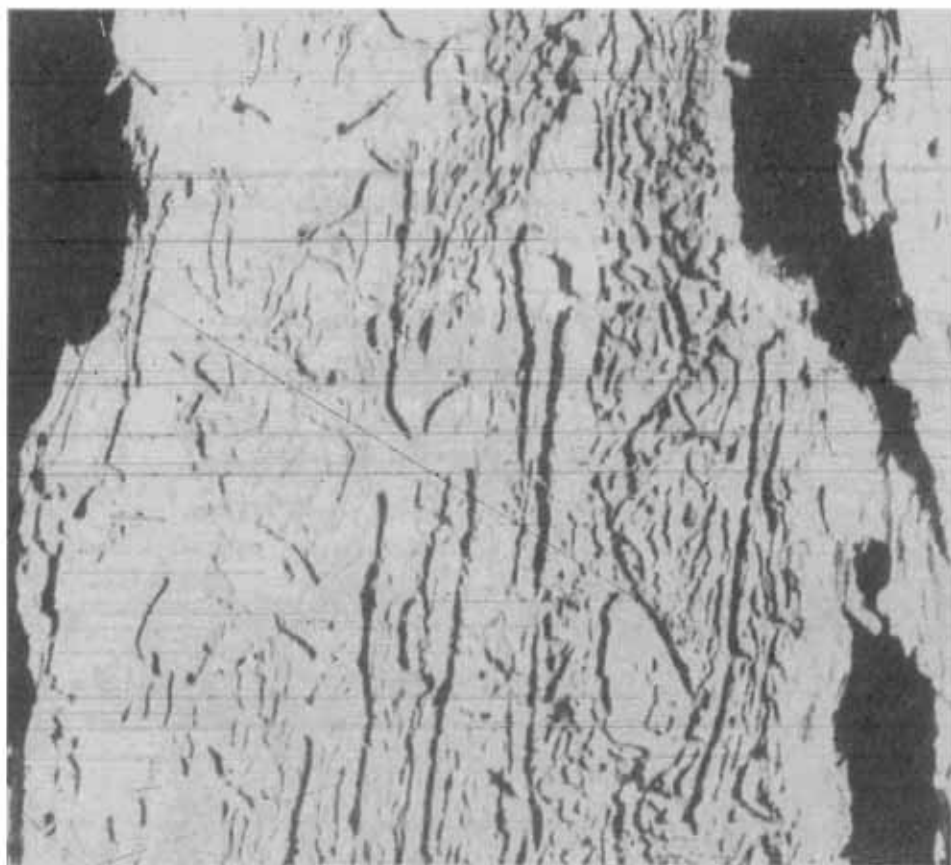
page 2 of 3

estimate that 20 percent of the trees in a 400-acre area on both sides of the lake were afflicted by the pine beetle. He said a close inspection would be needed to determine all the diseased trees.

"When a tree turns brown that means the insects have left the tree," Schmidt said. "Very close inspection is needed to see if the beetles have entered other trees."

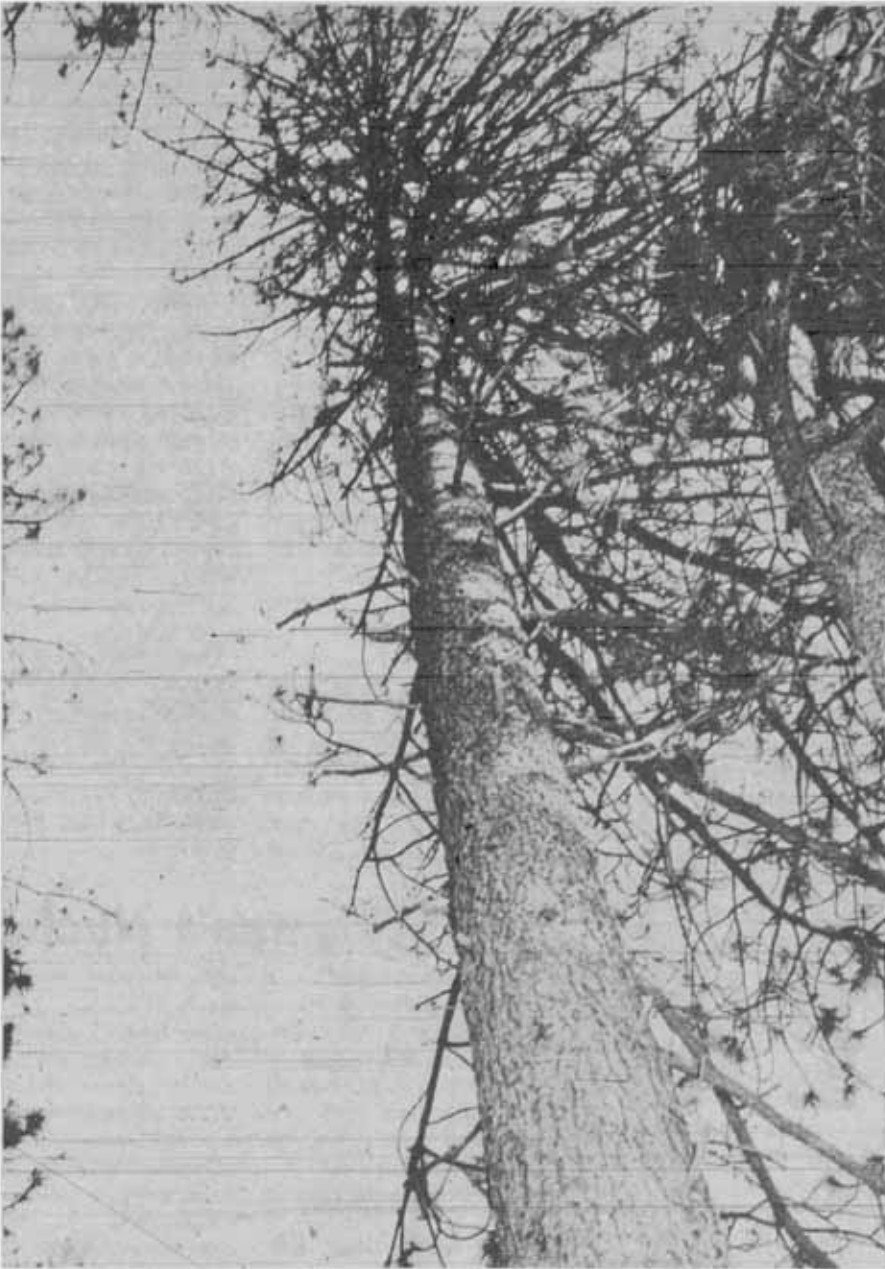
Schmidt hopes the project will be under way by March 1, and the harvesting of diseased trees will not interfere with opening of the lake's recreational season about April 1. Schmidt said the target date for completion of the project is June 1.

Four types of pine beetles have been attacking drought-weakened trees around Concow Lake, Schmidt said. In years of normal rainfall, tree sap content is usually enough to push pine beetles out of the tree when they bore through the bark. But the two-year drought reduced sap content sufficiently to allow the pine beetles to take hold, Schmidt said.



BEETLE GIRDLE — Bark beetles "girdle" pine trees under the bark, killing the conifers. This is a view of the inside of the bark of a pine tree killed by the bark beetles in the Lake Concow area, necessitating its removal. The various bark beetles or their larvae travel through the cambium, completely encircling the tree, causing its death. Removal of infested trees with the cooperation of the California Department of Forestry is planned to help halt the devastation of the forest.

Oroville Mercury Register
2-17-1978
page 3 of 3



REQUIEM FOR THE CONIFER — This pine tree is dead, thanks to the bark beetles that now infest the timber around Lake Concow. Two other completely dead trees that were felled were each 58 years old, similar to this one. Bark beetles or their larvae "girdle" the tree under the bark, bringing about the untimely death. Healthy trees can repel the onslaught of the bark beetles, but two years of drought have weakened their resistance.

The pattern of attack is usually started by the Pine Engraver Beetle at the top of the tree, the Red Turpentine at the bottom and the Western Pine Beetle in the middle. The Flathead Wood-Borer usually enters after the tree is dead, but in drought years the wood-borer can be a killer by itself.

The beetles or larvae actually "girdle" the tree beneath the bark, much like skinning the tree alive, though the bark stays intact.

The prospect of a wet spring to strengthen the tree's resistance to the bark beetles is encouraging, Schmidt said. He also indicated if infested trees are cut before the bugs leave about 85 percent of the insects will be carried away from the area.

By declaring the emergency harvestation, the board is averting a time-consuming research and public hearing process required by Environmental Impact Reports.

"It's a serious problem up there and we don't want to lose those trees," Schmidt said.

State Axes TID Plans To Cut Infested Trees

By PATO'HARA

Plans for emergency cutting of diseased trees in the Concow-Lake Wilenor area by the Thermalito Irrigation District have hit a large snag.

An emergency declaration to harvest about 20 percent of insect-infested trees on a 400-acre parcel of district property was rejected by the State Department of Forestry this week. The emergency declaration would have exempted TID from the time-consuming process of filing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Forestry officials decided there was "not sufficient cause" to exempt the district from EIR requirements, TID General Manager Jim Schmidt said.

During last night's regular meeting of the TID board of directors, Bill Spruance, attorney for the district, was directed to begin an appeal of the forestry department decision.

"The board felt we should appeal because of the extent of infestation in the trees," Schmidt said.

When the emergency was declared on Feb. 16, the board was told four different species of pine beetles have been attacking drought-weakened trees surrounding Lake Wilenor, about 25 miles north of Oroville. In years of normal rainfall, a tree's sap is usually sufficient to push beetles out when they attempt to bore inside a tree. The lack of water has allowed the insects to take hold, however.

The project to cut infested trees was scheduled to begin sometime this week, Schmidt said. Foresters have indicated

that if infested trees are cut before the insects leave the tree, about 85 percent of the beetles will be carried away before they enter other trees.

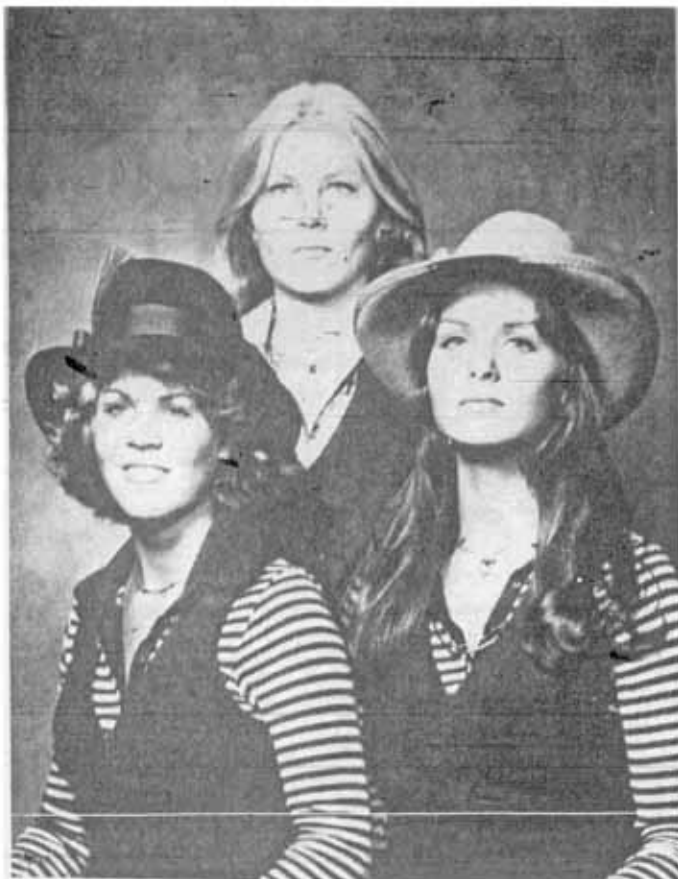
"We feel we are losing time on the project from here on," Schmidt said. "We were to begin the cutting soon because it's stopped raining.

"It is the feeling of the board the loss could be substantial because of this delay," Schmidt added.

In other action concerning the Lake Concow area, the board approved the 1978 Recreational Schedule and Fees last night, Schmidt said.

The Lake Concow season will open April 1 and extend through the Labor Day Weekend. A seasonal boating permit will cost consumers \$18, while a daily permit is \$5. Access for bank fishing will cost \$1 and is good for an entire family.

Permits can be purchased at the TID district office, 410 Grand Ave., or from the lake patrolman.



THE GARDNERS
...to sing

Oroville MercuryRegister
4-1-1978

Little Church on Mountain To Celebrate 1st Birthday

The Little Church on the Mountain, pastored by Rev. Steve Lamkin, will be celebrating its first birthday during the regular 11 a.m. Sunday service, tomorrow at the Concow School Auditorium.

The interdenominational ministry was begun a year ago in the mountain area known as the Golden Feather School District and includes Concow, Yankee Hill, Big Bend, Jarbo Gap and Cherokee communities.

Special guests for the service will be the Gardners from Chico. Currently, the Gardners are involved in a national tour presenting a message in music.

During their travels, a stop in

Nashville, Tenn., was scheduled in order to put the final touches on their fourth and fifth albums slated for release later this year.

The group includes Ron Gardner, his wife Delores, and daughters Kaina, Kim and Kari Karnia at the piano, plus Bass guitarist Gary Mains and drummer Dan Crawford add depth to the Gardner family sound.

Concow School is located approximately one mile off Highway 70 on Concow Road at Nelson Bar Road, some 18 miles northeast of Oroville. The public is invited to come and join in the celebration and to hear the Gardners sing.

Oroville Mercury Register

4-13-1978

page 1 of 2

Mabel Harney Remembers Nelson Bar Days

By KAREN PETERSEN

Mabel Harney lived for a time on the "hungry end of poverty ridge" on a bluff in Butte County with her aunt and uncle not far from where she was born.

Mabel lives on Pomona Avenue in Oroville now, but she was born in a little house in Pentz and can remember the days when it was a two-day journey to Chico and the trip to Oroville began at dawn so the family could get back home the same day.

Mabel, a lively person with a good sense of humor and keen memory, is a member of Native Daughters of the Golden West and is working on an article about Nelson Bar for a historical publication in Paradise.

She said she's practically the only person left who remembers anything about the area known as Nelson Bar on the west branch of the Feather River. The Nelson Bar Bridge is now under Lake Oroville.

"There was really nothing down there," she said. "My father had quite an acreage on the west bank. He planted the third olive orchard in Butte County. He deserves some recognition for that."

Mabel's grandfather came here in 1850 and owned a stretch of land near the Nelson Bar Bridge. The bridge changed many times, from rock to wood, from covered to steel, before it was submerged. Mabel said she remembers the covered bridge was there when she was "just a tiny girl."

Mabel also recalls the bridge washing away after the Concow Dam broke and being stranded on the other side of the river.

Mabel said she never liked history and nearly failed it in school.

"I hate history, couldn't be bothered," she said emphatically. "I'm not a student." But remembrances from her youth make her one of the best county historians around.



"Most of Pentz as it was in the Gold Rush days was gone when I was born," Mabel recalled. "The old Pentz Hotel was there though. It burned to the ground. Now there's a modern ranch house in its place.

"It was quite an imposing structure with a curved staircase inside. I went to a Halloween party there once. There was a post office, dance hall, bar and dining room."

Pentz was named after a man named Pence who owned the hotel. Mabel said he didn't want the town named after him, but the community insisted and just

Oroville Mercury Register

4-13-1978

page 2 of 2

changed the spelling.

"Pentz itself was a lumber dump," she explained. "I know there were flumes carrying logs down there at one time, but no one seems to remember them and there is no sign left of them now. No one will believe me.

"What happened was, they cut so many trees that by the time they completed the flume, there were no more trees left to be cut."

Mabel remembers the school and store at Pentz.

"Old Mrs. Horn wouldn't take pennies if the amount was uneven. She just couldn't be bothered with them — too frivolous," she said with a laugh.

"We didn't go buy candy like the kids do today. If we

*"If we had a few cents,
we were rich"*

had a few cents, we were rich."

Messila Valley School was a one-teacher, one-room schoolhouse with students from kindergarten to high school age in attendance.

After Mabel's family moved away from Pentz, it was a six-mile roundtrip wagon ride to school and back everyday.

"I remember there were some boys who kept giving the teacher a hard time," she said. "She finally couldn't take it any more and left school. They were all sorry later, she was really a very nice old lady."

Mabel said in those days "there just wasn't much for the youngsters to do." One time she went to an all-night dance at the school, although her father usually did not allow her to go to dances.

"When he said yes he didn't know what he was saying yes to," she giggled. "When I came home bright and early in the morning he asked, 'Where have you been?' But he knew he'd said I could go, so he couldn't get mad.

"I remember we pulled down the blinds when dawn

broke and just kept on dancing."

She said her parents never made her work very hard, so there was time to explore with friends.

She remembers climbing in Indian caves on the face of the bluffs near Table Mountain, a "great place to hide out," she said.

And she remembers no one ever told the children about the flourishing "red light" district in Oroville.

"You heard about it, of course, but nobody ever told their kids about it," she said. A friend of hers, known to frequent the district, once took her up to Paradise for the day. Later she had to face the disapproval of her father.

When Mabel was about 12, she joined the Good Temples Lodge in Pentz.

"I pledged I would never drink," she said. "I suppose I didn't really know what I was saying. It did leave a hesitancy in me though."

Mabel broke down on the pledge when she got married though, when her husband Joe, a plumber, and his cronies used to "sit around and celebrate."

There are some things about Butte County Mabel particularly recalls — like the rock walls. She said there's "a science to putting them up. They're something to remember."

And, she remembers her father telling her about a trip he made to Oroville after a big storm and the bridge spanning the Feather River had been washed out.

"I'm sure my father said they took small boats and fastened them together from one bank to another and then drove their wagons over them," she said.

Signs of progress in Oroville have never bothered Mabel.

"I'm all for progress. I think the dam was something that was needed," she said despite the fact many of her childhood haunts are now either under the lake or on the lakeside.

At least the "hungry end of poverty ridge" remains the same.

"I would never have bought land up there," she said. "It seems like you would never be able to grow anything. But we managed somehow."

The Chico Enterprise Record

6-17-1978

page 1 of 4

Pulga Offers Summer Living Experience

By LLOYD PLETSCH
(Enterprise-Record Staff Writer)

PARADISE (E-R) — They have the energy, experience and equipment — now they need applicants.

What for? Summer camp in Pulga.

Pulgans describe themselves as "a thriving community of 11 adults and seven children" and they would like to share the way of life they have discovered and come to enjoy on 66 acres of land bordering Flea Creek in the "spectacular Feather River Canyon."

"It's our first year for sponsoring a camp, so we decided to keep it simple and easy," says Nancy Evens, one of three residents who will be serving on the staff of the operation.

This summer they have decided to share the challenge and fun of Pulga with a select number of young women, ages 12-15, from July 29 through Aug. 19.

The Pulga Community Project has been incorporated as a non-profit organization and is fully licensed to operate a summer camp.

Just getting to Pulga is an enjoyable experience. The community is located in the heart of 200,000 acres of national forest.

To get to Pulga, take Highway 70 35 miles north of Oroville, turn left at the Pulga sign and you're there. Most area residents are familiar with the excellent scenery on the Feather River drive, but few have visited Pulga, just a short distance off the main road.

In 1906, the grandfather of a present Pulgan homesteaded the land bordering Flea Creek.

The population grew to more than 300 in the 1920's when the railroad was running regularly along the river. The work dried up in the 50s and six years ago, when the new Pulgans began to arrive, they found a virtually deserted community. Since then, they have restored eight

'Keep It Simple And Easy'

houses, raised a barn, terraced hillsides, outfitted a complete woodshop and pottery studio, planted organic gardens and converted a washhouse into a woodheated sauna.

Saying working together has its own rewards, they also have made numerous preparations for the camp operation. Campers will be staying in a newly restored bunkhouse on the bank of Flea Creek. Restroom facilities, recreation areas and kitchen and food serving facilities also have been readied. All meet standards set by licensing agencies.

"There was a good deal more red tape involved in such an operation than we realized when we started," staff member Harriet Power said.

Paul Straus, who will serve as a camp counselor, feels campers probably will get as hooked on the quality of country life as

have other community members. Straus is a certified California secondary teacher with experience in San Francisco and Detroit. Miss Evens and Miss Power have worked extensively in group homes and with youth groups. All have been camp counselors.

The three friends have all dreamed of one day operating such a camp and decided now is the time to give it a try.

"Doing things for yourself — that's what it's all really about," Straus points out. And that's what the camp program will stress.

Summer camp members will have "the opportunity to develop and enrich individual talents while helping to grow the food they eat." They also will participate in group activities like swimming and backpacking. They will share in a staff-supervised building project, and a full-sized tepee is a possibility. A greenhouse, a bridge across the small creek or even a new chicken coop are other ideas, but the decision will be left to those attending the camp session.

The theme of learning through doing will extend into each day. Campers will have an opportunity to work, on a one-to-one basis, with people skilled in such things as carpentry, photography, dance, whole-grain baking, hammock-making, quilting, drawing and painting and other crafts. The program also will host guest artists in poetry, stained glass and furniture finishing.

A certified Red Cross life-guard will supervise the swim-

ming program in the Feather River. Hiking and backpacking trips into the Sierra wilderness and over the trails Indians roamed also are scheduled. Pulga was once a favorite Indian location and grinding rocks and other Indian signs still are in evidence.

The community grows fruits and vegetables and herbs in organic gardens, and two flocks of chickens provide plenty of fresh eggs. Two goats, Princess and Annie, give milk and the makings for Pulga cheese and ice cream.

It is a non-profit organization with fees designed to meet the basic needs of the camp program. They point out camper-ships also are available to be provided to prospective campers on a sliding scale according to family income.

'Doing Things For You'

"We want to welcome girls from all economic backgrounds and different types of living experiences," say the counselors. Anyone wishing to make donations to the program also may do so on a tax deductible basis.

They hope to host between five and 10 girls during the first summer's operation and they are eager to start getting applications.

The Chico Enterprise Record

6-17-1978

page 2 of 4



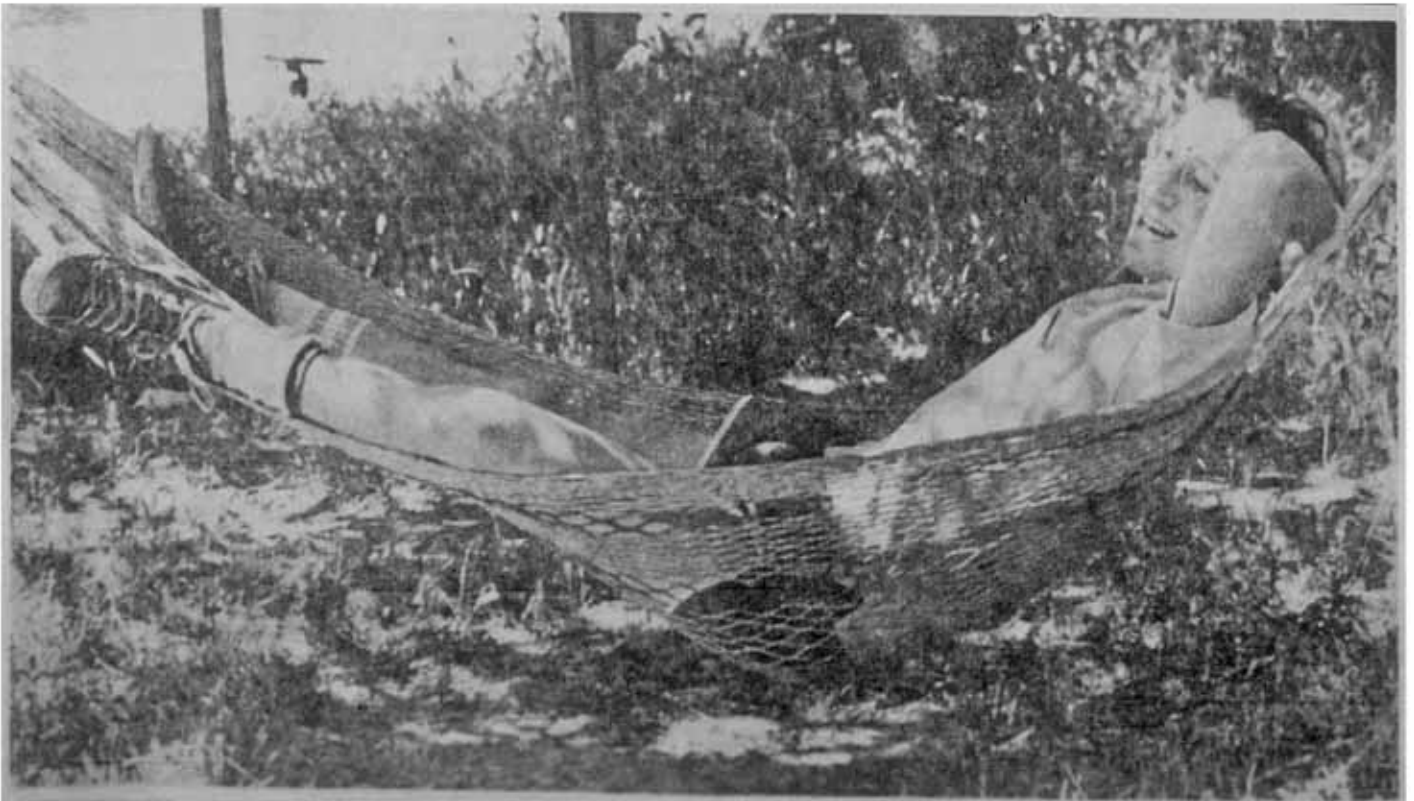
POSSIBLE PROJECT — Constructing an authentic teepee such as this one already existing in Pulga is one possible project girls attending camp there might take part in during August. Camp staff mem-

bers (left to right) Peter Straus, Nancy Evens and Harriet Power show such a shelter is actually quite large and functional during summer months. (Enterprise-Record Photo by Lloyd Pletsch)

The Chico Enterprise Record

6-17-1978

page 3 of 4



COUNTRY LIFE — Peter Straus finds the country life in Pulga very much to his liking. The tiny community includes restored homes, terraced hillsides and a number of craft shops and gardens. (Enterprise-Record Photo by Lloyd Pietsch)

Success this year would lead to an expanded program in 1979, although they definitely will provide a program in any case.

"These campers really will be in for what we think will be an exciting time," says Miss Evens. The community feels they can show young women there are some alternative lifestyles that people that age just aren't familiar with, especially those who have little opportunity to get out of the city.

Harriet recalls her camping experiences as a young person, saying, "I used to just live for the summers."

The counselors say they decided to first offer the camp for girls because there already are many other summer activities that are frequently just aimed for boys. They also feel it will give the young women a chance to learn to be at ease in a different atmosphere as well as obtaining some skills they can pursue in the future.

While residents of Pulga live in nuclear family units, each with their own homes, they have learned to share the work, food and other benefits and to make their lives be fun in the process.

They hope the interaction between those attending camp and the community will help to relay some of the life they now enjoy while teaching how to obtain a sense of accomplishment by doing.

The backgrounds of the community members range from architect to teacher. They project enthusiasm when discussing their work and their new home that has attracted them from all parts of the nation.

"We sincerely hope we can share some of this with young people," says Straus. They are willing to discuss the Pulga experience with people in their homes and have prepared a slide program that can be shown.

For information, write Pulga Community Project, Box 28, Pulga, 95965, or call (916) 534-9720.

The Chico Enterprise Record

6-17-1978

page 4 of 4



GOATS, GARDENS — Goats and gardens both are key parts of providing food for the community of Pulga. Harriet Power displays one of the four kids that are part of the livestock there. Growing food is one of the parts of the community Pulgans hope to share with young women during summer camp. (Enterprise-Record Photo by Lloyd Pletsch)

Oroville Mercury Register

9-5-1978



FIRST CANDLE — Brandy Nichole Klobas blows out her first birthday candle today, Sept. 5, 1978. She is the daughter of Teresa Klobas, 1176 Nelson Ave. and the sister of Michael, 4. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Pinkston of Oroville and Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Spiering of Plymouth. Her great-grandparents are Zelma McQuarrie of Oroville, Claude Brown of Paradise, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Klobas of Richmond and Mrs. Ruby Hulse of Placerville. Her great-great-grandmother is Mrs. Bessie Thurston of Yankee Hill.

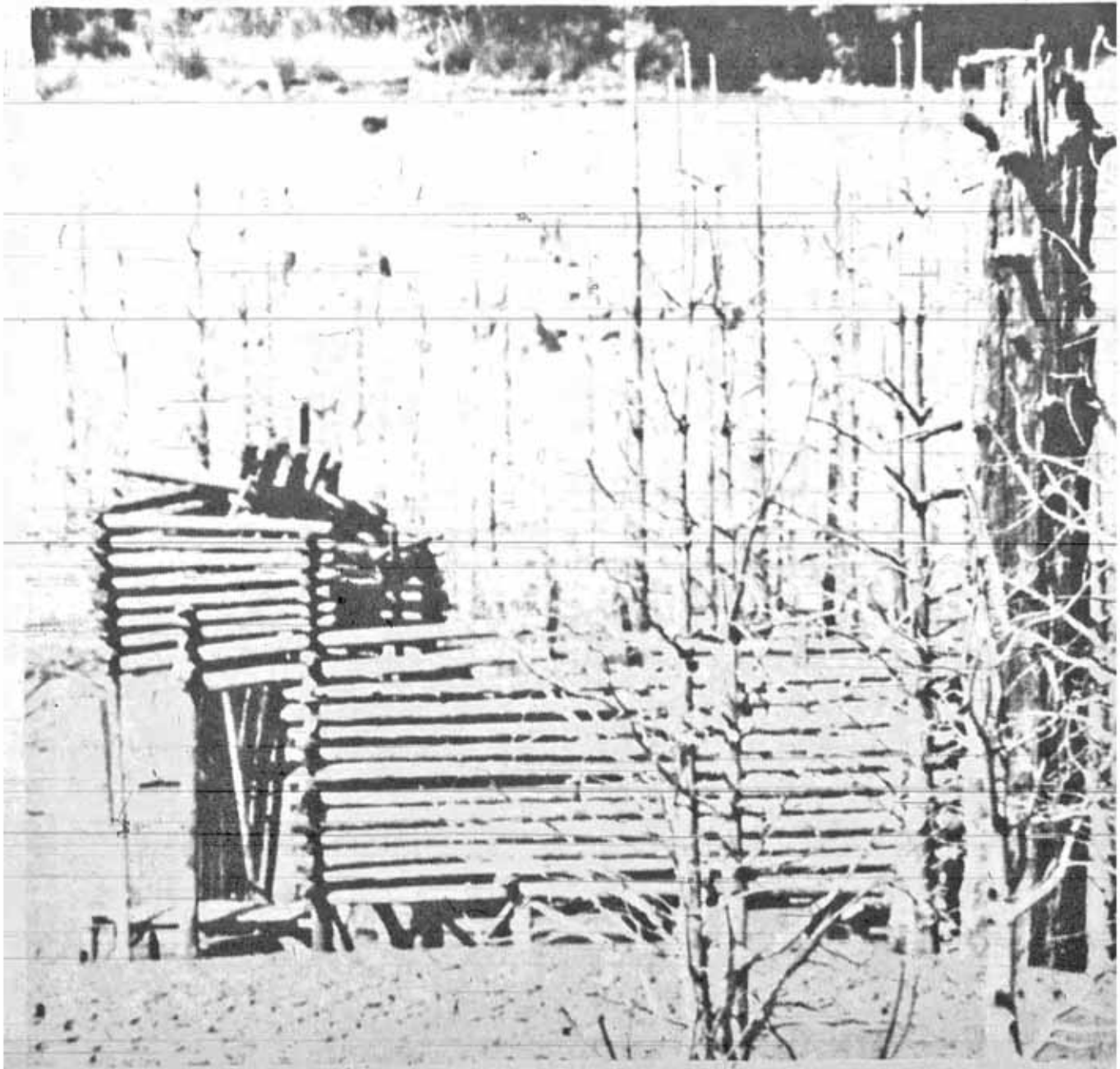
OROVILLE MERCURY REGISTER



OROVILLE, CALIFORNIA

3

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 11, 1978



Mercury Photo

ANCIENT CABIN — A log building reportedly built in the 1880s has been exposed to view during the Lake Concow draining project currently being carried out by the Thermalito Irrigation District. The cabin and the surrounding trees usually sit at the bottom of the lake and have been covered with water since the Concow Dam was built 53 years ago. The water behind the dam has been draining since Labor Day so repair work and inspections to the dam could be done. The lake will remain dry for about one more week, TID sources said.

Oroville Mercury Register

10-11-1978

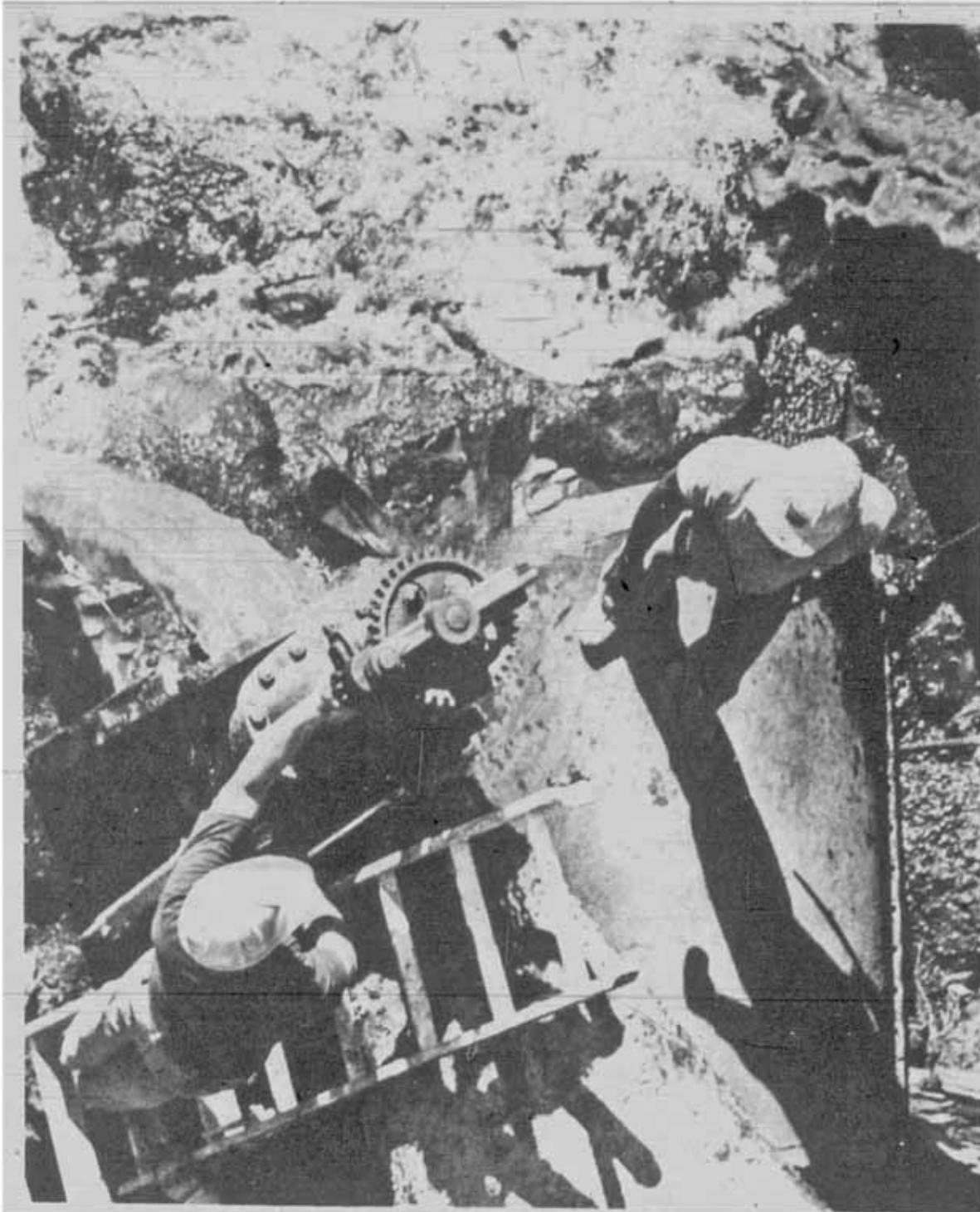


Mercury Photo

DRY GULCH— What was a clear blue lake with about 8,200 acre feet of water has been reduced to a muddy trickle during the Lake Concow draining project. The valves of the dam, located about 24 miles northeast of Oroville, have been opened since Labor Day. An inspection of the dam's inner face by state and federal dam safety officials showed the 53-year-old dam was still in good shape, Thermalito Irrigation District Manager Jim Schmidt said. Additional work to improve the small lake's fishery will also be carried out by state Department of Fish and Game officials, Schmidt said.

Oroville Mercury Register

10-11-1978



Mercury Photo

VALVE JOB — Thermalito Irrigation District employees worked yesterday to dismantle the Concow Dam valve cones during the district's project to drain the lake behind the dam. Since the construction of the dam in the 1920s, vandals have damaged the two valves by dropping heavy objects onto them from the top of the dam. Both valves are expected to be replaced by the end of this week and the lake will begin to refill shortly thereafter, TID sources said. The dam's 8,200 acre feet of water have been draining since Labor Day. While the lake was emptied, government officials inspected the dam's inner face and other officials are planning improvements to the lake's fishery.

At UC Davis

Frank Day Exhibit Is A Golden Opportunity

By VICTORIA DALKEY

THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS at Davis is the place for art viewers to be this week. The provocative Petersen retrospective continues at the Memorial Union Gallery and an impressive show of massive charcoal drawings by Bay area artist Jack Scott has opened at the Art Department's Nelson Gallery through Nov. 10. But the show to see first is a retrospective of works by Frank Day, the Concow-Maidu historian-painter who died in 1976.

Born in 1902 at Berry Creek in Butte County, Day was the son of Twobo, a Concow headman. Selected to preserve the Concow chronicles and language, Twobo handed down the tribal history, customs and legends to his son who has preserved them for eternity in vivid narrative paintings.

Day left Berry Creek after his father's death in 1922 and roamed the country as an itinerant laborer. He returned to Butte County in the mid-30s, married and settled down as a ranch hand. Determined to preserve Twobo's legacy, he began sharing his knowledge with others. He came to the attention of anthropologists in 1952, and one of them, Donald P. Jewell, encouraged him to paint as well as sing and tell the tribal legends.

FROM THE OUTSET, his paintings rang with an unusual clarity and force. Rich in detail and symbol, compositionally complex yet integrated, they are at once primitive and sophisticated. Perhaps *primal* would be a better word than primitive, for Day's simply rendered figures are raw, direct and imbued with spiritual

force. Like pre-Renaissance Christian art, they have an iconographic intensity born of belief.

This quality of belief and believability — of spiritual revelation — is explained by Day's immersion in his role as carrier of his culture. Day is quoted in the exhibit's brief, reasonably priced catalogue, "I talk my paintings, say them, sing them and then paint them." Tapes of Day's songs and stories accompany the exhibit.

As a historic record alone, the works are amazing. For example, a variety of burial customs are portrayed. Often the body is shown in a fetal position inside a ceremonial basket. Accompanying written material explains that the baskets were later rolled down a slope to a waiting funeral pyre or balanced where they would eventually fall into quicksand. One moving work shows the bodies of recently interred Indians tied to tree limbs to keep them safe from animals.

OTH^{ER} PAINTINGS portray tribal legends like the Spider Woman, a monster who takes female form to seduce unwary Indians, and the Phlegm Monster who threatens children with illness. "Whirlwind at Bloomer Hill" depicts two negligent keepers of the roundhouse, a ceremonial structure, whipped up into the sky by angry wind spirits.

One of the most fascinating works is a recollection of a directly observed event. In 1911, Day and his father came upon a strange Indian near a pool applying a heated stone to the gunshot wound of a companion. Not wanting to intrude, they left the



Detail from 'Ishi at lamin Mool.'

scene. Later Day's father was summoned to speak to a captive Indian at the local jail. The captive was the same man he had seen at the pool, later identified as Ishi, the last of the Yahi.

Day's painting portrays Ishi's attempt to save his Yahi companion. Simply rendered, frontally direct, the painting is rife with metaphor — the last rite administered by the last member of a vanished tribe, transubstantiated by a dying but eternal sun.

IN 1975, I had the opportunity of hearing Day tell the story behind the Ishi painting at a meeting of Native American Artists in the governor's office. Day opened the conclave with a chant in which the spirit of the wind was called in to purify the room

and bind those present to hold faith with the old ways. Feeling faintly silly, I closed my eyes and concentrated, as directed, on the chant. It began with a panting sound, like bellows working rustily at first, then swelled slowly until the wind came in quick swishes, rushing around our ears, spinning through the room.

Day spoke eloquently afterward of his tribe's legends and customs and of his meeting with Ishi. But it is the wind I remember most vividly and the impression of Day's spiritual force. That force is preserved in his paintings and is what finally makes them so remarkable.

The retrospective will continue through Nov. 3 at the C.N. Gorman Museum.