

CANYON COURIER

Volume 2
JANUARY
1985

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POST OFFICE OPENS

We now have a post office up the hill. It is in the Pines Hardware Store on Hwy. 70. If you would like to receive mail at the post office, stop by and apply for a P.O. Box.

The Post Office will be open 8-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat. Gene, Marie and Ralph Miller will all

man the counter. In addition to P.O. Boxes all the regular P.O. services are available except foreign packages and bulk mail. Our post office will be Croville with the 95965 zip. Mail will be routed to us by the P.O. Box numbers.

The opening of the post office will not change rural delivery.

The Pine's Yankee Hill Hardware & Building Supply

POST OFFICE NOW OPEN!

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Sunday 10:00-2:00

Monday -Saturday 8:00 -5:00

Oroville Mercury Register

2-20-1985

Citizens comment on Lake Concow use

The Thermalito Irrigation District Board heard a variety of responses at its public hearing last night on the recreational policy for Concow Reservoir, but no action was taken.

Jim Schmidt, district manager, said the board will consider what to do at its next meeting.

Verd Tolman, president, said the board's primary duty is to provide for the domestic and irrigation water needs of district residents.

He said the board promoted recreational use of the reservoir when it did not conflict with the district's water needs or with public health and safety.

The problem with the current policy is that recreational use permit sales have not covered the cost of administering the program, and past efforts to increase fees have been "hotly contested," he said.

Another concern of the board of directors is the exposure of the district to liability for injuries suffered or damage caused to those using Concow Reservoir for recreational purposes, Tolman said.

Glenn Miller of Concow said the board had no right to close the reservoir to recreation. He said the district as a state agency did not own the reservoir and only held it in trust for the people.

Madoline Wilcox of Thermalito also opposed the closing of the reservoir for recreational purposes.

Bill Mazurek of Thermalito said he was against the recreation if it deterred from the district's ability to use its water rights, while Woody Bird of Thermalito objected to the district being in the recreation business if it had to be subsidized by the constituents of the district.

Acre of grass burned in Concow

CONCOW — Flames that escaped into nearby grass and brush from a control burn here yesterday blackened about one acre before being brought under control, county firemen said today.

The fire was on the end of Surcese Mine Road off Big Bend Road.

Even though it was unusually early in the year for a brush fire, firemen said it was not the first of this year. About five acres have been burned so far, including an acre of grass near Chico and three acres in Palermo.

Oroville Mercury Register

2-28-1985



MOUNTAIN POST OFFICE — Marie Miller and her husband, Gene, are now offering postal services to Yankee Hill residents. The Oroville Post Office has contracted with the Millers to operate the post office in their Highway 70 hardware store, The Pines. The area has been without a post office for 16 or 17 years. Yankee Hill had a

post office in a business operated by Miller's father, Ralph, until it was destroyed by fire. The elder Miller, 90, now resides in Livermore. The services include postal box rental. Open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, there is no line to buy stamps.

Mercury-Register Photo by Jerry Teague

Oroville Mercury Register

3-15-1985

Concow man must stand trial on pot charge

One of two men accused of cultivating marijuana in mountains above Concow will face trial in superior court, but a preliminary hearing for a second man in the same case has been continued two weeks.

James Kerrigan was bound over for trial after being held to answer in Oroville Justice Court yesterday. The same charges against James Corners were continued.

A second cultivating charge against Corners was dismissed in a separate case.

The alleged marijuana gardens Kerrigan and Corners are accused of cultivating were the plots Superior Court Judge Reginald Watt eyed from the air last Aug. 2 and ruled that lawmen could see marijuana from a helicopter.

The defense in cases involving law enforcement overflights from the summer of 1983 had raised the issue and Watt determined the only way he could settle the question was to see for himself.

Sheriff's deputies and agents of the state Campaign Against Marijuana Planting flew Watt over the Concow gardens before raiding them. Corners and Kerrigan were later arrested.

Oroville Mercury Register

3-19-1985

World's largest concert scheduled

CONCOW — Fourth through sixth grade students in Concow School will be participating in what is billed as the "world's largest concert" tomorrow at 10 a.m., Marty Sampson, music teacher, said.

The United States Air Force choruses and bands will give a half-hour performance sponsored by the Music Educators National Conference that will be beamed by satellite all over the country.

Mrs. Sampson said the program would be shown locally on KVIE Channel 6 at 10 a.m. She said that more than 100,000 students were expected to participate by singing along with the band on such numbers as "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "America the Beautiful."

She said schools would send in forms verifying how many had participated. "We hope to qualify for the record of world's largest concert," she said.

The Chico Enterprise Record

3-23-1985



Photo by Ty Eyrbour

Long fall from tree

A 20-year-old Concow man was injured in a 40 to 60-foot fall from a tree Friday afternoon. Richard Rodriguez was transported by California Highway Patrol helicopter to Enloe Hospital's roof-top helipad after he fell from a tree near Rim Road, about two miles off U.S. 70 above Jarbo Gap. A California Division of Forestry

volunteer squad from Concow responded to the 4:19 p.m. accident. Rodriguez was reported in serious condition with head and chest injuries in the Chico hospital. He reportedly had climbed a tree on the northwest rim of the Feather River Canyon and leapt to a limb on an adjacent tree that gave way.

Oroville Mercury Register

3-25-1985

Users of Lake Concow file complaint

By MARGARET HEINAN

The Golden Feather Community Association dashed the Thermalito Irrigation District board's hopes of negotiating a recreational use policy on Lake Concow by filing its third amended complaint for public trust and easement to the lake.

The complaint was filed Wednesday, the day after the water district board passed a resolution specifying lower recreational use fees for 1985 and defining what recreational activities would be permitted.

Although the recreational use permit fees last year were insufficient to cover recreation costs, the board reduced the daily and weekly fees to the amounts requested by those answering a questionnaire. It was viewed as a peace offering by the district to Concow area residents who have been carrying on a months-long dispute.

The board members, in addition to lowering the fees, sent a letter to the association asking that it drop its lawsuit against the Thermalito and Table Moun-

tain water districts. In return the board offered to meet with a group representing the Concow community to work out a "mutually acceptable" year-round recreation policy that would address the drawdowns of the reservoir water.

The association claims that the water districts, which jointly own Lake Concow, have not fully used their lake water rights and should lose their rights to water not used.

The complaint says the plaintiffs, Brian Helton, Eugene

Miller and the Golden Feather Community Association, and the public "have for more than 10 years used and fished the waters of Concow Creek and the waters impounded by said dam; for aesthetic, recreational, health, educational, wild life, and fishing purposes; that said use has continued without hinderance or objection by defendants, or either of them for more than 10 years."

Jim Schmidt, Thermalito district manager, said that is not true. "We have always had rules and regulations requiring permits since 1974," he said.

The complaint also charges that a proposed hydroelectric power project will destroy fishing, wildlife and recreational uses of Concow Lake.

The districts have 30 days to respond, and Schmidt said they would file a demurrer because he said the complaint did not follow the judge's instructions to address the alleged fish and game violations.

A judge sustained demurrers on both the original and amended complaint, thus ruling that the association's arguments were defective.

Oroville Mercury Register
4-2-1985

Man jailed after shotgun discharged

CONCOW — Randall Lee Marmon, 28, 3070 Deadwood Drive, was arrested on a felony charge of assault with a deadly weapon here yesterday after allegedly shooting another man in the arm with a shotgun, sheriff's deputies said.

Deputies said Michael Houk, 37, 2795 Oro Bangor Highway, had two pellet wounds in the right arm and was to seek medical attention on his own.

A dispute over property between Marmon and his girlfriend, who is Houk's sister, prompted the 1 p.m. shooting at 3720 Deadwood Drive, deputies said. Marmon, who remained in custody today in lieu of \$3,000 bail, allegedly fired the weapon at Houk's car as Houk drove away.

Paradise Post

4-12-1985

Indian art

Native Concow Indian Smokey Jones will demonstrate Native American basketweaving using local plant sources at a meeting of the Altacal Audubon Society at 8 .m. in N.T. Enloe Hospital conference hall; 1444 Magnolia Ave., in Chico.

Samples of basketry work illustrating weaving techniques will be featured. The public is invited. For more information, call 342-0659.

Oroville Mercury Register

5-29-1985

Concow School media class wins awards

CONCOW — Members of the Concow School media class received several awards at the County Media Festival including two grand prize awards.

Celia Bianco was a grand prize winner in the original books category. The class video team of Fred Muniaerts, Dan Stanhope, Art Quiroz and Gary Taylor won a grand prize for their entry in the video division entitled "Not Me!" It not only received a grand prize at the county level but received honorable mention at the California State Media Festival.

The Concow media class is under the direction of Marty Sampson and Eleanor Heide.

Memorial weekend fun in the mountains



Getting a ride on a three-wheeler was a big thrill for youngsters

While thousands of Californians vacationed on Lake Oroville over the Memorial Day weekend, hundreds of Oroville area residents flocked to the nearby mountains for some fun of their own.

One of the most popular spots was a portion of the Plumas National Forest located northwest of Concow in an area called Ramsey Bar. A large group of off-road enthusiasts from around Butte County have made the trip there on the Memorial weekend an annual event.

Because of the loose granite terrain, the area is perfect for



Mercury-Register photos by Bill Royer

Children play in large raft in Little Kimsheew Creek during weekend

Oroville Mercury Register
5-30-1985, page 2 of 2



Young rider pilots Honda up and over hill



Dune buggies are fun in sandy terrain

motorcycles, three-wheelers and four-wheelers. Little damage can be done to the land.

The annual trek is also a family event with the children being treated to fishing and swimming in Little KimsheW Creek and fun at night around the campfire.

A poker run was again organized for the bikes and three-wheelers with the five check-points set up in a 10-plus mile course. Paradise's Doug Rubiolo picked up three jacks along the route to win this year's pot while Oroville's David Preston was second.

The Chico Enterprise Record

6-5-1985

7th Wild Mountain Faire Sunday

CONCOW — The seventh annual Wild Mountain Faire will be held from 11 a.m. to dusk Sunday in this foothill town, off Highway 70.

Food and craft booths will be available.

Music will be provided by the Butte County Ramblers, Spark N' Cinder, the Butte Creek Sextet and Wild Honey.

The Catch It Quick Jugglers and Middle Eastern dancers will also be featured.

Proceeds from the faire will

benefit the Save the Lake fund, which is used for legal expenses to try and keep Lake Concow free of hydroelectric plants.

Money will also be given to Camp Concow, a group developed to give Concow kids wilderness camping experiences.

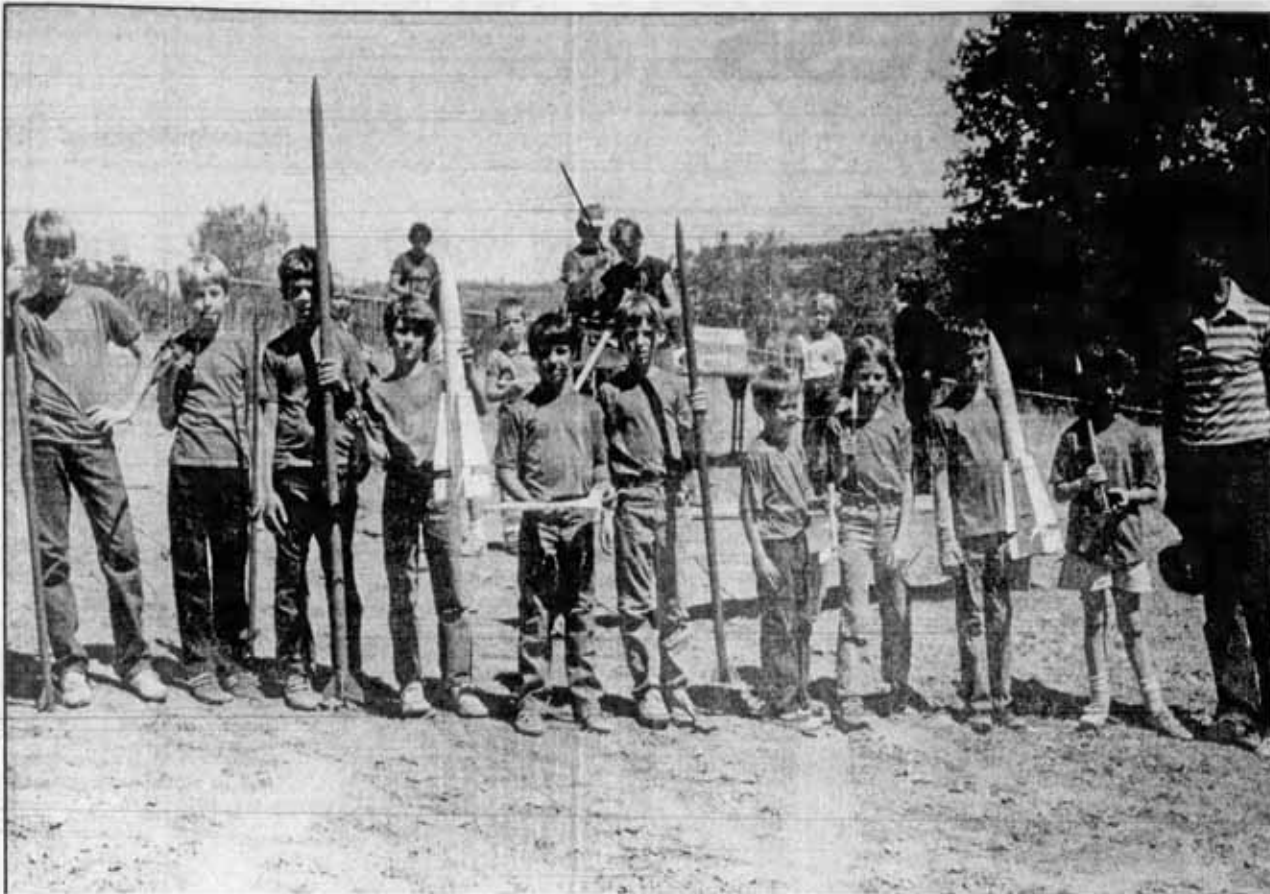
Admission is \$2.50 general and \$1 for senior citizens and children under 12.

Parking is limited, so participants are asked to carpool.

Further information is available by calling 534-5947. ■

Oroville Mercury Register

6-7-1985



These students served on the recovery, fire control teams

Spring Valley pupils blast off

CONCOW — "Ready, set, blast-off!" was heard recently when students from the Golden Feather Union School District participated in the third annual Rocket Day held at Spring Valley Elementary School.

Approximately 60 rockets, under the supervision of Brian Helton, resource teacher, and two eighth grade assistants, Ron Moore and Kevin Wells, were cheered by children and parents as they roared off the ground.

Each rocket was purchased and constructed by the students. The goal of the project was to provide direct hands-on learning experiences to the students, Rick Peryam, third

grade teacher at Spring Valley said.

In addition to school supervision, Al Klein, captain at the Jarbo Gap fire station, provided a fire engine for added safety.

The ground control crew was made up of students from both Concow and Spring Valley Schools.

Peryam said the students are anxious to participate in Rocket Day again next year.

The Recovery Team and the Fire Control Team included Jason McKinnis, left, Chris Bell, Jason Eller, Fred Martin, Andy Steffanic, Warren Roll, Shad Butler, Sante Jonker, Toby Curby, Junell Stanhope, with Helton supervising.



Rockets roar of the launching pad

Oroville Mercury Register
6-20-1985

Center gets Concow film

The California Department of Parks and Recreation at Lake Oroville announced that a new film has arrived at the Lake Oroville Center entitled "Concow" and is available for viewing on request.

The 20-minute film is about the Maidu Indians of the Yankee Hill area, northeast of Oroville, a spokesman said. The film features songs and narration by Brian Beavers, who during his lifetime was a well-known story-

teller. The film discusses Maidu mythology, herbal medicine, history and lifestyle.

"Concow" joins 24 other free films on a variety of topics that may be viewed on request at the Visitor Center. The Visitor Center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each week day. To find the center, visitors should follow the Green Line painted on the road through Oroville to the end of Kelly Ridge Road. For more information, phone 534-2372.

Oroville Mercury Register

6-27-1985

Deputies probe Concow shooting incident

CONCOW. — Sheriff's deputies here are investigating an incident that occurred yesterday when a couple was allegedly threatened and six bullets were fired at their home.

Garry Arthur Henry, 37, and Darlene Conrad, 21, Route 1, Box 225-G, Concow Road, said two men forced them off the road in an incident stemming from an earlier dispute.

Capt. Mick Grey said a gun was reportedly pointed at Henry's head and six shots were fired in the direction of the home. He refused to give further details because the case was still under investigation.

Oroville Mercury Register

7-1-1985

Butte Briefs ---

Golden Volunteers host 4th of July Fun Day

CONCOW — The Golden Feather Volunteer Fire Co. will hold its second annual Fourth of July Family Fun Day Thursday from noon to 6 p.m. at Crain Park.

Horseshoe contests, volleyball competition, and a dunk tank will be featured. Refreshments will include hot dogs, hamburgers, pies, cakes, coffee, soft drinks, beer, and snow cones. The Wild Honey Band will provide entertainment.

Admission is \$1 per person, with children under 10 admitted free. Money raised helps support the volunteer fire department. Crain Park is located on Concow Road about four miles northeast of Highway 70. For more information call 533-6826.

Oroville Mercury Register

7-19-1985

Grange discusses kitchen equipment

CONCOW — Equipment for the new kitchen was the major topic of discussion at a recent meeting of Concow Grange 735.

Thirty steel chairs and a new ceiling fan have been purchased as the last two dinners held by the Grange served more than 110 people, said Les Evans, spokesman.

Concow Grange hosted a meeting of Butte-Pomona

Grange 16 Committee on Women's Activities. During the meeting, chaired by Fern Whitaker, main topic of discussion was the state Grange convention in Visalia.

State Grange lecturer Gene Runyon earlier joined the Concow group for a potluck dinner. Runyon gave members insight on Grange do's and don'ts during the two-hour session.

The Chico Enterprise Record

7-25-1985

Indian arts, crafts will be on display

CONCOW (E-R) — Local and out-of-area Indian arts and crafts will be on display at the Indian Big Time scheduled for Saturday and Sunday at Crain Park, Concow Lake.

Activities will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, and Sunday's program will be from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Many displays and demonstrations are planned, and authentic Indian dances will be performed by dancers from several local tribes.

There is no admittance charge, and those planning to

attend are advised to bring chairs.

Food will be served Saturday from 1-2 p.m., and breakfast will be available from 8-9 a.m. Sunday with dinner served from noon until 1 p.m.

There will be no food booths, but soft drinks and Indian fry bread will be on sale both days.

Games and prizes will be featured. At 2:30 p.m., gifts will be presented to the oldest Indian woman and man at the "Big Time."

For information contact Oroville residents, Beryl Cross at 534-5786, or Smoky Jones, 533-9139. ■

7-26-1985

Woman survives accidental bullet wound in forehead

CONCOW (E-R) — A 22-year-old Concow woman was listed in stable condition this morning and is expected to recover after being accidentally shot in the forehead by a small caliber rifle, the Butte County Sheriff's Department said this morning.

Laura Kay Infield told deputies she was cleaning a bedroom closet containing a number of firearms around 1 p.m. when a .22-caliber rifle resting between clothing items dropped and discharged as she pulled out the clothes, according to sheriff reports.

The bullet struck the woman in the forehead. She was rushed to Feather River Hospital in Paradise before being transported to Enloe Hospital for surgery.

According to the sheriff's report's, the Enloe staff says the victim is "stable and should recover."

The woman's husband, 27-year-old Budd Ray, was working on a generator outside the couple's Hoffman Road residence when he heard the shot. The sheriff report said he found his wife on the floor with a large amount of blood about the top of her head.

The report also states he first picked her up and then ran outside for help. ■

The Chico Enterprise Record

7-26-1985

Case cleared in assault on officer ... with snake

OROVILLE (E-R) — A Concow man Thursday admitted his involvement in an aborted "snake attack" against a Butte County sheriff's deputy, who court documents showed to be "deathly afraid" of the reptiles.

But since no one was actually injured and the owner of the snake, Bruce Beusell, 30, had already spent 14 days in jail, Oroville District Court Judge Jerome Warren sentenced the Concow man to time served after Beusell entered a plea of

guilty to a misdemeanor charge of interfering with an officer.

According to court documents, sheriff's deputy Richard Graves was sitting in his patrol car July 10 in front of a Concow area store when Beusell approached him, carrying what Graves described as "a very large snake."

Graves, who acknowledged he was "deathly afraid of snakes," said he rolled up his window as the snake handler cursed at him

and then threatened to retrieve a rattler in a nearby pickup to throw at the officer.

Graves said he put the car in reverse and drove away to get reinforcements when he saw Beusell emerge from the truck holding a gallon jug.

When he returned with a backup officer, Graves arrested Beusell on the interference charge but said a cursory look around the area failed to turn up the phantom rattler. ■

Oroville Mercury Register

8-3-1985

Man treated for burns after fighting fire

CONCOW — A man was taken to Oroville Hospital early this morning when he was burned fighting a fire on his property in the Yankee Hill area.

Greg Booth, 31, suffered first and second degree burns on his legs, face, and hands, a hospital spokesman said. He was to be treated and released.

A Butte County Fire Department spokesman said a spot of undergrowth and timber was burned in the fire on Booth's property. The fire was reported at 11:48 p.m. Friday.

Responding to the fire were one California Department of Forestry engine, the Golden Feather Volunteers with one engine, and an officer.

Few details were immediately available, but Booth reportedly managed to contain the greater portion of the fire on his own before firefighters arrived.

Feather River Bulletin

8-7-1985

50 YEARS AGO...1935

August 8

Repeated pledges of the government of California to complete the Feather River Highway by July 1, 1936, were scuttled this week.

Orders were issued withdrawing virtually all machinery at Camp 30, Rich Bar, and Camp 28, Pulga.

The machinery will be replaced by additional convict hand labor.

Twenty-five convicts will be added to the 100 already at Rich Bar, and 45 to the 195 at Pulga.

One shovel will be left at Pulga. The two at Rich Bar will be taken away, and two of the three at Pulga will also be moved out.

Compressors will be moved. All trucks except enough to transport the convicts between their camps and their work will be moved.

Oroville Mercury Register

8-21-1985

Oroville (Ca.) Mercury-Register, Wednesday, Aug. 21, 1985 3A

TID charged with creating a hazard at Lake Concow

By WILLIAM SAMPSON

A citizen speaking to the county board of supervisors yesterday charged that a draw-down of Concow Reservoir by the Thermalito Irrigation District is creating a hazard, but a district official last night denied the charges.

Showing photographs he said were taken recently at the lake, Glenn Miller of Concow charged the irrigation district is "maintaining a public nuisance" by lowering the level of the lake. Miller's photos showed him knee- and thigh-deep in mud in an area he said is frequented by children.

He showed a picture of a muddy embankment he said is being used as a "slickey slide" by children. Charging that a child could be stuck in the deep mud and sink, Miller asked the supervisors, "How soon are we going to lose a kid up there in the mud?"

In the past, Miller said, the district has not drawn the lake down until after Labor Day. He said district officials told him the draw-down was needed for mosquito abatement, but Miller charged the district's action was "nothing more than retaliation" against Concow area residents.

Thermalito Irrigation District officials were not present at the board meeting yesterday. When told of Miller's charges, Jim Schmidt, district manager, defended the district's position.

Schmidt said increasing examples of trespassing and vandalism on the district's property at the reservoir led to increasing district concerns about liability. Of particular concern, he said, were incidents connected to the swimming hole at Hoffman Bridge. He said those things created a "serious liability problem" for the district.

He said the vandalism and trespass problems could not be controlled other than drawing down the lake level because of a "lack of support" from the sheriff's department. He said the district had already posted \$200 rewards, but was faced with more incidents, such as fences repeatedly being torn down.

Additionally, he said, the Butte County Mosquito Abatement District had asked the irrigation district to lower the lake level early to combat mosquito activity in the area. Schmidt denied charges of collusion between the irrigation and mosquito district boards that were raised by Miller.

As to the question of safety, without seeing Miller's pictures, Schmidt denied that dangerous mud conditions exist at the lake. He said he toured the area Monday with two members of the irrigation district board. "There is no mud," he said flatly. After Schmidt saw the pictures later last night, he still maintained the pictures do not show what Miller says they do.

"That's not mud at all," Schmidt said of the pictures. He said they were pictures of sand, gravel, and water near the Hoffman Bridge. He said similar conditions exist at Lake Oroville. "I could take the same pictures at Lake Oroville," he said.

After he was contacted several times by Miller, Supervisor Len Fulton, Paradise, said he wrote a letter to the irrigation district about the safety concerns.

Schmidt acknowledged that the water district board had received that letter. Board members were discussed the letter and other matters related to Concow at a regular board meeting last night, but Schmidt said no action was taken.

Oroville Mercury Register

8-24-1985

Golden Feather schools start class Sept. 3

The schools in the Golden Feather Union School District will begin classes on Sept. 3.

Grades four through eight will be at Concow School, which will begin at 8:45 a.m. and end at 3:10 p.m. daily.

Grades kindergarten through three will be housed at Spring Valley School. Classes at Spring Valley School will begin at 8:55 a.m. and end at 2:55 p.m.

Rick Peryam will be the principal at Spring Valley School. The school's number is 533-3258. Georgianna Light will be principal at Concow School. The school number is 533-6033. Dr. James Brink is district superintendent.

Feather River Bulletin

9-4-1985

Jake Harris

New beginning after 38 years

By Don Rogers
Staff Writer

All he really wanted was a steady job. Now, it's the end of a long road with Cal-Trans for Jake Harris, and a new start, with a new home, in Yankee Hill.

He began with the then-named State Division of Highways before there was an

East Quincy and he finally took off his hardhat for good this summer, after 38 years working on our highways.

His dad worked for Cal-Trans, and one of his three sons works for them. His brother too. His daughter married a Cal-Trans man.

Soft-spoken and amiable, he toyed with a barbecued steak at

his Saturday afternoon retirement party and recounted the years.

"There's been a lot of changes and I don't think they are all for the better," he said. "The equipment has improved. Maintenance has always tried to maintain the roads as best we could with the money and manpower available. We're limited by money."

"There's been some times not quite so nice, but overall, I enjoyed working for the Division of Highways and Cal-Trans. If I hadn't enjoyed it, I wouldn't have stayed so long," he laughed.

Harris said the hardest part of his career was probably the last decade when he had the most bookwork duty.

"I was more confined...and didn't like it as much as the earlier days."

He was born in Placerville in 1922, but the family moved to Quincy the next year. He went to Quincy High School when it was only a couple buildings, and a sports field and sawmill sat where Plumas Pines shopping center now sprawls.

"In some ways I hate to see the changes," he mused. "Yet I realize more people are coming." He guessed only 1,500 people lived here while he grew up. East Quincy came after World War II, according to Harris.

He first worked for the agency during the summer of 1941. Three months in Quincy and three months in Pulga, then Harris got laid off. He didn't work for the Division of Highways again until five years later.

He took time out to join the Marines and fight in the Pacific Theater during the war, according to his sister, Virginia Bresciani. Iwo Jima was just one of his stops.

In 1947, the Division of Highways offered him a fulltime job in Quincy. Harris worked in Quincy for another

five years before a promotion landed him down the Feather River canyon at the Pulga station.

He and his wife, Geneva, had their first two children during their first stint at Pulga. The oldest, Arlene Glover, 33, is married to a Cal-Trans worker and lives at Tule Lake. Eldest son Tom, 29, is a Cal-Trans mechanic in Sacramento.

A foreman job opportunity lured Harris to the Death Valley area for two years. Looking back at desert life, he said, "I didn't like it too well. I like this country better. It's greener."

The Harris's had a couple more whistle-stops before coming back to Pulga to stay. Harris worked out of the Benton station about 30 miles north of Bishop from 1958 till 1961, then transferred 30 miles south of Alturas to a place named Madeline.

He returned to Pulga in 1962, where he logged his work days until the end of this June.

The family grew by two more sons early in the second stay at Pulga. John, a certified welder in Chico, was born in 1962. Dale, born in 1968, has a year left in high school.

"I moved for promotion," Harris said. "But I prefer this country."

One reason might be family. His sister lives in Quincy, and so does his mother, Lillian Harris.

"So I'm not the oldest one here," he chuckled, looking over the party at Gansner Park.



STEADY HAND--Jake Harris has something to grin about. It's been a long haul with Cal-

Trans, 38 years, and now he has retirement and a new house in Yankee Hill to enjoy.

Two killed in weekend plane crash

By Virginia Hennessey

Post staff writer

Family and close friends of the Paradise pilot killed in Saturday's airplane crash at Lake Oroville say he was too experienced as a pilot and much too safety-conscious to have been buzzing the lake as has been reported.

They believe witnesses may be confusing two different planes.

Fred Ward "Peter" Potter, 58, owner of Peter Potter Pilot Service at Paradise Skypark Airport, and former Paradise resident Cammie Gaylord, 20, of Chico, were killed when the Piper Tomahawk in which they were flying snagged power lines over the Nelson Bar Area of Lake Oroville and crashed into the bank about 50 feet above the lake.

Several witnesses said the plane was flying low over the lake, dipping its wings at houseboats and neighboring houses for about 30 minutes prior to the 6:33 p.m. accident. Other witnesses said the same plane had been doing aerial dives over the Jordan Hill area near Concow late that afternoon.

Potter obituary

— Page A-5

However, acting airport manager Don Liedtke, a close friend and former flight student of Potter's, said Potter did not fly out of the airport until 6:25 p.m., a time he says he is positive of because he landed there just prior to Potter's takeoff.

Liedtke did not say he had been entertaining onlookers at Lake Oroville or Jordan Hill with aerial stunts, but did say he was in the air for at least 30 minutes in a small white plane with red stripes which resembles Potter's.

The Potters, Liedtke, his wife, Valerie, and several other persons were having a family gathering and barbecue at the airport. Liedtke said Potter had gone up with a student that morning, but did not fly again until he went up with Gaylord, Liedtke's niece.

"Pete was so strict on safety," said Liedtke. "We feel there was something mechanically wrong (with the airplane) or something

See CRASH, back page

Crash

From page A-1

physically wrong with Pete."

The Paradise businessman said Potter was probably one of the most experienced pilots in California, with 38 years of flying experience and more than 24,000 hours in the air. He was not the kind, he said, to perform aerial stunts.

"Pete was very hard-nosed about stunts," said Potter's wife, Corrine.

In addition to his history as a pilot, Leidtke said, it would be particularly unlikely for him to perform any stunts with Gaylord in the plane, since she had not flown since she was 3 years old.

Pathologist and Federal Aviation Administration reports are pending to determine if Potter suffered any physical problems or the plane malfunctioned prior to the crash.

According to witness reports, Potter crashed after his plane flew under a 12,000-volt power line stretched 200 feet above the lake, catching the T-tail section and tearing it nearly loose from the plane.

The plane circled around, began to spiral down, then fell upside down on a steep bank. One boater who witnessed the accident said it appeared Potter was trying to land in the lake. He said Potter gunned his accelerator several times apparently to warn the man, who had to start his boat and move it out of the way.

The man said he ran up the shale bank right after the crash, but said there was no sign of life. The first official at the scene, State Park Ranger J.E. Evans

said both occupants were dead when he arrived.

Personnel from Paradise Fire Department's Station 2 were the first emergency workers on the scene, transported by citizens to the scene, which was only accessible by boat. Butte County Search and Rescue divers were initially called when it was believed the plane had landed in the lake.

Paradise and Butte County firefighters tied the wreckage to trees and stumps at the top of the slippery hill to prevent it from sliding into the lake as they removed the victims.

Also on the scene were California Department of Forestry firefighters from the Moore Road Station, Butte College Volunteer firemen, Butte County Search and Rescue, California Department of Parks and Recreation and N.T. Enloe Hospital's FlightCare helicopter.

Emergency workers used hydraulic jacks to lift the wreckage and free the victims. No electric tools or torches could be used because of the threat of fire from leaking fuel.

Potter's body was removed about two hours after the crash. Gaylord was finally freed about 45 minutes later. During that time Potter's and Gaylord's families waited at the airport for official notification, having been informed of the accident by a friend who heard it on a police scanner.

The plane knocked down one of the power line's three strands, knocking out power to 172 customers for about one hour,



Post photo

Fred "Peter" Potter ... dies in plane crash

according to PG&E spokesman Lyle La Faver. Three customers were without power until 8:38 p.m.

La Faver said the line fell into the lake. Fire officials said it fell across Nelson Bar Road on the east side of the lake. Concow Volunteer Firemen reportedly went to the scene to prevent cars or pedestrians from touching it.

Potter had operated his flight school and air taxi service since January. He and his wife moved here from Eureka in December 1984. He earned his pilot's license in 1946 and became a flight instructor shortly thereafter. He had been chief pilot for several commercial airlines and was a Navy pilot during World War II.

Paradise Post

10-29-1985

Concow residents continue fight

Concow residents have suffered two recent defeats in their ongoing battle with local water districts over control of Lake Concow.

In recent developments in the continuing battle between a group of residents whose homes overlook the lake and the Thermalito and Table Mountain irrigation districts, a lawsuit seeking to ban the districts' annexation of the lake has been dismissed and a complaint filed with the state Water Resources Control Board has been rejected on appeal.

Golden Feather Community Association, which represents residents of the unincorporated area about four miles east of Paradise, has been battling Thermalito Irrigation District's right to Lake Concow's water for about six years.

At issue is the district's use of the reservoir and its proposed hydroelectric power plant, which, residents claim, will draw too much water from the lake — and drain it — during the dry summer months.

In 1983 the Golden Feather Community Association filed a complaint with the state Water Resources Control Board

challenging TID's water rights. The association contended the district has not used its share of the lake's water "beneficially" and that it should be returned to the public.

The board dismissed the complaint in April, upholding TID's water rights, and declined to reconsider its ruling earlier this month. It also denied Golden Feather attorney Robert Hewitt's request that TID be required to maintain a minimum water level in the lake year-round.

A lawsuit filed by the community association to block the annexation of the lake by both water districts was also recently dismissed by Superior Court Judge Roger Gilbert.

The suit, which was thrown out of court four times for defective arguments and returned after they were amended, charged failure to follow proper annexation procedures and attempted to apply the public trust doctrine to the reservoir.

It alleged the water districts hold the reservoir in "public trust for the beneficial use of the public at large." The suit also contended the district does not meet state Department of Fish and Game minimum water level

and public use requirements.

It is not known if Golden Feather will appeal the ruling. Hewitt was unavailable for comment yesterday.

In January 1984 Butte County supervisors approved joint annexation of the 490-acre reservoir to the Thermalito and Table Mountain irrigation districts.

Both had been trying to annex the reservoir but had been unable to get approval from the Local Agency Formation Commission because of the other's opposition. They agreed to a joint annexation to break the stalemate in October 1983.

Still pending in the battle between local residents and the irrigation districts is a Golden Feather request for intervention before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Thermalito and Table Mountain irrigation districts have proposed a controversial 1.1-megawatt hydroelectric power plant below the lake near the Jordan Hill Road-Concow Creek crossing.

Golden Feather's request would allow them to step in during FERC consideration of the project.

Paradise Post

11-15-1985

Concow project map available

Concow residents will have a chance to review the map of a subdivision proposed in that area. It's available now at the Butte County Public Works Department.

The Ellis Foster subdivision has been proposed for 350 acres on the west side of Highway 70 at

Ponderosa Way and Deauwood Road. Owner Foster has plans for 12 lots in the area. Engineers for the proposed project are Ron Graves and Associates.

A tentative subdivision map has been filed and can be reviewed at 7 County Center Drive, Oroville. For information, call 534-4266.

The Chico Enterprise Record

12-3-1985

Fires

— Cabin fire, reported at 9:40 a.m. Monday in a 16-by-20-foot cabin on Green Forest Lane in Concow belonging to Louis Matete, damage listed at \$20,000, no injuries, blamed on woodstove. Four cords of wood also burned. One California Department of Forest engine, a Butte County Fire Department engine and the Concow Volunteer Fire Co. responded to fire. ■

Oroville Mercury Register

12-9-1985

John Felder installed Concow Grange master

CONCOW — John Felder was installed as the 1986 master of Concow Grange No. 735 recently along with his slate of officers.

The new officers for the coming year were installed Dec. 1 at the Concow Grange on Big Bend Road.

Officiating at the formal installation ceremony was Ed Barrett, master of Paradise Grange, and Butte County west side deputy.

The installation team was Betty Barrett, Paradise Grange, marshall; Bill Cutler and Fern Cutler, both of De Sabla Grange, assistant steward and lady assistant steward; Myrtle Chapman, Paradise Grange, chaplain; Rita Moore, past master, Concow Grange and Butte County east side deputy,

acting master; and Klara Baker, musician of Concow Grange.

All 15 of the incoming officers were present, and the official ceremony was conducted "most efficiently, promptly and with amenity," a spokesman said.

Besides Felder, the new officers are: Betty Cherniss, lecturer; Ernie Lindberg, assistant steward; Vivian Rover, chaplain; Emily Felder, secretary; Frances Pirtle, Ceres; Nina Argento, Flora; Vince Rover, overseer; Bernie Row, steward; Ruth Galli, lady assistant steward; Betty Lindberg, treasurer; Charles Ellis, gatekeeper; Mildred Ellis, Pomona; and Klara Baker, musician.

Oroville Mercury Register

12-18-1985

TID eliminates Concow boating

By MARGARET HEINAN

The Thermalito Irrigation District board voted Tuesday to eliminate boating at Concow Reservoir next year because it is a potential liability problem that could cause the district to lose its insurance, the district manager said.

Jim Schmidt, district manager, said the district's liability insurance went up 300 percent last year, and the district has lost its public officials' insurance. He said there was a real insurance crisis in the district, and the board was afraid it would lose its insurance if there were any litigation.

Insurance companies are refusing to insure many public entities because of the "deep pockets" ruling, which says that a defendant in a lawsuit that is only partially liable must pay

the entire award if the other defendants have no assets.

"If we have even one lawsuit, we may lose our liability insurance, and we don't have adequate funds to self-insure," Schmidt said.

Because of their need to avoid potential liability problems, he said they may even have to remove the swings from the park playground.

Only bank fishing will be allowed at the reservoir. 1985 fees are in effect now, but a new fee schedule will be discussed in January. Schmidt said people wishing to provide input on the fee schedule should call the district office or directors to give their views.

He said the fees need to be sufficient to cover the cost of the

See TID Page 4A

Continued From Page 1

chemical toilets and trash pick up.

In other matters the board:

- Approved an agreement between it and the City of Oroville on the use and upkeep of a proposed sewer line that the city will build out to the airport. The line will run through both

district and city service areas.

- Agreed to hold a public hearing on the water management plan at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 7 at the district office. All districts with more than 3,000 customers are required to have such a plan. The plan is available at the district office for review. People may talk to Schmidt for more information.