

# Arizona Republic

## 5-27-2011

FERRY TALES FILES

### Lottie Mullen: Less known but no less important

By Jay Mark  
Special for The Republic

*Lottie attended the Territorial Normal School (now ASU), as did her future husband ... and began a long career as an educator.*

Last week, we looked back at the life of renowned Tempe architect Michael Goodwin, a third-generation descendant of Garfield Goodwin, who had come to Tempe as an 8-year-old boy in 1888.

The Goodwins contributed to Tempe in many substantive ways, Garfield as a businessman and politician, and Kemper and Michael as architects and politicians. They are well-known in the annals of Tempe history, but the women behind them are not as recognizable.

A case in point is Charlotte Josephine Mullen. In many respects her story is just as interesting as her more famous husband, Garfield Goodwin.

But let's jump ahead a few years first.

In 1971, when Tempe was celebrating its centennial, much was being written about the people who helped build the community. *The Arizona Republic* even celebrated the milestone in its Sunday Sun Living Section.

One article recognized "The lady who's lived longest in Tempe is 87 now. She's straight and slender and tall — just a half-inch shorter than she was in those turn-of-the-century days when she rode her bike into Phoenix to teach school."

That woman was Charlotte (Mullen) Goodwin, born in Butte County, Calif., in 1884.

Her parents moved with their seven children to the Valley in 1886, where they purchased a quarter-section of land 4 miles south of the tiny village of Tempe. That's in the area of Guadalupe Road, a fair distance in horse-and-buggy days.

Charlotte, who was known around town as Lottie, attended the Territorial Normal School (now ASU), as did her future husband. She graduated with a teaching certifi-

cate and began a long career as an educator.

Years later, that experience propelled the accomplished woman to service on the Arizona Board of Regents from 1945 to 1947.

Lottie's teaching career began in Phoenix, making her "one of Arizona's original commuters. (She) rode her bicycle from home to the (Tempe) railroad station, loaded it on the train. Then, in Phoenix, she'd bike down Central Avenue to teach at Central School," according to the 1971 article.

She still kept a photograph in 1971 that showed a "flooding Salt (River), flowing by Tempe Butte — around the (railroad) trestle it had just wrecked — marooning her in Phoenix."

Eventually, Lottie transferred into Tempe schools. Among her first-grade students was Kemper Goodwin, one of three children of Garfield and Jennie Mae Goodwin.

That's how she met Garfield. After his first wife, whom he married in 1903, died of tuberculosis in 1912, Garfield proposed to Lottie. They married a year and a half later.

Together they raised his three children and worked together in their Indian store business.

After Garfield died in 1944, Lottie sold their 4-decade-old enterprise to Larry Miller, who continued to operate it for two more decades.

Twenty-nine years after Garfield's passing and only two years following the article honoring her longevity in Tempe, the remarkable Lottie passed away in 1973. She is buried next to Garfield in Double Butte Cemetery.

*Jay Mark assists the Tempe History Museum with exhibit gallery design. Reach him at [jaymark@twtdbooks.com](mailto:jaymark@twtdbooks.com).*

## LOOKING BACK AT OROVILLE AND BUTTE COUNTY HEROES

Bill Connelly and I are co-chairs of the Oroville Veterans Memorial Park Honoring All of Butte County. Please check out our website, by webmaster Daryl Autrey, at [www.oroilleveteransmemorialpark.org](http://www.oroilleveteransmemorialpark.org). If you have anything you would like to share with me please call me at 533-8147.

By **STU SHANER**

*Canby Clark wrote to his dad, John A. Clark four days after Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941. A tile has been purchased for both by a granddaughter of John, JoAnne L. Bond of Willows. This letter came to me from JoAnne.*

**Dec. 11, 1941**

My Dear Father,

Your card came on the morning mail just now so I was about to write to you. This war is rapidly expanding to all the corners of the earth. Just yesterday since you sent the card, a formal declaration of war has been made between all the Axis partners and our country.

There seems to be a definite shape to this thing taking place. One that can be made into a complete picture and that plans can be shaped to fit.

War today is not merely a man with a rifle, but an entirely different matter. The ramifications of war are so diversified and many.

What it is difficult to know just where an individual can be of service to the best advantage.

However one thing is paramount; that being, we must bring this to a very successful conclusion come what may even if it takes years to accomplish. You may therefore rest assured that I personally will try to serve my country and yours, ours! faithfully and well to the fullest extent of my ability. Our sacrifices may be great but I believe them righteous and just.

Christmas is almost here and we have our shopping practically finished. Lucky, eh! Irene (Canby's wife) has to attend a card party this afternoon and I have to work so perhaps I had better close this and get under way.

We are all well and doing fine. Don is getting along marvelous in school. He, being the honor boy of his class and very, very, proud of the fact. He is getting fat too. Well so long now folks come see



us if you care, if not we love you just as much.

Love to all Merry Xmas!  
Canby & family

*Stu's notes:*

*Canby's son Donald was born in 1930 and died in 1976 leaving two sons, Michael born in 1951 and Mark born in 1954. Shortly after this letter was written, Canby Clark was killed in an accident, working at a defense plant. He was 41 years old.*

*I have written about his father, John Clark in the past. Canby's grandmother was Yohema "Katie" Clark who was the daughter of Kit-Yohema — Little Flower — who was the daughter*

■ See HEROES, 9A

# HEROES: Of long ago in Butte

From 2A

*of Chief Buchi who ruled the Concow Tribe at the time of the Gold Rush.*

*At that time it was estimated the tribe numbered 7,000 and the tribal name still clings to that area of Butte County.*

*Canby Clark died a hero of the Maidu, a hero of Oroville and a hero of the United State of America.*

*He did not die while in the military so will not be put on our stones for those who died while in the armed services of our county.*

*He served in WWI and will be honored on our Veterans Wall.*

*This wall is reserved for any and all Americans that served in our Armed forces since the Revolutionary War.*

*They do not have to be from or connected to Butte County. They just need some one to buy them a tile.*

*I will not be allowed on this wall as the only uniform I ever wore was that of a Boy Scout.*

*But many former Boy Scouts will be on that wall as many soldiers were Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts etc. The training they received as Scouts was very helpful in the military life.*

*The Clark name came from Canby's grandfather, Alfred Burr Clark who was born in Vermont to William and Alvira Clark of English and Scottish-Irish decent and married Yohema.*

*My friend Al Clark is a great-great-grandson of Yohema.*

*My friend and almost neighbor, Rose Waugh is the great-granddaughter and heir of Yohema and has written a book "Yohema" (Little Flower).*

*Fifty one years ago today, Oct. 7, I went to*

*work on the Oroville Dam, Western Pacific Railroad Relocation.*

*It led me to a 36-year career building things of iron all over Northern California as an ironworker.*

*My career ending with a fall on Nov. 11, 1996, that left me with time on my hands which allowed me to work on the Dam Memorial and the Veterans Memorial. They take so much time.*

*This coming Dec. 7th will be the 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. We will meet at the Butte County Fair, at the flag pole which stands about in the middle of the grounds.*

*I hope more come this year as for over 10 years now the crowd is very small.*

*Let's show the few survivors that are left that Butte County cares.*

*The survivors always tell their stories in a heated building after the ceremony.*

*I am always so proud to stand with these men and they even let me tell the progress of our Memorial for all of Butte County.*

*Last year I got the Oroville Veterans Memorial Park Committee to vote to buy tiles for all the survivors of their club.*

*They will be on the Wall together as their group has been together for so many years.*

*If you haven't come to one of these I urge you to. You will not be sorry for it.*

*If it rains one inch this week the grass will sprout by Monday, go look at our Golden Brown Countryside soon to be green. Right Rex?*

# ENTERPRISE RECORD

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Jordan Hill Rd

Page 1 of 2

Bill Husa/Staff Photos

**ABOVE:** Bill Anderson talks about the deterioration of Jordan Hill Road over the years and has concerns about its survival of another winter if someone doesn't clear some of the culverts, which have now become completely clogged in sections. **BELOW:** A culvert pipe beneath Jordan Hill Road that used to be covered with at least a foot of dirt has eroded to where it shows on the road on Wednesday.

## Orphan of a different kind

Caretaker fears adopted road will fall into disrepair after no agency steps forward to fix it

By **ROGER H. AYLWORTH**  
Staff Writer

SOMEWHERE BETWEEN MAGALIA AND CONCOW — For many years, Bill Anderson, 83, has been taking care of an orphan. But the orphan isn't a child, a kitten or a bear cub.

Anderson's orphan is about five miles of 78-year-old Jordan Hill Road, between Magalia and the top of the Concow ridge.

After years of being the road's self-appointed caretaker, Anderson is hoping some government agency will adopt the road before it is too late.

Jordan Hill Road is a minuscule portion of a depression-era federal project called Ponderosa Way that stretches from Kern County on the south to Shasta County on the north.

Metal plaques on each end of the Jordan Hill Road bridge that spans the West Branch



**BOTTOM:** The junction of Coutelenc Road and Jordan Hill Road is the turnoff toward Whiskey Flats and the start of an extremely bumpy road.



■ See **ORPHAN**, 7A

## ORPHAN: Grant money to fund repairs may be explored

From 1A

of the Feather River proudly proclaim, "U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, constructed 1935, by the Civilian Conservation Corps in cooperation with the state of California Division of Forestry."

The plaques prove the road wasn't always an orphan, but that changed.

In the 1970s, the USDA handed Jordan Hill Road over to the then California Division of Forestry.

According to Mike Crump, Butte County's director of the Department of Public Works, that lasted only a couple of years.

The baby was then figuratively left on Butte County's doorstep.

Crump said the county has neither the resources, nor the legal right or responsibility to take over the maintenance of the road. That left the task to Anderson.

"If it wasn't for me working on this road for 10 years, there probably wouldn't be a road," said Anderson this week as he stood next to the bridge.

About 55 years ago, Anderson, who lives in Chico, bought a 120-acre parcel of forest and meadow land on the Concow ridge, east of the West Branch of the Feather. Anderson became involved with Jordan Hill Road, because that is the most direct route from his home to his foothill property.

The octogenarian, who looks and acts 20 years younger than his age, renovated a "worn-out" grader he purchased, and constructed a backhoe out of two different machines and he used those to maintain the road.

Anderson explained he used the backhoe to dig out gravel and debris from the roadside ditches and cul-

verts, and then used the grader to spread the gravel and smooth the road. The process took him about a week, spread over several days.

Over the years, the recoverable gravel washed away, and he became concerned about the potential liability he might face for his maintenance.

Now, without the benefit of four-wheel drive, the rutted, gouged road that has large rocks erupting out of its surface is all but impassable.

Anderson said the trip down is no longer something he enjoys.

"When I start over here (to his foothill land), I'm fine. By the time I get here, I'm a wreck," said Anderson, as he cursed the road.

At one point he got the Bureau of Land Management to make some railing repairs on the bridge over the West Branch.

Bill Kuntz, program lead for engineering and recreation with the Redding BLM office, acknowledged, "We inherited the bridge a few years ago," but fixing the railing didn't mean a road adoption was in the offing.

Kuntz said the span over the river was "kind of an orphaned bridge." He explained while the BLM was responsible for the bridge, the road leading from either side was not the BLM's concern.

The situation was made more confusing this past July when the agency announced it was going to spend \$3.35 million to replace a bridge and do some "heavy maintenance" on about 3.9 miles of Doe Mill Road from Magalia through Butte Creek Canyon to Forest Ranch.

Doe Mill Road is another segment of Ponderosa Way, just like Jordan Hill. So why Doe Mill and not Jordan Hill?

Kuntz said when Ponderosa Way was constructed, the U.S. Forest Service made handshake deals with most of the landowners along the route. On the Jordan Hill side, the vast majority of ground under the road is still privately owned. On the Doe Mill Road, only small chunks of the road are not BLM property.

The official said the BLM cannot do road work on what is private property.

Crump said the county is in the same situation. It doesn't have the legal authority to work on Jordan Hill Road, and "Whose permission would we be seeking if we were indeed trying to do this?"

While touring the road this week, Anderson said the question of who is responsible to do what may be moot.

Many of the culverts along Jordan Hill Road are plugged and when the rain comes, the water will wash over the roadway.

One of the largest culverts on the whole route, located about 70 yards from the bridge, is totally plugged. So much rock, soil and debris has tumbled into the culvert mouth that the concrete structure is entirely lost in the mess. The situation is the same on the downhill out-fall where previous erosion has entirely buried the out spout.

Anderson is convinced future storms will entirely wash away Jordan Hill Road at this point, closing it, perhaps for good.

Crump said he is not unsympathetic to the fate of the road or Anderson's pleas for help.

He said he would investigate the possibility that grant funds could be found to cover the cost of the work. He said if the money could be found to do the work, he believes the private landowners will be happy to have the road repaired.

# Oroville Mercury Register

7-22-2014

WILDFIRE

# BLAZE SNUFFED OUT

Fire quickly put out by firefighter crews on Oregon Gulch Road above Oroville



BILL HUSA — ENTERPRISE-RECORD

Firefighters quickly snuffed out a blaze in the Oregon Gulch area above Oroville on Monday. About 75 firefighters, including three fire crews, nine engine or truck companies, three volunteer companies and air support, jumped on the fire near Oregon Gulch Road and Cherokee Road when it was called out at 2:44 p.m. The fire was contained to 16 acres by 4:26 p.m. Cherokee Road was closed Monday night as firefighters mopped up.

# ENTERPRISE-RECORD

Sunday, October 26, 2014

\$1.50 FACEBOOK.COM/CHICOER TWITTER.COM/CHICOER

## BUTTE COUNTY

# \$499K PRICE TAG FOR TOWN OF PULGA



PHOTOS BY BILL HUSA - ENTERPRISE-RECORD

The town of Pulga is for sale. A row of small cabins condemned after the flood of 1997 sit Wednesday along Flea Valley Creek.

## Historic town listed for sale

By Ashley Gebb  
agebb@chicoer.com  
@ashleygebb on Twitter

**PULGA** Interested in a rustic, ramshackle town to call your own?

You might be in luck. The town of Pulga is for sale for \$499,000, offering a chance to own 62 bucolic acres bordering the North Fork of the Feather River and a Western Pacific Railroad line. With four livable structures, a former schoolhouse and several other dilapidated buildings, its longtime owners are sad to say goodbye but confident the property holds



Fred Leidecker Wednesday pulls out the old sign for "Flynn's General Store" which at one time was also a saloon in Pulga, which is for sale.

promise for new residents. "It's just a wonderful place to live," said owner Lorraine Paloma. "Someone recently asked me what my favorite part

is. It changes every day."

Translating to "flea" in Spanish, the name is admittedly unromantic but harkens to the bubbling Flea Valley Creek that runs

along the backside of buildings on one edge of the town's main street. Founded by William King in 1885, it has roots as both a mining town and later as a collective of artists and craftspeople.

Broker Ray Vindhurst with Coldwell Banker is the same real estate agent who sold Pulga to Paloma 20 years ago. She remembers finding an ad for it in a magazine and driving up on New Year's Day 1994 to take a look.

Spotting junker cars, abandoned appliances and a few unsavory residents, she began to have second thoughts before Vindhurst arrived.

"Then as we looked past the trash, we saw the original beauty of the place and decided

PULGA • PAGE 7

# Pulga

FROM PAGE 1

we had to have it," Paloma said.

She and a group of others in the Bay Area had been looking for a place to pursue an alternative lifestyle, where they could work, live and play together. Using money from her divorce, she purchased the property for \$200,000 and about eight people moved to the rural location in the Feather River Canyon.

They founded Mystic Valley Retreat, which for many years was a destination for people across the nation, Canada and overseas. They came for the solitude, meditation and to undergo hypnotherapy from Fred Leidecker.

Today, he and Paloma make up the town's population of two.

While several elements have improved since Paloma purchased the town, its aging features have grown into disrepair. A series of red creek-side cabins were condemned after a flood, a mudslide destroyed one house, and a tree has collapsed on another.

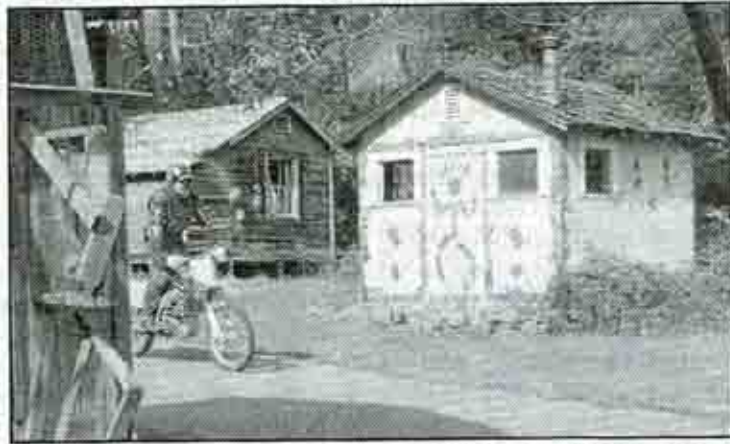
At 75 and 76 years old, respectively, Paloma and Leidecker have realized it's not practical to think they can continue to live there long term and will be moving back to the Bay Area.

"We are sad; we don't really want to do this," he said, and Paloma nodded.

"I came here and it was like coming home," she said.

The one-time city girl took quickly to building fires, hiking in the woods and harvesting fruit from the property's plentiful apple, pear and peach trees. She's always felt safe, even when alone, and has enjoyed years of hunting for Pulga jade near a former mine.

About 30 miles outside Oroville, Pulga Road is a sharp left turn off eastbound Highway 70, just short of the iconic steel arch bridge cross-



BILL HUSA — ENTERPRISE-RECORD

A motorcyclist rides past the old sauna room at Pulga during a tour Wednesday of the town, which is for sale.

ing over a railroad bridge and river below. A narrow road rimmed with trees and rusty guardrails winds into the canyon, the temperature dropping along with it.

In the early 1900s, several hundred people lived in Pulga. Mostly men, they worked for the railroad, bridges, highway and tunnels, and patronized the town's saloon. Paloma said she has been told that "no respectable woman would walk down the streets of Pulga past sunset."

The King family was enterprising, starting its own sawmill, terracing the hillside for farming and tapping into springs for water. Leidecker recalled tales of the town selling ice cream to railroad passengers in the early 1900s, using ice harvested in winter from Bucks Lake, and knows a post office was established in 1906.

More than a century later, the saloon is little more than rubble, and the general store is a collapsing wooden building, blanketed in vines. The town sauna still stands, although Leidecker hasn't set foot in it in a decade.

While some of Pulga isn't salvageable, much of it is if someone has the funds and elbow grease to put forth, Leidecker said. Showing off his renovated tiled bathroom, which once was collapsing into itself, he said he still sees promise in the property.

"You can take a shack and do something with it," Leidecker said. "Even if it looks like they can't be saved, they can."

He sees a lot of potential, including the opportunity for solar and hydropower, farming the sun-facing acreage for food, and using the water supply to be self-sustaining.

Just last week a family of 18 came up from Los Angeles to consider buying the town. And on Wednesday, a mother-daughter duo driving through asked which house was for sale.

"All of them," Vindhurst told her.

"Oh, the whole damn town?" Gridley resident Kressie Vieira said with a laugh. "It just looks really cool. I'd really wanted to come down here."

Numerous lumbering freight trains rumble past daily, and dirtbikers and swimmers headed to the river often pass through. But otherwise, Pulga is a sleepy town nestled among pine trees, manzanita and ferns, with an abundant water source and ample sunshine.

"And where else can you find the solitude, the peace, the dark nights? Where else do you find a place like this anymore?" Leidecker said. "Would I do it again if I were 20 years younger? Absolutely."

Contact reporter Ashley Gebb at 896-7768.



# Town of two is sold

**Tiny community of Pulga goes for \$499,000**

**W**ith a population of two, Pulga is small-town living in the extreme. It's been home to property owner Lorraine Paloma and her longtime friend and companion, Fred Leidecker, for more than 20 years.

Last October Paloma, 75, put the 62-acre property and its rustic charm on the market. A buyer in Minneapolis recently offered the full asking price of \$499,000. Once escrow is completed, Paloma and Leidecker will move out, leaving behind two decades of memories and a lifestyle that is one part charm, but another part hard labor.

"Being the owner of a town sounds great, but it's not all it's cracked up to be," said Paloma, who purchased the property in 1994. "It's a lot of work."

Tucked inside the Plumas National Forest about 8 miles east of Concow, Pulga sits on unincorporated land inside Butte County and is located on a dirt road approximately a mile off Highway 70 just east of the iconic Pulga Bridges. The town was founded by William King in 1885. His family started a sawmill and lived off the land, which included tapping into the fresh water that flowed through creeks from the Feather River.

In the 1930s and '40s Pulga became a community of several

hundred. People were lured to the area by the jade mines and offered work on the highway and railroad, which still runs today. There's running water and electricity for four of the 11 structures that remain in habitable condition. Others were destroyed by falling trees, floods and mudslides and some simply wore down over time.

Pulga's natural beauty of mountains, trees and flowing creeks belies the town's rather ugly name. Pulga is Spanish for "flea" and comes from the Flea Valley Creek that runs along the main road behind the town's primary residence.

Until recently, Leidecker used the property as a kind of sanctuary for those who came to him for his expertise in hypnotherapy, as it was home to the Mystic Valley Retreat and School of Hypnotism.

"I'll miss the trees, the water, the quietness and the ambiance," said the 76-year-old Leidecker. "I'll miss all of it."

He and Paloma also will miss the iconic postcard-like Pulga Bridges that can be seen from their property. They provide highway and railroad crossings over the North Fork of the Feather River, and are frequently photographed and replicated by model train collectors worldwide.

They'll leave behind an old schoolhouse, bathhouse and cabins—all of which are encased inside a gorgeous natural setting that includes fresh spring water from a creek that runs alongside the town's main road.

"Maybe the best part is the spring water," said Paloma. "When you go into any other town and they serve you water, it tastes terrible. This water is perfect."

Ray Vindhurst, a realtor with Century 21 in Paradise, sold Paloma the property 21 years ago. He said there was considerable interest in the property, which is why he got a full-price offer of \$499,000.

"There are so many TV shows about living off the grid, gardening, living in the outdoors and catching fish," he said. "It's all here."

But like the buildings themselves, Paloma and Leidecker are gaining in years, and say it's time to walk away and start a new life in an old place. Once escrow closes, they'll return to the Bay Area, where they lived before their adventure in Pulga began.

The new owners, assuming escrow closes, have yet to specify what their plans are for the property.

—JERRY OLENYH

*Jerry Olenyn is a reporter for KRCR News Channel 7.*



Lorraine Paloma and Fred Leidecker are saying goodbye to Pulga—the town Paloma owned for 21 years.

The iconic Pulga Bridges.  
PHOTOS BY PAULA SCHULTZ

# CHOW

## Fresh from the mill

### Master breadmaker speaks of his craft and in defense of gluten

**T**hese days, it's uncommon to hear anyone speak positively, let alone reverently, about gluten, the oft-vilified mix of proteins found in wheat and related grains. That is, unless one stops by the

story and photo by  
**Howard Hardee**

howardh@newsreview.com

#### Miller's Bake House

Visit his booth at Chico's Saturday morning farmers' market at Second and Flume streets. [Millersbakehouse.com](http://Millersbakehouse.com) 532-6384

Miller's Bake House booth at the Saturday morning farmers' market in downtown Chico and chats with the friendly owner, Dave Miller, a baker with 30 years of experience. He'll speak in gluten's defense.

"Gluten is a really unique substance that allows bread to rise and gives you the texture you get with pizza crust and pretzels and everything else," he said. "I'm aware that some people have problems digesting gluten. But for everyone who doesn't—and the vast majority of people have no problem eating wheat—it's really nutritious, especially if you're eating the whole grain. I just feel like people need to hear that."

Granted, Miller's opinion might be considered biased. His livelihood is based on bread, and it's made entirely at the Saturday market, where each week he sells about 400 loaves of whole-grain sourdough bread made from wheat and rye. Great craftsmanship is practiced throughout the process, from purchasing the ingredients from local farmers to milling the grain, fermenting the dough for 15 hours and finally baking it in a wood-fired oven.

Miller has made a point of running a basic operation in recent years, especially compared with his hectic early days running Wunderbrot Bakery in Chico. He bought it in 1995 and the business expanded quickly—too quickly. "It got a bit out of control, to the point where I had to step back from baking and just be a manager," he recalled. "I'm in it to be a baker. That didn't sound right to me."

And so, 18 years ago, Miller and his wife, Signey, bought an idyllic home in the Yankee Hill area north of Lake Oroville and converted the garage into a bakery. During a recent visit, the CN&R toured the nostalgia-invoking space, with its pink-and-white tile flooring, Austrian-crafted wooden mill, woven bread baskets and 70-year-old mixer. In the name of simplification—and working only 40 hours a week—Miller chose to cut distribution entirely. So, while devotees of Miller's bread used to secure their loaves at Chico



Every week, Dave Miller starts milling grain on Thursday using this mill, built in Austria, in preparation for baking about 400 loaves of artisan bread to sell at the Saturday farmers' market in Chico.

Natural Foods Cooperative and S&S Organic Produce & Natural Foods, they must now purchase them exclusively at the Saturday market. Miller likes it that way.

"I think it's the ideal place to sell and buy food," he said. "Everything's transparent. Customers can ask me whatever they want about the bread, and any farmer, for that matter."

However, some of those interactions became frustrating for Miller as the gluten-free fad peaked about two years ago and he was approached with every bread-related conspiracy imaginable. Customers were blaming wheat for all sorts of chronic conditions, such as heart disease and diabetes.

"The unfortunate thing is that most of it is, you know, total bullshit," Miller said.

For instance, many people are under the impression that most wheat has been genetically modified, when GMO wheat is extremely rare compared with, say, GMO corn, soybeans or rice. And while there's also been plenty of negative hype surrounding so-called hybrid wheats, Miller argues that there's nothing inherently dangerous about crossing the genetic material of crops.

"When somebody comes up to my booth and says they don't trust the new hybrid wheat [varieties], I give them a friendly challenge to find anything at the farmers' market that isn't a hybrid, that hasn't been crossed many, many times by well-intentioned human beings to get the right size, shape, color and nutrition," he said. "Every onion and apple has been crossed many times over, just like wheat. These crosses happen in nature, too. If you're afraid of hybrid wheat, you should be afraid of everything you eat." □

## FIREFIGHTING

# MOORETOWN RANCHERIA HELPS BRING IN AIRCRAFT

Concow Maidu get federally-funded helicopter to assist during critical time in fire season



PHOTOS BY DAN REIDEL — MERCURY-REGISTER

Oroville Mayor Linda Dahlmeier and public safety director Bill LaGrone check out a helicopter Thursday that the Mooretown Rancheria, Oroville city government, the El Medio Fire Department and the Bureau of Indian Affairs collaborated to bring to the Oroville Airport to help protect against wildfires on tribal and other local land.

**By Dan Reidel**

*dreidel@chicoer.com*  
*@dan\_reidel on Twitter*

**OROVILLE** » For the next few weeks, firefighters will have an extra helicopter to battle blazes that threaten the north state.

The Eurocopter A Star B3 helicopter is on short-term assignment for about three weeks at the Oroville Municipal Airport from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Mooretown Rancheria Fire Department Chief Ray Ruiz of the Concow Maidu Tribe said his department has been working for about 16 months to get the federally-funded aircraft to help out in the north state.

Ruiz said although the Mooretown Rancheria Concow Maidu Tribe reached out to the bureau, it wasn't just the tribal firefighters who contributed to getting the firefighting aircraft at a critical time in the fire season. The Oroville City Council and Fire Department,

along with the El Medio Fire Department and the Tribal Emergency Management Agency, which represents six tribes in the north valley, collaborated with the bureau to provide facilities and logistics to bring the helicopter to Butte County.

"Working together," Ruiz said, "you have strength in numbers."

The "light heli-attack" aircraft can carry four firefighters and has a bucket that suspends underneath to drop water on fires.

The aircraft won't be exclusively used for the tribal firefighters or the city. It will be a part of the North Operations Center which coordinates firefighting agencies in Northern California.

But having an asset like the blue helicopter that was parked on the tarmac Thursday morning is a boost to local fire suppression forces, Ruiz said.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs  
**HELICOPTER** » PAGE 5



Mooretown Rancheria Fire Department Chief Ray Ruiz worked with the Oroville city government, the El Medio Fire Department and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to bring a helicopter to the Oroville Airport to help protect against wildfires in the area.

**The Eurocopter A Star B3 helicopter is on short-term assignment for about three weeks at the Oroville Municipal Airport from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.**

# Helicopter

FROM PAGE 1

Affairs pays for the helicopter and crew, which starts at about \$3,000 per day in operation, but can vary greatly day-to-day, said bureau regional fire management officer Josh Simmons.

Simmons said protecting tribal resources is part of the bureau's responsibility.

"It helps tribal lands throughout the area, but also helps others," Simmons said.

The helicopter is one of seven aircraft the bureau uses to protect resources. It moves to different locations where the fire danger is high to aid tribal and local forces. Most recently, the helicopter was at a fire

in Wyoming, though it is originally based out of Cortez, Colorado.

Simmons said Oroville is in a good centralized location that can serve multiple tribes and is close to the regional office in Sacramento.

"With moving helicopters, it's easiest to go to a place where you have facilities available," he said.

### Luring helicopters

While the hangars at the airport are adequate for the aircraft, the City Council approved a design in June for a new fire and police station, called the Westside Public Safety Facility.

Public safety director Bill LaGrone said building the station would increase the likelihood of "potentially housing a bureau he-

licopter" at the airport in the future.

The new building will have 3,800 square-feet of fire and police space including restrooms, sleeping quarters, meeting and office space, kitchen and gear storage; two fire truck bays totaling 1,500 square-feet; and a 3,000-square-foot aircraft hangar, according to a previous Mercury-Register article.

Mayor Linda Dahlmeier said after checking out the helicopter Thursday that the funds for the new station come from about \$3.4 million in bond resolutions that must be used for public infrastructure.

"The council voted and this was the highest priority," she said.

LaGrone said he had hoped the facility would be completed by the end of the

year, but now he expects it to be done in the spring of 2017. He noted that running a new fire and police station in a different location will change the way those departments operate. But, the city-owned airport makes a percentage of fuel sold, and LaGrone thinks building a firefighting and police station at the location will bring more helicopters from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other agencies to the airport.

During large firefighting operations in the north valley, the tarmac has "helicopters everywhere" with crews setting up in tents, LaGrone said.

"I believe it makes for a better situation," he said. "We've taken tax dollars to make this. We have an obligation to putting a fire facility here."

# Tribe petitions for national recognition

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**By Heather Hacking**

*hhacking@chicoer.com*

*@HeatherHacking on Twitter*

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**OROVILLE** » Members of the Konkow Valley Band Maidu tribe gathered in a shaded pavilion at Riverbend Park on Saturday. The official business of the day was to sign a document to send to Washington D.C. requesting official federal recognition as a tribe.

This step is a big one for the people who can all link their ancestry to two Konkow Maidu women from the Concow, Yankee Hill area.

Already, the tribe has been recognized by city, state, county, academic and other tribal groups.

The group began the process for recognition about 18 years ago. Members have gathered documents that have been organized into thick binders — more than 500 pages, double-sided.

Mark Clark is a member of the tribal council and lives in the Portland, Oregon, area. His career was as a director of public works. With that know-how of government, he was able to help his group gather up the final touches for the most recent petition to the federal government.

## Chico Enterprise Record 9-18-2016 page 1 of 2

The fact that tribal members were able to hold onto important aspects of their tribal history and to reconnect shows a tenacity that has endured many generations.

Members of the tribe were taken to reservations during three separate “trails of tears,” Clark said, but people from the families kept returning to the Concow area.

Pieces of their tribal identity were retained even when there was a bounty for the head of native people, tribal chairman Wallace Clark Wilson said.

For generations, the people tried to hide their heritage and customs, Wilson noted. Now they are trying to share all that they can.

Wilson is a good example of how pieces can be put back together.

His father died in 1949 when Wilson was an infant, and Wilson was adopted by another family.

This separated him from his culture.

However, about 30 years ago he returned to his roots where he was able to learn his family’s Indian dialect and dances.

# Chico Enterprise Record

## 9-18-2016

### page 2 of 2

## Tribe

FROM PAGE 1

Among his goals, and those of the tribal leaders, is to create a cultural museum and community center.

During the discussion Saturday, Wilson said it is hoped the group will receive federal funding to help tribal members with health care.

In some ways, members of the tribe are a big, extended family, with common links to Yohema Clark or Eliza Gramps, both who married men who were miners generations ago. Years later, sisters Molly and Maggie Cayan added to the tribal lineage.

For the past several months, members of the tribe have met frequently to share collect stories, Mark



Margie Hartshorn, left, and other council members for the Konkow Valley Band of Maidu sign a petition Saturday to the federal government for recognition as an independent tribe at Riverbend Park in Oroville. Mark Clark, right, helps Hartshorn find the proper spots to sign in the document.

DAN REIDEL —  
ENTERPRISE-RECORD

Clark said.

When he was a child, his father would bring him to the cemetery to tend to family graves, Clark said. He also remembers visiting tribal elders when he was a child. Meanwhile, other members of the tribe were visit-

ing graves as well, and perhaps visiting with other elder family members. They took part in similar activities, but some members of the tribe had not met until recently.

Other families continued traditions of spearfish-

ing, Wilson explained, which is important today. The Konkow Maidu are one of the few groups allowed to hunt with speeas along the Feather River.

Contact reporter Heather Hacking at 896-7758.

# COLOR-FILLED DAY AT SALMON FESTIVAL



PHOTOS BY DAN REIGEL — ENTERPRISE-RECORD

California Department of Fish and Wildlife technician Joe Amaroso harvest eggs from a chinook salmon as people watch from the viewing platform Saturday during the Salmon Festival in Oroville.

## Both banks of Feather River filled with festivities

By Heather Hacking  
hhacking@chicoer.com  
@HeatherHacking on Twitter

**OROVILLE** » The day started with a splash of color Saturday for the 22nd annual Oroville Salmon Festival, which drew thousands to the downtown and more to the Feather River Fish Hatchery.

Mackenzie Coon, 13, and Justin Hickman were at the event, but crossed paths for only a brief, color-filled instant. Coon, who attends Central Middle School in Oroville, held a bucket filled with colored cornstarch. As runners crossed the finish line for the 3K race, her job was to pelt them with colored corn starch.

Hickman, 16, placed third in the race and had the blue eyebrows to prove it. He regularly runs 5Ks and even marathons, so he considered the 3K — 1.86 miles — as merely a workout. He ran with two buddies from the Las Plumas High School cross-country team, who placed first and second.

Hickman said his two teammates are almost certainly headed for state finals in running, and he's working hard to join them.

### Thanks to the salmon

The Konkow Valley Band of the Maidu Indians had a strong



Dymond Kostenko, a 17-year-old Las Plumas runner, is covered in colored powder when he comes in first place in the Oroville Hospital 3K Colored Dash during the Salmon Festival.

group praying for the salmon, explained tribal chairman Wallace Clark Wilson. Baskets of flowers and another filled with acorns were placed in the center of a dance circle, along with a shiny salmon.

One of the songs is an expression of joy and another is a song of thanks, he said. There were also silent prayers made for people who have "physical maladies," Wilson explained.

The Konkow Band is in the middle of reconnecting and recently signed a petition asking for federal recognition.

Long-term goals include building a roundhouse, a project that will include a great deal of fundraising, Wilson said. The tribe currently does not own land.

### Booths

Over the past two decades

the Salmon Festival has grown, and it changes each year. Part of the charm is that so many aspects of the community are represented. Families could shop for clothes or jewelry, grab deep-fried food, learn about community groups or toss a bean bag.

Oroville Hospital had a strong presence, with many information booths under

SALMON » PAGE 3

# Salmon

FROM PAGE 1

one tent. Word has gotten out that free flu shots are available during the festival.

Kim Basham is an infection preventialist, and signed up people for flu shots as fast as nursing students from Butte College could grab syringes and sterile wipes.

This year, the fifth for the open-air flu shots, she came prepared with 700 doses. Flu shots are especially advised for people age 65 and older. It's fun to see children draw their parents over for a shot. Children get a poke in the arm for school immunizations, and get a big kick out of seeing their parents bare their shoulders, she said.

## More pieces

Sharon Helton's job Saturday was to encourage people to take a look at a quilt hanging at the back of the booth for the Oroville Piecemakers Quilt Guild.

From a distance, the fabric is colorful with a center image of a tree. Up close, it becomes clear why the work took 35 women eight years to complete, a "piece of love," Helton said.

Now it's time to offer the quilt to the winner of a raffle, to be held Dec. 15. Each flower and stem, butterfly and critter is carefully stitched, with some detail as small as a pinpoint.



DAN REIDEL — ENTERPRISE-RECORD

Dave Lunsford, a California Department of Fish and Wildlife technician, shows the crowd freshly harvested salmon eggs.



DAN REIDEL — ENTERPRISE-RECORD

Scientific aide Shane Ransbury handles live salmon as he and Fish and Wildlife technicians harvest the fish.

Funds from the raffle help the group with supplies for lap quilts for local

organizations. The quilt will be on display Oct. 1 and 2, at the



HEATHER HACKING — ENTERPRISE-RECORD

Dancers Angel Lopez, Salvador Lopez, Xavier Gasca and Louie Lopez with the Konkow Valley Bank of Maidu Indians do a dance prayer during the Salmon Festival along the levee.



Cousins Cheenew Yang and Long Yang wait for more racers to pelt with colored corn starch Saturday during the Salmon Festival in Oroville.

HEATHER HACKING — ENTERPRISE-RECORD

Beauty on the River 2016 quilt show, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Oroville Municipal Building. Admission

is \$7.

## Focus on fish

Across the river from

the downtown street party, people learned more about the life cycle of fish through tours of the Feather River Fish Hatchery. Batches of fish clunked against the metal holding tank before being sliced open to remove eggs and milt. The process is gory, but necessary to reproduce millions of young fish that will be released into the Feather River. During the tour, visitors watched the process through windows.

Contact reporter Heather Hacking at 896-7758.



### HISTORY

# Book on conflict over Cherokee mines 'slickens' flows to be launched

#### *Staff Reports*

**CHICO** » The launch of a new book on the conflict between the Cherokee hydraulic mines and the downstream farmers subjected to its "slickens" flows is planned during the Dec. 3 annual meeting of the Association for Northern California Historical Research.

"The Road to Cherokee" is a historical novel written in the late 1940s that is being published for the first time by ANCHR.

The book was written by Mary Ray King, the first female attorney in Butte County, who'd settled with her husband, also an attorney, on a 10-acre ranch near Gridley in 1906.

In 1947 after retiring, she began the novel about two families who came west with the Gold Rush and followed different paths. The Morrises struggled to preserve their farm along Dry Creek from the waste that poured out of the mines, where the Normans sought their fortune.

King was still polishing the novel in March 1949 when she died, with unfinished pages found on a table next to her bed in the Oroville nursing home where she spent her last days.

In 2015, King's granddaughter Jean Whiles contacted the Butte County Historical Society about getting her grandmother's manuscript published. Society President Nancy Brower directed Whiles to ANCHR, a nonprofit

that encourages research by publishing books about Northern California history and providing publication services to help student, amateur, or professional researchers.

While ANCHR had never published a fiction book, its board agreed to take it on, adding historical photographs, a map, and other information to the manuscript.

Ron Womack, a resident of Butte Valley very near where the slickens flowed, will make a presentation during the Dec. 3 meeting on the book and the conflict between the miners and the farmers.

The meeting is 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Shelly's Creative Catering, 2565 Zanella Way in Chico. The cost including lunch is \$18 per person, and reservations are needed by Monday. Checks should be made out to ANCHR and mailed to P.O. Box 3024, Chico, CA, 95927.

While membership in ANCHR is not necessary to attend the meeting, members get a discount on books purchased at the meeting, and a number of titles will be on sale in addition to "The Road to Cherokee."

More information is available by calling 636-0778 or emailing ANCHR. Books@gmail.com.

FOOD

# WHOLE GRAIN CRAZE



PHOTOS BY BILL HUSA — ENTERPRISE-RECORD

Dave Miller talks last week about the mill he uses to grind fresh wheat to make his bread made from whole grains during a tour of his bakery in Yankee Hill.

## Local baker leader in California Grain Campaign

**By Risa Johnson**  
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*@risajohnson on Twitter*

**YANKEE HILL** » It's 9 a.m., and Dave Miller's day started seven hours ago.

On Thursdays, Miller mills — no joke — grains into flour and mixes dough, which then ferments in tubs overnight. Very early Friday, the baking begins. For over 20 years, Saturdays have been devoted to the Chico Farmers Market, where his bread is exclusively sold.

One of the things that makes Miller's bakery in Yankee Hill special is his emphasis on locally sourced whole grains, a movement on the rise around the nation. Miller was recently featured in an Los Angeles Times article for his involvement with the California Grain Campaign, an initiative for bakers with the state's farmers markets to use locally sourced whole grains in at least 20 percent of their products by the year 2020.

The initiative is already on a roll in Los Angeles

and there is interest in the Bay Area, Miller said. In smaller markets like Butte County, he expects it will likely take longer for demand to increase.

### Whole grain goodness

Why fuss over whole grains? Miller has three answers to that. For one, flavor. Grain variations can provide thousands of different flavors and grains from the same farmer can taste different from year to year because of climate changes. Miller is continually sampling so things don't get stale. Today he uses 10,000-year-old to 2-year-old varieties of wheat to produce his flour, he said.

"It's the only way you're going to discover how unique the wheats are," he said.

Secondly, grains most nutritious elements are ground out in the process of producing white flour.

Finally, whole grain bread is easier to digest than white bread.



A loaf of whole grain bread made by Dave Miller in his bakery in Yankee Hill.



Dave Miller checks on a rack of bread last week in his bakery in Yankee Hill.

## Grain

FROM PAGE 1

“We’re feeding (wheat grains) to the cows and eating the white flour,” Miller said. “If that’s your staple — white flour products — you run into problems later down the line with your health. We just don’t digest them as well.”

### Why buy local?

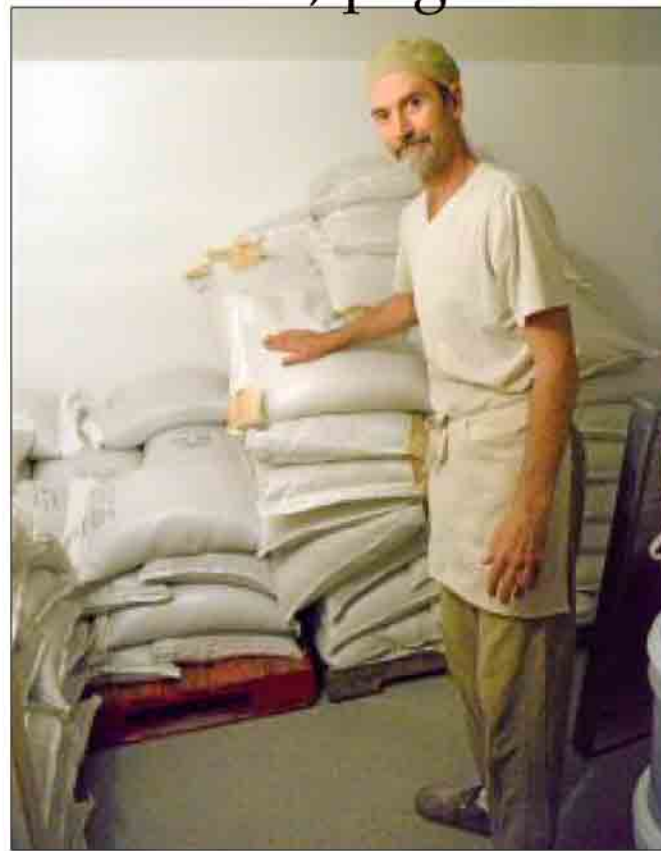
A big draw to farmers markets is the ability to talk with growers, particularly about fruits and vegetables. Miller hopes the focus on local food will lead to growing local grain economies.

“With the advent of the local food movement, people want to know and see where their food comes from,” he said. “Now you’ve got local bakers using local wheat, who are in contact with the grower or at least in contact with the miller, who can give you experience-based feedback.”

He already sees a demand for more information about the origins of wheat products when he tables at the Chico Farmers Market, each week hearing what he calls “conspiracy theories” about growing malpractices. There is definitely a distrust of wheat and wheat farmers, who have been traditionally located in the Midwest, though that is changing too, he said.

“You’re not going to know (wheat farmers) because they’re far away,” Miller said. “This can bring representation. I think that’s one reason people buy my bread; I try to make it as transparent as I can.”

When Miller started baking some 30 years ago, doing business with farmers in the Midwest was his only option, but now plenty of organic wheat is produced around Butte County. Because of climate changes, growing conditions determine whether



BILL HUSA — ENTERPRISE-RECORD

Dave Miller stands beside sacks of whole grain he uses to make his bread during a tour of his bakery last week in Yankee Hill.

wheat is “hit or miss” each year, he said. Local farmers and bakers just have to roll with it.

### The California Grain Campaign

Miller became involved with the campaign after attending a conference for people contributing to local grain economies. There he met with a representative from the Grow NYC Regional Grains Project. Since 2009, the project requires bakers in the affiliated farmers markets to use a minimum of 15 percent whole grains.

“I thought, ‘... there’s an opportunity here. If they can do that in New York, we can do that in California,’” Miller said.

The Golden State is taking it further, raising the minimum to 20 percent by 2020 and requiring those products to be whole grain as well. Farmers and bakers involved with the cam-

campaign hope most of the farmers markets in the state will sign on. The campaign group agreed that to not require the grains to be locally sourced would be “a waste of time,” Miller said.

“Most of us feel the highly refined part of it is why we can’t do as well with whole wheat,” he said.

“The reason I’m in the farmers market is to help the farmers. If it’s just for me adding to the customer shopping experience, that’s okay, but we as bakers can do more than that. We can source locally.”

### More on Miller

Miller’s bakery is a mix of old and new. In one corner sits a baby pink Artofex machine from the ’50s with arm mixers that “stretch and relax” dough. Across the room towers a nearly floor-to-ceiling gas oven from Italy, powered by firewood below. The smell of freshly baked bread fills the air.

Llamas, alpacas and cats wander throughout the property up in the hills northeast of Oroville. The home is net-zero-energy, meaning the energy its solar panels produce equals the amount of energy consumed in the home.

In his spare time, Miller and his wife are avid runners.

It was a winding road to get here. Miller attended Macalester College, a liberal arts university in St. Paul, Minnesota. Still unsure of the right career fit, he headed to Edinburgh, Scotland to study abroad for a semester and things panned out from there.

Nearly every day on his 20-minute walk to class, winding through the city, Miller would stop in for sweets at a little bakery run by two cheery Scottish women. They would often give him free treats in exchange for his opinion, as an American. That’s when he began to think seriously about bakeries.

“I didn’t know what I wanted to do with my life, but I knew what I didn’t want to do,” Miller said. “I didn’t want a desk job. I wanted to do something that had basic value, that filled a basic need so I wouldn’t turn 40 and have a mid-life crisis.”

From there, he would go on to intern and apprentice as a baker around the world and back — from Minneapolis to the Alps of France, Luxembourg and Belgium. At a bakery in Massachusetts, Miller would pick up the owner’s style of milling his own flour, which “nobody was doing” in the mid-to-late ’80s. His process became ingrained in Miller.

“I was hooked — smelling the fresh flour from his mill, tasting the bread, with the natural leavening and whole wheat. So I searched out bakeries like his from that point on.”

Reach reporter Risa Johnson at 896-7763.

2-23-2017

## GARDENING

# LOCAL NURSERY CRAWL IS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

By Heather Hacking

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There are a wealth of local nursery nearby, each with their own plant specialties and staff expertise. Friday and Saturday will be open house for 14 nurseries from Yankee Hill to Red Bluff, all encouraging people to take the Local Nursery Crawl.

The event, now in its fourth year, includes a map for people to track down places that might be off their usual green-thumb path. The goal is to introduce people to places they may not have shopped in the past.

To add to the fun, each nursery will contribute three gift certificates toward a raffle, for a total of 42 prizes. To qualify for the drawing, shoppers need to get stamps at six nurseries over the two days. If they drop the card at the sixth stop, they'll have a chance to win a certificate from that nursery, explained organizer Terry Miller of TJs Nursery and Gifts, 2107 Kennedy Ave. in Chico.

Several of the nurseries are also offering special sales. The event is rain or shine.

## The list includes:

- In Chico: Floral Native Nursery, Geffray's Gardens, Kinney Nursery and Topsoil, Little Red Hen Nursery, Magnolia Gift and Garden, the Plant Barn and Gifts, Prestige Nursery and TJ's Nursery and Gifts.

- In Paradise: Mendon's Nursery.

- In Durham: Hodge's Nursery and Gifts.

- In Yankee Hill: Spring Fever Nursery.

- In Glenn: Garden Gleanings.

- In Red Bluff: Sousa Dynasty Herbs

- And in Proberta: Goodin's Rock Garden.

For more information, including a download to the



HEATHER HACKING — ENTERPRISE-RECORD

*Bulbinella robusta*, a tuberous perennial for borders, has a clumping habit and is drought tolerant. This example was at Little Red Hen Nursery in Chico, one of the 14 stops on the Local Nursery Crawl Friday and Saturday.

map, [localnurserycrawl17.weebly.com](http://localnurserycrawl17.weebly.com).

Contact reporter Heather Hacking at 896-7758.

**The event, now in its fourth year, includes a map for people to track down places that might be off their usual green-thumb path.**



Map available for at <http://localnurserycrawl17.weebly.com>.

# Chico Enterprise Record

## 2-23-2017

BOOK IN COMMON PROJECT

### Native American women to share their stories at Chico State event

#### *Staff Reports*

**CHICO** » Native American women will share their experiences and stories during an event at Chico State University.

The university's 2016-2017 Book in Common project will hold the "Women of Wisdom" event on Friday. The event will include storytelling, learning and food, and takes place from 4-7 p.m. in the Bell Memorial Union room 203.

Several Native American women will share their wisdom, stories and experiences through traditional oral narration. According to a university press release, the event honors the traditions and philosophies of the country's preceding nations, and attendees will be able to gain a greater appreciation of the wisdom of today's tribal communities.

"We do have such a long history to tell," Assistant Director of Associated Students Programs and Government Affairs Sharleen Lowry Krater said in the release. "And we are on Maidu land, we're surrounded by all these tribes."

Krater, who has Maidu, Washo and Pit River ancestry, will serve as the master of ceremonies at the event and discuss how she con-

nected to her family and Native American roots after the death of her father. She wants to share her story in order to help students who face similar experiences and cultural expectations in their lives, she said.

Along with Krater, storytellers include: Sandra Knight (Mechoopda), Elizabeth Lara-O'Rourke (Yurok, Hupa, Chilula), Susan Campbell (Maidu), Joyce González (Apache, Pueblo, Eastern Cherokee), Kimberly Cunningham-Summerfield (Tsalagi) and Trina Cunningham (Mountain Maidu from Greenville).

This event is free and open to the public, although seating is limited. Along with the storytellers, there will also be a reception at 6 p.m., so that attendees will have opportunity to speak with the storytellers.

The "Women of Wisdom" event is one of several spring events planned around the 2016-2017 Book in Common, *My Life on the Road* by Gloria Steinem. According to the university, the women's rights movement leader inspires others to recognize the substantive contributions that indigenous women have made toward social justice.

# The San Francisco Examiner

## 7-13-2017

### THE CITY

## 'Glitter Ranch' a coming-out party for town of Pulga

The sun beat down on us like we were out-of-tune bongos, unaccustomed to the pressure needed to properly function. By 8 a.m. each morning, the heat was so thick that everyone was either already crawling out of their tents or wobbling back from an all-night soundstage.



**broke-ass  
STUART**

It was too hot for anyone to throw shade, so people did their best to find a hammock in it. Yet somehow, incongruously, all of this was glorious. Roughly 150 weirdos, queerdos, beardedos and heroes, mostly from San Francisco, had descended upon the tiny ghost town of Pulga, somewhere outside of Oroville, in California's Gold Country. The only gold in this part of the country though was in the form of lamé short shorts. It was a few days before the Fourth of July, and since nobody was feeling particularly patriotic, Pulga was temporarily

### BROKE-ASS CITY

rechristened "Glitter Ranch" and populated by mostly naked psychedelic disco cowboys and cowgirls. It was too dry for flames, so we were the goddamn fireworks.

At the turn of the 20th century, Pulga was a functioning town. It had a railway stop, a post office and a school, all supporting the rugged folks who'd moved to the region to work in mining and logging. As those industries wilted away, it became a place for family retreats, which then gave way to a place where hippies and beatniks escaped the city to find inspiration. Rumor has it that the Grateful Dead and Janis Joplin used to hang out in Pulga. Eventually, it fell into disrepair.

In 2015, a woman named Betsy Ann bought it and, with the help of some friends, began restoring Pulga to its future glory. Before this, Betsy Ann had been living on a houseboat in Oakland. Her friend Janay split time between an Oakland houseboat and property in Twain, 30 minutes from Pulga. When Janay told Betsy Ann that Pulga was for sale, she jumped at the opportunity to buy it.

Those of us at Glitter Ranch last week were elated that she did. It was hard not to fall in love with the place.

In the day, we escaped the heat by frolicking on oversized floaties in the swimming hole that lazily drifted off the Feather River. At night, we danced under the stars while DJs made the trees tingle with beats and basslines. A train passed right through town numerous times day and night. Art was everywhere, and in the dark, the place lit up like an old west town had married a Burning Man camp and moved to the mountains.

This was made even better by the fact that there was a bar serving mighty cocktails and food catering that was seriously the best campout grub anyone ever had. Other bits of magical ingestibles that found their ways into people's mouths also probably helped the place feel even more sublime.

Glitter Ranch was Pulga's coming-out party, a freaky-deaky moon landing of a debut if there ever was one. So it must've really weirded out the Union-Pacific Railroad workmen who drove through town each day. Can you imagine that? You're used to driving through a sleepy ghost town everyday for years to work on

The ship stage at the center of "Glitter Ranch" played host to all sorts of weird and wondrous things.



COURTESY INA MARIE

the railroad and, suddenly one day, it's full of godless freaks in glitter, cowboy hats, neon pasties, and not much else.

Unfortunately, Glitter Ranch couldn't last forever, and we all had to make our way back to the Bay eventually. The good news is Pulga is now open to for public use — and you don't have to be a midnight raver. You and your friends and family can camp there or rent cabins or even rent the whole town. It's a good base for hunting and fishing and even a beautiful spot for a wedding. The whole place is run by artists, so they offer

residencies for artists, writers and researchers. (There's an application on their website: [PulgaTown.com](http://PulgaTown.com))

I've been back from Glitter Ranch — ahem — Pulga, or about a week now. I left my mind somewhere out between the creek and the waterfall, but luckily it arrived over the weekend, sent by Sparkle Pony Express. I'm just looking forward when I get to go back.

*Stuart Schuffman, aka Broke-Ass Stuart, is a travel writer, TV host and poet. Follow him at [BrokeAssStuart.com](http://BrokeAssStuart.com). Broke-Ass City runs Thursdays in the San Francisco Examiner.*

# MORE THAN JUST A CORNER LOT

Chico Enterprise  
Record  
8-5-2017  
page 1 of 2

Chico parcel only bit of former rancheria a Mechoopda member was able to keep



STEVE SCHOONOVER — ENTERPRISE-RECORD

This lot at North Cedar Street and Rancheria Drive is the only piece of the Mechoopda Rancheria that a tribal member was able to keep after the rancheria was broken up in 1961. Before Donna Mae Rickard died in 2015 at age 101, she deeded the land back to the tribe.

**By Steve Schoonover**  
sschoonover@chicoer.com  
@ER\_schoonover on Twitter

**CHICO** » To most people it's just a corner lot, a bit under a quarter-acre at North Cedar Street and Rancheria Drive, with several mature trees growing out of the dried grass. It might seem odd that it's vacant in the sea of student apartments that flank it, but it's still just a lot.

For the Mechoopda Indians however, it's quite a bit more: It's the only piece of land a tribal member was able to keep after the federal government chopped up the tribe's rancheria in 1961.

That member — Donna Mae Rickard — died May 19, 2015, a few weeks short of being 102 years old, and deeded the lot back to the tribe. It is now trying to have it placed in trust for perpetuity.

## The past

The Mechoopda were Chico's original residents. The came under the care of — and

labored for — John Bidwell starting in about 1850.

At the time they lived in a village just behind the mansion, but when Annie Bidwell arrived in the late 1860s, she had them moved out to an area straddling West Sacramento Avenue, between Warner Street and the railroad tracks.

They lived there nearly 100 years. There was a Christian church and a traditional circular dance house as well. Tribal members lived in frame houses.

Annie Bidwell deeded the property to the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church, to be held in trust for the tribe after she died. The federal government took over that role in 1939.

But in 1961, the feds decided to drop recognition of the tribe, and divvied up its land. The half of the rancheria south of West Sacramento Avenue somehow ended up in the possession of then-Chico State College. The land north

**PARCEL** » PAGE 5



CONTRIBUTED

Donna Mae Rickard, from her obituary in the Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle in Washington state.

# Chico Enterprise Record

8-5-2017

page 2 of 2

## Parcel

FROM PAGE 1

of West Sacramento was divided into individual lots for the registered members of the tribe.

The lots came with tax bills the tribal members were unable to pay, so parcel by parcel the land was lost. Some went to tax auctions; others were sold to student housing developers at bargain basement rates, just to escape the tax debt.

Quickly the area filled with two-story apartment buildings, with only the Mechoopda cemetery and the tribe's name on a street as reminders of what had been there.

But there was still that one vacant lot on the corner of North Cedar and Rancheria.

### Donna Mae Rickard

Judging from her obituary in the Omak-Okan-

ogan County Chronicle, by the time the rancheria was divided up, Donna Mae Rickard was working as secretary to the superintendent of the Colville Indian Agency in Washington state. That may have enabled her to cover the taxes on the lot.

She was a Mechoopda, born June 24, 1913, to Cipriana Genevieve Avalos and Elmer LaFonso, according to the obit.

She graduated from Chico High School and went on to learn secretarial skills at the Chemawa Indian School in Salem, Oregon. She met Fred Rickard there and they married in 1935.

In 1950 they moved to Nespelem, on the Colville Reservation in Washington, and she served as secretary to the superintendent for 37 years.

Mechoopda Vice Chair Sandra Knight described Rickard as "an amazing woman," who sent the tribe

\$100 each year to be used for cultural activities.

And before she died, she decided that last rancheria lot to the tribe.

### The future

The Mechoopda regained federal recognition in 1992 after a six-year legal fight. Regaining something with historical and cultural significance like the Rickard lot is important in the revival of the tribe's bureaucratically-interrupted history.

"That whole area is important to the tribe," said Knight. "It was the last rancheria."

Knight said the tribe plans to keep the property as green space. "It's the only piece of dirt in downtown Chico that's never been built on," she pointed out.

The tribe has put a chain link fence around it, and

even though the lot is vacant, people have cut the fence to get inside, she said. She's hoping a streetlight there will solve some of those problems.

Right now the Mechoopda only hold the deed to the parcel. For it to become actual tribal land, the federal government needs to take possession of it, to hold in trust for the tribe.

That's what the tribe is trying to get done, but the process of putting land in trust has largely stopped under the current administration.

Knight wasn't sure if that's due to a policy decision, or because people just haven't been appointed to fill key positions in the Interior Department.

Reach City Editor Steve Schoonover at 896-7750.

# ENTERPRISE-RECORD



# Chico Enterprise Record

8-19-2017

## The story behind 5 odd street names in Chico

By Steve Schoonover  
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Chico's street names have meanings, some clear and some obscure.

New residents quickly learn that the first letters of Chestnut, Hazel, Ivy, Cherry and Orange streets — which line up east to west — spell out Chico, but there are a number of streets in the vicinity of Chico State University that aren't so obvious. They include:

### Normal Avenue

Chico State University traces its roots to the state Normal School — a teachers college — that was established in 1887 on a cherry orchard Chico founder John Bidwell donated to the state.

Normal Avenue was originally called Sycamore Street, but the name was changed when the college arrived.

Normal is also a bit abnormal in that the vast majority the roads south of Big Chico Creek are streets, but Normal is an avenue. Most of the roads north of the creek are avenues.

### Mechoopda Street/ Rancheria Drive

These two streets between West Sacramento and West First avenues, between Warner and North Cedar streets, reference the Indian rancheria that used to be located in the area.

The Mechoopda were the first residents of the Chico area and were taken in as laborers by John Bidwell on his Rancho Chico in about 1850. Their first village on the ranch was behind the mansion, but their funeral rituals reportedly upset Annie Bidwell when she arrived on the scene.

The tribe was moved to an area along West Sacramento Avenue and lived there until the 1960s, when the federal government withdrew its recognition of the tribe. About half the tribal lands were gobbled up by the state for addition to Chico State University and the remainder were parceled out to individual Indians, almost all of whom either quickly lost the land to taxes or sold it to developers.

The property was developed as apartments and the neighborhood became known as College Park.

The Mechoopda Cemetery remains in the midst of the development, and is still used by the tribe, which has regained federal recognition.

The rancheria also had a Christian church and a traditional dance house, but both are long gone.

### Sowilleno Avenue

This little one-way street along the north side of Big Chico Creek, between Arcadian Avenue and The Esplanade, used to run all the way to Citrus Avenue before Holt Hall was built. One of its claims to fame was that its name was spelled differently on each of the street signs along its length.

The street is named after Maggie Sowilleno Lafonso, a Mechoopda woman who was a favorite of Annie Bidwell, according to Bidwell historian Nancy Leek in her Goldfields blog. Sowilleno was her Indian name. Leek said Maggie and her brother were frequent guests at the mansion and she was a big helper at the Indian church.

### Frances Willard Avenue

Annie and John Bidwell were ardent prohibitionists, he being the Prohibition Party's presidential candidate in the 1892 election. Two streets in Chico are named for leaders in the anti-alcohol movement.

Frances Willard was one of them. She was the founder of Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the Prohibition Party. She was also active in the women's suffrage movement.

The other street named for a prohibitionist is Neal Dow Avenue. Dow helped craft the 1851 "Maine Law," which outlawed alcohol in that state except for "medicinal, mechanical or manufacturing purposes." It became the basis for the 18th Amendment to the Constitution.

### Flume Street

Sierra Flume and Lumber Co. ran a large lumber yard between Humboldt Road (now Avenue) and East Eighth Street, running from Orient to Alder streets. Logs were brought down via a large flume from Chico Meadows, near Butte Meadows, which included a huge trestle down Big Chico Creek canyon through what's now upper Bidwell Park.

John Bidwell was having trouble with water power to operate his flour mill, which was located on the north side of Big Chico Creek, across The Esplanade from Bidwell Mansion. Yes, where the Bidwell Mill Apartments are now located.

Bidwell made a deal to tap into the lumber company's flume and its more reliable supply of water. The flume was extended to Bidwell's mill along the line of what is now Flume Street.



# Chico Enterprise Record

## 9-9-2017

### CHICO

## 100-mile Nome Cult Walk starts today

The 22nd annual Nome Cult Walk from Chico to the Round Valley Indian Reservation in Covelo starts today and lasts to Sept. 16.

The 100-mile trek crosses through the northern part of the Mendocino National Forest and follows the route Native Americans were forced to march from Chico to the Nome Cult Reservation in 1863.

Descendants of Native Americans who took part in the original relocation and other supporters walk the route each year. The theme of the walk is "Honor their memory ... a path not forgotten."

The Mendocino National Forest asks that people traveling on forest roads along the trail route be mindful of the event and careful of the walkers to ensure their safety.

# VETERAN'S GRAVE UNMARKED NO MORE

Mexican War soldier has lain unacknowledged in Cherokee Cemetery for 113 years



BILL HUSA — ENTERPRISE-RECORD

A sign posted near Cherokee Road points the way to Cherokee Cemetery. A Mexican War veteran who was buried there in 1904 in an unmarked grave will be getting a military marker on Veterans Day.

**By Steve Schoonover**  
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**CHEROKEE** » A veteran buried in a unmarked grave in Butte County will be getting an official headstone placed on Veterans Day, 170 years after being in uniform and 113 years after his death.

Joel Ward Ansel fought in the Mexican War in 1847-48 before coming to Butte County in 1855. He died in 1904 and was buried in the Cherokee Cemetery.

He had never married and had no family locally — no one to buy or set a stone — but his death was marked by an obituary in the Oroville Mercury.

Recently, the obit was found and made its way to Jeff Schilling, Ansel's great-great-grandnephew in Ohio. He began an email communication with Rian Farley of Durham, a contributor to the

Find-A-Grave website that had posted Ansel's information there.

Schilling had records of Ansel's military service, enough to qualify him for a headstone from the Department of Veterans Affairs, even after 170 years.

With the assistance of Glen Oaks Memorial Park in south Chico and the Cherokee Cemetery Association board, the stone was ordered and delivered to Farley.

**Who was he?**

Joel Ward Ansel was born Oct. 24, 1824, in Fultonham, Muskingum County, Ohio.

He enlisted in 1847 in the newly formed 15th Infantry Regiment under Col. George Warren, and was transported to Vera Cruz, Mexico. He fought in the Battle of Churubusco on Aug. 20, 1847, and others.



SUBMITTED BY RIAN FARLEY

The headstone from the Department of Veterans Affairs for Mexican War veteran Joel Ward Ansel, which will be unveiled Saturday on his unmarked grave in the Cherokee Cemetery.

## Grave

FROM PAGE 1

He returned to the United States after the war and was discharged Aug. 4, 1848 at Covington, Kentucky.

He went to Southern California in 1851, and worked his way north, arriving in the Sacramento Valley in 1855. He did some farming and some gold mining, and was quite good at it, according to the obituary.

But a brother of his partner killed a man, "and Mr. Ansell (sic), with his characteristic kindness of heart, spent every dollar from the mine to save the criminal from the gallows."

He settled in Pentz, near present-day Butte College, where he was postmaster, according to a death notice. The obituary said he instead served as a clerk for "Mr. Pentz," likely Manoah Pence, the first settler in the area, or one of his sons. Pence had allowed his name to be attached to the post office and the dis-

### PIONEER DEAD.

J. W. Ansel, aged 81 years, died at Pentz yesterday. He is an old resident of this county, having lived at Pentz for fifty years or more. He was a veteran of the Mexican War. For the past year or more he resided at the home of Mrs. Jennie Mortensen, who cared for the old gentleman in a long illness. He was postmaster at Pentz for many years.

His funeral will be at Pentz at ten o'clock this forenoon. The interment will be at Cherokee.

SUBMITTED BY RIAN FARLEY

Death notice from the Oroville Daily Register, Aug. 26, 1904.

tract only with the alternative spelling.

"Mr. Ansell (sic) was very fond of pets, and his fowls, which seemed his friends, gave him much pleasure," the obituary reads.

"For several years he kept a large owl, which

many will remember as an interesting and comical bird. A tame coon was another attraction to visitors."

Ansel became sick, and after some time in the care of Mrs. Jessie Mortensen, died on Aug. 25, 1904.

### Where is he?

But where to place the headstone? The grave is unmarked, and the cemetery's records were lost somehow in 1924, according to Farley.

But Ansel's obituary notes that he "was laid to rest beside an old friend, Harry V. Paul, in the Cherokee cemetery."

Paul's grave is marked, and as there's a road on one side of it, Ansel is likely to be on the other. That's where the stone will be placed.

Farley said the public is welcome at a brief ceremony starting at 3 p.m. Saturday at the cemetery. There will be words of recognition by Pastor Ben Colahan of Faith Lutheran Church in Chico, followed by the unveiling by Schilling, who is traveling from Ohio for the event.

"Taps," by Sean Farley of the Durham American Legion, will close the event.

Reach City Editor Steve Schoonover at 896-7750.

# DISCOVER

## Butte County

A guide to visiting and living in the North Valley

FALL 2017 •  
WINTER 2018  
**FREE**

### INSIDE:

All about Chico,  
Paradise, Oroville  
and beyond

**CN&R**

Chico News & Review

## Butte Valley

### Barry R. Kirshner Wildlife Foundation

This nonprofit organization cares for endangered and exotic animals that cannot be released into the wild and teaches responsible ownership of companion animals. Take a self-guided tour of the 19-acre sanctuary, which includes Bengal tigers, African lions, leopards, foxes, lynxes, exotic birds, bears and reptiles. Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. 4995 Durham-Pentz Road (near Butte College), 533-1000, [www.kirshner.org](http://www.kirshner.org)

## Centerville

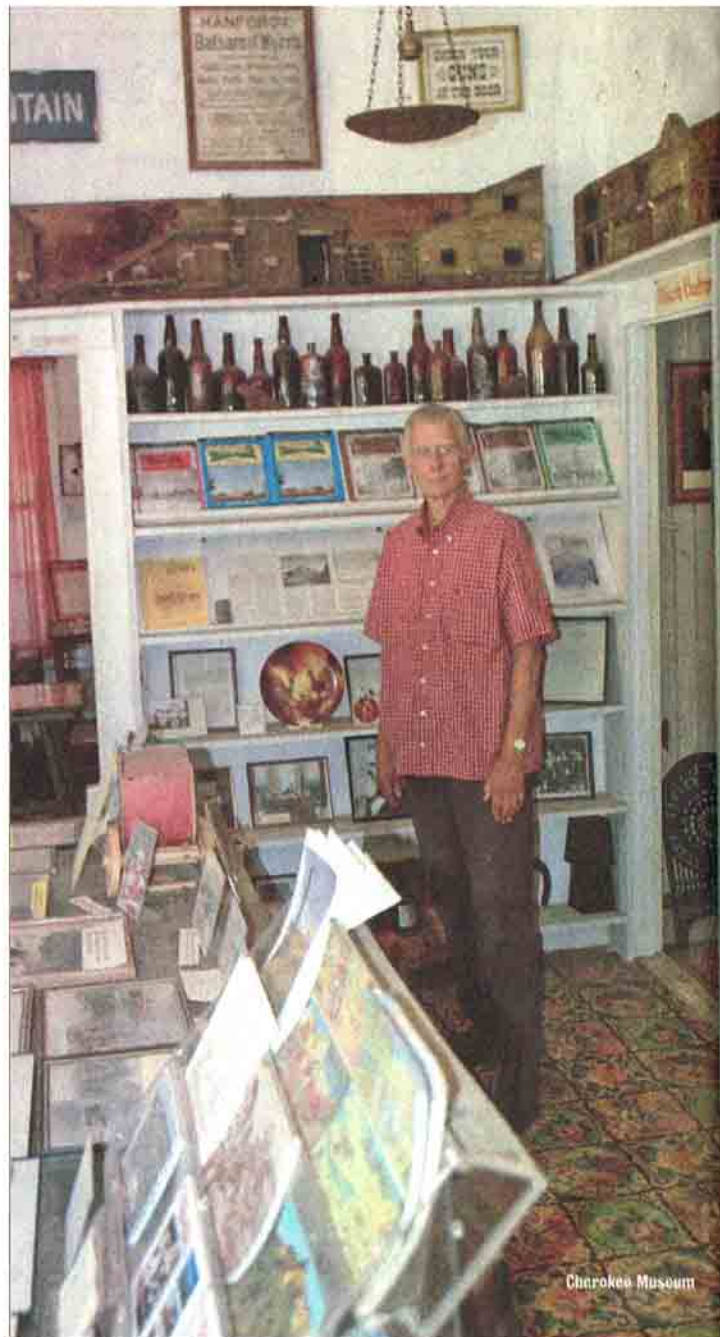
Located along Butte Creek, Centerville offers a nice starting place for hikes along the flumes that once served the Centerville Powerhouse. The schoolhouse and museum are worth a visit, and there's a nice history-filled cemetery just up the road.

### Centerville Schoolhouse and Colman Museum

The historic Centerville Schoolhouse, built in 1894, is located alongside the Colman Museum, which displays an impressive amount of history regarding the region. Open Sat.-Sun., 1-4 p.m. 13458 Centerville Road, 893-9667

## Cherokee

Another once-vibrant mining town, Cherokee was named after a group of Cherokee Indians who traveled here from Oklahoma for the gold. In its heyday, the town boasted 1,000 residents, 17 saloons, eight hotels and two schools. President Hayes and Gen. Sherman were said to have visited the town, as did Thomas Edison (who also had an electric shop in Oroville for a time). He reportedly helped create Cherokee's effective yet controversial hydraulic mine. At last count (2010), its population was 69. There are no businesses to speak of,



Cherokee Museum

though there is a museum and a cemetery that harks to the town's former inhabitants.

### Cherokee Cemetery

This final resting place is said to be haunted by the angry spirit of a murderer burned to death in the mid-19th century. 3927 Cherokee Road

### Cherokee Museum

Housed in what used to be a miner's boarding house as well as a stagecoach stop, the Cherokee Museum is lovingly cared for by local historian Jim Lenhoff. It contains historical pieces from Cherokee as well as others that illustrate Gold Rush life. Outside the building is an old train car, which contains exhibits

of local Maidu Indian history. 4226 Cherokee Road, 533-1849

## Concow

While all of California was inhabited by Native Americans before Europeans settled the area, the story of the Concow Maidu is one of the uglier in Butte County history. They ultimately were rounded up and sent by foot to a reservation near Paskenta. That trek is known as the Concow Trail of Tears, because 461 members embarked on the journey and only 266 reached their destination.

Today, Concow is mostly home to people who prefer to live in nature, off the land and out of civilization. It's home to several festivals throughout the year at the Lake Concow Campground.

### Lake Concow Campground

Run by Konkow Partners, a "group of healers, activists and friends dedicated to preserving this sacred land," Lake Concow Campground offers tent camping as well as self-contained RV hookups. 12967 Concow Road, 518-4531

## Durham

Located just south of Chico, Durham is a community built on agriculture. Take a drive down the Midway from Chico to "the four-way stop" and you've arrived in downtown Durham. There's a general store (and a new Dollar General), antique shops, Butte County's longest surviving bar and restaurants. See Agritourism, page 74, for more on the region's agricultural attractions, including several wineries and the Patrick Ranch, which houses a historical museum and holds regular events.

### Durham House Inn

Just a 10-minute drive from Chico, the Durham House Inn is a beautiful 1874 Italianate Victorian listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The home-turned-B&B features three elegant rooms

Restaurant, the latter of which was housed in the historic train depot.

## Magalia Community Church

On the National Register of Historic Places, the Protestant church's chapel was built in 1896. It's since been moved, but remains intact and in use—it's a place of worship and is available for weddings and other events.

## Happy Day

A longstanding favorite, Happy Day serves up fresh, delicious Chinese food with attention to customer service. 14455 Skyway, 873-4719, [happydaymagalia.com](http://happydaymagalia.com)

## Sakura Sushi

Opened in 2016 by Woodie Xie, owner of the Optimo in Paradise, Sakura (which means "cherry blossom" in Japanese) has quickly become a hotspot among Ridge diners. 14481 Skyway, 762-7289

## Oregon City

One of the first mining camps in Butte County, Oregon City was founded by a group of Oregonians who arrived in 1848. According to a plaque signifying the town's historical significance, the group's leader, Peter H. Burnett, became the first civil governor of California a year after his arrival.

## Oregon City School

Owned by the Butte County Historical Society, the schoolhouse offers a glimpse into the region's past. It's currently undergoing a restoration. Open Sat.-Sun. 1-4 p.m. 2100 Oregon Gulch Road, 533-1849

## Stirling City

Just up the hill from Paradise, Stirling City offers a step back through history. Founded in 1903 by the Diamond Match Co., the town was developed at the end of the rail line as a loading spot for lumber.

## Clotilde-Merlo Park

This is one of the most charming and beautiful spots in Butte County.



Magalia Community Church  
PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAMWESLEYCOLLINS AT ENGLISH WIKIPEDIA

Encompassing 20 acres, the park includes ponds, nature trails, picnic spots, horseshoe pits and a bocce court. There's a popular outdoor wedding chapel, as well. Take Skyway to Stirling City. Turn right at the P Line road, then left at the R Line road. Open May-October, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Call 873-1658 for more info.

## Stirling City Historical Society Museum

This museum, run by the local historical society, chronicles the history of this lumber town. 16993 Skyway, 413-7785, [stirlingcityhistory.org](http://stirlingcityhistory.org)

## Stirling City Hotel & General Store

Built in 1903, this historic hotel and general store's longtime owner, Charlotte Hilgeman, passed away in October 2016. It's since been passed on to a new generation of Hilgemans, who have maintained the

general store and plan to renovate and reopen the hotel. 16975 Skyway, 873-0858

## Yankee Hill

This old mining town was at one time named Spanishtown, after having been settled by a group of Spaniards. It's said a band of East Coasters came in later and renamed it.

## Yankee Hill Historical Society Museum

Formed in 2002, the society calls the Messilla Valley School, built in 1856, its home base. It's also the site of a well-maintained museum and community center. The society also has a great website, complete with historical videos and links to old newspaper stories. 11666 Concow Road, [yankeehillhistory.com](http://yankeehillhistory.com)

## Rock House Restaurant

A great place to relax with a cup of coffee or a glass of wine while taking in the live music or just chilling on the patio. Open for breakfast and lunch daily and dinner on weekends. Live music on Saturdays at 5 p.m. Plus, now offering wine tastings. 11865 Highway 70, 532-1889, [rockhousewy70.com](http://rockhousewy70.com)

## Scooter's Cafe

Bought in 2016 by chef Michael Englund, biker hangout Scooter's Cafe has undergone a bit of a makeover, with a new menu of scratch-made comfort foods, from hand-ground burgers to mac and cheese. Plus, Englund's brought his wood-fired pizza oven from Terra Forno out back, so he's slinging gourmet pies as well. 11975 Highway 70, 534-4644

## Mueller's Christmas Tree Farm

A popular wintertime destination, Mueller's is a cut and choose-and-cut Christmas tree farm that offers tours year-round as well as hay rides and picnic tables for gathering on weekends during the season. 11452 Nelson Bar Road, 533-4593, [santadeliverstrees.com](http://santadeliverstrees.com) ●