

Butte County Stagecoach Driver Amy Morrison

Daily Mercury
4-30-1883

MISCELLANEOUS.

MORRISON'S STAGE LINE.



RUNNING DAILY

**FROM OROVILLE TO DEADWOOD,
VIA**

Pence's and Yankee Hill.

ALSO: FROM

Oroville direct to Cherokee.

Via MORRIS' RAVINE.

OFFICE AT U. S. HOTEL, OROVILLE.

Comfortable Coaches, careful drivers, and
good stock.

Always Through on Time.

*Morrison Stage Line Operated Between Oroville and Cherokee
US Hotel and Stable in Oroville, circa 1880*



Henry P Morrison Buys Stage

Weekly Mercury

7-29-1881

New Stage Line.

Finding that there is so much travel to Dead-wood, Henry Morrison decided to put on a regular line of stages, and on Monday made the first trip. He connects at Pencee's, Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays with stages from this city, and connects on the down trips at the same place Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, with the stage for this city. He has placed the fare at the low figure of \$2 50, and will no doubt make a success of the line. People can now jump on the stage, go to Dead-wood, spend one day and come back the next.

Morrison Buys Second Stage Route

Daily Mercury

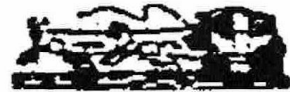
9-14-1883

Henry Morrison has purchased the stage line of Sim Garber, between Oroville and Cherokee. The purchase includes the coach and good-will. Mr. Morrison is now the sole proprietor of all stages running between this place and Cherokee. The fare hereafter will be one dollar each way. Mr. Garber still owns the Oroville and Big Bend line.

Morrison Expands Stage Route

Weekly Butte Record
9-18-1886

Daily Stage Line



CHICO & CHEROKEE!

H. P. MORRISON, Propr.

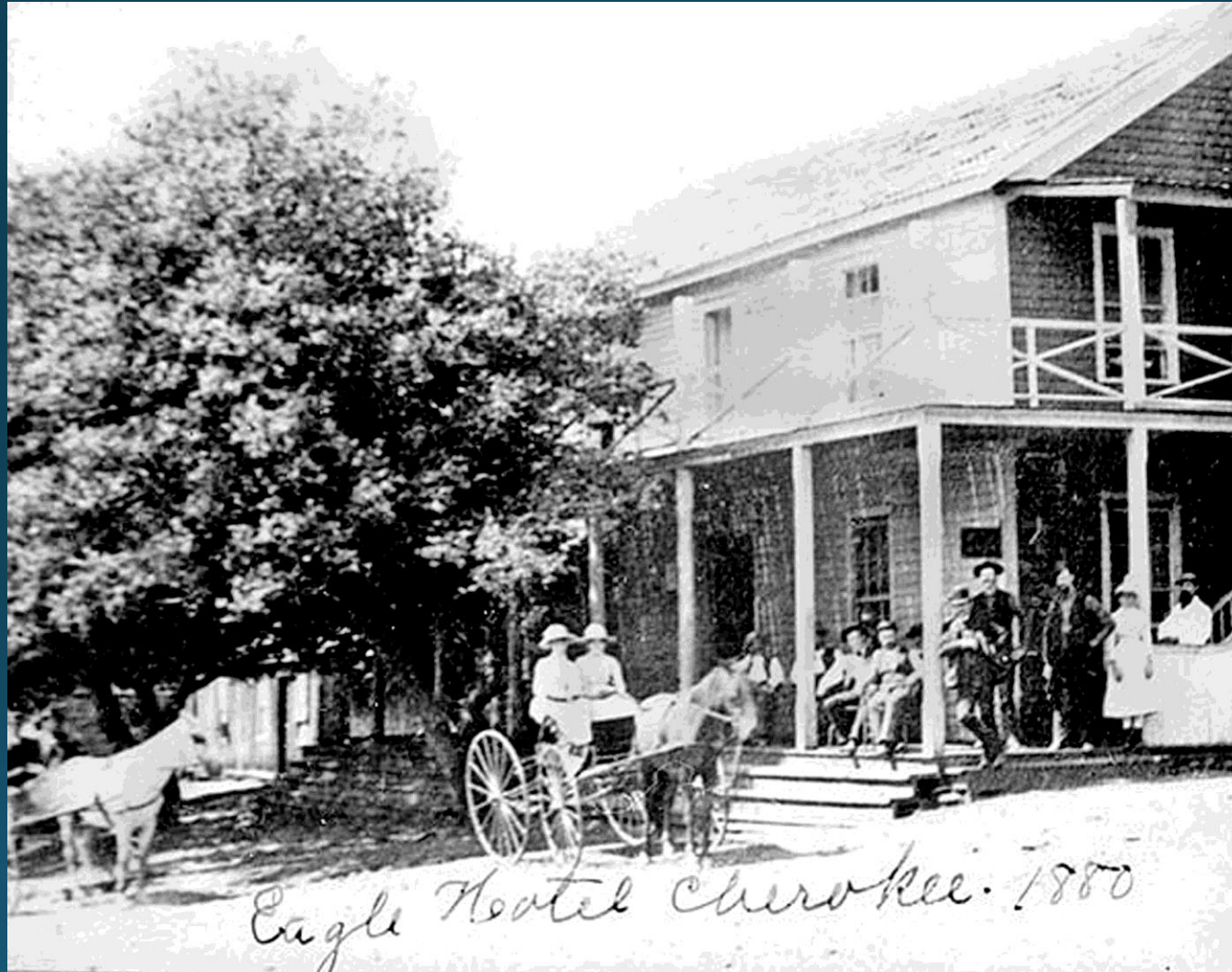
LEAVES CHICO EVERY MORNING (SUNDAYS excepted) at 5:30 A. M. and arrives at Cherokee at 9:30 A. M. Returning leaves Cherokee at 2:30 P. M. and arrives at Chico at 6:30 P. M. No stoppages on the road. Fare to Pentz, 75 cents; Fare to Cherokee, \$1.00; Fare to Deadwood, \$2.00. Office at the Union Hotel, Chico.

Chico, July 12th, 1886.

H. P. MORRISON, Prop'r.

Jy12-11

Eagle Hotel in Cherokee, established 1873



Eagle Hotel Cherokee. 1880

Fred Morrison was Amy Morrison's Brother

Oroville Register

5-24-1888

OROVILLE and GRIDLEY

Stage Line.

FRED H. MORRISON, Proprietor.

Stages leave Gridley every day except Sunday
at 7:30 A. M.

Leave Oroville daily except Sunday, at 1:30 P.
M. Reaching Gridley in time to connect with the
train north to Chico.



H P Morrison Hurt, Amy Manages Business

Amy was 20 years old at the time

Oroville Register

5-4-1893

H. P. Morrison got badly hurt a few days ago by being kicked by a vicious horse. His daughter Miss Amy, mounted the stage and has driven from Cherokee to Oroville and back all this week, making regular trips and attending to all the stage business.

There Were Only A Few Female Stage Drivers In California

Photo courtesy of BCHS and AI Mitchell



Amy Morrison, Stage Driver, Cherokee Oroville Stage Line,
Taken on Cherokee Road 1892

By Evelyn P Joslyn who lived with her family in Morris Ravine

Amy Morrison drove the Cherokee Stage from the Cherokee Hydraulic Mining Camp to Oroville, a distance of about nine miles. My pioneer family settled on the Cherokee Road and the two-decker old stagecoach would come rumbling by our front door, loaded with miners and their cute little trunks strapped to a back shelf-like ledge, the tony ones in dusters with big broad-brim soft black felt hats, and Amy in the driver's seat.

She was a perky little lady, and always dressed up. She wore a long black skirt over rough leather boots, frothy white ruffles down the front of her dress and at her neck; a little black Princess Eugenie-style hat with a dip over one eye, a flowing feather waving to the back, and heavy leather gauntleted gloves. She was strong, robust, and good-looking with rosy cheeks, sparkling brown eyes, and beautiful wavy dark brown hair. I would say she was in her twenties. She was always cheerful, happy, and full of pep. Whenever I heard the unseen stage coming, rumbling around the bends and curves in the road, I would always run out and wave to Amy. That stage had its own rumble, different from all the other rigs on the road.

Amy sang beautifully. Her voice was a deep contralto that carried far in the distance and she always sang as she drove along. One particular song that she sang most often was "The Yellow Rose of Texas".

The mining officials particularly wanted Amy to drive the Saturday afternoon shift. It was the day the men got their pay checks, and she was the only one who could get them back on the stage for the return to camp, so that a crew would be available for the next shift. In the wee small hours of the morning, when they were returning, I would be awakened by a chorus of the most beautiful voices singing grand opera arias.

By Evelyn P Joslyn, Page 2 of 2

There were many Austrians among the miners, and I heard some of them say they learned to sing grand opera in the Old Country. It was my first introduction to grand opera music.

To a very little girl, Amy was a queen and I loved her. Occasionally she would stop on her way home from town to water the horses from the old water trough located in front of our house, and under a shady umbrella tree. Often, she would fetch me a striped paper bag of candy.

In our old-fashioned parlor on a marble top table rested a red plush photo album and Amy's picture was in that album. She was dressed in black velvet and her bangs were pasted in little ringlets over her forehead. In the same album were other pictures of the family friends. Some I remember, that have remained indelible in my memory, were George Perkins, Major McLaughlin and daughter Aggie, Louis Glass of Cherokee, Andrew Beatson of Beatson's Hollow, George Braden of Braden's Furniture Store in Oroville, and Tom Fields, uncle of W. C. Fields; but Amy's picture impressed me the most.

Amy Morrison was in a class by herself, none other like her. Amy was the daughter of Henry P. Morrison, owner of a stage company that ran stages from Oroville to Cherokee to Deadwood. She was the youngest of his four children and drove stage for her father around the 1890s.

The Morrison family sold the stage business and moved to San Francisco in August 1893 so Amy's mother could have eye surgery. Amy later married in San Francisco. The rest of the family moved in 1910 to Covelo in Round Valley, Mendocino County.