

The Plumas National.

5-15-1875

.....There is a good chance for several legal disputes over mining ground, this summer.....Archer & Workman have located and purchased a number of mining claims on Long Bar, East Branch, and it looks as though an extensive mining operation was to be inaugurated at that place... ..An Eastern paper says the Indians in this country are never known to smile, therefore they are grave-Diggers. Just give one of the old Digger braves a bottle of "tarantula juice," and see if he don't smile.....The wire was down between here and Jamison one day

Weekly Mercury

8-27-1875

Population of Butte.

As will be seen by reference to the tables which we publish this week, the estimated population of Butte county is now 20,000. If this return is correct, of which we have no doubt. Butte is one of the largest interior counties in the State in point of population. And as many of the large ranches are to be divided into 160 acre farms, there can be but little doubt that our population will be much increased during the next year.

Weekly Butte Record

6-13-1878

Nearer and More of It.

Reports from hostile Indians are coming thick and fast, and it seems that northern California may have a visit yet that will renew our Modoc war. Governor Irwin on Saturday received a dispatch from residents of Cedarville, Modoc county, asking for arms, as it was believed the Indians of that section were about to go on the warpath. The State has few arms except in the hands of the companies of the National Guard, having turned over to the General Government all the old style guns she had to as far as possible balance accounts with the Government and obtain breech-loading rifles for the military companies. Under this condition of affairs, the Governor, after receiving the dispatch, immediately telegraphed to Washington for an order directing Colonel McAllister at Benecia to deliver to him 250 stand of arms, and as soon as he possibly can he will furnish the residents of the northeastern part of the State with the assistance they desire. The Chico Guard will do well to scour up their muskets, and have them in readiness to carry to the front, and secure Dumas' carriages for honorary members to travel in.

From Saturday Daily.

The Indians.

We wish to issue our protest against the Indians coming any nearer Chico. Our feeble voice may not have the desired effect, however, as we find by the latest dispatches that the copper colored miscreants have left Stein mountain and are now away to the south of old camp C. F. Smith. We are not aware yet whether the main body has made this movement, or only a detached portion of them. The Chronicle's dispatch is as follows:

HORSE LAKE (Lassen county, Cal.), June 22, (via Reno, Nev., June 26 h.)—The Putes are depredating at Stein Mountain, and are now making for Surprise Valley, Modoc count. Captain Norvall, commanding at Fort Bidwell, anticipates an attack from the redskins within a few days. The families of Surprise Valley are leaving their homes and going to Susanville. Two families from Cold Springs have just arrived here, and confirm the news of threatened danger at Surprise. The settlers are arming.

If the Governor of this State fears any danger to the settlers in the northern part of the State, he will undoubtedly order out the Chico and Red Bluff Guards. We have heard the probabilities of his so doing argued this morning, the Indian trouble in fact being the subject of general street talk. If it becomes necessary to get assistance, we earnestly hope that Butte county will be given the privilege of raising a volunteer company, for we know of many old Indian fighters who would gladly shoulder their rifles and once more make the savages succumb to their unerring aim. Their old vim and fire comes back when they think a chance will be given them to once more put their backbones cunning and shrewdness against that of the painted redskins. If the Putes come any farther south than they are at present, there is a chance of the Pitt Rivers, McLouls, Shastas and Mill Creeks joining in the general uprising, for it is a well known fact that a few days more and Captain Jack would have had heavy reinforcements from these tribes at the time he was captured during the Modoc war. That California has not seen the last of the Indian troubles cannot be doubted, and all calls for help must be answered freely and fearlessly.

Weekly Mercury 4-18-1879

Murder at Spanishtown.

A Yankee Hill correspondent writes that a Kanaka named Yankee Jim killed his squaw at Spanishtown, on the 3d inst., by stabbing her in the right breast. The murderer came to Yankee Hill, confessed the crime, delivered himself to the authorities, was examined and remanded to the county jail pending the assembling of the Grand Jury. Jim says he did the deed because the woman wouldn't stay at home. The murderer was brought to this State in 1844 by Gen. Sutter, from the Sandwich Islands.

Weekly Mercury

7-11-1879

Indian War.

A Cherokee Indian became so patriotic on the Fourth that his untutored mind yearned for excitement. He got two Digger squaws to fighting. They clawed, chawed and gouged each other until both resembled half-butchered hogs. Bystanders separated them. The affair happened about 3 P. M., in the rear of Perkins, Logan & Co.'s store.

7-12-1879

TO PRISON FOR LIFE.—Sheriff Sprague, of Butte county, passed through the city this morning, en route to San Quentin with a prisoner named James Kahala, who goes there for life for the murder of his wife. Kahala is a Kanaka, about 45 years of age, and came to California in 1844 with General Sutter, in whose service he remained for many years. In a drunken fit of passion he stabbed his wife at Yankee Hill, Butte county, some months since, killing her instantly. When the facts above related became known to parties in the depot a large crowd collected about the Sheriff and his prisoner and gazed at the latter after the manner in which they would at a wild beast. Kahala only glared back at them savagely and showed a disposition to hurry into the car and escape observation.

WEEKLY MERCURY

FRIDAY.....JULY 25, 1879.

A Relic of the Past.

While chopping up an oak tree, which they had felled for the purpose of obtaining lumber to construct a cabin, James Reynolds and Joe McCarty, two miners working on Middle Fork of Feather river, last Thursday, found in a cavity in the interior of the tree a piece of parchment, 8x14 inches, both sides of which were covered with hieroglyphics, as they thought, excepting four figures, viz: "1542." Naturally presuming it to be something of a curiosity, the gentlemen very properly decided to preserve the parchment, which they did until Monday of this week, when a San Francisco man, who was hunting in that section, stopped at their camp and upon being shown the document offered \$50 for it. The offer was accepted. Tuesday night the purchaser, who who proved to be F. M. Castronjo, of Madrid, Spain, reached this city, en route to the Bay. We ran across him while in quest of items with this result: He said the characters on the parchment were Spanish letters; that he, being a well-educated Spaniard, had experienced no difficulty in deciphering the writing, and informed us that it was a condensed history of the wanderings, trials and tribulations of three men named Emanuel Sagosta, Jose Gareljos and Sebastian Murilo, deserters from the command of Hernando De Soto; that they were, at the time of writing, the sole survivors of a party of thirteen who ran away from the expedition on the 24th of November, 1539, and that this letter was written and put in a knot-hole in the oak on the 29th day of August, 1542; that the party were discouraged at the prospect of dying in the wilderness and had no idea as to whither their steps were leading them. He kindly permitted us to look at the parchment which was of a dark cream color, the writing thereon being easily perceived by the naked eye, its color being that of a faded blue. Prior to leaving this city, Mr. Castronjo had the precious article securely sealed up in a tin can to keep the air from it and intends disposing of it to the National Historical Society of Spain. In response to our inquiry as to how much the tree had grown in that time, he said the miners told him that the outer edge of the cavity was about five inches within the tree, which had grown over and completely closed the hole.

See Santa Rosa Press Democrat article in the YHHS archives dated 1-15-1950 about Round Valley and Covelo. The following story is part of the Indian culture from that area. The following is an excerpt:

Before my grandfather's grandfather the first white man to visit the area, had long blond hair and was riding a white horse. He came upon the Indians (at Round Valley in Mendocino County, Ca) killing several Ukie (Wailaki) Indians with a thunder stick out of fear when they approached him. After several of the Indians were killed, they killed the man and his horse. They buried both the man and his horse under a pile of rocks.

Many Years later, a Spanish half breed was dug up in Lake County, Ca. His identity was a mystery.

Does this solve the mystery?

Weekly Mercury

9-27-1879

Killed by a Grizzly.

One day last week an Indian named Tom, of Big Bar, went out hunting. Failing to return in due season, a search was made for him, resulting in the discovery of his mangled body and Henry rifle by its side. Near the remains lay the corpse of a grizzly cub. It is thought he shot and killed the cub, and was attacked by the old she bear before he had time to reload. The ground in the vicinity was plentifully sprinkled with blood and general appearances of the locality indicated a desperate struggle. So writes a Yankee Hill correspondent.

Weekly Butte Record

11-22-1879

Drunken Indian.

Last evening an Indian was arrested for being drunk and wanting to fight. The officers are trying to find out where "Lo" got his whiskey, and we hope they will be successful. It is the meanest occupation a man can be engaged in, that of selling strong drink to the Indians, and they deserve to be punished.