

# Chico Record

1-12-1940

## 'Doctor' Plans To Continue To Sell Medicine

### Jury Reaches Not Guilty Verdict In 20 Minute Deliberation

CLOVIS, Jan. 11.—(LP)—A Clovis justice court jury of 12 men tonight found Dewey Conway, Indian medicine man from Chico, not guilty of practicing medicine without a state license. The jury deliberated only 20 minutes before reaching a decision.

Several persons in the crowd that had jammed the small courtroom and stood in the rain outside, congratulated Conway after the jury announced its verdict. There was no other demonstration.

Conway said he intended to continue selling medicine made from herbs contained in a formula he said was given him by his father and grandfather, Indian medicine men.

The third day of the trial before Justice of the Peace John E. Burke today started with testimony from two defense witnesses, who said Conway had never represented himself as being a physician and had not attempted a diagnosis of their ailments, but had only sold them the medicine. Conway did not testify.

The remainder of the day was taken up with the final arguments of defense attorneys Arthur Frame, Clovis, and J. Oscar Goldstein, Chico, and of prosecution attorneys. The jury did not start deliberating until late today.

# Oroville Mercury Register

4-29-1940

## Child's Skull Fractured In Freak Mishap

*Auto Door Flies  
Open Catapulting  
Boy, 3 To Pavement*

Three-year-old Lee Lawson is in Oroville Curran Hospital with a fractured skull received Saturday night when he was catapulted from an automobile traveling 40 miles an hour on the Feather River Highway near Pulga.

The child was being brought to Oroville and was riding in the rear seat of the car with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Lawson of this city. Driver of the car was Bryan Beevers who with Lawson operates the Virgilia mine near Belden.

Lawson said his son, whom he thought had been sleeping, apparently decided to play with the door handle on the 1939 Oldsmobile sedan. The door suddenly shot open pulling the child out of the car. The boy hung for a moment and then was thrown to the pavement and tossed 30 feet.

Lawson said the child was still rolling when the car was stopped. He was rushed to the hospital here for treatment.

The Lawsons were on their way to Oroville from their mine and Mrs. Lawson was to have gone on to San Francisco by train, there to undergo a serious operation. The operation must now be postponed for about a week.

The injured boy was reported improved today by Dr. G. A. Frost.

The child is the grandson of H. R. Lawson of Palermo Road. E. R. Lawson has been operating the Belden mine with Beevers for 18 months.

BELDEN, Charles L.  
Feather River Bulletin

7-4-1940

**Charles Belden  
Dies at Oroville**

● CHARLES L. Belden, member of the family whose name was given to the town in the Feather River Canyon 32 miles west of Quincy, died at an Oroville hospital last week.

His parents had homesteaded on the North Fork at the mouth of Yellow Creek, and when the Western Pacific was built, the station there was named Belden. The homestead was in the name of the mother, Lucille Belden.

Mr Belden was 77 years old when he died. His brother, Robert Belden, still resides at Belden. They are full-blooded Indians. Robert has mining claims near Gansner Bar.

Charles built a hotel at Belden in 1912, sold it May 1, 1920, to J. F. Morgenthaler and C. A. Coykendall, who are still the proprietors.

Mr Belden had been in the Oroville hospital a week when he died. Details of the funeral were not received at Belden or Quincy but Mr Morgenthaler believes burial was at Magalina.

Mr Belden is survived by two daughters, Mrs M. L. Bolger of Oakland and Mrs H. P. Lowenstein of Kansas City, Mo., and two sons, Irving R. Belden of Seattle and Charles L. Belden of Tacoma.

# Plumas Independent

9-5-1940

## BELDEN

Belden, Aug. 31.—The finding of a skull in this area late Wednesday evening, led to the uncovering of what is believed to have once been part of an Indian burial ground. The discovery was made following the finding of a skull while Charlie Gramps of Pulga, employed in highway repair work for the State Department, was getting pre-mix for road patching. He notified Dan Pengree, Highway Foreman of his find.

Further examination disclosed two skeletons on one side of the point, and three on the other, indicating that the point was possibly part of high plateau, recalled by older county residents. It is believed that with time, and the jar accompanying the construction of the highway, part of the plain sloughed off, to slide toward the river.

Sheriff L. A. Braden and Coroner Alice Rees were summoned to investigate.

That the Indians were of a mig-

ratory type, and different from others that inhabited this area was indicated by the positions of the skeletons, which had been buried in a lying-down position rather than the usual sitting posture. Personal effects had been buried with the bodies, and several fine arrow and spear heads, made of a red flint, found in Lassen and Modoc counties, were unearthed as well as black and white ones. That some of the bodies may have been squaws was assumed from the fine example of a pestle that had been interred.

The site where the interesting find was made is four miles west of Belden in the Chambers Creek area.

Oroville Mercury Register

9-12-1940

## **Pulga Indian To Fort Miley**

Frank Reese, Pulga Indian, who is suffering from a gradual paralysis in the right side of his body, will be transferred to Fort Miley hospital at San Francisco for treatment. Dr. Dan Kilroy, resident physician at Good Samaritan hospital, said today.

Reese was brought to Oroville on the Western Pacific train last night, and was taken from the depot to the hospital by ambulance. He is a war veteran.

REECE, Tony (Indian)  
Oroville Mercury Register  
9-25-1940

## Indian Rites For Veteran

YANKEE HILL— D. R. Johnson and Kitty Williams have returned from Flea Valley, where they went to attend the funeral of Tony Reece, Indian, world war veteran, who died in Letterman's hospital in San Francisco. The body was shipped to Pulga, and taken from there by automobile to the Indian cemetery at Dogwood.

He was buried with the Indian burial ceremony under the direction of Fred Johnson of Cherokee, who also spoke to those present in regard to the old time burial of the Indian people.

Many friends and neighbors were present.

Reece was a son of Doxy Reece and lived near Intake for many years. He is survived by a wife, three children and two step-children, all of Intake.

Oroville Mercury Register

10-10-1940

## **Gets Special Draft Rights**

**I**SAIAH, small mining community on the Western Pacific railroad above Oroville, is in the spotlight in next Wednesday's draft registration.

Because there's no road into the Feather River community, the county clerk's office could not follow instructions to deliver draft supplies directly to the chief registrar and receive a receipt.

After communication with selective service headquarters in Sacramento, County Clerk Matthews received authority to send the supplies by express over the Western Pacific. The train will stop briefly while the supplies are thrown off.

JOHNSON, Daniel W.  
Oroville Mercury Register  
12-10-1940

# Indian Found Dead, Face Down In Pool

*Roy Scott Of Cherokee,  
Booked; Sheriff  
Probes Mystery*

Possibility that Dan Johnson, about 30, an Indian, may have met death in a violent quarrel was being investigated by the sheriff's office today after his battered body had been found in a creek half mile from Pulga.

Roy Scott of Cherokee, about 35, also an Indian, who reported finding the body, was booked at the county jail this afternoon for investigation after he had been questioned by Sheriff Taylor and Under-sheriff Forward.

Several other Indians also were interrogated by the sheriff's office in an attempt to solve the mystery.

Examination of Johnson's body, removed to Hamilton and Riley's, showed the front teeth had been knocked out, either by a blow or a fall. Johnson's nose was broken and there was a cut on one ear.

The body was lying face downward in about a foot of water, Sheriff Taylor said.

It was not determined at once whether death had been caused by drowning, or from injuries.

Attempts were being made today to trace Johnson's movements preceding discovery late Monday of the body.



# Dixie Johnson Slated To File Murder Charge

*Sheriff Says Com-  
plaint Will Name  
Roy Scott, Slayer*

## **BULLETIN**

A murder charge was filed against Roy Scott this afternoon.

A murder complaint was to be filed this afternoon in connection with the death of Dan Johnson, 28, whose body was removed from beneath a bridge near Pulga late Monday.

Dixie Johnson, the young man's father, was taken to Gridley this afternoon so he could swear to a complaint. Sheriff Taylor said it would name Roy Scott, 35, held for investigation in the case.

Harry S. Hills, justice of the peace here, was not in the city.

The case may be referred to the grand jury after the charge has been filed, according to Taylor. He said, however, that such action would rest with the district attorney.

A coroner's jury late Wednesday found that Johnson came to his death Dec. 8 by drowning following a beating after which he had been thrown into a creek. The verdict did not name the person responsible.

It was returned after Leah Simmons, a witness, had described a fight which she said occurred between Johnson and Roy Scott preceding discovery of Johnson's body.

## **DRAGGED TO CREEK**

Sheriff Taylor testified there was evidence that a body had been dragged from the place where the woman said the battle occurred, to the bridge over Flea Valley Creek, where Scott reported he had found it.

The Simmons woman said that she saw Willie Gramps and Johnson near her place at Pulga Sunday morning, but that they left. Later Scott and Dan Johnson came there, she said. Johnson was intoxicated, she reported. She said that she and Scott told Johnson to leave and that she took him to Flea Valley Creek and told him to return home. However, Johnson twice came back to the house, and threatened to fight, she related.

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## **WANTED TO FIGHT**

"Roy and I took him to the car nearby," the witness said. "He wanted to fight, and he and Roy finally fought. Roy hit him with his fist and he was lying on the ground near the car."

Mrs. Simmons said that when Johnson went down she returned to the house and told the children the men had been fighting.

"Roy came back and told us he had hit Johnson, and we went to bed," the witness said.

The next morning after Scott had arisen and gone outside the cabin he returned, according to the woman, and said:

"There is a man down there in the creek."

The witness said she asked Scott who the man was but he wouldn't tell her.

The fight occurred during Sunday evening, the witness said.

Taylor related that he received a telephone call from Las Plumas power house about 4:30 p. m. Monday informing him that a body had been found under the Flea Valley bridge. The discovery had been reported at the power house by Scott, Taylor was informed.

The car near which the fight is reported to have occurred is 15 yards from the bridge, under which the body was lying.

There were indications of a struggle near the car, and evidence that some object had been dragged along the ground toward the bridge. Taylor said. There were blood stains on rocks and sticks.

The water in the creek was only 10 inches deep at the deepest part, and much of it was only 3 or 4 inches deep. The body was face down under the bridge, where it could not be seen unless someone looked for it, he said.

In response to a question by one of the jurors who sought to determine whether Johnson could have wandered under the bridge, about

4 feet high, Taylor expressed the opinion that the body had been dragged there by someone.

Deputy Coroner C. O. Hamilton told the jury a hat and a coat had been found near the automobile:

A report from Dr. Charles Benninger Jr. that Johnson had died from drowning, and that his right ear had been cut, his lips bruised, and 12 of his teeth knocked out, was read.

Deputy Coroner William Gaylord also described the injuries.

## **TRACKER A WITNESS**

Dixie R. Johnson, Indian tracker and father of the dead youth, the first witness called, testified that his son was 28 years old.

L. S. Kirby was foreman of the jury, which included also Fred Ulrich, Ed McCoy, Greta Gaylord, John Church, Larry Martin, Tom Couris, Randall E. Warmack and Wallace Lee.

Hamilton and Riley announced that the body would be taken to Pulga today and that burial will take place in Dogwood cemetery Friday afternoon.

Johnson is survived by his mother and father, a brother, Elmer Johnson, and a daughter, Lilly Johnson of Sacramento.

# Dixie Johnson Reads Woods As Another Reads His Newspaper

*Famous Indian Tracker Has Helped Law Solve  
Crimes; Natural Instinct With Him*

A man who reads the story of between Flea Valley and Mayaro the woods as another might read his evening newspaper. That, perhaps, is the best description of Dixie

Lodge.

Johnson, who has helped solve some of the county's most puzzling criminal cases by his ability to track a man when the going is tough, hasn't been in the limelight in recent years, but he believes he still has the gift of being able to read the signs on the trail.

## PRINTS TELL STORY

"I suppose it's natural for me," Johnson said. "But I've made a business of it."

To one who knows about such things, a man's footprint tells many things.

Johnson can look at your print in the woods and have a pretty good idea of where you were going and why.

"No one walks the same way," Johnson said.

## PICKED UP TRAIL

There's always a characteristic to watch for, he explained. Because of their habits of walking some people's shoes show wear in one place, some in another. Some walk with their toes straight ahead. Others turn their feet out slightly.

Johnson practiced tracking as a



Mercury Photo and Engraving

## DIXIE JOHNSON

Johnson, 72, full-blooded Concow Indian, famous for years as a tracker. Johnson lives on Camp Creek,

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boy. It was an Indian game, similar to hide-and-go-seek. Sometimes a boy climbed a tree, swung on a branch and dropped to the ground to throw the pursuer off his trail. But Dixie was so expert at picking up the tracks that the trick seldom worked.

One of Johnson's best known accomplishments was the trailing of two men who robbed the Diamond Match Company's Camp No. 1 of approximately \$2800 in August, 1915. The work of Johnson, and the late Bill Peachy, one time constable, aided finally in the capture of the holdup men.

## HE FOUND A LEAD

Officers had spent two or three days trying to learn the identity of the robbers before Johnson and Peachy were called upon.

Five hundred men had walked the railroad track going to and from the camp. For eight days Johnson and Peachy hunted, questioned workers about who may have come in or gone out by horseback or railroad. Then one day Johnson saw a track leading from the main road to a clump of brush on a nearby hill. It was as though the man who made it had stopped in the protection of the brush to watch what was going on below him.

That single track later led to the robbers' undoing.

## ROBBERS' CAMP FOUND

After the robbery, in which a dollar watch stopped a bullet fired at a clerk and saved his life, the two robbers fled along a road used by hundreds of employes. However, Johnson finally discovered where they had left it and started up the mountain. At one point the men apparently had stopped behind a log to divide their loot. Part of the way they traveled up a log shoot, but their pursuers found, finally, where they had stepped across a tree to leave it. However, when their camp was reached the men had gone.

## MONEY WAS GONE

The camp was four miles from the logging camp.

Three quarters of a mile farther on the two robbers were trapped on Big Rock Creek, near Merlin station. Realizing that they were being surrounded they hid their rifle and revolver under a pile of ties and concealed their money in a hobo camp near the railroad tracks. Later, after the men's arrest, when officers took them to the scene, it was discovered that a transient who had stopped at the camp apparently had found the can in which one of the robbers had placed his share of the money. It was gone.

Johnson also worked on the Watson murder case in the Southside a few years ago.

Frequently he has been called on to help hunt persons lost in the mountains.

"I think I could still track as well as ever," he said, as a reporter questioned him about his experiences in reading the message written by man's footprints in the past.

# Hills Dismisses Murder Charge Against Roy Scott Of Pulga

A murder charge against Roy Scott accusing him of the killing of Dan Johnson, who was found dead in a creek near Pulga, December 8, was dismissed yesterday by Harry S. Hills, justice of the peace, on a motion filed by Gregory and Richardson, attorneys. He was released from the county jail.

The charge was dismissed on the grounds that a preliminary examination had not been held in justice court. The grand jury, which was investigating the case, failed to indict Scott.

The charge had been filed by Dixie Johnson, famed Indian tracker and father of the dead man.

Johnson, who was found with

his head down in a creek below a bridge, died from drowning. Witnesses claimed that Johnson and Scott had been in a fist fight.

District Attorney McPherson said today that unless new evidence is found no further action will be taken in the case. He said he knew of no such evidence at present.

The grand jury investigated the case a week ago last Friday, but failed to return an indictment.

"The jurors were practically unanimous in the opinion there was not sufficient evidence to return an indictment and I'm in agreement with them," McPherson said. "I don't feel justified in holding Scott any longer."

# Child Martyrs to Indian Vengeance



**T**HE Hickoks lived on Rock Creek, near Cohasset, twelve miles north of Chico.

They probably were distant relatives of "Wild Bill" Hickok of Pony Express fame.

Mrs. Jonathan Thompson, nee Frances Hickok, who crossed the plains on a honeymoon trip in 1852, was the first of the clan to come to California, but during the same year her parents, Franklin S. and Elvira Colwell Hickok, and the rest of the children, left their home in Painesville, Ohio, to travel in a covered wagon to the land of gold.

The Hickoks were like hundreds of other emigrant families.

The men folk mined at first and later established farms and the women kept house and reared their families, frontier fashion.

Only three grandchildren of Franklin Hickok and his wife survive.

They are Charles Maynard Hickok of Oroville, Dr. Homer Swain of Chico, and Mrs. Ella Thompson Willebrand of San Francisco.

Yet in Butte County the name, Hickok, still lives in many memories, for old time residents, when discussing the early days, always recall the massacre of three Hickok children in 1862—a frontier tragedy which precipitated one of the bloodiest chapters in Northern California history.

The children were slain by a roving band of Indians, and the relentless pursuit of the perpetrators of the triple slaying discouraged depredations by bands of Indians in Butte and Tehama Counties.

**C**HICO'S first settlers did not have much trouble with the numerous Indians in Butte County because General John Bidwell, by reason of his apprenticeship

in New Helvetia and at Sutter's Fort Ross, knew how to handle the red men. He fed them, worked them, provided quarters, and treated them with much the same kindness and understanding that a good horseman displays toward his animals. Other settlers, including James Keefer, builder of the first flour mill on Rock Creek, adopted a similar attitude, and the occasional depredations of individual savages were punished by some other means than bullets.

But gold was discovered.

Swarming miners killed the game, sullied the crystal streams where salmon swam and despoiled the Indians' natural food supplies. Whisky and lust of the miners demoralized the children of the forest in their foothill rancherias, and it was not long before hunger, a sense of desperation, plus the innate meanness of some of the Indians, provoked thefts and depredations against miners and settlers.

One of the first clashes occurred on New Year's Day in '52, when a band of Indians spent the night on the rancho of Manoa Pence on the old emigrant trail about twelve miles out of Oroville, and stole several head of Pence's cattle. Cows were important property in those days and Manoa and his neighbors, surprising the Indians at an impromptu barbecue, vented their resentment with rifle fire. Several braves were killed and the remainder of the band were driven away. The survivors were resentful.

There were other thefts by Indians, and Pence always was willing to lead punitive posses.

A sharp division in the attitude toward Indians developed in Butte County. Bidwell and Keefer contended the Indians were peaceful if they were not mistreated, while the other faction, steeped in the frontier belief which had prevailed since earliest Colonial times, was firm in its contention that the only good Indian was a dead Indian.

A reservation in Mendocino County was designated for the savages and many were deported to their new home. Bidwell's Indians, Keefer's Indians and the Mill Creek Indians—the latter a "wild" crew, remained, together with isolated bands who refused to abandon their accustomed foothills haunts.

Then, in '62, Bigfoot and his gang of savage cutthroats, launched their depredations.

The old timers all agree that Bigfoot was "bad medicine." A curious deformity set the Indian leader apart. His right foot was abnormally large, much larger than the left one, and it had six toes. Bigfoot headed a fiendish band of renegades who were shunned alike by whites and "tame" Indians.

**T**ROUBLE started early in the Spring of '62. Michael Welsh of Chico, a Mr. Dunbar of Mud Creek, and various other miners on the Feather River and the Washoe Trail near Lassen's Peak, died violently, horribly. Near the scenes of some of the tragedies, Bigfoot's unmistakable footprints were found.

In the Native Daughters museum in Oroville is a rare photograph of the principals in a tragedy which occurred during the early 70's in Butte County. In this picture above, are, left to right: Jay Salisbury, Sandy Young, Hi Good and Indian Ned. Ned murdered Hi Good and in turn was slain by Young.

Pioneer scene in the blue cut at the left by courtesy of the California Section, State Library.

The recurrent deaths alarmed the residents of Butte and Tehama Counties. Messages to the governor urged emergency action. Federal troops were promised but red tape delayed the departure of soldiers.

Then, on June 24th, came word that Thomas Allen, a teamster employed at the Keefer mill, was murdered on the Cohasset road.

D. F. Crowder, a participant in the scenes which followed, related the story years later in *The Chico Enterprise*.

Crowder's narrative said that Indian Tom, a companion of Allen's, although wounded and left for dead when the Indians attacked the wagon, made his way to Keefer's mill. Mrs. Keefer and Mrs. M. Cook, whose husband was the miller, were alone in the mill. Mrs. Cook confined in her bed with a newborn child. The women were terrified until Thomas Scott and Wert Cook, who were hunting coyotes in the vicinity, happened to drop in.

Cook rushed to the Hickok home and urged Mrs. Hickok and her two younger children to the mill. Scott rode to the Crowder ranch, where Crowder and Thomas Gore, binding wheat, dropped their sheaves and rushed post haste to the mill.

Keefer's place was isolated and vulnerable. The first task was the removal of women and children to a place of safety, and the little group set out for the home of Solomon Gore, with the men carrying Mrs. Cook, bed, infant and all, down the canyon.

Then a group rode to the scene of Allen's death. They found his body, scalped and pierced with arrows. The four mule team lay in the traces, bristling with the feathered shafts.

Some one remembered that two Hickok girls and their little brother were somewhere in the vicinity, gathering blackberries, and a search for the missing trio was started.

The afternoon was merging into twilight when the horses ridden by the Hickok girls and their little brother were located in a side canyon. The animals were tethered to trees. They also bristled with arrows, as did the Hickok dog, which lay at their feet.

Darkness prevented a further search that day and the Hickok neighbors returned to the Gore ranch, filled with forebodings, hoping against hope that the children still lived.

More than thirty men took up the search before sunup the next morning and Crowder rode with this party.

Not far from the mouth of the little canyon, where the horses were killed, the nude body of 17 year old Ida Amida Hickok was found. Three arrows protruded from her back. She was in a pit beneath the gnarled roots of a windfall tree.

In the bed of a nearby creek the body of 14 year old Minnie S. Hickok was found. She also had been shot in the back with three arrows.

The body of 4 year old Frank Hickok was not found. Butte County historians related that the boy's tortured corpse was located several weeks later beneath a cairn of rock, but Mrs. Willebrand, one of the Hickok grandchildren, declares Frank's body was never recovered.

The murdered girls were removed to Chico, followed by a cortege of sorrowing, vengeful neighbors.

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**H**I GOOD, the Indian fighter, was a dashing figure. Born in Ohio, he learned frontier lore in his youth and was recognized as one of the best trailers and fighters in Northern California.

His aim with rifle or pistol was unerring. Straight as a ramrod, broad of shoulder, handsome, dressed in the height of fashion. Good was the personification of the Wild West hero of fiction.

He hated "wild" Indians, yet he adopted an orphan Indian boy and reared him almost as a son.

Infuriated by the Rock-Creek massacre and official lethargy,

Sacramento Bee

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Franklin S. Hickok, father of the slain children, and their mother.



C. E. Hickok, who was 4 years old when the massacre occurred, and Mrs. Jennie Hickok Swain, a younger sister of the girls slain by the Indians.

Good issued a proclamation urging Butte and Tehama County residents to raise a volunteer company to punish the guilty Indians.

A mass meeting was held and Good was authorized to head a group of seventeen Butte County horsemen.

Riding as Good's lieutenant was his boon companion, Sandy Young, of Tehama County.

The riders took to the hills, seeking the Indians.

It was on August 15th when the avenging horsemen located the fugitive warriors in a camp on Mill Creek, sixteen miles east of Tehama. There were twenty five braves in the band. In the battle which followed, nine renegades, including Big Foot, reputedly bit the dust. The loot of a score of raids, found in the camp, proved the marauders finally had been overtaken.

No Indian was safe while the vengeful posse rode the hills. Most of the Indians fled far into the mountains to escape the wrath of Good's men. A band of forty "tame" Indians was cornered in Mike Wells' store. Wholesale slaughter loomed, despite Wells' defense of his Indian friends. Finally, Good's men declared that if the Indians would surrender who actually had participated in raids upon whites the others would be unharmed.

An account of the Wells store incident, related years later by John Clark, a descendant of the Conchow Indians, in a Butte County history, declared that two young men, guiltless of any offense, volunteered as sacrificial victims to save the lives of the remainder of the band. Mike Wells demanded the pair be given a fighting chance. The right thumb of one of the youths was tightly bound with a rawhide thong to the left thumb of the other.

The Indians were given a sixty foot start down the straight road in front of the store.

The first bullet fired at the speeding pair severed the thong which bound them. One of the youth darted into the underbrush bordering the road and escaped. The other ran straight down the road until dropped by a hail of lead.

Thus were the Hickok children avenged.

THERE was an aftermath to the Rock Creek Massacre expedition.

It concerned the death of Hi Good, and J. A. "Teddy" Peck, former Butte County peace officer and manager of the Chico baseball team, heard the story from Obe Field, who was a guest at Good's home in Acorn Hollow on Deer Creek when the tragedy occurred.

"I was just a young fellow when Obe Field told me about it," said Peck.

"Good got a young Indian boy from the Dicus family, who had a ranch at Vina. The boys' parents were killed by miners. Dicus warned Good against taking the lad but Good took him anyway, and let him help herd sheep. In the Spring of 1870, Good sold a band of sheep for \$7,000. He paid Sam Gyle \$3,000 he owed him and buried the rest somewhere on his ranch.

"Then Good and Sandy Young and Obe Field went into the hills on a prospecting trip.

"While they were gone," Obe said, "Good's Indian boy, Ned, scoured all through the place, apparently hunting the money Good buried. Even the fireplace and part of the floor had been torn up."

"When the prospectors came back a day or so later, Good started for a vegetable patch he

had down the road a mile or so, Sandy Young went on to Chico, Obe just loafed around the place and Ned started off with Good's rifle, intending to get a few squirrels.

"The next day, Good did not show up. Obe went on to Chico, where a May Day celebration was in progress. Good was expected at the festival, and when he did not arrive, Obe and Sandy rode back to Acorn Hollow. They made a few inquiries among the neighbors and discovered that Indian Ned was sporting Good's watch, and had a pocket full of gold money.

"They hunted around and soon found Good's body, partly covered with rocks. He had been shot several times.

"Ned showed up at the house but he denied any knowledge of the crime and claimed Good had given him the watch and money.

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"Obe took Ned outside and they sat talking about Good's death.

"I would sure like to know where the first bullet hit him," mused Obe.

"The first one went through his hips," Ned volunteered.

"Obe called the rest of the fellows in the house.

"Ned admitted the shooting and Sandy Young, crying like a child, asked why he had killed Hi.

"I don't know," said Ned, "I guess just to see how he would act."

"Take this Indian up the trail, boys, and we shall see how he will act," wept Sandy.

"Obe told me that he and some of the other fellows took Ned up the trail about fifty feet and tied him to an oak tree. Sandy leveled his rifle and fired a bullet through Ned's neck. His body slumped to the ground, and Young and Obe and the rest of the fellows rode off and left it lying there."

MOUNTAIN streams flow down Rock Creek and Deer Creek, and carpets of wildflowers bedeck the hills where the Indians once roamed. The old Keefer mill has fallen down, although its masonry foundation remains.

But the Rock Creek massacre and the events which followed remain one of the favorite tales of many Butte County residents who were children when the ring events occurred.

NUCKOLLS, Mrs. Elvira  
The Chico Enterprise  
3-22-1944

## **Fire Victim, Mrs. Ely Nuckolls, Dies of Injuries**

Mrs. Elvira Nuckolls who was burned in the fire which destroyed her home in the Indian Village early yesterday, died early this morning at the Good Samaritan hospital in Oroville as a result of her injuries. Her husband, who was burned in the same fire, is also in the Good Samaritan hospital in Oroville, in a serious condition.

The Nuckolls were admitted to Enloe hospital for emergency treatment after the fire and removed yesterday afternoon to the county hospital.

Mrs. Nuckolls, 57, was born in Tehama county and moved to Chico as a young girl where she had lived for the past 50 years. She had been an employe of the Park hotel for 26 years.

She is survived by her husband, Eli A. Nuckolls, a step-son, Virgil Nuckolls of the U. S. army, two brothers, Bud Bain and Mollie Bain of Chico; her mother, Susan Clements of Chico and two nieces, Mrs. Luc Mealia Freitas and Mrs. Marie Kie both of Chico.

Funeral arrangements will be announced later by Black, Johnson & Brusie.



NUCKOLLS, Mrs. Elvira  
The Sacramento Bee  
3-22-1944

## Burns Prove Fatal To Woman In Chico

CHICO (Butte Co.), March 22.—Mrs. Elvira Nuckolls, 57, died in the Enloe Hospital early this morning of burns suffered early yesterday when her home in the Chico Indian Village was destroyed by fire.

Mrs. Nuckolls and her husband, Eli A. Nuckolls, were rescued from their burning home by neighbors. Mrs. Nuckolls was burned severely on the face, arms and back. Her

husband who suffered less serious burns is recovering in the hospital.

Mrs. Nuckolls was born in Tehama County and resided in Chico for the last 50 years.

Besides the husband the survivors include her mother, Mrs. Susan Clements, and her brothers Bud and Molin Bain of Chico.

NUCKOLLS, Mrs. Elvira

The Chico Enterprise

3-23-1944

# Rites Saturday For Mrs. Nuckolls

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Friends are invited to attend the funeral services to be held at the church chapel in the Indian Village on Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock for Mrs. Elvira Nuckolls, lifetime resident of this community who died Wednesday from complications arising after suffering severe burns when her home was destroyed by fire early last Monday morning. Rev. Harris Pillsbury of Bidwell Memorial Presbyterian church will officiate and interment will be in the cemetery beside the chapel.

MULLINS, Daniel Q.  
Oroville Mercury Register  
10-2-1944

## Rites for Boy of 13

Rosary services for Daniel Q. Mullins, 13, of Oroville, who died at an Indian school at Stewart, Nev., Wednesday from injuries received a year ago when he was burned by chemicals, will be held at 8 p. m. Wednesday at Hamilton and Riley's. Rosary will be recited by the Rev. Father Patrick Donnelly. Burial will take place at 10 a. m. Thursday in Yankee Hill cemetery.

Note: Burial in Clark Family Cemetery in Yankee Hill, Butte County