



Quarterly Bulletin of the Calaveras County Historical Society
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EARLY DAYS OF THE CALAVERAS RANGER DISTRICT

Information for this article provided by U.S. Forest Service employees Mary Kress, Pamela Connors and retired Calaveras District Ranger Bill Lunsford.

The Stanislaus Forest Reserve, which later was to become the Stanislaus National Forest, came into being on Feb. 22, 1897, by the proclamation of President Grover Cleveland.

It was named for the Indian Chief Estanislao who in 1829 led a revolt against the Mexican rulers of Central California and who was defeated by Mexican cavalry near the confluence of what is now the Stanislaus River.

Originally, the area included portions of what are now
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BOSSE FAMILY BELIEVED IN HARD WORK AND RICHNESS OF THE LAND

By Rosemary Bosse Faulkner

The lush meadow with its green pastures, apple orchard, barns and gracious family home flanking the South Fork of the Mokelumne River recently sold.

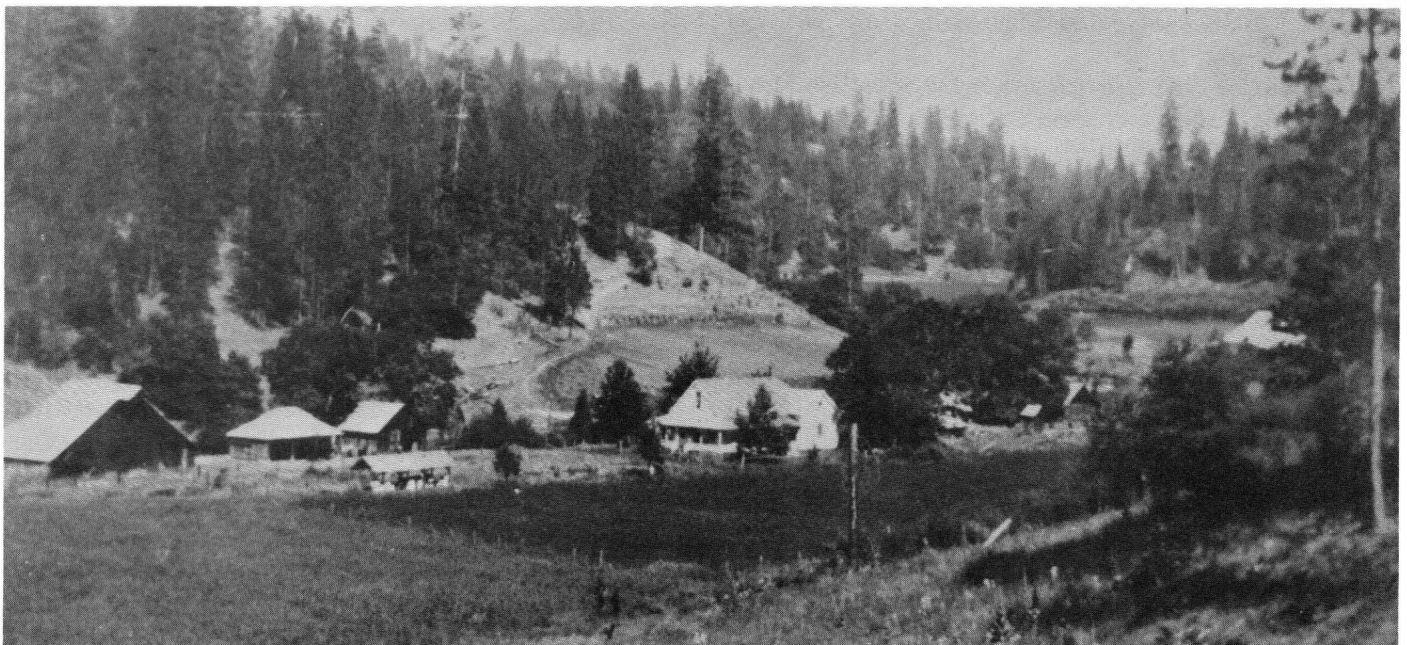
The new owner has made many changes — even changed its name — but to old timers of Calaveras County it will always be “The Bosse Ranch”.

From that day as a youth, more than 80 years ago when he first saw it, Henry Edward Bosse made up his mind he would own that land which many people have since described as “the prettiest meadow in Calaveras County.”

That 50 acres of meadowland became the centerpiece of the Bosse family holdings from which Henry Bosse, during his lifetime, slowly expanded his empire to develop one of the most prominent and successful ranches in Calaveras County.

Henry’s father, William Frederick Bosse, in 1880 encouraged by his wife’s parents, Henry and Augusta Winkler and his brother-in-law Fred Winkler Sr. who had earlier migrated to America from Germany, also left Germany and joined the Winklers in Rail Road Flat.

In taking passage to the U.S. William Bosse left be-
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Bosse Ranch in South Fork Meadow, 1932

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hind him (temporarily) his wife, Johanne Marie Winkler Bosse and their three children, Henry, 8, Sophia Augusta Bosse, 6, and William F. Bosse Jr., age 4.

William at that time was 38 years old and Johanne was 40. They had been married in the province of Hanover and their home was near the Black Forest.

Upon his arrival in America, one of the first steps taken by William Frederick Bosse was to file a declaration of intention to become a U.S. citizen, although it was not until March 3, 1892, that his citizenship was granted.

In December, 1881, William Bosse and Fred Winkler purchased 320 acres on Summit Level ridge from G. Dasso, a merchant, for \$360. Both he and Winkler listed their occupations as farmers.

Bosse at that time had a seasonal job plowing for Dr. Locke, in the community of Lockeford and at the same time, set about building a one-room cabin on the Summit Level land where he planned to farm and cut sugar pine shakes.

In the summer of 1882 Johanne Bosse sold her home in Germany, packed her trunks and with her three children, sailed for America to join her husband.

They disembarked in Baltimore, Maryland, and there 10-year-old Henry Bosse for the first time in his life, saw a Negro. The black man, who was a porter, told young Bosse in very good German dialect, "when you've been here as long as I have, you'll be as black as I am."

Johanne Bosse, unfamiliar with American geography, purchased train passage to Chicago but did not buy tickets for remainder of the journey to California.

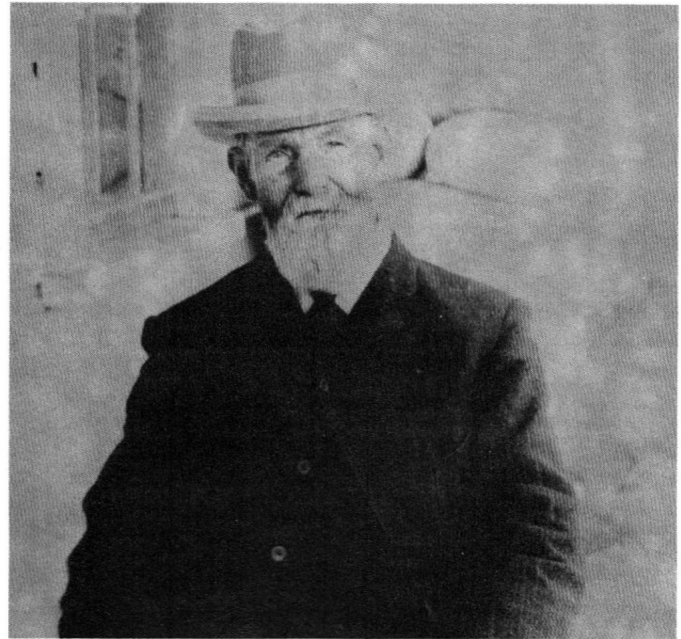
She and her little family boarded the train but before they left the station a drummer joined the travelers and began selling a medical book about treatment of illnesses they would encounter in this country. Johanne, thinking it would be a wise purchase, unpinned her bankroll from the bosom of her dress to pay for the book. The salesman grabbed the roll of money and fled.

Astounded, embarrassed, and because she spoke no English, Johanne Bosse made no outcry over her loss.

The train arrived in Chicago and without funds, the distraught mother and her children found themselves shunted off to what was then known as the county "poor house."

It was a dreary and frightening six months for the little family before William Bosse was able to scrape together the money to bring his wife and children to Calaveras County.

But, the reuniting of the Bosse family brought no immediate end to hardship.



William Frederick Bosse, 1910

Johanne and the children arrived in the fall and with her husband moved into the crude little Summit Level cabin which lay south of Blue Mountain and north of the present town of Arnold.

Winter came, bringing with it a severe snow storm and the Bosses found themselves without provisions. William Bosse did not even own a gun with which to shoot a deer or squirrel and they were virtually starving.

Bosse had heard of the store in Rail Road Flat, owned by Edwin Taylor (grandfather of Tom and Eva Taylor) and with 12-year-old Henry, started the seven mile trip down the snow covered ridge.

Edwin Taylor, without questioning Bosse's ability to repay him, provided them with all the supplies they could carry. Young Henry with 50 pounds of flour, sugar and coffee on his back, finally in the deep snow had to divide his load, take part ahead, then return for the remainder. With this relay system they made it back to the cabin that night.

For a boy who had known hunger for several days before the trip to Taylor's store, there was no complaining, just gratitude.

Taylor's generosity so impressed Henry Bosse that he dedicated himself to doing favors for the Taylors for the rest of his life. Those favors included building repair, hauling freight, digging of the well which still is in use and patronizing the Taylor store.

The Bosses soon moved to property the Winklers

owned on Swiss Ranch Road and in January, 1884, Johanne Bosse gave birth to their last child, Charles Frank Bosse.

While the family had lived on the Summit Henry and Sophia walked six miles to school at Big Trees. The school was located where the Ranger Station now stands.

Henry's shoes, which had belonged to his father, hurt his feet, so he would walk barefooted until he neared the school, then put the shoes on. He never looked forward to recess for the shoes hurt when he ran or played with the other youngsters.

But classes for Henry and Sophoia did not last long. With the equivalent of eighth grade educations they left school and Henry Bosse's first job was clearing brush for the Hartsook family in the Esperanza Valley at what is now the Varnazza Ranch. He was 13 or 14 years old and his earnings were \$1 per day and two meals.

In 1887, when he was 15, Henry went to work at the Angels or Utica Mine in Angels Camp as an errand boy for the mine superintendent and carriage driver for his wife. His ambition was to make enough money to build his mother a nice home on the 160 acres his father had homesteaded in 1886 on Swiss Ranch Road.

The late 1880's and 1890's brought with them a somewhat easier life for the Bosses as they acquired additional land and their economic situation improved.

William Edward Bosse through hard work and perseverance provided for his family, ranching and working at whatever jobs were available.

They rejoiced in 1891 when 17-year-old Sophia married lumberman Frank Towle, of San Andreas, but the family's joy was marred later that year when Willie Bosse, 15, became lost and died of exposure when overtaken by darkness while searching for a lost milk cow. He was buried on the Bosse Ranch at the eastern end of Swiss Ranch Road.

Tax records show that in 1895 William Edward Bosse was owner of 160 acres, livestock, wagon and improved house with a value of \$590 on which he paid \$14.10 in taxes. His son, Henry, owned 151 acres on Swiss Ranch Road with improved cabin, fence, horses and personal property valued at \$715 on which he paid taxes of \$17.16. By 1900 the value of his holdings had increased to \$1,060.

The year 1900 arrived and it was an important one for the Bosse family.

Henry Bosse, now 28, after working as a laborer while boarding at the Alphonse Rodesino home in Mountain Ranch, had begun driving freight teams from Valley Springs to the Domenghini Store in Mountain Ranch and to the Sheep Ranch Mine.



**Louise Sandoz and Henry Edward Bosse
on their wedding day in 1908.**

But more important, that was the year he built the new home on Sheep Ranch Road for his mother and acquired the 50-acre meadow on the South Fork of the Mokelumne that was to become the heart of one of Calaveras County's most prominent ranches.

He had first seen the property, then the Guillemin Homestead and Mine, when as a young teenager he had walked from the Bosse home on Swiss Ranch Road to buy apples from the Guillemins. He returned with the apples and the firm resolution that he would one day own that ranch and spend his life there.

Following his purchase of the river property Henry Bosse took a year off to attend the York School of Business in Stockton. He returned to the ranch, which had a small house and barn on it, and began clearing land and making other improvements while working as a ditch tender on the Clark Ditch which ran through his South Fork property to Mokelumne Hill. For extra cash he even boarded Mr. Price, the local school teacher.

He also worked at the Swiss Mine and it was in 1904 while employed there he met his future bride, Louise Sandoz, when she and her sisters walked over from their home on the Licking Fork to visit their uncle, Leon Ponge, who owned the mine.

On Jan. 13, 1906, Johanne Bosse died of pneumonia at age 66 and was laid to rest in Peoples Cemetery, in San

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Andreas. Henry Bosse always remembered the hardships his mother had undergone in her adopted land and one of his deepest regrets was that she could not have lived longer in her new, comfortable home.

The following year Henry Bosse expanded his holdings with the purchase of 160 acres of government land that lay between his meadow land and the Laidet Ranch. This is the site of the old sawmill flat that adjoins what is now known as the Enchanted Hills Ranch.

On November 11, 1908, ending a four-year courtship, Henry Bosse, 36 and Louise Sandoz, 22, were married in the parlor of the Sandoz home.

Henry provided as his dowry 831 acres, mortgage free. This land included 151 acres on Swiss Ranch Road purchased in 1893; the 160-acre sawmill flat property; 160 acres homesteaded from the government joining the 50 acres he had purchased from the Guillemins and 160 acres on Swiss Ranch Road, given to him by his father.

In addition he had added three rooms to his home in the meadow and built the area's first indoor bathroom with tub and flush toilet. The indoor toilet did not meet with approval of his bride's mother who said it was unsanitary and refused to enter the house on her first visit to her daughter's new home.

The home eventually was expanded to 11 rooms and served the Bosse family until it burned in 1948.

During the first years of their marriage Henry continued to work in the mines while operating the ranch, adding outbuildings and building an underground root cellar that still is in use today.

Henry and Louise's first child, christened Paul Henry Bosse, was born at home with the assistance of a mid-wife on Oct. 8, 1909.



Henry Bosse with his sister, Sophie, in 1950.

There were seven Bosse children in all, including David, who died in infancy only weeks after his birth in January 1911. The others included twins Edward Louis and Ernest William, born March 12, 1912; Harry, born in 1913; Ruth Emma, born in September, 1915, and Rosemary, born April 6, 1924.

Henry's father, William Edward Bosse, died Jan. 12, 1915, and was buried beside his wife in the San Andreas cemetery.

In addition to livestock, Henry grew apples, beans and potatoes on the river acreage. It was his aim to make the produce raised there pay the taxes and living expenses for his family and to use the money derived from sale of cattle for purchase of more land.

He butchered a beef each week, established a route, selling the meat and produce to boarding houses at the mines and in doing so, well exceeded his financial goal. When mining began to decline he discontinued the meat sales but continued the produce route until 1940.

It was hard work and long hours for Henry and Louise Bosse who in addition to cooking, household chores and caring for her small children, often worked beside her husband in the fields.

One evening a neighbor saw the Bosse wagon returning from a delivery trip with no Henry Bosse on the wagon seat. Alarmed, he investigated and found Bosse asleep on the wagon floor, the horses dutifully plodding toward home.

1915 also was the year the Bosses joined the automobile age. Henry Bosse purchased a 1915 Model T Ford touring car from George Stewart, in San Andreas, and travel became a bit easier.

In 1917 Bosse bought the Tone Ranch and in 1918, purchased 220 acres on Pine Ridge from the Swank and Marshall families. The following year at a tax sale he bought the 157-acre Gallagher Homestead on the old stage road east of Rail Road Flat.

By that time he had turned over to his brother Charley and his sister Sophia, his part of his father's homestead on Swiss Ranch Road. That same year he also sold to Joseph Dell 'Orto, the last of his holdings along Swiss Ranch Road.

Over the years, virtually all Bosse land transactions retained one striking similarity. Each acquisition or sale, regardless of price paid, was worded, "for the amount of \$10 and other valuable considerations." In this way, neither buyer nor seller had to publicly disclose the price paid for the land.

World War I came and went, bringing an end to tem-

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the Inyo and El Dorado National Forests. Its boundaries were adjusted and its name was changed from forest reserve to National Forest in 1908 by executive order of President Theodore Roosevelt.

John B. Dotty, reportedly a member of Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders, is credited with being the first supervisor of the Stanislaus National Forest. During the early years he had no official office and worked out of his home, patrolling the area with a saddle horse and pack horse.

There is no record of the date when the Stanislaus Forest was divided into individual ranger districts. Originally, the present Summit Ranger District was known as the Pinecrest District and the Calaveras Ranger District was known as the Mokelumne District.

"When the first ranger districts were established at turn of the century the district ranger was primarily a custodian," said now retired District Ranger Bill Lunsford, in a 1960's report on use of forest resources.

"Demand for and use of national forest resources was light, consisting largely of timber harvest and livestock grazing with mining a minor use. Fire suppression and trail maintenance were important responsibilities while recreation, water resources and wildlife management were of lesser concern.

An area assigned to a district ranger was usually determined by the amount of area he could cover on foot or on horseback a couple of times a year. Help, if any, was seasonal."

Exactly when the Mokelumne Ranger District (later to become the Calaveras District) was established is not known, but in 1912 the U.S. Forest Service had acquired at least five sites for ranger stations and guard stations within that district.

On Nov. 5, 1907, 160 acres was set aside for a guard station at Wheat's Meadow and in June, 1908, 121.29 acres southwest of Avery where the present U.S. Forest Service shops and storage area is located, was acquired for district headquarters to be known as the Calaveras Ranger Station.

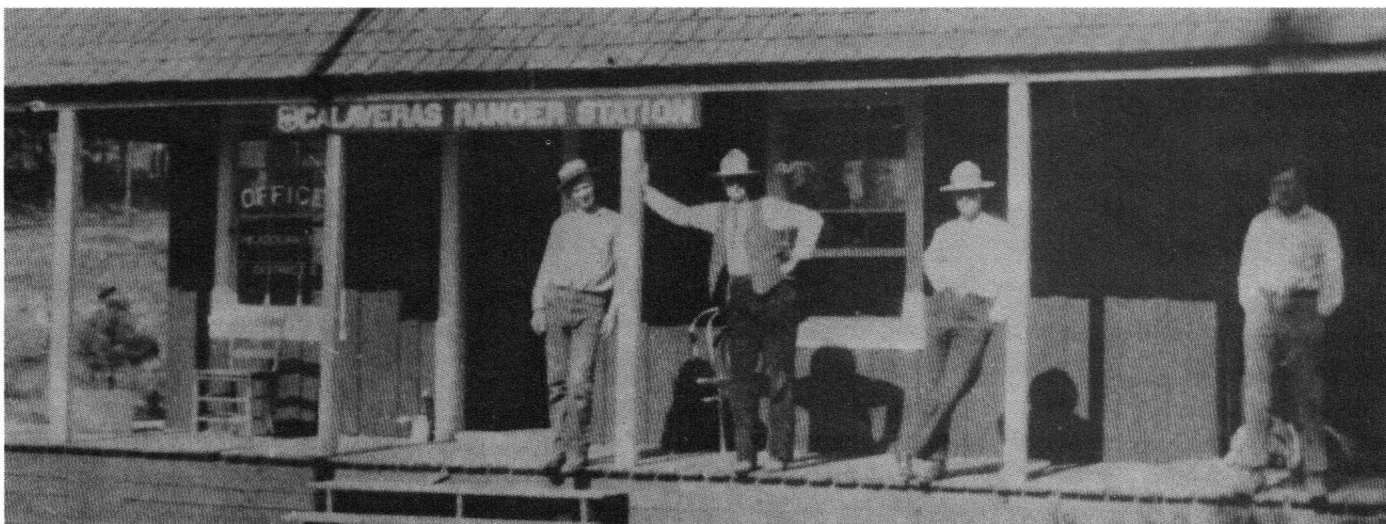
The following year 40 acres on the edge of Bear Valley was withdrawn from the Harvey Blood homestead, for use as a guard station. In 1911, 40 acres near the Sandoz Ranch on the Licking Fork of the Mokelumne was set aside for a ranger station and a lookout was in operation on top of Blue Mountain.

The late Mel Hamby, of San Andreas and Angels Camp, manned the Blue Mountain Lookout in 1913 and the Folsom Lookout during the 1930's. Following his retirement from the Forest Service, Mel and his wife owned and operated the Hotel Treat, in San Andreas, now the Black Bart Inn.

Gradually, guard stations which were manned on a seasonal basis were established at Creighton's Meadow, Dry Meadows, Buck Ranch and Moran's.

The Folsom Lookout, located 10 miles east of West Point, was named after the Folsom family which homesteaded Hunter Flat around 1850. Sam Folsom rode from

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Calaveras Ranger Station at Avery, June, 1910. (L to R) E.H. Thraves, P.Y. Lewis and Ranger Willard L. Sears. Man on right is unidentified. Above building destroyed by fire, 1916.

(R. W. Ayres photo album)

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his cabin at Hunter Flat to serve as the first lookout there. The first tower was a platform in a tree. It was not until 1919 that a guard station was built there.

The Calaveras Ranger Station at Avery burned in 1916 but was rebuilt and continued to serve as district headquarters for a number of years.

Because of the distance from Avery to the eastern end of the Calaveras District, that area during the early days was administered from Brightman's Flat or Pinecrest, says Harry Schimke, of Sonora and Bear Valley, who recently retired after some 30 years with the Forest Service here.

Despite the efforts of Forest Service personnel in Calaveras Ranger District and in the Stanislaus Forest Headquarters in Sonora, there is no complete record of the men who, over the years, served as Calaveras District Rangers.

From research completed by Lunsford, and by Forest Service employees Mary Kress and Pamela Conners, it appears that Willard L. Sears probably was the first district ranger, possibly as early as 1908 or 1909. He served as district ranger at least until 1911 and his assistants at the Calaveras station were E.H. Thraves and F.A. Robinson. A B. Ford also is listed as an assistant ranger and P.Y. Lewis was listed as being stationed at Wheat's Meadow.

Sears appears to have been succeeded by Robinson, who was then followed by Joe Elliott Sr., who had for several years been in charge of the Mokelumne Station on the Licking Fork.

A U.S. Forest Service newsletter notes that Ranger Elliott and Anita Zimmerman, on Dec. 18, 1911, were



**U.S. Forest Service guard station
at Wheat's Meadow, 1911.**

(From R. W. Ayres' album)

married in San Andreas and planned to make their home at the Mokelumne Ranger Station.

That same year a phone line between Blue Mountain Lookout and the Mokelumne Ranger Station was completed.

The installation of phones, according to the forest service publication, raised a new question.

"When a ranger or fire guard finds himself half-way between a fire and a phone, should he go back to the phone and call for help or should he proceed to the fire and fight it alone?"

Although the newsletter raised the question, it did not provide an answer.

The Forest Service records do not indicate how long Elliott served as district ranger or who succeeded him. Records do show that Bud Lewis was district ranger in 1918 and that Ranger Creston C. Booth headed the district from 1920 until 1927.

Ranger Neil L. Perkins served as ranger from 1927 to 1930.

There is no record for the period from 1930 to 1933, but from 1933 until 1941, A.E. Freer was district ranger.

There is another lapse in the records from 1941 to 1947, and then, Ranger Ralph G. Brown headed the district until 1954. It was under Brown's regime that the district office was moved to San Andreas, where it was housed in the Hubery Building, on North Main Street.

Brown's position was taken by Stanley R. Zeger who headed the ranger district until 1957 when Bill Lunsford was appointed to succeed him.

Lunsford served as district ranger until he retired in 1981, and it was while he headed the district that its

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GOLD RUSH MINERS FEARED SPECTRE OF HORRENDOUS MIN

Many a Gold Rush miner, overtaken by darkness while headed for camp from the diggings' or who had tarried too long at some tenthouse saloon, cast uneasy glances over his shoulder, fearing that each imagined sound spelled the approach of "Horrendous Min," the dreaded "Calaveras Constrictor."

Horrendous Min, who began preying on wandering miners after depleting the population of Calaveras and Tuolumne County grizzly bears, sprang full-blown from the pages of the Sonora Herald, the product of the fertile imagination of W.E. "Lying Jim" Townsend.

Townsend, whom Bret Harte referred to as "Truthful James," in his tale of the "Heathen Chinees," arrived in San Francisco in 1849 after a trip around the Horn. He quickly determined that for him, there was richer pay dirt in the printed page than in the river gravels of the Mother Lode.

Early 1850 found "Lying Jim" editing the Sonora Herald, assisted by the young man 16 years his junior, named Bret Harte.

And, not long after Jim's arrival in Sonora, the "Calaveras Constrictor" made its appearance, causing the more gullible and supersititious of the mining clan to adopt a cautious attitude about roaming the hills at night.

Horrendous Min, according to the Herald, arrived in the gold fields with her owner who had migrated from the South Seas. With her huge claws she at first was a great help to him while mining gold, said Lying Jim, but as she grew, her appetite grew with her.

She became so big that she could stop the flow of a river when she crossed it.

Soon, unable to dig gold fast enough to feed Min and himself, too, her master possibly fearing for his own safety, turned her loose.

That, said the Herald, was when Horrendous Min

began eating cattle, bears and unwary miners.

If a miner disappeared, quite possibly having packed up and moved to another camp, stories circulated that he had fallen victim of the dreaded constrictor.

Saloon owners complained that their business was falling off because their patrons were afraid to travel the roads and trails at night when Horrendous Min was said to be on the prowl.

Pictures of the Calaveras Constrictor, drawn from the descriptions of witnesses who claimed to have seen her, varied widely. Some depicted her as a large, fat snake while others appeared suspiciously similar in looks to a gila-monster or monitor lizard.

Jim Townsend, for all of his literary absurdities, was an editor and journalist of note, and he stayed not long in Tuolumne County.

From Sonora his path led to San Francisco where he edited the Golden Era, leading newspaper of its day, and on to Virginia City and the Territorial Enterprise. And with him much of the time was Bret Harte.

It has been said that it was Lying Jim's repertoire of tall tales which supplied the thread from which Bret Harte eventually wove many of his own stories.

In fact, Herb Hamlin, for many years editor of The Pony Express, credits Jim Townsend with telling the story of the Calaveras Jumping Frog long before Sam Clemens ever saw Angels Camp.

Whether this is true remains a point of conjecture. But one thing is known for sure. With Lying Jim's departure from the Sonora Herald, Horrendous Min's dreaded depredations ceased.

Jim moved on to Bodie, Benton, Mammoth Lakes and Lundy, wherever there was a case of type and a printing press.

Start of the new century saw Townsend, at age 77, reunited with family in Illinois, where he passed away.

But his stories that for four decades drew chuckles from residents of Mother Lode and Comstock mining camps, live on.

And, on dark nights travelers along lonely Mother Lode trails sometimes still glance uneasily over their shoulders at mysterious and unexplained sounds.

Lying Jim Townsend is gone, but what about Horrendous Min?

IN MEMORIAM

Earl Blazer, Stockton, April 7, 1987

Lund A. Johnson, Murphys, August 3, 1987

Joseph (Bill) White, San Andreas, August 21, 1987

Elizabeth L. Day, Murphys, August 27, 1987

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headquarters were moved back to within the boundary of the Stanislaus National Forest.

In March, 1965, the district office was moved into quarters in Cedar Center, in Arnold, where it remained until June 7, 1979, when it moved to its present site on Highway 4 in Hathaway Pines.

Lunsford's position was taken by Ranger John C. Larson, who headed the district until 1986, and he now has been succeeded as district ranger by Kimberley Evart Bown, who continues to hold that position.

“BUD” PONTE INSTALLED AS PRESIDENT FOR 1987-88

On July 23rd Gloyd A. “Bud” Ponte, member of a pioneer Calaveras County family, became president of the Calaveras County Historical Society for 1987-88.

Ponte, a retired federal administrator who lives near Fricot City on historic San Antone Ridge, has long held a deep interest in the history of the Gold Rush and the Mother Lode.

He accepted the gavel from outgoing President Lorraine Kennedy during installation ceremonies at a dinner meeting in the Metropolitan Dinner Theater in San Andreas.

Mrs. Kennedy, who was completing her second term as president, now will serve for the coming year on the historical society’s board of directors.

Other officers who will serve during 1987-88 include



**New President Bud Ponte accepts gavel
from Past President Lorraine Kennedy.**

Courtesy, Calaveras Enterprise

Don Cuneo, reelected to serve a third term as vice-president; Sandie Cuneo, recording secretary; Lillian Filippini, reelected financial secretary and Ruth Matson, reelected treasurer.

Serving on the board of directors for the coming year will be George Beaman, Richard Barger, Carmenne Poore and Mrs. Kennedy.

Installing officer was Robert Bonta, member of the San Joaquin County Historical Society and longtime member of the Calaveras County Historical Society.

1987 ARCHITECTURAL AWARD GOES TO JESUS MARIA HOME

A carefully restored 1860 Jesus Maria Road ranch home has won the Calaveras County Historical Society’s 1987 architectural award.

Nearly three years of work and planning by delta rancher and businessman Ray Moresco and his wife, Joanne, have gone into the restoration and refurbishing of the 127-year-old Largomarsino-Giuffra home which overlooks the historic Jesus-Maria mining area.

The original dwelling was built in 1860 by Agostino Largomarsino and his wife, Angela, who came to Calaveras county from Italy in the mid-1850’s.

Around their new home they planted a vineyard and olive orchard whose gnarled trees still bear masses of oil-rich fruit.

One of the structures meticulously restored by the



The restored Largomarsino-Giuffra home.

Morescos is a separate, adobe brick building in which the olives were processed.

In 1860 their daughter, Celistina, was born and a second daughter also was born there.

Celistina, for a number of years, taught school at Whiskey Slide, then married Antone Giuffra.

The Giuffras had two sons, Chester, who died as a young man, in 1919 and Alvin, who at age 92, is still living.

Celistina’s mother died in 1893 and her father passed away in 1905, at age 68. Upon his death, the ranch was inherited by Celistina Giuffra who lived until 1949.

Throughout his life, Alvin Giuffra who did not marry, lived on the ranch and raised registered Hereford cattle

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Award, cont. from pg. 8

until he sold the property to the Morescos in 1984.

Over the years time and the elements had taken their toll of the old Giuffra home and its outbuildings.

In taking over the property the Morescos were determined that in restoring it they would retain as much as possible of the original structures and the rustic ranch atmosphere.

A winding driveway shaded by the ancient olive trees leads up the hill from Jesus Maria Road to the beautifully restored home.

In addition to rebuilding the balconies and balustrades, they have made ample use of native stone to refurbish and rebuild much of the exterior areas.

Period furniture and artifacts also help retain the feeling that this is an original Mother Lode home.

In addition to the house itself, the Morescos have restored the old pole framed barn and a root cellar.

Exterior walls were sandblasted, then sealed to preserve them, and much of the interior woodwork, including bannisters and stairway, was done by the Morescos' son.

Selection of this old home for the historical society's 1987 award was made by a committee chaired by Roberta Kenyon, of Mountain Ranch.

Serving with her on the committee was her husband, Ozzie Kenyon; George K. (Dutch) Schwoerer and his wife, Lucy, of Valley Springs; Jack and Lorryne Kennedy, of San Andreas; and Shirley Huberty, of Mountain Ranch.

Bosse Family, cont. from pg. 4

porary shortages and use of such commodities as weavilly flour.

In August, 1921, the County of Calaveras called for bids on construction of five miles of road between Doe Road and Jesus Maria Creek, to be known as "The Esperanza Grade Road and Highway."

This new route, essentially the same one we travel today, was to eliminate a steep, winding road that dipped into Jesus Maria Canyon.

Henry Bosse submitted a low bid of \$14,975.25, some \$4,000 below the next lowest bid and bets were placed that he would go broke on the project.

The work was done with horse drawn Fresno scrapers, picks and shovels assisted by blasting and a horse drawn grader still in the family. The project was completed three weeks ahead of schedule.

With the road project a financial success, Bosse between 1921 and 1923 completed three more of his "\$10" land transactions and added 457 acres in the Silver Gulch area to his land holdings.

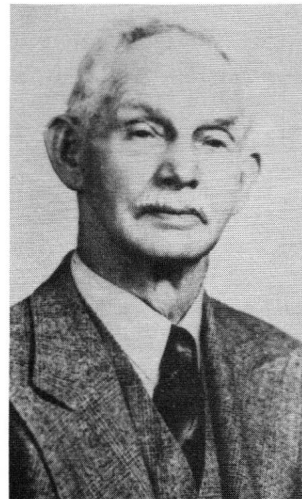
He also bought a 1922 Dodge from Charley Joy, of San Andreas. The old car still was in use on the ranch in 1941.

The 1920's were prosperous years for the Henry Bosse family as the older children attended school and helped with the ranch chores.

Rosemary, the Bosse's last child, was born in April, 1924.

Meanwhile, Charles Bosse married Beryl Elizabeth Bond on March 23, 1917, and a daughter, June Lenore, was born June 1, 1918.

Beryl gave birth to a second child, William Maxwell



Henry and Louise Bosse, photos taken in 1948.

Bosse, in May, 1922, but she did not recover and died in Stockton on July 5.

Their daughter, June, was taken into the Arnold family, for whom the town of Arnold is named.

William Maxwell Bosse, a frail child, went to live with the Hoffman family in Mountain Ranch where plenty of goats milk, prescribed by a doctor, was available.

Charley Bosse, who dropped out of sight after going to work on a ranch in Oregon, was officially declared dead at the end of seven years and his son, Bill, in 1929, came to live with the Henry Bosse family. His sister, June, although under the legal guardianship of Henry and Louise Bosse, chose to remain with the Arnolds.

Bill graduated from local schools, served in the Army during World War II, and now is retired in Oregon.

The year 1929 brought with it the Great Depression, but actually, the depression had little effect on the lives of the Bosses, since they were largely self-sufficient.

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Bosse Family, cont, from pg. 9

Henry Bosse, unaware the banks were closed, went to San Andreas to withdraw money for alfalfa seed. Unable to get cash for the seed, he wrote to the seed company which sent him the seed on credit.

Later, during the depression years, Bosse for a time, went into the sheep business. But depredation by coyotes, shearing problems, and the pure, dumb cussedness of sheep led him to abandon the project.

In 1934, Harry Bosse married Lilith Von Aspern, of Valley Springs. At that time he was driving truck for the Berry Lumber Company.

Ruth, who after graduation from high school lived in Stockton and kept house for the Eberharts (he was President of Bank of Stockton) while she saved money to continue her education and become a teacher. In the summer of 1936 she married Joseph Harry Freeman and the following year she enrolled in Dodd's Teaching Normal, in Berkeley.

Paul Bosse, on Dec. 24, 1939, married Ruth Berry. He had at that time been employed for several years at the Berry sawmill.

During the 1930's the Bosses also became involved in their own sawmill business with Percy and Sadie Hunt, with a mill on the river at the property line next to Laidets. Paul was the logger for the operation, and after the Hunts sold to Sam Witty and John Swartz, Paul purchased Swartz' interest and became a partner with Witty.

Henry Bosse continued to add land to the ranch, purchasing the 148 acre Martel place, near Fort Mountain, at a tax sale and 160 acres west of Fort Mountain, from Peter Dahl.

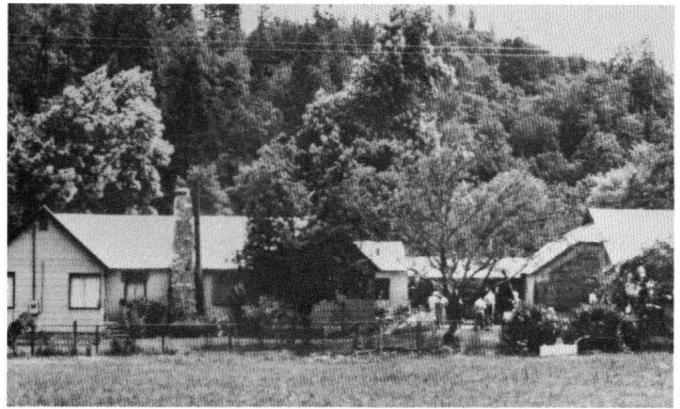
Also, homestead patents of 640 acres and 443 acres were recorded in the names of Edward and Ernest Bosse, even though Edward was deceased.

In 1941 Rosemary Bosse graduated from high school and a year later married Roy Taylor, her high school sweetheart.

In 1944 Henry Bosse bought 320 acres southwest of Fort Mountain known as the Cook place and another 574 acres from Virgil Thompson that extended his holdings from the river almost to Rail Road Flat and to the Banner School. That was the last land acquisition and with that purchase the Bosse Ranch comprised 3,763 acres.

The following year Wickman and Sullivan, of Jackson, constructed a sawmill on what had been the Cook property, and as a result, a new road which is now the present county road, was built and PG&E electricity was brought to the ranch.

The mill burned in 1948 and was not rebuilt.



New Bosse home after the fire of 1948.

That was the same year that a fire, started by sparks from the fireplace, destroyed the Bosse home in the meadow.

Henry Bosse and his sons, Harry and Ernest returned from a fence building job to find Louise Bosse sitting on a log near the river, gazing at the smoldering ruins and consoling herself with prayer.

She had been home alone when the fire started and the only thing she had been able to salvage was a laundry basket of washing and a few of her husband's clothes.

A new house was completed in 1950, but while the new home was being built Henry Bosse was injured in a collision with a logging truck near Mokelumne Hill. He never fully recovered, and operation of the ranch was turned over to his son, Harry, after the ranch was placed in a family trust.

Ernest later moved to San Joaquin County where he found ranch employment until he retired in 1975.

Henry Bosse died quietly on Jan. 5, 1957, 12 days before his 85th birthday. Louise Bosse passed away Aug. 14, 1969, at age 85. She was laid to rest beside her husband in the Rail Road Flat Cemetery.

In 1957 Harry married Esther Fitzsimmons of Lodi, and they operated the ranch until Harry decided to retire and the ranch was sold in 1981 to Gerald and Shirley Hodnefield of Monte Serena, who continue to operate it as a working livestock operation.

KIDS' LIFE ON BOSSE RANCH MIXTURE OF WORK AND PLAY

For the Bosse family, life on the river ranch was rich and rewarding.

Although even the youngest had chores and responsibilities, there was also love and a family cohesiveness — warmth and a sense of security — even in the most trying of times.

Plowing, planting, mowing, harvesting and threshing produce, tending livestock, was a way of life. But there was fun and good times, too. Parties and ice cream socials, school plays, church doings, visits from friends, hunting, fishing and walks in the hills.

In summer they met campers along the South Fork and many of these casual acquaintances blossomed into lasting friendships.

As Autumn arrived there was a special satisfaction, even for the children, when with crops harvested, fall butchering done, wood cut and stacked, livestock fattened and supplies for the coming months having arrived, the family eased back to await the coming of winter.

Mealtime was always one of the enjoyable interludes for the Bosse.

There were three big meals each day, cooked on the old iron wood stove. Each meal had to include potatoes and if there was not venison, (beef was for sale, not for eating at home) there was home cured ham, bacon or sausage from the cellar.

Louise Bosse made wonderful stews and twice each week baked six loaves of bread and a pan of biscuits. Sometimes she made a special treat, long strips of pan fried bread dough which her husband called "krollers." When time permitted, she made cinnamon rolls with a glaze of brown sugar and butter.

One of the things the Bosses were noted for was the quality of their hams, bacon, sausage and salami.

Each year they raised several hogs. When cold weather arrived and it became butchering time, Henry and the boys would go deer hunting on Blue Mountain. They wanted four or five big old bucks because the said their meat cured better in the sausage.

Henry was considered a good hunter and a good marksman. His goal was to kill 20 deer with a box of cartridges (there are 20 to a box) but the best he ever did was eighteen.

As he grew older, the hills steeper and he became a little less steady, he cut a forked applewood stick for a rifle rest.

One day his daughter, Ruth, dyeing some fabric in a wash boiler over an outdoor fire, needed a stick to stir the dye. She found her father's hunting stick in the woodshed and sawed it in half.

There may have never been an earthquake at the Bosse Ranch, but the hills shook that day when Henry Bosse discovered what she had done. His wife and Ruth hunted the orchard for days to find a similar stick that might suit him.

The Bosse family seldom had need of a doctor.

Louise Bosse treated illnesses such as colds, mumps, measles and chicken pox, and gathered herbs as preventive medicine.

Cough syrup was honey and molasses boiled with onions and there was Epsom salts for drinking and soaking sprains and sore muscles.

When the girls complained of menstrual cramps, treatment was a teaspoon of sugar with a few drops of turpentine. It was a marvelous medicine for once you took the cure, you never complained again.

The Bosse children attended classes in the Fine Gold School which originally was located at the intersection of Bosse and Laidet Roads.

However, a new school was built later on top of the ridge between the South Fork of the Mokelumne and the Licking Fork so children of the Licking Fork area could more easily attend.

Most of the pupils who attended the school came from related families. In 1923, for example, of the 18 youngsters enrolled, only five were not cousins.

By 1936 enrollment had dwindled to five, all from the South Fork side of the ridge, and classes were moved from the schoolhouse to an abandoned house near the Fine Gold Mine.

The last teacher was Bertha Dell 'Orto who taught there only about a year before the Fine Gold School was closed and consolidated with the Eureka School at Rail Road Flat.

During their seventh and eighth grade years, Rosemary Bosse and her cousin, Bill, walked five miles to attend classes at Rail Road Flat.

Life on the Bosse Ranch may not always have been easy, but seldom was it ever dull.



Harry Bosse inspects venison salami ready for the smokehouse.

EDITORIAL

A job well done . . .

Few persons, while serving as President of the Calaveras County Historical Society, have devoted as much time and energy toward the success of this organization than has our immediate Past-President Lorraine Kennedy.

Under her leadership, during the past two years, the society has prospered financially and grown in stature as a Mother Lode and early California history source.

Wise investment of historical society funds by our past-president and her board of directors has strengthened the organization. Mrs. Kennedy also helped push recently enacted state legislation which allows the State of California to turn over to our society, the now largely restored, historic Altaville School.

With her board of directors the past-president also helped rewrite the society's by-laws, revising and clarify-

ing numerous sections.

The historical society, with Mrs. Kennedy as president during 1986, published its Album of Early Calaveras County Schools, and more recently, at her instigation, reinstated the society's annual historical essay contest for Calaveras County school students.

And far beyond her responsibilities as historical society president, or the position she holds as county archivist, Mrs. Kennedy has devoted countless hours of her own time to the reorganization and cataloging of the county's historical data until Calaveras County now has one of the Mother Lode's finest and best organized archives.

As the now retired president of the county historical society, Mrs. Kennedy must be thanked for a job well done.

Calaveras County Historical Society

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The Calaveras County Historical Society, a non-profit corporation, meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Grange Hall in San Andreas — except for dinner meetings which are held each quarter at different places in the county.

The Society's office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 5:00. The telephone number is (209) 754-1058. Visitors are welcome.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members to the society:

Larry & Betty Carlson, Belmont
Mondell & Frances Darling, San Andreas
George & Marilyn Eichelberger, Lafayette
Jim Evans, Manteca
Jack & Ima Goldenberg, San Andreas
Milly & Dick Guiliani, Valley Springs
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