

Quarterly Bulletin of the Calaveras County Historical Society Volume XIII January, 1965 Number 2

# NEWSPAPERS IN CALAVERAS COUNTY

(From a paper presented to the Society on Nov. 19, 1964, by John R. Peterson, Publisher of the Calaveras Prospect and the Californian.)

Helen Giffen, in her book listing the mining town newspapers, states that from the very first days of the rush to the Mother Lode, printers' ink flowed freely, well mixed with the gold—and it is true that an astonishing number of newspapers did exist at that time. This county alone, as it exists today, has had at least 25 known papers since the CALAVERAS CHRONICLE was founded in Mokelumne Hill in 1851. Add at least half a dozen in Alpine County when it was in Calaveras, and at least as many more in the southwestern part of Amador, also once a part of Calaveras, and you arrive at a total of more than three dozen titles.

Perhaps a better picture is that drawn by Edward Kemble in his monumental history in the Christmas issue of the Sacramento Union in 1858 of the papers then in print. There were 69 in the area immediately surrounding Sacramento, with a combined circulation of about 190,000—some 20 or 30 thousand more than the total number of men, women, and children recorded two years later in the 1860 census for the entire state!

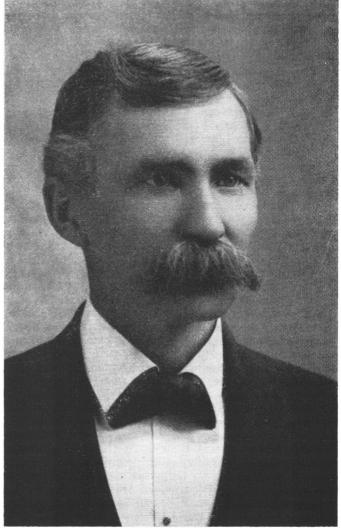
For purposes of convenience, I have divided the newspapers that have been or now are in the county into three categories: the short-lived, the long-lived, and the still living. This distinction, like any historical distinction, is an arbitrary one. I didn't make it, the readers did. In the end, in publishing, the readers always do.

The first group—the quickies—are those like the CALAVERAS TIMES, founded in San Andreas by L. M. Schrack on May 30, 1863, with A. C. Russell as editor. Its last issue was just short of four weeks later, in June of the same year—a feat surpassed, but only slightly, by another paper with a like name (the MARK TWAIN TIMES), established in Angels Camp one hundred years later—in June, too—which stayed around until October before quietly settling into oblivion.

In the second list are the papers, like the ancient CHRONICLE previously mentioned, that continued for a long time—half a century in several instances—before becoming a part of history.

The final group lists those papers that, for some reason or other, have so far managed to survive.

As we review the somewhat lengthy list, we shall also note the various fates that befell each paper. Some simply



CLARENCE W. GETCHELL

Founder of the PROSPECT in 1881 and Calaveras
County's most eminent editor

sank without a trace; even their last issues made no mention or gave no hint of impending doom. Some were merged with other papers—but as often as not, the mergers are implied by the abrupt and unexplained movement of names on mast heads, writing style and type faces rather than by any formal and public agreement or statement.

This may be as good a place as any to note that, although the newspapers of the Mother Lode have been given, quite justly, full credit by all historians of the era as being accurate and lively sources of information on almost every facet of that wondrous time—when the eyes of all the world were constantly attentive to this little part of the earth on which we walk every day—those same newspapers exercised a truly remarkable reticence when it came to writing about themselves. They are vastly informative about everything except newspapers.

Most of the Volumne One, Number One issues that I have read did, as would be expected, carry a brief account of the publisher's aims, often without giving the

name of either the publisher or the editor. When the names were there and did change, often with bewildering rapidity, these changes were only rarely explained, either in the paper involved, or in the columns of its competitor.

One exception to the rule of reticence was a column by an editor or publisher of the SAN ANDREAS REGISTER, heartrending in its piquant complaint:

"Those who think it an easy task to be an editor, even of a small county paper, should try it on—and they will never afterwards refuse to subscribe to a paper—and pay for it in advance..."

But this article, one of the longest in a paper about a paper, was not signed.

In chronological order, we start our review of the quick takes with the STAATS-ZEITUNG, a Germanlanguage paper begun by A. Wagner in 1854 in Mokelumne Hill. Its last known issue was in 1858, when Wagner left the town.

In the same year, employees of the Ditch Company put out a small paper called the PROSPECTOR, which was very popular with the miners but was somewhat more racy than a family man might want to have lying around. Its editors' names were kept secret, and so was everything else about it, including the date of the next issue—and even the place where it was printed, probably on a small proof press. Nobody knows how long it lasted, but the CHRONICLE stopped "cribbing" its cleaner jokes in 1856.

The CALAVERAS UNION was founded on October 11, 1856, by A. C. Lewis, in San Andreas, and its last(?) issue was on November 8th, the one carrying the news of the elections. It was, from first to last, a propaganda device for the Union Party, which nominated for President of the United States, in California at least, an obscure attorney from the midwest named Abraham Lincoln.

Next came the SAN ANDREAS INDEPENDENT, founded September 24, 1856 (a Wednesday) and published every Saturday by George Armor with B. P. Kooser, a printer who finished his hitch in the U. S. Army Artillery in California and decided to stay on. He later became editor and partner with Armor. The paper remained in Calaveras for five years, then moved to Stockton, becoming a daily in 1890. It was last published in 1915, two months short of its sixtieth birthday.

Meanwhile, in 1858, the BIG TREES BULLETIN made its appearance, printed on that massive stump that is now the center of the state park. After twelve issues, it moved to Murphys and changed its name to the MURPHYS ADVERTISER. Four issues later, Murphys was without a paper.

But not for long. Two weeks went by and the brandnew SEMI-WEEKLY NEWS OF MURPHYS, with J. Palache as editor and D. Youcham as co-publisher, hit the streets. It lasted twice as long as the Advertiser by putting out the same number of issues—four—but by taking twice as long to put out each one. It came out every two weeks for two months and nobody has heard of it since. Murphys hasn't had a newspaper since then, unless you consider the EBBETTS PASS WONDERLAND WEEKLY, established January 14, 1964, with Eleanor Peterson as editor, a Murphys paper.

A century before, on June 13, 1863, the SAN ANDREAS REGISTER, published by E. R. Tiel and costing \$5 a year, made its appearance. The REGISTER was, for a number

of reasons, one of the most interesting papers the county ever had. Its first named editor was J. G. Severance, whose advertisement as attorney at law appeared a year later, and who became district attorney a year after that. Meanwhile, its ownership passed over to L. W. Ransom and J. O. Beham, who also jointly owned the COPPER-OPOLIS COURIER (which had been established in 1865). By 1867, both papers appeared to be in financial trouble and the editorship passed to A. Severance, who was also an attorney and, unless the county has changed somewhat, was most probably a relative of J. G. A man named William Maxwell Denig joined the masthead for a brief period in early 1867, and he is just about the most fascinating person this little research job turned up. I'll have more to say about him later.

At any rate, notices appeared in the REGISTER that it was for sale, but apparently there were no takers. Then notices of a final date of publication (October 1, 1867) were published, together with the note that Beham owned the receivables from the COPPEROPOLIS COURIER. Ransom got them from the REGISTER and Denig got the titles to the two papers.

After Oct. 1, the papers were published with E. W. Bushyhead as publisher, and if you can't spot that as a phony name, you don't know how stubborn newspaper people can be. One month of this nonsense, and no REGISTER.\*

The MOUNTAIN NEWS was founded in October, 1867, by J. D. Spencer, whose paper in Woodbridge had just suspended publication. He brought along his Woodbridge subscription list as a starter. The NEWS was priced at \$5 a year and was carrier delivered in San Andreas. It claimed political independence, but for some reason the targets of all its attacks were Democrats, and all those it favored just happened to be Republicans. The NEWS never made it to its anniversary issue, leaving (perhaps for Woodbridge) in June 1868.

A paper called the CALAVERAS MOUNTAINEER, aimed at miners and their interests almost to the exclusion of everything else (including advertising), appeared in December, 1872, in Angels Camp, and disappeared the following March. The names of its publishers, editors and agents do not appear on any of its few pages.

The FOOTHILL DEMOCRAT, founded by William Frank Leavitt in San Andreas in February, 1875, rocked along for a year, when Leavitt left it, selling out to his brother George. He, in turn, kept it going for a month and then sold it to the CITIZEN on March 30, 1876.

The first Leavitt was later publisher of the CITIZEN. In August, 1879, San Andreas got another paper called the CALAVERAS ADVERTISER, with William O. Swenson as publisher. Swenson sold his paper to the CITIZEN too, two years later. Swenson had been editor of the

\*Publisher Peterson did not dig deep enough here. Judge Smith found an item in a contemporaneous paper explaining that Ned Bushyhead (there is a picture of him in the County Museum), ran the REGISTER for another year, with his friend, W. Jeff Gatewood, another district attorney, as editor. Then in the fall of '68, J. N. Briseno, a former employee of the CHRONICLE, acquired the assets of the REGISTER, and moved them, Editor Gatewood and all, to San Diego, to found the SAN DIEGO UNION. Whether the PROSPECT inherited the REGISTER'S name, as Peterson asserts later in his paper, has not been determined.—Ed.

CITIZEN from 1871 to 1876, and I can imagine that the owners of the CITIZEN took particular pleasure in effecting the purchase.

In 1890, Angels Camp got its second paper when Henry Wesson founded the ANGELS DEMOCRAT. There already was a paper in Angels called the RECORD, and the DEMOCRAT folded six months after it started, without note of its own obituary in its final issue.

The last of the short-termers were the CALAVERAS NEWS, also published in Angels from 1906 to 1912, and the CALAVERAS WEEKLY, published in Mokelumne Hill from 1940 to 1947, when Jessie Mayo, who by then owned all the other papers in the county, bought the name and subscription list and added the word "WEEKLY" to the PROSPECT & CITIZEN masthead.

In 1951, a free-circulation paper called the HIGHWAY SHOPPER made a brief appearance in the county. Its only lasting effect was the establishment of the CALA-VERAS SHOPPING NEWS, also a free-circulation paper, by Louis Petithomme, of the PROSPECT.

More than half the papers in the second group were in Angels Camp, so a brief history of that town as seen from the editor's chairs will accomplish our purpose.

First, the MONITOR was founded in May or June of 1879, with no mention of who was in charge. It continued its anonymous way for ten full years, when its name was changed to the MOUNTAIN ECHO, with Myron Reed as editor and publisher. Reed took in partners and let them go pretty fast: in '76 it was Fletcher, in '81 Reed alone, in '85 Leiginger, in '86 Torrey, and in '90 Hutchinson. In 1906, Reed's name left the masthead without explanation and the paper ceased publication a year later.

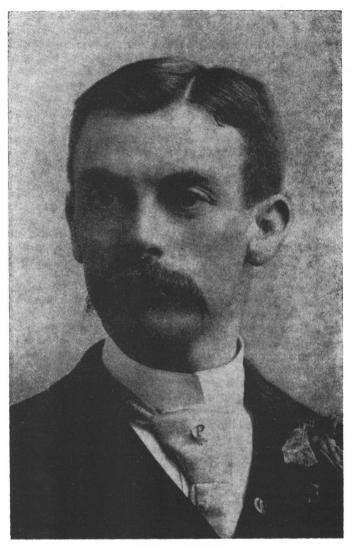
But not Reed. A paper named the CALAVERAS COUNTY RECORD had been formed in 1887 by E. F. Street as editor and with Waterman, Tulloch and Company as owners. Louis Tulloch was State Assemblyman from Tuoloumne County at the time, and the RECORD backed William O. Swenson—the same man who quit the CITIZEN, formed the ADVERTISER and then sold it to the CITIZEN—for District Attorney, never mentioning his opponent by name. The RECORD also called the ECHO'S Henry Leiginger "the ex-vegetable peddler who now disgraces the editorial chair of the little Echo"—although the ECHO was thrice its age and had twice its circulation at the time.

When the election results were finally published, Swenson, it appeared, had lost. Guess who won? Why, Myron Reed.

And when Myron Reed took office as district attorney in the January of 1890, the RECORD suddenly ceased publication. The ECHO went right on.

In 1899, another RECORD, this one the ANGELS CAMP RECORD, was started by S. A. Hoffman and J. C. Calhoun. It did better; it put the ECHO out of business in 1907 and outlasted the NEWS (1906-1912) and, with but one change of editor, kept going until 1919, when its editor-owner, Paul Weiss, simply stopped publishing it. This left Angels without a paper (or two) for the first time in 40 years.

In 1923, James Nugent started the CALAVERAS CALIFORNIAN in Angels, and it has already lasted more than 40 years—the whole life span of all the other Angels papers put together. Nugent bought the PROSPECT in San Andreas in 1926 and since then the CALIFORNIAN and the PROSPECT have had the same owners. A printer



OSCAR PFORTNER
Editor of the CITIZEN 1890-1906

Nugent hired in 1924 bought them in 1928 and parlayed them into a brief and brilliant career that ended in his, Senator Jesse Mayo's, sudden death in 1952. Mayo had sold the papers to Louis Petithomme in 1951, and he in turn sold them to James P. Wood in 1959. We took them over in October, 1961.

But now back to San Andreas for a while. When we left, the CITIZEN had been acquiring other papers one right after another. The CITIZEN was founded in 1871 by C. B. Woods. We already mentioned that Swenson was editor from 1871 to 1876 and that the FOOTHILL DEMOCRAT'S William Leavitt became a partner in 1874. In 1890, Oscar Pfortner took over and the paper under Pfortner became known far and wide as the Democratic organ of Calaveras County and a newspaper of strong opinion. In 1906, Sam J. Lewis purchased the CITIZEN. The owner-editor of the PROSPECT, Clarence W. Getchell, reacted by buying out the CHRONICLE, setting the stage for a long feud between the two San Andreas papers that was bound to cost one of them its life—if not both.

By 1926, Lewis had died, and the CITIZEN'S circulation had shrunk to a total of less than 400. Getchell then

merged the two papers, and both names have graced the flag ever since.

The CHRONICLE that Getchell bought in 1908 was, at the time, the oldest paper continuously published in the State of California, and it's no tribute to Getchell's awareness of history that he allowed the name to die. Hal Hunt reactivated the CHRONICLE in 1951, but soon sold his subscription list to the PROSPECT. One of the first things we did in 1961 was to put it back in our title. Mrs. Lewis was the first person to notice; she 'phoned us the next day to tell us what a wonderful idea it was.

The only paper in California that predates the CHRONICLE, the SONORA HERALD, suffered the same fate at the hands of the almost-as-old UNION DEMOCRAT 28 years before. The HERALD'S first issue was in

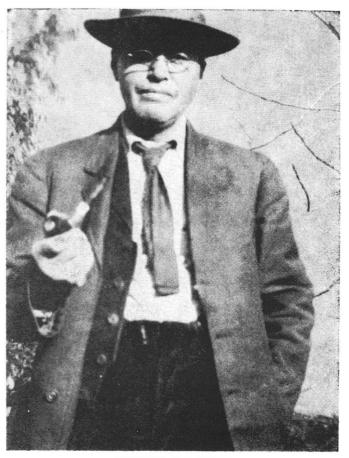
1850, the UNION DEMOCRAT'S in 1854.

The CHRONICLE was founded October 9, 1851, by H. Hamilton with H. A. DeCourcey, who had been editor of the NEVADA JOURNAL. DeCourcey was shot, but not fatally, in a duel a year later, and this cooled his ardor for editing, Hamilton taking over for a year. Then George Shuler became editor, and in 1857 was succeeded by J. M. Bengary. So it was already of age when the REGISTER in San Andreas started out with what soon turned into a verbal battle between the two papers and their towns over the best location for the county seat. This had been in Double Springs, Lancha Plana and Jackson before settling in Mokelumne Hill (by reason of a job of ballot box stuffing I'm sure you are aware of). The REGISTER poked particular fun at its senior in 1866 when it copied paragraphs of CHRONICLE editorials (misquoting them when it suited) and answering, item by item, the claims that the move would cost more than it was worth and other dire forebodings about the county treasury as well.

As you also no doubt well know, the CHRONICLE was quite right, even if it did lose the election. It took an act of the state legislature (printed as a legal notice in the REGISTER, but not in the CHRONICLE, to rub salt into the wounds) to bail the county out of the monetary mess brought on in large part by the move to San Andreas.

In 1872, Charles R. Higby took over the CHRONICLE, which had a paid circulation of 16,000, and under his pen it became one of the most frequently quoted papers, and one of the most influential, in the entire state. Lewis, who later took over the CITIZEN, worked for Higby. So did William Maxwell Denig. In 1881, Eugene E. Burce and Frank H. Day assumed ownership, and the mastheads in the ensuing years show many a change but always include one of the two. In '89, Burce alone is owner; in 1900, Day alone; in '02, Charles E. Day (probably a son), and in 1906, Burce again is all by himself. Yet when Getchell bought the paper in 1908, both Burce and Day were named as principals. The paper was then 58 years old, three years older than the CITIZEN was when the latter finally settled its grudge with the PROS-

This brings us down to the PROSPECT, founded in June, 1881, by Clarence W. Getchell, a native of St. Paul, Minnesota, and then 25 years old. His partner in the venture, a silent one (the very best kind), was Louis Salcido. Getchell's parents brought him to California the year he was born, settled in Drytown for a year, then went to Nevada and returned, when Getchell was 9, to California via the old Emigrant Trail over Ebbetts Pass.



SAMUEL J. LEWIS
Editor of the CITIZEN 1906-26

When he was 12, Getchell learned the printer's trade on the CITIZEN, shortly after it started. He later worked in Stockton, and became printing foreman of the UNION DEMOCRAT in 1869.

Getchell's Prospect was quite easily the best paper ever published in Calaveras County. He was, in spite of the brevity of his formal education, widely read and self-educated to a degree few of today's university-trained could match. His articles and editorials-some of them lively reading this very day-range over a wide, nearly encyclopedic span. Some of them are on subjects that are quite technical or involve a tremendous bridge of knowledge-yet his touch was always sure, his aim straight to the point. Getchell's paper also became widely influential, and Getchell himself made "Who's Who." What's more, the print that he got out of the antique equipment that he had was phenomenal, and elicited expressions of wonder in newspapers much better equipped than he was. All in all, Getchell was quite a man.

Clarence Getchell was, until he sold out to Nugent in 1926, the sole hand at the helm. Salcido died, and Fred Severy bought his interest from a niece in 1889. But before he sold to Nugent, Getchell had become in fact as well as in act, the sole man in charge.

The newest member of the third group, the survivors, is the CALAVERAS ENTERPRISE, founded by Jack E. Kemp, of Stockton, in September, 1963, and is published in San Andreas.

You will have noted, from these remarks, that the men involved in the Calaveras papers moved among them with fair ease. During the time he lived in the county, William Maxwell Denig virtually made a career of it.

A Pennsylvanian, Denig came to California via Nicaragua in September, 1854, and settled, since he was a bigcity boy, in the biggest mining city in California—Mokelumne Hill. He became an agent for the CHRONICLE and later appeared, briefly, as one of its owners. He also started an express business, which gave him the nickname "Pony."

One of the standing jobs for express men was delivering newspapers, and Denig quickly took advantage of the miners' insatiable thirst for the printed page, setting himself up as agent for papers in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Sacramento, as well as Angels Camp and San Andreas. He advertised his express business, including his agencies, in almost every paper that saw print in the county, becoming agent for many of them, too, and part owner of not a few. His name was, at one time or another, on the mastheads of the CITIZEN, the RECORD, the TIMES, the ADVERTISER and the COURIER. He was an original backer of the REGISTER and, as associate editor, helped found the INDEPENDENT—and bought the INDEPENDENT back, years later, long after it had moved to Stockton.

Denig also became a constable and a deputy sheriff, so when he and Severance, the district attorney-editor of the REGISTER, published a notice that subscriptions were due and payable, and if not paid forthwith would "be placed in other hands for collection," it was no idle threat.

I traced Denig through thousands of pages spanning years, and he took on the character almost of a friend. One can easily visualize him in early days riding off to Mountain Ranch secure in the knowledge that he would be welcome at journey's end, and that everyone whose address was on a packet in his saddlebag was a customer of his, perhaps in more ways than one or two. A joiner bordering on the compulsive, Denig was a member and an officer in dozens of police, fire, welfare, charity, church and lodge organizations. When the track finally led to an end, in a brief personal sketch in an old history of San Joaquin County, he was the well-known, still joining, widely respected editor-owner of Stockton's largest newspaper, and you can't help feeling that it was a good ending. Denig was where he should have been all along, doing what he liked best.

While he was at it, he did something for me, too. He let me in on the fact that the organization that we bought in 1961 also owns title to the REGISTER, the COURIER, the FOOTHILL DEMOCRAT and the ADVERTISER—titles that I had never heard of before I began to write this paper.

Photographs of Getchell and Pfortner loaned by the I.O.O.F., San Andreas. Lewis' picture was supplied by G. E. Schultzberg of Petaluma.

# INVENTORY OF CALAVERAS COUNTY NEWSPAPERS

Abbreviations are explained at the end of this section. Where long sereis of issues are shown in brackets, substantial numbers of individual issues may be missing, but representative ones preserved. Where brackets are not used, the series is essentially complete, although occasional issues may be missing. The Historical Society's files may be consulted for more complete data on this point. Our local newspaper files can be greatly improved when space for permanent county historical archives is made available.

## ANGEL'S CAMP RECORD

1899—1918 ? Angels Camp (w) C—Feb. 29, 1908—Jan. 2, 1909; Dec. 31, 1910—Sept. 5, 1918. CalCoM—[Jan. 5, 1906—Dec. 25, 1912] Apr. 18, Nov. 27, 1917. (Unbound).

# BIG TREE BULLETIN and MURPHY'S ADVERTISER

1858 Big Tree (Mammoth) Grove, then Murphys (sw) CPioneer—Apr. 30, 1858—July 3, 1858 (complete file). DLC—May 7, 21, 1858. CalCoL—May 25, 1858 (reprint, p.1).

# CALAVERAS ADVERTISER 1879—1881 San Andreas (w)

(1881 Sold to Citizen)
CU-B—Aug. 21, Oct. 9—Dec. 25, 1879; Jan. 1—Feb. 5, 19—
Dec. 30, 1880; Jan. 13—Feb. 24, 1881.

## CALAVERAS CALIFORNIAN

1923 to date. Angels Camp (w) (Since 1926 owned by publisher of Prospect) CU—[Sept. 1946—Jan. 1953].

## Calaveras Californian—Continued

Cal CoL-1925 to date (Unbound).

CalCoM—Feb. 19, 1925; [Mar. 3, 1927—Dec. 20, 1928]; Jan. 17, 24, 31, Feb. 21, 28, May 16, 23, 1929. June 4, 11, 1931; June 22, 29, 1933. (Unbound).

CalCoCH-Sept. 1947 to date (Bound).

CalPubCo—1940 to date (Bound). Earlier issues unbound and unindexed.

CalCoHist-1953-57 (Bound); Aug. 12, 1926.

# (WEEKLY) CALAVERAS CHRONICLE

1851—1908 Mokelumne Hill (w) (Sold to Prospect)

C—Nov. 7, 1868; Apr. 16, 1870—Sept. 1905; Mar.—Aug. 15, 1908.

CU-B—Oct. 18—Nov. 8, Dec. 13—27, 1851; Jan. 3, Feb. 14, 1852; Mar. 19, 1853; Mar. 10, 1866—Apr. 11, 1868; Aug. 8, 1868—Nov. 14, 1868; Jan. 16, Feb. 6—20, Apr. 17—24, May 8—Dec. 4, 18—25, 1869; Jan. 1, 1870—Dec. 30, 1871; June 15, 1872—July 29, 1882; Jan. 1887—Dec. 7, 1889; July 5, 1890—Dec. 26, 1891.

NEh—Oct. 25, 1851. NNHi—July 17, 1852; Nov. 3, 1855. NcD—May 27, Nov 25, Dec. 2, 1899.

CPioneer-Mar. 25, 1854.

CHaggin-May 19, 1866; Mar. 12, 1870.

CalCoM—Sept. 7, 1867; Aug. 1, 1868; Oct. 30, 1869—Oct. 22, 1870 (bound); [June 15, 1872—Nov. 22, 1873]; Jan. 3, Feb. 28, Aug. 8, 1874; Jan. 30, 1897; June 4, 11, 18, Sept. 3, 24, Oct. 8, 1898; [Jan. 1—Sept. 16, 1905]; [Sept. 22—Dec. 22, 1906]; [Jan. 12, 1907—Aug. 8, 1908].

## (Weekly) Calaveras Chronicle-Continued

CalCoCH—Oct. 1864—Oct. 1865; Oct. 1868—Oct. 1869; Oct. 1870—Oct. 1873; Oct. 1874—Oct. 1881. (All bound copies).

CalCoHist—July 11, 1863; Feb. 2, 1878; July 5, 1879; Feb. 5, 1888.

#### CALAVERAS CHRONICLE

1951 Mokelumne Hill (sw) (Subscrip. list purchased by Prospect)

CalCoM—July—Sept., 1951. CalCoHist—Feb. 6, 9, 16, Sept. 28, 1951.

# CALAVERAS CITIZEN

1871—1906 San Andreas (w)

then as

## WEEKLY CITIZEN

1906—1926 San Andreas (w) (Then merged with Prospect)

C-Sept. 14, 1872.

CU-B—May 6 (first issue), 13, Aug., Sept. 9, 23, 1871—Aug. 29, Sept. 12—Dec. 26, 1874; Jan. 9—Feb. 27, Mar. 13—Aug. 14, 1875; Oct. 2, 1875—Nov. 23, 1878; July 5—Oct. 11, 1879; Dec. 25, 1880; Feb. 19, Nov. 26, Dec. 24, 1881; Jan. 7, Feb. 25, Mar. 4, Apr. 22—May 6, 20, 1882; Sept. 12, 1885; Jan. 1—Nov. 5, 1887; Jan. 21—June 30, 1888; Jan., Mar.—Sept. 14, Oct. 19, Nov.—Dec. 21, 1889; Jan. 4—Apr. 5, 19—Sept. 27, Oct. 11, 25—Nov. 22, Dec. 6, 13, 1890; Jan. 3, 17, 24, Feb. 7, 21—June 6, 20—July 4, 18—Sept. 5, 12, 26, Oct. 10—Dec. 26, 1891.

CalCoL-1926. (Unbound).

CalCoM—Oct. 11, 1873; Jan. 10, July 5, Aug. 2, 8, 1874; Jan. 5, 1901—Sept. 27, 1902; [Mar. 18—Dec. 23, 1905]; Sept. 15—Dec. 22, 1906; Jan. 1 1907—Dec. 28, 1912; Apr. 7, July 28, Aug. 4, 1917; Apr. 6, 27, June 29, 1918; July 17, 31, Aug. 7, 1920; May 15, 1926. (Unbound).

CalCoCH—1881-1885 (Bound).

CalCoHist-Nov. 2, 1872; May 26, 1888; Sept. 14, 1918.

# CALAVERAS DEMOCRAT

1890—1891 Angels Camp (w) Also known as the County Democrat

CU-B—Aug. 16—30, Sept. 20—Nov. 15, 29—Dec. 27, 1890; Jan. 3—24, Feb. 7, 1891. (On film: Reel II, No. 9, Calif. Misc. News-

papers).

## CALAVERAS ENTERPRISE

1963 to date San Andreas (w) CalCoL—1963 to date (Unbound).

CalCoHist-1963 to date (Bound).

CalEnterprise-Unbound file, complete.

## CALAVERAS MOUNTAINEER

1872—73 Angels Camp (sw) CU-B—Nov. 30, Dec. 11, 28, 1872; Jan. 1, March 26, 1873.

#### CALAVERAS NEWS

1906—1912 ? Angels Camp

CalCoM-Nov. 17, 1906.

## CALAVERAS PROSPECT

1881—1926 San Andreas (w)
(Merged with the Weekly Citizen in 1926)
CALAVERAS PROSPECT AND WEEKLY CITIZEN

1926 to date San Andreas (w)

C—July 1, 1893 to date (1945 to date on film).

CStol—June 10, 1881—May, 1883 (Location of file unknown).

CU-B—June 10—17, July 1, 1881; Jan. 20, 1882; Feb. 16, 1883 (Above on film). June 1—Nov. 9, 23—Dec. 29, 1883—1884—1885—Jan. 1—Sept. 17, Oct. 8, 22—Nov. 5, 19—Dec. 31, 1886—1887—Mar. 9, 23—Dec. 28, 1888; Jan. 4, 11, 25—Feb. 22, Mar. 8—July 6, 20—Dec. 28, 1889; 1890—1893.

CU—Nov. 24, 1923; July 2, 1927—Oct. 4, 1930; Jan. 10, Apr. 18, May 30, Aug. 1, 29, Sept. 5—Oct. 10; Nov. 21—Dec. 12, 1931; Jan. 2, 1932—1940; 1941—date (microfilm).

CalCoL—Nov. 24, 1923 (Special Mother Lode Edition); 1927 to date (Unbound).

CalCoM-May 6, 1887; July 19, 1890; Oct. 22, Nov. 19, 1898; Nov. 17, 1900; Nov. 15, 29, 1902; Apr. 1, May 27, June 3, July 1, Aug. 5, Sept. 9, Oct. 7, 21. Nov. 11, 25, Dec. 9, 16, 23, 1905; Mar. 10, Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 17, Dec. 8, 15, 1906; Feb. 2-Dec. 14, 1907; Jan. 4-June 30, Aug. 1, Oct. 3-Nov. 21, Dec. 26, 1908; Jan. 30-Apr. 24, May 29, July 10-31, Aug. 28, Oct. 16-Nov. 27, 1909; Jan. 15-Apr. 16, July 30-Aug. 20, Oct. 8-Dec. 31, 1910; Feb. 11-June 24, Aug. 26-Sept. 30, Nov. 25, Dec. 2, 1911; Jan. 27-Mar. 30, Apr. 27 -June 1, July 13, Aug. 24-Dec. 28, 1912; Mar. 31, 1917; Mar. 30, June 8, 1918; June 14, Sept. 6, 1919; June 5, 12, 19, 26, July 17, 1920; Mar. 11, 18, 1922; Mar. 31, Nov. 24 (Special Mother Lode Edition) 1923, Mar. 22, May 31, 1924; May 15, Sept. 11, 18, Oct. 2, 16, 1926; Mar. 5-June 4, July 16-Dec. 24, 1927; Jan. 7-May 19, July 28, Aug. 25-Sept. 29, Dec. 8, 22, 1928; Jan. 5, 19, Feb. 23, Mar. 9, May 11-25, 1929; May 31, 1930, July 1, 1933. (All of the above unbound).

CHaggin-Nov. 24, 1923; Feb. 23, 1924.

CalCoHist—Oct. 30, 1915; Mar. 11, July 8, 1916; Feb. 24, Mar. 31, June 16, 1917; May 18, 1918; Nov. 24, 1923, May 15, 1926, Apr. 21, 1928.

CalPubCo—1898—99; 1911—22; 1939—56; 1959—date (All bound).

## CALAVERAS TIMES

1863 San Andreas (w)

CU-B—June 6, 1863 (On Reel II, item 10, Calif. Misc. Newspapers).

# CALAVERAS UNION

1856—1857 ? San Andreas No known copies in existence.

# CALAVERAS WEEKLY

1940—1947 Mokelumne Hill (w) (Sold to Prospect)

CalCoHist—Sept. 13, Oct. 4, 1940; May 16, 1941; Nov. 20, 1942; May 14, Sept. 12, 1943; June 21, Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26, Oct. 3, 1947.

#### COPPEROPOLIS COURIER

1865—67 Copperopolis (w)

CU-B—Apr. 15 (first issue)—29, May 13, June 17—July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 9—Oct. 28, Nov. 11—Dec. 23, 1865; Jan. 6—27, Feb. 10, 24, Mar. 10—Apr. 21, May 5—19, June 2—Nov. 24, Dec. 8—29, 1866; Jan. 5—Apr. 13, 27—May 25, June 8—29, July 20, Aug. 10—Sept. 14, 1867.

## COUNTY RECORD

1887—1890 Angel's Camp (w)

CU-B—Mar. 12—Apr. 16, 30, May 14, June 11, 25—July 9, 30, Aug. 13—20, Sept. 3, 17, Oct. 8—15, Nov. 5—Dec. 24, 1889; Jan. 7—14, 1890. (Microfilm).

## FOOTHILL DEMOCRAT

1875—1876 San Andreas (w)

CU-B—Aug. 5—Sept. 2, 23, Oct. 7—14, 28, Nov. 11—18, Dec. 2, 16, 30, 1875; Jan. 6, 20, Feb. 3—Mar. 2, 23—30, 1876.

#### MARK TWAIN TIMES

1963 Angel's Camp (w)

CalCoL—Complete file.

# MONITOR

1879—1889 Angel's Camp (w)

Then as

## MOUNTAIN ECHO

1889—1907 Angel's Camp (w)

CU-B—Jan. 20—27, Mar. 2, 16—23, June 1—15, 29—Aug. 24, Sept. 7, 28—Oct. 26, Nov. 9—Dec. 28, 1880; Mar. 28—Apr. 12, 1882; Jan. 17, Feb. 7—14, 1883; Jan. 4—May 30, June 13—Aug. 15, 29—Sept. 12, 26, Oct. 10—17, 31—Dec. 26, 1888; Jan. 2—Oct. 31, Nov. 21—Dec. 26, 1889.

CHist-July 29, 1879; Mar. 21, 1882.

CalCoM—May 23, June 21, Oct. 4, 18, 1898; May 23, 1900; Jan. 7, 1904; Mar. 18, Apr. 1, May 13, July 29, Aug. 19, 26, Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14, 28, Nov 4, 1905.

## MOUNTAIN NEWS

1867—1868 San Andreas (w) CU-B—Oct. 24—Nov. 21, Dec. 5—12, 26, 1867; Jan. 2—30, 1868.

## **PROSPECTOR**

1854—1856? Calaveras Co. No known copies in existence.

## SAN ANDREAS INDEPENDENT

1856—61 San Andreas (w) (Moved to Stockton in 1861)

C-Sept. 25, 1858-Sept. 15, 1860.

CU-B—Sept.—Dec. 27, 1856, 1857, Jan. 2—Sept. 18, Dec. 18, 1858 (On microfilm). Jan. 9—Dec. 25, 1858. 1859, 1860, Jan. 3—July 11, 1861.

CStol-1856-Sept. 15, 1860.

CSt-Sept. 24, 1856-July 11, 1861.

MWA-Dec. 26, 1857.

CalCoM-Sept. 26, 1857 (Reprint, modern type).

Chaggin—Oct. 3, 1857.

CHist—Aug. 15, 1857; Dec. 4, 1858.

#### SAN ANDREAS REGISTER

1863—68 San Andreas (w)

C-June 13, 1868.

CU-B—Jan. 1—23, Feb. 6—Mar. 26, Apr. 9—Dec. 31, 1864; Jan. 14—Apr. 29, May 20—Oct. 7, 21—Dec. 30, 1865; Jan. 6—Mar. 31, Apr. 14—Dec. 29, 1866; Jan. 5—Feb. 2, 16—June 15, July 6-13, 27— Aug. 31, Sept. 14—Dec. 28, 1867; Jan. 4—Aug. 15, 1868.

CalCoM—[Aug. 29, 1863—Apr., 1865]; Mar. 31, 1866—Aug. 8, 1868.

## SEMI-WEEKLY NEWS OF MURPHYS

1858 Murphys (sw)

No known copies in existence.

#### STAATS-ZEITUNG

1854—58 Mokelumne Hill No known copies in existence.

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

C-Calif. State Library, Sacramento.

CU-Univ. of Calif. General Library, Berkeley.

CU-B-Bancroft Library, U.C., Berkeley.

CHist-Calif. Historical Society Library, S.F.

CSt-Stanford Univ. Library (?).

CStol—Stockton Independent Library (?) Location unknown.

CPioneer-Society of Calif. Pioneers Library, S.F.

CHaggin—San Joaquin Hist. Society & Haggin Museum, Stockton.

DLC-Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

NEh-East Hampton Library, N.Y.

NNHi-New York Historical Society.

NcD-Duke Univ. Library, N.C.

MWA—American Antiquarian Society, Worcester,

CalCoL—Calaveras County Library, San Andreas.
(Files unbound, not readily available.)

CalCoM—Calaveras County Museum, San Andreas.
(Files unbound, not readily available.)

CalCoCH—Calaveras County Courthouse, Recorder's office, San Andreas.

CalCoHist—Calaveras County Historical Society archives, now housed in a private residence until a permanent depository can be found.

CalPubCo—Calaveras Publishing Co., San Andreas and Angels Camp offices.

CalEnterprise—Publisher's office in San Andreas. (w)—Weekly. (sw)—Semi-weekly.

# **New Members**

We cordially welcome the following new members to the Calaveras County Historical Society:

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bonta, Stockton.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray C. Stanton, Mountain Ranch.

Mr. Harry E. Bush, Costa Mesa.

Mr. Raymond L. Cuneo, Esmeralda.

Mrs. Verna M. Caffey, Hollywood.

Mr. Julian Rogers, Modesto.

Mrs. Elsie B. Skelton. Murphys.

Mrs. Lovena F. Leggett, Altaville.

# OFFICERS OF CALAVERAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

San Andreas, California

1st Vice President	Paul E. Lewis, San Andreas
	Albert E. Gross, Murphys
	George B. Poore, Jr., San Andreas
	Claude Smith, West Point

Las Calaveras is published quarterly by the Calaveras County Historical Society. Membership in the Society is \$4.00 a year, including subscription to Las Calaveras. Non-members may obtain copies of Las Calaveras from the Secretary. The original historical material in this bulletin is not copyrighted and anyone is invited to use it. Mention of the source will be appreciated.

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.

# **EDITORIAL**

A particularly interesting paper was presented at our November meeting by John R. Peterson on county newspapers. The major portion of his study forms the feature article of this issue.

The local newspaper has always been an important segment of country living, probably more so in the past than today. The profusion of county newspapers in the days gone by is a bit startling until one recalls that we are living in a region that was formerly much more densely populated, and by a somewhat livelier and more diverse group of individuals than we see here now. But even though over the span of a century tremendous changes have been made in communications, the local newspaper continues to be a significant force in the present-day life of our communities.

Although Mr. Peterson would be the first to admit that he had not the time to delve as deeply as he wished into the topic, we liked the result for two reasons in particular. First, he took a broad panoramic view of his subject and then organized it in an orderly form for the listener and reader. Secondly, he described the history of the county newspaper "industry" from the point of view of a participant. There is no one who would understand the struggles and problems and the victories and defeats in this profession better than a publisher and editor. We would like to see more such studies on specific topics in county history.

We have often wondered just how many of the old newspapers have been preserved, and where they are located. This may be a rather elementary thought for the professional researcher, who casually turns to the appropriate index and collection, or who consults the expert bibliographer in the field. But to those of us up here in the mountains, this is not so easy. Newspapers

# **SOCIETY NEWS AND NOTES**

Once each year, in December, the Society puts historical matters aside, and devotes the monthly meeting to an old-fashioned Christmas party. Over the years, Mrs. Alice Eldridge has organized and directed this activity very admirably, making it a most pleasant evening for all those that have attended. This year's program was as follows:

"A Cowboy's Prayer," Coke Wood, Mrs. Robert Wolfe, accomp.

"General Grant's Big Tree," Alice Eldridge.

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," Al Gross, Mrs. Wolfe, accomp.

"Christmas on the Plains," Charles Schwoerer.

"Cantique de Noel," and "Bless This House," Ralph Treat, Dorothy Lavaroni, accomp.

Carols by the gathering.

"A Flivver Romance," Pauline Newton.

"No Room," Penny Newton.

Medley on the Piano, Mrs. Wolfe.

This was followed by a Christmas tree, refreshments, and a social hour for the members present.

are one of the most important sources of local history, equally as important as contemporaneous personal manuscript material. Consequently, we decided to make an inventory of the surviving newspapers available in libraries, museums, and county and publisher archives, as a convenience to our local historians. That this is not complete, we feel sure, and we hope that any reader who knows of additional files will call our attention to their existence and whereabouts. There are important private collections, too, of which we know practically nothing.

We thank the various organizations and their staffs for their cooperation in this compilation. Especially we thank Mr. Allan Ottley of the State Library, whose assistance made our task much easier and the result more complete.

A persual of our inventory of county newspapers reveals that, on the one hand, there are no known copies of some titles, scant files of some (even though certain of these are of recent date), and on the other hand, surprisingly complete files of others.

As Mr. Peterson aptly pointed out, newspaper people as a group show little awareness of the historical aspect of their profession which is, in large part, the recording of history. He recalls that the early files of the PROSPECT were lost because they were stored in a damp cellar. A large collection of files, accumulated from previous mergers and purchases of this same paper, were heedlessly burned by a later tenant when found in the building occupied by the PROSPECT during Nugent's regime—and this was not too many years ago, either. The fate of most of the other publishers' files must have been much the same. This is why we are so greatly indebted to the State Library and to Bancroft for saving so much for us.

The Historical Society will welcome gifts of old newspapers, particularly issues not indexed in the inventory. We hope, also, that owners of private collections will list their holdings with us. We will be most happy to receive comments, reminiscences, and other information relating to the history of newspapers, publishers, and editors of our county, so that this important part of our past may be more completely documented.