



Quarterly Bulletin of the Calaveras County Historical Society
VOL. XXIII October 1974 Number 1

More Calaveras Doctors

Our first issue on this subject, in July of 1973, mentioned a number of the early day doctors, some of whom did more prospecting than practicing. Much of that issue was devoted to William B. March, the well-known doctor of the lower part of the county. With this issue, we move up into the Angels Camp area, then the largest community and, of course, the only incorporated "city" in the county. The deep gold mines, especially the Utica, were largely

responsible for the prosperity of that community from the 80's through the World War I years. For this reason, more doctors and dentists made their headquarters in Angels than elsewhere in the county.

The articles in this issue are from papers presented before the Society during the winter of 1970-71.

Early Day Doctors Of Angels Camp

By John P. Lemue

I would like to describe some of the conditions that existed years ago in Angels Camp, and the hardships that doctors endured as they administered to the needs of the people.

Many of these Angels doctors I knew personally. Although their work load was heavy, there were few complaints, and one was usually greeted with a cheerful word or a smile. The "horse and buggy" was their usual means of transportation. In the hot summer months, they traveled the dry, dusty country roads and the unpaved streets of Angels. Then, in winter, during the cold and rainy days and nights, they drove over muddy roads and streets which had been cut up by heavy teams. Sometimes they were hip deep in mud. At times they had to double their teams by adding another horse, or as we used to say, "a double team to pull their buggies through."



CALAVERAS DOCTORS AND
DENTISTS

This unusual picture of the medical fraternity of our county was taken shortly after 1900. Standing, left to right, are Doctors Freeman, West, Porter, Weirich, Parker and Clark. Sitting are Doctors Smith, unidentified, Dorroh, Holland, Severman and Roberts.

From Society Files



UPPER MAIN STREET IN ANGELS

Note the wooden walkways across the street to help the pedestrian make the crossing without getting too muddy.

Many people lived on ranches and farms outside of Angels. This made it more difficult for the doctors, giving them a wide area to cover. The physicians had no well-equipped hospitals to which they could send their patients, nor skilled nurses to assist them. They visited the patients in their homes and gave medicines from the cases they carried with them.

As a child, I was always interested in those black cases with rows of little vials filled with colored pills and capsules. Members of the patient's family acted as nurses, often assisting the doctor under his direction. When it was determined that an operation was necessary, it was a case of sending the patient to the city for care. I can remember folks often talking about going to Lane's Hospital in San Francisco.

When the first automobiles arrived on the Calaveras scene, the doctors were among the first to buy them. But even then, in the wintertime, it was back to the horse and buggy, so poor were the roads.

In my lifetime, I have watched the gradual but steady increase in help that doctors have received from scientific development. As a young child, I was aware of the terrible diphtheria epidemic, a disease so often fatal to children. Then, about 1900, the serum for fighting it was in the hands of the doctor, and in a few years they had diphtheria licked.

I want to honor the following early day doctors, most of whom I knew quite well. Dr. William Kelly, who brought me into the

world; Dr. George Pache; Dr. John Dorroh; Dr. Elmer Weirich; Dr. Clark; Dr. McLaughlin; Dr. West; Dr. Charles Freeman; Dr. George Cooper; and Dr. L. R. Johnson. Dentists were Dr. Parker, Dr. Charles Smith, Dr. Jerome Porter, Dr. Roberts, Dr. Beale, Dr. Turner, Dr. Bert Wilson, and Dr. Len Martin. There may have been more whom I do not remember.

These men saved lives and made illness a little more bearable with their medications. I think we should all give thanks that they were here, for without them, some of us would probably not be here.

Dr. Elmer W. Weirich

By John P. Lemue

In order to give you more than I know first-hand on the life of Dr. Weirich, I would like to quote from "Representative Citizens of Northern California," published in 1901.

"A resident of Angels Camp, Dr. Elmer William Weirich has there gained an enviable reputation as a prominent physician and is now serving as the health officer of Calaveras County. He is a native of Massillon, Ohio, born March 3rd, 1866, and is of German lineage, his ancestors having been early settlers of the state of Pennsylvania, where his father, Isaac Weirich, was born and reared. He moved to Massillon, Ohio, and was married there to Miss Maria Everhard. He followed merchandising, owned and



DR. ELMER W. WEIRICH

operated flour mills, was active in the business interests of the place, of which he was one of the first settlers. An Episcopalian in religious faith, a public-spirited and progressive citizen, he was esteemed for the excellence of his character. He has two sons and two daughters.

“Dr. Weirich was in part educated in Ohio and afterward continued his professional education in the Hahnemann Hospital Medical College of San Francisco, in which institution he was graduated in the class of 1889.

“He practiced in San Francisco previous to coming to Calaveras County, where he has practiced for ten years, the four last being located at Angels Camp, where he has met with success and built up a large practice. He has the honor of being the pioneer homeopathic physician of Calaveras County and has erected a nice home on one of the commanding building sites of Angels Camp, in which he has a well-equipped office.

“Dr. Weirich was happily married in 1887 to Miss Catherine H. Smith, a native of Marysville, California, and a daughter of Colonel S. P. Smith. The doctor and his wife have three children, Norman E., Catherine G. (Gladys), and Victoria G. He is a valued member of the order of Freemasons and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

“He enjoys the respect and esteem of all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance and in the professional circles he occupies an enviable position.”

Dr. Weirich spent about forty years in Angels Camp. He was a



THE WEIRICH'S FIRST HOME

In this modest home Dr. Weirich lived for the first few years while practicing at Angels with his young and growing family. Daughter Gladys is on the left and son

Norman on the right in front of his grandmother, Mrs. Katherine Smith. The Weirich's servants were also invited to pose with the family.

Loaned by Mrs. Brenda Mack



EXCURSION TO NATURAL BRIDGES

Dr. and Mrs. Weirich, and their daughter Gladys, rest at the Natural Bridges near Vallecito. In those days one could drive a buggy or two-wheeler close by to the Bridges.

Courtesy of Mrs. Linda Mehlhaff

prominent businessman as well as doctor, and was active in affairs that promoted the best interests of his home town. He owned the first automobile in Angels Camp, a Model T Turtle-back Ford.

He loved the mountains and was one of the first to build a summer home there, a log cabin in the Stanislaus Meadow. He enjoyed short vacations there with his family. It was there that he and his wife celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1937. He lived quietly in Angels Camp during his later years, and passed away in 1938.

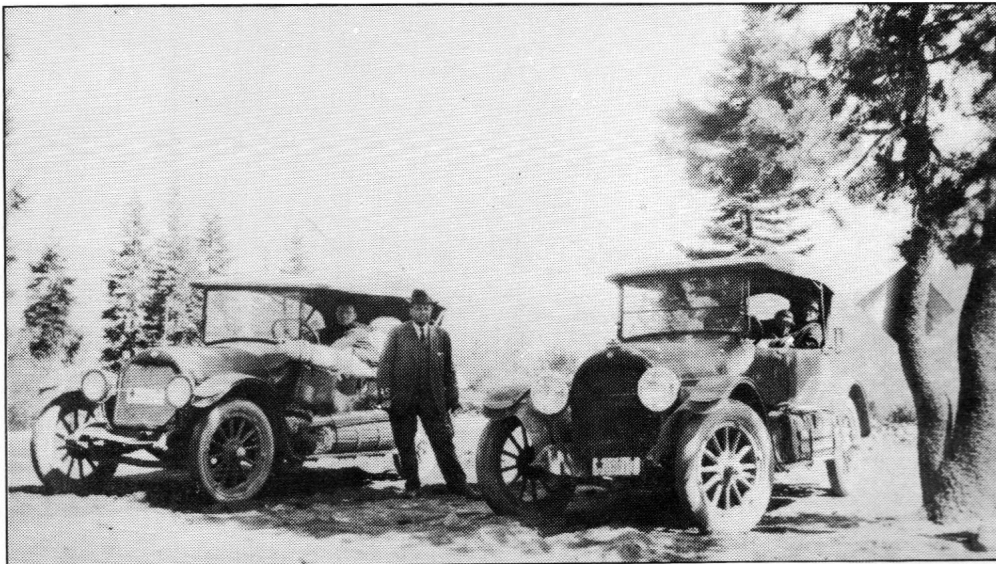
Dr. George F. Pache

By Ruth H. Lemue

The earlier history of Dr. George Pache is covered in the biography in "Representative Citizens of Northern California," published in 1901.

"Occupying a position of esteem and prominence in his natal state, George Florian Pache, a physician of the highest standing, is located in Angels Camp, Calaveras County, engaged in the practice of his profession. He was born in Stockton, California, June 30, 1865, the eldest son of a family of four boys and two girls.

"Jules P. Pache, his father, was born in Paris, France, in 1831, being a lineal descendant of J. Pache who was minister of war in 1792, mayor of Paris in 1793, and an author of a work on metaphysics. After receiving a collegiate education in Paris, Mr. Pache came to California in 1852 and located in Stanislaus County. In 1858, he went to Stockton where, two years later, he was united in marriage with Mary Elizabeth Chicard, of the old Chicard



HIGH SIERRA WEEKEND

Dr. Weirich chats with another automobilist while they let their cars cool off on their way up to the high country. The autos date this snap.

Loaned by Mrs. Linda Mehlhaff

family, possessors of landed estates of Bordeaux, France. After a long and useful career, Mr. Pache passed away in 1894 at the age of sixty-two years.

"Dr. Pache received his early education in Stockton. He received his medical education at Cooper College, San Francisco, at which place he graduated in 1889, coming to Angels Camp in 1890.

"His success was immediate as he possesses those qualities which command the confidence and respect of the community, combining the kind manner of the physician with the skilled touch of the surgeon. He has served the county as coroner and as public administrator for two terms of office. He is a member of the Native Sons of the Golden West, The Foresters, the Chosen Friends, and the Druids, being examining physician for all those fraternal organizations.

"Besides owning considerable valuable property in the neighborhood, he is also a stockholder in the Lightner and Oriole mines, being a director in the former. A large, modern residence combining comfort and luxury and well-equipped offices has recently been completed.

"Dr. Pache has hosts of grateful patients and scores of friends

and is a man most highly esteemed in his part of the state of California."

Before going on to the later years of his life, I would like to relate some personal experiences that come to mind with regard to my family and Dr. Pache.

I was a small child, not yet in school, when Dr. Pache was first called to our home in Angels Camp, where my father, George P. Harper, worked at the Lightner Mill. The circumstances which led to his visit later became an amusing bit of family history, but which fortunately did not cause serious consequences.

Near the end of a winter's day while my father was seated near the kitchen window, reading his newspaper, my brother and I amused ourselves nearby. We were using chairs in our make-believe game. So, needing another chair just at the moment that my father rose up from his chair to get a match from the wall matchbox to light his pipe, I whisked the chair from behind him. Of course, the result was disastrous as my father absent-mindedly sat down, all the way to the floor. In about a week's time, Dr. Pache was called and he found it necessary to lance an abscess at the spot where flesh and floor had met. I've been very careful about moving chairs ever since.



FOURTH OF JULY AT ANGELS

Looking up Main Street from just south of the bridge. Dr. Pache's house is the large building on the right (today an

apartment house). The Tryon's Angels Livery Stable can be identified by the group of rigs parked in front of it.

Dr. Pache was so kind and courteous, as well as efficient, that from then on for the next thirty years he was our family doctor. With five children in our family, the doctor was frequently summoned, not only for such diseases as measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough, mumps, chicken pox, even pneumonia on two occasions, but also for broken bones to be set and accidental cuts to be stitched. Dr. Pache was always very kind, treating the patient as gently and tenderly as possible. He was also most tactful, as when my mother would inform him of what home remedies she had applied before calling him, he invariably would say, "You did just right, Mrs. Harper", nodding his head and repeating, "Just right". Of course, this would please my mother.

My parents would never receive a bill from Dr. Pache, so, when my mother thought it was time to pay, she would hand him a twenty dollar gold piece. I saw this happen many times and before taking the coin, he would always say, "Now, Mrs. Harper, are you quite sure that you can spare this?"

Years later, Dr. Pache was in attendance at the birth of my own two children, and later prescribed for them during their childhood illnesses, just as he had for the preceding generation.

He served the community of Angels Camp and the surrounding area for about forty years. For many of these he traveled by horse and buggy but when automobiles proved to be more practical, he purchased one and enjoyed driving it and the several other cars which followed.

Dr. Pache was proud to have been born in California and for years was an active member of the Native Sons of the Golden West. He enjoyed good food and, at times, mentioned the favorite dishes prepared in the French manner by his mother or his sister, Julie. He especially appreciated the hot soups which would be kept for him after a long, hard day or a late night's vigil.

He loved flowers and took great pride in the gorgeous dahlias which he grew in his front yard. When water meters were first installed in town, some people were afraid that they might not be able to afford the usual amount of water needed for their lawns and gardens. In a group discussion over this, the doctor cried out, with considerable emotion, "I'll not let my dahlias die! I'll not let my dahlias die!"

As the doctor grew older, the burden of the profession, including frequent night calls that broke into his rest, began to take its toll. He could not refuse to go when summoned. His friends jokingly remarked that sometimes during the long hours waiting for a child to be born, he would catch up a little on his sleep in little "cat-naps" taken in-between the labor pains of his patient. However, when the crucial moment arrived, he was the alert, wide-awake physician, ready to meet the needs of mother and child.

Dr. Pache's health began to fail about 1930. He retired from practice and later moved to Stockton to live with his beloved sister, Julie. There he remained in her care until his death in the early 1940's. Those who knew him, as I did, have memories of a fine physician, a good man, and a wonderful friend.

Dr. John R. Dorroh

By Teresa Huber

John Richard Dorroh was born on a farm near the small community of Pinkneyville, Kentucky, on January 10, 1862, the youngest son of Clarke Clay and Nancy Dorroh.

He received his medical education and training at Louisville Medical School and his M.D. from Miami Medical College of Ohio in 1884.

Dr. Dorroh's oldest brother, William, had come to California some years earlier, and so he decided to come west, choosing Angels Camp as a location in which to establish a practice. Here he met John Scribner, the Wells Fargo agent, who became his close friend and advisor. He became physician for the Utica Mining Company, one that he held until his death.

In 1890, John Dorroh married Katherine Moran of Murphys. Their children were John Scribner and Teresa. About 1892, their home on Main Street was built. Shortly afterwards, under an agreement with the Utica Company, the mine hospital was erected on the same lot. Then followed the building which was to be his office and the Angels Drug Store. It was in this building that the first telephone exchange in the county was established.* Also, my father's office was the meeting place of many friends of that era. Some of the names that I recall were Harvey Blood, Robert Gardner, Otto Dolling, Judge Cooley, and John Carley. Here they dreamed and planned for the Bret Harte High School. My father and John Carley were on the first Board of Trustees.

Dr. John Dorroh died in November, 1911, at the age of forty-nine years.

Dr. Charles Freeman

One of the doctors of Angels Camp at the turn of the century was Charles H. Freeman. Born in Oakland in 1870, he was the son of W. A. Freeman, builder and proprietor of the well-known Freeman Hotel in Auburn. Dr. Freeman received his medical training at the University of California, graduating from the Medical School in 1893. He moved up to Angels Camp in 1896 to start a practice. The following year he married Miss Lillian McGaffey, sister of Mrs. Jennie Hogarth and Mrs. Mabel Lillie.

Dr. Freeman carried on his practice from an office in his home on Bush Street, Angels Camp. He maintained a very successful practice there until about 1908, when the Freemans returned to the Bay Area. He died in Oakland, at his home, in 1941 at the age of seventy years. His daughter, Mrs. Gertrude Roque, lives in Hayward.

*A picture of the interior of the Angels Drug Store, with a group of people including Dr. Dorroh and Dr. Weirich, appears on page 29 of our April, 1974, issue.



DR. CHARLES H. FREEMAN

From a photograph taken when Dr. Freeman was serving in the U. S. Army.

Loaned by Mrs. Dorris Faull

Dr. George P. Cooper

This article was condensed from a longer biographical sketch by George W. and Robert M. Cooper, sons of the doctor. A copy of this excellent paper is on file with the Society. Ed.

Dr. George Proctor Cooper was one of the last "Horse and Buggy" doctors in the county. He served this community for thirty-eight years, much of that during the celebrated Angels quartz-mining boom. He was born in Wellingborough, England, in 1880, the seventh of the nine children of Henry M. Cooper and Johannah Jane Morley. The senior Cooper was engaged in the commerce of leather goods.

After completing his basic education in English schools, he left home at the age of fourteen as an apprentice on an English sailing vessel. Many of the experiences he had as an apprentice formed

the basis of fascinating tales with which he would entertain friends, family and children in later years. His telescope is still in the possession of the Cooper family.

Young George Cooper, after some three years, decided that his future did not lie as an officer in the British merchant marine, and abruptly terminated his apprenticeship by leaving his ship at an American east coast port. He made his way to San Francisco, arriving there some time in 1897. He went to work at the Hercules Powder Company in Pinole, in order to finance his education. He had settled on a career as a doctor, and soon entered Cooper Medical College. He graduated in 1906 at the head of his class, but graduation exercises never were held, as the Great Earthquake occurred on the day scheduled for that activity. He was licensed to practice in 1906.

Dr. Cooper came to Calaveras County later that year as company doctor for the Union Construction Company (later merged into the Pacific Gas and Electric Company). At this time headquarters of the company were at Vallecito, and the main operation at Camp Nine on the Stanislaus. Dr. Cooper worked out of Vallecito and the Camp Nine area and traveled far into the mountains in both Calaveras and Tuolumne counties.

Traveling from Vallecito to the new Relief Reservoir entailed perseverance and a variety of modes of travel. Either a team and wagon, or saddle horse, was used between Vallecito and Camp Nine. The tram was used from Camp Nine up the steep slope to the



DR. GEORGE P. COOPER

The doctor sitting at his desk in his Vallecito headquarters when he was employed by the Union Construction Co. in 1908-09.

Courtesy of Dr. G. W. Cooper

Forebay at the top of the mountain. From Forebay, travel to Relief was by horseback in the summer and by snowshoe in the winter. The trip up the surface tram to Forebay was a particularly exhilarating experience. Inasmuch as the slope of the mountain was very steep, passengers reclined on the bottom of the tram car. As the car ascended the mountain, the passengers assumed a near-standing position with their feet braced against what could be considered the tailgate of the tram car. (An experience much like coming up an inclined mine shaft in a skip, except that it was all out in the open. Ed.)

During the period of his early employment with the Union Construction Company, saddle bags were standard equipment for the doctor. These were used to carry his medical supplies when it was necessary for him to travel by horseback. These saddle bags are still retained by the family.

In 1907-08, Doctor Cooper hung out his shingle in Angels Camp, opening a medical office there. His first office was on Main Street in the second floor of the building presently occupied by Trader Chappelle next to where the old Angels Camp Fire House was located for many years.

In 1908, George Cooper married Cora Alice Field. Miss Field had been a nurse at the Robinson Sanitarium in Livermore, coming to California from her home in Vergennes, Vermont. She obtained her R.N. training in San Jose at the College of the Pacific before that institution moved to Stockton. The Coopers moved into the old Peirano residence, and the doctor moved his office up to this building. Their first son, George W. Cooper, was born in this home. The Peirano house was later to become the Albert Prothero



BIG TREES STAGE

Milton Gann put this brand new stage into service just after the turn of the century on the run from Milton to Angels, Murphys and Big Trees.

residence, and is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Monte Verda.

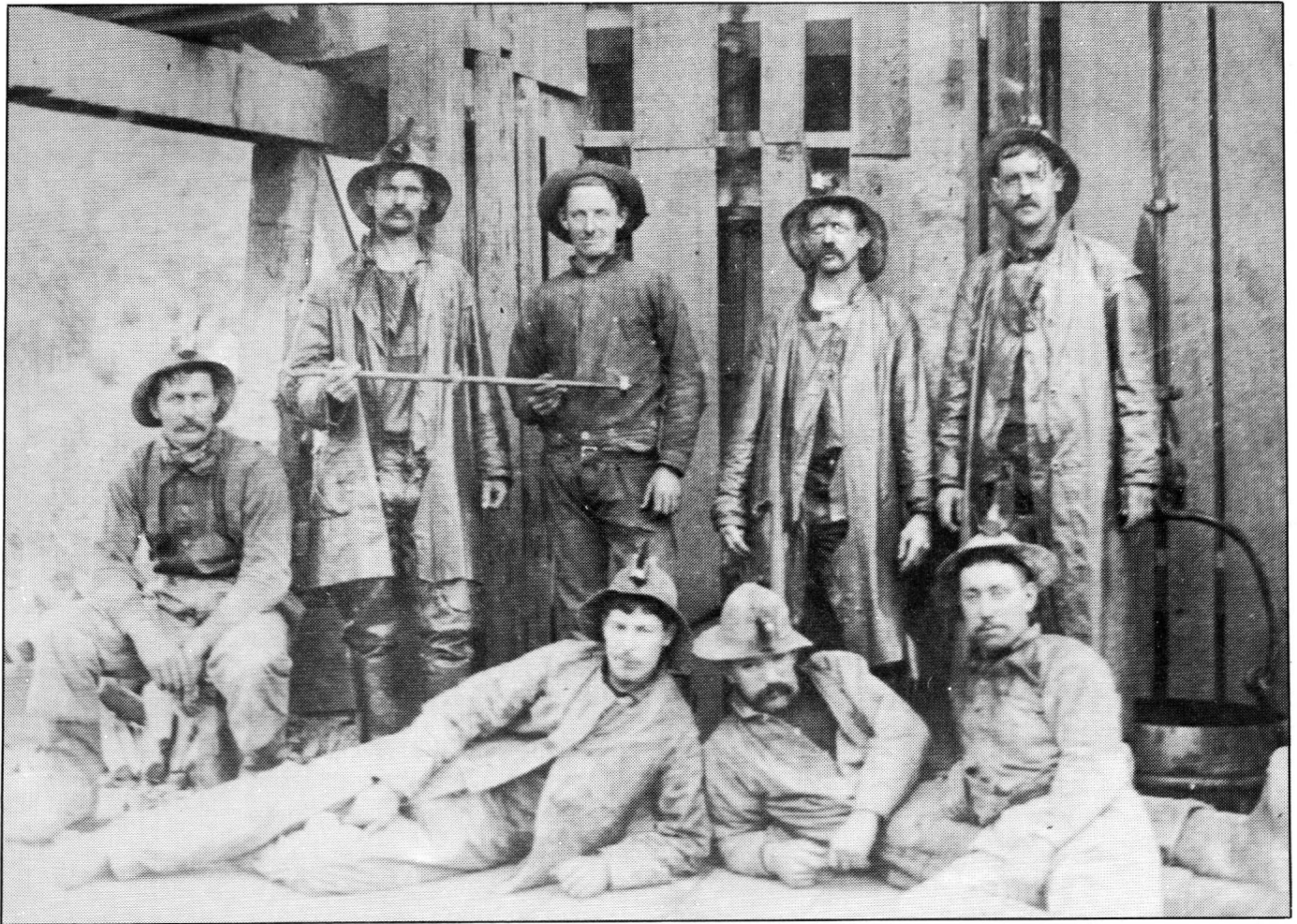
During his early years in Angels Camp, when Dr. Cooper maintained his office and residence in the Peirano house, he kept his horses and carriages directly across Main Street in the old McGaffey Livery Stable, a very convenient arrangement. One of his horses was a retired race horse with a lot of spirit left in her. Upon receiving a summons for medical assistance, the doctor would yell across Main Street to the livery stable to have his conveyance made ready. The race horse would be hitched to a light buggy and held at the ready with her eyes covered with blinders. As the doctor arrived at the stable, a livery hand would stop any traffic approaching from either direction on Main Street Hill. The doctor would climb into the buggy, blinders were whipped off the mare, and she would bolt out the livery stable door off to the races. Dr. Cooper always did the first half mile of any call at racetrack speed before the horse would settle down into a steady trot.

On a winter day during this period of time, Dr. Cooper was called to Sheep Ranch on an emergency to render assistance in an accident at one of the mines. Mrs. Cooper accompanied him as his nurse. They were, of course, traveling by horse and buggy. By the time they were ready to return home, it was very late, dark and storming. They eventually reached the intersection at the bottom of Mercer's Cave Hill. Having had a hard day, the doctor was unsure of his directions and the roads were not marked with directional signs. However, he detected the form of a sign ten or twelve feet up in a pine tree. Unfortunately, the sign could not be read from the ground in the dark and rain. With much effort, he climbed the tree in order to read the sign. Holding on with one hand, he struck his last match for illumination. With faltering match cupped in his hand, he rapidly scanned the sign which read:

"Go to Stephen's Cheap
Cash Store - Murphys"

For many years after, every time he passed that location, he would comment that the sign didn't even have an arrow indicating in which direction Murphys was. Stephen's Cheap Cash Store still stands in Murphys with a similar sign, still legible, painted on its side. The store is located at the intersection of Main Street and Sheep Ranch Road. It was operated by Jim Stephens, who was the eldest brother of Louis Stephens of Angels Camp. An interesting ending to this story is the fact that the niece of Jim Stephens is now the wife of George W. Cooper, the doctor's eldest son.

In 1909-10, Doctor Cooper was appointed company doctor for the Utica Mining Company. He retained this position for many years until the mines were closed in the 1920's and the Utica Power Company was merged into the Pacific Gas and Electric. Around 1912-13, Doctor Cooper also became the company doctor for the Calaveras Copper Company in Copperopolis and likewise maintained that position until the copper mine closed in the early 1930's. Some of the other mines which he served were Melones,



ANGELS SHAFT-SINKING CREW

These miners pose for a picture in their “diggers” just before they go down the shaft on swing shift. The oilskins and the “hang rod” that two of the men are holding iden-

tify them as miners engaged in sinking a shaft. This was one of the wettest and hardest jobs in the mines and shaft miners were the highest paid men underground.

Lightner, Angels Deep, Golden River, Vallecito Western and the Calaveras Central.

In 1911-12, the Coopers purchased property from the Rankin family on Rasberry (Church) Street. A building was constructed which became the family home and the doctor’s office for many years to follow. Two young Angels men, Alvin and Harry Hogarth, helped construct the house. Two years after moving into the new family home on Rasberry Street, a second son, Henry Field Cooper, was born to George and Cora Cooper.

During the years that he was the physician for the various mines, it was standard operating procedure for the mine offices to always call him before anyone else when there was an accident or

emergency. When he arrived at the mine, the superintendent had stretchers and first-aid equipment ready to go into the disaster area. Both at Copperopolis and at the Utica, Doctor Cooper was always on the first “skip” into the mine on the rescue operation. He would stay with the rescue crew who were digging out the buried or injured miners. When an arm or leg was exposed, Doctor Cooper would step forward and immediately administer an injection to relieve pain and then direct the rescue crew to continue to uncover the body. In the 1920’s he participated in the rescue attempts at the Argonaut Mine disaster in Jackson.

As a result of his involvement in so many mine disasters, Doctor Cooper was recognized as an expert in mine rescue operations.

Because he was associated with so many different mines, his experience and expertise in this area was far greater than the individuals associated with any single given mine. Consequently, he supervised the rescue work at the Copperopolis mine fire and disaster in the late 1920's. Doctor Cooper was extremely innovative, and it was on this occasion that he taught the Bureau of Mines rescue teams that baby chicks could be used instead of canaries for testing the atmosphere of the mines. Mr. Burnham of Copperopolis lost two dozen baby chicks in this rescue operation. Doctor Cooper could never get over the fact that Mr. Burnham was indignant over the loss of his baby chicks under these circumstances.

In the late "Teens", Doctor Cooper was called to the Metz Ranch above Avery during the winter on an emergency. He managed to make it to Avery in his automobile with some difficulty, but could not proceed any further because of snow. He transferred to a horse and wagon (with driver) and proceeded on toward his destination up the old Big Trees Road, which is presently known as Moran Road. They were half way to their destination, when the driver went to sleep, the horses wandered off the snow covered road, and the wagon overturned. In this mishap, Doctor Cooper suffered a broken leg. He splinted his own leg, helped put the wagon back on its wheels, and then proceeded on to his original destination to render medical assistance.

In the winter of 1919, Doctor Cooper supervised and participated in the rescue of twenty men who had shot off of a washed-out flume and over the mountainside in a "Speeder". The flume, one of those of the Pacific Gas and Electric flumes above Camp Nine which carried water to Forebay, had been washed out in a winter storm. This rescue expedition demanded seventy-two hours on the job.

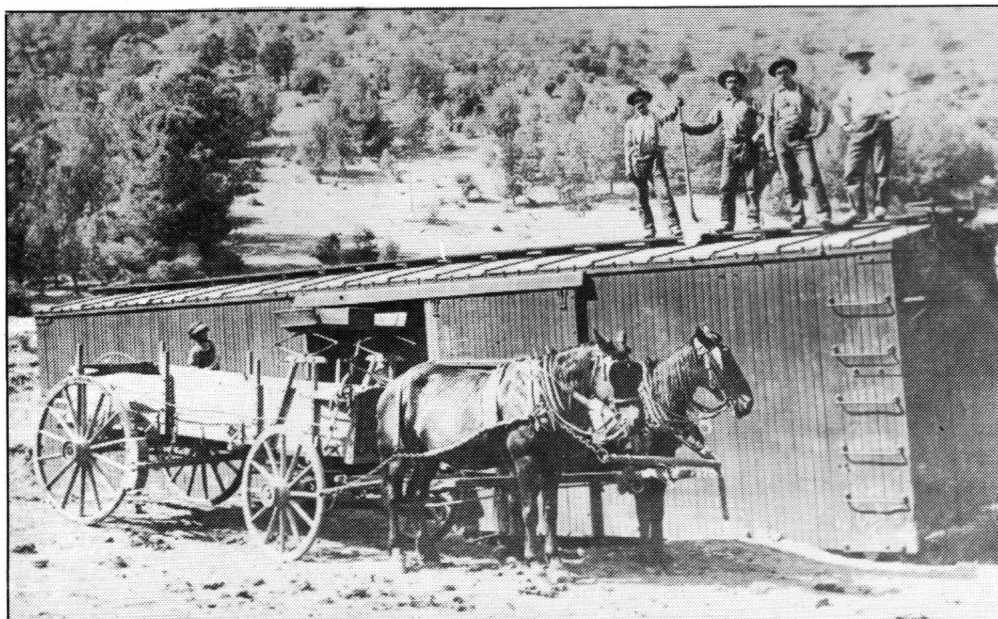
During the later years of employment by the Pacific Gas and

Electric, he was called by the company to assist in the rescue of a person who had gone off the Camp Nine grade. Because of the extreme difficulties involved in these operations, an entire night and day was consumed in retrieving the man from the bottom of Stanislaus Canyon at a point where the Camp Nine Road descended into the canyon. Far down in the canyon below the road, the man had landed and become lodged in the top of a pine tree. For anchorage, Doctor Cooper and other rescuers parked a P.G. and E. truck and his private automobile on the inside edge of the narrow road with the wheels of the vehicles in the ditch. Ropes were then attached to the cars and the rescuers lowered themselves down the cliff until they finally found the man. Stretches were lowered in the same manner, the man was tied to a stretcher and then laboriously worked back up the cliff to safety. In the course of time, the man sobered up and survived.

In 1921, a third child and daughter, Elizabeth E. Cooper, was born. Slightly more than two years later, in 1924, George and Cora Cooper rounded out their family with the birth of a fourth child, Robert M. Cooper.

On many occasions Doctor Cooper was sworn in as a Special Deputy under Sheriff Joe Zwinge and accompanied the famous sheriff when trouble or dangerous duty was anticipated. On these occasions Doctor Cooper carried a sidearm in addition to his familiar satchel of surgical instruments. On numerous occasions when Sheriff Zwinge kicked in the door of a cabin or rooming house in pursuit of an armed desperado, Doctor Cooper covered the Sheriff with orders for three alternatives: Stand by to patch up the Sheriff; stand by to patch up the apprehended person; or stand by to consummate the apprehension if the Sheriff were incapacitated.

Each year, during the times that the mines were operating and the ethnic traditions were stronger, the mayor, the mine



FREIGHT CAR AT ANGELS
This crew is loading (or unloading) a freight car near the Angels Depot. The railroad served that community from 1902 until 1936 when it was discontinued.

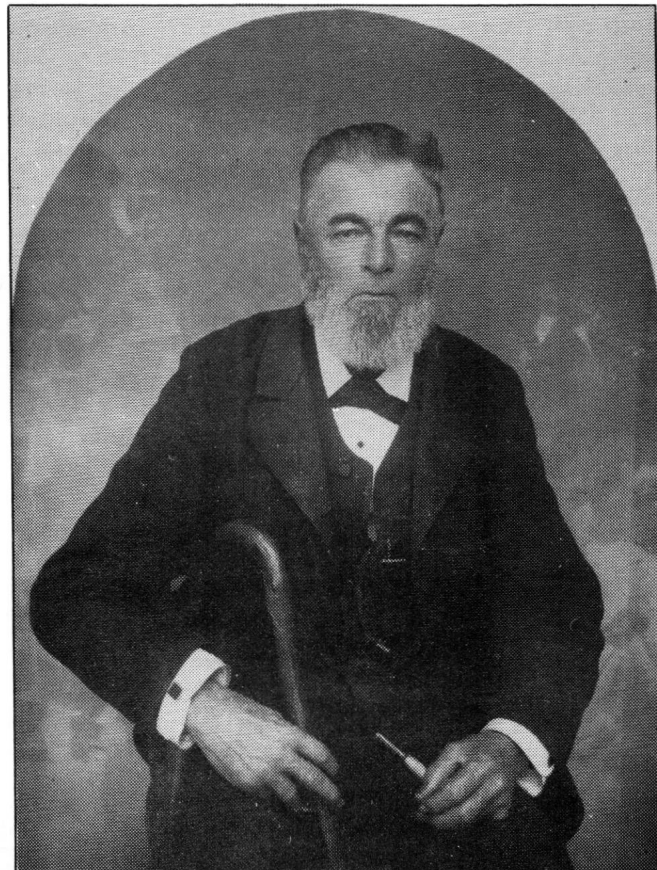
superintendents, the doctor and the priest were invited to participate in the Slovenian celebrations. About a week before Slovenian Christmas, one of the Slovenian mine foremen who could speak English best would visit the aforementioned "dignitaries" and extend invitations for the group to visit the Slovenian boarding houses during their Christmas celebration. The doctor and mine superintendents, having the majority of the few automobiles in town, would load all the "dignitaries" in their cars and make the festive rounds. As a result of the requirements and nature of Doctor Cooper's medical practice, and because of his innovative nature, he developed and constructed many items required in his practice before such items were commercially available. To the exasperation of Mrs. Cooper, he spent many evenings working on these projects in the kitchen. Being a fastidious lady, this meant to Mrs. Cooper that the kitchen had to be cleaned a second time before retiring for the evening. He developed a collapsible stretcher which could be carried in the luggage trunk (or on the running board) of a sedan. When in use, the stretcher could carry an injured man in a standard sedan. In addition, the stretcher was designed so it and the injured occupant could be transferred to an ambulance. This was an answer to the lack of ambulance service in rural communities in the early days.

Because Doctor Cooper found that it was frequently necessary to administer oxygen to patients in remote areas or in vehicles enroute to a hospital, he could foresee the need for some type of equipment other than the large oxygen tents which covered an entire bed. He therefore developed a small portable oxygen mask which covered only the nose and mouth long before this type of equipment was otherwise available.

Doctor Cooper was County Health Officer and Director of the County Hospital from the early 1930's until his death. He was a member of the San Joaquin County Medical Society, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association. In both World War I and World War II, he served as Medical Examiner for the Calaveras County Induction Board and on both occasions he received a Presidential Citation for his efforts, the second one being awarded posthumously. He served for approximately fourteen years on the Board of Directors of the Angels Camp Grammar School. He was also a member of the Odd Fellows.

Doctor Cooper was a member and commissioner of the Angels Camp Volunteer Fire Department in the 1920's and 1930's. It was he who instigated purchase of the first motorized fire equipment for the Angels Fire Department. In later years, when he could no longer take an active part in the annual fire prevention measures, he instituted another tradition which has endured and grown over the years. When the firemen burned the grass on the empty lots in town during the summer, he requested that they finish their chores in the neighborhood of the Cooper residence. Both he and Mrs. Cooper then enjoyed having all the firemen assemble on the front porch and lawn for beer, soft drinks and a spread of meats, cheeses and crackers. This continued for so many years prior to

(Continued on Page 12)



DR. WILLIAM A. KELLY

Dr. William Kelly was one of the first permanent settlers in the locality of Angels Camp. He received his literary education at Meadville, Pennsylvania, and his medical training at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating from that institution with the class of 1844. He came to Angels Camp in 1849 for the sole purpose of mining. But so great was the need of doctors that at the end of two years he laid aside the shovel and gold pan, and taking up the scalpel and medicine case, began the practice of medicine and surgery. Here he lived for 49 years.

Unique among physicians, Dr. Kelly was never known to send out a statement for services rendered, but when his funds became low, he sent the following to be printed in the Camp's weekly newspaper:

"All persons knowing themselves indebted to the undersigned will please call and settle at least a portion of their indebtedness as I am very much in need of money.

Sg'd William A. Kelly, M.D."

Caption from Edna Bryan Buckbee's "Pioneer Days of Angels Camp".

Photograph loaned by Mrs. Dorris Faull

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Las Calaveras is published quarterly by the Calaveras County Historical Society. Individual memberships (\$5.00 a year). Family (\$7.00) and Junior memberships (\$1.00) include 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.

Back Issues

A list of our back issues is available for the asking. Out of print issues will be supplied as "zerocopy" copies. Price to members is 50 cents a copy, and a discount is given for orders over \$10.

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Doctor Cooper's death that it was automatically continued as the thing to do. Over the years this tradition has been continued through barbecues and has finally evolved to the present Firemen's Day Celebration.

George and Cora Cooper had purchased ranch property in Plymouth, California, with intentions of eventually retiring there. Doctor Cooper was about to retire when World War II broke out. Due to the shortage of doctors, he continued with his practice, deferring his retirement. Before the war was over, George Cooper died in 1944, terminating thirty-eight years of service to the community. Cora Cooper died three and one-half years later, in 1948, after an extended illness.

Descendants of the Coopers include the three sons and one daughter, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. The oldest son, Dr. George Cooper, and his wife, Hildred Stephens Mayo Cooper, live in the county.

Editorial

We take this opportunity to urge any of our members and friends that have historic pictures of Calaveras people, scenes, buildings, mines, etc. to either donate them to the Society, or to allow us to have copies made. So many valuable and useful historical pictures and other relics of our county are constantly being lost to posterity. Don't let this happen to yours.

A number of the photographs in this issue are drawn from the splendid group made up for the Society by Earle Edmiston from negatives that he has accumulated over the years from copying old pictures. This substantial acquisition was purchased recently as a part of our current program of improving the Society's photograph collection.

New Members

Mr. Mark Belloni, Santa Cruz
 Mrs. Judith Cunningham, Mill Valley
 Mr. Gil Downer, Linden
 Mr. Richard P. Huber, Lufkin, Texas
 Mr. Howard Joses, Mountain Ranch
 Mr. Ralph King, Echo Lake
 Mr. John W. Lucini, San Jose
 Mrs. Cornelia Macnider, San Andreas
 Mr. and Mrs. Grant W. Metzger, San Andreas
 Mr. and Mrs. Willis K. Mollett, Covina and Angels Camp
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack Murphy, Corona Del Mar
 Mrs. Marie Oneto, Angels Camp
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward O'Connor, Stockton
 Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Pliker, Valley Springs
 Dr. and Mrs. D. H. Powelson, Berkeley
 Mrs. Muriel Rukeyser, San Francisco
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Schwartz, Altaville
 Mr. Jeffrey Schweitzer, Jackson
 Mrs. Florence Weitzel, Glencoe
 Mrs. Sandi Wudell, Mokelumne Hill
 Mr. and Mrs. F. Tormey Ward, San Andreas
 Mrs. Oscar Zwinge, Hemet

In Memoriam

James Field	Norval Tanner
H. Guy Hughes	John D. Snider

Family Memberships

It has long been our practice to send two bulletins to a family membership. The second copy generally is passed along to a friend or relative. However, some family members would prefer to save the Society the trouble and expense of sending the second copy. If you are one of these, please send a postcard to our secretary, Miss Bessie McGinnis, Box 542, Angels Camp, California 95222, requesting only one bulletin.