



DOUGLAS FLAT

By MRS. KATHERYN BRUNTON

Before the Gold Rush, Douglas Flat was a placid little valley. Through its meadows ran a stream of fresh spring water that was later known as Coyote Creek. A tribe of Miwok Indians occupied the area at the springs. There are still remnants of their occupation. The pot holes in which they ground seeds for food are now on the highway at the Antone Gianelli Ranch. Captain Walker of the tribe grew up there and lived in a nearby area to be 107 years of age. A very dependable person.

Gold mining was the leading industry. There are two types of mining in the area—surface placer and deep placer.

Orchards and vineyards abounded as did truck gardening. There was a flour mill here, and it was the only one in the county. It was owned and operated by August Lavagnino. August also owned and operated a blacksmith shop where mining and farm tools were made and wagon work and horse shoeing done. Opposite the flour mill and blacksmith shop was the Justice of the Peace Court, presided over by Judge C. C. Tatton.

The first schoolhouse was built in Douglas Flat in 1854 and was to be used also as a meeting house, a church, and Sunday School. It is still in good condition. Some of the early teachers were Mr. Bovie, Beale, Steve Perry, and Wells. Steve Perry was also a long-time pastor of the church and Sunday School.

There were three merchandise stores and all well stocked. The Antone Giliardo store still stands. It was built of limestone and mortar. The post office was contained in the Stephen Perry store, and he was the postmaster. His daughter, Lena, was the first white girl born in Douglas Flat. Owen Roberts was the first white boy born here. There was also a shoe and cobbler shop and three or four saloons.

The early settlers were a mixture of Chileans, French,

Italians, Welsh, English, Irish and Danes. The population ran into several thousands. After the railroad was completed, some Chinese came into work over the tailings left by the early miners. The gold recovered by these and other Chinese contributed largely to the establishment of San Francisco's Chinatown. For the most part, Douglas Flat now became a worked-over gravel bed.

The pioneer after whom the town was named was Tom Douglas.

MY PERSONAL MEMORIES OF RICH GULCH AND GLENCOE

By GRACE McKISSON LYTLE

I am now a girl going to school. There were at one time around forty children in the classroom at Rich Gulch. We also had a regular Sunday School attendance with a Mr. Willard Mead in charge. His home was burned in a great forest fire that swept things for miles around. His land is now owned by a Mrs. Robinson.

Let me tell you of things I really know and have experienced. We have watched a team of oxen pulling a load of logs driven by the Woodcock brothers pass our schoolyard. Six and eight-horse teams with bells jingling, dragging a big wood block behind the wheel so that when the horses stopped to rest it kept the wagon from rolling back and acting as an extra brake. There were only dirt roads then and the dust was thick in summer and the mud deep in winter.

In the spring and fall of the year bands of sheep and herds of cattle were moved to the mountains and valley. The cattle were so wild that a driver would come ahead to warn our teacher to keep all the children in the building for safety.

As the years pass by Rich Gulch was occupied mostly



EARLY LANDMARK — Photo shows gallows frame of the Gwin Mine, just north of the old town of Rich Gulch, one of the early quartz locations in Calaveras County.

by old bachelors—Bill Lunt, Sam Crochetti, Ferd Rechenbach, Oliver Peters (Mokelumne Hill's No. 4 ditch tender), Col. Keys, Andrew Willett, Adolph Bechaude, Joe Beauprey, and Charlie Dunning, the slickest of horse breakers and traders.

Joe Beauprey, a most familiar character, lived in a log cabin by the main roadside which was a sort of stopping place with a most wonderful spring across the way with a welcome drink for everyone.

The old Indian Camp was a place of interest. There were several small cabins and a big Round House where they held their pow-wows and gatherings. Only two couples were permanent, Chief McKenzie and Susie and Doch, with a crippled squaw, Rosie. McKenzie was in charge of everything. He called the Indians for miles away to help mourn the death of Susie. He would get out and make a chant to the sunrise and again at sunset and could be heard for a long distance. Indians came for days, with always the male riding along at leisure and the poor female trudging behind with heavy loads on their backs. At the pow-wows the men wore headdress and feathers and war paint (red, white and black). The women wore strings of colored beads and sea shells. They would chant and dance around the fire until they fell exhausted. All the deceased possessions were buried with them.

When all was going well, we have watched the weaving of baskets, the grinding of acorn meal, the cooking of the talallie—each a mystery in itself. Old Doch also taught me how to make bow and arrows and a willow whistle.

Rich Gulch's most popular annual event was the Cherry Picnic which was held down on the Annie Laidet Ranch on the Calaveras River.

Not one of the old familiar buildings are now standing, but only the recently built ones are left to show where the old Rich Gulch Flat once was.

Now on to Glencoe and over Alabama Hill where once

the old Clark Ditch crossed the county road in an overhead flume at the very top of the hill. At the foot of the hill an old bachelor, Peter Layden, lived. He was very aristocratic and was always well dressed and as he walked he swung a cane. His favorite expression, after relating a bit of gossip was, "Don't know anything about it myself but that's what I heard." As we go up on Cedar Gulch we come to Butcher John's, a saloon by the side of the road, and then to Wood cock's, a large rambling house with a hand pump on a well which was built into a large closed-in porch.

Glencoe proper in the early days was Mosquito Gulch. All the main buildings were down the West Point Road, about one-fourth of a mile from the school house. There was a general merchandise store, with the store and post office on the ground floor, and a dance hall upstairs. Across from this building was a large hotel and rooming house. The McNobles had a store on down the road a short distance. The Deardoff property now was the Prakes Place and known as the Anna Ranch.

Very fine apples were grown in this section of the county. Glencoe had many good mines, such as the Valentine, where in the nearby Valentine Gulch a great number of Mexicans lived. There was also the Blue Belle, Good Hope, San Pedro and the Normidge. My grandmother had beautiful quartz specimens from several of these mines. There must surely be more gold around this area if only someone would try his luck, for none of these mines were worked too long.

On the Green Meadow farm there once was a sawmill owned by Warren Clarke.

GWIN MINE

Located in 1851—In 1857 passed to control of Senator Gwin and worked from then to 1882 as a family property. In 1871 the Alexander Mine on north was purchased. Mine closed in 1882, re-opened to Gwin Mine Development Company in 1894, worked to 285 feet, closed in 1908. (Mother Lode Gold records of California, page 141).

ORIGINAL BOUNDARIES OF CALAVERAS COUNTY

The original boundaries of Calaveras County as defined in an act of the Legislature of April 25, 1851, are as follows

"Beginning at the corner of Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties, thence up the middle of Dry Creek to its source; thence following the summit of the dividing ridge between Mokelumne and Consumnes Rivers; thence due east to the State boundary line; thence in a southeasterly direction along the boundary line of the State to the parallel of 38 degrees latitude; thence due west to the summit of the Sierra Nevada Mountains; thence in a westerly direction along the summit to the North Fork of the Stanislaus River; thence down the middle of the North Fork of the Stanislaus River to a point one mile north of Knight's Ferry; thence down the eastern boundary of San Joaquin County to the place of beginning. The County Seat shall be the town of Double Springs."

SHEEPRANCH

By MRS. RHODA DUNLAP

Among the old-timers around Sheepranch were Fricot (Desire Fricot's father) and Madame Chevanne, both from France. They worked the Chevanne Mine adjoining the Sheepranch. Alex Friedberger, who ran the store here afterwards, moved to San Andreas and later on to Stockton where some of his descendants still live.

John Hauselt operated a brewery here. He came across the mountains from Markleeville, Alpine County, where he ran a brewery previously.

Gebhardt and Albert Bader were butchers. Walter Knight was superintendent of the Fricot-Chevanne Mine. Later he was foreman of the Sheepranch Mine for William H. Clary. Adam Poe and Charles Anderson both ran hotels. Old Austrian John lived out near the Lost Boy Mine. He raised vegetables and peddled his produce in Sheepranch from the back of his donkeys. For some reason he developed a grudge against Ben Stevens and burned his store. Later he seemed to go crazy and shot his two donkeys. Officers came to take him to jail but he resisted. He was shot by Emil Schwoerer, who was deputy sheriff under Josh Jones.

Other old-timers were George Merkel, a brother of Ben Stevens' wife, Annie. She passed away very recently in Stockton. Joe Bryant drove the Sheepranch Mining Company's team. Joseph C. Mason was a miner. There were also the families of McNair, Bean, Johnson, Scott, Cunningham, Armstrong, John Fisher, John Champain (whose daughter, May, married Dr. Stucky of Mokelumne Hill) and Bill Smith, whose daughter, Ella, married a man named Reidel and lives in Murphys. There was also the Stephens family.

The site where the little town of Sheepranch now stands was an old sheep corral surrounded by a picket fence. I believe the sheep belonged to George Johnson, father of Lev Johnson and Mrs. George Avery.

About 1860, Harve Childers found croppings of ore in the sheep corral. A short time later A. P. Ferguson and William A. Wallace started working on the Sheepranch Mine. In 1873, when John C. Early returned to California after serving in the Civil War, he was taken in as a partner in the mine. (A. P. Ferguson was born in Virginia in 1816 and died in Stockton in 1878. William Wallace died at Gardners Station, Calaveras County, in 1910. John C. Early was born in Franklin County, Virginia, on February 15, 1830, and died March 31, 1902, in San Andreas.)

One of the first hoist men was Adam Poe. Bert Deleray and Henry Harris were among the early workers. Many years later, Adam Poe's son, Edgar, was hoist man. This was in 1903.

Manuel Swmegar hauled wood from Indian Creek by ox team to supply the Sheepranch Mine. George and Adam Dunlap, father and son, burned coal on their homestead on the old road to Avery station. The coal was hauled to the mine for fuel. Mary Osselin remembers that she and her sister, Clorinda Domenghini, rode from their home on Indian Creek to school in Sheepranch on the Dunlap wagon.

There were two churches in the village—one Catholic and the other Protestant.

Herbert Ide, better known as Hub Ide, and Rod Ter-

villigar had the first water right that furnished water to the mine from San Antone Creek.

On August 4, 1880, the town was patented by Judge Ira Hill Read. K. M. Redmond was the recorder.

Thousands of dollars were taken from the old Sheepranch Mine. On the three hundred foot level an extremely rich ledge of black quartz was found. It is claimed that there is only one other place in the United States where black quartz is found and that is in Colorado. This quartz took a very high polish and a great deal of it was bought by Schreve and Son of San Francisco for jewelry.

Ferguson, Wallace and Early sold the mine to Hearst, Haggin and Tevis. William H. Clary was the superintendent.

In 1897, Gutman ran the mine until his death, when C. L. Feusier took over. Feusier now lives in San Francisco. Jim Langford was superintendent at one time as was a man by the name of Anderson. In 1907 Squires ran it and in the 1920's H. R. Plate. The last owners were the St. Joseph Lead Company. They continued operations until World War II (1942) when they closed down and shipped all the machinery to Hughville, Montana.

Other claims around Sheepranch in the Washington Mining District were the Tom Smith and the Lost Boy. The latter was located by Childers and Johnson and re-located in 1877 by J. C. Mason. It was named for Lev Johnson, who was lost and found sitting on a log by the mine. On February 28, 1883, W. A. Wallace and John C. Early patented the claim. Other claims were the Lodi, Pioche, and the Golden Eagle. The South Bank on Indian Creek was located on September 5, 1867.

In 1898, the Sheepranch telephone line was built by James M. and Benjamine Stephens, connecting Sheepranch with the Sunset lines of Murphys. The Stephens Brothers conducted stores in both Murphys and Sheepranch.

Around the turn of the century Louis Raggio ran a lively stable and his brother, Jeff, ran a saloon here.

Adam Poe was proprietor of the Eagle Hotel and Charles Anderson ran the Pioneer. The Eagle burned out, but the Pioneer still stands.

From 1903 to 1907 the school had dwindled from two teachers to a one-teacher school with about thirty pupils.

On September 29, 1906, the little town had a disastrous fire which burned several buildings. The fire was caused from the explosion of a kerosene lantern used by Leo German.

I found clippings in my Mother's scrapbooks about two bad accidents. One was when Michael Javeaux was killed in the Sheepranch Mine when a pick he was holding was struck by an ore tub and driven through his body. His son, James, lives here in San Andreas with his wife. Mr. Javeaux was married in 1885 to Mary Haupt at the Gwin Mine.

On April 30, 1892, the Sheepranch stage carrying money for the payroll was fired into by a bandit. This was just a few miles out of San Andreas. The Rodersino girl from Mountain Ranch was a passenger and was killed. Mike Tovey, the Wells Fargo messenger, was shot in the arm and Alfonso (Babe) Raggio, the stage driver was shot in the chest. Mr. Tovey jumped from the stage just in time to see the robber disappear in the brush. As Babe was losing con-

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The Calaveras County Historical Society meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Courthouse in San Andreas. Dinner meetings are held each quarter at different places in the county.

EDITORIAL

Our secretary, Sadie Hunt, received a New Year's greeting from one of our charter members in Bakersfield, Mrs. Cecelle Vandel McMillian. She states that she received a blue ribbon for her lead pencil drawing of the Calaveras Dance Hall on the Big Tree Stump, at the Kern County Fair. Many members will remember the delightful program of Mrs. McMillian's pictures of Calaveras which she presented at Mokelumne Hill several years ago.

The Christmas party was again one of the most delightful meetings of the year. The committee under the direction of Mrs. Alice Eldridge (who was unable to attend) had carefully decorated the Christmas tree with old-fashioned ornaments, strings of cranberries and popcorn and candles. The program consisted of accounts of the happy memories of past Christmases by several of the older members of the Society and several readings recalling Christmas customs in the past. Ralph Treat sang several beautiful carols and led the group in a general singing of Christmas carols.

The happiness of the occasion was somewhat lessened by the absence from the meeting for the first time for several years of three of our most loyal members—Mrs. Alice Eldridge, who had broken her foot, Vice-President Paul Lewis, who was in the hospital, and Mrs. Clara Tanner, who was in the hospital for serious surgery. Everyone will be happy to learn that all of our ill members are recovering satisfactorily.

The October meeting of the Society was held in the Home Economics Room of the Calaveras High School and the delicious dinner was served by the ladies of the home

economics committee of the Calaveras Grange.

The very interesting program consisted of an exhibit and discussion of Indian baskets by Mrs. Janet Goodrum of Stockton. The baskets were collected by Mr. Dunlap of Stockton and represented an expenditure of a great deal of time and money. The baskets were from practically every tribe in California, and Mrs. Goodrum, who has made a study of Indian basket weaving, was able to tell us a good deal about the use and significance of the designs in the baskets.

Mr. R. R. Stuart, Director of the California History Foundation of the College of the Pacific, announces that the Annual Institute will be held at the College on April 10-11. The program will be of especial interest to local historians. The boat trip down the San Joaquin River with a discussion of the Delta region will highlight the program on Saturday, April 11. Reservations should be sent in early to Mr. Stuart as the space on the boat is limited.

Our friends across the Stanislaus River, the Tuolumne County Historical Society, are planning a big occasion for their Annual Dinner on January 31. The meeting will be held in the exhibit building of the Mother Lode Fairgrounds and the main speaker will be Glenn Price, Director of the Westerners Foundation and Instructor of Western History at the College of the Pacific. His topic will be "Jedediah Smith and the Things of Time."

POSTMASTERS AT MURPHYS

From the Postal Records, the following is a list of the names of those persons who have been appointed and served as Postmasters of Murphys, California:

Lewis Berniared, appointed November 6, 1851; Augustus H. Stevens, appointed October 11, 1853; Harris Lang, appointed June 28, 1861; Charles A. Hunt, appointed December 20, 1862; Richard Fowler, Jr., appointed September 21, 1868; Riley Senter, appointed February 7, 1870; Thomas H. Fowler, appointed July 25, 1871; Riley Senter, November 28, 1873; David Baratini, July 16, 1886; George H. Scantlebury, April 16, 1890; Changed to Murphy, January 4, 1894; David Baratini, appointed January 4, 1894; Frank W. Fisk, appointed February 9, 1898; Elvin M. Mitchler, appointed October 7, 1933; Changed to Murphys, July 1, 1935.

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sciousness, Tovey strapped him to the seat and drove with one hand to the Sperry ranch a half mile away for help.

My information for this article was received from Mary Osselin, Warren Scott, Judge Smith, and from clippings from my Mother's scrapbooks.

Then here's to Sheepranch, good and true
 Since the time her wealth began,
 And well may Calaveras boast
 Of the town that leads the van.
 Through all the changes time may bring
 May you be number one
 And may your future be as bright
 As the rays of the setting sun.—Anonymous.

This verse was given to me by Mrs. Warren Scott.