



Quarterly Bulletin of the Calaveras County Historical Society
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MORE CALAVERAS WAY STATIONS AND HOTELS

The ubiquitous stage and teamster stops along the way and the small hotels in nearly every town in old-time Calaveras were a vital part of the system of communications, transportation, and the supply of provisions and equipment for the local population of that time. As was pointed out in the October, 1967, issue of "Las Calaveras," the way stations were closely spaced along the traveled routes, either at intersections, ferries and bridges, or at the outskirts of the larger communities. Or they were so situated as to provide a convenient stopping point in an otherwise open and inhospitable section of the road. To the traveler, stager or teamster, these establishments were

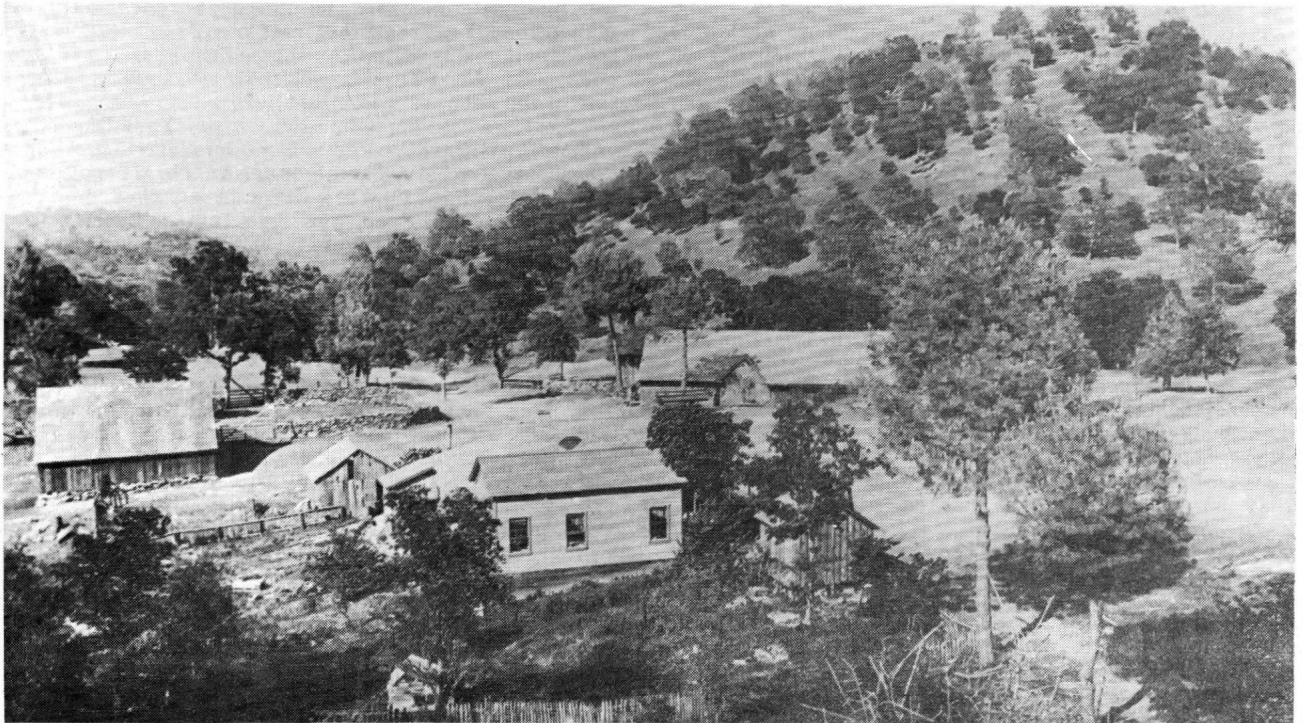
not only an important milestone along their route, but oftentimes the immediate goal of an arduous and frequently hazardous trip. Most of the way stations and hotels included in this issue were reported on at our November, 1969, and May, 1971 meetings.

The principal stop along the lonely, winding road from Milton and Salt Spring Valley to Angels Camp via Carmen Grade was at Nassau at the intersection of this route with the roads to Copperopolis and San Andreas. This locality, however, was better known as Pool's Station, after the efficient establishment maintained there by Andrew S. Pool. His daughter, Myrtle Pool Jones, who still resides in Calaveras County, gave us this interesting report on the station.

Pool's Station

The land upon which Pool's Station was located was homesteaded by Andrew and Margaret Pool in 1875. The original home was built by Mr. Pool about a quarter of a mile north of the permanent house, located near a spring. A few years later the main house was started, with rooms added as the family grew. Charles Pool was the first child, born in 1878. He was followed by George, Hugh, Fred, Ernest, Viola, Hazel, Martin, Myrtle, and Amelia. The finished house eventually consisted of ten rooms; there were six bedrooms, a living room with a fireplace, a parlor, a dining room, and a kitchen and pantry.

In addition to the main house, there were two large barns used for the storage of hay and feed, and for overnight stabling of horses and mules of the freight teams



Pool's Station

A view looking easterly, of the various buildings, corrals and barns at Pool's Station, taken after the turn of

the century. Only one of the corrals remain.

-Loaned by Mrs. Myrtle Pool Jones



The Andrew Pool Family

Members of the Pool family, including Mrs. Pool's sister and niece, standing in front of the station, in the nineties.
 -Courtesy of Mrs. Myrtle Pool Jones

traveling from the railroad terminal at Milton to Angels Camp or farther east, along what is now Highway 4. The freight teams usually stopped overnight here. This stop was also a station for changing passenger stage horses on the trip between Milton and Angels Camp. The stage made a daily trip on this run, changing horses also at the Tower Ranch, in Salt Spring Valley. The horses would be put in the stables to be fed, watered and rested until the stage returned after meeting the train at Milton.

Attached to the barns were two stone corrals, and also a corral partly covered with lumber for the goats. The reason for this was that the goats would climb over a rock fence. The Pools had a herd of about 200 goats. These goats were watched over, day and night, by two dogs, whether the goats were in the corrals or grazing in the fields. The dogs were put with the goats as tiny puppies. In fact, they were nursed by the nannies.

Besides the above-mentioned buildings, there was a pig-pen, a slaughter house, smokehouse, blacksmith shop, and a bunk house. Later on, in the 1900's, two more dwelling houses were built, one for a brother-in-law, and the other for the oldest daughter, Viola, and her husband, George Morris. It was here that the first grandchild was born, in 1908.

Mr. Pool and his sons cleared the land for three large fields where he raised most of the grain and hay for feeding the livestock, including hogs, cattle, goats and chickens. When the hogs were butchered, Mrs. Pool made salt pork, rendered lard from the fat, and smoked the hams and bacon in the smokehouse.

Mr. Pool donated the land for the Keystone School, about three-quarters of a mile towards Copperopolis, and also helped to build it. All the Pool children attended this school. One of the first teachers was Miss Elizabeth Matthews, who later married Mrs. Pool's brother, George Webb.

The passenger stage carried the mail. It also carried

the Wells Fargo "money box" which was a temptation for highway robbers. The stage was once held up by a man named Keener within half a mile of Pool's Station. Mr. Keener was killed. At another time, near the school-house, on the Milton road, there was another hold-up. One of the robbers was killed here also.

There was a copper mine on the Pool Ranch.* Mr. and Mrs. Willard Porter became interested in the mining operation and built a home on the ranch, west of the main house. Mr. Pool boarded the men working in the mine. One of his sons, Fred, was badly injured in the mine, but later recovered. However, he was left slightly lame from the accident.

At one time in the early nineties, the wash house was also the Nassau post office. This was later moved to another site towards Angels.

In 1909, Mr. and Mrs. Pool, three daughters and two sons, moved to Valley Springs. There, Mr. Pool and his son Ernest bought a livery stable. Ernest became dissatisfied with the livery stable business, and left for Stockton to further his education.

Fred Pool and Viola Pool Morris took over the ranch and operated it for several years, finally selling out to the Porter family. Mrs. Porter bought a splendid glassed-in carriage for transportation to town and to church. She later had a special carriage house built for it. The carriage is now in the Angels Camp museum. The main house at Pool's Station burned down in 1928.

*This was called the Nassau mine, consisting of the Goat Ranch and Goat Ranch Extension claims, staked by Mr. Pool. In the early 1900's, the Nassau Copper Mining Company was formed, which sunk a 430-foot shaft, and mined off two levels. Operations continued intermittently until 1919. The large dump is still clearly visible from the road.

At The Hawkeye

Bessie and Tone Airola, with Mrs. Kate Donovan, and friends, were snapped at the front door of the old Hawkeye House, a half century ago.
-Loaned by Mrs. Airola



Hawkeye Station

For a number of decades (until it burned down a quarter of a century ago) the large two-story Hawkeye House was a well-known landmark to travelers on the main road halfway between Fourth Crossing and Altaville. With five rooms downstairs and nine on the second floor, the building was conspicuous for its many windows. The ranch and the station were called by this name after the gold diggings nearby where miners from Iowa (the Hawkeye state) had prospected in early days. Built in the 50's, the Hawkeye was operated under lease by Alexander and Martha Wheat in 1858. Two years later the Wheats moved back to Double Springs where they had W. Watts build the beautiful home now lived in by the Percy Hunts.

Mrs. Bessie Donovan Airola (Mrs. Tone Airola), who lives across the highway from the site of the Hawkeye House, supplied us with the following information relating to the subsequent history of this historic station and of its residents and operators.

My grandfather, David Maloney, and his wife, Margaret, came here from Ireland, residing on the east coast for a short time. They came to California in 1854, settling on Cedar Creek, between San Andreas and Moke-

lumne Hill. While there, four children were born: Robert,* Ellen, Lucy, and Kate. Kate Maloney was my mother.

David Maloney and his brother-in-law, John Donnal-lan, had a good paying mine near Chili Gulch. With the profits from this mine, David Maloney purchased the Hawkeye ranch, consisting of 160 acres of land, and the hotel, store, and dance hall, in 1862. This was an important stopping place for the stages and wagons bringing supplies to the mines. Later he raised grain and hay.

My mother married William Donovan who came here from Auckland, New Zealand. When I was five years old, my grandfather passed away. We moved to Hawkeye where my father raised cattle and sheep. In 1921 Tone Airola and I were married and subsequently raised four children. I finished school and became a teacher, teaching in some of the one-room schools in Calaveras and San Joaquin counties.

About 25 years ago, the old Hawkeye House burned down and my father, William Donovan came to live with us at Angels. When he passed away, we built our new home across from the site of the old home. Thus, Hawkeye Ranch has been in the hands of the same family since 1862.

*A picture of Robert Maloney appeared in our July "Las Calaveras", which included a description of a dance at Hawkeye in the early sixties.



Freight Team At Milton

A ten-horse team leaving Milton with freight for the mines. It took many such teams to keep the Calaveras mining camps supplied with provisions and equipment. Completion of the Stockton and Copperopolis Railroad to Milton in 1871 saved many miles of hauling from the Stockton vicinity to the Angels and Copperopolis areas.
-From Society files



Pioneer Hotel At Sheep Ranch

The upper story of this building was originally constructed at Chee Chee Flat, near Mountain Ranch. Charles Anderson (also known as J.C. Mauritsen) bought it and moved it to Sheep Ranch. There it served as a general merchandise store and living quarters for the family. It had a dining room where meals were served when balls were held at Mr. Anderson's hall next door, over the stables.

About 1904 or '05 the company operating the Sheep Ranch mine purchased the building. They hired house-movers from San Francisco who raised the one-story

building, built the ground floor story, and then set the older part in place on the new construction. The old part was fastened with handmade square nails.

There were eighteen rooms upstairs, and some bedrooms, a dining room, kitchen, and bar downstairs. Mr. and Mrs. Leo Valente operated the Pioneer Hotel from 1917 until they took over the Eagle Hotel in 1922. At present, the hotel is owned by three families who use it for weekends and holidays.

-Loaned by Lester Canavera

Tower's Stage Stop

Mrs. Otta Leonard and Miss Bessie McGinnis interviewed Agnes Foster Tower (Mrs. Willard Tower) during the last year of her long lifetime. From the interview they developed this interesting story of the Towers and their ranch at Felix in the Salt Spring Valley.

We urge any of our readers who may wish to retrace one of the well-used routes of Old Calaveras to drive from Milton up to the old stage road past Salt Spring Reservoir to the Tower Ranch, and from there over the Carmen Grade to Pool's Station. Although it is now paved, this route follows the old roadbed very closely. Little development has occurred along the way, and the landscape has hardly changed since a century ago when the railroad first reached Milton.

We turn now to Mrs. Tower's description of the ranch at Felix.

Agnes Foster came to teach in the Salt Spring Valley school in 1898. This building, though no longer in use, is still standing, and is the property of the Frank Tower family. It was built and paid for by Tower and Bisbee, then partners on the ranch, and was subsequently moved to its present location near the Tower home. It was used for the Felix post office for many years. The school district later built the present schoolhouse which stands on the hill above the Jacob Tower home, and which is no longer used as a school.

Tower and Bisbee acquired 3500 acres of this fertile Salt Spring Valley in 1853. The first Mrs. Tower was a Howard before she married Jacob Tower. Of this marriage there were eight children, seven sons and one daughter. Four sons grew to manhood on the ranch, married, and built their homes within sight of the family home. Son Willard, who became the husband of Agnes Foster of this story, lived in the old Tower house. They had two sons, Willard and Foster. Jim Tower, son of Jacob, had one son, Howard, who lives today in the house near Agnes



Eagle Hotel At Sheep Ranch

The Eagle Hotel was originally built as a hall for the Odd Fellows. The lodge room was upstairs. Downstairs was a skating rink, with a two-inch floor. When the Lodge was consolidated with San Andreas, Adam Poe bought the building and remodeled it as a hotel. He operated the Eagle Hotel until he was elected to the office of County Clerk, when he moved to San Andreas, to the Ben Thorn house. His son, James Poe then ran the hotel.

There were eleven rooms upstairs, with a dining room, kitchen, bar, and a few other rooms downstairs. Prices for miners who boarded at the hotel were 25¢ a meal, \$1 a day and \$35 a month for room and board.

Many of the men who boarded at the hotel worked in the woods cutting wood for the steam boilers at the mine.

This activity, in fact, sometimes appeared more important than the mining.

When H.R. Plate operated the Sheep Ranch mine, he bought the hotel from Mr. Poe, so as to have a place for his miners to room and board. When the Plate Mining Company closed down in 1922, Leo Valente bought the hotel and he and Mrs. Valente operated it until it burned in 1952.

In the picture above, Ed Delray has the reins, and Jim Poe is sitting beside him. Standing are Dr. Beale, dentist, Benjamin Stephens, and Lev Johnson. The Stephens Brothers owned the wagon which was used mostly to haul freight from Murphys to Sheep Ranch.

-Loaned by Leo Valente

Tower, and who owns and operates the Calaveras Telephone Company (formerly the Felix Telephone Company). Frank, another son of Jacob, had three girls; one of the girls, Mrs. Frances Henry, lives with her mother in the family home. The fourth son, Jacob, had no children.

The original Jacob Tower residence, where Mrs. Agnes Tower lives, was built in 1860. On the dining room wall is a large framed diploma presented to the Tower and Bisbee Ranch in 1865 by the San Joaquin Agricultural Society for the best improved ranch in their district. They raised hay, grain (wheat), barley, and cattle and sheep. Much of the hay and grain was sold to the livery stables in Angels Camp.

Mrs. Tower (Sr.) served meals and had rooms for overnight guests. Meals were served family style at 25¢ apiece, and rooms at 50¢ a night. Meals might be chicken and dumplings, meat, and vegetables, all raised on the

ranch. Mrs. Tower always had a Chinese cook and a house girl. One Chinese cook was there for 18 years, and another stayed for 17 years. One of the cooks would often try to entice the teamsters to come by the White House Road by saying, "You come by here next time. I make chicken and dumplings." Agnes said he could make the most wonderful chicken and dumplings that she ever ate. The stage used the Tower Ranch road while the teamsters often used the road going past the Red House Ranch. The teamsters used to say to one another, "Are you going the White House Road or the Red House Road?" Only the teamsters were known to designate the two roads that way.

The first railroad to enter the county was constructed to Milton. Here, stage coaches picked up passengers and the mail for Angels Camp and vicinity. Teamsters, with twelve to fourteen horses, hauled all the freight to the then booming mining town of Angels Camp. They stopped at

either the Red House or the Tower Ranch, where they would get their meals. They usually slept in the barn loft above the horses, using the bedroll they always carried with them.

The four-horse stages stopped and changed horses at the Tower Ranch. The four fresh horses were harnessed and ready to take off as soon as the stage drove up. The tired horses were fed, watered, and rubbed down in the barn. This stage barn is still standing. The next morning, when the stage came back from Angels Camp, once again the four horses were changed. There were always many horses in the barn and barnyard.

The roads were steep, winding, and incredibly dusty in summer and muddy in winter. If it was very stormy in the winter and the creeks high, the stage would stay overnight. Room and board were always available for these situations. Then too, traveling salesmen or drummers, as they were called, regularly stopped at the Towers. Agnes particularly remembers Will Senter, one of the drummers who always made the Tower Ranch his stopping place.

There were large washings required to keep this household operating, sometimes as many as 20 to 30 sheets at a wash. This was all done by hand until Willard developed a horseoperated machine. This was literally a one-horse-power washer. He also developed a loader for the large crops of hay. Agnes remembers her husband taking the boys to the fields to lead the horses around and around as the hay was loaded. There would be as many as twenty or thirty men to board during the harvest season. All the hay was cut by hand scythes.

Some of the stage drivers Agnes remembers were George Osborne, Dick Redmond, Babe Raggio, and Bert Raggio. Bill Gregson was the hostler, responsible for taking care of the horses, not a light responsibility.

The delivery of the mail was put on for bids. The low bidder then operated the stages. Companies who owned and operated the early stages were these:

1871-1872

Sisson and Company

Drivers - Colonel Lovelace, William Cutter, Brice.
Messengers - Fisher, Fred Jackson, R.E. McConnel
1873

Matteson Stage Company

Matteson and Garland

Driver - Fred Flanders

Messenger - McConnel

1875

R.W. Russell, who also operated stages in San Andreas and Angels Camp.

1875-1882

Wes Richards

Driver - Henry Gregson

1882

Raggio Brothers. They ran a four-horse stage on the Milton-Angels run, a two horse stage on the Murphys run, and also ran a stage to Big Trees.

Drivers - Frank Washburn, Fred Wesson, Ed Schacten

1901

William Lange

1902

Milton Gann

Some of the freighters included Wes Richards, Sam Osborne, Cross and Meyers, Ben Inks, Mike Marchal, and Polly Messer.

All these men were a part of the Tower Ranch operation during those years, and were well-known around the table and barns during the years they made this long and arduous trip between Milton and Angels.



Pattee Brothers Teams

Five eight-horse teams line up on Daphne Street, in Valley Springs, ready to start for Campo Seco with fuel oil (crude oil as they called it then) for the Penn Mining Company's smelter. Construction of the narrow gauge San Joaquin and Sierra Nevada Railroad to Valley Springs in

1885 greatly facilitated the problem of supplying the Penn Mine, the Gwin mine, and the towns of San Andreas, Moke-lumne Hill and vicinity. The traffic became so heavy by 1908 that the roadbed was widened to standard gauge, to save transferring freight to narrow gauge cars at Lodi.

-From Society files



Mountain Gate House

The original Mountain Gate House, located at the lower end of Spring Valley, just east of the "Mountain Gate" through which Highway 12 passes. The establishment was later rebuilt close to the present Reinking residence.

-Mrs. Frances Bishop

Forthcoming Meetings

- OCTOBER 28th - Dinner meeting at Hotel Leger, Moke-lumne Hill. Program by William Lange, of East Bay Water.
 NOVEMBER 18th - Grange Hall, San Andreas. Old Time families of San Andreas.
 DECEMBER 16th - Grange Hall, Christmas Program.

September Meeting

We started off our fall program with a most interesting meeting on San Andreas pioneer families. Doris Treat Daley presented a paper on the Treats, and L.H. Getchell spoke on the history of his family.

Lester Tiscornia and Edythe Domenghini were elected honorary members.



Matteson's Stage Approaching Big Trees

Letters To The Editor

Dear Sir:

This is to call your attention to an error in the article in our last bulletin about the old Friedberger building on Main Street in San Andreas. I refer also to the site where the building formerly stood, which is now a small park with lawn and drinking fountain. This site was

bought back from my uncle, Edward Casey, by Maurice Freidberger some years after the demise of the old building and donated to the town as a memorial to this family.

This structure was known as the Casey building in my lifetime, as it was owned and operated by my grandfather, Bill Casey, as Casey's Saloon.

After my grandfather died, ownership of the Casey-Friedberger building passed to Uncle Ed, the oldest of Grandfather's seven sons. Ed Casey was appointed probation officer and used the building and former barroom as his office for many years until the building burned in the big fire of 1926 (which also burned the Metropolitan Hotel and the dance hall).

After this most unfortunate episode, my Uncle Ed moved across the street to the now Blewett building which was then also owned by the Caseys. Eleven years later, in 1937, he sold the site of the Casey-Friedberger building back to the Friedbergers. This was two years before Ed Casey died at the age of seventy-four.

The point I'm bringing out here is that the Casey-Friedberger building was owned and operated by two generations of the Casey family, which was not mentioned in the caption accompanying the excellent picture of the building in the last issue.

Madelon Jack Carley

Dear Sir:

I noted in one of the Society's bulletins an article about the late Frank Peek of Moke Hill, and a picture included.

The photograph was of the late Sam Peirsall, who came as a teen-age recruit with Col. Stevenson's regiment. My late brother, W.T. McSorley had the same photograph, and he mentioned many times to me who Mr. Peirsall was.

A.S. McSorley

(Editor's note) This was the picture on page 21 of the April, 1971, issue, entitled "A Moke Hill Oldtimer".

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

AGNES B. GROSS

The Society lost a beloved member last August when Agnes Gross passed on. Always an enthusiastic participant in our activities, Agnes was unusually active during the past few years, in several capacities, helping to make the meetings pleasant and well organized. We will all miss her very much.

Other Hotels and Stage Stops

We have had a number of hotels and road stops pictured and described in "Las Calaveras." These include the Leger, Dorrington, the Tornado at Milton, the Meader in Copperopolis, Telegraph City, Reddick's at Fourth Crossing, Calaveras (Rolleri) in Angels, Metropolitan at San Andreas, North Branch, North America House, and the little Royal Hotel at Hodson. We hope information and pictures will be found of those we have not yet covered.

New Members

We welcome the following new members. Mrs. Daley was a charter member and is rejoining. Last issue, we listed Mrs. Helen Belmont as a new member, erroneously. Mrs. Belmont was a charter member and has always belonged to the Society.

Mrs. Doris Treat Daley, Stockton
Mrs. A.H. Henson, San Diego
Mr. Charles H. King, III, Oakland
Mr. Kenneth Mitchell, Altaville
Mr. Cyril Monte Verda, Altaville
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Robie, Milton
Mr. Allen G. Wilson, Santa Cruz

Back Issues

Those back issues of "Las Calaveras" still in print are listed below. They may be purchased by members at 50 cents each.

Vol. 1	No. 1	Early Calaveras-Odd Fellows Building - Angels Mine Disaster.
Vol. 1	No. 2	Indians of Calaveras
Vol. 2	No. 2	Big Trees Road - O'Byrnes Ferry Bridges
Vol. 2	No. 4	Bridges and Ferries
Vol. 4	No. 4	Mountain Ranch & Vicinity
Vol. 5	No. 1	Railroad Flat - Wheat Home at Double Springs
Vol. 6	No. 2	Valley Springs, etc.
Vol. 6	No. 3	Calaveritas
Vol. 6	No. 4	Paloma-Glencoe
Vol. 7	No. 1	Sheepranch Mine, etc.
Vol. 7	No. 3	Big Trees Vicinity
Vol. 7	No. 4	Mokelumne Hill
Vol. 9	No. 4	Lost City
Vol. 10	No. 1	Blue Mountain City - Sandy Gulch
Vol. 10	No. 2	Dogtown
Vol. 10	No. 3	Abe Vandling - Esmeralda
Vol. 10	No. 4	County's First Fair - Camanche, etc.
Vol. 11	No. 1	Fair, con'd - Old Gulch - Fourth Crossing
Vol. 11	No. 2	Tanner Mine
Vol. 11	No. 3	Chinese of San Andreas
Vol. 11	No. 4	Chinese of North Branch, Railroad Flat, etc.
Vol. 12	No. 1	Chinese of Angels, Jenny Lind, Calaveritas, Mokelumne Hill, Camanche, Campo Seco, etc.
Vol. 12	No. 2	Chinese of West Point, Vallecito, Murphys, etc.
Vol. 12	No. 3	Moaning Cave
Vol. 12	No. 4	Cave City and Mercer's Cave
Vol. 13	No. 1	Indians at Murphys
Vol. 13	No. 2	Newspapers in Calaveras County
Vol. 13	No. 3	Exploitation of Limestone
Vol. 13	No. 4	Mokelumne - Calaveras 100 Years Ago
Vol. 14	No. 1	Fourth Crossing
Vol. 14	No. 2	Wade Johnston - John Peirano Family
Vol. 14	No. 3	Canepa and Rolleri Families
Vol. 14	No. 4	Greve Family - County Library
Vol. 15	No. 1	Goodwin - Gatewood Duel
Vol. 15	No. 2	Copperopolis Pioneers
Vol. 15	No. 3	Railroad Flat and Glencoe Pioneers
Vol. 15	No. 4	Some Calaveras Schools
Vol. 16	No. 1	Stephen Box Family
Vol. 16	No. 2	Gwin Mine at Paloma
Vol. 16	No. 3	Southworth, Fisk, Nicolls and Haupt Families
Vol. 16	No. 4	Royal Mine, Hodson
Vol. 17	No. 1	Early Quartz Mining at Angels
Vol. 17	No. 2	A Calaveras Album
Vol. 17	No. 3	Wade Johnston Talks - I
Vol. 17	No. 4	Negroes on the Lode
Vol. 18	No. 1	Wade Johnston Talks - II
Vol. 18	No. 2	The Dill Murder Case
Vol. 18	No. 3	Wade Johnston Talks - III
Vol. 18	No. 4	Recollections of Wallace
Vol. 19	No. 1	Wade Johnston Talks - IV
Vol. 19	No. 2	The Mills of Angels
Vol. 19	No. 3	Calaveras Carousel
Vol. 19	No. 4	Wade Johnston Talks - V