



Quarterly Bulletin of the Calaveras County Historical Society  
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# Calaveras Prospect & Calaveras Californian

"The Home of the Jumping Frog"

**T**he Calaveras County Historical Society has become the unexpected recipient of a large piece of local history. In February, the Society was given several large boxes of miscellaneous back issues of the Calaveras Californian and the Calaveras Prospect. How did we arrive at such good fortune? With the recent sales, mergers, reorganization, etc. of the local papers with the Calaveras Enterprise, some housekeeping was bound to take place. The extra boxes of old newspapers were discovered in storage at the Prospect offices. They were offered to the Society, and we gladly accepted them.

Together these papers represent a significant accounting of our local history since the gold rush. The Prospect is locally known as the newspaper that has been "the longest continuously published newspaper in Calaveras County," as it has been steadily in print since the 1800's. This year the Californian celebrates its 75th anniversary. Today these papers are being streamlined to target specific areas of Calaveras County and are brought to homes through the mail. With the merger with the Enterprise, all of these papers now fall under the umbrella of a local publishing consortium called Calaveras First Newspapers.

Now the work begins. Unfortunately, the papers were not cataloged nor even stored chronologically. We have been able to determine that they generally range from twenty to eighty years old. Issues range from ten cents a copy to two

dollars for an annual subscription. Volunteers have been working to arrange them chronologically and index them in a neat, retrievable condition. But the material is so interesting, one is quickly distracted by the various stories of old and work grinds to a halt. Everyone agrees it has been much fun

## Some Things Never Change

Common themes throughout the front pages of the papers are quickly recognized. The opening or closing of a mine always made front page news, as did mining accidents or other catastrophes. The Calaveras Cement Company, so important to our local economy, featured prominently in the headlines for years. Today, obituaries and high school sports scores are more likely to be found on second pages or later sections of the paper, but these subjects have fueled news for countless years. The activities of our County Fair and participation to the State Fair has always been important to us. And highway projects or transportation and road problems seem to have been significant longer than pavement has existed.

## History Isn't Bunk

Despite what Mark Twain is alleged to have said about history, not everyone believes that history is bunk. In fact, Please see **NEWSPAPERS**, pg. 2

# UNEMPLOYED MAY MINE FOR GOLD ON STATE PROPERTY

**Sacramento, May 15.**-Rebirth of the days of '49, this time under a planned economy with thousand of unemployed men recruited from relief rolls to search for California's yet untapped millions in gold, is pictured in a bill now pending before the State Assembly.

Framed by State Senator Jerrold Seawell of Placer County and Assemblyman Jesse M. Mayo of Calaveras County to deplete the ranks of depression - born idle and raise additional revenue for the State coffers, the measure would place an unlimited number at work in abandoned mine sites under State support and supervision.

## ON ASSEMBLY CALENDAR

The bill has already won a unanimous vote in the Senate. If it is passed by the Assembly and approved by the governor, California's gleaming yellow metal that once captured the world's imagination and brought teeming hordes to the Mother

Lode may soon again become a mecca for prospectors. The measure has been placed on the Assembly calendar.

All that threatens success of the plan, says Walter W. Bradley, chief of the Division of Mines of the Department of Natural Resources, and under whose supervision the project would operate, is the lack of funds with which to initiate work. The bill makes no such provision and there is no money in the Division of Mines available for such purpose.

## FUNDS MUST BE FOUND

"Funds must be made available to start operations," he said. "Once that is done the work will continue of its own momentum. I have little doubt but that with careful analysis of probable yield, the State can select sites that will be real revenue producers."

There is about \$600,000,000 worth of gold in gravel channels and an additional \$1,000,000,000 in the lodes, ac-

ording to Bradley. This amount is calculated at the old rate of \$20 per ounce, so that under the current price of nearly \$35, the value is almost doubled.

## WORK ABANDONED MINES

Only those abandoned mines and channels where State geologists reckon there is gold in paying quantities will be exploited. There are hundreds of these throughout the State.

"The States owns a great deal of such land, acquired through early land grants for school districts and also, particularly of late, through tax delinquency," Bradley said.

"Since 1921 mineral-bearing land may be only leased, not sold, by the State. These lands are available to private enterprise, but it is evident that a great deal of this property might well be worked by the State because unwanted by individual prospectors."

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## NEWSPAPERS, cont. from pg. 1

many people (you included) find history to be fascinating. And our rich County provides almost limitless material for historical exploration. These old newspapers often used notes on history as "stories." In as early as 1920, the Prospect printed retrospections of earlier news events starting with "70 years ago today..." And Judge J. A. Smith provided the Prospect with a column called "Days of Old In Historical Calaveras County" for many years. Much of his material has made its way into earlier editions of the Las Calaveras.

Some may feel that, although old newspaper articles may be newsworthy, they do not necessarily represent "history." Much of what is chronicled in these papers has occurred during our lifetimes. We may not be willing to relegate our life stories to history just yet, as that would be tantamount to calling ourselves antiques or relics. But the term 'History' means a record of events, so we should be grateful that so much of the last hundred years has been so thoroughly documented for future generations to learn from and enjoy. Perhaps these articles will

revive a forgotten or fond memory, or spawn a lively conversation. So sit back and enjoy this little indulgence in nostalgia.

## Gratitude

The Calaveras County Historical Society is grateful to Mr. Ron Dwelley of the Calaveras Enterprise for the generous donation of these papers. And we are grateful to Mr. Jon Peterson, who recently retired, for his many years of dedicated work publishing the Prospect and the Californian. The following pages have excerpts from just a few years. We hope you'll find them interesting. And if you get a chance, come by the office and browse through some of the papers or help catalog them. But be prepared to sit a spell as you'll quickly become fascinated with the stories. Perhaps you'll find the paper from the day you were born, or mention of your grandparents' wedding anniversary, or a story about the mine that used to operate near the old ranch, or...

# Gold Mine Land Sold For \$21,000

Romie Roller bought 330 surface acres and 460 mineral acres operated by gold mining executive Harry Sears for \$21,000 at a tax sale Tuesday and Sears promptly filed suit, asserting he had a right to the land.

Rolleri's bid of \$21,000 was the sole one made on the Calaveras Central Mining Co. property and just met the minimum set in advance by the county and the state. But a representative of an Easter group associated with Sears in gold mining ventures here attended the sale and is believed interested in acquiring mineral rights to the property.

Also present was a representative of Pacific Gas and Electric which is hoping to build a small micro-wave relay station on a portion of the property.

Sears' suit asserts he has a right to remain permanently in possession of the land because the county did not act in time to seek his removal.

The sale climaxed a long series

of controversies over the gold mining property stretching back to 1930. At that time O. H. Lague, and employee of Sears', claimed he was owed back wages, sued and in Nov. 1934 was awarded \$3,059. Lague acquired an interest in the land in execution of judgement and the land was assessed to him. However, Sears asserted a right to pay taxes on the land and did so on and off over the years.

The tax delinquency mounted, however, and when Roller made an application to purchase this year, a tax sale was called, the property meanwhile having been deeded to the state for taxes. Sears, during this entire period, remained in apparent possession.

At the sale Tuesday, Sears had one more chance to pay on the property but did not and the Roller bid was offered and accepted. Roller's price figures out to approximately \$63 an acre.

# Slayer Dies After Filling Prophecy

Merced, May 20.-One of the most remarkable criminal cases in the history of California courts came to end here today with the funeral of James Westley Smalling, 77.

Convicted of murder in 1891, Smalling spent 41 years of his life in prison and under parole, but he died here Saturday a free man. The late Governor James Rolph, Jr., granted Smalling an unconditional pardon in 1932 which restored his rights of citizenship, 41 years after he was convicted of murdering his brother-in-law, Donald Ackton, during a quarrel over cattle.

Smalling, a farmer in the Ryer district near here in the 1880's, was prospecting for gold in Calaveras County. He shot and killed Ackton, whose body fell into a well which became his grave.

Smalling was sentenced to a life term in State prison after a second trial. The first trial jury failed to reach a verdict. Smalling claimed self-defense as a motive for the slaying and declared fear of incriminating Mrs. Ackton had silenced him.

He began his prison term in 1891. Shortly after his commitment his wife visited him and killed herself before the prison gates. He was released on parole in 1908, after serving 17 years.

Governor Rolph's pardon fulfilled a prediction made by Smalling to the court at San Andreas at the time of his conviction.

Smalling said: "Judge, you and the jury and most everybody here will be dead when I get out of prison, but I'll get out and be free again."

When the pardon was ordered the judge and all jurors were dead.

Smalling voted at the 1932 presidential election for the first time since 1888. After his parole he engaged in small truck farming near here.



"The Home of the Jumping Frog"

# FIRE ENDANGERS MINE BUILDINGS

Building of the Calaveras Central Mine near Angels Camp were endangered by fire Wednesday afternoon, when a grass and brush blaze swept over nine acres before being brought under control by the combined efforts of the Angels Camp Fire Department and fire suppression crews from San Andreas and Murphys.

The fire started near the Broglio residence west of the mine and at one time was burning within 20 feet of one of the mine buildings.

Investigation into cause of the blaze is being made by the sheriff's office and by State Forest Ranger Jim Mace of San Andreas.

January 1, 1931

## STEVENOT GETS APPOINTED ON R. R. COMMISSION



Fred G. Stevenot, state director of natural resources and Calaveras County's favorite son, was appointed a member of the California Railroad Commission yesterday by Governor C. C. Young for a two year term.

Stevenot, who was born at Carson Hill has served in the state legislature for several years and was appointed to the post of director of natural resources upon the creation of that department in 1927 by Governor C. C. Young. He has served in that capacity ever since and has made a splendid record in handling the various departments under his jurisdiction which includes fish and game, forestry, gas and oil, state parks and mining.

Stevenot succeeds Wm. J. Carr of Los Angeles who resigned to accept a six year appointment on the commission.

The people of Calaveras County are especially pleased at the action of the Governor in appointing Stevenot, whom they recognize as a potential candidate for governor four years from now.

Feb. 9, 1935

## Mok. Hill Reservoir To Be Filled Soon

Unless some unforeseen circumstance arises, water will be pouring into the Mokelumne Hill reservoir within two weeks, according to W. N. Prindle, manager for the water company.

Boxes, of which 36 are required, are being built of lumber furnished by the government by the CCC boys from the Rich Gulch camp, who are doing the repair work.

May 25, 1935

## Water Pours Into Mok. Hill Reservoirs

Mokelumne Hill, May 23.- Through the efforts of the Mokelumne Hill Community Club, water was pouring into both town reservoirs Thursday. The club which has been working toward this objective for two months, has bought and installed 850 feet of pipe. With the aid of CCC boys from the Rich Gulch Camp, some paid labor and volunteer labor, the ditch has been repaired and cleaned and a future supply of water seems assured.

## Jury Finds Man Guilty; \$200 Fine

A fine of \$200, payable in eight monthly installments, was recommended by a jury in Superior Judge J. A. Smith's court Tuesday, which convicted E. M. Barnes, Angels Camp, of drunken driving.

Judge Smith set Friday as time for passing sentence. Barnes was arrested near Altaville November 5 by Capt.

Lauren Wilson after he had backed his car into the parked car of Mrs. J. H. Finley of Altaville. In the preliminary examination Barnes was represented by Attorney Joseph Huberty, but conducted his own case Tuesday, stating he could not afford an attorney. District Attorney V. M. Airola represented the people.

## BECOME A PART OF HISTORY

You're interested in history, aren't you? Of course you are, otherwise you wouldn't be reading this. Why not volunteer one day a month at the Museum? New volunteers are always welcome. And if you've volunteered in the past, wouldn't you like to enjoy another day refamiliarizing yourself with our unique displays? What better way to give back to the Historical Society that gives so much enjoyment to you! Interested volunteers should contact Ruth Matson through the Society office at 754-1058.



## COUNTY PROGRAM SLATED FOR FAIR

Residents of all Calaveras County communities have been invited to participate in the special Calaveras County Day program to be held at the California State Fair on Wednesday, September 4.

This information comes from invitations received by D Fricot, president, and George Treat, secretary, of the Calaveras County Chamber of Commerce, and Mayor John Lemue and former mayor A. D. Mentz of Angels Camp, who have been asked to form a citizens committee to promote general participation on Calaveras County Day.

While residents of Calaveras County always have been supporters of the State Fair, fair officials insist they are anxious to have a large attendance of county residents present on September 4, when a special program will be staged for the Calaveras County people.



## Library Returns Novel Banned in Kern County; New Copy Is Purchased

Soon after John Steinbeck published his book "The Grapes of Wrath" the novel was banned by Kern County authorities and the copy purchased for use in the library system of that county was loaned to the Calaveras County free library.

Last week, the Kern County library requested return of the book for their shelves, indicating the ban on the book has been lifted.

Miss Roxie Hall of San Andreas, Calaveras County librarian, announced this week a new copy of the much-discussed novel has been purchased and is now available to county readers.

While attending the  
**JUMPING FROG JUBILEE**

Try a

## Pullman Chef Buffet Luncheon

A POPULAR LUNCH

Consisting of choicest foods, deliciously prepared

Three Sandwiches, salad, desert, fruit candy,  
cigarette, spoon, serviette

COMPLETE CHANGE MENU DAILY

Fresh Dated — Doubled Sealed

**Astounding Price --- 36c**

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**LOOK FOR THE PULLMAN CHEF BOOTH**

Meet Your Friends at  
Pullman Chef's System  
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# GIGANTIC "WAS-IS" SALE USED CARS

*Prices cut for QUICK ACTION*

**Out They Go!  
WE LIQUIDATE  
YOU CELEBRATE**

**DRASTIC  
PRICE CUTS**  
*Share in the  
Savings*

**LOW DOWN  
PAYMENT**  
*Easiest Possible  
Terms*

	WAS	IS
1938 Ford V-8 De Luxe Sedan	\$575	\$510
1937 Ford V-8 Pickup	375	325
1937 Dodge Coupe	495	435
1937 Ford V-8 Fordor	435	395
1936 Ford V-8 De Luxe Fordor	410	365
1935 Chevrolet Sedan	295	260
1935 Studebaker Sedan	300	250
1934 Ford V-8 Fordor	225	185
1934 Ford V-8 Sedan	210	170
1934 Dodge Sedan	235	170
1934 Studebaker Sedan	300	265
1933 Plymouth Coupe	195	170
1931 Buick Club Coupe	85	70
1929 Model A Coupe	95	85
1929 Pontiac Sedan	65	50
1933 Ford V-8 Station Wagon	185	160
1936 Ford V-8 1 1/2 Ton Truck	395	295

## STEWART MOTOR COMPANY

GEORGE E. DIETZ, Manager

PHONE 45

ANGELS-CAMP

# BARGAINS

July 25, 1940

## JUDGE COSGRAVE TO RETIRE SEPTEMBER 1

Federal Judge George Cosgrave, native of Calaveras County, has announced he will retire September 1 under the act permitting jurists to quit at 70 on full pay after fulfilling 10 years of service.

Judge Cosgrave, who was appointed by President Hoover in 1930, is a graduate of San Jose State Normal School, and began practice at Fresno in 1895. A republican, he is a trustee of Fresno State College.

Judge Cosgrave is instigator of a movement to re-establish the original spelling of "Vallecito" from "Vallecita," as the Mother Lode community is now called.

December 9, 1940

## Post Office Schedule For Christmas

The San Andreas and Valley Springs Post Offices will remain open for all postal services until 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 17th. Both offices will also remain open Saturday afternoon December 24 until 4:30 p.m. for the delivery of Christmas parcels only.

Postmasters Fred Cuneo and Bob Finnegan urge their patrons to mail parcels for distant United States Points not later than December 14. Parcels destined for delivery for West Coast Points should be in the mails not later than December 17 to assure delivery by Christmas. The use of the air mail service is suggested for parcels mailed after these dates.

The Postmasters also suggest that Christmas Cards be sent first class mail by using a 4c stamp. Cards can be forwarded or returned, if necessary, providing they carry the first class rate of postage.

Postmasters Cuneo and Finnegan state that it will greatly assist them and their clerks in their proper delivery of your Christmas mails if you will mail early, wrap securely, and address completely and legibly.

# Calaveras County Historical Society

30 Main Street • P.O. Box 721 • San Andreas, California 95249

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President ..... Donna Schantz, San Andreas  
Vice President ..... Rosemary Faulkner, Rail Road Flat  
Treasurer ..... Ron Randall, Valley Springs  
Recording Secretary ..... Shirley Huberty, Mountain Ranch  
Membership ..... Duane Wight, Lodi  
Directors ..... Cheri Folendorf, Angels Camp  
Willard P. Fuller Jr, San Andreas  
Joan Donleavy, Paloma  
Bonnie Miller, Mountain Ranch

## Staff

Office Managers ..... Sheryl Waller  
Assistant ..... Farah Noble

**Las Calaveras** is published quarterly by the Calaveras County Historical Society. Membership (\$10.00 per year), includes subscription to **Las Calaveras**. Non-members may obtain copies of **Las Calaveras** from the office. The original historical material in this bulletin is not copy-righted and anyone is invited to use it. Mention of the source will be appreciated. Contributions of articles is appreciated.

The Calaveras County Historical Society, a non-profit corporation, meets on the fourth Thursday of each month in various communities throughout the county, locations of which are announced in advance. Dinner meetings also are announced in advance.

The Society's office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4 pm. The telephone number is (209) 754-1058. Visitors are welcome. The Society also operates the Calaveras County Museum which is open daily from 10 am to 4 pm in the historic county courthouse at 30 Main St., San Andreas.

## NEW MEMBERS

The Calaveras County Historical Society welcomes the following new members:

### DECEMBER 1997

Jody Taylor, Valley Springs, CA  
Rick & Peggy Harray, Carmel CA  
John Strohmaier, Lodi, CA  
Lori Remington, Stockton, CA  
Ray Batt, Angels Camp, CA  
James & Eunice Singley, CA  
Lois Reynolds, Anderson, CA  
Michael & Lynne Fritz, San Bruno, CA  
Tom Whittle, Linden, CA  
Dave Abdallah, Sacramento, CA

### JANUARY 1998

Michael Smith, Glendale, CA  
Mrs. Velma Morales, Sacramento, CA  
Joan & Walt Patterson, Dorrington, CA  
Patricia Burghardt, Hathaway Pines, CA  
Earl (Buck) Kelly, San Andreas, CA  
Ronald & Sandra Miller, Mountain Ranch, CA

### FEBRUARY 1998

Lee & Caroline Rhodes, San Andreas, CA  
Ben & Joan Remington, San Andreas, CA  
George & Anne Duda, Murphys, CA  
Loren Whittle, Angels Camp, CA  
Beverly & Robert Fernandez, Dorrington, CA  
Al & Yvonne Scolari, Mountain Ranch, CA  
James Catanzarite, Mountain Ranch, CA  
Robin & Jerry Kechter, Sheep Ranch, CA  
Dan & Denise Crichton, San Andreas, CA

## MUSEUM DONATIONS

The Calaveras County Historical Society wishes to thank the following persons who recently made donations to the Calaveras County Museum.

**Kenny Noble, Wilseyville:** Autographed copy of his publication; "Local History-Humerous Stories of the 40's & 50's in the Blue Mtn. Area of Calaveras County."

**Lillian Browning, Lodi:** Two spice containers, Sassafras Bark & Sienna Leaves.

**Harold A. (Buck) Joseph, Concord:** 11 negatives, aerial photos of the Rudy Rathgeb Ranch taken in April 1962.

**David Abdallah, Sacramento:** 1 belt buckle, 3 coins - one dated 1821. The buckle and 2 coins found at Middle Bar, 1 coin found at Coyote Creek.

**Kathleen Crespi, Murphys:** Cash donation.

**Charlie Stone, Copperopolis:** Commemorative glass.



- Extra Room Inside
- Trunk for Luggage Outside

*New* FORD V-8  
*Touring Sedans*

**I**F YOU want a car with really generous luggage capacity, see the new TUDOR and FORDOR TOURING SEDANS, on display at your Ford dealer's.

These two new body-types have a built-in trunk, 3 feet, 8 inches long, 2 feet, 1½ inches wide and 2 feet deep! That's ample space for several suitcases.

The interiors are exceptionally roomy, too. The Fordor will seat six people comfortably... The Tudor has bucket-type front seats (driver's seat adjustable) and plenty

of room in the back seat for three people, without being cramped, even on a long trip.

Both body-types bring you all the 1935 Ford V-8 developments—the improved, 85 h. p., V-8 engine; the new, Full-floating 123-inch Springbase with "Comfort Zone" seating; new Centriforce clutch and easy-action brakes. Safety glass all 'round and extra-size, air-balloon tires *at no extra cost*.

If you take long trips, or your business calls for a lot of baggage space, see these new Touring Sedans at your Ford dealer's today.

A U T H O R I Z E D F O R D D E A L E R S

On the Air — Ford Symphony Orchestra, Sunday Evenings — Fred Waring, Thursday Evenings — Columbia Network

**GEO. A. STEWART, San Andreas, Calif.**