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COUNTY**

**Historical
Society**

**TOO MANY
NAMES!**

"long boards"

USED FOR TRAVEL AND WORK (Before 1867)

Visit an **OLD IRISH-**
cemetery

Sierra City: 1885

PROFITABLE INVESTMENT -
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May 11, 1970
Vol. 2 No. 1

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THE SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 11, 1970 Vol. II, No. 1

THE SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

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Submitted by Mrs. J. McMahan

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EARLY ANNALS OF DOWNIEVILLE AND VICINITY

By One of the Earliest Settlers

Number Two

One of the best known mining towns in Sierra County was Forest City, up on Pliocene Ridge, south of Downieville. This community acquired the reputation of having had more names attached to it than had any other town in the Gold Belt. In this second installment of "Early Annals of Downieville and Vicinity," which originally appeared in the May 12th, 1860 issue of the "Tuloumne Courier," the annalist tells us how the town received its name.

-Wm. Pickiepoche

Forest City - Its Name

From 1851 to 1853, I was absent on the Feather River, and during that time I am not as competent to chronicle the events which transpired, of which several important ones did - such as the burning of the town - the hanging of a woman - and the first decision gained by the miners, in regard to the right to mine within the town limits, Downieville not then being incorporated. This case was defended and gained by a young lawyer, one of the earliest of his tribe in Downieville, named Howland B. Cossett. Great were the rejoicings on the receipt of the decision in the District Court; by the miners; and from that time until he was elected Prosecuting Attorney, on the 7th of September, 1853, Mr. Cossett was the popular lawyer of the mines.

In the fall of 1853,¹ Forest City was discovered by Michael Savage and his company, a short way above the forks of Oregon Creek. It was then known as "The Forks." In the latter end of the fall, Samuel Hammond, better known as "Old Uncle Sam," opened the first store in the place, and called it the "Yomana Store," from the bluff above the town - being called by the Indians Yomana or Sacred Hill - the most holy spot, in their belief, in all that section of country.



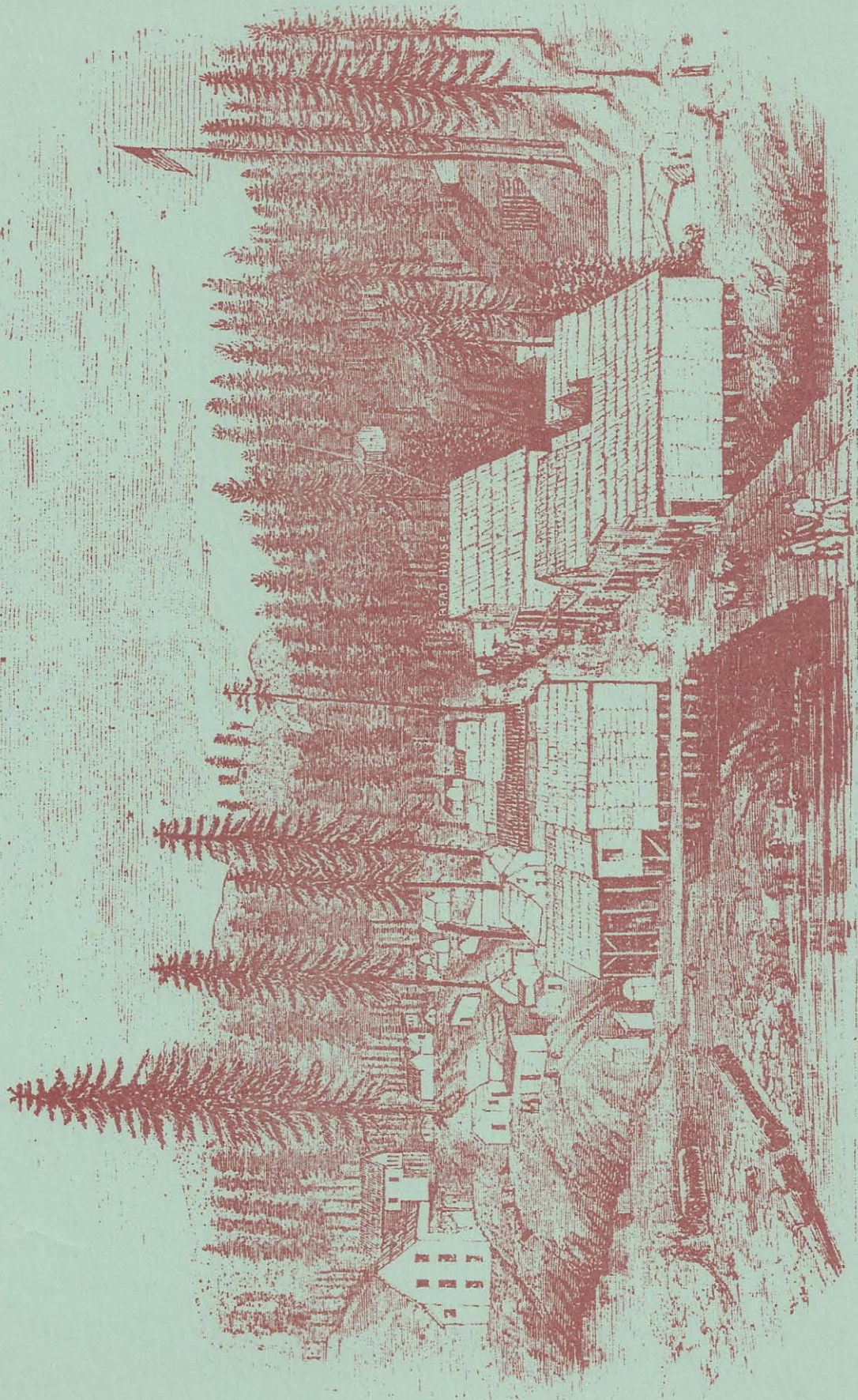
Here the first prospectors nightly congregated to sleep, as being the only log cabin, at that time, in the place. (Part of this log cabin was standing in 1857, greatly dilapidated and unroofed.) Soon, Savage and his party sold out to the Old Dutch Company, for \$75,000, part of which was paid down, and part never paid, as far as I know.

About this time, miners having come in pretty thick, a meeting of them was called, and laws made for the better government of the camp, and a Recorder appointed, named Jones - I forget his first name, but he was the younger brother of Samuel Jones, long known in Forest City. The naming of the camp was taken into consideration, and voted on, when the vote was found to be tied between the two names, "Forks of Oregon" and "Yomana." As no final agreement could be come at, the subject was compromised by agreeing to call the place after the first woman who should reside in the place.

Shortly after this, Mr. Davis and his wife Mary came there and built the "Oak Grove Bakery," the first in the place, nearly opposite Hammond's Store. According to the resolution, the place was called indiscriminately "Forks of Oregon" and "Marietta."² John Sparks and his wife, Maria, were the next couple. Sparks began building a hotel and boarding-house, a little above the "Oak Grove Bakery;" but on the other side of the street, opposite Tommy Johnson, the Pioneer Blacksmith. Davis soon sold out to Captain Mooney and wife - and now comes the history of the final name.

Mrs. M. was named Forest Mooney.³ She was a bit of a blue-stocking, and inordinately fond of scribbling. She wrote several pieces, which her husband sent to the Marysville papers. These she dated Forest City, and as the editors





VIEW OF FOREST CITY.
As published in - 1856

Credit for this picture goes to the California Historical Society, San Francisco

did not know where that might be, they were so published. Her next move was to call together such men as Recorder Jones, and a few of the aristocratic (i.e. non-working) class, in opposition to the hard-working miners, and ask them if "Forest City" was not a more appropriate name than "Marietta." This was done out of envy, as she could not legally have the place named after her. These gentlemen agreed with her in everything, as she was a lady.⁴ This was not known for some time amongst the miners, until the place was irrevocably known and named abroad as Forest City. The name was not inept in itself, as the place, at that time was literally a forest - but it is the name foisted on the town that I would call attention to.

On the 7th of September, 1853, the first murder was perpetrated, by a gambler named Jack Munty, on the body of a man named Baltimore Jack. It was an election quarrel, and Munty stabbed him in the abdomen. The authorities of Forest City sent him to Downieville, and a large party came over from Forest City with the avowed intention of rescuing Munty out of the hands of the sheriff, Wm. I. Ford. Ford summoned a posse to protect Munty, and amongst the rest, the Prosecuting Attorney, Thaddeus Purdy. In defending the Court Room, in the upper story of Craycroft's building,⁵ Purdy was shot and instantly killed. This dispersed the crowd, although the excitement was high for some hours. Munty was subsequently tried, and through his and the gamblers' money, acquitted.

As this is extended now almost too long, I shall close for the present. In my next, I shall touch on some other parts of the environs.

Footnotes:

1. This must have been a typographical error in the original article. It should be 1852.
2. A slightly different version appears in Volume VI of Bancroft's "History of California," in a footnote on page 362: "...at Forest City, first known as Brownsville and Elizaville..." The Fariss & Smith "Illustrated History of Plumas, Lassen and Sierra Counties," also follows this version, stating that Brown was one of the first locators and that Eliza was the wife of W.S.Davis. No doubt her name was Mary Eliza.
3. Our Annalist should have spelled this Moody.
4. William Hughes, druggist and Justice of the Peace at Forest City in 1862, was inclined to doubt this statement. In the questionnaire that he returned to the Bancroft Publishing Company (in the Knight Scrapbook at the Bancroft Library), Hughes wrote, "The town was (nic)named Forest City by a lady (this word was crossed out and woman substituted) named Mrs. Moody and who has fortunately since died."
5. Craycroft's is the present Marcellus P. Fischer building.



Ski Racing in the Sierras

Now that the great skier Billy Kidd has won the world's skiing championship for the United States, honors have come back to this country, where they truly belong for, contrary to belief, organized ski racing originated in the United States, and not in Europe. In fact, the first organized ski races in the United States, and, in fact, the world, were started in February, 1867, at La Porte. Before this time, ski races had been enjoyed for thirteen years in the towns of Gibsonville, Howland Flat, Poker Flat, St. Louis, Port Wine, Poverty Hill, Scales, Sawpit Flat, and Poorman's Creek, all Sierra County Gold Rush towns. But in February of 1867 these races were organized and a great meet was held in La Porte.

Skis (or snow-shoes, as they were sometimes called, but these were not the webbed snow-shoes we know now, but long skis, or "long boards" as they were named) had been in use for travel and work in these snow-bound Sierra towns long before 1867.

The men of Sawpit Flats and Poorman's Creek were the first to use skis for both work and fun. In 1853, Charles Nelson had introduced skis in Onion Valley, where as much as twenty-five feet of snow usually fell during the winter.

John Porter, known as "Old Buckskin," made the first skis for use in the Sierras. These were long, flat-bottomed boards made of Douglas fir erroneously called spruce. They



were known as "Norway Skates." In 1857 Porter improved these skis by burning a groove in the bottom with hot pine tar. These skis sold for six dollars gold dust a pair. The Citizens eagerly bought them as a welcome means of locomotion in the heavy snows of winter.

Besides Porter's improvement of skis with his groove burned in the bottom, another advancement which helped the art of skiing was the development and use of ski dope. The "receipes" for this dope were a deep, dark secret. Most families developed their own dope and all claimed theirs was the best and caused skis to glide along faster than any other. Bill Clinch of Sawpit developed the first racing dope, or "Sierra Lightning." These dopes were made of many unusual and expensive ingredients, such as spermacetti, Burgandy pitch, Canada pitch, balsam, spruce, tar, glycerine, barbery tallow, camphor, castor oil and other ingredients.

The following is Frank Steward's receipe for Old Black Dope, first used at La Porte in 1861:

2 oz. spermacetti
1/4 oz. pitch pine pitch
1/8 oz. camphor
1 tbs. balsam
1 tbs. oil of spruce

This should all be cooked together, but the cooking time was a well kept secret. Seven or eight coats of the resulting wax were painted on the bottoms of the skis, with the result that the racer really did go like "Sierra Lightning."



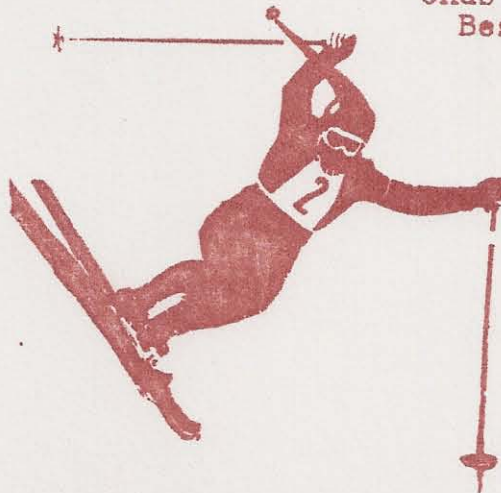
The first snow-shoe races recorded were in Onion Valley and La Porte in 1855. The earliest speed tests were limited to two men. Later these speed tests were free-for-alls. The record time for one of these speed tests was 1800 feet in thirteen seconds from a standing start!

The La Porte gamblers were delighted with the advent of this new sport. In these snow-bound towns there was not much doing during the long winter months. During the 1850's the gamblers and saloon keepers of many of these towns raised purses of several hundred dollars for prizes for the skiers who could make the best time down a track designated by a committee.

On February 12, 1867, the world's first ski club was formed and the world's first ski tourney was held at Lexington Hill near La Porte. The club was named The Alturas Snow Shoe Club. Alturas means heights and La Porte is situated at a height of 4500 feet. The club had vice-presidents from Gibsonville, Sawpit, and Port Wine. Robert Oliver, a Cornish miner of Sawpit Flat, became the club's first champion. Later the Alturas Snow Shoe Club challenged the entire universe.

During this first tourney forty-two men entered and they were divided into six-man squads. These squads zoomed down a 1230 foot course in fourteen seconds from a standing start.

Besides the money prizes, there was a championship belt, which the leaders of the different squads eagerly competed for. Robert Oliver and John G. Pollard made the course in fourteen seconds. Since the race was tied, they tried again and Oliver won, and was acclaimed the world's first skiing champion. Oliver's winning time was not exceptionally swift



for those days, as top velocities of one hundred miles per hour had been clocked at other times.

The women and the youngsters were not forgotten at these tourneys. The first women's champion was Miss Lottie Joy and the junior championship went to Hattie Starr of Gibsonville.

As may be imagined, with so many people competing at such high speeds, accidents were frequent. At one meet, Napoleon Normandin, a squad winner and contestant for the main prize, fell over another man. Normandin dislocated his thigh joint, broke his leg at the thigh, and sustained various internal injuries. But these hard-living, boisterous miners had much compassion for a misfortunate fellow miner. All the purses were put together and other money was collected and the total was given to Normandin to help pay his expenses. (Those were the days before hospital insurance.)

In another accident, one that was comic rather than tragic, one competitor going at about the slow speed of greased lightning collided with a young lady, throwing her "Canada West" and himself, too. The most singular part of the incident was that the race broke one of his skis and the young lady's hoops without serious injury to either. (Imagine skiing in hoop skirts!)



In 1867 ski racing reached a peak in this area. On March 11 of that year at Howland Flat seven hundred people, many of them ladies, lined the Table Rock Course for the opening contests of a four day program. Out

of that tourney came the Table Rock Snow Shoe Club with membership drawn from Howland Flat, Poker Flat and Pine Grove. This tourney produced the first specific commendations for three youthful snow shoers whose names for many years were to be household words in the area: Elias Squires of Gibsonville, Charley Littick of Pine Grove, and Hank Brown of Holland Flat.

During the winter of 1888 there was lots of snow and a great five day tournament was held. The competitions were held in various Sierra mining towns, ending on April 10 in Port Wine. There were cash prizes worth six hundred dollars and three hundred dollars worth of watches to be given to the winners. The fastest time recorded at this meet was twenty-one seconds down a fourteen hundred foot course by Pete Riendear who won the championships belt and \$325. On this day there were seventy-two entrants.

Beginning in 1869, fraternal organizations played a major role in organizing and sponsoring these events. From Sierra City the E Clampus Vitus crossed the mountains in a body and it was "Hail to the Clampers" at Howland Flat. The Cosmopolitan Minstrels of Downieville snowshoed to Gibsonville while the Odd Fellows of Pilot Peak slid to La Porte.

During these years, many efforts had been made to improve not only the skis used in the races but the dope waxed onto them. In 1873 two of the leading dope makers of Howland Flat were Hiram Walker, a mining engineer and later superintendent of the Bald Mountain Mine near Forest City, and A.J. Howe, later a Sierra County Court judge. Howe also worked on improving the skis themselves. He perfected a new snow-shoe which had a wider groove on the bottom, tapered ends, and the tops were ridged and streamlined. Tommy Lodd used these new skis in March 1874 and, with the



bottoms slicked with lightning dope, he ran an 1804 foot course in fourteen seconds from a standing start, reaching speeds of 88 miles per hour.

Another maker of skis was Michael J. Sinnott of Downieville. He began work at Howland Flat in 1880 and continued to manufacture skis until 1935. He made many skis of all

sizes from very small size for young children to twelve footers for racing and touring. Many of these skis made by Sinnott still remain in older families of western Sierra County.

To the inhabitants of these snow-buried towns there was no visitor hailed with greater delight than the mail-man. Communication was maintained for long periods only by skiers who carried the mail upon their backs. They were always expert skiers and handled only the letter mail.

To end on a lighter note, the following poem was taken from a Mountain Messenger 1879:

The ladies, too with modest grace
Will take their chance to win the race,
And if the dears are not experts
The air seems filled with snow and skirts.

Special thanks to Bill Berry - "The Skier" - March 1967

Georgene Copren

Notes on the Author:

Mrs. Georgene Copren, although a native of San Francisco, has lived in Sierraville, California, long enough to be considered a "native." She has raised her family in Sierra Valley and now enjoys the visits of her grandchildren to the Valley. She is presently teaching Home Ec. at Loyalton High School, and resides in Sierraville with her husband, "Pinkie" Copren.



A VISIT TO THE OLD IRISH CEMETARY

Were a person to travel from Calpine to Beckworth, via alternate highway Twenty Three, he would travel a very pleasantly scenic route indeed. To his right would be the lush farms of Sierra Valley, and to his left would be low hills, covered with evergreen trees or sage brush or both, which gradually build up to the higher mountains. And should a person stop about mid point between the two previously mentioned communities, (seven miles from either town) and scan the mountains to his left, he



would be rewarded with a picturesque view of rolling foothills covered with sagebrush, foothills which quickly and steeply rise into the mountains behind them. Closer scrutiny of the hillside would reveal, about one-half mile up the side of the mountain, several ghostly white objects half hidden behind trees, sage and brush. Most people would dismiss the scene as an optical illusion and pass on.

For those more discriminating lookers, closer inspection will indeed reveal ghostly white objects--grave stones. For the hardy viewer who doesn't mind walking up a steep trail for about a half mile or more, there awaits one of the last examples of a truly "Old West" cemetery.

As one approaches the cemetery site, somewhat out of breath after the climb, he will see a timeworn wooden trestle crudely braced by a teepee of wooden sticks, standing awkwardly at the entrance to the yard. A rusty steel gate guards the entrance to the cemetery which is surrounded by a tumbled-down barbed wire fence supported by old posts. The floor of the cemetery is matted with an overgrowth of mangled sagebrush, and twisted trees border the graveyard. The view of Sierra Valley and the mountains beyond is worth the climb up the hill for anyone, but for the amateur historian, the view plus an hour or two wandering through the cemetery makes for a perfect afternoon.

Little is known about the beginning of the cemetery, or graveyard, as it is called in the Sierra Valley region. Few

written records were kept in the 1860's and 70's, and many of these have disappeared. Residents of the area recall stories about the graveyard, and a few direct descendants of people buried in the graveyard live nearby and supply a modicum of valid information.



Putting all the existing stories together, plus adding what printed research exists, it would seem valid to state that a sizeable number of Irish people, either immigrants directly from Ireland or people who had come from Ireland earlier, settled in the East and then later come West, arrived in Sierra Valley in the late 1860's and 1870's. It has been reported that many of these people came first to work in the nearby mines which at that time existed around the Eureka Peak area. After working the mines for a time, the people began to farm in Sierra Valley.

By the mid 1870's there was a sizeable Irish settlement in what today is the area around the France Ranch and the present Marble Hot Springs road. Some accounts state that there was a school and a post office at the end of the Marble Hot Springs road. An excerpt from the California Cultivator states that:

The central valley (Sierra Valley) was taken up by a colony of old country Irish--the Sharkeys, the O'Haras, the Giblins, the Marbles (of tennis fame), the Caseys, and the McCauleys.

It can be assumed that these Irish were faithful in the practice of their faith--the Roman Catholic Faith, because soon after their appearance a Roman Catholic Church was built in this area and a priest was assigned to the church and services were held periodically. This church, built about one mile south of the present France Ranch, was roughly in the center of the area considered the Irish area. It stood for many years and was finally abandoned in favor of a church in Loyalton. It was finally torn down and its timbers were used in many of the surrounding ranch buildings. It can be assumed that the Irish people, once a cemetery was needed, would want one near their church. Why the cemetery was built about a mile and a half from the church, and up a steep hill besides, is open to conjecture.

There are many theories concerning why the Westside Cemetery (as it is now called) was laid out where it was. The question naturally arises as to why the cemetery wasn't constructed nearer the Catholic Church, if not next to it.

One answer to this seems to be that the Old World practice of locating graveyards within the Church yard was not practiced in the western part of the United States, and so contemporary custom would prohibit locating the graveyard within the Church yard. Church buildings came and went in the rapidly changing existences of western boom towns, but cemeteries were supposed to go on forever.



A view of part of the cemetery-looking east out over Sierra Valley.

Another theory is that the Irish, wishing a "Catholic" cemetery (i.e., a cemetery specifically designated as a Catholic burial place and dedicated as consecrated ground) would frown on using existing cemeteries, since none of them were specifically Catholic cemeteries. They would, instead, found one that was close to the Church, consecrated, and yet in keeping with the local custom, would chose a site on a hill overlooking the settlement. This theory seems to have some validity in relation to the location of the cemetery. Another theory would indicate that the location of the cemetery was chosen much like the location of the Sierraville cemetery and the Loyalton cemetery. In this case there was a death in a particular family,



View of cemetery-looking north towards Beckworth.

and that particular family chose a site which it happened to like. As deaths happened in other families, these also chose the site picked by the first family. In a few years a cemetery just happened to come into existence. This theory has some validity in that there is a story that the infant daughter of one of the Irish families died. A cemetery was needed and in that particular year no dry land was available in the valley as the year was a particularly wet one. Hence, the bluff on the high hill was chosen.³ This may well be true, but there is no historical data to substantiate it. Whatever the reason, the cemetery was chosen, and laid out, and was

used from 1874
It was not used
early spring
Elizabeth Tur-
very last of
Sierra Valley,
ect descenden-
inal Irish set-
rest.



until the 1930s.
again until the
of 1970 when Mrs.
ner, one of the
the "pioneers" of
and one of the dir-
dents of the orig-
tlers, was laid to

The headstone which has the oldest recorded date in the cemetery, and which is said to be the marking on the first grave in the cemetery.

Following is a listing of the known graves in the cemetery: (Information taken from headstones)

FARLEY PLOT

Mother 1847--1917
Father 1840--1885

John T. Farley
1877--1935

Herbert Farley
1883--1937

- - - - -

SHARKEY PLOT

Tom Sharkey 30 July 1890--12 Dec. 1928
Myles Sharkey 9 Sept. 1855--21 Mar. 1921 Native of Sligo,
Ireland.

(Sharkey Plot-continued)

Annie P. Sharkey 1858--1935 Native of Sligo, Ireland
Baby May Sharkey 1912
James Sharkey 1819--1898 Native of Sligo, Ireland.
Catharine (Sharkey) Black, wife of Thomas Black, Native of
Sligo Co., Ireland Died 9 May 1877 26 years old.

- - - - -

McElroy Plot

Margaret, wife of Owen McElroy
died 11 Feb. 1882 50 years

- - - - -

Freeman Plot

Mabel Freeman 1886--1886

- - - - -

Corecco Plot

Peter Corecco 15 Dec. 1876--18 May 1897

- - - - -

Ramelli Plot

Mary, daughter of M. and M. Ramelli
d 9 Dec. 1893, aged 3 yrs 5 mos
Louis, son of M. and M. Ramelli
d 21 Sept 1899 aged 2 yrs

- - - - -

Myers Plot

George F. 1837--1926
Delia M. 1843--1926

Mary F.
d 5 July 1878
2 yrs 8 mos 9 days

Winifred
d 23 Oct 1874
1 yr 8 mos 15 days

- - - - -

Connolly Plot

Patrick Connolly
d 14 Aug 1903 65 years Native of Ireland

- - - - -

Merkel Plot

Michael Merkel
d 1 July 1823
81 yrs
Native of Germany

Mary, wife of Michael Merkel
d 7 Oct 1897
aged 38 yrs
Native of Ireland

Hookey Plot

Eddy Hookey 1878--1890
Michael Hookey 1818--1908
Ann Hookey 1835--1915

McGillicuddy Plot

Lizzie McGillicuddy
d 28 Aug 1888
32 yrs 8 mos
County Cork, Ireland

Mills Plot

Charles M. Mills
d 20 Sep 1892
3 yrs

O'Hara Plot

Michael O'hara 77 yrs
Mary O'Hara 79 yrs
d 4 Jan 1904 d 25 July 1900

Herrican Plot

John Herrican 84 yrs
Margaret Herrican 80 yrs
d 23 Nov 1902 d 5 Oct 1903
Ireland

McMurray Plot

John McMurray, Husband of Agnes
d 26 Oct 1896
48 yrs 4 mos 12 days



Giblin Plot

James Giblin
d 28 Oct 1890
64 years
Co. Sligo, Ire.

James Henry Giblin
b 8 Dec 1866
d 29 Oct 1902

Frank P. Giblin
1863---1939

Ann M. Giblin, wife of
James
d 14 April 1912
85 yrs
Ireland

John M. Giblin
d 9 June 1897
27 yrs 8 mos 17 days

Keefe Plot

Mary E. Keefe, wife of P.H. Keefe
1 Oct 1865--04 June 1902
36 yrs 7 mos 4 days

Patrick Henry Keefe
July 15, 1851--May 27, 1925



Gloster Plot

Margaret, mother of D.M. Gloster
died 20 May 1888, aged 31 yrs

Daniel Maurece Gloster
25 Mar 1885--11 Jan 1906

Turner Plot

Mildred A. Turner
1912--1914

Mrs. Elizabeth Turner, mentioned earlier in this report, was
buried in this plot in the Spring of 1970.

Tom Burner, Nickolus Merkel, Paul Vilmer, Horis Vilmer and
Gladys Gould are supposed to be buried in the cemetery, al-
though no headstones exist to mark their graves.

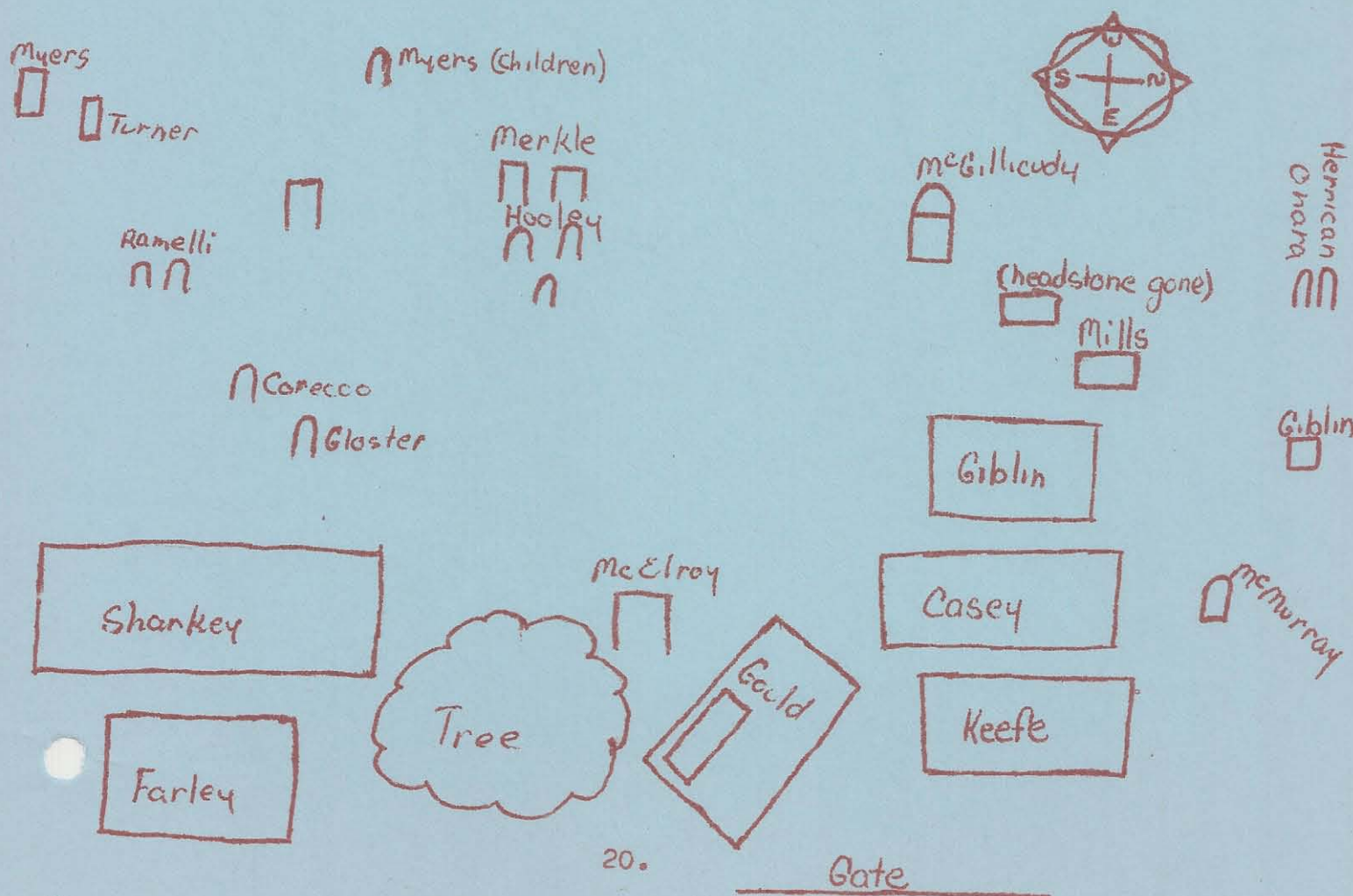
The oldest date registered for death is 1874, for Winifred
Myers, a one year old girl.

The author wishes to thank the following people for their aid in obtaining valuable information: Mr. Owen P. McGarr of Beckworth, Mr. A. Strang of Sierraville, Mrs. Della Lombardi of Loyalton, and especially Mrs. Harold France of Beckworth. The author also is indebted to the article, "Saga of Sierra Valley" in the California Cultivator.

Notes on the Author:

Miss Janice Nervino was born in Reno, Nevada, in 1952. She attended school in Portola, California, and Loyalton, California. She presently lives with her parents in Beckworth, California, and is a Senior student at Loyalton High. Jan is president of the student body at Loyalton High and was chosen as Girl's State representative and one of the speakers for graduation. She plans to attend Chico State College when she graduates in June, 1970. Jan's initial interest in this subject was the result of an assignment in her history class. She became more interested as she began her research, and the article you have just read is the result of her labors.

Below is a pen drawing of the Cemetary.





Two different scenes

of the Cemetary



There is some information known concerning the many Irish who settled the area and who also rest in the cemetary being discussed, now known as the "Westside Cemetary." While this information doesn't directly bear on the cemetary, it is none the less interesting, as most of the people discussed eventually found their final resting place in the Westside Cemetary.

The early settlers and information about them are as follows:

James Sharkey became a citizen of the U.S. in the state of New Jersey in Warren County on Jan. 1, 1856. Between 1856 and 1878 he was in Downieville, mining. In the early '70s he settled in Sierra Valley and got his deed to 160 acres on July 13, 1878. He passed away in 1898.

Catharine Sharkey, niece of James Charkey, came to live with James Sharkey. She married one Thomas Black. She passed away on May 9, 1877.

Miles Sharkey, a nephew of James Sharkey, came from Ireland in 1877 to live with his Uncle Jim. He homesteaded 160 acres on April 4 1889. He married Annie Plunket of Ireland that year. She had lived in San Francisco before coming to Sierra Valley as a bride. One son was born to this union. He was named Tom Sharkey.

Tom Sharkey married one Sara McKenzie of La Porte, Plumas County. They had seven girls, six of whom are still living and named Anne, Virginia, Catherine, Lola, Gladys and Evelyn.

Geroge Myers came to California in 1858. In 1869 he was established in Sierra Valley and married Delia Sharkey. This couple had eight children: Benjamin, Catherine, George,

Elizabeth, Anne, Frances and Winifred and Mary. The Myers ranch is now owned by the Carmichaels. (See notes on Elizabeth Myers Truner at the end of this article)

The Keefes lived for a long time in Sattley. Mary Keefe was a Casey. Both husband and wife are buried in the cemetery.

The McElroy family lived between Sattley and the grave yard. A grove of Lombardi Poplars now stands where the ranch once was and can be seen today. A granddaughter of this pioneer family, Vesta Thomas, lives in Sattley.

There were, obviously, many more families than mentioned in the previous paragraphs; however, no information is known about them now, or at least this writer. What happened to many of the ranches settled by the early Irish is known, as these ranchers were purchased, in great part, by a second wave of immigrants, the Swiss Italians. The Swiss Italians tended, for the most part, to be dairy farmers. What happened to many of the early Irish ranches is listed below:



The Freeman ranch was on the road to Sattley and no longer exists as the Freeman ranch.

The Markel ranch was purchased by the Folchi brothers.

The Hooley ranch was above Loyalton, then called Smithneck, and is presently part of a development area of the Monarch Company.

The O'Hara ranch was above the present day Sierra Valley Ranch.

The Herrican property now belongs, for the most part, to the Churches.

Frank Giblin's ranch now is part of the Ghidossi ranch.

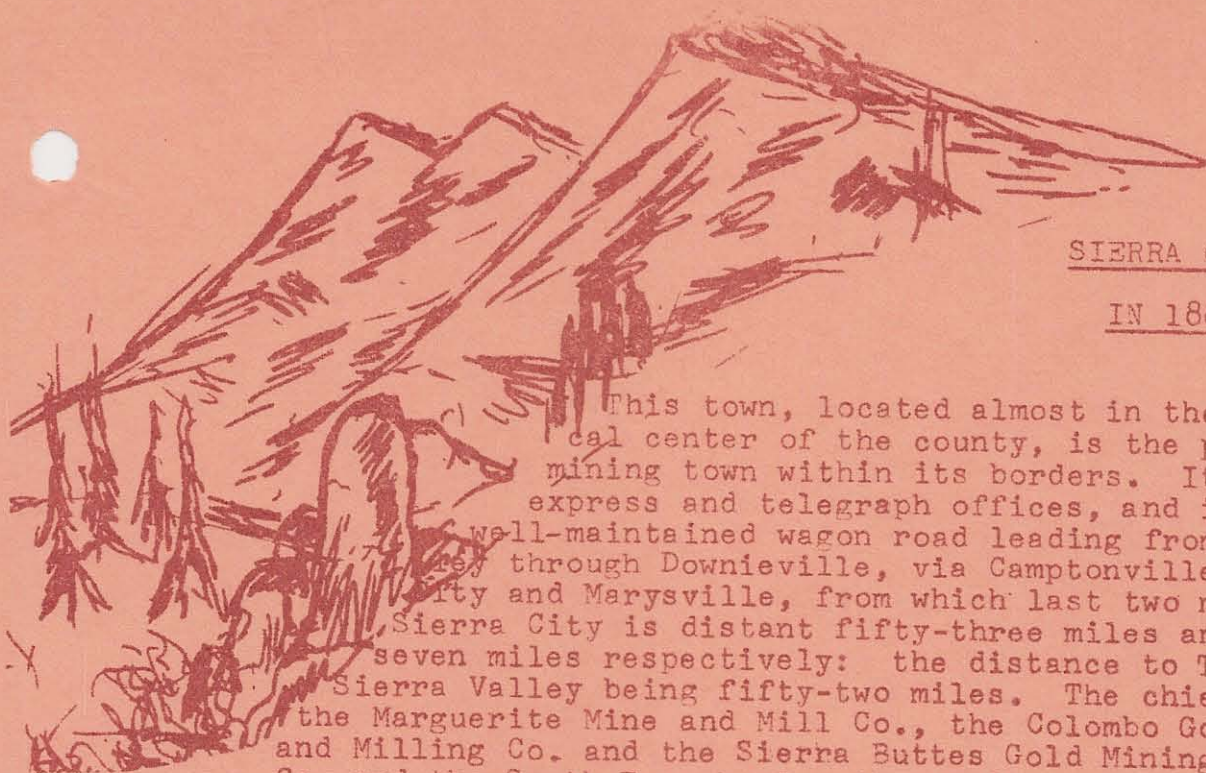
The Glosters left Sierra Valley and settled in the Alturas region.

The Turner ranch of Sattley is still owned by a descendent of the original Irish clans, Jim Turner.

The McMurray's ranch now is part of what present day Campbell's Hot Springs.

There was, at one time, a school and a post office at the McElroy ranch which was located roughly where the present day Marble Hot Springs road comes into Alternate Twenty Three.

The Keefe resident is now owned by Gordon Church.



SIERRA CITY

IN 1885

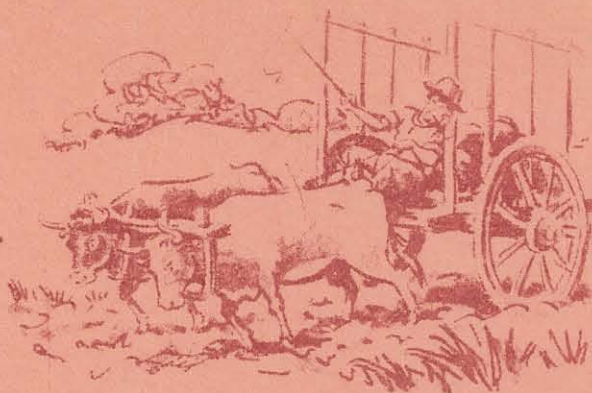
This town, located almost in the geographical center of the county, is the principal mining town within its borders. It has post, express and telegraph offices, and is on the well-maintained wagon road leading from Sierra Valley through Downieville, via Camptonville to Nevada City and Marysville, from which last two named cities Sierra City is distant fifty-three miles and seventy-seven miles respectively: the distance to Truckee via Sierra Valley being fifty-two miles. The chief mines are the Marguerite Mine and Mill Co., the Colombo Gold Mining and Milling Co. and the Sierra Buttes Gold Mining and Milling Co. and the South Branch mine three miles east of town. The Marguerite Company have extensive works and a mill crushing forty tons per day. The company employs fifty men. The Colombo Company's works employs sixty men. The Sierra Buttes Company is said to employ two hundred and fifty men in its mines and mills. Besides the above properties operated by the companies, there are many paying claims in the vicinity owned by private individuals. The chances for profitable investment in the locality are second to none in the Sierras.

Lumbering is largely followed in the mountains of the vicinity, and many sawmills are located in the near neighborhood, chief among which may be noted that of Hagerty & Garfield, situated five miles northeast of Sierra City. Sierra City also possesses several large business houses, a brewery, three hotels, a large school house and a water supply that would do good service in case of fire, the natural pressure being powerful enough to throw a stream one hundred and eighty feet high.

The population of the town has been increasing very materially of late, having risen in the last three years from a little over four hundred to about seven hundred, its present figure. Almost due north of Sierra City, at the northern boundary line of the county, is located Gold Lake, one of the most delightful bodies of water in the Sierras; it is four miles long by about two in width, of great depth, and is the source of the Middle Fork of the Feather River; it is surrounded by lofty mountains, creating wonderful echoes to one on the waters, and is bountifully stocked with magnificent trout. A wagon road to the lake from Sierra City will soon supersede the trails and wearying mule transportation now in vogue, when Gold Lake

will assuredly become one of our
recognized summer resorts.

Roster of Residents and Their Occupations



Abbe, George N. & Son	livery stable
Adolp & Williams	dry goods and clothing
Anderson, John	carpenter
Andinas, Ricardo	watchmaker
Arata, Mateo	miner
Arata, Stefano	miner
Avalanche Hydraulic Mining Co.	proprietors
Castagnetti & Co.	
Avignone, John B.	C. Quirolo & Co.
Baker, Henry	miner
Ballesteros, Cystano	packer
Barrerre, John	farmer
Barnhardt, Jacob	millhand
Barrett, John M.	amalgamator
Bassett, Hornbeck J.	
Bassett, J. H.	hotel-Howard Ranch
Bassett, Mrs. Mary	(n.b.-now Bassett's Station)
Bawden, Nicholas	miner
Beard, J.E.	miner
Beard, Samuel F.	
Becker, James L.	miner
Bendixon, Thomas Y.	miner
Bigelow, H.H.	capitalist
Bigelow, Orson	farmer
BIGELOW HOUSE, D.N. Mitchell proprietor	
Black, George S.	amalgamator
Black, John F.	miner
Blanch, William	miner
Blue Gravel Consolidated Mining Co.	3½ miles NE of Milton, 640 acres
Bon Ton Saloon, J. Girtovich,	Proprietor
Bonanza Saloon, F. G. Rose proprietor	
Bone, John	miner
Branden, John	millman
Branden, Ole	millman
Brangata, Roscoe	clerk with Richard Castagna
Brown, Peter	blacksmith with E.H. Bunker
Buckwith, James L.	carpenter
Bunker, Ezekiel H.	Blacksmith, wagon maker and horseshoer
Burleigh, Jackson A.	carpenter
Busch, August C.	A. C. Busch & Co., Post-master, agent Wells, Fargo & Col, and Western Union Telegraph Co.

Busch A. C. & Co. (August C. Busch
& C.A. Herringlake)

general merchandise

Busch, Ernst miner

Busch, Henry F. carpenter

Busch, William C. miner

Buse, Julius G. miner

BUTTES BREWERY, F.L. Fischer proprietor

Canessa, G. B. miner

Capron, William teamster

Casserly, William miner

CASTAGNA, RICHARD general merchandise

Castagnetti, John Castagnetti & Co.

Castagnetti & Co., John Castagnetti and others, proprietors.

Avalanche Hydraulic
Mining Co.

Cereghino, Angelo

miner

Chapman, John

miner

Christiamno, Francisco

millman

Chinelli, Frank

clerk with R. Castagna

Cith, Markey

F. J. Seitz proprietor

Cocks (Cox?), William

miner

Colombo, Gold M. & M. Co., W.H. Rodas, Superintendent

Colombo Quartz Mining Co., William Penaluna foreman, 1320 acres

Colotta, L.

bootmaker

Consolidated Gravel Mining Co. 2½ miles NE of Milton, 320 acres

Contar, John

saloon

Coperan, Williams

teamster

Coryell, William A.

miner

Costa, Pedro

saloon

Counter, John

saloon

Coutu, Gilbert

machinist at Marguerite M. Co.

Cox, William

Thompson & Cox

Craneym, Joseph E.

amalgamator

Croce, Baldisac

miner

Crossman, Thomas

miner

Crossman, Thomas H.

miner

Crowely, O'Keefe & Kelly

miners

Culver & Corbin

miners

Davis, Joseph

miner

Davis, William L.

amalgamator

DeMartini, Antonio

barkeeper with C. Quirolo & Co.

Denner, William

miner

Dermice & Foss

miners

Deroza, Manuil S.

miner

Derbordier, C. & G.

(Charles & George) Saloon

Devine, Thomas

miner 120 acres

Donaldson, I.M.

carpenter

Dorsey, Walt

miner

Douglass, R.

fisherman



Doyle, Elizabeth Mrs. widow
 Dozier, William E. physician & surgeon
 Demonda, William M. miner
 Eckert, John miner
 Edwards, William-shift boss, Butter Mg.

Co.

Elsredge, William miner
 Ferrari, Joseph saloon
 Fischer, Alvin miner
 Fischer, F.L. proprietor Buttes Brewery
 Fischer, Frederick shoemaker
 Fischer, Fredrick W. miner
 Fischer, Louis miner
 Fischer, Richard laborer Marguerite Mg. Co.
 Fitzgerald, Alfred miner
 Flannery, James teamster
 Fletcher, George T. Contractor & Carpenter
 Fling, Louis miner
 Fling, L.D. miner
 Flint, L.J. farmer 320 acres

Florence Quartz Mining Co. (J.T. Mooney, S. B. Stephenson,
 J. Hutchinson & S. N. Wilcox.)

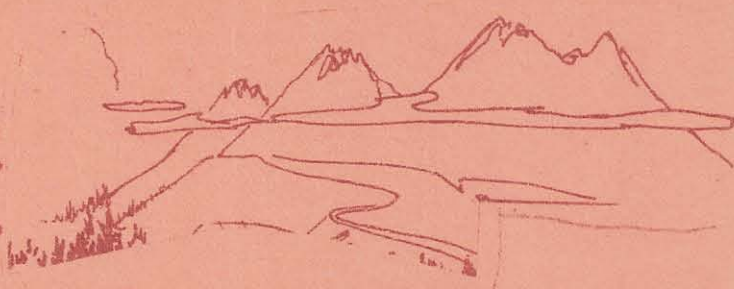
Fornia, Felix farmer
 Foss, Lemuel miner
 Fraga, Antone millman
 Fraita, Antonia J. miner
 Fraitz, Manuel millman
 Fredson, Joseph amalgamator, Marguerite Mg. Co.
 Gardella, Bartholomew C. (B.C. Gardella & Bros.)
 Gardella, Michael (B.C. Gardella & Bros.)
 Garfield, L.S. (Hagerty & Garfield)
 Gilbert, John miner
 Gill, W.G. carpenter
 Guriovich, Joseph proprietor Bon Ton Sal-
 oon.

Givanovich, Adolph clerk with Joseph Schiaffino
 Goff, Peter livery stable
 Gonzales, Joseph F. miner
 Gorham, John M. blacksmith
 Gotjens, Henry miner
 Gotjens, Joseph miner
 Grant, George amalgamator
 Green, James S. miner

Grondona, Joseph saloon
 Guttierrez, Martin miner
 Haas, Samuel clerk with B. Wood
 Hagerty, James (Hagerty & Garfield)
 HAGERTY & GARFIELD (James Hagerty & L. S. Gar-
 field) sawmills, 5 miles NE
 of Sierra City



Haines, John B. carpenter,
 Marguerite Mg. Co.
 Halverson, Peter mason,
 Marguerite Mg. Co.
 Halverson William miner
 Hartley, Samuel
 Havens, C.A.
 Havens, Philo A.
 Havens & Simprich
 Hayes, John
 Heckman, Anthony
 Heringlake, Charles A.
 Hill, James
 Hobba, Robert
 Hooper, J.
 Hughes, Watt
 Hulme, Charles
 Humbert, Arthur C.
 Hutchinson, Joseph
 Hutchinson, William H.
 James, Francis
 Janes, James
 Janes, William M.
 Jenkins, John
 Jenkins, Richard
 Jenkins, William
 Joos, Caspar
 Jordan, George S.
 Jose, T.
 Kaiser, L. Mrs.
 Kane, James M.
 Kane, J. W.
 Keefe, P.H.
 Kendrick, L.
 Kicher, Frederick
 Kimball, Charles
 Kirby, James
 Kitto, John
 Kneebone, Alfred
 Knool, Bernard
 Knuthsen, Henry
 Kruse, A.
 Kynoch, William
 LA BONTE, F. X.
 Lamers, Mary Mrs.
 Lane, Thomas
 Langsworthy, Philip
 Langton, Edward M.
 Lauer, Anton
 Lawrence, Edward



miner
 miner
 miner 260 acres
 miners
 miner
 miner
 (A.C. Busch & Co.)
 miner
 miner
 miner
 miner
 watchman, Sierra Buttes Mg. Co.
 bookkeeper, Marguerite Mg. Co.
 butcher and miner
 miner
 miner
 miner
 foreman Sierra Buttes Mg. Co.
 music teacher
 miner
 miner
 brewery
 millman
 soda water manufacturer
 boarding house & saloon
 civil engineer
 miner
 proprietor, Mountain House
 amalgamator, Marguerite Mg. Co.
 carpenter
 teamster
 carpenter Marguerite Mg. Co.
 miner
 miner
 miner
 clerk with A. C. Busch & Co.
 laborer Marguerite Mg. Co.
 carpenter, Colombo Gold & Mg. Co.
 dry goods & varieties
 proprietress Sipple Sal.
 (Wilson, Lane & Co.)
 miner
 miner
 miner
 saloon

Lawton, Lee	teamster
Leary, A.	farmer & Roadmaster
Leary, John F.	miner
Leary, Thomas	miner
Lee, Louisa Mrs.	saloon
Leffers, Albert	miner
Lewis, Antone	miner
Lewis, Jeremiah	miner, Marguerite Mg. Co.
Little Boulder Mining Co.	(W.D. & J. Nolan & S. Tayen)
Loeffler, O.	laborer, Marguerite Mg. Co.
Lopez, Jose	miner
Lord, George W.	(Spencer & Lord)
Lowney, John	saloon
Luke, Simon	miner
Magazini, Luke	barber shop & baths
Maltby, H.G.	engineer, Colombo Mg. Co.
Manly, John T.	miner
Marguerite Quartz Mining Co.	788 acres quartz & placer
	mining land Loganville
Marguerite Mine & Mill Co. of Boston, Mass.	(Robert E. Meyer, Superintendent-office and works two miles from Sierra City)
Marowitch, Michael	pumpman, Marguerite M & M Co.
Martinetti, Isaac	(Martinetti & Martini)
Martinetti & Martini	(Isaac Martinetti & Edward Martini)
	general clothing store & saloon
Martinez, Jose F.	miner
Martinez, Manuel F.	miner
Nata, Jesue	packer
McCarthy, William	foreman, blacksmith Sierra Buttes Mining Co.
	miner
McCastley, George	miner
McGregor, A. H.	amalgamator, Sierra Buttes M. & M. Co.
McGregor, H.	woodchopper
McMullen, John	superintendent, Marguerite M. & M. Co.
Meyer, Robert W.	Steward
Mills, Thomas	John G. Rose, Proprietor
Miner's Hotel	timberman
Miskell, Robert	proprietor Bigelow House
Mitchell, D. N.	miner
Monaghan, Peter	speculator
Montero, Aquilino	butcher
Mooney, Isaac T.	foreman, Columbo M & M Co.
Mooney, John W.	engineer, Colombo M & M Co.
Mooney, M. E.	deputy sheriff
Moore, A. L.	carpenter
Moore, C. L.	carpenter
Moore, James C.	miner
Moore, John	miner
Moore, John L.	miner
Morrel, Pierre	

Morgan, --	laborer
Morrison, George	teamster
Morrisrowe, James	miner
Mountain House (P.H. Keefe, proprietor, 12 miles NE of Sierra City)	

Myers, John	carpenter
Mavarine, Vincenz	miner
Mavarine, Wilson	miner
Nelson, Gustave	miner
Nicholas, Fred	miner
Nolan, J.	miner
Nolan, W. D.	miner
O'Farrell, John	miner
O'Keefe, Dennis	miner
Cats, James	miner
Oldham, James	miner
Oliver, J.	laborer, Marguerite M & M Co.
Olsen, Peter	miner
Ore, Richard	shift boss, Sierra Buttes Mining Co.

Osborne, Richard	miner
Osterman, George	blacksmith, Marguerite M & M C
Osterman, Martin & Matthias	farmers
Palace Saloon	Al Smith, Proprietor
Parient, George	miner
Parkin, James	carpenter
Parsins, William H.	miner
Paul, James	miner
Payton, Michael	engineer, Marguerite M & M Co.
Pearce, Henry J.	miner
Pearce, Isaac & John	miners
Pearce, William J.	Constable & Night Watchman
Pellymouter, Thomas	miner
Pellow, James	blacksmith, Sierra Buttes Mining Co.

Pellow, John	miner
Penaluna, William	foreman, Colombo Gold Mining Co.
Pergoni, P.	miner
Perkins, William	blacksmith
Perry, Joseph	miner
Perryman, Edward	miner
Perryman, John & Thomas	miners
Peters, Manuel	
Peterson, Christ.	teamster, Marguerite M & M Co.
Peterson, Henry	carpenter, " " " "
Peterson, James C.	miner
Pettingel, Simeon E.	miner
Phillips, Thomas H.	carpenter
Pigotti, Joseph	miner
Pires, Frank	laborer
Pires, J.F.	M.F. Pires & Co.

Pires, Manuel F.	M.F. Pires & Co.
Pires, M.F. & Co.	boot & shoe makers
Podesta & Co.	proprietors South Branch Sawmill
Ponta, Joseph	miner
Preston, Thomas	superintendent, Sierra Buttes Mining Co.
Prosper, O.	laborer
Prout, Joseph	miner
Pucha, Eva	Chambermaid, Scott's Hotel
Puchia, Lucie	" " "
Quinn, Joseph F.	timberman
Quirolo, Charles (C. Quirolo & Co., proprietor store & saloon)	miner
Rawlings, James	miners
Reynolds, James & John	miners
Rich, Thomas & Charles	miners
Richards, Phillip & Samuel	miner
Richardson, John	shift boss, Sierra Buttes Mining Co.
Rickard, William	miner
Rickard, William R.	miner
Rinaldi, Joseph	butcher
Robinson, John	miner
Robinson, John	superintendent, Colombo Gold Mining & Milling Co.
Rodda, W.H.	miner
Rodgers, John	farmer
Romano, Catherine Mrs.	miner
Rose, Joseph	proprietor, Bonanza Saloon & Hotel
Rose, John G.	miner
Rouse, John	miner
Ruez, Jose Jesus	carpenter
Russell, William	butcher
Sampson, James	physician & surgeon
Sawyer, John J.	farmer
Schelter, Julius	general merchandise & liquors
Schiaffino, Joseph	miner
Schubert, John A. A.	blacksmith, Marguerite Mine & Mill Co.
Schultz, Charles	carpenter
Schultz, Emile	miner
Schutt, Henry W.	proprietor, Scott's Hotel
Scott, John A.	John A. Scott, Proprietor
SCOTT'S HOTEL	millman
Seith, Jesus P.	clerk with F. J. Seitz
Seitz, Anthony	proprietor City Market with F. J. Seitz
Seitz, F. J.	millman
Seitz, Peter	shoeman
Serpas, Jose	laborer
Sharkey, Richard	
Shottler, Julius	

Sierra Buttes Gold Mining Co. (limited) south side Sierra Buttes
1 mile north side Sierra City

Silva, Manuel E.	millman
Simmons, A. D. Mrs.	widow
Simmons, Christ.	miner
Smith, A. E.	foreman, Marguerite M & M Co.
Smith, Al	proprietor Palace Saloon
Smith, Alexander	carpenter
Smith, E.	carpenter, Marguerite Mine & Mill Co.

Smith, Samuel	miner
Smith, Theron B.	lumberman
Smith, William W.	miner

South Branch Sawmill, Podesta & Co. proprietors 3 miles east
of Sierra City

South Branch Water Co., A. C. Busch, President

Southy, Samuel	miner
Spencer, John E.	(Spencer & Lord)
SPENCER & LORD	(John E. Spencer & George W. Lord, proprietors, livery & feed stables)

Spine, Bartholomew	packer
Stephenson, Samuel R.	miner
St. Jo Mining Co., Williams, Tre- ganan, Chapman & Griag, owners, St. Jo Bar	

Steelman, Richard	miner
Sunderland, Oliver	miner
Swan, William M.	miner
Tapia, Joseph M.	miner
Tartini, Edward	Martinetti & Tartini

Terney, John	miner
Thomas, Benjamine G., John, Jong W. & William	miners
Thompson, Charles	(Thompson & Cox)
Thompson, Charles A.	miner
Thompson, Daniel	miner
Thompson Joseph	saloon
Thompson & Cox	Charles Thompson & William Cox (gravel mines, 9 miles E of Sierra City)

Tibbey, Miss Lou	school teacher
Tierney, John	miner
Tomachiel, Balodesi	brewer
Treat, Charles L.	painter & grainer
Trebilcox, Fredrick	butcher with J. T. Mooney
Trelore, James	miner
Trompetto, John & Louis	miners
Trothen, William T.	miner
Tym, S.	miner
Uhl, Michael	miner
Uren, Philip	miner



Uren, William H.	miner
Valentine, Mateo	proprietor, Young Italy Saloon
Varick, Robert D.	miner
Wade, -- Mrs.	laundress
Ward, Varner B.	miner
Warner, Harry	miner
Watts, John	clerk with Martinetti & Tartini
Weber, C.	engineer, Marguerite M & M Co.
Weitzell, Adam S.	miner
Wendler, Herman F.	miner
Wilcox, Adam S.	miner
Wilcox, Schuler W.	carpenter, Florence Quartz Mine
Willett, Napoleon B.	miner
Williams, James M.	foreman, Sierra Buttes Mining Co.
Williams, John	porter, Scott's Hotel
Williams, John	barber with A. Magazini
Williams, Richard H.	miner
Williams, Thomas W.	shift boss, Sierra Buttes Mining Co.
Williams, Mrs.	widow
Wilson, Charles	Wilson, Lane & Co.
WILSON, LANE & CO. (Charles E. Wilson & Thomas Lane)	Saloon
Wilson, Julius S.	County Superintendent of schools and school teacher
Wilson, W. A.	fruits & confectionery
Wood, Benjamine	merchant
Woodcock, William B.	miner
Wyat, Edward	miner
Young America Consolidated Quartz Mining Co., 8 miles north of Sierra City	
YOUNG ITALY SALOON,	Mateo Valentine, proprietor
Zerline, B. J. A.	miner

Courtesy of Frank "Beets" Fortes.

(Many of the names listed are still familiar. Some of their descendants still live here or have connections. Some of the names live on in place names.

Note the number of bars and the dearth of the female gender.)

above article was submitted by Mrs. J. McMahan. Notes on McMahan can be found in previous publications. The article furnished through the courtesy of Frank "Beets" Fortes and from the Directory of Lassen, Plumas, Del Norte, Sierra, Siskiyou, Trinity, Modoc, and Tehama Counties of 1885.