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VOL. 5-NO. 2

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MEMBERSHIP
NEWS

HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

THE SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 26, 1973

VOL. V, NO. 2

THE SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

Contents:

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Early Day Downieville Miner Author Unknown
- II. Sierra County Historical Society News and
General Information Staff

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The Historic Unpublished Diary of an Early Day Downieville Miner

Part IV

The Seirra County Historical Society brings to its readers the fourth part of the Dairy of a miner of the 1850's. This dairy started in April 1856 now continues into and through the year of 1857. We are thankful to Mr. Lavezzola, Seirra County Treasurer for allowing us to print this hitherto unpublished diary. The Sociology class of Loyalton High School has transcribed the diary and typed the stencils thus far. Mr. Harry R. Klein is the teacher of this class.

Monday Eve February 9th 1857

Morning was very frosty. I was up by break of day had breakfast over by sunrise--We did not go out to work until about ten o'clock--cleaned off some ground that we had been groundluicing--fixed a couple of old boxes & made one neat box, placed them for shoveling in--Andy & I was up to my old diggings & got ten yards of hose---Expected to have been ready to begin washing today, but are not ready yet,

Tuesday February 10th 1857

Was milder in the moring then the day before--Did not go out to work immediately after breakfast-- began washing gravel about ten o'clock.

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I.J. Wright,
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INSURANCE

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96118

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In the afternoone got another peice of hase so that we could convey the water for washing from the Ditch tothe boxes in the diggings without having itleak through the gravel &looseslot, Did not succeedin doing much today--

A friend of Davis' came over from Forest City. he is stopping here to night--

The weather hasbeen cold but pleasant for five days now but it is cloudy & threatens snow-- haveed baked a loafofbread, boiled a kettle of beans washed the dishes & table & read several pages in "Decline & Fall"--

Wednesday February 11th 1857

Rained in the night-- has been showering all day-- Began work about nine o.cl'k-- We are working ground which hasbeen drifted-- The old drifts are generally filled with boulders, The greater part of mulabour was to disengage theseboulders & hoist them out with the derrick-- Davis and Andy. washed out & hadfive dollars--

It is raining harder to night than it has at any time diving the day--

Theyoung man whostopped with us last night left soon after breakfast for Forest City--

Finished reading the 17th Chap. of "Decline & Fall"

Thursday February 12th 1857

Continued to rain during the night, at daybreak it was partially clear & we entertained hopes of being able to work-- It was about nine o.cl'k when we began work & we quit (in consequence of rain) before noon-- This afternoon it has rained almost without intermission. It has become colder the rain is partly snow--

George Schole called in the afternoon to return a book which he borrowedof me a few weeks since-- He stayed & chatted aboutthree hours--

The river is rising,--

Friday Eve February 13th 1857

Has been storming all day-- In the morning I called on Uncle Stephen-- He lives in a poor miserable shanty, the same in which I lived with him two years ago-- the rain was coming through several places in the roof-- He is a man of g dsense but not very communicative; is most always second in a conversation-- is firm & almost bigoted in his opinions-- we havenotbeen goodfriends forsometimepast, We lived together andconsiderable dealings, he trusted to his memory in our pecuniary matters while I kept regular accounts-- he was disposed tobe perverse in our settlements &accusedme of defrauding him, the difference between us was only aboutfifty dollars, yetthat was sufficient to cause on alienation which I suspect from his temper & habits will never be succeeded by a perfect reconciliation-- I have made advances to him as I thought because myposition as his mephew and inferior in years-- but I think that if he chooses to decline the proffered civility I will ask him no more--

Washed myshirts & c-- cleaned the pantry & scoured a lot of tin buckets, cuttery & c-- split a lot of wood in an interval between showers while Davis & Andy sawed a cut off & afterwards Davis filed the saw.

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Saturday 14th February 1857---

The Storm continues--- Been in the house all day--- Employed part of the forenoon in reading the 21st Chap. of 2nd Vol. of "Decline & Fall", Davis was on a visit to an old cabin of his on the Middle Fork; and since dinner he has been out prospecting notwithstanding the rain, he returned a little before night and reported poor success--- Andy has finished reading Peter Simple & began "Jacob Faithful"

The storm has increased since dark--no hope of its abating yet--- have just concluded my perusal of the 22nd Chap--- of Decline & Fall" Solved a few problems in Davises Arithmetic involving the principles of Fractions & the ration of numbers--- Have baked a loaf of bread since supper--- Shaved this afternoon,

Sunday February 15th 1857---

Storms more violently than yesterday. The river began to rise about daybreak & is now pretty well up, Davis & I were in town--- Each of us had a letter to mail--- I bought a newspaper "Harper's Weekly Journal of Civilization" the first No. recd one number of the "Pacific" at the P.O. bought an arm chair for my own use in the cabin, also an oil cloth cover for my table--- I wore a heavy coat to town but got very wet--- The river at Downieville was high & rising rapidly--- returned home about two o'clock & have read two papers through since one chap--- in Gibbon besides getting supper & washing dishes---

Monday 16th February 1857---

Been storming all day--- snow in the afternoon River had fallen this morning --- Andy. & I sawed off one Cut, Split & carried a lot of wood to the house--- Davis began to cook this morning. he had heretofore managed to keep out of the business, but we got him by considerable coaxing--- Read some in the forenoon--- solved a few Arithmetical problems since dark have written a letter to S.H. Taylor in answer to one recd from him about one week ago---

Tuesday 17th February 1857

Cleared off in the night after snowing some two inches--- a hard frost had succeeded to the storm before I saw the aspect of things out of doors The day has been very fine, have worked about three fourths of the time. have reached the bottom of the diggings but did not see much gold.

It is freezing hard again to night. Davis has been in bed about an hour, Andy, is fascinated by the perusal of King's Own--- I have been looking over Davis Arithmetic--- In the morning before going to work read a chapter in Gibbons-

Wednesday February 18th 1857---

The sun was hot in the forenoon & after dinner I almost melted without very hard either

Saw Uncle Stephen going to town & called to him & requested him to get my letters if any in the P.O. The Newspaper man came along in the forenoon. I bought one number of "Harpers Weekly Journal of Civilization" and Andy bought Harpers Magazine for February---

The sheriff came along in the afternoon with a subpoena for me to attend and give evidence in the Contested Election Case. The Plaintiff sends the subpoena this time I was down a few weeks ago for the defendant, must be in town

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on friday of this week--The sun shown very hot until about three O'clock when he was gradually observed by clouds and it began to rain about sunset, no gold of any consequence to day--- Uncle Stephen returned from town about dusk & brought a letter for me from my wife and one for J. Davis--

Thursday February 19th 1857-

It was storming when I retired to bed last Eve, the sky was clear at sunrise the day has been fine and beautiful. have done a good deal of work found more money than we did yesterday, My clothes such as they are covered with snow to night---feel disgusted with myself and with all mining---

Friday February 20th 1857-

Became cloudy during the night. Was raining when we ate our breakfast, we began work however in spite of the rain, I worked till nearly ten o'clock & then after washing & dressing myself in clean clothes started for Downieville to appear before Eleven o'clock---- Mr. Bassett and two of his neighbors were going down at the same time they were all witnesses, I was not Examined till nearly night I was the last one that was Examined, we were down for the Plaintiff A.S. Jadson but I do not think that he could be very well pleased with the information dictated. Obtained one paper the "Pacific" from the P.O.--

Saturday February 21st 1857---

Examined the bed rock which was cleaned by the boy yesterday but found nothing of any consequence on it, wheeled a lot of dirt that had been thrown out of a drift to the boxes & washed it, found about half an ounce of gold. Moved the derrick in the afternoon so as to have it ready for our next cut. took out the boxes & then quit for the day. I wrote a notice to hold my upper river claim when I was mining in the Fall & turned all of the water out of the flume. intend to take the lumber out soon, Andy---& I have sawed a log off since supper.

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Sunday Eve February 22nd 1857--

When I awoke from a sound slumber Andy & Davis both were up & building a fire, It was eight o'clock by the time breakfast was over Davis got himself ready for twone andy said he would remain at home, I went up to muflum in the river to take out the lumber. I first loosened the sides which were eightee- inch boards, took the nails out of them & then carried them (some forty in number) to a bank near the lower End and piled them up--After I had finished that job, I loosened the bottom boards (or which there were four of the twelve inch wide) each kind carried them to the ave pile & laid them, with the others, I also took the ties off of the stringers & placed them beyond the reach of high water, the wheel that was at the upper End i lowered into the water & rolled it upon the bank--There are sixteen stringers yet remaining with the lowre wheel & a few ties upon which the wheel rests. The stringers too heavy for me to move without assistance, I left the house about eight o'clock A.M. & returned after two o'clock absent six hours during which I worked faithfully. Came home and ate a hearty dinner, washed a lot of shirts, shaved & bathed & then fastened the buttons on a new pair of canvass pants--Do not feel like reading. Ran a small nail in the fore finger of my left hand. The nail was old & was fast in a board it broke & left about a quarter of an inch of the sharp end in my finger--Davis did not return from town till it was nearly dark & then he came about half intoxicated--

Monday February 23rd 1857--

Andy is our cook this week. He was up and had breakfast ready by seven o'clock. The weather has been warm. We have been washing top earth which we call groundsluicing or looming off. The mode of operation as near as I can describe it is as follows--A large stream of water is made to run over the bank so that the dirt will be easily conveyed by the water inot the first process of picking the bank, undermining it so that a large amount of dirt were to fall at once, the water carries the dirt to the boxes & leaves the rock. To be thrown away by the hand or hoisted our with the derrick--Each of us were wet when we quit work and I was pretty nearly wornout. Hard labor and mining is hard labor unfits me for pleasant--Reading or study. I have been of late years very anxious to study, to educate myself, but I discover that school as caustics to weary my body by labor I cannot hope to succeed, have read a few pages in the 27th Chap & Gibbon Since supper also read apart of an article in Harpers Magazine for Davis & Andy--

Tuesday February 24th 1857--

Has been storming the greater part of the day there was snow in the ground inch the moning which fell during the night. & it was snowing when we ate our breakfasts--Did not work in the forenoon. I wrote a letter to my wife--

The clouds dispensed a little about noon & there some hopes

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of its clearing off, we concluded to work-- but we were hardly out in the diggings before it began to rain harder than it had done before to day-- A few minutes sufficed for me, & I fled to the house. I dislike to expose myself unnecessarily to water, I think it produces rheumatism & brings on premature old age which comes rapidly enough anyway-- Ansy & Davis stuck to it till nearly night, they came in with their clothes drenched through-- I sat in the house & read the 28th Chap. of the "Decline & Fall" & in an interval between the showers split and carried in a lot of wood-- The storm has increased since noon.

Have for a few days past been reviewing Davis Arithmetic, I am very dull in figures but have performed all of the Examples with the Exception of three in the Promiscuous Examples in the latter part of the work. I design to devote some little of my leisure time to Algebra which I began years ago & never finished-- Have read the 29th Chap & D & C. which relates the capture of Constantinople by Malorrect 2nd-

Wednesday Febry. 25th 1857-

Has been snowing all day. A great deal of it melts as it falls-- it is not over six inches deep-- Have been in the house all day-- Read the 30th Chapter of "Decline & Fall". Having completed my review of Arithmetic yesterday I began to pay a little attention to Algebra today. Took it up some years ago & advanced as far as the Equations of the first day run, I commenced at the beginning & had considerable difficulty in overcoming the first & simplest obstacles in the way of the learner, I am naturally dull & I am rendered worse by want of practice-- Read several short stories to Davis & Andy from Harpers Magazine, since supper have read to them the story of "The Camel Driver" in the Pacha of Mary Tales by Marryott--

Thursday Febry. 26th 1857-

Still storming-- continued to snow until nearly night since when there has been a mixture of rain-- Was in Downieville in afternoon, took two letters down and mailed them, one for my wife and the other for the wife of my partner Davis-- Reck one "Pacific" at the P.O.-- walking is very bad-- Arrived home again before night-- Have at length completed my first perusal of the "Decline & Fall" of the Roman Empire by Edward Gibbon. In the latter part of the last vol. there is an "Apology for Christianity" by Bishop Watson which I have not read yet--

Friday Eve February 27th 1857

Storm ceased in the night, the last fall of snow is about six inches deep & very soft-- Worked to day-- It is raining again to night. The sky in the west was very moist of the afternoon-- the rain is cold. bids fair for a stormy day tomorrow. I endeavored to work as easily as possible to day but to night I am tired-- got wet & have been freezing by the storm ever since I came in--

Saturday Eve February 28th 1857-

There was considerable rain during the night We did not Expect



that this day would be fair, but it turned out better than we Expected. Lowered our boxes and made our cut deeper. Did not seem to get a head very rapidly, but I am very tired--Am devoting my spare time to the study of Algebra, have "Davie's Elementary Algebra", Began the study of Algebra, about nine years ago but never prosecuted it and of course learned nothing, have looked at it about one week now & have advanced as far as Equation of the first degree. I don't Expect to become a great Mathematician but my objects is to devote my leisure hours to the acquisition of knowledge which can not injure me while I am engaged in the pursuit--when i am at work in the diggings I would perfer to be in the house--reading or studying. When I have a book and meet a difficulty I am ready to or & it-- I lack courage & perseverance--

Sunday March 1st 1857-

The Sky had been clear & the day warm. nearly all of the late fallen snow disappeared from the sunny side of the hills--Davis was in town. Andy & I sawed a cut of large log for stove wood. Andy built a fire out of doors & sharpened his pick. I was engaged part of the forenoon in studying and applying the rules for working Equations of the 1st degree got stuck however and could see no way of getting out of the difficulty, after getting well perplaced I gave it up for to day in dispair. As I have read "Decline & Fall" th ough I intend to read "Whatelys Logic" which has been lying a great while on my bookshelf. I began & finished the "Analytical outline" also read the 1st chap of the "Synthetical Made". It is my design or at least my wish to prosecute the study of Algebra & Logic until I am perfectly master of the sciences. If I am abliged to work very faithfully it is possibee that I will not succeed in doing much with them, At all events I think it no harm to try.

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California

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Monday Eve March 2nd 1857--

There was a hard frost before sunrise-- It was very hot to day. I drank water several times which is something that I seldom do when I feel well. The whole sky was overcast with clouds in the afternoon & I thought that another storm would soon be upon us, but now about eight o'clock the sky is clear & the moon shining brightly-- spent the day in the diggings. Have nearly finished loomine off,

Uncle Stephen Dodson called at the diggings & chatted away quite pleasantly for a few minutes, It is more than a year since he began a conversation with me of his own accord. there were four chinamen prospecting near by here to day, Formerly a great many of them worked on the East Fork, but for nearly two years I have not seen any at work along here-- my week for cooking begins this morning consequently I will not have much time to read.

Tuesday March 3rd 1857--

Instead of rain or snow as we expected it has been very pleasant, although about noon very warm, Finished groundsluicing soon after dinner. Andy & I went to my river claim & brought two boxes down from there to use here. we got everything ready for cleaning up the bottom tomorrow. Dav's has been to town to get picks sharpened. He brought a "Pacific" Have just finished reading the Life of Theseus by Plutarch I commenced yesterday--

Wednesday March 4th 1857--

Very warm-- Began to wash gravel, reached the Bed rock just before night. A red headed youth or man came along about noon with cala papers for sale, We did not purchase but asked the vendor very much at random but principally about himself.-- after he left And seemed to think it was hard that he did not pay for his dinner when I invited him--

As I am cooking this week there is but little spare time for me to read or study, so I devoted what few minutes I have to reading Plutarch's Lives. Began Romulus while the rest were smoking after dinner--

It was so very warm that I was obliged to drink a large quantity of water.

Thursday March 5th 1857--

Another warm day. Washed considerable gravel & found some gold. There are a great many boulders to hoist out with the Derrick, that is the most difficult part of our labor--

Have a head ache to night caused I suppose by drinking too much water--

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Friday March 6th 1857

Lewis & Andy were each at work on the Bedrock & found considerable gold. We had about eighty five dollars for the day work---

Saturday March 7th 1857---

Nothing more than usual transpired, have been hard at work day. Pay is good--- have just finished reading the Life of Numal in Plutarch--- It was very cloudy this afternoon, but it is clear now. The weather is very warm,

Sunday Eve March 8th 1857

Wash & had breakfast at the usual hour--- morning sky was cloudy & very warm. We all went to town, paid afewvills & made afewpurchases. Mr David G. Holstone of whom I bought the House claim & c is at the Bus House sick of afever. Was in to see him and stayed an hour--- Returned home by one o'clock Mr Long of Forest City is here this Evening--- I bought the last New York Herald which has an account of the murder of Dr. Burdell. I have been reading the account to the boys for the last hour--- It is raining---

Monday Eve March 9th 1857

Several showers in the forenoon one pretty brisk one just before dinner. Mr Long stopped with us until noon. He assisted me to get some timbers out of the river, which took us about two hours. After that he worked in the Diggings until noon when he left. I wrote a letter to Dunbar last night & sent it to the P.O. by Mr Long. At noon I wrote a note to Mr Locke who is in Forest City & sent it by Mr Long.

Had about One Hundred & Sixteen dollars as the result of the days work---

Tuesday March 10th 1857---

An unusually warm day. Hardly any rock cleaned to day and did not do so well as yesterday--- Uncle Stephen brought my Pacific up from the P.O. He had been up to Mount Vernon to see Tunnel in which he is interested---

Wednesday March 11th 1857---

Weather very warm--- Very hard at work all day. Read the latter part of "Publicola" & "Themistocles" in Plutarch's Lives--- My fingers are nearly worn out handling so many rock my right arm pained me a long while after going to bed---

Thursday March 12--1857

A young man came along about noon with books & papers. I bought three novels "Oliver Trust" "David Copperfield" & "Horace Templeton" also the Tribune Almanac.

Was nearly covered with mud when I came in from work. We have had more work in this Cut than we expected to have when we begun & there is two days to be spent there yet--

Friday March 13th 1857

Began to read Horace Templeton. Weather hot. Snow disappearing rapidly--
~~Have not finished the cut yet.~~ a great deal more work in it than we expected.

Saturday March 14 1857

Worked in the forenoon & then cleaned up--Divided our dust. We had a little over
Forty ounces altogether. We each received Twelve ounces apiece-- & I received four
ounces for provisions which I brought here & for bills which I had paid for the Company--

Davis started for Forest City soon after Dinner will stay over there till tomorrow
night. Was up the river to see Uncle Stephen.

Barach Pride is here this evening--

Sunday March 15 1857 -

Andy, Barach Pride & myself went to town before noon. I took fifty dollars
worth of dust with me to pay Mr. David C. Rolstone for the Claim & bought of him when
I came here I read his report in full.

Made a few purchases & was home again by one o'clock in the afternoon. Have
washed my clothes & read some since-- The sky is cloudy. will probably storm soon--

Monday March 16th 1857-

There were a few clouds flying in the morning but there has been no rain yet
Have been busily engaged in the diggings--Have finished the Cut we have been working
at for the last three weeks nearly. Expect to commence drifting tomorrow. Our object
is to prospect the back part of the Flat. The Flat has not been drifted in the part
& if there is a fair prospect of its paying we will continue to work back either by
washing all of the gravel & loam from the top the bottom or by drifting the bottom
only--had head ache in the afternoon. made very good wages to day--Finished reading
Horace Templeton to night. Will proceed to finish "Canielus" which I began last
week--

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Tuesday, March 17, 1857

Last Evening we had the Cut all cleaned up--We began to drift into the back part of the Flat. Andy started a tunnel at the end of the Cut. Davis at the upper End & I in the middle. The bank caved some before we could fairly make a beginning in either place--I soon met an old drift which proceeded from the shaft that was sunk some twelve feet further back than the cut. The bottom of the shaft was filled with rubbish that had fallen from the top--The cleaning of it cut occupied nearly the whole day. Very small wages to day--Mr. Bassett came down about noon to return some books he borrowed of me a few months ago--Mr. Still, the County Surveyor, had offered to sell One half of a share in the Fremont Co., at Wet Ravine, to him and he, being short of funds, proposed to me to join him in the purchase. Wet Ravine is a small mining settlement situated beyond Forest City & as I now he had ever been over there, we concluded to make a tramp over there tomorrow, Andy agreeing to go with us--Bassett went off after dinner promising to be back & stay over night with us so that we might be ready in the morning for an early start--

Wednesday, March 18th, 1857

In pursuance of our resolution of yesterday, Andy, Bassett & myself left our Cabin on Stove Rip Flat about seven Ocl'k in the morning for Downieville, Forest City, & Wet Ravine. Arrived in Downieville in about three quarters of an hour after leaving home. Between Downieville & the City of Six the trail winds along the side of a steep mountain. We passed through City of Six. Cities, in name at least, are very numerous in this country. We came to snow before we were half way up to the City of Six.

There is a good deal of snow between City of Six and Forest City--We reached the latter place about ten oc'lk A.M., stopped a few minutes & then went over to Wet Ravine, which is about one mile distant from Forest City. We had to climb a mountain to get there. The top of the mountain is about equidistant from the two places--There are several companies at work in Wet Ravine. The Fremont Co., which we went over to see, are running an incline tunnel. The work is being done by contract. It is supposed that they are nearly down to the Bedrock--

Ate our dinner in F.C. Andy called on a friend & got his dinner. Bassett and I ate at the Harvey House, when for one dollar we read poorest kind of fare--

Returned to Downieville by half after four, Stopped at the Downie House & had a good supper.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19th 1857

A heavy rain storm began in the night. There was no prospect of our being able to work on the claim. If we were at home on account of the storm, we concluded to defer our departure at least until after breakfast. I had the best bed and the best meals at the Downie House of any that I have had since I have been in the country--Called at a cobbler & had one of my boots topped. Got home by noon. When I was coming up met Davis going to Downieville. When I arrived at home found Andy eating his dinner. He and I sawed wood nearly two cuts off a spruce pine log--

Bassett came down from his home just as we were sitting down to supper-- he ate with us. He came down to complete the purchase of our half of an interest in the Fremont Co. at Wet Ravine, which Mr. W. G. Still offered to sell to him. The price agreed upon by him & Bassett was four hundred & fifty dollars, of which three hundred & fifty was to be paid immediately. Bassett, Andy, & I concluded to take the half interest, each of us furnishing an equal portion of the money to be paid over--We all went to town to get the deed & pay our quota. Paid a Notary Public ten dollars for writing the deed and attesting the same. Bassett stayed in town, Andy and I returned.

Friday Eve-March 20th 1857

Andy & I have been at work in the tunnel. I have done the picking & loaded the barron with dirt. Andy has done the shovling & also shoveled the dirt into the sluices--There are many boulders & they stick very tight--

Davis complained of a headache & did not work. He got dinner & supper, Bassett came in the Evening, he stayed in Downieville last night & went from there to Wet Ravine & back here since morning--It is overcast--prospect of a storm.

Saturday--March 21st 1857

A cold rain began last night, has been storming nearly all day. There has been but little rain, mostly snow & hail--George Scholes was here in the forenoon to return a couple of books he borrowed of me sometime ago. George Cochran was here also. He brought two letters which he had taken out of the office for Dunbar for me to enclose to Bunbar. Bassett went off at noon. Davis & I went to town after dinner & did not return till nearly night--I bought three magazines & four papers for Bassett. Borrowed the Wide, Wide, World & brought my wheelbarrow home, which had been loaned for more than a year---Been reading the papers since supper---damp & cold.

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Sportsmen Headquarters-Information
Center for Sierra Co. Bob and Fran
Gingery---Gary and Carol Webster

SUNDAY, MARCH 22nd 1857

Andy was up early as usual, but before he had breakfast ready, William Baker, one of Bassett's partners, came along on his way to town & he

stopped. I was not up yet. He stayed & chatted away an hour or so. Davis went to town---A load of goods came up for us in the forenoon--The weather is quite cold, snow & hail falling the greater part of the time. Uncle Stephen came up from town in the afternoon to inform me that there was a claim for sale on the Wyoming Co. in the Mount Vernon Mining District & that I could get it by going down to town & seeing Mr. Fetter, the owner. I started immediately. Saw Mr. Fetter and made a bargain with him for his interest--paid the money all down & recd a bill of sale in return. Got back home again by dark---It is cold and snowing. Have been reading "Barneby Rudge" for the last two days; am about half way through.

Monday-March 23d 1857

Have been at work in the drift. Much and great many rocks--some are large & difficult to move. Davis & Andy cleaned out the riffles & had six dollars.

Tuesday March 24th 1857

We found one rock so large that we could not move it. I broke part of it with the small sledge but was obliged to give it up. We drilled a hole into it about nine inches deep and blasted it out. The bedrock appears to be very hard and constantly varying in depth. Mr. Jones came to see me. He was here a couple of hours. He took dinner with us--Raining nearly all of the afternoon. Have just finished reading "Barneby Rudge"

Wednesday March 25th 1857

Worked in the drift until noon. The bedrock is hard & smooth. Cleaned up a little & saw no gold. Concluded to give it up. Davis & Andy sawed two cuts off of a large log for stove wood. It rained a little in the morning but the sun soon came out & the balance of the day has been pleasant--

Thursday March 26th 1857

Have a felon coming on the middle finger of my right hand. I felt it about a week ago but it has not got very sore yet. Have kept busy all day but worked less than usual. I could not do any picking. We intend to make our cut smaller than usual. Will loom off enough to give us room to get to the bottom & then if there is good pay ground, will tunnel the back all around when it pays--Been reading a work on "Physiology" by C.S. Fowler. Have not read it all through but picked out the most interesting parts.

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Sierra County Historical Society News

The September meeting of the Sierra County Historical Society was held on Sunday, September 16, 1973, at the Community Hall in Sierra City, California. Over thirty people enjoyed a delicious "pot-luck" luncheon at 1:30 p.m. Thanks go to Jeanne McMahan, Sophie Tschopp, and other Sierra City members who arranged the meeting. After the luncheon the business meeting was held.

Norma White, president, called the meeting to order and introduced Mr. Castledini of the U.S. Forest Service, who had previously been invited to discuss with us the problem of debris left after logging operations in some areas of Sierra County. Mr. Castledini gave an interesting and informative talk. He explained that the Forest Service has little jurisdiction over privately owned lands. If Society members feel strongly about this problem they must get in touch with the owners of land that is being logged and appeal for a better clean up after logging operations. Mr. Castledini introduced the problem of marking Indian relics. Many Indian relics in the Sierra County region have been destroyed by people who either deface the relics or steal them. There is a question in most people's minds whether or not it would be wiser not to mark Indian relics and thus keep their whereabouts somewhat guarded and maybe save them from would be vandals.

New officers were chosen. Mrs. Georgene Copren of Sierraville, Ca, chairman of the nominating committee, presented the following slate of candidates:

Bill Copren, Calpine-----president
Ruth Drury, Goodyears Bar--vice-president
Mary Hope, Alleghany-----secretary
Jeanne McMahan, Sierra City-treasurer
Darlene Messner, Mill Valley-corresponding secretary

The slate of candidates was unanimously approved by the members of the Historical Society.

The Society members discussed the California State Bond issue which will be voted on in June, and its impact on our own county and our own historical society. Sierra County will receive at least \$200,000 (the minimum given to any county) if these bonds are approved by the voters of California. A sizeable amount of this money is designated for historical preservation and historical restoration. The Society felt that it would be great if some of this money could be used to further the plans for a museum chain in Sierra County. More information on these bonds and the plans of the Sierra County Historical Society will appear in our next bulletin.

