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A PARTIAL HISTORY OF MINING COMMUNITIES BETWEEN GOODYEAR'S BAR AND INDIAN VALLEY

By Hank Meals and Dennis Stevens



St. Charles or Bachel's Hotel about 1891--Reprinted from James J. Sinnott's "History of Sierra City and Goodyears Bar." From the collection of Marcella Fischer Ponta.

When mining began in the area of the North Yuba River in 1849, gold was thought to be found only in rivers, canyons, gulches, or ravines. The first method used by the average "49er" was merely crevice-hunting or aimless searching about for obvious nuggets. A few days' experience indicated that one had to dig to find his treasure, and that there were places to dig and places at which to refrain from digging. A straight section of stream was to be avoided in favor of places where the stream turned and the current slowed. Best of all was the upper end of a sandbar building out at the inside bank of a bend or in the downstream mouth of an oxbow left by a change in course (Young 1970: 108). Shallow gravel bars were easier to work than deep banks, therefore they were first

exploited. Transverse rock ridges and potholes, being natural riffle bars, were carefully investigated. Other heavy minerals tended to accumulate in the same places as the gold and, being easier to see, were used as markers to indicate a possible pay streak or accumulation. These heavy minerals included garnet, black magnetic sand, and hematites.

By the summer of 1849, Andrew and Miles Goodyear had found gold on the North Yuba and its tributary streams. They named their operation "Goodyear's Bar". By October of the same year, Major William Downie, with Mike Duvarney, Jim Crow (a Kanaka), and "a half dozen colored men" traveled the Slate Range Divide (the current Henness Pass Road) from

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SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Sierra County Historical Society is an organization of people interested in preserving and promoting an appreciation of Sierra County's rich history. The Society operates a Museum at the Kentucky Mine in Sierra City, holds quarterly meetings, publishes a semi-annual newsletter and conducts historical research. Members are sent notices of Society activities, receive *The Sierran* and are admitted free of charge to the museum and stamp mill tour.

If you would like to become involved in these activities or would just like to give your support, please join!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS and STAFF

Speranza Avram, President; Rita Bradley, Vice President; Maren Scholberg, Secretary & Membership Coordinator; Renetta Hayes, Treasurer; Arnold Gutman, William Long and Linc Madsen, Directors.

Museum Curator.....Karen Donaldson

Sierran Production Staff.....Dave Bloch

.....Karen Donaldson

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Sierra County Historical Society is open to any interested person, business or organization. Members need not be residents of Sierra County. Dues are due and payable each January for the calendar year.

Membership categories are as follows:

SENIOR	\$5.00
INDIVIDUAL	\$10.00
FAMILY & INSTITUTION	\$15.00
BUSINESS & SUPPORTING	\$25.00
SUSTAINING	\$50.00
LIFE (per individual)	\$100.00

Please send dues to the Membership Chair::

Mrs. Maren Scholberg
P.O. Box 141
Sierraville, CA 96126

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Speranza Avram

Welcome to our first issue of the Bulletin for 1993! We are all very excited about the prospects for a successful year. At our May 2 membership meeting, I summarized the financial statements of the organization for last year. 1992 was a financially challenging year for the Museum and the Society due to several large one-time-only expenses. However, we managed to end the year "in the black".

1993 promises to be much more prosperous for us. The opening of the U.S. Forest Service Scenic By-Way should bring more visitors to the museum. The Concert Series, which drew record crowds last year, will present a musical schedule which should attract both local residents and out-of-town visitors. For me personally, I am most excited about working with our new Board of Directors of the Society. These dedicated volunteers, some of them long-time members, some of them brand new, will meet regularly to set policy for the organization and to establish goals for the future.

Speaking of volunteers, the summer season is the time that we need volunteers the most. The museum is open five days per week during the summer. We present Friday night concerts all through July and August. Volunteers are needed to assist in a variety of ways, from staffing the museum, to taking concert tickets and helping with clerical duties. If you have some free time and wish to help us out, please call Karen at 862-1310. We are a small organization and our volunteers make it possible to provide a wide variety of historical and cultural programs for the community. Have a wonderful summer! I hope to see many of you at the Museum and at the Concerts!

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Adella Lombardi, R.D. Atkeson, Carlo Guiffre, Jr., Kevel Gutman, Arnold Gutman.

BUSINESS MEMBERS

Golden West Saloon, Leonard's of Loyalton, Loyalton Pharmacy, Sierra Booster, High Country Inn, International Mobile Video, Bassetts Station, Sierra-Plumas Realty, Ruffled Goose, Sandra Dyer's Resort Motel, Cirino's at the Forks, Mountain Messenger, Dickey Exploration Company, Dr. Lee Walker.

Foster's Bar (further down the Yuba River) to Jim Crow Ravine and down to "The Forks". This location is now known as Downieville, which, by 1850, had a population of 5,000 (Coy 1948: 67).

The primary point of departure for the North Yuba area was Marysville. This community, located at the confluence of the Yuba and Feather Rivers, had flourished since 1842, when it was known as Cordua's Ranch. By 1850 it had become a "city", named after Mary Murphy, a member of the Donner Party. Marysville was a center of trade for the Northern Mines. Pack trains left Marysville in a continuous stream for Foster's Bar, the first main stop on the trail to Downieville.

In 1849 and 1850, W. H. Parks of Park's Bar, ran a pack train from Marysville to Foster's Bar along with many other packers. By 1850, John Seward extended the transportation route by operating a mule team between Foster's Bar and Downieville. Seward ran five or six teams with as many as 80-100 mules along this route (Sinnott 1977: 111). Seward's route was along the ridge south of the North Yuba and traveled via Sleighville and Mountain House, down Galloway Ridge to Downieville. By 1859, the route descended from Mountain House to Goodyear's Bar via Woodruff Creek, then ran along the south side of the river to Coyoteville, where it crossed the river and continued to Downieville. This much appreciated new route was opened with a parade and celebration complete with elephants and circus performers.

In 1850 a German sailor, Adolphus Windler, while buying provisions at Foster's Bar, was told of "the Indian Valley Trail" (Windler 1969: 59). Windler again mentions the area when he writes... "(I) had an invitation to a mint julep party tomorrow at Patrick and Hitchin's Store... all Indian Valley was congregated there..." (Windler 1969: 80). J. D. Borthwick talks of wanting to visit a friend some twenty miles upstream from Foster's Bar (above Indian Valley), "...My way was through a part of the country very little traveled... The man who gave me directions said that he hardly expected that I would be able to keep the right trail... the numbers of Indian trails, branching off to the right and left, were very confusing, being not a bit less indistinct than the trail I was endeavoring to follow..." (1948: 172). Borthwick followed the North Yuba upstream and undoubtedly passed through Indian Valley. On this trip he encountered miners at a "small camp called Toole's Diggins" and an Indian camp.

As previously stated, the river bars were the focus of mining in the early years of the industry. According to Borthwick:

"...What they called a bar in California is the flat which is usually found on the convex side of a bend in the river. Such places have nearly always proved very rich, that being the side on which any deposit carried down by the river will naturally lodge, while the opposite bank is generally steep and precipi-

tous and contains little or no gold... The largest camps or villages are on the bars, and take their names from them..." (1948: 138-9).

Camps established on these bars were usually "...small, and afforded the men of the gold days but little opportunity for city planning, if indeed there was enough room for the actual mining operations..." (Coy 1948: 26).

The Yuba River was dotted with bars; one source counted fifty-one between Marysville and Downieville alone (Wiltsee 1931: 2). Camps consisted of tents and rough log or bark structures (Hansen 1919: 65). Borthwick's 1856 description of Slate Range Bar, a few miles downstream from Indian Valley is worth telling:

"...An hour's scrambling over the sharp-edged slate rocks on the side of the river brought us to his camp, or at least the place where he and his partners camped out, which was on the bare rocks, in a corner so over-shadowed by the steep mountain that the sun never shone upon it. It was certainly the least luxurious habitation, and in the most wild and rugged locality, I had yet seen in the mines. On a rough board which rested on two stones were a number of tin plates, pannikins, and such articles of table furniture, while a few flat stones alongside answered the purpose of chairs. Scattered about, as was usual in all miners' camps, were quantities of empty tins of preserved meats, sardines, and oysters, empty bottles of all shapes and sizes, innumerable ham-bones, old clothes, and other rubbish. Round the blackened spot which was evidently the kitchen were pots and frying-pans, sacks of flour and beans, and other provisions, together with a variety of cans and bottles, of which no one could tell the contents without inspection; for in the mines everything is perverted from its original purpose, butter being perhaps stowed away in a tin labelled "fresh lobsters", tea in a powder canister, and salt in a sardine-box."

"There was nothing in the shape of a tent or shanty of any sort; it was not required as a shelter from the heat of the sun, as the place was in the perpetual shade of the mountain, and at night each man rolled himself up in his blankets, and made a bed of the smoothest and softest piece of rock he could find..." (1948: 212-3).

With the coming of spring in 1850, miners flocked into the Downieville-Goodyear's Bar area. Below Goodyear's Bar, within a distance of two miles there were claims at Texas Bar, Hoodoo Bar, Rantedottler Bar, Woodville (Cutthroat) Bar, Nigger Slide and St. Joe Bar (Sinnott 1978: 204). Additionally, the Sierra County Assessors Records mention the following mining claims for the North Yuba between Indian Valley and Goodyear's Bar: Brown's Bar (1865-75), Pierce's Bar (1865-81), Sand Flat (1876-1903), Oak Bar (1874-83) and Higgins Slide (1878-86).

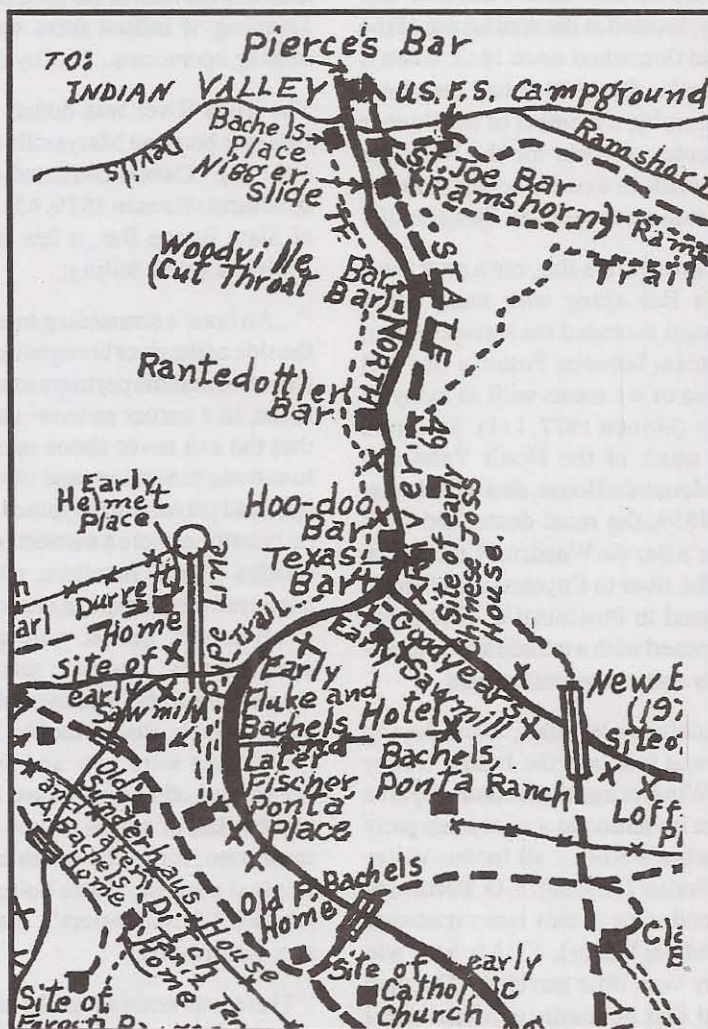
River mining was very important on the North Yuba. River mining is a term used to define a type of mining done by bypassing the flow of the river by the use of flumes, races, tunnels or wing dams, a wing dam being a dam built only partially across a river to deflect the water from its original course. "...About 98% of the gold mined in (what is now) Sierra County from 1849 to 1858 came from (this type of) placer operation..." (Sinnott 1978: 121). The peak in gold production was from 1851 to 1852, while the peak in river mining was from 1855 through 1856; after this both annual production and the average yield per miner had dropped sharply. By 1857-58, the tailings from hydraulic mining on the ridge tops covered the old river claims.

Numerous 'Bars' existed on the North Yuba River from Goodyear's Bar to lower Indian Valley. Working downstream from Goodyear's Bar to lower Indian Valley, a brief history of each identified bar follows:

Texas Bar. James Sinnott's sketch maps (1978: 210, 266) indicate that Texas Bar was located on the north side of the North Yuba River approximately 1/8 mile west of Goodyear's Creek. The only information that could be found on Texas Bar was in the Sierra County Assessor's Books, which begin in 1863.

It is fair to assume that Texas Bar was originally mined by Texans, as it was the fashion to name bars and flats after the home states or the nationality of the original inhabitants. The Assessor's records show the following six entries for Texas Bar between 1863-70, of which five are Chinese. Ah Cow & Co. were assessed for a derrick and wheel (a derrick being a device with a boom and counterweight, used to move large boulders exposed by placer mining, and the wheel being a large paddle-type wheel placed in the current to run the water pumps used to remove the remaining water left below the wing dam) in 1864 and 68. Ah Hong & Co. were assessed for a derrick in 1864. In 1866, Ah Hoon and Co. were assessed

for improvements on mining ground and Ah Hsan was assessed for one derrick. Ah King & Co. were assessed for a derrick, wheels and tools in 1870. In that same year, White and Lynn were assessed for a flume, derrick and tools.



Portion of James Sinnott's maps of the Goodyear's Bar area.

In the 1887 testimony of Ah Jake, who was accused of killing Wah Chuck over a pair of boots, he mentions a Joss House (a Chinese Temple) at Texas Bar (Rogers 1952: 99). Carmel Meisenbach (Tahoe National Forest Historian), in her history of Goodyear's Bar, refers to the area of Texas Bar as a Chinese settlement with a Joss House.

Hoodoo Bar. According to Sinnott's maps, Hoodoo Bar was 1/4 mile below Goodyear's Bar on the south side of the North Yuba River. Hoodoo Bar, also found spelled 'Hudu', is said to have received its name from the peculiar manner in which the local Indians said "how-dy-do", making it sound like Hoodoo (Sinnott 1978: 208, 210-211).

The Sierra County Tax Assessor's records show entries for the years between 1863 and 1900.

The Chinese had a major influence at this bar. Half

of the entries found were for improvements and machinery owned by Chinese miners. Other entries included houses, ditches and gardens.

Rantedottler Bar. This bar is located 1/2 mile below Goodyear's Bar on the south side of the river (Sinnott 1978: 211). 'Rantedottler' is the most frequent spelling of this bar. Other spellings include Rantedodler, Rantedotler, Rantedotlar, Ranty-Doddler, Ransedoddler, and Rantedodly. In 1851, Major William Downie had a claim and cabin at Rantedottler Bar (Downie 1893: 103). In a letter to the Mountain Echo of April 1853, "E.T.H." comments "...I consider Rantedottler

without an equal. It has never been thoroughly prospected...".

The Sierra County Assessor's Books show entries for the years between 1863 and 1880. The first entry was for a store, warehouse and bridge. Various mining ditches, tools and claims, as well as a sawmill, are listed throughout the records. Almost half of the listings were for Chinese individuals or companies. These listings included derricks, wheels, mining ground, sluice boxes, tools, ditches, head dams, a shop and a cabin.

Archaeological data from Rantedottler Bar substantiates the image of communities of Chinese miners pooling their labor to accomplish the difficult task of mining. They maintained their ethnic identity by continuing to pursue "traditional social and culinary practices" (Markley 1992: 51).

Cuthroat Bar/Woodville Bar. Sinnott states that Cuthroat Bar received its name because of a sick man who had cut his own throat here (Sinnott 1978: 211). This bar is located "...a short distance above..." Negro Slide, which is "...a short distance above..." St. Joe's Bar (Sinnott 1978: 211). The Sierra Citizen of September 1854 had this news: "...Woodville Bar Fluming Company took from their claims last week 209 ounces of gold out. There are four shares in this company, which after deducting expenses realized over \$800 to the share..."

The Sierra County Contract book for 1865 (E) records a sale of mining ground owned by Ah Sing and Ah Chime to Ah Tsung at this bar.

In the Sierra County Assessor's book for 1865, Woodville Bar is mentioned. Ah Youw operated a derrick and two wheels at this location.

Negro Slide. The only reference to Negro Slide other than the one mentioned above, was found in the Sierra Citizen of August 12, 1854. They note: "...We learn that the recently discovered diggings on the south side of the Yuba, ...are paying from eight to sixteen dollars to the hand. The 'Slide' is on the hill-side about 200 feet above the river. This is an important discovery, showing that the bank diggings extend farther down the river than was formerly supposed..."

There was no mention of Negro Slide in the Sierra County Assessor's books for the years consulted (1863-1903).

Higgin's Slide. The Sierra County Assessor's book of 1878-79 indicates that Higgin's Slide was located 1 1/2 miles below Goodyear's Bar. The Empire Company #2 was working there on 2,000 feet of river front. In 1885-86 Peter Bachels and Peter Knouf had a 20 acre mining claim at Higgin's Slide.

Saint Joe's Bar. St. Joe's Bar was located on the north side of the river just east of the mouth of Ramshorn Creek.

The settlement of St. Joe's Bar had its beginnings in 1850. In an unsigned letter to the Mt. Echo in 1852 the writer speaks of finding 300 miners at St. Joe's Bar. He also mentions finding the graves of two "Celestials" with offerings of rice and beef nearby (Sinnott 1978: 206). Sinnott (1978: 267) goes on to say "...There was a considerable colony of Chinese at the bar..." and describes tourists finding Chinese ceramics in the area in 1971, however there is no mention of any Chinese at St. Joe's Bar in the Sierra County Tax Assessor's records for the years consulted (1863-1903).

Up Ramshorn Creek about a mile and a half from the North Yuba River was the ranch of David Augustus Hobby. In the state elections of 1854 and 1858, votes were cast by St. Joe's Bar at Hobby's Store, which was located at the present Forest Service Indian Rock Picnic Area. The first mention of D. A. Hobby in the Sierra County Assessor's books is for 1863, when he had a ranch on both forks of Ramshorn Creek, with oxen, a horse and three cows. By 1874, Hobby's farm land extended to "...the mouth of Ramshorn Creek, containing bar and river..." (Tax Assessor's Book 1874).

The Tax Assessor records David Hobby's ranch until 1892, when the estate of D. Hobby is administered by Mrs. D. Hobby. Louise Hobby is listed as the owner of the ranch in the Assessor's record of 1903. Regarding the Hobby family, Richard Bigelow, former Tahoe National Forest Supervisor (1902-1936), wrote this diary entry on May 15, 1910, "...ate dinner at Hobby's...went up the river trail to Goodyear's Bar..."

The Sierra County Tax Assessor's Records show that the Empire Company, No. 3, was mining at the mouth of Ramshorn Creek in 1874. The St. Joe Mining Co. mined St. Joe's Bar in 1885. Between 1882 to 1900, the Exchange Mining Company had a thirty acre claim at Ramshorn Creek. In 1900, John Williams owned the claim as well as a horse and wagon.

In 1920, J. C. Kretz, who for many years owned and made the old Hobby Ranch his home, built a wagon road from the Hobby Ranch to State Highway 49 (Sinnott 1978: 236).

Sand Flat / Bachel's Place. Sand Flat is approximately 1 1/2 to 2 miles downstream from Goodyear's Bar on the south side bank of the North Yuba River. Sand Flat is directly south and across the river from St. Joe's Bar.

The first mention of Sand Flat is in the Sierra County Assessor's records for 1876-77, when Ah Ling had gardenland on "...all the lower bank...". Ah Ling was previously assessed for merchandise valued at \$100 at Goodyear's Bar in 1865. In the Assessor's book for 1877-78, Andrew Grantzes had two acres of "...gardenland on the second bench from the river, bounded on the north by the China

Gardens...". Paul Bachels also had land and two cows at Sand Flat. According to Marcella Fischer Ponta, the granddaughter of Paul Bachels, Andrew Grantzes was the uncle of Gertrude Longes Bachels, who was Paul Bachels' wife (Personal Communication, 1992). Andrew Grantzes had spent a year at Goodyear's Bar in 1870, and the Bachels came from Germany in the winter of 1871-72. The Bachels then moved to Sierra City and eventually to Sand Flat. Paul and Gertrude Bachels had twelve children that lived. All but the youngest three attended school in Goodyear's Bar. The two mile trail the children walked between Sand Flat and Goodyear's Bar is, for the most part, still in good condition today.

Ah Ling's property was bought by Paul Bachels in 1880. Andrew Grantzes and Paul Bachels were also taxed for a mining claim that consisted of 1000 feet along the river at Sand Flat in 1880. Paul Bachels was taxed for his land at Sand Flat every year between 1873 to 1903. He bought the former Jacob Fluke Hotel (built in 1864) in Goodyear's Bar in 1889 and moved there. The family operated the hotel as such into the 1930s. It is still the family home of Marcella Fischer Ponta and her husband Mel Ponta.

Brown's Bar. The Sierra County Assessor's book for 1874-75 refers to Brown's Bar as being on the south side of the North Yuba, three miles above Indian Valley. Holland and Ross were the miners working there. This description puts the bar near the mouth of St. Catherine Creek. The Assessor's book for 1865 indicates that the head dam for the Fitzgerald's Ditch was located at Brown's Bar. The water from this ditch was distributed at Indian Valley.

Oak Bar. Oak Bar was described in the 1874-75 Sierra County Assessor's book as being three miles above Indian Valley on the north side of the river. Bingham and Smiley were taxed for a head dam and one mile of ditch, which they used from 1880-83. In 1881 a 1/2 mile ditch distributed water at Oak Bar using a head dam on the river at Pierce's Bar.

Pierce's Bar. Pierce's Bar was located at the present location of Convict Flat on the north side of the river (Sinnott 1978: 251). The only references to this bar were in the 1865 and 1881 Sierra County Assessor's books, which mentioned a dam being there.

State Highway 49 was being constructed from 1918-20, and utilized road camps for workers. Convict labor was used in the construction, and they camped at this flat. Tahoe National Forest Supervisor, Richard Bigelow, notes in his diary that on May 13, 1919 he had to discuss the question of convicts fishing with a Mr. Brown, the road supervisor, and on June 3 and 5 of the same year, he talks of apprehending escaped convicts.

St. Peter's Bar. The only mention of St. Peter's Bar is in

James Sinnott's book (1978: 255). There he mentions a branch flume of the Indian Valley Water Company ditch crossed the North Yuba River to the north side at St. Peter's Bar.

Indian Valley. In the early 1850s a trail from Oak Valley descended Depot Hill to a toll bridge that crossed the North Yuba River at Cut Eye Foster's Bar near Cherokee Creek. The Brandy City trail then ascended the ridge to the north. At Cherokee Creek (located just downstream below Indian Valley on the North Yuba) another trail followed the river upstream for three miles to Indian Valley. A 22 mile road between Downieville and Cut Eye Foster's Bar was proposed in the Sierra Citizen in 1854 at a cost of \$35,315.00 (Sinnott 1978: 251). This road was never constructed, but the existing trail was improved. The Mountain Messenger of July 22, 1865 reports that "...the trail between Goodyear's Bar and Indian Valley is the best maintained trail we have ridden over in a long time...".

The Indian Valley Water Company filed Articles of Incorporation on February 2, 1858. The purpose of the company was to construct a "...ditch, flume or aqueduct to convey the waters of the North Yuba River to the lower end of Indian Valley in Sierra County, the water to be used for mining, mechanical and agricultural purposes...". The Indian Valley Water Company ditch was four miles long and had its head dam on the river and distributed water to both sides of the river in Indian Valley. The flume of the main ditch was four feet five inches on the sides with a capacity of 1,700 inches.

Additional ditches were listed in the Sierra County Assessor's books of 1866 for Indian Valley. Among them were Irish Jimmy's Ditch (three miles long, with a capacity of 100 inches) with its head dam at Brown's Bar, the Fitzgerald Ditch (three miles long, with a capacity of 250 inches) with its head dam also at Brown's Bar, The Black and Company Ditch, as well as numerous ditches with their associated dams on Fiddle Creek (a creek which flows south into the North Yuba River at Indian Valley).

The Tax Assessor's books indicate that most of the mining in Indian Valley was done by Chinese miners between the years of 1867 and 1878. Sixteen Chinese miners and one Chinese merchant are noted in the Tax Assessor's records for these years. Estimates vary on the size of Chinese mining "companies". Chiu (1963: 31) states that the majority of Chinese Companies working between 1865 to 1880 employed fifteen to twenty workers, while Hanover (1982: 12) says "...a company could be as small as two, three or four people...". More specifically, companies of the early 1860s that were engaged in river mining typically contained fewer than five workers. In the 1880s and 1890s, river mining companies consisted of four to ten men using derricks, dams, pumps and

ditches (Rohe 1982: 8). There is some evidence that the Chinese did not always file claims themselves, but rather had a local white person do it for them. Purchasing the claim from the white agent provided a more secure deed (LaLande 1981: 324-25). Therefore, it is entirely possible that there were more Chinese miners on the North Yuba than indicated by public records.

In 1865 there were at least two water powered saw mills in operation in Indian Valley. One was run by William Crawford and the other by Samuel Bonstein, who became a miner in 1868. Samuel Bonstein continued mining in Indian Valley until his death in 1893.

A. G. Ford built a toll bridge and operated a ferry across the North Yuba in 1863. The bridge connected with a road from Indian Hill (to the south) that was constructed in the late 1850s or early 1860s. A. G. Ford also ran a hotel on the north side of the river, but by 1868 he had acquired ten acres of farm land on the south side of the river. The Tax Assessor's book for 1876 notes that A. G. Ford had "...ten acres of farmland with fruit trees rooted and growing...". He also had a house, barn and fencing, according to the records. In 1879 William L. Erwin bought A. G. Ford's property and was farming thirty acres on the south side of the river. Mrs. Mary Erwin sold at least some of the family farm land to Mrs. Edward Rowe of Scales in 1896. According to Sinnott (1978: 253), Joseph Ponta owned this land from 1915 to 1925. Currently, Sierra Pacific Industries owns the land.

The other major ranch in Indian Valley belonged to John Massa, who bought land located on the north side of the river in 1896. He sold his ranch to Pacific Gas and Electric in 1920.

Children of Indian Valley originally attended school at Indian Hill. There was a road from the Ponta Ranch to Indian Hill, a one hour trip uphill and twenty minutes down (Sinnott 1978: 254).

By the 1920s Richard Bigelow, in his diary, mentions Forest Service campgrounds in Indian Valley.

The depression of the 1930s brought a return to hand placering on the North Yuba River. A conservative estimate is that 100,000 people returned to the rivers of Northern California in 1932-33. In Indian Valley during the depression, there was a small community known as "Tar Paper Shack Flat". In 1935-37, hand placering paid an average of six dollars per week, with about a third of the miners averaging three and a half dollars per week (Bulletin 135, State Division of Mines, 1946: 13). (*Editor's Note:* For more on this depression-era Gold Rush, read *Bacon and Beans from a Gold Pan* by George Hoper, as told by Jesse Coffey. Panorama West Publishing, Fresno 1988. This book is available at the Kentucky Mine Museum.)

In 1941, William Richter and Sons of Oroville were operating a dragline dredge with a 1/2 cubic yard bucket in Indian Valley. Between June 1, 1941 and April 30, 1942, 1,646 ounces of gold and 208 ounces of silver were removed from 338,000 cubic yards of gravel (Bulletin 135, State Division of Mines, 1946: 289). The War Production Board Limitation Order L-208 was issued on October 08, 1942, effectively stopping almost all mining.

This segment of the North Yuba River between Goodyear's Bar and Indian Valley was witness to the evolution of streamside mining from knife and pan in 1849 to present-day suction dredges. Since the completion of the Downieville - Nevada City Highway in 1920, this section of the North Yuba between Indian Valley and Goodyear's Bar is no longer remote. A Downieville newspaper article of July, 1922 states that "...at least one hundred vehicles a day pass through town..." (Sinnott 1977: 194). Today, as one travels along the modern highway bordering this section of river, only a faint trace of the past activities remain. Emphasis now is on recreation and small scale mining.

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CURATOR'S REPORT

by Karen Donaldson

Spring has arrived! We have survived one of the longest and wettest winters I can recall in the past ten years with no damage to the park or buildings.

On April 21st, a group of 4th graders from Glorietta Elementary in Orinda toured the museum and stamp mill and enjoyed a picnic lunch. On May 1st, 250 California Scholarship Federation students were here for a tour, picnic and play in the amphitheatre. Downieville students helped conduct the tour at stations. The Bureau of Land Management scheduled a tour for May 8th. Camptonville School will be bringing 4th and 5th graders up for a tour May 17th.

The popular group Mumbo Gumbo performed at the Museum May 9th for a dance and Cajun Barbecue as a fundraiser for the Concert Series. A CDF fire crew came to help with some major tree trimming and cleanup the week of May 10th. What a bonus!

The Museum will be open May 15th as part of Heritage Week and the USFS dedication of "49 Miles Along Highway 49." Cornish pasties, historical re-enactments by Downieville School students and entertainment by the Tommyknocker Cloggers will be enjoyed in the amphitheatre. The official opening day this year is Saturday, May 29th.

Hank Meals and Dennis Stevens of the USFS were instrumental in getting new highway signs made and installed. They look great and are much more readable.

We will have several new exhibits this year. One is being done by Downieville students focusing on recreation and fishing in particular. This will include a video presentation.

The Memorial Fund display has been relocated in the Museum and should get more attention and appreciation.

The Sierra County Department of Public Works is nearer to getting grant expenditure approval to complete the following projects: (1) opening and retimbering the mine portal; (2) enhancing the pathway and picnic area lighting; (3) upgrading the water system; and (4) maintenance to the trestle. We hope to complete the work in 1993.

Hope to see you this summer and don't forget--we really need our volunteer support. We are hoping to organize a Docent Training Program this year. If you are interested, please call. It is time well spent and we just couldn't make it without you!

1993 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES SCHEDULE

July 2

PAST DUE AND PLAYABLE--Not limited to bluegrass.

July 9

MICKIE AND ELIZABETH--Traditional Celtic music

July 16

BEST OF BROADWAY--Including a tribute to Nelson Eddy and Jeannette MacDonald, selections from "Phantom of the Opera," and more. Featuring soprano Marcia Cope-Hart, pianist Charles Worth, and tenor Tom Truhitte.

July 23

ANCIENT FUTURE--Jazz fusion & World Beat. Special guest Bill Douglass on bass and flutes.

July 30

VIVO--Ivan Najera, Gregory Leupp and Roberto Wilson. Classical guitars with Brazilian influence & percussion.

Aug 6

OUR BOYS--Nine-member Caribbean steel drum band.

Aug 13

HAWKS & EAGLES--Cowboy gypsy music.

Aug 20

McAVOY LAYNE as MARK TWAIN--"The Wild Humorist of the Western Slope."

Aug 27

GREG BROWN--Acoustic guitarist-singer-storyteller, known for his appearances on APR's "Prairie Home Companion."

Sept 3

SIERRA NEVADA WINDS ORCHESTRA--45 musicians--What a Grand Finale!