

Local News

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pfeifer of this city and the former's mother, Mrs. Gregg, and friend, Mrs. Austin, both of Denver, Colo., are enjoying a trip to the World's Fair in Seattle this week.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Sharp, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Wood and Mrs. Lillie Wood of this city went to Toledo Tuesday to visit Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Wood and while there celebrated the golden wedding anniversary of the E. W. Sharps.

Mr. and Mrs. David Paine have left for their home in Morgan town, W. Va., following a visit with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Strader, and brother, Bill Strader, on the North Umpqua River. Mrs. Paine was formerly Janet Strader.

Don Ware, son of Mr. and Mrs. Darley Ware of this city, sails this week from San Francisco aboard the President Cleveland for a week in Japan, before flying to Seoul, Korea, for an extended stay. Don served with U.S. Forces in Korea. After being discharged from service, he completed his studies at University of Oregon and has since been teaching in the Eugene-Springfield area.

Mary Beth Hill, honored queen of Roseburg Bethel No. 8; Sherry Engle, senior princess; Ann Walker, junior princess; Mollie Ware, grand Bethel junior princess; Frances Elliott, guardian of Bethel No. 8, and Wanda Ware, member of the guardian council, went to Eugene today to attend the reception tonight honoring Sharon Hassman of Eugene, grand Bethel queen of the state of Oregon, International Order of Job's Daughters. Mrs. Hassman will attend the supreme session later this month to be held in Spokane, Wash. While in Eugene today, Mrs. Ware, as president of the University of Oregon Mothers Club here, will attend a state board meeting on the U. of O. campus.

Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Jacobson of this city took their two granddaughters, Kathy Gremmel, of Eugene, and Meg Jacobson, of Minneapolis, Minn., back to Eugene over the weekend. The two girls had spent the last week with their grandparents.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hamerschmidt moved this week from Roseburg to the newly completed Terwilliger apartments in Portland to make their home. They have sold their residence in Laurewood to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Holbrook.

Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Kesner returned from Portland Sunday, where they attended the Jeub-Jenkins wedding at Vernon Presbyterian Church followed by a reception at the Columbia Edgewater Country Club. The Jeubs are former Coquille friends and business associates of the Kesners. Later they were dinner guests at the Multnomah Hotel.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Cooksey and sons, Bob and Bill, are back at their home in Roseburg, following a trip to Chicago, where the former attended the Elks National Convention. From Chicago, they went to Montana to visit the former's relatives and then went to Seattle to attend the World's Fair and visit his parents and Mrs. Cooksey's brother and sister-in-law.

Tobi, 15, and Kyra, 14, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Holbrook of this city, are expected to return to Roseburg the first of the week following an extended vacation trip with their paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Holbrook, of Salem. They have visited New York, Boston, Cape Cod, points of interest in Maine and other points on the east coast and a stop over in Chicago. They are now en route back to the west coast.

Nostalgia Grips Camanche Town As Residents Take Final Fling

By KENNETH REICH
United Press International
CAMANCHE, Calif. (UPI)—The doomed town of Camanche came to life for one last time this week. A \$33 million dam is going in a few miles down the Mokelumne River. When it is completed sometime next year, the town will be under 30 feet of water.

But recently some 450 friends and visitors joined the 50 remaining residents in a "last dinner" which turned into a party reminiscent of Camanche's most glorious days as a leading California gold town.

Once again the community echoed to youthful, playful voices and the joking of oldsters. Again almost a dozen saloons were operating, indoors and out.

But amidst the gaiety there was a distinct note of sadness which grew as the evening progressed. For the residents, many of them in their 70s and 80s, couldn't forget that next year the town will no longer exist.

"We'll miss it here," said Beula Scates, the last postmistress. "It's a peaceful place. Maybe, when the water comes we can come back and look at an island sticking up and say 'I used to live right there.'"

A century ago a Sunday visitor to Camanche would have seen hundreds of Chinese laborers walking up and down Main Street, making way only for an occasional horse race. The Wells Fargo stage might have been loading some of the \$15,000 in gold dust shipped weekly to the San Joaquin Valley.

In the 1890s the community boasted four grocery stores, two clothing shops, two blacksmith shops, a meat market, two hotels, two drug stores and 17 saloons. Today it consists only of a bar, a general merchandise store with gasoline pumps, a post office, a school, closed in 1957 when it got down to six pupils, and an old Catholic church.

Disasters took their toll. Fire struck Camanche in 1873, destroyed 30 houses and caused \$15,000 damage. A cloudburst followed, inundating most of the town to its former size.

Only two dwellings on Main Street date later than 1885. The population over the years has decreased from a peak of about 1,500 to its present 50.

"I'd rather see the place flooded out than go the way of Lancha Plana or Poverty Bar," said Andrew Cavagnaro, 61, a native.

The two nearby towns he mentioned are nothing but ruins now. The easy-to-find gold in the region was exhausted rapidly. Then came the Chinese, who worked for almost nothing, to dig gold ore out of the rocky ground.

"Most of the people who made money left," according to Paul Lewis, local historian. "They didn't settle down. However, there were some who were never able to go back east. Some left sweethearts who didn't wait. They never went back home. They died in the county hospitals."

Even today, gold is more than a memory in Camanche. The surrounding land contains low grade ore, but with the price of gold held at \$35 an ounce it is too expensive to mine. And there are rumors that the old Catholic Church stands on high grade ore, which was never mined.

"If the price of gold had gone up to \$100 an ounce two years ago, there never would have been any dam," said Fred Lyons, who has lived in Camanche all his 50 years.

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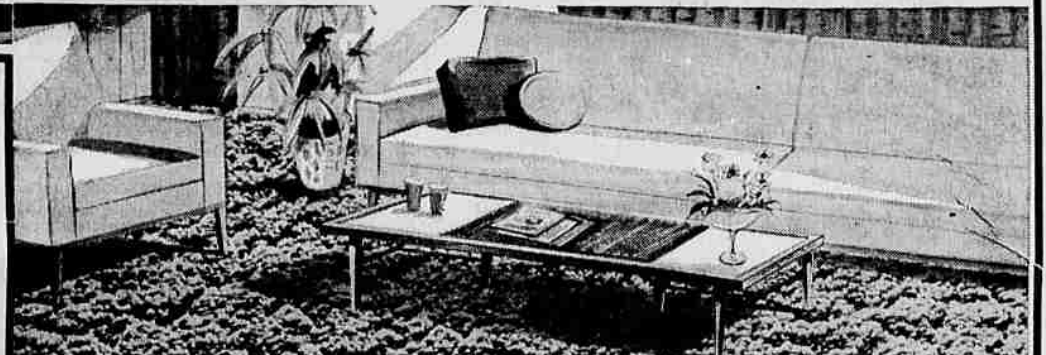
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