

*Mariposa Chronicle*, filmed by BMI, 1996.

Jan. 26, 1854-March 1855.

Missing issues: 1854: June 6, 16, July 14, Nov. 3, Dec. 29. 1855: Jan. 12, Feb. 23.

*Mariposa Gazette*. Filmed by Library Microfilms, 1996.

Reel 1: 1856-1858, 1860.

Missing issues: 1856: Jan.-July, Aug. 15, 22, Sept. 5, 19.

Missing issues: 1857: Feb. 20, June 5, July 3, 1857.

Missing issues: 1858: June 23, July 7, 14, 21, Aug. 3, 10, 17.

Missing issues: 1859: Jan.-Dec.

Missing: 1860: Feb.-July 3.

Reel 2: 1861-1862.

Reel 3: 1864-1877.

Reel 4: 1866-1869.

Ridley's Ferry (letter), Dec. 24, 1858.

*Mariposa Free Press*:

Reel 1: Jan. 12, 1863-1864.

Reel 2: 1864-1866.

Reel 3: August 1866-Oct. 1871.

Reel 4: 1870-1872.

*Mariposa Mail*:

Jan. 1866-Sept. 1869.

Mariposa Free Press, Cal. State Library, File begins Jan. 24, 1863.

Ad: Visalia-Hornitos stage; Coso mentioned, Feb. 14, 1863, 1:1

*Mariposa Chronicle*

1854:

Discovery by Jenkins and Evans, Feb. 10, 2:1

Merced River, Phillip's ferry, agriculture Feb. 24, 2:1

## 1854

[Note: Brackets are part of the headline.]

"[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE MARIPOSA CHRONICLE]," *Mariposa Chronicle*, March 3, 1854, 2:6:

"MILLERTON, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>, 1854.

"Messrs. Editors:—As there will undoubtedly be innumerable false accounts relative to a shocking outrage committed upon this river, on the night of the 24d inst., allow me to give you the particulars of the affair as elicited at a Coroner's inquest held upon the body of an Indian who was murdered upon this river last evening.

"Yesterday morning our citizens were thrown into a state of great excitement, by the report of a most brutal murder having been committed upon one of the most quiet and inoffensive of the

San Joaquin Indians. T. C. Haller, an acting magistrate of this town, immediately took measures to have the matter investigated, and the villainous perpetrator brought to light. A Coroner's Jury was summoned, and the body of the Indian dug up, who had been buried by the Indians of the Ranchera. Upon examination it was found that there were upon him three wounds, either one of which was sufficient to cause death—one of them penetrating the heart.

"The account given by the Indians of the affray was, that sometime during the night a man called Andrew McFarlane came to the Ranchera, and demanded an Indian woman for the night, at the same time endeavoring to force her to accede to his wishes, when the unfortunate Indian interfered to protect her. McFarlane then drew a large bowie knife and stabbed him, killing him instantly; then out of mere wantonness apparently, attacked another Indian, cutting him so severely that it is thought he will [water-stained section: unreadable.] [More to come.]

[. . .]

"This case furnishes a forcible ex-planation [explication] of the demoralizing effect which the innumerable grog shops produce.

"There is nothing farther of any especial interest in these parts. Miners as a general thing are doing moderately well. Some companies who are working upon 'red banks,' are making exceedingly good wages; the river at present, however, is too high to operate very successfully as a general thing.

[Check line:] "The farmers on this river are carryng [carrying] on their operations [were] energetically, and should the season prove favorable there will be an abundance of wheat raised upon this river, to supply the wants of its population. Messrs. Jordan & Co., contemplate the erection of a Grist Mill upon the river, a short distance from Millerton, which will be a vast advantages to the community, and amply repair these enterprising gentlemen for their outlay of capital; but I have already extended this letter much further than I intended.

"Yours truly,

"CITIZEN."

"Mariposa Creek," *Mariposa Chronicle*, March 24, 1854, 2:1:

"Both up and down on this creek, the greatest activity is now displayed by our hardy miners, who are reaping, in some instances, rich rewards for their meritorious labor.

"The sluicing operations of Messrs. Vining & Co., in the high bank opposite the town, have not as yet paid them remunerative wages, but their prospects are good—the ledge following towards the hill. This company have taken the water out of the bed of the creek, some distance upon their claim, and are now engaged in sluicing off the top dirt, which does not pay, in order to get at the bottom. This is the only company on the creek who are carrying on sluicing operations, according to our notions of mining. Why it is that our miners on the creek do not generally adopt this mode of mining, can easily be answered. They are perfectly satisfied with the wages they make by toming."

"Express to Ft. Miller," *Mariposa Chronicle*, March 31, 1854, 2:1:

"Any person desirous of engaging in the Express business between Mariposa and Ft. Miller, can hear of a good opportunity by applying at this office."

"Later from the Tulare Valley," *Mariposa Chronicle*, March 31, 1854, 2:6:

"Capt. Drummer, Indian Agent, at the Tejon Reservation, arrived in town this week, on business connected with his office.

“During the late severe weather, Capt. D. has passed through bo[t]h of the Passes, that of Tejon, and the Cajon de las Uvas. The former is now filled with snow—void of grasses, and almost impassible. While in the latter there is no snow, but plenty of grass and good camping grounds through the Tulare valley.

“Vegetation [Vegetation] in the Tulare valley is in an advanced state. There has fallen abundance of rain and the crops look well.

“At the Reservation the sowing of wheat and barley is finished, and they are now engaged in planting corn, and transplanting vines and fruit trees.

“Major Gordon has established a ferry on Kern river. The emigration now passes principally up the west side of the lake.

“We repeat here our precaution to emigrants, to supply themselves with provisions before leaving this city, as the supplies at the Tejon Reservation are government property, and cannot be disposed of to travelers; besides, there is no greater quantity there than the wants of the Reservation require.”

“New Race Track,” *Mariposa Chronicle*, June 2, 1854, 2:2:

“Mr. L. Vining has completed a new race track just beyond Hopperville, 900 yards long, on which the bloods have been trying their nags during the past week. We hear of a \$400 match being made, to come off in a few days.”

“Kern River,” *Mariposa Chronicle*, June 2, 1854, 2:5:

“Quite an excitement has been raised in Millerton about new diggings on Kern river. Nearly every person at Ft. Miller, has left for that place.”

Veritas, “[Correspondence Of The Mariposa Chronicle],” *Mariposa Chronicle*, June 2, 1854, 3:1:

“[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE MARIPOSA CHRONICLE.]

“MILLERTON, May 22, 1854.

“Messrs. Editors:—As an excitement has broken out and depopulated our town, I think it but right that you should give publicity to the cause of depopulation. It appears that some six weeks since Mr. Charles Worldan [Worland] and others started from here to the head waters of Kern river prospecting; they have returned and reported the discovery of ‘rich diggings.’ Their actions spoke louder than their words—purchasing about a thousand dollars worth of provisions, tools, etc. They left yesterday for the land of their discovery, taking with them sixteen ‘Celestials’ to work the bar, to which they have laid claim. The statement of Mr. Worldan and party is this, that on Kern’s river for the distance of forty or fifty miles, there is sufficient dirt, paying from five to fifteen cents to the pan, upon the surface to last a thousand men for two years. What there is upon the ledge they could not determine, the water preventing their sinking to the bed rock. From the prospects which they have made whilst there, they express their opinion that the neighborhood of Kern’s river is as rich as any diggings, south of Nevada [County] in their palmiest days. The nearest and most direct route from Mariposa is via of Converse’s Ferry on the San Joaquin river, Pool’s on King’s river, so on to Tule river and Dry Creek, crossing the creek and following the wagon trail up its southern bank for the distance of ten miles, where the trail turns to the right, passing through two Indian ‘Rancherias,’ the first inhabited and the last deserted. By following the above marks there will be no danger of delay on the road, to any who wish to try their fortune in the Kern’s river country.

“I should not send you the above account did I not, as well as all who are acquainted with Mr. Worldan, place the most implicit confidence in his statement as regards the mines and their richness.

“Since writing the above, this account has been corr[o]borated by parties coming in from the Four Creeks and King’s river countries. All who can leave are going, many leaving claims that are paying from five to twelve dollars per day. Neither mules or horses can be obtained for love or money. Both of our Justices, Stallo and Donaldson, are leaving; they say as there are no citizens here, their services will not be required, and they consider that they have as good a right to a share of the golden egg as others.

“Hoping that in a few days more we shall hear of still richer developments, proving beyond a doubt that the Southern Mines are equal to the Northern in mineral wealth, I am most

“Truly yours,  
VERITAS.”

“Kern River,” *Mariposa Chronicle*, June 9, 1854, 2:1:

“Our accounts from Kern river during the past week are of the most encouraging nature. Tha[t] good diggings have been discovered is beyond a doubt, and if we are to believe our authority, to a very large extent. The surface dirt is reported paying from 12 to 15 cents to the pan, on the banks of the river. Farmers and miners on the San Joaquin have left for the new diggings. Persons going to the new diggings ought to take rockers with them, as they are reported very scarce, and lumber high. The quality of gold is reported to be as that found in Mariposa creek.”

“Kern River,” *Mariposa Chronicle*, June 23, 1854, 2:3:

“The excitement concerning these newly discovered diggings has about subsided, and from what we can gather from persons just returned from Fort Miller, and the neighboring country, we have arrived at the conclusion that the richness of the Kern river mines has only existed in the imagination of some sanguine prospector. We were impressed with this belief, at the time when the first reports reached us; but the communication which we received from Millerton, came from a source so respectable that we could not refuse its publication.

“We know what it is to run after new and rich diggings—having done something in that line ourselves—and we have a sort of fellow feeling for unfortunates of this class. We heartily wish them all ‘better luck next time.’ ”

Jerry, “[Correspondence Of The Mariposa Chronicle],” *Mariposa Chronicle*, June 30, 1854, 2:3: [Check line, 6<sup>th</sup> from bottom.]

“MILLERTON, NEAR FORT MILLER. }

“San Joaquin River, June 21, 1851 [1854]. }

“Messrs. Editors:—SIRS—Are your columns are devoted to the news of the county, and the mines in general, I send you a few items of things in this place.

“We are once more getting up steam here, and miners are anticipating a goodly yield of the yellow ore from the bed of the river, which all say will be very soon lower than in the winter of ’51. We have quite lively times here now, in consequence of the arrival of a company of United States dragoons, under command of Lieutenant Castore [Castor], and we expect a company of artillery in a few days. It is with regret that the inhabitants of this neighborhood hear of the orders of Lieutenant T. Wright, for some time in command here, and Lieutenant J. Nugen, lately in

command of troops at Four Creeks, leaving here for the Atlantic States. Their kind and gentlemanly manners, with their strict attention to military duties, endeared them to the mining population in this vicinity; and the impartial manner in which the commanding officer here discharged his duties between citizens, Indians and Chinese, might be a guide to others, in saying 'go thou [?] and do likewise.' In every complaint laid before him—every one of the parties were perfectly satisfied. We are having an increase in our mining population here, as a great many of the Northern mines [miners] who have been at Kern River, and returned, are sojourning here for a time. When will the miners be wise enough not to allow themselves to be gulled by such reports?

"If you think this worthy of a corner, I shall keep you posted up. JERRY."

Prospector [Prospector], "[Correspondence Of The Mariposa Chronicle]," *Mariposa Chronicle*, June 30, 1854, 2:4:

"MILLERTON, June 22, 1854.

"Messrs. Editors: In Your paper of the 2d inst., I perceive an article upon certain diggings, discovered upon Kern river, and reported to be of wondrous richness—giving a minute description of the exact amount to be obtained to the pan, the precise amount of territory containing these auriferous deposits—supporting the whole by the authority of Mr. C. Worland, and demonstrating beyond a contradiction the whole report, by adding the unimpeachable testimony of 'Veritas.' Now, mine editorial friends, by your kind permission, I, who have just returned from this land where the 'shining ore' doth so greatly abound, propose giving to 'all the world and the rest of mankind,' the result of my explorations. After a multitude of 'startling adventures,' myself, in company with four other sagacious young gentlemen, safely arrived at the aforesaid Kern river, on or about the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, in the year of our Lord 1854, amply provided with an abundant supply of grub, mining apparatus, and buckskin purses, *ad infinitum*.

"We commenced our prospecting labors about six or eight miles above the ferry, on the river, and continued upwards to the forks; a distance variously estimated at from 25 to 50 miles. The best dirt that we found, paid us \$3 75 to the hundred buckets, and of this we found a quantity sufficient to keep one man employed perhaps two weeks. Generally speaking, taking the river upon an average, I would suppose that it might pay from one cent downwards. To arrive at the sum of the matter at once, the whole affair is a perfect humbug. Messrs. Worland & Co., at the last advices, were making from \$25 to \$65 per day, working seventeen hands—their average may be fairly put down at from \$2 00 to \$2 50 per day to the man—their expenses at about \$3 00. So you will perceive that it will be sometime, if not longer, before they make their pile.

"Upon our return we found the road lined with adventurers, 'coming in clouds by the wagon.' A portion of them, upon our representing the facts to them, turned to the right about face—the majority, however, as they were in for it, concluded to 'go the whole hog,' and have a fair view of 'the elephant.'

"As I write, the disappointed hombres who left this river on the wild goose chase, are dropping in with visages elongated to an alarming extent, breathing curses both loud and deep.

"Notwithstanding the minutest [?] description of the locality of the diggings, and the shortest and most direct route to them, given by 'Veritas,' upon his way to this El Dorado, he got badly lost, and was unable to find either himself or the diggings. At the last accounts, he was found solitary and alone, up to his neck in Deep creek, from which perilous situation he was rescued by a philanthropic gentleman, safely ensconced upon a wagon, a cow bell attached to his neck, and hauled over on the other side of Jordan. Oh, wasn't he joyful, joyful then? I must draw this epistle to a close.

"Yours truly,

PROSPECTER [PROSPECTOR]."

“Grist Mill,” *Mariposa Chronicle*, August 4, 1854, 2:1:

“Many of our readers are not aware that the town of Mariposa contains a steam grist mill within its limits, but can satisfy themselves of the fact, by a visit to the establishment of Mr. Haskell, on Bullion street. Mr. H. informed us a few days since, that with one of Fitzgerald’s portable mills, driven by a small engine, he can grind from 2,500 to 3,000 lbs. of barley, or other grain, per day. With but little additional machinery, excellent flour can be produced at this mill.”

“Crops,” *Mariposa Chronicle*, August 4, 1854, 2:1:

“The wheat crops in Tulare county are spoken of as being extremely light, particularly in the King’s river valley—yielding in many instances, not more than 10 to 12 bushels per acre. Corn, potatoes, and garden vegetables have also generally proved complete failures this season, partly in consequence of the swarms of grass-hoppers which have devastated that section of country.”

“Road to Mormon Bar,” *Mariposa Chronicle*, August 18, 1854, 2:1:

“This road has at length been completed so that teams can navigate as far as Mormon Bar, affording facilities to a camp by no means the least important in the county. A comparatively trifling expense would connect this place with the lower road at the Chowchilla, and prove of immense benefit not only to Mariposa, but to a large of country lying on the Mariposa, Chowchilla, Fresno and [San] Joaquin rivers, There is plenty of room for improvements of the kind throughout the county, and it is to be hoped that Supervisors of roads, and others whose duty it is to attend to these matters, will not allow such golden opportunities to make themselves almost immortal, to escape.

“With a road tax of fifteen dollars a year, much can be done towards improving our miserable thoroughfares, building bridges, &c. &c. Good roads facilitate travel, and by reducing the cost of freighting, have a direct influence upon the price of every article consumed in the county.

“No person having the interests of the county at heart will object to the payment of a tax imposed for the purpose of making permanent improvements, provided a disposition is manifested to apply the funds so raised in a judicious and economical manner. That such has always been the case heretofore, we are not disposed to admit. Young communities, like young men, are frequently prone to extravagance and mismanagement. Experience, the best of all teachers, however, is beginning to exercise its customary influence on all matters of public utility and economy, and as there are perhaps none of more direct and immediate importance than good roads, it might as well commence there as elsewhere.”

“Kern River Mines,” *Mariposa Chronicle*, August 25, 1854, 2:2:

“So many conflicting accounts are prevalent concerning these mines, that it is almost impossible to arrive at any conclusion as to their truth or falsehood. We have been assured, however, by Mr. John Sylvester, whose veracity is unquestioned, that within the last month or two, since the river has fallen so as to allow a thorough prospecting, many rich discoveries have been made. A great scarcity of provisions exists in that region, and it would be advisable for prospectors to carry a supply of provisions with them.”

Fresno, “[Correspondence Of The Mariposa Chronicle],” *Mariposa Chronicle*, September 1, 1854, 2:3:

"FREZNO RIVER, Aug. 26, 1854.

"Messrs. *Editors*:—Perhaps a few lines from this out-of-the-way place will not be uninteresting to your readers.

"Our population has been thinned lately by the Kern River excitements, but those remaining are satisfied with their wages they make here, without going farther and perhaps receiving less pay. From Haler & Co.'s store to Mr. John F. Hunt's store, the miners are making, generally, more than average wages. Indians are making from \$3 to \$4 per day, with pans.

"Mr. Hunt deserves great credit for his conduct towards the Indians, and they place the utmost confidence in him; but in spite of all his endeavors, white men will buy whiskey and give it to the Indians for base purposes.

"The election excitement has not reached here. We have had no speaking on either side, and both tickets will be split. The Broderickites have lately sent up their public documents, but it's no go—none of David's party here.

"Very respectfully,

"FREZNO."

Jerry, [untitled], *Mariposa Chronicle*, September 1, 1854, 2:4:

"MILLERTON, AUG. 27, 1854.

"*Editors Chronicle*:—Here we are all life and excitement once more. Between the river going down fast, and the electioneering excitement, we are all in good spirits and anticipating good times. In many of the old claims, heretofore left unworked, there have been wheels put in and sluicing companies established, where four men to a sluice can make \$80 per day, while one man with a rocker could not exceed \$4. There are many men coming here every day, returning from Kern River Diggings, and stopping here to recruit their health and pockets. Why will so many infatuated men rush ahead whilst they get warning from the number they see and meet returning.

"The Democratic ticket seems to be all the go in these diggings; but there is one principle established with Whigs and Democrats, that no nominee, unless those who support Senator Gwin, can get any votes in these diggings; for all who support the Broderick clique have no show.

"I should have mentioned that there are many companies at present putting in wheels for sluicing, who anticipate a goodly yield of the shiny ore. Among others I may mention Donaldson & Co., Red Banks; Cox & Co., Quicksilver Bar; Jordan & Co., Millerton Bar; and many others too numerous to mention.

"Yours, &c.

JERRY."

"Kern River," *Mariposa Chronicle*, September 22, 1854, 2:5:

"At last, after the most exaggerated reports of the extraordinary richness of these mines have been circulated over the whole country, we are able to lay positive and reliable information before our readers.

"A prospecting party started some time since, from the lower Agua Frio, composed of Messrs. Kilgore, Belcher, Bessore and others, all of whom are hold residents of that vicinity, and well known as gentlemen of veracity; this party returned two days since, or rather as many as were able to get in, many of them being confined on the way by attacks of bilious fever.

"They represent the country as extremely mountainous, and the mines as being poorer than the poorest about Mariposa. The best claim on the river yielded \$2,50 [\$2.50] per day to the hand, and that has been worked out! Provisions are plentiful but very dear. Most of the miners there were laboring under severe attacks of fever, and all who were able were leaving as fast as

possible. The road from Kings river to Milleton [Millerton] is represented as being lined with sick men and others returning to their old quarters, and cursing the day they started out.

“And all this has been brought about by the inordinate rapacity of a few greedy speculators and owners of ferries.

“The rolling stone and the prospecting miner gather but little moss or ‘dust.’ ”

“Almost a Duel,” *Mariposa Chronicle*, October 13, 1854, 2:2:

“A difficulty originating in a game of cards, occurred at the El Dorado on Tuesday evening last, between Mr. John W. Ross, and Mr. LeRoy Vining, during which the former who was somewhat under the influence of liquor, was pretty roughly handled. Next morning a challenge from Mr. Ross was accepted by Vining, and the parties proceeded to a spot a short distance back of town, where the preliminaries were settled and the affair about to take place, when the ‘sport’ was interrupted by constable Harbert, and the principals conducted to the office of Justice Washburn, when they were required to give bonds in the sum of \$1,000 each.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Chronicle*, October 13, 1854, 2:3:

“The last thirty miles of the stage route leading from Stockton to Mariposa, we have no hesitation in saying, is the most precipitous and rough of any in the State, and it requires not only great caution, but superior judgment and skills to make the trips [?], with a load of passengers, within a reasonable time. During the wet season, travelers are always under the necessity of walking a considerable portion of the way, and at all times the timid traveler declines keeping his place in the coach while going over the ‘big hill.’ We believe that the task of guiding and controlling six horses over this rude section, never was undertaken before the present driver, Mr. Reed, came on the road, and in every respect he has succeeded admirably in his undertaking, having met with no accident, besides making the best time ever made on this route, thereby increasing the number of passengers very materialy [materially], as people generally prefer riding and paying for it, to going on foot for nothing, especially when they can save time by the operation. Mr. Reed is a gentleman, kind and accommodating to all, but at the same time he is prompt to the minute, and like ‘time and tide, waits for no man.’ These qualities, together with his skill as a driver, peculiarly adapt him to fill the post he occupies.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Chronicle*, October 20, 1854, 2:3:

“Mr. Stelle will accept our thanks for an immediate delivery of the following, which reached town through the politeness of Mr. Gray:

“MILLERTON, Oct. 17, 1854.

“*Messrs. Editors:*—On last evening a horrible premeditated murder was committed about one mile from here, by a man named Sinclair. His victim was a young man named Henry Loerick, a German who came here about three months since, from the neighborhood of Mariposa, on his way to Kern River.” Sinclair had been to Loerick’s camp, and had some words with him, returned to his own tent, loaded his rifle with two balls, and about an hour after went again to Loerick’s camp, called him out of bed, and as soon as he appeared, fired at him, both balls entering his left breast and passing out at the back.

“Sinclair returned to his tent, told his wife and a man who was present, that he had shot the d—d son of a b—h and remarked that he was a pretty good shot and then fled. Our towns people immediately subscribed \$200 as a reward for his apprehension, and if he is taken, Judge Lynch will pass sentence at once.



“Mr. Loerick was a native of Hanover and most esteemed and respected by all who knew him.

Yours in haste,

“JERRY.”

“P. S. Sinclair is about 5 feet 8 inches high, light complexion[,] been a sailor, and walks as if one leg was shorter than the other. He is well known in San Francisco[,] which place he was compelled to leave in consequence of a shooting or stabbing affair.”

“Mail Routes,” *Mariposa Chronicle*, November 24, 1854, 2:3:

“Mariposa and Tulare counties are undoubtedly more miserably supplied or rather unsupplied with mail facilities than perhaps any other portion of California. There is not that were are aware of, either a Post Office or mail route in the entire county of Tulare or in the large portion of Mariposa county lying south of this town. [More to come.]

“Public convenience calls loudly for a mail route to connect the important settlements on the Four Creeks, King’s River and at other places in Tulare county with San Francisco, by way of this place and Stockton. In the lower part of this county there is a large and constantly increasing population who are now compelled to travel or send, thirty, forty and six miles to deposit or procure letters. What renders it still more inconvenient is that there is not a single express of any kind, if we except an occasional one from Fort Miller to Snellings, throughout this whole extent of country.

“Some time since a Post Office was established at Millerton but the sum allowed for supplying it with a mail was so pitiful (only \$300 a year we believe), as to prevent its being of any benefit to the public. We doubt not that if the subject was properly brought before the department at Washington, it would meet with prompt attention.

“A mail line once established from this place to Tulare county connecting with the settlements on the Chowchilla, Fresno and Upper, [sic] San Joaquin at Millerton, would do much towards increasing the population and consequent prosperity of that portion of the great San Joaquin Valley.”

“Capt. Dill,” *Mariposa Chronicle*, November 24, 1854, 2:4:

“Post Offices,” *Mariposa Chronicle*, December 8, 1854, 2:2:

“For the information of the people of Mariposa and Tulare, says the S. J. Republican, we would state that we understand from the Mail Agent of this State, Col. Fry, that Postoffices have been located at Millerton and Woodville, but no route was established until the last session of Congress. The route is now from Quartzburg to Campbell’s Ferry, and Visalia to Woodville. It will soon be advertised and let, and the service rendered under a regular contract between these points.”

Jerry, [untitled], *Mariposa Chronicle*, December 15, 1854, 2:3:

[Excerpts:]

“Millerton, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 1854.

“Messrs. Editors:—

...

“The miners are doing about as usual here, we have had very little rain and the water is still low in the river. The inhabitants here are much rejoiced to hear that judge Lynch has made his

appearance in Mariposa, and hope he will pay an official visit over the county, as his presence is much required.

“The Indian reservation on the Fresno is progressing rapidly. Considerable has already been accomplished, and the Indians seem to be more than usually disposed to industry. The agent and other gentlemen in charge there spare neither time or trouble in their endeavors to instruct them in farming, and to reclaim them from their miserable state of degradation.

“Hoping I have not intruded too much upon your patience, I remain JERRY[.]”

## 1855

“Indian Troubles,” *Mariposa Chronicle*, February 16, 1855, 2:5:

“We learn from the Southern California [Californian?], that the Los Angeles Valley is again infested by bands of savages from that nest of thieves, Owen’s Lake; parties of them are known to be lurking about, awaiting an opportunity to run off stock.”

“Kern River Mines,” *Mariposa Chronicle*, February 16, 1855, 2:5:

“The Kern river excitement has again broken out with renewed violence. Large numbers of persons have recently left San Francisco for these mines, *via* Los Angeles, between which place and Kern river, stages are now making weekly trips. The average yield of the mines is said to be from seven to ten dollars per day. Provisions and merchandise of all kinds is abundant at moderate prices.”

“Notice,” *Mariposa Chronicle*, March 2, 1855, 2:1:

“The Mariposa Chronicle newspaper establishment having been disposed of by the former proprietors to the undersigned, will hereafter be conducted by JOHN C. HOPPER, who is alone authorized to transact the business of the concern.

“S. S. REYNOLDS.

“G. W. STEELE.”

“Express Note,” *Mariposa Chronicle*, March 2, 1855, 2:1:

“A messenger leaves the office of the undersigned, in Mariposa, every Monday for Visalia, Tulare County, and intermediate Camps. Returning, leaves Visalia every Thursday morning.

“G. W. STEELE.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Chronicle*, March 2, 1855, 2:1:

“We are pleased to notice the establishment by Mr. Stelle, of an Express line to the County seat of Tulare County. The want of some convenience of this kind has long been severely felt by the citizens of Tulare and the southern portion of this county, and we hope this much needed enterprise, will prove as remunerative to the proprietors, as it will be advantageous to an important section of the State.

“Old Granny Campbell’s spectacles must be very dim, or she would, upon examination of a map of California, discover that about three years ago, a county called Tulare, was created by the Legislature of this State, and that within its borders—a space sufficient to store away half-a-dozen picayune Atlantic States—, there is not even *one* solitary post office.”

“From Kern River,” *Mariposa Chronicle*, March 2, 1855, 2:2:

“We have been favored by Mr. Stelle with a couple of letters, received by him from a gentleman at the Kern river mines, from which we make the following extracts:

“ I have visited most of the different mining localities in California, and from my experience since I have been in this place, regard the diggings, in the many gulches emptying into Kern river, superior to any that I have seen in the State. The success and smiling faces of the miners, reminds me of the good old days of ’50.

“Worland’s Store, which is the grand rendezvous, is situated on Worlands [Worland’s] Flat, near the head of Green-Horn Gulch. A good road to this place can be had—cutting off some 20 miles—by passing up Deer Creek and by Linn’s ranch.

“The diggings here resemble those in the vicinity of Sherlock’s, Agua Frio and Mariposa. Reports are coming in hourly, of new discoveries, ex[t]ending along the North Fork of Kern river. Water can be had in many of the gulches, and if we are blessed with a good rain, more gold will be taken out here, than ever was in any part of California.

“Two weeks ago, at Worland’s store,—on Sunday—I saw more gold dust exhibited, than I had ever before witnessed at any trading post in the State, and the same disregard of economy that prevailed in ’49 and ’50.

“Crowds are coming in daily, and the Flat begins to resemble a town or village. I would advise you to establish an office there at once.’ ”

“The above we give for what it may be worth. Not being acquainted with the writer, we are unable to judge of the credibility of his statements. Our opinion is,—and it is formed upon the testimony of some of our old and best miners, who visited Kern river during the excitement of last summer—that the excitement is a grand humbug, originating in speculation; and many of those who are now rushing there with eager expectations, perhaps [h]aving claims where fair wages can be made, will be doomed to a most bitter disappointment. In but few instances, since the discovery of gold in California, have the reports of discoveries of enormous deposits in remote places, ever been verified. The old adage, ‘a rolling stone,’ etc., is singularly applicable to the prospecting miner.’ ”

Jerry, [untitled], *Mariposa Chronicle*, October 13, 1854, 2:3:

“Millerton, Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, 1855.

“*Messrs Editors*:—As the Chronicle is the most proper medium, through which to make known the interests of Mariposa County, allow me to say a few words concerning things in general in this section.

“The country surrounding these diggings is pretty well cleared out, in consequence of the Kern river excitement or rather by the *rumors* which have reached us from there, and which have originated, mostly ‘with [sic] persons who are interested in trading in that vicinity.—A number of good practical miners have gone to the new diggings, from this place, and I will apprise you of the result upon their return. As yet, we have no reliable information here, concerning the new mines.

“The few hombres in town at this time, have but little to talk about, more than ‘do you think we will have any more rain?’ or ‘do you think the Kern river diggings are as rich as they are

represented to be?’ etc., both of which questions are usually answered with the satisfactory reply of *Quien Sabe?*

“The next most important topic is the Senatorial question. [More to come.]

“We are, thanks to Providence, (or ‘good luck’) about to have the privilege [privilege] of communication with other parts of the country. Messrs[.] Fisher and Johnson, intend starting a line of Stages to this place, connecting with the Mariposa line, at Snelling’s. Mr. Johnson has been in town, and reports favorably of the route; he says that the stages will be on in a few days. It is to be expected that every person traveling over this route will patronize this line—the enterprise of the proprietors deserves it for their endeavors to accommodate the community.

“I shal [shall] send you a few more items ‘*poco tiempo.*’

“JERRY.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Chronicle*, October 13, 1854, 2:3. [Stage road.]

*Mariposa Chronicle*, October 20, 1854, 2:3. [Killing.]

*Mariposa Chronicle*, November 24, 1854, 2:3, 2:4.

## 1856

“Yo Hamite,” *Mariposa Gazette*, July 18, 1856, 2:1:

“Our readers will remember that in a recent number of our paper, we mentioned that the Mann Brothers were building a good road to this valley. It is now completed, and is made very easy of travel—all obstacles having been removed. Everything is now convenient for those wishing to visit the valley, excepting good houses to sleep in on the way. However, as those who usually, like to sleep with the blue Heavens broad above them, and the weather is not at all uncomfortable, this is no great obstacle. A company left here on Wednesday, composed of a few ladies and several gentlemen. Another company of ladies and gentlemen will leave here in a few days. We should feel thankful that the enterprise of the Mann brothers has given us to convenient and easy a road—and that the trip can be made more pleasaut [pleasant] by the addition of the company of ladies.”

“Mr. L. Vining,” *Mariposa Gazette*, July 25, 1856, 2:2:

“MR. L. VINING has placed in our hands the eloquent address to the citizens of Tuolumne county, and which is signed by so large a number of the people of that county—expressing their disapprobation of the proceedings of the Vigilance Committee, and their earnest hopes for the speedy dissolution of an institution so fraught with danger to American freedom. They wisely think that the time has arrived when the people should arise in their might, and in unmistakable [unmistakable] tones, proclaim to this modern Inquisition, ‘thus far shalt thou go, and no farther.’ The great length of the address prevents its publication in our columns this week. We understand that a similar one is now in circulation in this county, and is being signed by *hundreds*.”

“P. S.—Just as we were going to press, a communication was handed in, signed by a large number of the citizens of this county, who hold themselves in readiness to respond to any call of the Governor for aid in the re-establishment of Law and Order in the State. They pledge themselves to parade from 300 to 500 men at a moments [moment’s] warning.

“We notice the names of many of our most prominent citizens on the list. It will appear in our columns next week.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, July 25, 1856, 2:2: [Trip to Yosemite.]

“A party arrived in town last night from Yo-Hamete Valley, among whom was Mr. J. H. Neal and Lady. Mrs. Neal is the first lady who has ever visited this place. To the high point near the man fall is attached her given name; FRANCES. Mrs. Neal returned a little browned by exposure and in improved an excellent health—she visited the upper or main fall where few of the sterner sex have had the hardihood to go, and expresses herself as astonished and delighted at the wonderfull [wonderful] scenery of this remarkable place.

“To the Lake between the two falls Mrs. Neal gave the name of *Hiawatha*.

“The trail to Yo-Hamete valley is now in almost perfect condition. To the enterprising and public spirit of the Messrs. Mann, we are indebted for this great improvement over any and all routes to this most wonderful place. We would like to see some of our editorial brethren from Stockton, Sacramento [Sacramento] and San Francisco, here *en route* for the valley. We will accompany them *editorially* if they can’t do better in the matter of guide, &c.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, August 1, 1856, 2:1.

“By a recent arrangement and improvement in our stages, we have daily communication with Stockton. A stage leaves the latter place on the arrival of the San Francisco boat, and reaches Hornitas the same evening, from which place a stage starts immediately, and arrives in Mariposa at 1 ½ P. M. The same stage starts from this place on its return for Hornitas, when on its arrival a stage will be in readiness to go into Stockton, arriving there early in the afternoon of the following day, and in time for the San Francisco boat.—For this arrangement we believe we are indebted to the well known enterprize of Hon. A. N. Fisher, proprietor of the line. We wish we could consider that he was justified by the amount of travel and prosperity of this county, thus to improve means of communication; but we can hardly see how Mr. Fisher can receive a corresponding remuneration. In the future he may receive his reward, but a present it looks dim and distant.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, August 1, 1856, 2:3.

“Miners are concentrating upon the rivers, in large numbers, as it is probable that they will be lower this season than at any time since gold was discovered, or this country known, to the greater portion of its present inhabitants. It is stated by old Californians and Indians that the Merced River has, during the dryest [driest] part of the season, been dry, comparatively [comparatively] no water running. This was the effect of a constant succession of hot summers and of winters in which little rain fell. We hope in mercy that this is not one of the seasons in such succession, which may end in drying up the rivers, and as a natural consequence every thing else, inhabitants included.”

“Yo Hamite” (advertisement), *Mariposa Gazette*, August 8, 1856, 2:6:

Since the road to Yo Hamite Valley has been completed, Mann brothers announce that the Mariposa County supervisors have granted them a 20-year charter and the privilege of collecting tolls. The rates are as follows:

Each man or lady, in both directions: \$4.00.

Footmen, in both directions: \$2.00.

The brothers also rent out animals that their stable; a member of their firm is available as a conductor.

“MANN BROTHERS.

“Mariposa, August 8, 1856.”

“Quartz Mining,” *Mariposa Gazette*, August 29, 1856, 3:1:

“We have compiled, says the *Town Talk*, the following summary of the number of quartz mills in active operation in this State: In Shasta county, there two, both propelled by water power; in Plumas, one; in Sierra three; in Butte, one steam mill and fourteen arastras; in Yreka, one steam mill; in Nevada, twenty-one mills, fifteen of which are running by steam; in Placer, three mills and twenty-seven arastras; in Eldorado, fourteen mills, (four steam,) and seven arastras. In this county, there are four new mills building. In Amador, fifteen mills, three by steam; in Calaveras, seven mills, two now building; in Tuolumne, three mills; in Mariposa, four mills; in Santa Cruz, two mills; in San Mateo, one in course of construction; in Alameda, one to be built; in San Francisco, one projected; at Kern river, one mill and twenty arastras. This gives a total of eighty-three mills in service, or being built, and about seventy-five arastras.

“With regard to arastras, the number given by the *Town Talk*, is not one-fourth of the number in the State. There are over thirty in this county, we believe. Of water quartz mills, there are six in this county, instead of four, as given. Of steam mills, there are four running, except when they are involved in law about quartz veins, which is a considerable part of the time.”

“Party from Yo Hamite,” *Mariposa Gazette*, October 8, 1856, 2:1:

“Rev. J. C. SIMMONS and Messrs. MANN, returned on last Wednesday from the Yo Hamite Falls. They report the trail as being in fine order. They met in the valley another party who came via Coulterville. Mr. Simmons says the ‘half had not been told him’ in regard to the mingled beauty, grandeur and sublimity of the scenery. He represents the Falls, the Valley, and its surrounding scenery, as beyond description, and one of those wonders of nature which must be seen to be appreciated. Mr. Simmons preached on Sunday morning in the Valley—which makes the second sermon preached there. Rev. W. A. Scott of San Francisco, we believe preached the first.”

“Board of Supervisors,” *Mariposa Gazette*, October 15, 1856, 2:2:

“The Board of Supervisors closed their late session on Saturday last. A large amount of business was transacted.

“This, the most thankless, one of the most responsible and the least remunerative of all office, combining a first-rate business capacity, with strict integrity, has been filled the present year to the entire satisfaction of the community, as we believe. We are pleased to know that Messrs. G. B. Able and Lovely Rodgers, the present incumbents, will be candidates for re-election, and it is to be hoped that they will receive the support of all, regardless of party, to which they will receive the support of all, regardless of party, to which they are entitled for their careful administration of the financial affairs of the county.”

“Improvements,” *Mariposa Gazette*, November 3, 1856, 1:4:

“New houses are going up all over town, and though there is a scarcity of money in circulation, the motto of our citizens is ‘go ahead.’ The most extensive single improvement, is that of reconstructing and enlarging the El Dorado. When completed, it will be one of the finest buildings in the mountains. The proprietor, Mr. Leroy Vining, will open it to the public in a few days.”

“Mariposa,” *Mariposa Gazette*, November 3, 1856, 1:4:

Ad., *Mariposa Gazette*, November 3, 1856, 2:1:

“Supervisor” (advertisement), *Mariposa Gazette*, November 3, 1856, 3:1:

“LOVELY RODGERS is a candidate for the office of Supervisor, for District No. 3, Mariposa County, at the ensuing election.”

“Sport! Sport! Sport!” (advertisement), *Mariposa Gazette*, November 3, 1856, 2:1:

The “CELEBRATED DOG, MINGO,” weighing 26 pounds, and the “celebrated” coon, Tip, weighing 28 pounds, owned by George Daws, will be matched against each other, for \$100 a side. The dog is to kill the coon in 15 minutes.

The fight will be held at [Leroy] Vining’s El Dorado Saloon, in Mariposa, on Saturday afternoon, November 8, between 5 and 6 o’clock.

A coon baiting, free for all dogs, will be held, too.

Fifty rates will be on hand. Gentlemen wishing to try their dogs will have the opportunity to do so that afternoon.

“THE COON IS THE CHAMPION OF SIX BATTLES!” The admittance is only 50¢.

Mariposa, October 29, 1856.

“Improvements,” *Mariposa Gazette*, November 12, 1856, 2:3:

“We have never known a time when so many improvements are being made as at present. New houses, additions, enlargements, &c., are everywhere noticeable. If these be evidences of prosperity, then we must be a prosperous community, but we think, rather, it is the result of a faith in good times to come, than of their actual existence. Many prophecy a wet winter, in which gulches and flats can be worked that have not been touched since ’52.—Others believe that water will soon be brought into this section of country, and if so, superior location, and an acquaintance of the country, will be of great advantage. Our population has rapidly increased for the last two months and our dry diggings are full of miners, some engaged in throwing up dirt—many prospecting for quartz, the crushing of which, if we had water to turn wheels, would be a more profitable business in the aggregate than any other, although our *placers*, for a long time, would yield enormously. We advise every one to hold on if they can make a living, which can easily be done, and see it out. We will have a wet winter, if all signs don’t fail, and we will have a ditch before long, as we firmly believe.”

“Miscellaneous Items,” *Mariposa Gazette*, November 12, 1856, 2:4:

[Excerpt:]

...

“The Dog and Coon fight came off as advertised at Mr. Vining’s Saloon, on Saturday evening. Mingo was expected to kill Mr. Cooney in about fifteen minutes, but expectations were a failure, and after a short set to, Zip proved himself better able to take in Mingo’s sign than was imagined. The fight lasted about seventeen minutes, when they were separated, the dog came off No. 2.”

Thos. W. Long, “[Written For The Mariposa Gazette]: Altitude of the prominent Peaks of Yo Hamite Valley,” *Mariposa Gazette*, November 12, 1856.

“Deserted Village,” *Mariposa Gazette*, November 26, 1856, 2:2:

“Pleasant Valley, upon the Merced river, which grew up mushroom-like a little more than a year ago, is now comparatively deserted. In passing through it recently, we were much astonished to see the change within a few months. Most of the buildings, including the Hotel, which was one of the largest structures in the county, have been taken down and removed to more favored locations, or sold as lumber, the builders and owners of which, have suffered large losses, through their inconsiderate enterprise. We saw but two persons in the place. Crows and ravens were the tenants at pleasure in the butcher’s shop, and numbers of lean dogs and half starved cats swarmed about the place, seeking something to devour. We judge from what we saw, that the place had ‘gone in.’ ”

“Prosperous Looking,” *Mariposa Gazette*, November 26, 1856, 2:2:

“Hornitas, to the passer through, presents many appearances of thrift. There is an air of business—teams unloading—people trading—each shop and store seems to have customers. If water could be had for even six months in the year, sufficient to work the rich diggings that everywhere abound in the vicinity, this would be one of the largest places in the Southern mines. It has much improved within the last two years, when it was little else than a Mexican camp. Now there are two lines of States connecting the place with Stockton—two good Hotels, fire proof stores, and many evidences of prosperity.

“By reference to our advertising columns, the advertisements and cards of Hotel, Saloons, and different kinds of business carried on, may be seen.”

“Improvements,” *Mariposa Gazette*, November 26, 1856, 2:4:

“Among the many recent improvements made in this town, none are more inconspicuous than those made upon the building known as the *El Dorado*. The structure has been raised and widened, and is now one of the largest buildings in this county. The lower part will be used as before, as a Billiard Saloon, and is 30 feet wide and 66 feet long. The upper part will be used as a Hall, and is 30 feet by 80. It will be fitted up with every convenience for Meetings, Theatricals, Concerts, &c. An excellent Piano has been procured for the Saloon, which, with JO MYERS’ Violin, and other instruments, will be a great attraction, particularly to those fond of good music.

“The public are indebted to the enterprise of Mr. LEROY VINING for these improvements, and particularly for the Hall, the want of which, for the uses before mentioned, has been much felt. The Saloon will be opened on Saturday evening, at which time the friends of Mr. Vining are



invited to partake of refreshments, &c. Balls will be given we are informed, on Christmas and New Years, in the Hall, the particulars of which will appear hereafter.”

“Our County,” *Mariposa Gazette*, December 3, 1856, 2:3:

“Improvements,” *Mariposa Gazette*, December 3, 1856:

“Those of the public visiting Millerton, should take notice of the advertisement of the Hotel of McCrea & Co. In appointments and in all respects, it is a first class house, and where travelers may find an excellent table, beds and accommodations. Those who *practice at the Bar*, can wet their lips here agreeably, and last but not least, a model landlord, attentive and agreeable.

“Also notice the advertisement of Rivercome & Co. Their stable is centrally situated, lacks nothing of conveniences or accommodation for stabling of horses; and excellent care, we personally know, is taken of animals left in their charge.

“We make these remarks for the benefit of the many strangers who visit Millerton, and also hoping to benefit those who have the enterprise to construct, improve, &c.”

“A New Invention,” *Mariposa Gazette*, December 3, 1856, 2:4:

“Mr. J. T. Overton, of this place, is now engaged in preparing a model of an invention, which is not only very curious, but calculated to prove of great importance, if it succeeds to the extent claimed for it.—It consists of a revolving axle, fastened immediately behind the forward wheels in wagons, which is made to revolve by any force applied. This axle, or revolving beam, is made of iron, with bends, a sort of zig-zag form. In these bends are attached iron bars or legs apart, on each side, or in the zig-zag bends on each side of the axle—and as the axle revolves, these strike the ground with the regularity of the step of a team, and propel the wagon forward with a speed proportionate to the force applied. When the legs of one side of the axle strike the ground, those of the other rise.

“Mr. Overton made the discovery some years ago, and constructed a wooden model, and by his own strength could propel it as a rapid rate. He could propel it over ascending, as well as level and descending roads. He has neglected to apply for a patent, until within the last month, when he represented his invention to Mr. Leroy Vining, who became interested in it and aided him in taking the proper course for obtaining a patent. The model is nearly completed, and will be forwarded to Washington. If it proves to be what is claimed for it—the means by which vehicles may be propelled over ascending and descending ground—’twill certainly be one of the most important inventions of the present century.”

“New Hotel At Millerton!” (advertisement), *Mariposa Gazette*, December 3, 1856, 2:5:

M’Crea & Company has announced that it has recently completed a large stone addition to its hotel.

In connection with the hotel, Rivercome & Company operates a stable.  
Millerton, December 1, 1856.

“Livery Stable at Millerton” (advertisement), *Mariposa Gazette*, December 3, 1856, 2:5:

Rivercome & Company, the owners of a stable near the hotel of M’Crea & Company, rents saddle and harness animals and carriages and buggies.

Animals are kept by the day, week, or month and cared for “by an experienced hostler.”  
Animals are received at all hours, day or night, upon application at the stable or hotel.  
Millerton, December 2, 1856.

“New Saloon!” (advertisement), *Mariposa Gazette*, December 3, 1856, 2:6:

Leroy Vining, the owner of the El Dorado Building, Main Street, Mariposa, announces that he has recently enlarged and improved the building. The first floor is used as a billiard and drinking saloon. Billiard tables “of the most approved make” are used, and the bar has the best liquors and cigars. A piano has add and, with other instruments, will furnish music every evening.

Adjoining the saloon is the coffee and refreshment room of Knoble & Krafft.

The upper part of the building is a hall, 30x80 feet, and fitted for balls, concerts, and Theatrical entertainments. It can be rented “upon reasonable terms.”

Attached to the hall are anterooms.

Dated at Mariposa, December 3, 1856.

“Demise of the Democrat,” *Mariposa Gazette*, December 10, 1856, 2:2:

“The Press and material of the *Mariposa Democrat*, recently deceased, was sold on Saturday last, at Constable’s sale, for \$650.

“We regret the early demise of our neighbor in one particular only, and that is, that this county is not in a condition, in any respect, to support two papers; and in connexion with this, we had intended to make some remarks relative to the establishment, support and final end, of such a superfluity, as another journal manifestly is, in this county, without water, without a requisite number of inhabitants, or a sufficiency of means hardly to justify the continuance of one paper; but we are obliged to defer until another issue.”

“New Paper,” *Mariposa Gazette*, December 10, 1856, 2:2:

“We have been favored with a copy of the ‘*Morning Call*,’ a daily paper, published in San Francisco, by an association of Practical Printers.—It has a very neat appearance, and items of news are condensed into a digestible quantity, and without the leaven of verbiage, which admixture is too common.—We shall welcome it.”

Ad., *Mariposa Gazette*, December 10, 1856, 3:2:

“News from Tulare County,” *Mariposa Gazette*, December 26, 1856, 2:3:

“Mr. HESTON, Expressman between Mariposa and Visalia, arrived in town on Monday evening, and from him we obtained the following items:

“Miners have been doing but little for the past fortnight owing to the deep snows that have fallen. Many localities in the in the mountains are inaccessible for this reason. Many new leads of quartz have been discovered and prospect as well as any before known. Large preparations are making to erect mills for crushing quartz. Water-mills will be built where-ever [wherever] a power can be obtained. Two large steam quartz mills are in the process of construction, the engines for which are on the ground. There is but very little mining in the placers. Keyville is the most important camp in the mountains and is rapidly improving. With its advantages, it will very soon be a place of considerable note. It seems the people there are not exempt from tragical

occurrences. A short time since, a man called Hop Stewart, recently arrived from Los Angeles, was shot by a Mr. [Myron] Harmon.—Stewart had shot Harmon twice with a pistol when the fire was returned with a rifle, killing Stewart instantly. Mr. H. was tried and immediately acquitted, as he was acting solely on the defensive.—Stewart is represented to have been a dangerous man, having had several shooting affairs in Los Angeles. (If we are not mistaken, he worked at Burchard, Willis & Co.'s sawmill in '53, and afterward in Mono, and we presume, remembered by many.) Great preparations were in progress for making the most of Christmas and New Year's. A ball occurred [occurred] at Billips' Hotel, Visalia, on Christmas evening. Also one at McCrea & Co.'s Hotel, Milleron, on New Year's evening.

"Game was never more abundant. A party of hunters killed seven grizzleys [grizzlys] and one California lion upon Deer Creek, in two days. Large numbers of elk have congregated about Tulare Lake, and are oftentimes killed with a pistol. The lake is literally covered with waterfowl as well as the rivers in that region."

## 1857

"The Steam Wagon—New Invention.—," *Mariposa Gazette*, January 10, 1857, 2:3:

"The model of the new invention of which we made mention in our editorial columns a few weeks since, will soon be completed, and if successful, of which the inventor and all who have examined it have no doubt, will prove of great importance.

"We gave a description in a former number of the manner in which it is constructed. The model wagon is only 20 inches in length by 10 inches wide, and when the engine is attached, which will be in ten days or two weeks, our citizens will have an opportunity of witnessing its performance at Assembly Hall. The model, small enough as it is, Mr. Overton confidently asserts, when complete, will travel at the rate of a mile in eight minutes, and will be capable of hauling 150 pounds attached.

"The invention is designed to propel long and heavy trains, with a speed proportionate to the power applied—and will be capable of traveling over either ascending or descending ground—in fact any place where wagons can be drawn by animals.

"Mr. Leroy Vining, who some time since became interested in it, and has already taken steps for procuring the patent, we understand contemplates taking the model to Washington some time during the present winter or early in the spring. If this proves successful, as we confidently believe it will, it will be *the great invention* of the present day, and will inaugurate a new era in road traveling.

"This may also be successfully applied to other practical uses, for instance plowing, an immense quantity of ground could be plowed in a day, by the application of this power, which alone would render it infinitely valuable."

J. C. Simmons, "Nature's Wonders In California: The Great Yo Semite Valley—No. 1," *Mariposa Gazette*, January 23, 1857, 1:3-5 (J. C. Simmons, Mariposa, Cal., October 15, 1856, to Southern [South Carolina], *Christian Advocate*):

"MARIPOSA, CAL. Oct. 15, 1856.

"On the morning of Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, I, in company with two others (Messrs. Mann) prepared myself for a trip to the above mentioned valley, lying some forty-five miles northeast of Mariposa. I

procured a blue flannel shirt (it would have been folly to have taken a white one,) a double barrel gun and a revolver, with some other little tricks, and stood ready for marching. Now I know you are ready to say, 'you cut a figure for a Methodist preacher. What upon the face of the earth was the use in carrying to many shooting?' Well, if you must know, the Valley lies near the summit of the Sierra Nevada range of mountains, and is the home of the far-famed and much dreaded grizzley [grizzly] bear, and, in fact, Yo Semite is the Indian name for grizzley [grizzly] bear; and occasionally, when the Indians find a white man so far away from any settlement, unarmed, then kill and hide him away where he may never be found. I must acknowledge I felt a little awkward in riding through town thus 'armed and equipt.[]'

"We had to take along an extra mule to pack our blankets and provisions. Just as we were packing up, a friend\* came up with a box which he presented to us, giving us a strict charge not to open until we reached the Valley. About 12 o'clock we completed our arrangements and started. But our pack mule, after some moments of calm reflection, concluded it looked rather undignified for him to carry such a pack through the enlightened city of Mariposa; and therefore commenced rearing, kicking, and running, to no small amusement of the crowd assembled in and about the streets. . . .

"A little before sundown we reached the Potato Ranch, and concluded to stay all night, as there was no good camping ground for some distances after passing this place. It is a small valley some ten miles from Mariposa, lying on the Chowchilla Creek. It well deserves the name by which it is known. I saw a potato grown upon it that weighed four pounds. I was also shown some stalks of wheat that measured six feet in length. Vegetables of almost every kind grew remarkably large on this ranch. We were treated with the greatest hospitality by the proprietors, and one of them, Mr. Edward Magoon, joined our little party the next day. He was a remarkably quiet young man, but I soon found many qualities in him to love. His knowledge of trees, plants, etc., made his company very agreeable and profitable. In walking about the ranch we shot several quails, with which I tried my hand in making a rousing pot pie. I saw upon this place an ingenious arrangement, made by the Indians for killing birds. . . ." [More to come.]

"We got breakfast next morning and were off by 7 o'clock. We were now beyond the settlements. We hardly expected to see another white face except those of our own little party until our return. We met three Indians—one mounted on a good horse—who were on their way to a fandango, or sweat, as it is sometimes called. This dance, I may say, is peculiar in many respects to the Digger Indians. It is performed in a large wigwam, made for the purpose, closely covered with earth, with only one small aperture, just large enough to admit one Indian at a time. When all things are ready they form in circles, and begin by jumping up and coming down with a sort of grunt, (this grunt is the music) and this is kept up with a remarkable regularity until the apartment becomes almost as hot as a Dutch oven. I leave you to judge of the effect produced by the continued exercise of from 50 to 100 dirty half-naked savages, for a whole night together in such a place.

"We reached the South Fork of the Merced River at noon, stopped and took lunch. The water of this river was remarkably clear. I wandered up the stream and shot at a fine speckled trout, but it being my first shot at a fish, I did not kill it. After resting an hour we saddled up and again started on our way. We confidently expected to kill a deer this afternoon, but the woods had all been burned off and we did not so much as see one. After resting an hour we saddled up and again started on our way. We confidently expect to kill a deer this afternoon, but the woods had all been burned off and we did not so much as see one.

"As night drew on we saw that it would be impossible for us to reach the valley as we had hoped to do, and finding a good meadow we camped for the night. Our camp was in the midst of a beautiful grove of Aspen and Tamarind (a species of the pine) trees. We found here a large number of currant bushes laden with red currants, just ripe. I gathered about a pint and a half in a

few minutes and then put them into our camp-kettle to preserve. In a few hours they were done, and if you had stood by and seen us you would at least have supposed that *we* thought they were good. We saw a good many grizzly signs, and therefore when we lay down we looked well to our guns, putting them near our heads, and taking our revolvers to bed with us. Each man also picked out a tree, up which he expected to climb in case of an attack; but we slept quietly and undisturbed until morning. All along our path we saw the largest timber I ever recollect to have been before. Many of the trees measured from 20 to 30 feet in circumference, and I saw on an adjacent hill one that I think would have measured 50 feet in circumference. Somewhere near this trail is a pine, that, according to the Surveyor's account, measures ninety feet in circumference. The Yo Semite Valley also abounds in these large trees.

"We soon came in full view of 'Simmons' Nose,' a lofty peak that rears its massive form above the surrounding mountains, and is the first mountain that marks the valley. It was so called by a friend of mine who visited the valley last spring, in honor of the most prominent feature of my countenance; but if 'your memory serves you right,' it is unnecessary for me to make this explanation in reference to my nasal protuberance. From this peak can be seen, at one view, all the principal falls of the valley. We reached the summit of the hill or mountain that overhangs the valley, at about 9 o'clock, and it took more than two hours to get down. In our descent we killed a large grouse, a bird resembling a pheasant, but they are as large as a hen. They are very highly prized. As we descended, the valley began to unfold itself to our view. I at once concluded, that if I never reached the valley below or saw anything else, I was fully repaid. I have seen the Tallula Falls in Upper Georgia; and the scenery around them, but this as far exceeded it, as the light of the sun does that of the moon. I would, in truth, with the Queen of Sheba exclaim: 'the half had not been told me,' and what is more, it never can be told. No pen or pencil can ever do more than give a faint idea of the sublime scenery that that nature has piled around this lovely valley. The valley itself is about eight miles long, and in some places it is nearly two miles wide.—It is hemmed on all sides by perpendicular cliffs, which tower up from two to four thousand feet high. The soil is exceedingly rich, and it abounds in large trees of every description, common to these mountains. The most common tree is the Balm of Gilead, many of which will measure six feet in circumference; also two varieties of currants; two of cherries, besides plums, raspberries and several other kinds of fruit. The cherries were in their prime, and I found them very good.

"After we had taken dinner, we began our trip up the valley. The first bold peak upon the right as we entered, not having a name, I was called upon to give it one; and being the first preacher of our church who had visited the falls, I called it 'Point Andrew,' after our noble old Bishop, who stood so firm and unwavering amid the storm that rent in twin the great Methodist family. The sun was but a few degrees above it at noon, and as he shot his rays past it, their path was marked upon the smoky atmosphere that lay between us and it, presenting the appearance of a huge arrowy crown of light. Some distance above Point Andrew on the South side of the valley are the first falls, called by some the 'Cascade of the Rainbow,' by others 'Bridal Veil'—either of these names are appropriate. They are 928 feet high, and fall in an unbroken stream. We clambered to the foot of these falls, so near in fact, that we were drenched with the spray, and when looking up, our heads grew almost dizzy. The water did not seem to dash over the giddy height as one would imagine, but it floated over so easily and gracefully that you can hardly believe you are looking at a water-fall.—It is constantly being lifted and thrown about by the wind, giving it a new appearance every moment. I was wholly absorbed in viewing its beauty. For the time I lost sight and thought of everything else. The fountain of admiration failing to find vent in words and exclamations, over-leaped its wonted bounds and was soon lost in a shoreless ocean. Here, for the first time in my life, I saw a circular rainbow. Our little party amused itself, by indulging in suppositions such as 'What if a man were to fall off the high bluff over which the water pours?—How would you like to ride over in a canoe? What if Niagara River was to pour over? We'd like to

get away from here, and old Pete would have to swim then.’ Now the old Peter referred to was a very proud horse belonging to one of our company, who always carried his tail gracefully curved to one side.

“Almost opposite these falls stands a giant rock, towering up perpendicularly 3,160 feet, called by the Yo Semite Indians El Capitan, and although it is not the highest yet it presents the most imposing appearance of any other rock in the valley. As we rode up the valley, the mighty cliffs that towered in magnificence too grand for human conception, would change in appearance with every change of position. Next to El Capitan is a lofty peak nearly as high, which we called Jupiter’s Throne, from certain streaks in the rock, near its summit, that resembled forked lightning. On our right, still higher up, were the Twin Sisters, were the Twin Sisters, the greatest curiosities I have yet seen. They are composed of two massive pillars of rock shooting some 1000 feet above the cliff on which they stand, which is itself near 2000 feet high. They taper gradually towards the top upon each of which sits a huge stone that forms the head. Upon the neck of each a large tree grows, forming the collar. They resemble each other very much, and were called by a lady who visited the Valley last spring, Mary and Martha. Martha is something taller than her sister, who has a little stoop in her shoulders marking her humility.

“As we passed, the sun was shooting his rays far up in the valley and sent a flood of light in behind them, revealing their forms most beautifully. Next upon the South we came to the Sentinel Rock, 30000 feet high, a faithful sentinel he seemed to be, for all night long he stands, his head seemingly among the stars, grim, stern and immovable. We pitched our camp beneath his giant form, and many a look of pleasant and admiration did we turn upon his noble form as we rested beneath his shadow. Tall trees 200 feet high are found growing along its perpendicular side. In places, too, where it would seem impossible to find soil enough to produce them. We here found four men engaged in sawing lumber, with a whip-saw, for a house they intend erecting next springs for the accommodation of visitors—a very good and wise arrangement. All who go there now have to sleep in the open air—ladies and all. Our grouse and quail formed the foundation for another pot pie, and one or two of us who were complaining before supper, ate with ‘a coming appetite’ when it was ready. After supper, we distributed what little news we had, among the four men were found in the valley. That night I slept so soundly, although we had but a single blanket between us and the bare ground, that I did not even turn over during the night.

“J. C. SIMMONS.”

“\*Mr. J. H. Neal, of Mariposa.”

“News from Tulare County, Kern River and Fort Tejon—Great Earthquake,” *Mariposa Gazette*, January 23, 1857, 2:2:

“Mr. T. M. Heston, Expressman between Mariposa and Visalia, arrived in town on Saturday, and informs us that a heavy shock of an earthquake was felt at Visalia on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst.—Repeated shocks were afterwards experienced, continuing until the night of the 11<sup>th</sup>—some of which were very severe, causing much alarm. In the vicinity of Tulare Lake the shocks were terrific—the earth was shaken so violently that it was impossible for a person to stand. Large chasms were formed—the earth opening in an instant several feet—game fled, and the myriads of water fowl which before covered the lake have disappeared.

“On the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup> an express arrived at Visalia, with the information that Fort Tejon was completely destroyed by the shock on the 9<sup>th</sup>. One woman was killed by the falling of a wall. From what we can learn of the effects of the earthquake in that vicinity, it must have been more severe than at any other place yet heard from. Shocks were felt at Millerton, but we are unable to learn that the phenomenon was noticed to the Northward of that point. It is represented to have passed from North to South, accompanied by a heavy rumbling sound. Had it been felt in San

Francisco as severely as in Tulare county, that city would have been in ruins to-day, with hardly one stone remaining upon another.”

“The Steam Wagon,” *Mariposa Gazette*, January 30, 1857, 2:3:

“The model of this new invention will be completed by Wednesday or Thursday next, when our citizens will have an opportunity of seeing it fairly tested. This ingenious affair has been closely examined by most, if not all the machinists in this neighborhood, and without a single exception, they have given it as their opinion that it will accomplish all the objects for which it is designed, and even more than was at first anticipated by the inventor.

“Messrs, Overton and Vining intend taking the model to San Francisco, about the 15<sup>th</sup> or the 20<sup>th</sup> of next month, where they will remain for a few days, previous to their departure for Washington to secure the patent. So far as our knowledge of machinery extends, and judging from the opinions expressed by those we consider better judges than ourselves, we are inclined to the opinion that there is no doubt of its success.”

“Jack Metson,” *Mariposa Gazette*, January 23, 1857, 2:4:

“JACK METSON, former mail carrier between Mariposa and Sonora, has taken the Eldorado Saloon, recently occupied by Vining. Under the management of Jack, it will maintain its former popularity, undoubtedly. Excellent music—the best of Billiard tables—and a Bar unsurpassed, with Jack himself, who is an unscrupulous wag, will be the attractions. His numerous friends in this vicinity and also in Tuolumne, will remember him visiting Mariposa.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, February 27, 1857, 2:4:

“THE MARIPOSA THESPIAN CLUB have leased Vining’s Assembly Hall, and were understand they intend giving a series of dramatic entertainments.”

“Stages to Bear Valley,” *Mariposa Gazette*, April 17, 1857, 2:1:

“Thomas Condon & Co., have purchased the San Francisco a fine Concord wagon, and intend running it daily to Bear Valley and back, commencing on Monday next.”

“Changed Hands,” *Mariposa Gazette*, April 17, 1857, 2:1:

“Mr. Vining’s El Dorado Saloon will be re-opened tomorrow. It has been leased by Messrs. HITE & WEAVER.”

Miner, “From Tulare County,” *Mariposa Gazette*, May 1, 1857, 2:5:

“A gentleman who is engaged in quartz-mining near White River, sends us the following letter, in which he speaks in flattering terms of the present wealth and future prospects of that County:

“VISALIA, TULARE COUNTY, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 1857.

“MR. EDITOR:—The agricultural portion of this County, which has heretofore been looked upon as a forsaken country, has improved within the last season at least 100 per cent. Much land is now under cultivation, which, by means of irrigation from Tulare river and the Four Creeks, and with little labor, produce a fine yield. Fruit trees and vines have, within a short time, been planted in different sections, and the present prospects indicate a reasonable supply of delicious

fruits, and ere long, vineyard will be cultivated with as much success as in Los Angeles county. But the great business of the valley, will be the raising and fattening of cattle, for which it possesses facilities unequalled by any other portion of the State.

“The resources of the mining portion of the County, are now being developed, and the richness of the quartz is second to none in the State. Much expensive machinery has been, and is now being, erected to work the rich quartz lodes which lay scattered over a vast scope of country between White and Kern rivers. A county road is now being surveyed, to run from Visalia, the present county seat of Tulare, to Keyesville, the principal town in these mines, situated ninety miles south of Visalia, and which will undoubtedly be the county seat of *Kern County*, that is soon to be. What a contrast it must be to the traveler who, two years ago, on the impulse of the moment, was drifted by the tide of excitement into those mines, and who then passed with a hasty step over the placer diggings. In the event of a good road to Keyesville, most, if not all the supplies will be taken from Tulare Valley. At present much produce is brought from Los Angeles, the facility for hauling, making the freight somewhat less on that route—, but should the proposed canal be completed to connect the San Joaquin with the Tulare Lake, it would bring this part of the State in close connection with San Francisco, via Stockton, and thus create a prosperity which, at first sight, seems inconceivable.

“As I have continued my remarks long than I intended, I will close by saying that if you will favor us with your spicy paper occasionally, I will keep you posted on the doings of our county.

MINER.”

“The Steam Wagon,” *Mariposa Gazette*, May 1, 1857, 2:1:

“We learn from Mr. VINING, who returned from San Francisco on Tuesday last, that a wagon is now being built in Benicia, (upon the principle of the recently invented in this place,) of large size, and with an engine of twelve horsepower. It is designed to be used in running a train of wagons over some of the roads in the neighborhood of San Francisco.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, May 1, 1857, 2:1:

“We invite the attention of our readers to the interesting letter of our correspondent ‘MINER,’ which will be found in another column.”

“Scrimmage,” *Mariposa Gazette*, May 1, 1857, 2:3:

“On Monday last two men got into a dispute over a Rondo game in the El Dorado saloon, one of them received a slight tap on the head with a revolver, cutting a gash about an inch, and inch and a half, or two inches long. The affray occurred about an hour, an hour and a half or two hours before sundown, and only lasted a minute, a minute and a half or two minutes.”

“Yo Hamite Valley,” *Mariposa Gazette*, May 15, 1857, 2:4:

“Mr. Milton Mann, one of the proprietors of the Yo Hamite Panorama, returned on Tuesday from the South Fork of the Merced, where he has been engaged for several days with a small party of men in constructing a bridge for the accommodation of visitors to the Valley. He was there during the stormy weather of last Thursday, on which occasion snow fell over a foot in depth. Game of all descriptions is plenty near the ‘Big Meadow,’ and trout abound in the streams. On Monday the party killed thirteen mountain Grouse.

“Mr. Mann returned on Wednesday, intending to go through the Valley.



“There is no doubt that the trip can be made with safety even now, though perhaps the 1<sup>st</sup> of June is soon enough for the excursion.

“The new trail together with the bridge now completed at the Meadow, has done much towards removing the difficulties of the route. Nearly two years ago, by the old route, the trip was not without its dangers.”

“The Weather,” *Mariposa Gazette*, May 15, 1857, 2:4:

“For several days past we have experienced cold blustering weather, more usual in the stormy month of March than in mild and genial May. . . .” [More later.]

“The Yo Semite Valley,” *Mariposa Gazette*, June 19, 1857, 2:2:

“This delightful spot which is just beginning to attract the attention of people from a distance, bids fair to become in time the favorite summer resort of Californians. The beauty and grandeur of the scenery, defying the pen or pencil to depict, must be seen to be appreciated, while the invigorating influence of the cool mountain air, as well as the novelty and excitement of the journey, are in themselves no mean inducement to the denizens of our towns and cities who may wish to seek a few days of relaxation from the routine of business pursuits.

“For the information of those of our friends below who intend visiting the Valley this summer, we would simply state some of the advantages of a trip by the ‘Mariposa trail.’ This trail, which for a mountain road is a very good one, together with the bridge at the South Fork, was constructed by Messrs. Mann at a great expense, and in order to be remunerated, they have established a toll at their bridge at the rate of \$4, which, in view of the laudable character of the enterprise, we have no doubt will be cheerfully paid by visitors. Animals can be procured in this place at reasonable rates, and provisions and refreshments put up in suitable packages for transportation. Visitors generally go as far as the crossing of the South Fork the first day, which is distant about 24 miles from Mariposa. At the crossing is a delightful camping ground, known as the Big Meadow, where there is an abundance of grass for animals and other camp conveniences in the shape of wood, water, &c.

“About five miles from the Big Meadow, on the divide between the South Fork and Big Creek, a grove of gigantic trees has been recently discovered which will add much to the attractions of this route. They are situated on a flat or *plateau*, of perhaps from one to two hundred acres in extent, and are of the same species as the Big Trees in Calaveras County. There are probably two hundred trees in this grove which will measure from sixteen to thirty feet in diameter.

“From the Big Meadow to the Valley, the distance is about eighteen miles, over a country which people accustomed to the plains, would undoubtedly consider rough. But the first sight of the valley—a magnificent view, repays the visitor for all his inconveniences, which are not of a very serious description, as a person can ride all the route if he chooses. Arrived in the Valley, if the visitors have no person with them sufficiently acquainted with the localities to act ‘in the capacity of guide,’ their wants in this respect will be provided for by my Messrs. Weaver & Hite, who have established a house in the Valley, where they are prepared to entertain visitors with eatables, drinkables, lodging and general accommodations. From a party lately returned from that place, we learn that the proprietors of the above named Hotel got up a Ball a few evenings since, which, *judge-ing* from the description given by our informant, must have been *the* Ball of the season. The Yosemite Band made their *debut* on the occasion. The party returned very well pleased with their excursion, as in fact are all who have ever been there.

“Those who have not seen this most wonderful of nature’s handiwork in California, should certainly visit this place—while to those who have already been there, we have nothing to say, as we know that like others of *our acquaintance*, they will be sure to repeat the trip.”

Thomas Payne, John A. McDonald, Leroy Vining, and others, “[Correspondence],” *Mariposa Gazette*, June 19, 1857, 2:5:

[Excerpts:]

“MARIPOSA, MONDAY MORNING JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup>, 1857.

“TO HON. S. W. INGE—*Dear Sir*:—We, the undersigned Citizens of Mariposa County, respectfully beg leave to request you to address a public meeting of the ‘Miners and Settlers,’ on Wednesday, at 7½ o’clock, P. M., if consistent with your feelings and not respassing too seriously upon your professional engagements.

“We, in common with a great majority of the people of the County, confident of your ability, would be gratified and flattered to hear your views upon the present location of the Frémont Grant: ‘Las Mariposas.’

“Most respectfully,

“THOMAS PAYNE,

“JOHN A. McDONALD,

“LEROY VINING, and others.

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“MARIPOSA, JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup>, 1857.

“Gentlemen:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> inst., inviting me to address a meeting of the ‘Miners and Settlers’ this evening, in reference to the location of the Fremont Grant. I have had frequent occasion, heretofore and elsewhere, of expressing my views upon this subject, and should be gratified to repeat them here in the presence of the people of Mariposa, but my engagements compel me to leave town before the time designated for the meeting. . . .

...

“Very respectfully,

“S. W. INGE.

“To Thomas Payne, John A. McDonald, Leroy Vining, and others.”

“New Stage Line,” *Mariposa Gazette*, June 26, 1857, 2:1:

“T. M. Heston, Expressman between this place and Kern river, has recently bought the Stage owned by Condon & Co., which has been running between Mariposa and Bear Valley, and will hereafter run between Hornitas and Visalia. Mr. Heston will attend to the Express business as usual.”

“Mr. Claveau,” *Mariposa Gazette*, June 26, 1857, 2:2:

“MR. CLAVEAU, the Artist, has just returned from the Yo Semite Valley, where he has been for several days completing his sketches of the Falls and heights in that locality, preparatory to the completion of the Panorama. He also showed us sketches of the mammoth trees recently discovered near the South Fork. One of these *saplings* measures ninety-seven and a half feet in circumference.—*San Andreas Independent*, take notice.”

“Fourth of July!,” *Mariposa Gazette*, June 26, 1857, 2:5:

The Committee of Arrangements, appointed by the residents of Mariposa, will hold a celebration on July 4, according to the following program:

At sunrise, 31 guns will be fired as a salute, interspersed with music by the Mariposa Brass Band.

At 10½, A. M., the [fraternal] orders, firemen, and other groups will assemble at the open space in the lower end of town, form a procession, and, leaving at 11 o’clock, march through Main and Bullion streets to the courthouse, where the following exercises will be held:

1<sup>st</sup>—Prayer, by Rev. J. C. Simmons.

2<sup>nd</sup>—Reading of the Declaration of Independence, by R. B. Lamon.

3<sup>rd</sup>—Music, by the band.

4<sup>th</sup>—Oration, by H. G. Worthington.

5<sup>th</sup>—Music, by the band.

The procession will form again and march back to its original place.

The committee has appointed L. A. Holmes as grand marshal and Dr. J. L. Clark, Colonel John H. Tatman, and D. Brien as his aides.

Seats will be arranged inside the bar at the courthouse.

The committee invites citizens of nearby towns and camps to participate “in doing honor to the glorious day we celebrate.”

JOSEPH BLUMENTHAL,  
THOMAS PAYNE, M. D.,  
NICHOLAS CLEARY,  
LEROY VINING,  
THOMAS P. HOWELL.  
Committee of Arrangements.

Mariposa, June 24, 1857.

“Miners And Settlers Meeting,” *Mariposa Gazette*, June 26, 1857, 2:5:

{Excerpts:]

The citizens of Mariposa County meet on Wednesday, June 17. Captain A. Powell was appointed chairman, and Leroy Vining acted as secretary.

The following resolutions were passed:

*Resolved.*

*Resolved.*

“*Resolved.* This meeting cannot refrain from expressing its indignation at the violent threats, bombast and ruffian-like deportment of certain emissaries of Palmer, Cooke & Co., styling themselves ‘Fremont’s Agents,’ and we pledge ourselves to meet and resist them . . . .”

*Resolved.*

*Resolved.*

*Resolved.*

*Resolved.*

“*Resolved,* The Miners and Settlers on the Fremont claim ought not cast their votes for County and Township officers for any but persons known to be in all their proclivities, openly against Fremont and Palmer, of the citizens of Mariposa County.”

A. Powell, president.

Leroy Vining, secretary.

Denizen, "Coulterville Correspondence," *Mariposa Gazette*, September 28, 1857, 2:4:

"Personal: Mr. John W. Ross," *Mariposa Gazette*, October 5, 1857, 2:1:

[Excerpt:]

...

"Mr. JOHN W. ROSS, for some years a resident of this county, and more recently connected with the *Mariposa Star*, sold out his interest in that paper, and on Thursday last departed for his home in Pennsylvania, where he will be absent until another summer. Mr. ROSS is well known here—and in the State—is a many of energy and capacity, and leaves many warm friends who wish him a pleasant and happy visit and safe return amongst."

"Walker River," *Mariposa Gazette*, October 5, 1857, 2:1:

"Mr. LEROY VINING returned from Walker's River on Thursday evening, having been absent about three weeks, and having spent nearly two weeks in the mines prospecting. He represents the diggings as good, and averaging from 3 to 4 dollars per day. The gold is of a fine order, although he brought with him one piece weighing over three dollars. Mr. V. left his companions at the river and came in for provisions for the winter. He will at once supply himself and return to winter in that locality. His report is favorable."

"New Jail," *Mariposa Gazette*, October 5, 1857, 2:1:

"The County Jail, being erected by J. O. LOVEJOY, Esq., is progressing rapidly. The lower story is completed, and contains four cells—and for strength and durability, is all that could be wished. When complete, this will be as safe and fine a jail as the State contains. Much credit is due Mr. LOVEJOY for the progress he is making, and also for the pains taken (even beyond his contract) to render it perfect in all its parts. It will probably be fully occupied by the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. Prisoners are now occupying the lower cells."

"New Mercantile House," *Mariposa Gazette*, October 5, 1857, 2:1:

"MCDERMOTT & Co. have nearly completed an elegant brick Fire Proof Store on Main street. When finished we shall have something more to say."

## 1858

"From Tulare County," *Mariposa Gazette*, July 28, 1858, 2:2:

"Mr. J. N. [H.] THOMAS, a former valued resident of this place, but who, in a moment of indiscretion, moved off to Visalia, informs us that affairs are progressing finely in that 'Cow' County. . . . Much better crops have been raised than had been anticipated in the early part of the season, which was attributable to the overflowing of the streams to a considerable extent, caused by the sudden melting of snows in the mountains. . . . Farmers are building good houses and fencing largely at present, and improvement is every day manifest. . . . Visalia is growing slowly

but steadily, and has a healthy trade with the rancheros.—Returns for goods, however, cannot be made as soon as in a mining community. . . . Money is only plenty periodically, when Farmers turn off their products. . . . Considerable mechanical business is carried on at the place, and are doing well.

“Mr. THOMAS is unable to speak of the virtues of that community, particularly that one known as ‘Temperance,’ in terms of commendation, which we much regret. However, since the establishment of NED HART’s Land Office, in Visalia, an improvement is confidently and reasonably anticipated, &c.”

“Local,” *Mariposa Gazette*, August 24, 1858, 2:3:

Laborer, “For the *Mariposa Gazette*: The Arrastra,” *Mariposa Gazette*, August 24, 1858, 2:3 (*Mariposa*, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 1858):

“For ages the arrastra has been the favorite mode in Mexico of extracting gold and silver from their containing rocks, and all experience goes to prove that it is the surest mode of extracting *all* the metals from the ore, that has ever been tried by the grinding and amalgamating process. As an amalgamator, the arrastra stands unrivaled. Notwithstanding they have been thrown aside repeatedly by our go-a-headative operators, still they revert back to the ‘primitive arrastras’ as a last resort against an utter failure in their mining enterprises.

“Now it occurs to me, that instead of abusing the slow and sure Arrastra, we should study the principle upon which it works, and endeavor to improve upon its structure, thereby increasing its efficiency and usefulness.

“There is no process now in use that will reduce ores so completely as the arrastras, and it is well-known by practical men that gold cannot be thoroughly extracted until the ore is completely reduced to the fineness of the gold itself; for a coarse grain of sand may contain several fine particles of gold.—Stamps cannot reduce the ores so fine as an arrastra, for the reason that, as soon as it is reduced to sand, the blow of the stamp forces it with the water from under the blow; as the water gives place to the blow of the stamp it takes the fine sand with it, and the blow falls upon the coarse quartz that remains behind. It appears to me that the stamp and arrastra should work together—one to break the mass into coarse sand and the other to reduce it to the required fineness to complete the process.

“LABORER.

“*Mariposa*, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 1858.”

“State Items,” *Mariposa Gazette*, August 24, 1858, 2:5:

[Excerpt:]

. . . .  
 “. . . . . The reported rich diggings at Owen’s Lake, has proved to be a humbug. A party that left Visalia some time since to prospect, have returned, unable to find the color about the Lake. They followed up the eastern slope of the Sierras to Walker’s river, and report diggings there which three or four dollars per day may be made.”

. . .

L. A. B. [Brown], “A Trip To Walker’s River,” Number One, *Mariposa Gazette*, August 31, 1858, 2:3 (Big Oak Flat, August 28, 1858):

*“The Start from Big Oak Flat—Scenery about Yo Semite Valley—Beauties of Lake Te-nye-ah—A Ride on the Lake—Mono Pass, &c.”*

“BIG OAK FLAT, Aug. 28, 1858.

“MR. EDITOR:—Becoming worn out with the eternal cry of [‘]Fraser River’ and its immense wealth stored beneath its rushing waters, a party of eight of us, determined to pay a visit to the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevadas, on a tour of exploration. I now propose, by your permission, to give to the public thro’ the columns of your valuable journal, what we saw during our absence, throwing in occasionally, our notions of the country, in general and in detail:

“Each of us equipped with rifle, revolver, sheath-knife, riding and packing animals, left the the [sic] [-]t little town of Big Oak Flat and Garote, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July, for our destination, by the way of Yo Semite Valley, Lake Te-nye ah and Mono Pass.

“The country passed over by us to Yo Semite Valley, is too well known to your numerous readers, to require even a passing notice; so what I shall write, may be considered as commencing at Yo Semite Valley. Spending a few days viewing that magnificent wonder, we ascended the Coulterville to the top of the ridge on the northern side of the valley. From the summit of the ridge opposite the lower end of the valley to Lake Te-nye-ah, is about thirty-two miles. Along the route we crossed several small streams, pouring their waters into the valley; among them Yo Semite Creek, forming Yo Semite Falls, is the largest. On these streams are numerous small valleys, affording splendid vegetation of various kinds, and the country in general, well timbered with the Pine, Spruce and Fir. Along this portion of the route game was not very plentiful, but by exertion and dexterity, we managed to kill enough to supply our wants. The country is not so rough to travel over as indicated by viewing it from an elected point in the neighborhood. The gradual descending streams, and long narrow valleys, renders the route very passable for pack animals.

“It was our intention to strike the Indian trail leading from Yo Semite Valley to Mono Pass, somewhere near the upper end of the valley, but did not intersect it until we had reached the valley of Lake Te-nye-ah. Arriving at the lake, we encamped with the determination of exploring it thoroughly, in as much as great doubt has been entertained heretofore, as in its real existence; so while some of the party went head to explore, the remaining portion set to work constructing a raft, which we bound together with pack ropes.

“On the return of the exploring squad, a general rafting excursion took place. We floated out on the bosom of one of the most clear, limpid and delightful sheets of water, in the country. Assisted by wave and paddle, we succeeded in making a detour of the lake, which is about two miles in length, and three quarters of a mile in width. It is situated on the head waters of the stream emptying into the upper part of Yo Semite Valley, and there forming what I believe is called Lake Francis. By the Indian trail from the valley, the lake is about sixteen miles to the eastward. The waters after leaving the beach, I should judge from every appearance, to be several hundred feet in depth. Around the lake is a beautiful sandy shore or beach. In its waters sport no living animal, that we could discover, except a species of very small bug. Upon its bosom floated no fowls—near its shore roamed no beast of the forest. Its situation is a most magnificent spot—its sides are bound in granite—its ends in valleys. During the explorations in the vicinity, several lakes were discovered, but none of them in beauty and magnitude can bear a comparison with Te-nye-ah. Having satisfied ourselves with the wonders and beauties of Te-nye-ah, we harnessed pack and saddle, and left for Mono Pass—distance, 18 miles.

“We entered the water and kept near the granite cliffs on the northern side for one-half mile; the trail taking over the smooth surface of rocks; our animals could not pass over it. We found no difficulty, however, in passing the lake in this manner.—[.]

“From the lake to the crossing of the east or main branch of the Tuolumne River, we traversed a succession of gradual ascending valleys, densely covered with a species of pine closely resembling

the tamarack. The river at this point of our intersection, winds its way through a beautiful valley from 5 to 6 miles in length, and about two miles in breadth.—Having the high snow-clad peaks of the Sierras upon each side, its position is grand and beautiful. Leaving behind us these lovely view[s], we ascended to Mono Pass, which scarce deserves the name, for really it is not a ‘Pass,’ but the summit of the main backbone of the Sierras. Vegetation does not exist to any extent upon the main ridge. The winds blow cold and icy—they make one shudder—they feel like the dead of winter. From the summit we saw plainly Mono Lake spreading itself on the plain below.

“At this point, Mr. Editor, I leave you; but in my next I will endeavor to give you a full description of Mono Lake and its peculiarities; also the position, character and prospects of Walker River Diggings.

“L. A. B.”

“Local Items, Mining, &C.,” *Mariposa Gazette*, August 31, 1858, 2:4:

[Excerpt:]

...  
 “. . . . . Those desiring information relative to Walker River—the miners there, and of the route to them—of country lying upon the eastern slope of the Sierras, will do well to peruse a series of communications which will appear weekly in the GAZETTE, commencing with this number. The party who have been spending some time there in exploring and examining the country, consisted of Judge MCGHEE, Mr. WATTS, Mr. L. A. BROWN, and others, (whose names we have not received) from Big Oak Flat and Garote. They are very competent and reliable gentlemen, and their statements may be implicitly relied upon. Mr. BROWN, our correspondent, is the Engineer of the Tuolumne and Big Oak Flat Ditch, and his statements regarding the character of the country, its resources, &c., will be more than usually valuable.”

L. A. B. [Brown], “A Trip To Walker’s River,” Number Two, *Mariposa Gazette*, September 14, 1858, 2:4-5:

“BIG OAK FLAT, Sept. 3, 1858.

“MR. EDITOR:—I left you in my last protecting yourself from the cold, chilly winds of Mono Pass. Be kind enough to descend with me to the plains below, and take a view of Mono Lake and vicinity. The gradual descendings from the Pass to plains mentioned by some of your informants, dwindles down to steep and rugged descents; for in passing over about 4 miles of the trail, we descended nearly 5000 feet perpendicular, which certainly does not indicate very gradual descendings. The trail leading through the gorge by which we descended, is rendered more difficult and dangerous than it would be otherwise, from the fact that the main ridge at this point is composed of slate, and during the winter the freezings have caused it to crumble in large masses, which fall in the gorge below, rendering the trail nearly impassable. Our party, however, succeeded in taking over the pack animals, but not without many shudders for their safety. I would advise those going to Walker River, not to make the passage with their pack animals laden with over 200 lbs. When the rugged portions of the trail were passed, we merged out up on the barren sage plains that lie along the foot of the Sierras.

“I supposed before my visit to the eastern slope, that a succession of foot hills extended for miles to the east, analagous [analogous] to those upon the western slope—but such is not the case. From 6 to 10 miles from the summit carries one out immediately upon the barren plains, stretching themselves far eastward, after intersecting with a low range of mountains running parallel to the Sierras, of which I shall write more definitely hereafter. Soon after crossing the summit, and situated on the most difficult portion of the trail, is a small lake, enjoying one of the

most beautiful of all situations. Far above is many snowy peaks, rearing their hoary heads heavenward, whilst far below rest, in a quiet nook, its lovely waters. Here, everything invited us to halt, save the frowning cliffs, which bade us onward. At the foot of the rugged descendings is another lake of greater dimensions; but being nearly on the plains, does not possess that amount of scenery necessary to make it appear magnificent. However, we spent the night by its side, listening to the mournful groans of its waters, washing the feet of the giant peaks high in the air above. From the Pass to Mono Lake, with the exception of the rugged ascents, the trail is excellent, winding its way along the foot of the main ridge. Distance from the Pass to the lake, 16 miles.

“On arriving at the lake, we were met by a number of Indians, among whom we recognised [recognized] several faces; they having gone on that side of the mountains in pursuit of a living, which, to the refined taste, is composed of the most disgusting elements. Mono Lake is situated on a broad plain, washing on one side the base of the Sierras, and on the other the foot hills of a low range running to the south-east, and as aforesaid parallel to the main range. Its circumference is about 60 miles; its diameter about 20; having in its middle an island from 3 to 5 miles in length. It was are neither salt or alkali, but a compound of both, which impregnates the atmosphere as it sweeps its bosom with the most loathsome gasses. Immense quantities of fowls, consisting of geese, ducks, sandhill cranes, and sea gulls, float upon its rippled surface. Around its sandy beach live various tribes of Indians, which we estimated, after nearly making its entire circuit, at 1000. The mountains to the east and west, the plains to the north and south, have all furnished their quota; every secluded place within 100 miles has its representative on the borders of the ‘sweet scented Mono’ during the summer season, but during the winter scarcely a track can be traced.

“It is not for the numberless fowls that gather there—it is not to hunt the beasts of the forests that they have collected—it is not for manly sport that they assemble—but it is to reap a scanty subsistence from the lake. Around its whole circumference is found an insect not quite as large as the common house fly, which lays its eggs in the sand near the water, or in it, which in due course of time, produces a small chrysalis of brackish appearance, half an inch in length, and about the size of a common broom straw. These are produced by the million, and the wave motion of the water cast them on the shore in rolls from one to five inches in diameter. In this state the Indian Squaws scrape them into baskets and sift out the sands; they are then spread on the beach and allowed to dry. Every section of country had their chrysalis grounds distinctly marked, so that there could be no intrusion, and so far as I could ascertain, the lines were sacredly observed. These insects constitute a large majority of what the Indians eat; and I do not think it an over-estimate to assert that they had gathered no less than 10,000 bushels, which lay in heaps around the lake. Just think of it—60 miles covered with insects, and you at once see that the production is prodigious.

“We read of ‘Moses’ Plagues’ in Egypt, and I must be allowed to say that he certainly had a ‘Mono’ to produce them. Myriads swarm along the beach, and were they allowed by the Indians to mature, Egypt could not bear a comparison. The water for 10, 20, and even 50 feet from shore, resembles thick soup, so completely filled is it with this Indian luxury.—The numerous fowls that have collected for the purpose of devouring the flies, are driven from the shore by the eager Indians, and it is only in the night that they can come to the beach and feed.

“The woodless state of the country prevented our party from exploring this Indian rendezvous as we had Lake Te-nye-ah. We looked in vain for a relict of Indian ingenuity, with which to reach the island in its center; but none could be found; so we had to look and gaze and gaze and look with wonder upon this, the magnificent larder of the red man. I do not believe that the foot of human has ever trod the sandy sods of Mono Island, and it is to be hoped that ere long some weary Saxon will give to the world the characteristics of its lovely situation. The lake has no outlet, and as the larger portion of its waters, which drains from the slopes of the Sierras, is pure



and delightful, one must conclude from the alkaline qualities of its waters, that it receives an abundant supply of the salts from some hidden source. Around the shore, and even within the water in different places, may be seen elevated mosses [masses] of the carbonate of lime, having every appearance of those found near mud volcanoes of the Colorado Desert. In one place I discovered a column closely resembling the bust of a man, in another one like unto an immense mass of grapes. From the isolated separation of these, I should think that they had been forced upwards through crevices in the earth, inasmuch as all around them exist the same sandy and barren aspect.

“Mono has at once day not very far back in the deep past, enjoyed a larger scope than at present, and the day does not seem to be far buried in the future, when she will be no longer the bourne of the hungry warrior. The sands of the east are hurrying themselves onward to engulf [engulf] her. Terrace after terrace is being formed of more magnificent grandeur, than the ‘two forty on the shell at New Orleans.’ Over their surface is filled the beautiful gravel stone with more exactness and beauty than the splendid system McAdam dictates. The country around and in the vicinity of this astonishing spot, is utterly worthless. The soil produces nothing but sage, except now and then where pure water rises to the surface. I would admonish our good selves not to interfere with the red man here, but let them enjoy all the blessings of the lake’s production. It may be policy in the future, to study closely the character of this wonderful insect, with a view of founding a grand Indian empire under its auspices, inasmuch as our good people are becoming fatigued in feeding them upon the products of their hard earnings. The Indians manifested no hostile feelings, but on the contrary seemed delighted with the appearance of the pale faced. With an abiding determination to see more of Mono, we cut short our explorations, and wended our way towards a land where another race was delving in mud and mire, to procure the glittering ore.

The diggings of Walker’s River are situated upon the tributaries of the east branch, 12 miles from Mono Lake, and about 70 miles from Yo Semite Valley, somewhat north of east. As these diggings are attracting some attention on this side, I will endeavor to give their character with as much precision as I possibly can. So far, there has been no mining on that side except in one stream, containing plenty of water for the extraction of all the gold which it may contain. The whole country for miles in extent, is a wash gravel deposit, evidently having been formed by heavier streams of water than at present exist, and in all probability running in a contrary direction.—Let that be as it may, the stream or streams coming from the snowy peaks above, have buried themselves deep in this immense drift, lowering with them the gold contained in the sands, and I see no reason why the streams in the neighborhood, all having the same appearance, should not prospect and yield also.

“Those mining in the one stream, are not working upon the bed rock, but upon the lowest possible strata than can be reached free of water. The few that are working, (twenty men), are no sufficient to prospect the country, and now only one mile of one stream is all that is being worked. Between the streams are long drift ridges, and should these prove to bear gold in sufficient quantities to be remunerative, a large scope of country will be opened to the gold-seeker. Thus far, the yield has been on the average nearly three dollars per day, but the serious draw-back, of lumber and provisions, have reduced the miner to a simple living. As there are no stores, provisions have heretofore been obtained in Carson’s Valley—distance eighty-five miles—but now the miners have determined to draw their supplies from Sonora, making it better and cheaper for them.

“I was informed by several that flattering prospects had been obtained in different sections near by, but the barren aspect of the county—the want of timber—the difficulty of procuring provisions, had deterred a large majority visiting the region, from going to work and from even prospecting—arriving one day, taking a short look, becoming disgusted, and away they go to a more general looking place. Well, I must say that I cannot much blame them. All the timber that

exist near the mine, is scattered along the streams, and barely enough to make sluice lumber, which is worth 15 cents per foot whip sawn. However, I saw considerable timber, six or eight miles nearer the main ridge, which could be gotten, were it absolutely required. The snow lying on the mountains in summer affords an abundance of water for all the mining that will probably be done in that locality.

“Our party did not prospect, save in the shafts of some of the claims being worked, which yielded from two to six centers to the pan, but I do not believe that the mass of dirt to be washed, will begin to average so largely. As for game, none exist in the vicinity of the diggings, except ‘sage hens,’ which abound in great numbers. Perhaps a stray antelope may be seen occasionally, but the hunter has not the shadow of a chance to reach him.

“Here, Mr. Editor, I will close, and at another time I will give to your readers our return to Mono and our explorations to the Owen’s River Country.

“J. A. B.”

“Merced River Mining, &C,” *Mariposa Gazette*, September 21, 1858, 2:1:

“. . . . . Never, in the history of the ‘oldest inhabitant,’ has the Merced River been so low, or offered better facilities to those are now mining on the bars or in the river bed. From Smith’s Ferry to below Mormon Bar, claims have been taken up and worked, and now rewarding the industrious miner to an extent never realized in the palmiest days of river mining. Some 15 or 20 companies have pumped out their claims, and with the assistance of hired help, are realizing from an ounce and upwards per day to the hand. At Clark’s Point, the flat claim, after ground sluicing for about 6 weeks, are now cleaning up, making from \$30 to \$40 to the hand per day. On Phillips’ Flat there are two companies making excellent wages. The claim of Capt. Morton & Co., above the cañon, worked by Chinamen, turns out about \$100 per day. At the foot of the cañon, two companies of Chinese, with American overseers, make over an ounce per day to the hand. On Hart & Johnson’s Flat, the ‘Irish Boys’ ’ claim, with a hydraulic, averages half an ounce per day to the hand. This is excellent wages considering that it is extensive and workable the year round. Two members of this company hired men in their places, went to Fraser, saw the elephant, and returned, contented to work the old claim once more. The claim of A. Perrin & Co., opposite Jones’ Flat, continues to pay from 75 to 100 ounces per week. The claim of Reverdy & Co., pays from \$12 to \$10 per day, in the ‘slide.’ This slide was discovered by an old ‘49er, named Edward Reverdy, last winter, and bids fair to be as good diggings as can be found on Merced River. Reverdy has discovered as many new diggings as any other man in California—has often been comparatively rich—but his heart is too large for this every day world, and no *broken* miner ever applies to him in vain. Below his claim in the slide, is that of Talbott, Keho & Cornell, who are averaging \$100 per week to the hand, with two drifters. This claim will last some years. Below Rum Hollow is the claim of Jack Myers & Co., who have just began [begun] washing, and are making even more than they did last year. Below that is the claim of John Rogers & Co., who are making an ounce a day to the hand easily. The comes the claim of Jim Turner & Co., who, with a lot of Chinamen, are perfectly satisfied with their daily returns. Then last but not least, is the claim of McManus & Co., who done [did] well there last year, and are doing a great deal better than this. In short, take the river miners from Horse Shoe Bend to Murray’s Bridge, a more contented, good-hearted set, it would be difficult to find. Success attend their efforts We are under obligations to Mr. J. A. Talbott, of Jones’ Flat, for the above items.”

“Quartz Miners’ Convention,” *Mariposa Gazette*, September 21, 1858, 2:1:

“A Quartz Miners’ Convention has recently been held in San Francisco. It was for the development and improvement of the quartz mining interest. Such Conventions would result in great good if they were composed of the proper men; that is, practical quartz miners; men who can discriminate between an economical and efficient crushing apparatus, and one that is not. More particularly a thorough and practical acquaintance with amalgamating processes, is requisite. A Board, or Convention of quartz speculators, is of no benefit, but rather an injury. Such, we conceive, is this affair in San Francisco.—The representations from this region in that Convention, know nothing, practically, or next to nothing, of Quartz. Mr. ROANE, from the Fresno, would, we know, do all in his power to promote this interest, but we believe is not acquainted in the least with the business, and is therefore incompetent to devise, or approve, or suggest improvements. The same is true of GEO. N. SHAW, only more so, who represents this County in that Convention. Mr. S. is, in our opinion, a practical quartz speculator and little else. There are twenty men in the employ of the Merced Mining Company, of which he is the President, each of whom know five, yea, ten times as much as he does in regard to quartz—the best machinery for crushing it and separating and amalgamating gold. Until such conventions are held as are composed of men, we say again, *practically* acquainted with the business and thereby are competent, collectively, to improve upon the most improved methods now in use, they are good for nothing.—Men we have among us who are competent; and we will mention Messrs. CLAYTON, either of the firm of GOODMAN, DILTZ & CO., Mr. VANDEWATER, of the Merced Mining Company, Capt. BOLING, CHANDLER & ROSS, of Quartzburg, and many others, each of whom have a large experience in the business and consequently know something about it. Doubtless there were some practical miners in the convention, but so far as we know, there were not. And it is to be hoped, that hereafter conventions, for the advancement of this interest, vital to the prosperity of the State, will be composed of different elements.

“The doings of the convention are about as follows: An executive Committee for the State was elected, and they reported and recommended an election of President, Vice President, two Secretaries, Treasurer, &c. That a committee of one from each Quartz Mining District be elected by the convention, whose duty it should be to correspond with the journal of the Association. That the committee of the counties be requested to organize association in their respective counties. That two standing committees be formed, one to illuminate metalurgical [metallurgical] chemistry, and the other to see about the efficiency and practicability of machinery for quartz crushing, amalgamating, &c. That the Mining Journal be the organ of the association. That subscriptions be obtained view a view to the establishment of a *Quartz Mining Journal*. That R. P. SINTON, an auctioneer in San Francisco, is to be the ‘curator’ of the concern, and receive specimens of quartz—richer the better. That the convention taken into its solemn consideration the merits of the Arastra. This is the substance of their proceedings, so far as we are informed.”

L. A. B., “A Trip To Walker’s River,” Number Three, *Mariposa Gazette*, September 21, 1858, 2:3 (Big Oak Flat, September 15, 1858):

“BIG OAK FLAT, Sept. 15, 1858.

“MR. EDITOR:—We meet again in the columns of your valuable paper, so once more follow me from the haunts of civilization on a small scale, to the barbarous shore of Mono Lake. Before we start, however, I will tell you that we spent three days hunting near the diggings, and no game did we kill—notwithstanding the many Nimrods in our party. We were told the exact place to find deer, bear, and above all, mountain sheep, which we so much desired to encounter, but on repairing to the exact spot, to our great astonishment, scarcely a trace of game could be found. Upon the whole, the hunting information of the Walker’s River denizens, did not prove to us very reliable—but let it go—we saw more of the country, perhaps, than we should otherwise, which in

the fullest measure, repaid us for all our labors. As our course lay to the south-east, we were obliged on our return to pass on the eastern side of Mono Lake, so we took a different route on our return to that passed over in going to the diggings.

“After leaving the diggings, and to the valley of Mono were traversed a succession of low, barren ridges connecting with the Sierras with the range parallel, all of them presents a similar appearance; bearing no timber save a scattering piñon [piñon] pine here and there.

“On reaching Mono Valley, we could see far to the east, our resting place for the night; between it and us lay a deep, sandy plain, affording no fresh water, therefore we were compelled to cross it and reach the extreme eastern shore, before fresh water could be had. Before we arrived at the lake shore, we were met by Indians from all sides, anxious and eager to give us all the informaion [information] we desired about the place best to encamp. One poor fellow—and may the waters of Mono feed him forever—apparently afraid that we could not understand well enough to find the right spot, trotted ahead of us nearly 15 miles, bringing us at the close of the day to a beautiful oasis, containing fresh water and grass in abundance. When we were clearly on the shore of the lake, commenced one of the most amusing scenes that has ever been my fortune to enjoy; for 15 miles we were being joined at every step by Indians on foot and horseback, and towards the close of our day’s journey we had a retinue, were it pictured, would do honor to the galleries of our great sires. During the time, several of us, and among them, your humble servant, amused ourselves by giving the great warriors tobacco to chew; only a few minutes sufficed before it began to tell its effects, and in a short time we had many a stout champion reeling in the sands—such antics, such gestures, none but the savage could make. At night, many rested by our camp fire, eager to gather anything that might be thrown away by us. We kept a strict watch, for so we had done ever since crossing that side; but we saw no signs of intention to steal or molest.

“Concerning the character of Mono, we saw no new features. The same insect producing food for the Indians—the same sandy shore—the same volcanic indications—the same encroachments by the sands, seemed to exist for its entire circumference. The old Indians, too infirm to follow, sat near their huts, and with anxious gestures, earnestly inquired our mission; where we had come from, and where we were going; we in the same tongue explained our mission and our destination; and when apparently satisfied, they would, with a wave of the hand, and a pleasing smile, bid us onward. It is rather melancholy to behold the old and infirm Indian, after battling with the severe trials of a forest life, calmly seat himself by the lonely lake, to spend the lay rays of his fleeting life upon the charity of its waters. Yes, the charitable waters of the ‘loathesome [loathsome] Mono’ sings a mournful dirge over the last remains of many a warrior fed from its bountiful fountains. When morn had come we speedily prepared to leave for the head-waters of Owen’s River, to see what curious and interesting might be found in that dismal locality. Our route, on leaving the lake. [sic] lay directly across a deep, sandy plain for 10 miles. [sic] when we entered a pine region, extending itself in low. [sic] flat ridges to the east, and to all appearances, but little higher than the sandy plain just crossed. The timber resembles the hard pine of the Atlantic slope more than any other species found along the Pacific side. It seems to be an object of great care and attention—every tree seems to be regarded as sacred—around them are trenches dug about one foot in depth, and two feet in width, having the earth thrown next to the root of the tree, which gives it much the form of the potatoe [potato] hill. [sic] and in some places where two or three pines have grown near together, the trenches includes them all. This is not the case for one or two miles, but the whole forest has received the same treatment. Now, what is the Indians’ idea for all this, I do not know. Various surmises were made by us to account for such apparent cultivation. Some supposed it was done to prevent insects from injuring the trees. Some supposed the trenches snares to entrap insects. Some supposed it was to make them produce fruit, which latter supposition I think the most probable. The trenches serves [serve] to gather snow and water during the winter, and the embankment next to the trees serves to retain moisture, which

certainly does the trees much good if it does not make them bear. I saw no fruit whatever on the trees—all very fruitless—still the trenches indicated that they were annually cleaned. Mono Lake serves the great purpose of giving to the Indians their meat, while the pine forest serves as a great nursery to product [produce] their fruit.

“On leaving this pine district, we descended immediately to the valley of Owen’s River—distance 22 miles from Mono Lake, and as this valley is long and possessing many features worthy of notice, I will here let you rest till my next, when I will endeavor to embody them in one connected communication.

“L. A. B.”

“Tulare County,” *Mariposa Gazette*, October 12, 1858, 2:2:

“This county, now rapidly rising in importance and into public notice, deserves more than a few passing remarks, particularly as little is known in other parts of the State of the resources and attractions of this region. For the purpose of giving a historical account of its first settlement; the subsequent events occurring and its present condition, we gathered while on a recent visit to Visalia, facts and dates from gentlemen conversant with most events that have transpired since the date of its earliest settlement. This history we are unavoidably obliged to defer for the present, owing to a loss of notes, but will at some time give it. The country known as the ‘Four Creeks,’ is the important portion of the county, and it is naturally a paradise. These Creeks are but conduits of the Keoweah River, which is a stream at the point where it debouches from the mountains, correspondent in size and other respects to the Tuolumne or Merced. This Keoweah river at the foot of the foot of the mountains, separates into a number of creeks, which diverge to a considerable distance as those streams run towards Tulare Lake.—[.] The country bordering upon and between these creeks, in extent some 30 miles east and west, or in length, by 20 miles north and south, or in width, is the finest in the state in its adaptability for the raising of every description of agricultural product, we believe Heavy growths of oak extend throughout it in belts, between which are openings containing hundreds of acres green with verdure, even at this season. The land thus timbered, comprises about 12 townships, much of which is taken up and under improvement. Thousands of cattle may be seen—droves of hogs that would make a Cincinnati stare—fields almost limitless, from which were taken barley, corn, &c. The town is Visalia is rapidly becoming a place of importance. The vote polled there at the last election, was larger than that of Mariposa, or any place to the southward of Tuolumne Co.

“The prices of building materials are so great, that buildings are not so numerous or so commodious as would seem to be necessary. Bricks are used more than wood—lumber being worth \$70 per M, delivered. Much life is observable in the streets, and a considerable trade is daily done. The Hotels are overcrowded. The Overland Mail Stage arrives three times per week, usually in 36 hours, from San Francisco. The establishment of this line, together with the establishment of the Land Office at this place, materially assists the business and importance of the town. There are two flour mills in constant operation, having a capacity of 20 barrels each per day.—Excellent flour is made. A newspaper is soon to be started. In a few years, Tulare County will be one of the most populous as well as one of the most wealthy in the southern portion of this State.

“The total assessment in the County for the year 1858, is nearly \$800,000, being an increase over the assessment of last year of over \$300,000. The value of improvements is \$44,740. Tax \$1,70 [\$1.70] upon each \$100. Total tax collectable \$14,205.

“We would express our obligations to Sheriff POINDEXTER, Col. BAKER, MR. MICKLEY, and many others, including the urbane and *social* BILLUPS, proprietor of a hotel, for polite attention and information during our short stay in Visalia.”

Agricola, "Millerton Correspondence," *Mariposa Gazette*, October 12, 1858, 2:4 (Millerton, October 4, 1858):

"MILLERTON, Oct. 4, 1858.

"EDITOR GAZETTE:—In accordance with your request, I send you the principal news of our diggings, and regret that things just now wear a temporary cloud which we all hope will soon be dispersed.

"Some tend days ago, owing to the rain in the mountains, the river rose a couple of feet, and injured almost every dam along its course, just as the miners had got to work, and never with brighter prospects.

"Fry, Medley, Storey & Co[.], though they had not worked three days, had made about \$1000 with three rockers; having taken out the first day \$496, and the second, working but a portion of the day, \$350.

"Sharp, another river miner, was also doing well, with an immediate prospect of washing out dirt that would yield an ounce per day to each hand.

"Payne & Co. had just commenced working their claim, prospecting first-rate.

"The big claim of Mace & Co., which everybody knows to be rich, and which it has taken them for years to cut a race to dry. Was ready for work. Saxton's latest improvements were in full operation.

"Working men were in demand at \$60 per month; and even Chinamen were averaging, it was said, \$4 per day. Who says that the San Joaquin is not so rich as other rivers.

"It was sometime before the river fell sufficiently to allow the breaches in the several dams to be repaired, and just as the claims were in a fit condition to be worked, the river has come down a second time, from the rain of Saturday and yesterday, higher than ever. As the rain is now over and the river falling, the miners do not despair of yet making simple amends for these temporary suspensions."

"The person named Myers, who death by drowning in the river, has been taken notice of your neighbors, is not much regretted here. He went to Mr. Fry, complaining that he had no money, and asking for work. Mr. Fry could not afford to pay him wages then, but told him he might cook for him as an equivalent for his board, and when his claim was workable he would give him more remunerative employment. . . ." [More to come.]

"Local Items," *Mariposa Gazette*, October 12, 1858, 2:4:

[Excerpts:]

...

". . . . . Heavy rains fell in Fresno County and to the Southward, at least as far as Kern River, Friday night and Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>d</sup>. The San Joaquin rose some six feet, washing every dam, flume and wheel out of it, to the great damage of the considerable number of miners upon that river, from Converse Ferry below Millerton, to a point fifteen miles above that place. Several companies had just got well at work in the bed of the stream and were doing remarkably well, as will be seen by reference to our correspondence. This river had risen two feet previously, to the great damage of the miners.

"King's river also rose very high, but as no mining is carried on in that stream, do damage was sustained. At Visalia considerable rain fell and the Four Creeks were running moderate streams. A much heavier rain must have fallen in the mountains than upon the plains. It is fortunate that these rains did not extend to any extent, as far north as the Merced, else the miners upon that river would have been irrevocably 'gone in' and their summer's labor have amounted to little. As

it was, the Merced rose somewhat from rains in the mountains, but not enough to do much damage.”

...

“For Sale—Visalia” (advertisement), *Mariposa Gazette*, October 12, 1858, 2:4:

D. B. James is selling a brewery near the center of Visalia. Terms of sale are reasonable.  
Dated Visalia, October 6, 1858.

“For Sale In Visalia, Tulare County” (advertisement), *Mariposa Gazette*, October 12, 1858, 2:4:

D. B. James is selling two new brick buildings in Visalia, both on Main Street, near the center of town. One building is 38x22 feet, and the other is 30x20 feet. The buildings are 1 story, plastered and hard finished inside. The larger building is being used as a billiard saloon; it will be sold with its fixtures and an excellent billiard table. Terms: one-half cash, the balance in 6 months. Dated Visalia, October 6, 1858.

“Billups’ Hotel” (advertisement), *Mariposa Gazette*, October 12, 1858, 2:4:

R. M. Billups, who owns the Billups’ Hotel, in Visalia, announces that the Overland Mail Stage (from San Francisco to Memphis) and Heston’s stage, from Hornitas, stop at his place. His table will always be supplied with the best food on the market and served “in a superior manner.” The hotel has excellent beds and bedrooms.

Dated Visalia, October 6, 1858.

[Untitled],” *Mariposa Gazette*, October 19, 1858, 2:1:

[Excerpt:]

“. . . . . Quite a number of persons started last week for Walker’s River, from Mariposa. LEE VINING’S report was favorable. Being a good miner and having been there, his statements are to be relied upon. He started back with several hired men and provisions for two months. Some 12 or 15 others left.”

[Untitled],” *Mariposa Gazette*, October 19, 1858, 2:1:

“. . . . . Snow fell in abundance on the main ridge of the Sierras, Thursday and Friday, [sic] It extends down as far as Yo Semite Valley. Sufficient rain fell in this place to lay the dust effectually.”

[Untitled],” *Mariposa Gazette*, October 19, 1858, 2:1:

“. . . . . The people of Visalia and vicinity are, in formed [informed] that Dr. HAMILTON, a dentist of superior skill, will be in that place the latter part of this week.—Those needing the services of a dentist, are cordially recommended to him.”

“Quartz Mills,” *Mariposa Gazette*, October 26, 1858, 2:1:

“Mr. J. E. CLAYTON of this place, is at present engaged in superintending the erection of two Quartz Mills in Tuolumne county. One a water mill, to run 8 stamps, and will use one of Kerson’s

cast iron pulverizers. This mill is expected to reduce from 16 to 26 tons of rock per day. It is built for Col. R. MCKEE of San Francisco, and is intended to be a custom mill, or one to crush at a certain price per ton for other parties. It is situated near Cherokee Camp, to the eastward of Sonora.

“The other is a steam mill, to run 4 stamps for dry crushing and two arrastras. It is built for the Buchanan Company, and is situated at the forks of the Tuolumne river, fifteen miles to the southeast of Sonora, at which place the above mentioned company have a most excellent and extensive ledge; one of the best in the country, in Mr. CLAYTON’S opinion.—For some time they have been grinding in arrastras, and the rock thus reduced, has yielded over \$100 per ton in the average.

“We are glad to know of Mr. CLAYTON’S employment in the above enterprises, and can recommend him to those contemplating the erection of quartz mills, as a very competent mining engineer.

“The steam quartz mill of GOODMAN, SNOOKS & Co., formerly Goodman, Diltz & Co., Whitlock’s, is in very successful operation. An average of over \$2000 per week, for sometime, has been obtained.

“Col[.] FREMONT’S steam quartz mill, at Bear Valley, is also paying handsomely. Seldom or never has less than \$1,500 been taken out after a steady week’s run, and as high as \$3,000 has been obtained.”

“Local Items: Late and Encouraging News from Walker’s River,” *Mariposa Gazette*, November 9, 1858, 2:3:

“Mr. O. R. PIATT, formerly of Johnson’s Flat, arrived in town on Wednesday last, from Walker’s River, via Carson Valley and the Big Trees in Calaveras County. The trip occupied seven days—snow preventing him coming over the ridge near the heads of the Tuolumne, the route taken when the party went over to that river. Mr. P. reports very encouraging success of the miners at work there, of which there are about 80.

“Smith & Co. have never taken out less than \$7, and as high as \$20 per day to the hand.

“Vining & Co. are averaging \$6 per day to the hand, which is about the general average. None are making less than \$4 per day.

“Mr. PIATT will return immediately by the route he came, with a load of bacon, sugar, etc. Flour is \$10 per hundred, and is obtained at Carson Valley, as is fresh beef and pork. Gold has been discovered in many places over a large extent of country. All work near each other at present, on account of Indians, &c.”

Agricola, “Millerton Correspondence,” *Mariposa Gazette*, November 16, 1858, 2:4 (Millerton, November 15, 1858):

“MILLERTON, NOV. 15, 1858.”

“*Editor Gazette*—I suppose your readers may have supposed, from what I wrote the other week, that I had some prejudice against the former stockholders of the Fry Claim. Let facts bear witness. The weather is now all that could be wished, and the river sufficiently low to allow mining to be carried on with ease, and as satisfactorily as its rich deposits put within the reach of all who are willing to work with ordinary assiduity. The parties who bought in from the former company *have made as much in one week as they paid for the interest they purchased.*

“Is it not likely that the Gotham wisdom of Millerton may attract miners from other place?”

“On King’s River, the farmers are getting convinced that the Indians are anything but advantageous neighbors, and have lately taken about two hundred of them to Judge Lewis at the



Fresno Reservation. Mr. Lewis received them with becoming courtesy, and there is no doubt will take care to prevent then [them] being molested by them in the future.

“Your friend, ‘Grisly’ Ross, has been appointed Justice of the Peace by the supervisors, you will please, therefore, designate him by his proper title of Squire Ross.

“AGRICOLA.”

“For Sale” (advertisement), *Mariposa Gazette*, November 16, 1858, 2:4:

Alexander Black is selling his premises at Bull Creek, two miles from Marble Springs. The premises include a good farm house, which is being used as a store and hotel. Black is also selling the fixtures and furniture of the hotel, the stock of goods in the store, and animals, including poultry. The place is a good one to conduct trade from the vicinity and from travelers on the trail from Coulterville to Yo Semite Valley and is the place where travelers usually stop for the night. A stream running near the hotel is used to irrigate a fine garden. The terms of sale are cash, for the owner is “unavoidably obliged to go to and remain in San Francisco.”

“ALEX. BLACK.”

“List of Agents,” *Mariposa Gazette*, December 3, 1858, 1:1:

[Excerpts:]

“The following is a list of our Agents in the different sections of the County and State, who are authorized to receive Subscriptions and advertisements for the Gazette:”

Snellingville . . . . . Henry Skelton.

Millerton . . . . . McCrea.

Hornitas . . . . . W. G. Goss.

H. D. Bequette . . . . . Visalia.

..

...

...

“Sheriff’s Sale” (advertisement), *Mariposa Gazette*, December 3, 1858, 2:6:

“By virtue and in pursuance of a Decree of Foreclosure of mortgage and order of sale, issued out of the District Court of the Thirteenth Judicial District, held in and for the County of Mariposa, State of California, and to me directed in favor of M. O. Barber, plaintiff, and against Joshua E. Clayton and Wife, defendants, for the summer of \$660 41, interest, cost and accruing cost, I am commanded to sell the following described property of the defendants, to wit: All that certain lot, piece, or parcel of ground, situated in the Town and County of Mariposa, in the State of California, and known and described as follows, to wit: Commencing at a point on Charles street, one hundred and twenty four feet northwestwardly from the northeast corner of Charles street and Seventh street, and running thence with Charles street northwestwardly 290 feet, thence at right angles southwestwardly 240 feet to the place of beginning; the same being the premises now occupied as a dwelling by the said parties of the first (the defendants), together with all the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging.

“Notice is hereby given that **on Monday, the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, A. D. 1858**, at legal hours, at the Court House door of Mariposa County, I will expose for sale at Public Auction, all the above described property of defendants t the highest bidder for CASH.

J. D. CRIPPEN,

“Mariposa, Nov. 16-td.

Sheriff of Mariposa Co.”

“A List Of Agents,” *Mariposa Gazette*, December 3, 1858, 1:1:

“Difficulty At Ridley’s Ferry,” *Mariposa Gazette*, December 3, 1858, 1:1:

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[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, July 10, 1860, 2:1:

“. . . . . FARNSWORTH, who murdered HUME near Monoville, is now in custody in Carson City. The wound inflicted by himself to make it appear that he had a struggle with the Indians, commenced mortifying, and he came in and delivered himself to the authorities of the above named City.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, July 10, 1860, 2:1:

“. . . . . Last week a man, whose name we were unable to learn, was found murdered near Mono lake.—His head was nearly severed from the body.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, July 10, 1860, 2:2:

“. . . . . Parties from Monoville are almost every day arriving. New diggings to any extended have *not* been discovered as yet, and while a few claims are paying largely, there are hundreds of men hardly making their salt, and must before long, leave. This county between this time and winter, will be the rendezvous of much of the Mono population.”

Observer, *Mariposa Gazette*, January 10, 1860, 2:3 (Merced County, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 1859):

“MERCED COUNTY, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 1859.

“MR. EDITOR:—This being the last of the year, it has just occurred to me that it would be well to note a few of the improvements in this section during the last twelve months. Knowing your willingness to publish all matters of interest to the county, I venture to name a few of the most important.

“Mr. CHARLES MURRAY has built a very large and handsome Flour Mill—the finest in the State. The water was let into the canal to day, and the wheel is revolving in fine style. The water power is considered by those who pretend to know, the finest on the river. The machinery will be complete in a few days, and the mill be ready to turn out flour at the rate of seventy five barrels per day.

“There are large quantities of wheat waiting for the mill to start—the other mills on the river being but trifling affairs.

“Your mountain people need have no fears of a scarcity of flour this winter, even if it should be as severe of ’52.

“There are fine brick buildings and other substantial improvements going up in this county.

“A little farther up the river, in your county, is NELSON’S Bridge and Road, which is now open for travel, and free until the road is fully completed and becomes hard. So says the owner.

“Still farther up is the substantial Stone Dam and Quartz Mill of CHAPIN’S, which has been progressing slowly but surely during the past year. The mill started a few days since, running 24 stamps, driven by a large overshot wheel. This fine establishment does great credit to the proprietors and engineers; and will no doubt, amply remunerate them for their enterprise—always provided, they have plenty of rich quartz.

OBSERVER.”

“From Mono,” *Mariposa Gazette*, July 17, 1860, 2:2:

“From two or three letters and from several individuals lately returned, we get the following:

“Col. J. H. TATMAN had a difficulty on the night of the 4<sup>th</sup>, in a saloon, with one HEWITT, well known in this region as ‘Mountain Hewitt.’ Without especial provocation it appears that Hewitt made an attack suddenly with a weapon. Whereat Tatman drew and pistol and ‘sailed in, [.]’ Two shots were fired, when Tatman struck Hewitt over the head with his pistol. Hewitt then clinched and threw Tatman, who then struck Hewitt with his knife three times, mortally wounding him, as it supposed. Our latest information states that Hewitt is still living, but very low, and there is but little prospect of his recovery. Tatman was badly cut in the left hand; otherwise escaped injury. All exculpate Tatman, who acted wholly on the defensive, and did only what any other man able to do it would have done.

“Accounts are unfavorable regarding mining matters. But *two* claims are now reported as paying and the general condition of the community there is said to be rather a hard one. Hundred of ‘broken’ men are there, some of them ragged and abjectly destitute. People that can get away are leaving.—Sickness has prevailed to a great extent in the shape of influenzas, colds, congestive chills, &c.—caused by the very severe weather experienced. The Ditch upon which many have calculated, will not be completed this year. The country for more than one hundred miles about, has been prospected considerably and but little found.

“Altogether Mono affairs are very unpromising, and the prospect will hardly improve this year at least[.]”

“Weekly Expresses To Mono,” *Mariposa Gazette*, July 17, 1860, 2:1:

‘MCFARLANE & Bro., from Sonora.

“G. R. PIATT, from Coulterville.

“Letters and Packages addressed to either as the places mentioned, will be delivered as directed, in Mono, or forwarded as desired.”

“Odds and Ends—By Reporter,” *Mariposa Gazette*, July 17, 1860, 2:2:

[Excerpt:]

“. . . The prospects for an increase of population are considered good—some are coming from Mono, some from Washoe, and many from —&c.—before long—&c. . . .”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, July 17, 1860, 2:1:

“. . . . There have been several Expresses running to Mono from this [these] southern mines. One, Mr. CARPENTER’S, running from Coulterville, was after two trips discontinued, as it ‘wouldn’t pay.’ Another Express that of Mr. O. M. PIATT, familiarly known as Bob Loudon, is

running. Trips made usually in seven days, to and from. Letters to be sent to Mono directed to Coulterville or Big Oak Flat to his care will be promptly delivered. Also, Messrs. MCFARLANE & Bro., are running Expresses, we believe, twice per week from Sonora. To this place, (Sonora) letters and other matter may be directed to their care. SAM BOOSE is Agent, and the proper direction would perhaps be to him. We make these remarks as many about here have business matters to transact, and many have friends over there to whom they wish to send letters, papers, &c.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, July 24, 1860, 2:2:

“. . . . . Mr. J. B. BACON, of Sonora, arrived in town, Saturday from Mono. He reports that ‘Mountain Hewitt’ will recover in all probability from the wounds he received in a difficulty with Col[.] TATMAN, July 4<sup>th</sup>, . . . . Numbers are weekly leaving Mono, and few or none arriving at present . . . Not a dollar has been taken from the claims on the main gulch below the falls on account of the mass of tailings that come down from the claims above. The claims alluded to cannot be worked till a bed rock flume is put in . . . . The claims above the falls are paying, a few of them fair wages, and two or three are yielding largely . . . . A great many people are in the mountains to the east and south east, prospecting, but as yet nothing of any consequence has been struck . . . . Mr. B. thinks Mono on the retrograde, which place. [sic] will unless new placer or silver leads are found be reduced before long to a small camp . . . . The 4<sup>th</sup> was celebrated by the reading of the Declaration of Independence by —, who was *supported* up on a box by two or three while he ‘did it.’ Appropriate speeches were then made, and the whole was a pleasant, mellow affair . . . Mr. Bacon has our thanks for his polite attention.”

J. A. T. [Joshua A. Talbott], “Mono Correspondence,” *Mariposa Gazette*, July 31, 1860, 3:1 (Mono, July 15, 1860):

“Mr. *Editor*—Believing that any information of importance from the side of the Sierras would be acceptable, permit me to give you the particulars of an expedition that starts to-day from this place for the South and intend prospecting as far as the Colorado for minerals; principally for silver. A gentleman of great experience as a silver mine, both in Arizona, Lower California and Virginia City, accompanies the party as principal prospector. He came over here in March last, from Arizona, for the purpose of organizing a company for prospecting that country.[,] [sic] and hearing of the richness of the Black Rock district, he commenced prospecting there; but the war having broke out, the unsettled state of that country induced him to adhere to his original determination. [More to come.]

“Masonic Lead, Osborne do., Hopkins do., Weidy do., Comet do., Comet do., Allen do., Hartford do., Royal Tiger do., Green do., Haley do., Lyons do., Tiger do.

“Mr. Hopkins, the Recorder, has taken specimens of the different leads to San Francisco for assay, and is confidently believed he will obtain good results.—These leads are situated in a northerly direction from Mono.

“Our worthy Expressmen, Messrs. McFarland and Parker’s institution, the ‘Pony Express,’ still make their trips regularly weekly, from Carson Valley, Coulterville, Mariposa and Sonora; and the Sonora trip under every difficulty, having to walk a large part of the way from the Yo Semite. When you consider that nine-tenths of our population are from Visalia, Mariposa, Calaveras and Tuolumne, the importance of this Express cannot be underated [underrated]. They are meeting with a liberal patronage.

“Any letters for this place must be directed to Sonora, care of Mono Pony Express; Sam Boose, Agent, will meet with prompt attention. Our ditch will be in in a week, from Virginia Creek—nothing else of importance.

J. A. T.

“P[.] S.—The Pony Express came July 16<sup>th</sup> with a larger letter and newspaper mail.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, July 31, 1860, 3:-- [Mono trip—humorous.]

“From Mono,” *Mariposa Gazette*, August 7, 1860, 2:3:

“Mr. GEORGE ZEIS of this place returned from Mono Saturday evening last. By him we are in receipt of a letter from our correspondent. The summary of the news is: Mining is very dull; but few claims paying at all. The search for silver leads occupies much attention. The greater part of the rapidly declining population loaf for a living. Of more than one thousand persons in Mono, July 1<sup>st</sup>, there is not now three hundred left. Few or none arrive, and many leave every week. Very little money in camp, says our correspondent, and what there is, is in the hands of ‘sports.’ There are twelve banking games in the place, and they catch every dollar that comes along. John Gray, from Mariposa, was shot and mortally wounded, it is thought, last Sunday in an affray with a man by the name of Allen.—Difficulties existed between the parties previous to the time of shooting, and on meeting the day mentioned, Gray drew his pistol and opened fire. Each discharged six shots, or ‘emptied their pistols.’—Allen escaped injury. Our correspondent has got into a silver lead, and for specimens sent us we are much obliged.

“Mr. Zeis further informs us that on Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, a man by the name of Hancock, formerly of Visalia, was stabbed and instantly killed, by a woman he was cohabitating with, known as ‘Kit Carson.’ A row it appears occurred between them, in which it is said Hancock drew a pistol. The woman borrowing a knife and watching her opportunity, plunged it to his heart. The consequences of the act to her, we are not informed. The man who lent ‘Kit’ the knife, was nearly killed by the crowd, who pounded him to a jelly. Mono is declining and its prosperity *was* not; is, or will be this year at least.”

J. A. T. [Joshua A. Talbott], “Mono Correspondence,” *Mariposa Gazette*, August 21, 1860, 3:2 (Mono, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1860):

“FRIEND HOLMES.—Our town has been thrown into considerable excitement by the arrival of Mr. Harrington, one of the Pioneers who left this place some three or four weeks ago for Arizona or wherever they could find the wherewith to induce them to stay. He has brought rock here which surpasses far in richness any thing that has been found this side of the Sierras; and from a specimen which has here been analyzed, it is far richer than the celebrated Ophir Mines. Already is the note of preparation made, and men are seen on all sides preparing to visit the new El Dorado. Mr. Mitchell of Tulare with a large party will leave tomorrow, and hundreds will follow. Thus we go; the victims of every excitement. I do honestly believe if gold was found ion the deserts of Sahara, and miners knew they could not find even a drop of water to drink, they would go. We believe there is both gold and silver along the entire slope of the Eastern Sierras, and every day convinces us of the fact.

“As far as our mines here are concerned, in despite of disappointed miners who have left here, who disseminated reports to the detriment of these mines, those who have claims (and you recollect I named them, that so far as known the mines were limited) are doing well, making far more than could be made in the worn out placers of California; nor do we lack for the creative comforts which distinguish you on the other side. Daily may be seen our ‘Jonny’ wending his

'solitary way' with three or four donkeys laden with esculents, such as turnips, raddishes [radishes], lettuce, &c. to the vegetable-hungry miner. Our worthy friend Leroy Vining, with a far seeing eye, took up one of the most lovely pieces of ground the eye of a tired emigrant could look upon. Surrounded upon three sides by hills, spurs of the Sierras, and fronting upon Mono Lake, is a little valley, rich from the debris of the mountains, with a tumbling torrent through it, is the Rancho of Leroy Vining. And here is a little paradise for the miners; here can be found all the vegetables that can be found in California; here goes the weary miner, who, tired with pork and beans, tries for perhaps a week a 'blow out' on fresh grub. If it is amusement he seeks, he finds it in the innumerable flocks of ducks who hover on the borders of the lake; or perhaps watching the hundreds of squaws and papooses gathering the larvae of the fly for their winter's grub. Game there too is plenty, for the sportsman can take his gun in the early morning and knock down a 'buck or doe,' and there's no fear of crowding Vining, as his accommodations are such that all can be welcomed with the assurance that they can find room.

"Now Holmes, every man has to do for *himself* the 'best in the shop,' and I am half sorry to inform you that we have found a trail that knocks 'the boots' off Bloody Hill the old trail to Mariposa.—Leaving Vining's Ranch or Mono Lake, you travel South over a good road, until you reach Vining's Pass, thence across the summit is six miles to the San Joaquin. This pass, not being the old San Joaquin Pass, but another, discovered this summer, being about 20 or 25 north, and about 10 or 12 miles south of Bloody Hill Pass. From thence, traveling westerly (in Vining's opinion) you strike the head of Fresno and Chowchilla, passing near Burchard's and the Hog Ranch, and from thence they can take the road to Mariposa—5 miles—a wagon road. Vining and King are now saddling up and intend to see the trick, and in all probability before I can write again, they will be in your town or else here again, and give you more information than can you friend.

"J. A. T."

"Coulterville," *Mariposa Gazette*, August 28, 1860, 2:1:

[Excerpt:]

. . . . .

" . . . . . Considerable religious feeling is manifest since camp meeting, particularly about Gentry's Gulch. WALLING is very meditative and hast cast off the lusts of the flesh, and LOVELY ROGERS considers his latter end. . . . The travel to Yo Semite this year is less than last. . . ."

"Odds and Ends," *Mariposa Gazette*, September 11, 1860, 2:3:

[Excerpt:]

" . . . **No news** from Mono or Washoe of consequence. A very hard crowd, we judge, inhabits both places. . . ."

" '**Visalia Sun,**' " *Mariposa Gazette*, September 11, 1860, 2:3:

"We received last week the *Visalia Sun*, volume 1, No. 1, a new journal of good size, published in Visalia, Tulare county. We will not at present criticise [criticize] either the editorial ability manifest in it, or its typographical appearance; or further speak of the common sense and discretion of starting another paper in a place where a short time since ago one could hardly be expected to live, and where *one* now, as good a paper as is the *Delta*, is amply sufficient. However, we will express our opinion that a bug-horn heifer 15 months old, who has a friend of the masculine persuasion, is better property in Tulare than is that *Sun*, even if it does 'shine for all.' "

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, September 18, 1860, 2:1:

“**As we last** week stated, the *Star* was sold by its proprietor, Mr. J. H. LAWRENCE party. The reasons for its sale, Mr. Lawrence sets forth in his valedictory plainly and manfully. . . .” [More to come.]

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, September 18, 1860, 2:4:

“**To-day appears** the first number of the *Mariposa News*, as we understand the name to be.—ALEX. DEERING, Esq., Editor; publisher’s name not known; proprietors, the Douglas party. From what we know of Mr. Deering, it will be ably edited and the body politic will be treated as scientifically and thoroughly as it is possible for a bad case to be.—Great exertions are being made to procure subscribers, and it will doubtless start with a considerable circulation.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, September 18, 1860.

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, September 18, 1860, 2:2:

“**Peter Dalton**, formerly of Agua Fria, was brought over from Mono [Mono] last week by Messrs. RICHARD VINING and D. T. POOR. Dalton is charged with Grand Larceny in having stolen a horse from J. L. MCCABE of Agua Fria.

“Also charged with stealing a valuable mare from P. C. APPLING of the lower Chowchilla.

“Also with stealing a mule from one JOHN CARTER.

“He was put in jail, and his chances for future restraint are very good.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, September 25, 1860, 2:2:

“**Peter Dalton**, brought from Mono, charged with stealing animals from this region, was on Monday examined, and in default of \$1,000 bail, was committed to Jail to answer hereafter.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, October 2, 1860, 2:2:

“**Mr. Cannon**, known as the originator of the wagon road between here and the South Fork of the Merced, arrived in town last week from Mono. He reports the place as gradually fading out; some have gone to the new diggings, 40 miles east, some to Washoe, but most to look for winter diggings in California.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, November 3, 1860, 1:2:

“**Quite a number** have arrived from the Mono region within the past week. They report the mining season closed, the cold being severe. Many parties were preparing to leave. Mono will be nearly deserted during the winter. A number have also arrived from the Esmeralda silver mines.—Mr. CLARK CLEAVER, a gentleman well known here, assures us that it is no exaggeration [exaggeration] to say that these mines are rich, and as good as any in Washoe, save, perhaps, the Comstock lead. These mines have not been prospected sufficiently as yet to determine fully their value, but their holders are full of hope, and very sanguine. \$50 per foot has been offered for a portion of the original discovery.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, November 3, 1860, 1:2:

“We were pleased to receive a call from Mr. C. [Clark] CLEAVER, who is just returned from the Esmeralda mines and Mono. Mr. C. has written occasional letters for publication, and the public are indebted to him for information regarding the Mono region.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, November 13, 1860, 2:1:

“**‘Grizzly Bear Adams,’** whose narrow escape from death in a contest with a grizzly bear in California. Has gone the rounds of the press, was on his way to Neponsett, Massachusetts, in the horse cars of the Dorchester Road, when the jolting of the cars, or some other cause, produced a reopening of the severe wounds in the head which he then received, and which, though months have elapsed, have not entirely healed. The blood burst forth from these wounds with great violence, spotting the top of the car, and for a time it was feared that he would prove to be in a dangerous condition. He was taken into a shop in Washington Village, and several physicians were called, who after remaining in the store from 3 to 8 P. M., he was placed upon a bed and taken to his residence.

“Adams has since died.”

“A New Mining District,” *Mariposa Gazette*, November 13, 1860, 2:3:

“Two men have discovered a new mining district between the Mono country and Carson Valley. It is styled the Esmeralda District. The *Territorial Enterprise* remarks:

“The ledges found there seem, all of them, to contain either silver or gold in the outcroppings. The general feeling there is that that section will ere long outrival any district yet discovered in wealth. The country around there is well watered, and a sufficient quantity of timber to last a large mining population for years is found convenient. Very fine grazing is found only on the hills, as well as ample quantities for hay in the valleys. An excellent quality of lumber can be obtained from McFee’s mill, on the east branch of Walker river, distant about twenty miles.

“Two towns, named respectively Esmeralda and Aurora, have been regularly laid out there by J. E. Clayton, surveyor, formerly of Mariposa. They state that everything is there done by system—it being necessary [necessary] for locators to take the Recorder upon the ground and have the ‘metes and bounds’ of every claim distinctly designated.

“There is a good wagon road to Sweetwater Crossing, thirty miles from the mines. A good road can be made at a very little cost over that distance. As many are coming there from California, the best route for all who come from San Francisco and the central portion of the State, is to Woodford’s, in Carson Cañon, thence to Allen’s Bridge, east fork of Carson river; thence to Lassues’s Ferry, on Walker river; thence to Ney’s ranch, from there to Sweetwater, where the trail for Esmeralda leaves the main Monoville road. The distance from Woodford’s to the intersection at Sweetwater is about 60 miles.

“As many of the settlers there believe that they area in California, they are circulating a petition to the authorities of Calaveras county to extend them protection.”

“Hornitos,” *Mariposa Gazette*, December 4, 1860, 2:3:

“A visit to this town carries us back to the rough and ready times of forty-nine. Money is not quite as plenty, but ‘the ball goes on’ in the line of fandangos, gambling shops, Greasers and Greaseritas, fighting whisky, and noise ‘all the same John.’—Mexicans and Chinese form no small portion of the population. The latter class have got a town to themselves as they ought to have in



every neighborhood, where they are tolerated at all. Many improvements [improvements] are on foot, and others talked of, which will take place in the coming year. ELIAS' building is nearly completed—it will be occupied as heretofore—one portion of it as a dry goods and clothing store, and the other by the irrepressible 'Dick,' of cigar, tobacco and Yankee notion notoriety [notoriety].

"HATTON & Co. are preparing a lot adjacent to the shop of SPARKS & CLOUGH, for a Livery Stable, which will shortly be erected.

"An Italian has purchased an old Mexican billiard saloon, known among the native as the 'Horse Thief Saloon,' and will erect a good fire-proof building upon its site.

"HUSSEY and Co. have purchased the 'Pacific Billiard Saloon,' and next year will tear it down, and replace it with a two story brick. So it is reported.

"No cases appear upon the docket of Justice CAROTHERS, and no fights to be recorded during the past week. One inebriated individual tried the experiment of *diving* off the steps of MCCLATCHEY'S Saloon on Thursday evening last. After three trials he came to the conclusion that his head wasn't hard enough to penetrate the upper crust of this Earth, and quit it.

"Two Mexicans had a fist fight on Saturday night [night]—only *one round*. Seconds interfered. Nobody hurt."

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, December 4, 1860, 2:1:

"**The Visalia Delta** complains that Express matter going to Visalia from this and other portions of the country, *via* Hornitos, is frequently sent around by San Francisco, making a delay of a week or more. 'The business public,' so says the *Delta*, 'demands a change.' We concur, and would add that mail matter coming this way from Visalia is sometimes delayed nearly a week."

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, December 4, 1860, 2:1:

"**Mr. Elias**, of Hornitos, who recently lost his store and entire stock of dry goods by fire, is re constructing the building, and will soon have it completed, and refurnished. The building will be upon the same site, and of the same dimensions of the old one, and is built of brick."

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, December 4, 1860, 2:1:

"**J. R. White**, of Hornitos, has sold out his interest in the Sonora Stage Line, which is now owned by CRIM, FLACK & Co., who have the contract of carrying the mail between Hornitos and Knight's Ferry."

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, December 11, 1860, 2:1:

"**Peter Dalton** received his sentence yesterday, for Grand Larceny; four years in the Penitentiary."

"Dentistry," *Mariposa Gazette*, December 11, 1860, 2:3:

"IRA C. KELLY, who has been for some time established in business in Visalia, is in Hornitos, and proposes remaining there until the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. Those who require the services of a good Dentist will do well to give the Doctor a call. If required he will visit Mariposa during the coming week.

Address, Dr. I. C. KELLY, Hornitos."

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, December 11, 1860, 2:4:

“**We are** informed through Mr. WILSON, of A. N. Fisher & Co.’s line, that it is the intention of the proprietors to run a Daily Mail from Stockton to Mariposa, and Tri-Weekly to Visalia. Success to the enterprise, for we need it.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, December 11, 1860, 2

“**Mr. Elias**, of Hornitos, has just returned from the ‘Bay City’ with an extensive stock of clothing and dry goods. He opens his new store this week.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, December 11, 1860, 2

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, December 11, 1860, 2

## 1861

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, January 8, 1861, 2:1:

“Being interested, with Mr. J. H. LAWRENCE, formerly of the Mariposa ‘Star,’ in the publication of the *Visalia Delta*, I would say to those business men, particularly of Stockton and San Francisco, desirous of advertising in country papers, that a better medium, through which to make known their business and particulars regarding it, hardly exists in the State, outside of the principal marts of trade. The *Delta* is the only paper of any circulation, so to speak, between Mariposa and Los Angeles. It is located in the midst of a thickly populating and improving region, and has a large circulation, which may, and will be much increased within a short time. Visalia, too, is the point from whence many, and we may say, most of the supplies for Mono, Coso, and the region east of the mountains, will be drawn. The *Delta* will be the principal medium of news in the places mentioned, affording all having merchandise of any discription [description], to make the fact known in the localities where a large consumption will occur the ensuing season. Particularly, our Stockton friends and patrons of the GAZETTE, are invited to take notice. Address LAWRENCE & HOLMES, Visalia, or the undersigned in Mariposa.

“L. A. HOLMES.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, January 8, 1861, 2:2:

“. . . . . Hornitos is perhaps at the present time much the liveliest town or ‘camp’ in this county. Sufficient rain has fallen to render the working of the rich placers, gulches, &c., in the vicinity of the place available to a great extent; consequently many miners are there, who are doubtless in the average doing well. The quartz mines too, in the region round are being worked in many instances.—An increasing interest is manifest there in this kind of mining, and before long the business will be one of magnitude. A large extent of country, embracing quite a part of Merced county, with all the western portion of this, is dependent for the greater proportion of supplies upon the merchants of the place, and as a consequence there are some heavy business establishments. Goods are sold at reasonable prices.

“Three lines of stages, one to Sonora, one to Visalia, and one to Stockton, connect here every other day, which of itself is of much benefit in the way of business, and by passengers leaving more or less money for accommodates, &c.

“Extensive improvements are contemplated so soon as the season will admit. HUSSEY & Co[.] will erect a fire proof store of large dimensions, upon the corner of Main street and the Plaza. The Odd Fellows intend erecting a large building, corner of Main and South streets, having a hall for the use of the Order, with stores underneath. Between five and six thousand dollars has been subscribed for the building of a Catholic church, and the work will be begun as soon as possible.

“Hornitos a few years ago was one of the ‘hardest’ places outside of the gates of tophet. But with the improvements noticed, it is to be chronicled that the place has advanced correspondingly; socially, morally and in general character. Yet it is now by any means, any *too* respectable; there is certainly room for decided improvement. The ‘soft note of the pistol’ is quite often enough heard, and rowing and bacchanalian displays, but too frequent to confer the reputation of a peaceful and quiet place—much of this however is attributable to the Mexican element of its population, and will, as the years go on, doubtless be to a great degree, eradicated.”

C. M. W., [Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, February 5, 1861, 3:1 (Aurora, Esmeralda District, Cal., January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1861):

“AURORA, ESMERALDA DISTRICT, CAL.}

“January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1861. } ”

“MR. SWANEY, SIR—Being out in this unfenced country and supposing that some of the readers of the GAZETTE might feel an interest in hearing from here, and not knowing *who* might be the Gazette, since *Nimrod* and LAWRENCE have taken charge of the *Visalians*, I have concluded to address a few lines to you.

“We have a camp or *city* here containing form [from] one hundred, to one hundred and twenty houses of various sizes and construction, vis: frame, log and canvass [canvas] stores and saloons; log cabins, stone cabins, *holes in the ground*, &c.; a pretty place, you bet.—Cabins are being built almost every day. There are probably 300 or 400 men here at the present time, ‘and they still keep coming.’ Provisions are plenty as yet, and I think will be all winter.

“Board per week is \$10, and \$12. Board and lodging, \$15.

“It has been quite cold and blustering for some time past, snowing more or less. There is considerable snow here at present, probably from one to three feet; owing to the shape of the ground the wind drifts it a great deal.

“The second death in this place occurred this morning; cause, brain fever; name unknown to me.—There has been considerable complaint of colds and rheumatism; with these exceptions the health of the community has been generally good. There are several of the Mariposa boys here from Mono, all well, and most of them have, to all appearances, some pretty good claims.

“We have some fine looking quartz here, which, I think, will prove to be rich. There will be quite a number of claims prospected to some extent this winter. There are a few tunnels being driven, and quite a number of shafts being sunk, 20 or 25 feet deep, to prospect.

“For the benefit of those living in Mariposa and Tulare Counties, who have interests here, I send you a copy of the resolutions passed at a citizens’ and miners’ meeting, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>. There was a resolution before the meeting calling a miners’ meeting on the first day of March to take into consideration the propriety of a revision of the mining laws of this district. The resolution was laid on the table, and there is considerable dissatisfaction in regret to claims being laid over until the first of June. Many are in favor of repealing that clause in the mining law, and forcing miners to commence work as soon as the first of April, instead of the first of June, as required at present.

“I think it probably there will be an effort made again before spring, to repeal the above named clause, and it may prove successful. To those who think they have valuable claims here, I would say, the earlier you can get here the *better*, for two reasons: First, the sooner your claims are opened the better prospect exists of selling for a good price. Second, if here to attend to claims there is less danger of their being jumped. Do not wait for the opening of the *Mariposa Trail*.

“By the by, how do you suppose a Mariposa paper would look in Aurora city? I *can't guess*, never having seen one. Lest I should be surprised some day I will say no more, but *subscribe myself your dutiful servant* and close for the present.

“C. M. W.”

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“*Whereas*, We the citizens of Aurora, of this Esmeralda mining [Mining] District, deem the present laws with regard to town lots in this town, incompatible with the best interest of the property owners and citizens of this place. Therefore, Resolved, that to render the title to town lots more secure and permanent we unanimously adopt the following resolutions.

“*Resolved*, That the existing laws with regard to town lots in Aurora be, and the same are hereby annulled.

“*Resolved*, That all lots in this town now claimed by any person or persons, shall have \$30 worth of permanent improvements placed thereon by the first day of March, A. D., 1861, or the same shall be deemed vacant and subject to retrocasion [relocation].

“*Resolved*, All claims located subsequent to the first day of March, A. D., 1860, shall have \$30 worth of permanent improvements placed thereon within ten days from the date of location.

“*Resolved*, No person shall hold more than one lot by location within the limits of this town.

“*Resolved*, The survey of lots, streets, alleys and public ground, as made and recorded by Mr. [Joshua E.] Clayton, shall in future be respected by the citizens of this town.”

---

“*Whereas*. [sic] There is much difference of opinion with regard to the construction of the seventh Section of the mining laws of Esmeralda District. [sic] Therefore, Resolved. [sic]

“That we will maintain and abide by said law as explained by the framers thereof, viz: that no claim shall be subject to relocation before the first day of June, A. D[.], 1861, until a revision of said laws.

“*Resolved*, That the foregoing preamble and resolutions be published in the *Silver Age*: [sic] *Territorial Enterprise*, *Sacramento Union*, and *San Francisco Bulletin*.

“The above preamble and resolutions were passed at the citizens, [sic] and miners’ meeting, on the evening of the 17<sup>th</sup> of Jan., 1861, in Aurora City, Esmeralda [Mining] District, Cal.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, February 12, 1861, 2:1: [Tulare.]

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, February 26, 1861, 2:1:

“. . . . . The community in and about Visalia seem [seems] pushed for want of money. A bad policy has been pursued by the producers of that county. They have kept their stock—the cow and the calf and calves’ calf, unto the third and fourth generations—when they should have realized and paid their debts. The prices of all kinds of stock were good—now depressed, and the principal interest of the county, stock raising, finds itself burthened [burdened] with the taxation of heavy interest and nothing but sacrifices to pay with. Mismanagement is apparent, and great changes among *property owners* must occur. Still whatever of this may happen, the property will remain and t[h]e change be a healthy one. It will lead to the adopting, to a greater of [or] less

extent, of the 'pay as you go' system, and the county, which is intrinsically one of the best in the State, can hardly be much affected for the worse.

"Another trouble in Tulare county is the buying too many of staple articles in San Francisco, instead of buying them at home. It is to be admitted of course that anything of a supply is not now to be bought, but then such should not be the case. Four-fifths of butter, cheese, hams, bacon, perhaps potatoes and many other articles, are *imported*, and the money has to be paid out of the county for them.—It is a shame that such is the case, and that prolific Tulare, agriculturally is so lame and so dependent or rather so indolent and unenterprising as that potatoes have to come from other soils, and 'hog meat' from other pork-packing establishments. It is a necessity for a mining county to buy articles mentioned outside, but for an agricultural one there is no excuse."

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, April 9, 1861, 2:1:

". . . . . The correspondent of the *Tuolumne Courier*, writing from the Potosi mines, New Mexico, gives the following notices of our correspondent's peculiarities:

"SAD.—The correspondent of the *Mariposa Gazette*, on Thursday last, while slightly inebriated, accidentally [accidentally] fell into an old crater; and on Saturday, at 4 o'clock, A. M., surprised a party of emigrants, encamped at the Volcanic Springs, 40 miles South of here, by being thrown up by the upheavings of the water. He was somewhat hurt, but not seriously.

"Please inform the *Mariposa Gazette* of the occurrence."

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, April 23, 1861, 2:4:

". . . . . WELLS, FARGO & CO. commenced to run an Express last week from Hornitos to Visalia. They seem afraid of the route, for orders to agents are they shall at no time send above \$2,000 over the same. This is an unnecessary fear, for no or express has ever been robbed in these regions."

"Hice & Wilson's Line of Tri-Weekly Stages From Visalia to Hornitos" (advertisement), *Mariposa Gazette*, April 23, 1861, 2:5:

Hice & Wilson will run a stage every other day from Visalia to Hornitos, via Scottsburg and Millerton. The stages will connect at Hornitos with Fisher & Company's stages to Stockton, Sacramento, Mariposa, Jamestown, Sonora, and Columbia and the boats to San Francisco. The stage leaves on alternate days for Visalia, where it connects with the Southern Overland Stages for Los Angeles, San Diego, San Bernardino Fort Yuma, Kern River, and the Atlantic states.

HICE & WILSON, owners.

John Wilson, road agent.

Visalia, April 16, 1861.

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, April 23, 1861, 2:4:

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, April 30, 1861, 2:2:

". . . . . The Postoffices at Snelling and at Forlorn Hope, Merced county, were some time ago abolished by order of the Postoffice Department. By this, but two offices remain in the county—one at Merced Falls and the other near the crossing of the Mariposa, which is known as the Gwin office. People in Merced, in fact the greater proportion of the population of that county, are

thereby greatly inconvenienced. The office at Forlorn Hope should never have been established perhaps, and can now well be spared; but the one at Snelling is as important as any office in this Judicial District, save two or three, and should be immediately restored. Until it is so restored, people should send communications to Snelling by Express.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, April 30, 1861, 2:2:

“. . . . . The following account of the shooting of DAVID WEBBER at Aurora, Esmeralda, appears in the *Nevada Journal*. WEBBER was an old resident of this county, living at different times in Bear Valley, Hornotos [Hornitos], and at Wyatt’s Bridge. During his residence here he had a number of difficulties, and was shot and stabbed badly on several occasions. Since his leaving two years since for Washoe, he has too often been heard of in troubles of the same kind. The statement is:

“A dispute arose about a lot. Webber was removing some poles from the lot when a man by the name of Haywood came up and struck Webber twice over the shoulders with a club. Webber drew his Derringer, but soon returned it to his pocket without cocking it. Whether the blows of Haywood had stunned him, or why he did not fire is not known. After putting up his pistol, Webber turned and walked away. Haywood followed and shot Webber in the small of his back. He fell, and Haywood fired again upon Webber while down, hitting him nearly in the same place as before:

“These wounds were mortal, and Webber died o them in a very short time.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, May 14, 1861, 2:1:

“. . . . . Parties left this region the past week for Mono, Washoe and Esmeralda, by the way of Yo Semite Valley. It is very early for the route to be at all practicable, yet they may get through. The route is the same as before—keeping on the South side of the valley, and crossing the Merced two miles above the Nevada fall.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, May 14, 1861, 2:4:

The board of supervisors met on May 6.

[Excerpts:]

...

“Bids for building a Calaboose in Hornitos were opened. Highest bid \$1,893; lowest, \$1,575.”

“Hornitos Road Overseer, JIM WHITE, made a report, which was thought about right.”

...

“Board refused to pay White & Miller, Hornitos, for carting prisoners from that place to Jail in Mariposa.”

...

“The road from Coulterville to Black’ [Black’s], Bull Creek, the *direct* route to Yo Semity, was declared a public highway.”

...

“The Board ordered that \$800 be appropriated towards building a Jail in Hornitos. So now if the citizens of that incorporated town make up the balance of the cost of such an institution, they can have one of the cost of such an institution, they can have one.”

...

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, May 14, 1861, 2:6:

“. . . . . A new steamer was launched at Stockton last week by the Messrs LING. As she left her wooden ways, she had the Union Jack at the fore, and also KEELER JACK (*Grande*): who broke a bottle of rum as her bow touched fresh water, probably thinking to qualify it slightly, as is his custom, and at the same time christening her ‘Cristina,’ which very Norwegian cognomen she is hereafter to be known[.] 30,000 persons were present!”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, May 14, 1861, 2:5:

“. . . . . HICE & WILSON’S Stage from Hornitos to Visalia now go [goes] through the entire distance, 120 miles, in one day. It connects at Hornitos with stages running to Sonora, Stockton, &c. By this line, San Francisco and Visalia are little more than 40 hours apart.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, June 11, 1861, 2:1:

“. . . . . We are informed by Mr. HIDELEY, Expressman from Coulterville to Mono, that it is the opinion of many people over the mountains, that several parties have been lost in the snows in endeavoring to get over early in the season. Mr. TINCHAM [Tinkum] and party, formerly of Columbia, got lost, and were four and one half days without food when they got through, which was on May 27<sup>th</sup>.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, June 11, 1861, 2:1:

“. . . . . Mono County was organized Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Officers elected, were as follows: County Judge, L. O. Stearns; Sheriff, — [N. F.] Sctt; District Attorney, R. E. Phelps; County Clerk and Recorder, Dick Wilson; Justices, J. S. Sagendorff and — [A. W. L.] Luckett. 768 votes were polled at Aurora, Esmeralda district. At Mono, 500; and other places 400. The population of the county is thought to be more than 3000. We are under obligations to Mr. N. G. HIDELEY who will run an Express from Coulterville to Mono during the present season.”

Martel, “Mono Correspondence,” *Mariposa Gazette*, July 2, 1861, 2:3 (Aurora, Mnono County, Cal., June 14, 1861):

“AURORA, Mono County, Cal. }  
“June 14, 1861. } ”

“*Friend Holmes*:—After many weary days, weeks, months, which I have spent in vain efforts to ‘gather shells,’ moss, etc., I again rest my arm on a shaky old table, in a miner’s cabin, to indite to you a few sentences in remembrance of ‘Ault Lang Syne,’ and Las Mariposas. And the mere thought of Mariposa reminds me of the genial summer you are enjoying—and that you are even now, perhaps, sherry-cobblerizing the day, in order to temper the parching ‘winds to the shorn lamb,’ whilst we are shivering from a south-westerly extension of winter, which comes to us from off the Sierra Nevada, howling around and sometimes through, our houses, blowing up the dust, and sometimes, as it did on the 8<sup>th</sup> of this month, bringing two or three inches of snow. However, it did not last long, for as soon as old Sol got a fair look at it, her dispersed it; for which act of warm-hearted kindness, I take this opportunity to offer him my sincere thanks, and respectfully suggest that he keep his eye open, and if possible prevent a recurrence of the like.

“I should like very well to be with you in the land of Butterflies—at least until Summer gets the better of old Winter in this elevated region. But necessity compels me to remain, as rich

strikes are being made occasionally, and I still live in the faith that '*nil desperandum*' is the only winning battle cry—though it has generally been my luck to be 'too late.'

"Everybody and their wives are on their heads (I speak figuratively as regards the 'wives') over some rich discovery. There is no mistake about the richness and extensiveness of the silver leads in this (Esmeralda) District. There is considerable work being done in the way of developing ledges—such as sinking shafts, running tunnels, etc. Contracts are taken on all manner of conditions—sometimes solely for 'feet' in the ledge. In some cases men taking such contracts, are enabled to lay back on their oars on the aristocratic consciousness of 'feet' in rich claims, or can sell out as a nice figure.

"There are in all probability over five hundred gold and silver leads in this District. About twelve hundred men and perhaps twenty women. About half of them—the ledges, of course—are having shafts sunk or tunnels run into them, and the deeper they sink on them, the better the prospects are—'just like sucking honey out of a rag.' When our mines are a little better developed, which will be a few months hence, we shall exhibit to the world such vast bodies of precious metals, that a large portion of it will be attracted hither to view and invest in our beautiful hills, which are covered with gigantic forests of aromatic sage brush and scrubby knot pines with silver leads every fifty feet, and any amount of rich boulders scattered promiscuously around. The boulders are being gathered by 'boulder companies'—so called—who are putting them in piles and numbering them, &c. These companies will probably make very well of them, as the boulders are but little trouble or expense to collect, and will pay from one to five hundred dollars per ton. One mill here will be ready to crush rock in about a week; a few others are on the way hither; but there will probably not be more than five or six in operation this summer. We need fifty quartz mills now. Miners owning ledges here, are not generally able to buy machinery to work them, but they offer fifty dollars per ton to have the quartz crushed.

"Money is plentier now than it was a month past, though not yet sufficiently so to clog business. In fact we have not much real property here yet, as our mines thus far have yielded nothing but rich specimens. Nor can we reasonably expect them to yield much under a year. We are living on high hope and very ordinary grub, at extraordinary high prices. The merchants have a good thing, as they are doing a cash business. When a poor devil gets out of grub, he sells a few feet of quartz and makes a raise.

"Bacon, sugar, etc., is selling at 35 cents per pound, flour 14 to 16; coffee, 40 cents; beef 16 to 20, except a few days at Mono, where opposition run it down to 8 cents. We have a good deal to complain of in this region; it is impossible to enumerate all—among the rest is. [sic] poor and tough beef, for which there appears to be no excuse, as the range is excellent. We pay high prices for everything. A Mint is very much needed to coin our money, and a newspaper, to let the world know that we live. We also in want of about a thousand addition population—nine hundred and fifty of whom should wear hoops, the balance should be heavy capitalists and 'spend their money freely;' [sic] society could then be organized on the square. We are having a very hard time. I scarce get sight of a lady once in two weeks, and have never spoken to one this side the mountains. Well, hoping that you are in the enjoyment of more substantial blessings, I remain, with the highest respect—as of old,

MARTEL.

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"JUNE 18.—As this letter did not go at the time I intended it should, I will add a few lines—in regard to our own affairs, of course—for I don't like to meddle with others. In the first place comes up for notice, our county organization; which is nearly completed. Our county officers are elected. [sic] and the election for township officers comes off in a few days. Your county and ours (Mariposa and Mono) are, I believe, in the position of 'right hand across,' or at least they corner together, and it will be no harm to say 'how'd-ye, Sis,' as they swing past.



There is a Democrattick\* Union Club organized here. I think it numbers about 75 or 100 member. Their resolutions, which were read to the meeting, are sound, conservative and true. They condemn the rampart portion of the people North, equally with the hasty action of the South. Our town is building very fast. Substantial stone and brick buildings are in process of erection. The weather has got to be warm ad pleasant.

—  
 “\*You will see that I have put the letter ‘k’ to Democratic (as it is spelled now) merely because a friend has just informed me that it is a fossil.

“Yours, &c.

MARTEL.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, July 16, 1861, 2:1:

“. . . . . A young man whose parents reside in Merced county, writing from Bear Valley, San Bernardino county, to an acquaintance of his in this place, says that the population of the District is about one-half American, while the other is composed of Mormons and Mexicans. Fights and difficulties are very frequent. One took place a short time ago, in which ten were shot; though none were dead at the time of writing, yet it is impossible for some of them to recover.

“Some few companies mining are doing well, but a majority of the miners are not making enough to live upon; the consequence is that many are experiencing hard times, from the fact that the credit system is about ‘played out.’ ”

“Among the Mariposans in the Valley, is Col. TATMAN, WM. EVANS, and Mr. STAMPER, all of whom are doing nothing.

“Several silver leads have been discovered recently, but as they have not been thoroughly tested, as yet, it is not known whether they are of any account.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, July 16, 1861, 2:1:

“. . . . . On the east fork of Walker’s river a man named SHELDON found the veritable brass howitzer abandoned by Col. Fremont, while attempting to find a central pass across the Sierras, in 1843. It was always an object of wonder to the Indians, consequently they destroyed the carriage, but the cannon was too heavy for them to manage. It was used in Carson City on the 4<sup>th</sup>, says the *Territorial Enterprise*.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, July 16, 1861, 2:1:

“. . . . . The quickest time ever made between this county and Mono, was made last month, by Mr. HIDELEY, the Expressman. He left Mono on Wednesday and arrived in Coulterville on Thursday evening. This is extraordinary fast traveling, (60 miles per day), over a rugged mountainous scenery.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, July 16, 1861, 2:2:

[Excerpts:]

“The Union Democratic Convention which met upon July 4<sup>th</sup>, has given us the second full ticket . . . .”

. . .

“For Supreme Clerk, GEORGE S. EVANS of Tuolumne, was the lucky individual who obtained the nomination for the most lucrative place upon the ticket.—We of course would have preferred to have seen our townsman WILLIAM A. GUARD, who, by acquirements and experience is so well

suiting to such a position. He, however, has reason to feel proud of the complimentary vote that was given him, especially when it is remembered at how late an hour he started in the race and the combinations [combinations] of the candidates appeared to him.”

...

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, July 23, 1861, 2:2:

“. . . . . A note from Visalia, received just before going to press, informs us of the falling down of the building in that place known as the St. Charles. It was the largest structure in the Southern mines. A Saloon and private rooms occupied the lower portions, and the Town Hall and ante rooms [in] the upper story. At the time of falling, but five persons were in it—of these, Mr. GILL, proprietor of the saloon was, as is thought, mortally injured, and Dr. LYONS badly so. Mrs. HART, wife of E. P. Hart, Esq., came near being crushed by the falling of a wall on her dwelling, which was adjoining. Loss estimated to be \$6,000.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, July 23, 1861, 2:2:

“. . . . . We are under obligations to T. J. GOODALE, of Visalia, for favors of rare ripe Peaches, of a quality superior to any we have seen in this State. Mr. Goodale has an extensive orchard, in which is grown a large variety, of as fine fruit as perhaps can be found in any country.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, August 27, 1861, 2:1:

“. . . . . The trade of Hornitos seems to keep up, though it is the dry season. HUSSEY & Co., as well as others, in that place, are in constant receipt of large amounts of goods, suited to the market; but where they go, and who eats, drinks, and wears them, is more than we can make out. The firm mentioned, has not only one of the largest, but one of the *best* assorted stocks in this region, which the low rates of advance from San Francisco prices, should give them, as it does, a large amount of business.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, August 27, 1861, 2:1:

“. . . . . We have received the *Tulare Post*, a paper lately started in Visalia, Tulare county. It is ‘secesh,’ bitterly so. It[s] proprietor and editor is W. D. MCDANIEL, who we believe we heard of at La Grange, Stanislaus county, and whose cognomen in Tulare is rather ‘Ten Per. Cent.’ [sic] than the cognomen mentioned, from the fact that his accumulations usually yield him that {that} amount per month when used by others. The paper is of good size and moderately well printed.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, August 27, 1861, 2:3:

“. . . . . The Postoffice at Snelling’s, Merced county, has been re-established: Mr. HALL postmaster. Why the office was abolished a year ago, is more than we can make out, as it is at the principal point in Merced county, and of as much consequence as any Postoffice in this southern region, save two or three.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, August 27, 1861, 2:3:

“. . . . . HICE & WILSON have put a new stage upon their line from Hornitos to Visalia. This route, 120 miles, is run in one day. By starting very early in the morning at Hornitos, Visalia is

made at 7 o'clock in the evening, and *vice versa*. It is to be hoped that the enterprising proprietors of this line will reap the reward of their hard labor."

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, August 27, 1861, 2:3:

". . . . . Messrs. BILL OWENS & Co. of four men, who went over to Mono, Esmeralda and Washoe some three or four weeks ago, returned here Saturday last. They, disbelieving many things stated about those mines, went to see with their own eyes and hear with their own ears. From what he could learn we think neither one of the two senses mentioned was favorably affected, though Bill thinks that a 'right smart chance' of silver is in them diggings."

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, September 3, 1861, 2:1:

". . . . . HIDELEY'S Express in operation between Coulterville, Big Oak Flat, Sonora, and Mono, Aurora &c., has, as we are informed, 'gone in;' [sic] very singularly we suppose; as all previous expresses between the above mentioned places have. Ten papers per week, and an advertisement, we are, usual, 'out.' "

"For Sale" (advertisement), *Mariposa Gazette*, September 10, 1861, 2:1:

"For Sale.

"The Mariposa Gazette.

"The Office contains two of Hoe's Washington Presses—one nearly new and both in good order. Also type and material for the establishment of another office superior to those of most interior journals, which could, without inconvenience to the GAZETTE, be taken out. Subscriptions list probably larger than that of any other mountain paper in the State. With the property mentioned, &c., will be sold the Building and the Lot, with a Fremont title, 250x75 feet, if desired, or the same will be rented.

"Terms—part CASH, the balance with security, remaining for a length of time to accommodate the purchaser. Apply to

L. A. HOLMES.

"Mariposa, September 10, 1861.

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, November 19, 1861, 2:1:

". . . . . A number of parties from the Visalia region have moved up into this county. Several have made permanent settlements near the Mariposa Creek, between Capt. Boling's place and Suttentfield's."

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, November 19, 1861, 2:1:

". . . . . Mr. EPPERSON, from Visalia, navigated a *Tulare Sloop* into this town, loaded with wine from the Vineyard of Mr. PERSIAN, near Visalia. A sample was presented to his office and duly inspected. It is a pretty fair article, but we have tasted better from the same place. It is pronounced by good judges to be superior to the Los Angeles wine."

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, November 19, 1861, 2:1:

". . . . . A private letter from Visalia gives an account of a party who had gone out to Tulare Lake *ducking*—among them our 'old pard.' The writer says he thinks they got what they went for,

as it was raining, at the time of his writing, like blue blazes, and there wasn't the ghost of a chance to get under shelter in the neighborhood of the locality where they were."

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, November 19, 1861, 2:2:

". . . . . A correspondent writes from Phillip's Flat under date of November 15<sup>th</sup>, giving general news items of interest: About the last of October, at New Year's Diggings, a young man about 26 years of age, by the name of CAMPBELL, committed suicide by shooting himself with a yager. He had previously told his friends that he was going to commit the rash act, and they advised him to join the army and get decently killed. The cause assigned is disappointment in love.

"HARRY BOYLES got his leg broken on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. about a mile above Smith's Ferry, by a kick from a mare he was shoeing.

"Quite a town has grown up at Smith's Ferry.—Two or three handsome cottages erected this season.

"Phillip's Flat about holds its own. THOMPSON & Co. are cutting a tunnel in the upper part of the Flat. They have been working at it about 8 months, and are now about through to pay dirt. They expect to have rich diggings.

"BARRRTT [BARRETT?] & MATHEWS' tunnel pays well."

"[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, November 26, 1861, 2:2:

". . . . . BRICKBAT, a correspondent of the *Union Democrat*, returning from a trip to Mariposa, gives his notes of travel in this county, and among other things, speaks of the quiet and gentlemanly character of the people of this burg in complimentary terms. The same characteristic has attracted the favorable notice of other strangers coming here, who do not hesitate to say, and with justice too, that in this respected Mariposa will compare favorably with any place in the State, Our citizens can refer to it with an honest pride, that the first instance is yet to occur where political differences have interfered with the 'social question.' After a description of the mining operations in the neighborhood of Princeton and Bear Valley, BRICKBAT deposeseth as follows:

" 'I was sadly disappointed in the appearance of Mariposa City, for I had pictured it, in imagination, one of the largest and most flourishing towns in the Southern Mines, abounding in towering brick buildings, and beautiful cottages. When lo, and behold! Our little village of Jamestown presents a finer and more business like appearance. No beautiful and tastefully arrayed flower gardens—like those around our cottages in Sonora—surround the private residences of its Merchant princes, doctors, lawyers, and "big bugs" generally.

" 'But those the people of Mariposa City do not dwell in palaces surrounded by gardens, filled with rare exotics, they are nevertheless—as a friend of mine remarked to me, before going over there—"white folks." Yes, "White folks" in every sense of the word. For a more gentlemanly. [sic] whole souled set of people I have never met. They seem to be a band of brothers. Republicans, Douglasites and Breckinridgers all mingle together as one fraternal band, no bickering amongst them, to disturb their quiet and peaceful little burg.

" 'How different in Sonora, Jamestown and Columbia!' "

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, November 26, 1861, 2:2:

". . . . The Los Angeles *Star* of Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>, states that Mr. H. M. D. Hewitt—known as 'Mountain Hewitt,'—with his party, on their way from Mono to this city, camped at a place which offered suitable accommodations, about half way between Fort Tejon and here. The locality looked like a gold country, and so they went to work and prospected it.—The result was the discovery of a rich

gold bearing quartz ledge, which, if the specimens are to be considered, is one of the richest in the country. Continuing their labor, they discovered, about seven miles from camp, a quartz vein containing gold and silver, which has been tested, and yields at the rate of over \$2,000 per ton. These veins are situated about fifty-five miles from here, south east of the road to Fort Tejon, in the San Bernardino range of mountains.—Mr. Hewitt represents the country as abounding in mineral of all kinds, iron, copper and lead having likewise been discovered, and that there is not the slightest evidence of its having heretofore prospected. More accurate tests will be applied to the rock, which has been taken out in large quantities, and if found to bear a fair proportion to the specimens already obtained, the mines will be opened up.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, December 10, 1861, 2:3:

“. . . . . We hear numerous complaints of irregularity in the mails between Hornitos and Visalia, and also on the Stockton route. Instances are known where packages for the way offices have been brought through to Hornitos, returned, and then brought there again, and the same performance repeated; and as letters have frequently been from 6 to 10 days coming from Visalia here, it is not unlikely that the fault lies at these small way offices. Subscribers at Murray’s Bridge think they are in luck to get Mariposa papers only two weeks old. The packages generally make two or three trips before they arrive at their destinations. Letters from this place directed to intermediate points between here and Hornitos sometimes fetch up at the last mentioned town. We are satisfied, after investigation, that the fault *does not* lie in Mariposa, Hornitos, Stockton or Visalia. This statement is due in justice to the Postmasters at these places, who frequently get curses that belong to others. We have only to add that if the honors and emoluments of those who hold appointments in these way offices, don’t pay them to attend to their business, they had better resign or sell out.”

[Untitled], *Mariposa Gazette*, December 10, 1861, 2:1:

“. . . . . A new paper called the *El Dorado Times* has arisen upon the ruins of the *Coloma Times*, in El Dorado county. We acknowledge the receipt of the first number. In politics, we judge it is about as much opposed to Republicanism as to Secession.”

“Delinquent Tax List of Mariposa County, for 1860,” *Mariposa Gazette*, November 26, 1860, p. 1:  
Clayton, J. E. Value personal property: \$300. [More later.]

Coulterville (letter): mines near trail March 3, 1854, 3:1

1854:

J. M. Vansyckle: to visit East: March 10, 2:1

Millerton-Four Creeks: stage road proposed March 10, 2:3

Vining & Co.: sluicing along Mariposa Creek, March 17, 2:1

*Wide West*, Sunday weekly, established, March 17, 2:1

Yosemite (letter): hard road March 17, 2:4

Upper San Joaquin River: Bunnell mentioned, April 21, 2:1

Pacheco Pass (letter), April 21, 3:2

Agents for Chronicle: Fort Miller and Ridley's Ferry listed, May 5, 1:1  
 Jackson: *Owl* established, May 5, 2:3  
 Mariposa: improvements, May 5, 3:1

Letter: San Bernardino and L. A.: May 26, 1:1  
 Ridley's ferry: discovery, May 26, 2:4

Millerton (letter), discoveries at Kern River; Worland's store, June 2, 2:2 [3:1?].

Daily Stockton Argus established, June 16, 2:2  
 Wagon road to Chowchilla Creek proposed, June 16, 2:2  
 Kern River, June 16, 2:4

Ad.: L. A. Roger selling mill at Whitlock, June 23. 3:1

Court calendar: A. McFarlane; O. Schroeder, July 7, 1:1

Whig convention: Tulare Co., Ridley's Ferry delegates, July 22, 2:2

Tulare: Democrats meet, July 28, 2:3  
 Tejon: bears (Union Democrat), July 28, 2:6

Yosemite: hideout for Indians, Aug. 4, 2:4-5  
 Tulare Valley: marriage, deaths, Aug. 4, 2:6  
 Visalia: Democrats to meet, Aug. 4, 3:1

Mariposa: improvements, Aug. 11, --  
 Tejon (SF Herald), Aug. 11, 2:4

[Fill in gap.]

1855:  
 Talbot: discovery, Feb. 9, 1855, 2:1

Millerton (letter): Kern, March 2, 2:3

Mariposa Gazette.

Mariposa Free Press.

Mariposa Star.

Mariposa News.

Mariposa Mail.