

THE OTHER COMMUNITIES

Several of the larger communities of Shasta County have received individual comment in this study. Nevertheless, there remains the record, or in some cases, the presence of a large number of other residential areas in the county which deserve at least brief notice. In this chapter most of these receive attention. Some county towns are missing from the list, however. Lack of information, or recency of development, are the principal causes for this neglect. Of the towns omitted, most receive a brief comment in Gertrude Steger's *Place Names of Shasta County*. Many of these early communities were "gold" towns and thus were of short duration. The earliest were characterized by a uniqueness of title which may well be attributed to the rapidity of their rise. The distinctiveness of these names is attested to by an *Alta California* article of October, 1856. It declared:

The following are some of the names of the election precincts in Shasta County. We mention these as indicating the uncouth taste shown by our people in naming localities throughout the mines. Outlandish as some of these might sound, however, they are highly classical compared with many we might cite, but decency forbids mention: Horsetown, Churntown, Muletown, Middletown, Spring Creek, Dog Creek, Whiskey Creek and Eagle Creek.

What follows is a survey of Shasta County towns excluding those individually presented or those summarized in the section on northeastern Shasta County.

Arbuckle—

The Arbuckle section was the center of a Shasta County mining district down to the period of the twentieth century. Begun in 1850 by one of the first groups to explore the western reaches of the county and given its name for the first miner to work in the area, this community was for years a lucrative mining region. The *Northern Argus* of Horsetown stated in 1861 that: "We are assured that a party of miners made over \$1,000 each in 100 days at Arbuckle Gulch. The mining camp is one of the oldest in Shasta County." Frank and Chappell's *History of Shasta County* written in 1881 reported that the Arbuckle diggings "had been mined almost continuously since the time Arbuckle worked there and a great deal of gold has been taken from there." By the turn of the century mining activity had ceased in the Arbuckle region and today the former "boomtown" is only a spot on nineteenth century maps of Shasta County.

Baird—

Another nearly forgotten Shasta County entity, this small stopping place on the California-Oregon Stage Road was the site of the first fish hatchery on the Pacific Coast. The town was named after Professor Spencer Baird, the first U. S. Fisheries Commissioner. Postal records indicated Baird was a postal station between 1878 and 1920, and 1929 and 1933. This quiet community, which was located on the west bank of the McCloud River, was inundated by the rising waters of Shasta Lake.

Bass (Mountain Gate)—

Little more than a store and post office in its most urban period, Bass was a small ranching community some twelve miles north of Redding near the present location of Mountain Gate. In 1882 the *Shasta Courier* described the region as "not a village, but in this section are some good ranches." The area, now called Mountain Gate, presently possesses a small shopping center and the Calaveras Cement plant.

The Battle Creek and Balls Ferry Regions—

These two agricultural areas had their beginnings in the 22,000 acre Briesgau Grant located on the east side of the Sacramento River. This Mexican land grant, issued in July, 1844, to William Bennitz, was named after the owner's hometown in Germany. Bennitz's land extended northward about twelve miles along the Sacramento from the southwest point of Bloody Island to a point one and one-half miles below the junction of the river and Clear Creek. Mr. Bennitz did

not maintain his grant and the land was settled in the mid-50's by several settlers, including Alexander Love, Dr. James Winsell, Steven Parks, and S. B. Sheldon.

The Battle Creek area, located near the stream where Captain John C. Fremont was said to have routed the Indians in 1846, grew up mainly around the ranches of Love, Shelton and Winsell. By 1862 there was a fish hatchery at Battle Creek and in the same year Mr. Love owned a local flour mill and store. In addition, there was a Battle Creek post office after 1868. Traveling accommodations, such as they were, were also available at this small settlement, for in 1862 a traveling scientist, William H. Brewer, reported that he "camped and ate at a miserable little tavern near Battle Creek." By the early 1880's Major Sheldon had sold his holdings to Hall and Wilcox, but Dr. Winsell still remained on his "highly cultivated" land. There was a school in this area as well as a Good Templar's Lodge. In 1895, what has become the world's largest salmon fish hatchery was built in the Battle Creek area and by 1907 was securing 100,000 salmon eggs annually. By the 1950's this Coleman Fish Cultural Station employed nineteen permanent employees at an annual payroll of \$83,444 and was producing about 210,000 pounds of fish and planting 23,000,000 to 24,000,000 fish each year.

With the establishment of a post office two miles north at Balls Ferry in 1875 and the discontinuance of the mail service at Battle Creek two years later, the center of settlement on the east side of the river was gradually transferred to the former small village. This area had been used as far back as 1844 as an embarkation point for logs which Sam Hensley floated to Sutter's Fort. In 1878 Pierson Reading had set up a ferry near his home on the Sacramento River, and in the same year sold the enterprise to William W. Ball. By 1881 Ball had erected a hotel and corral, and could advertise his ferry as "the only ferry on Sacramento River that has never failed to cross every day." In addition, Ball declared that his hostelry lay on the direct route from Cottonwood and all points south to Millville, Shingletown, and cities in northeast California and southeast Oregon. During this period Balls Ferry was reported by a traveler to possess "a first class hotel, a store, blacksmith shop and grist mill. The mill is run by C. H. Wilcox and is doing splendid work." In 1898 a three-span steel bridge replaced the ferry. During 1909 the mill was sold and removed, and lumber hauling through the area was rapidly diminishing. By February, 1916, the Balls Ferry post office had been discontinued, and in 1935 the Sheldon School, which had served the east river area, was discontinued. Thus, during most of the 20th Century this area has been strictly an agricultural center, devoid of community status.

Beegum-

A district located in the southwestern tip of the county, Beegum was the first Shasta County area to be touched by the white man. It was across this section that mountain man Jedediah Smith made his way on his northward sojourn to Vancouver in 1828. The name Beegum was said to have come from the southern term for the wild bees prevalent in the region. This small stopping place has served as a way station for miners and teamsters since the early 1900's.

Bella Vista-

Lumber brought a degree of importance to Bella Vista during the 1890's and the early 1900's. As the site of a box factory and planing mill operated by the Terry Lumber Company, Bella Vista marked the terminus of the flume carrying lumber to the mill, as well as the origin of the railroad designed to carry the finished lumber to Anderson for further shipment. A post office existed at Bella Vista from 1893 to 1918, was discontinued until 1920, and is still serving the area. In addition, the town boasts a school of about sixty pupils, and in 1967-68 the new Shasta College campus was located here.

Bell's Bridge-

A gold miner's hostelry near the present site of the Highway 99 Clear Creek bridge, Bell's Bridge was settled by J. J. Bell in May, 1851. Described in Frank and Chappell's county history as: "a lively spot at which thousands of men and beasts satisfied hunger and thirst before reaching the gold fields," this spot became the site of a California and Oregon railroad station termed Clear Creek in 1872. Up to that time it had served as a stage station and toll bridge, as well as an overnight resting place. A post office and voting center existed there in the 70's. However,

by the 80's Mr. Bell had sold his property to W. W. McCoy of Nevada. Since that time, ranching has played a major role in the existence of this region located approximately half way between Anderson and Redding.

Big Bend-

Twenty miles north of Montgomery Creek on Pit River lies the Big Bend or Hillcrest section. White settlement came here in the 1860's as several men began ranches, some taking local Indian brides. Big Bend was described as follows by the July 7, 1886, issue of the *East Side Times* of Millville:

Big Bend is a basin or flat in the mountains with the mountains raising to the north and east above the timber line. It is covered with a heavy growth of pine and fir with what is called oak openings . . . There is also an abundance of the best cedar for fencing. The oak openings, I think, are best for farming rye, oats, wheat and barley . . . There is one logging company already there.

In 1885 Big Bend residents built a school to accommodate some eleven or twelve pupils. By the nineties this area was known for its medicinal hot springs.

Transportation in the Big Bend area was improved in 1914 with a bridge across Pit River, as the region remained mainly an agricultural vicinity. Because of its location on the turbulent Pit River, Big Bend was chosen to be the site of a PG&E powerhouse in the 1920's. Completed in July, 1927, this project put to use the 2,500 cubic feet of water per second which was measured at this location. This power installation has helped to maintain the Big Bend area down to the present time.

Briggsville-

Briggsville was a small mining district in early Shasta County about which very little information is available. An article in the *Shasta Courier* of October 25, 1869, reported that:

Thirty or thirty-five met at Briggsville to hear a political address in front of the Lean Hotel. The speaker's style of argument was open to extreme criticism and his murder of plain English was shocking.

In addition, H. H. Bancroft, in his sixth volume of California history, reported Briggsville to be a "prominent camp near Clear Creek . . . supplied by a ditch from Cottonwood Creek." By the 70's, however, Briggsville had gone the way of a "boom-town."

Buckeye-

A residential section just north of Redding marks the location of a pioneer gold town which in the past century has evolved into a Shasta County suburban center. Men from Ohio settled this area in the early 1850's and enscribed their state name upon the new town. One of the earliest records of Buckeye is presented in the *Shasta Courier* of May 1, 1858. The correspondent introduced Buckeye as:

. . . a gold quartz area known since '51, a lode lately discovered by Mr. Johnson. The Mammoth Company has taken up claims and there are some fine prospects. There is one grocery store. The place is one of the oldest districts on the east side of the Sacramento.

A Bancroft questionnaire of 1863 revealed a population of about one hundred, two general merchandise stores, and a school at Buckeye. In the next several decades mining prosperity gradually diminished, leaving the old town to rely on the vine and fruit tree as an economic base. The nature of this period of relative inactivity was best described in a comment by the editor of the *Redding Independent* in 1883, who, after a trip to Buckeye, stated that:

A store kept by Mr. Edward Beard . . . comprised all the business houses of the place . . . but, nevertheless, there is quite a community to be located here and there among the nooks and corners of the hills. (There is) vigorous prospecting of "Old Diggings" about one and one-half miles west of Buckeye and considerable immigrant travel . . . bound north to Oregon.

A Buckeye post office, begun in 1880, was incorporated into the Keswick post office in 1888, but later re-established at Buckeye.

Buzzard's Roost—

A small and shortlived teamster stopping place on the south side of Round Mountain, Buzzard's Roost received the following brief notice in the Redding *Independent* of July 7, 1885: "Major Ensign is the sole proprietor of all one can see, which consists of a good hotel, a large barn, one blacksmith shop, and one store with the Round Mountain post office attached." As a rather rambunctious hamlet, Buzzard's Roost was reported to have received its name from some local drinkers whose appearance was described as that of "buzzards trying to roost."

Castle Crag and Castella—

As one travels on Interstate 5 through the northernmost region of Shasta County, the awesome pinnacles of Castle Crag dominate the rugged beauty of the landscape. Near the "Crag" is the small community center of Castella. Today a state park and scenic resort area, the "Crag" is noted historically as the site of the "Battle of the Crag," described by Joaquin Miller in his poem "Old Gib at Castle Rock." This story related how Modoc Indians, angered at white interference with their fishing rights, defied a makeshift militia of some sixty whites and friendly Indians under Judge Rueben Gibson from the vantage point of these rugged peaks. The aborigines were subsequently defeated. Miller's romanticized version of the "Battle of the Crag" emphasized his own bravery in the foray, resulting in arrows in both his neck and face. As a fitting climax for a wounded hero, Miller and the other injured were borne to the cool banks of the Sacramento by several squaws taken prisoner in the alledged daring encounter.

Prior to his participation in these heroics, young Miller had taken up his abode with the area's original settler, early frontiersman and mountain man, Joe DeBlondy. To Miller, a runaway boy from Oregon, this may was "my ideal, my hero." DeBlondy succeeded in creating some little stir in the area in 1855 with fantastic tales of a "Lost Cabin Mine" on nearby Soda Creek. Although some gold was found in the vicinity, the principal business of the place turned to the accommodation of travelers after the completion of an inn near the "Crag" in 1858 by G. W. Bailey. Bailey's holdings were sold to Leland Stanford in 1887. In 1892 the "Tavern of the Crag" was built by the Pacific Improvement Company, and until it burned in 1900, served as a popular resort center for numerous well-known Californians. In 1892, Castella, a railroad stop and mining supply center near the "Crag," was granted a post office. Nine years later the Castle Crag postal service was incorporated into this office. Since the turn of the century, this area has continued to serve as a recreation and resort center, with the Ralph L. Smith Company sawmill supplying an additional economic base. Today, with the Smith operation dismantled, Castella relies on her recreational attractiveness for preservation.

Centerville—

Little information is extant regarding Centerville, except that it was a small mining district located southwest of Redding in an area characterized by low, rolling hills. In 1871 Centerville school district was created from the Horsetown, Middletown, and Texas Springs districts. During the same year the Shasta *Courier* reported a fire at the Centerville store. Although a Redding paper asserted in the 80's that: "Business at this place has become quite lively," this growth was short-lived. The section was marked by sporadic mining efforts down to the 1930's. Today the Centerville section is marked only by the Grant School and Centerville Grange, around which rest several homes interspersed in a rural setting.

Churn Creek—

Three miles northeast of Anderson lies a small, fertile valley called Churn Creek. The date of initial settlement in this area is unknown; however, the first school was begun there in 1875. This educational institution was a remodeled barn. Its tenancy was both shortlived and tenuous since its human occupancy during the day was supplemented by the residency of several local hogs at night. Because of the pig problem and the need for better facilities in general, a bond election was held to authorize a new building in 1883. Although only five votes were cast, this

was sufficient to swing the election in favor of the new seat of learning. During the following year, one of the district trustees, James Logan, in conference with an unknown county school official and upon the suggestion of his wife, called the new school Pacheco. This name honored short time California Governor Romualdo Pacheco (January-December, 1875). The Churn Creek area has remained a fruitful, agricultural region to the present time, marked by several large ranches and numerous small acreage farms for those who work in Redding and Anderson.

Churntown—

Rough and tumble existence was the outstanding feature of this early mining center located immediately above Buckeye on the Sacramento River. Settled in October and November, 1849, by gold seekers, principally from the state of Missouri, Churntown was first called "One Wagon Camp." Its more permanent appellation came from the appearance of a nearby creek whose flow in a deep water area was said to resemble an old fashioned churn. The site of the first quartz ledge on the east side of Churntown was, nevertheless, in a precarious position to Indian attack. In fact, in November, 1854, the *Courier* reported its understanding that the town had been overrun by the natives and was now under their control. An angry response from a Churntown resident the week following disavowed this rumor, insisting that:

Churntown was not taken by Indians, nor is it likely to be. There are twenty new buildings here this season . . . We are in a very healthy position . . . No white person has died here from natural causes. (A rather foreboding statement for these times.) Our miners are making \$3-\$5 per day.

Churntown began to regress into a farm region during the 1860's. However, in 1863, a Bancroft questionnaire from the town indicated a post office, justice of the peace, constable, two general merchandise stores, and about one hundred people still in the area. Three years later, a *Courier* correspondent traveling through the county reported that he had:

Sojourned for the first night at the stirring little mining town of Churntown, notorious for its rich placer mines for long years past and now; as also for the big Democratic majorities it would pile up before the war and for its equally grand Union majorities since that time. Churntown is an institution of itself and I am glad to see it flourishing.

In 1867 the Shasta *Courier* reported a killing at this place. The incident described is somewhat characteristic of the oft reported western fracas, and is couched in the typical news writing language of the period, a style which might be termed formal, but was yet pointed:

Two men were in a card game at Barber and Uptons Saloon. One accused the other of cheating and declined to play any longer with him on that account. Hovey denied that he had cheated and Smith declared that he had done so with considerable emphasis and passion. A scuffle ensued. The parties met outside the saloon and high words passed between them when Smith suddenly struck Hovey in the breast with a sheath knife. Hovey obtained a rock and showed a disposition to continue the difficulty; Hovey remarked that he felt faint and would like to lie down. He was then carried into the saloon and laid down, and in a few moments expired. Smith fled to the hills and has not yet been arrested. Sheriff Hopping offers a reward of \$300.

By the end of the 60's, Churntown was facing "duller times than ever before," and the next few years witnessed the final death throes of this early Shasta County settlement.

Copper City—

A Shasta County entity plagued by the fluctuations characteristic of the mining business, Copper City had its beginning in 1853 with the "Bagler strike" on Pit River. Described in that year as "a new digging having been struck which for a little time created quite an excitement," the Copper City area became gradually known as the Pittsburg district. This "strike" was of short duration, however.

Swedish miner, Charles Williams, broke, thirsty and looking for gold, brought the area back to life in 1862 as the first Shasta County copper center. Discovering a combination of silver and copper ore in his pannings on a hilly site near the river, Williams went on to found the original

Williams and Kellinger Gold, Silver and Copper Mining Company. By 1863 several new ore discoveries, including the Kellinger Hill and Bully Hill finds, had prompted a wholesale rush into this district. This migration resulted in the erection of a substantial town as attested to by this *Courier* comment:

This new town, which sprang up in the Pittsburg district since the late discovery of copper and gold in the country, is in a thriving and growing condition. There are now at that place ten camps or tents, seven frame houses, fourteen saloons, six eating houses, two grocery stores, one dry goods store, one blacksmith, one butcher, reminding one of the early days of California when towns sprang up like magic.

One year later Copper City had a newspaper, the *Pioneer*, which described the adjacent Pittsburg mining district as being developed "with commendable zeal," and stock in the Pittsburg ledges selling at \$75 a foot. By this time Copper City possessed over one hundred buildings.

In the late 60's and early 70's, Copper City suffered a major recession. Difficulty in separation of the precious and base metals resulted in the demise of many mining companies, causing a visitor to lament:

. . . a long line of buildings make up Copper City, about twenty houses to each inhabitant—truly a sorry picture. This place once so promising is now almost deserted and its silent streets and vacant buildings give it an air of desolation disagreeable to a live Yankee to behold. Work is entirely suspended on all quartz claims and but six or seven men remain in the place. Two years ago it had a population of some 200 or 300.

However, in the late 70's the city was again reincarnated. In a letter to Fannie Reading in 1878, William Magee described Copper City as "a flourishing district," which sends down a "silver brick every two days worth \$1,200-\$1,600." With the copper boom a steam quartz mill and reduction works was erected and by the 80's Copper City could be described as "one of the largest and most active mining communities" in the county. There was one main street in the town, along which houses were scattered for a fourth of a mile. At this time a three mile tram between the city and the Bully Hill mine was completed, featuring, according to a local paper, "about as many curves as there are lies upon the conscience of a third term congressman."

In 1880 the omnipresent question of the Oriental confronted Copper City. Responding to the efforts of a local mine owner to introduce Chinese labor into the vicinity, a citizens' meeting was called and the following result registered:

. . . the ballot was eighteen in favor and thirty-nine against Chinese importation, which settles the Chinese question, making Copper City one of the Eden spots of California. (This paper, the *Shasta County Advocate*, magnaminously added:) Would that the balance of the state were as free of the Mongolian curse.

By the mid-80's Copper City was described by the *Republican Free-Press* (Redding) an "animated corpse," characterized by families "who came here with the intention of making permanent homes and engaging in farming . . . and other substantial pursuits." This commentator added: "The quartz interest now seems to be a secondary consideration."

After a brief spurt with the Bully Hill activity of the early 1900's, the town's last remains were obliterated by the rising waters behind Shasta Dam.

Coram—

The development of this town, contingent upon the Balaklala copper operation, came during the animated period of Shasta County copper production in the early 1900's. The *Cottonwood Enterprise*, commenting on the construction of this smelter town near the present site of Shasta Dam, declared:

The young town of Coram starts with ten saloons. The licenses were granted by the Supervisors last Saturday. This is certainly proof that a town exists somewhere in the neighborhood and must be pretty large.

A picture of Coram in 1910 depicted it as a rather extensive town, possessing a long main street boasting at least five multi-storied buildings. By 1913 air pollution problems, together

with a lack of good ore, brought mining in the Coram area to a virtual standstill. A fire in 1924 nearly destroyed the adjacent mine plant and the smelter was totally dismantled two years later. Somewhat of a resurrection took place in this old town in the late 30's and early 40's. During that period Coram was used as an import point for materials used in constructing Shasta Dam. Since that time, however, it has been a "ghost town."

Dam Area Towns—

Shasta County has been the recipient of two major "boom" eras. The first took place in the 1850's when many hundreds of gold seekers came into the area to mine on the streams of Shasta County. Although the productivity of the copper period of the 1890's and early 1900's was also shortlived, its duration was probably extensive enough to preclude the term "boom" being used to describe it. The second great growth period came with the building of Shasta Dam in the late 30's and early 40's. At that time the construction camps of Central Valley, Summit City, Project City and Pine Grove were hurriedly hewn out of a wilderness of manzanita and red clay to provide temporary housing near the dam site. In 1937 Boomtown (Central Valley) was built between Highway 99 and Kennett Road along what was then called Coram Road. This avenue later assumed the name Grand Coulee Boulevard. West of Central Valley was Summit City, located at the junction of Coram and Kennett Roads. Project City, the postal center for a small group of towns in its initial stage, was established at the junction of Highway 99 and Coram Road, with Pine Grove approximately one mile south of this point. At the same time the U. S. Government completed a large assortment of worker residences on a site which was called Toyon. Although these localities contained all of the requisites for "ghost towns," including rapid and oftentimes careless construction, as well as a temporary economic basis (Shasta Dam was completed in 1944), they refused to die. During the subsequent twenty years they have become substantial community centers.

As Shasta Dam began to come into being in 1938, these towns were forced to adjust to a multitude of growth problems. Early settlers in Boomtown, later to be called Central Valley, threw up tents and tar paper shacks for temporary living quarters. In November, 1938, residents of this budding metropolis petitioned the County Board of Supervisors for incorporation, citing their pressing need for municipal facilities. They presented a long list of local business establishments, including nineteen restaurants, eight grocery stores, five markets and three hotels, as well as a population of 1,750. By the end of the year Central Valley had its own post office, but was not an incorporated city.

The arrival of 1940 witnessed a doubling of Shasta County population in one decade, from some 13,000 to over 28,000. Included in that momentous growth were the dam area towns with the following populations: Summit City, 484; Shasta Dam, 659; Toyon, 464; Project City, 565; and Central Valley, 1,177. In the same year an election in the area reflected an 8-1 Democratic ascendancy with some 2,976 votes cast. State funds assisted Shasta County in the erection of schools to accommodate an enrollment of over 1,000 by 1940. Many civic groups thrived in these communities, as well as the establishment of churches and other needed facilities.

With the completion of the dam these towns continued to thrive. During the 40's and 50's, the dam area served as the residence for many persons working in a variety of occupations in Shasta County. In addition, new industry, particularly lumber, came into this region as several small lumber concerns dotted the Central Valley hinterland. In 1948 a Shasta Dam Area Public Utility District was formed. Despite a lengthy struggle with the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Shasta Dam PUD services to the dam area towns included low cost electricity and water, as well as seven parks and playgrounds. Summit City, outside the PUD, also operated a successful water district by the 50's. A yearly celebration called the Damboree was an established attraction by this time. In 1956 this section had grown to the place where it could receive its own secondary school—Central Valley High School. With an estimated population of over 8,000 by 1960, the dam area had indicated its intention to remain a permanent and thriving Shasta County locality.

Delamar—

Another small copper town near the Bully Hill Mine, this locality was named for its chief benefactor, a Captain Delamar, owner of the adjacent operation. Delamar was a shortlived Shasta County entity; its existence approximating the operation of the Bully Hill Mine from 1901 to 1910.

Delta (Dogtown)—

About thirty-five miles north of the present site of Redding, a mining camp called Dogtown or Dog Creek was the location of some 200 or 300 in the mid-1850's. Located in the mining region known as the Upper Sacramento, Dogtown had as neighbors the small, but notorious mining camps of Portuguese Flat and Slate Creek. Dogtown was especially known for its lawless element featuring a rather combustible mixture of southerners and Union men living in dangerously close proximity. However, sudden wealth, including one twenty-five ounce nugget which brought \$450, made the risks worth the effort. These diggings continued to produce into the 1860's, eliciting the *Courier* comment in 1866 that: "Miners in this camp are doing well," with several companies at work in the bed of the creek. During the 70's, Dogtown was alive but expiring slowly, and in 1880 had deteriorated to the place where one individual, a man named Autenrieth, could purchase the entire town site. A site near Dogtown, more sedately entitled Delta, became a railroad station in 1875; in fact, serving as the northern terminus of the line for several years.

During this brief resurrection, Delta experienced somewhat of a real estate "boom," offering, according to the *Redding Republican Free-Press*, the advantages that: "Fishermen can stand on their own town lots and catch a mess of fish out of the Sacramento." In the mid-80's the same paper declared Delta to be "a picturesque spot" possessing a railroad depot and some twenty blocks laid off in town lots. This land speculation did not materialize. The Delta post office was discontinued in 1880, and only a remnant of the town is left.

Fort Reading—

This military post, named in honor of Pierson B. Reading, was established in 1852 on the west bank of Cow Creek two and one-half miles up the creek from the Sacramento River. It was located on what is now the Beatie Ranch, five miles east of Anderson. The purpose of this outpost was to protect the settlers in the north valley from the Indian menace. This post's authority extended over northern California and southern Oregon as far west as Weaverville, and east to the Sierra Nevada Mountains and included both the Shasta and Klamath Valleys. The fort commander was also responsible for Forts Jones and Crook to the north.

An Inspector General report in 1855 noted that Fort Reading was made up of one artillery and one infantry company, totaling ninety-one men. The inspecting officer, Colonel Joseph Mansfield, added that the discipline of the post was good, but that "there was a great want of musicians—only one drummer boy on the post." The main complaint was an "intermittant fever . . . which made the men powerless in the field." This problem was assumed to result from the oppressive heat during the months of July, August and September. Food for the fort was brought up the Sacramento River to Red Bluff and carried by pack mules the remainder of the distance, or purchased from local farmers on a bid basis. In concluding his report, Colonel Mansfield stated that he regretted so much labor and expense having been placed on a post "situated as this is in an unhealthy spot and at the same time not a particularly good military position against the Indians."

In addition to the problems cited above, the leadership at Fort Reading faced other perplexities in the 1860's. In June, 1867, the *Shasta Courier* reported that the fort's quartermaster had fallen off his horse and drowned while fording Cow Creek, losing \$1,000 in payroll funds in the process. This money was never recovered. Desertion also proved to be a thorn in the side of this frontier outpost. In 1867 the *Courier* reported nine deserters had been returned to the fold, while in 1868 several more absconded and were apprehended, one somewhat temporarily as evidenced in the following news item:

One of the deserters recently captured and taken back to Fort Reading deserted again on the following night. We met him and asked where he was going. Wiping the

tobacco juice from his lips, he coolly replied: "Going to Washington Territory to re-enlist, draw new blankets and uniform, get the first bounty and advance pay, and desert again."

Fort Reading consisted of a ten acre clearing with five or six whitewashed, adobe buildings. Two famous Civil War generals, Philip Sheridan of the Union Army and John Hood of the Confederacy, served at this post as lieutenants. The fort was evacuated in 1868, and in 1870 the buildings which had made up this outpost were sold and subsequently torn down.

French Gulch—

Driving into the far western section of the county, one encounters the picturesque old gold town of French Gulch. Intriguing in their antiquity are the swinging doors and long glass windows of buildings over a century old. The town itself is nestled in a beautiful little valley on the west bank of meandering Clear Creek. Today French Gulch is quiet and sedate, but still a veritable glimpse into the realm of yesteryear.

In 1850 French Gulch was anything but composed. During the mid-century year, or late in 1849, Frenchmen coming over the Trinity Alps began the initial mining in the region. First called Morrowville, the town served for several years as head of staging before the Shasta-Yreka turn-pike road was completed. This road passed through the town.

In 1851 the first quartz mine in the county, the Washington, was established at French Gulch. Two years later the town was designated a county post office. By 1860 French Gulch was a substantial community of approximately 350 people. A Bancroft questionnaire filled out by S. W. Williams in November, 1860, described it as "exclusively a mining town," possessing a school, Catholic church, two doctors, and two fine hotels. A similar questionnaire three years later cited the presence of two quartz mills (with ten stamps each) in the area, as well as a sawmill.

Despite the devastating fire in 1864, mining continued as the basic activity of the area until well into the 20th Century. In the 1880's French Gulch boasted 200 people, a school, and still possessed two hotels. An article in the Shasta County Descriptive Circular of 1882 declared that:

French Gulch has been a most prosperous mining town and is yet of more than secondary importance. At this point fine fields of alfalfa are grown and the apple, peach, plum, fig, pear, and small berries are produced in abundance . . . The Gulch is quite a business center, her enterprising businessmen reaching out into Trinity County with their sales.

During the World War I era the district was described as the most active quartz section in Shasta County with the major producer being the Gladstone Mine. At the present time French Gulch is principally an agricultural hamlet with a population of some 200 persons, around fifty houses, and its own post office. However, it remains one of the most authentic reminders in the county of the period of gold dust, mule teams, and \$2 hotels.

Gas Point—

At the foot of the Bald Hills sixteen miles west of Cottonwood lie a few old buildings—the only remaining evidence of the mining town of Gas Point. For a time called Janesville in honor of its first female resident, Gas Point was so named because of its citizens' proclivity for discussion. Described by the *Shasta Courier* in February, 1860, as a "flourishing village," this community boasted two general merchandise stores, a butcher shop, billiard hall, saloon, and a hotel. The Janesville post office existed from 1861 to 1864, was re-established a few miles distant under the name Gas Point in 1875, and discontinued in 1890.

Mining was going on during the 1850's in this area, and civilization was reaching the Bald Hills by that time despite the complaint of a local resident that it was "common for persons to be attacked by wildcats, badgers, and others of the hair-covered kin." The conveyance of this civilization to the local natives was pointed out by the same informant who declared that:

Cotillion parties are becoming quite fashionable in our neighborhood, and it is an astonishing fact that the native morales are becoming Americanized. On visiting their

parties, one becomes astonished with what gusto they join in the giddy dances and with what gymnastic alacrity they "trip the light fantastic" entirely shoeless.

In September, 1863, a Janesville resident named Augustus Martin filled out a Bancroft questionnaire, in which he estimated the town's population at seventy-five, and stated that twenty-seven votes had been cast locally in the last election. Martin added that the town had an attorney, justice of the peace and constable, and was served by one general merchandise store, a district school, and a Methodist church.

In the 1880's the Gas Point section had turned from mining to agriculture; and with the removal of the post office, the community deteriorated to a single store. The remaining mining efforts in the region received the attention of a commentator in the May 30, 1908, issue of the *Cottonwood Enterprise*. He stated:

Henry Heins, the merchant of Gas Point, came down Wednesday to get supplies and incidently, to ship his gold dust to the mint. Mr. Heins keeps store in the mines of Gas Point. Miners pan out the gold dust from the creek bed, mostly Cottonwood Creek, and exchange the dust for goods at his store . . . He takes in \$500 or \$600 of gold dust every year.

At present, the area is used mainly for winter range land.

The Happy Valley Area—

Six miles west of Anderson is the foothill section of southern Shasta County known as Happy Valley. Within this area are two small communities—Olinda and Cloverdale.

Although the main early colonizing of this area took place in the 1880's, a Happy Valley precinct on the county map of 1867 indicates settlement by that time. Olinda was given its name by Samuel T. Alexander, who had 150 acres in orchard and vineyard in the area during the 1880's. The name Olinda, meaning "place of rest," was a Hawaiian name which had attracted Mr. Alexander during a stay in the islands.

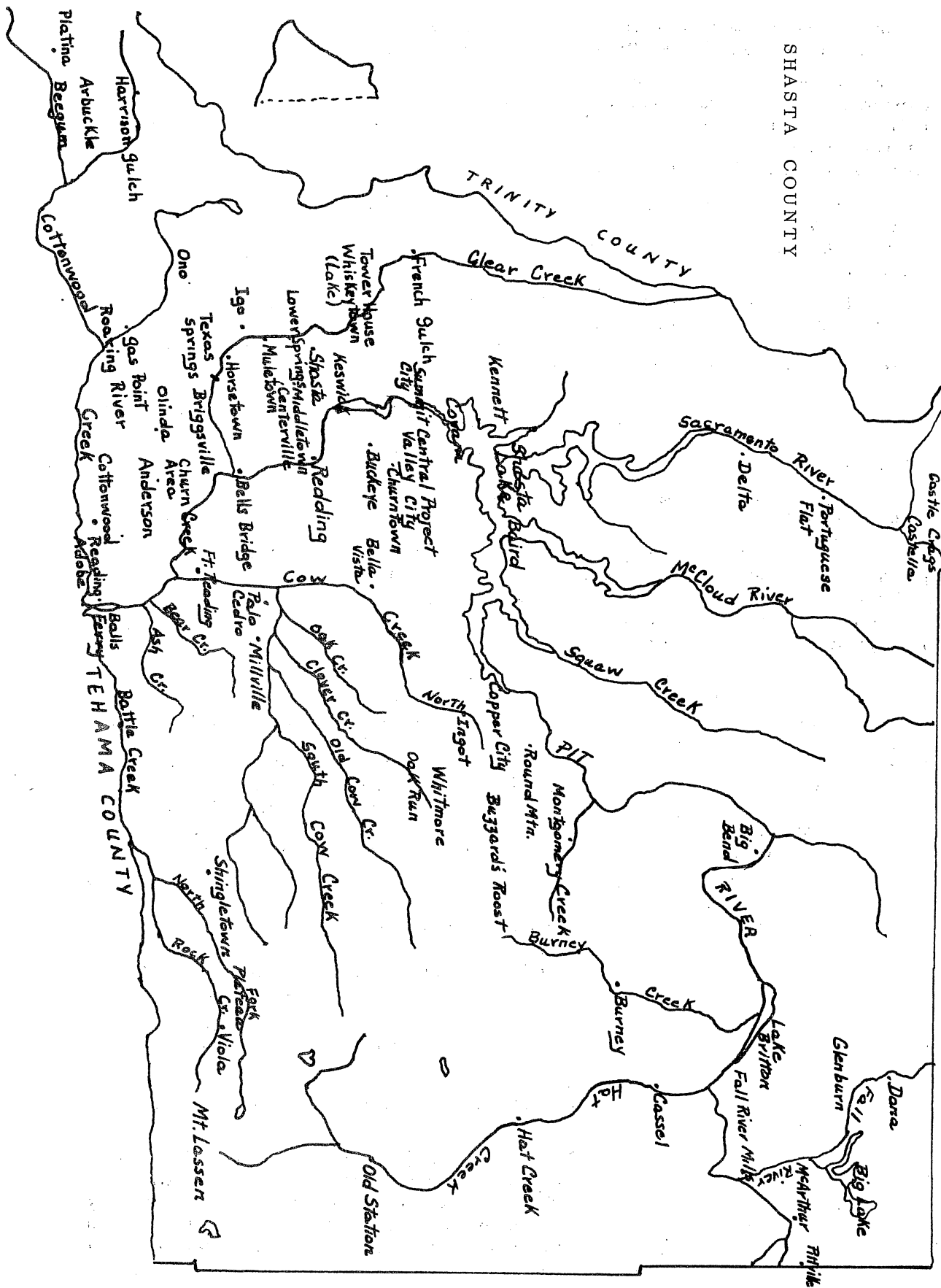
As the area grew, a post office and store were the usual signs of a community center. Happy Valley had two churches and a school by the turn of the century. By the 1880's this area was the only irrigated section in southern Shasta County. During this period, local fruit growers could get water from the Happy Valley Ditch at \$.10 per miner's inch for a 24-hour period. This was the same waterway which had served the Hardscrabble Mine at Piety Hill. Also during the 80's, a seventy foot wide "avenue" was built through Happy Valley and settlers were encouraged to buy land at an average price of \$25 per acre. During this decade a visitor from Redding termed the region "a thrifty section where resides many industrious and prosperous farmers." A more extensive presentation of the Happy Valley area was made by the *Shasta Courier* of May 19, 1883. It declared:

Happy Valley is beginning to be a place of some import; fruits and berries of various kinds such as apples, plums, cherries, strawberries have been tried and grown to perfection. The most of the settlers in this vicinity are men of families and small means; consequently from the fact that they have to work out a part of the time for the support of their families, they are unable to make much of a showing on their places.

We have a flourishing school of about twenty-five scholars . . . Divine worship is held twice a week; Bible reading on Sunday at eleven o'clock and prayer meeting Thursday evening.

The greatest drawback, socially speaking, is the scarcity of young ladies; there being but one or two, with a score of young men.

In 1891 the Happy Valley Irrigation District was established under California irrigation law. However, financial troubles caused the district to lie dormant until 1907 when the existing concern was formed into the Happy Valley Land and Water Company. By 1915 the Ehmann Company of Oroville had begun producing olives on the site of the Alexander Ranch. These olives, which ripened two weeks earlier than olives grown farther south in the Sacramento Valley, took first place at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in 1915.



Olives, along with peaches, grapes, strawberries and other fruits, continued to be the primary products of the area during the 20th Century. Water supply problems also continued to plague the Happy Valley Water District until it was forced to dissolve in 1925. In April, 1933, an association was formed to facilitate sale of the valley's strawberries. In 1926 the Pacific Gas and Electric Company extended a 14.3 mile power line to Happy Valley to bring electricity to the region. In the period during and after the war, the Happy Valley region has continued to be a productive agriculture section, marked by an annual celebration called the "Strawberry Festival." Many newcomers have settled on several acre farms in the valley and support themselves by work in a local mill, or other employment. Thus, a region formerly known for its large ranches now provides a plot of ground for a large number of rural families.

Harrison Gulch (Knob)—

Located near the southwest corner of Shasta County in what is called the Beegum area, Harrison Gulch was one of the earliest mining centers of the county. This gold town was named in 1850 for W. H. Harrison, the first county judge of Shasta County. This initial mining period was a short one, and little was heard of the region until nearly the turn of the century.

In the 1890's the Midas Mine was begun near Harrison Gulch and by 1903 could be termed "an extensively developed" mining operation. The small center of Knob served this quartz producing region until the closing of the Midas operation about 1925. Today remnants of the mining era are existent in the area, while tailings from the Midas venture were used in the building of a modern highway near the old town.

Horsetown—

Probably the best Shasta County example of the traditional "boom town" of the gold era was Horsetown (originally called One Horsetown), located "as high up Clear Creek as wagons could be taken." The town was settled in September and October, 1849, by immigrants arriving via the Lassen Trail. Within a few months the tents of 300 or 400 men were being replaced by a make-shift city. Originally called the Clear Creek diggings, Horsetown served as a center for various southwest Shasta County mining districts until well into the 1860's. In January, 1850, a mining company was formed by Abraham Cunningham to mine diggings on the north fork of Clear Creek. This group contacted the local Indians, made a treaty of peace with them, and subsequently discovered several rich veins in the area.

In 1853 a waterway called Duffy's Ditch brought the first commercial water to Horsetown. By 1857 a newspaper called the *Northern Argus* was being published in Horsetown by Thomas Hart. This publication was discontinued in the 1860's and its equipment purchased by the *Shasta Courier*. In September, 1860, Mr. Charles McDonald of Horsetown filled out a questionnaire regarding the town for H. H. Bancroft's *Book of Travel for the Pacific States*. McDonald indicated that Horsetown had a population of about 500 people, and a justice of the peace and constable. Two hotels served the town and purchases could be made from three dry goods, two hardware, two book and stationery, and one drug store. In addition, this hamlet possessed three doctors, two lodges and a Roman Catholic Church.

That entertainment was not lacking in the mining center is indicated by a statement made by an unknown Horsetown correspondent to the *Shasta Courier* in April, 1858. He declared:

Our town was thrown into a high state of excitement by the arrival of the "Varieties," who performed for two nights at the Clinton Lodge Hall . . . I cannot refrain from saying that the classic features of Jo Bowers and the sparkling eyes, ruby lips and blushing cheeks of Negombo appeared to the greatest advantage in consequence of the beautiful arrangement of the footlights and picturesque scenery with which the stage was adorned.

In 1862 the *Argus* reported that mining was looking up in the area, with daily reports of new placers and a profit of \$340 in six days washing by a local mining company. In 1863 the town was almost evenly divided in its political loyalties with a 33-31 victory by the Republicans over the Democrats. Horsetown prices in 1863 included: flour, \$.03½ per pound; barley, \$.02½; wheat, \$.02; bacon, \$.22; coffee, \$.33; and butter \$.40 per pound. At about the same time a Horsetown

correspondent, obviously bent upon leaving a favorable impression of his home town, presented the following description of the rapidly declining town:

. . . Its population is second in the county, being estimated to be in the neighborhood of 400 inhabitants. It is a mining population principally, although it embraces all the occupations and professions that are found in the older settlements of the east. As a mining point it has been equal to any location north of the Feather River. We have communication with all parts of the state three times a week by mail and stage, and daily with the county capitol by express . . . To the surrounding country to the south and west is the principal point for trading . . . Society here can be found suitable to the tastes of most all.

However, by the end of the 60's Horsetown was in a state of decay. Fires swept the town in 1864 and 1868 and the hamlet never recovered from their effect. By 1880 deterioration had set in to such a degree that a Redding *Independent* writer termed Horsetown "now almost deserted . . . a decayed town." In 1905 a dredger was set up on the site of Horsetown. This dredger was dismantled in September, 1930, bringing to an end the last remnant of a once prosperous mining center.

Igo (Piety Hill)—

One of the principal mining centers in Shasta County in the 50's and 60's was a settlement four miles southwest of Horsetown called Piety Hill. This town received its name from the inclination of its citizenry for religious discussion. Although there is very little record regarding the early growth of the town, its political climate and population are somewhat indicated by the 1863 election results published by the *Northern Argus* of Horsetown. This pro-Union journal stated that Piety Hill voters had proven their loyalty to the Union by a 22-7 margin over the Copperheads. During this period ore getting in the nearby Hardscrabble mine was aided by a 22 mile series of flumes and ditches originating at the north fork of Cottonwood Creek.

In 1866 William Conger built a house across the gulch from Piety Hill on a tract known as the Igo flat. The town of Piety Hill followed him to this location when the village was removed because it lay in the path of a hydraulic mining operation. In 1866, five mines were operating around Igo, and one of these, the Chicago mine, had taken out over \$100,000 worth of ore, mostly silver. In 1868 the town of Igo was officially laid out by George F. McPherson.

Known both as Igo and Piety Hill, this community continued as a mining center until the 1870's. During the height of the local gold era, Igo contained two general stores, two hotels, a saloon, a blacksmith shop, a school, three lodges, and a post office. By 1881 Igo was described as "a thorough-going, enterprising town" that still possessed much gold dust. Four years later Igo was said to have some of the oldest and best orchards in the county, including apples, peaches, plums and grapes. In addition, the local school offered "patent desks and other modern appliances" and the town had a roller skating rink.

By this time Igo had nearly absorbed Piety Hill. This fact was substantiated by a writer for the Redding *Independent* in March, 1886, who stated: "I passed through Piety Hill, once a prosperous mining camp, now a suburb of Igo, mostly occupied by Chinese."

In 1900 Igo was still known as a mining town, but with an increasing emphasis on stock raising and fruit growing. A daily stage from Redding served the town's citizens, but the nearest shipping point was Anderson, fifteen miles away. At the turn of the century the town had a store, hotel, blacksmith shop, and saloon. During the 1900's Igo has become the center of an agricultural area, without the bustle of its 19th Century mining prosperity.

Ingot—

As a traveler journeys on Highway 299 northeast from Redding toward the Fall River area, he encounters the few extant remains of the old mining center of Ingot, hub of the one-time Furnaceville district. Gertrude Steger, in her *Place Names of Shasta County*, defined three periods of activity in this section. The first, during the 1860's, saw this community assume the name Silver City. The period of the 70's witnesses the acquisition of the Furnaceville appendage,

while the 80's emphasized the development of the Afterthought Mine, the leading gold and copper producer in the area.

The name Ingot was officially acquired in 1904 with the introduction of a postal station by that name. The Afterthought Mine, the core of the area's economy, operated on a hit and miss basis until the mid-1940's. Today only tenantless buildings and decaying machinery designate the site of this former copper and zinc center.

Inwood-

A small mountain community in the timber area near Shingletown, Inwood was named a postal station in 1887. However, the initial settlement in this area took place in 1852 by a man with the colorful name of George Washington Sheridan. As a stopping place on the Shingletown road to Lassen Park, Inwood became known as a fruit and stock raising section. Its post office was consolidated with Shingletown in 1947.

Kennett-

Buried under several hundred feet of water in Shasta Lake, Kennett rests from its labors of six decades past. The railroad supply center for the DeLa Mar and Copper City mines (the Mammoth and Balaklala), Kennett was a "boom town" in the literal sense of the word. The "Father" of Kennett was Charles Butters, a gold seeker elevated to a millionaire by his development of a successful gold processing method. Butters initially mined for gold in the Kennett area. With the copper boom in the 1890's, the town catapulted from 20 to 2,500 people, and to accommodate the newcomers, Butters laid out a model town of gridiron fashion with wide streets, sites for churches and a school, and even a city sewer system. At its height around 1910, Kennett's monthly payroll was nearly \$100,000. The town possessed several hotels, a bank, a newspaper, twenty-two telephones, and numerous saloons, including the celebrated "Diamond Bar" known for its \$5,000 mahogany bar. Kennett boasted the largest smelter on the Pacific Coast, an accomplishment modified by the irritating effects of the smelter fumes. At times the fumes became so heavy that the entire town was enveloped in a haze of bluish smoke. Not only was this annoying to the local citizenry, but the cries of anger from their equally irritated neighbors to the south were an additional burden for the people of Kennett to bear.

Kennett rose and fell with the Shasta County copper industry. In 1910 the city was the second largest in Shasta County. Ten years later it was dead, the victim of economic circumstances out of its control and a visionary who had placed too many eggs in a copper basket.

Keswick-

Home of the copper smelter serving the Iron Mountain Mine, this town received its name from an English stockholder in the Iron Mountain Copper Company, Lord Keswick. Designated a postal station in 1896, Keswick was the second largest town in the county by the turn of the century. At that time this copper metropolis possessed over 2,000 inhabitants, a school, Methodist Church, and received four stages daily from Redding. Eight hundred tons of ore were processed daily in the four blast furnaces of the Mountain Copper Company smelter. This ore was transported the twelve miles from the Iron Mountain Mine by narrow gauge railroad. During the peak period of the town, local workers received the following wages:

Timbermen	\$2.75 - \$3.00 per day
Machinemen	\$2.75 per day
Miners	\$2.60 - \$2.75 per day
Muckers	\$2.10 - \$2.50 per day
Laborers	\$1.90 - \$2.00 per day

With the decline of the copper industry in the early 1900's, the copper smelter at Keswick was closed and the town regressed into a tranquil, sparsely settled area. In 1923 the post office was granted to the Iron Mountain Company terminal point at Matheson, and a decade later the *Anderson Valley News* described the town as: "today only a railroad flag station." Keswick has existed down to the present time as a small residential area some half dozen miles north of Redding.

LaMoine—

A small lumber center near the Siskiyou-Shasta County boundary, LaMoine received a post office in 1902, but lost it to Dunsmuir in 1954. Activated by the LaMoine Lumber Company during the late 30's and early 40's, this area has seen little progress since fire consumed the lumber mill in 1943.

Latona—

The name given to a small agricultural district immediately north of the present U.S. Plywood plant, Latona was a dream in the mind of Major P. B. Reading in 1857. This townsite, plotted for the Major by William Magee, never materialized. It was to have been situated near the confluence of Clear Creek and the Sacramento River. Latona maintained its own school during the first half of the 20th Century. However, in 1950 this school was consolidated into the Anderson Elementary District.

Lower Springs—

Two miles southeast of Shasta City on Clear Creek amid a growing subdivision are some large palm trees and a few old chimneys, remnants of the early mining town of Lower Springs. Noted in the 50's for two of its hostelryes—the Virginia House and Swasey's, Lower Springs was so named to distinguish it from Upper Springs, later to be designated Shasta. Although it was large enough to contend for the county seat in the early 50's, Lower Springs soon ceased to exist as a political entity.

Middletown—

Located half way between Shasta and Horsetown lay the old gold center of Middletown. A recipient of water from the Clear Creek ditch during the 1850's, this community was sizeable enough to register fifty-three votes in an election held in 1853. Middletown was named a Shasta County post office in 1856.

Like most of its contemporaries, Middletown began to decline during the 60's. A *Courier* article datelined November 3, 1864, remarked:

Once more old Middletown takes her place among the towns that live. For a long time she has been in a trance—so long that some of her friends thought she had died. Many quartz lodes are here that will prospect \$15 - \$75 per ton. Our mines are yielding better than for years.

This writer then inserted an interesting comment on a pressing Middletown traffic hazard:

Our town was thrown into a great state of excitement in consequence of a raid into the town by a huge wild hog resembling in form the wild buffalo of the plains. Passing down the street he came upon a company of miners unperceived, when he sprung across a cut eight feet wide and caught a man working there and threw him into a ditch some six feet distant, where he industriously stamped him into the mud and water until a partner of the fallen man came to the rescue with a long-handled shovel and drove him away.

By the end of the 60's Middletown was described as an early mining camp "which had a good run in flush times and then . . . went to decay." Its evolution into an agricultural area took place gradually.

Millville—

This quiet, rural community a few miles east of Redding was once the scene of an active, centrally located Shasta County city. Begun in 1853 by two brothers, S. E. and N. T. Stroud, the town was situated on the east side of the river near the junction of Cow and Clover Creek. It was first called Buncombe Mills. This appendage was chosen by D. D. Harill of Shasta who built a flour mill at this location in 1855. The name was changed in 1857 by popular demand.

In the early 60's Millville was second in size only to Shasta in county towns. A Bancroft questionnaire compiled in 1863 by Henry Anklin reported the town possessed a population of 150, served by two doctors, one hotel, one general merchandise store, and a school. At about the same time an event occurred in the village which pointedly portrayed the divisive effects of the Civil War, even in a small California town. This noteworthy episode was a bear and bull fight in which more was involved than the horns and claws of animals. An observer declared:

A large crowd attended. No women were present. The bull, sinewy and range-bred, was dubbed "Jeff Davis." The bear, of the brown variety, was dubbed "Abe Lincoln." The bull made a lunge at the bear, drawing first blood from a wound made by his sharp horns, amid the wild cheers for "Jeff Davis." The bear grabbed the bull and held him in his encircling paws and clawed him with his hind legs. There was a roar of hurrahs for "Abe Lincoln." The enraged bull freed himself and charged the bear, driving his long, sharp horns into a vital part and the bruin expired, amid great cheering for "Jeff Davis."

Betting had run heavy and patriotism was running high. Those who came to enjoy the sport engaged in a bout over their favorite, and soon the whole crowd became engaged in combat, lining up on the side of the North or South.

During this period of prosperity, Millville citizens spearheaded a drive to divide Shasta County into two sections, with the western portion, including Millville, assuming the name Reading. Their efforts went for naught. In the 60's notable additions were made to Millville. Prominent among these was a spacious stone church finished in 1869, and a large brick building, erected two years previous, which housed the school and three lodge groups.

In 1881 Millville entered the contest against Shasta and Redding for possession of the county seat. Its claim to the prize was based primarily on the town's age and its centrality in the county. This bid failed.

During the decades before the turn of the century, Millville remained a sizeable Shasta County town. Its newspaper, the *East Side Times*, reported in 1887: "The population of the town is about 500," and furnished a lengthy list of business establishments. Another Millville tabloid, the *Advocate*, during the same decade announced the activities of both a lyceum and literary society in this budding metropolis.

Nevertheless, Millville's inclination to prosper did not materialize. Since the turn of the century, the community status of the town has become that of a small, agricultural village.

Montgomery Creek—

In a mountain valley some forty miles northeast of Redding rests the quiet community of Montgomery Creek. A post office (Montgomery Ferry) in 1877, this section was supposedly named after Shasta County pioneer Zach Montgomery, who accompanied a fishing party to the area in the 1850's. By 1880 the Shasta County Democrat (Millville) reported that: "This section (Montgomery Creek) is noted for fine lumber which invites an industry." Three years later settlement in the Montgomery Creek area was attested to in an article by the *Redding Independent*. It stated:

The amount of labor performed here is gigantic, the settlers literally having hewed their houses out of the virgin forests . . . The land already cleared is dotted over with fine farms that add to the beauty of the rugged scene around them.

During the last decades of the 19th, as well as into the 20th Century, this section maintained itself by lumber and farming. The county directory of 1900 described Montgomery Creek as a stock and dairying area, as well as the location of a wood camp serving the Mountain Copper Company smelter. In addition, the community's hotel and store served lumber hauling teamsters along with local citizenry. With the improvement of Highway 299 in the 20's and 30's, the isolation of this mountain region was alleviated. At the present time Montgomery Creek remains a peaceful mountain hamlet, best known for its delicious mountain apples and other fruit products.

Muletown—

Muletown was one of the oldest and most shortlived of the Shasta County mining centers. Although its vintage probably dates back to 1849 or 1850, the first newspaper article available

on the town announced in October, 1852, that: "Nine Kanakas have died in Muletown within a few days with a disease which resembles the Cholera." Other records indicate this community was located three miles up Clear Creek from Horsetown on the north side of the creek. Its name was reportedly derived from the town's location in a large flat where early day packers turned their mules out to graze.

By the 1860's Muletown was in its heyday. In 1865 the *Courier* reported that:

Muletown, five miles southwest of us, bids fair to rival French Gulch in rich lodes. We get accounts of rich discoveries from there every week, but they are so numerous and so indefinite that we are compelled to wait for further revelations.

That all Muletown residents were not overjoyed with the town's euphonious name was evidenced in a *Courier* article a year later which declared that: "Ladies of the place propose to have the name changed to Potosi." The editor agreed that their recommendation was good, but then pointedly asserted that he "favored original names for all places." Although the original name remained, the Potosi and Eureka mines continued to maintain this community into the 1870's. By the turn of the century, however, Muletown was only a memory in the annals of Shasta County.

Oak Run—

Another small Shasta County community which began as a mining center and then turned into a farming section, Oak Run is located about twenty-five miles northeast of Redding. First known as the Dry Creek mining area, this section was large enough by 1863 to elicit from an Oak Run correspondent his statement that:

We are working hard for our country's cause . . . I wish those Copperheads would come over and give us another taste of their eloquence . . . I think another would bust them wide open.

By July, 1869, a traveler through the area described Oak Run as an "area of fine farms." Eight years later the town became a county post office. By the turn of the century the Shasta County *Directory* described the Oak Run section as one of "stock and farming," with some quartz mining left. This area has remained a tranquil, rural setting down through the years.

Ono (Eagle Creek)—

Located six miles southwest of Igo on Clear Creek is a small center called Ono. This district was first called Eagle Creek, probably for a man by the name of Eagle who in 1849 had declared that rich diggings lay up Clear Creek and then promptly disappeared. However, Mr. Eagle had created enough excitement to cause immigrants to push on up the creek, and their first principal stopping place they called Eagle Creek.

The origin of the name Ono involves a combination Baptist minister, teacher and farmer named William Kidder. Kidder, who had arrived in Piety Hill in 1858 and subsequently served a stint in the Union Army during the Civil War, married in 1867 and settled down on a ranch west of Eagle Creek. Although there was much activity in the town by 1882 with a school, church, and blacksmith shop in full swing, Eagle Creek was still getting its mail at Igo. With an appeal to receive mail under the name Eagle Creek rejected because there was another California hamlet with the same designation, Rev. Kidder turned to 1 Chron. 8:12 and came up with the name Ono. This was accepted and the town received a post office on April 16, 1883.

Ono continued as a mining district until the Twentieth Century, but stock raising has become the district's leading enterprise until the present time.

Palo Cedro—

Palo Cedro came into being in 1891 when W. H. Shanahan and Joe Enright bought thirty acres a few miles east of Redding and surveyed twelve lots for a town site. The name, Palo Cedro, the founders derived from the Spanish term for cedar tree. By 1893 the community merited a post office, but down through the years has existed as a tranquil, rural hamlet, emphasizing fruit and stock raising. Recent developments have included the erection of the Junction School with approximately 450 pupils, a Community Baptist Church, and numerous homes.

Parkville—

A small Shasta County agricultural center located approximately four miles north from the Balls Ferry area on the road from that section to Millville, Parkville received its title from early settler Steven Parks. A post office graced this location from 1871 to 1875. In addition, a Parkville school and cemetery provided a degree of permanence to this farming region located on Ash Creek. Economically, Parkville was stimulated in the 70's by the rafting of lumber down the Sacramento River from a point near the place. The end of this business helped bring this area into rapid oblivion before the turn of the century.

Plateau—

Scarcely a political entity, Plateau was from 1890 to 1911 a small post office five miles east of Shingletown. Named because of the plateau nature of the Shingletown ridge area, this small store and post office served as a way station in this timber section for the years approximating the turn of the century. In the 90's a small mill was established near the place and a church was added to the few existing buildings. With the sale of surrounding farm sites to the Northern California Power Company in the first decade of the 20th Century, Plateau became a "ghost town." A forest fire in 1917 nearly completed the deterioration of the shortlived village.

Portuguese Flat—

In the early mining section encompassing the northernmost reaches of present-day Shasta County known as the Upper Sacramento mines, was a lively camp called Portuguese Flat. Reputed to be "one of the toughest mines in the north," this short-term district got its start in the early 1850's through the auspices of several Portuguese gold seekers. Their nationality provided the name for this bustling settlement. Portuguese Flat maintained its prosperity into the 60's and 70's. During 1867 the *Shasta Courier* reported that: "Times are lively at Portuguese Flat on the Upper Sacramento (which is) considered one of the best and most extensive on the Upper Sacramento." Toward the end of the 60's, Portuguese Flat became the headquarters of a strange and violent character named Robert Pitt. Pitt, who would dominate the section from his saloon counter for nearly twenty-five years, was involved in many violent affairs during that period. However, he seemed able to escape everything but notoriety for his deeds.

Portuguese Flat received its own postal station in April, 1870. This distinction lasted until 1877 when the post office was changed to Hazel Creek. By the end of the 19th Century, Portuguese Flat had regressed into "ghost town" status, another memory in the annals of early California.

Roaring River—

H. H. Bancroft in a Bancroft Scrapbook clipping of 1862, asserted that "the mines in the vicinity of Roaring River are being more fully and successfully developed than ever before." Although this is the first written record of this area available to the author, it is probably safe to assume that Roaring River had its beginning as a Shasta County mining center in the mid-50's. Located west of the present town of Cottonwood in the southern reaches of the county, Roaring River by the mid-1860's was suffering from the economic gyrations characteristic of most of these early gold centers. Typical of the almost contradictory reports from Roaring River were two comments issued back in 1866. On August 6th, a *Courier* correspondent reported that:

At Johnny's store an occasional Chinaman drops quietly in, hands in his dust, gets his corn, buys his rice and other articles, never even disturbing the poker game. Times are not very exciting here.

A week later the paper exuberantly reported:

No greater field of profitable investment in mining exists anywhere than in this Roaring River and Gas Point region . . . Many claims have been opened and work begun with hydraulics.

The change over from mining to agriculture began in the late 60's. By 1874 Roaring River had its own post office. This station lasted for only three years. During the last decades of the

19th Century this area regressed into a political non-entity—at present a name familiar to a few pioneers of Shasta County.

Round Mountain—

Farming, stock raising, mining, and lumber have all played a part in the development of this small mountain community located near Montgomery Creek on Highway 299 East. Together with Ingot, Round Mountain was called the Furnaceville district in the period of copper production in Shasta County history. Its post office, initiated in June, 1872, has been maintained to the present day.

A county descriptive circular published in 1882 asserted that in the Round Mountain area: "There are good fruit, hay, and grain ranches." The *California Illustrated*, a guide book for travelers, commented in 1891 that: "The Shasta Lumber Company has their headquarters at Round Mountain." By the turn of the century this community was still fairly active, boasting a church, school, general merchandise store, saloon, and hotel. By the end of the 1960's a new school, post office, and store, as well as a large Pacific Gas and Electric substation, evidenced the vitality of this mountain community.

Shingletown—

Twenty-seven miles northeast of Cottonwood and twenty-five miles east of Anderson is a small lumbering town that since the 1870's has been sending lumber to these two towns to be processed and shipped. Shingletown was established, supposedly, in 1870 by William Daws, but the Shingletown area was known before that time. The town had begun as a stopping place on the Noble Pass immigrant trail which crossed Lassen County to the south fork of Battle Creek and passed Shingletown before entering the Sacramento Valley. The importance of the community's location as an immigrant reception point was evidenced by an article in the *Shasta Courier* of October 7, 1859:

Our friend, Sam Franks of Shingletown, was in town during the week and informed us that during the past two weeks, sixty-seven wagons from the plains passed through this place. Each wagon numbered about five persons and fifteen head of stock. We sincerely regret that many of the emigrants arrived in a state of extreme destitution.

The town's original businesses were a McCarley and Smith General Merchandise Store, which was later moved to Cottonwood, a hotel, and a blacksmith shop. About a dozen houses existed in the community which was described as: "The chief business center on the Shingletown plateau."

The first Shingletown area mills were the McCumber Mill and Rudolph Klotz Mill begun in 1852. The "Old Dry Mill" came in 1855. These mills were followed by several more in the 19th Century. Sugar pine and yellow pine lumber was produced around Shingletown as well as 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 shakes per year between 1880 and 1905. By 1905 shakes were worth \$6 per 1,000, and during 1899 the Shingletown area had shipped 4,000,000 board feet of lumber, 750,000 shakes and 10,000 posts.

Various methods were used to send the lumber from the Shingletown plateau to the valley. While large traction engines brought the logs to the mills, three wheel wagons with fourteen inch front and sixteen inch rear tires hauled the rough lumber in 8,000 foot loads to Cottonwood or Anderson. Teamsters during this period received \$7-\$8 per thousand. A flume system also brought part of the lumber from the mountains. By World War I the horse drawn wagons and flumes were being replaced by motor trucks.

In 1906 the *Anderson Enterprise* reported: "A. F. Smith of Shingletown sold 4,500 acres of timberland to T. B. Walker, the Lumber King. L. C. Reynolds and Vilas Brothers sold some time ago." As a result of Walker's purchases in the area, lumber production stopped except for a few small mills, and by 1915, Shingletown was a ghost town.

Shingletown once again came to life at the close of World War II, with the resumption of lumbering activity. The timberland around Shingletown has been sold by the Red River Company (Walker interests) to various of the valley concerns and once again forms a major part of the area's timber supply. Although a single store marks the village of Shingletown, its importance as

a logging center is once again reflected in the numerous lumber trucks leaving the area for the valley below.

Southerns' Station—

Located on the present Highway 99 above Redding was this well-known early stage and tourist stop. Established by early Shasta County pioneer Simeon F. Southern in 1855, this hotel served such well-known travelers as President Rutherford B. Hayes, General William T. Sherman, General Philip Sheridan, Mark Hopkins, and Colis P. Huntington, among others. Mr. Southern passed away in 1892. His wife retained the property until 1911, when she sold out to lumber interests.

Texas Springs—

Two and one-half miles from Horsetown near Clear Creek was Texas Springs, named for a miner whose nickname was derived from his home state. In 1854 the town had a private school and was renowned for its sandstone quarries which furnished tombstones for the entire county.

That Texas Springs was of some size during the 50's was indicated by two *Shasta Courier* articles written in 1858. The first, reporting the 4th of July in this village, termed Texas Springs the "Biggest little town in the county," where such remarkable composure prevailed on this day of national rejoicing that: "Not one word of discord was heard, or a drunken man seen." The second, written in November, reported a major fire at the town which destroyed six buildings.

As with many of the early mining centers, Texas Springs began to wane in the 60's. As early as 1861 the *Courier* described the place as: "Formerly one of the foremost mining towns of the county (which) is not in a remarkably flourishing condition." This commentator attributed the decline to two factors: "exhausted diggings . . . and a scarcity of water." By the mid-60's this decline was accelerated. A local correspondent of 1866 had this to say about the town:

It is an isolated camp. The diggings are worked out. The average receipts are only about one hundred ounces per week. White miners are leaving for the higher localities. No news is worth relating, only the spelling school is all the rage. They meet every Saturday, and come from far and near . . . Lots of young ladies attend. That, you know, makes the concern popular.

Religious activities were also in order during this time, with Texas Springs serving as the site of county-wide camp meetings. Although the newspaper editor professed little personal interest in matters of the soul, he did admit one of these gatherings in 1866 "agreeably surprised" him, since: "It seemed to be composed principally of some of the best men of the county and their families."

Despite its variety of interests, the days of Texas Springs were numbered. By the 70's newspaper accounts seldom mentioned the village, although in 1879 a vote total of thirty-four was recorded in an election in the Texas Springs precinct. Nevertheless, by the 90's the town was abandoned by even its most faithful constituents. Texas Springs had gone the way of the gold town.

Tower House—

Today little remains to mark the location of a Shasta County landmark of the 1860's—the Tower House. Developed in the 50's by a pioneer named Levi Tower from lumber cut in the nearby forests, this hotel became a showplace in a lovely mountain setting. The establishment lay at the junction of the Weaverville-Redding-Old Oregon stage roads. The Tower House served not only as a stopping place for the California Stage Company, but also as a resort for health and pleasure seekers. This area was also the residence of prominent Shasta County citizen, Charles Camden, whose local ventures included orcharding, water ditching, sawmilling, and mining.

Viola—

In a lovely mountain setting some forty-four miles from Redding at an elevation of 4,400 feet is the picturesque resort area known as Viola. Presently the scene of a hotel, store, service

Whitmore—

This small community, a farming and fruit section some thirty-four miles northeast of Redding, was started by a German immigrant named Simon Whitmore in 1863. Originally called Tamarac, this village grew into a substantial settlement with a blacksmith shop, hotel, post office, school, and Lutheran Church.

As a freight stop on the Redding-Burney road, Whitmore had been added to significantly in the early 80's by the immigration of a German Lutheran colony into the area. This group, known as the Eudora Colony, built the previously mentioned church in 1885. This sanctuary stood until a destructive snow storm razed it in 1937.

In 1900 the county directory described Whitmore as a "prosperous section" which was developing into a noted resort area boasting the "coldest water in the state." Down through the years agriculture was the area's economic backbone—principally the crops of potatoes, dry beans, apples, wheat, and hops. Transportation, a major problem especially during the winter, was alleviated by the building of better roads into the area in the 1920's and 30's. Today Whitmore provides a rustic setting for those who farm the fertile land of the area, or work nearby and live in this tranquil mountain section.