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Even as early as 1859, interest was displayed in the possibilities of fruit production in Visalia and the surrounding territory as evidenced in the following article, taken from the Tulare County Record and Examiner of July 2, 1859:

"FIRST OF THE SEASON:--Mr. T.J. Goodale, the enterprising horticulturist of this place, has left at our office, some fine ripe apricots such as would tickle the palate of Epicures himself.

"Mr. Goodale is deserving of great credit for his laudable enterprise, in the cultivation of fruit. He has demonstrated the fact beyond a doubt that Tulare county will challenge comparison with the world in this branch of agriculture. At some future time, we design giving a full and minute description of Mr. G's grounds, etc."

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Court house space seems to have been a problem in Tulare county since the early days. Then, even as now, officials felt they were not given adequate quarters to conduct their offices with efficiency.

The following article appeared in the Visalia Delta of July 7, 1862:

"At last 'the powers that be' have made a respectable place in the upper story of the court house. Two small rooms have been partitioned off at the right and left of the front entrance, one of which is used as a sheriff's office and the other as a grand jury room.

"We would suggest to the undersheriff, who has taken up his abode there, that the fine finish of the walls and door-panels would lack nothing by the removal of certain obscene inscriptions done in pencil by some # 'special artist.'"

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Events of Civil War days are recorded in ^{old} ~~new~~ editions of the Visalia Delta, emphasizing the length of time during which the Visalia newspapers have served Visalia and Tulare county. A troop movement is recorded in the following article which appeared in the Visalia Delta of October 23, 1862:

"Company I, 2nd cavalry, arrived in town early Tuesday morning last, in command of Major O'Neil. The men are a determined-looking ~~a~~ set of fellows, above the average size, and looked well able to stand the hardships of a soldier's life. This company was raised in Placerville and Captain Jones Deserves credit for their good ~~appearance~~ discipline and soldierly appearance.

"A correspondent sends the following incidents of the march:

"At Keyesville, the company assisted in raising a flag-staff which the Union citizens had intended to raise last ^Furth but were not strong enough. Fifty pairs of stout hands raised it with a will and, from the top of it, unfurled to the breeze a beautiful silken flag, giving nine cheers for the ^Star Spangled Banner and three groans for all traitors. While the soldiers stayed in town, Je Davis had very few supporters. I hope they make as good an impression in every town they pass through.

"The heavy rains of last winter had made the road almost impassable for teams yet through the skill and experience of Major O'Neil, the command brought through six heavy government wagons without even a breakdown and made excellent time."

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Assistance for the sick and needy was a problem in the early period of Visalia even as it is today as evidenced from the Visalia Delta of April 9, 1863:

"Mrs. Dr. Russell has been charitably engaged during the week in raising a subscription for the purpose of an artificial leg for a poor man, Brown, whose unfortunate mishap we chronicled some time ago. We learn that she has raised nearly the amount required.

"We hope our citizens will contribute liberally. Regarding this case, we may mention that Dr. Russell has generously furnished this unfortunate man with medical attendance and board for some three months gratuitously. We think the supervisors should pay him his full bill and deduct the amount from the salary of the county physician.

"Dr. Russell could have sent the man to the hospital, and consequently to almost certain death, but ~~he~~ would not do it until he was out of danger. He ought to be paid. And the supervisors should annul the present hospital contract. We do not know of any patient ever leaving it alive, except Mayfield who skedaddled before he was there six hours."

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Bears were not only plentiful in the Visalia ~~xxx~~ area but sometimes vicious, it is indicated from the following which appeared in the Visalia Weekly Delta of August 30, 1865:

"Mr. Rhodes, who was so badly torn by a grizzly last week is reported recovering rapidly. It appears that Mr. Rhodes and his son a boy of some 15 years, were going to a spring at the edge of the valley to watch for deer ~~xxx~~ which go there for water.

"Mr. Rhodes, who was in front, heard his boy scream and, turning, saw the bear with the boy under it. He immediately ran to the rescue and attempted to run the gun into the bear's mouth and then fire. He failed in this and his short ~~merely~~ merely took effect along the animal's side. Upon feeling the shot, the bear immediately turned upon Rhodes, seized him by the arm which it lacerated very badly and then, after biting him through the chest two or three times, left him and went on his way up the mountain.

"The father and son walked home together. The boy says that the first notice he had of the bear's presence, it ~~reared~~ reared up immediately beside him and struck him in face with his paw."

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Tulare county residents were interested in state fairs and eager to promote county products, especially grapes, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ in the early days it is revealed ~~from~~ by the following article which appeared in the Visalia Weekly Delta of September 6, 1865;

"The state fair this year will undoubtedly be largely attended and unusually interesting. The Tulare valley ought to be represented there, at least in our grapes.

"We have undoubtedly the finest grapes in the state, both the native and foreign varieties but our isolated position prevents the general knowledge of the fact. Cannot some of our grape growers fix up a nice small collection of choice specimens for the s tate fair and we will pay the expense of transmission, by express, to Sacramento. A box of 20 pounds would be sufficient for the purpose."

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A Visalia newspaper of April 10, 1869, contained the following "notice to shippers":

"The fast sailing and substantial freighting steamer, Harriet built expressly for the Visalia and Millerton trade, will hereafter leave Stockton every Saturday at 8 o'clock a.m., for Fresno Slough.

"All goods shipped on the Steamer T.C. Walker independent line from San Francisco to Stockton on Thursdays will connect with the steamer Harriet for Visalia and Millerton and all intermediate ports.

"All wool shipped on the Steamer Harriet will go through by the connection of the Steamer T.C. Walker without charges of drayage or commission.

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Although resources for improvement were limited Visalians had civic pride long before the city had grown to its present proportions, it is revealed by the following ~~xxx~~ article which appeared in the Tulare County Times of May 22, 1869:

"POOR MAN'S LAKE:--This lake is located at the crossing of Main and Church streets and for the convenience of public travel should be filled up.

"We therefore propose that the city authorities direct the same to be done and assess the four adjacent corners equally for the cost thereof. If they were poor men, they would do it themselves."

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Present day residents of Visalia who merely reach for a tray in the electric refrigerator or wait for the arrival of the ice man probably do not realize that there was a time when ice was not so readily obtainable.

The following article which appeared in the Tulare County Times of June 19, 1869, is indicative of conditions:

"~~H~~ Jim Wilks has received a supply of hard ice for the use of his saloon, where all kinds of fancy iced drinks can be had.

"Owing to an accident in the breaking down of wagons, the supply is not sufficient to warrant him in retailing any for 10 or 12 days, but after that time he will have a larger supply and will be happy to accomodate all customers that wish ice."

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That homicides were so common they did not attract a great deal of general interest in the early days is evidenced by the amount of space devoted to reporting such affairs.

From the Tulare County Times of October 16, 1869:

"We have received information from a private letter that a man by the name of ^{Markwood} ~~Markham~~ and one whose name was not learned had a difficulty in which ^{Markwood} ~~Markham~~ was very severely stabbed, after which he killed his antagonist with a club. The affair occurred on Joy creek, 12 miles from Millerton in Fresno county. ^{Markwood} ~~Markham~~ was recovering slowly at the last account."

~~From the Tulare County Times of October 22, 1869:~~

From the Tulare County Times of August 21, 1869:

"MAN KILLED:--A man by the name of Sankey was found murdered on Kings river a few days since. A charge of buckshot had been fired into his breast and shoulders, from the effects of which he must have died instantly. The suspected parties have been arrested and taken to Millerton for trial."

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