

game

edition

by C.T. Buckman,

President, ~~former~~ California Mountaineers, and for two terms president, Visalia Sportsman's Association.

We who are interested in game conservation and restoration and who enjoy a day in the field with a shooting ~~companion~~ companion and a well trained dog or an afternoon on a trout stream still think Visalia is the hub of a sportsman's paradise. The thought probably ~~is~~ is true based upon present day standards of how a pleasant day's sport may be enjoyed. The sportsman of yesterday probably did not look at his day in the field or on the stream through the same rose-colored glasses as do we of today.

When Jedediah Smith, Fremont and Kit Carson roamed the mountains and valleys of California, this was one of the greatest game countries on earth.

April 1, 1884, at the crossing of the Merced river, Fremont notes:

"It is crowded with bands of elk and wild horses. Along the rivers are fresh tracks of grizzly bear which were numerous in this county. Innumerable ducks and geese were seen."

Another day:

"We traveled among multitudinous herds of elk, antelope and wild horses."

In the Sacramento valley in 1846, he writes:

"Game was very fat and abundant; upwards of 80 deer, elk and bear were killed in one morning!"

more



ad one game

When leaving the San Joaquin valley, he wrote:

"One might travel the world over without finding a velley more fresh and verdant--more floral and sylvan--more alive with birds and animals--more ~~beautifully~~ bountifully watered than the San Joaquin."

While perusing early issues of the Visalia Weekly Delta , A.W. Frost, deputy county clerk and historian, found the following mention of game conditions in this area in the early sixties:

November 10, 1860:--"Bear and deer are now very plentiful in the foot hills. Some of our sportsmen are enjoying themselves hunting. One party came in a few days since and reported having killed six bear and a number of deer--seven of the latter, they brought with them."

September 26, 1861:--"Game of common kinds seems to be abundant. Two individuals in a few hours on Monday last killed 63 quail and 13 rabbits. Other parties have shot numbers of wood ducks which are plentiful in the swamps where there is water."

November 14, 1861:--"A flock of seven deer were seen several times on Sunday and Monday, a few hundred yards above town. Several nimrods started after them but succeeded in killing only one."

Elk originally were found over much of ~~California~~ California while antelope roamed the San Joaquin valley in countless numbers. The grizzly bear was prominently mentioned by all early explorers and pioneers. Prior to 1890, ducks and geese were seen in uncountable numbers, valley quail were found by the million and rabbits were counted in hordes.

There

Here is definite information that only 50 years ago, trappers averaged 140 dozen quail per week in in Lone Tree canyon where 20 men were trapping.

m ore



ad two game

Shooting at water holes got 40 to 50 quail at a shot. Even as late as 1895, 100,000 quail could be seen in a 30-mile ride in ~~Sanix~~ central California. On the west side of the valley, coveys of 1000 to 2500 were common.

Well I remember as a youngster for the return of my father who together with Guy Gilmer, Tom Chatten, Abe Murray, Billie Wild, Morve Weaver or some of the other tried and true sportsmen, made one of their several days' buckboard trips to Spanish Camp in the Yokohl valley for a quail shoot. In those days it was a day's trip to get there and consequently a day's trip to return home.

Their game was tied in bunches of a dozen. Driving down Main street, old friends just helped themselves! Later, as I grew older, it was my privilege to accompany them on some of these trips, particularly to the Mehrt on Troughs country east of Lind Cove. To me, it seemed there were covies of several thousand birds--probably they were nearer 150--but they were plentiful!

Thirty-five years ago, doves would come into a water hole in the evening literally by the thousands. It made little which way one cared to go--east, west, north or south--it was all the same.

Do not get the impression this area was a paradise only for the hunter. No indeed, our mountain streams were teeming with trout. Incidentally, the streams of Tulare county are known far and wide as being probably as fine as there are to be found anywhere.. I wonder how many residents of this county know there are four distinct varieties of trout native to Tulare county. It is doubtful if such a ~~sandstone~~ background exists in any other county in the United States, or for that matter, in any similar sized area in the world.

m ore



a d three game

These three varieties are as follows:

Roosevelt golden trout, *Salmo Roosevelti* Evermann.

Native only of Volcano creek in the high Sierra near Mt. Whitney, from which it has been introduced into certain other mountain streams. The most beautiful trout in all the world, it is a game fish to delight the heart of any angler; attains a pound or less in weight; named for ~~T~~ "Théodore Roosevelt, the naturalist."

Golden trout of Little Kern river, *salmo whitei* Evermann.

Known only from the western tributaries of Kern river in the high Sierra, ~~this~~ Tulare county, perhaps most abundant in the Little Kern and in Coyote creek. More profusely spotted than either of the other species of golden trout. A beautiful little trout and an excellent game fish. Named for Stewart Edward White.

Agua-Bonita golden trout, *salmo agua bonita* Jordan. The home of this beautiful trout is native only to the South Fork of the Kern river, Tulare county, from which, however, it has been introduced into various other waters. This species is intermediate in spotting between the Roosevelt and the Stewart Edward White trouts.

Kern river trout, *salmo Gilbert & Jordan*. Last but not least, this beautiful fish is world famous and one of the most beautiful of the rainbow trouts, but with smaller scales. Known only from Kern river where it is abundant. It attains a weight of three or four pounds and is a splendid game fish.

Many of our fine trout waters in Tulare county originally were barren of trout. They were stocked by the pioneer sportsmen, stock men and others who carried live fish from one lake or stream to another in whatever container they may have had with them.

m ore



ad four game

James Hamilton, that fine citizen and stock man who for many years lived in the lower Yokohl valley, told the writer how he had caught a <sup>few</sup> ~~xxx~~ fish in the Big Arroyo and had carried them over thd divide in a five-pound lard pail and released them in what is now known as Hamilton lake. He kept his secret until finally, about 1920, it became known generally and many of the "Isaac Waltons" of Visalia have enjoyed a day's sport with these beauties.

Two others who did much to make our streams what they are today were "Andy" Ferguson and Sam Ellis. There no doubt are many many more who deserve credit but with whom I never have come in contact.

A great many anglers living here now remember when "Sub" Johnson fished the Pumpkin Hollow area, always returning with the limit which was 50 a day. The Lovelace boys were youngsters there and knew every fish by its first name! On the middle fork, immediately above, one could fish all afternoon without coming across another angler. Now it is almost impossible to find a rock upon which to sit without treading on someone's private domain.

Without stopping to analyze conditions, the average Californian ascribes most of the decrease in fish and game to overhunting. This, however, is only one of the many causes for the tremendous decrease here in the past 50 years. Wild life began to decline in numbers in the early eighties. It was about 1890 when the decrease in all kinds of game and fish began to be noted by the public and agitation started for game laws, the first of which went into effect shortly thereafter.

m ore



ad five game

The following are only a few of the causes for the decrease of fish and game in California:

- 1--Clearing land for cultivation.
- 2--Cutting down the forests.
- 3--Damming of creeks and rivers.
- 4--Diseases transmitted from domestic animals.
- 5--Draining swamps and lakes.
- 6--Introduction of alien fish which has a serious effect on native trout.
- 7--Increase in number of hunters and fishermen.

Good roads and automobiles are other factors operating to change conditions and augment the drain on game species. Today there are as many miles per square mile in the mountain regions of California as in some valley areas.

Thirty years ago it required several days for a hunting trip 100 miles away. Now it is made in as many hours. As new roads have been built and new regions opened up to travel, the game has been crowded back and the fish depleted but, remember this, sportsmen of Visalia and Tulare county, one still may get an evening's sport in a trout stream in Tulare county in 40 minutes.

It requires only 10 minutes to reach dove or quail shooting territory, less than an hour to reach a duck club.

Also, sportsmen, please remember that is not the kill that makes the day enjoyable; it is the fellowship and the pure air of the great outdoors. Do your share to ~~make this~~ continue to make this possible, not only for ourselves, but for the boy and girl of tomorrow.

B e a SPORTSMAN!



Edition      with connelly on mineral king      art

The editor of the Anniversaries Edition considers himself  
in  
fortunate ~~in~~ obtaining the recollections of Mrs. P.F. Ropp  
w ho, born Minnie Ka to McGinnis, was the first white child  
born in Mineral King.

2 Mrs. Ropp recalls attending a school which was washed  
down the river and which was used exactly where and as the  
flood waters had placed it.

Mrs. Ropp's recollections follow:

"I was born in Mineral King, at the foot of Saw Tooth  
mountain, September 16, 1874. I was the first white child born there.  
I suppose there was only a trail then for my mother had to ride out  
on horse back and hold me.

"I recall that once a tree limb caught under my chin and  
almost took me out of her arms.

"I spent my early childhood days on the east side of Venice  
hill on a ranch. My sister and I rode horse back to Goad school  
and wore long riding skirts on side saddles. We walked when the  
horses were needed on the ranch, however.

"One day while we were in school, the water came down from the  
mountains with a rush. We had to wade the water as there was no  
bridge so my older sister went ahead feeling her way with a long  
stick to keep out of holes and I held to her dress as she led the way.  
The water was up to my arms but we got through safely.

"My father, Abraham McGinnis, would drive to Visalia on  
Saturdays for supplies, the mail and the ~~Kinnick~~ Weekly Delta, my  
sister and I generally going along.

more



ad one with connelly on mineral king

"Those were the happy days--father gave us money to spend and it didn't take us long to see all of Visalia as it was but a small place at that time. There were no ~~zizants~~ paved streets and such streets as there were, were not even graded and there was plenty of mud in the rainy season; so much that we almost bogged down on Main street one time. The dust was terrible in the summer.

"When I was 10 years old, we moved to ~~Grandpa~~ Grandpa Meadows' ranch where we attended school in what we called the Old Ark. This building floated down during the flood in the 1860's and lodged against two large oak trees on Judge Cutler's home ranch, north and a little east of Cutler bridge. The building was used just in the place and condition as it landed. It was without a foundation, made of rough boards with bats on the cracks, sealed overhead with T. and G. lumber and the desks were made for two.

"There were a few windows on each side of the building and two doors in front. The accompanying photo shows part of the old building and ~~the~~ my schoolmates."

#



Visalians sometimes felt it their duty, in the early days, to take the law into their own hands when they felt the courts were lax or too slow in dispensing what they considered justice.

Thus, the citizens were aroused to a high pitch when, on Tuesday, December 24, 1872, James McCrory slew Charles Allen in the El Dorado saloon in Visalia. McCrory previously had been involved in a slaying, his lawyer had entered a plea of guilty to murder in the second degree and McCrory had been sentenced to prison. Denying his attorney had been given authority to enter the plea, McCrory had been granted a new trial at which a jury acquitted him.

The new slaying, with the memory of the previous killing and the failure to dispense to McCrory what the public mind considered justice brought a demand for vengeance.

The Delta relates the following circumstances of the affair:

"McCrory was drinking and also succeeded in getting Allen slightly under the influence of liquor. Allen went to bed in the El Dorado saloon. McCrory's boisterous manner frightened the Mexican bartender and he awakened Allen who arose and asked McCrory not to make so much noise. McCrory then drew his pistol and shot Allen, putting one ball in the back of the skull, laying open the brain, and two in the abdomen.

more



ad one mccrory lynching

"Either would have been fatal. McCrory then concealed himself in a closet. He was soon surrounded, taken prisoner and disarmed by officers. As he was taken to the jail shouts of ~~thurgood~~ 'hang him' emanated from the populace. He was surrendered to the jailer and locked up.

"A demand was made for him by the crowd. The sheriff and jailer interposed and bravely defended their charge. The sheriff requested the people to retire and reflect for an hour. This was considered, the people placing a guard around the jail,~~and~~ and the sheriff's request was complied with.

"At the expiration of the hour the crowd returned and expressed the determination to execute the double-dyed criminal. A great struggle was made by the officers to defend the prisoner but they were overpowered, the jail door broken open, McCrory dragged out with a rope around his neck and thus taken to the bridge on C<sup>u</sup>rt street, his body thrown over while the rope was fastened to the railing, and thus hanged until he was dead.

"A proposition was made to leave the body hanging for the county to dipose of, but the crowd determined the county ~~had~~ should be put to no further expense by such a miscreant and a collection was taken for burial ~~expenses~~ expenses. Ten minutes later, the town had resumed its usual quietness.

more



ad two mccrory lynching

"Thus terminated the ~~worst~~ career of the worst man that ever made Visalia his home. It is a sad commentary, nevertheless, upon ~~which~~ the manner in which the law is generally enforced, that our people should have felt constrained of necessity to thus sock the sense of law and order.  
~~fortesaremaxsitagethaztobianex~~

"Juries are not altogether to blame. That men find their way to the jury box who ~~maxxat~~ could only be expected to disgrace the system is the rule rather than the exception. Hence, Tulare (county), has in the last 20 years been able to roll up a more extended calendar of crime and bloodshed than that presented by some of the oldest states of the union since their formation."

The bridge from which McCrory hanged was known for years thereafter as the McCrory bridge.

#



(C) 5716

The slaying of John Shannon, early day editor of the Delta, by Wm. ~~San~~ Gouverneur H Morris, is a notable event in the history of Tulare county since it was an incident characteristic of the period when fierce political feeling prevailed and many persons were ready to resort to violence as ~~to~~ the sequel to bitter controversy.

Shannon was editor and proprietor of the Delta, a democratic newspaper at the time, and Morris was an attorney and contributor to the Visalia Sun, a republican publication. Bitter words had been used by both parties in the presidential campaign of 1860 and immediately after its close ~~Shannon went to Morris~~ Morris sent a challenge to a duel to Shannon. The challenge was presented by an attorney whom Shannon attacked, severely injuring his right hand.

Shannon published a card denouncing the course of Morris and his friends as irregular but stated he was ready to meet Morris as soon as the condition of his hand would permit him to handle a pistol. Several cards followed, abusive in the extreme on both sides, Shannon saying he would attend to any aggrieved person without the interference of friends.

On November 15, 1860, a card appeared from Morris, ~~denouncing~~ denouncing Shannon as a liar, coward and blackguard and declaring he would pay him no further attention.

The affray followed the same day, the particulars of which were published in the Sun and copied in the Delta of the week following as a correct statement.

more



ad one shannon slaying

The statement follows:

"On Thursday evening, Shanon entered the office of W.P. Gill, Esq., where Morris was sitting. Shannon held in his hand a cocked pistol and, on entering, raised the pistol, saying, 'Morris, are you armed?' Morris at once sprang to his feet and grappled with his opponent--S<sup>h</sup>annon being the taller of the two--Morris was unable to disarm him and S<sup>h</sup>annon beat him severely over the head with the pistol, inflicting nine severe scalp wounds.

"At the first or second blow, S<sup>h</sup>annon's pistol was discharged accidentally. After receiving these blows, Morris fell to the floor, covered with blood, whereupon S<sup>h</sup>annon gazed upon him several seconds and turned and left the room. Morris, however, sprang to his feet and drawing his revolver, rushed out of the south door of the building so as to intercept Shannon before reaching his office.

"The parties here exchanged shots ineffectually. Morris then left his position and, proceeding to the north side of the building, climbed on the fence (Shannon meantime retaining his position) and took deliberate aim and fired, the ball striking S<sup>h</sup>annon in the abdomen. At this instant, Shannon had raised his pistol, but lowered it without firing and put his hand on the wound and walked to his office where he died in about an hour and eighteen minutes."

This fatal conclusion to a political controversy created a sensation in California at the time. The locality was the stronghold of democracy in the state and anyone who would uphold republicanism was a mark of attention. Morris' act was commended by his partisans. There had been several battles and this was the first instance in which a democrat had fallen before a republican.



ad two shannon slaying

Shannon never was punished for the fatal shooting but this is understandable in view of the temper of the times. Editorials in newspapers throughout the state reflect a feeling which often flared into fatal combat.

#



edition

whitmore with maddox

5/16

Chas. A. Whitmore, editor and president of the Visalia Times-Delta and the Morning, Delta was born in Cadillac, Mic., on May 1, 1876. His youth was spent in his native state, in New Mexico and California. His father was a newspaperman and the principal of this sketch grew up in close association with the newspaper business.

During his early life, he ~~perform~~ performed all the duties in connection with a country newspaper, from printer's devil to city editor. In 1890, Whitmore entered the preparatory department of the Agricultural College of New Mexico at Las Cruces. He completed the course and entered the regular college to intending to become a mechanical engineer.

In 1893, his parents moved to San Bernardino, Calif., but Whitmore remained behind to complete his college year. ~~Maxamed~~ When the term ended he came to California to join his father who had become part owner with Friend W. Richardson, afterwards governor of California, ~~father~~ of the San Bernardino Times-Index.

Three weeks after reaching San Bernardino, young Whitmore obtained a job at a fruit cannery at Colton.

He always had desired to enter Stanford university. However, the New Mexico institution was not accredited, and in order to matriculate at Stanford, he entered the San Bernardino high school from which he was graduated in 1896 with the honor of valedictorian.

To obtain money to enter Stanford, he obtained a position as city editor of the Times-Index where he remained until the late fall of 1898, when having assisted his father in setting up a new weekly at Oxnard, he left for Palo Alto and registered as a Christmas freshman in the class of 1902.

more



ad one whitmore

Instead of following up his original intention of studying for engineering, Whitmore had become so interested in writing that he registered as an English major. He served on the staffs of the Daily Palo Alto and the ~~San~~ C<sup>n</sup> apparel, the college comic and for three semesters was the editor of Sequoia, at that time the S<sup>t</sup>anford literary magazine. He also was associate editor of the Quad, his class junior journal and was first president of the Stanford English club, a member of the Press club and the Chi Psi fraternity.

Almost exactly three years from the date of his entry into S<sup>t</sup>anford, Whitmore's father died and he was obliged to leave the university to take charge of the newspaper at Oxnard.

A year later, he met his future wife, the daughter of W.J. ~~Ways~~ Wayte, then consulting engineer for the American Beet S<sup>u</sup>gar company. Whitmore and May Wayte were married in San Francisco on April 14, 1904.

Whitmore sold his newspaper and went into business in the bay city. A short time after the earthquake and fire in 1906, the young couple left San Francisco and moved to Visalia, Whitmore having an office position with the old Pacific Sugar Corporation.

On January 1, 1909, Whitmore acquired the Visalia Delta and has been a resident of Visalia since. During his many years as a resident here, Whitmore has taken an active interest in the social, civic and business life of the community. He has been president of the Chamber of C<sup>o</sup>mmerce and the Rotary club and has worked consistently for the upbuilding of the city and county.

more



ad two whitmore

A republican in politics, Whitmore became identified with the activities of that party in the county and state. He was chairman of the republican county central committee during several ~~taxes~~ campaigns.

In 1915, he was appointed a member of the state board of education by Governor Hiram Johnson. In 1918, he was appointed to the California highway commission by Governor Stephens and served for four years during a crucial period.

In 1927, he went to Sacramento to be state printer and a few months later was selected by Governor Young to be his private secretary. He served in that capacity until August, 1929, when the governor elevated him to the position of state building and loan commissioner which post he resigned in 1931 after the election of Governor James Rolph, Jr. Shortly thereafter he returned to active charge of the editorial department of the Visalia newspapers.

#