

In the late 1890's and early 1900's Visalia was often distinguished in social groups and entertainments throughout the valley by the performances of the "Young Ladies' Quartette." Its members were the Misses Edna Farrow, Daisy Farrow, Maude Brown and Helen Brown. The Farrow girls were daughters of Dr. E. D. Farrow, Visalia well-known/physician, and the Brown sisters were daughters of S. D. Brown, pioneer lawyer in Tulare county.

All four girls attended Irving Institute in San Francisco, where they studied music under Professor Samuel Adelstien. Their ~~instruments~~ were all imported from Italy. Daisy Farrow played the violin, piano. Appearing at social functions and ~~benefits~~ and Edna Farrow, in Visalia, Bakersfield, Porterville, Hanford, Tulare and other towns in the valley, the quartette were in great demand and were highly praised in various valley newspapers for their performances.

Three of the four are still living in Visalia. They are Mrs. Edna Fisher (Edna Farrow), Mrs. J. E. Combs (Maude Brown) and Mrs. B. B. Dudley (Helen Brown.) Miss Daisy Farrow, now Mrs. is living in Los Angeles.

"It was great fun," said Mrs. Fisher, speaking for the group. ~~"A large audience were present at the"~~ "We enjoyed playing, and we were always invited to a dance or tea afterwards."

The Bakersfield Echo, on February 20, 1901, gives a typical account of a quartette performance: ~~"A large audience were"~~ "A large audience were at the Woman's club hall and enjoyed the concert program, which with the entertainment was lengthy. The audience were appreciative to a marked degree, and gave the young ladies a cordial welcome. The various numbers were enjoyed and applauded and the music was heartily enjoyed. Mrs. John Cutler, Jr., who accompanied the ladies as chaperon, also contributed two solos to the program ~~although affected with a slight cold.~~

"The concert numbers of the quartette were splendidly executed, the various parts being rendered with spirit and harmony. The quartette numbers were especially well received. The young ladies' entertainment was greatly appreciated. They are all young society ladies, gracious and vivacious in manner, and they enjoyed the courtesy shown them at the concert."

edition short shorts

W.A. Brown will commence his first term of select school at this place in the Brick Church on July 11. Terms--\$3 per month, due at the end of each month.--The Tulare County Record and Fresno Examiner, July 9, 1859.

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Messrs Knobie and Krafft take great pleasure in announcing to the citizens of Visalia and vicinity that they will give a series of cotillion parties at the court house in this town; admission \$2.50--Tulare County Record and Fresno Examiner, August 6, 1859.

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The new court house is now receiving its first coat of paint, which decidedly improves its outward appearance.--Tulare County Record, August 27, 1859.

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In town we have to note the completion of the store of Mr. Parker on the southeast corner of Main and Garden streets--Visalia Weekly Delta, November 5, 1859.

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"Venice" is the name of the new town supposed to be building near the old site of ~~Handville~~ Woodsville by Mr. ~~James~~ James.--Visalia Weekly Delta, November 5, 1859.

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Father Mora will hold divine worship, in accordance with the rites of the Catholic church on Sunday next at 11 o'clock, in the court house in Visalia. The public are invited to attend.--Visalia Weekly Delta, November 26, 1859.

edition short shorts

The new bridge across Mill creek on Church street is progressing rapidly ~~and~~ toward completion.--Visalia Weekly Delta, December 24, 1859.

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O^ur town was favored, the past week, with the official visit from the M.W.G.M., L.L. Alexander, for the purpose of instituting an Odd Fellows lodge in Visalia.--Visalia Weekly Delta, December 24, 1859.

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The Steamboat "Visalia," just completed for navigating the San Joaquin river between Stockton and Fresno City, started on her trial trip this week.--Visalia Weekly Delta, January 21, 1860.

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It is a fact that we have a milk wagon now running through the streets of Visalia. Mr. E. Smith will deliver milk to the citizens of the town every morning and evening. This astonishing enterprise in a "cow county" should be encouraged.--Visalia Weekly Delta, February 18, 1860.

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The Baptist church will hold divine services every fourth Sunday and Saturday previous in the Methodist Brick church when not otherwise occupied.--Visalia Weekly Delta, February 25, 1860

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Mr. S^mith has commenced another term of his dancing school and will hereafter occupy the court house instead of the hall, as formerly.--Visalia Weekly Delta, March 3, 1860.

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Mr. E. Jacob is about completing a fine brick residence on

edition short shorts

Mr. D.R. Douglass has commenced the erection of his two-story brick store on the corner of Church and Mill streets and Mr. Davenport will commence the erection of another two-story brick building on the opposite corner of Mill and Church streets during the present week.---Visalia Weekly Delta, June 23, 1860.

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Wells and Husseys minstrels are playing in Visalia to crowded houses. They will give another of their pleasing entertainments this evening at the court house.---~~June~~ Visalia Weekly Delta, June 30, 1860.

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There will be three days of racing over the new Visalia course, about one and a half miles from town, commencing on the 1st day of August next.---Visalia Weekly Delta, July 14, 1860.

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

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A curious library novelty is the production of a Bible which is indexed on the fore-edge so that the desired spot may be opened at once.---Visalia Weekly Delta, December 8, 1860

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There are four religious denominations here organized: two Methodist churches, north and south; a Baptist church and a Church of Christians.---Visalia Weekly Delta, December 15, 1860.

edition short shorts

We will puff and patronize the first business man and his business who will make a gravel crossing on Main street at some convenient point. One made and there will be others, the necessity of which it is not necessary to speak.--Visalia Weekly Delta, December 29, 1860.

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During the late rains the court house settled--some say three inches--and some say but one--whether it be three or one, it matters not, as it shows that structure is not founded on a rock "and when winds blow and rains descend, it may sink and in other words "go to pot."--Visalia Weekly Delta, December 29, 1860.

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A petition is in circulation asking the passage of an act ~~for~~ of the legislature appropriating the fines which may be collected in this county for the next five years, for the establishment of a public library, for the use and benefit of the citizens of the county.--Visalia Weekly Delta, February 9, 1861.

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Steam engines will shortly supersede hand engines in San Francisco. Even in that up-and-down hill city, they are found to work well. Three such engines are now in use there.--Visalia Weekly Delta, February 16, 1861.

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Our county jail which has been for a long time without a tenant is now occupied by a John Cⁱⁿnaman who is held in "limbo" until the next term of the court of session to answer to the charge of grand larceny. John stole a rope with a horse attached.--Visalia Weekly Delta, March 16, 1861.

edition short shorts

For the information of the antiquarian correspondent of the Tuolumne Courier, we are requested to state that old Nat Vise spells his name V-i-s-e, so his version of the orthography of Visalia is incorrect.--Visalia Weekly Delta, April 6, 1861.

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The court house in this county ought to be finished internally. It comes nearer the resemblance of an old dilapidated bastille than a court house where Americans assemble to adjudicate their rights and wrongs.--Visalia Weekly Delta, July 4, 1861.

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The primary election held in this place on Saturday last went off harmoniously and quietly. One hundred and sixty-nine votes were cast.--Visalia Weekly Delta, July 25, 1861.

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In town, Mr. E. Jacobs, one of the most enterprising of our citizens is now having finished a fine two-story brick store of greath depth, to be fitted up with all the conveniences of a heavy business establishment.--Visalia Weekly Delta, September 26, 1861

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The schools in town seem prosperous. The Academy, Rev. B.W. Taylor, principal, has about 50 students. The district school, D. Wood teacher, has about 58. These are mostly from this region which speaks well for the interest felt in the cause of education here.--Visalia Weekly Delta, September 26, 1861.

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The camels about which so much has been said are used in hauling wa ons ~~as~~ a la mulus obstinatus, ~~as~~ about Los Angeles. The Star thinks this business is not the animals' vocation.--Visalia Weekly Delta, O^utober 10, 1861.

edition short shorts

The upper part or gable end of the house of Mr. Townsend fell down Monday night. The building lately built was not quite completed and the tumble was owing, doubtless, to imperfection of the material. As no one was about at the time of the falling, no one was hurt.---Visalia Weekly Delta, November 7, 1861.

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Curt House Square looks like the incipient "clearing" of some newly arrived emigrant, being piled thick with recumbent trees and branches. The sound trees are being topped and the decayed ones removed by order of the supervisors which will vastly improve its appearance.---Visalia Weekly Delta, December 12, 1861.

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The Lodge of Good Templars, recently established in this town, seems to be ~~very~~ prospering finely and receiving large accessions to its roll of members.---Visalia Weekly Delta, December 19, 1861.

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We are much pleased to be able to state that a postoffice has been established at Farmersville. P.L. Pearson, we understand, is postmaster.---Tulare County Times, January 2, 1869.

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A Rocky Mountain paper publishes an obituary of "Jim," a chief of the Washoe Indians. It says that he was a "good, though very dirty, red man. He possessed a well balanced head of hair and stomach enough for all he could get to eat. His regard for truth was notable--he never meddled with it. He left no estate and his estate consisted entirely of a pair of boots."---Tulare County Times, February 20, 1869.

edition short shorts

Low water in the San Joaquin has caused the withdrawal of the steamers for the season. Freight will have to come direct from Stockton until the resumption of navigation.---Tulare County Times, August 7, 1869.

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In December, 1873, the Tulare (County) Times was located on the corner of ~~ix~~ Court and Shimbene Alley.

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Stage fare from here to the Visalia station is \$100; the railroad makes no charge to Fresno; from Fresno to San Francisco, \$13. When passenger cars run to our station, which is expected to be about the 1st, it is understood fare to the Bay will be \$16.---Tulare County Times, June 29, 1872.

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On Root Island, owned by Messrs Atwell and Goldstein, hundreds of skulls and other remains of human skeletons are found heaped together or scattered over the island. How they came there is only conjecture.---Tulare County Times, September 14, 1872.

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The Mooney Brewery, in December, 1873, was located on the corner of Garden and Main streets.

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There are now six inmates of the county jail. Three are under sentence of death for murder in the first degree, one is confined on a charge of assault and one for being drunk and disorderly and there is one insane man awaiting transportation to the Stockton asylum.---Tulare County Times, November 9, 1872.

edition short shorts

In December, 1873, the Exchange hotel in Visalia was situated on corner of Main and Church streets.

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Ordered that the sum of \$114 be added to the retail liquor licenses in this county, being cost of the case of the people vs. Indian Lynx, reported by the jury who tried him as being intoxicated at the time of committing the crime.--From minutes of the county board of supervisors, February 15, 1873.

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The ever go-ahead D.B. James has almost completed his water tank and the steam engine has arrived for the water works. Visalia may expect to be well supplied in this respect soon.--Tulare County Times, May 12, 1877.

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Ned's Saloon, in 1870, was situated at the corner of Main and Church streets.

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Don't forget to attend the social of the Ladies' Aid Society of the M.E. Church, South, in the Holt building, tomorrow night. The refreshments will consist of mush and milk, coffee and sandwiches. The evening, undoubtedly, will be well and pleasantly spent. All are cordially invited to attend.--Tulare County Times, November 5, 1885.

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Down at Snelling in Merced county, a fellow from the country came to town and got drunk, lost his hat and money and then appeared before Justice Neighbor to have a warrant sworn out for the arrest of the thief. While the justice was busy getting the document ready, the bare-headed stranger picked up the justice's \$4 hat, quietly slipped away and has never been heard of since.--Tulare Visalia

cotton---with early agriculture

Many residents of Tulare county, because cotton now is a common crop in this area, are of the belief it was a new experiment a few years ago. Records of cotton acreages appear fairly early in the history of the county, however. Cotton really has a background of history. In 1873, Spear Jackson, Joseph Spear and Dr. Dennis Ray planted 40 acres near Cutler bridge, a few miles northeast of Visalia. The crop was under the supervision of a southern grower and the ~~ye~~ yield was excellent in quality, tex ture and quantity.

The venture proved unprofitable, however, for when the crop was harvested, there were no gins in the area. The only satisfaction the promoters had was in having established the ~~fact that~~ fact that the soil and climate of the county we re suitable for cotton production--cotton of superior fiber and abundant yield.

Cotton as a county product next is heard of in 1899 when George Fleming planted a few ros, 50 or 60 feet long on the Fleming ranch. This was grown on rich loam soil and given good care and the result was a heavy crop of fine texture.

Samples of this staple were sent to the University of California and the report forwarded to Fleming stated that the cotton was of unusually fine quality and that from an estimate based on the figures given as to the area of ground planted and the amount of cotton produced, the yield was more than double the yield of the southern cotton belt.

At the present time, cotton is one of the main products of the county, its extent being discussed in another article in the Anniversaries Edition which contains a summary of all county crops at the present time.

Taurusa. (For Anniversary)

The name Taurusa was given to the Southern Pacific railroad switch, a half mile south of the location of the Taurusa school, at the time the line was built.

The Taurusa school district was formed from part of the Elbow Creek district and a one-roomed schoolhouse was built in 1910. The cement block building was completed in 1923 and in 1929 a room was added to the original structure.

Occupations of the district were mainly sheep and cattle raising in the early days, followed by grain farming. Later vineyards, peach and orange orchards, which could be raised by irrigation, were set out. Some of these in turn were replaced by alfalfa, pasture crops, lettuce, peas, strawberries and other garden truck. Dairying and poultry raising are now important occupations but some sheep and beef cattle are still raised. In the last few years several hundred acres of cotton have been grown here.

Taurusa. (For Anniversaries Edition)

Large trout from Tulare Lake were caught in Cottonwood creek in the early days when the creek flowed into the lake, according to Lee Robinson, who lived a short distance south of the creek in what is now the Taurusa district. As a youth he piloted wagons across the creek during high water, going ahead on his horse to find safe places in the road which wound across country, and was sometimes covered with water for more than a mile.

James Keener, one of the oldest settlers of the district still living, came here in 1870. He raised sheep and took up a homestead on which he lived until a few months ago when he moved into Visalia. R.L. March, living on his homesteaded ranch a half mile south of the Taurusa school, attended the first Elbow Creek school. He herded both sheep and cattle in this vicinity and later raised grain on his ranch. Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Fenley and Mrs. Nancy Hicks are others still living on the land they homesteaded years ago.

(More)

Taurusa.

The Taurusa school district was formed from part of the Elbow Creek district and a one-roomed schoolhouse was built in 1910. The first teacher was Miss Edna Wright. The cement block building was finished in 1923 and in 1929 a room was added to the original building and three teachers were hired.

The name Taurusa was given to the Southern Pacific railroad switch here by railroad officials at the time the road was built. Previous to that time grain grown in this vicinity was hauled to Traver for shipment. A large grain warehouse was built but several years ^{ago} ~~ago~~ it was moved away.

In more recent years vineyards, peach and orange orchards have been planted alfalfa and other irrigated feeds sown, and in the overflow lands adjoining Cottonwood creek, lettuce, peas, strawberries and other garden truck have been grown. More recently several hundred acres of cotton have been grown. Dairying and poultry raising are now important industries in the district. Some sheep and beef cattle are still raised.

(More!)

Yaurusa.

Several years ago J.M.Frazer bought the northeastern corner of the March homestead from Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Bell. On it he built a filling station and store which he operated for some time. Later he built several small cabins for rent and also rented the business buildings. The store and station are now operated by L.D.Tennyson and Wayne Durham.

Last year H.L.Keener, a son of James Keener, built a feed warehouse on his ranch and sells poultry feed and supplies to poultry raisers on the community.

I am enclosing this last article in case you may be able to use any or all of it. So little can be said in the 100 words allotted to me.

Anita M. Coker.