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edition beulah mine al king
of those

Few/persons from the valley who have built summer homes and still fewer of those others who ~~have~~ visit Mineral King annually know that the place once was the center of a gold rush and that many fortunes were lost in seeking the precious metal.

Sixty miles east of Visalia, at the source of the Kaweah river, is situated this beautiful section. Here, at an altitude of 8000 feet, the summer climate is cool and invigorating, and this, together with the numerous nearby scenic attractions, the abundant wild feed, the good fishing, has caused it to become a resort section visited in the summer by multitudes from throughout the nation.

Saw tooth, a peak of 13,000 feet, towers directly above and from its summit a remarkable view of other peaks, divides, declivities and nestling lakes is obtained. Monarch and Eagle lakes are close to the camp and soda and other mineral springs are numerous.

The valley heads at Farewell gap, a pass of 10,600 feet elevation, dividing the waters of the Kaweah from those of the Little Kern. Over it pass trails leading to Trout Meadows, Kern lakes, Mt. Whitney and Inyo county.

There is a stable population during the summer at Mineral King and the number of visitors over the years has shown a startling increase.

There was a time, however, when activities were of a different character. Gold was discovered in the early 1870's and hundreds of miners flocked to the scene. The Mineral King Mining District was formed and locations and transfers filed under federal laws. A town sprung up and was named Beulah.

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Stamp and saw mills were constructed. A road from Three Rivers, passing over difficult territory, was built at a cost of about \$100,000 and at one time daily stages from Visalia made the trip in one day.

But the mines proved but the graveyard of many fortunes. Nothing came of them but disaster and the little town was abandoned and many of the deserted homes for years were used by visitors who went up from the valley for a summer outing. These early residences, however, eventually were destroyed by snows and rains.

A vivid picture of the glory that was Beulah's in 1879, the year which marked its greatest prosperity, may be gained from the following, written by the late Superior Judge W.B. Wallace:

"Ex-Senator Fowler had purchased the Empire mine and with characteristic energy was completing the road, erecting a quartz mill and tramway and driving a long tunnel into the mountain. Things were moving that year. A saw mill was in operation and cabins were going up in all directions. An assay office was established and mines were located by the hundreds.

"The N.E. Tunnel and Smelting company was incorporated in 1875, another was organized in 1876, and the White Chief Gold and Silver Mining company was called into being in 1880. But the year 1879 was the most fruitful in the production of those artificial persons for that camp. That year, 10 companies were organized with an aggregate capital stock which would put to shame that little kerosene side issue of the Standard Oil company.

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"At the general election held in 1879, the candidates for lieutenant governor and chief justice of the supreme court received 137 votes for each office and the candidates for superior judge, assemblyman and ~~x~~ district attorney received 136 votes in Mineral King.

"There were 10 and perhaps 12 places where intoxicating liquors were sold, and events proved that the recorder, who received \$5 for recording every location notice, and the saloon men worked the only paying mines. But there was very little riotousness and disorder. There were no such essentially bad men as there are usually found in ^{new} mining camps, with notched pistol handles and private burying grounds to which they could point with blood-curdling suggestions. There was but one shooting affray that I recall. It grew out of a dispute over the right to possession of a small tract of land. One of the participants received a slight wound.....

"In the early days, Orlando Barton was the Nestor of the camp, having the most extended and varied fund of knowledge. James Maukins and John Crabtree were perhaps the best prospectors. John Meadows was the most enthusiastic and confident of the early locators, rating his possessions worth ~~\$1,000,000~~ \$1,000,000. He was a farmer, stock raiser, miner, preacher and a fighter, but withal, a brave, honest and conscientious man. .

"J.T. Trauger, who came in for the New England company as its superintendent and the last recorder of the district, was known to all and was a favorite in the district. His wife was for many years the good angel of the camp, whose cheerful disposition, sterling qualities and strength of character won for her the respect and admiration of all the curiously assorted denizens of the district. The trail was never too rough, nor the night too dark, to keep her from the bed side of the suffering miner whose cry of distress was heard, whether stricken by sickness, crushed in an avalanche of snow or mangled by an untimely blast. more

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"Politicians early discovered the necessity of winning the Mineral King voters and several meetings were held there ~~xx~~ when local voters avowed in various forms their willingness to forego many personal pleasures that they might serve the country.

"Itinerant ministers also preached to the assembled people, not from great cathedrals decorated with paintings of the old masters,, nor accompanied by the music of grand organs, but in those groves which were God's first temples, where swaying pine and mountain streams made music, under a great dome painted by the Master's hand, set with a thousand gems and softly lighted by the moon's pale beams, and where all nature joined in anthems of praise.

"Mineral King was a silver camp and many of the old prospectors were actually silverized. In white, seamless rock they would point out wire silver and horn silver. They named the lakes and ledges silver and saw and admired the silver lining to every cloud.

"The very word had such a fascination for them that they talked in soft, silvery tones. They pricked up their ears when silver gray foxes were alluded to and stood at attention when the old bear hunters spoke of the silver-tipped grizzly, and as they lay down at night and gazed at the full orb'd moon, they viewed it as the original of the silver dollar, having milled edges and a lettered flat surface, and wondered whether/^{what} they had looked at from infancy as the man in the moon might not, after all, be a mint impression of the American eagle."

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early train robberies

Train robberies of the early days of railroading remain today one of the features of the "wild west" types of sensational motion picture films and, in their day, attracted great attention in the press. Although express cars were designed with particular care for defense, messengers were well armed and liberal rewards were paid for capture of offenders, robberies were frequent even before the appearance of the Sontag and Evans ~~and~~ outlaw group in the picture.

A sensation robbery, typical of the era, was that known as the Pixley robbery which occurred near that station on the morning of February 22, 1889. As train No. 17, James Symington conductor, was leaving Pixley, two men wearing long masks of black cloth climbed over the tender to the locomotive cab and, presenting guns at Peter Bolenger, the engineer, and C.C. Elder, the fireman, ~~ordered~~ ordered them to stop the train at a point two miles from the station, under threat of death.

The engineer complied; he and the fireman were forced to leave the cab and were placed as shields in front of the robbers who proceeded to the express car and ordered the messenger to open it. The messenger, J.R. Kelley, obeyed the order and one robber entered while the other kept guard and took what treasure and valuables they wished.

In the meantime, Ed. ~~Bentley~~ Bentley, a deputy constable of Modesto who was on the train as a passenger, got off on the opposite side from which the robbers were operating, unaware of the cause of the train's delay and, going forward, bent over to look under the car.

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"Get back there, you," shouted the robber on guard firing at Bently and shattering his arm badly. In shooting Bently, the robber dropped to the ground and fired between the legs of the fireman.

The robbers having ~~abaz~~ obtained their boot y marched the engineer and fireman back to their posts and then, ~~backing~~ off into the darkness, disappeared where their horses and confederate were said to have been concealed. The train b acked to Pixley, telegraphed news of the robbery and again proceeded on its way. Upn ~~reaching~~ the scene of the crime, the body of Charles Gubert, a passenger on the train, was discovered and it was assumed he had left the car out of curiosity and had been shot by the robbers.

The Southern Pacific and express companes offered a reward of \$2000 for the arrest and conviction of each robber and ~~plazad~~ special trains with officers, men and horses left Tulare and Bakersfield for the place of the robbery. Trails were found leading toward the coast but the marauders were not discovered.

The Goshen train robbery occurred on the morning of January 24, 1890. As train No. 19 was leaving Goshen station that morning, the role of the Pixley robbery was re-enacted. Two men, wearing long masks and armed with shot guns, came over the tender to the locomotive and, under threats of death, ordered the engineer to stop the train at the Hanford crossing.

The engineer, S.H. DePue, professed ignorance of what was meant, but the man in the mask said, "You know d--- well what is wanted," ~~and~~ and without further instruction the train was halted as ~~reunited~~ ~~ix~~ ordered.

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The engineer and fireman, W.G. Lovejoy, were forced to leave the cab and to march before the robbers to the express car and the messenger was told not to shoot, as the engineer would be killed if he fired. The door was opened and one of the robbers entered and filled a sack with valuables. The robbers then compelled Lovejoy to extinguish the headlight.

In the meantime, a James Christensen, an itinerant, who was riding under the baggage car, believing himself the object of the train halting, left his perch and walked on the opposite side of the train from the robbers. He was observed and shot, the robber remarking, "I got that fellow."

The robbers having left, the wounded man was taken on board and the train proceeded to Tulare where he died the next day. The robbers were supposed to have taken \$20,000. They were followed toward the west by officers but not captured.

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~~another~~ train robbery of consequence took place near Alila and, as in previous cases, homicide resulted. As train No. 17 pulled out of at 7:50 o'clock on the evening of February 6, 1891, the engine was boarded by two masked men, one on each side, who, with cocked revolvers pointed at Engineer J.P. Thorn and Fireman G.S. Radcliffe and ordered them to stop the train at a trestle half a mile south of the station.

The order was obeyed and the robbers, marching the engineer and ~~fire~~ fireman before them, proceeded to the express car and ordered it opened. Mr. Haswell, suspecting the situation, had extinguished the lights and upon receiving the order fired ~~through~~ several shots through the door one of which fatally wounded Radcliffe, the fireman. The shots were returned by the robbers. The battle frightened the robbers who fled without accomplishing the robbery.

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Subsequently the express company gave Radcliffe's widow \$2500 because of the death of her husband but without acknowledging the shot had been fired by the messenger.

The news having been telegraphed from Delano, Sheriff Kay proceeded from Visalia to the scene and found the trail of three horsemen leading to the northwest which he followed. In the following May, William and Grattan Dalton were arrested, charged with the crime.

In August, Grattan Dalton was found guilty but legal technicalities prevented his sentencing at that time and in September, he and two other prisoners escaped from jail. William Dalton was tried in October and acquitted.

A more detailed story of activities of the Dalton brothers appears elsewhere in the Anniversaries Edition.

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Tax payers of Tulare county ever have been generous in supply funds for education. From the beginning, there has been a record of advancement in providing schools and, in fact, many of the county's most prominent citizens of today have been identified closely, as teachers or officials, with the educational system of the county.

There were, in 1861, but three regularly organized districts in the great area which then included what is now Kings county, Tulare county and part of Fresno county. These were the Visalia, the Woodville and the Tulare River districts.

the Visalia School district for the year 1861-1862 was financed for \$971.70, Woodville for \$618.13 and Tule River for \$217.30. The lengths of school terms varied from three to six months.

In about 1864, the following districts had been organized: Elbow, Venice, Deep Creek and Outside Creek. Soon followed Cottonwood, Fitzgerald (now Tulare), Farmersville, Kaweah, Kings River, Packwood, Rockford, ~~Union~~ Union, Vandalia, Willow, Harmony, Mt. View, Pioneer, which included practically all of the present county of Kings; Antelope in the Woodlake area, and Sand Creek, now Orosi.

Trustees associated with the early ~~history~~ history and development of the schools included:

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Tule River--David Campbell, Deming Gibbons,
William Martin.

Woodville--William Mills.

Schools of the early days were supported partly by the state, partly by the county and, to some extent, by public subscription. There was much freedom allowed the county superintendent of schools, who also was county treasurer, in the handling of funds. If one district needed money and another district needed it, it seemed a simple transaction to transfer the fund from one district to another.

An accurate account was kept, however and the transactions were carried out with a high degree of honesty and integrity.

No restrictions were placed upon entrance to public schools of the period. Pupils five and six years old as well as those of 25 were admitted. The subjects taught were those that the ~~child~~ pupil or parent most desired. Penmanship was given much attention and singing schools were conducted in practically every district in the county. These latter, however, generally were private institutions, short courses being given by some instructor for a nominal fee.

A great development was noted in the early 1880's in the organization of new school districts, adoption of regularly organized courses of study and the extension of the school term to seven and sometimes even eight months. Then came the introduction of the high school.

Another account on the growth of the school system appears elsewhere in the Aniversaries Edition.