

Big Oak Tree out at old cutler estate(on first home ranch)
site now owned by Mr. Cross
tree is claimed to be one of the largest,if not THE largest oak trees
in the county----

12 feet up claimed to be 36 to 40 feet around

120 tiers of wood taken from this tree,which has suffered many
hardships in its days from lightning,wind and pests

500 to 600 years old is claimed

over 100 feet high

many of its giant limbs have been cut off,some as result of
damage by lightning

Report on the Tulare Valley of California April and May 1850

The country had improved much in aspect from the time of leaving Moore's Creek (note. Deer Creek) and upon Tule River, and during our march upon the 14th, we passed over rich tracts of arable land, fertile with every description of grass, and covered in many places with a fine growth of heavy oak timber. I observed that Tule River might be easily bridged, it being then at its highest stage and not subject to overflow, and upon its banks could be found plenty of timber available for the purpose, while the rocky hills some five miles above the crossing would furnish stone for the abutments and a pier, which last could be erected upon a small island of hard gravel, covered at present with willows, and situated at this point near the middle of the stream.

Upon the 14th we arrived at the river Frances (note. Kaweah River) a large stream nineteen miles to the north of the Tule. This stream flows nearly west from the hills and empties into the Tache Lake about twenty miles north of its southeastern extremity. It is, at the point upon which we arrived, divided into five branches or sloughs, four of which separate from the main river, about five miles above, joining again from one to ten miles below, while the southern branch as a separate and distinct course from the sierra, and joins the main stream in the marshy ground near its junction with the lake. The country, some eight miles in length by six in width, contained between these branches is a beautiful, smooth, level plain, covered with clover of different kinds and high grass, and thickly shaded by one continuous grove of oaks of a larger and finer description than I have seen in the country

The Tulare Valley, from the mouth of the Mariposa to the Tejon pass at its head, is about one hundred and twenty miles in extent, and varies from eight to one hundred miles in width. With the exception of a strip of fertile land upon the rivers emptying into the lakes from the east, it is little better than a desert. The soil is generally dry, decomposed, and incapable of cultivation, and the vegetation, consisting of artemesias and wild sage, is extremely sparse. The only point in the entire valley which struck me as at all suitable for a military post was the small portion of external land contained by the five creeks of the river Frances. A position here would be central, being easy of communication with the King's river to the north and the Kern river to the south, upon which two streams and their tributories are situated the greatest number of Indian rancherias in the valley. The land is excellent for cultivation, well timbered, and an abundance of building material may be found in the vicinity, either stone or heavy pine and oak timber. A road leading through the Tejon pass from Los Angeles and intersecting the emigrant trail through Walker's pass near Kern River, passes directly through this point to the northern mines of the San Joaquin Valley. This road will undoubtedly be much traveled when brought into notice, and the post being established at this point will contribute much to its safety and protection. The post could be supplied by wagons through the pass of San Miguel, either from San Luis Obispo or Monterey, or by a wagon road from Monterey through the pass of Pacheco or Santa Anna, crossing the San Joaquin at its southern bend and King's river at the lower ferry.

There are two large rancherias upon the river, numbering together about four hundred; they are, however, apparently quite separate and distinct, one occupying the three southern, the other the two northern branches. Nothing could exceed the kindness and hospitality with which they received us, and I gave the captain certificates to that effect, which they will undoubtedly present to all passersby. The name of the first rancheria, as nearly as I could write it from their pronounciation, is the He-ame-e-tahs, their captain, De-e-jah. The second rancheria is the Cowees, their captain, Francisco, and old mission Indian from San Luis Obispo. They called the river the Ee-dek, but I think the name Frances much more euphonic. There were many mission Indians among them, some from the old mission of San Juan, some from San Lorenzo, but mostly from San Miquel and San Luis Obispo. All these spoke Spanish a little. They appeared remarkably healthy, and though by no means beautiful, were comparatively well favored. The soil between the creeks being so well watered and shaded, is naturally of the richest description; as an evidence of which I may mention that I observed poles of willow stuck in the ground by the Indians as parts of rabbit traps, which had taken root and sprouted into trees. The distance of the first or Pyramid Cree (so called from the remarkable shape of a hill near which it rises) to the second is ninety-eight hundredths of a mile; from the second to the third, 1.04 miles; between the third and the fourth, the last of which is the main stream, 2.81 miles; and between the fourth and fifth, eighty-five hundredths of a mile. The third, or main stream and the fourth are the widest and most difficult of crossing; the second and fifth, I beleive to be dry during the summer, but they may all be very easily bridged permanently, every material being ready on the spot....

The whole number of Indians in the valley as near as I can judge is about four thousand. These are by no means connected with each other; the rancherias upon the southern rivers being in fact ignorant of the existence of those situated further to the north. Those who have had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the whites, are friendly and well-disposed; the others, although ignorant, mischevious, and perhaps maliciously inclined, may easily be kept in subjection by a small force, and by kind treatment.

I have the honor, etc.

George H. Derby

Brevet-First Lieutenant Topographical
Engineers

Major E.R.S. Canby
Adjutant-General Tenth Military Department

do you remember Mon., May 8, and Tues a.m.

"Do you remember," asks Gerard N. Davis of Woodlake, "when the Southern Pacific stock yards were in the west part of Visalia and the country boys had to drive their cattle through Visalia's best residential ~~district~~ district, much to the detriment of well kept lawns and yards? The first move to have the stock yards moved to other parts came about when "Billie" Welks, old time cattle buyer had a stampede through several yards, including that of the W.R. Spaulding home and other ~~adjoining~~ adjoining show places. The climax came when the Davis boys had a little stampede and seven head of country raised steers went through the lovely rose ~~harbor~~ arbor of the Timothy Hayes residence. It wasn't long ~~in~~ until the stock yards had been moved to eastern Visalia."

3m

From the Tulare County Times, April 17, 1869:

"The new and beautiful church belonging to the North Methodist, will be dedicated two weeks from tomorrow. The Rev. Briggs and others are expected to be present on the occasion."

3m

From the Tulare County Times, December 7, 1872:

"It is said that Dack Lee, a rather prominent 'heathen Chinese' in these parts, has become insane. Yesterday morning he amused himself by perambulating the streets with a loaded shot gun and when he arrived in front of Grant's Variety store, he closed the program by firing two shots into his show window, shattering it to smithereens. He was arrested by Marshal Meyers."

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do you remember

Tues., May 9, and Wed. a.m.

"Do you remember," asks Roy P. Grant, "when the southwest corner of Main and Court streets was occupied by the old Vucovich's saloon; when Mr. Vucovich used to walk back and forth from front to back with hands behind him, wearing a long tailed coat with side pockets; when the First National bank was situated on the southeast corner of Main and Court streets, with Sus Mitchell as cashier; when Zane Steuben, aged and white bearded, looked after the affairs of the Wells Fargo Express company in his little boarded office, near the corner of Main and Locust, with his son, Will Steuben, as assistant?"

3m

From the Tulare County Times, January 13, 1877:

"The city authorities are sinking a well on Court street near the M.E. Church with the expectation that it can be made available for fire purposes."

3m

From the Tulare County Times, May 13, 1871:

"Our board of trustees has secured a cell in the county jail, which is being fitted up by Marshal Meyers for the reception of his boarders. This is right. The old plan of chaining men to trees was, to say the least, bad policy. Mr. Meyers has made a good beginning and, we vouch, will make a good marshal."

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do you remember Wed., May 10, and Thurs. a.m.

"Do you remember," asks Lydia Jungwirth, "when Main street ended at the end of the 800 block and from there on out was a big cow pasture?"

"I lived at North Encina and Center streets and rode my bicycle to this pasture to milk our cow twice a day, rode home and strained the milk and then peddled milk all over town with my bicycle, receiving 75 cent per pint per month. We made three pounds of butter each week and I sold that, too."

3m

From the Tulare County Times, May 18, 1872:

"Miller, ~~tax~~ Fox and company have completed the work of building the fence around the jail. It is 135 feet long, 14 feet high, cedar posts and a double wall of inch cedar boards. The contract price was \$220. The sheriff was directed by the supervisors to do the work."

3m

~~Minutes of the Board of~~ From the minutes of the Board of supervisors, February 6, 1874:

"Ordered that the following claim be allowed and the auditor is hereby directed to draw his warrant for the same, payable out of the funds designated: David Stong, erecting gallows, etc., \$82.57."

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do you remember, Thurs. May 11 and Fri. a.m.

"I remember when Jim McCrory was hanged on Christmas Eve of 1872," says Austin Grant. "My father had a store right near the saloon where McCrory shot Charlie Allen to death and of course I heard the shots. Then I heard some shouts about hanging but my father locked me up in the store and all I could hear was the mob getting ready to hang McCrory which they did over the Court street bridge."

3m

From the Visalia Weekly Delta, December 12, 1861:

"Court House Square looks like the incipient 'clearing' of some newly arrived ~~and~~ 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."

3m

From the Tulare County Times, August 7, 1869:

"Low water in the San Joaquin has caused the withdrawal of the steamer, for the season. Freight will have to come direct from Stockton until the resumption of navigation."

3m

From the Tulare County Times, September 14, 1872:

"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."

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do you remember Fri., May 12, and Sat. a.m.

"Do you remember," asks Mrs. Inez Crow, "the names of those on the Memorial Plaque in eastern Visalia, who died ~~in the~~ while in the service of ~~the country~~ their country. They are Eldred Rush, Wilbur Houk, John Malloch, Charles Steinman, Perry Leggett, C^hesley Bridges, Walter Togni, Lewis Robertson and Paul Alexander."

3m

From the Tulare County Times, June 29, 1872:

"Stage fare from here to the Visalia station is \$1.00; the railroad makes no charge to Fresno; from Fresno to San Francisco, \$13. When passenger cars rin to our station, which is expected to be about the 1st, it is understood fare to the Bay will be \$16."

3m

From the Tulare C^onty Times, November 9, 1872:

"There are now six inmates of the county jail. Three are under sentence of death for murder ~~and~~ 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."

3m

From the Tulare C^onty Times, May 12, 1877:

"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."

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do you remember Sat., May 13, and Mon. a.m.

"Do you remember," asks ~~Elizabeth~~ Lydia Jungwirth, "when the Bardley family lived on the corner of School and Court streets and the remainder of that block was in vineyard? I do--I was 'borrowing' some grapes and got into a hornet's nest and Lynn Bradley chased me across the street--he was wearing knee breeches, white shirt with ruffle collar and cuffs."

3m

From the Tulare County Times, November 5, 1885:

"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."

3m

From the Visalia Weekly Delta, October 10, 1861:

"The camels about which so much has been said are used in hauling wagons a la mulus obstinatus, about Los Angeles. The ~~Star~~ Star thinks this business is not the camels' vocation."

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promotion for Monday, ^{May}~~April~~ 8, and Tues. a.m.

The Anniversaries Edition of the Visalia newspapers, to be published on May 24, just prior to Homecoming Day and the annual Visalia Rodeo, will not be confined by any means to a history of Visalia but will include historical events to every city in the county.

The hardships encountered in the building of the city of Tulare to its present proportions, for example, will be reviewed. Fires and the very elements themselves seemed to conspire to present the construction of a modern city but the pioneers of Tulare met each problem and set-back as it came to be able to ~~prize~~ boast today of one of the most beautiful communities in the San Joaquin Valley.

Twice swept by fire and the railroad shops, chief source of revenue, removed, early residents of Tulare turned to their lands for a livelihood and formed a ditch company, the funds of which were largely consumed by litigation.

Triumph of the early residents over all forms of adversity is reviewed in the Anniversaries Edition.

8th anniversary of the Visalia newspapers, the The Edition will mark the 87th anniversary of the chartering of Tulare county, the 86th anniversary of the founding of Visalia, the 65th anniversary of the chartering of Visalia as a city and the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce.

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promotion for Tues., May 9 and Wed. a.m.

Wild horses once roamed a part of ~~that~~ Tulare ~~county~~ county, according to an article which will appear in the Anniversary Edition of the Visalia newspapers, to be published on May 24, just prior to Homecoming Day and the opening of the annual Visalia Rodeo.

One Chico Martinez was known as the most expert of all vacqueros in corralling the horses and once made a contract with ~~xx~~ the owner of live stock to capture some 800 of the animals for which he was to retain a portion of them. Martinez was highly successful and at the end of his contract, was the owner of some 200 head of fine horse flesh.

A complete story of Chico and his activities will appear in the Anniversary Edition together with other facts concerning the early days in Tulare county and Visalia.

Stories of early day clashes with the Indians will not be neglected and the days when even the local newspaper deplored the condition of the city's streets will be recalled.

The Anniversary Edition will mark the 80th anniversary of the Visalia newspapers, the 87th anniversary of the chartering of Tulare county, the 86th anniversary of the founding of Visalia, the 65th anniversary of the chartering of Visalia as a city and the 50th anniversary of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce, known in its earlier days as the Visalia Board of Trade.

promotion for Wed., May 10, and Thur. a.m.

ART

The turnover of those employed on the Visalia newspapers has not been rapid, as will be noted by the accompanying photo of employes of the Visalia Daily Times, taken on June 22, 1916.

The photo is published in connection with the Anniversaries Edition of the Visalia Times-Delta and the Morning Delta which will be issued on May 24, just prior to Homecoming Day and the opening of the annual Visalia Rodeo.

Other photos, old and new, will be features of the Edition. Main street in the early 1860's will be shown as compared to the Main street of today.

Also will be recalled the editorial boast that Visalia now had running water on every street and the ~~extant~~ anticipation of the day when an artesian well would be a source of cool drinking water during the hot summer months. The pioneers had their ups and downs and the Edition will cover as much of both as space will provide.

The Anniversaries Edition will mark the 80th anniversary of the Visalia newspapers, the 87th anniversary of the chartering of Tulare county; the 86th anniversary of the founding of Visalia, the 65th anniversary of the chartering of Visalia as a city and the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce.

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art with promotion for May 10

Photo shows employes of the Visalia Daily Times on June
22, 1916. In the ^{bottom} ~~front~~ row (left to right) are Sam Crawford,
Arthur Eagle, R.G. Watkins, Doris ⁱⁿ ~~Smythe~~ _{III}, Ford Spigelmyre,
Jack Eagle and Fred Edwards; top row (left to right) J.T. Boyer,
Harry Keese, Gus Walther, James Moffett, Kenneth Uhl, Harry Cowie,
Frank Barton, Morley M. Maddox, John Ward and Carl Ferguson.

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promotion for Thurs., May 11, and Fri. a.m.

The court house ~~area~~ was more or less the social center as well as the center of county government in the early days, according to ~~next~~ articles which will appear in the Anniversaries Edition of the Visalia Times-Delta and the Morning Delta which is to be issued on May 24, just prior to Homecoming Day and the annual Visalia Rodeo.

Many formal balls as well as church gatherings were held there and there ~~is~~ are accounts of road shows presenting entertainment in the county property. Political speeches often resounded in the court house and during the tense Civil War days, a benefit was given by those backing the Union cause.

Stories of the early days in Visalia and T^Ulare county will abound in the Anniversaries Edition. Many of the names appearing ~~remain~~ are names of families today prominent in the social and business life of the city and community.

Orders now are being accepted for the Edition, one copy of which will be sent free to every subscriber of the Times-Delta and the Morning Delta.

The Edition will mark the 80th anniversary of the Visalia newspapers, the 87th anniversary of the chartering of T^Ulare county, the 86th anniversary of the founding of Visalia, the 65th anniversary of the chartering of Visalia as a city and the 50th anniversary of the Visalia C^Uamber of C^Ummerce.

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promotion for Fri., May 11 and Sat. a.m.

The Visalia High school class of 1905 consisted mainly of young women, it seems from the photograph published above in connection with the forthcoming Anniversary Edition of the Visalia Times-Delta and the Morning Delta. The Edition will be issued on May 24, just prior to Homecoming Day and the opening of the annual Visalia Rodeo.

Visalia, according to the Anniversary Edition, always was generous with funds for schools and the county likewise was ready and willing to provide for educations for the young. However, in the pioneer days, instruction was limited to the most rudimentary subjects and there was nothing like the elaborate and expanding educational system of today.

Many incidents related in the Anniversary Edition will be recalled by old time residents of the city and many of the articles will be illustrated.

The Anniversary Edition will mark the 80th anniversary of the Visalia newspapers, the 87th anniversary of the chartering of Tulare county, the 86th anniversary of the founding of Visalia, the 65th anniversary of the chartering of Visalia as a city and the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce.

art with promotion for May 12

The Visalia High School class of 1905 is pictured above. In top row (left to right) are Edna Board, Harry S^Paulding, Leila Lawrence, Edith Orr, Elsie Crowley, Ralph Walker; second row (left to right) A^L₇va Elder, Virginia C^Hilson, Madge Blivens, Mabel White, Nell Newman, Maude Parker; seated (left to right) Edna Duran, Lenore Victor, Leta Massey, Carol Larkins, May Hough.

promotion for Sat., May 13 and Mon. a.m.

Persons desiring to obtain extra copies of the Anniversary Edition of the Visalia Times-Delta and the Morning Delta which will be issued on May 24, just prior to Homecoming Day and the opening of the annual Visalia Rodeo, are warned that the supply will be limited.

Orders are being taken now at the offices of the Visalia newspapers. One copy will be delivered to each subscriber of the Times-Delta and the Morning Delta but non-subscribers and subscribers who wish additional copies are advised to order them in advance to insure they will be put aside.

The Anniversary Edition will contain history of the early days from the time of the Spanish influence down to the present highly developed period of agriculture and industry.

The Edition will mark the 80th anniversary of the Visalia newspapers, the 87th anniversary of the chartering of Tulare county, the 86th anniversary of the founding of Visalia, the 65th anniversary of the chartering of Visalia as a city and the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce.

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