

WARREN SCOTT

Old Timer in Calaveras County

Ed Van Cleave, Interviewer
Sheep Ranch, California
June, 1973

WARREN SCOTT

- I. Mining
 - A. Sheep Ranch Mine
 - B. Murphys Mine
 - C. Angels Mine
 - D. Why the mines were shut down
 - E. Hydraulic mining

- II. Old Buster
 - A. Negro gold miner who made his fortune
 - B. Where he hid the gold
 - C. Old tale of Buster's gold
 - D. Price of gold
 - E. Rod Twillizer
 - F. Kate Lundi

- III. Law Enforcement
 - A. Joe Swinger
 - 1. Sheriff of Calaveras County
 - 2. Served for 25-30 years
 - B. One deputy

- IV. Sheep Ranch Gold Mine
 - A. Sheep herders
 - B. People discovering the gold
 - 1. Moving in and settling
 - C. Sixteen different claims
 - 1. Hearst buys all claims

- V. Working in the mill
 - A. Payday
 - 1. Paid only by the month
 - 2. Paid \$3.50

- VI. Fishing and Hunting
 - A. Many deer
 - B. Lots of trout
 - 1. Fishing license required by 1900
 - C. San Antonio Creek

- VII. Schools in Sheep Ranch
 - A. First and second school
 - B. Third school needed to be built
 - C. Third school bought by private owner, children sent to San Andreas for schooling

- VIII. Logging in Murphys
 - A. Timber for the area
 - B. Large ox teams and mules
 - 1. From Murphys to Angels Camp

- IX. Angels Camp Gold Mine
 - A. Was established before Sheep Ranch Mine
 - B. More gold than Sheep Ranch Mine, but poorer quality.
 - C. Wood was used for power
 - 1. 5000 cords of wood a year were used until Murphys had power line put in
- X. Mark Twain and the Frog Jump
 - A. Gamblers came to gamble thousands of dollars on their frogs
 - B. First held in the streets of Angels Camp, but so many people came, it was moved to fair grounds.
- XI. Organizations
 - A. Masonic Lodge
 - 1. Large number of members
 - 2. Masonic Lodge established in Murphys
 - 3. Secret Order
 - 4. Priority over other organizations
 - B. Native Sons
- XII. Old Yellow Jacket
 - A. Blind preacher
 - 1. Traveled over established states on foot
 - 2. Head of Indian Diggers
 - 3. Spoke very good English
 - 4. Lost his eye-sight
- XIII. Snow-shoe Thompson
 - A. Nevada
 - B. Carried mail
 - 1. Walked with snow-shoes over pass from Nevada
- XIV. Warren Scott's Farm
 - A. Working
 - B. Living on the farm
 - C. Went to work in mill
 - D. Now retired
- XV. Tree
 - A. Planted tree in front of home 32 years ago
 - B. Tree 18" in diameter today
- XVI. House
 - A. Bought his house and one acre 40 years ago for \$275.

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BIOGRAPHY

Warren Scott: Born December 9, 1884
Stockton
Building of the now-standing City Hall

At seven years of age, Warren Scott suffered from malaria and it was suggested by his doctor that the Scott family move to the mountains.

Warren Scott moved to Sheep Ranch in 1892. His father bought a ranch and lived there with his family until his death in 1925. Mr. Scott took a wife and stayed on at the ranch until 1940, when he sold it and bought a small house and one acre for \$275 not far from his father's original farm. Warren went to work in the gold mining mill at Sheep Ranch.

During the war, the mine was shut down by the government and all the equipment was taken and melted down and made into guns. The men of these mines were drafted into the armed forces. Warren was too old to go into the service, so he got a menial job, grew a good garden, and retired with his wife.

He seems to be a very strong and healthy man with a sound mind and acute senses. He is still allowed by the state to drive and makes it around town in his 1937 Chevy. He enjoys fishing in the afternoon and still keeps up his garden and yard.

Warren Scott has an extremely friendly personality and a very sharp sense of humor and memory.

A few things happened during the interview that could not be avoided (logging truck, car, radio, and phone conversation noise in the background). He was not a very talkative person, so at times I would have to pry things out of him and coax him to talk. All in all, the interview turned out pretty well.

The interview on Tape Side 1 seemed to tell the most important things, and afterwards it was harder to keep the conversation flowing easily. I tried to talk on a variety of subjects, but he was just not a talker. The conversation picked up a little toward the end of Side 2, and I gained a very good friend whom I feel privileged to meet and talk with.

(Conversation then turned to a number of subjects: people, places, goals, and the future. Included the following miscellaneous facts:)

Big Trees Park established in 1912. The hotel was built by Mr. Sperey, visited by many noted people...government officers, etc. The hotel was sold to Mrs. Whiteside but it burned to the ground not long after. The blame for the fire was put on the outlaw camp hidden in the Sierra. Entertainment in these times was gambling, dancing, and listening to the "Steven's Orchestra" in Murphys. Sports included hunting and trout fishing.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Murphys...Queen of the Sierra
by Richard Cokewood
 2. Tales of the Old Calaveras
by Richard Wood
 3. Conversation with old-timer Warren Scott
by Ed Van Cleave
 4. Conversation with Bill Ward, 86 yrs. old;
old-timer in the Calaveras area
 5. Angels Camp Museum, with historic relics and records
kept from the past up until today.
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