

FRANK COLEMAN

Indian freight driver and cowboy

(A tape recorded interview)

by

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Summer, 1972

Chicken Ranch, Jamestown, California

## Obituaries

### Frank William Coleman

Frank William Coleman, 83, of Jamestown, was pronounced dead on arrival at a local hospital last night after apparently suffering a heart attack.

Mr. Coleman had a history of heart trouble, according to Lt. Ray Antonini, chief deputy coroner.

A native of Coulterville, Mr. Coleman spent all but the first year of his life in Tuolumne county.

Mr. Coleman was a heavy equipment operator for 50 years, beginning with the Civilian Conservation corps during the depression as a bulldozer instructor.

He also worked on the Hetch Hetchy dam project from its inception, for 34 years.

During World War I, Mr. Coleman worked as a mailman in the Coulterville area. He was also a cowboy for many years and helped drive cattle into the Sierra from the foothills for Tuolumne county ranchers.

Mr. Coleman worked as a packtrain guide and ran the Tuolumne Meadows pack station for the Yosemite Park and Curry company. He also packed out of Kennedy Meadows.

Driving the Columbia stage line was also a part-time job for Mr. Coleman, who worked both for Zane Orr, former owner of the stage, and current owner Louie Gookin. Mr. Coleman was frequently stage driver in movies filmed locally.

Mr. Coleman made his home with his sister-in-law, Pansy Jacobs, of Jamestown.

He is survived by one son, Louis, of Mariposa; a daughter, Katherine Borba of Chino; one niece, Velma Nelson of Jamestown; two nephews, Toots Warne of Oakdale and George Warne of Sonora; four grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

A service will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at Terzich-Wilson Funeral home with the Rev. John Pruett officiating. Interment will be in Mountain Shadow cemetery.

31 years, died Wednesday in a local hospital.

She was a member of the Sonora Moose lodge auxiliary.

Mrs. Taylor leaves her husband, Roy, of Soulsbyville; two sons, Roy Wayne Taylor and Robert D. Taylor, both of Kansas; two daughters, Beverly Neal of Soulsbyville and Vicky Parsons of Kansas; one sister, Ruby Mangus of New Mexico; a brother, Robert Mangus of Colorado; and eight grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Dean Duncan, B.D. King, Toby Adams, D.V. Gregory, Ed Reed and Don Lydick.

Interment will be in Mountain Shadow cemetery.







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TAPE 1, Side 1

TOPICS INTRODUCED

Biographical information  
Park trains, Tioga Road  
Capt. Joseph Walker  
Jim Savage  
Joaquin Murrietta  
Chief Tenaya  
The Fremont family  
The Chinese  
Brothers and sisters  
Indians around Coulterville  
Miwok language

Side 2

TOPICS INTRODUCED

Indian leaders  
Horses  
Food  
Animals  
Tools

TAPE 2, Side 3

TOPICS INTRODUCED

Religion  
Buildings  
Chief Lemee's dances  
Story telling  
Chicken Ranch area  
Middle Camp area

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TAPE 2, Side 4

TOPICS INTRODUCED

Tuolumne Rancheria  
Indian messengers  
Springfield and Columbia  
Columbia Junior College  
Indian inscriptions, Yosemite  
Calaveras County Miwoks  
Indians as conservationists

AUGUST 29, 1972

TAPE 3, Side 5

TOPICS INTRODUCED

(Long leader on tape)  
Freight driver  
    Father's business  
        Ox teams  
        Horse teams  
    14 year-old driver  
Preparing for the trip  
    Identification of horses  
    Working the team

Side 6

TOPICS INTRODUCED

Route to Yosemite  
Wages  
Working for Stoddard  
Working the animals

TAPE 3, Side 6  
(cont'd)

Wells-Fargo Express

Railroads

Extra for movie companies

Columbia State Park

Yosemite National Park

AUGUST 31, 1972

TAPE 4, Side 7

TOPICS INTRODUCED

Employment at Yosemite National Park

Indians in the Valley

Contacts with whites

Maria Lebrado

Captain Paul

Maggie Howard (TA-BU-CE)

Other Indians

Burial controversies

U.S. Army in the Valley

Locations

White and black troopers

Associations with stockmen

Side 8

TOPICS INTRODUCED

The Curtain family

Using stock dogs

Major Harry C. Benson

Wild fruit

Prominent acquaintances

Jim Hutchings

Galen Clark

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Side 8  
(cont'd)

Prominent acquaintances (cont'd)

The Leidig family  
The Degnan family  
William Taft  
Theodore Roosevelt  
The Curry family

TAPE 5, Side 9

TOPICS INTRODUCED

Routes to Yosemite  
Old Tioga Pass  
Big Oak Flat Road  
Coulterville Road  
Wawona  
The Valley  
Winter in the Valley

TAPE 5, Side 10

TOPICS INTRODUCED

Winter in the Valley (cont'd)  
Working at Hetch-Hetchy  
Railroads around Yosemite  
Forest industries  
Changes in Yosemite

SEPTEMBER 7, 1972

TAPE 6, Side 11

TOPICS INTRODUCED

Civilian Conservation Corp.  
Camp 17, Mariposa  
Road construction projects  
C.C.C. workers



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TAPE 6, Side 11

Wages and other benefits  
Constructing roads and trails  
Off-duty diversions

Side 12

TOPICS INTRODUCED  
Cowboy drives into high country  
Looking for missing man  
Working conditions  
Fires  
Weather problems  
The longhorn

TAPE 7, Side 13

TOPICS INTRODUCED  
The longhorn (cont'd)  
Horses used by cowboys  
Breaking horses  
Branding  
Rustling  
The 45

Side 14

TOPICS INTRODUCED  
Mules  
The Rodeo circuit

SEPTEMBER 16, 1972

At Columbia, California

TAPE 8, Side 15

TOPICS INTRODUCED  
Louie Gookin Ranch  
Columbia State Park (stage coach ride)

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TAPE 8, Side 15  
(cont'd)

OCTOBER 2, 1972

At Chicken Ranch

Driving the stage, Columbia State Park

6 horses

Tourists' reactions

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Permission to use these tapes

-APPENDIX-

TAPE 9,	Side 16	TOPICS INTRODUCED OCT. 15, 1972 The Big Oak Flat Road to Yosemite Chinese Camp Near Eagle-Shawmut Mine site Moccasin Priest's
	Side 17	TOPICS INTRODUCED Big Oak Flat Groveland Smith's Station Buck Meadows (Hamilton Station) Cliff House (south fork, Tuolumne River) Crocker Station Yosemite National Park Hodgson Meadow Crane Flat
TAPE 10,	Side 18	Yosemite National Park (cont'd) Visitor's Center Meadow, Valley floor Stoneman Meadow Yosemite Lodge
	Side 19	Pioneer History Center, Wawona Inspiration Point (Abrupt Conclusion)