

150 YEARS

of reporting and commenting on news of Trinity County

THE TRINITY JOURNAL – January 26, 1856, to January 26, 2006

The Trinity Journal was born on Saturday, January 26, 1856, when issue number 1, with completely hand-set type, came off the hand-press in the Journal offices in Weaverville. In the 150 years since, it has never missed an issue—through fires, explosions, floods, snowstorms, electrical failures and other major and minor emergencies.

Seaman and Gordon produced the first Trinity Journal. Henry J. Seaman (1829-1874) came to California from New York in 1849 and to Trinity County shortly thereafter. In 1854 he was County Clerk here and later a Deputy Sheriff. In January 1856, he was the first editor of The Weekly Trinity Journal.

From 1858-59 he was a partner with H.W. Anderson in the Weaverville Drug & Book Store, and the sole proprietor of H. J. Seaman's Drug Store from 1859-1862, when he left Trinity County for Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

David E. Gordon (1831-1913) was not only the first publisher and proprietor of the Trinity Journal, from 1856-69, he was an influence in Trinity County until the time of his death. For nearly 15 years around the turn of the century, Gordon wrote long historical articles titled, "When Trinity Was Young" that appeared periodically in the Journal.

In his years with the Journal, Gordon was assisted by Henry Seaman as editor in 1856, R. J. Curtis in 1857, Calvin B. McDonald in 1858, and A.C. Lawrence as assistant editor in 1862.

A typical Journal under Gordon had four pages, something that continued for many years under other early publishers.

After leaving Weaverville in January of 1869, Gordon settled in Eureka. There he established the West Coast Signal, and later he worked at the Humboldt Standard.

Edward P. Lovejoy (1836-ca1891) came to California in 1859 from Iowa. He was involved with W. S. Lowden and others in the French Gulch Mining District, living in Shasta and later Lewiston. He was the Justice of the Peace in Weaverville in November 1865, District Attorney in 1868, re-elected in 1869, elected County Judge from 1872-1876 and U.S. District Court Commissioner for most of those years.

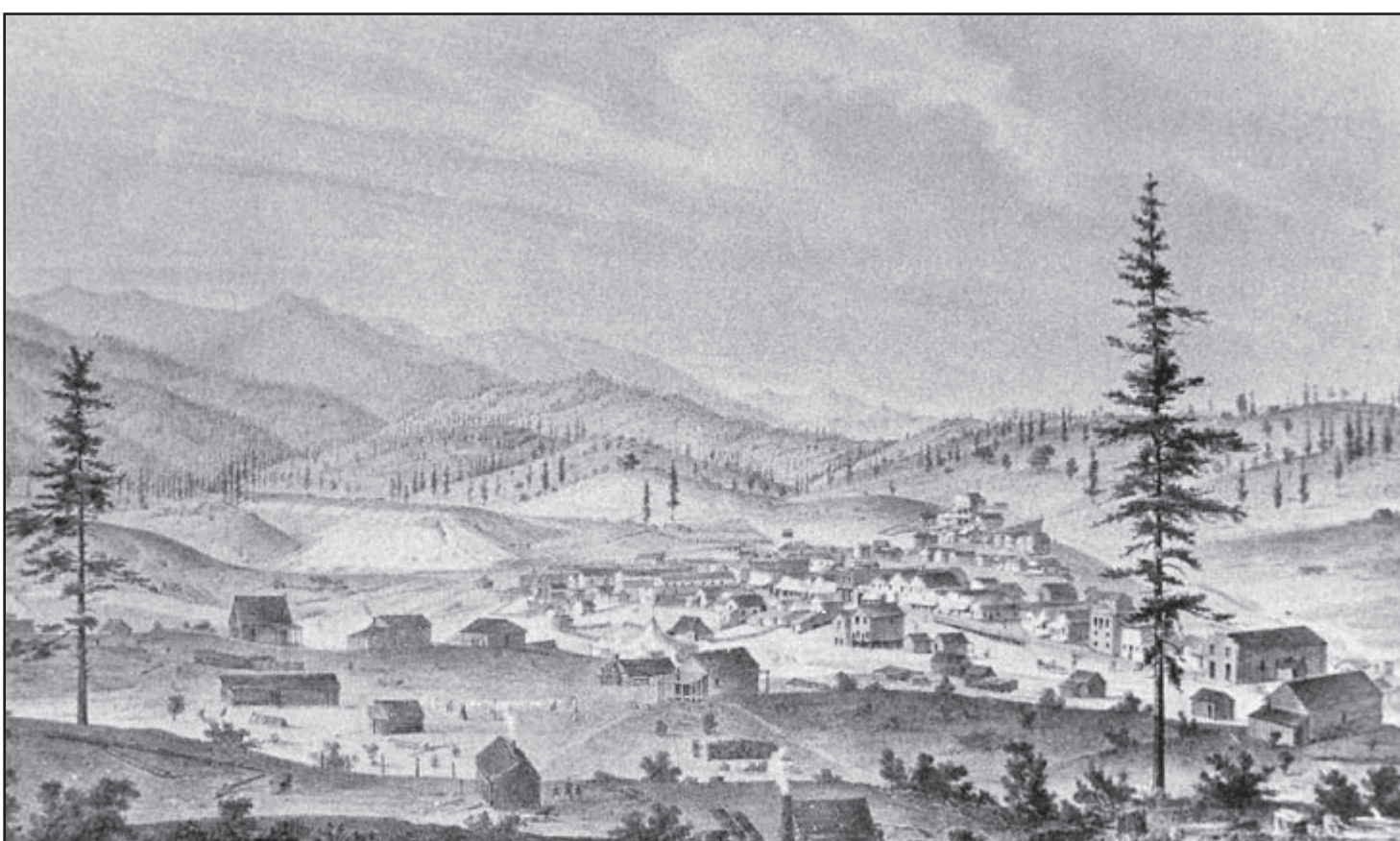
Lovejoy and Julius Andrews bought the Trinity Journal from David Gordon on January 2, 1869. Andrews had been connected with the Journal for three years when he left Weaverville in August 1870. He settled in Oakville, Napa County, and planted a vineyard.

On November 27, 1869, Lovejoy sold one-third interest in the Journal to Jacob R. Felter. Felter continued as a partner until September 9, 1874, when he left Weaverville for San Bernardino.

Lovejoy's next partner was Christian Wolff Craig (1848-1920). Craig started work "as an apprentice to the printer's trade" in January 1862, with Gordon. The partnership lasted from 1874 to 1877, when Lovejoy sold all rights to the Journal and the Journal building to Craig on October 26, 1877.

Lovejoy introduced compiling births-marriages-deaths for the previous year, weather reports, and rain records. He was responsible for the campaign to "fill the big hole" where the Bandstand is in Weaverville today, and he started the campaign for a new schoolhouse in 1873, which was finally built in 1878. As County Judge, he initiated the proceedings for the patent of the townsite of Weaverville, which was completed by his successor, Theodore Eldon Jones, who had been working for the Journal until he decided to campaign for judge against Lovejoy.

Lovejoy left Weaverville in November 1877. In 1888, he



A lithograph showing Weaverville in 1856.

was a hotel keeper and agent of Wells Fargo & Co. at Wabuska, Nevada, where he died a few years later.

C. W. Craig worked on the Journal starting in 1862. He was publisher from 1874-1886. After leaving Weaverville in 1886, he worked at the Inyo Index in Inyo County, the Citograph in Redlands, and had a book and stationery business in Riverside.

Craig sold the Journal to Seldon Lafayette Blake, M.D., and Horace Robert Given on the last day of 1886.

Dr. S. L. Blake (1856-1911) came to California in 1876. He studied medicine in San Francisco and graduated in 1880. He lived in Weaverville from 1880-1905, practicing medicine, publishing the Journal, forming the Trinity & Shasta Telephone & Telegraph Co.



Henry J. Seaman

in 1889, and organizing the Weaverville Electric Company in 1894.

In January 1891, Given sold his interest in the Journal to Blake, who was the sole owner until August 1895, when he

sold a half-interest to Nathaniel Benjamin Shurtleff (1858-1897) and Auguste F. Bremer, old employees of the Journal. Shurtleff started work on the Journal in 1874 at the age of 16. Blake, Shurtleff & Bremer were the proprietors until Shurtleff's death in 1897.

In June 1907, Blake and Bremer were the publishers, although Blake was living in San Francisco at the time.

In 1913, Wade H. Wilson (1875-1952) became the editor of the Journal, serving in that position until 1929, when he moved to Sonoma and accepted a position on the Index-Tribune.

Horace Given (the same Given mentioned above) and Charles Edwards were the owners of the Journal in those days. C. H. Edwards, (1870-1927) was business manager of the Journal and president of Trinity County Bank. H. R. Given was District Attorney of Trinity County for most of those years.

Reuben Albert Greenwell (1895-1974) was involved with the Journal off and on, starting December 23, 1911. He worked as an office boy and learned the printer's trade. He became foreman of the Journal in 1928, the first Linotype operator in 1930, and publisher in 1931, when he leased the business from Givens and Edwards.

Greenwell was publisher all through the Depression and World War II. The Journal grew to ten pages in the late 1930s. By the end of the war, in late 1945 when the population of Weaverville dwindled, there was strict rationing of gasoline, and foods and materials were scarce, the Journal dropped back to four pages.

From January 1856 until April 13, 1935, the Trinity Journal was published on Saturday. The paper switched to Thursday in 1935 because of changes in the mail schedule.

Under Greenwell in 1940, the newspaper moved from its home of 65 years above the brick building that now houses White Wolf Gym to "the new office next to Bank of America."

In 1945 Greenwell sold the "press, Linotype, other equipment, business, name, goodwill, and list of subscribers of the Trinity Journal" to Max

Mamlock of San Francisco. Russell Cap Kenney became the publisher.

Mamlock and Kenney sold the newspaper to Robert E. Cook and Ferne W. Cook in 1947. A veteran newspaperman and printer with 30 years under his belt when he took over the Journal, Cook and his wife ran the paper for six years.

Cook's column, "The Kibitzer," an outspoken commentary on community as well as national affairs, was well read. Mrs. Cook helped by reporting and often ran the Linotype ma-

chine.

They sold the paper to John H. and Vivien Stepping in August 1953, but Cook returned to work for the Journal under later publishers and in the late 1960s the Cooks founded Golden State Printers in Weaverville. They sold the printing business in 1972 to Wally and Lucille Kibbee and retired.

Fifty years ago when The Trinity Journal celebrated its centennial, Trinity County was in a state of change. The county was entering a period of rapid growth, brought about partly as a result of the authorization in 1955 of the Trinity Project, which would bring many workers into the county to build Trinity and Lewiston dams, the tunnel and power plant, and new roads that would go with them.

Also, the timber industry was growing as large stands of virgin timber in the national forests were being harvested at a more rapid rate. Lewiston was changing from a small village to a much larger town.

In 1956, the Journal had a circulation of 1,500. Fifty years later, the Journal's circulation has trebled to around 4,600.

When the Steppings sold the Journal in 1960, they went to Calexico in Imperial County where they bought the Calexico Chronicle, a weekly newspaper.

Stepping was quoted in the Journal's 125th anniversary issue as saying the biggest stories he published while owning the Journal were probably the 1955 flood and Trinity Dam. (Continued on next page)

Congratulations to the Trinity Journal



A BANK RICH IN HISTORY . . .

As Scott Valley Bank approaches its own 150th anniversary in 2008, we extend our congratulations to the Trinity Journal on the newspaper's 150th anniversary of continuous service to the citizens and businesses of Trinity County.

The corporate culture of Scott Valley Bank is a reflection of our core values, high performance standards, and our view to the future. Our culture provides the base on which we build lasting customer relationships, thereby reaching our goals while assisting you in meeting yours.

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OF THE TRINITY JOURNAL, WHICH HAS
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**THE HISTORY OF TRINITY COUNTY SINCE PIONEER
DAYS.**

READ ALL ABOUT THE FOUNDERS OF THE JOURNAL:

PIONEER GIANTS OF TRINITY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
by Patricia Johnsen Hicks

tells what is known about the Journal Founders, David B. Gordon and Henry J. Seaman. There is also a story about the "Pioneer Press" which printed the Trinity Journal, Volume 1, Number 1 on January 26, 1856.

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