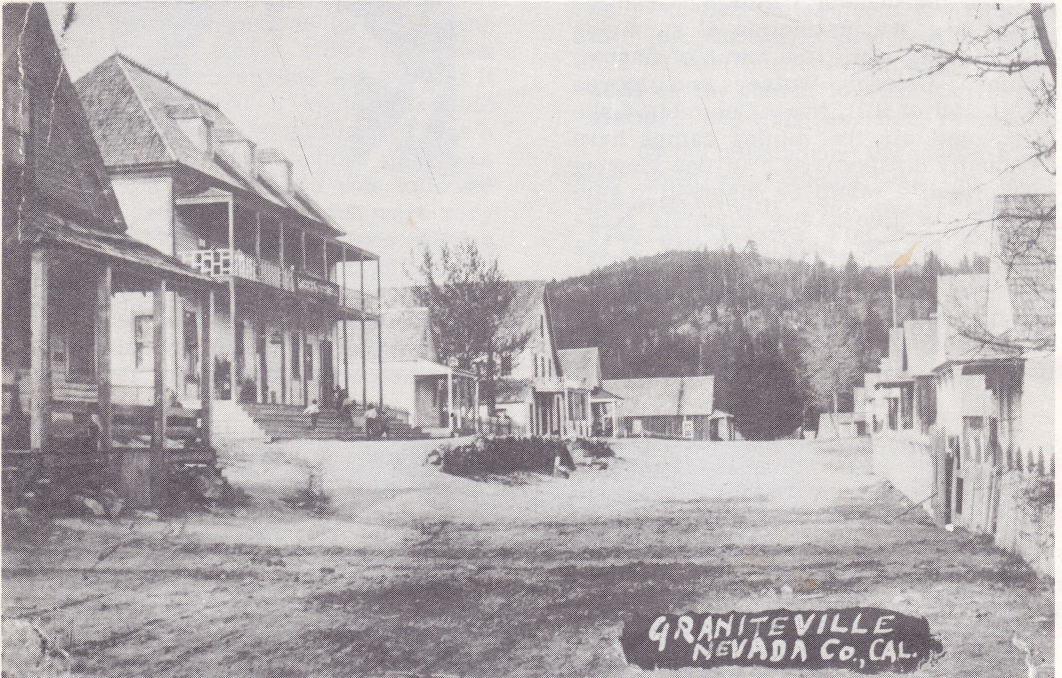


Nevada County Historical Society

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GRANITEVILLE

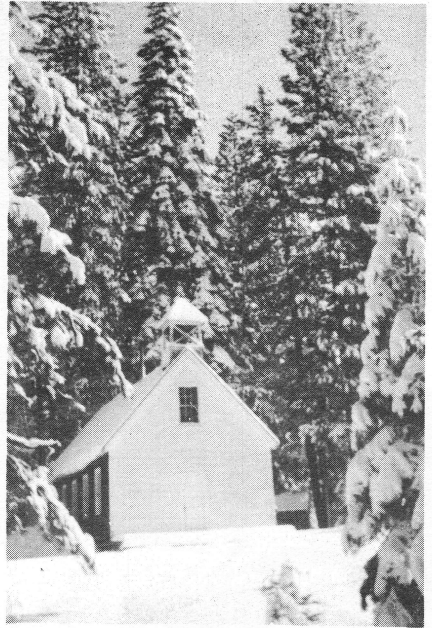


Graniteville, a mile high townsite in beautiful Yuba River Country as it appeared in 1911 at the half way point of the town's existence. Beautifully located on the divide south of the Middle Yuba River and twenty six miles northeast of Nevada City. The Nevada County Historical Society presents the story of Graniteville in two parts covering 122 years of the towns existence and the people that have pride and praise in having lived there.

Here is Part I, Part II will appear in the Historical Bulletin Vol. 26 No. 3.

By CLINTON H. LEE, Nevada City

Graniteville was known to the founders and early settlers as Eureka and the township of the area is still known as Eureka Township, but this was 122 years ago in 1850. The name was changed to Eureka South after some confusion with a mining camp by the same name near Downieville in neighboring Sierra County. The name was again changed to Graniteville when the U. S. Postal Service established a post office in 1878. The town is reported to have had a population of 400 with many more living in mining camps surrounding the town. Graniteville has the distinction of surviving to this day while the towns of Gaston, Quinns, Orleans, Wolseys and Moores Flat, Relief Hill, North Columbia, Lake City and all the mining camps have virtually disappeared. Anyone viewing Graniteville would be inspired to say: Here is a hide-a-way mountain community guarded by giant trees of the forest under a canopy of brilliant stars by night and blue sky by day, echoing her past to all that will listen.'



The snows pile up around Graniteville's Grammar School - now silent.

LOCATION

Graniteville is located on the East/West Ridge dividing the South Yuba River and the Middle Yuba River at an altitude of 4,980 feet above sea level in Section 9 and 10, Township 18 North, Range 11 East, Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian. The townsite consists of 140.25 acres and is recorded in Nevada County Official Records in Book 2 of Maps, Pages 9 and 52. It is interesting to note that its thoroughfares are named; Main Street, Doe Lane, Eureka East Drive, Sluice Way and Arch's Road. Three water ditches pass through the townsite with the Weaver Ditch still in use and the Milton Ditch and the Eureka Lake Ditch still traceable and at one point less than 400 feet apart. The ditch companies and the supply of water for hydraulic mining were very important to the town and the flats to the west of Graniteville.

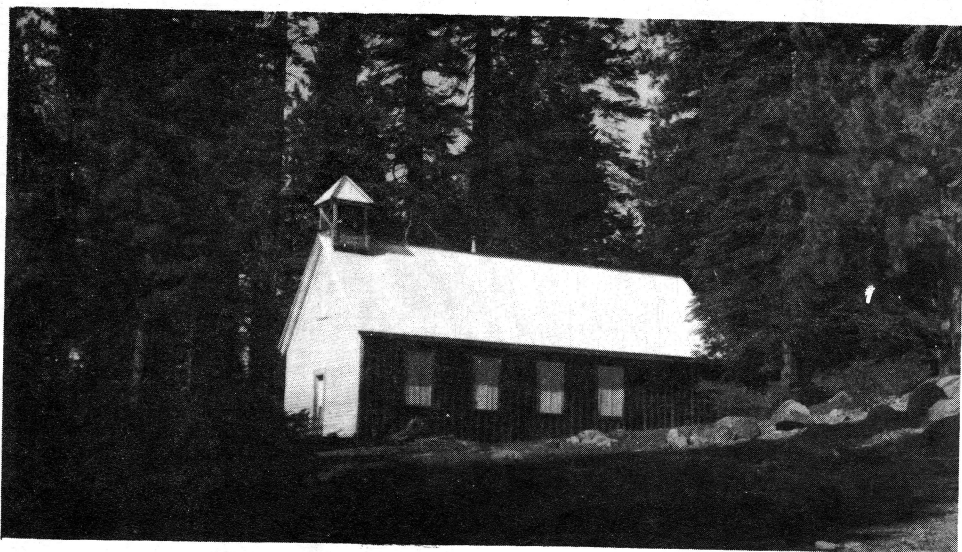
Graniteville is located on the headwaters of Poorman's Creek which was rich in placer gold and flowed into the South Yuba River one and a half miles below the town of Washington. Graniteville is northeasterly 26 miles from Nevada City and 14 miles beyond North Bloomfield and Malakoff State Park on an improved road via Snow Tent camp grounds and Cherry Hill in beautiful mountain scenery and forests. This is part of Eureka Township and was a 'hub-bub' of mining activity from 1850 until 1880. It was traversed by the early telephone, a long distance line, connecting French Corral and Milton Ditch Diversion and Hennes Pass Route bringing transportation into the area that reached a peak of activity in the years from 1859 until 1869. Official records of the County show that the Hennes Pass Turnpike Company was organized March 10th, 1860 for the purpose of:

'...to build a road extending from Eureka, Nevada County to Virginia City by the most practicable way through Utah Territory.' The meeting was held in Lake City and the Incorporation and By-laws are recorded in Book 1 of Corporations, Page 65. They are signed by: G. D. Roberts, C. Wilson Hill, J. W. Chinn, R. B. Moyes, W. B. Churchill, A. H. Hagadorn, Geo. C. Powers, James Creegan and Richard Rafford.

Records available show that Eureka sprang up after gold was discovered in the ravines in 1850, such as Poorman's Creek which was given that name when stories got out that it was so rich that a man that could not pan a pound of gold a day was a 'Poor-Man'. The surface gold was worked out by 1856 and was followed by deep gravel mines which were very rich and close to the surface making it possible for men with ambition and hard work, but without capital for equipment and water, to be successful gold miners. Hydraulic Mining soon took over and with it the necessity for

great sources of water developed above Graniteville and the town became famous for its part in the transportation of water. Old timers still talk of the engineering feats and particularly the Magenta Flume. In 1884 hydraulic mining was outlawed and quartz mining continued but continually decreased until today 'hobby' mining is all that remains, but often with well earned rewards. We are told that the original town of Eureka burned in 1869 which swept the flat but that the present townsite of Graniteville was built one and one-half miles from the original site of Eureka. Graniteville itself has never burned completely which adds to its charm for the tourist and visitor. as well as, her residents.

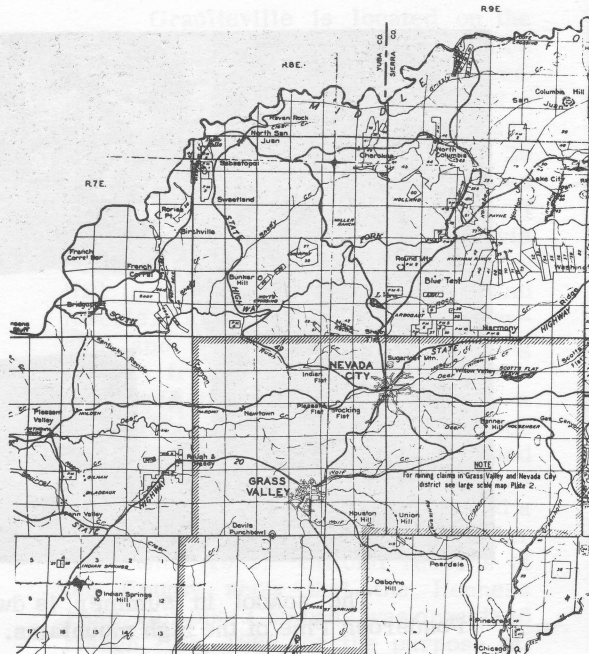
Of the neighboring towns to Eureka the town of Orleans was the most important until 1858 over Wolsey's Flat and Moores Flat. Then in 1867 Moores Flat held the lead but only Eureka, now Graniteville, has survived. The records of Nevada County as to the number of registered voters is not available but the registered



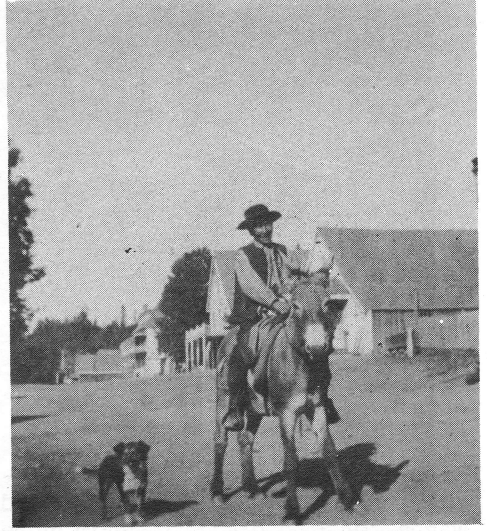
The school in summer is dwarfed by White and Douglas Fir and Ponderosa Pine of the high mountains.



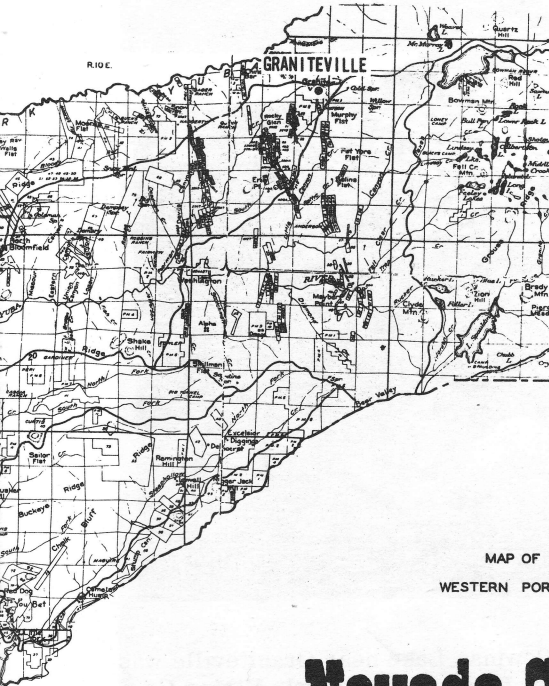
The Golden State Hotel was the center of activities for many years and its destruction by fire in 1948 was a calamity to the town. We will try to identify those on the steps in Part II.



voters for Eureka Township for the year 1939, 33 years ago, show 68 registered voters, in 1946 there were only 17, but 1954 the number decreased to 13 and at the present time only 10 remain. Graniteville today only has 8 registered voters. Activity in the Area is picking up with new home-sites appearing on the Cruzon Grade, in Graniteville itself and more planned as the area is rediscovered for recreation and summer habitat. It may never have a population of 300 people, a general store, 2 hotels, a livery stable and a blacksmith shop. The school is there but may never echo with the school children as it once did. The town may never have a Brass band, an active citizenry and a 4th of July Celebration. The picnics and excursions may be a thing of the past but we know that the old Graniteville Cemetery will be there to remind some of its past glories.



This was 'Charlie Robb' a chinese of fame on the usual means of transportation.

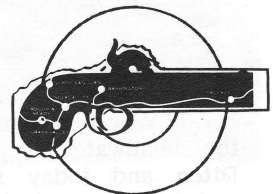


MAP OF
WESTERN PORTION



In the second Part of the Story of Graniteville we will introduce it's settlers and families, those that made Graniteville their home, what they did, and why they loved and still love this high country sanctuary in the beautiful Yuba River Country of Nevada County.

Nevada County

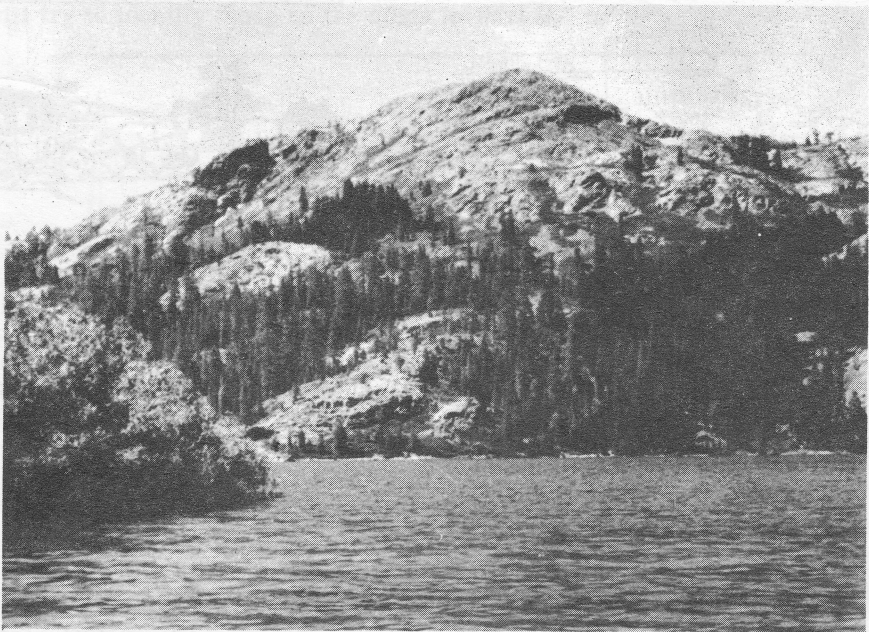




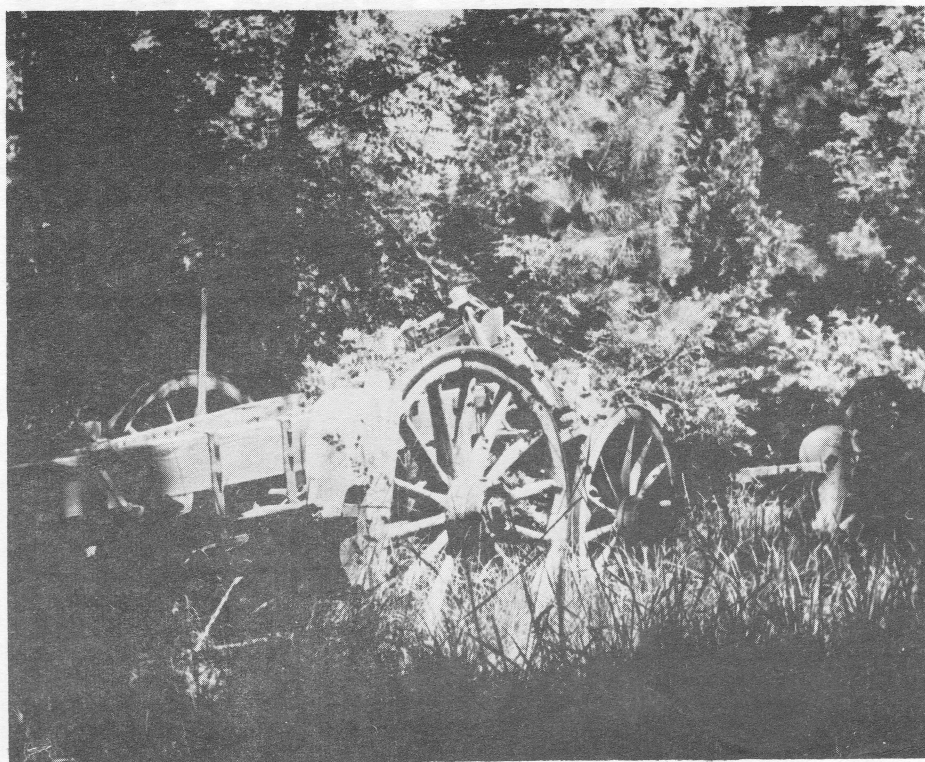
Mary McCarthy arrived in Graniteville as a small girl in a covered wagon. In Part II you will learn more of Mary McCarthy.



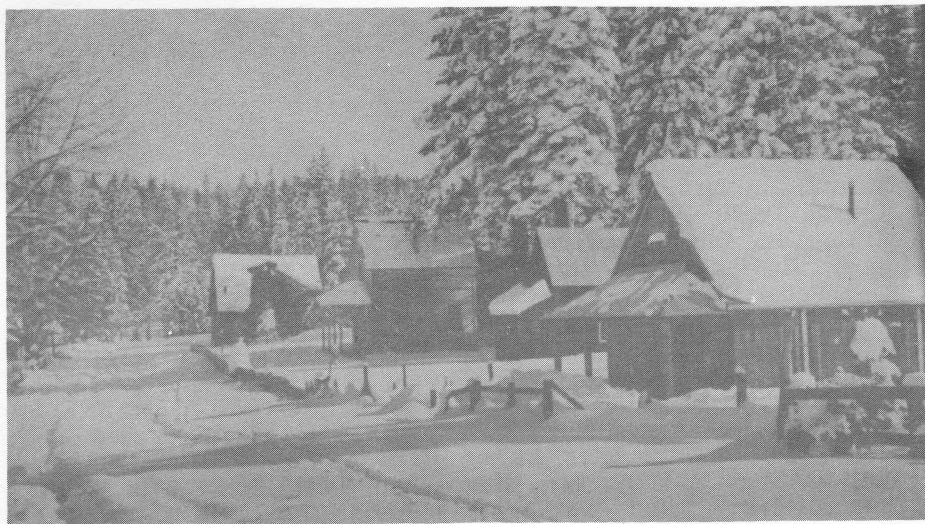
An old building in Graniteville with the 12 x 12 pitch roof to avoid crushing by the winters snow.



Water, a whole lake of water, Bowman Lake near Graniteville was the headwater supply for the North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Co.s Ditch and today is a most important storage basin for the P.G.&E. and the Nevada Irrigation District.



The remains of a freight wagon adds a note of nostalgia to the freighting on the Henness Pass road through Graniteville.



A street scene in winter, Main Street, Graniteville, California.



Graniteville cemetery is probably the most serene and silent resting place in the world.



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