



# Three Rocks Research

*So that others may know ...<sup>SM</sup>*

## The Three Rocks Report

### A Message

February has been a hectic month with too many irons in the fire. But luckily, although slightly behind schedule, all has worked out well. What made it so busy for me is that my wife and I have leased a second business location for our 99 Cent Store and I've been awarded the task of remodeling, ordering signage and fixtures, assembling fixtures and stocking shelves. After two weeks of 12-hour days the first three tasks are complete and the fixtures are a week late. Sometimes late is good, in this case it gave me a chance to rest, catch up on the other project and get the newsletter finished.

The other project is of course, the New Idria Preservation Project. I've been busy, with a great deal of help from Peter Frusetta, organizing a series of public presentations about this project. We completed our first presentation last Thursday (March 3) to about 50 members of Seniors in Retirement in Hollister. The presentation went very well and people are beginning to get excited about the project. The next presentations are to the Hollister Rotary on March 14 and the Santa Cruz Archaeology Society on March 17. Please contact me or Peter (831-628-3559) to schedule a presentation in your area. CARVID Systems, Inc. in Prunedale is donating a projector screen worth about \$500 and Optima Technologies has donated a \$3,000 projector to support this project. These donations allow me to present a very nice slide show during the presentation and they will also be used to support other Three Rocks Research presentations that are being developed for New Idria, Joaquin Rocks and the surrounding area. I hope that you'll think about ways you might help in this important project and help find venues for more presentations.

This month is a special memorial to a local hero, Raymond Eade. Raymond was killed in Viet Nam 36 years ago this month. I remember Raymond well and the day the dreadful news was delivered to his family.

### A Story

#### Raymond Eade Memorial

Raymond F. Eade was a young local man who lived with his sister and father in the small house directly north across the river from the monument. As a young man, he often worked summer jobs for local ranchers and hunted in the surrounding hills. He was well respected by all of his neighbors. When duty called, he proudly went to serve his country. Sergeant Eade served in the U.S. Army 8th Infantry 4th Division and was killed in combat, at the age of 22, while serving in Viet Nam. He died on March 24, 1969 while driving an Armored Personnel Carrier that accidentally hit a large concealed land mine. Sergeant Raymond F. Eade was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

The Raymond Eade Memorial is located on the northeast corner of the Coaling Road and Clear Creek Road junction 33 miles from King City and 37 miles from Coalinga. Many people, including this author, always stop here for a moment. People often clean up the area and leave small tokens in memory of Sergeant Eade.

The monument was initiated by Jim Pettitt, a local rancher. The entire community donated for the monument. The monument was designed and constructed by Ray Iddings, Sr. in 1978 using local jasper stone taken from nearby Horse Thief Canyon.



## The Story Behind that Name

### *Los Gatos Creek*

Los Gatos is Spanish for *The Cats*. Los Gatos Creek flows 26 miles to Pleasant Valley northwest of Coalinga. The name is quite old and predates Parke's 1854 map upon which it is named Las Gatas Creek. The name was listed as Arroyo los Gates on Goddard's 1857 map. On the U.S. General Land Office 1879 map its called Gatos Cr. until it reaches the confluence with Arroyo del Pidvere (now Wartham Creek or maybe Jacalitos creek) and then becomes Arroyo Las Gatas.

The spelling Las Gatos Creek first appears on the McKay's 1914 map, but the end of the stream in San Joaquin Valley was called Arroyo Pesejero. The U.S. Board of Geographic Names rejected the names "Arroyo las Gatos," "Las Gatas Creek," and "Polvodoro Creek" for the stream in 1933, and finally rejected the names "Arroyo Passajero" and "Arroyo Poso de Chane" in 1964.

We learn from an 1877 newspaper account that Los Gatos was also the name for the terminus of the rail tracks leading to the coaling station at the coal mine and northwest of where Coalinga is today:

We learn that Luther Bros have concluded to drive about 20,000 sheep through Waltham canon to the terminus of the railway at Los Gatos in the San Joaquin valley, from which station they will be conveyed by cars to the end of the railway in Arizona.

*San Benito Advance*, April 14, 1877

The Los Gatos coaling station is show at the the terminus of the rail tracks on Blum's 1896 map.

#### — References —

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San Benito Advance, April 14, 1877

U.S. General Land Office. State of California. 1879.

## Pioneers and People

### *Angel Maria Chevoya*

Angel Chevoya was an early pioneer in the White Creek area. We don't know exactly when he moved his family to the area. However, we can speculate that it was sometime after 1862 and before 1879 because one of his sons, Cayetino was born in San Jose in 1862 and because Angel was considered a successful cattle rancher by 1879 when he became captivated by loco Mariana's preaching at Las Tres Piedras. It is also unclear why he chose to come here because historical records indicate that he was the legal heir to his father's land grant, Sanjon de las Moquelumnes (now Elk Grove near Sacramento). He had strong family ties in Santa Clara and San Juan. His grandfather, Marcos Chevoya, who came to California as a soldier with the Anza Expedition, lived in San Juan for a while and Angel's father, Anastacio Chevoya and all of his younger siblings were also born there. Angel's uncle, Jose Luis Chevoya owned the first commercial mining operation in California which later become the famous New Almaden Quicksilver Mine.

Sometime in 1879, a woman known as Mariana who was living at Martinez Spring began preaching that God would end the world on May 16, 1883 and that only the true believers who followed her to Las Tres Piedras (known today as

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Joaquin Rocks) would be save from the coming destruction. Angel and his wife, Trinidad, became mesmerized by her blood-chilling sermons and began donating heavily to her cause. Mariana's commune quickly grew to more than 400 people and Angel was donating at least one animal a day for food. By 1883, when his son Cayetano moved to White Creek, Angel had gone from being a successful rancher to being poor and destitute; he had donated nearly all that he had to Mariana's cause.

The commune began to erode with the failure of Mariana's prophecy but Angel and Trinidad remained faithful until Mariana made a prophecy that a member of the Carona family would die (Delfino Carona married Angle's daughter Elizabeth – they lived on Salt Creek). Five days later, July 5, 1885, when the baby died, most of the remaining followers became suspicious that Mariana had somehow murdered the child. Cayetano sent for the Sheriff in Fresno and Mariana was arrested on suspicion of committing the murder. She was later acquitted for lack of evidence.

Stories suggests that the Carona baby and Angle Maria Chevoya are buried in the Chevoya Cemetery near

their old homestead site on White Creek. Cayetano died in 1935 and is buried in Lemoore.

## — References —

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*Fresno Bee*. November 10, 1935

Matthews, Joseph Warren. *Joseph Warren Matthews diaries*. 1869  
July 12 - 1900 Oct. 20.

Wood, Raymund F. *Mariana La Loca, Prophetess of the Cantua & Alleged Spouse of Joaquin Murrieta*. Fresno, California: Fresno County Historical Society. 1969.

Rodger Chevoya interview.

Valerie Fox (Chevoya) interview.

Jack James interview.



**Cayetano Chevoya**  
Photo by F.F. Latta - from 11/10/35 *Fresno Bee*

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