



The Mountain Echo

By Stanley D. Stevens

Editor's note: This article was written as the introduction to the original paper edition of the *Index to the Mountain Echo*, published by the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries, 1999.

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Introduction

The *Mountain Echo* newspaper was founded by Charles Campbell Rodgers, who was born on February 8, 1841, in Nova Scotia. He was naturalized in San Mateo County, California, in October 1875. He identified himself as a Surveyor when he registered to vote in 1880. By the time he published the first issue of the *Mountain Echo* on October 24, 1896, he was 54-years old; however, he died two years later on Christmas, 1898, at the age of 57. Users of this Index will find, under Deaths, a citation to his obituary and tributes. His brother, Winfield Scott Rodgers Sr., was also an editor-publisher of the *Echo*. An earlier newspaper, the *Boulder Creek Blast*, was absorbed, as was a subsequent title: *Ben Lomond News*. C. C. Rodgers was a Populist, his motto for the paper was: "For Country and Humanity First; Party a Secondary Consideration." Other editors included Horace Mann, and Luther E. McQuesten who was its final editor-manager.

The *Mountain Echo* reports *not the earliest years* of Boulder Creek and the San Lorenzo Valley, but it serves to provide us with the *best available source of information for the formative years*. Its columns reported the incorporation of Boulder Creek as a City, in 1902, and its dis-Incorporation in 1915. Other settlements of the San Lorenzo Valley are cited; for example: the founding of Brookdale by Santa Cruz Judge James Harvey Logan (also developer of the Loganberry), and the founding of Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

The indexing of the *Mountain Echo* was initiated by Faye Ellis, who was interested in preserving the newspaper as a resource for local history research. Anne Gulliver, Chairwoman of the Boulder Creek Friends of the Library, agreed that indexing the newspaper was a worthwhile project for the Friends. In January, 1986, two members, Katie Hyslop and Martha Pruitt, were appointed to confer with Sara Bunnett, who has chaired several indexing projects of Santa Cruz newspapers for the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries and the Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County. They met with Sara to learn the procedures for indexing.

Faye Ellis raised some funding from slide shows of old Boulder Creek scenes, and over the years of the project all other funding was raised by the Boulder Creek Friends of the Library. After the project got underway, the indexing was taken on by two *very dedicated* members of the Boulder Creek Friends, Marguerita Cornwell and Margaret DeSmet. They worked on the project many, many hours, for many months, and completed indexing in April, 1991. They produced more than 10,000 index cards, containing citations to all aspects of life in the San Lorenzo Valley. Barbara Kiehl, Boulder Creek Branch Manager, enthusiastically supported the conversion of the card file to electronic form.

Data input and expanded indexing was accomplished by Stanley D. Stevens, Librarian Emeritus, UCSC. Using the index cards, data entry was started on November 20, 1998; editing and design of the final Index culminated on January 12, 1999. The result is 16,734 entries, including cross references.

While the indexing was done from the original newspaper itself, the *Mountain Echo* has been microfilmed by the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley. It is available for viewing at various locations, including the Boulder Creek and Main Branches of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries, and at UCSC McHenry Library, in Microforms. Copies of the original paper are located at the Public Library, Felton Branch, as well as the Boulder Creek Branch. UCSC's McHenry Library Special Collections has some issues uncataloged, and the California State Library has issues for 1897, 1898, 1905, and July 8, 1916. A rather unique publishing event for the *Mountain Echo* occurred in November 1916; with a shortage of newsprint, several issues were printed on catalpa leaves. Some of these specimens are preserved at the Boulder Creek Branch. ### sds