

An Interview with Charlie Graham

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Boulder Creek, California

submitted by Bob and Marilyn Evans

## An Interview with Charlie Graham

Spring Areas: Spring 49 has a lot of kitchen midden. One of the girls said, "If I were an indian, I would just hide a pestle nearby instead of leaving it, or carrying it around"-----and she looked around behind and between some rocks, and found one. Spring 29 has extensive midden too. Also 1, 3, and 4.

Miners liked the area also. There was panning in the south part of the range. Shafts found also. Jim McDougal told me there was a Chinese camp near Spring 35. There is a history of the harrasment of those Chinese miners. There is a diversion ditch on the stream just below the falls. (near 35)  
In 1950 there was a controlled burn of the Range

Charlie came to the Range in 1939. At that time they were making a map (C. H. Davidson and W. H. Kaemmering), a plane table one, of the area. An excellent one. The only error is a missing drainage west of No. 12. Scale: One inch = 500 ft. Contours 12 1/2 ft. -

There is a photograph file in the headquarters on the range. There was a livestock barn there the headquarters are now. The corral was in the saddle between the headquarters and \_\_\_\_\_?. These were torn down to make room for the present adobes.

There were artesian wells on the place, but we had to haul water when I was there because fences were changed so often that there was no point in permanent watering places. In 1959 we re-fenced a lot for a fertilizer study in the south. The north was left as native range.

Area No. 13 shows a good example of a desert.

Area No. 7 there was a look over between the hills near the spring.

Near No. 13 there was a homestead basement.

Near No. 7 there was rock work between boulders near the spring.

Fred Renner kept a daily log of the Range, as was the custom at the time for the Forest Service. Unfortunately it is not available at this time. Perhaps later.

One day, about 25 years ago, a man came to visit his Grandmother's grave. He said his Grandma Carey had lived there on the Range and was buried there. We went up the old chimney road and located the grave. We moved a granite boulder to the spot. It had been marked before by a charred wood marker.

There were 6 homesteads on the Range. One of them has a Chinese Tree of Heaven. There was the Castro homestead. Castro's spring was No. 19. Johnny Castro worked for O'Neal's

The Range was purchased by the U.S. Forestry in Aug. 1934. Among the photos in the photo file, you will find air photos from 1937( 8,000 ft. per sq. inch ) and from 1950 ( 5,000 ft. per sq.in.) It was re-photographed in 1968. There was a controlled burn in the Middle to East edge documented with hand photos.

In 1968 we flagged all known cornerstones with black plastic and white muslin. It's still there.

There was a Picayune Reservation to the North East of the Range. There was an Indian named Ruby who went around the Clark site for redbud for basket materials. That was across the road from Johnny Jones' place. There was also a homestead in the middle of the N.W. corner of the range.

3.

There are 50 springs on the Range. \_\_\_\_\_ with B R M near almost each one, except 31, unless there are some higher above it. Spring 35( a poor one) used to be a water trough. Spring 29 is a good one.

Mrs. Anderson, from LeGrande ; Oregon, would look around gopher mounds and find arrowheads ( she had a real nose for arrowheads). She was the wife of one of the cowboys, and was part Indian herself. She was part Nez Perce, and a good horse woman. Her husband, Bun Anderson was a rodeo rider when he was younger. One time we were in the airport in Pendelton, Oregon, and they had a big picture of him up there.

One canyon is possibly a fault line, because there is no water shed for such a deep canyon ( along the line of the water falls) Had planned to pipe water over into canyon for wildlife. ( Look at 1937 mosaic----dark lines show up. possibly a fault line)

Originally a study was made of the intensity of grazing ( using the bottom 6 pastures)and what was supposed to be 2 close, a moderate, and 2 light ended up being 6 different intensities. We tried to explain what we got---so started checking out intensity of rock, and ( since it was before the controll burn ) some was inaccessible because of brush.

The next study was comparing fertilized and native pastures. It was unequal of space but equal in grazing capacity. Livestock came from Davis then----its from Fresno State now. Bad feelings developed between Davis and the Range. Their department had been revamped and funds were used elsewhere.

I argued for year long grazing as a measuring stick for the rotation pastures---- it turned out more productive ( of calves) on the year long fertilized as opposed to the unfertilized rotation.

The Minneret Line came into the Range at the depression at R-21E. Passengers came from Pinedale to North Fork. That Lyssenby Ranch had Elk, and buffalo. A dude ranch was a good idea for that spot, but water was always a problem. I would have brought them in up the old canyon was and never let them see highway 41. They never would know civilization was anywhere near.

Live oaks are a good indication of trash dumps (sites) because the cattle can't graze down those spots, and the tree has a chance to grow up.

Spring 43 was a homestead site. There is a windmill on 43, and a well below. I climbed down an old mine shaft 25 ft. to check out water potential, and met face to face with a couple of rattlesnakes almost starved to death. They were floating around on an old board. We weighed and measured them and turned them loose. They were around 15 feet long.

In the old spring house a 15, there was an old snake stretched out on a ledge with its head down in the water drinking just like a cow.

Water would come and go at spots. When he was a boy, Ryan Marty ( camera man for the Fresno Bee ) would hunt bullfrogs at 27, and bring them up for my daughter to see.

My children went to school at the Spring Valley school. Harriet my wife, taught school there too several years.

There have been gopher, squirrel, and kangaroo rat studies as well as the rattlesnake study.

There was a lot of Indian activity at 34 & 36. There was a homestead with olive trees south of 11.

A C.C.C. camp was established there on the Range in 1939, so there was lots of help for maintaining the place. Some of the men were quite talented and used their skills to make this Range a very special place. Have you seen the wrought iron work there ? It is unique. Made by a talented man.

Spring 9 was the best spring, and 43 was good too. A cow fell in 47 once, and a couple of college boys helped get it out. ( in 5 gallon buckets ) It was pretty awful. Most young fellows now would never have helped out. Don Neal was one of them. He came in 1955.

note: One gets the feeling throughout this interview of the sincere dedication Charlie feels for the Range. Also, this brief interview does not even scratch the surface of his knowledge about this area. Charlie and Harriet were so gracious and friendly to these Fresno strangers, and gave us an unforgettable Sunday afternoon. Also, it is necessary to state that these notes have not been corrected by him----therefore any errors are mine--not his.