

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

A man named Spencer, at Howland Flat, Cal., who was working in a hydraulic mine, was caught by a boulder falling or rolling upon him and crushed to death, on Tuesday.

Henry Schlosser, a member of the San Rafael, California, board of city trustees, was kicked by a horse Wednesday night and badly injured. He will not be able to resume his duties for at least a month.

Three fatalities occurred in the mountains east of Oroville, Cal., on Tuesday. The details are so meager that the names of two of the men could not be learned. They were blown up by giant powder and killed. There are no details obtainable concerning the accident.

Sacramento (Record-Union, April 27): F. B. Choate, who has been the local agent of the Union Pacific railroad in this city for some time past, left for Salt Lake City last night, having been promoted to the position of general agent for that line for the State of Utah.

Reports received from all the fruit-growing sections of California by General Freight Agent Sproule of the Southern Pacific are all to the effect that fruit prospects were never better. The season has been exceedingly favorable. The indications are for both a large yield and a fine quality.

James McGillvray, a miner, was struck by train on the Midland railway at Colorado City, Colo., on Thursday, and instantly killed. He was sitting on the end of a tie when the train came suddenly around a curve, and the cylinder box of the engine struck him.

Mrs. M. C. Hinney, a San Francisco schoolteacher, has been arrested on a charge of cruelty to animals. Neighbors' chickens kept coming into the yard of her residence and annoying her, so she threw a stick at them, hit one, picked it up and wrung its neck, then threw it into the owner's yard.

Joseph Malaespino, a miner in the Union Consolidated gold mine, situated near Jackson, Cal., was killed on Wednesday while coming up in the same shaft with Bohns, foreman of the mine, and another miner. The eyewitnesses to the accident state that Malaespino's death was due to his own carelessness.

San Jose, Cal., Mercury: The orchardlets of Santa Barbara are rejoicing in a war dance. They assert that the linnets and the pewees were kind enough not to eat all the apricot buds this spring, and the lady bug has knocked the stuffing out of the black scale in the olive orchards. It is only a few months ago when lady bug colonies were ridiculed.

Alber W. Holcomb, one of the oldest residents of Sheridan county, Wyoming, has suddenly become insane and will be removed to the state hospital at Evanston. His mania seems to be that he has a large amount of money in the East and it is with difficulty restrained from wandering away from

his home in search of it. Mr. Holcomb is 70 years of age and his recovery is doubtful.

Boise, Idaho, Statesman, April 28: The river yesterday morning was nearly up to the highest point of the season. As large an amount of water was flowing in the channel but the force of the current has cut new channels in some places and this has relieved the main channel. At the Ninth street bridge B. R. L. Poston completed driving the piles necessary or the replacing of the bridge that was washed out.

James McCann, a shepherd, was shot at Rawlins, Wyo., Wednesday night, the bullet going through his shoulder. He had come in from his sheep camp, and going to the former residence of Mr. Magor, entered. The occupant, Mr. Turpin, took him for a burglar and fired. Mr. Magor, to whose house McCann had a key, had forgotten to tell the latter that he had moved, so McCann got into the wrong house by mistake. He will recover.

Robert Snowden, a reporter on the Los Angeles, California, Evening Record, was arrested Wednesday morning and charged with making away with a portion of the county grand jury's report according city justices Morrison and Rosster. Judge Smith announced in court the loss of the papers and said that if the culprit was caught he would be severely dealt with. Snowden has been in serious trouble before, in San Francisco and Denver. He was arraigned before Justice Young and his bail was fixed at \$1,000, which he was unable to procure.

James Quinn, convicted of petty larceny and supposed to be doing time in the city prison at Oakland, Cal., is missing and the police authorities are at a loss to account for his escape. The jailors were surprised a few days ago to receive a telephone communication from the county jail stating that a vagrant who was imprisoned there had told a story to the effect that Quinn had succeeded in passing out of the prison while the "lodgers" were being let out. The city jailors were not inclined to believe the story, but checked up their prisoners only to find it was true. They have no clue as to Quinn's whereabouts.

The experiment of growing oysters in Humboldt bay, Cal., has proved very satisfactory. Several months ago a lumber of barrels of oysters were planted in the bay opposite the city. These have multiplied at a very rapid rate, and at low tide large quantities of good-sized oysters can be seen, and they are so plentiful that poachers have taken them away by the boat load. The rapid growth proves that the bay is especially adapted to the oyster. Another lot will be planted this fall, and it is expected that Humboldt bay will soon supply the coast demand.

The Santa Ynez ranch of 10,000 acres, near Santa Barbara, Cal., owned by the Catholic church, according to a statement of Nick Lang, a real

estate man of San Francisco, has just been purchased by a representative of a German colony, who will use it for the culture of the sugar beet. The sale includes the entire 10,000 acres, and the price, it is said, is \$30 per acre, which would make the comfortable sum of \$300,000. Lang stated that the new owners intended to construct a sugar factory and establish a number of improvements, including a colony of newcomers, who are represented as being the very best class of German agriculturists.

A frightful accident occurred at Ensenada, Lower California, Monday, resulting in the death of Miss Ambrosia Verdugo, aged 22 years, daughter of Don Soledad Verdugo. Her brother, Jose Maria, aged 18 years, was playing with a shotgun, snapping blank cartridges. He had snapped several at his sister in fun, and she was laughing at him, when by accident a cartridge loaded with buckshot was included with the blanks. The boy fired the whole charge into his sister's body. She lived until the next morning. The lad was frantic, and was prevented from committing suicide only by constant watching.

Monday morning August Keiffer left La Honda, Cal., for San Gregorio, with a four-horse team intending to return with a load of barley. An evening came on his brother, A. V. Keiffer, formerly postmaster at La Honda, started in search of August, and near the Sweeney place, some few miles distant, found the team and load of barley. Several hundred yards away he found his brother by the roadside. He was still alive, but unconscious. On the way home the unfortunate man expired. The place where the team was found is very rough, and it is supposed that the sudden jolt of the wagon threw the driver to the ground in such a manner that the wheels passed over his body. The deceased was a native of France, aged 29 years.

The Oakland, California, "cannonball" freight due from Livermore at 5 o'clock Wednesday evening was partially wrecked. The accident, which resulted from a broken switch, was a most peculiar one. The train was moving quite rapidly and the engine and several cars passed the point in safety. Then the rear truck of a freight car slid upon the switch while the front truck remained on the right track, and in an instant three cars had been whipped off the track altogether. Two of the cars were thrown off and were badly smashed and splintered. The third car was also badly damaged. None of the train crew were near the cars that were derailed or they could not have escaped serious injury. As it was, every one on the train was given a jolting. It took an hour to clear the wreckage away, but the delay to traffic was not serious.

OBITUARY.

SAMUEL WAGSTAFF.

Samuel Wagstaff, the subject of this sketch, died of dropsy at his home in American Fork city, April 13, 1897, after a protracted illness and considerable suffering, and was buried the following day at 2 p. m. His remains were taken