

The Angels Hotel in Angels Camp is a landmark of the community and has stood since it was rebuilt of stone in 1856. Charles C. Lake was the first owner, opening the hotel in a tent that he soon replaced with a wood building. In January of 1855 Lake advertised the hotel for sale. Too bad it did not sell, because the hotel was destroyed when a fire hit Angels Camp on June 24, 1855, when every wood building in the town burnt down. Charles Lake, along with the other citizens, immediately rebuilt his hotel but sadly he built with wood and

Fire at Angel's Camp.

By a telegraphic dispatch from San Andreas, we learn that a fire broke out in the bar room of Lake's hotel, Angel's Camp, yesterday morning about 3½ o'clock. The hotel, Cosgrove's stable, containing three horses, and the billiard saloon of Miller & Eastman were totally destroyed. Some of the inmates of the hotel narrowly escaped with their lives. Total loss about \$12,000. The origin of the fire is unknown.

another fire broke out at the end of July in 1856 in the bar room of his just finished hotel.¹ This fire burnt the hotel as well as Cosgrove's stable, which was located near the hotel and also a billiard saloon owned by John Scribner but leased to Miller & Eastman.

After this fire, Charles Lake rebuilt with stone. The new hotel was built using the south wall of the IOOF Lodge building as the hotel's north wall, a common thing back then. In August of 1856 he signed an agreement with the IOOF Hope Lodge#33 "Said lodge is the owner of a lot and building on Main St in Angels

next to the adjacent to the Market house of Robodee and Crins and nearly opposite Mathews and Scribner store and Lake is the owner of the lot adjacent to same on the S side on which lot Lake is about to erect a stone hotel, therefore the trustees for \$1, promises and agrees that Lake may in the erection of the stone hotel about to be built may make use of the SE side wall of the stone building or hall, as a party wall". By October of 1856 his new 84' by 56' building was completed but the grand opening was not until January 1, 1857 when a ball was held.²

FINE HOTEL.—C. G. Lake, who has twice been burnt out at Angel's Camp, has erected a substantial and costly stone hotel building, eighty-four feet front by fifty-six feet deep. A correspondent of the *Independent* ranks it as one of the finest public houses in the southern mines.

The cost of rebuilding and of purchasing the furniture and all the other items needed for the new hotel caused Charles Lake to be in debt to many businesses and by 1858 Lake lost the hotel because he owed Doak for the lumber to build the hotel, Scribner for furnishings and a lot of food and merchandise, plus many other debts including tax bills. In November of 1858 a sheriff's sale was advertised to sell the hotel and on June 18, 1859 the sale was completed. Charles Lake and his wife Sarah Ann Gardner left the area after he lost the hotel and the family says he died in 1863 of yellow fever in Mexico. They had no children but we do know that his widow remarried to Isaiah Weston and she had her first and only child in 1867, a son who they name Thomas Gardner Weston. Sarah had two sisters who also came to Angels Camp. Sarah Lake's sister Caroline Elizabeth Gardner married in SF to William Maltman in May of 1859. Her new husband was 19 years older than she was. Maltman owned a mine in Angels Camp which he sold a 5/8th interest in to the Angels Quartz Mine on 7/11/1859 for \$25,000. Sarah Ann Lake's sister Anna Letitia Gardner (6/8/1844 NY-4/22/1888) married Foster Grigsby Dyer on 1/15/1862. Foster Dyer had been in Angels Camp since the early days of the camp. In the 1860 Census, he was living with Benjamin Ross Coon, the saloon keeper at the Lake Hotel along with 2 other men and he was working as an express agent.

The new owners were the hotel bar-keeper Benjamin Coon and his partner Charles Robodee who was a local butcher. The price was listed at \$1,291. Coon is known as the man who told a tale of a jumping frog contest to Mark Twain in the hotel saloon a few years later.

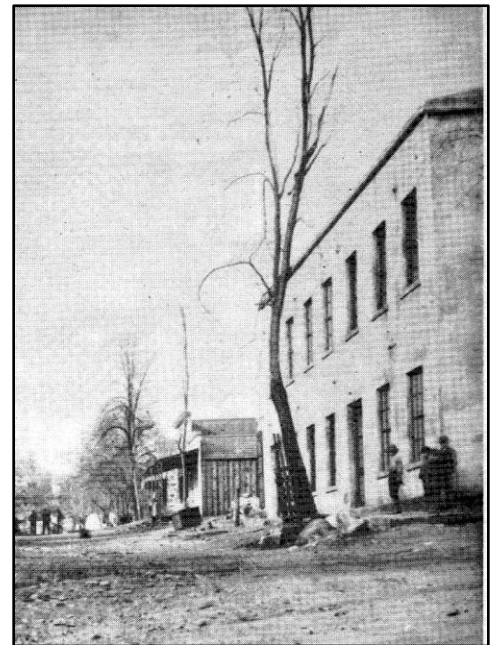
Robodee sold his share of the hotel in June of 1863 to Dr. William Jones of Murphys for \$1,326 with the name of the hotel being changed from Lake's Hotel to the "*Union Hotel*". Ross Coon stayed on as Dr. Jones's partner until January of 1867 when he sold his half interest to George C. Tryon for \$2,500.

Tryon became the only owner in May of 1868 when Dr. Jones sold his share in the hotel to him.

The hotel was damaged in other fires but the building itself survived all of the future fires that hit the town. The Prospect 6/29/1885 reported: "*Fire broke out in Cosgrove Hotel and jumped Main St. The Tryon Hotel had a large frame addition on the rear which allowed the fire to enter the stone building. Loss \$15,000. Insurance coverage \$2,000*". Tryon took out a mortgage to lumberman John Manuel of Murphys to pay for the rebuilding. In September of 1885 Tryon added a large hall behind his hotel.³

Tryon's Capacious town hall in the rear of the hotel, is in course of construction. A house warming ball in the same is next in order.

In 1888 George Tryon sold to Otto & Mary Dolling for \$8,500. The hotel has sold many times since with the Lemue family owning it from 1917 until 1946.⁴ The lower floor of the hotel was usually leased out as commercial space⁵ and the upper floor was turned into small apartments but it still stands as the landmark building of Angels Camp.



The Hotel after the fire of 1885

ANGELS HOTEL IS SOLD FOR \$16,500

The Angels Hotel, long a historic landmark in Calaveras County, has been sold according to John Lemue, owner since 1917. The hotel was purchased by a party in Lodi through the Arthur Bennett real estate agency of Manteca for the purported price of \$16,500.

The historic structure was erected in 1856 and was originally called the Lake Hotel. John Lemue with his father, the late Ralph Lemue, acquired the property from Otto Dolling in June, 1917. It has been operated since that time by the Lemue family.

NEW STORE OPENS IN ANGELS CAMP

Calaveras County's newest and modern store opens its doors Friday morning at 9 a. m. It is the new Western Store, owned by Vernon L. Simpson and E. A. Schmidt, located in the Angels Hotel building.

For the past several weeks, both Simpson and Schmidt, who leased the Angels Hotel building from Merle and Margaret Weien, last December, have been renovating the ground floor formerly occupied by the Angels City Hall, as the new store location.

In today's issue, pages 4 and 5, readers will find in excess of 50 bargains in auto supplies, enamel ware, cooking supplies, radios, bicycles, tools, auto tires, refrigerators, and almost everything needed for the modern home. The new owners state that a full line of men's work clothes will be added to the long list of items now on sale at the local store.



1. San Joaquin Republican 7/31/1856
2. San Joaquin Republican 10/19/1856
3. Prospect 9/18/1885
4. Prospect 3/30/1946
5. Prospect 3/12/1949