

HISTORY LIFE IN PARADISE



The Camp Fire completely destroyed Paradise.

2018



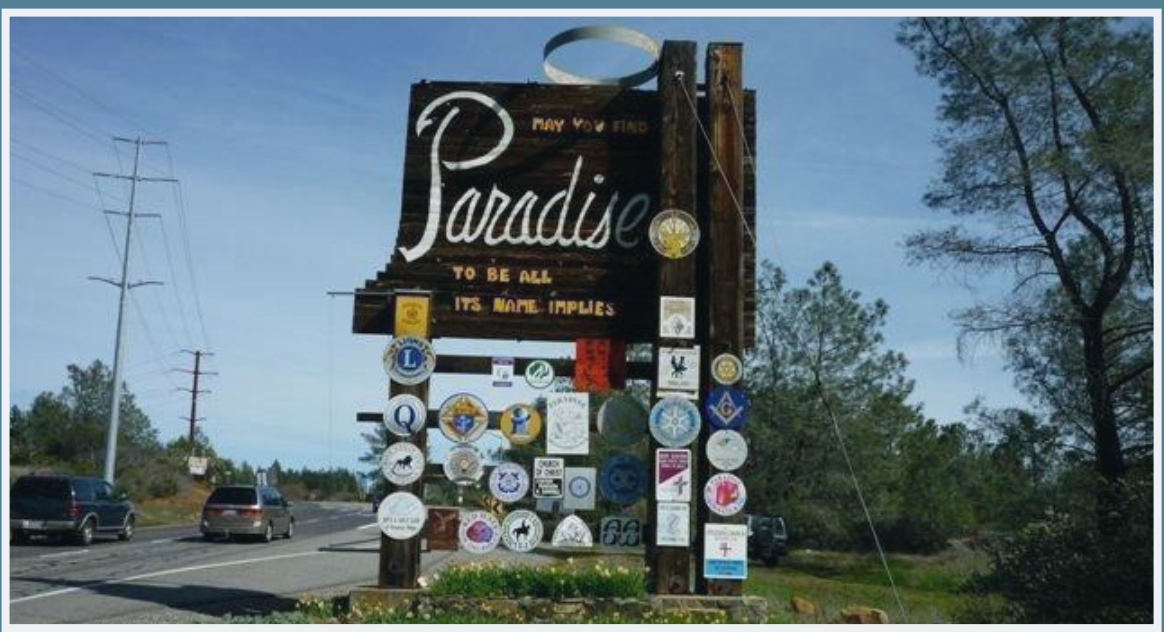
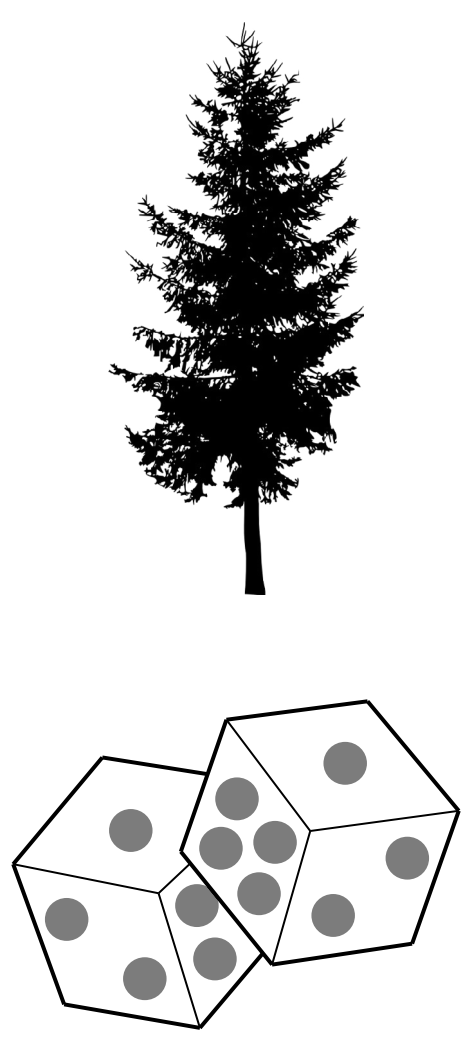
2008

The Humboldt Fire burned across the southern end of Paradise, eventually cutting off two of the town's three escape routes. A third of the population was ordered to evacuate and in the ensuing panic, one person died of a heart attack. In the end, 23,000 acres were burned and 74 homes were lost.

LIFE IN PARADISE NAME

There are two legends on how the town earned its name. The most common tale credits a mill worker, William Leonard. The story goes that Leonard and his mill crew were returning from taking a load of lumber into the valley. When they returned into the cool shade of the pine trees, he is said to have declared, "Boys, this is paradise!"

Another explanation dates back to the town's early mining days when there were many gambling halls and saloons. The most notorious of these was called "Pair-O-Dice," which eventually evolved to Paradise.



On November 27, Paradise became a town.

1979



1966

The population reached 20,000 as a result of the post-war "baby boom."



The Paradise Irrigation District formed, causing a drastic growth in the farming industry.

1916

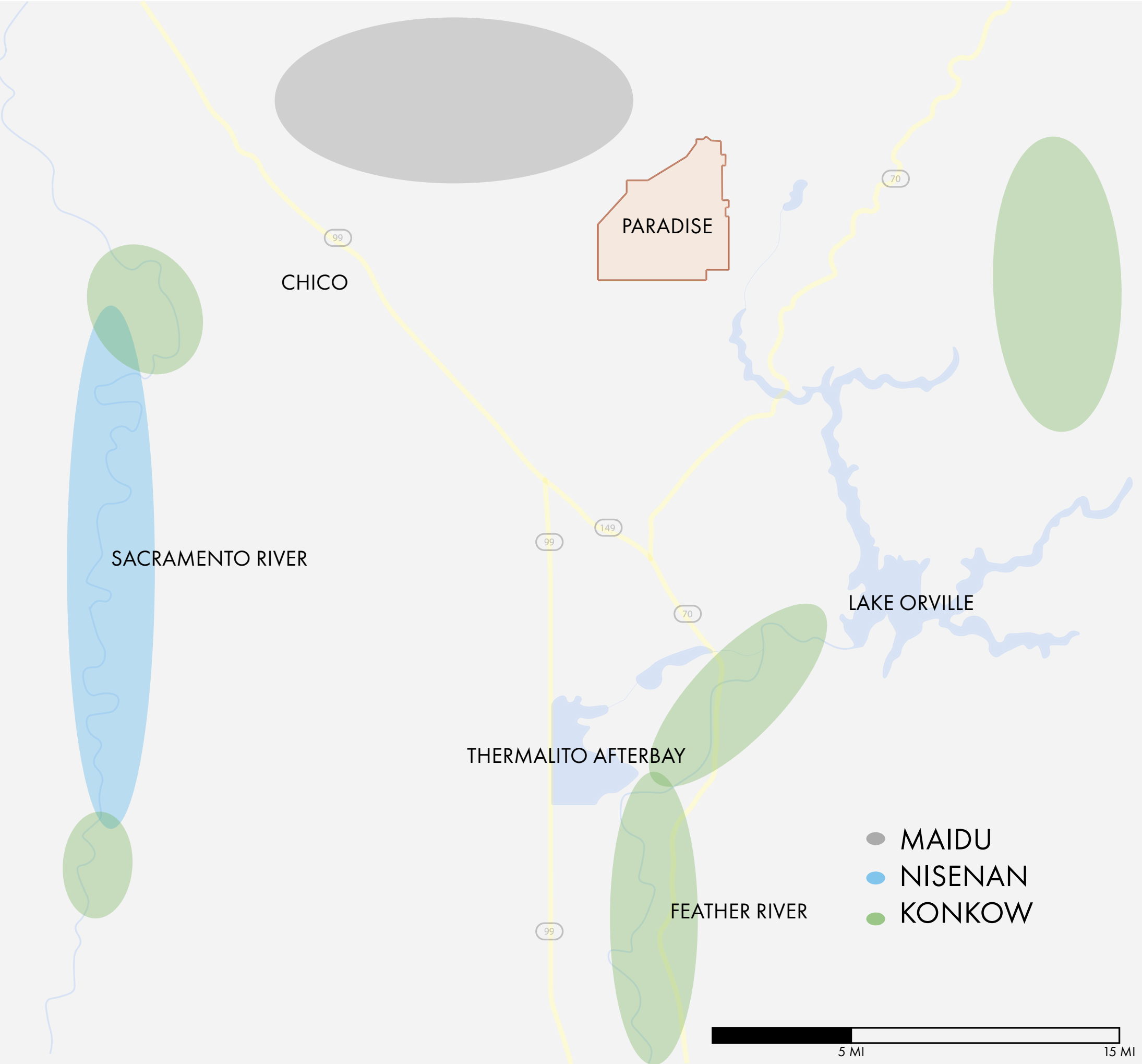


1904

The railroad was established, resulting in many new settlers. The Delaplain School opened. During the 1850's and 1860's, lumber mills caused a steady increase in the population.

LIFE IN PARADISE BEFORE WHITE SETTLEMENT

Before prospectors settled in Paradise Ridge in 1848, diverse groups of Native Americans lived in the area. Three main tribes occupied the area lived here: the Konkow, Nisenan, and the Mechoopda, known collectively as the Maidu. Estimates of pre-contact population as around 9,000 to 9,5000. By 1910, the population was barely over 1,000, decimated by disease, social disorder, and genocide. By 1930, the population had decreased even further to just under a hundred people. Today, the Maidu number about 3,500 people and live in separate valleys, foothills, and mountains of Northeaster Central California.



The first Paradise Festival was held to celebrate the winter harvest. This later became the Johnny Appleseed Days.

1889

The Delaplain School opened. During the 1850s and 1860s, lumber mills caused a consistent increase in the population.

1861

Gold was discovered on the American River, attracting prospectors to Paradise Ridge.

1848



1879

The first church, Union Congregational Church, was established in Paradise. This lead to the formation of four more churches.

1857

The first post office was built in the expanding trading post of Dogtown. It operated out of the Strong House.