



BLACK ROCK DESERT
HIGH ROCK CANYON
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

SOLDIER MEADOWS

Profile: Jim Yow

- About 1887 an 18-year-old Chinese man, Gee Yow, arrived in Cedarville, CA.
- He took a cooking job at the Golden Eagle Hotel.
- His name became Americanized; Jim Yow.
- After working for two years at the hotel, Yow was persuaded to take a cooking job with Miller and Lux on the Black Rock division buckaroo wagon.
- He became a respected member of the crew.
- “Occasionally, a new crew member, who felt Chinese cooks were beneath contempt, would try to start something... The crew would step in and send the trouble-maker on his way. The crew had a good cook and a friend and they intended to keep it that way” (Parman, 112).
- Jim took a cooking job at Soldier Meadows after years on the buckaroo wagon.
- The Soldier Meadows Ranch was improved and hosted a large crew: a dependable cook was needed.
- Jim Yow was a hard worker and demonstrated an ability to learn and adapt quickly.
- It was well known that if a hungry rider came in late, there was a meal for him.
- During winters, the only steady crew at Soldier Meadows was Yow, a ranch hand, and the ranch foreman. With very little to do on the ranch, Yow would sometimes help out with breaking horses.
- The buckaroos began to see Yow as not only a cook, but a bronc rider which was a much more prestigious title.
- Yow kept several “milch” cows at the ranch to provide milk and butter for the meals.
- He raised a big garden each year that supplied the ranch with potatoes, onions, and carrots.
- In 1926, with the liquidation of the Miller & Lux Company (ranch operators), Jim took a job as cook on the IXL Ranch in Guano Valley; northwest of Soldier Meadows near the border of Nevada and Oregon.
- In 1930 or 1931, Jim passed away in his sleep.
- He had spent most of his adult life far from his native land in a harsh and rough environment.

Information obtained from: Parman, Ralph G. Land of Bunch Grass, Sage and Sun. Reno, NV. 1990.

