

Marker replaced

Oct. 5, 1986, the vandalized grave marker of Nicholas Wolf of Michigan Bluff, who died of a heart attack on Jan. 5, 1888, while deer hunting on Mosquito Ridge, Placer County, was replaced by members of the Placer Preservation Corps.

When Nick Wolf did not return from his hunting trek, his friends went looking for him. They found his

dead body near the Mosquito Ridge Trail, close to the track he had apparently killed. His friends buried his body where he lay and later erected a somewhat crude marker over the grave.

According to Gene Markley, the Corps leader, the marker was stolen several years ago and the grave disturbed.

The Placer Preservation Corps is

a small group of dedicated history buffs who replace vandalized isolated pioneer grave markers throughout the county. Bill Chandler of Lincoln has made a hobby of carving the replacement markers.

In this case the new marker embedded in concrete, was carved exactly as the original, from a photo thereof.

Markley, a local author of several

books, wrote the following prose poem in honor of the event:

The spirit of Nicholas Wolf hovers about. The ponderosa moans. The black oak in color. The grave robbed. The tombstone gone. But now we erect a new monument for this miner of Prussian birth. Who shot his deer and then died along the Old Mosquito Ridge Trail, January 5, 1888.

I had a photo of the original marker and had been to the site prior to it being vandalized. I had Bill Chandler duplicate the original, which he accomplished to near perfection.

Gene Markley