

"Expedition Against the Indians – Burning of the Indian Town of Agua Caliente!" *San Diego Herald*, December 18, 1851: p. 2, col. 2.

SAN DIEGO HERALD

SAN DIEGO, CAL., THURSDAY, DEC. 18, 1851.

**EXPEDITION AGAINST THE INDIANS.
BURNING OF THE INDIAN TOWN OF
AGUA CALIENTE!**

**CAPTURE OF BILL MARSHALL AND JUAN
VERDUGO, BY THE SAN DIEGO VOLUNTEERS.**

Their trial by a Court-Martial!

Conviction, Sentence and Execution!

**RAISING OF VOLUNTEERS IN SAN
FRANCISCO BY COL. GEARY AND
CAPTAIN ALDRICH!**

**Arrival of U. S. Army Troops at San Diego
from Benicia and Monterey!!!**

**The Hanging of Bill
Marshall and Juan
Verdugo!**

The trial of these men was concluded on Friday evening last, and on Saturday morning it was announced on the Plaza that they would be executed at 2 o'clock the same day. The Fitzgerald volunteers were ordered to his duty at that time to conduct the prisoners to the scaffold, which had been erected a short distance out of town, near the Catholic burying ground.

The graves were dug, and all the preparations made, during the forenoon, for carrying out the sentence of the Court-Martial. At

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out the sentence of the Court Martial. At
about two o'clock the Volunteers were under
arms, and the people began to gather in consid-
erable numbers about the Plaza and Court
House. A Priest was with the prisoners most
of the forenoon, and accompanied them to the
gallows, where they received final absolution.
They were then informed that a short time
would be allowed them, if they wished to make
any remarks. Marshall was the first to speak.
He said that he was prepared to die and he
hoped that his friends, and the people around
him, would forgive him, that he trusted in
God's mercy, and hoped to be pardoned for his
many transgressions. He still insisted that he
was innocent of the crime for which he was
about to die. This was about the substance of
his remarks, as near as we could learn from
those who stood near the scaffold.

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Venlugo spoke in Spanish. He acknowledged his guilt and admitted the justness of the sentence passed upon him; said he was ready and willing to yield up his life as a forfeit for his crimes and wickedness. The ropes were then adjusted—the priest approached them for the last time—said some consoling words to them—repeated a final prayer—extended the crucifix, which each kissed several times, when he descended from the wagon, which immediately moved on, leaving the poor unfortunate wretches suspended about five feet from the ground. The fall could not have been more than a foot, at the most, for their necks were not dislocated. Marshall struggled considerably, but the Sonorian scarcely moved a muscle. Both of them were in their shirt-sleeves, and neither of them hood-winked. Marshall was quite a small sized man, with regular and rather

neither of them hood-winked. Marshall was quite a small sized man, with regular and rather agreeable features, and a head, indicating, pre-eminently, great determination. The other was much stouter, with a frame apparently of great power. He was a shade darker than the average of Californians, and had a most brutish countenance. Their arms were pinioned behind. They vibrated slightly when the cart was driven from under them, but after that not a convulsive movement could be seen, although the physician said that they were not dead for some three quarters of an hour after. Every thing was conducted with the utmost order and quietness. There was no halting or hesitation on the part of those whose painful duty it was to take the laws into their own hands for the protection of the lives and property of the whole community. The minds of the large assemblage, and ex-

to take the laws into their own hands for the protection of the lives and property of the whole community.

The minds of the large assemblage, and especially of the friendly Indians, seemed to be impressed with becoming awe. It was an awful and melancholy sight, to see those bodies swinging about there in the wind, now exhibiting their countenances directly fronting you, and again averting them—with the crows and buzzards hovering overhead, as if ready to pounce down upon and devour their meal of human flesh—and one which, we trust in God, we may never be called upon to witness again.

After being suspended about an hour and a half, the bodies were cut down and interred in the Catholic burying ground.

The *Agua Caliente* is the only newspaper we examine, from above, which takes a just view of, or seems to comprehend the extent of this Indian outbreak.