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Editor

1990

JANUARY

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From T-M-S President Lindgren:

After the Oct. 17, 1989 San Francisco 'shocker,' the following Yurok Myth comes to mind.

Earthquake lived in Espeu, a town along the Pacific shoreline about mid-way between Orick and the mouth of the Klamath River (Requa). Some Yuroks claimed he lived in Kepel along the Klamath River, others say in Sumig (Patrick's Point).

Espeu was a town of many people. When the people began to move away, Earthquake wondered "what kind of a world will this be?" As 'Old Quake' wondered, a visitor from Dry Lagoon (Tsotskwi), half way between Tsurai and Espeu, came to visit. This was Thunder. He wanted to be Earthquake's partner and travel around the world (Yurok world) together. Thunder knew of Earthquake's tremendous earth-shaking power which was limited to re-leveling the earth when it became sloped or tilted.

Message from T-M-S Director Spears:

The award of grant funding to T-M-S by the Humboldt Area Foundation is very exciting. This financial support provides the Museum the opportunity to reproduce historic photographic documentation of the Greater Trinidad Area.

The photo collection is the result of community members' early pioneering families and native residents who have provided their personal collections for copying.

This exhibit is in full production and will be available for viewing by HISTORIC DAY, the latter part of April. If you have photographs that could be copied, we have the equipment. Copies can be made at the Museum Center. When the collection is on permanent display, we invite your comments. In this way we can expand our descriptive history.

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On Saturday, February 10th, T-M-S

tilted.

Now, Thunder had infinite powers in his own right. He was able to light-up the world with ultra-bright flashes of bluish-white lightning, shake the sky and knock-down huge Redwood Trees. Yet, Thunder's power didn't convince Earthquake that he would be a good companion; but that they would go around the world (Yurok) as partners.

Together they traveled north. In a short while the Klamath River blocked their path; there was no canoe for ferrying the River and it was night. They always traveled in the dark so Thunder could hurl bolts of lightning across the sky, scaring the daylights out of people. But, bolts of lightning and the roar only shook and rattled the sky with no affect on earth.

Earthquake knew with his omnipotent strength of leveling the earth, that he could force the banks of the mighty Klamath River together. After several attempts with one Herculean heave, the banks closed; Earthquake and Thunder quickly crossed to the opposite side of the River and proceeded to journey around the Yurok world, demonstrating in each town their earth-tearing and sky-shaking strengths.

Atop the highrise between Klamath River and Crescent City (Kohpei), Thunder and Earthquake compared strengths again and again, breaking the tops from trees and leaving short jagged snags; Earthquake broke-open the earth where trees were swallowed-up leaving only the tips of tall Redwoods showing above the earth's

On Saturday, **February 10th**, T-M-S will host an **Indian Salmon Bake** at Merryman's Beach House, at which time we will include a narrated slide-show of many historic area photographs.

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Please do contact the museum for geneological research and communication of area history. Together we can produce a book of our unique heritage. Many personal narratives are required to provide a breadth-of-perspective. The museum phone number is **677-3883**.

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Our sincere "thanks" to **Burch Calkins** for donating to T-M-S an **1870's Improved Model 4 Job Press** used in the 1880's by photographer A.W.Erickson; as well as several valuable old books and newspapers which will be included in the museum's library. The old printing press was used by Burch to print the first issues of TRINIDAD NEWS and VIEWS starting in November 1980.

And "**thanks**" to **Katie Boyle** for her tremendous efforts in putting together thousands of historic photo-negatives. Indexing these negatives ensures accessibility and protection of our unique photo-heritage. Also, **Bill Boyle** is our valued logging historian.

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surface. Now, Earthquake is convinced that Thunder would make a good companion.

In 'Kohpei,' they were met by two strangers (woge), most likely Tolowa, for Crescent City is Tolowa country. When asked by the 'woge' if he was the one who kept the earth level, Earthquake replied, "Yes, I will level the earth when it becomes tilted in order to prevent the people from sliding-off."

The 'woge' accompanied Earthquake and Thunder across Tolowa country. In each town like 'Hinei' (Smith River) and 'Noropek' (Chetco River), they shook the earth and lighted-up the sky; sometimes lightly, other times greatly, as they did in the beginning.

Now, at the end of the Yurok world, Rogue River ('Erkier') where sky meets the earth (horizon), Thunder is rendered powerless. No more rumble, no more lighting-up the sky at night. Thunder admits "this is as far as I come."

But Earthquake and the 'woges' continued by traveling East to the confluence of the Klamath and Trinity Rivers ('Weitspus'). Here the three moved downstream toward the ocean. Every now and again Earthquake would release quick short jolts in an effort to contact Thunder. When, at last, a distant rumble was heard. Soon they were together. Thunder said "it's important we meet again; we must be assured the people will be protected by you when you re-level the earth each time it grows 'tilted' and I will do the same in the sky."

Now, Earthquake and Thunder traverse the world, not in one day but stopping here, there, or anywhere. This is the way it was in the beginning and so it is today ... shaking a little or shaking a lot.

The Trinidad Museum Center is open to visitors 3 days a week; Friday, Saturday and Sunday, from 1:pm to 4:30 pm. The T-M-S Center will accommodate persons, school classes or groups any day of the week by special appointment. Call Axel Lindgren at 677-3473; or Charles Fleschner at 677-0186; or Patti Spears at 677-3993.

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A date to remember. **Saturday, February 10th, 1990**, a mid-winter fund-raiser for T-M-S. **A Yurok Food Festival** featuring chinook salmon (baked Yurok style), Pan bread and Mussels (if the ocean is cooperative).

An added attraction will be a **slide show** picturing the last survivors of Tsurai, Trinidad, and neighbors in yester-year.

A joyous afternoon at Merryman's Beach House. (No Host Bar). Serving from 3:pm til ..... Adults \$7.50 ea. (Children under 12-yrs, \$4.00).

Your presence will enhance the goals of T-M-S. Mark your calendar -- plan to attend and enjoy!

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LOOKING BACK TO 1989:

As we start a new year, a "thank you" to all who helped T-M-S. A special "thank you" to our Benefactors, Sponsors, Contributors and **donors** .... Mrs. Homer D. Crotty, Ernest & Dolores Bence, Ray & Kay Davis, Burch Calkins, Charles Fleschner, Mickey Fleschner, Ruth Greenberg, Ralph Hunter, Edith K. Hunter, Axel, Bonnie & Joe Lindgren, Glenn Saunders, Janet & Bill Taylor, Jim & Wilva Beugler, Margaret Freeman, Helen Partee, KVIQ Ch-6, Louisiana Pacific Corp., Saunders Market, Trinidad Civic Club, Art & Maxine Tooby, Sam Merryman .... and all those who may have been left off this list!

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**Members:** We hope you will renew your membership (if due), and continue to receive our Newsletters in 1990.

TRINIDAD MUSEUM SOCIETY  
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