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TRINIDAD MUSEUM
SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Exploring Our History

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1990

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From President Axel Lindgren:

Adopt-A-Highway Program promotes civic responsibility and community pride while keeping our state highway beautiful and clear of litter, and establishing statewide recognition for a willing organization.

The Tsurai Ancestral Society has joined other civic groups who have volunteered to remove litter from designated areas along U.S. Highway 101. The Tsurai group will maintain that portion of 101, from Little River Bridge to the sculptured lifeless landmark--carved by time, weather and fire--which stands alone across from the State Rest Stop 4-miles north of Trinidad.

This eight-mile stretch of Highway 101 has ancestral ties for the lineal descendants of Tsurai (the most southern village in the Yurok territory), for these landmarks were the pre-historic boundaries of this ancient Yurok Village.

From T-M-S Director Patti Spears:

"Hello" again, it is good to be back in Trinidad. The quiet beauty of this area is not to be taken for granted!

I have spent the last 4-months working ahead of the bulldozer. The pace of development in Hawaii and Guam is destructive to the natural and cultural resources. The best protection for these resources comes through Federal legislation. One hundred years of legislation provides archaeologists & biologists with some power to direct and limit the construction of condominiums and golf courses.

It is important therefore to appreciate what we have in Trinidad. We must continue to protect and enhance our natural and cultural history.

The Museum Center has come-a-long-way in the last six months. Every member should be proud of the results from their support of T-M-S.

In order to meet Federal standards for museum funding, we will be keeping the museum open for the winter. Please

Have you ever been engaged in or overheard a discussion about the weather by people who moved into the tiny borough of Trinidad some thirty, forty, or more years ago? If not, it went like this "You know, the weather is warmer and there is more sunshine," or, "You know, when I first came here, it rained all the time;" or, "I don't mind the rain, but that fog!" These complaints are heard repeatedly. All three - rain, fog and sunshine - are the principal ingredients of our beautiful coastline; a pleasant retreat from the inland heat for people who journey here to bask in the fog for a weekend or longer.

Lately, fog patterns to me are reminiscent of the patterns experienced during the Great Depression, when fog hugged the ground and visibility was absolute zero. Travel on the roads during daytime was dangerous and, at night, travel was impossible. The fog was thick and the condition was referred to as "soupy."

Night motorists would ask, "How's the fog from here to Arcata?" The reply was one simple word, "soupy," and "It gets worse going up Worth Hill." In an emergency, travel at night was possible if some brave soul volunteered to lead-the-way with a Kerosene lantern or a five-cell flashlight.

Cont'd

If museum opening, we will be keeping the museum open for the winter. Please consider the center yours and come by to visit and review our growing library and exhibits.

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When Doctors from Arcata were summoned to attend the sick in areas to the north along Highway 101, a guide led the way with a lantern or a flashlight. If the fog didn't rise by the time the 'mercy mission' reached Mad River Bridge, the Doctor returned to Arcata and the ill-fated attempt -- foiled by fog -- was labeled "Mission Impossible.

When the Allied bombing attacks of the European mainland were interrupted by the fog-shrouded airfields of England, it became necessary to locate the next foggiest place in the world to experiment with dispersing fog. You guessed it! The fogs of Worth Hill were comparable to those of England. Immediately, research entitled F.I.D.O. (ask Dave Zebo for interpretation) began at the local military air station at Worth Hill and Dows Prairie, known today as Arcata-Eureka-McKinleyville Airport.



BY-GONE DAYS IN TRINIDAD

By Glenn Saunders

At the height of the depression, in the year 1934, one of the outstanding events to brighten the days in Trinidad was the arrival of a circus. The population at that time was around 200 residents. What excitement and anticipation by all the kids, including me.

The coming event was well-advertised in advance, so we all started saving our nickels and dimes to see the first ever circus in town!

Needless to say, the circus was rather small, but they had a few acts, the usual carnival "skin games" (as my grandfather used to call them), and a few animals. Stub Jackson was one of the lucky kids to attend ... he watered the elephants for a free pass!

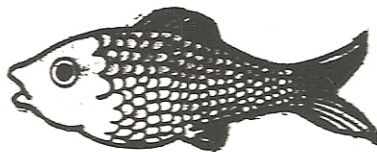
There was a sad ending to this happy event, however. A team of horses from the circus pulled a wagon loaded with equipment down Van Wycke Street. This road was very narrow at that time (one car-width wide) and one of the horses slipped and fell over the bank, broke its leg, and had to be shot.

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Members, please L O O K at the date on your mailing label are you due for renewal in OCT, NOV, or DEC? We hope you will renew your membership at this time, and continue to receive our quarterly newsletters.

Keep in mind ... your memberships and contributions are the sole support of the museum.

Thank you for your loyal support.



T-M-S Vice President Chas.Fleschner:

A very special "thanks" to our newest museum docent, Kay Johnson, for her diligent and artistic care of the Native Plant Garden. Due to Kay's efforts, the garden is now so attractive that it is worth a trip to the Center just to see it. Come by and check-it-out for yourself.

Also, our "thanks" to Ruth Greenberg for another generous monetary contribution to ensure the continued growth and development of the garden.

Omissions from the Jul-Aug-Sept-Newsletter: --

1) We regret that we failed to include the names of Bob & Marie Roberts with those in-attendance at the organizational meeting of the Docents of T-M-S;

2) We also regret that we failed to acknowledge the assistance of Gary Lester to James & Virginia Waters in the selection of birds of the Trinidad area shown in their excellent poster-exhibit, now set-up in the museum center. Gary also contributed to the birdnest exhibit. Belated thanks to you, Gary.

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In the last quarterly Newsletter, we acknowledged receipt of a \$1500 Grant from Wells Fargo Bank (Arcata Branch) for the purchase of a Camcorder. The T-M-S has purchased the Camcorder and several accessories to enable us to film documentary video programs.

The Camcorder is an excellent Hi-Fi stereo unit, providing at least 50% more lines of horizontal resolution than the majority of consumer Camcorders. This means the Camcorder will produce sharper images with attendant quality sound. In addition, the following accessories were purchased: a fluid head tripod, a wireless microphone, lens filters, and a stereo-microphone mixture set for audio dubbing during tape editing.

Now ... we have to gain experience in equipment operation to produce quality documentary films!

J. K. Babcock

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