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1991                                      APRIL                                      MAY                                      JUNE                                      1991

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From T-M-S President AXEL LINDGREN:

The quaint lil'town of Trinidad was most interesting in the 20's, with its graveled streets, watering troughs, boardwalks 3 to 4' above street level, and an 8-to-10-foot high board fence reaching from the Town Hall (which housed the P.O.) almost to Trinity & Main, where the "village blacksmith" stood! Never did know why the fence was so high, but it did serve as the best advertising for coming events, such as ... Ringling Bros.Circus, political candidates, & little Min-strel Shows which wandered through Trinidad.

The fence also hid a pig pen which was noticeable by the grunts-and-squeals and the stench on hot days as one moved to and from the Post Office.

**The Blacksmith Shop** (a well weathered building on the outside and the south wall partially covered with wild berry vines) was a first-class shop inside. (It covered very little of the corner lot where Daniels'

From Vice President CHAS. FLESCHNER:

The Annual Meeting of the Trinidad Museum Society will be held in the T-M-S Center building, at 2:30 p.m., **Sunday, April 21st.** At this meeting, Board Members for the coming year will be elected, and financial and committee reports will be given.

Also, the **T-M-S Docents** will host an "open house." Refreshments will be served and new or revised exhibits will be discussed and interpreted. All T-M-S members and guests are invited to attend.

A comprehensive teaching-exhibit of fungi, now in preparation under the direction of Dr. David Largent (of Humboldt State University), will be explained.

Techniques of preparation of mushrooms for museum exhibits will be discussed by Virginia Waters. Beautifully preserved specimens of some local mushrooms will be shown.

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of the corner lot where Daniels' built their home in 1945). Art Gilmore was the blacksmith in the latter 20's and most likely the last to use the shop. The first, I can't say for sure, but my guess would be one of the Paddock brothers who ran cattle in the "Deadman Flat" area. Les Gregory resides on part of this property today; Les and I started in Trinidad Grammar School in August of 1925.

**The City of Trinidad** decided to utilize the unused portion of the blacksmith lot by building a "City Pound" where livestock straying on city streets would be impounded. It was a well-built corral with a strong gate that worked. Again, I say, well constructed!

Like most small towns, a few of the residents added to the quaintness by blending with the environment. Trinidad was no exception; it had several.

**The City Marshall**, John Griffin, was right at the top. He was no "Bubba;" in fact, he was slight of build with long legs which seemed to be stiff around the knees. John wore a well groomed goatee, sleeve-holders at the elbows, and a ten-gallon hat.

One morning while patrolling the town, John encountered a herd of 11 or 12 cattle occupying the middle of the street unattended. John headed the cows toward the newly constructed "pound" by way of the alley behind the Town Hall.

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**Notice:**

Change of T-M-S Opening Date.

The opening-date for the museum has been revised to allow additional time for the preparation of new exhibits.

Instead of opening in April, as previously stated, the new opening date will be Friday, **May 10th**, and the hours will be **1:00 to 4:30 p.m.**, each Friday, Saturday and Sunday for the 1991 season.

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Our "t h a n k s" to . . . .

... **Dave Zebo** for the donation of a steel, four-drawer, legal-size filing cabinet;

... **Kay Johnson** for the additional improvements in the native plant garden;

... **Ruth Greenberg** for the continued funding of materials and equipment needed for maintenance of the garden;

... **Joyce and Hal Ingle**, so helpful in allowing Axel Lindgren to hook-up a hose at their house to thoroughly "wet down" the canoe at the carving site, during those arid months before these recent heavy rains!

... Again, our **thanks** to everyone.



It was recess-time at the school and I was on the playground when I noticed our cows coming across the vacant lot where the tennis court and Fire House are today. Beyond the cows, I could see the top of the ten-gallon hat bobbing up-and-down. Without permission, I left the schoolground, ran directly into the path of the lead cow, and she responded perfectly. They headed toward Trinity and onto Edward street, whence they had come....a hole in the fence on the ocean-side of Hector & Edward. I had the most cows; but John had five-head of the best milkers and they were headed toward the "slammer" where the Rye Grass was belly-deep, and down deep was Red Clover.

Leaving the schoolground was no problem. We scratched together \$5.00 to "spring" the cows. The five-dollars were later returned, as a long-time milk customer was also a Council Member. So, all's well that ends well!

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**Members:** Are you due for renewal in APRIL, MAY or JUNE? Please L O O K AT THE DATE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL. If you are past-due, or due soon, we hope you will renew your membership at this time. Remember ... you are our "life-line" to continued growth and success, and we sincerely appreciate your continued support.

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JOIN THE T-M-S DOCENT PROGRAM

Our relatively new museum docent program is rapidly developing into an active, effective, cooperative unit whose members may well become the "vital force" of the museum.

The next meeting of the museum **docents** will be held at the T-M-S Center building, on Wednesday, **May 1st**, at **10:30 a.m.** If you would be interested in any aspect of this program, please call . . . . .

- Anne McCrory - #677-0152
- Chas. Fleschner - #677-0186

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**"WISH LIST"**

We are in need of a used color television for the showing of VCR teaching programs.

We also need a used-Computer for the inventory of museum property and accessions.

CAN YOU HELP US?

**Fox Farm Road** (off Westhaven Drive).  
Where and how did that name originate?

Back in the mid-1930's, Bob & Zelda Adams purchased several acres at the end of this long uphill road which, at that time, was just dirt and gravel. The country was just working-its-way-out of a long depression and the Adams' thought raising foxes (to market for their hides) could be a good business to start-up.

The Adams' were very hard workers; cleared the land, built many wire pens, and a processing room to grind the feed for the foxes. They collected various offal from the slaughter houses (heart, spleen, etc), and mixed it with a meal. There was a great deal of labor involved with raising foxes. So, that is how "Fox Farm Road" received its name!

There were other entrepreneurs in the area. Sid Webster & Newt Maddock also raised foxes and mink in the north Trinidad area.

Alice & John Spinas took-over her father's fox business (called Pacific Glow Fox Farm) located on Stagecoach Road (where Doug Jager now lives). Elred & Dale Spinas (sons of Alice & John) helped raise the foxes. The most popular was the Silver Fox. They required shots, Vitamin E, and lots of flea powder! They were fed fresh and dried surf fish which was purchased from local Indians, and a lot of fresh horsemeat.

The fox pens were covered with cedar chips to keep them clean and dirt-free. The foxes were kept inside during the day so the sun wouldn't damage their fur, and turned-out into the open pens at night. Their stomach-worms were treated with large capsules which had to be inserted into their mouths, manually. As the foxes had very sharp teeth, it was an interesting experience! If the mother fox got scared or startled, she would eat her pups!

When the foxes reached maturity, they were killed, skinned, and the pelts stretched on boards to dry in the sun. The quality of the pelts was related to how well the animals had been fed and cared-for. The pelts were then sold to a wholesale buyer.

After a number of years of very hard work, the fox-raising business slowly disappeared from this area when large shipments of furs from Russia came into our country.

TRINIDAD MUSEUM SOCIETY  
P. O. Box 1126  
Trinidad, CA 95570

Address correction requested

