

# *SOME HISTORY OF REDWOOD CREEK RANCH*



**HUGH McCOMBS AND JUDY PON, WITH HOUNDS AND CATCH  
REDWOOD CREEK RANCH, 1939**

**Compiled by Evelyn McCombs Deike, 1999**



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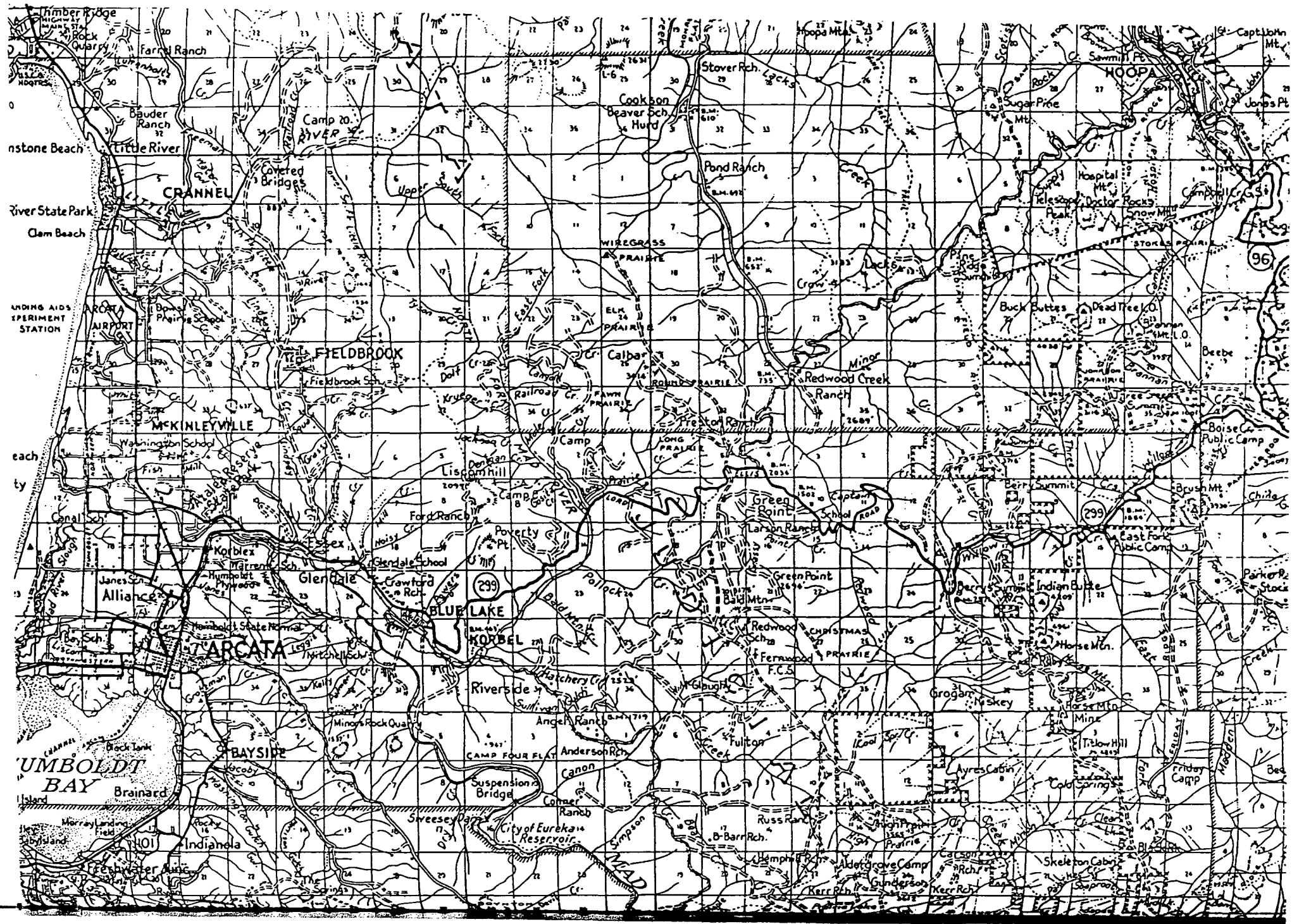
# SOME HISTORY OF REDWOOD CREEK RANCH



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*I have gathered this history  
of Redwood Creek Ranch and  
"Thank you" for letting the  
Fortuna Camera Club tour  
your ranch. Thank you,*

*Evelyn McCombs Deike*



## TIMELINE FOR REDWOOD CREEK RANCH HISTORY

Ca 1850    Owned by a Mr. Durkee

1859    Isaac Minor purchased Redwood Creek Ranch, called Camp Anderson, from Mr. Durkee. Army there to curb major Indian uprisings.

1861    Minor Hotel built

April 8, 1882    Fred S. and Mabel I. Bair purchased Redwood Creek Ranch from Isaac Minor, 2700 acres for \$10,000.

Sept. 11, 1897    Bair converted from cattle to a sheep ranch.

Jan. 7, 1911    Minor Hotel burned

Apr. 15, 1911    Fred Bair rebuilt the two story hotel. "Fred Bair built one of the finest hotels in the mountains"

1915    Road completed through to Hoopa.

Apr. 22, 1932    Mrs. J. B. U. Pon and sons, Andrew and Pierre, "Pete", purchased RCR from Fred Bair for \$113,000. 17,359 acres (another source said \$173,000) .

Dec. 2, 1944    P.C. Merillon purchased RCR from Mrs. Pon. Rudy Mora foreman.

Jan. 1950    G. Kelton Steele and Charles R. Barnum purchased 14,000 acre RCR.

1950 – 1999 (present) RCR has remained in Barnum family.

## ISAAC MINOR.

It is really pleasant and instructive to young men to read the biographies of successful and prominent men. Their examples should be imitated by all who complain of being roughly handled by fortune and nature.

Isaac Minor is one of the many examples, proving that even if unsuccessful at first, by energy a person may attain a competency, and become a useful and influential citizen.

Mr. Minor was born on a farm in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, in 1830, and followed farming until of age. He left Uniontown, Pennsylvania, by way of New York and the Isthmus, for California, the passage consuming two months and ten days, owing to detention on the Isthmus. He reached San Francisco, March 4, 1852, and like nearly everyone else at that time, proceeded to the mines. He went to Tuolumne County and was tolerably successful, and in December, 1853, he came to Humboldt County, where he has since resided and been actively engaged in business. For the first six years he engaged in packing and trading with the mines and interior towns. He then settled on a ranch and engaged in stock-raising until the Indian war broke out, in 1862-3, when by Indian raids and the war he lost all he possessed.

His loss did not dishearten him and with commendable energy he next located on his farm one mile from Arcata, which is represented in the sketch we have made of his property which forms one of our largest views. The farm is composed of 140 acres of rich bottom-land, producing wheat, oats, barley, and potatoes, which will average per acre, of wheat, 60 bushels, oats 100, and barley 80 bushels; of potatoes 100 sacks per acre. In the view of his farm, at the side of his residence, will be noticed the orchard of 100 apple trees, 25 cherry, 12 plum, 12 pear, etc. At the right of the view will be seen the railroad as it passes through his farm, and the distant timber-belt forming a fine background. He keeps some stock on the place, generally 100 head of cattle, 30 hogs, 30 thoroughbred rams, and 15 horses.

He was married in 1855 to Miss H. C. Nixon, a native of Pennsylvania. They have six children living, Theodore H., Isaac N., David W., Mary E., Bertie A., and Jessie I. Minor. That fearful disease, scarlet fever, claimed six children, Alice L., Florence, May, Lottie F., Maggie L., and Sarah L. Minor.

He engaged in the lumber business in 1875, in company with N. H. Falk, and built two steam mills near Arcata. First the Dolly Varden and next the Jolly Giant. Both of which he sold to Chandler, Erington & Co., of Santa Cruz. In 1881, in company with Isaac Cullberg and James Kirk, built the Warren Creek Mill, which has a cutting capacity of 35,000 feet per day. It is six miles from the shipping point to which the lumber is carried by the railroad owned and operated by

**ISAAC MINOR.**—The president of the First National Bank of Arcata, which institution he organized and opened for business in October, 1913, is Mr. Minor, a pioneer of December, 1853, and through all the intervening years an associate in movements for the permanent upbuilding of Humboldt county. Whether the elements entering into his success were innate personal attributes or whether in part they were quickened by the circumstance of his early identification with California, it would be impossible to determine. Suffice it to know that he reached the success and that Humboldt county has been the center of his large enterprises. To him belongs the credit for the building of the Warren Creek standard-gauge railroad, which makes possible a convenient connection with the Northwestern Pacific Railroad. Also to him may be given credit for the development of a granite quarry near Arcata, a plant mining a fine quality of granite that splits like wood, but hardens when exposed to the air. Sawmills, creameries, electric lighting systems, freight vessels, timber lands and farms represent the varied character of his commercial connections and the remarkable change that has come into his life since he arrived in Arcata, friendless, without money or influence, and in the frontier environment of the then Uniontown, the original county seat of Humboldt county, took up the task of rising out of day labor into independence. How well he succeeded in reaching the goal of his ambitions is a matter of common knowledge throughout the entire county, whose resources have been developed under his sagacious supervision and whose opportunities he believes to be as great as those offered by any section of the state.

Descended in the third generation from Gen. Ephraim Douglas of Revolutionary war fame, Isaac Minor is a son of Samuel and Louise (Keller) Minor, natives respectively of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and during early married life residents of the last-named state, where their son, whose name introduces this article, was born on a farm April 8, 1830. The wife and mother died in the Keystone state at forty years of age, and later the father became a pioneer of Iowa, where he spent his last days in the home of a daughter. During the fall of 1851 Isaac Minor came via Panama to California. The voyage up the Pacific to San Francisco on the old ship, *Monumental City*, consumed forty-nine days and was filled with peril. More than once the passengers had to take turns in pumping the water out of the unseaworthy craft. The vessel cast anchor in safety, but on its next voyage was lost. March of 1852 found Mr. Minor in Sacramento, where the great flood was in progress. All night he worked for \$1 an hour, carrying off goods that were being destroyed by water. In the morning he waded out through the water and walked to Chinese Camp in Tuolumne county, where he spent eighteen months in prospecting and mining. Chance brought him to Humboldt county

during the latter part of 1853. Being young, energetic and capable, he had no trouble in securing work, but his independence of spirit led him to prefer to work in his own interests rather than in the interests of others.

A store at Orleans bar on the Klamath river would have brought Mr. Minor large profit and permanent employment had it not been for the hostile Indians, who killed all of his neighbors and threatened his life, so that after two years at that place he was forced to leave. It was during the same period of Indian hostility that he became a warm friend of Ulysses S. Grant, then a lieutenant, who ten years later was one of the most distinguished figures in American military affairs and general of the entire army, but who at that time was unknown and obscure, stationed at Fort Humboldt to provide protection for settlers against the Indians. For seven years Mr. Minor operated and owned a pack-train and sold goods at the mines, meanwhile meeting with many thrilling adventures. His savings were invested in a stock ranch at Camp Anderson on Redwood creek and he operated the property until the savages burned his buildings and killed a number of his neighbors. To guard against further depredations soldiers were stationed on the Minor ranch during the winter of 1859. When the troops left conditions remained quiet until 1863, when a further outbreak on the part of the Indians caused Mr. Minor to leave that district and to join his family at Arcata. At the beginning of the Indian war he owned one thousand head of cattle and at its close he scarcely had one hundred left, but even more disastrous was the damage done to buildings of his own and his neighbors, while the greatest disaster of all was in the loss of life, his brother, Samuel Minor, being among the many to fall victims to the hostility of the savages. When peace had descended upon the valley and peaceful vocations were once more possible, he bought one hundred and forty acres one mile from Arcata on the bottom land and there he lived for sixteen years, meanwhile not only farming but also building and operating two sawmills with Noah Falk as a partner. Next he built a mill at Warren creek four miles north of Arcata and operated it for fifteen years until the plant was burned to the ground. About 1885 he built the Glendale mill, from which power is furnished for the Blue Lake electric light system. About 1898 he built a creamery and other buildings on his ranch six miles north of Arcata and established a station which he named McKinleyville. A corps of employes was put to work at the creamery, store, hotel and farm, as well as in the Glendale store and on the broad acres of timber land. About the beginning of the twentieth century he sold twenty-six thousand acres of redwood land in Del Norte county for \$960,000, ten thousand acres in Lawrence creek in Humboldt county for \$250,000, and three thousand acres on the north fork of Mad river for \$180,000, and the money received from these sales he invested in fifteen thousand acres of sugar pine land fifteen miles from the Yosemite valley, considered the finest tract of such land in the entire state. This he afterwards sold at a good profit. However, he still retained four thousand acres of redwood timber, with mills for the sawing of the lumber, as well as one-fourth interest in five ships used for carrying lumber, and stock in the tugs used in towing vessels over the bar. Later on he turned the property, with mills and vessels, over to the children, who worked the timber all out. In 1914 Mr. Minor completed the Minor Theater, opposite the First National Bank Building. It is said to be the finest theater in the

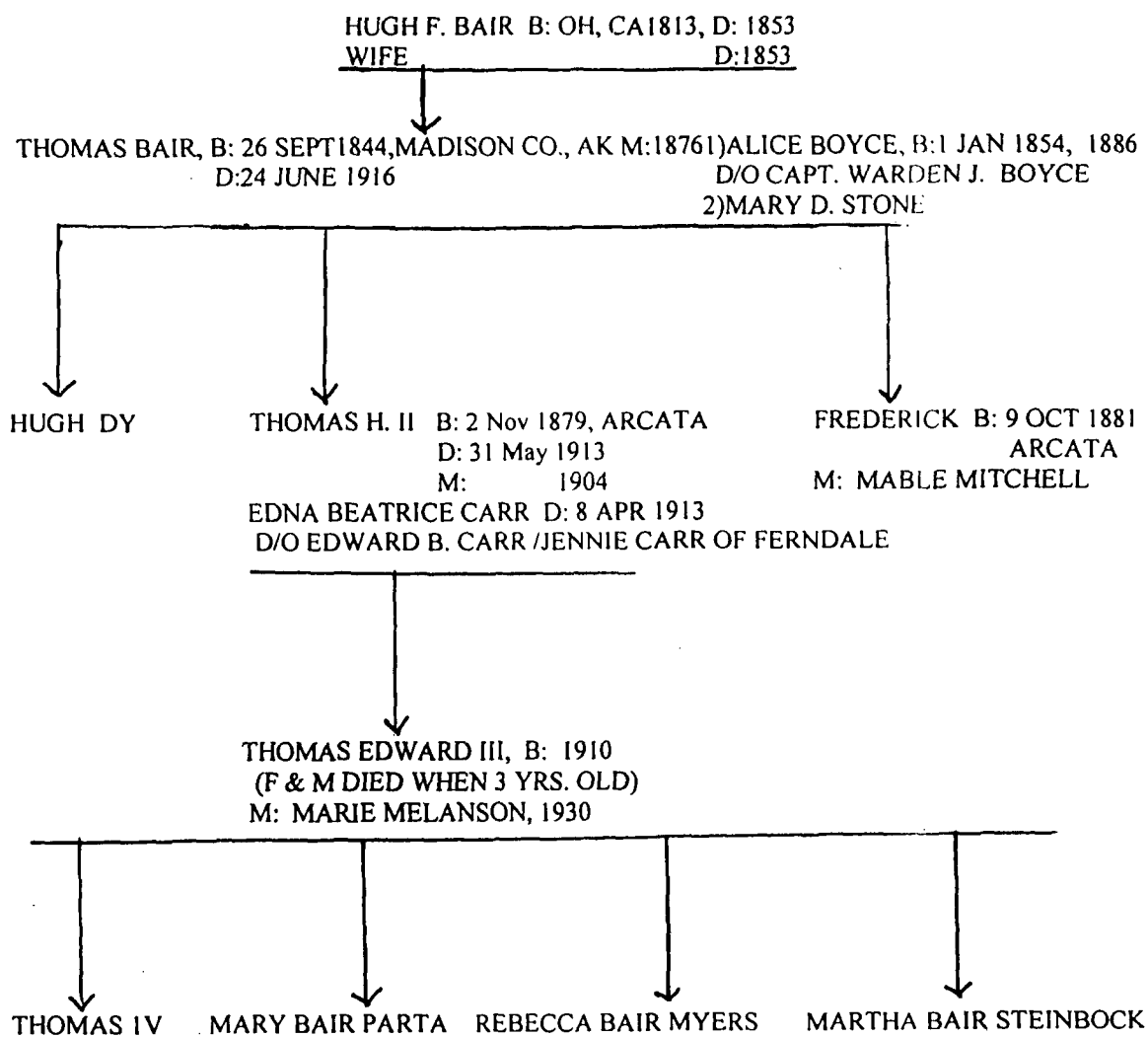
county, in fact as well equipped as any in the state, and he has also completed three store buildings adjoining it. This is now the best portion of the business section of the town.

Mr. Minor was married in Arcata to Hannah Caroline Nixon (a sister of William Nixon), who was born in Fayette county, Pa., December 28, 1839, and at the age of three years was taken to Iowa, coming in 1852 via Panama to California, where her marriage was solemnized December 20, 1855. Twelve children were born of the union, six of whom grew up, as follows: Theodore H. and Isaac N., who became capable assistants of their father in his large business operations, the former now an extensive oil operator in Bakersfield, and the latter owning the Glendale mill property, where he has a large dairy; Mary E., Mrs. H. D. Pressey, of Petaluma, this state; Bertha A., Mrs. L. D. Graeter, of Arcata; David K., who was also an assistant of his father, but now lives in Oakland; and Jessie Irene, Mrs. Waters, who resides in Santa Rosa. The mother of these children passed away in 1906, and in 1908 Mr. Minor was married to Miss Caroline Cropley, a native of Michigan. The Cropley family subsequently came to California and Mr. Cropley became proprietor of the tannery in Arcata. In regard to fraternities Mr. Minor has made no associations except with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Politically he votes with the Republican party. His personal qualities as a man of sterling worth, together with his exceptional business qualifications, have given him prominence and prestige throughout the county where, after over sixty years of intimate identification, he is still in the forefront of financial, agricultural, logging, quarrying and railroad affairs, a man among men, and a citizen of whom his adopted county may well be proud.





*Thomas Bair*



**THOMAS BAIR.** Out of a childhood darkened by poverty and made lonely by the death of his parents, through many struggles and in the face of many adversities, Mr. Bair has risen to a position of influence and financial success. As president of the Bank of Arcata he is recognized among the leading financiers of Humboldt county, while in addition he is also classed with the largest landed proprietors in the northern part of the state. His home has been in California since childhood. He was born in Madison county, Ark., September 26, 1844. When nine years of age he lost his father, Hugh F. Bair, who was a native of Ohio, but during much of his life a farmer in Arkansas, dying there at the age of forty years. A few months later the wife and mother passed away, leaving the nine-year-old orphan without means of livelihood. In 1855, when he was eleven years of age, he crossed the plains with an uncle, who settled in Shasta county, Cal. However, he remained with his uncle only a month, and then started out to make his own livelihood. Under the employment of a merchant, who engaged in freighting on the Trinity river, he rode the bell horse of a mule-packing train through the mining districts of the mountains of northern California. Through the exercise of the greatest economy, by 1863 he had saved enough to buy a small mule train, after which for three years he followed freighting in Montana and Idaho. After selling out, in 1867 he came to Arcata, Humboldt county, and became the superintendent of the packing train owned by a merchant of this town, who also owned several branch stores in the mining districts. At the expiration of five years he was able to purchase the train and soon afterward also bought the stock of goods kept in the general store at Fort Gaston, Hoopa Indian reservation, about the same time securing an appointment as

sutler from the government. He continued as merchant and sutler at Fort Gaston for sixteen years and owned about two hundred mules, which were used in packing his goods from Arcata to the fort, a distance of forty miles. They were also used in the transportation of government supplies and in operating packing trains throughout the entire northern part of the state. When the post was discontinued he disposed of his various interests there.

While engaging in business at the post Mr. Bair made his home at Arcata and during this period he became interested in the organization of the Bank of Arcata, with a capital stock of \$100,000. When the organization had been consummated he was made the first president of the concern and has since been its chief executive. The bank does a conservative business, loaning money on first mortgages, and by the exercise of caution in every investment protects the interests of its depositors. Upon the organization of the Redwood Land and Investment Company of Eureka, in which he bore a prominent part, he was elected the first president and still holds the position, the company, under his supervision, having made large investments in redwood lands in Humboldt county. Included in his personal possessions are two valuable ranches on the Arcata bottoms, near the town of that name.

The first wife of Mr. Bair was Alice Boyce, a native of Michigan, who left two sons, Thomas H. and Frederick, at her death. At this writing the sons have charge of their father's large and valuable stock ranch in Humboldt county, this property aggregating about thirty thousand acres. The present wife of Mr. Bair was Miss Mary F. Stone, a native of Illinois. On the organization of White Star Lodge No. 39, K. of P., Mr. Bair became one of its charter members, and has since retained association with that body. Though a staunch Democrat in politics, he has never mingled with public affairs nor consented to hold office. He is a quiet, reserved, conservative, sagacious business man, whose greatest happiness is found in his home and in the management of important moneyed interests entrusted to his care. Though his life has been one of unusual activity and he has permitted himself little or no recreation, he is still strong and robust, with an excellent constitution and a stalwart frame.

#### THOMAS BAIR.

In the beautiful village of Arcata, stands the pleasant home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bair, and their children, Thomas and Fred. Bair. The residence is finely situated and constructed of modern style with neat yard and surroundings. It commands many fine views of the surrounding country and Humboldt Bay; Eureka can be seen in the distance.

Mrs. Bair was born January 1, 1854, her maiden name was Allie Boyse, she was married to Mr. Bair in 1870.

Mr. Bair was born September 26, 1844, he is a Missourian by birth, and was brought up on a farm. When nine years old he lost both his parents, and soon after came, via Truckee route, out to California, in company with his uncle, where he arrived at Red Bluff in the fall of 1855.

Mr. Bair was first engaged in packing from Red Bluff to the mines, he afterwards resided in Idaho and Montana, and in the fall of 1867 located in Arcata where he now resides.

Mr. Bair is proprietor of a store at Fort Gaston, situated on the Klamath River, he also has a place of business in Arcata. As he is still engaged in packing to the interior, he owns a fine lot of pack-mules, 170 in number. It may be amusing and interesting to our readers, to read a little description of such a train, we will therefore give a short sketch of one. There are generally from twenty to fifty mules in a train, it takes about one man to ten mules, and when everything is ready for a start it is highly amusing to see them loaded with goods of every description. One mule is always used for carrying the cooking utensils and is called the "kitchen mule."

#### HISTORY OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY

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**THOMAS BAIR**—Without doubt one of the most notably successful residents of his section of Humboldt county is Thomas Bair, president of the Bank of Arcata and one of the most extensive land owners in northern California. His achievements are the more remarkable in view of the fact that he commenced the struggle of life unaided, and he deserves all the good fortune that has crowned his efforts. A resident of the state since 1855, his early experiences here brought him into contact with some of the most typical phases of its pioneer days, the arduous labor of transportation before railroad and shipping facilities were developed, picturesque customs and dangerous callings, most of which are now but memories and live only in the history of olden times. Mr. Bair's holdings of timber and agricultural lands comprise thousands of acres and these and the bank constitute his principal interests.

Mr. Bair's father, Hugh F. Bair, was born in Ohio and for a number of years was engaged in farming in Arkansas, where he died when forty years old. His wife survived but a few months longer and Thomas Bair was thus fully orphaned when but nine years of age. Born September 26, 1844, in Madison county, Ark., he was a boy of eleven years when he crossed the plains with his uncle, who settled in Shasta county, Cal. Only a month later he commenced to make his own living, hiring out to a merchant who was

engaged in freighting on the Trinity river. His youth might have seemed a drawback to his usefulness, but he rode the bell horse of a mule train which packed through the mining districts in the mountains of northern California. Liking the work, he continued at it, and was economical with his earnings, so that by 1863 he had saved enough to buy a small mule train and for the next three years he did freighting on his own account in Montana and Idaho. Selling out, he came to Arcata, Humboldt county, in 1867, and became superintendent of the packing train owned by a merchant of the town, who carried on several branch stores at various points in the mining districts. He was thus engaged for five years, at the end of which time he had accumulated enough to buy the train and soon afterward he also became interested in general merchandising, having purchased the stock of goods kept in the general store at Fort Gaston, on the Hoopa Indian reservation. It was about this time that he was appointed a government post trader, and for the next sixteen years acted in that capacity and carried on a general mercantile business at Fort Gaston. He also owned about two hundred mules, which he used in transporting his merchandise from Arcata to the fort, forty miles distant, in packing government supplies and in freighting all over the northern part of the state. Mr. Bair discontinued his interests at Fort Gaston when the fort was abandoned.

During the time he was in business at the Indian post Mr. Bair established his home at Arcata, of which town he is still a resident. He had been interested in founding the Bank of Arcata, which was organized with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, and he has been president from the beginning, directing its affairs to the entire satisfaction of all the stockholders and in such manner as to win the confidence of the townspeople interested in its conduct. Mr. Bair's financial ability and judgment have been tested in many transactions. Though progressive, keeping thoroughly abreast of the spirit of the times, he is conservative of the bank's resources and most of the loans are made on first mortgages, with the depositors' money protected to the utmost. His success in the management of this institution has gained him an honorable position among the best financiers of the county and his influence in preserving high standards and encouraging safe methods of banking has been a recognized factor in the adoption of such measures as safeguard the interests of depositors and inspire their trust.

In common with most investors in Humboldt county lands Mr. Bair has acquired interests in the redwood timber region. He took a leading part in the organization of the Redwood Land & Investment Company of Eureka, was elected its first president, and continued to hold the position for a number of years, the company under his supervision making extensive investments in redwood lands in Humboldt county. His agricultural property includes two valuable ranches on the Arcata bottoms, near the town. Mr. Bair has always devoted himself closely to the care of his business affairs, and though he has always worked hard he has retained his mental and physical vigor unimpaired. He has never aspired to public honors or taken any active part in public life, or in politics beyond the casting of his vote, with which he supports the Democratic party. Of domestic habits and unassuming disposition, he finds his greatest pleasure, outside of work, in his home. Mr. Bair was a charter member of North Star Lodge No. 39, Knights of Pythias, in which he still retains his membership.

Mr. Bair married Miss Alice Boyce, who was born in Michigan and died, leaving two sons, Thomas H. and Frederick. His second marriage was to Miss Mary F. Stone, a native of Illinois. The sons have the management of

**FRED S. BAIR.**—The proprietor of Bair's Garage in Eureka and of the Three Cabins ranch on Mad river, where he is extensively engaged in sheep raising. Fred S. Bair is a native son of Humboldt county, born at Arcata, October 9, 1881, the son of Thomas Bair, a pioneer and man of affairs in Humboldt county, who is represented on another page in this work. Primarily Fred S. Bair attended the public schools in Arcata and then entered Mount Tamalpais Military Academy at San Rafael, where he was graduated in 1901. Returning to Humboldt county he began ranching and since that

time he has engaged in stock raising, making a specialty of raising sheep, in which he has met with much success. The Three Cabins ranch contains eighteen thousand acres of land in one body, located on Mad river and Boulder creek, about forty miles from Eureka at the junction of Butler valley with the Korbhel road. The ranch is well watered with numerous springs and streams, having a frontage of nine miles on Mad river, while Boulder creek flows through the ranch from the headwaters to its mouth, where it empties into Mad river. It is beautifully wooded with pine, redwood, tan and white oak and other varieties of forest trees and abounds in very picturesque scenery. The grass grows luxuriantly and besides ample range and pasture for his flock of eight thousand head of sheep and other stock, Mr. Bair makes an abundance of hay on which to winter his stock. He has large and suitable barns and other buildings and the ranch is well improved for its purpose. His flock is high grade and he secures blue ribbon bucks from the State Fair at Sacramento to head his flocks. There are also three sulphur springs in different parts of the ranch.

For protecting his flocks from bears, mountain lions, coyotes and wild cats, Mr. Bair has a pack of splendid hounds and it is the consensus of opinion that his kennel contains the fastest hounds in the state.

Aside from his extensive ranching interests Mr. Bair is also engaged in the automobile business in Eureka. In 1915 he built the Bair garage, a fire-proof structure, 63x100 feet, of reinforced concrete, on the corner of Sixth and D streets—as fine and complete a garage as can be found in the state. It is fully equipped with the latest machinery, being the most complete machine shop in the county. He has the agency for the Locomobile, Cadillac and Oakland automobiles and the Knight & Savage tires.

The marriage of Mr. Bair occurred in Eureka, uniting him with Miss Mabel Mitchell, also a native of Humboldt county. Mr. and Mrs. Bair are well and favorably known and popular among their many friends, not only in this county, but throughout the state. Fraternally Mr. Bair is a member of Eureka Lodge No. 652, B. P. O. E. In politics he is a Democrat. He is a member of the California State Automobile Association as well as the American Automobile Association, and prominent in all movements for the upbuilding and betterment of conditions in the county and state.

out of a childhood darkened by poverty & made lonely by the death of his parents, thru many struggles & in the face of many adversities, Mr. Bain has risen to a position of influence & financial success. Pres. of Bank of Arcata. One of largest landed proprietors in the northern part of state.

5 Born in Madison Co, Arkansas - Sept 26-1844. When 9 yrs of age he lost his father, Hugh F. Bain, who was a native of Ohio but did much of his life in Arkansas - (40 yrs. old). A few months later wife died. When 11 yrs of age, he crossed the plains with an uncle, who settled in Shasta Co - Cal. Remained with uncle only a month. Under the employment of a merchant, who engaged in freighting on the Trinity River, he rode the bell horse of a mule-packing train thru mining districts of mts. of northern Cal. By 1863 he had saved enough to buy a small mule train, after which for 3 yrs he followed freighting in Montana & Idaho. Sold out in 1867 & came to Arcata & became the supt. of the packing train owned by a merchant of the town, who also owned several pack stores in the mining districts.

At the expiration of 5 years he was able to purchase the train & soon afterwards also bought the stock of goods kept in the general store at Ft. Gaston, about the same time securing an appt. as sutler for the gov. He continued as merchant & sutler at Ft. Gaston for 16 yrs & owned about 200 mules, which were used in packing his goods from Arcata to the fort, a distance of 40 miles. They were also used in the transportation of gov. supplies & in operating packing trains thruout the entire northern part of the state. When the post was discontinued, he disposed of his various interests there.

Made his home at Arcata. Organized Bank of Arcata. Made 1st Pres. Upon organization of Redwood Land & Investment Co. of Eureka he was elected 1st Pres. Owns 2 valuable ranches in Arcata Bottom. First wife was Alice Boyce, a native of Michigan, who left two sons, Thomas H. & Frederick, at her death. They have charge of their father's large & valuable stock ranch, 130,000 acres. His present wife

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# Tom Bair — Humboldt developer

by Jan Olsen

Thomas Bair was born in Madison County Arkansas on September 26, 1844. His father, Hugh F. Bair, died when Thomas was nine years old and his mother died a few months later. In 1855, when Thomas was eleven years old, he decided to accompany his uncle across the plains to the west. His uncle stopped in Shasta County, but Thomas continued on without him.

From 1855 to 1863 Tom rode the Bell Express in a small mule pack train engaged in freighting in the Trinity River mining district. He managed to save enough money from his wages to buy the pack train. For three years he operated the train in Montana and Idaho and then, selling out, he came to Humboldt County and became head packer in lines running from Arcata to the small towns of northern Humboldt.

After five years Tom purchased this line. He bought the stock of goods in the Fort Gaston (Hoopa) Indian Reservation and at the same time he secured an appointment as sutler from the government (a sutler is a person who sells provisions to soldiers). For sixteen years he continued as sutler and merchant at Hoopa, owning 200 mules, which he used in transporting his goods from Arcata to the reservation. He also stocked the government's supplies over the mountain trail by contract and it was not until the soldiers were withdrawn from Hoopa with the close of the Indian Wars that Tom disposed of his interests at Fort Gaston.

One of my great-grandmother's and grandmother's, Lillian Melanson and Marie Bair, favorite stories is about Tom Bair when he first started his pack trains in Humboldt County. He would keep in the middle of the narrow pack train trails at night so that rival trains could not pass him and make it to the reservation first.

After leaving Hoopa, Tom purchased the old Minor Ranch on Redwood Creek, using it first as a cattle ranch and later as a sheep range. A number of small ranches on Redwood Creek were added to his holdings and later he acquired extensive cattle and sheep ranges on the Red Bluffs, including Madrone and



Charlie Moon, the Chinese ranch hand who was given protection by Tom Bair during the expulsion of the Chinese in the late 1800s.

on Maple Creek that was inherited by Fred Bair after Tom's death, and was later sold to the Wiggins in about 1929. These ranches constituted over 70,000 acres. Valuable timber lands in both northern and southern Humboldt were also held by Tom Bair.

In 1886 Tom became interested in the organization of the Bank of Arcata and he was elected its first president, a position which he held for some time. In 1913 the Savings Bank of Arcata was organized and Tom was elected president of this institution also.

In 1902 he organized the Eureka Water Company and purchased the Water Works and water rights of the Ricks Water Company, conducting the business until 1914 when the system was sold to the City of Eureka. The purchase price was \$270,000 which was raised by bonding the city, Tom Bair purchasing almost the entire issue.

In 1907 when the Eureka Herald was sold to the Eureka Herald Company, Tom became interested in the new company and was elected president, an office he held until the sale of the Herald to the Humboldt Standard in 1913.

He was a large shareholder and pres-

ident of the Eureka Herald Company, which took a prominent part in the sale and development of Humboldt lands.

Another of Tom's big enterprises was the building of the jetties at the entrance to Humboldt Bay completed in 1895. Tom and J.C. Bull Jr. were associated in doing this work under a government contract.

Tom started the first street carway in Eureka, beginning with horse-drawn cars and later going to electric trolleys.

He purchased most of the land on which the San Francisco Airport is situated. He moved a building from the 1906 World's Fair in San Francisco to the site for a reason unknown to anyone. It stood alone for many years. Included in this purchase was a small sandy island just south east of the port which is still on maps and called San Francisco Bay as "Bair Island." One time the island was farmed, but a complete dike surrounded it. There were made from oyster shells which had been dumped there from harvesting oysters in the bay. Later "Bair Island" was used by a duck hunting club.

Tom was a charter member of the Star Lodge No. 39, Knights of Pythias.



Represented here are all eight grades of the 1898 class at Canal School, Arcata. Not all the names are available. First row, left to right, Margaret Griffith, Katherine Griffith, Edward Olsen, next two unknown, Ansel Kjer, next three unknown, and Hans

Olsen. Second row, all unknown. Third row, teacher unknown, Katherine Dudal, Elizabeth Olsen, Anna Kjer, Olga Olsen, Kjer, next three unknown.—Photo courtesy Earl Kjer

#### Eureka Lodge No. 652 B.P.O. Elks.

In 1876 he married Alice Boyae, who was born January 1, 1854. They had three sons, Hugh, Thomas Bair II and Fred. Hugh died when he was an infant.

There is little history known about Thomas Bair II. He graduated from grammar school in Arcata, later attending an academy at San Rafael. He was in charge of the Bair ranches at Redwood Creek, where he lived. He married Beatrice Carr in 1904. The Carr family migrated from Ireland to Ferndale. Tom and Beatrice had one son, Thomas Bair III. Tom Bair II and Beatrice became ill with tuberculosis and moved to Arizona, hoping that the desert air would help. Beatrice Carr Bair died on April 8, 1913, at the age of 28. My great-grandmother, Lillian Melanson, remembers her as being an accomplished pianist. Thomas Bair II died a few weeks after his wife on May 31, 1913.

Fred Bair was a graduate of Mount Tamalpais Military Academy in 1901 and worked with his father on the family ranches until 1929. At that time he sold the ranches and moved to Eureka where he owned and operated the Stump House, a famed redwood novelty manufacturing plant. He retired in 1942.

Fred was one of the original investors in the Western Condensing Company. He was a trap shooter and held the California-Nevada area championship for singles in 1918 and for the doubles in 1921 and 1922.

He was a member of Rotary, Elks and

a charter member of the California Indians, a trap shooting organization. He was married twice and had no children.

Alice Boyce Bair, mother of Tom II and Fred, died in 1886. Later, her husband, Tom Bair II, married Mary Stone. She was the niece of his partner in the bank.

Tom I purchased a beautiful home in Arcata, now known as the Tom Bair Home. He and his wife lived there until they died. He had one of the largest funeral processions ever seen in Humboldt County. He died in June of 1916. Pallbearers were L.F. Puter, J.M. Carson, C.S. Carson, L. Everding, Paul Brizard and F.H. Tooby. Mrs. Mary Bair remained in the Tom Bair Home until her death many years later.

My great-grandmother, Lillian Melanson, remembers Tom Bair I as a perfect gentleman. She remembers a broad shouldered man, very stocky, always immaculately dressed and sporting a gold chain across his vest.

My grandfather, Tom Bair III, says that rumor has it that Tom Bair I was rather hard to get along with. He recalls hearing about the time when a couple of bandits tried to hold up the mule train on which he was taking the payroll to Port Gaston. There was some violence and it ended very badly for the bandits. When Tom started the street car system in Eureka, he named the first two mules to pull cars after the bandits.

Another favorite family story, familiar to many Humboldters, is about

Charlie Moon, a friend and ranch of Tom Bair. When the Chinese run out of Humboldt County, a group of Eureka citizens came up to the Red Creek Ranch to take Charlie Moon. Bair was very uncooperative and in the road with a gun. He told them that they would have to take him if they wanted Charlie. The group turned around and left. Charlie Moon was one of the few Chinese left in Humboldt County for many years.

Tom Bair III was born in 1911, father, Tom Bair II, and his mother, Alice. When he was three years old, Tom moved to live with his grandmother Catherine Bair in Santa Clara County where he graduated from Montezuma School Boys in Santa Clara County where he won many honors, particularly in athletics. He attended the University of California at Berkeley. In 1930 Tom Bair III married Marie Melanson. They have four children: Tom Bair IV of San Francisco, Mary F. Arcata, Rebecca Myers of Eureka, and Martha Steinbock of Portland. Tom Bair III also has twelve grandchildren.

Tom Bair III has been a screenwriter, horse trainer, rancher, politician, manager of the California State Fair, Cal Expo. He is a writer of poems, plays and short stories. During World War II he attained the rank of major in the Army and has been awarded many honors for bravery in action. Tom Bair III is an executive with the State of California, Department of Fish and Game, and Agriculture, Division of Fair Expositions. HH

Dec. 4-1897-Alexander Christie to Thomas Bair - 160 acres  
in sections 2 + 11 - T6N - R3E, on Redwood Creek

April 22-1932-Bair Ranch sold  
to J. B. U. Pon

Dec 2-1944-Forsead to  
Merillone

1950-Frank Barnum et al

Mr. Thomas Bair is contemplating the conversion of his stock ranch on Redwood Creek into a sheep ranch. He has purchased over one thousand sheep from Mr. J. H. Hooker of the Bald Hills and as his ranch is exceedingly well adapted for raising sheep he will undoubtedly succeed in his new venture. In the meantime he will dispose of his cattle as soon as possible. D. C. Stotts, the famous Blue Lake hunter, will be employed there as shepherd.

Steele, Barnum

New Owners 8/1/50

Merillon Ranch

The 14 000 acre Merillon ranch, formerly the Bair ranch, was bought from P. C. Merillon this week by G. Kelton Steele, and Charles R. Barnum, Eureka. Merillon has had the ranch for the past five years.

The ranch, which is located at Redwood Creek East of Arcata, will probably be leased for grazing purposes, according to Steele. The new owners also contemplate installation of a sawmill and an increase in logging operations, Steele said.

Merillon has removed his stock from the ranch.

Jan 16-1901-<sup>LT Bair</sup> The Bair of Arcata has for the  
640 acre tract of timber on the north  
fork of Mad River, belonging to the Sandy  
Creek of Eureka

17-1-1901

Price \$18,000

2nd  
copy

Nov 12 1900-The Bair lost

S. S. LOVERA prop near mouth

of Mad River for \$20,000 - also

grain creamery Mr. L. had stroke

Oct 15 1891

which for the last 15 years was owned by Mr. J. C. Cummins, has been purchased by Mr. Thomas Bair of Nevada for \$10,000. The ranch contains 4520.82 acres and is known as one of the best sheep ranges in the county. It is the intention of the new owner to continue the business of his predecessor - to raise sheep.

Oct 16 - 1915

U. S. to Bair

Feb 28 - 1898 - The suit of Thos. Bair vs. Rose Ann Watkins to foreclose a mty. for \$2425 upon the Occidental Hotel prop. in Trinidad was commenced in Dec. 1895 - and the mty. was given R. M. Fernald Dec 10, 1895 - afterward assigned to plaintiff. Case is being tried without a jury.

April 1932 - Bair Ranch - sold to B. U. Pon - 3 story hotel - \$113,000

Mrs. T. A. Pon & sons - Pierre & Andre

The suit of Thos. Bair vs. Rose Ann Watkins to foreclose mty. for \$2425 upon the Occidental Hotel prop in Trinidad was commenced in Dec. 1895. The mty. was given R. M. Fernald Dec 10, 1895 & afterwards assigned to plaintiff. Case is being tried without a jury.

### Real Estate

on Dec 2 - Alexander Christie purchased to Thomas Bair 160 acres in sections 1 and 11 - Township 6 north, range 3 east

Bair Ranch Reported to be Sold.

Apr 22 - 1932 Arcata  
Union

The reported purchase of the well-known Bair ranch on Redwood Creek, owned by Fred S. Bair, is reported to have been sold to J. B. U. Pen, a wealthy resident of Oakland, Cal. The ranch is ideally located, about 35 miles from Arcata & is well watered by numerous creeks, which contribute Bair waters to Redwood Creek. The ranch consists of 17,400 acres, 4400 of which is timber land, carrying a valuable growth of red fir and redwood. There are also about 10,000 acres of clear pasture lands, besides brush & waste lands.

Besides ranch houses and barns, there is a modern three-story hotel on the place. The sale price is said to be \$173,000. Mr. Pen expects to develop the place to full capacity as a sheep & cattle ranch, according to Paul Williams, who is handling the negotiations.

April 29-1932- Fred Bair Ranch Changes Hands-  
On Tuesday there was placed on record at the County Recorder's office in Eureka, the deed to the Bair Ranch on Redwood Creek from Fred S. Bair & Mabel I. Bair, his wife, to J. B. U. Pen, conveying 17,359 acres to the new owner. The property lies in five different congressional townships as follows: T6N - R32; T7N - R32; T6N - R32; T6N - R42; T5N - R42.

A separate deed was also recorded, signed by Fred S. Bair alone, for a 46-acre tract. This is the largest ranch in Humboldt Co. & it is understood that the new owner, Mr. Pen, will develop the ranch in raising cattle & sheep. A few months ago Mr. & Mrs. Bair sold their Maple Creek Ranch to Dr. C. G. Wiggins, a capitalist of Pasadena.

Thomas Bair and auto driver, Harvey Tighe, spent a couple of days at the Hotel.

T. H. Bair, Jr., left on the Topeka Monday for San Francisco and will then proceed south to be with his father who is spending the winter in the southern part of the state for the benefit of his health.

Mr. Thomas Bair is contemplating the conversion of his stock ranch on Redwood Creek into a sheep ranch. He has purchased over one thousand sheep from Mr. J. H. Hooker of the Bald Hills and as his ranch is exceedingly well adapted for raising sheep, he will undoubtedly succeed in his new venture. In the meantime he will dispose of his cattle as soon as possible. D. C. Stotts, the famous Blue Lake hunter, will be employed there as shepherd.

31-1597

# Thomas Bain

ad. <sup>est</sup>  
 June 24 1916 Died Tuesday in Omaha  
 Born in Madison Co - Arkansas - Sept 26 1844  
 Father died when he was nine  
 Mother " a few months later

1855 - An uncle married the sister of his mother  
 Uncle stopped in Madison Co -

1855-1863 - Rode herd horse

conducted his own train in Montana & Idaho - 3 years  
 Became head packer in Plains from 1863 to 1870  
 After 5 yrs of hard work he sold the train &  
 soon set to work of goods in Ft. Union  
 reservation area - until called off for

16 yrs = cattle & merchant at Hays  
 owned 200 horses -

Packed gov. supplies over mt. trail by contract  
 At close of season was called out at Hays

Apr 1882 Purchased old Indian ranch in Indian Co  
 2900 ac of 10,000 J. cattle ranch first 2.5 yrs of season

1886 - First Pres. term of election

1907 to 1913 - Mr. Barnard Barker the old manager

In 1902 - Mr. Bain organized a ranch  
 in Indian Co. pl. under contract & under regts &  
 Dickson Co. 1914 sold the ranch to Mr. Bain  
 for \$270,000, owned by Congress the day  
 Mr. Bain got about the entire case.

Twice married

First wife Mrs. Payer died so far ago  
 second wife Mary S. Stone

Surviving members of Mr. Bain's  
 immediate family are Mary S. Bain, wife  
 of Fred S. Bain - a son


Thomas Edward Bain, a grandson

June 21-1916 - Exact value of estate not known,  
 but placed at more than a million dollars

2 Captain Dougherty expects to begin construction of a wagon road from Fort Jackson - (Bair) DUU3  
8 place on Redwood, a distance of about 18 miles. This will make, when completed, good wheeling to & from the reservation. Capt. Dougherty says he intends to build a road over which a loaded wagon can go without difficulty.

Jan. 7-1911 - Old House on Bair Ranch burnt to ground. Built about 50 yrs ago by Isaac Minor. He sold the place to Thomas Bair about 30 yrs ago. For the last 10 years it has been used as a hotel.

Jan 16-1909 - Geo. Bair reported to have paid 640 acre tract of timber on North Fork of Mad River belong to Mr. Sandy Cornick of Eureka. Tract adjoining land owned by Bair. Price reported about \$18,000.

	BLUE LAKE, CALIF., THURSDAY
	Blue Lake In Hi
	Reprinted April 10-1958 By Mrs. Eug April 15-1911
	New Hotel at Bair's A two story hotel is to be built on the Thomas Bair Ranch at Redwood Creek. The ranch is the logical overnight stop in making the trip to Hoopa. The wagon road ends at the Bair Ranch, the rest of the journey to Hoopa being made horseback, but the government has been at work some time building a new road from Hoopa to the reservation line and the county will build the balance to Bair's. This new hotel building will

Bair's Hotel

In November 1851, McKee paid \$20 for 100 pounds of flour at Burbank Ferry at the junction of the Trinity + Klamath Rivers -

Burbank was one of the first names associated with the Redwood Creek Ranch

Dec. 8-1883-

Thomas Brett to Thomas Bain 640 acres in sec 15, 22, 23, 26 + 27 - T7N - R3E \$3,200

Oct 16-1897 - the Alameda Coline Ranch on Mad River  
 - sold for the last 18 years has been owned by J. S. Cumming has been bid by Mrs. Bain of Arcata for \$10,000. It contains 4520.825 acres and it is known as one of the best sheep ranges in the country.

Dec. 10-1891 - W. J. Boyce to Thomas Bain

a lg of sec 15  
 sec 2 - 4 1/2 N - R 3 E  
 sec 2 - 4 1/2 N - R 3 E  
 sec 2 - 4 1/2 N - R 3 E

Dec 31-1898 - Joseph Merriam to Mrs. Bain  
 (2 1/2 of sec 15) and (2 1/2 of sec 15) sec 3 - 4 1/2 N - R 3 E

# THIRTY YEARS AGO

May 14, 1931  
 THE WELCOME NEWS that wild turkeys seem to have been successfully introduced into Humboldt county was received in Arcata Wednesday, when it was learned that deputy game warden William J. Hayes and Fred Bair made an inspection trip to Bair's ranch on Redwood Creek Tuesday. They reported seeing three hen turkeys with broods containing 8 to 15 young turkeys each, and also seeing 8 mature hens, all showing evidence of setting, with broods to come off later.

## New Operators Take Pon Ranch

ARCATA, Dec. 2.—Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Merillon of Santa Barbara took possession of the Pon Redwood Creek sheep and cattle ranch Saturday, Mrs. T. U. Pons and sons, Pierre and Andrew, who have owned the ranch since 1932, announced Monday. Consisting of 17,000 acres, the ranch was one of the early-day show-places of northern California when Fred Blair of Eureka operated a lodge there.

The Redwood Creek ranch will be operated for the Merillons by Rudolph Mora, who also arrived at the ranch this week. His wife and daughter will arrive later this week.

Mrs. Pon will leave soon for the San Francisco Bay area, where she has property interests.



AKE, CALIF., SATURDAY

# in Injured at Redwood Creek --Is Recovering

John Merillon, 21-year-old son of J. Merillon, internationally known French diplomat, is reported from city hospital in Arcata to be improving. Young Merillon suffered a skull fracture of the skull while attempting to run a cable across Redwood Creek Saturday afternoon. Merillon and Harry Hallman, his companion, were reportedly stringing cable across the creek in an effort to replace the broken water pipe destroyed during the recent storm. The storm in which they were riding capsized and caused the youth to strike his head on a rock. By the time help was summoned Merillon had managed to reach the west side of the river where he lay until frantic efforts by P. G. and E. workers and local residents succeeded in a rescue attempt.

Upon hearing of the accident, Dave Grant, an employee of the ranch, slipped his way through the brush and by wading portions of the stream, reached the victim. He signalled to P. G. and E. workers who had arrived on the other side of the river that it was impossible to transport the youth by way of the west bank and that it would be necessary to carry him across the river on the high line cable.

A breeches buoy was consequently made by Lee Browne out of a dory, on which the youth rode to safety. It was discovered then that the youth was bleeding from the ears. Merillon was promptly taken to the ranch where first aid was given. Dr. George Scheppeler of Blue Lake was called to the case and young Merillon was taken to the Trinity hospital, arriving there about 11 p. m., seven hours after the accident.

Special credit was given to P. G. and E. workers and those assisting in the rescue, including Harry Hallman, who had succeeded in gaining the east bank of the river, Loftus Gray, Dave Grant, Paul Johnson, E. J. Dwyer, Dennis Ryan, John Suarva, Richard Abbott, Deryl, Don Bailey and Joseph Mori.

Merillon's father operates the ranch near Arcata, Calif. He was one of the French representatives in the formation of the United Nations.

Redwood Creek

March 8-1939 - Mr. & Mrs. John Merillon  
down from Redwood Creek to house below  
up line residence in the R. Roberts house on  
the corner of 13th & I streets. Mr. Merillon  
will divide his time between  
Arcata & the ranch.

Paris

500010  
+ Ryan ranch was 4 in 1901  
River. These two comprise between 4,000 + 5,000 acres of  
fine redwood timber. Price between \$60,000 + 75,000.

Sept 28-1911 - A deal was consummated  
Monday by which a large tract of timber  
land in the northern portion of the county  
layed down, the land is the property  
of Fisher Bros. who are the owners.

It is on the same section  
+ comprises 3200 acres.  
#6 on one line and 1000 on the  
line last fall.

Monday - the deal was made  
at 3:30 pm. and the deal was  
consummated.

Deal was transferred to L. Fiegenbaum  
of Rehnerville, but it is reported  
that he has assigned his contract to  
Thomas Bair of Arcata.

Deal was consummated thru law firm  
of Gregor + Connick +  
attorney Ernest Sevier of  
Eureka

Bair  
April 8-1882 - I. Minor has sold  
his Redwood ranch to Tom Bair  
for \$10,000. Tom is going into the  
sheep business - 2,700 acres.

Sept 11-1897 - Thomas Bair to convert his  
stock ranch on Redwood Creek into sheep  
ranch. He has purchased over 1,000 sheep  
from J. H. Harker of Ball Hills.  
D. C. Stotts, former B. L. hunter, will be  
employed as shepherd.

"Humboldt Times"  
Thursday, 9 August 1906

"Ferndale Enterprise"  
Friday, 17 May 1907

A WAIF

Last Wednesday evening Grant Clark of Alton was called to the door of his home by the ringing of the bell, & found on the step a basket containing a four or five days old infant. A double rig was just leaving the place, headed in the direction of Hydesville. No clue as to the identity of the parents had been obtained up to the time our informant phoned the news yesterday afternoon.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Arcata Union"  
Saturday, 17 July 1909

An Automobile party left yesterday for a trip to Crescent City. The Bair machine, driven by Chauffeur Ernest Reed with Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Bair, Mrs. I.W. Snowden & Mrs. C.M. Howard, of Eureka will occupy this machine, while Charles E. Falk will drive his machine, & has as passengers, Mrs. Charles Falk, Mrs. N.H. Falk & Mrs. L.D. Graeter.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Ferndale Enterprise"  
Tuesday, 2 February 1904

A fracas occurred last week at Arcata wharf aboard the new schooner Crescent. Two Japanese went up to the vessel to ship as cooks, but a Swedish chef, who had previously been engaged was indignant at the little yellow fellows & the Jap that climbed over the side of the vessel met a hot reception at his hands. The Jap is 64 years old. the white cook flew at him striking him about the head & back, also kicking him in the ribs, which came near laying him out. Capt. Olsen installed the Japs, however, & the white man was paid off.

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..... "Ferndale Enterprise"  
Friday, 3 July 1903

Received Answer—A young gentleman in Eureka accidentally found the address of a young lady cigar maker of Kingston, N.Y., in a box of cigars, with a request that the finder should write. The answer to his response to the invitation came a few days ago. It reads: "To my surprise I received a very pretty souvenir postal of Eureka, in answer to my name and address written on a slip of paper which I enclosed in a box of Renown cigars, to please a friend, not thinking I would hear from it again. It was pleasant to know that it fell in such good hands and I received such an interesting reply. You asked me some questions. First, I packed those cigars about six months ago. Second, I receive seventy-five cents per thousand. Third, this factory employs 900 hands. Fourth, this town has 3,000 population. Fifth, we did not feel any effects from the earthquake. I hope to hear more from you.—Kathryn Schatzel, Kingston, N. Y. July 12, 1906. 1:30 p. m."

\*\*\*\*\*

Patrick Spark, a Finnish sailor, lately returned to Eureka from a visit to his old home in Finland, started in the other night to "see the elephant" with a companion named Foster, and ended up by being out of pocket nearly \$300. The money was subsequently found on Foster, who claims that he simply took the money from Sparks to prevent him losing it and that he spent a few dollars of it, intending to make the amount good later. The district Attorney is now investigating the case and in the meantime Foster is held on the misdemeanor charge.

mysterious fever which  
held him to his bed since early  
last month. Reports have it that  
he is on his way to recovery now.

#### To Benefit Their Health.

Mr. and Mrs. John Brett of Blue  
like this week received word from  
their daughter, Miss Winola Brett,  
stating that she is stopping at the Pal-  
ace Hotel in San Francisco with Mr.  
and Mrs. Thos. H. Bair and young  
son, and in about two or three weeks  
they will proceed south as far as Los  
Angeles, San Diego and Arizona,  
where they will spend the winter for  
the benefit of their health. Mr. Bair's  
10,000 acre ranch on Redwood creek is  
now in charge of Mr. Fearless during  
his absence.

Ask for the "Commercial", Lo-  
s Angeles's Havana Cigars.

Thos. H. Bair of Arcata is reported  
to be very low at Los Gatos. His  
father and other relatives are at his  
bedside.

Bair) was lying in bed  
time. One evening Dayton Barn-  
hardt, who ran Tom's mule pack  
train, got into town, bedded down  
the mules, and went up to call on  
Tom. . . A maid answered the door  
and asked Dayton for his card. . .  
Dayton turned on his heel, saying  
he'd be back. . . a few minutes  
later he returned. When the maid  
presented the card tray he placed  
on it several mule "calling cards"  
which he had picked up from the  
corral. . . When Tom saw the tray

he said gruffly - "Oh, no. Dayton  
to come in."

#### Fred S. Bair Here On Visit

Mr. and Mrs. Fred S. Bair arrived  
on the steamer City of Topeka  
Wednesday. They have been in San  
Francisco for several months with Mr.  
Bair's brother, Thomas H. Bair, who  
has been seriously ill. The latter is  
now at Los Gatos, to where he was  
recently moved from the San Fran-  
cisco sanitarium where he was oper-  
ated on some time ago. After trans-  
acting business matters in this county  
it is the intention of Mr. and Mrs. Bair  
to return to Los Gatos.

#### Two Similar Operations

Thomas Bair, Jr., who was operated  
on in a San Francisco hospital recent-  
ly, having one kidney removed, is re-  
ported as improving rapidly, and will  
be able to leave the hospital soon. As  
soon as he gains sufficient strength, he  
expects to leave for the south with  
his wife and son, who have been in  
San Francisco for some weeks past.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bair of Arcata  
have returned from San Francisco  
and southern California. Mr. Bair re-  
turns considerably improved in health.

Mrs. E. B. Carr and grandson came  
down Sunday from Maple Creek,  
where they have been visiting for the  
past month.

#### MYSTERIOUS FEVER

Tom Bair is recovering from a  
mysterious fever which has con-  
fined him to his bed since early  
last month. Reports have it that  
he is on his way to recovery now.

man over Sunday with the  
mother and sister, Mrs. N. Johnston  
and Mrs. Fred Cruickshanks and fam-  
ily, Mrs. Carr assisting in the cantata,  
"The Resurrection Hope," given at  
the Congregational church Sunday  
evening.

#### ON THE SHEEP RANGES

Issue of July 14, 1900

BAIR'S RANCH, Boulder Creek,  
July 10.—Quite a number of sub-  
stantial improvements have lately  
been made at this fine ranch, former-  
ly the Lord & Sherbarans property.  
The large sheep-shearing shed which  
has been in course of construction for  
about two months is about completed  
and Marion Stokes will put in a few  
days finishing it. The building is 16  
by 50 feet, with 16-foot posts; shed  
20 by 50 feet with six shearing pens  
8 by 16½ feet. Oak underpinning set  
on granite supports the structure,  
and the sheep may run under it. All  
the material used was got out on the  
premises. Mr. Pardon had charge of  
the construction with Marion Stokes  
and other as assistants.

The shearing season is now over  
and the fleece just taken from the  
sheep on this ranch will average 10  
pounds per head. About 1600 sheep  
were sheared here. The number of  
sheep sheared on Mr. Bair's other  
ranches in northern Humboldt is as  
follows: Three Cabins 2350, Red-  
wood Creek 2448, and Madrone 1568.

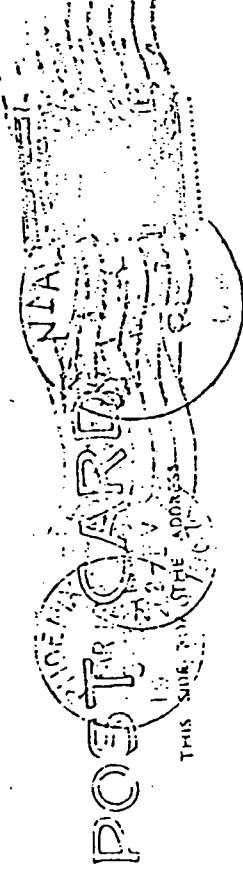
SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1913.

#### Thos. Bair Stricken

Tuesday morning Thomas Bair of  
Arcata suffered a slight stroke of par-  
alysis at his home. His left side was  
affected by the stroke and he became  
practically helpless. Dr. Borel at-  
tended him and also held a consulta-  
tion with Dr. H. G. Gross of Eureka.  
While in Eureka Monday afternoon  
Mr. Bair felt rather ill and was taken  
to his home. In the evening he felt  
better but when he started to arise  
the next morning he was stricken.

Mr. Bair only recently returned  
from the central part of the state  
where he spent about six months re-  
ceiving medical attention.

Mrs. E. B. Carr of Arcata and D. K.  
Carr and wife of Kern county, spent a  
few hours visiting at the home of Mr.  
and Mrs. Fred Cruickshanks in Pera-  
dolo Tuesday. In returning to Eureka  
they were accompanied by Wm. Ward  
who, with Mr. and Mrs. D. K. Carr  
left on the steamer Wednesday for  
their home in the southern part of the  
state.



Wid. Thos. Bair  
222 West Adams St.  
Arcata, Cal.

Dec 10-1911 Last Sunday afternoon at 1 o'clock Henry Howard  
Tisdale, a young business man of L.A. & Miss Ethel Mc-  
Mitchell were quietly wed at the home of the bride's  
parents mother, Mrs. Carrie Mitchell, 2407 F Street, Ark-  
by Rev. John T. Shurtell of Christ Episcopal Church. A  
tea immediate relatives & friends of the couple were  
present. Mrs. T. is an extended daughter of Mrs. Carrie M-  
family of Maple Creek & sister of Mrs. Fred Paul of Maple Creek.

## Maria Martin Of Arcata Dies

ARCATA, July 2 — Maria Martin, 60-year-old Arcatan, died yesterday. She was the widow of the late Joseph L. Martin of this city.

Survivors include her children, Joseph L. Martin, Matthew M. Martin, Sarah Matias, Frank P. and Albert D. Martin, all of Arcata; brothers, Manuel Dias of Turlock, Antone Dias of Ryan Slough and Spriana Dias of the Azores; one grandson, Kenneth Matias of Arcata.

Mrs. Martin was a native of the Azores and has lived in Arcata 42 years. She was a member of the SPRSI lodge of Arcata and members of this lodge will attend the funeral services in a body.

The funeral will be held Thursday with brief rites at the Chapel of the Redwoods at 10 a. m. followed by requiem mass at 10:30 a. m. in St. Mary's church in Arcata. There will be a rosary recitation at the Chapel of the Redwoods Wednesday at 8 p. m.

Thos. E. Bair of Arcata, who has been confined to a sanitarium in San Francisco for several weeks past, was taken to Los Gatos Monday, where a furnished cottage has been rented. There with a trained nurse Mr. Bair will remain south for an indefinite time in hope that the climate may prove beneficial.

To Spend Winter in Arizona  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack McCune of this section went to the Bair ranch on Redwood Creek Tuesday, where they will take charge of the hotel for T. E. Bair. Mr. Bair and wife and a son will spend the winter months in Arizona for the benefit of their health. Miss Wicabo Brett of Blue Lake will accompany

## MRS. THOS. BAIR CALLED BY DEATH

Wife of Thos. Bair, Jr.,  
Formerly Residing  
on Redwood

### THE NEWS SHOCKS MANY FRIENDS

Death Is Ascribed to Heart  
Failure--Funeral Will  
Be Held Sunday  
In Arcata

Regarding the sad and untimely demise of Mrs. Thos. H. Bair of Redwood Creek, which occurred in San Francisco Monday morning, we clip the following account from the Arcata Union which appears to be correct in every particular:

"The entire community was both shocked and saddened on Tuesday morning to learn of the death in San Francisco of Mrs. Beatrice Carr Bair, wife of Thomas H. Bair, who with her young son has been in San Francisco for some weeks past to be with her husband, who is confined to the Adler Sanitarium. Mrs. Bair was in her usual health until Saturday, when she complained of feeling ill, and was taken to the Adler Sanitarium. Her condition was not considered particularly serious until Saturday evening when she had a heart attack, from which time she failed rapidly. On Sunday forenoon Mrs. Bair had another bad spell, and her mother, Mrs. Jennie B. Carr, of Arcata, was telegraphed for, leaving on the Kilburn Monday morning. Mrs. Carr was prepared for the

Miss Winnie Brett, who spent the past several months in San Francisco in the employ of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Bair, arrived in Blue Lake Saturday, having in charge the 3-year-old son of Mr. Thos. H. Bair Jr. and his late wife. The baby feels happy and contented here under the good care of Miss Brett.

Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Daly and five children left Eureka Wednesday en route to Ireland where they will spend six months. They will sail from New York on the 17th on the steamer Baltic of the White Star line, and upon their arrival in Ireland will go to Charleville, County Cork, the old home of Mr. and Mrs. Daly, and where their parents now reside. They will also visit in other countries in Europe before returning.

overturning service. The seriousness of the situation of brother, Fred S. Bair, who looking after the welfare of for some months past, has not under the strain now at the hotel sick with grippe. The health of Mrs. Thomas Bair, Sr., has of the very best for some time and it is quite probable that not be able to come to Arcata lead the funeral.

"The body of Mrs. Bair brought up on the Topps Friday, April 11th, and will be buried by Mrs. E. B. Carr, Carr and wife, who were from the southern part of and Charles B. Stone.

"The funeral will take place at the Episcopal church in Eureka April 13th, at 2 p. m. Shurtleff officiating. Interment at Greenwood cemetery where a short service will be held.

"Deceased was the only daughter of the late Edward B. Carr, the late Edward B. Carr, Peradale, and Mrs. Jennie Peradale. Mrs. Bair was born in Peradale, and was married in 1880. She was married in 1880 to Thomas H. Bair, who with year-old son, Thomas Ed Carr, resides at Newark, N. J. Deceased was a niece of Elmer and Miss Elizabeth Eureka, and Mrs. Fred C. Peradale. Mrs. John Peradale has grandchildren, who were admitted and beloved knew her for her sunny and kind and gentle nature and kind and gentle nature sudden taking off is one of the circumstances make it doubtful.

# Blue Lake In Years Gone By...

NEWS ITEMS FROM EARLY DAY ADVOCATES  
SELECTED BY  
WAVA E. DeMOTTE

April 12, 1913 —

The entire community was both shocked and saddened on Tuesday morning to learn of the death in San Francisco of Mrs. Beatrice Carr Bair, wife of Thomas H. Bair, who with her young son has been in San Francisco for some weeks past to be with her husband, who is confined to the Adler Sanitarium. Mrs. Bair was in her usual health until Saturday, when she complained of feeling ill, and was taken to the Adler Sanitarium. Her condition was not considered particularly serious until Saturday evening when she had a heart attack, from which time she failed rapidly. On Sunday forenoon Mrs. Bair had another bad spell, and her mother, Mrs. Jennie B. Carr, of Arcata, was telegraphed for, leaving on the Kilburn Monday morning. Mrs. Carr was prepared for the worst, and knew upon leaving Eureka that the chances of seeing her daughter alive were remote. Death came two hours before the arrival of Mrs. Carr, the cause being given as heart failure. Charles B. Stone, who went to San Francisco last week to see Thomas H. Bair, met Mrs. Carr at the steamer and broke

the sad news.

The whole affair is shrouded in tragedy as Thomas H. Bair, who underwent a capital operation several weeks ago, is in a critical condition. His brother, Fred S. Bair, who has been looking after the welfare of the family for some months past, has also given out under the strain, and is now at the hotel sick with la grippe.

The health of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bair, Sr., has not been of the very best for some time past, and it is quite probable that they will not be able to come to Arcata to attend the funeral.

The body of Mrs. Bair will be brought up on the Topeka sailing Friday, April 11th.

Miss Winnie Brett, who spent the past several months in San Francisco in the employ of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Bair, arrived in Blue Lake Saturday, having in charge the 3-year-old son of Mr. Thos. H. Bair, Jr. and his late life. The baby feels happy and contented here under the good care of Miss Brett.

May 27 1916 Thomas & Mary Carr to Fred S. Bair

April 22-1916 \$25,000  
Ran Med River Ranch of  
18,897 acres

July 6-1874 H. Hardy Estate  
to W. W. Turner & H. S. Turner \$1,500  
(2000 of 2000) & (2000 of New 10)  
(the 1000 of NW 1/4) & (most 1/2 of 1/2 of 1/2)  
Dec 12- To Turner

23, 1874



Tom Bair turns to tack-room duties. . .

## A Pioneer's Son's Sketch

# Ranching and Writing Blend Harmoniously for Tom Bair

By JEAN NEILSON

ARCATA — When Tom Blair was a little boy he played "Cowboys and Indians" as all little boys do, except he was always cast in the role of cowboy, and was outnumbered by his real Indian playmates on the family ranch at Redwood Valley.

The grandchild of early Humboldt County pioneers, he was orphaned at the age of three, raised by his grandmother in Eureka about half the time, and the rest by a Chinaman on the ranch named Charlie Moon.

"I guess he was about the last Chinaman in Humboldt County after they ran them all out," Tom said. His sky blue eyes softened. "I was very fond of Charlie, and he was very patient with me." He added that Moon had taught him to cook rice, and that his wife would probably take him to

claims I can't cook anything," he said.

Horseman, poet, rancher, writer, politician, father, all describe Bair.

His mother's parents came from Ireland, settled in Ferndale, and his Grandfather Carr founded the Ferndale Enterprise back in 1877. Almost twenty years before, his father's father, for whom he was named, rode in here on a pack train from Montana. A mere lad of twelve, he was "ball boy" for the train, riding up front on a horse with the pack mules following.

Unfolding into a success story of the "wild west," which it certainly was at the time, is the story of the first Tom Bair. Legend has it that he gambled and won a pack train of his own, and when the Indian wars were being fought he had a store and hotel at Fort Gaston (now Hoopa). Known as a sutler, he followed

troops.

### Pack-Train to Bair's

A trip to Hoopa in this day and age is still considered by most motorists to be quite an undertaking. One can only imagine with what trepidation Tom's grandfather set out on the trail route to Fort Gaston. From Arcata went the pack train, up the shores of the Mad River, over Liscomb Hill with a pause at the old Ford place, a scheduled stop; continuing on by the Preston Ranch, where the honor camp is now, down into Redwood Creek to the old Minor family's place, up over Greasewood Swag and the top of the mountain above the creek, and on into the fort. Eventually he sold this going business to Alexander Brizard.

The first Tom Bair, who founded the Bank of Arcata and built the Victorian home located at 13th and I Streets, was a charter member of the Democratic Cen-

dealer, at one time he owned about 50,000 acres of timber land. The area where the San Francisco International Airport is now once belonged to him, and a small island in the bay between San Francisco and Oakland still bears the family name. He died when his namesake was six years old, but Tom remembers him. "Before I could walk my grandfather sent a mule out from town for me," he said.

Tom remembers, too, that he was nine when he started "fooling around with horses seriously." Horses, their breeding, training, and showing, have occupied

a great part of his life. Considered tops in the breeding field, he is recognized by the American Horse Shows Association, and the American Quarterhorse Association, and officiates at horse shows throughout the state.

### Began Writing

When he was 12 he was sent to the exclusive Montezuma School for Boys near Los Gatos. There he completed grade and high school, coming home for summers at the ranch. Of his studies at the University of California at Berkeley, Tom grinned. "I was not a distinguished scholar," he said. Through school, where he majored in art, he wrote a little now and then, and had several things published, mostly poetry in literary magazines.

His schooling over, he operated the Redwood Creek Ranch, acquired the Bair Ranch at mouth of the Mad River, a dairy property on Arcata bottle lands. In 1920 he married Ma McLanson of Eureka.

Then for an interesting brief seven years, and still up with his horses, Bair opened a ranch in the San Fernando Valley, where his principal business was renting his stock equipment to motion picture companies. Modest, Tom said, seemed to follow that I got the picture business itself a screen writer, because I had ways been interested in writing.

Reflecting, he explained, "I would hand you a 3000 word el or maybe a legitimate and one or two of you would up the action into what is called a shooting script. This consists of about 360 scenes complete camera angles, information the kind of shot, whether night or day, and a description of the action." He said he was strictly with "B" production mostly westerns, and that he done a lot of the continued



of thing. He added "Nobody kids who went on Saturday morn would remember those were the hanging from the kind." Before he entered Army in 1912 he was the as- ant to an independent pro- er. As he talked you could see while he thought he might have contributed much to pos- ty in this form of writing, he enjoyed the whole fascinat- business.

orld War II prompted his en- nent in the cavalry. He grad- ed from the Cavalry School at Fort Riley, Kansas, as a sec- lieutenant. Of the cavalry, he said, "I found myself at a end. All they had me doing

training horses. I might have there yet, but I sneaked in request for transfer to the in- ry." He got his action all t, serving in North Africa and s, first as a Rifle Platoon lea- and then as Rifle Company mander. "There were times n I wished I was back with horses," he admitted.

Entered Politics  
for the war was over the ac- es in southern California n't seem important any- s," and Tom brought his fam- rome to resume his ranching arnest. An active Democrat, ade a bid for the state leg- ure in 1936 and was defeated. continued his writing, but on- rious plane.

rowing on his war experi- s in Africa for the setting, wrote "The Falcon's Nest,"

a philosophical twist, it is story of a man's struggle to a new life and establish a foothold where he can come rips with himself. He wrote al short stories which were shed, and has recently com- d "a 250,000 word novel.

"The Spring of Healing," his it work, Bair said "It's back ew York, and my agent has hopes for it, but, of course, ls are always notoriously op- tic." He explained it is a helical novel, but that one characters in it is patterned Charlie Moon, the Chinese y of his childhood. Set in est, it portrays the era just e the San Francisco earth-

his writing Tom said, "It s from a simple desire to ss myself. There are more as why I shouldn't write, why I should." He added that ally speaking the rewards, been small.  
rancher was a leader of,

paigh to elect Edmund G. Brown governor of the State of Califor- nia. Taking note of his agricul- tural background and statewide fair experience, the Governor ap- pointed him to the twelve-man Board of Directors of the State Fair Exposition at Sacramento. He was honored with the appoint- ment for a four-year term in the spring of this year.

Bair's views on the future of the county of his birth may not be the popular views expressed by local businessmen today, but they are certainly emphatic. Considered by acquaintances "on the quiet side," and described by his friends as strong: the type of a man whose presence is felt in any gathering, his speech, normally slow and even, gained momentum as he expressed his opinion.

"People won't be satisfied, he said, until the champions of indus- trial progress have every beach here covered with chemicals, and every stream a paved ditch. It seems a shame to industrialize an area like this that has such a potential for recreation." He ad- ded that if people would let the country alone he felt that recrea- tion itself would eventually bring more money into this area than industry would.

There is yet another Tom Bair. He is the son of Tom and Marie, and is a first lieutenant of the Army's Military Police stationed in Germany. The couple has three daughters, Rebecca and Mary, who are married, and Martha, 11, a fine little horsewoman who would be the pride of her great-grandfather if he could see her ride.

Oct. 7  
1884 Great Register  
Thomas Bair - 37 - Missouri - Jackson - Acosta  
born 1847  
"Came to Hun. Co. when 12" - about 1859

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OCTOBER 12, 1937.

## THOMAS BAIR CALLED BY DEATH

He Was a Son of Thomas Bair of Arcata

DIED AT A LOS GATOS HOSPITAL

Deceased Had Been Ailing Since the First of the Year--His Wife Also Died Recently

Death claimed one of Humboldt county's best known sons at Los Gatos, California, late Saturday evening when Thomas H. Bair of Redwood, son of Thomas Bair of Arcata, passed away after an illness of five months. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bair were at the young man's bedside at the time of his death.

Mr. Bair was taken sick the first of the year and early in January he went to San Francisco to consult specialists. An examination showing his condition to be critical, he was placed in Adler's sanitarium and a capital operation performed.

On April 8, Mr. Bair's wife, Mrs. Beatrice Carr Bair, died at the same hospital where he was confined and the young man's condition was such that he was unable to come to Humboldt with his wife's body to attend the funeral. After his wife's death, Mr. Bair's condition grew worse rapidly and on April 21 he was taken to Los Gatos in the hope that the hot climate might benefit him, but to no avail. One week ago he became unconscious and since then his death had been expected daily.

The death of husband and wife within two months is especially sad and the family has the sympathy of the entire county.

Mr. Bair was 32 years of age and a native of Humboldt, having been born in Arcata November 2, 1879, the second son of Thomas Bair and Alice

## Dedicatory Rites Held and Birthday Of Fred S. Bair Celebrated

"To the spirit of peace and contentment" was the dedicatory theme expressed by Mrs. Vernon L. Hunt when she crashed the ribbon be-decked bottle of sparkling liquid against the rocks of the Fred Bairs' new outdoor fireplace at their Klamath lodge Sunday afternoon. It was not champagne, however, that flowed at the christening rites, but the clear bright waters taken from the noted Klamath river that rolled on its broad and peaceful way within view of the assembled group. Logs burned on the hearth brightly and sent diaphanous banners of smoke to wave against the blue of the sky.

There was another reason for the festive occasion at the Klamath lodge of the Fred Bairs, and it was no less an occasion than the birthday of the genial host. And when the guests were seated around the highly polished redwood burl table in the living room of the lodge, Henry Brizard in eloquent words reiterated the theme, "peace and contentment" as he spoke at the luncheon, toasting Mr. and Mrs. Bair and the natal day of the former. Bright chrysanthemums and colorful appointments were reflected in the mirror-like surface of the richly grained wood. Barbecued delicacies were a feature of the menu. Afterward there was the ceremony of opening the many packages received by Mr. Bair from his friends. Then groups of guests sought the glass-enclosed sunporch for cards and others wandered to the river, famed for its fishing to enjoy boating.

The huge fireplace, built of native stones, is located in front of the lodge, with the "venerable woods" of the tree-clad hills to the back, and a wide view of the river in the foreground.

Mr. and Mrs. Bairs' guests included Mr. and Mrs. Lester A. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Falk, Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. Brizard, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur S. Gist, Mrs. C. L. Day, Dr. Vernon L. Hunt and Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. W. D. Clark of Berkeley, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Krohn, Paul Brizard Mr. and Mrs. George W. Averell, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Morris of San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Whitney

## Scattering Remarks of Interest—Past and Present

BY WILL N. SPEEGLE

### LARGEST PACK TRAIN

In the early days the only method of transportation into the mining regions of northern California as well as to the army post at Fort Bidwell Indian Reservation and to the ranches scattered here and there was by mule pack. Several such trains were operated, but the largest was probably that which was organized and managed by the late Thomas Bair, who will be well remembered by everyone who lived in northern and central Humboldt county the time he came here in 1867. He was born in Arkansas, not far from where my father was born, and was orphaned at the age of nine years. At eleven years of age he crossed the plains with his uncle and settled in a residence in Shasta county. In a short time he was "on his own" and was riding the mule on a pack train. This was his first experience, one of the largest operators of animal transportation in northern California. At one time his number of mules numbered over 200.

He not only carried on the business of transporting supplies but also became interested in the mercantile business at Fort Bidwell which was located on the Hoopa Indian Reservation. Most of the merchandise was transported to the northern outposts by his pack trains started from Arcata, where he in after years made his residence. He was an astute business man and amassed a considerable fortune together with ownership of hundreds of acres of fine ranch lands.

Late in his life he purchased the Eureka Inn and the Eureka Water company, one of which was purchased later by the City of Eureka and the other by the City of Arcata. He was one of the organizers of the Redwood Land and Investment Company and was president. Was also president of the Chamber of Commerce of Arcata and made a reputation as a financier. At one time was principal holder of the Eureka Herald, an evening paper that did business here from 1880 to 1912 when it was consolidated with the Humboldt Standard. His interests were successfully managed in spite of their variety.

"The Daily Humboldt Standard" Eureka, California  
Thursday, April 27, 1899

### "And the Cat Came Back"

The steamer Chilkat's cat has come back & Thomas Baird is happy in its possession once more. This particular cat has become celebrated as the only feline survivor of the steamer Chilkat on the bar & in the light of recent events is likely to add to its celebrity by becoming part of the government records of the disaster.

It will be remembered that the cat came ashore in the overturned hull & continued to make its home there until the wreck was cut open to get the cargo out, when a young man named Charles Clark, connected with a party of itinerant revivalists known as Gospel Wagon Workers, kidnapped her & took her to Rohnerville. The theft of the animal was duly reported to the company's agent, Thomas Baird, who it was known had taken a sentimental interest in the cat, & he immediately sought to secure the return of the purloined pussy. It seems that the cat had been presented to the unfortunate captain of the Chilkat by Mr. Baird & he now desired to send her to Captain Anderson's widow as a living keepsake of her dead husband.

All the efforts to recover the cat from the bold kidnapper, however, proved futile until yesterday. The identity of the man was known & he was told to bring back the animal, but to pleadings, demands & even threats he paid no attention, until patience ceasing to be a virtue Mr. Baird swore to a complaint before Commissioner Ford charging one Charles Clark with larceny for having taken property not his own from a government reservation. In the meantime Clark, still retaining possession of the abducted cat, was making his way toward Oregon & had got as far as Janes Creek where he was overhauled by U. S. Marshal Rager & with the cat brought back to this city. Before Commissioner Ford, Tuesday, Clark pleaded guilty to the charge, gave up the cat & is now out on \$50 bonds, & the end is not yet.

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85 Years ago--ARCATA OIL COMPANY--27 Dec 1900

Incorporation Articles were filed in the Humboldt County Clerk's office yesterday by the Arcata Oil Company. The company plans to drill for oil near Arcata, however if oil is not found, then the company will attempt to develop a coal field which they think exist in the area.

Incorporators are: N.H. Falk, J.C. Bull Jr., John Harpst, G.H. Burchard, Thomas Bair, Sylvester Myers, H.W. Jackson, Charles F. Fa Ralph Bull, M.P. Roberts, Charles Harper, all of Arcata, California

## BLUE LAKE, HUMBOLDT

### W. J. Boyce Is No More

After a lingering illness lasting for some weeks, Warden J. Boyce, one of the pioneers of Humboldt, better known to his many friends as Capt. Boyce, passed away Tuesday evening at the Trinity Hospital in Arcata, death being caused by the infirmities of age.

Deceased was born in Pennsylvania, on April 3, 1827, and was 87 years, 7 months and 14 days of age. His young manhood was spent in his native state, after which he moved to Michigan, where he lived for a number of years. He came to California in the early 70's, having married in the east, and settled first at Dixon, California, where he took up a claim. He later came to this county and worked at the carpenter's trade, and for a time held a government position at the Hoopa Indian Reservation. He also engaged in placer mining on the Trinity river near Willow Creek. For the past thirty years he made his home at the Bair ranch on Redwood Creek. He had a son and two daughters, Jay Boyce, and Mrs. Annie Reddington and Mrs. Allie Bair, who with the deceased died a number of years ago. He was survived by two grandsons, Fred and Ralph Reddington, of Maple Creek, and Ralph Reddington, of southern California. He was also survived by a niece in California, in the east.

Funeral services took place from Thomas Bair's place in Arcata Thursday morning and were largely attended.

the young man's condition was such that he was unable to come to Humboldt with his wife's body to attend the funeral. After his wife's death, Mr. Bair's condition grew worse rapidly and on April 21 he was taken to Los Gatos in the hope that the hot climate might benefit him, but to no avail. One week ago he became unconscious and since then his death had been expected daily.

The death of husband and wife within two months is especially sad and the family has the sympathy of the entire county.

Mr. Bair was 33 years of age and a native of Humboldt, having been born in Arcata November 2, 1879, the second son of Thomas Bair and Alice Boyce Bair. An older brother died shortly after the birth of Thomas E. Bair, and the mother died in 1882. He spent practically all of his life in this county, attending the grammar school at Arcata and later an academy at San Rafael, after which he took charge of the Bair ranches on Redwood creek, where he lived until taken sick the first of this year. He was a progressive young business man, and he recently built at Redwood one of the finest mountain hotels in the state. He was married in 1904 to Miss Edna Beatrice Carr, daughter of a pioneer Ferndale family, and one son blessed the union, Thomas Edward Bair, who is now three years of age.

Mr. Bair was a member of Eureka lodge of Elks and Arcata lodge of Native Sons. He was one of the best known young men in the county, congenial, big-hearted and generous, and everyone who knew him was his friend. His death will be mourned throughout the county by a wide circle of relatives and friends.

Mr. Bair is survived by his father, Thomas Bair of Arcata; his step-mother, Mrs. Mary Bair of Arcata; his son, Thomas Edward Bair of Arcata; his brother, Fred S. Bair of Maple Creek, and his grand-father, Worden J. Boyce of Blue Lake.

The body arrived on the steamer City of Topoka Thursday and funeral services were held at the lodge room of Eureka lodge No. 625, B. P. O. Elks, at Elks' Home, on Friday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock p. m. At the conclusion of the Elks' services, the cortege moved to Greenwood cemetery at Arcata, where the Rev. John T. Shurtliff officiated at the burial. Mr. Bair was buried beside the body of his wife, Mrs. Beatrice Carr Bair, who died less than two months ago.

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Charles F. Fa  
California

~~K. E. Shanahan - mds - etc~~ #12-65

## Don Carr Writes of Charley Moon

Under the heading of "Charley Moon, Humboldt's Only Chinaman" Editor Don Carr of the Fernside Enterprise, publishes the following article about this well known character.

"Charley Moon was the only Chinaman in Humboldt Co, and at the time the Chinese were driven from this county he was not molested as he was at that time in the employ of Thomas Bain, who owned vast holdings in northern Humboldt & Charley was as far above the average Chinaman & as far out in the wilderness that he was never molested. We have known Charley for 30 yrs & as go on record right now saying that regardless of race he is one of the whitest men we have ever known.

He served many years on the Bain Ranch as chief cook. He was the King of the household and reigned with a firm hand. No matter how busy or how long the hours were that kept him over his pots and pans, Charley always greeted you with a smile and his familiar laugh is known to countless people.

In 1888 Charley was married to a young lady of Indian birth from the Hoopa Indian Reservation. During the course of their married life, twelve children were born and a good many of these children have also married & reside in the mt. districts of northern Humboldt.

Charley Moon was a keen observer & in latter years left his duties in the kitchen on the Bain ranches, as he had expressed a desire to ride the ranges & take a hand in the duties of sheep raising. He was put in charge of the famous Rock Ranch in the upper Mad River country & to this day he is considered one of the best sheep men of the country. Weather conditions did not bother him in the least and in the storm period you could always find Charley around his sheep. He had the faculty of saving more lambs during the season of lambing than any other Bain employee.

And now the Bain ranches have all been sold, Charley

Mom, Chinaman by birth, but a loyal American at heart, has moved out of the hills, his home for over fifty years. On his face he still wears that smile and when you greet him or he greets you, you can rest assured that your friendliness has never been forgotten. He still abides with that old familiar laugh, but no matter how comfortable his surroundings may be down in the lower country, his heart will always be back in the hills that he knew and loved.

Don Carr's sister m'd a son of Thomas Bein, Sr.

Bain purchased a Pullman berth for the traveler. But  
 day couldn't think of occupying such a bed. He preferred to sit  
 p down the entire trip."

Charlie Moon, for many years was cook for the late Thomas Bain, when  
 it widely known banker & capitalist was begining the foundation of  
 fortune by operating a pack train between Austin & the early mining  
 camps along the Klamath & Trinity rivers in the Trinity Co. Moon  
 along the fortunes of his employer, later was cook at one of Bain's  
 his great sheep ranches on Mad River & has continued in the  
 employ of the family ever since.

Moon was known by everybody from one end of the county to  
 the other, from Eureka to Weaverville. Many of them had  
 taken of the meals prepared by him & all liked him, and he  
 is a good cook. Reared & grew up in the county amongst American  
 white men only, Moon became thoroughly Americanized. His  
 own nationality was scarcely recognized so that when in  
 1885 the Chinese were driven out of the county, Moon was  
 not considered one of them & any suggestion from the rabid  
 ones that they go out into the mts & chase Moon out met  
 with rather harsh reception.

So it is that Charlie Moon is the only Chinese residing  
 in Hen. Co. It was Charley Moon's first trip to S. F.





Known ribbon landlubber in Calif, is landlubber here. Dayton Bairhart, acher of a quarter of a century experience in this section is one of standbys here, Emerson Horner is also employed here. Ed O'Dea is the underchopping act.

3 Charley Moon, the only Chinaman in Hum. Co, does some horsechasing not any worse in his fitting than lots who make it their life work. - Charley cut his eye ten years ago, married a maiden of the breast and by the same no. of persons rushing around him - that the place is rather hot.

Johnny Salom, the champion cook of the county, says to be made the inner member. Johnny says now he wishes that his guardian sent him to school. He liked work & he consequently escaped school master's rod of correction.

Nov 6 D.C. Stotts came down this week from Bair  
1897. Mrs. Bair's ranch on Redwood creek, where  
he has been employed as shepherd for the past 2 months. He reports in that length of time he killed 8 bears, 5 panthers & one wild cat.

Fred Bair

Jan. 14 - 1905

- U.S. to Fred Bair - N.E. of N.E. 1/4 &
- Sec 13 - 7 N - 3 E
- Lot 2 of sec 18 - 7 N - 4 E

Don't know

Don't know of Redwood creek

# FROM BUCKSKIN TO TEAMBELLS

as told by  
John Snider

John Snider, eighty-six years young, tells of life in pioneer days while growing up at Laytonville and of his adventures in other parts of northern California, Oregon and Idaho. . . of how folks felt about some of the amazing inventions of this period. During his long and varied career, he was a cowboy, teamster, stage driver, road builder, rancher, woodsman and for several years worked for the Mendocino County Road Maintenance Department. He is now retired and living in Ukiah, California.

Vera Snider Teague,  
Author

Illustrations by Don Raphael Madden

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## FROM BUCKSKIN TO TEAMBELLS

### Chapter 26

#### BAER'S RANCH

Late in 1914 we heard there was to be a road built from the Baer's Resort to Hoopa. We inquired into it and after the bids had been approved we took a sub-contract from Pollen and Green. Our contract called for a strip of road 12 feet wide and one-and-one-half miles long built to the contractor's specifications.

Abe Gordon, a fellow we knew, wanted to work with us building the road. Dad and I decided to let him try it for we could use an extra hand. Since we had to wait for favorable weather in the spring before we could begin the project, Abe and I went out to the location to see if we could fix up some kind of place to stay before time for the family to move out there.

In this project we were fortunate. We received permission to fix up our camp at a suitable place about where our roadbuilding would begin. We built a barn of fir poles and shingles large enough to stable most of our horses and where we could store some hay and grain. There was a small brook fed by a year-round spring. We were given leave to tear down an old cabin and use the lumber to build another one which we placed not far from the barn. We used sleds to transport the materials. There was only enough to make a one-room cabin but it was large enough for a place to cook and eat and Mother, Dad and Vera could sleep in it. To build a bunk room for the rest of us we cut down fir logs from the hill nearby and built a log addition, butting it against one side of the lumber cabin. We built bunks inside. By the time we had this ready it was time to get our supplies and prepare to start work.

The Baer's Ranch was located about thirty-three miles from Corbel. Its acreage was considerable which not only consisted of extensive timber holdings, but pasture and rangelands. The buildings were nestled in a small, narrow valley bordering Redwood Creek, which was a stream large enough to be called a river. The large, comfortable ranch house made of natural redwood had wide shaded verandas. Since the Baer family had chosen to live elsewhere, this ranch was now used as a summer resort. Through the pleasant months of the year, paying guests could enjoy fishing, hiking, swimming, canoeing, camping or just relaxing and enjoying the beauty of the unspoiled wilderness.

This retreat was quite sufficient unto itself. The rich growth produced almost any desired fruit, vegetable or melon. This far inland the climate was warm. Hay for the stock was grown on these lowlands. Plenty of choice meat was available from their herds. The existing road on from Korbel allowed the guests to reach their destination in comparative comfort. If any guest should desire some luxury beyond what was offered, it could quickly be obtained from Eureka, probably within two or three days.

This resort was also unique in that it had its own electric system, which was something unexpected in wilderness areas such as this. A waterwheel placed in a rushing creek allowed a dynamo to produce all the electricity this ranch could use. The dynamo and its related machinery occupied a small, neat building all to itself.

In a grove of trees by Redwood Creek was an inviting campground with picnic tables and wooden platforms for tents close to a good swimming hole.

Charley Reed was the foreman who managed the ranch and all the outdoor projects. His wife managed the resort. We found them to be a fine couple, friendly and very accommodating.

Up Redwood Creek a few miles from the resort lived a family by the name of Moon. This middle-aged couple were the proud parents of several sons, some of which were still living at home. Mr. Moon, Chinese, the only Chinese person I knew to be living in Humboldt County at that time. He still wore his hair in a long queue. His wife was Hoopa Indian woman. All the boys were quite handsome. They were also good workers.

Through the mountains, eighteen miles from Baer's Ranch was Hoopa, located in a pleasant little valley. The Trinity River and other streams provided an abundance of water. The Hoopa Indian Reservation occupied the valley and extended into the mountains well. A couple of years before, the Indians had built a wagon road from Hoopa which reached to the summit of the mountain toward the Baer's Ranch. The road about to be built was intended to connect with the road the Indians had built.

Pollen and Green had the first two-and-one-half miles of road to build, starting at Baer's Resort. Our mile-and-a-half was next. Beyond ours the Moons had one-half mile and on the other side of their strip a Swede took another half-mile contract. The remaining seven-and-one-half miles had been let to a contractor by the name of Jim Hartney.

It was late February, 1915, when Mother, Dad, Ernest and Vera moved out to our camp, which was two miles on the mountain from the resort. Ada remained in Arcata working for Dr. Fountain, boarding with the Wyatt family.

Our supplies had to be packed to the cabin or hauled by sled. We already had a small cookstove set up. The few furnishings were crude and mostly handmade. Mother was used to keeping house under most difficult circumstances. She had a knack of making the most primitive surroundings seem more comfortable and homelike and never complained.

Our nearest neighbors were those at the resort. Of course there was no school. Arrangements were made with the school in Arcata for Ada to obtain books as needed and send out for Ernest and Vera to use. When Mother could find the time, she would help with their lessons. The rest of the time it was up to them.

We arranged to get started at once on the road and to work when the weather permitted.

## FROM BUCKSKIN TO TEAMBELLS

### Chapter 27

#### BUILDING ROAD TO HOOPA

The way we had to go about building roads in those days would be considered rather hard work today. We used a road plow which weighed more than four hundred pounds. One man drove the four horses and another managed the plow. When working on a side hill, you started on the upper slope of the bank, holding the bank slope as much as possible. As you came down to the roadbed, if it was too steep for the horses, it had to be made wide enough for the horses by pick and shovel. Then you started plowing from the outside until you were all the way across the roadbed to the bank. Now you must unhitch the team from the plow and hitch them to a V-scraper. This scraper is designed to push the loosened dirt over the outside of the bank. You continue going back and forth until all the loose dirt is pushed off. Then you use the plow again, alternating from plow to scraper in this manner until the roadbed is as wide as you want it.

In some cases if you didn't have a grader available, you might use a Fresno, or scoop scraper with a two-horse team. This method was used to remove the high places in the roadbed and to fill in the low spots. For the most part we didn't use these on this job for when we were ready, a grader would be available. It would do a much better and faster job.

Of course, before you started excavating, you cut any trees that happened to be in the way and removed the stumps. If the tree had been large you might have to use dynamite. You also used dynamite on large rocks and strata of rocks. Using blasting powder is very dangerous unless you are well-trained in its usage. Dad was a good powder man so we didn't have any problems we couldn't handle.

One day when we were blasting on a rocky point, we blew out what was apparently a rattlesnake den. The snakes were all in a massive ball that must have been at least two feet through. This time of year they were still dormant. Some had been torn apart in the explosion, but a lively time was spent seeing all the rest were killed, that none might escape.

On our section of road we had a bridge to build over a small creek. There was a fir grove on the hill above our cabin. We had permission to use any of these trees that we might need. We hired two men from Eureka skilled in using a broad axe. They cut the timber needed from the fir grove, squared them with an axe and finished shaping them with a broad axe until they were as true and smooth as if they had been finished in a mill. The timbers we needed for the bridge were twenty-four feet long and 18 x 20 inches square. The sills and all the foundation on the ground were made from mountain white-oak squared and hued according to size needed.

By the time we finished our bridge the rest of our stretch was ready for grading. We rented a grader. I worked the blade and Bill Berry drove the six-horse team that pulled it. When we finished with this, our road was completed.

The Moons built their half-mile of road, twelve feet wide, with only picks, shovels and wheelbarrows. The Swede fellow had built his strip the same way, and they all did an excellent job.

During the time we were working on our road, Mother prepared a mid-morning and a mid-afternoon snack for us, such as fresh coffee, cake, pie, or perhaps freshly baked cookies or doughnuts. Sometimes she brought it to us. Other times Ernest delivered it. We really appreciated this treat for we were working many hours a day and the work was hard. We always took an hour for noon for the horses needed to eat and rest as much as we did.

Our best link with the outside world while on this job was provided by Otis Hixon, our mailman. He traveled on horseback and usually was leading at least one pack animal. He went through to Hoopa one day and came back the next, so we were able to get our mail from Korbel about three times a week.

By the time this section of the road to Hoopa was open for travel, Jim Hartney moved in men and equipment, set up camp and began to build the seven-and-one-half miles of road that he had contracted which would connect with the road at the summit. I went to see him about getting a job and he put me right to work.

## FROM BUCKSKIN TO TEAMBELLS

### Chapter 28

#### HARTNEY'S CAMP

When I first arrived to go to work for Jim Hartney, I found that Bill Berry had got a job also and was going to work with me. Mr. Hartney had us running the grader on the road he had ready. Then for a time I worked on a V-scraper. One day he asked me if I would like the job hauling the supplies. I accepted this opportunity happily. Using my own outfit I would go to Korbel one day and make the trip back the next with a load. I could make three round trips a week.

Mr. Hartney had a man and his wife cooking for the camp, but they wanted to quit. It seemed the work was too much for the fellow's wife. In addition to that she had strained her back. They were still carrying on as best they could until he could get someone to replace them. There was a crew of eighty to as many as a hundred men to cook for. The camp had more conveniences than most, yet it was primitive to say the least.

When I told the folks about the cooks wanting to quit, Mother and Dad decided they would go see Mr. Hartney and see if they could get the job. He hired them at once. He said all of us could have our board and that he would pay them \$80.00 per month for the two of them. They went back to close up the cabin, get what personal belongings they would need and took over next day.

Ernest had already been working for Hartney as water-boy but it was a little hard on him. Carrying water for that many men over the distance he had to travel on foot was not easy. So Mr. Hart said he could work with Mother and Dad helping out in the kitchen "flunkey", as he called it. He would pay him \$10.00 per month.

This camp looked like a tent city, which indeed it was, except there were no stores or saloons. A large dining area had been provided by tarpaulin stretched over poles for the roof. On the side and in the front were strips of canvas that could be fastened down to enclose the area, or when the weather was warm they could be rolled up to let the breeze through. There were three long plank tables with benches on each side. Each of these would seat perhaps thirty men. In the back there were two smaller tables. All the table surfaces were covered with oilcloth.

The rear of this tent opened into another tarpaulin structure that was used as a kitchen. Here were two large cooking ranges, a few plank shelves, a couple more tables and a large chopping block. Some planks had been nailed across and in these several large spikes had been driven to hold various large utensils. Here and there were stacks of large pots, pans, tubs, skillets and so on.

Just beyond this area was the supply tent where the surplus foods were kept. It had been provided with a wooden floor, walls and door so animals would be less likely to be able to get to the groceries and ruin them, especially during the night.

Next to this tent was another where Mother, Dad and Vera slept. Ernest shared a tent with me. The tents where the men bunked were scattered around wherever a level spot could be found or made. Some distance away was the area where the horses were kept.

Mother and Dad found this job quite different from anything they had ever done before. They soon worked out a system that made it a little easier. When Mr. Hartney saw that they were capable he allowed them to do all the ordering. They could make out lists for any supplies they needed and it would be brought on my next trip if it was obtainable.

It not only took skill but much planning and perfect timing to cook for that many men. With only two stoves, although they were large ones, there was always the problem of enough space for the large pots. The main problem was to have enough oven space to do all the baking that had to be done, for Mother had to bake all the bread. Even so, she managed to bake pies or cobblers, cakes, bread puddings, hams and such. She used at least a hundred pound sack of white flour each day and fifty pounds of graham flour. She baked both white and dark yeast bread every day. Sometimes she would serve cornbread or biscuits.

Sometime during each day when she could spare the space on the stoves she would manage to boil about fifty pounds of potatoes so they would be cool enough to peel by the time the tables had been set at night. Ernest usually peeled these with Dad helping when he could spare the time. Sometimes Vera would help. After the potatoes were peeled they were sliced and hashed by chopping in a large wooden bowl. These were then placed in a tub to be hash-browned for breakfast.

Dad and Ernest carried the water from a spring out back and kept buckets of it in reserve on a table in the kitchen, besides keeping

the hot water kettles filled for all the water for washing pots, pan dishes had to be heated on the stoves. They also kept plenty of wood and kindling in the woodboxes. Dad tried to do the lifting of the pots for they were quite heavy for Mother. Ernest and Dad did a dishes, pots and pans. As soon as the plates were dried, they were placed on the tables, as were the cups, knives and forks. Teaspoons were placed in spoonholders and spaced at intervals on the tables the salt, pepper and sugarbowls.

At night while Mother was attending to other preparations for the next morning's breakfast, Dad would slice the ham or bacon to have it ready. Each day the coffee beans for the next day were roasted and ground. These chores were time consuming and they were dead-tired and happy if they could manage to get to bed by thirty or ten o'clock.

They were up at four to get fires built and to start preparing breakfast. They let Ernest sleep until five. He took care of certain details such as putting canned milk on the tables for coffee and containers of syrup until Mother was ready to start dishing up. Dad Ernest waited on the tables.

By six o'clock breakfast was usually on the tables. Dad would go to the front of the tent and blow a blast from a horn as the stampede began. This procedure was repeated noon and evening.

Dad armed himself with a baseball bat and stood near the entrance. This was in case he had to teach a lesson in manners to some of the new ones. The ones who had been there for awhile came quietly. Most of these had certain places where they sat each time. Trouble arose only if a new one should usurp the place at the table a certain one had laid claim to. It was Dad's purpose to keep them from rushing ones back until the others were in their places, to catch them down and assure them there was plenty of food and that everyone should be provided with all he could eat. I never knew Dad to have to use the bat, but it served its purpose for none dared to risk challenging him. This method for keeping order greatly amused Jim Hartney. When he asked Dad how he came up with this solution Dad's answer amused him even more.

Dad said, "I didn't raise a lot of hogs for nothin'."

There was a saying in camp that Jim Hartney had three crews, one on the way out, one on the job, and one on the way back. Some considered him hard to work for but I never found this to be so. He expected those he hired to do the job and he would tolerate

no time wasted, but so long as one was fair with him he treated one with respect and consideration in return.

Perhaps one of the reasons for so many coming and going was due to his firm belief that every man who wanted to work should be given the opportunity to do so. So long as he had a place where he could use a man he never turned anyone down who asked him for a job. Some tried to take advantage of this and would not work. Others stayed only long enough to obtain all they could eat and get the first paycheck. Others had a great distaste for the primitive comforts the camp provided and missed the kind of life they were used to in town. The good workers stayed. So as time went on his crew became one of the best and the newcomers were fewer.

When I first became acquainted with Jim Hartney, I thought him to be a vigorous man of perhaps fifty in spite of his scant white hair and frosty brows. I was amazed when I found him to be seventy. He was of average height and build but one thought of him as a large man. Perhaps because of the force of his personality he was thought to be larger than he actually was. His face was ruddy and smooth except for squint creases at the corners of his compelling blue eyes, which could bore through a man when sizing him up. In this he was quite accurate.

He spent most of the working hours in the saddle, riding his horse from one end of the project to the other and seemed always fully aware of every development.

He expected every man to be on the job and ready to go to work precisely at seven in the morning and at one in the afternoon. Setting the example he would be mounted on his horse. With reins draped over the saddle horn, he would hold his watch in one hand and in his other hand he would hold a horn. At the moment of seven he would give a long, loud blast on the horn. Then he would throw back and bellow, with all the strength of his mighty lungs: "t-i-m-e!"

He was just as accurate at noon and quitting time at night. But one morning when he reached for his watch he found only part of the heavy gold chain. The watch was gone!

Those who were waiting with their eyes upon him knew something was wrong. Panic seemed to seize him. He searched his pockets frantically, grasped his reins, whirled his horse as if to return to his quarters, seemed to think better of it and gave a blast from the horn to get the job going. He forgot to roar that it was time but returned to his tent at a gallop.

After a futile search of his quarters he appeared at the eating quarters and told the folks what had happened. "I set a great store by that watch," he said, "and I will give a handsome reward to anyone who finds it."

In addition to his other duties, Ernest took care of Mr. Hartney's horse, cleaning out his stall, putting in fresh bedding and filling the manger with hay. He was paid extra for these chores. On this certain day it was late afternoon before he found the time to clean the stall. While doing so he saw something glint in the sunlight as he was forking out the soiled material. Immediately he thought of the watch and looked. Sure enough, it was the watch with the other part of the gold chain attached.

Excited, he cleaned it up. It was a handsome watch with fancy engraving. As far as he could tell it had not suffered any damage for it was enclosed with a hinged cover over the crystal. Ernest managed to be waiting for Hartney when he rode up to the place where he kept his horse that evening.

It was plain to see that Mr. Hartney was very happy to get his watch back. He reached in his pocket and handed Ernest a twenty dollar gold piece. Ernest did not think he should accept that much but Hartney insisted.

As we became better acquainted with him, Mr. Hartney sometimes told of his experiences prospecting for gold. He had been poor; they came until he found gold worth a fortune in the Klondike region of Alaska, he said.

After the first part of the road was finished the camp was moved deeper into the mountains. We continued to work until the project was closed down for the winter.

We went back to our cabin on the Baer's Ranch. We stocked up on supplies and prepared to spend the winter here until such time in the spring when Mr. Hartney would be able to resume his project.

## FROM BUCKSKIN TO TEAMBELLS

### Chapter 29

#### PAUL PETROPOLIS

About the time we moved back to our cabin a young fellow, Paul Petropolis, came to see us. He wanted to board and room with us. He was a good-looking, well-built man of perhaps thirty. He was Greek and spoke English enough to make himself understood but with a noticeable accent.

The folks explained to him that we did not have much to offer, and that he would have to have a bunk in the log room where Ernest and I slept. They told him our food was plain and often without much variety out here in the winter-time. However, he could not be discouraged. He said that he did not in the least mind simple living. He wanted to live with an American family so he could learn our ways and to improve his ability to speak English. He had been working with and camping with some of his own countrymen but he said that did not enable him to learn better English for they always spoke their mother tongue when together. He said he would not expect anything extra but hoped to be treated as one of the family.

Since he was happy to accept and insisted on paying more than it was worth for what little we had to offer, he came to board and room with us.

Paul was engaged in gathering various kinds of green plants; all kinds of ferns, salal branches, Oregon grape, sorrel and many others. He had a market for these in Eureka. They were used for decoration purposes. After gathering a certain amount he would sort and bale them into neat, square bales, then he wrapped each bale in burlap. When he had a certain number of bales ready, he shipped them to Eureka. Some days, he said, he made as much as \$25.00, which were good wages for those days. He worked at this when the weather would permit. During storms he was always busy with some project.

He was good-mannered and interesting. We all liked him and enjoyed having him around. He often entertained us with stories of his homeland. At such times he was sure to add that he thought America was a grand country, as though he wanted to make sure we would not think he was homesick to return to Greece. He offered to teach Greek to Ernest and Vera if in turn they would help him to speak better English.

One of the first surprises he gave us was when we learned he was a professional candy maker. When I was about to start for Kort to bring in our supplies for winter, Paul handed me quite a list of certain things he wished me to buy for him. He gave me the money to pay for all of it. He said he had already ordered certain things from Eureka that should be at Korbel by now and asked if I would pick them up for him. I was surprised to see among these things there was a five gallon can of glucose syrup.

Later after he had all the necessary supplies on hand, Moti let him use the cook stove. He turned out quite a variety of very good candies. With Paul's careful tutoring during this winter he taught Ernest to make candy. Ernest never became an expert, but he could make a few kinds that were quite good. Paul kept so many varieties of candy on hand that we soon tired of it.

With snow on the ground, Paul could not gather greenery so he busied himself with all sorts of projects. He made three rather comfortable chairs. They were rustic, for he had scant material and only the crudest of tools available. For the most part he used oak splines, which he cut green. He hewed out the parts he decided to use. He had a method he employed to bend the green oak when he wished a curve. He buried the slat in wet ashes and built a fire over it for a long time to let it steam. After a time he could bend the slat to the desired degree. He would tie it so it would keep this shape and let it dry for a time. He made rockers for one of the chairs in this manner. The other two chairs he made the backs and arms more attractive and comfortable with wickerwork. I think he used willow for this. At any rate the chairs were a novelty since we were used to benches for seats in this camp unless one sat on the side of his bunk.

Since we only had one lantern Paul made makeshift ones. He used gallon cans turned on their side with a balewire handle. On the opposite side from the bail he cut slits, like one would cut a pie, big enough to hold a tallow candle as it was thrust through these slits so it would be on the inside of the can for a couple inches. When lit the reflection from the bright tin seemed to magnify the candle flame. As the candle burned, one could shove more of it inward. We could carry one of these outside without the wind blowing out the flame. Indoors it could be hung up by the bail. He called these miner's lanterns.

I never knew Paul to complain about anything but if there was any one thing harder than another for him to bear in this wilderness living, it must have been the inconvenience one must endure in



order to take a bath. He always kept his person and his clothing exceptionally clean in spite of this. He had to carry all the water for these purposes from the spring, a distance of perhaps a hundred yards. He often took a cold bath in a zinc washtub. Sometimes he managed to take the chill off by heating some of the water in a clean, five gallon coal oil can placed close to the fire in our bunk cabin.

In the spring he came up with a new idea. He built himself a shower stall in a grove of small trees near the cabin. To insure privacy he tacked burlap over the frame he built to enclose it. He made a plank floor. On a strong platform at the proper height he placed a barrel. He could fill this barrel with water and when ready allow the water to flow into a kerosene can placed overhead in the stall. In the center of the bottom of this can he made a number of nail holes which allowed the water to spray somewhat like a shower nozzle would do. This was the first shower I had ever seen.

Every evening after his bath Paul would put more water in the barrel but not fill it up. He would also carry several five gallon cans of water and set them where they would stand in the sun all day. When he was preparing to take his shower, he poured them into the barrel. After this on the sunny days, at least, Paul had a happy time with his bath.

Instead of using a washboard he devised another method. After soaking his wash in soapy, warm water, he used a sort of plunger he had made, pumping this up and down over the wash until it was clean. He had made this device by attaching a handle to the bottom of a tin can. He got Mother to try it, but she preferred her washboard.

Paul had very white, attractive teeth and took good care of them. When he was where he could, he not only brushed after every meal but also when he arose of a morning. This seemed strange to us for in those days there were few people who brushed their teeth. At least the folks we knew did not and many folks had never owned a toothbrush. This fact must have seemed even more strange to Paul, but he always seemed ready to accept us just the way we were.

## FROM BUCKSKIN TO TEAMBELLS

### Chapter 30

#### SNOW ON THE MOUNTAINS

When Hartney closed down his camp for the winter, he decided to have a framework of logs and poles erected to keep the snow from mashing down the big cooktent. He kept a couple of men to remain there for the winter and look after things. He hired Ernest Paul to help these fellows get the preparations made, hopefully before the storms came. As it turned out, before the project was finished it started to snow. Paul and Ernest decided that they had better get to the cabin while they could. They left the rest of the job to Scott and his companion and made it back to our cabin. It was a good thing they left when they did for by the time the storm was over there were three feet of snow at our cabin. Drifts estimated from eleven to twenty feet deep were reported at the summit on the other side of Hartney's camp.

This storm, coming when it did, presented a problem very serious for us. With the haymow so small in our barn and having so little time since our return to the cabin, we did not have enough hay to last long for six horses. Fortunately we had already stocked on food to last through the winter. Dad and I talked it over and decided it would be best to take the horses to Blue Lake, rent a barn and stock up on hay. With this storm so severe we hardly knew what to expect next. The question now was with the snow this deep here at the cabin, would I be able to make it over Bald Mountain?

Paul said he would like to spend a few days in Eureka and offered to help me get through to Blue Lake with the horses. A few days he said he would come back and be there with the folks.

We put saddles on the two horses we were to ride. Then for four we put collars and harness on. We left at eight o'clock the next morning. The going was rough all the way, but when we got to Bald Mountain we fought our way through some drifts that must have been several feet deep.

To make it through these drifts we had to dismount and stamp the snow ahead of our horses. This was slow and exhausting. Even where we succeeded in packing the snow to some degree the first horses in line were inclined to plunge and panic. They would

rear on their hind feet, but their front feet plunging onto the snow helped to break the trail for the rest. This made it easier for the ones in the rear, so we used the gentler horses to help us flounder through the drifts. It took about two hours for every mile of trail. Fortunately, as we made our way to lower altitudes, the depth of the snow became shallower.

I was thankful that I knew this road so well. Snow can transform the appearance of a landscape making it difficult even for one familiar with the area to keep to the road. I knew where certain clumps of trees were in relation to the road. I also could estimate from where certain telephone poles were, or how trees were lined along the bank. From repeated association I probably employed other methods of which I was not even aware. The job at hand required all my concentration at the moment and I had no time to speculate on anything but making it over this mountain. The canyons were deep, should one stray from the road.

After what seemed a long time we were over the summit. As we dropped to a lower altitude we finally reached a point where we could mount and ride the rest of the way. We made it to Blue Lake just as it was getting dark. A journey of only 18 miles but one of the most difficult I have ever experienced.

We put the horses in a stable where they were fed and taken care of, then Paul and I, tired to the point of exhaustion, went to the hotel, had a good, hot supper, got rooms and went to bed.

Next morning Paul went on to Eureka. I found a barn and rented it and ordered two tons of hay to be shipped from Eureka. I was offered my board and room in exchange for tending bar part of the time, which I accepted. Though I didn't much care for that job, I felt it would help pay my expenses for the winter.

After I got things squared around I went to visit Ada. She said she would like to spend Christmas out at the cabin with the folks. I told her of our perilous trip over the mountain with the horses. She thought this over and still wanted to go.

"Well," I said, "if there are no more storms and if a lot of the snow has melted by then, we could make it on horseback."

Ada had never ridden much and was not enthused at the prospect of going on horseback but she still wanted very much to go.

Since conditions remained favorable, she came to Blue Lake a couple of days before Christmas. Early the next morning we prepared to start. When I saw all the stuff she wanted to take I told her we would

have to have a pack-horse. The school books she was taking for I and Vera fitted into the saddle bags with no trouble. We had a tiny bulky package she said was breakable. It was a large doll she was saving for Vera. I finally got everything tied on to her satisfaction, and we were on our way.

Knowing there is a great difference in riding an easy-gait saddle horse and a big, plodding workhorse (she was riding Abe), I suggested she dismount from time to time to stretch her legs so she would not tire as much. She did for a few times then declared she wanted to get it over with as soon as possible.

"If I should get off this awful beast one more time," she declared, "I would never have the strength or courage to get back on."

The folks were expecting us. Paul and Ernest had a variety of candies on hand. We all had one of the finest Christmases ever. She was so stiff and sore for a few days she groaned when she moved, she said it was worth it in order to be home.

All too soon the time passed and it was time for Ada and me to go back.

"If I'm as sore as I was when I got to the cabin," Ada said, "I will probably have to spend a couple of days in bed before I go to work."

She never developed a fondness for horseback riding. Perhaps this experience had something to do with it.

## McCOMBS FAMILY ON THE REDWOOD CREEK RANCH

*By Evelyn*

1937 was a banner year in the lives of the Hugh McCombs family. In June, Hugh got a job with the road maintenance crew on the Redwood Creek Ranch after four years of gold mining in the mountains above Hoopa Valley. During the deep depression that was a way to keep the wolf away from the door when no other jobs were available. Daughter June graduated with the first graduating class of Hoopa High School and started attending Humboldt State College. Wife Bess got a teaching position in a one room school at Showers Pass and had her two children, Evelyn and Jim, as students. She commuted from Redwood Creek to Showers Pass almost every weekend.

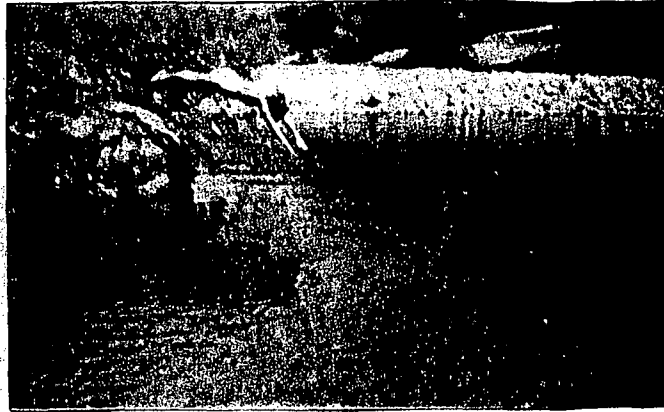
The first two weeks the family moved to Redwood Creek they had to camp in a tent until the one room rustic cabin was vacant. It rained the entire two weeks and the tent was not exactly waterproof. The camp was about a quarter of a mile north of the maintenance yard where the cabin was situated. I think the road maintenance yard was at the location where the last road crew camped when they built the last section of the road to Hoopa. There were garages in an el shape for the trucks and equipment. There was a comparatively nice house on the lower side of the road where the road foreman, Jack Crow and his wife, Matilda "Tillie", lived. The front door was level with the road and the back was supported on tall poles on the steep hillside. There was a small stream on the north side of the house and the hill was open meadow. We (Evelyn and Mrs. Crow's grandson, Don Legier, and sometimes another relative Dalee Dolson) built small waterwheels in this stream. Most of the local male residents of Redwood Creek worked on the road crew, as that was the only employment available. The men from Redwood Valley, Cookson's and Stover's, and Jess Woodhouse, who lived at the old Bunkhouse on the main ranch, and later, June's husband, Keith Severns, who lived in the house on the east sides of the road all worked on the roads with Hugh and Jack.

There was a little stream from a good spring that almost ran under the south side of the cabin. The crystal clear water was piped to Crow's house and there was a pipe and faucet outside where we got our water in a bucket. A carport (and I use that term loosely!) was on the south side of the stream and the cabin where we kept our gas washing machine and our new 1937 Chevrolet. Don Legier had even built a treehouse behind the garages when he lived there in the summer. There was no electricity, but Crow's had a telephone, the wall type with a crank to ring outside. Each residence had a unique combination of "longs and shorts" for their identification, i.e. one long and two shorts might be Crow's. However, anyone on the line could pick up the phone and listen to the conversation—and they usually did.

Mrs. Pon (or fondly called "The Old lady) and her son, Andy, lived in the big hotel. Andy had been a pianist on a cruise ship and played beautifully. We could only occasionally persuade him to play, as he would rub his hands and say they were stiff from all the ranch work. Andy wasn't married when we were there but got married shortly after we left to Bertha Johnson.

Pete (real name Pierre) lived in a house on the creek side of the road just before the cement bridge across Minor Creek, with his wife, Wilma "Tudy" Reeves Pon and their two darling girls, Judy and Carole "Punky", who was born while we lived there. Mrs. Pon had a couple of young nephews who came up from San Francisco to visit occasionally. Tudy's sister, Lois, also came from Arcata to visit. Lois and I became

good friends and we enjoyed the young boys when they came up. We swam, listened to the car radio, fished and just visited. When we had been there two years I had to board in Arcata to attend High School, so I was able to live with Tudy and Lois' parents, Bill and Marie Reeves all four years. My Mother would pick me up and leave me off on her way from Redwood Creek to Showers Pass on the weekends. In the summer, before my school started I occasionally stayed with my Dad after Mother's school started in July. I would walk down the hill from where we lived to the Creek and ride back up with my Dad in the maintenance truck. I would get to spend all afternoon swimming and enjoying the summer at Redwood Creek. There was a nice swimming hole with a rock to dive from just down the creek from the hotel.



When June and Keith got married they lived in the house on the east side of the road just before the cement bridge, as that was the main road in front of the hotel and across the bridge. The house had not been occupied for years when they moved in. They had to shovel it out and wash it with lysol to get it clean. The big fireplace was the only heat they had. Their first child, Karen, was born while they lived there and I was afraid she'd freeze to death in that cold old house. The bear would come to the back yard and get their baby chicks. My Dad was a hunter with hounds and he killed bear and panther to keep them from getting the livestock. There was a bounty on panther, \$35.00 for males and \$50.00 for females, which was a real gold mine in those days.

Jess and Barbara Woodhouse lived in the old bunkhouse where the men tending the mule teams in the early days would stay. The trail over the mountain to Hoopa and the gold mines was a steady stream of mule trains to take supplies to the mines and to the soldiers. They would carry the large pipes used in placer mining on the mules.

Once in a while we would see some wild turkeys where we lived. We didn't realize they had been "planted" there years back.

Jack Risling tells the story about when his family was going to town in their Model T Ford and got stuck when crossing Minor Creek in about 1924. There was no bridge there at that time and they had to drive through the creek. My Uncle Byron came along in his Buick and pulled them out. Uncle Byron McCombs was the Agricultural Agent for the Hoopa Indians at that time. Later, when we lived at Redwood Creek, he owned the Berry Ranch which was up Redwood Creek from the Pon Ranch. We would go over to visit Uncle Byron and Aunt Pearl almost every weekend as my Dad would help his brother with shearing, marking, or any ranch work that needed to be done.

Jack Crow got small pox in 1940 and Hugh caught them from him. They were quite ill with them and the Dr. put them in the County Hospital in the isolation ward. We could only visit my Dad through the window. He couldn't shave and looked just awful with the pox all over his face. I was afraid he wouldn't live. They were vaccinating people in Hoopa so we all went over the old road and got vaccinated, even though most of us had been vaccinated before. No one else that we knew of got small pox. Both Jack and Hugh recovered with no problems.

The mail was not delivered beyond Highway 299. There was a large wooden miniature barn-like box on stilts on the Highway where the road turned off to go to Redwood Creek. The mail was left in the open box in a canvas sack and people picked up their mail from there. If they wanted to mail a letter, they put it in another canvas sack and attached it with a clothes pin to a 2 X 4 that was extended from the mail box and the mailman would reach out and grab the sack. I don't recall anyone ever tampering with the mail.

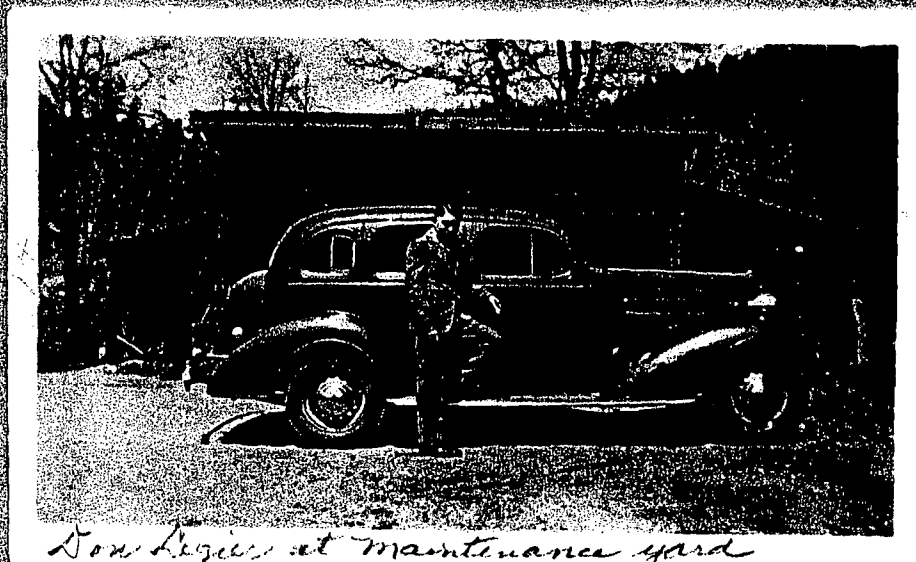
We moved from the Redwood Creek Ranch in 1941 and did not return until my Mother, June and I went back in 1997 to reminisce and look around. There was no trace of the place where we had lived in the rustic cabin. The trees had all grown up and it was hard to tell there had ever been any human occupation there. The house where June and Keith lived was in much better condition than when they lived there. It had been painted, fenced and generally fixed up. The house where Pete and Tudy lived was gone as it had been washed out in the flood. The old bunkhouse was still there, but looked much different. The main road did not go past the hotel or over the cement bridge and those landmarks were not even visible from the current main road. The old hotel looked absolutely beautiful in its restored state. Power lawnmowers and landscaping made a park-like yard of the grounds surrounding the hotel. Fifty six years can make a lot of difference!!



*Evelyn & Jim McCombs in  
front of Jack Crow house  
1939*



*Evelyn & Jim McCombs & friend at Weiner Road  
on Redwood Creek, 1939*

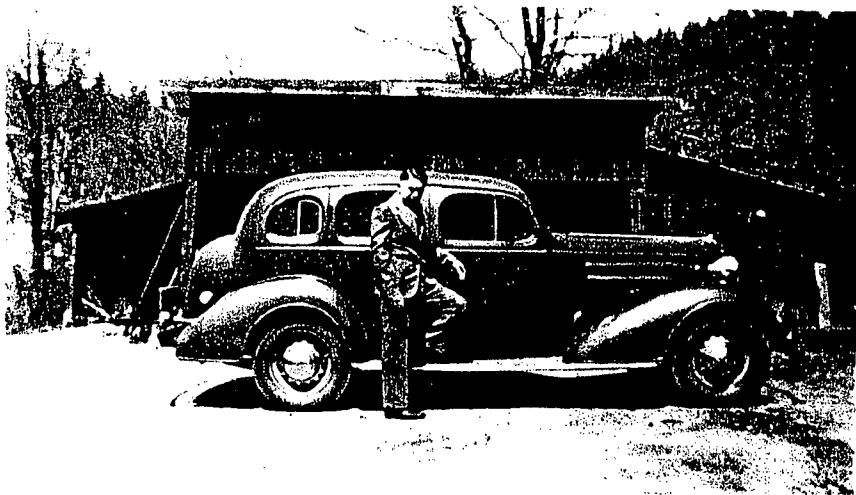


*Don Legier at maintenance yard  
Redwood Creek Ranch, 1939*



Early morning with a friend at Glenbrook  
on Redwood Creek, 1939

Early morning with a friend at  
Glenbrook on Redwood Creek, 1939



Early morning with a friend at  
Redwood Creek Ranch, 1939

I am sure the  
location we where  
we stopped is the  
correct place. Because  
the rocks on the  
left bank are  
still there and  
seen in this picture

## **SOURCES**

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**FROM BUCKSKIN TO TEAMBELLS, Vera Snider Teague**

**EVELYN MCCOMBS DEIKE FILES**

Please excuse the poor copies. I was unable to get better copies from the  
Susie Baker Fountain papers.