1969

Archives of Keepsakes Clampouts Vol. 1 Pt. 1

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ARCHIVES
OF
KEEPSAKES

CLAMPOUTS

VOLUME 1
1969-1987

BILLY HOLCOMB CHAPTER 1069
ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ORDER OF
E CLAMPUS VITUS
"E Clampus Vitus?" by Earl E. Buie
ECV Wall of Comparative Ovations postcard
L. Burr Belden
photo & biography
Ol’ Man Holcomb’s Violin ("Uncle Billy")

Billy Holcomb Chapter Instrument of Charter (copy)

"A New Chapter Called Billy Holcomb" from The Clamper

LAS FLORES RANCH
Keepsake & Clamproclamation

HOLCOMB VALLEY
Clamproclamation & newspaper article

Garner Ranch
Clamproclamation

STODDARD WELLS
Keepsake & Clamproclamation

Banning Pass
Clamproclamation

MARIA MERCED WILLIAMS DE RAINS ADOBE
Keepsake (copy), Clamproclamation, newspaper article, letter from Casa de Rancho Historical Society & pamphlet

ROMERO PASS-BRADSHAW-GRANT PASS
Keepsake & Clamproclamation

THE OWL HOTEL (Red Mountain I)
Clamproclamation, postcard & Rand District News and Miner article

HEART O’ THE HILLS
Keepsake & postcard

Widders Night at Hilton Inn, San Bernardino

WE REMEMBER BABY (New Dale)
Clamproclamation Blue Ribbon Coalition

GUS LEDERER - "Mayor of Corn Springs"
Clamproclamation & pamphlet

SILVER DOLLAR SALOON (Red Mountain II)
Clamproclamation, postcard & Silver Dollar patch

WILEY WELL (not erected)
Keepsake & Clamproclamation
TO THE LADIES OF CALICO
Keepsake, Clamproclamation & "A Humorous Calico Incident" by A. L. Hamilton

JACOB BERGMAN
directions & short history

Clamp Calendar

JACK AND IDA MITCHELL
information on Mitchell Caverns

SHAVER'S WELL
Keepsake

RED MOUNTAIN (Kelly Silver Mine)
Keepsake (copy--cover too dark) & Clamproclamation

CAMP ROCK SPRING
Keepsake (from Camp Rock Spring California by Dennis Casebier) & Clamproclamation

JUAN DIEGO FLATS
Keepsake

BELLEVILL HOLCOMB VALLEY
Keepsake & Clamproclamation

"A Brief Chronological History of the Billy Holcomb Chapter Clampouts" (10/69 - 10/79)

FRANCIS MARION "BORAX" SMITH
Keepsake & Clamproclamation

MINERVA HAMILTON HOYT
Keepsake, Clamproclamation & Program

Clampcalendar

Widders Night at Griswold Inn, Claremont

Famclamp at Bogart County Park, Cherry Valley

SITE OF RAGTOWN AND THE BUCKEYE MINING DISTRICT
Keepsake & Clamproclamation

Clampcalendar

Old Miner's Day Parade
Clamproclamation

SERRANO TANNING VATS/SITE OF THIRD SERRANO ADOBE/SITE OF FIRST HOUSE IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY/Boy Scout Marker Salvage
Keepsake & Clamproclamation

Clampcalendar

Widders Night at Griswold Inn, Claremont
5/1982  NATIONAL OLD TRAILS
      Keepsake & Clamproclamation

6/1982  RANCHO CHINO ADOBE SITE
      Keepsake & Clamproclamation
      FamClamProclamation and Dedication at Prado Regional Park

8/1982  Old Miner’s Day Parade
      postcard notice

10/1982  BLUFF LAKE STAGE STOP
      Keepsake

10/1982  OLD BEAR VALLEY DAM
      Keepsake, Clamproclamation & newspaper article

12/1982  Spooners Ranch Hoot & Hollar

1983  Spooners Ranch 15th Anniversary Celebration

5/1983  BARSTOW HARVEY HOUSE
      Keepsake, Clamproclamation, newspaper article & California Traveler article

10/1983  POCHEA INDIAN VILLAGE SITE
      Keepsake, Clamproclamation & newspaper article

5/1984  SODA SPRINGS/ZZYZX MINERAL SPRINGS
      Keepsake & Clamproclamation

6/1984  SITE OF U.S. RABBIT EXPERIMENTAL STATION
      Keepsake, Clamproclamation, Program & newspaper articles

8/1984  Spooners Ranch 15th Anniversary Celebration

10/1984  MINING TOWN OF HART
      Keepsake & Clamproclamation

1985  Clampcalendar


5/1985  WILEY WELL
      Keepsake & Clamproclamation

6/1985  TAPIA ADOBE SITE
      Keepsake (copy--cover too dark) & FamClamProclamation

10/85  IRON MOUNTAIN DIVISIONAL CAMP
      Clamproclamation & newspaper article

12/85  Billy Holcomb’s Birthday at Spooners Ranch

1986  Clampcalendar
CHIMNEY ROCK
5/1986
Keepsake (copy), Clamproclamation & newspaper article

ROBIDOUX GRIST MILL SITE
8/1986
FamClamPicnic & Dedication Proclamation at Rancho
Jurupa County Park

BLYTHE INTAKE
10/1986
Keepsake, Clamproclamation, Program & newspaper article

IBIS DIVISIONAL CAMP
5/1987
directions & short history

SAAHATPA
5/1987
Keepsake (copy), Clamproclamation, Program & newspaper article

TRANSPOLAR RECORD FLIGHT SITE
6/1987
Program, pamphlets & newspaper articles

YUCAIPA RANCHERIA
7/1987
Keepsake, Famclamproclamation & pamphlet

JENSEN–ALVARADO RANCH
10/1987
Keepsake (copy), Clamproclamation, Program & newspaper article

“A Candlelight Doin’s” for the Death Valley Scotty Colony
10/1987
Clamproclamation & photo of XNGH’s
Hello and Happy Holiday,

Thank you for sending the dishwashing detergent. It will be very useful. We are running out of it, and the store will not be open tomorrow.

Felt better now.

Best,

[Name]
A “Thank you” note from Penny and Bob Holcomb. Bob became an “Honorary Clamper” many years ago. In January 2008 Bob became a “Real Clamper” at a “Candlelight Initiation” held immediately before our celebration of the birthday of “Uncle Billy.”

postmarked 01MAR 2007

Addressed to: Noble Grand Humbug Renner, c/o Phil Holdaway (ClampArchivist)

A late but “sincere thanks” for sending us the super-nice portrait of WR Holcomb’s Great Grandfather. We are having it framed & we’ll hang it by his old shot-gun over our mantle.

Thank you again
(original signed)
Penny & Bob Holcomb

Per caritate viduaribus orphanibusque, 
sed prime viduaribus
ol' man holcomb's violin
by
W. F. STEPHEN

William Francis Holcomb (1831-1912) arrived in California in 1850, mining in northern camps, without success, before coming to Bear Valley, in the San Bernardino mountains, to find gold in a beautiful plateau which now bears his name—Holcomb Valley. As a hunter, he killed more grizzly bears than any other man in the state. He served as county assessor and county clerk, but his fiddle playing at Pioneer Society soirees brought him more fame than all other pursuits.

portrait

William Francis Stephen, called "Uncle Billy," was a native of Scotland. The reason for his immigration was a mystery, for he never told his intimate friends the whys or wherefores. That he was a well-educated man was evident from his speech and it is said he attended the University of Edinburgh.

After coming to California in the early 1870's, Uncle Billy lived in the lumber camps of northern California, before moving to San Bernardino. He was a correspondent for the San Bernardino Sun for many years and styled himself "the Bard of Strawberry Flat," where he lived alone in his cabin. In 1916 he had to come down into the valley and enter the hospital because of failing health. He died in 1918.

A member of the Pioneer Society, he enlivened many gatherings with music from his concertina, accompanied by "ol' man Holcomb's violin."

F. H.
E. Clampus Vitus?
June 12, 1968
By EARL E. BUDE

We've got a new organization in our town — well, new to us, at least.
It's a unit of E. Clampus Vitus.
And, naturally enough, you ask, "What's E. Clampus Vitus?"

Well, it's an organization of adults, all male, who when they get away from home for a session wear black hats and red shirts while they dedicate a site where history has been made in California. Its affairs are almost certainly to be distinguished with joviality.

But, more to the point, the E. Clampus Vitus chapter is an off-shoot of chapters of an organization that was formed to care for widows and orphans of miners, dating back to the Gold Rush days. Its purpose was to get them back to their homes in the East or to furnish them a place to live in California — a charitable undertaking.

At one time, E. Clampus Vitus extended from Hangtown (Placerville), Yerba Buena to San Diego. With the Gold Rush over, its membership dropped to a few hundred.

But in recent years, E. Clampus Vitus boomed again with active chapters in many sections of California, possibly because its activities gave staid business and professional men an opportunity to whoop things up a bit and accomplish something they could go home and talk about, like dedicating a plaque at Camp Cady, a one-time military post on the desert: mark Virginia Dale, a long-since forgotten gold mine, or identify Summit Valley, over the hills to the north near Los Flores Ranch where early-day cattlemen gathered.

Anyway, our chapter will be known as the Billy Holcomb unit, named for the discoverer of gold in 1860 in Holcomb Valley north of Big Bear Valley. Its membership is already 69, including former affiliates of the Los Angeles chapter, Patrix, and the San Diego-Imperial Valley chapter, the Squibab. (All of the names of chapters and officers are unusual.)

My long-time friend and associate, L. Burt Belden, retired historian of The Sun-Telegram, will be head of our chapter of E. Clampus Vitus. He will be known as the noble humbug. Assisting him will be Louis J. Homer, and William Daniels, both with odd-sounding titles like clump patriarch, etc. Almost everybody is an officer.

The executive committee (they've lots of titles) will include Superior Court Judge Henry M. Busch of Upland; former State Senators Stanford Shaw of Newberry; Jack Pepper, editor and publisher of The Desert Magazine; and Dr. Horace Parker of Temecula. They will serve until there are enough past noble humbugs to fill the chairs where do they get chairs?

The group's first campout will be held at the Los Flores Ranch in October with members of the Los Angeles unit, Patrix, participating. Next May, however, the chapter will rededicate a plaque at the site in Holcomb Valley where Billy Holcomb found gold while chasing a wounded bear. The plaque was dedicated some years ago but a motorist knocked it down.

Our town's chapter will have among its dignitaries, three superior court judges, Busch, A. D. Mitchell, Ontario, and James E. Cunningham Jr., San Bernardino; two former State Senators Shaw and Ray Gregory, along with a dozen or two others, as yet not clearly identified. Among them is Louis Ryhner, The Sun-Telegram's editorial writer.

The Billy Holcomb chapter was formally designated, however, last week at a meeting of the supreme chapter of E. Clampus Vitus, held at Murphy's, a small town in the Mother Lode country. The proposal that the new chapter be formed was before the group for a year, awaiting the supreme board's approval. It was all done according to the constitution, said Belden.

So, should you see on one of your outings into the country where California history was made by a group of men, in broad rimmed, black hats and red shirts, you might drop in to see what the gaiety is all about or, if you're the careful type, you might drive on. For that will be a campout of E. Clampus Vitus, our town's newest organization. It will do serious things in a light-hearted sort of way.

Things you should know:
Wives are helping bring the bacon home in more U.S. households. A survey of the 27 million women who hold jobs found that 59 per cent are married and living with their husbands, 22 per cent are single, and 19 per cent are widowed, divorced or separated.

America must lead the world in headaches. Anyway, we consume approximately 26 billion aspirin tablets a year.

Could you escape from a sinking car? Tests show that a car usually floats for four to eight minutes after hitting water. It fills faster if the windows are open or broken. Your best bet: Try to escape by rolling down the window while the car is still afloat.

The ambition of most Broadway showgirls is to be able to quit saving dimes and start collecting diamonds.
E CLAMPUS VITUS
An Ancient and Honorable fun-making organization of the California Gold Rush period. Revived in 1931. This wall of Comparative Ovations honors great Clampers, patron saints and the great in Western history who had the Clamper Spirit. These plaques were erected by the great California sculptor William Gordon Huff on the wall of the Old Timers Museum at Murphys, California.
L. BURR BELDEN (1898 - 1977)

ADVENTURER, SCHOLAR, WRITER, NEWSPAPERMAN, REPORTER, EDITOR OF THE SAN BERNARDINO SUN TELEGRAM, AUTHORITY ON THE HISTORY OF THE DEATH VALLEY AREA, SPEARHEADED FOUNDING OF THE BILLY HOLCOMB CHAPTER 1069 AND WAS THE FIRST NOBLE GRAND HUMBUG OF THIS CHAPTER. HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO E CLAMPUS VITUS AND CALIFORNIA HISTORY WERE MANY AND GREAT.

L. BURR BELDEN WAS BORN IN NEW YORK AT THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY. MUCH OF HIS FAMILY HAD ALREADY FOUND THEIR WAY TO NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AT THE TIME OF BURR'S BIRTH. BURR'S FAMILY TIES GO DEEP INTO CALIFORNIA HISTORY AS SOME OF HIS RELATIVES WERE AT SUTTER'S FORT WHEN GOLD WAS DISCOVERED. THE TOWN OF BELDEN, ON THE FEATHER RIVER, TAKES ITS NAME FROM BURR'S FAMILY.

BURR WAS RAISED IN UPSTATE NEW YORK AND BEGAN HIS EDUCATION AT COLGATE UNIVERSITY. WHILE AT COLGATE, BURR ENTERED THE MARINE CORPS TO FIGHT IN WWI. AFTER THE WAR, BURR CAME TO CALIFORNIA. HE COMPLETED HIS EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS IN 1921 WHEN HIS INTEREST IN SOUTHWEST HISTORY BECAME APPARENT.


BURR BELDEN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO HISTORY AND WESTERN FOLKLORE ARE NUMEROUS. HE WAS A CHARTER MEMBER AND FOUNDER OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS: SAN BERNARDINO CHAPTER OF THE WESTERNERS, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM ASSOCIATION, AND DEATH VALLEY 49ERS INC. TO NAME A FEW. HIS LOVE FOR E CLAMPUS VITUS LED HIM AND SEVERAL OTHERS TO PETITION GRAND COUNCIL FOR A NEW CHAPTER OF E CLAMPUS VITUS IN SAN BERNARDINO AND RIVERSIDE COUNTIES.

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L. Burr Belden, was a well-known San Bernardino editor, author and historian. He was the author of several books, one of which "Goodbye Death Valley" is a '49er publication. He authored other works dealing with various phases of desert history and Baja California.

A member on the editorial staff of the San Bernardino Sun-Telegram since 1920, a Marine in World War I, and a history major during his University years, he continued this interest by becoming a founder of both the San Bernardino County Historical Society and The San Bernardino County Museum Association. He was an officer in these groups. He was past President of the Conference of California Historical Societies, Vice President of the Honorable Society of Corporate Historians and a member of the Governor's California History Commission.

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During his Sun-Telegram career, Belden has held almost every position in the editorial department. Starting Oct. 1, 1920, as a part-time school correspondent while an undergraduate at the University of Redlands, Belden has been a reporter, city editor, county editor and news editor.

Belden is best known for his Sunday Sun-Telegram articles that traced the history of San Bernardino County and the many colorful and interesting people that settled and lived in it. Belden’s stories were written in entertaining and informal fashion, often giving history a sugar coating of humor or pathos.

A history major in his university days, Belden continued his study of California’s early years throughout his newspaper career. Belden’s college work was done at Colgate University and the University of Redlands. He also did advanced study at University of California at Los Angeles.

Belden is well known in Western historical circles. He was one of the founding members of the San Bernardino County Historical Society in the mid-1920s. He also was an organizer of the San Bernardino County Museum Association and has served as that organization’s vice president or board member continuously since 1953.

He is a former president of the Conference of Historical Societies and now serves as a director of the Jedediah Smith Society. In 1957 he was elected a sponsor of the California History Foundation.

In addition to his historical writings for the Sun-Telegram, Belden has contributed numerous articles to western historical and museum publications. He wrote two books on Death Valley, “Death Valley Heroine” and “Goodbye, Death Valley!” Both books deal with the ill-fated trek of 1849.

Belden’s civic contributions are countless. He has served as a member of two state commissions. He was appointed by former Gov. Edmund G. Brown to the California History Commission. Last fall he was named by Gov. Ronald Reagan as special representative from this area on the California Bicentennial Commission.

He served for 12 years as a trustee of the San Bernardino Free Public Library and was president of the board for six years. He was first appointed by Mayor James E. Cunningham, then reappointed by Mayors George C. Blair and Raymond H. Gregory. In 1958 Belden was awarded the “outstanding trustee” plaque of the California Library Association.

He has served as a director of the San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce and the Roads to Romance Associations. He was president of the Death Valley 49ers in 1957 and continues to help plan the annual Death Valley Encampment of that organization.

He was an early president of the San Bernardino Kiwanis Club and a charter member of the Calvary Baptist Church of San Bernardino.

A veteran of two wars, Belden served in the Marine Corps while still in his teens during World War I. In World War II, he was one of the organizers of the California Guard and served on active duty as commander of the 311th Infantry, holding the rank of colonel.

In 1947, Belden was one of three men sent to Washington, D.C., at the time what is now Norton Air Force Base was scheduled to be closed. An additional $200 million appropriation was obtained from Congress, resulting in retention of the facility.

Belden has been active in veterans’ and patriotic societies for many years. In the American Legion, he served as commander of San Bernardino Post 14, the county council and the district, as well as vice commander of the state organization.

He also was state and national commander of the United Veterans of the Republic.

One of Belden’s hobbies is growing camellias. He has imported several oriental species not before grown in the United States and has made trial planting for tests of climatic hardiness.

Belden and his wife, Syble Lyles Belden, reside at 1235 W. 27th St. He has two sons by a former marriage, William F., a dairy owner in Northern California, and Walter Burr, an educator and student of international law, residing in San Rafael. He has four grandchildren.

Belden now is working on and hopes to complete this spring the first volume of a history of San Bernardino County, based in part on the historical pages he has written for The Sun-Telegram. He also has other books due out this year and next through several publishers. All the books are centered on the history of the Southwestern U.S.
Burr Belden was born April 26, 1898, in Unadilla, Oswego Co., New York, the son of Frank Orson Belden and Mary Lillian (Burr) Belden. (Although he was christened "Lawrence Burr Belden", he steadfastly shunned his first name and went exclusively by the name of "Burr" from childhood throughout his lifetime). Frank Belden was a minister and a graduate of Colgate University. Lillian Belden was a school teacher and a graduate of Wellesley College.

Burr Belden attended public schools in his hometown and was sent to Cook Academy, the Preparatory School for Colgate University, for his high school equivalency. He then attended Colgate, majoring in history, but left in 1918 to enter the military service as a Marine in World War I. He received his discharge in San Diego and, since his parents had moved there during the war, he stayed in California and soon entered the University of Redlands from which he was graduated in June of 1921 with a B.S. in History, and took postgraduate work at U.C.L.A. during a couple of summers.

Mr. Belden joined the staff of the San Bernardino "Sun-Telegram" Newspaper while still an undergraduate at the University of Redlands. He was the paper's Redlands Bureau Chief for two years, coming to San Bernardino as a reporter in 1922. At the University of Redlands he met Grace Louise Davis. They were married in 1923, and had two sons; William and Walter. Burr Belden and Grace were divorced in 1953 and soon thereafter he married Syble Lyles who died in 1974.

With the San Bernardino "Sun-Telegram", Mr. Belden became the City Editor, County Editor, and News Editor before accepting the position as the newspaper's Historian. He began his fascinating weekly series of local historical articles in 1951 which continued for fourteen years. Some of his historical articles covered the Great Floods of 1862, 1867, 1914, 1916, 1938 and others, and such matters as the old artesian wells of San Bernardino, water rights conflicts, early water conservation, etc. He also authored five books about Death Valley, a book on travel in Baja California and numerous other booklets and brochures on the history of other parts of the Southland - some of which have since become collectors' items.

Mr. Belden served as Commander of the San Bernardino Legion Post No. 14 and was County and District Counsel for the Legion and State Vice-Commander. He was both State and National Commander of the United Veterans of the Republic. He was also an early advocate of proposals to build a veterans hospital in the San Bernardino area. These efforts, beginning more than a half century ago, have culminated in the new Jerry L. Pettis VA Hospital now under construction in Loma Linda.

Mr. Belden also played a part in saving Norton Air Force Base, which was scheduled for dismantlement after World War II. He and two other Inland Empire spokesmen traveled to Washington, D. C. in 1947 and were successful in convincing Congress to appropriate $200 million to keep the base going.

- 29 -
Mr. Belden was a past president of the Death Valley 49ers, the San Bernardino Corral of Westerners, the San Bernardino Library Board of Trustees, and the San Bernardino Kiwanis and helped found the Billy Holcomb Chapter of E Clampus Vitus. He was also a charter member of Calvary Baptist Church of San Bernardino. He was a Director of the San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce and the Roads to Romance Association, and was a sponsor of the California Historical Foundation. He was also a member of the California Historical Foundation. He was also a member of the "Custer Battlefield Associates" and the "Baja de los Californias".

In 1958 Mr. Belden received a plaque from the California Library Association as its outstanding trustee and the following year received a commendation from the California State Senate for his efforts toward preserving the history of the Inland Empire.

Mr. Belden was appointed to the California History Commission by Gov. Edmund G. Brown and to the California Bicentennial Celebration Commission by Gov. Ronald Reagan. He was State President of the Conference of California Historical Societies and First Vice President of the Honorable Society of Corporate Historians. In recent years he donated 500 historical books from his private collection to the California State Library.

During a 48-year career with the San Bernardino Sun-Telegram, Mr. Belden was honored by two California Governors and the California State Senate. He was a founder of the San Bernardino County Historical Society and County Museum, American Legion Post No. 14 and the Death Valley 49ers. An avid traveler, he took part in every encampment of the Death Valley 49ers from its foundation in 1949 until 1976, when the encampment was dedicated to him. He also made about 28 trips to Baja California, the first in 1920. His book on Baja has been considered one of the best of its kind. When the third edition appeared in 1968, Sanborn's Highway Bulletin advised its readers: "If you are seriously considering making the trek to LaPaz, we suggest you consult the Number One authority on motor travel in Baja, Burr Belden". In addition to his travels and history interests, Mr. Belden's hobbies were growing camellias, roses and palm trees, stamp collecting and Western art.

Mr. Belden died at a San Bernardino hospital on February 18, 1977. He is survived by his two sons, William, of Tonopah, Nevada, and Walter, of Sausalito, California.; a sister, Marian Morrison of San Diego, four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

March, 1977
L. BURR BELDEN
... one career ends
The Grand Council
of Venerable Clampatriarchs
of the
Ancient and Honorable Order of
E Clampus Vitus, Inc.

INSTRUMENT OF CHARTER

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: We, the Grand Council of Venerable Clampatriarchs of the
Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus, assembled in convivio at the Hall of Com-
parative Ovations,
Do hereby give, grant and extend unto our omniscient and ubiquitous brothers plenary powers to
bring forth a Chapter of this convivial fraternity situate in that portion of the terrestrial sphere known
as San Bernardino & Riverside Counties
of the great and sovereign State of California, said Chapter to be known and designated as:

Billy Holcomb Chapter

where the Staff of Relief may pass freely, in accordance with tradition.

Witness our hands and the Great Seal of our Order this 4th day of October , in the year
of the present era 1974, and of our Ancient and Honorable Order, the 5974.

[Signatures]

[Seal]

http://billyholcomb.com/chapter_charter_aJPG
Estanislao Chapter Near Stevinson Sat., Oct. 11th

Bus Transportation From Modesto To Clampsite Will Be Available For Red Shirts

SNOWSHOE THOMSON CHAPTER No. 1827 TO HOLD C. P. RAILROAD DEDICATION AT WADSWORTH, NEV. — SAT., OCTOBER 18

Under the guidance of a new set of officers with John Riggs as Noble Grand Humbug; Frank Johnson as Grand Noble Recorder; Donald Old as Gold Dust Receiver and X-NGH Bill Schefick, Clampatriarch, Snowshoe Thomson Chapter will stage a “come back” and their first event will take place on October 18 with a dedication of the Central Pacific Railroad Golden Spike Centennial at Wadsworth, Nevada near the Former Triangle Ranch. The date set is Saturday October 18th and all Clampers are invited to attend.

As a special feature every Clamper and PBC registered will be presented a souvenir Gold Spike tie tac.

X-NGH Tiny Trammel and his brother Pee Wee Trammel helping their brother Dwight to see the other side of the hill.

Noble Grand Humbug John Riggs who has lived in Wadsworth most of his life. Don’t miss it.

At 2:00 p.m. NGH Riggs will enlighten PBCs at the Hall of Comparative Ovations followed by Slippery Gulch with Walt MacKenzie pouring then the Clampchef Miguel Ribera will dish up a gastronomical repast to send bicarb stocks to a new high.

Advance reservations may be sent to Snowshoe Thomson Chapter, P. O. Box 3102, Reno, Nevada 89505 and the cost is Clampers $7.00 and PBCs $15.00. Plan on helping Snowshoe get back in business by attending this Railroad Dedication.
Cactus Jack Jeffrey of Squibob Shoots Down TV Bad Guys Prison Myths

ADOBE AND IRON
The Story of the Arizona Territorial Prison

Every red blooded kid and lots of grown-ups who are addicted to the great and glorious westerns on the silver screen and the idiot tube always hoped the bad guy would be sent off to the Arizona Territorial Prison at Yuma — it being the hell hole of the western frontier. It being the only place where the bad guy was destined to spend his last days for the crimes he had committed. And the poor fellow who wasn't guilty but had been sent there returning to his ranch in such a condition that he could hardly walk, caused us addicts to shed a tear for the bum.

Now all this has been going on until this fellow John Mason Jeffrey better known as Cactus Jack to his Clamper friends along with his Clampwidow researched the Territorial Prison records from its 15 felons who first entered the prison in 1876 until its abandonment 34 years later and have produced a book that tells the true story, and indeed it is a very interesting story of what happened to the bad guys who lived in what was known at one time as the Country Club on the banks of the Colorado River. They even tell about the bad girls" who also took up residence in the prison. The many photographs of the prison are very well produced and this gem of western history can be yours for the small sum of $1.95 for a paper back or $5.95 for a cloth bound copy, plus five per cent sales tax. A book that will add greatly to anyones library.

Send your orders to Prospect Avenue Press — P. O. Box 2263, La Jolla, Calif.

FIRE DESTROYS 2 TUOLUMNE COUNTY LANDMARKS

Groveland — Two of the Mother Lode's most famous landmarks — the cabin of Bret Harte and Hangmans Tree — have been destroyed by fire that also consumed eight other buildings and charred 4 acres along Highway 120 a mile east of Groveland.

The fire started in grass near the historic cabin — caused by careless burning — and spread across the highway to destroy the famous tree.

The man responsible has been cited for the fire, but his carelessness has destroyed something that can never be replaced — as Smokey sez — only you can prevent fires.
PETER LEBECK CHAPTER AND IT'S ROYAL BLOOD

Left to right: NGH Karl Thurber, Dr. Jsof Hardjadiparta, Col. Soemadji Clamper Bill Rea and General Soejitno Soekirno. After looking at the picture The Clamper along with all knowing Clamper's extend condolences to Bill.

NGHumbug Kaptain Karl reports:

We've now got royal blood in Lebek Chapter, no less. In August we inducted General Soejitno, Air Vice-Marshall and Deputy Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Air Force, into our Chapter along with two other members of his staff.

The General trained here in Bakersfield in 1950 as an Air Cadet, along with 59 others of his countrymen, and is now the highest ranking member of his class in his home government. A very nice person and was quite appreciative of the honor.

Bill Rea, a lokal Klamper, and long time friend of the Generals and NGH Karl Thurber did the honors at a dinner and reception held in Bakersfield in the General's honor. Bill is local Plunder Graft and Extortion* District manager and helped with local hospitality towards the Cadets when they were training in Bakersfield in 1949-50. You might know if it had anything to do with flying birds that NGH Kap Karl wood be mixed upin it sumhow.

The Kapt also sez ifen he and Bill ever get to Djakarta together they plan on a more formal 'initiation with PBCs and everything. It shuld be some real pickins for Pete LeB.

* Pacific Gas and Electric to you.

Editor's Mail Box...

Hi Wes, Joe and All

I've moved again. Our Air National Guard (Reno, Nevada) unit was released from active duty in Korea around June 1st. After that I lived in Reno for one month, then accepted a civilian job as a civil engineer in Greece, on the Island of Crete, in the Mediterranean. What a blast. I run up and down the little narrow streets every Friday and Saturday night "sounding the Hewgag" and chasing all the keen Widows, Orphans and American and European tourist gals. What a life! But I honestly miss the good ol' Clamper meets. It's been more than a year since I've been to one. I really miss it.

At least I can read about everything in your fine magazine. Please send the Clamper to me at:

Arnie Arzoian, Box 8
Pacific Architects & Engineers
APO New York 09291

Please down a few suds and eat an extra steak and beans for me at the next doings. Best wishes, Arnie.

Ed. note — Arnie Arzoian is the 1st Vice Noble Grand Humbug in abtee-ism of Julia C. Bulette Chapter and will take up his local duties when he finishes his gal chasing in Greece.

When In Reno Be Sure And See Clammers Marsh and Frank Fey

AT THE

LIBERTY BELLE

4250 S. Virginia - Reno
SO SORRY - OCTOBER 4 and 5 Clamppaffairs Miss Mailing Date

October being a set date, according to our second class mailing permit, the earliest we can mail is October 1st which doesn’t give much advance notice for the Chapters holding events on the Weekend of October 4 and 5. Nevertheless we will give information as best we can and hope that the various Chapters will send in follow-up stories of the event.

Platrix and Billy Holcomb
Chapters Join Together
At Las Flores Ranch

NGHumbug Dick Hoegh of Platrix
Chapter along with NGHumbug Burr
Beldon of the newly formed Billy Holcomb
Chapter reports the following
will take place at the Las Flores
Ranch Campout. The ranch is located
northwest of Big Bear Lake, Holcomb
Valley and Lake Arrowhead.

It is reported that Chow and such
will be catered and available for Fri-
day night dinner and Saturday break-
fast and lunch, each meal priced at
$2.50. The regular meal ticket covers
Saturday dinner and Sunday break-
fast.

No guns, ammo, crackers, or noth-
ing that will explode is pretty much
the established policy and that includ-
es skyrackets in this dry camp.

A guard will be at the gate leading
to the Clampsite and no tickee no git
inny unless you look up Cameljack
and buy one. Once in, keep your eye
peeled for a long red tape which is
designed to keep you out of the path
of the huge cat skinners and road run-
ners that are building one big dam at
Cedar Springs.

GNRecorder Cameljack Stoddard
informs all PBCs to be on hand in his
vicinity by noon on Saturday to re-
ceive the light of ECV.

Squibob Chapter At Ralph
Slaughter Ranch At Julian

Squibobs Clampout No. 14 informa-
tion in a jiffy—

Oct. 4 — PBC round-up, hanging, mu-
tilation, etc. Eating, lying, boozing,
anvils (?) etc.

Oct. 5 — Dedicating of plaque at the
Baily House, Julian.

The action for this Clampout will
take place at the Ralph Slaughter Rancho — about three miles north of
Julian, east of Farmers Road.

NGHumbug Max Johnson of Squi-
ob Chapter has this to say:

In 1869 a Georgia group came into
the San Diego mountains and in Nov.
found placer gold near Julian. Drury
Bailey, one of the party began a town
called “Mount Vernon” in 1870 on the
opening of the Geo. Washington Mine
but town-founder Drew Bailey insist-
ed that the settlement be renamed for
his cousin, Mike Julian, a member of
the first group of settlers. And so it
has been for almost a century. On
Block One of the townsite, Drew be-
gan a house, which he completed in
1876. It remained in the Bailey family
until 1967. In 1921, aged 77, Drew
Bailey died in the house he had built.
He was buried in the Julian Cemetery
quite near to his old home.

So on October 5th the gathered
Clampers and townfolks of Julian will
join in dedicating a new plaque at the
Bailey House to commemorate the
first hundred years of Julian’s history.

Wm. Bull Meek-Wm.
Morris Stewart Chapter
To Meet, At Malakoff

NGHumbug Tom Barry of the Wm.
Bull Meek-Wm. Morris Stewart Chap-
ter will commence their 4th Annual
Malakoff Diggins Clampout at 11:00
a.m., Saturday, October 4th at the
corner of Bank St. and Wolf Creek
in Grass Valley where a plaque will be
unveiled commemorating the im-
portant role the Chinese had in the
community during the Gold Rush era.

Following the dedication starting at
12 noon at North San Juan registra-
tion will commence followed by a
parade at 1:30 p.m.

After the parade everyone will go
out to the campsite at the Malakoff
where Initiation, Slippery Gulch, and
Clampbarbeque will take place. Also
the next morning breakfast will be
served for those still able to be about.
No guns will be permitted during
this affair.

THE SUPREME NOBLE GRAND
HUMBUG SOUNDS HEWGAG

Thomas W. Reynolds, 88, died Aug.
7, 1969 in Grass Valley, Native of
Hornitos, Calif., and a 55-year resi-
dent of Nevada City. Charter member
of William Bul Meek No. 10, joined
in 1936. He was Clampatriarch of the
Chapter for many years. Pall bearers
were six X-NGHs from No. 10.

Clamporator — “Who was braver than
Lancelot, wiser than Socrates, more truth-
ful than Washington, more honorable than
Lincoln, wittier than Mark Twain, and
more handsome than Apollo?”

Voice from the rear of the crowd —
“My wife’s first husband.”
A NEW CHAPTER CALLED BILLY HOLCOMB

With the blessing of the Grand Council and under sponsorship of the Platrix Chapter, a new Chapter has blossomed out with headquarters in San Bernardino. The Chapter will be called Billy Holcomb Chapter and its operation will be guided by the following Clampers as officers:

L. BURR BELDEN
Noble Grand Humbug
LOUIS J. HOMER
Grand Noble Recorder
2090 Muscupiabe Dr.
San Bernardino, Ca 92405
BILL DANIELS
Clampatriarch
STANFORD SHAW
Clamps Vitrix
JACK PEPPER
Roisterous Iscutrix
HENRY BUSH
Guardian of Orphans
HORACE PARKER
Protector of Widows
RON MILLER
Collector of Widows

You might wonder where the name Billy Holcomb came from — well this is the story as told by Burr Belden:

William F. Holcomb, for whom the Billy Holcomb Chapter is named, was the miner who discovered placer gold in the mountain area immediately north of Bear Valley which is officially named Holcomb Valley.

Holcome, a miner and bear hunter of note, chased a seriously wounded grizzly which, toward dusk, took refuge in a pine thicket. Unwilling to chance a hand encounter, Holcomb returned to the Bear Valley diggings where he was working. At daylight the next day, Holcomb enlisted two companions and returned to butcher the bear which he felt certain was mortally wounded. Sure enough, the grizzly was found dead in the pine thicket.

While dressing out the big bear, Holcomb from babbit picked up a handful of dirt. As it ran through his fingers, he noted a very rich gold content. Returning to camp, the trio told of Holcomb’s discovery and before the week was out, Bear Valley miners had trekked through Polique Canyon to the “Valley of Holcomb’s”. That was in the spring of 1860. Values held and within a year, there were more people in Holcomb Valley than in San Bernardino itself.

When the Civil War began the San Bernardino Valley split into “Yank” and “Secesh” factions, and the miners of Holcomb Valley joined the latter. A basic reason for their partisanship was not so much the strength of their convictions as their desire for a good fight, and a lawless element emerged which kept the sierra in a turmoil during these years.

In 1862 the miners forced an election to move the county seat up to the diggings. After all, the old Mormon town of San Bernardino was too straight laced for the “live and let live” philosophy of the miners. The issue was on the November ballot. The official minutes show the projected move lost by three votes — three votes in an entire county. The story handed down from Clamper to Clamper is that a couple of nights after the election, they counted the ballots next to a bonfire behind the courthouse. The sheriff kicked the box from Belleville No. 2 precinct into the fire. He didn’t want to move, and he knew if those miner votes were counted he would have to. They made a wonderful show of hunting for the missing box however.

The 1862 election was Holcomb Valley’s only try to get the courthouse. In another couple of years the mines were on the way downhill.

There was an active E Clampus Vitus chapter in the valley. Meetings were called at Greek George’s which served as a saloon, gambling joint, house of prostitution. Clamper meetings were not on stated dates but whenever the members thought it was time for someone to treat the gang — that was “satisfactory.”

The above was taken from the Proclamation issued by Platrix Chapter announcing the joint meeting of the Chapters.

The Clamper extends to the Billy Holcomb Chapter its best wishes for a long and successful operation in the ranks of ECV.

NOW IT IS RE-TOLD!!

“The Enigmatic Book of Vitus”

The story of how and why The Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus returned to the California scene after an eclipse of many years.

LONG OUT OF PRINT
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED
1934 – Photo-Offset Reproduction
Written by the late Clampatriarchs Carl I. Wheat, Ezra Dane, Leon Whitsell and Adam Lee Moore with an introduction to the new edition by XNGH Bob Wyckoff.

$1.50
Check or Money Order To
CLAMPER BOOK
Box 600 – Nevada City
California 95959
A Great Idea For Christmas Giving
JULIA BULETTE DID AND WILL DO

NGHumbug Don Olson leading the forces of Julia C Bulette up the main street of Virginia City to the JCB Monument where the "Angel of Peace" led the assembled Clampers in their annual "devotion" to their namesake. Following this bit of Clampldoings the Clampers moved to the Moundhouse Dedication Initiation, Slippery Gulch, Barbeque and Campout in Six Mile Canyon.

PARTICIPATION IN ADMISSION DAY PARADE

Not only will Julia Bulette Chapter participate in Nevada Admission Day Parade in Carson City on Friday, October 31, but they invite Clampers from all Chapters to join with them in this parade. The parade entry will form at a place called the Embers which is a block north of the Clamper hangout called the Music Box on Carson Street at 10:00 a.m.

CLAMPBALL TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 1st

XNGH Leo "the lover" Cervais announces that the Annual Clampball of the Chapter will be held on Saturday evening, November 1st in the Millionaires Hall atop the Old Washoe Club, which is XNGH Jack Cross watering spot in Virginia City. Starting at 8:00 p.m. the cost is only $3.00 for Clampers with Widows free. Food and Booze and Dancing till sunup is the order of the evening. You must be dressed in Clamper garb to be admitted.

A young lady was permitted by her parents to take employment in a large city and live in her own apartment. The one condition was that she would not allow gentlemen friends to visit her apartment as it would worry her mother.

During a long distance phone conversation, the daughter described her date of the previous evening to her mother.

"You didn't permit that man in your apartment, did you?" queried the nervous mother.

"Oh, no!" replied the daughter, "we went to his apartment. Let HIS mother worry."

Sasasity News

The infamous trio of bachelors has broken up when Joe went and did it. Well it finally happened. The well known, red shirted trio of bachelors of James Marshall Chapter, Deacon Dead Chicken Thomas, Snoopy Al Trotter and Bolo Tie Joe Simard met with wedding bells head on and the bells won out because on September 20th in the Methodist Church in Carson City, Nevada, Joe, who is also the circulation manager of The Clamper claimed as his bride Betty Lou Hibben, of Stockton. About eighty people from Stockton attended the ceremony which was followed by a reception at the Frontier Motel, where the people from Stockton were staying for the week-end.

Looks like his last meal

Rumbles have it that the Deacon and Al have not as yet recovered from the shock of the loss of their traveling bachelor companion.

Virtue is born of man's realization that his body can no longer cope with the rigors of vice.

Clamper

CHUCK WARREN

Stocks - Bonds - Mutual Funds
Gold, Silver and Uranium Stocks
FRANK KNOWLTON CO.
1212 Broadway – Tel. 451-8533
Oakland, California
Across the top we have James Marshall Ritualistic Team as Deacon Dick delivers the invocation — Euel Gray slicing the steaks — the Humbug with the red hat and two buddies at Slippery Gulch — Clampers feeling no pain — The Slippery Gulch Crew — Two bass horn players using a mouthpiece for a shot glass — Part of the cook crew — Rain and all a great time was had by all.

Jim Savage Chapter Savages with a PBC at J. M. Kirkwood Kampout

BODIE’S POLE LINE DEDICATION — Left: XNCH Emil W. Billeb was the last superintendent of the Bodie and Benton Railroad and the first Humbug of the Chapter. The other Clamper is Gus I. Hess a pioneer of the area. GNRecorder George DeLury reports that over 120 PBCs and Clampers attended this Bodie Chapter Dedication.
SQUIBOBERS at a dedication on May 10, 1969. The plaque reads as follows: "Rancho Los Penasquitos — First Land Grant In San Diego County to Captain Francisco Maria Ruiz — June 15, 1823 — Transferred Ownership to Francisco Maria Alvarado March 15, 1837 — Heroes of Battle of San Pasqual Camped Here December 11, 1846 — Dedicated May 10, 1969 — Squibob Chapter E Clampus Vitus.

The above photos has something to do with PETER LEBECK Chapter holding up a train bound for the Golden Sp'ke Centennial in Utah. No caption arrived with the photos so if you really want to know write to Kaptain Karl, NGH.

IN STOCKTON
For the Finest
BEVERAGES
LUNCHES

It's Clamper Gordon Wright's

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STOCKTON

LEN & EDDIES "NASHVILLE"
Clamper Leonard Schmidt
MIDWAY BETWEEN PLYMOUTH AND EL DORADO
ON HIGHWAY 49
BEER — BEACH — CABINS
a piece of Platrix has left home
Howcome Holcomb?

by Burp Belden, Fust N.G.H., Billy Holcomb Chapter, E Clampus Vitus

William Francis Holcomb, for whom the Billy Holcomb Chapter of E Clampus Vitus is named, was the miner who discovered placer gold in the mountain area immediately north of Bear Valley which is officially named Holcomb Valley.

Holcomb, a miner and bear hunter of note, chased a seriously wounded grizzly which, toward dusk, took refuge in a pine thicket. Unwilling to chance a hand encounter, Holcomb returned to the Bear Valley diggings where he was working. At daylight the next day, Holcomb enlisted two companions and returned to butcher the bear which he felt certain was mortally wounded. Sure enough, the grizzly was found dead in the pine thicket.

While dressing out the big bear, Holcomb from habit picked up a handful of soil. As it ran through his fingers, he noted a very rich gold content. Returning to camp, the trio told of Holcomb's discovery and before the week was out, Bear Valley miners had trekked through Polique Canyon to the "Valley of Holcomb's". That was in the spring of 1860. Values held and within a year, there were more people in Holcomb Valley than in San Bernardino itself.

When the Civil War began the San Bernardino Valley split into "Yank" and "Secesh" factions, and the miners of Holcomb Valley joined the latter. A basic reason for their partisanship was not so much the strength of their convictions as their desire for a good fight, and a lawless element emerged which kept the sierra in a turmoil during these years.

In 1862 the miners forced an election to move the county seat up to the diggings. After all, the old Mormon town of San Bernardino was too straight laced for the "live and let live" philosophy of the miners. The issue was on the November ballot. The official minutes show the projected move lost by three votes—three votes in an entire county. The story handed down from Clamper to Clamper is that a couple of nights after the election, they counted the ballots next to a bonfire behind the courthouse. The sheriff kicked the box from Belleville No. 2 precinct into the fire. He didn't want to move, and he knew if those miner votes were counted he would have to. They made a wonderful show of hunting for the missing box however.

The 1862 election was Holcomb Valley's only try to get the courthouse. In another couple of years the mines were on the way downhill. There was an active E Clampus Vitus chapter in the valley. Meetings were called at Greek George's which served as a saloon, gambling joint, house of prostitution. Clamper meetings were not on stated dates but whenever the members thought it was time for someone to treat the gang. That was "satisfactory".
Las Flores Ranch

written by
Grand Noble Expatriated Widder, Carol Hancock
with humble apologies to Dr. Glenn S. Dumke
and Loyal Clamper Chesney H. Carver, Jr.

It is fitting that this year’s Fall Clamptrek should take place on the fabulous Las Flores Ranch, whose lands have witnessed so many historic deeds and been integral to the history of the state. Las Flores has been known by three names during its adventurous history. During the first quarter of its existence, from the 1850’s until the 1880’s, it was known as the Dunlap Ranch. With the accession of John Burcham to the post of ranch manager, the range assumed his name and for some thirty years was called the Burcham Ranch. Finally, with the coming of the Lake Arrowhead interests in the 1920’s, the ranch was rechristened and became Las Flores — The Flowers. Its present name is appropriate for desert wildflowers bloom in profusion throughout spring months on the valley and river lands.

Located northwest of Big Bear Lake, Holcomb Valley and Lake Arrowhead, Las Flores Ranch is the gateway to the Mojave River and the Cajon Pass, as its lands served as one of the main gateways to southern California through the San Bernardino Valley. Unlike many California ranches, Las Flores never formed a part of the vast Spanish and Mexican land-grant system since its position on the desert side of the Sierra never placed it within the domain of the great crown lands.

Las Flores has been known by three names during its history but is most fittingly known as Las Flores Ranch, its present name.
accessible coastal valley acreage made it uninteresting to the Spanish dons and Mexican vaqueros.

This is not to say that the Spanish had nothing to do with the history of Las Flores Ranch. To the contrary, it is probable that the first white footsteps to traverse the area’s lands were those of the redoubtable Lieutenant Pedro Fages sent by Carlos II, King of Spain, to investigate the coast of Alta California. (You may remember that Lt. Fages figured prominently in the early history of the Hollister Ranch—site of the Spring ’69 Clampout).

The exploration of Las Flores Ranch followed the pattern typical of California history. After the Spanish soldier followed the Spanish friars. The greatest name among these was the indefatigable traveler and careful diarist, missionary and martyr, Francisco Garces. Garces was the true discoverer of Las Flores for he was first to popularize the Old Mojave Trail.

If the Spaniards opened the Old Mojave Trail to white men, it remained for Americans to bring the trail into common use. The first three Americans to cross the San Bernardino Sierra by the Mojave route are famed in the annals of the West for their enterprise and daring. Two of them were typical “mountain men” of that hardy breed that probed many miles of unknown western waters for beaver pelts. The third, while a part-time trapper, was more interested in trade and commerce. Thus the names of Jedediah Smith, Ewing Young and William Wolfskill left their indelible imprint on Las Flores lands. Smith is credited with being the first American to cross the Cajon Pass. Young is famed for the trials and hardships he endured, the trails he opened through the wilderness and the contributions he made to geographic knowledge as one of the greatest explorers of the trans-Rocky Mountain West. Initially, Wolfskill probably followed Smith’s original route across the central portion of Las Flores and is credited with later developing the Old Spanish Trail between Santa Fe and Los Angeles by opening it to annual trading caravans which brought to California blankets and woolen goods from New Mexico and took back in exchange silks from China, horses, mules, silver coin, and various articles obtained from New England hide and tallow ships.
Mormon gold-seekers and immigrants, mountain miners, traders and timber cutters brought Las Flores closer to development during the 1840's and 1850's. Intensified mountain lumbering, improvements in transportation and expansion of trade brought the valley increasing official attention during the fifties and sixties. Although commerce and peaceful development were slow in coming to Las Flores Ranch, the headwaters of the Mojave had developed an early notoriety for sinister activities. Indeed, from the middle years of Spanish occupation of California to the latter decades of the nineteenth century when the army took a hand, desert Indians proved a constant and dangerous menace to the flocks and herds and the very lives and property of the populace of the San Gabriel Mission and the rancheros and settlers of the San Bernardino Valley. Several Indian tribes played a part in the region's history including the Serrano, the Vanyume, the Cahuilla, the Paiutes and the Mojave. The Californian Indian has never been highly praised. They tended generally to live a marginal existence, poor in material possession, skimpy in cultural development and were darker and more thick-set than their Great Plains relatives. The tribe most active in mid-century depredations was the Paiute often joined by renegade whites. Expedition after expedition was conducted against these raiders, and Spanish soldiers, Mexican rancheros and American pioneers all had to be ready at any time to seize a gun and dash across Cajon to rescue herds of kidnapped horses stolen from valley ranches. The lands of Las Flores were apparently a favorite outlaw rendezvous. The Indians indiscriminately sacked and burned, looted and killed and became increasingly bolder despite military efforts on the part of Spanish and Mexican authorities. The “chaguanosos” or renegade white traders and trappers made effective, well-armed allies for the Indians and were ready for any kind of profitable adventure or speculation. They allowed nothing, however, to interfere long or seriously with their main business of stealing the superior California horses so coveted in the East and in Mexico.

The epitome of the renegade mountain-man was a hell-raising Clamper named Peg-leg Smith. Smith acquired his nickname and established an E Clampus Vitus legend when an Indian bullet shattered his leg bone. Because of his companions' squeamishness, he was forced to perform the amputation himself. No cauterization was applied and he lost a great deal of blood, but his constitutional toughness pulled him through. From that time on, he was wont to unstrap his peg-leg wielding it effectively during bar-room brawls—his favorite pastime. Peg-leg joined desert Indians and other outlaws in perpetrating the greatest raid ever attempted in the cow-counties—that of 1840. Twenty men raided the southern horse herds from San Luis Obispo southward rounding up 3000 head of prize stock and adding saddles and other valuable equipment to their loot. The enraged valley settlers gave furious chase with the result that half the herd perished of exhaustion in the desert, but the outlaws escaped across the sierra with the remainder of the herd.

The withdrawal of troops for service on eastern fronts during the Civil War led to renewed aggressions by the desert tribes. In 1867, the San Bernardino Guardian complained: “For several years past, our citizens have been greatly annoyed by roving bands of Indians who come into the valley and steal all the horses and cattle they find unguarded. Nor do they hesitate to attack stockmen and travelers, if an opportunity offers.” Normally, however, while the California Indians didn't hesitate to burn and steal, they were not known for bloodthirstiness. “The killing of even a single soldier in an Indian fight of those days,” says historian H. H. Bancroft, “was a very startling event.” It struck a new note of fear and terror, therefore, when a singular episode in the Indian annals of the Las Flores Ranch occurred in 1866. Two dozen Paiutes had camped in Victor Valley near the Mohave River and, when they heard of a sawmill being constructed in Little Bear Valley, became greatly incensed at the white man's intrusion into their mountain game lands. Whipping themselves into a warlike frenzy, they coursed the Mohave River to the West Fork where they ambushed three cowboys grazing cattle in Summit Valley. The three boys were employees of Elijah Dunlap, then owner of the ranch lands, and none was more than 17. Massacred in cold blood by the vengeful savages, the three boys were
attacked at sundown in a small draw while searching for a cow and a yearling separated from the herd. A search posse set out when their riderless horses returned with bloody saddles. The posse found the bodies stripped and savagely mutilated. Today at the Los Flores Ranch House, the brutal deed is commemorated on a granite plaque inscribed:

“NEAR THIS SPOT ON MARCH 25, 1866, EDWIN PARRISH, NEPHI BEMIS AND PRATT WHITESIDE, YOUNG COWBOYS EMPLOYED BY THIS RANCH, WERE AMBUSHED, KILLED AND MUTILATED BY PIUTE INDIANS, WHO THEN BURNED SEVERAL RANCH BUILDINGS AND FLED DOWN THE MOJAVE RIVER TO THE ROCKY NARROWS BELOW VICTORVILLE.”

Determined to finally rid themselves of the Indian menace, the stubborn mountain settlers organized an “Army of the Mojave.” The “army” comprised about sixteen men including friends and relatives of the murdered cowhands. Among their number was Billy Holcomb. The expedition accomplished its purpose; temporarily at least, there were no more Indian raids although another type of frontier violence was evidenced by the death of Simon Bemis killed by a grizzly bear not more than two miles from the spot where his brother had been murdered.

Spanish military expeditions, then vigilante parties among the rancheros, and finally United States troops were required to pacify the sierra frontier. If there were any single reason why Las Flores was settled relatively late in San Bernardino’s history, these Indian forays were the answer. Before Las Flores could be developed by ranchers, the Indians and outlaws had to be defeated. With the acquisition of California by the United States, the army interested itself in the project. Early military activities consisted solely in establishing small garrisons in the San Bernardino area to discourage Indian raids. Next came government exploratory surveys of the Cajon Pass area. Most notable among these expeditions were the Pacific railroad surveys sponsored by Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis. These investigations helped carry civilization closer to Las Flores, were effective in some cases in bringing Summit Valley to the attention of the authorities and first drew national attention to the California sierra. Many surveys were made and much misinformation was broadcast concerning the feasibility of establishing a transcontinental railroad route through the Cajon region, and it wasn’t until the late 1880’s that such a route became a reality.

Thus Las Flores Ranch lands felt the tread of Spanish soldiers and missionaries in the 1770’s; American trappers and traders in the early 1800’s; then freighters, timber cutters and miners. Until the 1870’s, the Summit Valley and Horsethief Canyon areas were the scenes of many skirmishes with hostile, marauding Indian bands and outlaws. During the 1850’s and 1860’s, cattle and horses were raised in the area based on squatter’s privileges held by E. K. Dunlap. The first legal acquisitions were by United States patent in 1868. Ranch lands were also traversed by immigrant Mormon settlers, Mormon horsethieves and finally by the less colorful but more economically welcome Santa Fe Railroad and water and resort developers.

Today, Las Flores Ranch is no longer plagued by grizzly bears, wild Indians and renegade white outlaws. Its deep winter snows have become a recreational boon rather than an occupational hazard, and it is blessed with fertile lands and abundant pasturage and water. In its most recent past, Las Flores has been an important source of beef cattle for the Los Angeles market. Although railroads and highways have made it an integral part of southern California’s economy, the ranch still gives an impression of isolation and possesses the true flavor of the cattle country. Cowboys lasso, brand, and dehorn cattle with age-old techniques, and although station wagons are useful, saddle horses are still the best way of getting around the vast ranch lands. Across the range from the active San Bernardino Valley, longhorns, brahmas, and strange calico herds from Mexico grazing on fertile acres are still a vivid memory. Indian relics are still discovered, and colorful place-names give a clue to the ranch’s adventurous past. Although the Mojave Trail is no longer the best way of entering the San Bernardino Valley and the ranch has ceased to be a refuge for sweaty, grinning “chaguanos,” Las Flores is doing its share to preserve the tone and color of the days when bills were paid with “leather dollars” and southern California was a picturesque aggregation of “cow counties.”
Las Flores Ranch
Fall Doble Clamptrek
October 3, 4 & 5 1969

San Bernardino County, California

Platrix and Billy Holcomb Chapters
E Clampus Vitus
Platrix Chapter

E CLAMPUS VITUS

Mail Sometimes Opened at 219 South San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, California 90012
or Telephone 624-0951 and See What Happens.
E.G.V. Billy Holcomb's First
May 8-9-10th
Holcomb Valley, Big Bear
Gold Fever Trail

Billy Holcomb Chapter of E.G.V. holds first Clam Track at the camp ground? in Holcomb Valley north of Big Bear Lake.

Come early Fri. night May 8th and leave Sunday if you can.

Humbug Burr Beldon has the drink tank full.

The price of this shindig is to dam high but the food will be fit to eat, and we may learn some thing on this one.

No fire arms, and no gold panning.

Burr Beldon N.G.H
Lou Homer G.N.R.

I'll be there save me a stall and some fire water
$15.00 enclosed

I can't make it here is $5.00 keep me on the list

Clampname
Address
City
Zip

Check enclosed $
Ifin you can't read this map call me. Low.
Clampers Salute Billy Holcomb

By AUREA MOON
Sun-Telegram Staff Writer

The spirit of William Francis (Billy) Holcomb must have smiled when nearly 50 members of the San Bernardino chapter of E Clampus Vitus convened at the old townsite of Belleville to rededicate Holcomb Valley.

E Clampus Vitus is an organization now aimed at "dedicating and preserving our heritages".

One of its long-time members, author-historian Burr Belden, long associated with The Sun-Telegram, opened the ceremonies. He was followed by George Kenline of the U. S. Forest Service, Fairview.

The original site of the bronze plaque at the Hitchcock Ranch, dedicated in 1955, was lost with time after, as Belden put it, a large truck made too wide a swath at the corner and wiped out the marker.

The plaque was retrieved by the Clampers, refurbished, and reset last Sunday at a more suitable position at the Belleville site. It will be fenced to preserve the marker.

It rests now in one of the most historic spots in Holcomb Valley. Nearby stands the sparse remains of a saloon which could be "Greek George"'s from which "the caterwauling kept me awake all night," wrote Billy Holcomb in a letter.

Present also at the ceremonies were members of the Bear Valley Historical Society which issued a new historical postcard bearing the portrait of Billy Holcomb in honor of the occasion.

Lee Allen, society president, presented a card to each Clamper. It was a surprise for the Clampers whose name, very loosely translated from the Latin, means "...hanging onto life and heritage."

E Clampus Vitus has 38 chapters in California, surviving from a group of men who organized in the 1800s to help the widows and orphans of men killed in the mines.

No one said whether they still perform this function but they have translated the original meaning into their mission of researching the memories, incidents, and sites of an early California heritage.

They wear red shirts, red hatbands, and are a lusty crew, headed by president Homer J. Lewis.

Author Belden is their "Grandpappy Clamper."

The oldest member, Capt. R. A. Gibson, from Laguna Beach, told about driving the first cargo with a 16-mule team from Las Vegas to Beatty, Nev., too far back for him to remember exactly when.

He said, "They always introduced me as the only surviving 20-mule team driver, but I didn't ever drive a 20-mule team, just 16."

The Clampers held a "hanging." Author Ron Miller of Ontario was strung up from the back of a beautiful convertible, called by the Clampers a "hanging modern style."

Miller survived. He wrote "Shady Ladies of the West" and "Mines of the High Desert."

The forest service in Bear Valley is making giant steps in marking and preserving the fabulous lore of Holcomb Valley, even though it is too late to save much which has been carted away or ruined by vandals.

Which reminds me, maybe I should take back the four square nails I found in the sand while waiting for the ceremonies to begin.
THIS IS NO BULL.

A CLAMPOUT WILL BE HELD ON THE GARNER RANCH EAST OF HEMET CAL.

OCT. 30-31 NOV. 1.

THIS IS THE LAST OF THE BIG RANCHES IN OUR LOCAL, AND IF YOU READ THE PAPER YOUR NOSE THIS RANCH WILL BE SUBDIDED, COME AND SEE IT AS IT IS IN THE NATURAL STATE.

SATISFACTORY?

P.B.C.'S ARE A MUST:

CONTACT LOU HOMER 3090 MUSCUBIABE DR. SAN BERNARDINO, CAL. 92405

RON MILLER 1359 W. LA DENEY DR. ONTARIO, CALIF. 91762
Follow Hi Way 74 off 395 through Hemit (East) on up the Hill and down the other side. Pass Lake Hemit, Pass Hamner Ranch 7 Mi. From lake 4 Mi. From Ranch turn off, Follow E. C. V. Signs. This is one you cant git lost on.

Sant Bernadino

to Pomona ← 60
Riverside

395

to San Go 10

Palm Bazaar

Lake Hemet

ECV 7 Mi.

Llano

FALL CLAMPTREK
Oct. 30-31 Nov. 1st

ECV
BILLY HOLCOMB
CHAPTER
TODDARD WELLS may just be holes in the ground to today's Vitusans, accustomed as they are to the works of Messrs. Culligan, Puritas, Perrier and Mulholland. But to the man who dug them, Arvin Stoddard, they were something more. Providing, as they did, the single most valuable thing to those who would survive in the Mojave Desert—water—the wells were [a] hole, in the ground, [b] a lot of work and [c] the fountain of life.

Those who know the high Mojave Desert know that it may not be as hostile an environment as the Sahara, but it comes close. Finding water isn't easy; neither is bringing it in.

Mountain, the Stoddard Hills, Stoddard Gulch, Stoddard Valley could survive. There were, to be sure, more comfortable places in the ground, [a] a lot of work and [c] the fountain of life.

Those who know the high Mojave Desert know that it may not be as hostile an environment as the Sahara, but it comes close. Finding water isn't easy; neither is bringing it in.

It's a tribute to the skill and sagacity of Arvin Stoddard that he managed to dig his wells in the right spot. He not only struck water, he struck a vein that still yields.

There are those who would wonder about the sagacity of a man who saw fit to try to establish himself in an area where only lizards, rabbits and Billy Holcomb Chapter members could survive. There were, to be sure, more comfortable places to settle down in California.

It all started when Arvin and his wife Caroline crossed the plains to Salt Lake with the Mormon party in 1847. Three years later they came to San Bernardino as part of the Mormon stockade settlers' party. Along with many others they founded the Uteih homestead they called Zion. Their efforts had been successful; they believed they had earned what he meant. She concludes that entry in her diary:

"Anyway, there was no doubt in Caroline's mind as to what he meant. She concludes that entry in her diary:... and so he was."

After the Stoddards had collected just about all of the gold in the area—about $60,000 worth—they decided to pull up stakes, deliver the gold to Brigham Young and settle down.

That $60,000 wouldn't even be wages to a miner today; six people had worked eight years for it, which brought the take to a little over a hundred dollars a month per miner. But in those days it was a considerable sum, and the Stoddards believed that their efforts had been successful, they believed they had earned the gratitude of the Church, and the right to settle down on a Utah homestead they called Zioe.

At prevailing prices that came to about 3400 ounces, or about 285 pounds—just short of the combined weight of Arvin and Caroline Stoddard. But after they had packed up and started off, somewhere near the present site of St. George, Utah, they were set...
Having arrived in the city of San Bernardino in May of 1871, Caroline Stoddard, born March 26, 1851, the first white child born in San Berdoo.

As long as we have to take note of it, we might as well point out right here that Arvin Nathaniel grew up and begat a son named Robert Sergeant Stoddard. And Robert Sergeant Stoddard begat Jack Crambolack Stoddard, who grew up to become Noble Grand Humbig of Platixex Chapter. It is through the courtesy of Crambolack that Platixex and Billy Holdomb Chapters of ECV visit his ancestral acreage, which extends beyond the environs of Stoddard Wells to embrace Stoddard Mountain, the Stoddard Hills, Stoddard Gulch, Stoddard Valley and the Great Stoddard Barrier Reef. Perhaps it would not be out of order to suggest here that we all show our gratitude for his magnanimity by not speaking to the nonelastich for a few months.

But let’s get back to our story:

After about three years in the stockade colony, Arvin—who was a devout Mormon and a good friend of Brigham Young—got a message from Brigham on behalf of the Church. Gold had been found in the Calico Hills of the Mojave Desert, and the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints wanted some. So Young assigned to Arvin the task of going to the Calico Hills and finding gold. Arvin undertook this expedition. The four kids’ thoughts are easy to read: “Hot diggety, no more school!”

After wandering around the high Mojave real estate, Arvin found a site about 20 miles north and east of the present site of Victorville. Here they built a hotel, Stoddard House, which became a very important hotel indeed. The hotel saloon was a separate structure, in deference to the Church, which frowned fiercely on booze. But this wasn’t enough for the local LDS bishop, who frequently called on Caroline to ask her to close down the saloon.

Caroline did so. That portrait of Brigham Young which hung in the lobby to the vulgar gaze of the bibulous Bishop Turner was outraged, and he descended upon Caroline again, demanding that she lock that door and close up the saloon. At this point Caroline rose to her full height, removed Brigham from the lobby wall and hung him in the saloon, and announced to bishop, bystanders and boozers that neither she nor her family was any longer connected with the Church and the ultimate triumph of Caroline over Brigham Young himself.

For in later years the Stoddards settled near Millford, Utah, which became one of the section points of the Union Pacific Railroad. Here they built a hotel, Stoddard House, which became a very important hotel indeed.

One warning about Stoddard’s Wells should be offered: six people had worked eight years for it, which brought the take to a little over a hundred dollars a month per miner. But in those days it was a considerable sum, and the Stoddards believed that their efforts had been successful; they believed they had earned the gratitude of the Church, and the right to settle down on a Utah homestead they called Zion. At prevailing prices that came to about 1400 ounces, or about 285 pounds—just short of the combined weight of Arvin and Caroline Stoddard.

But after they had packed up and started off, somewhere near the present site of St. George, Utah, they were set upon by a band of Indians and robbed of most of the gold and most of their belongings. Caroline managed to secure a few thousand dollars worth of gold in her capacious underwear [for her, a few extra bulges weren’t noticed].

But Caroline noticed something odd about these Indians: their skins were white, and they didn’t talk like Indians. From this and other evidence she deduced that they were renegade Mormons—which ultimately led to a break between her and the Church, and to the ultimate triumph of Caroline over Brigham Young himself.

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The hotel saloon was a separate structure, in deference to the Church, which frowned fiercely on booze. But this wasn’t enough for the local LDS bishop, who frequently called on Caroline to ask her to close down the saloon.

Caroline would have none of that nonsense, and finally reacted to the bishop’s exhortation by cutting a communicating door in the wall between the hotel lobby and the saloon. That was a little more than the bishop could take. In addition to Caroline’s defiance of him, it exposed a portrait of Brigham Young which hung in the lobby to the vulgar gaze of the bibulous Bishop Turner was outraged, and he descended upon Caroline again, demanding that she lock that door and close up the saloon. At this point Caroline rose to her full height, removed Brigham from the lobby wall and hung him in the saloon, and announced to bishop, bystanders and boozers that neither she nor her family was any longer connected with the Church and the ultimate triumph of Caroline over Brigham Young himself.

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Spring Clamptrek

Stoddard Wells  
April 23, 24 & 25, 1971

'Hurry'

Git ter Gold-dust in rite now

'Hurry'

'Hurry'

Camelback Stoddard N.G.H.
Easy Sloman G.N.R.
Por Platrix

Lou Homer N.G.H.
Ron Miller G.N.R.
Behaffa Billy Holcomb

Spring Fête Clamptêtre

The Hall of Comparative Ovations will be established just to windward of Stoddard Wells on April 23, 24 and 25. Bring water wings. This will be a CoClampTrek with Billy Holcomb Chapter and Platrix Chapter essaying equivalent degradation, debauchery and debility. Free booze Friday, with NGH Camelback Stoddard buying (until the wells run dry).

Camelback Stoddard N.G.H.
Easy Sloman G.N.R.
Por Platrix

Lou Homer N.G.H.
Ron Miller G.N.R.
Behaffa Billy Holcomb
Start packin yer gear & git ready to trek to Stoddard Wells, 
Burr sez he's got sum surprises fer everybody

PLATRIX & HOLCOMB IS DOIN' IT AGIN
THIS HERE ONE'S A DRY CAMP
EVEN EFFEN ITS HELD AT A WELL
THE HUMBUGS SPRINGIN' FER BOOZ FRIDAY NITE CUM EARLY AND STAY LATE
ABERCROMBIE & STODDARD - GENERAL MERCHANDISE
Available, See Dammfool
Storekeeper Chadil & His Bank uv Fast Change Artists

Return this portion with yer dough

This Clamper wouldn't miss it, here's my $15.00 for the whole thing
I just can't make it, but here's my $5.00 fer staying on the list
Patches, and all merchandise sold at the clampsite. If you wont be there, throw in an extra buck — $1.00 — and we'll send ya a patch after the trek

Clampname _____________________________
Address ______________________________

Check Enclosed $ _____________________ Note New Address □
E Clampus Vitus

PLATRIX CHAPTER, No. 2

ELMER AWL
CAPTAIN R. A. GIBSON

BURR BELDEN
HOLLING C. HOLLING

Friday Evening, July 23, 1971

No Host Social Hour
6:00 P.M.

Dinner—8:00 P.M.

Les Freres Taix
1911 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, Calif.
Billy Holcomb is doing it again at Bogart Park. Come early Friday night, October 23 and leave Sunday if you can. Humbug is springin' for the drinks! We may rename Warner Springs as Daniels Spring. Sad Sam says he has lots of patches, hat bands, bloomers and other stuff in the General Store.

Bring food for Friday. Leave your shootin' irons at home and bring yer booze—we'll perteck ya!!

To G.D.R. Lou Homer:

Count me in, here's me Gold Dust — $15.00!
I'll be there in Clamper Gulch!.................................

Gotta PBC Name of..............................................
An here's his money

Kant make it, Squaw Trubble, here's five bucks for keepin on the list fur next time..........................

(Make all checks payable to Billy Holcomb Chapter, ECV)

ME LILAKO..................................................

DOMICILLIO.................................................

CIUDAD....................................................... ZIP

Check enclosed $..............................
BESAMANOS

Del Honrado Congreso De Clamperinos Del Billy Holcomb !!!

THE INTERNATIONAL FACTOTUM OF PRIVOLITY
AND FANTASTIC FOLDEROL WILL HOLD A
FLAPJACK FANDANGO-LOCOTHEMED PARTY ON
OCTOBER 23-24 AT THE SHAKING PASS MUSEUM.

HUMBUG SEZ: "SUNDAY MORNING LECTURE WILL BE SHORT, SINCE ALL WE PLAN TO SERVE FOR BREAKFAST IS THREE CUPS OF COFFEE AND A GLASS OF PRUNE JUICE!!!"

Put October 23-24 in your calendar and plan on being with us.
MORE INFORMATION WILL COME LATER.

Bill Williams, N.C.H.
Ron Miller, G.N.R.
Cucamonga may be just an old radio joke to most people, but to those who lived and loved there, it meant much more. To Maria Merced Williams de Rains it was Heaven and Hell combined. It is for that reason that BILLY HOLCOMB wrote his Chapter E CLAMPUS VITUS, on May 21, 1972, convened in the Cucamonga Hall of Comparative Ovations to catalogue the Rains Home in remembrance of the WIDOW OF CUCAMONGA RANCHO.

It all began in September, 1856, when Don Isaac Williams died, leaving to his daughters, Maria Merced and Francisca, the entire Rancho Santa Ana del Chino, its improvements and its livestock. This fine tract of land, known for its rich soil and abundant water supply, had originally been filed as a grant by Maria's grandfather, Don Antonio Maria Lugo. Half of the rancho had been given to his son-in-law, Isaac Williams, and five or six years later he deeded the remaining half to his two granddaughters.

Only a few weeks after her father's death, Maria Merced married a southerner named John Rains, who had arrived in California around 1849. He dealt in livestock and drove sheep from New Mexico to California across the Colorado Desert, which he claimed to have crossed fifteen times. He lived at Temecula for some time, acting as Indian sub-agent and taking care of Williams' stock on shares. By the Williams will, he was made the guardian of Isaac's illegitimate children.

Rains immediately took charge of the Chino Rancho and, when the Rancho was surveyed in 1856 by the United States Government, he represented the Williams sisters in determining where the lines should be run between it and the adjoining ranchos.

Francisco Williams, the youngest daughter, married Robert S. Carlisle, another southerner. In 1859, Carlisle purchased Mrs. Rains' interest in the Chino Rancho for $25,000, and the livestock was divided between the two sisters. There were about 10,000 head of cattle, 4,000 sheep and 500 horses.

With part of the money from the sale, Rains purchased Cucamonga Rancho from the Prudhommes. He paid $8,500 for it. In order to secure clear title, he had to pay $8,000 more to Jose Valdez, who had been willing some land by the original grantee.

The old adobe fort on Red Hill was abandoned and Rains built a new home high on the banks of the arroyo, north of the vineyard. He spared no expense in building this home, which consisted of two large east and west wings to the main south frontage, with a spacious patio in the center. The bricks used for the walls were made of red clay dug from Red Hill. The roof was made of thatches covered with tar from what is now called Brea Tar Pits. With this tar, tallow was mixed. A stream gurgled through the kitchen, entering the room through a floor-level opening. Inside were the wood-burning stove and the fireplace, with a feature that insured a constant supply of hot water—two large leaden cisterns filled with hot water by the fire; a third cistern, filled by a pump, served for the kitchen.

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Twelve days after the murder, the Los Angeles Star published a short story written by Mrs. Rains, who had just arrived in California from New York. It was titled "The Ghosts of the Past," and described the experience of a young girl as she wandered through her father's old home, hearing the sounds of his voice and footsteps. She was not alone, for her protectors were the ghosts of her ancestors, who had come to, haunt her and guide her through the halls of the old adobe. The girl was overcome by fear, for she could not see the ghosts, but she knew they were there, watching over her with a watchful eye. She tried to escape, but the ghosts blocked her path, forcing her to stay and face her fears. She was eventually able to overcome her fear and leave, but the ghosts remained, watching over her and protecting her from harm. The girl was never able to forget the experience, and it haunted her for the rest of her life. The story was a popular sensation, and was reprinted in many newspapers across the country. It has since become a classic tale of the supernatural, and is still read and enjoyed by people of all ages today.

On June 6, Judge Hayes wrote to Mrs. Rains, saying: "I hear from you frequently through the kindness of Captain H. Wilkes and I have to do a arrangement about having another one here with me. It is impossible for me to sit down and write you the matter how it happened, but we are sure that money was what done it. I have a plan to do a arrangement about having another one here with me. It is impossible for me to be amongst so many thieves and murderers. I wish and hope to settle my business. I wish to clean everybody out of the place. Receive a heart filled with grief of Maria Merced Williams de Rains."
Near the Mud Springs stage station, he was brutally murdered, driving effort to conceal evidence and unsatisfying explanations contracted to the Army in Tucson disappeared enroute. Attempted arrest was not repeated.

Rancho Coco-Monga for that purpose of arresting John Rains Esquire. Mr. Rains dislikes to return to his rancho, Secessiondo."

A reporter for the Alta California referred to him as: "John Rains, a man of great wealth and public spirit... He is a gentleman of the old school."

As if to add insult to injury, a thousand head of cattle ranched in addition to the 600 head on the property. When Rains arrived at the Rancho and asked for him. It was then that an alarm was given, and Robert Carlisle started a search immediately.

On Sunday morning, the Sheriff of Los Angeles left with a large posse to join the hunt. According to the Star of November 29, 1862, on Monday or Tuesday the wagon was found in some bushes. The harness was hanging in a tree, and nearby they found Rains' blood-stained hat and overcoat. Friday, eleven days after its disappearance, Rains' body was found in a cactus patch four hundred yards from the road. He had been lassoed by his right arm, shot four times, and dragged to the spot where his body was found. The sheriff and posse were of one mind that the murder was not committed for the purpose of robbery. They believed it was clearly a premeditated plan. The lassoing showed it had been done by Californios trained in the arts and practices of stockmen.

Maria Merced was not alone for long, for Ramon Carrillo wrote to his brother in April, 1864, expressing after her cattle on the Warner Ranch, but after Rains' death he moved to Cucamonga and became her advisor.

Carrillo came from a good family. He mixed in California affairs and was with the Californios at the battle of Chino. The year before, he had fought against the Bear Flag Revolt. Around the year of 1850, he married Vicenta Sepulveda, the widow of Tomás Yorba. And her sisters, Refugia, Concepcion and Victoria, wash experienced in business, childlike and dependent on others for guidance. She was very temperamental. Testimony was given showing that she was unaware that the property was in her husband's name until after his death. Rains had spoken to Scott several times, asking him to prepare the necessary transfer papers, but he was murdered before they could be signed. There was never any question about her right to it, but much was said regarding suspicion that she was implicated in the murder.

In March, 1863, Judge Hayes, who had been heard of the suit, gave judgment in favor of Mrs. Rains. Two days later, she gave power of attorney to her brother-in-law, Robert Carlisle. He tried to clear her debt-ridden property but immediately clashed with Carrillo over his policies. Control of 5,000 head of cattle, when Civil War operations were buying large supplies of beef, was a prize worth fighting over, and Carlisle realized he was losing the battle.

Judge Hayes was defeated for his third term in 1863. He retired from the bench, and Mrs. Rains hired him as her attorney. Under his guidance, in February, 1864, she showed it had been done by Californios trained in the arts and practices of stockmen.

Financially, she was in desperate circumstances. The mortgage on her property was being foreclosed, and she had no means to meet her household expenses. Judge Hayes wrote: "She borrows money now and then, of Old Mr. William Rubottom (who lives as a rancher on Cucamonga). And her sisters, Refugia, Concepcion and Victoria, wash and prepare for the work-hands of the vineyard, and with this money she purchases things, necessary for her substance, sometimes."

Ramon Carrillo wrote to his brother in April, 1864, saying: "The person who has always persecuted me is a woman—defenseless herself—and I wish heartily that she had married the Captain. It would have been better for her pecuniary interests."

Matters at Cucamonga Rancho went from bad to worse. On November 4, Senora Rains-Carrillo wrote to Judge Hayes: "We have received the papers of the foreclosure on the mortgage on Cucamonga, so I send you the papers—by a good man. I did not send them by the stage, for I did not have confidence. Judge, I depend on you in all business. Do not discourage me if you see there is any chance to save the whole ranch, but if not, let us save a home. What would become of us if I were to lose Cucamonga with such a large family?"

What a come down for the spoiled daughter of the wealthy Isaac Williams."

ON June 6, Judge Hayes wrote to Mrs. Rains, saying, "I hear from you frequently through the kindness of Captain H. Wilkes and I have to thank him for attention and services to you, which I have not been able to render. I have been waiting for a movement of the principal creditors, for your benefit. I am aware of the plan which some have had, to involve Cucamonga so deeply in debt that they might finally divide it out amongst oneself. It is not necessary for anyone to advise me of the designs which several have against your property—to accomplish which design the better, they have not spared your reputation—that which is the most valuable thing that can belong to one of your sex. You are in infinite trouble, I know. Rarely has a woman—defenseless herself—been exposed to such injury as has been visited upon you. But, under kind Providence, you will, I doubt not, come safely out of this affliction and trial. For yourself, try to maintain your wanted cheerfulness."

On June 6, 1864, Mrs. Rains placed a $5,000 mortgage on the Cucamonga vineyard. Ten days later she married Jose Carrillo, a brother of Ramon. Judge Hayes received a letter from Captain Wilkes saying: "You might as well try to stop a mountain torrent as to turn her will when she has set it on any particular purpose."

Two days after the wedding, Judge Hayes received a letter from Mrs. Carrillo saying: "Judge, please write to me and tell me what I must do so one will have anything to say." How immature and naive was Maria Merced?

Judge Hayes had been sure she would marry Captain Wilkes June 20, Judge Hayes wrote to John Brown: "Hee this, you have heard of the marriage of Mrs. Rains to Jose Carrillo. I really thought the Captain had serious intentions, but it appears not. I wish heartily that she had married the Captain. It would have been better for her pecuniary interests."

WHAT SAYETH THE BRETHREN?
Billy Holcomb Chapter - ECV
Cordially invites you
to
RANCHO CUCAMONGA, MAY 19-21
For the purpose of Honoring
the Widow of Cucamonga,
Maria Merced Williams de Rains

THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. We gets us a dry camp this time.
2. The Humbug will adjust you on Friday nite.
3. Ya gets fed on Satiday nite and Sunday morning.
4. Bring yer own chow fer other times.
5. No Guns, Canons or Fireworks.
6. Keepsake will be presented at the Clampout.
   It'll cost extra if ya want one & don't come.

(Submit this portion with yer dough)

I gotta meet Maria, here's my $15
(It'll be $20 at the gate on the day of the treck.)

I can't go, got Squaw Trouble, here's $2
Here's an extra buck for the patch.
Here's an extra buck for the Keepsake.

I gotta PBC needs Indoctrinatin', here's his $25 for the whole thing.

CLAMPNAME________________________

ADDRESS_____________________________
SPRING CLAMPOUT  MAY 19, 20, 21, 1972
BILLY HOLCOMB CHAPTER ECV

Here is the Clampout

Gate

Highland Ave

Baseline

Rain's House

Thomas Bros Winery

Foothill

Archibald Ave

Blvd

San Bernardino Freeway

RANCHO CUCAMONGA
WHO'S GOT THE WIDOW?

Clampnotis to All Dapper Dignitaries & Moth-eaten Romeos!

BILLY HOLCOMB - E CLAMPUS VITUS

Old Lou Homer Says...

"We need PBCs. Git em ! ! !"

RANCHO CUCAMONGA

MAY 19-21, 1972

Bill Daniels, NGH

Ron Miller, GNR
Casa de Rancho Cucamonga Historical Society

Activity surrounds historic spot at 'Fiesta'

BY MARGE GROSS
Daily Report Staff Writer

A bustle of activity again surrounded the old Rains' Home in Cucamonga last Sunday when some 1,000 men, women and children visited the historic spot.

The Casa de Rancho Cucamonga Historical Society held an open house "Fiesta" on the grounds of the home. Rooms of the showplace of the 1860s were filled with furniture and mementos of the past era.

At 2 p.m., a dedication program was directed by Leonard R. Gorceyza, president of the Historical Society. Gorceyza read a letter which declared that the Casa de Rancho Cucamonga now is registered in the National Registry of Historical Places in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. The president stated that "Now we can expect help for our restoration plans from the national government, how much we don't know, but we have a foot in the door."

A plaque for the front of the home was presented by the Billy Holcomb Chapter of E. Champlin Villas. Ronald D. Miller, Upland, representing the organization, made the presentation. E. Champlin Villas is organized under the miners in the gold fields of California and is dedicated to the "preservation of widows and orphans."

The plaque actually was dedicated to the memory of Maria Merced Williams in May of 1872 but was not placed on the home until proper security was assured against vandalism.

Blake Johnson, representing Daniel D. Mikesh, San Bernardino County Supervisor, accepted the plaque from Miller and presented it to Gorceyza. The bronze plaque was then placed in place on the adobe.

Dr. Gerald A. Smith, director of museums for San Bernardino County, was introduced and he stated the Rains' Home is the second historic spot of the county in the National Register. The other place is the Calico Early Dig near Yermo.

Also presented and placed on the adobe was a "Rains' Home" sign given by the Gorceyza family. Life memberships were given to Mikesh, Douglas and Esther Bouillon Black; memberships were given to Ruth E. Emmons and Ralph and Marjorie Stange. Certificates also were given to Jim Smith and Karle Vanderus for their donations to the home. A charter membership also was given to Robert E. Wallin.

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The dedication ceremony was followed by the rest of the program. Each room held furniture of the era and displayed items such as walls, chairs and other metal pieces found in the earth around the home. Pieces of wood brick which had been part of the patio wall were sold as "a project" by children interested in preserving the historical site.

Late in the afternoon, Spanish dancers performed in the patio under the direction of Virginia Telano. Mexican food was served to some 800 persons during the afternoon.

Plans are being made to have the Rains' home open for interested persons to visit during the week. Anyone interested in joining the Casa de Rancho Cucamonga Historical Society is asked to write to P.O. Box 401, Cucamonga, 91730. The society is a chapter of the San Bernardino County Museum Association.
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A plaque for the front of the home was presented by the Billy Holcomb Chapter of E. Clampus Vitus. Ronald D. Miller of Upland, representing the organization, made the presentation. E. Clampus Vitus was organized in 1849 by miners in the gold fields of California and is dedicated to the “preservation of widows and orphans.”

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Also presented and placed on the adobe was a “Rains’ Home” sign given by the Gorczyca family. Life memberships were given to Mikesell, Douglas and Esther Boulton Black and Daniel and Peg Milliken, while charter benefactor memberships were given to Ruth E. Milliken and Ralph and Maxine Strane. Certificates also were given to Jim Smith and Karle Vanderpas for their donations to the home. A charter membership also was given posthumously to Robert A. Walls. N.d. Brandon.

Taking part in the dedication of the Rains’ Home in Cucamonga last Sunday were, from the left, Dr. Gerald A. Smith, director of museums for San Bernardino County; Leonard R. Gorczyca, president of the Casa de Rancho Cucamonga Historical Society; Esther Boulton Black, author who is writing a history of the Rains’ Home; and Ronald D. Miller, representing the Billy Holcomb Chapter of E. Clampus Vitus. The Holcomb Chapter gave the bronze plaque to the Merced Woman.

The “Fiesta” is registered in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.
The ceremony

A plaque which is dedicated to the memory of Maria Williams, who was mistress of the adobe rancho. Some women and children visited the historic site during "Fiesta" sponsored by the Historical Society. The home now stands in the National Registry of Historical Places in Washington, D.C. It is hoped funds may be secured to continue the restoration of the home.

After the ceremony, visitors roamed through the rooms, patio and yard of the old home.

The living room had pictures on the four walls showing the "cast of characters" which fulfilled the colorful history of the Casa de Rancho Cucamonga. On the table was a scrapbook of clippings about the home and the progress of its restoration undertaken by the Historical Society. The display was arranged by Mrs. Black who is writing a book on the history of the Rains' Home.

Each room held furniture of the era and displayed items such as mulls, chains and other metal pieces found in the earth around the home. Pieces of old bricks which had been part of the patio wall were sold as a project by children interested in preserving the historical site.

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Dear Ronald Miller; representing E Clampus Vitus;

The Casa de Rancho Cucamonga (Rain's House) Fiesta which was held on May 20, 1973, had an estimated attendance of 1000 people thus making it a huge success.

The Casa de Rancho Cucamonga Historical Society extends to you its appreciation for your help and support which added to the success of this undertaking. As a community project we realize that your contribution as well as interest was instrumental in the overall successful result.

The project of the Rain's House restoration is one we hope will be one your list of interests and that you will continue to participate in its forthcoming activities.

Please accept the appreciation and a well deserved "Thank You" on behalf of the Historical Society, the Board of Directors and the membership.

Cordially;

Leonard R. Gorczyca
President.

P.S. I was glad that we did have an opportunity to recognize the E Clampus Vitus plaque in a manner befitting the donation. Thanks again to the group.

Personal Regards

Leonard R. Gorczyca