

the Coast Range Mountains to Sonoma, reaching that place some time in February.

Meanwhile the first party had sailed from San Francisco on the 9th of December in the brig *Cameo*. They searched several weeks for the mysterious bay in vain, and then returned to report the harbor a myth, only to be greeted by the appearance of Gregg's party, with the assurance that the bay really did exist. The news that Trinidad Bay had been discovered spread like wildfire, and a dozen expeditions began fitting out, some of them to go by land and some by sea; some of them having members of the Gregg party with them to serve as guides, and others "going it blind" on general principles. No sooner did the *Cameo* come into port and hear the news than away she sailed again, followed by the others as rapidly as they could make ready.

Up and down the coast they sailed, meeting with numerous adventures and mishaps, but failing utterly to find the bay. Some of them returned with doleful reports of their ill success, claiming the bay to be a phantom, while others still maintained the search. The return of the unsuccessful ones did not restrain others from making the attempt. Ships sailed loaded with adventurers, some of them going on the co-operative plan, while others charged from \$50 to \$100 for passengers. In this way the *Cameo*, *Sierra Nevada*, *James R. Whiting*, *Isabel*, *Arabian*, *General Morgan*, *Hector*, *California*, *Paragon*, *Laura Virginia*, *Jacob M. Ryerson*, *Malleroy*, *Galindo* and *Palapso*, had all gone in search of the elusive bay by the 1st of April, at which time news of its final discovery reached San Francisco.

The *Cameo*, the pioneer of this fleet of prospectors, was the first to find the long sought harbor, but not to enter it. On the 16th of March, 1850, she rounded to off Trinidad heads and sent a boat's crew to examine a point that jutted out into the sea. The boat rounded the point and entered a harbor which they believed to be the one they were so desirous of finding. While they were making their explorations, the *Cameo* was compelled by the stormy weather to sail, not knowing that the harbor had been found, and thinking the men in the boat had been lost. She landed her passengers at Point St. George, some of whom were afterwards drowned in attempting to enter the mouth of Klamath River in a boat. Meanwhile the deserted boat's crew explored the bay and discovered the inscription Gregg had left upon the tree, thus demonstrating the truth of his story and the fact that they had at last found the object of their search. The inscription, carved with a jackknife, was as follows:

Lat. 41-3-32.
Barometer 29.86.
Ther. Fahr. 48 at 12 M.
Dec. 7, 1849, J. Gregg.

They were on shore eight days and were nearly starved, when the *Laura Virginia* appeared in the offing and was piloted in by the hungry explorers, being the first vessel to enter the harbor of Trinidad for nearly sixty years. The *James R. Whiting* and the *California* followed closely in the wake of the other, and cast their

anchors in the bay. On the 28th the *California* sailed for San Francisco with news that the long sought Trinidad Bay had been discovered, and the pioneer *Cameo* had been lost, as the deserted men believed her to be.

The excitement was intensified by this intelligence. A large number of vessels were at once advertised to sail for Trinidad with freight and passengers. Not only that point, but others were advertised as the place of debarkation and starting point for the mines, for it must be known that Trinidad had its rivals even at that early period of its existence. The day after the *California* sailed from Trinidad, Captain Douglass Ottinger, of the *Laura Virginia*, also sailed from the bay in search of another harbor. On the 5th of April he fell in with the schooner *General Morgan*, fitted out by Samuel Brannan and commanded by his brother John, off the mouth of Eel River. Brannan sent two boats and Ottinger one to explore the river, but the latter was swamped in the surf, and one of its occupants, Julius S. Rowan, was drowned. Ottinger then sailed north and found and entered Humboldt Bay, which he then named in honor of that renowned traveler. The Brannans explored Eel River, which they named Brannan River, a short distance from its mouth. The following day they dragged their boats across a neck of land at the foot of a high bluff, which they christened Brannan Bluff, and entered Humboldt Bay. Unaware that Ottinger had entered and named the bay but the day before, they called it Mendocino Bay, apparently forgetting to apply the name Brannan to this also. None of the names bestowed by them seem to have had any adhesive properties. This party rowed along the bay to its head, and then proceeded up the coast on foot to Trinidad, where they combined with the party headed by R. A. Parker, from the *James R. Whiting*, to lay out the city of Trinidad. Harmony prevailed until the question of a division of town lots was raised, and then there was trouble enough and to spare. Parker's company was much the smaller of the two, but demanded half of the lots, while Brannan insisted that they should be apportioned to all the men equally. The controversy ended in Brannan becoming angry, swearing considerably in his own artistic fashion, and taking his departure from the scene, and thus the only capitalist in both parties was driven away. He went to Point St. George and then to San Francisco in complete disgust. Members of his company decided to build a town near the southern end of Mendocino (Humboldt) Bay, and cut a canal through to Brannan (Eel) River, which was to be their highway to the mines. Still another party was interested in Eel River. Selim Franklin, with five companions, had been searching for Trinidad, coasting along the shore in a whale boat. Early in April, just after the Brannan party left, they came to Eel River, and in connection with a party from the schooner *Jacob M. Ryerson*, explored the river a distance of forty miles, supposing it to be the Trinity. As the mines were in the mountains, and as this stream flowed from the mountains, they at once assumed that it led direct to the mines. A town was therefore laid out, and Mr. Franklin returned to San