

# The Plaques of E Clampus Vitus: by Sublime Grand Noble Bill Wensrich

The second in a continuing series of articles prepared by Bill Wensrich.

*"If you ain't plaque'n, then you ain't Clampin'"*

Under the guidance of Carroll Pepperdine, the Chapter's third Humbug (Club President), Montague was selected to plaque. First erected in 1975, this second Humbug Chapter plaque is located in City Park along 11th Street between King and Webb Streets. Wording on the plaque's first rendition was later discovered to be in error. Seeking to correct the historical record, Pepperdine drummed up support to re-plaque the site. The new monument dedicated in 1993 was placed in a four inch concrete layer right on top of the old plaque which now serves as sort of a time

capsule. The exact wording for the first City of Montague plaque can be found at the bottom of this article.

The Yreka gold rush brought enough people to the area enabling the establishment of Siskiyou County in 1852. The famous Deadwood/Yreka county seat election resulted in Yreka becoming county seat and later principle hub of commerce for Shasta Valley.

By the early 1870s, Southern Pacific Company, part of the Central Pacific, began building their leg of the Oregon and California Railroad through the Sacramento Valley where it would eventually connect just south of Ashland, Oregon. Samuel Skerry Montague, Central Pacific's chief engineer, planned to bring the railroad to Yreka guaranteeing its continued prosperity. He

died in 1883 and the Southern Pacific subsidiary resurveyed Shasta Valley looking for a lower cost route. Citizens of Yreka were stunned when Central Pacific Railroad announced their decision to continue the rail line north

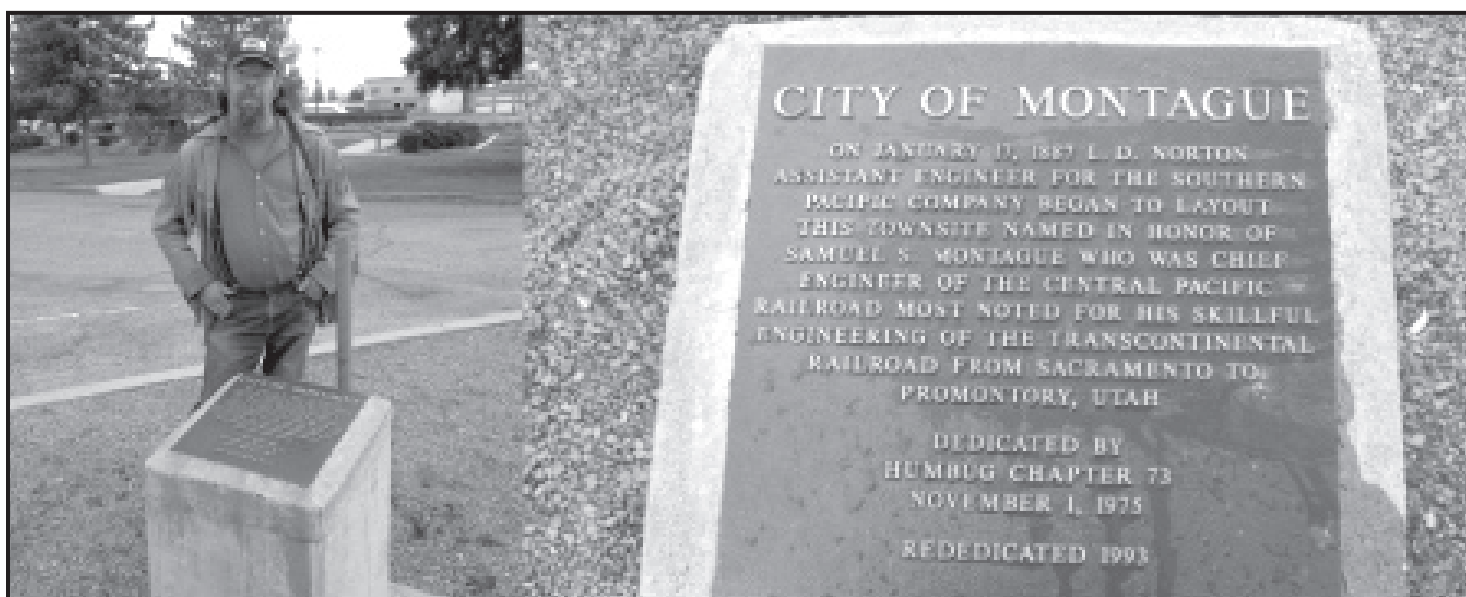
and go through what would become the City of Montague.

With the completion of the Oregon and California Railroad in 1887, Montague became the center of commerce for Shasta Valley. Not to be outdone, Yreka

quickly built their own short line to the Montague hub.

That railroad became known as the Yreka Western. Fares of four bits for a one-way trip to Montague and 75¢ for a round trip were the going rate at the time.

The plaque can be viewed in Downtown Montague. While there, visit Montague Railroad Depot Museum located at 230 - 11th Street.



James Ordway, Humbug Chapter Ex-Noble Grand Humbug

## Today in History: by The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 21, the 52nd day of 2018. There are 313 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**  
On Feb. 21, 1965, black Muslim leader and civil rights activist Malcolm X, 39, was shot to death inside Harlem's Audubon Ballroom in New York by assassins identified as members of the Nation of Islam. (Three men were convicted of murder and imprisoned; all were eventually paroled.)

**On this date:**

In 1437, James I, King of Scots, 42, was assassinated in Perth by a group of conspirators led by Walter, Earl of Atholl; his 6-year-old son succeeded him as James II.

In 1513, Pope Julius II, who commissioned Michelangelo to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, died nearly four months after the project was completed.

In 1613, Mikhail Romanov, 16, was unanimously chosen by

Russia's national assembly to be czar, beginning a dynasty that would last three centuries.

In 1885, the Washington Monument was dedicated.

In 1916, the World War I Battle of Verdun began in France as German forces attacked; the French were able to prevail after 10 months of fighting.

In 1945, during the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima, the escort carrier USS Bismarck Sea was sunk by kamikazes with the loss of 318 men.

In 1947, inventor Edwin H. Land publicly demonstrated his Polaroid Land camera, which used self-developing film to produce a black & white photograph in 60 seconds.

In 1958, the USS Gudgeon (SS-567) became the first American submarine to complete a round-the-world cruise, eight months after departing from Pearl Harbor in

Hawaii.

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon began his historic visit to China as he and his wife, Pat, arrived in Beijing.

In 1975, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former White House aides H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman were sentenced to 2 1/2 to 8 years in prison for their roles in the Watergate cover-up (each ended up serving a year and a half).

In 1986, Larry Wu-tai Chin, the first American found guilty of spying for China, killed himself in his Virginia jail cell.

In 1992, Kristi Yamaguchi (yah-mah-GOO'-chee) of the United States won the gold medal in ladies' figure skating at the Albertville Olympics; Midori Ito (mee-doh-ree ee-toh) of Japan won the silver, Nancy Kerrigan of the U.S., the bronze.

**Ten years ago:**

Serb rioters broke into the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade and set fire to an office during protests against Western support for an independent Kosovo. President George W. Bush concluded his six-day African tour in Liberia, where he offered help to lift the country from years of ruinous fighting. A Venezuelan plane crashed in the Andes, killing all 46 on board. Author Robin Moore, who wrote "The French Connection" and "The Green Berets," died in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, at age 82. Former Arizona Gov. Evan Mecham (MEE'-kuhm), who was removed in a 1988 impeachment trial, died in Phoenix at age 83.

**Five years ago:**

Drew Peterson, the Chicago-area police officer who gained notoriety after his much-younger fourth wife, Stacy Peterson, vanished in 2007, was sentenced to 38 years in prison for murdering his third wife,

Kathleen Savio.

**One year ago:**

President Donald Trump condemned recent threats against Jewish community centers in the U.S. as "painful reminders" of lingering prejudice and evil; the president also denounced "bigotry, intolerance and hatred in all of its very ugly forms" during his first visit to the new Smithsonian black history museum. Conservative writer Milo Yiannopoulos (MY'-loh yuh-NAH'-poh-lihs) resigned as an editor for Breitbart News, apologizing for comments he'd made in video clips in which he appeared to defend sexual relationships between men and boys as young as 13.

**Thought for Today:**

"In scandal, as in robbery, the receiver is always as bad as the thief." — Lord Chesterfield, English author and statesman (1694-1773).



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