

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

The third in a continuing series of articles prepared by Bill Wensrich about regional Clamper plaques.

“If you ain’t plaque’n, then you ain’t Clampin’”

Frogtown was an important location for Don “Feathers” Biss to plaque, probably because he lived there. Passing to the Golden Hills earlier this year, Biss was active in E Clampus Vitus and community events. The Frogtown historical marker was his plaque and the fourth erected by

the Siskiyou County ECV Chapter. Built the Friday before the dedication, Don was responsible for getting the rock monument completed. Others helping with the project were Don’s neighbors: Jim Ragsdale, Bill Haas, and Bill Wilson. Fifth Humbug of the Chapter, Don’s Clamper nickname, “Feathers,” derived from his auto body repair business where one “feathers” bodywork paint during repairs.

ECV plaque dedications are usually held in conjunction with what Clampers call a “Doins’,” which is a party

held where new members are taken into, or perhaps taken by, the Ancient and Honorable Order. This particular function was held on the weekend of September 10, and 11, in Hawkinsville where the Chapter used the local Community Center building. About 40-50 Redshirts attended the Doins’, and approximately 28 prospective new members were initiated over the weekend. The plaque says it was dedicated on September 3. When the Chapter had the bronze plaque cast they probably didn’t realize that was Labor

Day weekend; the dedication actually took place a week later.

Following the Yreka 1851 gold discovery, three miles of miners cabins were built along Yreka Creek from Greenhorn to Frogtown. Located down on the creek, Frogtown became a center of trade. Sometimes called Lower Town and twin city to Yreka, the area had a population of over five thousand people. Poet and author Joaquin Miller wrote about the area as a bustling place during his 1854 visit: “A tide of people poured up

and down, and across from other streets, as strong as in a town of the East. I was utterly overcome by the magnitude of the place and multitude of people.”

When the stage road was built, the town moved to higher ground and was renamed Hawkinsville in 1852 in honor of respected citizen Jacob Hawkins. Harry Laurenz Wells described Hawkinsville in his 1881 book History of Siskiyou County, California: “This little town lies two miles north of Yreka on the Oregon stage road, and is the concentration of the

little mining camps of Long gulch, Rich gulch, Canal gulch, Rocky gulch, and others in the vicinity,... and a little place called Frogtown became the center of trade for miners at that point.”

They say the original town got its name from fall rains when all the tree frogs would migrate west from the creek up the hill. Thousands of frogs can cover the road during heavy rains.

Located 1.4 miles north of Yreka’s Tebbe Street, the plaque stands on the east side of Highway 263 before the turnoff to Hawkinsville.

Today in History: by The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 7, the 66th day of 2018. There are 299 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On March 7, 1965, a march by civil rights demonstrators was violently broken up at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, by state troopers and a sheriff’s posse in what came to be known as “Bloody Sunday.”

On this date:

In 1530, Pope Clement VII threatened to excommunicate England’s King Henry VIII if he went through with plans to marry Anne Boleyn, who became Henry’s second wife after Catherine of Aragon. (The pope made good on his excommunication threat in 1533.)

In 1793, during the French Revolutionary Wars, France declared war on Spain.

In 1850, in a three-hour speech to the U.S. Senate, Daniel Webster of Massachusetts endorsed the Compromise of 1850 as a means of preserving the Union.

In 1918, Japanese corporation Panasonic had its beginnings as Konosuke Matsushita (maht-soosh-tah) founded Matsushita Electric Housewares Manufacturing Works in Osaka. The musical comedy “Oh, Look!” featuring the song “I’m

Always Chasing Rainbows” opened on Broadway.

In 1926, the first successful trans-Atlantic radio-telephone conversations took place between New York and London.

In 1936, Adolf Hitler ordered his troops to march into the Rhineland, thereby breaking the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY”) and the Locarno Pact.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. forces crossed the Rhine at Remagen, Germany, using the damaged but still usable Ludendorff Bridge.

In 1955, the first TV production of the musical “Peter Pan” starring Mary Martin aired on NBC.

In 1967, the musical “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown,” based on the “Peanuts” comic strips by Charles M. Schulz, opened in New York’s Greenwich Village, beginning an off-Broadway run of 1,597 performances.

In 1975, the U.S. Senate revised its filibuster rule, allowing 60 senators to limit debate in most cases, instead of the previously required two-thirds of senators present.

In 1981, anti-government guerrillas in Colombia executed kidnapped American Bible translator

Chester Bitterman, whom they accused of being a CIA agent.

In 1994, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that a parody that pokes fun at an original work can be considered “fair use.” (The ruling concerned a parody of the Roy Orbison song “Oh, Pretty Woman” by the rap group 2 Live Crew.)

Ten years ago: On the heels of a gloomy report that 63,000 jobs were lost in February 2008, President George W. Bush said “it’s clear our economy has slowed” as he tried to reassure an anxious public that the long-term outlook was good. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Samantha Power, who was acting as an adviser to Barack Obama, resigned after calling rival Hillary Rodham Clinton “a monster.” Leon Greenman, the only Englishman sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp, died in London at age 97.

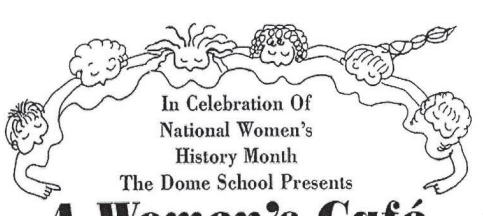
Five years ago: The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously for tough new sanctions to punish North Korea for its latest nuclear test; a furious Pyongyang threatened a nuclear strike against the United States. The Senate confirmed John Brennan to be CIA director, 63-34, after the Obama administration bowed to demands from Republicans

blocking the nomination and stated explicitly there were limits to the president’s power to use drones against U.S. terror suspects on American soil. Sybil Christopher, 83, the wife Richard Burton left in 1963 to marry Elizabeth Taylor, and who became a theater producer and nightclub founder, died in New York.

One year ago: WikiLeaks published thousands of documents described as secret files about CIA hacking tools the government employed to break into users’ computers, mobile phones and even smart TVs from companies like Apple, Google, Microsoft and Samsung. The Commerce Department reported the U.S. trade deficit jumped in January 2017 by 9.6 percent to \$48.5 billion, the highest level in nearly five years as a flood of mobile phones and other consumer products widened America’s trade gap with China. A freight train smashed into a charter bus at a rail crossing in Biloxi, Mississippi, leaving four people dead.

Today’s Birthdays: TV personality Willard Scott is 84. International Motorsports Hall of Famer Janet Guthrie is 80. Actor Daniel J. Travanti is 78. Entertainment executive Michael

Eisner is 76. Rock musician Chris White (The Zombies) is 75. Rock singer Peter Wolf is 72. Rock musician Matthew Fisher (Procol Harum) is 72. Pro Football Hall of Famer Franco Harris is 68. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Lynn Swann is 66. Rhythm-and-blues singer-musician Ernie Isley (The Isley Brothers) is 66. Rock musician Kenny Aronoff (BoDeans, John Mellencamp) is 65. Actor Bryan Cranston is 62. Actress Donna Murphy is 59. Actor Nick Searcy is 59. Golfer Tom Lehman is 59. International Tennis Hall of Famer Ivan Lendl is 58. Actress Mary Beth Evans is 57. Singer-actress Taylor Dayne is 56. Actor Bill Brochtrup is 55. Author E.L. James is 55. Author Bret Easton Ellis is 54. Opera singer Denyce Graves is 54. Comedian Wanda Sykes is 54. Actor Jonathan Del Arco is 52. Rock musician Randy Guss (Toad the Wet Sprocket) is 51. Actress Rachel Weisz (wys) is 48. Actor Peter Sarsgaard is 47. Actor Jay Duplass is 45. Classical singer Sebastien Izambard (Il Divo) is 45. Rock singer Hugo Ferreira (Tantric) is 44. Actress Jenna Fischer is 44. Actor Tobias Menzies is 44. Actress Sarayu Rao is 43. Actress Audrey Marie Anderson is 43. Actor TJ Thyne is 43.



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