

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

Berryvale Post Office
The Plaques of E Clampus Vitus--Humbug Chapter No. 73
The 10th (in typical Clamper fashion a ninth was never written) in a continuing series of articles prepared by Bill Wensrich
“If you ain’t plaque’n, then you ain’t Clampin”

The Berryvale Post Office trail marker became the 10th historical monument erected by the E Clampus Vitus Humbug Chapter. Mac McKellar, Chapter president at the time, chose to commemorate this location situated thirty miles southeast of Yreka on the Old Stage Road (Highway 99 today). The trail marker and restored post office building can be found on the east side of Old Stage Road one-tenth of a mile south of Hatchery Lane (Exit 738 on Interstate 5). Across the street is another historical landmark placed by the State of California.

The Chapter held their spring function at Lake Siskiyou where approximately 40 new members were taken in, or maybe it was by, the Honorable and Ancient Order. A school bus

was rented to haul all the Clampers down to the Berryvale Post Office site for the dedication. Mac was master of ceremonies for the well-attended celebration of American history.

The local area was named Strawberry Valley in 1853 for its plentiful wild berries. By 1857 a two story log cabin named Mount Shasta Hotel was built. Operating as the Strawberry Valley Stage Station, this village center would evolve into what we know today as the city of Mt. Shasta.

In 1861 Justin Hinckley Sisson returned to the area with his new bride. A few years later they built a hotel to serve travelers and tourists. As Strawberry Valley began to fill with permanent homesteaders, the need for postal service became apparent. When the Post Office Department was initially contacted for a new office, the applicants were told to pick another name because there were too many post offices already named “Strawberry Valley.” Berryvale was chosen as the new name.

Established April 15, 1870 as the first post office in the Mt. Shasta area, J.H. Sisson became the first Berryvale Postmaster. A new

building for the post office was built around 1878 by Sophia Jane Fellows using cedar posts and shakes, square nails and sugar pine clapboard siding. The small building stood in front of the old hotel and stage stop. Appointed Postmistress the following year, Ms. Fellows also operated a small store inside the post office stocked with sewing supplies, fabric and yarn.

In 1886 Sisson convinced Central Pacific Railroad to extend their line north of Redding, and to build a railroad depot on land he would donate. Rail service replaced local wagon and stage service as the preferred method of transportation. By 1887 the center of commerce had moved from Berryvale to Sisson’s new railroad stop named after him. The Berryvale Post Office closed and a new post office opened in the city of Sisson recognized as the Sisson Post Office in 1888.

Following World War I renewed interest in tourism and nearby Mt. Shasta recreational opportunities resulted in the town of Sisson being renamed Mt. Shasta. The area’s first Post Office, Berryvale, was again renamed. In 1924 it became the Mt. Shasta, California Post

Office.
HISTORICAL MARKER TEXT
SITE OF BARRYVALE POST OFFICE
IT OPERATED FROM 1870 TO 1887
POSTMASTERS WERE JH SISSION
GL LAMPHERE ET KEYSER SOPHIA J
FELLOWS THE POST OFFICE MOVED TO
THE RAILROAD STATION IN 1887 AND
BECAME KNOWN AS SISSION
IN 1924 IT WAS RENAMED MT SHASTA
THIS MARKER DEDICATED BY
E CLAMPUS VITUS HUMBUG CHAPTER
73 APRIL 19, 1980



Berryvale Post Office

Today in History: by The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, April 18, the 108th day of 2018. There are 257 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On April 18, 1938, Superman, AKA “The Man of Steel,” made his debut as the first issue of Action Comics (bearing a cover date of June) went on sale for 10 cents a copy. (In 2014, a nearly flawless original copy was sold on eBay for \$3.2 million.)

On this date:

In 1775, Paul Revere began his famous ride from Charlestown to Lexington, Massachusetts, warning colonists that British Regular troops were approaching.

In 1865, Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston surrendered to Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman near Durham Station in North Carolina.

In 1906, a devastating earthquake struck San Francisco, followed by raging fires; estimates of the final death toll range between 3,000 and 6,000.

In 1923, the first game was played at the original Yankee

Stadium in New York; the Yankees defeated the Boston Red Sox 4-1.

In 1942, during World War II, an air squadron from the USS Hornet led by Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle raided Tokyo and other Japanese cities. The first World War II edition of The Stars and Stripes was published as a weekly newspaper.

In 1943, Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto, commander-in-chief of the Japanese Combined Fleet, was shot down and killed by U.S. fighters while approaching Bougainville in the Solomon Islands.

In 1956, American actress Grace Kelly married Prince Rainier (ren-YAY’) of Monaco in a civil ceremony. (A church wedding took place the next day.)

In 1966, “The Sound of Music” won the Oscar for best picture of 1965 at the 38th Academy Awards. The first Major League baseball game played on AstroTurf took place at the Houston Astrodome as the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Astros 6-3. Bill Russell was named player-coach of the

Boston Celtics, becoming the NBA’s first black coach.

In 1978, the Senate approved the Panama Canal Treaty, providing for the complete turnover of control of the waterway to Panama on the last day of 1999.

In 1983, 63 people, including 17 Americans, were killed at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, by a suicide bomber.

In 1988, an Israeli court convicted John Demjanjuk (dem-YAHN’-yuk), a retired auto worker from Cleveland, of committing war crimes at the Treblinka death camp in Nazi-occupied Poland. (However, Israel’s Supreme Court later overturned Demjanjuk’s conviction.)

In 1998, despite fierce internal dissent, Northern Ireland’s main Protestant party, the Ulster Unionists, approved a peace agreement. The remains of Pol Pot were cremated, three days after the Khmer Rouge leader blamed for the killings of up to two million Cambodians died at age 73. Former North Carolina

governor and U.S. senator Terry Sanford died in Durham at age 80.

Ten years ago: Addressing the United Nations, Pope Benedict XVI said that respect for human rights, not violence, was the key to solving many of the world’s problems. Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin gave birth to her fifth child, a son named Trig Paxson Van Palin.

Five years ago: The FBI released surveillance camera images of two suspects in the Boston Marathon bombing and asked for the public’s help in identifying them, hours after President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama attended an interfaith service at a Roman Catholic cathedral. Randy Newman, Heart, Rush, Public Enemy, Donna Summer, Albert King, and producers Quincy Jones and Lou Adler were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame during a ceremony in Los Angeles.

One year ago: Turning back to the economic populism that helped drive his election campaign, President Donald Trump signed an order he said should help American workers whose jobs were threatened by skilled immigrants; the signing took place at the headquarters of hand and power tool manufacturer Snap-on Inc., in Kenosha, Wisconsin. A man shot and killed three people on the streets of downtown Fresno, California; a suspect who was also accused of killing a motel security guard two days earlier was almost immediately arrested. U.S. Vice President Mike Pence assured Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (shin-zoh AH’-bay) “we are with you 100 percent” during a visit amid escalating tensions over North Korea.

Thought for Today: “I’ll tell you a secret. We live in a mad and inspiring world.” — Ben Hecht, Hollywood screenwriter (born 1894, died this date in 1964).

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