

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

Klamathon
The Plaques of E Clampus Vitus--Humbug Chapter No. 73
The twelfth in a continuing series of articles prepared by Bill Wensrich
“If you ain’t plaque’n, then you ain’t Clampin’”

Siskiyou County’s E Clampus Vitus Humbug Chapter erected its twelfth historical marker along the Klamath River in 1982. Although Glen Rowe was Chapter president at the time, Clampatriarch Todd Doleis credited with securing the resources necessary to erect this plaque. I was told that it struck Todd as odd that the entire town site seemed to have disappeared without a trace. This thought must have inspired him to research the history and see to it that Klamathon was remembered with a historical monument. He enlisted the support and help of local Montague historian Jean French.

Just one week before the dedication date,

Todd, Russ Wars and others constructed the rock monument and set the plaque. A few days later it was vandalized with red paint. Nevertheless, they cleaned it up and held the Doin’s a week later on the Klamath River about a quarter mile from the plaque site. That Saturday, about 40 or 50 people were present at the April dedication, where both Todd and Jean made presentations. Both the Siskiyou Daily News and Medford Channel 10 news covered the event.

The plaque is located just east of Hornbook on the south side of the Klamath River. Cross the Klamathon Bridge and immediately turn right; there off the beaten path you will find the old town site and see the stone marker.

By the late 1880s expansion of rail transportation into the area provided opportunities to exploit vast untouched reaches of forest land timber. Timber cruisers began seeking out profitable tracts of land for

harvest. By 1889, the Klamath River Lumber Company came into the area investing heavily in a nearby mill and began acquiring vast tracts of timber land. The result of all this activity allowed the nearest saw mill site down river to flourish. Known by many names, the mill town grew to as many as 1,000 people. Klamath City, Pokegema, Manitee, Cadillac and Klamathon were early monikers. Klamathon was selected as the permanent name. A board walk extended from one end of town to the other, providing residents and visitors with mud-free access to saloons, churches, homes, hotels, boarding houses, and other businesses.

Logs for the mill came from the nearby Beswick/Pokegema area. To profitably harvest the tableland trees, a massive chute was built. Trees were cut down and hauled by horse drawn “Big-Wheels” to the new chute located south of Shovel Creek. Made from hand hewn logs, the log chute extended from

the canyon rim to the Klamath River below. Over 2,600 feet in length, it had a vertical drop of 834 feet. Reaching speeds of 90 miles an hours logs struck the Klamath River with such massive force they created rooster tails 75 feet high. Logs were then guided by log drivers and floated down river to the town of Klamathon where they were sawed into lumber.

Like many boomtowns of the Old West, fire danger was ever present. Monday, October 13, 1902 was witness to massive midnight fires. The sawmill, two box factories, 8 million board feet of lumber, 25 to 35 businesses and many residences were destroyed. Klamathon, a lumber man’s magnificent mill town, was never rebuilt. Practically no remains of the town can be found at the old town site. What does remain are recorded memories of the old log drivers, blacksmiths, and timber men.

Crescent City, California.

Today in History: by The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, May 23, the 143rd day of 2018. There are 222 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:
On May 23, 1618, the Defenestration of Prague took place as Bohemian Protestants, angry over what they saw as a threat to their religious freedom, threw two Catholic imperial regents and their secretary out of an upper-story palace window; the men survived the incident, which helped trigger the Thirty Years’ War.

On this date:
In 1430, Joan of Arc was captured by the Burgundians, who sold her to the English.
In 1533, the marriage of England’s King Henry VIII to Catherine of Aragon was declared null and void by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer.
In 1788, South Carolina became the eighth state to ratify the United States Constitution.
In 1814, a third version of Beethoven’s only opera,

“Fidelio,” had its world premiere in Vienna.
In 1915, Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary during World War I.
In 1934, bank robbers Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker were shot to death in a police ambush in Bienville Parish, Louisiana.
In 1939, the Navy submarine USS Squalus sank during a test dive off the New England coast. Thirty-two crew members and one civilian were rescued, but 26 others died; the sub was salvaged and re-commissioned the USS Sailfish.
In 1945, Nazi official Heinrich Himmler committed suicide by biting into a cyanide capsule while in British custody in Luneburg, Germany.
In 1967, Egypt closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping, an action which helped precipitate war between Israel and its Arab neighbors the following month.
In 1977, Moluccan

extremists seized a train and a primary school in the Netherlands; the hostage drama ended June 11 as Dutch marines stormed the train, resulting in the deaths of six out of nine hijackers and two hostages, while the school siege ended peacefully.
In 1984, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop issued a report saying there was “very solid” evidence linking cigarette smoke to lung disease in non-smokers.
In 1993, a jury in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, acquitted Rodney Pears of manslaughter in the shooting death of Yoshi Hattori, a Japanese exchange student he’d mistaken for an intruder. (Pears was later found liable in a civil suit brought by Hattori’s parents.)

Ten years ago: Hillary Rodham Clinton quickly apologized after citing the 1968 assassination of Robert F. Kennedy as a reason to remain in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination despite

increasingly long odds. Televangelist John Hagee (HAY’-gee) parted ways with John McCain following a storm over his endorsement of the Republican presidential candidate. (McCain rejected Hagee’s endorsement a day earlier after an audio recording from the late 1990s surfaced in which the preacher suggested that God had sent Adolf Hitler to help Jews reach the Promised Land.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, in a speech to the National Defense University, defended America’s controversial drone attacks as legal, effective and a necessary linchpin in an evolving U.S. counterterrorism policy, but acknowledged the targeted strikes were no “cure-all” and said he was haunted by the civilians who were unintentionally killed. The Boy Scouts of America threw open its ranks to gay Scouts but not to gay Scout leaders. LeBron James was a unanimous pick for the All-

NBA team and Kobe Bryant earned his record-tying 11th first-team selection.

One year ago: President Donald Trump made a personal appeal for peace between Israel and the Palestinians as he closed a four-day swing through the Middle East. Roger Moore, the suavely insouciant star of seven James Bond films, died in Switzerland at age 89. NFL owners meeting in Chicago cut the overtime period from 15 to 10 minutes during the regular season, but also gave players plenty of leeway to celebrate after a touchdown.

Thought for Today: “We do not usually look for allies when we love. Indeed, we often look on those who love with us as rivals and trespassers. But we always look for allies when we hate.” — Eric Hoffer, American author and philosopher (1902-1983).

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Organic On The Go Oatmeal Bars
Almond Raisin or Almond Raisin plus Whey.
\$3.99 ea.
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Breakfast Burrito
Two eggs, your choice of meat, cheese and vegetables.
\$3.99 ea.
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Applegate Organic Hot Dogs **\$5.49** lb.
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Niman Ranch Applewood Bacon..... **\$5.99** pkg.
Reg. \$6.79 pkg.

Beer / Wine

Elysian Super Fuzz Pale Ale **\$9.39** + dep.
Reg. \$11.79 + dep.

Electri-Fly India Pale Ale **\$7.99** + dep.
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Red & Yukon Potatoes **\$1.09** lb.
Reg. \$1.59 lb.

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