

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

Eddy Lookout -- Reflections of the Past
The Plaques of E Clampus Vitus--Humbug Chapter No. 73
The 23rd in a continuing series of articles prepared by Bill Wensrich.
"If you ain't plaque'n, then you ain't Clampin'"
Bill Haas was chapter president in 1991 serving his second stint as noble grand humbug when this historical monument was erected. One of the chapter members was either working for the United States Forrest Service (USFS) or trying to get a job with them, hence the interest in this fire lookout story. From reading the credits at the bottom of the plaque, we can see that many organizations and interest groups came together to support a common purpose of recognition and historical preservation.
The USFS began

employing women beginning in 1905. Very few were assigned to do field work. One of the first accounts of women employed as forest fire lookouts came from California's Klamath National Forest. Hallie Morse Daggett began work at Eddy Gulch Lookout high atop 6,483 foot Klamath Peak in the summer of 1913. Staffing the original log cabin structure, she served until a new 14 feet by 14 feet lookout with catwalk was built in 1926. Evidently life in the new glass house wasn't to her liking. Ms. Daggett retired the following year. After World War II and rearing her sons, Mrs. Nancy Culbertson came to work at the lookout and served for 30 seasons! An interpretive trail honoring the two women was dedicated in 1991.
Hallie's father was a successful miner and part owner of the Black Bear Mine on the Salmon River

in Siskiyou County. He later served as Lieutenant Governor and superintendent of the US Mint in San Francisco. Born in 1878, Hallie was a refined woman educated in San Francisco, but remained immersed in her childhood upbringing near Sawyers Bar where she learned to hunt, fish, ride, trap and shoot. These skills coupled with her education and love of the outdoors enabled her to get that first lookout job. Her hiring ranger said "One of the most untiring and enthusiastic applicants which I have for the position is Miss Hallie Morse Daggett, a wide-awake woman of 30 years, who knows and has traversed every trail on the Salmon River watershed, and is thoroughly familiar with every foot of the District."
A 1914 article in *American Forestry* magazine described Hallie. She was "full of pluck and high spirit."

She described her lookout life as follows:
"I grew up with a fierce hatred of the devastating fires and welcomed the Forest Service force which arrived to combat them. But not until the lookout stations were installed did there come an opportunity to join what had up till then been a man's fight; although my sister and I had frequently been able to help on the small things, such as extinguishing spreading campfires or carrying supplies to the fire line. Then, thanks to the liberal-mindedness and courtesy of the officials in charge of our district, I was given the position of lookout.
"It was quite a swift change in three days, from San Francisco, civilization, and sea level, to a solitary cabin on a still more solitary mountain, and three hours' hard climb from everywhere, but in spite of the fact that almost the very first question

asked by everyone was 'Isn't it awfully lonesome up there?' I never felt a moments longing to retrace the step, that is, not after the first half-hour following my sister's departure with the pack animals, when I had a chance to look around... I did not need a horse myself, there being, contrary to the general impression, no patrol work in connection with lookout duties, and my sister bringing up my supplies and mail from home every week, a distance of nine miles"
Nancy Naomi Culbertson was born in 1924. After moving to Siskiyou County California from Iola, Kansas in 1948, she began working for the USFS Klamath District office. An avid angler, she too must have thoroughly enjoyed her work as fire spotter far away from civilization because she worked at it for 30 years. Hallie died in 1964; Nancy

recently passed to the Golden Hills in September 2013.
To find the Eddy Gulch Lookout historical monument follow Cecilville Road 30 miles out of Callahan off Highway 3. At Cecilville turn right and proceed eight miles toward Sawyers Bar. From there it's about five and half miles to the top.
Bill Wensrich serves on the E Clampus Vitus Board of Directors. His recently published Guide Book for the ECV Transierra Roisterous Alliance of Senior Humbugs titled The Trail to Sailors' Diggin's from Paragon Bay is available for purchase from the non-profit Del Norte County Historical Society Museum located at 577 H Street in Crescent City, California.

Today in History: by The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 8, the 220th day of 2018. There are 145 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
On August 8, 1974, President Richard Nixon, facing damaging new revelations in the Watergate scandal, announced he would resign the following day.
On this date:
In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte set sail for St. Helena to spend the remainder of his days in exile.
In 1911, President William Howard Taft signed a measure raising the number of U.S. representatives from 391 to 433, effective with the next Congress, with a proviso to add two more when New Mexico and Arizona became states.
In 1942, during World War II, six Nazi saboteurs who were captured after landing in the U.S. were executed in Washington, D.C.; two others who cooperated with authorities were spared.

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman signed the U.S. instrument of ratification for the United Nations Charter. The Soviet Union declared war against Japan during World War II.
In 1953, the United States and South Korea initialed a mutual security pact.
In 1963, Britain's "Great Train Robbery" took place as thieves made off with 2.6 million pounds in banknotes.
In 1968, the Republican national convention in Miami Beach nominated Richard Nixon for president on the first ballot.
In 1973, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew branded as "damned lies" reports he had taken kickbacks from government contracts in Maryland, and vowed not to resign — which he ended up doing.
In 1993, in Somalia, four U.S. soldiers were killed when a land mine was detonated underneath their vehicle, prompting President Bill Clinton to order Army Rangers

to try to capture Somali warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid.
In 2000, the wreckage of the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley, which sank in 1864 after attacking the Union ship Housatonic, was recovered off the South Carolina coast and returned to port.
In 2002, Saddam Hussein organized a big military parade and then warned "the forces of evil" not to attack Iraq as he sought once more to shift the debate away from world demands that he live up to agreements that ended the Gulf War.
In 2009, Sonia Sotomayor was sworn in as the U.S. Supreme Court's first Hispanic and third female justice.
Ten years ago: China opened the Summer Olympic Games with an extravaganza of fireworks and pageantry. A charter bus crashed near Sherman, Texas, killing 17 members of a Vietnamese-American Catholic group en route

to Missouri. Former Democratic presidential candidate and vice-presidential nominee John Edwards admitted having an extramarital affair. Russia sent an armored column into the breakaway enclave of South Ossetia after Georgia launched an offensive to crush separatists there.
Five years ago: The U.S. sharply escalated its drone war in Yemen, with military officials in the Arab country reporting three strikes that left a dozen dead. Actress Karen Black, 74, who was featured in such counterculture favorites as "Easy Rider," "Five Easy Pieces" and "Nashville," died in Los Angeles. Opera singer Regina Resnik, 90, died in New York.
One year ago: President Donald Trump said continued North Korean threats aimed at the United States would cause the U.S. to respond with "fire and fury like the world has never seen." Venezuela's new constitutional

assembly, created by embattled President Nicolas Maduro, took over the halls of the opposition-controlled congress and decreed itself to be superior to all other branches of government. Singer Glen Campbell died in Nashville, Tennessee, at the age of 81; he had announced in 2011 that he'd been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.
Today's Birthdays: Actress Nita Talbot is 88. Actor Dustin Hoffman is 81. Actress Connie Stevens is 80. Country singer Phil Balsley (The Statler Brothers) is 79. Actor Larry Wilcox is 71. Actor Keith Carradine is 69. Movie director Martin Brest is 67. Radio-TV personality Robin Quivers is 66. Percussionist Anton Fig is 65. Actor Donny Most is 65.
Thought for Today: "Man adjusts to what he should not; he is unable to adjust to what he should." — Jean Toomer, African-American author-poet (1894-1967).

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