

# DEL NORTE HISTORY

— by M. S. BRAINARD

But the town of Klamath did not last long. Little gold was found. The river entrance was treacherous so the traders could not land goods. All the buildings were taken down and moved to other locations and Bledsoe writes that in the early 80's there was nothing left to show there ever was a town there. In the session of 1856-57, the California Legislature set the county of Del Norte off from Klamath County, and established the seat of government at Crescent City. It ordered a county election to be held in May of '57. But, back in '51, another party of prospectors was made up from Trinidad, who also undertook the exploration of the stream they regarded as Trinity. On their way up the stream, three young men were enticed by the

redskins told them was a huge amount of gold. The Indians then murdered them and in retaliation, the remaining whites wipe out a whole village. Proceeding further up the Klamath, after a month of rugged struggle, the rest of the party arrived at a beautiful bench where they not only found an abundance of gold but also a plentiful amount of game, and so pleased were they with this prospect they named the place "Happy Camp," as the settlement continues to be known to this day. Following these early settlements at Trinidad, Klamath, and Happy Camp, a small number of men camped in the shelter of Point St. George, but Bledsoe says this was not until 1852, although as early as the Spring of 1850, several ships had anchored in the lee of the Point.

Even before that, there was a widely circulated story which appeared on both coasts and even today, may stimulate some believer. The tale is of a white man who found a huge pocket of gold, somewhere in the coast ranges, and toiled no one can imagine how hard to amass it all and return to the East. But the savages learned his secret, mauled him and left him for dead, finally burning his cabin in their desperate search for his treasure. Although our miner regained some of his strength, his mind was gone, wandering about, and finally reaching his kin in the east. From there came the story that upon his deathbed the old chaps mind cleared, and he recited, in minute detail, just where his lonely cabin had stood and where that treasure was buried, somewhere in what is now Del Norte County!

alone, to San Francisco. Chrome was located in '68, on Low Divide Hill, and between then and '73 some 1,300 tons of ore were shipped annually by the Tyson Smelting Co., of Baltimore, Maryland, the ore assaying some 40 percent chrome. Coal was discovered at Point St. George in the early 70's and a shaft was sunk some 70 or 80 feet but capital couldn't be encouraged to further the scheme. Bledsoe remarks on the great differences in climate between Crescent City and Happy Camp. In the latter place, deep snows and very cold weather are common in winter and the summers are frequently as hot as any place in California, while the rest of Del Norte has a very equable climate the year around. Mr. Bledsoe is apparently the best authority we have on the early days in Del Norte. His general thesis flows smoothly and is plausible. We are indeed, deeply indebted to him for this legacy from around a hundred years ago and we hope to have available more of his works. —The End

**NORTHWEST CALIFORNIA—**  
Crescent City, in the early 80's was said to resemble a collection of low huts, when viewed from the deck of an approaching ship but this impression was contradicted when upon landing, one found a population of 1,200. 12 brick building, a stone warehouse, 2 churches and 12 saloons. The Odd Fellows, Masons, Good Templars and A.O.U.W. were already established. Transportation by stage was available to Smith River, Jacksonville, and thence up and down the Willamette and Sacramento valleys. The Hume Sawmill at the mouth of the Smith River was cutting some 30,000 feet of lumber a day. In '77, the Occident and Orient Commercial Company built a 200 by 60 foot plant there and were processing some \$40,000 worth of salmon, annually. In reviewing Del Norte's mining since its beginning, in '51, Bledsoe waxes quite enthusiastic—and probably rightly so—as to the out-turn of gold from around Happy Camp, where Eastern capital was interested. Other gold mining sites were along the Klamath, in the Big Flat, Haynes Flat and French Hill gravel beds and that the hard rock of Bald Hill had then been worked for some 20 years. Good gold had also been taken from the beach sands. Too, in the early 80's there were five good copper mines, dating from the early 60's, in the Low Divide District, namely: Hanscam, Occidental, Union, Alta, and Monmouth. From '60 to '63 some 2,000 tons of ore, valued at about \$60 a ton, went from the Alta and Union mines,

## SCHOOL PLANS FOR CARNIVAL

Another school carnival is being prepared by the students of the local high school, slated for the gym at 7:30 p.m. on March 23rd.

This year's event is under the leadership of Charlotte Jensen, ably assisted by her committee, composed of Bobby Berger, Janet Glass, Sandra Way, Barbara Guthrie, Paul Williams, Shirley Hewitt, and Lowell Lute, representing all the high school grades.

The various classes and school societies will have booths and prince and princess tickets are being sold by the students, the tickets being good at the various concessions. In the past, these events have been very well attended and the profits have been returned to the community.

## CHANEY PLANS TO LEAVE UPPER CHETCO

Herschel Chaney, principal of the Upper Chetco School for the past two years has resigned, effective at the end of the school term. The board reluctantly accepted his resignation. Mr. Chaney had been offered a two-year contract at a considerable increase in salary. He plans to go east to a teaching position. Mrs. Esther Waldien, lower

grade teacher for the past several years does not plan to teach next year due to other interests.

## WELL CHILD CLINIC HERE

There will be a well child clinic at the Brookings Grade School on Friday, March 23rd, between 9:3 and 11:30 a.m. Dr. Paul Ronniger will give physical examinations, assisted by Dorthea Miller, public health nurse.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 17th**

## ELKS

# hard time dance

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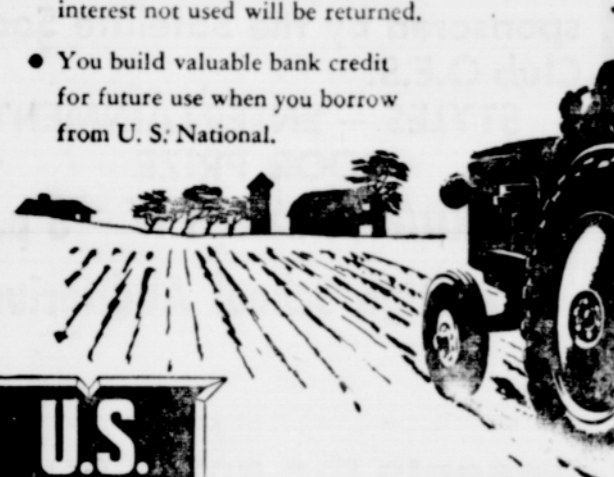
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