



OVER THIS POLISHED PLANK much history has been discussed, many drinks have been poured. It is now the property of the Yreka BPOE. Pictured behind the bar is Les Gibson. In front of the plank, left to right, are Ab Evans, Superior Judge James M. Allen and Holly Hollister.

Diamond Bar In Yreka BPOE Has Colorful Background, Promising Future

By J. O. McKINNEY

Members of Yreka Lodge No. 1990 BPOE would like to hold a birthday party this year for their old bar. But none knows when the anniversary occurs, nor how many candles should be on the cake.

The famed Diamond Bar was brought around the horn long before the turn of the century. It was built by Brunswick of cherry wood for the back bar, and a 35-foot mahogany plank of whip-sawed lumber over which merchandise was dispensed.

One item which adds to the bar's value as a collectors item are slight imperfections in the ornate carvings on the cherry timbers. This shows it was done by hand and the small irregularities make it more desirable.

The mahogany plank, too, shows different thicknesses along its length which dispels any idea it was machine made.

This bit of furniture served for many years in San Francisco, before being bought by the late V. E. Warrens, and taken to Hills, a lumber town near the Oregon-California border. Warrens wore large diamonds. This caused the name of Diamond Bar to be given to the fixture.

Being near Oregon, then a dry state, many came over the line to "bend their elbows" in front of the old mahogany plank. Gold from the mines in Southern Oregon, and gold from Northern California met on a common ground—in the safe of V. E. Warrens. Enough raw gold, it is said, has slid over this old whip-sawed plank to feed a mint for many years.

This massing of gold and diamonds proved too much temptation to a band that came in out of the night about 1912. Some holdup men moved in, and after a shooting spree that saw no bloodshed, departed with whatever gold and diamonds they could gather. While they got some, they also missed some. And to add to their failure, were captured a few miles away before making it to some spot where they could enjoy their illegally gained loot.

A bullet hole in the partition wall beyond the end of the bar attests to the "shooting war" that was staged in the Hills bistro. Warrens secreted his largest diamond, and recovered the rest when the bandits were captured.

The last liquor at Hills was served over the old bar about 1919. It served as a dispensing item for soft drinks until a few years ago when it was sold to the Yreka Elks Club, and moved to its present location.

Here this venerated bit of furniture is in good hands. Alex Rosborough, native of Yreka, has been a member of the Elks for 57 years.

Ab Evans, also of Yreka, has paid dues in the order for nearly 50 years. They represent pioneer families who have helped build Yreka, and Northern California. Rosborough is the oldest Elk member west of the Mississippi. His father was an early day judge in Siskiyou County.

V. E. Warrens, who brought the Diamond Bar to Siskiyou County, while not a pioneer settler, did much to build Redding, Yreka and Hills. At the time of his death, he owned most of the best business block in Yreka, and other holdings.

Beside securing the famed bar, the Yreka Elks have some glasses that were labeled as were the shaving mugs of other days. The names of the owners were engraved, or painted on the receptacles which were placed within sight of all who wished to see just who the patrons were.

The value of this bar has been set at many different figures. For the assessors benefit, one set is quoted. For any who wish to buy the old fixtures, there is another quotation. The spread between these figures is astonishing.

A companion bar was purchased by Warrens and taken to Kennet, near Redding. Here it was destroyed in a fire several years ago. The Diamond Bar is thought to be the last of the line of hand made bars that were brought 'around the horn' to help tame(?) the West.

While the beginning of the Diamond Bar is shrouded in antiquity, its present is unclouded, and its future rosy. It is sound, venerated, and doing useful work every day. Little, save an atomic blast could ever mar its polished, gleaming surface. Time has made no inroads that a bar towel can not obliterate with a swipe. Exalted Ruler Fred Burton states that the old bar brings out to lodge more members than any speaker they can bill for an evening's entertainment. "It is better than a TV show," Burton states, "to bring out the boys."

The Diamond Bar would be an ornament in any establishment big enough to house it.

SAUCE FOR CHICKEN

NEW YORK (UPI)—Here's an easy barbecue sauce for chicken using very little oil.

Put ¼ cup prepared mustard in a 1-cup measure. Add ¼ cup molasses and stir to blend. Add ¼ cup lemon juice, 2 tablespoons each salad oil and Worcestershire sauce, 1 teaspoon tabasco and ½ teaspoon each salt and monosodium glutamate. Mix well. This makes enough sauce for 2 broiler-fryers serving 4 persons.

FRIENDLY PERSUASION

LOCKPORT, N.Y. (UPI)—James R. Purifoy, 35, told police he lent a "good friend" his \$2,500 car for an "emergency" trip to Chicago and didn't hear from him until two weeks later, when the man phoned from Springfield, Mo. Purifoy complained his "friend" disappeared again after he wired him \$175 to

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