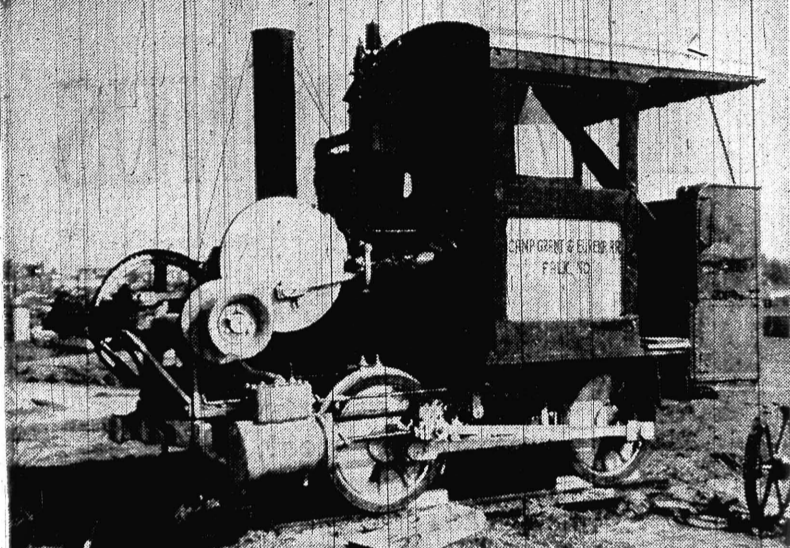


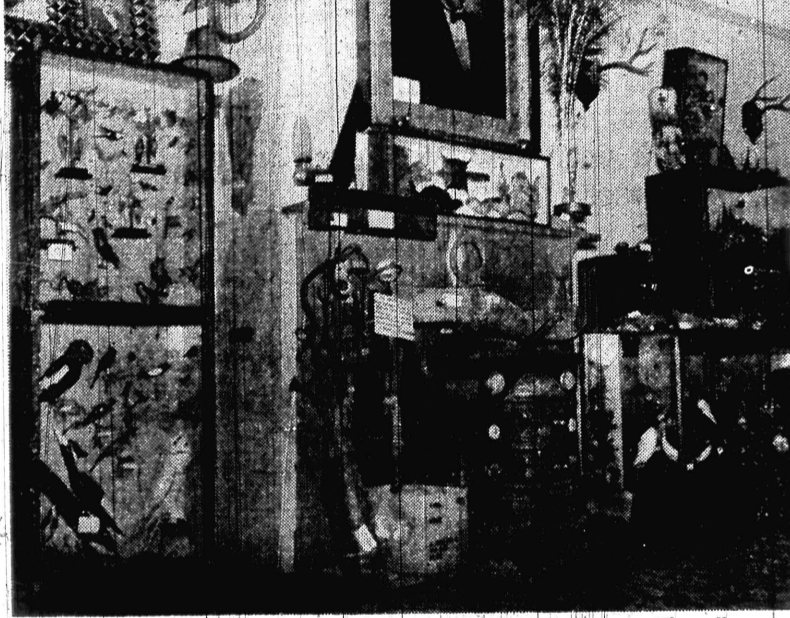
Fort Humboldt--Where Past Glory Meets Present Neglect



A mountain lion and a bear guard the front entrance to Fort Humboldt museum. Out of sight to the left is the old commissary building. Ahead, on the other side of the fence, is Eureka.



"Gypsy", an old locomotive of the early 1800's, used to operate in Humboldt county. Today she sits beside the remains of the fort.



A fireplace in one of the rooms at the Fort Humboldt museum. The roller towel rack on the left side above the fireplace was in the old fort.

AIR OFFICIALS INVITED HERE TO REA SESSION

SAN FRANCISCO, April 9.—Federal, state and county aeronautics officials, aviation industry spokesmen and leading airline executives have been invited to participate in the session on aviation during the Semi-Annual Conference of the Redwood Empire Association at Eureka on April 22nd, by REA Aviation Unit President Art Schilder of Ukiah.

Schilder announced today that among those invited are: James Reed, assistant regional administrator; Joseph Hicks, chief airport management section; C. B. Worthey, district airport engineer; Kent G. Davis, senior aeronautics inspector; and Marshall Beeman, chief private flying section, all of the Civil Aeronautics Administration; Richard Thurber, executive secretary California Aviation Trade Association; Assemblyman L. A. McMillan (chairman), L. E. Waters, (vice-chairman), William S. Grant, Kathryn Niehouse and Carl Fletcher, members of the State Assembly interim committee on aviation; and ranking executives of United Air Lines, Southwest Airways, Trans World Airlines, Pan American Airways System and Western Air Lines.

The Aviation Unit will meet at 10:30 a. m., the day of the conference, and boards of supervisors of the nine Empire counties and all

others interested in airport and transport problems are invited to participate on such major topics as state and federal aeronautics legislation; the 1949 Redwood Empire Grand Air Tour and proposed breakfast flight to Lake Pillsbury, Lake County.

President T. Fred Bagshaw of the Redwood Empire Supervisors Unit has also urged all boards of supervisors to participate in the Inter-county Highways and Legislative Conference set for 1 p. m. during the conference. He emphasized the need for concentration of forces against moves in the legislature to eliminate or divert highway construction funds to other purposes and points out that millions would be lost and construction seriously delayed if certain bills were allowed to pass.

REA President Albert F. Beecher, of Lake County has predicted an unprecedented heavy attendance at the Semi-Annual Inter-county directors' meeting scheduled for 1:30 p. m. during the conference and a full executive board meeting the night of April 21.

Other sessions during the conference will include: Wayside Groups at 9:30 a. m., with Harold Eckhart, president of the Hotel-Resort Conference, and Ed Freyer, president of the Motor Court Unit, presiding -- to discuss legislation of interest to all resort operators and ways of prolonging stop-overs of visitors, and vacationists; 9:30 a. m. meeting of managers and secretaries of chambers of commerce and other non-profit organizations on technical matters relating to organizations and operations, led by Forum Chairman John E. Croul, manager of the Petaluma Chamber; at 11 a. m., joint meeting of the Chambers of

Commerce unit and the events and celebrations committee to hear full reports by H. S. Graham chairman Publicity and Advertising committee, under the joint chairmanship of Tom Grace of Santa Rosa, Unit President, and Clifford Bartlett of San Rafael, committee chairman.

Filmland Studio Sells Equipment

HOLLYWOOD, April 10. (AP)—News that some of David O. Selznick's studio equipment will be auctioned didn't surprise Hollywood today. It has learned to expect anything from the fiercely independent producer.

"Selznick studio goes on block," reported a trade paper. The film maker's top executive, Daniel O'Shea, quickly denied the report. He explained that some of the studio's "obsolescent" equipment had been sold to an auctioneer.

O'Shea declared the move was merely a "housecleaning." To be auctioned are outdated costumes, furniture, greenery and lumber for which Selznick pays \$30,000 storage space yearly. The producer has no studio; he rents space from RKO.

HOOVER HONORED

NEW YORK—Former President Herbert Hoover was awarded the John O'Hara Cosgrave scroll last night by the Dutch Treat club, an organization of artists and writers, for having contributed "the most to the American way of life

GENERAL GRANT, SOLDIER AND PRESIDENT, LIVED HERE; YOU'D NEVER GUESS IT NOW

By GEORGE BESHORE

The young officer stirred restlessly and walked to the window. He held himself erect with the bearing of a military man who respects his profession, but his clothes were slouchy with the neglect a genius usually has for details like shining shoes and pressing coats. Standing at the window, the officer looked out at the scene to the west.

Humboldt Bay was sprawled out in the spring sunshine, with a narrow wooded strip separating it from the Pacific Ocean. Between the bay and the fort was marshy ground, some stands of virgin timber, and, out of the sight of the officer at the fort window, the town of Bucksport, seated at the foot of the cliff which rose abruptly from the bay level to the tableland on which the fort was situated.

The view of the west was beautiful, but it held no scenic value for Captain U. S. Grant, a recent graduate of West Point who had been sent to this Fort Humboldt, one of the United States' most outlying posts, to cut his teeth in military work. True, he had won his promotion from lieutenant to captain during the winter at this California fort; and true, he was well liked by most of the men and had the reputation of being an efficient supply officer as he was in charge of the shipping of supplies to other forts inland around Humboldt Bay. But these accomplishments could not over-balance being disliked by the fort's commanding officer or being stationed in a far-flung military post, built to protect small communities from the Indians who had made very little trouble, while big battles loomed in the East. In this state of mind, Captain Grant went to his commanding officer and resigned his commission in the army. A boat took him away from Fort Humboldt, and it would be stretching the truth to say that he left any regrets.

It was back East that Captain Grant went back on active duty, became General U. S. Grant, led the Union army through a war, and was elected president of the United States.

days. It is at least quite equal to the Beacon."

When the fort was no longer a military necessity, it was abandoned and fell into ruin. One by one the buildings fell down or were torn down by vandals until today only the old commissary building remains.

In the early 1920's the widow of W. S. Cooper, who then owned Fort Humboldt Hill, realized the historical significance of the old fort, and deeded part of the ground to the DAR and part to the city of Eureka. The DAR elected a plaque on the place where General Grant received his early military training; the city forgot about it.

DONATED FOR MEMORIAL

Miss Laura B. Cooper, daughter of W. S. Cooper, deeded the remainder of the ground to the city with the understanding that a memorial would be built. This was done—ten years later when private citizens of the county and school children donated money to a fund.

In 1936 Harry H. Selvage was hired as caretaker of the fort, the museum was fixed up in the old commissary building, and the site became Fort Humboldt memorial.

This work was done under an agreement that the county would pay the caretaker's salary and the city would provide \$200 toward upkeep of the memorial. The county has continued to pay the caretaker's salary for these 13 years, but the city of Eureka has cut its part in half and now only pays \$100 toward the upkeep of Fort Humboldt.

What will you see at the fort today? On the tableland overlooking the bay and the ocean, where the fort once stood, stand statues of General Grant and General MacArthur. An old cannon, such as were used in the days of General Grant, stands between the two, and bushes flank the lawn. At the south edge of this ground where the fort once stood is the old commissary building. It is weatherbeaten and now 96 years old, but inside is a museum of items representative of old days of Humboldt, and items of nature that represent the county, regardless of time.

A roller towel rack that was in the original fort is preserved in the present day museum. Old oxen yokes of varying sizes hang on the wall. Furniture from early Humboldt homes is in each room. A collection of stuffed and mounted birds, representing most of the varieties found in the county, is displayed in one room. Two mounted deer, that look like the mother with her fawn, are in the corner of another.

FIRST JUKE BOX

In glass cases are Indian arrow heads, a few bows and several arrows, and Indian relics by the hundreds, all found at various locations in Humboldt county. The "granddaddy of the juke box," an instrument invented by Thomas Edison, and consisting of a number of records located on a wheel that may be turned to the number desired and that selection played by inserting a nickel, stands in one of the rooms. The records are all old cylinder type affairs. Few of the machines were sold as the price was prohibitive and the market never developed, but here is the modern juke box, in performance, manufactured in the days of Edison.

There are three rooms in the old commissary building devoted to museum items. Outside the building sets the old engine, "Gypsy," brought to Humboldt from San Francisco by boat and used to pull and haul logs in the early days of Humboldt logging history. The wrong gauge for newer railroad tracks, Gypsy was worked over by a foundry so that she could operate on standard tracks. After her logging days were over, the old engine was preserved as a curiosity; and in the "Days of General Grant" celebration in 1937, it was operated on street car tracks on Fifth street in Eureka. Today she sits beside the remains of the fort, which is more in keeping with her day.

Surprising perhaps, but true, the city with this memorial to General Grant doesn't know what to do with it. The old commissary building is neither weather proof nor fireproof, and some of the most valuable collector's items of this region are withheld from it for that reason.

"It should have a fireproof building before being made into a county museum," one Humboldt pioneer says, "and others nod their heads. They suggest that it be made a General Grant memorial



Two great American generals. Statues of General Grant and General MacArthur stand where the old fort once was located. Note the old cannon between the two statues.



General U. S. Grant

and items connected with the great general and president be placed there. Meanwhile, the real Humboldt museum, would be placed elsewhere in a fireproof, weather-tight building, preferably in a more accessible location to Eureka.

Selvage is not daunted by the pioneers' statements that Fort Humboldt is not suitable for a museum, however.

LOTS OF VISITORS

"We're swamped with visitors," he reports, "and we have a mighty fine collection of Humboldt county articles to show them, too."

But whatever the controversy over the disposition of Fort Humboldt, whatever the criticism of the old commissary building as the place to store historic relics, Fort Humboldt is more than all of these.

When you go to the top of Humboldt Hill and approach the present-day memorial, the feeling that here is sacred ground grows stronger. As you stand on the site of old Fort Humboldt, one of the early west coast forts and the particular one where a great general of the nation lived and learned, face the west.

If you look east, you'll see homes and the present new addition to Eureka instead of the forests flanking the fort as the old papers describe the scene. But to the west still lies the bay, the strip of land between it and the ocean, and a clump of trees, although not virgin timber, is to be seen on the strip. Beyond is the Pacific ocean and the view that the discouraged young officer looked upon nearly a century ago, and was stirred to do greater things.

General Grant left Fort Humboldt to seek greener pastures elsewhere. Small wonder, for the view to the west from Humboldt Hill, as other hills of Humboldt, has stirred the imagination of other great men who made their names famous and their lives productive, both here and elsewhere.

S'Matter of Opinion

Contributions to this column are welcomed and will be printed as space allows. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

Omaha, Nebraska
April 6, 1949

The Humboldt Times Humboldt, California Gentlemen:

Over the radio this morning I heard Glen Hardy, the news commentator, state your paper has been in operation since 1852.

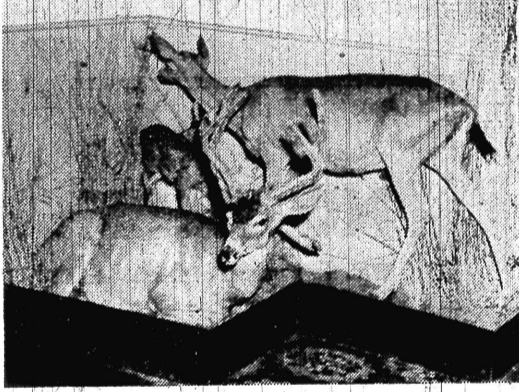
This was very interesting to me, as I am today reading in Stewart's Story of Bret Harte about an incident that was supposed to have happened in the Humboldt Times about 1859. I am taking work at the Creighton University of Omaha, and have chosen Bret Harte, as one of our Far-West writers. Here, in Omaha, we do not have much material about him, but I am wondering if the following took place and if the article about the radish appeared in your Humboldt Times.

From Bret Harte—Stewart—page 80:

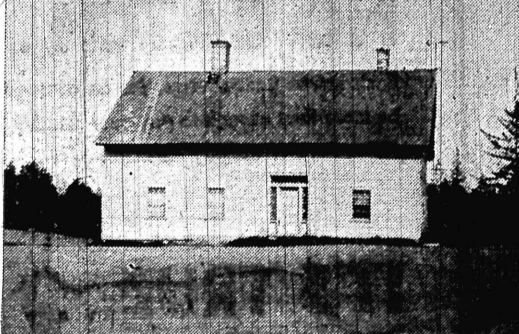
The Junior (Bret Harte) also had his chances at journalistic repartee. The Northern Californian and its rival down the Bay fought bitterly over official advertising, and clashed



"Grand-daddy of the juke box," this old Edison record player stands at Fort Humboldt museum.



Mounted deer that are to be seen in the corner of one of the museum rooms of Fort Humboldt today.



The old commissary building, the last of Fort Humboldt, still stands on the hill.

on various policies. Matters finally became personal. When the Humboldt Times ran a pompous article on the glories of Eureka, Harte printed a parody in mock-heroic vein. The Times replied at hominem, and, taking a suggestion from "Why She Didn't Dance," referred pointedly to a mill which ground out poetry. Harte countered in kind. Then the editor of the Times tried some bating.

Large Radish (sic) — Some friend has laid a very large and peculiar shaped radish on our table. We intend sending it to the Northern Californian as a present to junior editor. The retort came promptly and neatly:

If the peculiar shape of the radish be owing to its being so badly spelt, we would remark that we have already had too much many such specimens from that editor's table. Will you please write me if this

actually happened. Enclosed is a self addressed stamped envelope. Thank you.

Adele J. Stecker
Is the Northern Californian at Union, still in existence?

Rent Advisory Group Set Up

SACRAMENTO, April 10. (AP)—"Home Rule" rent control — as provided by the new federal law — was given an official sendoff in California today.

Governor Warren and officers of the League of California Cities decided the first step would be to set up an advisory committee of mayors to help the governor map out a state-wide policy for carrying out the law.