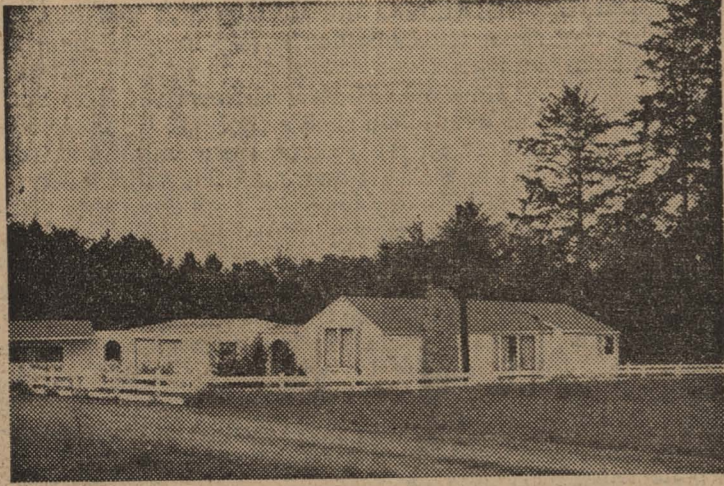


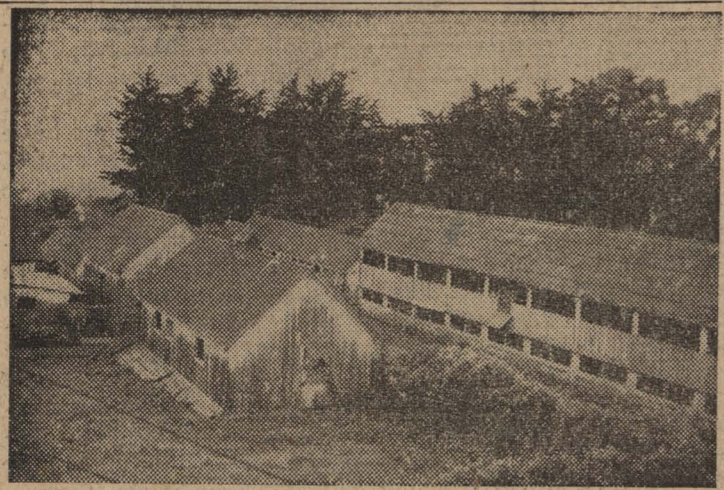
# McKinleyville--A Town Will Develop Here



Nobody was home, but this one was too good for the photographer to resist.



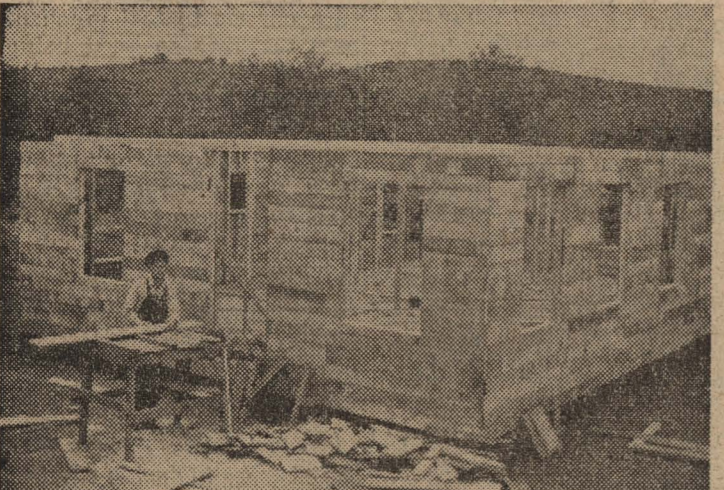
McKinleyville's store is a going enterprise.



Partial view of Dave Henry's chicken ranch.



Paul Crawford with part of the day's harvest, Henry ranch, McKinleyville.



J. D. Kemp pitches in during spare time on his new house in Calville tract.



Teachers and part of McKinleyville's large attendance face the camera.



"You are nearer to God's heart in a garden, than any place on earth." Portion of the Morris sisters' beautiful grounds.

## FAST GROWING COMMUNITY OFFERS MANY ADVANTAGES

By CHET SCHWARZKOFF

McKinleyville, in a larger sense, embraces all that area from Bella Vista hill to the LAES airport, and from the sea to a distance roughly a mile and one-half east of Highway 101—truly a magnificent sweep—with its center about the McKinleyville store and environs.

It has no postoffice—its mail is handled by R. F. D. from Arcata. But judging from its large school attendance, a population of some 1,500 must reside in the area. And they are but a fraction of the number who could live there, if McKinleyville's rolling acres were subdivided into homesites. That part of Humboldt has possibilities, for it is bounded by Arcata's growing industries on one side, and a great airport on the other. Even now, its population has more than tripled since the war's end, and there's no letup in sight.

As a community-area to live in, McKinleyville is richly endowed. Its fertile soil long has been noted for garden produce and nursery stock, while in recent times, the lily raising industry has found it ideally suited for maximum returns.

Aside from that, it is another of Humboldt's scenically lovely domains. Woods, hills, and sea combine to make it a cool and green land the year 'round—which factor has attracted many a former resident of parched lands elsewhere. Two trout streams run through McKinleyville's sylvan slopes—Mill and Widow White creeks—while Strawberry creek all but bounds it to the north. And to the south, from Bella Vista heights, you can watch Mad river's march to the sea . . . or go down there after steelhead and salmon when the big ones are running.

### MCKINLEYVILLE TODAY

It's a good four mile run from one end of McKinleyville's area to the other, and the visitor is impressed at once with the amount of new building that is going on. Numbers of side streets lead off, and you see more homes and farms on these. Where one of these meets the highway, there's a sign saying "Calville, 1/2 mile." So you turn onto it to take a look.

Calville turns out to be a logged off area once owned by the California Barrel company of Arcata. Quite recently, the company put in graveled roads and electricity, and threw the land open to its employees on the most reasonable of terms. Plots anywhere from a large lot to several acres were available, and they were snapped up in a hurry. And so, McKinleyville has a "suburb."

Calville is in the throes of development. Anything goes—from trailers and tar-paper cabins to several good modern homes, and a number of others a-building. Here, as in the days of old, men

who have newly arrived are pioneering. It'll take time, as always, but they will get there. And there's a lot of hard work being done after the menfolks come home from the woods and mills, for stumps must be grubbed out, land leveled and wells dug—and shelter provided for the family in the meantime.

One Calville man, busy at building what will be a comfortable up-to-date home some day, spoke for his neighbors and himself. "A man working for wages and raising a family these days can't afford to hire help and build everything he wants. That will come later. So I'm doing the best I can, like all the rest.

"Most of us have done our own building here, as you can see—and we lend each other a hand if we get stuck. One fellow may be good at plumbing—another handy with electricity. And every one of us knows how to do rough carpentering. We'll get along. . ."

You notice many thriving garden patches, tended by the womenfolks and children. Most everybody has a few chickens, and here and there a cow. A cheerful crowd of children are coming home from school—future Humboldtians. Yes, Calville will "get along."

### MCKINLEYVILLE SCHOOL

The Washington school that corners on 101 highway, near the McKinleyville store, is a good-sized structure for a rural district. But with an enrollment that has increased from 45 in 1946 to 157 now—and still growing—it is no longer large enough.

Principal is business-like Mrs. Adele Chaffey, and there are now four teachers associated with her—Mrs. Thelma Moore, Mrs. Anna Landenschlauger, Mrs. Constance Belfills, and Max Fisher.

In the spring of 1948, McKinleyville's school had three teachers, including the principal. A fourth teacher was put on in September, 1948, and a fifth in the spring of 1949—making an increase of two teachers in one school year!

The school was built in 1924, and in the 1930's, you're told, the enrollment stood between 40 and 45—barely enough to warrant keeping two teachers.

A new school area was set up last year, according to Principal Chaffey. It is called the McKinleyville Union District, and takes in the nearby Dow's Prairie school, which also has grown in leaps and bounds—from one to three teachers since Pearl Harbor. From this merger, it is hoped a large new school will result, consolidating both Dow's Prairie and McKinleyville—and on a site removed from the hazards of the highway.

The project seems a logical one, for all of the schools thus far reviewed in Humboldt by this writer, none have shown the degree of increase these two have recorded. And the possibilities of growth in the areas about them—both from available land and new industries—seem indefinite. There

will be a good-sized town here some day.

### A LOOK AT HISTORY

Cultured and gracious Miss Emily Morris taught in the McKinleyville school from 1907 to 1937. Now retired, Miss Morris lives with her sister Clara in an old-fashioned home surrounded by lovely gardens. From their doorstep you can watch Mad river as it wanders out to sea, while the surf smokes along the shore. Woods and rolling hills add a finishing touch to one of Humboldt's exquisite sites. You catch yourself wishing you could retire to such a haven as this when the day comes . . . and what a retreat it would be for a writer!

There were 54 pupils in McKinleyville's school when Miss Morris took over in 1907, she tells you. And she handled all eight grades alone. In the 30 years that followed, there was little variation. In fact, there was a tendency to decline until the great post-war migration included Humboldt in its scope.

Miss Morris' father, David Wayne Morris, was a veteran of the Civil War, and came west after peace was achieved in 1865. "This was all a farming section at one time," McKinleyville's teacher emeritus tells you. "They raised hay, grain, potatoes, and cattle here, and it has always been a prosperous dairy district.

"Pioneer days were long gone when I came here, of course, but I remember many of the old timers. Isaac Minor was the principal businessman, and he operated a farm as well. He built the McKinleyville store and his son-in-law, Luther Graeter, ran the store for many years. He also gave the community its name, in honor of President McKinley, who first took office in 1896, and was succeeded by the then Vice-President Theodore Roosevelt, after his assassination in 1901.

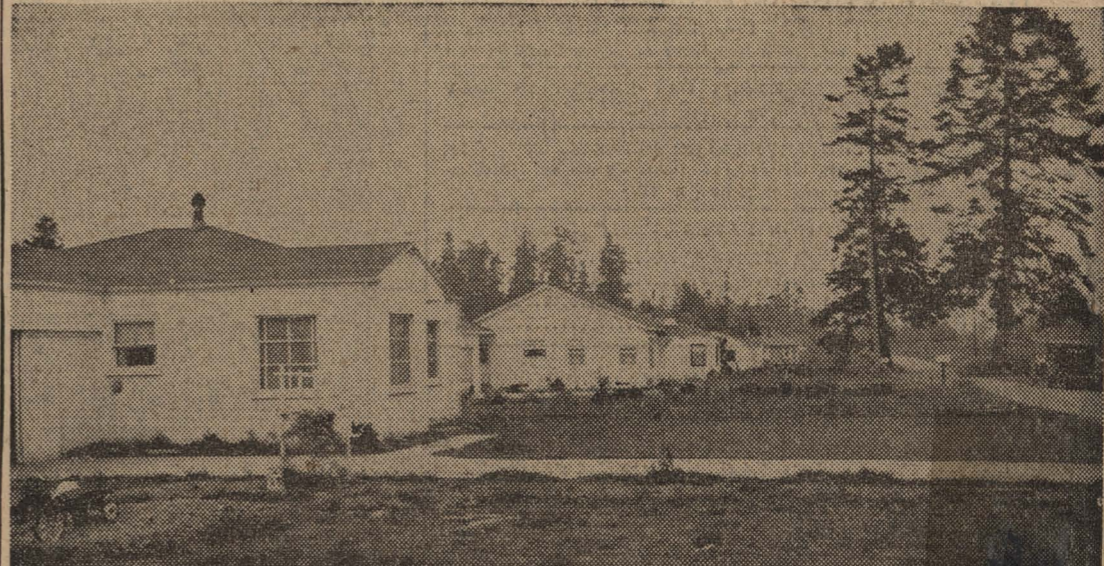
"President McKinley was a Civil War veteran, and many of the earlier settlers here also were veterans of that war, which may have influenced Mr. Minor in naming the community. I remember such names as John Graham, Atkins Brown, John Kellerer, Sanford Turner, Adolph Fischer, J. G. Hawkes, George Fleckenstein, William Wynn, Harry McCloskey, and others. You'd better check with Henry Norton, too, for he was born and raised here, and remembers many others."

First white child born in Arcata, according to Miss Morris, was Frank Bartow, who was still living when she came to McKinleyville to teach school.

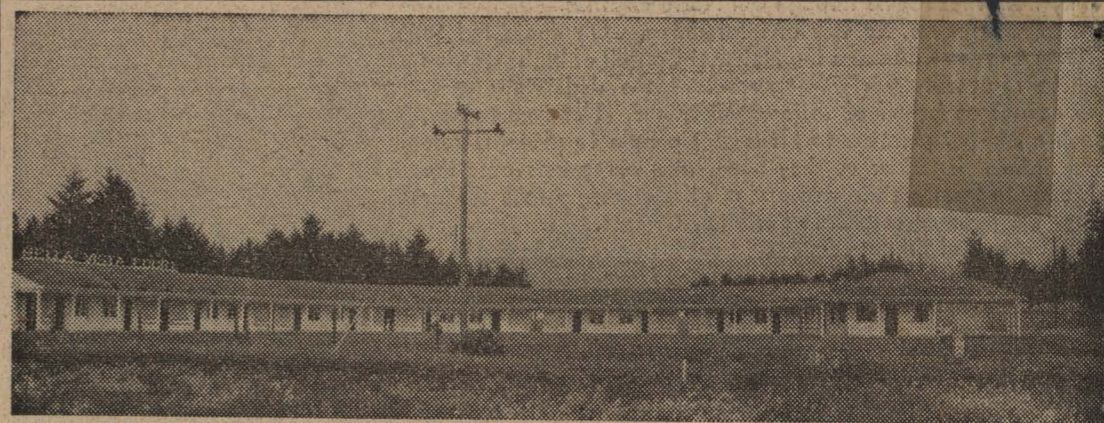
### MEET AN OLD-TIMER

Big, frank-spoken Henry Norton, has lived in McKinleyville all his life. And his mother, who before her marriage was Celia Steele, was the first teacher in the Dow's Prairie district. In 1873, at the age of 16, she taught five pupils in a little one-room log cabin.

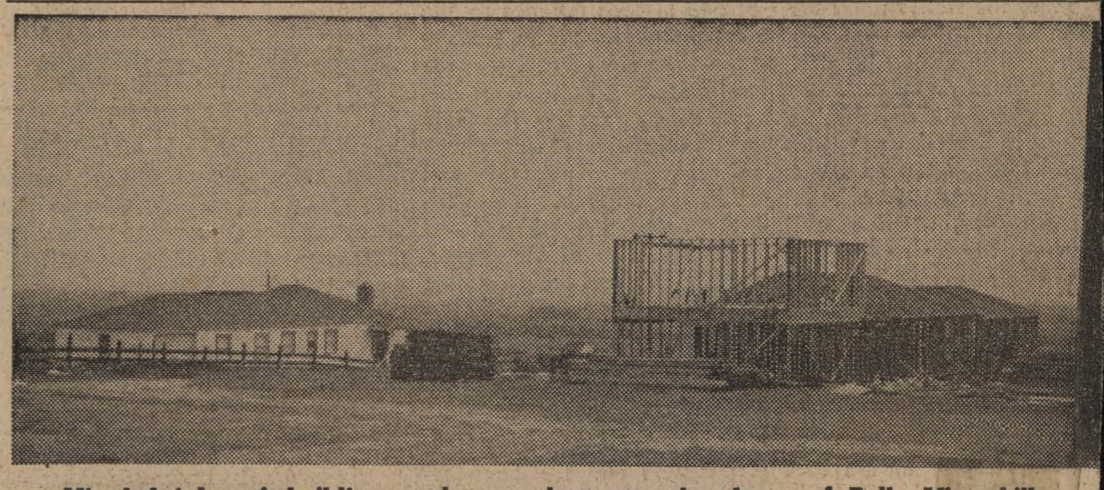
"Isaac Minor built the store, creamery and hotel here some time



McKinleyville avenue has its quota of good modern homes.



The new Bella Vista Court is one of Humboldt's best.



Hirschel Adams is building another new house on the slopes of Bella Vista hill.



Cottage Garden Nurseries' extensive fields, McKinleyville.

in the late 1880's," he recounts. "That was a little before my time, but I can remember 'em when they were quite new, and the pride of the countryside. They used to have some great dances in the hall upstairs over the store. Later it was rebuilt into a hotel. The old creamery next to the store was a hotel, too.

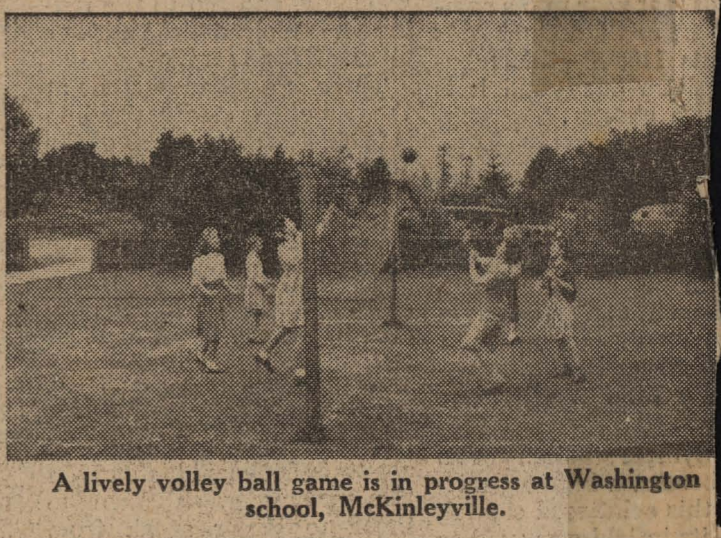
"This was quite a center, long before the present highway was even thought of. Minor built several of these old barns that are still standing. They were our garages in the horse and buggy days!

"Old time names? Well, there were Bill Bohall, Jake Record, Tille Underwood and her sons John and Gib—Tille was here during the Indian troubles. Let's see—there were Edward Norton, and Jim Wilson, Charlie Baird, Dave Worth, Phil and Mike Hiller. Fred Axe, Al Barnes, Gilbert Steele—whom I can remember offhand. Say, you'd better see Miss Emily Morris. She's pretty well read up on history. Eh? You say she told you to see me? Well, say, that was nice of her!"

### MCKINLEYVILLE SUMMARY

McKinleyville's store is owned by two veterans of World War II Charles Maffia Jr. and Rinaldo Maffia—who bought it from Albert Giannini late in 1942. Up-and-coming young merchants—even as the Civil War boys were once upon a time—the two Maffias are handling an ever-increasing business as their community grows.

"The McKinleyville postoffice used to be located in this store," Charlie tells you. "Good roads and automobile R.F.D. caused it to be discontinued. But the way this town is 'going to town' we will have it back again before much longer. This is going to be an important business center. It's getting there now.



A lively volley ball game is in progress at Washington school, McKinleyville.

"Look what a variety of people are in McKinleyville—mill and logging workers, airport personnel, lily bulb raisers, dairymen, the Cottage Garden nursery, resort owners, and the number of retired people with means, who were attracted here by the natural setting. You watch McKinleyville."

Then there's Dave Henry, former superintendent of schools at Napa, who owns a big chicken ranch on Bella Vista hill. Dave runs an average of 4000 birds. He has been in chicken business for nearly 15 years, and says the Humboldt climate is ideal for egg producing, as well as being comparatively free from disease.

Roland Boston and Durward DeBrunner had been coming to Humboldt from Los Angeles on vacation for ten years. Every time they were here they like the countryside better. So, one fine day they just pulled up stakes and came here for keeps.

Then they proceeded to build, atop Bella Vista hill, one of the finest modern motels on the north coast—Bella Vista Court, which

they have recently opened. DeBrunner is operating it, and both he and Boston live in beautiful new homes nearby.

Cottage Garden Nurseries, operated by Otto Kausen, have a big acreage to the west of highway 101. Here are raised vast numbers of rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, lilies, and other flowers. For here, the climate has been found eminently suitable for bringing out the most vivid colorations, as well as rugged, abundant stock.

On the highway, between the store and the school, stands the Herb Miller dairy ranch—one of the most modern of its kind, with a Grade-A milking barn and a brand new silo. Here is a ranch that seems emblematic of the spirit that is bringing McKinleyville to the fore.

It is a spirit that will result in a fine town, for the place has everything it takes—plus an indefinable tempo which seems to attract more people to it, and make it grow. Yes, Charlie Maffia is right—watch McKinleyville.