

TWO SISTERS: "Not like it used to be"

Rural Humboldt County Remembered:

DANCES

V: They used to have 'em at different places, they had picnics too...we have pictures of some our mother went to when she was a girl, was down **Holmes Flat** area? down that way?

And there was a lot of people, different ages, sitting at a huge table, and there was another one taken up at **Eel Rock**, that's about 5 miles this away, and there was another get together. Then there was the dances too..

D: Dance had to usually last all night, 'cause no body could get home...

V: Horse and buggy days. I don't think many people in this area had cars back then. After all, she was born in 1900, so when she was 15, there weren't too many cars around.

D: We didn't come around till she was in her late 30's early 40's. She could remember way back further.

V: I think a lot has been lost. As to people being neighborly- I'm not saying people can't still be neighborly, they do. But you don't know your neighbors anymore, like you once did...

D: Everybody likes the idea of a big fancy house, but I don't think they have much time to enjoy them.

V: I kinda like that other idea, of the little tiny houses

D: 'LOT DIFFERENT NOW'

V: ...There was a railroad depot.

D: Yup.

V: And a post office, and a school.

D: Right where our gate is.

V: And along the track was the depot.

D: It wasn't flat in those days. You had to go up to the depot...

D: This is silt.

V: Well, they tore down the depot that year, didn't they?

D: Oh yeah...Well the train quit anyway.

V: Well, the passenger service was...

HOW LONG DID THE TRAIN RUN?

D: Early '60's maybe?

V: Until...

D: '64...

V: The flood- we used to have that other train that went several times a week.

D&V: The Redwood.

V: And then the bud car. It would go one direction one day and back the next.

D: It worked pretty good too... went all the way to Eureka, stay all night...

V: Or down the other way to Willits.

D: We did that. There was a lot of people that rode it too, people that worked for the railroad.

V: It was pleasant, the Bud car. It wasn't stuffed with people, it was air-conditioned, it was slow. The Bud car, that was the manufacturer, kinda a self contained thing with an engine in it, not like a big train. Course you got to see a lot of scenery up the canyon, not available to everybody. It did get going again, after the flood, the railroad did of course, they put it back together, and that Bud car, didn't it keep on for a little longer? Seems like it did. Don't quote me, I could be wrong.

HOW MANY ACRES DO YOU HAVE HERE?

D: 41

V: 40, I think they say now..They chopped one off somewhere...Well they have a right-of-way for the railroad down there...the line is actually across the track... Down over in there...

D: That country over there used to be ours, Ranch...

V: Camp was a family...

D: Um Hummm....That was where the folks...relatives, way back homesteaded, up in that country...

V: And others would homestead, and they bought it up from them...

D: Once they improved upon it, then they buy it from 'em...Then they kept getting bigger and bigger pieces...



WHEN DID ALL THESE REDWOOD STUMPS HAPPEN?

V: That was after the railroad went through, not long after, it went through, completed in 1914, so, Holmes-Eureka found all this in here, a lumber company. It was such a hurry to cut it all.

D: People made what they called split stuff, pickets

V: Ties...

D: A'lotta ties...

V: Grape-stakes...

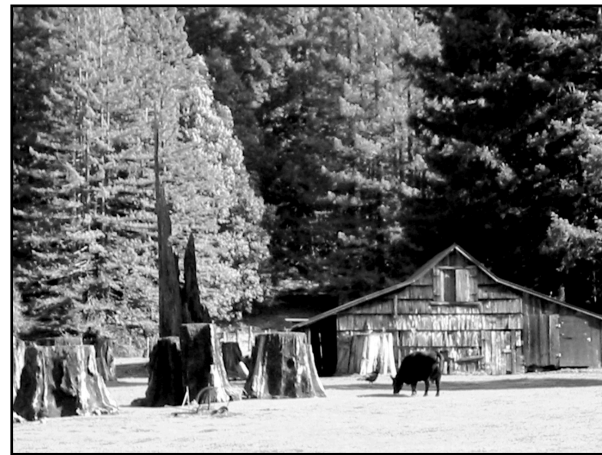
D: Sold that. It was good lumber too, 'cause it didn't have knots.

V: People seem to view these sorts of things like the goldmines, everybody from everywhere rushes in, pretty soon it's all gone.

D: Then they move on.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT MARIJUANA?

V: Well there certainly has been a change. They're gonna find that they're paying a lot of taxes. And so many go into it. But also there are other things associated with it. There's been violence, you know paranoia, people afraid somebody's gonna rip them off, and they do.



D: Yeah it's been rather violent around here, 'member that time I found that guy that got shot sittin' in the road?

V: And the time we were stopped up the road too, before that, and they were beating this fellow up- up past, near the last bridge. There was cars in the road ahead of us, and we couldn't get by and they came explained that this person had I guess had been where they...or maybe had been looking for weed, and had he been shooting around too?...and they said there were little kids, and so...but I don't know how much was baloney and how much wasn't, but they were all young, and he was still defiant, the one that was...

D: Getting beat...

V: Yeah, yeah he had his broken nose, and his face was all bloody...The fella that was doing the...he must have come direct from the city...he was very strong, said he been head butting him? But, they were going to take him off, and let him go some where north, and rough him up maybe a little more. I told him, he'd had enough, and they said pretty soon we could go.

D: We made sure they went ahead of us, we followed 'em out.

V: Yeah, but others from up the way...

D: Oh every where, cars came...

V: Off to the sides, up above, and they came in behind us, but we went to where we said we were headed. To the dump.

D: That's why you don't really want to get off your property after dark.

V: And the guy bled on our pick-up a little bit, and he tried to wash it up a little bit like it was no big deal after he'd been beating this guy up. I thought at first he was hurt but he wasn't. It was the other guy's blood I guess on him. But I never heard of any bodies up there, or anything, so I guess, I hope, he survived.

D: Not like it used to be...

V: They world in general is getting pretty rough, don't you think? Not just here.

D: Ever notice how many people are in town nowadays? You can't even, nowhere to park, it's a madhouse. I don't even like to go to town anymore at all...

V: Have to...

D: Yeah, ya got to...

V: One thing that's been lost is the neighborhoods really, the community sorta thing.

D: That's one thing we run into when we go door-to-door in our preaching work, locked gates, everything. I mean you can't hardly find a person anymore.

V: Big old wooden fences, there are so many of them down there...you can't see your neighbor any more...maybe they don't want to...

Interview Recorded in 2016, Eastern Southern Humboldt County

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