

**SOME INTERESTING ARTICLES
FROM
HUMBOLDT COUNTY NEWSPAPERS
OF EARLY DAYS
VOLUME I**

TALE OF A TRUNK

The Humboldt Daily Times, undated

A young gentleman returned from San Francisco to the parental roof in Eureka by the steamer yesterday afternoon. In the evening he went out to be shaved. During his absence his trunk was left at the door. His fond mother, intent upon doing any service for him, unlocked the trunk with one of her keys, in order to put his clothes in the bureau drawers. She found, upon opening the trunk, a handsome black silk dress, and in the bonnet box a dainty arrangement of head gear, trimmed in the latest style. Somewhat startled at first, the doting parent at length settled in her own mind that her darling boy brought from the city these beautiful and costly articles as gifts for her. Curiosity tempted her to go further. Removing the tray, she found a remarkable assortment for a young man's wardrobe. There was a crystal puff box and powder, a glove box full of lady's gloves, a half million hair ribbons, looking, heaped together, like a quarter section of rainbow stored in the trunk. Then, there was a box labeled corset stays and all rolled up with precision were mysterious white bundles with frilled edgings, that didn't look like a man could get into and still look like a man. Last of all were some pretty summer dresses folded carefully in the bottom of the trunk. The now wretched mother burst into tears as she surveyed these articles and sobbed as though her heart would break to think of the duplicity and evil ways of her boy.

But this scene was tame compared to the sensation in another house. A young lady, after wrestling with the lock of a trunk for about half an hour, broke the lock open and lifting the cover, saw a box of cigars, a bootjack, a pair of suspenders, a shaving apparatus, a six-shooter and a bottle of Cutter's best. With a wild shriek she fainted away, and only the most reassuring tones of the expressman telling that two trunks were so nearly alike that they had been left at the wrong house by mistake, could restore her to her ordinary animation.

A RICH AND POINTED EXPERIENCE

The Humboldt Standard, Friday, April 21, 1876

A young gentleman of this city called on a lady friend last evening. At the time of his visit the lady was engaged in darning stockings, having an egg in one of the stockings to keep the hole in shape or for some similar purpose. When the gentleman made his appearance, she hurriedly dropped her work on a chair and invited him to be seated, and although he doesn't cover a great deal of surface when he is seated, he managed to sit down on the stocking and the egg and the darning needle all at once. Then he got up and darned the stocking and the egg and the needle, and when the pain had subsided a little and he got the egg wiped off his pants, he said it was one of the richest and at the same time most pointed experiences he had ever met with.

PLAYING CHICKEN

The Arcata Evening Telephone (Daily), Friday, May 19, 1882

Not very far from the vicinity of 5th and K streets, Eureka, there resides two or three families in close proximity, who are provided with about the average number of California juveniles. The production of the last five or six years. The crop embraces both sexes, and they are endowed with the usual instincts of diversion, coupled with the ordinary inclination to tackle anything new that presents itself.

Yesterday, a hen, belonging to the head of one of the families, was taken from her nest with a brood of young chickens, and the box in which the chicks had been hatched set out in the back yard, with the straw and some shells left in it. The youngsters found it. It struck them at once as a good place "to hatch chickens" and accordingly each one took his or her turn at "setting" for a few minutes in the box. The box contained about one pound of hungry fleas to the square inch, and while the time which the little fellows thought sufficient to hatch eggs might have been rather short, it was full long enough to produce a bountiful crop of very lively fleas. The nursery scenes that followed during the evening would have to be witnessed to be appreciated, and that's the way we know how to appreciate them.

OUTWIT THE MUD

The Daily Times, Saturday, December 8, 1888

Several plans have been suggested by pedestrians to outwit the mud on F street. One gentleman proposes a series of pontoon bridges, two to the block, while a public spirited member of the weaker sex suggests that the street committee of the Council and the City Marshal be provided with a sedan chair and stationed at a convenient point to transport all who are unable to swim.

FIRST DECLARATION OF INTENTION FILED IN COUNTY BY LADY

The Daily Standard, Saturday, January 26, 1889

Miss Emma Wilson, a native of Sweden, filed her Declaration of Intention to become a citizen of the United States today. We believe this is the first Declaration of Intention ever filed by a lady in this county. When the lady first appeared before Deputy Clerk Deming, that gentleman was somewhat nonplussed, never having heard of a lady becoming a citizen before, but he was not long in forming the "conclusion" if men have the right to become citizens, ladies ought to share the same privilege also.

COMPELLED TO TRAVEL 700 MILES

The Ferndale Enterprise, Friday, October 30, 1891

It took the Graves family, who recently arrived at Eureka 2 ½ months to make the trip with their wagons from Grant's Pass to Eureka, they being compelled to travel 700 miles. Had the road from Redwood to Crescent City been completed they could have made the trip in less than a week.

TUG OF WAR CONTEST

The Daily Humboldt Times, Friday, November 20, 1891

Interest in the Tug of War contest seems to be increasing, and no difficulty will be experienced by the teams which are not yet filled up, in securing men to pull on their side. All the nationalities are rallying around their standards and active training will begin this afternoon, we understand. The room under Simpson's mill has been secured for training purposes and will be open day and night.

A FERNDALE SENSATION

The Daily Humboldt Standard, Friday, November 25, 1892

Monday morning work was commenced on a building at the east end of and directly adjoining the I.O.G.T. Hall. It was generally understood that it was to be occupied by one or more women of shady character and considerable talk was indulged in over the matter, which culminated in an attempt, Monday evening to tear the partly completed building down. Constable Varian had somehow gotten wind of the affair, and on the evening before appointed a deputy in case an emergency should occur.

About half-past nine a noise was heard in the direction of the building, and repairing to the scene of the commotion, found eleven women, wives and daughters of prominent citizens of the town, engaged in tearing the building down. A rope had been attached to the underpinning, and by the aid of a horse, it was being pulled out. The women were ordered to desist, and upon their at first refusing to do so, they were threatened with arrest. Constable Varian took the names of nine of them, two having escaped, and it was the intention to have them arrested Tuesday morning.

Up to the time of writing, however, no arrests have been made. Work has been suspended on the building, the contractor having been ordered by the women to do so. Considerable feeling has been stirred up over the matter, some of the citizens being on the side of the women and others on the side of the law, and there is no telling how it will come out.

A DOG BEFORE THE MAST

The Daily Humboldt Standard, Monday, November 28, 1892

The schooner "Fortuna" arrived Saturday night with an amusing incident that occurred off Cape Mendocino. Rover is a dog that has been with the schooner ever since he was a pup, and Rover considers himself one of the crew. When the waves were rolling high and the schooner was plunging up and down, Rover was on the deck with the rest of the crew, looking after the safety of the vessel. The schooner made a lunge and the foresail caught Rover, throwing him high into the air and out into the ocean. The Captain had a boat lowered for Rover and the course of the vessel was changed until the men returned with Rover in the boat. The dog and the sailors are faster friends now than ever.

TOO MUCH MILK TO DRINK

The Daily Humboldt Standard, Friday, September 8, 1893

Our young friend Guy Bugbee, who occasionally drives N.P. Hansen's milk wagon to John Hansen's creamery near Ferndale took a header into a skim-milk vat Wednesday morning, and disappeared all but his boots. He was fished out after some difficulty, and upon being landed on the floor of the creamery presented much the appearance of one who had been whitewashed. The time was when Guy could never get too much milk, but the time wasn't on this occasion.

HAUNTED SALOON

The Ferndale Enterprise, Friday, February 14, 1894

Nash's saloon on the corner of 3rd and E streets in Eureka has been haunted for some time past. Two men, who were recently employed to remain in the building overnight being nearly frightened to death by the sudden appearance of several ghosts, who, after playing a game of cards, turned in and upset things generally. The men solemnly declare their story to be true, and an offer of \$7.50 is still open to anyone who will stay in the saloon over night.

C.B. AND HIS CAT

The Daily Humboldt Times, Sunday, November 25, 1894

C.B. and his cat were arrested on 5th street Friday evening for drunkenness. When found the pair were enjoying a meal, tete-a-tete, on the sidewalk, the cat daintily lurching off a package of fish under Brown's arm, while B. was trying to appease his own hunger from a bag of peanuts. The cat was not as "far" gone as B., but his evil association got him into trouble, and as Brown demurred to parting with his feline companion, they were locked up in the same cell. Yesterday Judge Carr allowed the cat to go on his own recognizance, but B. was sent up for five days in default of paying \$5 fine.

ARCATA PLAZA

The Arcata Union, Saturday, August 10, 1895

Inquiry is constantly being made as to what kind of fence will be built around the plaza to keep the cows out.

HIGH SCHOOL OR NO HIGH SCHOOL

The Daily Humboldt Times, Saturday, August 24, 1895

The election today will determine whether Eureka shall be classed with the backwoods communities in educational matters or shall provide her children with the facilities for higher education and place herself on an equal footing with her lesser neighbor, Arcata, which has already established a high school.

WENT TO SEA ON A PLANK

The Daily Humboldt Times, Saturday, August 24, 1895

William Blair, an employee at the South Jetty, enjoys the distinction of being the first man to cross Humboldt bar on a plank, and is one of the probably two or three men who have fallen overboard on the bar and lived to tell the tale.

While at work Blair stumbled and pitched overboard two thirds of a mile from shore and well out on the bar. Blair, who is about thirty five years of age, is an expert swimmer but this availed him nothing, except to keep afloat, for with the strong ebb tide running at the time, he was rapidly swept seaward away from the trestle. Someone immediately threw a plank toward him which he was able to seize as it swept by him and clung to it as he started on his journey over Humboldt bar. He was soon rescued, despite a heavy fog, by the U.S. Life Saving Station crew which had launched a boat when informed of the accident. When picked up, Blair was apparently none the worse for his perilous trip and said he could have held on quite a while longer although he admitted the water was disagreeably cold. In fact, when the rescued man was put ashore at the South Spit he was entirely recovered and after changing his clothes he returned to work on the trestle as if sailing over Humboldt bar on a plank was an every day occurrence.

There are but one or two other recorded instances of a man surviving a plunge overboard on the Humboldt bar. The most remarkable previous escape was that of Captain Iverson, who was washed overboard from the barkentine "Monitor" several years ago. The vessel was crossing out over the bar when a huge sea swept the deck and carried the captain with it, but the next sea that went over the vessel brought the captain back and left him on the deck little the worse for his experience.

POLLY'S LITTLE FLIGHT

The Daily Humboldt Standard, Friday, November 15, 1895

The parrot advertised last evening has been found and Polly's little flight was a short one. The bird flew into a deserted chicken house, and when her captors closed the door, Polly gave way to her emotions in a burst of profanity that made the shingles rattle.

ASTOR'S REDWOOD TABLE

The Daily Humboldt Standard, Wednesday, January 26, 1898

William Waldorf Astor's famous redwood table has been set up on his grounds at Clivedon. The table is formed of the famous cross section of a redwood tree furnished by the John Vance M & L Co. and cut from their timber on Mad river in Humboldt county. The table has been arranged as to present the appearance of a growing tree cut off at the stump.

SAW THEIR OWN BONES

The Daily Humboldt Standard, Thursday, February 24, 1898

Dr. Rae Felt gave an electrical séance with his new electrical apparatus brought with him from San Francisco and in the fluid generated by it those present were afforded the novelty of bathing without undressing or getting wet, while by means of the fluoroscope and the wonderful "X"-Ray they were enabled to see the bones of their own and neighbor's anatomies and for the time being became so shrewd and penetrating that they could "see through any man."

WILLIAM WALDFORD ASTOR WON WAGER

Ferndale Enterprise, Friday, October 21, 1898

Millionaire William Waldford Astor won his \$25,000 wager made two years ago with General Williams, an English gentleman, that he would seat 27 guests around a table made from a single cross section of a great California redwood tree. The dinner was partaken of, as stipulated by Mr. Astor, at Cliveden, his beautiful country place on the Thames, October 15th, the twenty-six guests of high English origin (including General Williams) being seated around the polished slab of redwood which was not obscured by the presence of a spread.

General Williams paid the wager, which would about cover the expense of getting the gigantic slab to its destination. The "Standard" furnishes the following initial history of the wonderful table: The section of redwood tree referred to was obtained by Mrs. Astor's agent in New York, through an order placed with a lumber firm in San Francisco, which in turn placed the order with the John Vance Mill & Lumber Company of Eureka, in whose woods on Lindsay creek, the tree was cut which furnished a clear section 15 feet 6 inches in diameter and three feet thick. Special appliances had to be provided for getting the huge piece of timber out of the woods and down to the water where it was loaded on the stammer "National City" which took it to San Francisco, arriving there in May 1897. From the stammer it was transferred directly to the hold of the German ship "Maria Hackfield," then loading in the stream at San Francisco with redwood lumber for London and on that vessel it left San Francisco for its voyage around Cape Horn, May 18 and arrived in London October 16, 1897.

BORN AT SEA

The Ferndale Enterprise, Friday, December 23, 1898

A little baby girl, weighing a scant pound and a half and measuring six inches in length, was born at sea on the steamer "Weeott" on December 10th to the wife of G.W. White. Captain Dunham made a cradle for the little one out of a cigar box.

POLICE COURT

The Daily Humboldt Standard, Friday, January 20, 1899

A drunk was gathered in on Front street early in the evening. At the time of his arrest he was attempting some rather rough riding for he was endeavoring to ride his horse into the saloon of the Scandia hotel and as the animal's head came in the doorway he gave his order for beer for his horse and whiskey for himself. But neither was served and instead he and his horse were removed by the police while insisting on getting into the saloon. This morning the rough rider told the Judge how rough it would be if he had to give up his last cent for a fine and as the prisoner's landlord not only had that money, but also had a lien on it for board. His Honor was touched and allowed the erring fellow to go under promise that he would leave town on the stammer Pomona.

STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

The Arcata Union, Saturday, January 28, 1899

Several ladies who attended a play last Saturday evening made a step in the right direction by removing their hats, and thus giving those seated behind them a free and unobstructed view of the stage. This is a custom we hope to see become general in Arcata, and there is no good reason why it should not. In the future, managers of all entertainment should request the ladies to observe this excellent custom as they do in larger places.

CIDER BATH

The Ferndale Enterprise, Tuesday, February 3, 1899

Jerry Lanini, the baldheaded bungstarter at the Milwaukee Saloon, Main street, Ferndale, took a bath Saturday morning. A keg of Buttle's Cider blew up, and Jerry came within an inch of being drowned. He spent several hours in bed, waiting for his clothes to dry, after the incident.

CHICKEN THEFT

The Daily Times, Tuesday, April 2, 1889

Our fellow townsman T. F. Ricks was the fortunate possessor of 14 chickens, which disappeared in an unaccountable way. Yesterday we learned that a coal-oil can full of stewed chicken was discovered at Fort Humboldt, and a bone, wrapped up in a blank apology, was brought in to the original owner. No arrests yet.

LARGEST HORSE

The Ferndale Enterprise, Tuesday, April 25, 1899

The largest horse in Humboldt county is dead. He was a Val Jean, belonging to the Mahan boys of Eureka, and weighed at one time 2200 pounds. His death is a severe loss to the young attorneys who own the old Mahan place on Mad River and had kept the horse for breeding purposes.

EXPENSIVE LUXURY

The Ferndale Enterprise, Tuesday, May 2, 1899

Maurice Neilsen, of the Island, was in serious trouble one day last week. His pet monkey broke his moorings and made Rome howl, so to speak. He crawled in a bedroom window, tore up two or three fine bed quilts and raised Ned with everything he could get hold of. The "missing link" still lives, but Maurice has concluded that he is rather an expensive luxury.

SERIOUS TROUBLE

The Ferndale Enterprise, Tuesday, June 13, 1899

The small boys who have been untying horses on Washington street of late had better be careful or they will get into serious trouble.

THE HORSELESS WAGON

The Daily Humboldt Standard, Thursday, July 6, 1899

It is stated with good authority that San Francisco will soon have the auto-mobile or horseless wagon in active use as a competitor of the street railways. Those who seem to know whereof they speak say that these vehicles can be profitably employed to carry passengers at a three cent fare and if this be the case, we may expect to see the auto-mobile in general use for such purposes within a very few years.

Would it not be a good investment for some enterprising capitalist to get several of these machines and start a streetcar service in Eureka? We shall have the Eureka Fair in operation and it would be a novelty if

an auto-mobile or two could be put to work on our streets during fair time. It may be a little early to secure them, but it will do no harm to investigate the matter.

WIG IS TO BE DISCARDED

The Ferndale Enterprise, Tuesday, August 1, 1899

A strange thing happened to Ernest Weaver, formerly of Ferndale, since his stay in the Klondike. When Ernest was quite young, all his hair came out, and for years he had to wear a wig. Soon after reaching the frozen north, his hair took a fresh start, and the Enterprise is informed that his wig is to be discarded, and that he will sport again as fine a head of hair as anybody.

POLICE COURT

The Daily Humboldt Standard, Thursday, August 22, 1899

F. and M. R., residing at the corner of 5th and M streets, were gathered in by the police about midnight for disturbing the peace of their neighborhood. F. and M. were a little too convivial last evening with the result that the whiskey jar was turned into a family jar and when the police, who had been summoned by the neighbors about midnight, arrived on the scene, M., in extreme deshabelle, was out in the street throwing sticks and stones through the front window of the house in order to score a hit on her loving spouse, but not too far gone to make a close engagement dangerous. In the Police Court this morning the happy couple were fined \$15 each and given until tomorrow to pay up, the alternative being 15 days in jail for each.

LIVE ALLIGATOR

The Ferndale Enterprise, Tuesday, September 5, 1899

A live alligator direct from the swamps of Louisiana arrived at Eureka last week, in care of the Wells Fargo and Company express, and it will be on exhibit at the Fair at our county-seat next week.

HARRY COHN'S BULL DOG

The Daily Humboldt Standard, October 30, 1899

The spectacle of a bull dog attempting to take a man's overcoat from the back of the owner is an unusual one, but Scotia has such a prodigy of the canine persuasion, and last Saturday he practiced his peculiar penchant. For some time the dog had been on the lookout for a desirable overcoat and when Harry Cohn arrived at the sawmill town the dog was not slow to recognize that his day (and overcoat) had come. But even a dog's best laid plans sometimes miscarry, and so it was in this case, for Harry strenuously objected to parting with his handsome and serviceable overcoat. The dog pinned his teeth and tenacity to the coat and Harry pinned his faith to his feet. Like the Irishman's duck, the feet were all-powerful and at the end

of the engagement the dog retired much the worse for wear, while Harry sorrowed alone over the rents in his dearly prized garment.

AN AUTOMOBILE

J.G. Lovern to Have the First Horseless Carriage in Humboldt

The Daily Humboldt Standard, Wednesday, November 1899

By the steamer Pomona to arrive Saturday, J.G. Loveren, the well known shingle manufacturer of this city, expects to receive an automobile, or horseless carriage, the first in Humboldt county. The machine, which is of the vehicle pattern known as a "trap," was built at Peoria, Illinois, and has been a month on its way here. It weighs 700 pounds, the motive power is furnished by gasoline engines which develop six horse power, giving it a maximum speed of 35 miles and hour at a cost of one-half center pr hour for fuel, while the total cost of the machine, including \$175 freight charges here, is about \$2,570. Mr. Loveren purposes placing the machine on exhibition at the South Park track where the public will be afforded an opportunity of inspecting it and also riding in it. Later when the weather becomes better, Mr. Loveren and his wife will make a tour of the State with the machine.