

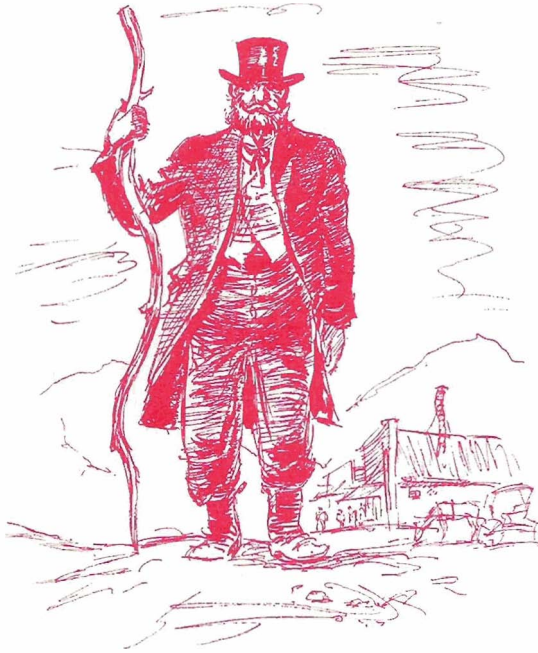
**E**  
**CLAMPUS**  
**VITUS**



**THEN AND NOW**  
**1852-1966**

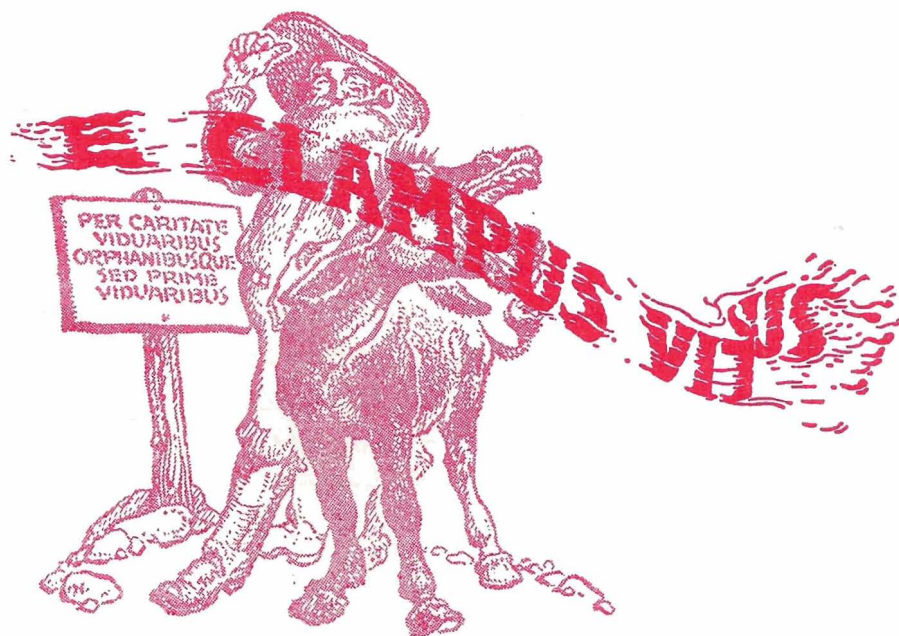
**Credo Quia Absurdum**





*Tis worthy of all men's belief  
That the noble old Staff of Relief  
When applied with great skill  
And a right hearty will  
Makes a PBC howl thru his teeth*

# The Story of



*Material contained in this history was compiled from various sources by*

*Chapters one, two and three*

Clamper Dave Dunlap — Matuca Chapter

*Chapters four, five and six*

Clamphistorian Dr. R. Coke Wood, *chairman* — Matuca Chapter

X-Sublime Noble Grand Humbug Archie Stevenot — Matuca Chapter

X-Sublime Noble Grand Humbug Albert Shumate, M.D. — Yerba Buena Chapter

X-Noble Grand Humbug Wesley A. Simard — James Marshall Chapter

*Published nineteen hundred sixty-six*

*Stockton, California*

*Dedicated to the antics and the glorious  
spirit of early-day Clampers who  
lightened the cares of the gold  
rush days and made the old  
frontiers ring with laughter*





# I N T R O D U C T I O N

In the Gold Rush Days in California, an organization known as E Clampus Vitus flourished throughout the diggings, as a type of joke, a sort of parody of the solemn and mysterious fraternal orders then so popular in the States.

Every member of any order  
whatever made an attempt  
sometime or other to  
assemble members  
of his particular  
group



for a  
fraternal purpose.

Many who were not  
eligible for membership in-  
to the other orders, took to the  
Clampers like a duck takes to water.

Perhaps this was because the Clampers made every member a chairman of the Most Important Committee, and "Every member held an office, of equal indignity". It is said that E Clampus Vitus was formed for the purpose of relief of the widows and orphans during the Gold Rush Days. Historians have tried to trace the course and development of E Clampus Vitus in California and have found themselves hampered by the lack of written records. It is the purpose of this book, therefore, to prove the existence of E Clampus Vitus in California in the 1850's and to prove that their deeds actually did aid the needy families.

## THE HISTORY OF

# E CLAMPUS VITUS

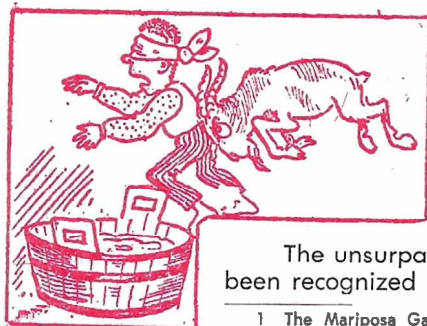
AS TOLD BY THE ORGANIZATION

### CHAPTER ONE



**CLAMPUS VITUS** is said by its adherents to be the most ancient of all fraternal orders. Its founding, as the tale is told, was coeval with the origin of the human race.

It is related that in 1852 Steamboat Jake, a merchant from Yreka, thinking to improve his business by fraternal affiliations, made arrangements through certain Clampers for initiation into the Masons, the Odd Fellows and E Clampus Vitus at one bargain rate of \$98.50. When the various brethren were assembled at the Hall of Comparative Ovations and Jake, bound and blindfolded, was brought to be branded, the question arose as to which Order should first apply the brand. It was agreed that the oldest should have priority. The Odd Fellows presented their claim for that honor, stating that their order was created by a charter issued in the form of a golden tablet by the Emperor Titus to his Jewish Legion in the first century A. D. The Masons disputed the claim, relating the scholarly history of Reverend Dr. Anderson to prove that the "Grand Master Moses often marshalled the Israelites into a regular and general lodge whilst in the wilderness, and that King Solomon was Grand Master of the Lodge at Jerusalem." The Noble Grand Humbug of E Clampus Vitus then arose and confounded the rival organizations with proof adducted from the unimpeachable unwritten works of St. Vitus, the final authority in all such matters, that E Clampus Vitus was founded by our Clampatriarch Adam himself in the Garden of Eden, and that the original Staff of Relief, which figures so greatly in the Clamper ritual, was a branch that Adam broke from the Tree of Knowledge and smuggled out with him, hidden beneath his apron, when he was driven from Eden. All present in the Hall agreed that such antiquity was beyond compare. The seniority of the Clampers was recognized, and Steamboat Jake accordingly was given into their hands for initiation. It is told that by the time they were through with him he had lost all desire for further fraternal connections.<sup>1</sup>



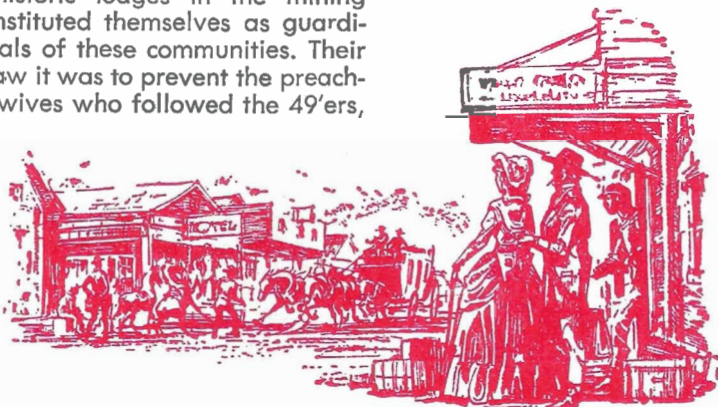
The unsurpassable antiquity of E Clampus Vitus has been recognized and proven on many occasions. There

<sup>1</sup> The Mariposa Gazette, June 4, 1936.

are those who claim they can trace it through the times of the Old Testament and the beginnings of the Christian Era when its rites were conducted in the catacombs of Rome and referred to as the "Enigmatical Book of Vitus" and the "Curious Book of the Clampers". These tales tell how it was spread through Europe by the Frolicking Friars, and carried to the Orient by the indomitable Vituscan Fathers.

According to the clampers, the introduction of the Order into the United States has long been shrouded in mystery and legend. Only recently has the true history been traced by the Royal Platrix Chapter and the Archivist of the West Virginia Lodge. The result of this research supposedly proves by documentary evidence that the secrets and symbols of E Clampus Vitus were imparted by the Emperor of China, Tao-Kwang, Great Hotshot of the Chinese Grand Lodge, to Caleb Cushing, when the latter visited China in 1844 to negotiate the first treaty between the United States and that celestial Kingdom. Cushing was specially charged by the Emperor to deliver the secrets and signs of authority to Ephraim Bee, innkeeper of Bush Creek, Boone County, Virginia, to be disseminated by him at his discretion among the fellow citizens so that the Chinese and American people might henceforth be united by the Bonds of Fraternal brotherhood as well as by the more formal ties of diplomatic relations. By virtue of his authority, Ephraim Bee traveled about his native state organizing lodges of E Clampus Vitus in villages and county seats.

It is also said that among others, a number of drummers were taken into the Order, with or without authority from Bee. These travelers took the gullible villagers and townsmen along their routes into the Brotherhood until by 1849 the East and Middle West were dotted with Clamper Lodges. From these lodges many lusty Clampers went west in the Gold Rush and founded the historic lodges in the mining camps that constituted themselves as guardians of the morals of these communities. Their duty, as they saw it was to prevent the preachers, and pious wives who followed the 49'ers,





from imposing any excess of morality that might hamper the full enjoyment of life. How well the Clampers performed this function is commonly known, despite the lack of written records. This lack of records is attributed to the circumstance that during the meetings there never was anyone capable of keeping the minutes and that afterward no one remembered what had taken place.

As E Clampus Vitus mushroomed along with the rapid growth of the gold towns, it declined as rapidly as they did, and, therefore, lived only in the memory of a few ancient dwellers in the mountains and in the annals of the county histories until, in 1930, when a new prophet, a second Ephraim Bee, appeared in the person of Carl Wheat to reorganize the historic organization.<sup>2</sup>

Members of the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus have always been adventurers and many have been leaders in conquest of their respective countries. The most noteworthy of that band of stalwarts was Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, a doughty explorer in the service of the Spanish Empire, who on October 19, 1542, raised the Spanish flag at a point near the beach city of Heuneme in Ventura County and took possession of the land in the name of the King. Cabrillo is buried on San Miguel Island and some Clampers make annual pilgrimages to his grave.

Sir Francis Drake was a Clamper, but not in good standing because of his piratical exploits until June 15, 1579, when this bold buccaneer reached California in the famous ship, the "Golden Hind", and anchored in Drake's Bay where he raised the English flag and took possession for Queen Elizabeth and called the land New Albion.

Then Spain decided to occupy California to protect her colonial possessions, so two courageous Clampers were selected for the expedition; one was Don Gaspar de Portola, and the other was Father Junipero Serra. These men raised the Spanish Emperor's flag at San Diego on May 17, 1769.

After Mexico revolted from Spain, an admirable Clamper, General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, ordered the flag of the Mexican Republic raised at Monterey on January 7, 1824.

John Charles Fremont was a peripatetic Clamper and he raised his ensign as Captain



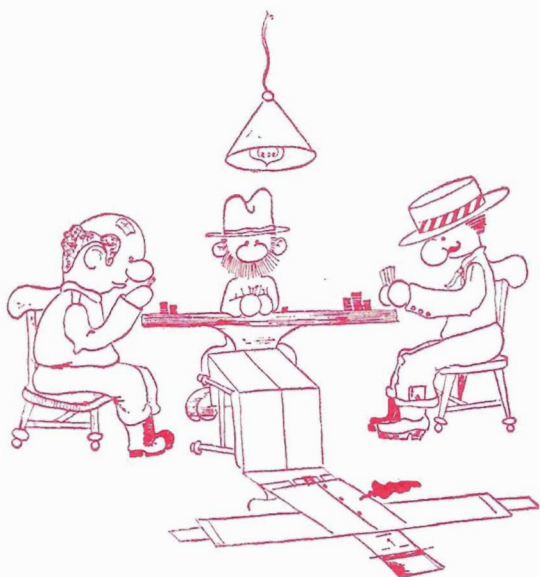
<sup>2</sup> The Mariposa Gazette, June 4, 1936.

of the United States Topographical Engineers above every camp that he made in California during his explorations between 1844 and 1846. That flag is now in the custody of the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles.

On June 14, 1846, a Sonoma group of justly indignant Clampers rebelled against the aggression of Mexican officials. They captured the garrison at Sonoma, issued a clampotent proclamation declaring California to be an independent republic and raised a crudely designed but historic Bear Flag.

Clampers played an important part in the history of California in the nineteenth century because the American members of this Order worked in unison. Commodore John D. Sloat, in command of the Pacific Squadron of the U. S. Navy, captured Monterey and on July 7, 1846, he instructed a fellow Clamper, William Mervine, to raise the flag of the United States above the custom-house. When Fremont learned of Brother Sloat's coup he ordered the Bear Flag struck at Sonoma and replaced by a 28-star flag of the United States.

It is manifest that Clampers have been leaders throughout the history of California and the flag-raising members of the Order of E Clampus Vitus have contributed glamor and deeds of courage and gallantry to our heritage. It must be noted, however, that this history has never been proven.



## AN EXPLANATION OF THE TITLE

# E CLAMPUS VITUS

AS TOLD BY THE ORGANIZATION

### CHAPTER TWO



IT IS AGREED by some theologians that the letter E stands for the Elohist Prophetic Document, one of the ancient chronicles from whose wisdom the Past Noble Grand Humbug Moses drank copiously just before he dictated the first five books of the Old Testament. Thus stands confirmed the tradition that the Order was founded in the beginning of time, and is coeval with the human race.

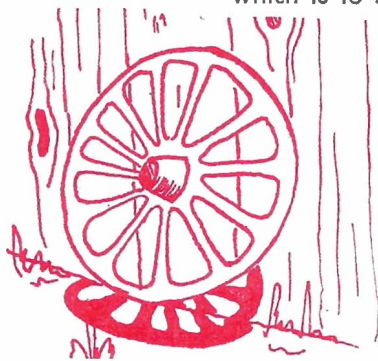
In the word CLAMPUS may be recognized the Greek "klept", to take or steal, to carry off. This clearly signifies that Adam stole or smuggled out of the Garden of Eden, hidden beneath his apron, the Seeds and Symbols of the Order, the only relics which have been preserved of the original happy and virtuous state of mankind.

The word VITUS, the Greek "phitos", a father or begetter, refers to Adam, the original father and progenitor of us all.

Secondly, concerning the Nobility, Veritability, and Essential Verility of E Clampus Vitus, some historians say it is known that the letter E descends from the Phoenician charter (HE), a window, signifying that through admission to the Order, as through a window, a light of knowledge comes to poor blind souls who have long groped in darkness. This is more evident from the fact that E is not only a letter, but is also a word, meaning in Latin "out of". Consider for example the subtle saying of Persuis, the Roman satirist:

### E NIHILO NIHIL

which is to say, **out of nothingness**. CLAMPUS, on the other hand, is clearly reminiscent of the Latin word "clam", which signifies "unknown to, without the knowledge of", in other words, "in ignorance or darkness". Thus it is possible that E CLAM plainly means "out of darkness".



The term, PUS is taken from the Latin "pos" meaning "after", and VITUS from "vita", life", which completes the meaning, "Out of Darkness after seeking Life", signifying that all good Clampers seek for life among the bright lights.

The true title of this Confraternity thus is, as originally postulated, E C V, and it embodies in symbolic form the immemorial antiquity, the exalted nobility, and the cogent regenerative prolific potency which have characterized the Order from its first beginning and will ever assure its preeminence.<sup>4</sup> The meaning of this title still remains a mystery to historians.

4 Anon., *Credo Quia Absurdum* (Gathered, arranged and printed in Placerville, California, 1949), p. 37.



## THE HISTORICAL ORIGIN OF

# E CLAMPUS VITUS

AS WRITTEN IN THE PRESS

### CHAPTER THREE



MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN about the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus. Most historians familiar with the Gold Rush period of California know the order as the "noble wheeze", the incomparable confraternity, a bibulous brotherhood that spread with the speed of gossip from one mining camp to another, from Siskiyou to Mariposa County in the eighteen fifties.

E Clampus Vitus existed principally for the purpose of taking in new members, and for the entertainment and refreshment thereby provided for the old members at the neophyte's expense. By the time the candidate had sat on the Expungent's Chair, passed through the Cave of Silence, ridden the Rocky Road, experienced the Elevation of Man, taken the fearful oaths, endured the Obliterating Obfuscation, received the Staff of Relief, and seen his initiation fee converted into liquid assets and consumed by the assembled Clampers, he was under no misapprehension as to what had happened to him. He had been "taken in", and he was as eager as the other brothers to find another sucker, so that he might get even.

ECV afforded a perfect excuse and occasion for the horseplay that served as a safety valve for the accumulated animal spirits of the young men at the mines. Ridiculous paraphernalia was concocted, burlesquing that of the serious fraternities . . . the Blunderbusket and the Sword of Justice Tempered with Mercy, of Bunyanesque proportions, and the great tin horn or Hewgag, that sounded a horrendous blast to call the boys in from the diggings whenever a new candidate was caught.

Soon business in the mountain towns was running on a closed shop basis; no merchant could hold his customers, no drummer could make a sale, no man was safe from social ostracism until he had joined the new benevolent order which, it was said, had been formed by the miners for the relief of the widows and orphans, but more particularly of the widows.

Despite the lack of written records, it is still possible to find some of the unsteady tracks left by the roisterous brethren. Old county histories list ECV along with the





most respectable fraternal orders, and give lists of members, with their exalted titles, for the Clampers adhered to the democratic rule that every member was entitled to be an officer, and that all officers should be of equal indignity. There are listed titles such as Clamps Petrix, Clamps Vitrix, Clamps Matrix and Royal Platrix, Great Mountageon, High and Mighty Hangman, Grand Gyas-cutis, and the presiding officer, the Noble Grand Humbug.

One of the county histories, "The History of Plumas, Lassen and Sierra Counties", by Farris and Smith, 1881, makes the claim that E Clampus Vitus was first organized in Sierra City in 1857. The following selection is from this history:

In 1871, a grand Fourth-of-July celebration was held in Sierra City, on which occasion J. H. Tinny read a declaration of independence to a vast audience, and Frank Anderson of Downieville delivered an eloquent and thrilling oration. A prominent feature of the day was the laying of the corner-stone of Busch's building on Main Street, by E Clampus Vitus society, with appropriate and impressive ceremonies. The brazen serpent, and other insignia of this ancient and honorable order, were displayed to the public gaze; while Harry Warner, in an able peroration, dilated at some length of the benefits accruing to its members and their families by their connection with a secret order possessing such broad and liberal principles. The E Clampus Vitus was first organized in Sierra City in 1857, with Sam Hartley as the pioneer N G H. Since that time it has received accessions from every side, and now numbers in its ranks many of the most honored and respected citizens of the town and vicinity.

This is not correct. A lodge was formed in Sierra City, "Balaam Lodge No. 107402", but it was one of many and by no means the first. There is positive proof that E C V existed in California before 1857.

One of the first acknowledgments of E C V in California in the 1850's appeared in "The Sacramento Union" September 28, 1852:

#### E CLAMPUS VITUS

Some of the San Francisco editors are wondering what can be the object or aims of a newly created secret society, hearing this name in that city.

Although we are not prepared to say that the association is precisely similar to the one we have heretofore known, yet we can state for the information of the curious, that the term implied a degree of waggery to be practiced by the knowing ones upon greenhorns; and that its existence was merely Nominal — its meetings being held only when a victim presented himself for initiation. The dollars contributed to the fire companies we presume was intended merely to create mystery to the good citizens of the Bay city.

E Clampus Vitus is mentioned on March 12, 1853 by "The Daily Placer Times and Transcript":

The Order of E Clampus Vitus celebrated Washington's Anniversary by dinner, toasts and speeches.



"The San Francisco Herald" mentions the organization in their issue of October 18, 1855:

#### **E CLAMPUS VITUS**

It is stated that a movement is under foot in this city for the permanent establishment of a Society under the above title, and that a meeting will be held this evening for the purpose of initiating a large number of candidates for membership into the secrets of the order.

"The History of Siskiyou County, California", by H. L. Wells, 1861, tells of the pranks (perpetrated) in 1856 by a Clamper Lodge then flourishing in Yreka:

In 1856, there existed at that time in Yreka a lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Order of Eclampus Vitus, an order that existed solely and simply for the sport that could be had in initiating novices into its mysteries. The ceremonies were the most ludicrous and awe-inspiring that the fertile brain of man could conceive. Into this order three practical jokers of the town, Pembroke Murray, Geo. W. Stilts, and Wiley Fox, proposed to induce the inquisitive and mercenary Jew. They represented to him that for the modest sum of fifty dollars he could join the Odd Fellows, Masons, and Eclampus Vitus, and took his application and cash, having a royal good time with the latter.

The most impressive ceremonies of the Eclampus Vitus, as well as all the means they could devise by which a man could be deceived and frightened, were arranged in one grand programme, as he was not to be inducted regularly into the order.

All the good fellows in town were posted on the affair, whether members of the order or not, and when the night came which was to remove the veil of mystery from before the eyes of the confiding Hebrew, the Hall was crowded with eager spectators. The ceremonies commenced in the most solemn and impressive manner, and as they proceeded, even and anon the whole assembly would give a sepulchral groan, to which, according to instructions previously given, the candidate responded "Timbo". As the evening wore on and he became more and more horrified, his pronunciation of the magic word became less distinct, until nothing could be made out of it but "Steambo", and he became "Steamboat Jake" upon the spot.

A letter was published in the "Mountain Democrat" of Placerville on January 19, 1856, commending the deeds of the organization:

#### **TO THE EDITORS:**

It has always been a favorite opinion with me, that the benevolent deeds of individuals or societies should be publically noticed. A few days ago I visited a sick and destitute family, living in the suburbs of our city, and accidentally witnessed a noiseless and liberal manner in which some societies perform their mission of charity. The head of the family in question had been ill for some time and unable to work, and they were greatly distressed and desponding. A wagon loaded with provisions drove up to the door. Without a word, the provisions were transferred from the wagon to the house of the suffering family. With tears of gratitude the generous donors were blessed. The



charity did not end. A few days subsequent I again visited the family, and with pleased surprise learned that clothing had been furnished in the same mysterious manner.

I at length learned that the society or whatever other name it is called, of E C V, had furnished the provisions and clothing. May the blessings of heaven rest upon them. They have the prayers of the poor, for their advancement and prosperity.

By publishing the above you will please the family and gratify a lady.

On March 4, 1860, "The Weekly Stockton Democrat" mentioned the existence of E Clampus Vitus at Comanche Camp, in Calaveras County:

The ancient and honorable Order of E C V "still lives" at Comanche Camp in Calaveras County. A correspondent of the San Andreas Independent says that it recently took two trips of a butcher wagon to haul their regalia and other devices connected with the "mystic tie" to their new hall.

"The Sacramento Union", on January 29, 1868, acknowledges the receipt of a ticket to the school benefit ball given by the E C V at Mokelumne Hill, on Friday evening, February 21st.

Many California Historians have mentioned the existence of E Clampus Vitus in their writings. Thomas Edwin Farish, in his book, "The Gold Hunters of California", tells of the chapter in Downieville:

About 1855 in Downieville, the ancient and honorable Order of E C V was established. The initiation fee of which was made always to suit the pecuniary circumstances of the proposed initiate; and usually expended in paying for beer.

Lawyers, bankers, merchants and miners were members of this institution. And when the Hewgag, a big horn, rang out, for miles around miners came, stores and banks and places of business were quickly closed and all their managers soon repaired to the "Clampers Hall".

The candidate was prepared for the initiation by being divested of most of his clothing, then blindfolded. In this condition he was led around the hall, stopping at different points where he was chastised and lectured in a most fatherly way, by different officers of the body.

The initiation lasted for several hours. Invariably, the new members would sneak out of town, humiliated, and crestfallen, to appear again only when they could produce a new candidate or victim for admission to the order.

William T. Ellis, in his book "Memories: My Seventy-Two Years in the Romantic County of Yuba, California", speaks of the night he joined the organization:



The night I joined, the meeting was held in quite a large hall, and there must have been about one hundred men present. When the proceedings were about to commence and the meeting called to order by the presiding officer, whose title was "Noble Grand Humbug", those present were seriously admonished to keep quiet and preserve due decorum during the initiation.

I was then led out by two husky men and was stationed before the Noble Grand Humbug, who proceeded to ask my name, my age, my occupation and this was followed up by some very embarrassing questions.

As far as I can learn, this lodge of E C V started in the mountain areas for amusement purposes during the long winter months, when snows prevented mining and when there was little or no communication with the outside world except the mails. Several of the larger mountain towns had their separate lodges and they really did a lot of charitable work. I remember that at Downieville one time, a miner was accidentally killed, leaving a wife and several children; a meeting of the full membership of the lodge was called and everyone was expected to contribute to a charity fund which was at once turned over to the widow amounting to several hundred dollars.

However, my initiation was not forgotten and I swore to get even on someone and shortly afterwards, I helped to start a lodge of E Clampus Vitus in Marysville. We had a large hall on the second story of the present brick building at the southeast corner of D and First Sts., we raised funds and had a complete set of necessary paraphernalia, obtaining a copy of the ritual from Downieville and were ready for business. Almost every week we would have an initiation and every member knew when a "sucker" was had for an initiation that evening, when the hew-gag sounded, which sounded like a fog horn and could be heard over town.

This first lodge was practically put out of business on account of the publicity in many newspapers of the State because of an initiation of an English Lord; this was on January 25, 1896. This was Lord Sholto Douglas, a younger son of the Marquis of Queensbury, who was greatly interested in prize fighting in England and who first drew up the rules of the game which were and still are known as the "Marquis of Queensbury rules". It seems that young Lord Sholto Douglas had married a London dance hall girl, which got him into disfavor with his father. In consequence, and on the strength of his title, he and his wife started a vaudeville show to make a living and came to America on tour. They came to Marysville and gave a show one evening in the Old Marysville Theatre; it wasn't a very good show and as they had been having very slim attendances in California when they gave their show in Marysville, they were about "broke".

A few of us thought we saw an opportunity for some amusement, so a committee from the Clamper's Lodge called on the young Lord and told him that if he would give another show the following night, that we would guarantee the theatre rental and some other expenses and would go out and sell tickets and perhaps make him some money, BUT, he would have to join the Clamper's Lodge that evening. He consented and he got what was coming to him and a damn sight more before he was through, the same as I had in Downieville; the lodge hall was packed, we had tickets printed and sold them to those present, appointed committees to go out and sell more tickets and



the following evening, the theatre was packed full and he and his show left town rejoicing. All the newspapers in the State had accounts of his initiation and it gave him a lot of free advertising and he made a successful tour of New York. After his initiation in the lodge room, he was called on for a speech and he said: "Brother Clampers; I say, you are a rum lot of chappies, I can't say that I really enjoyed this extraordinary initiation you have just inflicted upon me, but you tell me that this is the usual thing in California and as I have always heard that California was wild and wooly, I know now that it is so and I will always remember you and this Lodge and I want to tell you that I really appreciate what you are doing for me tomorrow by helping me out of a blasted financial hole and I thank you, by Jove I do".

The following article appeared in "The Marysville Appeal Democrat", January 25, 1896, following the initiation of Lord Sholto Douglas:

#### **BRIEF CRITICISM**

Lord Sholto Douglas let the Marysville people make a fool out of him one night when he joined a secret society, and the next night he made fools out of the people when they crowded his house and paid him \$300.

John Walton Caughey, in his book "Rushing for Gold" tells how the organization spread like wildfire in the '50s.

It was in the fifties that "The Ancient and Honorable Order of E C V" first appeared on the California scene. The time was one of vast upheaval, human as well as physical. And after a hard day in the dirt and mush, of some of Sierra's diggins, where else but in the Clampers' "Hall of Comparative Ovations" could a man rediscover those value that seemed otherwise so lacking in the hard life of the California canyons?

E C V spread like wildfire through the mountains. Few, indeed were the camps where the order's great horn, the Hewgag, did not on occasion bray. Surely, the Constitution of the Order displayed its roisterous spirits as could nothing else.

E Clampus Vitus was still in existence in California in the 1915's. The following article appeared in "The Marysville Appeal Democrat", November 13, 1915:

#### **BLOW THE HORN AND BURY THE HAMMER**

"Blow the Horn and Bury the Hammer", will be the slogan of the local lodge of E C V when the order takes charge of the celebration of the opening of the D Street Bridge, which will be held some time near the end of the month.

The slogan was invented by County Surveyer L. B. Crook, president of the Clampers, and who was appointed to take charge of the bridge opening celebration by both the Yuba County Supervisors and the city council of this city.





President Crook will appoint several committees to take charge of the arrangements for the bridge opening celebration in a few days and will call upon the citizens of this city as a whole to aid the Clampers in making the celebration the best and the biggest that has ever been held in this city.

There will be an abundance of features for the day. The celebration will commence with a monster parade, headed by the Marysville band, and which will include several novel attractions. At night there will be a display of fireworks and dancing on both ends of the bridge.

The Clampers intend to commence a novel system of advertising throughout the United States and members of the lodge predict that within a year everyone in the whole country will know of this section. Every Clamper is pledged to boost for Yuba and Sutter counties and any member of the order caught "knocking" will be expelled from the order, which has a membership of more than 900.



# E CLAMPUS VITUS

IN CALIFORNIA

CHAPTER FOUR



CLAMPUS VITUS had not died entirely during the 1920's as there are reports in several places of the Hewgag sounding, and the official corporation with headquarters at Marysville was still in good standing legally. But there was no organized and

sustained effort to carry on a program with regular meetings or anything more than some of the brethren occasionally getting together for a little fun. The credit for revivication, for breathing life back into the old fun-making organization, should go to three men who were interested in the history of the gold mining period — Carl Wheat, Ezra Dane, and Leon Whitsell. "The Clamper", October, 1961, carried the following message about the revival: "In "My Darling, ECV" (the "Esoteric Book of ECV", 1936) Whitsell writes: 'The year 1930 should be illustriously recorded in the annals of California as satisfactory indeed, as a red-letter day — for it marked the rebirth and revival of the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus.'"

"In the "Enigmatical Book of Vitus", 1934, Carl Wheat writes: 'Now it can be told. It was along in the spring of the year 1930 that it dawned upon the minds of two men of high C.Q. (Californiosity Quotient) that the noted and notorious fraternal order of the mining era — E Clampus Vitus — had somewhat fallen upon evil days. It was on a journey to one of the old-time mining camps that the revival was discussed with Leon Whitsell. Thus was the new life purposefully conceived.'

"Then one day Carl Wheat cornered G. (signifying Geehasophat) Ezra Dane on the road from Columbia down to Parrotts Ferry, and drew from that worthy an agreement to do all the dirty work necessary for this great revival. The period of gestation was under way. A few months later, in the year 1931, at the Clift, E Clampus Vitus was reborn, some ten lively San Franciscans acting as accouchers, the pangs of labor were over.

"When Carl Wheat was asked recently for the date, he answered, through his wife, '1931'. Therefore, the records should read — Conceived in 1930, reborn in 1931."



## RESUSCITATED

The first revived chapter was Yerba Buena No. 1 with headquarters in San Francisco. It was actually 1931, according to what records are available, when Carl Wheat assumed the toga of Noble Grand Humbug for the Yerba Buena Chapter. The purpose of the revived ancient and honorable order was now slanted to an interest in the history of California rather than in the welfare of the brethren, although a great deal of concern was retained in the welfare of the widows and children, especially the widows. All PBC's must prove an interest in California history. (According to Clampatriarch Charles Camp, Ed Grabhorn was the first PBC of the revived order.) Of course, the old fun-making character of the order was retained.

Fortunately, at about this time Adam Lee Moore was discovered and he proved to be a "gold mine." He remembered much of the terminology and ritual used in initiating PBC's.

In 1934 it was again Carl Weat who was instrumental in organizing the second chapter of the revived ECV in Southern California, the Platrix Chapter No. 2 with J. Grigg Layne as Noble Grand Humbug. Carl was made Clampadre. April 2, 1934 saw the formation of the Auburn Chapter, Lord Sholto Douglass with Earl Crabbe as NGH. On April 30, 1938, James W. Marshall Chapter was given its charter in Placerville. The ceremonies included the dedication of a plaque to Hank Monk and the installation of Norman H. Robothom as NGH (prior to the granting of the charter Clarence Barker was NGH).

In 1948 Eldon W. Zueger, who had been NGH during the inactive war years and Howard "Baldy" Reamer developed the Marshall Chapter, during the California Centennial Celebration at Coloma, into a large vigorous Chapter.

A few weeks before, the "Nevada City Nugget" of April 4th told of the organization on Saturday, April 2nd, of the William Bull Meek Chapter. Vernon McCann, Clyde Gwin, and Frank Finnigan were the principal organizers. The "records" show that Acton Cleveland was first NGH.

In 1941 Lee Stopple, President of ECV, Inc., Adam Lee Moore, Clampatriarch, and Dr. Al Shumate drove to Downieville, and on May 31st re-established the Chapter. Sheriff Dewey Johnson was elected NGH.

When the officers of Yerba Buena attempted to protect the name of E Clampus Vitus by the incorporation of the organization, they were amazed to find that ECV had been incorporated under the laws of California in Marysville on Nov. 9, 1915 for a period of 50 years. Those now active had thought ECV had "died out".



On May 18, 1940, a historic meeting was held in Marysville between the few remaining directors of the 1915 incorporation and the representatives of the revived ECV. Charles A. Wetmore, Jr., W. E. Davies, Harvey Eich, and Lou Eichler from Marysville, with proxies from Chester A. Smith and Floyd Forbes, represented the old group. While from the Bay region were Lee Stopple and Ronald Olson, with proxies from Leon Whitsell, Thomas Norris, George Erza Dane, Charles Camp, Ed Jessup, and V. L. Van der Hoof.

Lee Stopple was elected Pres., Ronald L. Olson, V-Pres., and V. L. Van der Hoof, Sec. of the corporation. The directors included the above officers, and Camp, Jessup, Dane, Norris and Whitsell. From the "original" were W. E. Davis, Harvey Eich, Lou Eichlor, Chester A. Smith, and Charles Wetmore. The last director, Dr. J. H. Barr of Yuba City, while not one of those who signed the incorporation papers in 1915, was from the old original ECV. Lou Eichlor's name does not appear on the 1915 incorporation papers, either.

While the records show meetings in 1941 and 1943, no minutes are at present available. However, the minutes do show that President Stopple presided on June 27, 1945, at a meeting in the Benicia City Hall. Present were Whitsell, Norris and Jessup. Proxies were presented from Wetmore, Davis, Eich and Smith. Van der Hoof's resignation was accepted, as he was moving to Santa Barbara. William Paden and Dr. Fletcher Taylor were appointed to the Board, the latter as Secretary.

On September 20, 1947, ECV, Inc., met in Sonora with Leon Whitsell presiding. The first order of business was the election of officers. Roger Dalton, Chairman of the Nomination Committee, presented the following slate of officers: Leon Whitsell, Pres., Edgar Jessup, V-Pres., Lee Stopple Secretary. Directors were Harry Porte, Thomas Norris, Ralph Cross, Lindley Bynum, Robert Burns, William Paden, Charles Camp, Harvey Eich, William Davies, Chas. Wetmore, Jr., Chester Smith, and Carl Wheat. This slate of officers were elected unanimously.

Clamper Zueger on behalf of the James Marshall Chapter No. 49, invited the "organization" to participate in the centennial of gold discovery to be held at Coloma on January 23, 24, 1948.

It was announced that a plaque by Clamper William Gordon Huff, in memory of George Ezra Dane would be unveiled on September 21, 1947, at Columbia, California.



The ritual for E Clampus Vitus was discussed and it was agreed that it could be shortened without impairing its unique character. A committee consisting of the president, Clampers Francis Farquhar and Joseph Henry Jackson was instructed to study and revise the ritual.

Plans were also made for casting and erecting a plaque for Adam Lee Moore at Downieville. This plaque was unveiled on July 4, 1953.

New chapters were being organized. Amatuca was organized at Columbia in 1948 with Hi Muller as NGH. Amatuca, like all other chapters up to this time, was organized or sponsored by Clampers from Yerba Buena.

The Directors of ECV again met on February 15, 1950, in San Francisco. Leon O. Whitsell, President, presided, and also present were: Thomas Norris, Ed Jessup, Ralph Cross, Eric Falconer, Harry Porte and Clyde Arbuckle. Owing to resignations, new directors, including Edgar Kahn, Albert Shumate of San Francisco; Don Segerstrom of Sonora and Herbert Scheuner of Placerville were appointed.

They voted to file with the Secretary of State the certificate registering the name and insignia of E Clampus Vitus, to file a claim of exemption from tax, to make the period of incorporation perpetual, to establish the principal place of business at San Francisco. However there is no record that the above was done, and it was many years later that SNGH Archie Stevenot finally accomplished these transactions.

The Grand Council was actually organized at a meeting of the Directors of ECV at the Fair Grounds in Mariposa on May 8, 1954. Carl I. Wheat was President, Ralph H. Cross, Secretary. Directors present were: Lee Stopple, Ed Jessup, Rene Leach, Edgar Kahn, Eric Falconer Robert J. Woods, E. W. Zueger and Lindley Bynum. Absent were Scheuner, Segerstrom, Camp and Arbuckle.

Chapters were asked for by Walter Hardgrove for Knights Ferry, and by Harold Tapp for Crscent City. These were tabled, but a Chapter was granted at Quincy, at the request of Eldon Zueger. Las Plumas Del Oro Chapter was organized with Frank Gasper as NGH, in Quincy.



At this meeting the Grand Council of Venerable Clampatriarchs was "officially" formed with all current and past Noble Grand Humbugs of accepted Chapters as Venerable Clampatriarchs.

At this meeting Carl I. Wheat was given



the title of, **"His Benign Austerity — In Perpetuity."** Also it is of interest to note that a motion to limit the number of chapters was defeated.

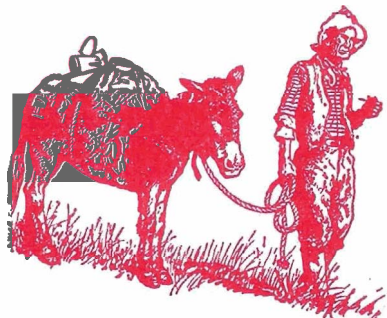
The Board of Directors of the Corporation, which was actually the first called meeting of the Grand Council, met at the Fresno Armory Hall on April 22, 1956, as part of the Fresno County Centennial Celebration. President Edgar Jessup presided at the meeting. Present were Eldon Zueger, Andy Rogers, Swift Berry, Herbert Scheuner, Howard Reamer, Archie Stevenot, Don Segerstrom, Lee Stopple, Eric Falconer and Al Shumate.

A motion by Swift Berry was made and passed to establish a new chapter in western Nevada and Alpine County and to erect a plaque to the great Norwegian mail carrier, "Snowshoe" Thompson near Markleeville. The name suggested was the Markleeville-Genoa Chapter but this was changed to the "Snowshoe" Thompson Chapter when it was installed in 1957. A proposal by Swift Berry that a chapter be formed at Monterey was accepted and his suggestion that Amador County be placed in the James W. Marshall Chapter territory was agreed to by Archie Stevenot and Don Segerstrom, speaking for Amatuca.

The following day, Sunday, April 23, a plaque was dedicated near the site of old Fort Millerton.

It was Memorial Day, 1957, the minutes show when the "Grand Council" met at the historic town of Murphys with Edgar Jessup presiding as Sublime Noble Grand Humbug. This is the first time such a reference had been made although the minutes state that "at the meeting of the Grand Council in 1955, it had been decided that each chapter would forward to the Grand Chapter one dollar from each new member of the ECV. This action was received and each chapter would now donate \$10 per year to the Grand Chapter."

Carl Wheat, who was called the "founding genius of ECV, Redivivus", presented a new set of By-Laws that were unanimously approved. The most important change was that the fifteen Clamproctors (directors of ECV, Inc.) were to be elected by the Clampatriarchs and the term of office would be limited to six years, five to be elected every two years. The group also agreed that NGH's of individual chapters should have a one year term. The President of the Corporation and the Sublime NG Humbug, the same person, is elected each year. (However,



custom has established a two-year term for SNGH's. A committee of Carl Wheat, Ed Jessup, Eric Falconer and Al Shumate was to negotiate with the California Historical Society to make the archives of the Society a repository for E Clampus Vitus publications and materials.

Petitions for chapters of ECV to be established at Fresno, Redding, Oakdale and Monterey were discussed and referred to the Committee on New Chapters and Boundaries.

The minutes for 1958 state that Pres. Ed Jessup called the meeting of the Clamproctors of ECV, Inc., to order at Petaluma on April 13, with a majority present. Archie Stevenot gave the report for the committee on new chapters. Charters were granted to Jim Savage at Fresno, Monterey Viejo at Monterey, Estanislao at Oakdale, and, since Wm. Bull Meek had moved to Rough and Ready, to Wm. Morris Stewart at Nevada City. The Board advised all chapters to standardize the initiation fee at \$10. It was announced that the Clamproctors would meet in Murphys as a "Grand Lodge" with all Clampatriarchs (NGHs and X-NGHs) of all chapters invited.

The Clamproctors met at Murphys on May 30, 1959, with Swift Berry, Ralph Cross, Eric Falconer, Ed Jessup, Bus Miller, Howard Reamer, Al Shumate, Archie Stevenot, Lee Stopple, Carl Wheat, and Eldon Zueger present. The following new officers were elected: SNGH Ed Jessup, VSNGH Archie Stevenot, SGNR Lee Stopple. The Clamproctors met in a separate session and objected to individual chapters incorporating but approved protective insurance policies. At 2 p. m. "president" Ed Jessup called the Clampatriarchs to order as the Grand Council of ECV. A motion by Carl Wheat was approved withholding the privilege of voting from delegates whose chapters had failed to pay their annual dues. Approval was given a motion establishing the California Historical Society archives as the official depository of ECV materials. The action applied only to the records of the Clamproctors and the Grand Council.



Amatuca Chapter requested that their name be changed to Matuca since Amador County had joined with James Marshall Chapter. A resolution was passed thanking Albert Shumate for his service during the past four years as grand secretary and Lee Stopple of Santa Rosa was elected to take his place. (Upon Lee's death in 1960, Al Shumate was re-appointed as grand secretary.)

# E CLAMPUS VITUS

THE BOOMING SIXTIES

CHAPTER FIVE



ATE IN 1960, October to be exact, the Grand Council met in the old Armory Hall at Copperopolis as a part of that communities Centennial Celebration with Ed Jessup presiding.

Although the minutes of the Copperopolis meeting were approved these are not available.

Tragedy struck the Grand Council in 1960-61 with the loss of SNHG Edgar Jessup and Grand Recorder Lee Stopple. Archie Stevenot opened the conclave on May 27, 1961, at Murphys by announcing that the meeting would open and adjourn in honor of these well-loved and dedicated brothers. A roll call indicated the following Clamproctors or directors present: Archie Stevenot, Matuca; E. W. Zueger, Snowshoe Thompson; Swift Berry and Howard Reamer, James Marshall; Sid Platford and Paul Bailey, Platrix; L. V. Aaserude, Los Plumas Del Oro; Charles Camp, John Porter, Al Shumate, George Harding, and Carl Wheat, Yerba Buena.

Three Clampers, Wesley Simard and Cliff Geddes, James Marshall and Coke Wood, Matuca — a group calling themselves the Sim-Ged-Woo Publishing Company proposed that the Grand Council give their approval to "The Clamper" newspaper. The first issue had been released in January, 1961, for the purpose of informing the brethren about the meetings, activities, and events of all chapters of ECV as far as it would be possible to obtain the news. Coke Wood, spokesman and editor of "The Clamper", with remarks by Wes Simard, business manager and Clifford Geddes as publisher, pointed out that this quarterly journal could be of real value to all chapters by publicizing dates and avoiding conflicts as well as educating and informing the PBCs. He asked the Council's support in obtaining the \$2.00 subscription fee, providing news for the paper, and by appointing someone from the Grand Council on the advisory staff of "The Clamper". "The Clamper" was made, by unanimous vote, the official publication of E Clampus Vitus and Archie Stevenot and Al Shumate were appointed to the publication staff.



It was suggested that all chapters consider charging all PBCs \$2.00 for their first year's subscription to "The Clamper" as part of the initiation fee.

Howard "Baldy" Reamer, chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following list of officers: Archie Stevenot, SNGH; Al Shumate, Vice SNGH; Sid Plattford, GNR; George Harding, Paul Bailey, Don Segerstrom, Eric Falconer, and Ernest Nielsen, Directors. They were unanimously elected.

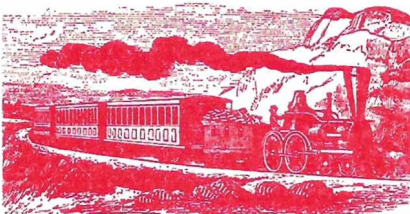
Chairman Stevenot of the Committee on New Chapters recommended charters be granted to Bakersfield (Peter Lebec), San Diego (Squibob), and that the Monterey Chapter be reactivated (Monterey Viejo). A motion was passed unanimously that all chapters would pay \$20.00 dues a year to the Grand Council.

Matuca Chapter delegates announced and invited all chapters to join with them in the dedication of a plaque to "Mr. Mother Lode", Archie Stevenot, at his birthplace in Carson Hill on October 14, 1961.

It was reported that William Bull Meek Chapter had been revived under the dedicated leadership of Herb Gerrish and was now active and thriving.

The Venerable Grand Council of Clampatriarchs assembled at Murphys on May 26, 1962, with SNGH Archie Stevenot presiding. The Committee on Chapters and Territories reported that charters had been granted to Monterey Viejo at Hollister on March 10 by Yerba Buena, Peter Lebec at Bakersfield on May 19 by Jim Savage and to Squibob at San Diego by Platrix.

An application for a new chapter at Weaverville (Trinitarianus) sponsored by Las Plumas Del Oro was approved. Rex Riley of Weaverville was introduced and read excerpts from the Weaverville newspapers telling about E Clampus Vitus activities in 1855-56. July 7 was set as the date for launching Trinitarianus. The committee also reported that the recommendation of the 1961 Grand Council for the consolidation of William Bull Meek and William Morris Stewart Chapter had been accomplished on March



4 and that both names were to be used for the new chapter. SNHG Archie Stevenot expressed the appreciation of the Council to Herb Gerrish for his good work in consolidating the two chapters. An application from the Prospectors Booster Club requesting permission to form a chapter in Cottage Grove, Oregon was rejected.

Clamper Donald Segerstrom, chairman, presented a sample Grand Council Charter, printed by Clamprinter Lawton Kennedy for approval. After some suggested changes the certificates were approved with the provision that each chapter be charged \$10 for the charter certificate. Several motions of significance were approved; such as publishing an ECV history; that each chapter was to record, on forms provided, the location of all historical or commemorative plaques in their region; that all Clamcelebration dates be registered with Grand Noble Recorder Sid Platford and published in "The Clamper"; and that it be recommended to the chapters that initiation fees of PBC include a subscription to the official publication.

It was announced that the term of office for Clamproctors was as follows: 1963 — Carl Wheat, Al Shumate, Archie Stevenot, Howard Reamer, Eldon Zueger. 1964 — Charles Camp, Sid Platford, John Porter, Swift Berry, L. V. "Duke" Aaserude. 1965 — Don Segerstrom, George Harding, Paul Bailey, Eric Falconer, Ernest J. Nielsen.

The 1963 session of the Clamproctors was a joint meeting with the Grand Council of Venerable Clam patriarchs at Murphys on June 1 with all recognized chapters of ECV represented. The roll call showed that all Clamproctors were present with the exception of Paul Bailey, Donald Segerstrom, Carl Wheat, Eric Falconer and Swift Berry.

Archie Stevenot reported that after years of effort the transfer of E Clampus Vitus, Inc., from its location at Marysville where there was no active chapter to San Francisco had been completed. The original incorporation papers were dated in November, 1915 at Marysville and were to expire in 1965. A request for the indefinite extension of ECV, Inc., has





been cleared through the Franchise Tax Board and granted. Through the efforts of Al Shumate, the headquarters of the Corporation will be located at the California Historical Society, 2090 Jackson Street, San Francisco.

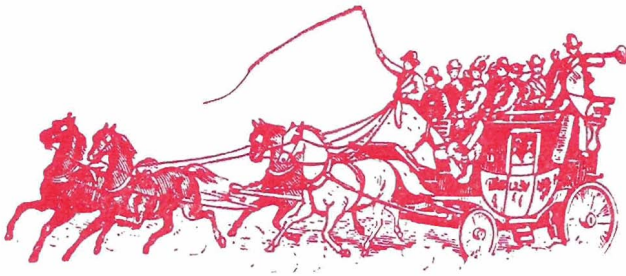
In order to leave only one incorporated ECV, the Grand Council, the directors of the combined chapters of William Bull Meek-William Morris Stewart on June 1, 1962, voted to dissolve the January 17, 1957, incorporation of the Wm. Bull Meek Chapter and to notify the Secretary of State of this request. Herb Gerrish, the NGH, reported that with the assistance of Hillis Hubbard and Don Segerstrom the necessary papers had been made out and no difficulty was anticipated in dissolving the incorporation.

Additional Clamproctors Don Segerstrom, George Harding, Paul Bailey, Eric Falconer and Ernest Nielsen were elected to serve until 1967 and Al Shumate, Herb Gerrish, Archie Stevenot, Howard Reamer and E. Zueger would serve until 1969.

The minutes of the joint Grand Council meeting show the following present besides those listed above: Frank Gasper, Henry Magill, Vic Koplin, Rex Riley, Jack Brotherton, Sidney Cruft, Chas. Palmer, Bob Wyckoff, L. E. Nokes, "Rocky" Mountain, Basil Leever, Joe Menser, Leo Cline, Phil English, Walt Hardgrove, Martin Baer, Herb Schuener, Coke Wood and Wes Simard.

Al Shumate announced that the charters authorized at the last annual meeting were available.

Al Shumate as Chairman of the Committee on Chapters and Territories reported that Merced County would be allotted to Estanislao Chapter and that the committee recommended the granting of a charter to the Julia C. Bulette Chapter, sponsored by the Snowshoe Thompson Chapter. The recommendation was approved by the Council after dramatic appeals from representatives from Virginia City, who presented a resolution from the Nevada State Legislature urging the granting of a charter to Virginia City and after a good deal of discussion. This



was the first charter granted outside California and was granted because Virginia City had such a tremendous mining history. However, it was stipulated that Julia Bulette could not sponsor another chapter in Nevada and their territory would be confined to Virginia City, Dayton, Silver City, and Gold Hill, Nevada. It was also fully understood that Snowshoe Thompson would retain headquarters at Markleeville. Charters were also granted to Sam Brannan (Yolo, Colusa, Glenn, and Sutter); Chief Truckee (North to Sierra County, East to Nevada State Line, South to Homewood and West to Cisco and Sierra summit); and Argonauts (restricted to members or those eligible for the Society of California Pioneers).

Archie Stevenot thanked the staff of "The Clamper" for their contribution in keeping all Clampers informed through their excellent publication. He then appealed to all chapters to report to him location and data on all historical plaques erected in their area. These will be recorded with the State Division of Beaches and Parks. Stevenot, chairman of the Historical Sites and Plaques Committee, had made arrangements with the State of California, Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Division of Beaches and Parks, P. O. Box 2390, Sacramento, California, to record all plaques dedicated by the Grand Council and by each chapter of ECV by sending them a copy of the wording, and a picture if possible, of the plaque. He also stressed that a copy should be sent to the SGNR of the Grand Council, also.

Several suggestions for the good of the order were discussed, such as the number of PBCs should be screened and limited and that they should not be permitted to wear red shirts or carry guns (until after initiation).

Following the recommendation of Ernest Nielsen, chairman of the Nominations Committee, Dr. Albert Shumate was elected Sublime Noble Grand Humbug; Sid Platford, Vice Sublime Noble Grand Humbug; and Dr. Charles Camp, Sublime Grand Noble Recorder. The committee recommended that for his many contributions to Clamperdom, Carl Wheat should be known forever as **"His Benign Austerity, The Sublime Clampadre of all Clamperdom"** and for his efforts to renew the legality of the ECV, Inc., that Dr. Ralph Cross should be given the title of **"Reincarnator of ECV."** These recommendations were approved with a "tremendous ovation".



SNGH Archie Stevenot, after thanking the Grand Council for its fine cooperation, turned over to the new Sublime Noble Grand Humbug, Al Shumate, the Staff of Relief, his symbol of authority, which had been specially prepared by Clamper Lou Osborne. The Staff was to be the property of the Grand Council and when not in official use was to be on display at the Old Timers Museum in Murphys.

SNGH Al Shumate paid tribute to Archie's work, especially in renewing the incorporation of ECV and moved that he should be endowed with the title **"Mr. Clamper of All Clamperdom."** This motion was passed unanimously by a standing ovation. Votes of thanks to Rosie Stevenot and Sid Platford were also approved.

SNGH Shumate announced the following Clam-patriarchs would be on the Executive Committee: Sid Platford, Paul Bailey, Archie Stevenot, Howard Reamer, George Harding and Charles Camp.

The 1964 meeting of the Clamproctors was held in Murphys on the Memorial Day week-end with SNGH Al Shumate presiding. Roll call was held with the following answering: Archie Stevenot, X-SNGH; Sid Platford, Vice SNGH; Charles Camp, SGNR; Howard Reamer, John Porter, L. V. "Duke" Aaserude, E. J. Nielsen, Eldon Zueger, Herb Gerrish and Don Segerstrom. Absent were Paul Bailey, George Harding, Eric Falconer and Swift Berry. Following roll call the meeting adjourned in favor of the Grand Council.

Upon the call of the roll, there appeared to be the largest attendance of any Grand Council meeting with the following brethren in attendance: Yerba Buena: Al Shumate, Dick Nason, Charles Camp and Leon Whitsell. Monterey Viejo: John Porter. Argonaut: Hobart Lovett. Matuca: Archie Stevenot, Don Segerstrom, Vrle Minto, Judge Tom Coakley and Judge Basil Leever. Las Plumas Del Oro: Tulsa Scott, "Duke" Aaserude and Henry Magill. James W. Marshall: Wesley Simard, Herb Scheuner, Howard Reamer and Martin Baer. Lord Sholto Douglas: Ray Carlise. Platix: Sid Platford, Eddie Cooper, Tex Hamilton, Don Meadows and Gus Muller. Chief Truckee: N. F. Dolley and H. W. Guirle. Trinitarianus: Moon Lee. Sam Brannan: Riley Young. Squibob: J. Francis Mergen. Snowshoe Thompson: Harry O'Brien and E. Zueger. Julia C. Bulette: Louis Beaupre, John Riggs,



John DuFresne and Marsh Fey. Wm. Bull Meek-Wm. Moris Stewart: Herb Gerrish, Bob Wyckoff and Charles Kitts. Jim Savage: Sid Cruft, Ernest Nielsen and Glenn F. Myers. Estanislao: O. W. Minniear, Wm. Logan and Jack Brotherton. Special guests included R. Coke Wood and Ken Castro of Murphys; Hal Altman of the Pioneer Jewish Cemetery Commission; Joe Simard and Clifford Geddes of "The Clamper".

The "guest of honor" for the Grand Council meeting, Leon Whitsell, was introduced as one of the famous three who had revived ECV.

XSNHG Archie Stevenot reported that the E Clampus Vitus corporation charter, which was issued by the State of California in 1915, would expire at the end of the 50-year period, but through the efforts of Don Segerstrom of Sonora, an indefinite charter had been issued and the new corporation charter will be amended to read "to have perpetual existence". A resolution of thanks was voted to Segerstrom, Stevenot and to the California Secretary of State, Clamper Frank M. Jordan, for their efforts in behalf of ECV incorporation.

Peter Lebec Chapter at Bakersfield requested that the name of the chapter be changed to read: "Peter Lebeck Chapter No. 1866". Research by the chapter indicated that the change in spelling from "Lebec" to "Lebeck" was verified by historical records. Satisfactory was the vote!

All chapters were again urged to report all of their plaques to the State Dept. of Beaches and Parks. Wm. Bull Meek-Wm. Morris Stewart Chapter announced that they had urged the Department to acquire sufficient land for a picnic ground or road-side rest and acquire, repair and preserve the longest single-span covered bridge in the United States, situated at Bridgeport in Nevada County, erected by David I. Wood in 1862. The Grand Council also urged that Assembly Bill No. 2097, providing for the establishment of an Old Sacramento State Historical Park in the city of Sacramento be favorably acted upon.

A committee consisting of Archie Stevenot as chairman, Sonora; Bob Wyckoff, Nevada City; Bill Newbro, Los Angeles and Ernest Nielsen, Selma was created. This committee to be known as the Historic Sites Committee, will study and recommend for approval of the Grand Council sites worthy of preservation.



A matter of great concern was presented by Julia C. Bulette Chapter from Virginia City — a resolution which was passed, to be sent to the President of the United States, advising him of ECV's opposition to discontinuing the silver dollar, a symbol of the West.

Another question of spelling was brought to the attention of the Council. The correct spelling of Snowshoe Thompson. The name has been spelled in various ways "Thompson, Tompson and Thomson". The matter of authorizing any change was tabled until the next meeting of the Grand Council, during which time additional research would be done to determine the correct spelling.

Cliff Geddes, representing the Sim-Ged-Woo Publishing Co., which issues the official publication of ECV, "The Clamper", again urged all chapters to forward information to the paper as soon as possible in order that coverage could be given the event. He also asked that pictures and follow-up material be submitted.

Howard "Baldy" Reamer spoke to the Grand Council and expressed gratification in the growth of ECV — the expanding of "The Clamper" — of the new charters issued. He expressed concern, however, in the manner of selecting men for membership in ECV. He indicated that frequently the historic principals which caused ECV to be revived in 1931, had been forgotten. He urged that every chapter offer membership only to those who have displayed an interest in the romantic history of California. He recommended that the Council go on record by suggesting that all PBCs be screened before acceptance.

SNGH Al Shumate announced that the most historic finding since the discovery of the Drake plaque was about to be disclosed. The awe-struck Clampatriarchs then heard that Clamper Ken Castro had discovered the site of the ECV Saloon of 1853 on the Main Street of Murphys. Cheers that shook the rafters greeted the decision to place a monument or plaque on this historic site.



The Council adjourned in memory of Charles L. Palmer of Jim Savage Chapter. The Clampatriarchs then marched in true "red and black Clamper style" to the Old Timers Museum where a bronze plaque by Sculptor Clamper William Huff was unveiled. The plaque was made possible by generous contributions of James W. Marshall, Yerba Buena and Platrix Chapters. SNGH Al Shumate acted as Clampmaster of Ceremonies.



Sublime Grand Noble Recorder Charles Camp delivered the oration, paying tribute to the work of Carl Wheat, Ezra Dane and Leon Whitsell in reviving ECV. Leon Whitsell, leaving his sick bed in San Francisco, participated in the unveiling of the plaque, placed on the stone wall of the historic old Timers Museum in Murphys. Through his wife, Carl Wheat sent his appreciation and regret that he could not be present at this great event.

The 1965 Grand Council met in what had now become the traditional manner at Murphys on the Memorial Day week-end, May 29th. The roll call of the Clamproctors had "here" answers from the following: SNGH Al Shumate, Vice SNGH Sid Platford, SGNR Charles Camp, X-SNGH Archie Stevenot, Howard Reamer, Paul Bailey, Don Segerstrom, John Porter, "Duke" Aaserude, Eric Falconer, Ernest Nielsen, Herb Gerrish, and Wesley Simard, replacing Eldon Zueger, deceased. Absent were Carl Wheat, Swift Berry and George Harding. Following roll call the Clamproctors adjourned in favor of the Grand Council with SNGH Shumate presiding.

Answering to the roll call were Clampatriarchs: Yerba Buena: Al Shumate, Dick Nason, Charles Camp, Eric Falconer, Harry\*Porte, George Washington and Earle Wright. Platrix: Sid Platford, Paul Bailey, Al Ferris, Gus Muller, Tex Hamilton, and Eddie Cooper. James Marshall: Wesley Simard, Herb Scheuner, "Baldy" Reamer. Matuca: Archie Stevenot, Don Segerstrom, Oliver Bernasconi, Judge Basil Leever, Richard Holman, and Ken Castro. Wm. Bull Meek-Wm. Morris Stewart: Herb Gerrish and Bob Wyckoff. Las Plumas Del Oro: Henry Magill, "Duke" Aaserude, and Tulsa Scott. Estanislao: Jack Brotherton and Bill Reynolds. Jim Savage: Ernest Nielsen, Sid Cruff, Robert Wash and Glen Myers. Snowshoe Thompson: Harry O'Brien. Squibob: J. Francis Mergen and Leo Cline. Monterey Viejo: John Porter. Peter Lebeck: Fred Miller. Trinitarianus: Howard Lovely. Chief Truckee: Frank Stella. Sam Brannan: Riley Young. Argonaut: Hobart Lovett. Julia C. Bulette: Louis Beaupre and John DuFresne. Lord Sholto Douglas: Ray Carlisle. Also attending were Harold Hann and Merv Mattos.



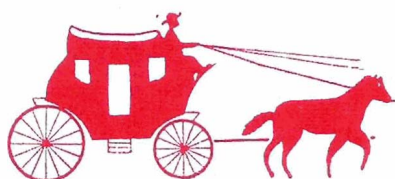
Sid Platford reporting for the New Chapter and Territorial Committee presented one application for a Chapter to be established in Mono County with headquarters at Bridgeport, sponsored by Matuca Chapter; the territory requested being Mono County. Fred Miller NGH of Peter Lebeck Chapter, being present, stated that they would relinquish that portion of Mono County south of Tioga Pass. The name of the new Chapter to be "Bodie". The application was approved and granted. E. W. Billeb spoke for the new chapter, tendering \$20 for a copy of the Charter Certificate and dues for 1965.

Archie Stevenot of the Historical Sites and Plaque Committee presented the following list of plaques placed by the various chapters, designated by number only, description and location not given; also reporting that the Grand Council had placed two plaques at Murphys, one in 1964 honoring "His Benign Austerity The Sublime Clampadre of All Clamperdom" Carl Wheat, and one to be unveiled following the meeting on the 1853 site of the ECV Saloon. The number of plaques and the Clamper reporting is as follows:

James W. Marshall — Herb Scheuner.....	28
Platrix — Bill Newbro .....	26
Matuca — Don Segerstrom.....	13
Yerba Buena — Dick Nason.....	7
James Savage — Bob Wash.....	6
Wm. Bull Meek-Wm. Morris Stewart — Bill Byars....	6
Argonaut — Hobart Lovett.....	5
Estanislao — Jack Brotherton.....	3
Squibob — J. Francis Mergen.....	2
Monterey Viejo — John Porter.....	2
Julia C. Bulette — Louis Beaupre.....	2
Las Plumas Del Oro — "Duke" Aaserude.....	1
Lord Sholto Douglas — Ray Carlisle.....	1
Peter Lebeck — Fred Miller.....	1
Trinitarianus — Howard Lovely.....	1
Sam Brannan — Riley Young.....	1
Chief Truckee — Henry Guirle.....	1

The Grand Council again emphasized the importance of registering all plaques installed by chapters with the State Department of Beaches and Parks in Sacramento on forms supplied by the Grand Recorder.

SNHG Al Shumate proposed that a new office be created to be known as CLAMPARCHIVIST and recommended Hobart Lovett, 1177 Cragmont Ave.,



Berkeley 94708, be appointed to that office and that Clamper Lovett be included in lists of Clampatriots, ex-officio. It was also urged that all chapters include the name of Hobart M. Lovett on their mailing list to receive copies of all notices and material pertaining to the activities of all chapters. Such material will be filed at the California State Historical Society — the repository of E Clampus Vitus records. The office and Lovett were approved by a unanimous vote.

X-NGH Henry Magill asked the Grand Council to support a project to write and publish an "official history of ECV" and he moved that R. Coke Wood be elected Clamphistorian and be instructed to head a committee to accomplish this task. **Besides Wood, the committee consisted of Archie Stevenot, Al Shumate and Wes Simard.**

The time had now arrived for "Duke" Aaserude as chairman of the Nominating Committee to make his report for officers of 1965-66; it was as follows:

For Sublime Noble Grand Humbug — Sid Platford

For Vice Sublime N G Humbug — Charles Camp

For Sublime Grand Noble Recorder — Ernest Nielsen

Nominated for Clamproctors:

1967 - 1968 — Don Segerstrom, George Harding,  
Paul Bailey, Eric Falconer, Ernest Nielsen

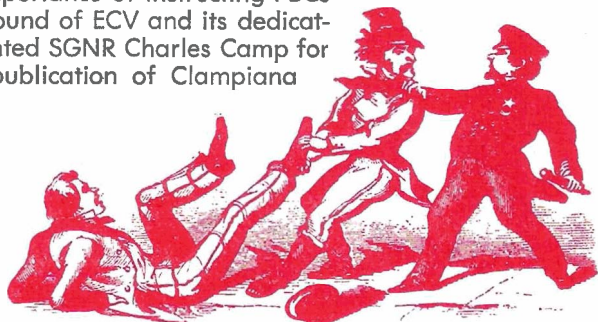
1969 - 1970 — Al Shumate, Herb Gerrish, Archie  
Stevenot, Howard Reamer Wesley Simard

1971 - 1972 — Sid Platford, Charles Camp, John  
Porter, Henry Magill, William Newbro

All of the the above named Clampers were elected by a resounding satisfactory and the new Sublime Noble Grand Humbug Sid Platford "took over".

Earle Wright auctioned off several Clamper books of the late Eldon Zueger, the proceeds of which were sent to his widow. Eric Falconer had accumulated the material for the auction.

Other matters of importance were the setting the minimum age of applicants at 21 years or over; Dick Nason reiterated the importance of instructing PBCs in the historical background of ECV and its dedicated purposes; complimented SGNR Charles Camp for authoring the latest publication of Clampiana

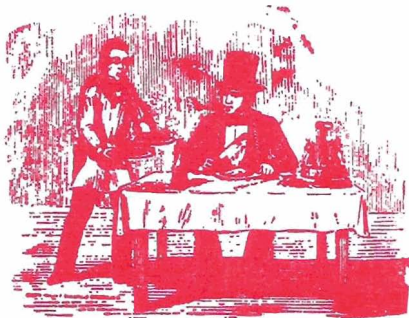


"Mr. Pegleg Smith, El Cojo Smith" — this was limited to 200 copies; honored Howard "Baldy" Reamer on his 50th wedding anniversary — "Baldy" reaffirmed his continued interest in E Clampus Vitus. The Council was then adjourned in memory of XNGH Eldon Zueger, long-time director of ECV, Inc., and XNGH Ralph Cross, former director and secretary of ECV, Inc.

The Grand Council, led by XNGH Phil English, the Parade Marshall of James Marshall Chapter, formed into marching order and, with the Staff of Relief in hand, paraded to the site of the ECV Saloon monument, situated on the lower end of Main Street of Murphys, where Ken Castro elucidated on "The Story of the Discovery" from the old Calaveras county records which revealed the history and location of the Saloon. Albert "Doc" Shumate proclaimed this event as one of the most historic findings since the "Drake Plate of Brass". Our incomparable Johnny Porter with considerable verbiage expounded on the "Significance of This Monument to our State, Nation and the World".

The plaque placed on the monument referred to above was designed by Clamper William Huff of Yerba Buena Chapter, whose works of art are famous throughout the state, and was unveiled by X-SNGH Al Shumate and Archie Stevenot — whereupon it was revealed that "Doc" and Archie were the only two living, non-drinking X-Sublime Noble Grand Humbugs.

SNGH Sid Platford closed the dedication with a few remarks and thanked the various Chapters and Clampers for their generous contribution of semi-gem and historical rocks from all over the State to construct this monument; every rock has an historical background and has been numbered and catalogued a copy of which was placed inside the monument. Also placed inside the monument was a copy of a pamphlet of Clampiana entitled "The Rocks", contributed by Wes Simard of "The Clamper." This "keepsake" which was also distributed to all those present listed the description and donor of each rock that went into the monument built by Clampers Ken Castro and Harold Pittenger.



The 1966 meeting of the Clamproctors of ECV was held in Murphys, on the now traditional Memorial Day weekend, being May 28th, with the following present: X-SNGH Al Shumate, X-SNGH Archie Stevenot, SNGH Sid Platford, SGNR Ernest Nielsen, William Newbro, Howard Reamer, Wesley Simard, Clyde Arbuckle, and Herb Gerrish. After roll call the meeting was declared adjourned in favor of the Grand Council of Venerable Clampatriarchs.

Clampatriarchs representing the following chapters were as follows: Yerba Buena: Al Shumate, Earle Wright, Dick Nason, Charles Camp, Clyde Arbuckle and Harry Porte. Patrix: Sid Platford, Bill Newbro and George Sturtevant. James Marshall: Howard "Baldy" Reamer, Phil English, "Rocky" Mountain and Wes Simard. Matuca: Archie Stevenot, Basil Leever, Ken Castro, Jack Barret, Coke Wood and Oliver Bernasconi. Las Plumas Del Oro: "Duke" Aaserude, Paul Larios, Tulsa Scott and Robert McArthur. Wm. Bull Meek-Wm. Morris Stewart: Bill Byars, Herb Gerrish and Angelo Curco. Estanislao: Walt Hardgrove, David Bush and Bill Reynolds. James Savage: Ernest Nielsen, Glen Myers and Robert Wash. Snowshoe Thompson: Harry O'Brien, William Schefack. Squibob: Ben Dixon, J. F. Mergen, Leo Cline, Dick Yale, Archie O'Neal and Max Johnson. Sam Brannan: Riley Young. Trinitarianus: Moon Lee and Hal Goodyear. Julia Bulette: Louis Beaupre, Marsh Fey, D. A. Olson, Jack Cross and Jim Lydon. Argonaut: Hobart Lovett. Chief Truckee: Frank Stella and Wayne Hopkins. Bodie: Emil Billeb.

A. R. Anderson, A. R. Kent and Fritz Klem, all of Paradise, who had appeared earlier before the New Chapter and Territorial Committee attended the meeting of the Grand Council and presented an application for a new chapter in Butte County with headquarters in Paradise, California.

After considerable discussion as to the merits of a new chapter in the area, and with XNGH Riley Young of Sam Brannan Chapter favoring the new chapter it was voted to grant a charter to the group.

The territory granted was the northerly portion of Butte





County due east and due west of Oroville; the name of the Chapter to be Pair O Dice.

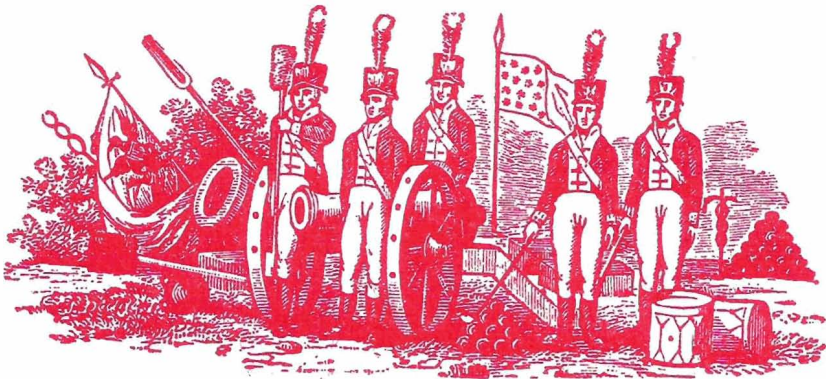
Clamphistorian Coke Wood announced that the committee appointed in 1965 to write "the history of ECV" had almost completed the task and that it would be ready in the Fall, 1966, for distribution. The individual chapters, who will handle the sale and distribution of the book, subscribed to over 3000 copies.

Robert M. Wash, X-NGH of James Savage Chapter read a prepared ECV burial ceremony. After the reading of the ceremony to the Council, much interest was shown in the possibility of using the ceremony if ever requested for a departed brother.

Archie O'Neal, NGH of Squibob Chapter of San Diego, read a letter from the San Diego City Council voicing interest and approving acquisition by San Diego of the property upon which the Lt. Derby Flood Control Dike, constructed in 1853, is situated, to be included in the San Diego City Park Dept. This was also the area in which Squibob Chapter unveiled a marker to their namesake. This event took place on April 23, 1966.

Robert Wash and Archie Stevenot both talked on the importance of registering of ECV plaques and monuments. Bob Wash of James Savage Chapter was appointed as the Chairman of the Grand Council Historical Sites and Plaque Committee, replacing XSNGH Archie Stevenot who made the recommendation. Clamarchivist Hobart Lovett again urged all chapters to include the California Historical Society on their mailing lists in order that ECV material could be deposited in the ECV archives.

The following were elected Clamproctors and will serve as follows: 1967: Don Segerstrom, George Harding, Paul Bailey, Clyde Arbuckle and Ernest Nielsen. 1969:



Al Shumate, Herb Gerrish, Archie Stevenot, Howard Reamer and Wesley Simard. 1971: Sid Platford, Charles Camp, John Porter, Henry Magill and William Newbro.

Clamper Frank Hahn of Yerba Buena Chapter, on behalf of Dick Nason, presented to Clamphistorian Coke Wood, for the blacksmith shop at the Old Timers Museum, in Murphys, the iron fittings of a well rotted oxen yoke discovered at Clamper Flat Diggins, north of Downieville in Sierra County. XNGH Dick Nason of Yerba Buena Chapter noted Clamper Flat Diggins on an old map and sought out the location and uncovered the old yoke presented to the museum.

The 1966 session of the Grand Council adjourned in memory of the late Leon Whitsell and Lindley Bynum, both founding members of E Clampus Vitus, Inc.; Harry Tait, XNGH of Yerba Buena Chapter and John DuFresne, NGH of Julia C. Bulette Chapter.

In the evening the usual "unofficial" activities took place. These activities, including the Clampwidows, have become popular with the attending Clampatriarchs and they include:

"EATIN  
HOISTIN  
SINGIN  
JOKIN  
AND  
FUNIN."



*The marginal cartoons throughout this book have been taken from printed Clampnotices of the different Chapters as well as from the morgue of "The Clamper".*



# THE CHAPTERS OF

# E CLAMPUS VITUS

## AND THE HUMBUGS

### CHAPTER SIX

#### YERBA BUENA Redivivus No. 1

##### San Francisco

1932-33—Carl I. Wheat*	1947-48—Gerald Wickland*
1933-34—Douglas S. Watson*	1948-50—William Paden*
1934-35—Tom Norris*	1951-54—Eric Falconer
1935-36—Leon O. Whitsell*	1954 —Edgar B. Kahn
1936-37—George Ezra Dane*	1954-55—Albert Shumate
1937-38—Edgar B. Jessup*	1955-56—Ralph H. Cross*
1938-39—Charles L. Camp	1956 —John Porter
1939-40—Lee L. Stopple*	1957-59—Earle Wright*
1940-41—Roland Olson*	1959-61—George Washington
1941-42—Donald Patterson	1961-62—George Harding
1942-45—Harry Porte	1963-65—Richard N. Nason
1946-47—Harry Tait*	1966 —Clyde Arbuckle

#### PLATRIX CHAPTER No. 2

##### Los Angeles

1933—Carl I. Wheat*	1954—Francis M. Wheat
1934—J. Gregg Layne*	1955—Eddie Cooper
1934-38—Roger P. Dalton	1956—Sid Platford
1938-39—Lindley Bynum*	1957—Tex Hamilton
1939-41—Sedley Peck	1958—Art Woodward
1941-46—Hugh T. Gordon	1959—Paul Bailey
1946-48—C. B. Groninger*	1960—William H. Newbro, Jr.
1948—Robert J. Woods	1961—Al Ferris
1949—Milford Springer	1962—Don Meadows
1950—Herbert T. Hunt	1963—Walt Bell
1951—Warren F. Lewis*	1964—Al Schliecker
1952—Donald G. MacQueen	1965—John Handchin
1953—Gus L. Muller	1966—George Sturtevant

#### JAMES W. MARSHALL CHAPTER No. 49

##### Placerville

1938—Clarence Barker*	1958—Martin Baer
1939—Norman Robothom*	1959—John Towsley*
1947-51—Eldon W. Zueger*	1960—R. N. Mountain
1952—Lloyd A. Rafetto	1961—Lowell Nokes
1953—Swift Berry	1962—Phil English
1954—Herbert A. Schuener	1963—Vic Koplin
1955—A. H. Murray	1964—Wesley A. Simard
1956—C. S. Collins	1965—Robert Roberts
1957—William L. O'Donnell	1966—A. B. Warner

#### ESTANISLAO CHAPTER No. 58

##### Oakdale

1958-59—Walter Hardgrove	1964—Ore N. Minniear
1960-61—William Logan	1965—Merv Mattos
1962—I. N. "Jack" Brotherton	1966—David F. Bush
1963—Dick Ayres	



## MATUCA CHAPTER No. 1849

### Sonora

1949-50—R. W. Muller*	1960—Thomas Coakley
1951—Arthur Campbell	1961—Basil E. Leever
1952-53—Archie D. Stevenot	1962—William (Bill) Russell
1954—Oliver Bernasconi	1963—Lawrence Lavagnino
1955—Walter Blomquist	1964—Vrle Minto
1956—Dan Foster	1965—Richard Holman
1957-58—Don Segerstrom	1966—Ken Castro
1959—Hugh L. McLean	

## LAS PLUMAS DEL ORO CHAPTER

### Quincy

1954-55—Frank Gasper	1962-63—Paul Larios
1956-57—L. V. Aaserude	1964-65—Tulsa E. Scott
1958-60—Morris Durrant	1966—Robert G. McArthur
1961—Henry Magill	

## WILLIAM BULL MEEK CHAPTER No. 10

—Acton Cleveland	1955-59—Andy Rogers*
1953—Hal D. Draper*	1959-60—James M. Howard
1954—Thomas Coan	1960-61—Manuel Pelayo

## WILLIAM MORRIS STEWART CHAPTER No. 8591

1958—Tom Walsh	1960—Dan Pello
1959—Peter Ingram	1961—Bob Wyckoff

## WM. BULL MEEK - WM. MORRIS STEWART CHAPTER No. 10 — Grass Valley

1962—Hillis Hubbard	1965—Bill Byars
1963—Herb Gerrish	1966—Barney Forsythe
1964—Charles R. Kitts	

## JAMES SAVAGE CHAPTER No. 1852

### Fresno

1958—Charles Palmer*	1964—Glen F. Myers
1959-61—Ernest J. Nielsen	1965—Robert M. Walsh
1962—Sid Gruff	1966—Maurice E. Smith
1963—Charles Palmer*	

## SNOWSHOE THOMPSON CHAPTER

### Markleeville

1957—Hubert Bruns	1960-61—Lou Spitz
1958—Fred Dressler	1962-65—Harry O'Brien
1959—Bill Berry	

## SQUIBOB CHAPTER No. 1853

### San Diego

1962—Jim Wingo	1965—Ben Dixon
1963—Joe Menser	1966—Archie O'Neal
1964—J. Francis Mergen	

\*Deceased



PETER LEBECK CHAPTER No. 1866  
Bakersfield

1962—Ralph F. Kreiser	1965—Fred A. Miller
1963—Robert L. Bowman	1966—Walter Stewart
1964—George H. Hewitt	

LORD SHOLTO DOUGLAS CHAPTER No. 3  
Auburn

1935—Earl R. Crabbe	—Ray Carlisle
1963—William Scott	

DOWNIE CHAPTER No. 1848  
Downieville

1941-66—W. Dewey Johnson

TRINITARIANUS  
Weaverville

1962-63—Rex Riley	1965—Howard Lovely
1964—Moon Lee	1966—Hal E. Goodyear

JULIA C. BULETTE CHAPTER No. 1864  
Virginia City, Nevada

1963—Louis Beaupre	1965—John Du Fresne*
1964—Marsh Fey	1966—James Lydon

MONTEREY VIEJO CHAPTER  
Monterey

1962-64—Edward P. Pfingst	1965—John R. Lamoreaux
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SAM BRANNAN CHAPTER No. 1004  
Yuba City

1963-65—Riley W. Young	1966—Clvde Moore
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CHIEF TRUCKEE CHAPTER No. 3691  
Truckee

1963-64—N. F. "Tom" Dolley	1966—Wayne Hopkins
1965—Frank Stella	

ARGONAUT CHAPTER  
San Francisco

1964-65—Curtis O'Sullivan

BODIE CHAPTER No. 64  
Bridgeport

1965—Emil Billeb

PAIR O DICE CHAPTER  
Paradise

No officers selected at time of receiving charter

\*Deceased





# APPENDIX

## The History of E Clampus Vitus As A Corporation

After the historic meeting in 1940 between the representatives of the revived ECV and the few remaining members from Marysville where there was now no active chapter, efforts were made to transfer the charter of the corporation to San Francisco where there was an active chapter. In reply to a letter from Ralph Cross asking about the status of ECV, Inc., Secretary of State Frank Jordan stated that the corporation was in good standing on May 10, 1948. However, the transfer proved to be quite difficult as no reports or fees had been filed for years and no one could be found in Marysville who could legally sign for the transfer of the location.

On September 4, 1948, a certificate of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation was signed by the following Board of Directors and officers of the Grand Lodge — Leon Whitsell, President; Edgar Jessup, Vice-President; Lee Stoppel, Secretary; Thomas W. Morris, Charles Camp, R. H. Cross, Lindley Bynum, Carl Wheat, William Paden, Eric Falconer, directors — was filed with the Secretary of State asking for a transfer of location. The request, however, was not approved. The term Grand Lodge was used o refer to the combined directors from Marysville and Yerba Buena No. 1. It was not the Grand Council as we know it today.

Apparently the necessary annual reports were filed but no real effort made to transfer the title and location of the corporation until the term of office of SNGH Archie Stevenot in 1962. In March, his request to Secretary of State, Frank Jordan as to the status of ECV brought the State, Frank Jordan, as to the status of ECV brought the reply of good standing for E Clampus Vitus as incorpor-now renewed by SNGH Stevenot and Clamproctor Donald I. Segerstrom to transfer the charter to San Francisco.

After consultation with the members of the Grand Council, it was thought best to transfer the incorporation to San Francisco where the ECV was reorganized in 1931 with Yerba Buena as the parent chapter in the revivication of ECV. In order to meet the requirements of the State Corporation Commission for a definite and permanent address, the address of the California Historical Society was given. The society, also under the presidency of Al Shumate, offered its facilities for the ECV archives. By this time the William Bull Meek Chapter had been organized, taking over the Marysville territory, and through

NORTON I



Emperor of U. S.  
Protector of Mexico

the cooperation of Herb Gerrish, GNR of that chapter, who obtained the necessary records, the transfer was completed. In January, 1963, Albert Shumate, president of the California Historical Society, acting for the Grand Council, filed incorporation papers with the city and county of San Francisco, which located the headquarters of E Clampus Vitus, Inc., at 2090 Jackson Street, San Francisco. The fifteen officers and directors of the Corporation were called Clamproctors. Elections were to be held every two years. The first roster of Clamproctors under the transferred Corporation in 1963 were: Sublime Noble Grand Humbug — Archie Stevenot; Vice Sublime Noble Grand Humbug — Dr. Albert Shumate; Sublime Grand Noble Recorder — Sid Platford; Dr. Charles Camp, John Porter, Swift Berry, L. V. "Duke" Aaserude, Don Segerstrom, George Harding, Paul Bailey, Eric Falconer, Ernest Nielsen, Herb Gerrish, Howard Reamer, and E. Zueger.



### A WORD TO THE BRETHREN

The committee which was delegated to write this "history of E Clampus Vitus" would like to explain to the Brethren what we have attempted to do in this publication.

Clamper Dave Dunlap wrote the first three chapters as a term paper for a seminar course he was taking at the University of the Pacific. In this paper he attempted to sift through the great mass of Clamper exaggerations and falsehoods, in an effort to obtain some reliable historical facts. He did very well as far as our purpose is concerned.

The material on the revived Order of ECV was compiled by the committee created in 1965. We have relied on the minutes of the Grand Lodge and Grand Council when they were available. These have been supplemented by references to newspaper accounts, publications of the individual chapters, "The Clamper", and the memories of old-time Clampatriarchs.

We have attempted to present reliable dates and facts. This has proven to be very difficult. We hope you will be charitable if you find errors. Some conflicting data could not be reconciled.

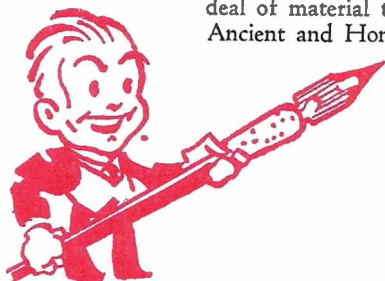
We have not attempted to write this publication in the humorous, exaggerated Clampliterary style that you may have expected. We think we have compiled in fairly readable form a good deal of material that will explain the history and purpose of the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus.

After you have read this "history" will you be kind enough to judge our efforts on this basis?

Coke Wood, <i>chrm.</i>	Archie Stevenot
Albert Shumate	Wesley Simard

"AND SO RECORDED"

August, 1966 — Stockton, California



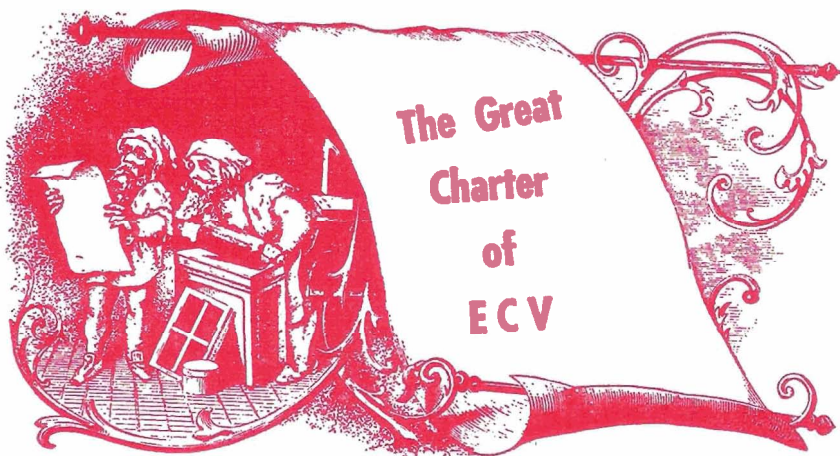
# CLAMPHISTORIAN'S POSTSCRIPT

Since Dave Dunlap wrote the first three chapters several years ago, a good deal of research in the files of local newspapers of the state has been done and many references to Clamper activity have been found that Dave could not have known about.

Three Chapters of the revived ECV claim the honor of having the first "lodge" in the gold rush era — Downieville claims it occurred at Sierra City; James Marshall claims it occurred at Hangtown, and Matuca claims it occurred at Mokelumne Hill.

The great "revivifier", Carl Wheat, writing in the *Pacific Historical Review*, XVIII (1949), 67-69, seems to favor Sierra City as the location of the first lodge. This was probably because Adam Lee Moore, "the last noble Grand Humbug of the Order in that earlier Dispensation" was from the Downieville area. However, Judge J. A. Smith, the historian and enthusiastic Clamper of Calaveras County found references to ECV activity in 1851 in Mokelumne Hill in the files of the *Calaveras Chronicle* first published in 1851. This evidence probably pre-dates any that comes from Sierra County.

It is generally accepted, by the "historians" of the James W. Marshall and Matuca Chapters at least, that it was Joe Zumwalt who brought the ritual from Missouri to Hangtown (Placerville) in 1849. He mined unsuccessfully there and attempted to establish the first lodge in Hangtown. It didn't last. He soon moved on south to the rich mining camp of Mokelumne Hill where he was more successful and did establish the first lodge of ECV by 1851. (There are Zumwalts still living in Mokelumne Hill). From this first lodge E Clampus Vitus spread rapidly through the mining camps and into San Francisco, Sacramento, and Stockton. We find references in 1852 to Clamper activities



in Sonora and Murphys. It was in Murphys where, according to the county property records, the ECV saloon was dispensing libations to the thirsty miners in 1853. This site was marked with a monument by the Grand Council in 1965. Many references to ECV activity can be found in the newspaper files of the 1850's, showing lodges being organized from Weaverville to Mariposa.

The roisterous spirit of the new lodge expressed by the slogan *Credo Quia Absurdum* (I believe because it is absurd) and by the Constitution of the Order which said "all members are officers and all officers are of equal indignity" had a tremendous appeal to the miners who thought hoaxing a tenderfoot was the greatest of sports. Therefore, when the Hewgag would bray, signifying that a sucker had appeared in camp and was ready to have the veil of ignorance lifted from his eyes by having revealed to him the great truths and secrets of the Ancient and Mystical Order of E Clampus Vitus as a Poor Blind Candidate, the brethren hurriedly gathered from far and near for the merriment. Actually, the one and only great secret is the meaning of E Clampus Vitus. No one, not even Adam Lee Moore, who remembered almost verbatim the old initiation ritual used in Sierra County, knows the secret of this "Latin phrase."

Perhaps some day someone will attempt to research and compile a complete list of the number and location of the lodges formed during this earlier period, but for now we can say the Order was characteristic of the spirit existing in all the mining camps of the gold rush era.





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XPBL