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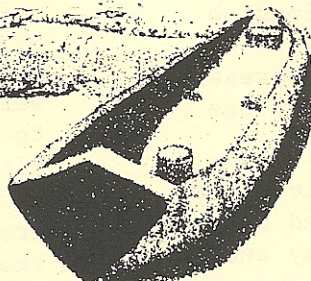
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'EXPLORING OUR HISTORY'

1993 OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER 1993

DAVE, THE FISHERMAN

By Axel R. Lindgren

Viewing the dedication of the newly developed Galindo Trail which allows public access to the beach east of the "Little Head," reminded me of the life story about a colorful couple who lived in an historic hut (which is occupied today by the boat-launcher). Dave Nesbitt, known and remembered by Trinidad's oldtimers as "Dave Fisherman," and his wife "Muggay" were the couple's names.

Dave made a living by doing odd jobs 'uptown' around Pink's Saloon and, of course, by fishing (as his nickname suggests) while his wife "Muggay" kept the home fires burning. Weather permitting, Dave fished every day -- even if he visited too long with 'the boys' at Pink's Saloon -- although he sometimes used poor judgement in his style of fishing the following day.

When the fish were bitin' Dave had no problem with using a conventional lure but when the fish weren't hittin' Dave resorted to illegal bait -- dynamite! With this style of fishing Dave was very successful and got a big bang out of using this method.

One day while preparing his dynamite lure and his "better sense" was absent, Dave didn't bind his 2 or 3 sticks of dynamite firmly together, so when he tossed the 'shot' overboard, it fell apart. In an effort to deactivate the 'charge' too much time was taken and the dynamite exploded! Dave pulled back a stub of an arm.

Months later, up at Pink's Saloon, the boys asked ... "Where were you, Dave, when the shot went off?" Dave replied in an Irish brogue ... "I was layin' on the bottom of the boat flat on me arce."

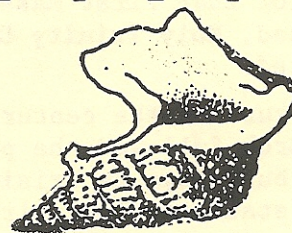
"Muggay," as she walked to-and-from the old brick store or was returning from picking berries, often would be asked questions by strangers (tourists) and, of course, asked her name. She would answer "My name is 'Injun Muggay'" and Dave would scold her for that reply. He told her to say "I'm Mrs. Nesbitt."

When Mrs. Nesbitt died, Mr. Nesbitt made a grave on the mainland north-east of the Little Head, and surrounded the grave with a white fence -- and, until Dave 'dropped-dead in front of the old brick store,' nary a weed or blade of grass grew within that white fence.

When the whaling station people bridged the gap between the Little Head and the mainland, they respected the grave and kept their distance. The new trail, however, trespasses on "Muggay's" gravesite.

Only a few people knew Dave and Muggay as Mr. & Mrs. Nesbitt, but many will long remember them as "Dave Fisherman" and "Injun Muggay."

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By Janis Saunders

The history of the Catholic church in began on **June 11, 1775**, with Trinidad's first recorded history. From the log of Don Bruno de Hezeta, Captain of the Santiago and commander of the Spanish expedition:

"Today I determined to take possession because it is the noble day of the Most Holy Trinity."

Together with the crew, officers and Fathers of his ship and a second ship, they made their way into the bay and erected a cross on the beach. Then they made their way to the top of Trinidad Head, made a chapel, celebrated the first Mass and took possession of the land

"with the most scrupulous formality, as enjoined by the instructions given."

Before leaving the bay, the Spanish named the land "La Santisima Trinidad" and admonished the Tsurai not to remove the cross so ceremoniously placed atop Trinidad Head ... and they never did. The cross was seen by one of Vancouver's officers in 1793, and in 1817, forty-two years after the Spanish carried it to the top.

It was not until the 1860's that this part of the north coast began to be served by Irish missionaries. In 1872, Father Michael Walrath, a young Prussian ordained in Marysville, was appointed Pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Crescent City. His parish included not only Del Norte but also the then existing County of Klamath and ... its BIGGEST city, Trinidad! Tradition has it that he traveled monthly by mule between the two cities of his parish.

Early in 1873, Father Walrath began preparations for building a church in Trinidad. The property (with a house on it at that time) was donated by Hooper & Co. Cooper Lumber Company donated the lumber, and the people collected over \$1400 to pay the builders, Purcell & Griffith.

On **June 11, 1873**, ninety-eight years to the day of that first Mass on Trinidad Head, **Holy Trinity Church** was dedicated.

Near the turn of the century, Holy Trinity Church followed the path of many of the old buildings in Trinidad, falling into a state of disrepair.

In 1955, the Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Father Cornelius O'Connor, in response to the urging of the Trinidad community, obtained authorization to restore the church as a place of worship.

The restoration was a combined effort of the people of Trinidad and the Diocese to return the little Gothic church to its original state. Whenever possible the original materials were retained. The original plaque with the title and founding date was restored to its place over the door. The original altar was still usable. The original pews had been scattered all about in the field around the church and had been destroyed by the elements, but the ends were still in fairly good condition and were used to build new pews.

On June 6, 1955, Bishop Robert Armstrong of Sacramento re-dedicated Holy Trinity Church. In 1967, Christ the King Parish, encompassing McKinleyville, Blue Lake, Trinidad and Orick, was created - and the church became a mission of that parish.

Through the efforts of the Holy Trinity Guild and the help of many people in our community, Holy Trinity Church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

It is one of the two historic buildings remaining in Trinidad, reminding us of the rich and colorful past of the bustling city that was once the heart of the lumber and fishing industries.

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Museum Monthly Classes

Starting October 21st, 7:pm, at the T-M-S Center on Trinity St., Ned Simmons will present a class on the Gold Rush at Trinidad.

These classes are to be monthly on the 3rd Thursdays. Various other topics of natural and cultural features of the Trinidad are are to be covered.

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On Monday, October 11th at 12:00c, Axel Lindgren will hold the "Blessing Ceremony" on Old Home Site of the Tsurai (at Ocean and Edwards streets). The bell rings 10 times ...

Ten (10-days) is a sacred number for the various native Yurok ceremonies: The White Deer Skin Dance and, ten days later, the Jump Dance.

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| Members ... Please **LOOK** at the date on your
| mailing label. Are you due for renewal in
| October? An envelope is enclosed for your
| convenience.

| If you are past-due, we hope you will renew
| your tax-deductible membership at this time.