

TRINIDAD MUSEUM SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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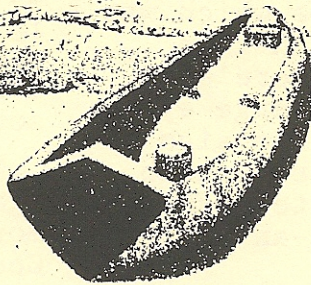
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'EXPLORING OUR HISTORY'

HELEN PARTEE,
Newsletter Editor

1995

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

1995

TSURAI-TRINIDAD TRAIL

By: Axel Lindgren

Whether it be on a mountain top or a rock, or in a building, there was equal opportunity for worship in the Tsurai-Trinidad territory.

Soon after the hard-times hit, some of the Protestants became anxious and thought maybe a change in their religious beliefs would make a difference. Immediately a new denomination was started in the area located on the Old County Road (today's Westhaven Drive).

For awhile, the Full Gospel Mission was housed in a home until a permanent location was established across the road and west of the present site on a large chicken ranch.

Charlie Haase, a German-born sea captain who never captained ships, only vessels, was the owner of the property and donated one of the empty buildings for a church ... which became the much publicized "Chicken Coop." The building had two rooms but not for long, for the congregation grew rapidly and the partition was removed.

The old "Coop" was furnished with homemade benches, an altar and an old pump organ. The pearly whitewashed walls and ceiling reflected the light generated by Coleman gas lanterns. A long boardwalk from the parking lot to the short stairway put you on the main floor of the converted chicken coop.

+ + 12TH ANNUAL MEETING + + +

The 12th Annual Meeting of T-M-S will be held in the museum building on Trinity street, Sunday, April 23rd at 2:pm.

The Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates to fill vacancies created on the Board by members whose terms are up in 1995. Three Board of Directors will be elected for the coming fiscal year -- and financial and committee reports will be given. Docents will serve refreshments ... Members and their guests are cordially invited to attend.

Guest speaker will be Mrs. ARLENE HARTIN of Eureka (past-President of Humboldt County Historical Society), whose topic will be the construction in 1921-1922 of Old Highway 101 (now called Scenic Drive), from Mad River-to-Trinidad. Arlene will show very interesting slide-photos of this 1920's CalTrans achievement!

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OPENING SEASON FOR T-M-S MUSEUM

The starting dates for the museum to be open-to-the-public will be April 28, 29th & 30th. The open-schedule will again be Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 1:pm to 4:pm. Come visit us this summer and bring your visiting guests and relatives.

We hope local members reading this notice will call Ned Simmons @ #677-0716 to learn how you can participate in this community effort ... and become a T-M-S Docent.

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"Chicken Coop" Church - Cont'd

A short skip-and-a-hop south of Salmonberry Pre-School and on the opposite side of Westhaven Drive was the driveway to the parking lot for the Chicken Coop congregation. There also was a footpath entrance which was marked by a wooden sign which read ... The Full Gospel Mission, "There's An Eye Watching you." A very large eye was drawn in the middle of the sign and it made no difference from which direction you came or departed, the eye followed your movement--an eerie feeling!

At the beginning of the footpath was an archway made of rose bushes; the path continued on through a number of fruit trees and flowers. Originally, this beautiful pathway led to Charlie's house, which had been destroyed by fire, so Charlie moved into one of the chicken houses.

In the springtime the rose-covered archway, the fragrant blooms of other flowers and the fruit trees all made a heavenly approach to the chicken house church. In the summer and fall, the beautiful blooms of the fruit trees turned to apples, plums, cherries and peaches, so one could swipe an apple from the garden on the way to church!

The "Chicken Coop" maintained a rich religious program: Sunday School for all ages, Bible Study classes, prayer meetings, weekly sermons and "revivals" which continued for nights.

Evangelists from all over would hear about the "Chicken Coop" in Trinidad and, through curiosity, would be compelled to pay a visit. Ministers without a church would pay a visit and stay a week or two. Usually, "a revival" would be scheduled for a week but, if the response showed promise, the revival would continue every night for another week -- or indefinitely.

These revivals, and sometimes regular church services, would not follow a regular pattern. God had complete control. If someone was sick and needed healing, all believers would gather around and pray for the stricken member...or a sinner. At this point, maybe the heavens would open up and blessings would pour down. Everyone would rejoice, cry, sing or shout with hands raised high; hosannas, hallelujahs and amens were directed toward heaven.

There was no order, everyone was happy, giving thanks in their own personal manner, stamping their feet, rolling on the floor, jumping up-and-down and talking in unknown tongues.

This type of worship was unscheduled, it could carry-on for hours or could end in a matter of minutes. More often, it was similar to other church services ... a few hymns, prayers, a sermon, closing song and Amen.

Numerous people were "saved" or "born again" at this little haven and many more would have been--but the "Chicken Coop" era had ended (Circa 1935). No more cackling, no more songs, no more hallelujahs or hosannas. All that remains are the fruit trees and twenty two Douglas Fir trees, which were 10-to-15 feet high then. Today, the tops are approximately 125-feet from the ground.

The "Chicken Coop congregation" found a haven in LaRocca's Saloon in Trinidad at Trinity & West, where the beautiful Dahlias grew. The next move was into their own building on Ocean Ave where Voss' Burl Shop is located today. It made no difference where or how often the church people moved, they never regained the "Chicken Coop" status ... but it seemed the people who had attended services at the Chicken Coop Church really had something to crow about.

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History Classes

In MAY, Deborah Carver and Ned Simmons will co-host classes on the history of the Greater Trinidad Area and Orick. Mark your calendar to attend on Wednesday nights, **May 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th**, at 7:pm at Trinidad School.

For more information, call Ned @ #677-0716.

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

If you are past-due (January), we hope you will renew your membership at this time. We sincerely appreciate the continued support of all our T-M-S members. "Thank you."