

TRINIDAD MUSEUM SOCIETY

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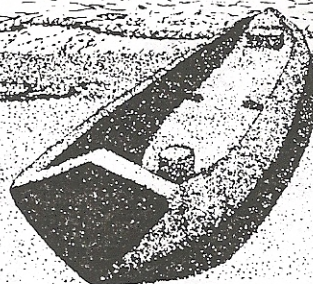
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'EXPLORING OUR HISTORY'

1996

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

1996

TSURAI-TRINIDAD TRAILS

By: Axel Lindgren

Pilot Rock, "Yulpets" (Yalth-pets in Yurok), a short distance south of Trinidad Head and a mile or more from the nearest beach, has greeted many a sea-faring person to the beautiful Trinidad harbor, to the second oldest incorporated city in California, and to the ancient Tsurai Indian village.

On a sunny day, it completes the beauty of the broken, jagged, natural landscape of the Trinidad area coastline; on a foggy day, it becomes another hidden serious shipping hazard.

The remoteness of Pilot Rock from the beaches, other rocks, and the exposure to the Pacific storms, presented a daring challenge to male Indians of Tsurai on which to test their strength, courage and bravery against nature. Many months of pre-training was required before the supreme test and, after completion of the prep period, the "challenger" was confident he could swim from the beach to Pilot and climb upon the Rock. There was no particular spot on the rock to which he was limited; any place above the waterline.

T-M-S PRESIDENT'S INVITATION . . . .

We look forward to our thirteenth **Annual Meeting**, Sunday, **April 21st** at **2:pm** in the Museum (529B Trinity) to share with our membership progress made and plans for the future.

The Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates to fill vacancies created on the Board by members whose terms are up in 1996. Three Board of Directors will be elected for the coming fiscal year.

Reports on TMS projects will include the Katie Boyle photograph collection (making copies for the Society); the completion by Mathew and Mark Marshall of a video of local birds, using Audubon Society material as a basis; additions to T-M-S collections, and much more.

Featured as this year's speaker is **Dr. Jeffrey Borgeld**, Director of HSU's Telonicher Marine Lab. We are very pleased to have the opportunity to learn more about the Marine Lab's activities and the interesting and valuable work going on there. Dr. Borgeld's special area of interest is in the processes which determine the shape and affect the



The brave task was to remain overnight and swim home in the morning. To endure the numbing cold, the loneliness and the constant pounding of the waves against the rock was phenomenal. There was also the possibility of deep sea creatures checking on foreign encroachment!

It was told ... during one man's stay, a gargantuan octopus covered the rock and the only escape was a crevice large enough for a man to squeeze into when he was holding his breath! With tentacles too large to search-out small crevices, the challenger was able to escape the clutches of the octopus and swim for home.

"Yulpets" was a good source for gathering mussels but only the experienced musseler would dare, for there was no protection from the open sea. On smooth days, "sneak waves" could catch a man off-guard and wash him off the rock with great force which could be fatal.

termine the shape and affect the nature of our coastline and the continental shelf.

As in the past, the Docents will provide delicious refreshments. We are planning for excellent weather and hope to see all of you there.

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## **TWO PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO T-M-S BY-LAWS**

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**Proposed amendment to the TMS By-Laws establishing the honorary position of Director Emeritus:**

5.6 - Director Emeritus. The Board of Directors, at its option, may appoint past Directors to the position of Director Emeritus. Such an appointment will be made to honor past service to the Society. An appointment to Director Emeritus will be for life and will entail no obligatory performance requirements. It is anticipated that the Board, from time to time, will



In June, 1913, Mr. Pinkham, owner of Pink's Saloon which was on the corner of Trinity and Edwards (across from the Memorial Lighthouse), hired my Dad to bring him 30-sacks of mussels at one dollar per sack, for a public mussel feed in Trinidad. My Dad was hired many times by "Pink" but Dad, in turn, would hire someone to go with him for this was a two-man job.

On this date, Billie Childs (son of Old Willie) was hired for the usual fee which was half the total price. After arriving at Pilot Rock, a decision had to be made -- who would handle the boat? And who would dig the mussels? Billie Childs chose to get-on-the-rock. Although the ocean was smooth, my Dad rowed the boat about 100-ft away, on the seaward side of the rock. This would allow the boatsman time to warn the digger of a "sneak wave" and he would have enough time to scamper to safety on the rock. Billie, (who was about 50-yrs old) was faced with this fairly common occurrence and either didn't heed or didn't hear Dad's warning -- consequently, he was washed into the ocean.

My Dad moved the boat closer toward the rock, but Billie didn't change his direction and Dad "watched him go out of sight." Only Billie's hat surfaced.

Rowing around the rock for an hour or more, and knowing of Billie's swimming ability, Dad thought surely he would surface at any time. It didn't happen. Dad said, "While rowing around the rock the water seemed to have a boiling-action." After much thought, Dad decided to head home.

Half-way home, Dad realized he was between a rock and a hard place! How does a 23-yr old break this kind of news to people who don't believe in accidents? After hearing a full account of the tragedy and the boiling-action of the water, the "old timers" knew that Billie Childs was swallowed by a sea monster! About ten days later, however, the body washed ashore on Luffenholtz Beach.

Although there were some accusations Billie Childs' son, Sandy, comforted my Dad by saying "there was no foul play." An inquest was held and Axel "Linger" was exonerated in the drowning of Billie Childs at Pilot Rock.

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Trinidad is the second oldest and smallest incorporated city in California (1852), and was the County Seat of the now defunct Klamath County from 1851 through 1854.

solicit advice and counsel from Directors Emeritus; however, the position will carry no authority to vote on matters before the Board. As the Board deems appropriate, the position may be associated with a title modifier which recognizes an individual's particular area of contribution.

**Proposed amendment to the TMS Bt-Laws regarding noticing requirements:**

Addition to the first sentence of Section 8.3 - Notice and Waiver of Notice., of the underlined wording below:

...; and any notice so required shall be deemed to be sufficient if 1) Published and distributed in an official Society newsletter sent to all members within the specified time requirements for such notice, or 2) given by depositing ...

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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 26, 27 & 28th.**

As in the past, the open-schedule is **Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays**, from **12:noon to 3:pm**, through the month of September. Come visit us this summer and bring your visiting guests and relatives.

We hope local members reading this notice will call Loma Burkett at #839-5929 or Ned Simmons at #677-0716 to learn how you can participate in this community effort and become a **T-M-S Docent.**

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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 con-