

TRINIDAD MUSEUM SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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'EXPLORING OUR HISTORY'

1997

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

1997

Queer Doings at Trinidad--1872

Excerpt from the West Coast Signal dated Sept. 27, 1872 ... The following letter from our neighboring town in Klamath is a rather bold document for print, but we give it nevertheless:

"Editor, Not having seen any communications in your paper from this town for a long time, I take the liberty of inflicting upon you this visitation, trusting you will have the patience necessary to publish so uninteresting a letter.

The good people of Trinidad have been very much annoyed of late by the depredations of a certain class of people known as 'chicken abstractors,' who have been making a practice of stealing every chicken that was so unfortunate as to make an appearance in public. Thanks to the investigations of some of our most respectable citizens, the guilty parties have been discovered and it is hoped will soon be brought to justice.

W.W.Warren is one of the parties concerned and has been forced to acknowledge the larceny. For a long time it has been a mystery to all to know how he managed to outweigh and excel all others in obesity, but now the matter is explained to all.

His last venture has brought to light the fact that he not only stole chickens but that over 18-yrs ago he robbed a venerable old gentleman of a valuable porker, and has had the impudent effrontery to boast of the same in the presence of several of our most aristocratic citizens.

Cont'd

PRESIDENT'S INVITATION

The date for our Annual Meeting. Sunday, 20 April 1997 is rapidly approaching. It is important that you all carefully mark this day on your calendars and plan to attend.

The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. and will be held at our Museum Center at 529B Trinity Street. The Board of Directors is anxious to share with you the progress we have made this year and our plans for the future.

We will be filling three director positions which expire this year. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates for the membership's consideration.

Our featured speaker will be DAVE ZEBO who will relate to us recollections of the 1964 flood. As a key official in directing the emergency response efforts during this disaster, Dave was in an excellent position to observe the nature of the problems as well as the reactions of the people. Dave's presentations are always fascinating and enjoyable and we are enthusiastically looking forward to this one.

We will conclude the meeting with refreshments ... compliments of our hard-working docents. We hope to see you all there.

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How far his moral turpitude will yet carry him is mere speculation but, he boldly asserts that he intends to increase his weight to the enormous figure of 400-lbs! His last victim, a poor old gentleman of Teutonic extraction, has vainly applied for redress to the law, but the scales of justice were unbalanced and he returns a sadder and poorer man.

Not alone being content with stealing the chicken, this wretch actually invited a number of his personal friends to partake, thereby making them all 'participis criminis' in breaking up a dinner party for whom the chicken was originally intended.

Now, Mr. Editor, what would you do in a case like this? If you do not feel induced to venture advice, I shall write to my friend Horace Greely, and find out what he knows about stealing chickens, and proceed accordingly."

Yours confidingly, Mr. Athlete

November 30, 1872

Editor: West Coast Signal

"Having noticed a communication in your last issue, I take the liberty of answering, hoping you will extend to me the same courtesy that you did to Mr. Athlete. Who this Athlete is I am at a loss to know but I am in justice bound to give him credit for being truthful to a letter. Yes, Mr. Editor, I did steal the chicken and hope to be able to increase my weight to 400-lbs. I also appropriated a porker over 18 years ago. My only excuse for thus violating the law is a conscientious belief in the justice of agrarianism. I steal from one and divide with many.

When I first saw the chicken that had caused such an excitement in our quiet town, I did not intend to take it - but human nature is weak and, after fondly caressing it, I placed it to my palpitating stomach to walk off, not having the moral courage to resist the temptation. Being of a robust physical nature and animal passions being correspondingly strong, you will readily perceive that it took a great deal of self-control to resist the temptation."

W.W. Warren, Trinidad CA

(Courtesy of Ned Simmons, Historian)

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The first '97 meeting of T-M-S docents will be Wednesday, April 9th at 10:30 a.m. in the Museum Center building on Trinity Street.

We hope other local members reading this notice will attend to learn how you can participate in this community effort and become a docent.

Shirley Shelburn #677-0673
Georganne d'Usseau #677-0467

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Seasonal Opening

The starting dates for the Trinidad Museum to be open-to-the-public will be April 25, 26 & 27th. The "open" schedule will again be Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 12: noon to 3: p.m. each weekend through the month of September.

Come see us this summer and bring your visiting friends and relatives.

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TRINIDAD TREASURES

*The north winds race by us
this sunny April day
Azure waves wear caps of white
that fill the air with spray.
Pillow clouds float quickly by
snow white and etched with blue,
Gray gulls wheel and ride the wind,
the air smells fresh and new.
These signs, and more, remind us
that the winter we've just had
has left us for another year -
Spring has come to Trinidad.*

By Dee Smith

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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. "Thank you" for your continued support of our local museum.