


Fall 2013

# Wildlands Conservancy/Connick Ranch Research

Susie Van Kirk

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**WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY/CONNICK RANCH  
RESEARCH  
FALL 2013**

Wildlands Conservancy website, Eel River Estuary Preserve is 1,100 acres; purchased in 2005, phone number 909-797-8507; 39511 Oak Glen Road, Unit 12, Oak Glen, CA 92399. AP 100-121-001; 100-121-004; 100-131-003; 100-142-001; 100-143-001.

**Ownerships; Chain of Title for land now owned by Conservancy**

**Swamp and Overflow Lands and Tidelands**

**Survey 227: pg. 103** (4 Dec. 1871) J.W.C. Coleman

Fract SE qt sec 30;

Fract SW qt SW qt,

Fract NW qt SW qt,

Fract E half SW qt,

N fract SW qt SE qt,

Fract NW qt SE qt,

N fract NE qt SE qt,

W fract fract E half NE qt,

Fract W half NE qt,

Fract E half NW qt sec 29, 3N2W;

Fract SE qt SW qt,

Fract W half SE qt,

N fract E half SE qt,

Fract NE qt sec 20, 3N2W

N fract of fract W half SW qt,

W fract fract W half NW qt, sec 21, 3N2W

625.49 acres [land in section 20 and 29 lying between Ocean and Salt River and northwesterly of Cut Off slough through sec 29 that flows into Salt River]

**Survey 228:103** (12 Dec. 1871) J.W.C. Coleman

NW qt sec 33;

N fract half, NW qt SE qt, N half SW qt, SW qt SW qt sec 32

E fract half sec 31, 3N2W.

**Survey 229:104** (12 Dec. 1871) J.W.C. Coleman

In sec 28 and 21, 3N2W, 150 acres [east side Salt River]

**Certificate of Purchase**, State Land Office, State of California. Number 4006

Swamp & Overflowed Land; Price Per Acre One Dollar

Sacramento, 29<sup>th</sup> day of January 1874

It appearing from the report of the county treasurer that on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1874, J.W.C. Coleman paid to the State of California the sum of One hundred and twenty-nine dollars being twenty percent of the purchase money and interest on the balance up too January 1<sup>st</sup> 1874 for 625.49 [?] Swamp and Overflowed Land described as follows

fract SE qt SE qt sec 30  
fract SW qt SW qt  
fract NW qt SW qt  
fract E half SW qt  
N fract SW qt SE qt  
Fract NW qt SE qt  
N fract NE qt SE qt  
W fract of fract E half NE qt  
fract W half NE qt  
fract E half NW qt, sec 29  
fract SE qt SW qt  
fract W half SE qt  
N fract E half SE qt  
Fract NE qt sec 20  
N fract of fract W half SW qt  
W fract of fract W half NW qt, sec 21  
3N2W

Now therefore be it known that the said J.W.C Coleman having made payment of said county per acre and first years interest for the above described tract of land in the purchase of the same, and after having in all other respects complied with the requirements of the laws providing for the sale of school lands and he same have been confirmed to the State and on Surrendering This Certificate To the State of California the said J.W.C. Coleman or his assigns shall be entitled to receive a Patent for the same. Balance of Purchase Money due \$500.40. Interest computed from Nov. 25, 1873. In Witness Whereof the Register of said Land Office has hereto set his hand and affixed his Seal of Office, the day and date above mentioned. Robert Gardner, Register of State Land Office.

**Tax Sales.** Book without number but identified as "Beg. Cert. 79 sale of 1878 thru Cert. 66 sale of 1889: page 182 (date of sale 4 March 1881; filed 28 June 1881)

No. 13, Assessed to J.W.C. Coleman. Purchaser State of California, \$40.71.

NW qt NE fract and fract E half NW qt sec 4, 5N1E

Fract N half SW qt, fract SW qt SW qt, fract N half, sec 6, 2N2W

S fract of SW qt SW qt, sec 21, 3N2W

Fract N half SW qt in fract half NW qt sec 28, 3N2W

E fract half E half of NE qt sec 29, 3N2W

S fract half sec 31, 3N2W

N fract half, NW qt NE qt, N half SW qt, SW qt SW qt sec 32, 3N2W

NW qt sec 33, 3N2W

Fract SE qt SW qt, fract N half SE qt, N fract half SE qt SE qt, fract NE qt sec 20, 3N2W

W fract half of fract W half of SW qt, W fract half of fract W half NW qt sec 21, 3N2W.

Fract NW qt SE qt, N fract NE qt SE qt, W fract E half NE qt NE qt, fract E half NW qt sec 29, 3N2W

Fract SE qt sec 30, 3N2W

Fract NE qt SE qt, fract SE qt NE qt sec 18, 2N1W

Written in red ink across the above description:

Redeemed as to:

fract N half SW qt, fract SW qt SW qt, fract N half sec 6, 2N2W

S fract half sec 31, 3N2W

N fract, NW qt NE qt [NW qt SE qt?], N half SW qt, SW qt SW qt sec 32

NW qt sec 33, 3N2W

On 16 Nov. 1883 by A.N. Guptill.

**Patents 8:3** (8 Nov. 1883) State of California to A.N. Guptill, it appears by the Certificate of the Register of the State Land Office No. 3319 (21 Nov. 1883) in accordance with provisions of law that the tracts of State lands have been surveyed, full payment has been made to State for same and A.N. Guptill is entitled to patent, Survey 228 Swamp and Overflowed lands in 2N2W and 3N2W, sections 6, 30, 32, and 33 (fractions)

NW qt sec 33, 3N2W

Fract N half, NW qt SE qt, N half SW qt, SW qt SW qt sec 32

Fract E half sec 31, 3N2W

Also fract N half, fract N half SW qt, fract SW qt SW qt sec 6, 2N2W.

Total 1,003.63 acres, Survey 228.

**Deeds 11:704** (21 Dec. 1883) A.N. Guptill of San Francisco to Joseph Russ and Adam Putnam, two-thirds interest in:

NW qt sec 33

Fract N half, NW qt SE qt, fract N half SW qt, SW qt SW qt sec 32.

Fract E half sec 31, 3N2W

Fract N half, fract N half SW qt, fract SW qt SW qt sec 6, 2N2W

Total 1,003.63 acres, Survey 228.

**Deeds 12:322** (20 Feb. 1884) A.N. Guptill of San Francisco to Nathaniel Hurlbutt for \$1,500, one-third interest in Swamp and Overflowed lands:

NW qt sec 33.

N half, NW qt SE qt, N half SW qt, SW qt SW qt sec 32

E fract half sec 31, 3N2W

N half fract sec 6, N half fract SW qt, SW qt fract SW qt sec 6, 2N2W, Survey 228.

**Patents 8:270** (27 June 1884) Sacramento. State of California to Joseph Russ. Whereas under the provisions of an Act of Congress of the United States approved 25 Sept. 1850, entitled an act to enable Arkansas and other states to reclaim Swamp land within their limits...and Whereas the Legislature of the State of California has provided for the sale and conveyance of said lands, and Whereas it appears by the Certificate of the Register of the State Land Office No. 3371, bearing date June 24, 1884 and issued in accordance with the provisions of law that the tracts of Swamp and Overflowed Lands, hereafter described, have been duly and properly surveyed with law, that full payment has been made to the State for the same, and that Joseph Russ is entitled to receive a patent, therefore, said lands being situated in Humboldt County....Survey No. 227, Swamp and Overflowed Lands in 3N2W, Sections 20, 21 and 29, being a fraction of W half sec 21; fractional E half and small fraction of SW qt sec 20; fractional sec 29, 3N2W, 625.49 acres. George Stoneman, Governor.

**Deeds 15:470** (22 April 1885) Joseph Russ to Adam Putnam for \$10,000, one-half interest, Fract N half SW qt, W fract half NW qt sec 28; E fract of E half NE qt sec 29; S fract of SW qt SW qt sec 21, 3N2W. Also. NW qt SE qt, S half SE qt sec 28; E fract NE qt, NE fract qt SE qt sec 33; W half NW qt, fract NW qt SW qt sec 34, SE fract qt sec 30; fract SW qt SW qt, fract NW qt SW qt, fract E half SW qt, N fract SW qt of SE qt, fract NW qt SE qt, N fract of NE qt SE qt, W fract of fract E half NE qt, fract W half NE qt, frat E half NW qt sec 29; fract SE qt SW qt, fract W half SE qt, N fract of E half SE qt, Fract NE qt sec 20; N fract of fract W half SW qt, W fract of fract W half NW qt sec 21, all in EN2W, 1,113 acres.

Also one-third interest, NW qt sec 33, N fract half NW qt of SE qt, N half SW qt, SW qt SW qt sec 32; E fract half sec 31; fract of N half SW qt sec 28; S fract of SE qt, S fract SE qt SW qt sec 29; SE qt SW qt sec 29, SE qt SW qt sec 32, 3N2W.

Also N fract half, N fract half of SW qt, SW fract qt SW qt sec 6; SE qt SW qt sec 6, 2N2W, 1,202.29 acres.

**Deeds 20:174** (25 June 1886) Adam Putnam to Joseph Russ, \$10,000, one-half interest in:

Fract N half SW qt, W half fract NW qt sec 28.

E fract E half NE qt sec 29

S fract SW qt SW qt sec 21, 3N2W

NW qt SE qt, S half SE qt sec 28,

E fract NE qt, NE qt fract SE qt sec 33,

W half NW qt, fract NW qt SW qt sec 34,

SE fract sec 30.

Fract SW qt SW qt, fract NW qt SW qt, fract E half SW qt, N fract SW qt SE qt, fract

NW qt SE qt, N fract NE qt SE qt, W fract of fract E half NE qt, fract W half NE qt fract E half NW qt sec 29,

Fract SE qt SW qt, fract W half SE qt, N fract E half SE qt, fract NE qt sec 20,

N fract, fract W half SW qt, W fract of fract W half NW qt sec 21, 3N2W.

Total 1,113.34 acres.

One-third interest in:

NW qt sec 33, N fract half NW qt SE qt, N half SW qt, SW qt SW qt sec 32,

E fract half sec 31,

Fract of N half SW qt sec 28,

S fract SE qt, S fract of SE qt SW qt, sec 29,

SE qt SW qt sec 32, 3N2W.

N fract half, N fract half SW qt, SW qt fract SW qt sec 6,

SE qt SW qt sec 6, 2N2W.

Total of 1,200.29 acres.

This deed is intended to convey the same interest in all the lands conveyed by Russ to Putnam, 22 April 1885 (Deeds 16:470).

**Deeds 20:646** (recorded 31 Dec. 1886; no date on indenture). Nathaniel Hurlbutt to Thomas C. Putnam, one-third interest:

Fract N half, fract N half SW qt, fract SW qt SW qt sec 6, 2N2W

Fract E half sec 31,

Fract N half, NW qt SE qt, fract N half SW qt, SW qt SW qt sec 32,

NW qt sec 33, 3N2W,.

Total of 1,003.63 acres

SE qt SW qt sec 32, 3N2W, 40 acres.

All the land in sec 29 and in W half SW qt sec 28, south of a navigable slough and Salt River in 3N2W, 118.60 acres.

SE qt SW qt sec 6, 2N2W, 40 acres.

Also 1 acres [described] on Mill Slough; right of way for road, also on Mill Slough; more land on Mill Slough.

**Deeds 29:181-202** (31 Dec. 1888) Joseph Russ Estate, one-half to Zipporah; one-half to 10 children, each receiving 1/20 interest: Ira A. Russ, William N. Russ, Mary E. Robarts, Maggie C. Coombe, Georgia A Russ, Annie Russ Harville, Edith J. Russ, Bertha Z. Russ, Joseph Russ and Zipporah Russ, Jr., share and share alike, included property in Eureka and Ferndale, Fort Baker Ranch, Redwood Creek Ranch and much more.

Pg. 197: The undivided one-half of tract known as "Seaside Ranch," fractional E half and small fraction of SW qt sec 20; fraction of W half sec. 21, fractional sec 29; also commencing 20 chains E and 11 chains N of corner of sections 20, 21, 28, and 29; thence N to low water mark of Salt River, 28.50 chains; thence following meander of low water mark left bank up stream S 64 degrees 45 minutes E 2 chains; S 55 degrees 15 minutes E 4 chains, S 45 degrees 15 minutes E 2.50 chains, thence S 30 degrees 45 minutes E 3.90 chains, thence S 16 degrees 15 minutes E 7 chains, thence S 3 chains, S 13 degrees W 2.40 chains; thence S 23 degrees W 2 chains, thence 40 degrees 30 minutes W 3.50 chains, thence S 58 degrees 45 minutes W, 5.50 chains, thence S 70 degrees 45 minutes, W 2.93 chains to beginning, all in 3N2W, 648.14 acres.

Also, the undivided one-third of tract known as "Occidental Ranch," fract. N half, fract N half SW qt, fract SW qt SW qt, SE qt SW qt sec 6, 2N2W and

Fract E half sec 31; fract N half, NW qt SE qt, fract N half SW qt, SW qt SW qt, SE qt SW qt sec 32; NW qt sec 33; all land in sec 29 and in W half SW qt sec 28 south of a navigable slough and Salt River. Also that certain piece commencing 8.40 chains W of quarter sec post between sections 28 and 33, 3N2W, thence W 6.70 chains to right bank of slough; thence along said bank to beginning.

**Deeds 30:407-441** (13 April 1889) Decree of Partition; Report filed by commissioners for partition of Joseph Russ Estate to heirs. To Zipporah Russ, full interest in lands in 5N3E, 4N4E, 4N5E, 5N4E.

One-half in Fort Baker Ranch in 2N3E, 2N4E, 3N3E, 3N4E.

One-half in lands in 6N1W.

One-half in 8N2E

One-half in 4N1E

One-half in 4N1W

Also lot in City of Eureka; one-half in lots in Eureka; also land in Survey 73 in 5N1W, 4N1W.

One-half in Ferndale lot

One-half in section 11, 2N2W [more real property]

Personal property. One-half in 16,000 sheep, 50 horses and colts, 4 mules and such cattle on Fort Baker ranch.

On Redwood and Robarts ranches, 7 horses, 2 mules, 3 pack saddles, 1 harness, 1 saddle, 2 plows, 2 set of harrow teeth, 2 set dishes, 2 stoves, lot of bedding, 1 wagon, one rifle, 2 grindstones, tools, 16 boles barbed wire.

Personal property in Eureka and slaughter house, 7 horses, 5 wagons, 4 set harness, 67 cords of wood, 35 tons of hay, 3 tons grain, 40 sheep pelts, 63 beef hides, 6600 pound tallow, 36 beeves, 3 cows, 185 hogs, 191 sheep, 2.5 tons salt, tools, fixtures and furniture at slaughter house, 1 piano in hall, wood and coal, 1 cook stove [more]

Property at Fern Cottage, household furniture, wagons, carriages, 3 cutter boxes, harness, horse, 2 sows and 10 pigs, [more]

Lease of Williams' Dairy Farm and property thereon, butter boxes, separator, churn, butter worker, milk coolers, strainers, 5 milk pails, 8 cream [more]

Property at West Point Dairy [more]

Property at Mazeepa Dairy [more]

Property at Forest Home [more]

Property at Olympia pasture, 6 colts and 12 horses

Property at South Beach and Davis Creek, 26 colts

One-half in steam tugs [more]

To Mary Robarts,

Equal, undivided one-half in property known as Riverside Ranch, SE qt NW qt sec 28; S half SW qt sec 27; NW qt SE qt, S half SE qt sec 28, also described lands on Salt River.

Also beginning at point on right bank of Mill Slough 8.40 chains [554.40 feet] W of qt sec post between sec 28 and 33, 3N2W, th W 6.70 chains [442.2 feet] to right bank Salt River, excepting 1.75 acres sold to P.J. Donnelly. .

One-half in Seaside Ranch, being a fraction of W half sec 21, fract E half, and a small fract of SW qt sec 20, and fract sec 29. Also beginning at post on margin of low water mark of Salt River 20 chains [1320 feet] E and 11 chains [726 feet] N of corners 20, 21, 28, 29, th N to low water mark on said river 28.50 chains [1881 feet], then following meander of low water mark left bank up stream S 64 degrees 45 minutes E 2 chains [132 feet], th S 55 degrees 15 minutes E 4 chains [264 feet], th S 45 degrees 15 minutes E 2.55 chains [168.3 feet], th S 30 degrees 45 minutes E 3.90 chains [257.4 feet], th S 16 degrees 15 minutes E 7 chains [462 feet], th S 3 chains [198 feet], th S 13 degrees W 2.40 chains [158.4 feet], th S 23 degrees W 2 chains [132 feet]; S 40 degrees 30 minutes W 3.50 chains [231 feet], th S 58 degrees 45 minutes W 5.50 chains [363 feet], th S 70 degrees 45 minutes W 2.93 chains [193.38 feet], to place of beginning, reserving right to fish, seine, and draw nets upon the banks of said river and to do any and everything necessary to fish in the stream, upon the banks, except the construction of buildings for fishing purposes thereon.

One-third of Occidental Ranch

Fract N half, fract SW qt sec 6, 2N2W.

Fract E half sec 31.

Fract N half, fract SW qt, NW qt SE qt sec 32, NW qt sec 33.

All land in sec 29 and in W half SW qt sec 28 south of navigable slough and salt River, 3N2W.

Personal property, one-half at Riverside Ranch, 6 bulls, 85 dairy cows, 20 2-year-old heifers, 130 1-year olds, 110 calves, 3 horses, 2 3-year old colts, 2 one-year old colts, 2 sets harness, 2 saddles, 1 plow, 1 spring tooth harrow, 1 square harrow, 1 hay rake, other tools and

implements, 1 horse power, 1 churn, 1 butter worker, 1 milk cooler, 2 milk strainers, 3 milk pails, 475 milk pans, 1 cream can, household furniture. At Dairy and  $\frac{1}{4}$  in wagon. Also all 100 head of stock cattle and \$12,652.90.

**Deeds 33:332** (3 Jan. 1890) T.C. Putnam of Sonoma County to Zipporah Russ, \$8000, one-third of property described in Deeds 20:646.

**Deeds 34:278** (28 March 1890) Adam Putnam to Zipporah Russ,  $\frac{1}{6}$  part of N half, fract N half SW qt, fract SW qt SW qt sec 6, 2N2W.

Fract E half sec 31, 3N2W.

Fract N half, NW qt SW qt, fract N half SW qt, SW qt SW qt sec 32, 3N2W.

NW qt sec 33, 3N2W, 1003.63 acres.

SW qt SW qt sec 32, 3N2W, 40 acres.

All land in sec 29 and in W half SW qt sec 28 south of navigable slough and Salt River, 3N2W, 118.60 acres.

SW qt SW qt sec 6, 2N2W, 40 acres.

Also beginning at a point on the right bank of Mill Slough and 8.40 chains [554.40 feet] W of quarter section post between sec 28 and 33, 3N2W; thence W 6.70 chains [442.20 feet] to right bank of slough; thence along bank to point of beginning 1 acre.

Also right of way for road only, beginning at a point on right bank of Mill Slough 4.50 chains [297 feet] S of qt sec post between 28 and 33; thence S 85 links [56.1 feet]; thence N 73.25 degrees E 3.04 chains [200.64 feet]; thence N 58.5 degrees E 3.64 chains [240.24 feet] to S edge of public road; thence westerly along road 46 links [30.36 feet]; thence S 73 degrees W 3.10 chains [204.60 feet] to right bank of Mill Slough; thence along slough to beginning, excepting 1.75 acres sold to P.J. Donnelly.

**Deeds 57:224-243** (26 Dec. 1895) Zipporah Russ to Z. Russ & Sons Co., a corporation, Redwood Ranch in 4N4E, 7,652.18 acres

Robarts Ranch in 5N4E, 1120 acres

Martin Coady Ranch in 2S5E, 301.73 acres

Tom Hunter Ranch at Petrolia, 1356.42 acres

RM Ranch, in 1N1W, 6040 acres

Johnston Upper Ranch, 1N2W, 586.50 acres

Johnston Lower Ranch, 1N2W, 1080 acres

Marshall Patrick Place, 5N1W, 79 acres

W Patrick Place in 2N1W, 37.50 acres

Huestis Ranch, 91.59 acres

Slaughter House property

Occidental Ranch

All land embodied in Swamp and Overflowed Survey No. 227 in sections 20, 21, 29 and 30, 3N2W, containing 625.49 acres

All land embodied in Swamp and Overflowed Survey No. 228 in sections 31, 32, and 33 and section 6, containing 1,003.63 acres. Less 1.75 acres sold to Donnelly north of Mill Slough in sec 33, 3N2W for total of 1001.88 acres.

Also land embodied in Swamp and Overflowed Survey No. 229 in sections 28 and 29, 3N2W, 150 acres [Survey 229:104 (19 Jan. 1874) for J.W.G. Coleman, fract W half SW qt, W



fract half NW qt, sec 28; E fract of E half of NE qt sec 29; S fract of SW qt SW qt sec 21, containing 150 acres].

All land embraced in Swamp and Overflowed Survey No. 231 in sections 28 and 29, 3N2W, 118.60 acres.

All lands embraced in Tide Land Survey No. 29 in section 2, 3N2W, 22.65 acres.

Also SE qt SW qt sec 32, 3N2W, 40 acres

SE qt SW qt, NE qt SE qt sec 6, 2N2W, 80 acres, less right of way to Isabella Shaw, 1.27 acres and right of way to P.J. Peterson, 14/100 acre.

Mill Site, beginning 2.35 chains [155.10 feet] E of qt sec post on the sec line between sec 28 and 33; th N 17 degrees W 2.96 chains [195.36 feet]; N 73 degrees E 4 chains [264 feet] to low water mark in Salt River; th S along low water mark S 17 degrees E 5 chains [330 feet]; th S 73 degrees W 4 chains [264 feet]; th N 17 degrees W 2.04 chains [134.64 feet], consisting of 2 acres, being in sections 28 and 33, 3N2W and known as Enterprise Mill property.

Donnelly Acre, beginning at point on right bank of Mill Slough 8.40 chains [554.40 feet] W of qt sec post between 28 and 33, th W 6.70 chains 442.20 feet] to right bank of Mill Slough; th along said bank to point of beginning in sec 28, consisting of 1 acre.

Also right of way for road, beginning at point on right bank of Mill Slough 4.50 chains 297 feet] S of qt sec post between 28 and 33; th S .85 chains [56.1 feet]; th N 73.25 degrees E 3.04 chains [200.64 feet] th N 68.5 degrees E 3.64 chains [240.24] to south edge public road; th W along boundary of road 46 links 30.36 feet]; th S 73 degrees W 3.10 chains [204.6 feet] to right bank of Mill Slough; th along slough to beginning.

All of the above comprising Occidental Ranch and aggregating 2040.31 acres. The interest conveyed in ranch being full and equal undivided one-half part thereof, 1020.10 acres.

Ferndale Market property

City of Eureka property

**Probate 1364** (22 Nov. 1901). Mary E. Robarts, died 22 Nov. 1901. Heirs James T. Robarts and Zipporah Russ. Bequeath all her estate to James. Real Estate: one half interest in tract called "Occidental Ranch" 1,880 acres, described as:

1. Tide Land Survey No. 29, 22.65 acres, W fract of E half SW qt sec 21, 3N2W
2. Swamp and Overflowed Land Survey No. 231, 118.61 acres, all lands in section 29 and in the W half SW qt sec 28, 3N2W, lying south of Salt River and a navigable slough tributary to Salt River.
3. Swamp and Overflowed Land Survey No. 227, 625.49 acres, a fract in W half sec 21; fract E half and small fract in SW qt sec 20, and fract sec 29, 3N2W.
4. Swamp and Overflowed Land Survey 228, 1003.63 acres, NW qt sec 33; fract N half, NW qt SE qt, fract N half SW qt, SW qt SW qt sec 32, 3N2W, fract N half, fract N half SW qt, fract SW qt SW qt sec 6, 2N2W.
5. SE qt SW qt sec 32, 3N2W, 40 acres
6. NE qt SE qt and SE qt SW qt sec 6, 2N2W, 80 acres
7. 1 acre on Mill Slough
8. beginning at SW cor NW qt NE qt sec 33, 3N2W, th E 9 chains to county road, th N 40 feet along road, th W 90 chains to subdivision line running N and S in center sec 33, th S 40 feet to beginning.

9. beginning 40 links N of corners 5,6,7,8 2N2W, th N along sec line 4.65 ch to boundary of public road, th on road S 55.24 degrees W 6.71 ch, th S 81 degrees E 5.57 ch to section line and beginning

With 5 or 6 exceptions.

Also descriptions of Home Place, Hill ranch and Arcadia ranch (SE qt NW qt sec 3, 2N2W)

Personal Property: 40 shares capital stock Ferndale Bank; household furniture, 2 cows, 1 horse, 2 buggies.

One-half interest in 180 dairy cows; one-half in lot of stock cattle, horses, farming machinery, dairy implements, creamery fixtures. Total pp. \$5000.

Occidental ranch valued at \$40,000

Home Place, \$3,000

Hill Place, \$450

Arcadia Ranch, \$6000

Personal property total \$5,913

Total \$55,363.00

One-half interest in 180 cows on Occidental Ranch, under lease to John Hansen, \$2,250

Mary Roberts' interest in personal property on Occidental ranch is one-quarter belong to her, Z Russ & Sons Co. and John Hansen. Tools in blacksmith shop, \$40.00; blankets in men's cabin, \$10.00; wagons, farming implements, harness, \$400.00; creamery fixtures, \$600.00; livestock (cattle, horses, hogs) \$4000.00; household goods, \$50; not to M.P. Hansen, \$800.

**Deeds 82:305** (20 March 1903) Decree of Distribution, Mary E. Roberts to James T. Roberts.

One-half interest in Occidental Ranch, described as Tide Land Survey #29, 22.65 acres, W fract of E half SW qt sec 21, 3N2W

Swamp and Overflowed Land Survey 231, 118.61 acres

All land in sec 29 and in W half SW qt sec 28, 3N2W, lying south of Salt River and a navigable slough tributary to Salt River.

Swamp and Overflowed Land Survey 227, 625.49 acres, a fract in W half sec 21, fractional E half, a small fract in SW qt sec 20 and fract of sec 29, 3N2W

Swamp and Overflowed land survey 228, 1003.63 acres.

NW qt sec 33.

Fract N half, NW qt SE qt, fract N half SW qt, SW qt SW qt sec 32; fract E half sec 31, 3N2W.

Fract N half, fract N half SW qt, fract SW qt SW qt sec 5, 2N2W.

SW qt SW qt sec 32, 3N2W, 40 acres.

NE qt SE qt, SE qt SW qt sec 6, 2N2W, 80 acres.

Mill slough one acre

Description of land in sec 33, 3N2W and 2N2W and exceptions

Hill Place

Arcadia Ranch.

**Probate 1566** (12 Feb. 1904) James T. Roberts, who died 12 Feb. 1904; will dated 16 May 1903; F.W. Williams, Executor. Legatees: Zipporah Russ; Mrs. Augusta Graham, widow of John Graham, Arcata; Mrs. Emma Brown, Aspin, Colorado; Margaret Coombe and Mrs. Annie Harville, both at 3417 Jackson St., S.F.; Georgia Williams, Edith Russ, Bertha Russ, Joseph

Russ, all of Ferndale; Ira Russ and Wm. N. Russ, Eureka; W.H. Robarts, Ferndale; Robert W. Robarts, Ferndale; Mrs. Amy Thomas, Santa Cruz; Harry P. Robarts, St. Luke's Hospital, S.F.

James' handwritten will (beautiful hand writing) money to brothers, sister and nephew Harry; To Margaret, Annie, Georgia, Edith and Bertha, the 3.5 acre Home Place and personal property known as The Maples; also Arcadia ranch and the Hill place. Share and share alike. The rest and residue, including Occidental Ranch: 1/20 to Mrs. John Graham; 1/20 to Mrs. Emma Brown 1/10 each to Zipporah, Margaret, Annie, Georgia, Wm., Edith, Bertha, Ira, Wm., and Joseph. [lots of bills in the probate for food, wages to Eliza Blanks and Daisy O'Leary, cigars, extra pony whiskie, subscription to Humboldt Beacon, for hauling wood and plants, watering cemetery lot, horse shoes, casket and burial, medical supplies, and much more.

**Deeds 130:46** (2 Jan. 1915) Z. Russ & Sons Co. to Z. Russ Co. one-half interest in all land embraced in State Swamp and Overflowed Land Survey 229 in sections 28 and 29, 3N2W, 150 acres interest same acquired by Zipporah Russ 26 Dec. 1895 (Deeds 57:224).

**Deeds 130:47-61** (2 Jan. 1915) Z. Russ & Sons Co. to Z. Russ Co., 12 tracts of land  
Tract 1: 4,243.47 acres "Eastern, Northern, West Point, Mazeppa and Western ranches, described in deed from Zipporah Russ to Z. Russ & Sons, 26 Dec. 1895 (Deeds 57:224).

Tract 2: 2,351.59 acres

Tract 3: 6,836.62 acres

Tract 4: 88 acres

Tract 5: 553.59 acres

Tract 6: 1,396.42 acres

Tract 7: 1,400 acres

Tract 8: 78.50 acres

Tract 9:

E half SE qt, SW qt SE qt sec 32, 120 acres,

SW qt sec 33, 160 acres, 3N2W.

Sec. 5, 2N2W, 3,800 acres

Tract 10:

Sec 21, all lands in State Tide Land Survey 29, 22.65 acres, W fract E half SW qt sec 21  
Sec 20,21, 29 and 30. All land included in Swamp and Overflowed Survey 227, 625.49 acres consisting of fract parts sec 20 and 29, W half sec 21, SE qt SE qt sec 30

Sec. 28 and 29, All land included in Swamp and Overflowed Survey 231, 118.61 acres, consisting of all the land in sec 29 and in W half SW qt sec 28, 3N2W, lying on southerly side of Salt River and Centerville Slough.

Sec. 31, 32, 33, 3N2W, all land included in Swamp and Overflowed Survey 228, 1,003.63 acres and consisting of NW qt sec 33, fract N half, NW qt SE qt, fract N half SW qt, SW qt SW qt sec 32, fract E half sec 31, all in 3N2W.

fract N half, fract N half SW qt, fract SW qt SW qt sec 6, 2N2W

Total for this portion, 1,003 acres.

Sec 28, 3N2W, beginning on point on right bank Mill Slough, etc. 1 acre

Sec 32: SE qt SW qt sec 32, 40 acres,

Sec 33: .55 acres, 3N2W.

Sec 6: SE qt SW qt, NE qt SE qt, less that portion of NE qt SE qt hereafter excepted, 80 acres,

Sec 6: that portion of SE qt SE qt bounded, etc. description, 1.27 acres,

Sec 6. That other portion of SE qt SE qt described, 2N2W.

Five exceptions listed.

The above described parcels comprising 10<sup>th</sup> tract are intended to include among others, the whole of the lands referred to by the designation "Occidental Ranch" or described under said designation in deed Zipporah Russ to Z. Russ & Sons Co., 26 Dec. 1895 (Deeds 57:224), as well as all the lands particularly described as "Occidental Ranch" in the decree of distribution of the Estate of James T. Robarts with the exception of such tracts included in the former deed as lie on easterly side of Salt River and with the further exception of some small portions or rights sold by Z. Russ & Sons to P.J. Donnelly (21 Aug. 1896; Deeds 59:213).

Aggregate in tract 10, 1,890.61 acres.

Tract 11: 1,014.19 acres

Tract 12, 12,404.59 acres.

**Deeds 130:62-74** (2 Jan. 1915) Z. Russ & Sons Co. to Russ Investment Co., 10 tracts.

1. 2,584.04 acres
2. 18,557.49 acres
3. 10,605.93 acres
4. 472.20 acres
5. 280 acres
6. 664.40 acres
7. 105.50 acres
8. property in Ferndale
9. property in Eureka
10. property in Eureka

**Deeds 199:481** (9 Jan. 1931) Decree of Distribution, Zipporah Russ Estate, residue of money \$138,018.57 Died 10 Nov. 1929. Heirs: Mrs. Margaret C. Coombe, Ferndale; Mrs. Annie J. Harville; Ferndale; Wm. N. Russ, Ferndale; Mrs. Bertha R. Lytel, Ferndale; Joseph Russ, Ferndale; Mrs. Edith Connick, 368 Ridgewood Ave., Glen Ridge, New Jersey. \$1,200 to Russ Williams Banking Co. to cover any amount of federal inheritance taxes not yet fixed. \$25,000 in permanent fund for education of her descendants until exhausted, this fund to be handled by Georgia Williams and Edith Connick. Georgia now deceased so Wm. N. Russ appointed as co-trustee with Edith Connick. \$25,000 to be held in trust by Bertha for the maintenance and care of brothers Z.B. Patrick, Marshall Patrick and sisters Mary Goff and Josephine Wooldridge. Z.B. and Mary deceased. Share given to Mrs. Annie Harville to be held in trust and paid to her \$500 per month; on her death share to her children. Wm. N. Russ, F. Russ Harville and Joseph Harville appointed as Trustees. Heirs agreed that parcels 5,6,7 and 8 go to Margaret C. Coombe, Annie Harville, Bertha and Edith Connick, each ¼. Joseph and William each shall receive \$678.37 cash in lieu of interest in parcels.

Fern Cottage to Bertha Lytel for life "to be used for the home place for all my children. The rent to be used in keeping up the place. Household furniture and Pierce Arrow Sedan compose a part of Fern Cottage property to Bertha.

Names to be used regarding distribution: Margaret Russ Coombe, Annie Russ Harville, Edythe Russ Connick, Bertha Russ Lytel.

To Edythe Russ Connick.

\$13,064.70 cash

1/6 interest in Parcel 1

1/6 interest in Parcel 2

1/6 interest in Parcel 3, constituting 1/12 interest in whole parcel

1/6 interest in Parcel 4, constituting 1/12 interest in whole parcel

1/6 interest in 1/4 interest Parcel 5, constituting 1/40 interest

1/6 interest in 1/4 Parcel 6, constituting 1/40 interest

1/6 interest in 1/4 Parcel 7, constituting 1/40 interest

1/5 interest in 1/4 Parcel 8, constituting 3/80 interest

1/12 interest in livestock: 50 yearling heifers, 55 yearling steers, 105 cows, 245 sheep, 15 share Russ Williams Banking Co., being 1/6 interest; 34 shares Russ Investment Co., being 1/6; 53 shares Transamerica being 1/6; 164 share Z. Russ Co., being 158 shares as given in will and 6 in codicil.

Parcel 1, Fern Cottage property, W half SW qt, W half NW qt, NE qt NW qt sec 4, 200.56 acres; and 20-foot wide strip of land; S half sec 9, S half NW qt, NW qt NW qt, W half NE qt NW qt sec 9, 460 acres, portion E half SE qt sec 5, all in 2N2W.

Parcel 2, Timber claim near Garberville, 160 acres

Parcel 3, one half interest in Lone Star Ranch

Parcel 4, one-half interest Centennial and Green Pond ranches

Parcel 5, 1/10 interest in property known as "The Maples" in Ferndale.

Parcel 6, 1/10 in property known as "The Arcadia Ranch"

Parcel 7, 45 acres in sec 3, 2N2W

Parcel 8, 3/20 interest in property in town of Ferndale

Parcel 9, 14/48 interest in 160 acres in 4N1E.

**Deeds 253:155** (9 May 1941) Z. Russ Company to Edythe Russ Connick 96/166 and Harris Russ Connick 70/166.

Parcel one. Beginning on township line 9 chains [594 feet] W from SE corner sec 32, 3N2W, thence N parallel with E line sec 32 a distance of 38.66 chains [2551.56 feet] to a division fence at S boundary of what is called the Occidental Ranch; thence along division fence S 85 degrees W 13.43 chains [886.38 feet]; thence N 47.75 degrees W along fence line 30.40 chains [2006.40 feet] to center line of a small slough; thence along middle of slough W 2.30 chains [151.80 feet]; thence continuing along same N 40 degrees W 10 chains [660 feet]; thence continuing along same N 14 degrees W 14.85 [980.10 feet] chains to a point on the section line between 29 and 32 distant 24.13 chains [1592.58 feet] E of the U.S. government meander corner 1.36 chains [89.76 feet] W of corner to sections 29,30,31,32 thence W 24.13 chains [1592.58 feet] to government meander course; thence along US meander line S 35 degrees W 3.70 chains [244.20 feet]; thence S 12 degrees W 7.93 chains [523.38 feet]; then S 49 degrees W 2.95 chains [194.70 feet]; S 14 degrees W 3.69 chains [243.54 feet]; S 24 degrees W 30.46 chains [2010.36 feet]; S 28 degrees W 8.50 chains [561 feet]; S 24 degrees W 11.34 chains [748.44 feet]; S 22 degrees W 19.38 chains [1279,08 feet] to S boundary of sec 31; thence leaving meander line E

to township line 107.37 chains [7086.42 feet] to beginning. **[This would be current APN 100-131-003, including roughly S half and fract NW qt sec 32; east fractional half sec 31]**

Parcel two. Begin at meander corner U.S. government survey 1.36 chains [89.76 feet] W of corners 29,30,31&32, 3N2W; thence E on section line 24.13 chains [1,592.58 feet]; thence N 2.16 chains [142.56 feet]; thence E 5 chains [ 330 feet]; thence N 60 degrees E 14.20 chains [937.20 feet]; thence N 15 degrees E 13 chains [858 feet]; thence N 38 degrees E 18 chains [1,188 feet]; thence N 11.90 chains [785.40 feet]; thence N 12 degrees E 22 chains [1452 feet]; thence N 25 degrees E 31.00 chains [2046 feet] to a point which is 17.50 chains [1,155 feet] N of S line of section 20; thence W on line to point 17.50 chains [1,155 feet] N of section line for a distance of 31 chains [2,046 feet] to U.S. meander line of the E side of sand spit, being W boundary of land patented by State as Swamp and Overflowed Land Survey 227; thence following meander line Southerly through sections 20, 29, and 30, to point of beginning. **[This would be current APN 100-121-004, portion of sec 29 westerly of Cut-Off Slough.]**

Parcel three. N half of N half NE qt sec 6 and fract N half NW qt sec 6, 2N2W. **[This would be current APN 100-143-001]** Also any additional land in N half section 6 and NW qt NW qt sec 5 that lies within following boundaries: on N by township line; on W by Ocean Shore; on S by land conveyed by Z. Russ Co. to Joseph and Sadie Russ (238:439) 14 March 1939 and on E by land conveyed to Joseph and Sadie and by tract conveyed by Z. Russ & Sons Co. to Eli Ericksen, 7 Sept. 1897 (62:526).

Parcel four. That portion of SE qt SE qt sec 6, 2N2W, bounded....containing 1.27 acres and known as the "well site."

Parcel five. That portion of SE qt SE qt sec 6, 2N2W, bounded by....

Parcel six. Right of way for road upon a strip of land 20 feet wide adjacent on the W to E boundary of NE qt SE qt and SE qt NE qt sec 6, 2N2W, etc....

Parcel seven. Rights to maintain water pipes across certain lands in section 6....

Parcel 8. Water rights.

Parcel 9. Right to use road in sec 5, 2N2W

**Deeds 253:186** (27 Oct. 1941) Bertha Russ Lytel to Edythe Russ Connick, 96/166, and Harris Russ Connick, 70/166

Parcel 1, portion of N half NE qt sec 5, 2N2W, beginning at township line at point 9 chains [594 feet] west from NE cor sec 5, thence W 26.90 chains [1775.40 feet]; thence S 2.5 degrees E 1.15 chains [75.9 feet]; thence N 89 degrees 53 minutes E 26.90 chains [1775.40 feet]; thence N 2.5 degrees W 1.09 chains [71.94 feet] to beginning, 3 acres, excepting right of way over the above for road use to serve the adjacent lands in NE qt sec 5, conveyed to Bertha Lytel b Z. Russ & Co. **[APN 100-142-001]**

Parcel 2. Right of Way for road use in common with others who now or hereafter may be entitled to such use over strip 40 links [26.4 feet] in width and adjacent on W to E line sec 5, and extending from N line sec 5 southerly 24.58 chains [1622.28 feet] to N line of the land heretofore conveyed to Jespersen by Z. Russ & Sons.

Also right of way beginning at point 40 links [26.4 feet] W of sec cor common to sections 4,5,32,33, in 2N2W and 3N2W; thence W along township line 8.60 chains [567.6 feet]; thence S 2.5 degrees E [71.94 feet]; thence N 89 degrees 53 minutes E 1.10 chains [72.6 feet]; thence N

89 degrees E 7.5 chains [495 feet] to point 40 links [26.4 feet] W of E line sec 5; thence N 2.5 degrees W 95 links [62.7 feet] to beginning.

**Deeds 275:155** (14 Feb. 1945) Z. Russ Properties, Inc., to Harris Russ Connick, all that portion of State Swamp and Overflowed Land Survey No. 227, granted by State of California by patent to Joseph Russ, 27 June 1884, that lies northward of the following line, commencing at point on U.S. meander line on E side of sand spit in sec 20, 3N2W and distant 17.50 chains [1155 feet] N of S line of sec 20; thence E parallel with S line for distance of 31 chains [2046 feet] to northwesterly boundary of land conveyed by Z. Russ Co. to Bertha Russ Lytel 9 May 1941; thence along northwesterly boundary N 25 degrees E 9 chains [594 feet] to angle point of boundary; thence N 57 degrees E 20 chains [1320 feet]; thence E 7.26 chains [479.16 feet] (still following said boundary of land conveyed to Lytel) to W line State Tide Land Survey No. 29. Includes all land bounded on S by above described line, on E, N and W by outer boundaries of Swamp and Overflowed Land, Survey No. 227. To Edythe 96/166 and Harris, 70/166. **[This would be 100-121-001]**

**Deeds 281:347** (12 April 1946) State of California to Bank of California National Association and Harris Russ Connick, abandoned channel of Centerville Slough. To bank 96/100; to Connick 70/166. Commencing at the point of intersection of U.S. meander line of Westerly side Centerville slough where such meander line crosses E and W section line between sec 32 and 29; th NEly and Ely along such Wly meander line of Centerville slough to a point 23.5 chains [1551 feet], at right angles E of N and S sec line between 30 and 29; th S 4.3 chains [283.8 feet] to U.S. meander line of Ely side Centerville slough; th Wly and Sly along meander line, etc. along southerly termination of Centerville slough etc., 50 acres being portions sec 29, 31, and 32, 3N2W; 2<sup>nd</sup> parties owners of land abutting abandoned Centerville slough.

**Leases 14:413** (18 Oct. 1946) Bertha Russ Lytel, Lessor to Edythe Russ Connick and Harris Russ Connick, doing business as Russ-Connick Co., Lessees

1. by instrument dated 1 Nov. 1941, Lessor leased real property described in 3 for five years

2. by instrument dated 18 Oct. 1946, parties made an extension for another five years to 31 Oct. 1951 for land, commencing at SE cor sec 32, 2N2W [3N2W], the W along S line sec 32 9 chains [594 ft]; th at right angles N 40 chains [2640 feet] to present S fence of Occidental Dairy; th Ely 19 chains [1140 feet] along said fence to W fence of Durham Dairy; th Sly 40 chains [2640 feet] along W boundary line of Durham Dairy to S line sec 33 at a point on S line sec 33, 11.40 chains [752.4 feet] E of SW cor sec 33; the W to point of beginning, 74 acres (Green Barn).

**OR 155:450** (4 Jan. 1951) Bill of Sale, Charles and Lois Davy to Edithe Russ Connick and Harris Russ Connick, dba Russ-Connick Co. 1 McCormick Deering two-row potato planter; 1 McCormick Deering 2 row potato digger (together with new and used parts); 1 rotocycle stalk cutter, all located on Davy ranch at Grizzly Bluff.

**OR 196:538** (27 Dec. 1951) Bertha, Edythe and Harris, agreed to extension of lease of 1 Nov. 1941 for "Green Barn" property, extended to 31 Oct. 1954.

**OR 201:42** 4 Feb. 1952) Mortgage of Chattels , Felix and Dora Zana, mortgagors to Bertha Russ Lytle, mortgagee

Parcel A: 120 satisfactorily producing cows now located on Occidental Ranch near Ferndale, purchased as of this date by Mortgagors, together with all replacements thereof made in accordance with good dairy practices. 30 2-year old heifers now owned by Mortgagors together with replacements; 30 1-year-old heifers now owned by Mortgagors together with replacements.

Parcel B. personal property, tools, implements and equipment set forth in Exhibit A. Payment schedule given for \$20,000.

The following described personal property located principally on what is known as the Occidental Ranch near Ferndale:

30 2-year old heifers

30 1-year old heifers

43 year heifers

120 dairy cows

7 bulls (2 and 3 years old)

150 tons hay

Long list of dairy implements (pumps, electric motors, wash vat, milk vats, strainers, milk cans, tools, equipment, robe, barley in grainary, green growing crops in field, pitch forks, axe, caterpillar diesel with dozer blade and manure bucket...and much, much more).

In bunk house: 7 bedsteads, 7 springs, 4 tables, 1 rocker, 3 chairs, 1 wood cook stove, 15 blankets, 13 sheet blankets, 8 mattresses, 3 dressers, 1 settee, 1 commode, 1 dish cupboard, 1 wood heating stove, 12 pillow cases, 4 pillows.

In dwelling house: 1 gas range, 2 oil heaters, 1 De Laval 35 cubic foot deep freeze. 1 Whirlpool automotive washer, oil tank and connection for heaters...

**2000:4142** (27 Sept. 1999) Correction deed for deed of 25 April 194 (132:1133). Virginia Connick Dwight and Thomas DeHaven Connick, successor co-trustees of Harris Russ Connick Trust, dated 16 April 1984, )who acquired title as The Harris Russ Connick Trust) grant to Virginia Connick Dwight and Thomas DeHaven Connick, successor co-trustees of Harris Russ Connick Trust, real property in Humboldt County.

Schedule A

Tract One

Parcel One, in sec 4, 1N2W

Parcel Two, in sec 5, 1N2W

Parcel Three, in sec 6, 1N2W

Parcel Four, in sections 7 and 8, 1N2W

Parcel Five, in 1N3W

Parcel Six in 1N3W

Parcel Seven in 1N2W

Tract Two

Parcel One, those portions of Swamp and Overflowed Land Survey No. 227 lying within a portion of sections 20, 29, and 30, 3N2W, **APN 100-121-004**

Parcel Two, That portion of S half SE qt sec 32, 3N2W and those portions of Swamp and Overflowed Land Survey No. 35, and of Swamp and Overflowed Land Survey No. 228, and of



Swamp and Overflowed Land Survey No. 253½, lying within a portion of sections 31 and 32, 3N2W, **APN 100-131-003**. [Survey No. 253½, penciled in Swamp and Overflow Lands and Tide Lands Book next to Survey 253:112. E. Twitchel (?) 40 acres SE qt SW qt sec 32, 3N2W, no date, date for 253 14 March 1873 for J.T. Bartlett]

Parcel Three

N half N half NE qt sec 6 and fract N half NW qt sec 6, 2N2W, **APN 100-143-001**

Parcel Four

Portion SE qt SE qt sec 6, 2N2W, **APN 100-143-007**

Parcel Five

Portion of SE qt SW qt sec 6, 2N2W, **APN 100-142-001**

**2005:44034** (13 Dec. 2005) Thomas D.H. Connick, Trustor and Co-Trustee, Connick Family Living Trust (1 Dec. 1994) to Thomas D. H. Connick and Patricia D. Connick, Trustees, and any successor Trustees, as separate property of Thomas D.H. Connick his entire interest being 56.483 % in APNs 100-121-004, 100-131-003; 100-142-001, 100-143-001, 100-143-005, 100-143-007, 100-121-001

**2012:28295** (7 Nov. 2012) Deed to correct the legal description contained in Grant Deed of 17 July 2008 (2008:17310) Thomas D.H. Connick and Patricia D. Connick, Trustees of The Connick Family Trust, under Declaration of Trust, dated 1 Dec. 1994, and Exchange Bank, as Trustee under The Trust FBO The Family of Thomas DeHaven Connick, created by last will and testament of Edythe Russ Connick, aka Mrs. Harris D.H. Connick, deceased, in paragraph 4, subdivision of the Decree of Preliminary Distribution in the Estate of Edythe Russ Connick, 29 July 1959 (1013:291, 1 Aug. 1969) to Wildlands Conservancy APNs 100-121-001; 100-131-003; 100-142-001; 100-143-001; 100-121-004.

**Parcel One.** Those portions of Swamp and Overflowed Land Survey No. 227, lying within a portion of sections 20, 29, and 30, 3N2W [description of line], being the same as granted in Parcel Two of deed from Z. Russ Co. to Edythe Russ Connick and Harris Russ Connick 9 May 1941 (Deeds 253:155) [**This would be 100-121-004**]

**Parcel Two.** That portion of S half SE qt sec 32, 3N2W and those portions of Swamp and Overflowed Land Survey 35 and of Swamp and Overflowed Lane Survey 228, and of Swamp and Over Flowed Land Survey 253 ½, lying within a portion of sections 31 and 32, 3N2W, being same as parcel in 253:155. **[This would be 100-131-003]**

**Parcel Three.** N half of N half of NE qt sec 6 and fract N half NW qt sec 6, 2N2W, being same as Parcel three in 253:155. **[This would be 100-143-001]**

**Parcel Four.** Parcel 1 in Bertha Russ Lytel to Edythe and Harris Connick, 9 May 1941 (253:186).

Portion of N half NE qt sec 5, 2N2W, beginning at township line at point 9 chains [594 feet] west from NE cor sec 5, thence W 26.90 chains [1775.40 feet]; thence S 2.5 degrees E 1.15 chains [75.9 feet]; thence N 89 degrees 53 minutes E 26.90 chains [1775.40 feet]; thence N 2.5 degrees W 1.09 chains [71.94 feet] to beginning, 3 acres, excepting right of way over the above for road use to serve the adjacent lands in NE qt sec 5, conveyed to Bertha Lytel b Z. Russ & Co. **[APN 100-142-001]**

**Parcel Five.** Right of Way for road use in common with others who now or hereafter may be entitled to such use over strip 40 links [26.4 feet] in width and adjacent on W to E line sec 5, and extending from N line sec 5 southerly 24.58 chains [1622.28 feet] to N line of the land heretofore conveyed to Jespersen by Z. Russ & Sons.

Also right of way described in Bertha Russ Lytel to Connicks (253:186), beginning at point 40 links [26.4 feet] W of sec cor common to sections 4,5,32,33, in 2N2W and 3N2W; thence W along township line 8.60 chains [567.6 feet]; thence S 2.5 degrees E [71.94 feet]; thence N 89 degrees 53 minutes E 1.10 chains [72.6 feet]; thence N 89 degrees E 7.5 chains [495 feet] to point 40 links [26.4 feet] W of E line sec 5; thence N 2.5 degrees W 95 links [62.7 feet] to beginning.

**Parcel 6.** Portion of land included in Swamp and Overflowed Land Survey 227 as granted to Joseph Russ by Patent lying northward of line described. **[This would be 100-121-001]**

**Online: Inventory of State Land Office Records.**

Certificates of Purchase issued by Register of State Land Office, 1858-1887. The bulk of the second subseries [first were Certificates of Purchase issued by California Secretary of State, 1855-1858] consist of certificates of purchase for State School Lands (the 500,000 acre grant), un-surveyed School Land (locations of school land warrants), swamp and overflowed lands, grant of 16<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> sections un-surveyed lands, grant of 16<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> sections surveyed lands, and state tidelands. Information found on a Certificate can include the name of the purchaser, the amount of land purchased, its township and range description, county survey number and the amount paid. In addition, chain of title is recorded on the backs of certificates.

**Online: California Digital Newspaper Collection, California Farmer and Journal of Useful Sciences, 24 May 1861.**

The new Swamp and Overflowed Land Act just passed by Legislature and approved by the Governor for reclamation and segregation of Swamp and Overflowed lands of the State. Bill printed in full in newspaper. Passed 13 April 1861.

Congress donated swamp and overflowed and salt marsh and tidelands to State; Board of Commissioners appointed; when petitions are received, Board will appoint an engineer to survey tract; engineer to make plans for reclamation; if his report indicates it will not cost more than \$1.00 per acre, Board may adopt plan. Plans and specification duplicates to County Clerk; advertise in local newspaper for bidders; Commission awards contract. Paid out of Swamp Land Fund; plans for reclamation become property of State. \$200,000 in Swamp Land Fund.

**Sacramento Daily Union 29 Jan. 1858** Regarding act to provide for sale and reclamation of swamp and overflowed lands belonging to State; sell for \$1.25 per acres. Governor will issue patent for land after certificates of purchased issued.

**Swamp and Overflow Land Claims Book A [located on last shelf at rear of Recorder's Office]**

A:145 (5 May 1873) appears to be first petition to Board of Supervisors for reclamation—E.T. Barber, fract sec 21 and 28, 3N2W, 97.32 acres; also fract SE qt NE qt, NE qt SE qt, [no section given] 77.61 acres.

A:147 (2 April 1877) 100 acres in 2N1W, Chamberlin, Isaac Baldwin and N. Hurlbutt, etc.

A:153 (4 Nov. 1878) P.J. Donnelly, fract SE qt SW qt, fract SW qt SE qt sec 28; fract NW qt NE qt sec 33, 3N2W, 48.84 acres.

A:157 (18 Feb. 1880) Kelley et al.

A:161 (6 Oct. 1880) Petition to Board of Supervisors....That they desire to adopt measures to reclaim the body of swamp and overflowed lands described in the schedule hereto annexed and for that purpose to form a district to include the same....Petitioners are holders of Certificates of Purchase from the State of California, as the evidence of title to 1205.77 acres. 18 land owners, including J.W.C. Coleman, N half SW qt, W half NW qt sec 28, 3N2W, 160 acres.

A:166 (3 May 1884) Petition to Board of Supervisors. The undersigned respectfully represent that they desire to adopt measures to reclaim the body of swamp and overflowed lands described in the schedule marked "A" hereto annexed and made a part of this petition and for that purpose to form a reclamation district to include the same....

That your petitioners are holders of Certificates of Purchase deeds and other evidences of title from the State of California to 1,889.30 acres of said lands representing more than one half of said lands.

That all of said tracts of land are in and constitute one body containing 2,127.70 acres and are susceptible of one mode of reclamation.

Joseph Russ, A. Putnam and N. Hurlbutt, Surveys No. 228 and 253 ½

NW qt sec 33; **N half SW qt, NW qt SE qt sec 32**; E fract half sec 31, 3N2W; **N fract half sec 6**; N fract half SW qt, fract SW qt SW qt sec 6, 2N2W, the same being Survey 228, 1,043.63 acres.

The fraction in the SW half sec 28, lying S of Salt River and the fraction in the S half sec 29 lying S and E of slough known as the Centerville Slough, the same being Survey No. 231, 118.60 acres.

P.J. Donnelly: Survey 136. The fractional SE qt SW qt, a fraction in SW qt SE qt sec 28 lying S of Salt River; a fraction in NW qt NE qt sec 33, 3N2W lying W of Salt River, 48.82 acres, less 2 acres sold [46.82]

Dennis Robert & Dennis, 2 acres tract

J.G. Kenyon, S fract half SE qt sec 33, 3N2W, 79.77 acres, Survey No. 34.

R.S. Tyrrell. Survey No. 33, N half NE qt sec 4, 2N2W, 80 acres

Wm. T. Smith, Survey No. 81, SE qt NE qt sec 4, 2N2W, 40 acres

John Trevethick, Survey No. 82. SW qt NE qt sec 4, 2N2W, 40 acres

Estate of R.N. Williams, Surveys No. 35 and 111. SW qt sec 33; NE qt SE qt sec 32,

3N2W; NW qt NE qt, N half NW qt sec 5, 2N2W, 320 acres

Islam Walker, Survey No. 80. NE qt NW qt sec 4, 2N2W, 40 acres

P.J. Peterson, Survey 192, NE qt SE qt sec 6, 2N2W, 40 acres

Julius P. Jacobsen, Survey No. 83, SE qt NW qt sec 5, 2N2W, 40 acres

Mrs. Isabella Shaw, Survey No. 233, NW qt SE qt sec 6, 2N2W, 40 acres

Islam Walker, A. Putnam and Julius Moranda, Survey No. 62. Portion of E half NW qt NW qt sec 7, 2N2W, 20 acres; Survey 61. and portion of Survey 62, W half NW qt NW qt, NE qt NW qt sec 7, 2N2W, 59.85 acres.

Jos. Russ, A Putnam and N. Hurlbutt. Survey No. 234. SE qt SW qt sec 6, 2N2W, 40 acres.

B. Sullivan, Survey No. 137. A tract containing 39.50 ½ acres off the N side Survey No. 137, said survey containing 79.01 acres, being the SW fractional quarter of NE qt and N fractional half of SE qt sec 33, 3N2W, lying W of Salt River, 39.50 ½ acres.

P. Crowley. A tract containing 39.50 ½ acres off S side swamp land Survey No. 137 as described above. 39.50 ½ acres. Crowley and Sullivan total 79.01 acres.

In the matter of the Petition of Adam Putnam and others for the formation of a reclamation district, it appearing to the Board that all the requirements of the Law have been complied with by the said Petitioners, but that the lands of P.J. Donnelly have been improperly included therein....The Same is hereby excluded from district....[others] included in a reclamation district and prayer of Petitioners granted and approved...including navigable sloughs. Reclamation District No. 461 by Register of the State Land Office per letter of May 24, 1884. **[Maps 3:129 (12 July 1884) Plot of Reclamation District No. 461, Humboldt County]**

A:171 By-Laws of Reclamation District. First, Shall be known as Reclamation District 461; place of business Ferndale, where Board of Trustees shall keep their office and books and papers open to inspection of any person owning lands in District. Second. Formed to reclaim lands to wit, as described in Petition. Management and powers vested in three Trustees elected every two years, Joseph Russ, Adam Putnam and N. Hurlbutt will be first Trustees; will select president, vice-president and treasurer and can employ secretary and engineers “to survey, plan, locate and estimate the costs of the work of reclamation and to procure the land needed for a right of way,

drains, canals, sluices, water gates, embankments, and materials for the construction of the same and to construct, maintain and keep in repair all works necessary to the object in view and to employ all necessary laborers and persons for that purpose.

They must report to the Board of supervisors the plans of the work with estimate of entire costs of all the work of reclamation....They must keep accurate accounts. They shall have the power to draw warrants on the County Treasurer for the costs and expense of the reclamation of the lands in the district and for all proper charges and claims against the district on account of said reclamation. They must publish a notice of all assessments made in the district in some newspapers [more....provisions for meetings, elections, etc. By-Laws adopted 3 June 1884]

A:176 (24 March 1885) Petition of Joseph Russ and Adam Putnam for formation of a Reclamation District. S half SE qt, NW qt SE qt, SE qt NW qt, fract N half SW qt, W fract SW qt sec 28; E fract E half NE qt sec 29; S fract SW qt SW qt sec 21, 3N2W, 310 acres. That Petitioners are owners of land and hold Certificates of Purchase, Patents, Deeds or other evidence of title from State of California; intend to undertake reclamation of the same without the intervention of "Trustees" and on our own responsibility. Board granted Reclamation District No. 475.

A:178 (7 May 1886) Petition of Joseph Russ, Adam Putnam and H.D. Smith for Reclamation District. A fraction in the E half SW qt sec 21, 3N2W; beginning at a point in the margin of low water mark of Salt River 20 chains E and 11 chains N of corners sections 20, 21, 28, and 29; thence N to low water mark on said river 28. 50 chains; thence following the meander of low water mark left bank up stream etc....22.65 acres. More land being fract of SE qt SE qt sec 30; a fract of W half sec 21; the fraction of E half and a small fraction of SW qt sec 20; the fract sec 29, 3N2W, embraced in Survey 227, said last land being in fractions and of such a character that the quantity contained in such subdivision was not calculated by or given in either the survey or the patent issued therefor and is unknown by Petitioners. The number of acres in the proposed district is 648.14 acres. Russ owned half; Putnam and Smith each a quarter. Without intervention of Trustees, Board granted Reclamation District Survey No. 437.

### **"Swamp and Overflow Lands and Tidelands" [back shelf Recorder's Office]**

**Survey 35:pg.31** (30 April 1858) P.W. Reas, SW qt sec 33 and NE qt SE qt sec 32, 3N2W, 200 acres. Beginning at corners 32, 33, 4, and 5; thence N 20 chains to a post; thence W 20 chains to a post; thence N 20 chains to a post; thence E 20 chains to quarter section post on line between sections 32 and 33; thence S 40 chains to quarter post on S line section 33; thence W 40 chains to beginning. [makes no sense]

Survey 63:41 (15 June 1859) A. Newland, N half sec 6, 2N2W, 320 acres.

Survey 112:60 (4 Oct. 1861) Jno. G. Leach, N half SE qt, SE qt SW qt, sec 6, 2N2W, 120 acres.

Survey 158:77 (16 Feb. 1866) J.D. Allen, W fract W half NW qt sec 32, 3N2W, 13.53 acres, long narrow strip west of Centerville slough.

Survey 159:77 (16 Feb. 1866) J.D. Allen, NE qt, E half NW qt, fract W half NW qt sec 32, 3N2W, 294.62 acres, land lying east of Centerville slough.

Survey 164:79 (28 Feb. 1866) C.W. Long, SW fract quarter SW qt, N fract half SW qt, sec. 6, 2N2W, 85.40 acres, lying east of beach.

Survey 165:79 (28 Feb. 1866) R.M. Williams, N half SE qt, sec 6, 2N2W, 80 acres.

Survey 166:80 (28 Feb. 1866) R.M. Williams, SE qt SW qt sec 6, 2N2W, 40 acres.

Survey 167:80 (28 Feb. 1866) S.L. Boley, N fract half sec 6, 2N2W, 221.56 acres.

Survey 213:98 (2 Jan. 1871) J.B. Knisely, S fract SE qt SW qt, S fract SE qt, sec 29, 3N2W.

**Survey 227:103** (4 Dec. 1871) J.W.C. Coleman, SE fract qt sec 30; fract SW qt SW qt, fract NW qt SW qt, fract E half SW qt, N fract SW qt SE qt, fract NW qt SE qt, N fract NE qt SE qt, W fract of fract E half NE qt, fract W half NE qt, fract E half NW qt sec 29, 3N2W; fract SE qt SW qt, fract W half SE qt, N fract E half SE qt, fract NE qt sec 20, N fract of fract W half SW qt, W fract of fract W half NW qt sec 21, 3N2W, 625.49 acres. Land in sec 20 and sec 29, lying between ocean and Salt River and northwesterly of Cut Off slough in sec 29.

**Survey 228:103** (12 Dec. 1871) J.W.C. Coleman, NW qt sec 33; N fract half NW qt SE qt, N half SW qt, SW qt SW qt, sec 32, E fract half sec 31, 3N2W.

Survey 229:104 (12 Dec. 1871) J.W.C. Coleman in sec 28 and sec 21, 3N2W, 150 acres, east side Salt River.

**231:104** (2 Jan. 1872) J.B. Knisely, fractional N half SW qt sec 28; S fractional SE qt, S fractional SE qt SW qt sec 29, beginning at 20 chains [1320 feet] E of corners 28, 29, 32, 33; the N 17.02 [1123.32 feet] to Salt River; th following meander of Salt River S 80 degrees W 13.60 chains [897.6 feet]; N 16.5 degrees W 18.50 chains [1221 feet]; to a navigable slough; th up stream S 72.75 degrees W 4.50 chains [297 feet]; S 62.5 degrees W 4.20 chains [297 feet]; S 55 degrees W 3.30 chains [217.8 feet] S 47.75 degrees W 9.60 chains [633.6 feet]; S 56.5 degrees W 5.60 chains [369.6 feet] to section line; th 66.74 chains [4404.84 feet] to place of beginning. Survey 253:112 (14 March 1873) J.T. Bartlett; penciled in margin at the end of this line, “**253** $\frac{1}{2}$  E. Twitchel [?] 40 acres, SE qt SW qt sec 32, 3N2W.”

### **Field Trip with Jamie and Bill, 2 Oct. 2013. Dave Erickson is manager of Eel River Estuary Preserve Project.**

North Barn: 40 feet overall width with 20-foot mow and 10-foot side sheds; length 70 feet along portion with mow. Rear (west) covered extensions add another 30 feet. Gabled hay hood at east end with large loft doors. No floored loft inside, but open area for mow with feeding mangers on either side. Concrete slab about 6 feet for cattle to stand on while feeding. Mow floor is dirt. Managers about two feet wide. Ground floor door at east end now boarded up with sheet metal. Roof is sheet metal. Barn is vertical board siding. Sorting corrals, both covered and uncovered, at west end of barn.

Quonset Hut: 48 feet in length and 30 feet wide. Door at east end 10-foot wide. Metal roofing and side down to concrete wall which is about 42 inches in height. Wired for electricity; concrete floor. Rear roofline with little “peak” at top. Shed at rear for duck club is 14 feet 8 inches east to west and 24.5 feet north to south. Wood siding; board-and-batten; modern windows; wood door.

Fern Cottage Corrals: Complex of board-sided holding pens with metal gates and chutes, including a long chute with a catwalk, 68 feet long and 2 feet wide, along the side, accessed by wooden steps. Two buildings, one with a Fairbanks-Morse platform scale; building measuring 18 feet long by 16.5 feet in width. Fenced pen, 8 feet by 15 feet, sits on scale. Other building 14 feet wide and 15 feet long.

Footprint of silos and barn adjacent to Quonset Hut: Concrete silo base 20 feet in diameter and 63 feet in circumference; another silo in rubble close by. Concrete barn slab measures 101 feet in length, unclear just how wide, but silos may have been inside the barn. South end of slab at east wall was slanted, like a driveway.

### **Jamie and Bill's field trip, 10/5/13**

South Barn measurements: 120 feet long; 78 feet wide; mow 27 feet wide, door at north end formerly a sliding door now boarded up, 13 feet wide; feeding troughs 3 feet wide; posts of split redwood; portion of floor concrete; 13 square foot enclosure at north end to west of door.

### **References**

FE (7 April 1882) Marsh Land Redemption—We last week had occasion to inspect a work that will prove of great benefit to the projector and in an indirect manner to the whole community. Reference is made to a system of tide land reclamation which Mr. Putnam has undertaken for improving and bringing into cultivation several hundred acres of land that is now useless and a bill of expense. The land is a portion of the old Freeman ranch situated on the north side of Salt River west of Port Kenyon. Mr. Putnam is running 120 rods of ditch along the west line of his land, throwing up dykes the entire length. The ditch will average between 3 and 4 feet in depth, being over 9 feet at its opening into Salt River. The lower or river end is blind, being provided with a box 2 by 3 feet square, made of 2-inch redwood plank and provided with a flood gate, which will effectually prevent the ingress of tide water and permit the free flow of drainage water from the entire country back. The boxing and cutting are the heaviest works of the kind that have ever been done in this section, so far as we can learn. Several thousand feet of lumber will be required in the execution of the work, and the expense will be great, but we think Mr. Putnam will be recompensed tenfold for his outlay. This work will stimulate others to action and when once started thousands of acres of our finest grass lands will be brought out of their barrenness and make 250 acres in one body, including the old Markley place, all of which he proposes putting into red clover and other choice grasses adapted as good for dairy cattle. As a portion of this scheme of land reclamation, it is designed to have a model dairy ranch and from the present outlook, we think it bids fair to be the model of this county.

Mr. P. has fortunately found the very men for the place in the person of Mr. John Nelson. He has built a fine dairy house and will soon erect a magnificent barn of large proportions for the purpose of stabling his cows and housing their feed. Even now with little feed and stock in poor condition, Mr. Nelson has turned out some very choice butter and we can honestly say some extremely choice buttermilk good enough even for the editorial staff of the Enterprise. This ranch, which is an exception, is a foreshadowing of what will be common in this valley in ten years, or may five.

FE (3 May 1884) Notice of Intention to Form a Reclamation District. To the Honorable, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Humboldt, State of California. Gentlemen: The undersigned respectfully represent that they desire to adopt measures to reclaim the body of swamp and overflowed lands described to the Schedule marked A hereto annexed and made a fact of this petition and for the purpose to form a reclamation district to include the same....2,127.68 acres and are susceptible of one mode of reclamation.

Schedule A. Surveys 228 and 253.5 Jos. Russ, A. Putnam and N. Hurlbutt, NW qt sec 33, N half SW qt, NW qt SE qt sec 32, E fract half sec 31, 3N2W; N fract half sec 6, N fract half SW qt, fract SW qt SW qt sec 6, 2N2W; the same being survey No. 228, 1043.64 acres.

The fract in W half sec 28 lying S of Salt River and the fract in S half sec 29 lying south and east of the slough known as the Centerville Slough, the same being Survey No. 231, 118.66 acres.

P.J. Donnelley, fract SE qt SW qt, fract SW qt SE qt sec 28, lying S of Salt River and a fract in NW qt NE qt sec 33, 3N2W, lying W of Salt River, 48.82 acres, less 2 acres sold to Dennis, Roberts and Denis, 46.82, total.

Dennis, Roberts & Dennis. A tract of land described as follows: beginning at a point 235 links E of the qt sec post between secs 28 and 33, 3N2W, thence N 17 degrees W 295 links, thence N 73 degrees E... links, thence S 17 degrees E 500 links, thence S 73 degrees W 400 links, thence N 17 degrees W 294 links to place of beginning, 2 acres.

J.G. Kenyon, S fract half SE qt sec 33, 3N2W, 79.77 acres

R.S. Tyrrell, N half NE qt sec 4, 2N2W, 80 acres

Wm. T. Smith, SE qt NE qt sec 4, 2N2W, 40 acres

John Travelchic, SW qt NE qt sec 4, 2N2W, 40 acres

Estate of R.M. Williams, SW qt sec 33, NE qt SW qt sec 32, 3N2W; NW qt NE qt, N half NW qt sec 5, 2N2W, 320 acres

Isam Walker, NE qt NW qt sec 4, 2N2W, 40 acres

P.J. Petersen, NE qt SE qt sec 5, 2N2W, 40 acres

Julius P. Jacobsen, SE qt NW qt sec 5, 2N2W, 40 acres.

Mrs. Isabella Shaw, NW qt SE qt sec 6, 2N2W, 80 acres.

Isam Walker and A. Putnam, E half NW qt NW qt sec 7, 2N2W, 20 acres

Julius Moranda, W half NW qt NW qt, NE qt NW qt sec 7, 2N2W, 59.85 acres.

Jos. Russ, A. Putnam and N. Hurlbutt, SE qt SW qt sec 6, 2N2W, 40 acres.

B Sullivan, Survey 137, a tract of land containing 39.56.5 acres off the N side of Survey 137, said survey containing 79.01 acres, being SW fract qt NE qt, a fract half SE qt sec 33, 3N2W, lying W of Salt River

T Crowley, a certain tract of land containing 39.50.5 acres off the S side of swamp land survey No. 137 as described above.

FE (26 July 1884) The work is progressing finely in the reclamation district. Some 1200 acres of good land will be added to our resources by this enterprise.

FE (23 Aug. 1884) The Reclamation District—Last Saturday, in company with Mr. A. Putnam, we took the pleasant trip of a drive over the lands which compose the Reclamation District, just formed a few weeks ago. Mr. Putnam is one of the principal institutors of this enterprise which is to add to our resources about 2000 acres of valuable farming and grazing land, which heretofore has been entirely valueless and this gentleman has the overseeing of the work that is being carried on there. To appreciate the magnitude of this undertaking, it is necessary for one to view the amount of work that has already been done, and also that which remains undone. In order to make the land of any value whatsoever, it is necessary that all salt water should be kept off it and it is to this end that the work is being done. The land is intersected by many small sloughs and through the western end of the district runs quite a body of water known as the Centerville slough. It is the intention to dam all of these small sloughs near the point where they branch from



the main body of water, putting flood gates in the dams, thus forming a complete system of drainage which will leave this large body of marsh land as dry as the land on the adjoining hills. Some fifteen men have been kept at work all summer under the immediate and efficient direction of Mr. R. S. Tyrrell and will still continue until the work has been accomplished. It will necessarily entail a great expense, but when it is once accomplished, the owners of land in the district will be well recompensed for the time and money they have expended. Such enterprises should receive the hearty sanctions of the people as they add just so much to the resources of the county.

FE (9 May 1885) Jos. Russ and A. Putnam have been granted permission to form a reclamation district by Board of Supervisors.

FE (27 March 1886) Russ and Putnam to form reclamation district of 650 acres of swamp land in Centerville Marsh district.

FE (17 April 1886) Notice of Intention to Form a Reclamation District—to reclaim the body of swamp and overflowed and State tide lands....described as follows: fract W half sec 21; fract E half and small fract SW qt sec 30; fract sec 29, 3N2W, containing 625.49 acres; swamp land survey No. 227; and 22.64 acres, survey No. 29 in fract E half SW qt sec 21. Total acres, 648.14 acres. Joseph Russ and Adam Putnam.

FE (17 April 1886) A Question Of Import—By reference to the advertising columns of the Enterprise, it will be seen that Joseph Russ, A. Putnam and H.D. Smith are taking the necessary steps toward the formation of another reclamation district, to be composed of certain overflowed lands situated in what is known as the Centerville marsh district, lying on the south side and bordering on Salt River. About one year ago these gentlemen reclaimed a large tract of swamp land in the same section, and by the means of dyking and damming converted into good pasture land an extensive acreage which was hitherto considered worthless. Soon after the completion of the work on the first reclamation district, the question was raised that in thus reclaiming the lands and stopping up the small sloughs intersecting the same, a great damage was being done to the navigation of Eel river, by decreasing the amount of tide water coming in and going out of the entrance to said river. However, but little was said upon the subject at that time, and it was not until these gentlemen announced their intention of forming another reclamation district, three weeks ago, in the same section of country, that the opposition to the work fully developed itself. Since the first publication of the reclaimers' petition to the Supervisors, asking that body for the authority to go on with the work, the subject has been thoroughly discussed, and has resulted in the circulation of another petition praying the Supervisors to deny the gentlemen mentioned above the privilege of reclaiming their lands. There is considerable doubt in our mind as to the fact of the Supervisors having the right to deny the petition of the reclaimers, providing they comply with all necessary provisions of the law regarding the formation of reclamation district, but upon the assumption that they have such a right we continue our article.

The question is one of great importance and should at this time be thoroughly investigated. Should the allegations set forth be true, that the work will result in a detriment to Eel River navigation, we, together with all citizens of this valley, desire that it shall be stopped, if possible, and stopped immediately. The successful navigation of Eel River is a matter in which every resident of this part of Humboldt county is interested and anything which would deprive us

of this means of transportation to the outside world will ever receive the condemnation of the Enterprise. But upon the other hand, after an investigation, it is found that the execution of the proposed work will work no injury to Eel River navigation, we hope the gentlemen will be allowed to proceed. Holding the title to the lands and being owners of the same, they have a right to improve it, providing they injure no one else, and if one thousand or two thousand acres of good grazing land can be added to our valley, we want to see it done, providing all other conditions are as they should be. So far as the petition is concerned which has been in circulation, we consider it of small importance....Had the petition asked for a thorough investigation of the matter, then all could have signed it and done so intelligently. What we want done is justice to all concerned, and every point in the matter should be fully considered. As we have said before, if the work is a detriment to Eel River navigation let it be stopped, for a community's interests should be considered paramount to those of the individual. If it is not, let the work go on. The citizens of this valley are entitled to protection from any individual trespass upon their interests, but let investigation first prove the trespass. Those who favor the reclamation of the lands claim that no damage will accrue to Eel River navigation, while others are of a different opinion. To be able to judge of the merits of the case, it is necessary to know all circumstances connected therewith, the number of sloughs to be dammed, the magnitude of the work to be executed and exactly what is proposed to be done. Otherwise, a person is not sufficiently informed to sign a petition either for or against the work. Let us have the thing investigated and then arrive at our conclusions.

FE (1 May 1886) A Question Of Import; Will a Steamboat Run on Dry Land? Editor Enterprise: Being one of the oldest settlers of this valley, dating my arrival early in '52, I think I have a right to speak somewhat knowingly on this question, that the editor of the Enterprise in his issue of April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1886, made the subject of an editorial.

We had in those days no other way to get to Eureka than by going down Salt River and across the mouth of Eel River up Wait's slough, and whatever produce we had was transported in this manner. Every few days in that time, my business took me by this route, and I can well remember that there was nearly always a well defined channel on Eel River bar. You could easily trace the channel with the eye by the deep blue water plainly showing its course. As I never sounded the bar, I cannot of course say what depth of water there was on it in those days, but I am confident there was far more than there is on the average at present. I attribute this to the clearing up of the country. The wash and sediment from continual clearing and cultivation and the ranging of stock upon the hills has caused the filling up of Eel River. Therefore on this account, I claim that the bar cannot be as good as in those days. For instance, the brig Ryerson, in the year '51 sailed into Eel River and up the stream as far as the slide this side of Springville, a thing which it would be impossible for a vessel to do today. Now if this natural filling up of Eel River has had this bad effect, I, for one, can plainly see what further bad effect the stopping up of any sloughs will have, or in fact any improvement pertaining to the reclamation of land that will stop or diminish the flow of tide water in and out of Eel River. Now we know that last summer the steamer Hume was detained some three weeks because there was not water enough on the bar to allow her to cross in safety. With these facts staring us in the face, it is most really and truly a great "matter of import" to know if we can afford in any way the checking of tide water.

To illustrate that the navigation of Eel River depends wholly on tide water, it would be well to take other streams, say the Klamath, for example. This stream has probably from three to five times as much water coming down its bed than Eel River has, but except during the winter

months, there never is a channel into this river, and never will be, for the very reason it has no bay or large sloughs to hold the tide water. If individuals are allowed to reclaim this marsh land and stop sloughs on the south side of Eel River, what is to stop owners of the same kind of land from reclaiming and dyking sloughs on the north or Table Bluff side? And if these sloughs are allowed to be dyked, where is the navigation of Eel River? I say without fear of successful contradiction, it will be closed. Regarding the shifting of the channel north during the summer months, some gentlemen have argued that the shutting up of these sloughs would keep the channel in the same place, whilst now the great force of the water out of Salt River, caused by these sloughs, drive the water coming out of Eel River north, thereby continually causing the channel to go further north. I argue that this is owing to the prevailing winds in the summer being northwest, thereby persistently heaving up the sand on the south head which causes the water to find its channel further north every day. For proof of my argument, I allude to the time the steamer Ferndale got ashore on the south beach when the action of the wind and sea piled up the sand all around her, leaving her further from deep water every day. About this time, the wind suddenly turned south and in a few days the sand had cut away so that the steamer was nearly afloat and a short time afterwards did float off into deep water....In conclusion I say that a man with three grains of sense would not need to investigate or look very far into the matter to know we cannot afford to diminish one bit the tide water of Eel River. Uri Williams.

FE (8 May 1886) The Reclamation Question—The petition to the Supervisors from Messrs. Russ, Putnam and Smith, asking for the formation of a reclamation district in the Centerville country, came up for consideration before that body Thursday morning. P.F. Hart appeared for the reclaimers and after stating his case, was followed by E.W. Willson, Esq., who appeared for the Robarts Bros., who interposed two written objections over their signatures against the granting of the petition based upon informalities contained in the same. The objections were argued pro and con, Mr. Hart claiming that the Robarts Bros. had no standing before the Board on account of not owning interests in the proposed district. After a short discussion of these points, together with the effect of reclamation upon the navigation of Eel River, the Board referred the matter to District Attorney Hunter, their legal adviser. After dinner, that gentleman rendered his opinion, with which the board acted in accordance, and an epitome of which is as follows: 1<sup>st</sup>. That the Robarts Bros. have no standing before the Board in the matter as they represent no interest in the lands in the proposed district, and consequently, their objections should be entitled to no consideration; 2<sup>d</sup>. That it was the duty of the Board to see that the petition was strictly in the line of the law before they could exercise jurisdiction in the matter, and that the petition as presented was deficient in two technical particulars; 3<sup>d</sup>. That upon finding that a petition for a reclamation district is fully in accordance with the prescribed law, the Board has but to grant the prayer of the petitioners; 4<sup>th</sup>. That the Board can control the mode of reclamation, and prevent the damming of navigable sloughs.

The Board rejected the petition of the reclaimers without prejudice on the ground of an informality, and it is necessary now that a new petition be published and presented to the Board which will be done at the June term. The first publication appears in this issue.

FE (17 July 1886) In the matter of the Russ and Putnam reclamation district, the Supervisors have ordered the plan of reclamation filed by A. Putnam and others July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1886, be rejected and that the said parties be required to file with this Board a more definite plan of the mode and manner of reclaiming the swamp land within the district which said plan must show the number,

course, length, width and depth as average high water, of the sloughs within said district and the diking proposed to be done.

FE (12 April 1889) R.F. Herrick is reclaiming 1200 acres of marsh land on the north side of Eel river below Niggerhead.

FE (2 Aug. 1889) Work is progressing on R.T. Herrick's reclamation district on the north side of Eel River.

FE (7 Dec. 1897) An Important Suit—There was commenced in our Superior Court last Friday an action that will be watched with great interest by the people of Eel river valley, as it involves the question of the right of reclaiming the swamp and overflowed lands along Salt river and lower Eel river. Reclamation work has been engaged in extensively there of late and the question has now arisen whether or not the reduction of the tidal areas of these streams by the necessary closing of the sloughs to reclaim the lands, will lose to the people of the valley their only water highway to the ocean by the shoaling of Eel river bar and the closing of Salt river to navigation. The affirmative of this is the plaint in the present action, which is in the nature of a test case and will be far reaching in its effect. As the question affects the navigable waters of the state, the action is brought by the state, although the actual complaint is [brought by] Robert W. Robarts of Ferndale, who seeks to have Z. Russ & Sons Co. and Wm. N. Russ perpetually enjoined from obstructing what is known as Jacks slough and also the Cut Off slough, all tide-water tributaries of Salt river. These sloughs, it is claimed, constitute the major portion of the tidal area of Salt river and that the daily action of the tides flowing in and out of them is necessary to keep that river and Eel river bar navigable. The obstructions complained of, the removal of which is demanded, are dams that have been built across these sloughs near their mouths for the purpose of reclaiming the thousand or more acres of the Russ Co.'s Occidental ranch, the work having been completed in October of this year....Standard.

FE (5 Aug. 1898) The Reclamation Suit—Superior Judge Wilson Wednesday rendered his opinion in the suit of the People ex rel R.W. Robarts vs. W.N. Russ and Z. Russ & Sons Co., giving judgment for the defendants for their costs. The suit was brought to compel the removal of certain dams and obstructions maintained by defendants across sloughs on Salt river marsh near Ferndale which obstructions were used for the purpose of reclaiming the land there. The plaintiff claimed that the sloughs so obstructed were navigable and that the obstructions besides preventing the navigation of the sloughs, tended by reducing the tidal area, to also shoal the bar of Eel river into which Salt river empties. As to the obstruction of the sloughs to navigation, the court holds that the sloughs are non-navigable; that they were never used for commercial intercourse and that there is no inducement to use them for such purposes; as to the defendants' right to obstruct the sloughs, the court holds that it was given them by the state when it patented the land to them for reclamation purposes and no matter if the reclamation of the land reduces the tidal area of Salt river and perhaps [causes] injury to Eel river bar, the defendants are within their rights and the law in proceeding with the necessary operations for reclaiming the land.

FE (20 Oct. 1899) Marsh land in the Cannibal Island section is rapidly being dyked. Messrs. Perrott, McMillan, McCloskey, Cutler and others have recently completed a dyke across the east

branch of Mosley slough that will hereafter shut off the water from the greater portion of their lands.

FE (5 March 1901) An Important Decision—The Supreme Court Saturday handed down a decision of immense interest to Humboldt, especially the Ferndale section, and of important to this state and every other state where there are tide lands bordering on navigable waters. It was in the case of the People of the State of California, by relation of R.W. Robarts et al. vs. Z. Russ & Sons Co. The opinion reverses the decision of the Superior Court of this county and remands the case. The case is particularly important because in it the Supreme Court passed upon points which had never been passed upon before; either in the Supreme Court of this state or any other state. There were no precedents or authorities to guide in the matter and the opinion amounts to the laying down of a new law.

The case arose out of the dyking of certain lands along Salt river. Dykes were placed across some of the slough. As is well known, Salt river is a tributary of Eel river, and the plaintiffs contended that the dyking of these sloughs and the reclaiming of the land cut off such an amount of the tidal acres as to be of great danger to not only Salt river, but also to Eel river. The principal damage, it was asserted, was in the effect on Eel river bar. It was claimed that the cutting off of these tributary waters would result in such a decrease of water flowing in and out over the bar as to practically destroy the navigability of the stream. The case was a complicated one in relation to the parties concerned in it. One of the plaintiffs was an heir in the Russ estate, which had reclaimed the lands, and at the time, she owned the Port Kenyon property. The latter, if Eel river became un-navigable, would be greatly decreased in value, and hence the suit was brought. The North American Steamship Co. which was running a vessel into Eel river was interested on the side of the plaintiffs, as were also many of the merchants of Ferndale, who desired to use the Eel river route to obtain their goods from San Francisco. AS stated, the plaintiffs were defeated in the Superior Court in this county, and the case was taken to the Supreme Court, an appeal being taken from the judgment and also from the motion denying a new trial. On the trial of the case, the highest expert testimony was presented, Professor George Davidson, Lieutenant C.E. Hughes and Andrew Hilgard of the State University for the defendants. The Supreme Court considered the case of such importance that on its own motion, it set it to be heard in bank, and the arguments were made last August by L.F. Puter for the plaintiffs and J.H.G. Weaver for the defendants. Upon just what point or points, the Supreme Court has reversed the Superior Court is not yet apparent, and until that is known, the full effect of the decision cannot be determined. If the Supreme Court holds that sloughs wholly within and dissipating within lands around, in fee simple by private parties, as long as they affect the navigability of streams to which they are tributary, cannot be dyked, the effect will be far reaching. In that case many of the dykes around Humboldt bay and along Salt and Eel rivers will have to come out. Of course, it is not yet clear how long it will be before the controversy is finally settled. The case has been remanded and there will be a new trial. Whatever judgment is then given may be appealed from, and it may necessitate another decision from the Supreme Court to finally determine the matter. It is certain that on account of the magnitude of the interests involved on both sides, no stone will be left unturned.--Times

Bancroft-Whitney Co., Law Publishers and Law Booksellers. Reports of Cases Determined in the Supreme Court of California. With Notes on Cal. Reports. Vol. 132. San Francisco, 1906.

S.F. No. 1840 In Bank—March 2, 2901. The People ex rel. Robert W. Robarts, Plaintiff and Appellant, v. W.N. Russ and Z. Russ & Sons Company, Defendants and Respondents.

Reclamation Of Swamp and Tide Land—Damming Tributary to Navigable Stream—The Owners of Swamp land, or of marsh and tide land, purchased from the state, have no rights in the reclamation of their lands, superior to the rights of the public to the use of navigable streams; and if a tributary to a navigable stream is necessary to its navigability, the owner of such land upon which the tributary is situated has no right to dam it in order to effect the reclamation of his land.

Public Nuisance—Action By State—Findings—Omission of Material Finding—In an action by the State to abate a public nuisance, the damming of sloughs by the owner of marsh and tide lands, seeking to reclaim the same, where it appeared that the water in the sloughs came from the Ocean, over Eel River Bar and through Salt River, a navigable stream, and rose and fell with the tide, and issues were joined both as to the navigability of the sloughs, and as to whether the dams substantially interfered with the navigability of Salt River and Eel River Bar, new findings to the effect that the sloughs were not navigable cannot support a judgment for the defendant, and the omission expressly to find upon the material issue as to interference with the navigable stream to which the sloughs were tributary is ground for reversal.

Dams Upon Non-Navigable Sloughs—Obstruction of Navigable Stream—If the dams upon these sloughs, through the sloughs be not themselves navigable, result in the obstruction of Salt River as a navigable stream, they constitute a public nuisance.

Use of Property Creating Public Nuisance—No man may use his own property so as to create a public nuisance; and the owner of tide-lands is forbidden by section 2 of article XV of the constitution of the state to obstruct the free navigation of any navigable waters in the state.

Appeal from an order of the Superior Court of Humboldt County denying a new trial. E.W. Wilson, Judge; L.F. Puter and C.M. Wheeler for Appellant. J.H.G. Weaver and W.F. Clyborne, for Respondents.

FE (27 May 1887) A large barn is to be erected at Fern Cottage and a fine cattle scales has just been placed into position there.

FE (18 May 1888) Zipporah Russ, Ira Russ and N. Bullock, the executors of the Jos. Russ Estate, have filed a petition in the Superior Court asking for a distribution of the estate. Value of estate is over \$800,000, the same being community property in its entirety. As such Zipporah is entitled to one-half which she elects to take and she renounces all her rights under the will. By the terms of the will, the estate was to be divided among the widow and the ten children, share and share alike and any advancement Russ had made to his adult children was to be deducted from their share. Prior to his death, Maggie Coombe received \$11,800; Ira A Russ, \$6,573.92; and Mary E. Robarts, \$9,641, all at 6% interest.

DHS (26 July 1888) Russ Estate, Zipporah asks for \$444,947.94.

FE (27 July 1888) Executors of Russ Estate ask for distribution: Mrs. Russ, half of community property; Ira, \$38,000; Mary E. Robarts, \$34,000; Maggie Coombe, \$31,000; each of other children, \$45,000. Aug. 6 hearing.

FE (21 Dec. 1888) In matter of Russ Estate: Court found the \$8000 executors claimed should be charged against Mrs. J.T. Robarts' estate should not be charged, that the value of the life interest of Mr. and Mrs. Robarts in a certain piece of land upon which they reside should be charged as the advancement. Final account petition denied. Hearing set for Dec. 28.

FE (4 Jan. 1889) The Russ estate will soon be partitioned among the heirs. Mrs. Robarts charged with \$8000 instead of value of life lease of the old Criss place. N. Bullock allowed \$1,800; Ira, \$2,2250 for services rendered in connection with the business of Eureka Meat Market.

FE (1 Feb. 1889) The partitioners of the Russ Estate finished their labors in this and the Bear River section this week, leaving for Eureka Wednesday morning.

FE (15 March 1889) Wm. N. Russ, Ira A. Russ, and Mrs. Zipporah Russ have formed a co-partnership for the transaction of a general business.

FE (15 March 1889) The Russ Estate –Below we give a synopsis of the division of the Russ estate, as it has been apportioned to the several heirs by the partitioners, Messrs. C.F. Roberts, C.W. Long and Josiah Bell...Zipporah, Eureka Market and slaughter house; Mazeppa and West Point Dairies with cows to stock; the Robarts and Redwood Ranges on Redwood Creek; one-half Fort Baker ranch with 4000 sheep; one-third interest in tugs Buhne and Mary Ann; 240 acres timber land; 6 shares San Diego building stock; 500 shares in Excelsior Redwood Co.; 120 shares of Humboldt County Bank stock; 40 shares Times Publishing Co. stock; 15 shares of Centennial Hall stock; 218 shares of Humboldt Seminary stock; she also gets the personal property belonging to the various business interests.

Ira: Cape land and portion of Davis Creek pasture and 300 head stock

Wm. N.: Spicy Breezes and Central Park Dairy ranches and the sheep ranch with cows, sheep and personal property belonging to same.

Edith: What Cheer and Bolivia dairies with personal property.

Bertha: Mountain Glen and Bunker Hill dairies

Joseph: May Flower and Woodland Echo dairies

Zipporah, Jr.: Bonanza, Olympia and Seattle dairies

Georgia: Centennial and Green Pond dairies. .

Annie: Mountain View dairy, brick store and portion of South Ridge pasture

Mary: one-half of Riverside and Seaside ranches and one-third Occidental ranch.

Maggie: Ocean view dairy and portion of South Beach dairy.

With each dairy goes a specified number of cows and personal property thereon and cash on hand divided among heirs.

FE (22 March 1889) The high water on the Centerville reclamation districts did not do a particle of damage to the dykes and the sediment deposited by the overflow is of great benefit to the land.

FE (29 March 1889) The partitioners of the Russ estate filed their final report Tuesday. It is a lengthy document, covering 40 pages of typewriter print. The matter has been continued until April 1<sup>st</sup> at which time it will be definitely set before whatever judge may be assigned to hear those cases in which Judge Hunter is disqualified.

FE (12 April 1889) J.T. Robarts informs us that three good-sized bridges are to be built on the Seaside reclamation district in the course of the next few weeks. They will span the three largest sloughs that traverse the district.

FE (19 April 1889) The administration of the estate of Joseph Russ is at last closed, the decree...appointed to partition the estate among the heirs having been signed by Judge Elseworth Saturday. All the heirs were satisfied with the division made by the commissioners and there was no opposition to the final decree being made.

FE (17 May 1889) Port Kenyon—J.T. Robarts is repairing the pile driver. He has the float on dry ground and is going to re-plank it. Mr. Robarts intends building several quite large bridges over the Centerville and Cut-Off sloughs for the convenience of his stock, so that they can pass from one range to another.

FE (21 June 1889) J.T. Robarts and his crew of men are doing some solid bridge building on the reclamation district in which Mr. Robarts is interested....

FE (28 June 1889) Jim Robarts' pile driver, used in building the new bridges on the reclamation district, got into mischief the other evening and it took the boys nearly all night to bail her out. Jim was ill-natured for several days as a result. Tie her up securely hereafter, James.

FE (12 July 1889) A Putnam informs us that the owners of the Occidental reclamation district intend building a barn thereon immediately, which, when completed, will be one of the largest in the valley.

FE (30 Aug. 1889) Work is progressing on the large barn being built on the Occidental ranch by Putnam and Smith. Mr. Kerri is the boss workman.

FE (20 Sept. 1889) Wild ducks and geese have made their appearance on the Centerville mud flats. A. Putnam and J.T. Robarts each killed a goose in that section the other day.

FE (3 Jan. 1890, Friday). The Creamery—It affords the Enterprise much pleasure to be able to state that the Humboldt Creamery is now in operation, having started on Monday morning under very favorable prospects. The machinery of the new institution works like clockwork, and Mr. Stewart, under whose general supervision the new establishment was erected and equipped, has established the fact beyond the possibility of dispute that he thoroughly understands and has completely mastered the business he has chosen to follow. This is the first real creamery on the eastern plan in California and Ferndale may well be proud of starting an enterprise that promises a most important forward step in one of California's leading industries.



The Humboldt Creamery is second to but two out of 2000 in the United States and for arrangement and equipment second to none. The main creamery building is 30x80 feet and rests on a solid brick foundation. Half of the building is used for manufacturing butter and the other half for cold storage purposes, to store butter, eggs and other perishable. The capacity of the creamery is estimated at 3000 pounds of butter per day, two patent cream separators, two churns and two butter-workers operated by steam being necessary to perform the work. The cold storage apartments are sufficiently large to store 60,000 dozen of eggs, which can be kept from spring to winter in a perfect condition. The ice factory is 30x30 feet and is operated by the same power as runs the creamery. Ice will be manufactured in ample quantities to not only supply the storage rooms, but the county demand for that article as well. Those interested in the creamery feel confident that their investment will prove a profitable one and expect by the time spring fairly opens to receive milk in sufficient quantities to keep the creamery in steady operation. We understand that Mr. S.H. Paine is to act in the capacity of manager of the new institution and a more competent, reliable and trustworthy gentleman could not have been selected.

In connection with this notice, it is but justice to state that J.W. Blakemore superintended the construction of the creamery building and C.L. Fuller, the placing of the machinery, all of which was executed in a manner most satisfactory to those interested.

The officers of the creamery association are President Ira A. Russ, Vice-President N. Hurlbutt; Secretary and Manager S.H. Paine; Treasurer F.G. Williams, who with P. Calanchini comprise the Board of Directors. The stockholders in the corporation are: Z. Russ & Sons; Russ, Early & Williams; Russ, Sanders & Co.; Mrs. M. Henry; C.A. Dow; P. Calanchini; N. Hurlbutt; and S.H. Paine

FE (10 Jan. 1890) Thos. C. Putnam of Petaluma has sold his interest in the Centerville reclamation lands to Mrs. Zipporah Russ.

FE (14 Feb. 1890) The marsh lands on lower Eel river received a good coat of sediment by the last freshet—a great benefit to them.

FE (4 April 1890) Trades were consummated this week by which A. Putnam and H.D. Smith became the sole possessors of the of the Riverside ranch, and Mrs. Z. Russ and Mrs. J.T. Robarts the sole possessors of the Occidental and Seaside ranches.

FE (18 April 1890) James T. Robarts informs us that he has secured the services of Joseph Robbins to erect for him a dwelling house on the Occidental ranch for the use of the men employed thereon. We believe Mr. Robarts intends milking a large number of cows on this place as soon as he can so arrange. He will sell his milk to the Humboldt Creamery.

FE (2 May 1890) Jim Robarts tells us that Lewis Williams is to be the head man on the Occidental dairy.

FE (2 May 1890) The Robarts Bros. have sold their Shelter Cove cattle to Ira Russ and James T. Robarts. The latter will take the heifers to the Occidental ranch, and the balance of the herd will be pastured on Mad River.

FE (10 Oct. 1890) Port Kenyon—Jake Payton has just finished his last job of hay bailing. It was for J.T. Robarts.

FE (14 Oct. 1890) S.F. Pine experimenting with ensilage on Bucksport ranch; used 100 tons of green barley in airtight building.

FE (31 Oct. 1890) W.S. Garner who is to sink for an artesian well on J.T. Robarts' Occidental ranch, is being delayed by the non-arrival of his working apparatus from below.

FE (5 Dec. 1890) On last Saturday, at the depth of 208 feet, the Gardner Bros. struck artesian water on the Occidental ranch, thus exploding the theory that artesian does not exist in this valley. The water flowed to within 22 inches of the surface of the ground, the well being sunk on probably the highest point on the ranch. Those interested have decided to continue boring, entertaining but little doubt but what a still better well will be secured.

FE (26 Dec. 1890) The Gardner Bros, who are boring for artesian water on the Occidental ranch, are down nearly 300 feet. They have not yet struck exactly what they are looking for, but have blasted the idea that artesian water does not exist in this valley.

FE (2 Jan. 1891) The Gardner Bros are down 300 feet with the artesian well on the Occidental ranch and are boring in a strata of gravel and sand. It is to be hoped that Messrs. Putnam, Robarts and Smith will keep the gentlemen at work until the desired results are secured.

FE (23 Jan. 1891) The Gardner Bros. have temporarily ceased boring for artesian water on the Occidental ranch. They are down 325 feet and expect to go farther when spring opens....

FE (22 May 1891) The owners of the Centerville Creamery are continually improving that establishment. The engine now rests on a new brick foundation laid by H.H. Niebur and the boiler has been treated to a thick coating.

FE (8 April 1892) James Robarts going to San Francisco to purchase engine and boiler for Occidental Dairy to replace the old horse power.

FE (15 April 1892) J.T. Robarts' shepherd dog laid down and died last week. He was an intelligent brute, well broke to drive cattle and sheep, and was highly prized by Mr. Robarts.

FE (22 April 1892) J.T. Robarts returned from San Francisco with a combination boiler and engine for the Occidental dairy ranch.

FE (29 April 1892) J.T. Robarts is having a shed erected at the Occidental ranch to cover his new boiler and engine.

FE (13 May 1892) J.T. Robarts is plowing considerable of his marsh land this summer.

FE (20 May 1892) [Putnam and Smith will complete water works for Port Kenyon residents]

FE (24 June 1892) The Riverside ranch, owned by Putnam and Smith, is now using water from up Reis Creek.

We are informed that Putnam & Smith are seriously thinking of converting the old warehouse on the Riverside ranch into a dairy house and placing therein a cream separator and engine.

FE (17 June 1892) The Ferndale Creamery near Centerville is rolling but five boxes of butter a week now. The balance of the product is packed in kegs. This institution is turning out a fine article.

FE (12 Aug. 1892) J.T. Robarts informs us that he is thinking of erecting a new barn on the Occidental ranch this fall.

FE (30 Sept. 1892) Ira A. Russ and J.T. Robarts had several head of very fine cows on exhibition at the Fair last week, most of which went home with blue ribbons attached to them.

J.T. Robarts shipped a Jersey bull Sunday by the steamer Hattie Gage, via San Francisco, to the Coquille country, Oregon. The animal goes to the ranch of Putnam and Walker.

FE (13 Oct. 1892) J.T. Robarts desires once more to warn the public against hunting or shooting on the Occidental ranch, and publishes a notice to that effect. More dairy stock has been added to the place and the possibility of hunters wounding or killing stock is now greater than ever.

Warning Not To Trespass—All persons are hereby forbidden from hunting, shooting, or trespassing in any manner on the Occidental ranch near Port Kenyon under plenty of punishment to the fullest extent of the law. J.T. Robarts.

FE (4 Nov. 1892) J.T. Robarts is extending his telephone line from Port Kenyon to the Occidental ranch.

FE (25 Nov. 1892) J.T. Robarts has his residence and the Occidental ranch connected by telephone.

FE (20 Jan. 1893) J.T. Robarts has 200 head of the cows on his Occidental ranch dehorned last week by B.A. Frost....

FE (20 Jan. 1893) J.T. Robarts has taken the contract from Supervisor Scott to replace the bridge across Francis Creek next to the residence of A. Putnam, which collapsed during the recent storm. The contract price is \$100 and Jim with a crew of men is now hard at work. Put and Hugh Smith will perform the task of putting in the stringers.

FE (17 Jan. 1893) [J.R. Robarts completed bridge; used pile drive from Occidental ranch; drove piles 18 feet into bottom of creek; given contracts for bridges behind A. Putnam's and in front of P. Coombe.]

FE (24 Feb. 1893) Port Kenyon—The new Riverside Creamery is about ready to run.

FE (3 March 1893) J.T. Robarts with his pile driver and crew of men was engaged in driving piles along the banks of Francis creek near the residences of P. Coombe and Judge Smith. The

work is being performed for the county and is done for the purpose of preventing further cutting of the road by the creek. FE (10 March 1893) Finished work.

FE (10 March 1893) [Visited with A. Putnam at new creamery on his Riverside dairy operated by Mads Madsen]

FE (17 March 1893) The Riverside Creamery—[editor accompanied Mr. A. Putnam to Putnam & Smith's fine place opposite Port Kenyon]...known as the Riverside Ranch which is now under lease to Mr. Mads Madsen, one of the best and most experienced dairymen in Eel River valley. On this place has just been completed by Mr. Madsen a very handsome and convenient little creamery capable of handling the milk of about 500 cows....The main building is 22x40 feet and is divided off into four apartments.: engine and boiler room, 14x18 feet; separator, cream and churn room, 22x26; butte room, 14x22 feet; weighing room, 6x8 feet. In the first named of the four apartments is to be found a 10-horse boiler manufactured by Langford Bros. of Eureka and an 8-horse engine with automatic stop governor, purchased from the same firm; in the second are one large Alpha DeLaval cream separator, having a capacity of 2000 pounds of milk per hour, one receiving and two cream vats turned out by Kausen & Williams, one Kausen patent cream cooler, and one 400-gallon churn—the largest in use in Eel river valley—made by R.A. Simpson; in the 3<sup>rd</sup> room is a first-class butter worked; and in the weighing room are scales in convenient position and a hoisting apparatus of the latest improved design, a part of which was invented by Mr. Putnam. The floors of the separator and butter rooms slope to the center thereby causing all waste water, etc. to enter a drain, which runs through the center of the building and leads to the river some 200 feet distant. The separator and butter rooms are supplied with an abundance of hot and cold water, the former being furnished from the boiler room and the latter (for washing purposes) from a large tank which stands at the rear end of the creamery and which is fed from the Putnam & Smith water works on Reas creek.

FE (17 March 1893) J.T. Robarts went below on business trip.

FE (17 March 1893) The Riverside Creamery [article]

FE (17 March 1893) The Ferndale Creamery at Centerville is running steadily and is receiving about 6000 pounds of milk per day.

FE (31 March 1893) J.T. Robarts and crew are now driving piles in Francis Creek near A. Putnam's for bank protection.

FE (19 May 1893) John Hansen's Star Creamery on Uri Williams place near town.

FE (16 June 1893) Carpenters Fred Johnson and M. Peterson have about completed a fine new barn for Julius Jacobsen of Centerville. The barn is 74x123 feet in size.

FE (16 June 1893) The family of N.P. Hansen, renter of the Francis dairy in Ferndale....

FE (23 June 1893) Port Kenyon—Putnam & Smith are extending their water pipe system as far as the Donnelly ranch.

FE (30 June 1893) A large barn will shortly be erected on Putnam & Smith's Riverside ranch.

FE (30 June 1893) [J.T. Robarts' wagon capsized with him, on the Wild Cat; thrown out but unhurt]

FE (14 July 1893) Port Kenyon—A short time ago some small boys were hunting on J.T. Robarts' ranch and among the game brought down was a fine young heifer.

FE (14 July 1893) Port Kenyon—Mr. Madsen of Riverside is building a large barn. Branstetter Bros. are doing the work.

FE (24 Nov. 1893) Trespassing prohibited on the Occidental and Russ Creek ranches.

Warning: All persons are forbidden to shoot or trespass in any manner on the Occidental and Russ Creek ranches, under penalty of punishment by law. This will not include persons from hunting with shotgun (rifles prohibited) on lands north of the Centerville dam and west of the Centerville and Cut-off sloughs until this privilege is abused. James T. Robarts.

FE (19 Jan. 1894) The Heavy Storm and Its Effects, Eel River from Table Bluff to Salt River....Eel river commenced rising before noon on Saturday and by the following morning had almost reached the top of its banks. When evening came, it was out of its banks and still rising...The current in the stream was exceedingly swift and drift was to be seen in all directions. Monday morning found the valley one vast expanse of water only trees and a little land here and there being visible to those who viewed the spectacle from the hills back of town. It was a veritable lake from Table Bluff to the Occidental ranch near Port Kenyon and from Table Bluff to Charles DeCarli's residence near Waddington. Salt River was in a condition such as it has been in but twice before to the knowledge of the oldest inhabitants.

FE (13 April 1894) For many weeks past, the shoalness in Salt river at the mouth of Centerville Slough has been very annoying to the steamer Weeott, causing her to get aground and fast on nearly every trip up and down the river. To remove this annoyance, 35 pounds of giant powder was placed at the bottom of the stream on Saturday afternoon and exploded, with the result that the water has been deepened four or five feet and the hard bottom greatly softened. Another blast will be put in, in a few days.

FE (4 May 1894) The work of deepening Salt river at the mouth of Centerville slough was recommenced yesterday. A large blast of giant powder was placed at the river bottom and touched off with the result that the depth was somewhat increased. The almost constant grounding of the Weeott will be a thing of the past from now on.

FE (8 June, Friday, 1894) A Serious Accident—On Friday morning last our esteemed fellow citizen, Jas. T. Robarts, met with an accident on the Occidental ranch, which was indeed a narrow escape from instant death, and which was of such severity as still cause the physicians to be unable to definitely determine the outcome. Mr. Robarts and several others were engaged in cleaning out the artesian well and had a derrick erected consisting of four, 3-inch pipes leaning together at the top to assist them in their work. While extracting the "cleaner" from the well, the

pipes from a sudden side-pressure brought to bear upon them, started to topple. Everyone sprang out of the way with the exception of Mr. Robarts, who seized a suspended rope and endeavored to hold the pipes in position; in this he was unsuccessful, however, and the heavy pipes came down upon him, the "block" first striking him upon the head and inflicting a small gash, also rendering him insensible. The lead was immediately lifted from off his back and he was removed to the house where he shortly afterward gained consciousness. Physicians were sent for and upon their arrival, it was found that the unfortunate man was seriously hurt about the back and internally in addition to his slight wound on the head. At last accounts, he was resting easily with indications heightening for recovery. Dr. Wallace of Eureka has been called to the scene as an assistant several times since the accident. James' large circle of friends are earnestly hoping for his early and complete recovery.

FE (15 Feb. 1895) Jules Moranda of Centerville publishes a notice in this issue regarding the stealing of decoy ducks left on the Centerville marsh....

FE (15 Feb. 1895) Mads Madsen of the Riverside creamery is going to put a ferry across Salt River to accommodate his customers. He has built a new building where his customers may wash cans and not be in each other's way and has given his creamery a general overhauling. Riverside creamery butter stands at the head in the San Francisco market.

FE (15 March 1895) Frank Flint of Occidental, who had a leg broken some time ago, visited Ferndale Monday. He is getting along nicely and in a few days will be able to discard his crutches.

FE (5 April 1895) Port Kenyon—The Occidental creamery started Monday with Frank Flint as general manager.

FE (26 April 1895) Port Kenyon—Frank Flint and Miss Katie Goble married.

FE (10 May 1895) Mads Madsen expected to have his ferry across Salt River from Port Kenyon to Riverside in working order this week.

FE (18 Oct. 1895) Today the duck season opened and the birds are said to be numerous on the marsh, but hunting on the Russ reclamation district has been prohibited, much to the regret of many of our local sportsmen.

FE (25 Oct. 1895) Reward Notice—We will pay the sum of \$50 for the arrest and conviction of any person or persons found hunting or shooting on any of the ranches controlled by us without our written permission. [see section 627, Penal Code] The above notice includes the Occidental and Seaside ranches. Z. Russ & Sons Co.

FE (8 Nov. 1895) John Hansen has rented of Z. Russ & Sons the Occidental ranches. N.P. Hansen, who is to move from the Francis place to the Russ Creek place near Centerville, advertises a public action....28 head of fine dairy cows will be sold at auction on the Francis place, Nov. 30; also 30-40 tons of oat hay baled. N.P. Hansen.

FE (8 Nov. 1895) Rumor has it that the right of the owners to prohibit hunting on the Centerville marsh, or at least that portion of it included in the reclamation districts, is to be contested, and also that a move is to be made to compel those interested in said districts to remove their bridges, etc. from the Centerville slough, said action to be based on the ground that said slough is navigable....

FE (15 Nov. 1895) Duck hunters were numerous on the marsh Sunday despite the posted notices "No Hunting Allowed."

The right of the owners of the reclamation districts to prohibit duck hunting thereon is to be tested, so we are informed.

Last Saturday evening the Ferndale duck hunters and W.N. Russ held a consultation regarding hunting on the reclamation district, but no settlement of their differences was arrived at. The hunters have legal advice to the effect the reclamation owners have no authority to prohibit shooting on the marsh lands, but Mr. Russ claims that his attorneys have advised him right to the contrary.

FE (15 Nov. 1895) Port Kenyon—John Hansen has commenced moving to the Occidental.

FE (22 Nov. 1895) Riverside creamery is getting a large amount of milk and it looks as though Mr. Madsen will soon have to put in another separator.

The "Riverside" Creamery, of which M.M. Madsen is the owner, has paid the highest price of all the Humboldt creameries for the past two months for its milk, and expects to do the same every month. Mr. Madsen is at present making a very high grade of butter, and for the past two years has shipped to Fred B. Haight, 213-214 Front St., S.F., and though he has lately increased his output by putting in a new separator, he cannot make enough butter to supply Mr. Haight's trade.

FE (22 Nov. 1895) John Hansen and family will move to the Occidental and N.P. Hansen and family to the Russ creek ranch the first Monday in Dec.

FE (29 Nov. 1895) Port Kenyon—As Mr. Hansen has rented the Occidental ranch and will take possession Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Frank Flint, who has been manager of the property for a number of years, has moved his family to the Port. Frank has been a successful manager and is a first-class creamery man.

FE (6 Dec. 1895) It is rumored that a petition is soon to be circulated asking that the dykes across certain sloughs on the Centerville marsh be removed on the ground that they are a hindrance to navigation and contrary to law.

FE (6 Dec. 1895) Port Kenyon—John Hansen moved his family to Occidental last Saturday.

FE (10 Jan. 1896) Mr. and Mrs. John Hansen entertained a number of their friends Wednesday at their new home on Occidental.

FE (31 Jan. 1896) [high water event] It is evident that much less water from Eel river finds its way during freshets into Salt river than formerly. The lands at the head of Salt river have been built up considerably in the last few years.

FE (27 March 1896) John Hansen has started up the Occidental Creamery. He is an expert creamery man.

FE (31 March 1896) Mr. and Mrs. John Hansen entertained a number of their friends at the Occidental ranch Saturday with a social dance.

FE (10 April 1896) John Hansen's new land roller cost him \$100 in gold but he says it is worth the money...used to pulverize ground and keep it in good condition.

FE (14 Aug. 1896) 120 rods of dyke being built on marsh for Z. Russ & Sons. .

FE (15 June 1897) M. Madsen has commenced the erection of a fine dwelling house on the Riverside Ranch near Port Kenyon. Dan Branstetter is the head carpenter.

FE (13 July 1897) Work is progressing rapidly on Z. Russ & Sons new barn at Fern Cottage.

FE (28 Sept. 1897) Creameries represented in the butter exhibit at Ferndale Fair: Excelsior, John Hansen's Occidental, Friel's Eel River Valley, Madsen's Riverside, Smith & Hanley's Humboldt, the Ferndale, F.W. Andreasen's Silver Star, the Eel River, the Grizzly Bluff and Frey and Nissen's Crown.

FE (22 Oct. 1897) The big barn on Riverside, Putnam & Smith's ranch, leased by Mads Madsen, is being reshingled.

FE (7 Dec. 1897) An Important Suit—There was commenced in our Superior Court last Friday an action that will be watched with great interest by the people of Eel river valley, as it involves the question of the right of reclaiming the swamp and overflowed lands along Salt river and lower Eel river. Reclamation work has been engaged in extensively there of late and the question has now arisen whether or not the reduction of the tidal areas of these streams by the necessary closing of the sloughs to reclaim the lands, will lose to the people of the valley their only water highway to the ocean by the shoaling of Eel river bar and the closing of Salt river to navigation. The affirmative of this is the plaint in the present action, which is in the nature of a test case and will be far reaching in its effect. As the question affects the navigable waters of the state, the action is brought by the state, although the actual complaint is [brought by] Robert W. Roberts of Ferndale, who seeks to have Z. Russ & Sons Co. and Wm. N. Russ perpetually enjoined from obstructing what is known as Jacks slough and also the Cut Off slough, all tide-water tributaries of Salt river. These sloughs, it is claimed, constitute the major portion of the tidal area of Salt river and that the daily action of the tides flowing in and out of them is necessary to keep that river and Eel river bar navigable. The obstructions complained of, the removal of which is demanded, are dams that have been built across these sloughs near their mouths for the purpose



of reclaiming the thousand or more acres of the Russ Co.'s Occidental ranch, the work having been completed in October of this year....Standard.

FE (5 Aug. 1898) The Reclamation Suit—Superior Judge Wilson Wednesday rendered his opinion in the suit of the People ex rel R.W. Robarts vs. W.N. Russ and Z. Russ & Sons Co., giving judgment for the defendants for their costs. The suit was brought to compel the removal of certain dams and obstructions maintained by defendants across sloughs on Salt river marsh near Ferndale which obstructions were used for the purpose of reclaiming the land there. The plaintiff claimed that the sloughs so obstructed were navigable and that the obstructions besides preventing the navigation of the sloughs, tended by reducing the tidal area, to also shoal the bar of Eel river into which Salt river empties. As to the obstruction of the sloughs to navigation, the court holds that the sloughs are non-navigable; that they were never used for commercial intercourse and that there is no inducement to use them for such purposes; as to the defendants' right to obstruct the sloughs, the court holds that it was given them by the state when it patented the land to them for reclamation purposes and no matter if the reclamation of the land reduces the tidal area of Salt river and perhaps [causes] injury to Eel river bar, the defendants are within their rights and the law in proceeding with the necessary operations for reclaiming the land.

FE (24 Feb. 1899) A motion for retrial denied in the reclamation suit of People vs. W.N. Russ.

FE (13 June 1899) The Kelly Bros.' new creamery on the P. Kelly place in the valley started up last Saturday. The plans for this new factory were furnished by Mr. Frank Flint, now of the Buhne dairy on Elk river, who is an experienced creamery man....

FE (16 June 1899) At the Occidental—Last Tuesday, the editor in company with Liveryman Brice had occasion to visit Russ & Robarts Occidental ranch and we spent a couple of hours there very pleasantly with Mr. John Hansen, who has this fine place leased for ten years. The Occidental is reclaimed land, but is now one of the finest and most valuable ranches in Eel river valley, including what is known as the Seaside and Russ Creek ranches, consisting of about 400 acres combined, the Occidental consists of 1969 acres of land, the Seaside having been sub-leased by Mr. Hansen to John Christiansen, and the Russ Creek ranch to N.P. Hansen. On the Occidental, Mr. Hansen dairies about 100 cows, and he is also engaged in raising stock cattle on the place extensively. Several large fields are devoted to hay and grain, and on the place is a creamery, which at present is handling over three tons of milk a day, a portion of which is purchased by Mr. Hansen from neighboring dairymen. This creamery is a model in every respect and the butter turned out from it, a roll of which Mr. Hansen kindly gave us to sample, is first-class and is put up in the most attractive shape. Sopher Smith is the butter maker at this creamery and a neater or cleaner creamery we never visited. Not a speck of dirt could be seen anywhere and the floors were clean enough to eat off of.

Mr. Hansen is continually improving the ranch and employs eight men to assist him. Every season new fields are broken up and seeded, drain ditches are dug, and underground tiling place in position. The buildings on the place are all substantial structures and on every hand is evidence of a wide-awake thrifty farmer, which Mr. Hansen has proven himself to be. The place is well-equipped with all kinds of farming implements, a blacksmith shop, a grist mill and many other conveniences too numerous to mention and Mr. Hansen conducts the place to the very best

advantage. The Occidental is a model dairy and stock farm and when Russ & Robarts leased to Mr. Hansen they placed this valuable property in good hands.

FE (23 June 1899) Z. Russ & Sons, who are having a large barn built near Fern Cottage, on what is known as the old Islam Walker place, intend placing a big silo in it and maybe two. They have already one silo at the Cottage farm, which will hold 100 tons of ensilage and it is their intention to build another at the Mazeppa Ranch on Bear River ridge. Mr. Will Russ, who manages the Russ property, is a strong believer in ensilage.

FE (25 July 1899) Bert Haywood and Bert Matthews have just completed for Z. Russ & Sons at the Fern Cottage ranch, a large barn, 60x240 feet, in which has been built a silo with a capacity of 240 tons.

FE (8 Aug. 1899) The big new barn recently completed at Fern Cottage is 62 feet wide by 150 feet long and contains a silo which will hold 280 tons of ensilage. The dimensions of this silo are: height 25 feet; diameter 24 feet 8 inches in the clear and it has a concrete bottom. The studding is 2x4, 14 inches apart and is lined with half-inch sheeting doubled with a layer of tar paper between. The lining is well oiled with linseed oil, which keeps the steam from penetrating the walls. D. Peacock, with the Varley engine, has been at work there of late cutting the fodder which is being placed in the silo and a Boss Carrier is used for elevating the ensilage after it passes through a No. 7 cutter. Charley Sweet feeds the cutter and Elmer Chase, V. Davenport, Geo. Hill, Chas. Pettingill, Peter Johnston, Al Hannah and Jas. Lytle comprise the hauling crew. It takes seven days' work to fill the silo.

FE (22 Aug. 1899) W.N. Russ to build another silo in his new barn near Fern Cottage.

FE (3 Oct. 1899) John Hansen's monster new barn on the Occidental ranch near mouth of Centerville slough.

FE (12 June 1900) W.N. Russ is to build a very large cow barn at Fern Cottage, so we are informed. The new building will be 150 feet long and 76 feet wide, and a silo of unusual capacity will be constructed in the same.

FE (22 June 1900) Carpenters Bert Haywood, George Kistner, Ed Holbrook and Mr. Simpson of Eureka are engaged in building a good-sized barn on the Russ property in the Centerville section.

Lumber is being hauled to Joseph Russ Ocean House ranch where Bert Haywood is to make a number of improvements to the dwelling house.

FE (2 Aug. 1900) Bert Haywood and George Kistner last Friday completed the erection of a 240-ton silo for the Russes at Fern Cottage.

FE (21 Aug. 1900) Bert Haywood and George Kistner last Friday completed the erection of a 240-ton silo for the Russes at Fern Cottage.

FE (2 Oct. 1900) George Kistner is building a hunting house and barn for F.G. Williams on the Occidental Ranch for duck hunting.

FE (5 March 1901) Supreme Court decision reversed Superior Court decision in R.W. Robarts et al, vs. Z. Russ & Sons (Plaintiffs defeated in Superior Court), regarding dyking of Salt River and reducing flows to Eel River. One of the plaintiffs was an heir in the Russ estate which had reclaimed the lands and at the time she owned the Port Kenyon property. The latter, if Eel River became un-navigable, would be greatly decreased in value.

FE (5 March 1901) An Important Decision—The Supreme Court Saturday handed down a decision of immense interest to Humboldt, especially the Ferndale section, and of important to this state and every other state where there are tide lands bordering on navigable waters. It was in the case of the People of the State of California, by relation of R.W. Robarts et al. vs. Z. Russ & Sons Co. The opinion reverses the decision of the Superior Court of this county and remands the case. The case is particularly important because in it the Supreme Court passed upon points which had never been passed upon before; either in the Supreme Court of this state or any other state. There were no precedents or authorities to guide in the matter and the opinion amounts to the laying down of a new law.

The case arose out of the dyking of certain lands along Salt river. Dykes were placed across some of the sloughs. As is well known, Salt river is a tributary of Eel river, and the plaintiffs contended that the dyking of these sloughs and the reclaiming of the land cut off such an amount of the tidal acres as to be of great danger to not only Salt river, but also to Eel river. The principal damage, it was asserted, was in the effect on Eel river bar. It was claimed that the cutting off of these tributary waters would result in such a decrease of water flowing in and out over the bar as to practically destroy the navigability of the stream. The case was a complicated one in relation to the parties concerned in it. One of the plaintiffs was an heir in the Russ estate, which had reclaimed the lands, and at the time, she owned the Port Kenyon property. The latter, if Eel river became un-navigable, would be greatly decreased in value, and hence the suit was brought. The North American Steamship Co. which was running a vessel into Eel river was interested on the side of the plaintiffs, as were also many of the merchants of Ferndale, who desired to use the Eel river route to obtain their goods from San Francisco. As stated, the plaintiffs were defeated in the Superior Court in this county, and the case was taken to the Supreme Court, an appeal being taken from the judgment and also from the motion denying a new trial. On the trial of the case, the highest expert testimony was presented, Professor George Davidson, Lieutenant C.E. Hughes and Andrew Hilgard of the State University for the defendants. The Supreme Court considered the case of such importance that on its own motion, it set it to be heard in bank, and the arguments were made last August by L.F. Puter for the plaintiffs and J.H.G. Weaver for the defendants. Upon just what point or points, the Supreme Court has reversed the Superior Court is not yet apparent, and until that is known, the full effect of the decision cannot be determined. If the Supreme Court holds that sloughs wholly within and dissipating within lands around, in fee simple by private parties, as long as they affect the navigability of streams to which they are tributary, cannot be dyked, the effect will be far reaching. In that case many of the dykes around Humboldt bay and along Salt and Eel rivers will have to come out. Of course, it is not yet clear how long it will be before the controversy is finally settled. The case has been remanded and there will be a new trial. Whatever judgment is then given may be appealed from, and it may necessitate another decision from the Supreme Court to finally determine the matter. It is certain that on account of the magnitude of the interests involved on both sides, no stone will be left unturned.--Times

FE (26 Nov. 1901) To the Great Beyond. Friday evening, Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1901, at her home in North Ferndale, Mrs. James T. Robarts passed from life to the Great Beyond, surrounded by her devoted husband, mother, sisters, brothers and relatives. ...one of the best and noblest of women...she possessed every virtue and not a fault. Ever faithful, ever kind, ever true, meeting every trial and care with resignation, and finding pleasure in the performance of every duty life imposed, activated at all times by the most unselfish and self-sacrificing impulses, a true Christian woman not in precept but in practice, all within the circle of her acquaintance knew her only to love, honor, and respect her. Uncomplainingly she met and endured the misfortunes that fell to her lot and uncomplainingly she bore her sufferings to the very end. Such a life as hers is not only one to be emulated but she made the world better by having lived in it. To her bereaved mother, sisters, brothers and other relatives and to her sorrowing and invalid husband, whose one great comfort she has been, and particularly since misfortune's heavy hand was placed upon him seven long years ago, we offer every sympathy.

Mary Eliza Robarts, eldest daughter of the late Jos. Russ and Mrs. Zipporah Russ; sister to Mrs. P. Coombe, Mrs. B.F. Harville of S.F., Mrs. F.G. Williams, Miss Edith, Miss Bertha and Messrs Ira, Wm. N. and Joseph, Jr. of Ferndale. Born at Spicy Breezes ranch just south of Bear River, 28 Dec. 1858, married James T. Robarts, 4 March 1880; Never robust she did enjoy comparatively good health until two years ago.

FE (23 May 1902) The handsome nine-month old bull brought up from below for N.P. Hansen of the Russ Creek ranch is a thoroughbred Holstein-Friesian and was purchased by Mr. Hansen from A.M. Hotaling of San Anselmo, Marin county. "Stranger" registration number 29,090 and he is from the very best stock; his grandmother being the celebrated Mechthilda with a record of 39 pounds 10 ½ ounces of butter in one week and 12 gallons of milk per day.

FE (11 Sept. 1903) Wm. Russ has his silos at Fern Cottage filled with ensilage.

FE (16 Feb. 1904) Death of James T. Robarts, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>....his life among us has been as an open book. While as a member of the well-known firm of Robarts Bros., he engaged in the shipping and warehouse business for a number of years and quite extensively, his chief occupation was that of farming and dairying, and up to the time Providence willed otherwise, he was classed among the most active, public-spirited and progressive of our citizens. Ten years ago the first day of the coming June, and while engaged in repairing a well at his Occidental ranch in the Centerville section, a derrick gave way, and from that moment, it was decreed that Jim Robarts should be a helpless cripple....Married in 1880 to Miss Mary E. Russ, eldest daughter of the late Hon. Joe Russ and Mrs. Zipporah Russ....

FE (16 Feb. 1904) Last Will of James T. Robarts—The last will and testament of the late James T. Robarts, written in his own hand and dated May 16<sup>th</sup> 1903, was opened yesterday by Adam Putnam in the presence of and at the request of interested parties. The following bequests were made....[money and other property] also....The residue of the estate, including the deceased half interest in the Occidental Ranch and all personal property, bequeathed as follows: 1/20 to Mrs. John Graham of Arcata; 1/20 to Mrs. Emma Brown, Colorado; 1/10 each to Mrs. Zipporah Russ, Mrs. M. Coombe, Mrs. A. Harville, Mrs. Georgia Williams, Miss Edith Russ, Miss Bertha Russ,

Wm. N. Russ, Ira A. Russ, and Joe Russ, Jr. Frank G. Williams, brother-in-law of the deceased, was named as sole executor to serve without bonds.

FE (1 March 1904) The big log in Salt river which for 20 years has been submerged at the mouth of the Cut Off Slough, shifted during the freshet, and now lies straight across the channel. It will have to be removed before the Argo comes. The shoal place at the mouth of the Centerville [slough] has been greatly deepened by the flood, however.

FE (26 Aug. 1904) Ducks are reported to be coming in on the Centerville marsh in large numbers at present, in fact, it has been many years since these birds were so plentiful at this time of the season. It is unlawful, however, to shoot them until October 15th, but our local sports are beginning to burnish up their fire arms in anticipation of great shooting this season.

FE (6 Sept. 1904) Big barn short distance north of Fern Cottage burns. Hay loss was 1/3 of what was stored, equally 40-50 tons. Spontaneous combustion.

FE (18 Nov. 1904) Duck shooting on the Centerville marsh is still decidedly "on the bum," and many of our sportsmen are of the opinion that the only way to improve the sport is to form themselves into a club, lease a portion of the marsh, at least, and bait the ponds. Feed is very scarce on the hunting grounds and in consequence there is nothing to keep the birds here. What few birds do come in, simply stay long enough to rest before continuing on their way south, where they are certain to find food in plenty. If we are to have good shooting hereafter, some means must be found to keep the ducks here, and to us "baiting" seems to be the only plan.

FE (14 Feb. 1905) Stockholders of Ferndale Creamery Co. of Centerville met; will make its own butter this season, but do not intend to put in a pasteurizer for the present.

FE (11 April 1905) The Pioneer Creamery [long, long article, very small print]—Through the courtesy of Hon. E.C. Damon and J.E. Gries, the writer was permitted last Saturday to inspect the Pioneer Creamery at Arlynda, where the past couple of months extensive improvements have been made in order that the output of this factory might become known as equal to any and the superior of the majority of the creameries now operating in this state....

The Pioneer, as all in the valley and, for that matter in southwestern Humboldt are informed, is recognized as the oldest creamery on the Pacific coast, it being the first plant of any size to adopt the new methods of butter making as known some 15 or 16 years ago, several years after the dairy business in this valley came to take precedence over all other industries in this section. This creamery was built by a company of local residents, who saw the possibilities that would accrue from its conduction and was operated by them for a number of years before passing into other hands and finally into the management of the present board of directors and stockholders....

FE (24 Nov. 1905) Duck hunters report shooting on the preserve of the Ferndale Game Club in the Centerville section to have been very good last Tuesday and Wednesday, the heavy winds of the first of the week having brought in quite a number of the birds. Ducks have been rather scarce so far this season, owing to the continued fine weather. Game keeper Poole has fed

something over two tons of wheat since the commencement of the open season, and it is expected that when stormy weather arrives, this feeding will result in better shooting.

FE (24 Nov. 1905) John Hansen, whose lease to the Occidental Ranch west of Port Kenyon expires the first of the coming month, will move his family to Ferndale next week, and occupy the George Crippen residence, which the gentleman purchased a year or more ago. Mr. Hansen is a member of the Ferndale merchandising firm of Aggeler, Morrison, Hansen Co. and will devote his time hereafter to the mercantile business.

FE (28 Nov. 1905) The Z Russ & Sons Co. is placing lumber on the ground on the Occidental ranch for the building of a good-sized corral, enclosed on three sides with a shed in which stock will be fed this winter.

FE (5 Dec. 1905) Those of our duck hunters, who spent last Wednesday on the Centerville marshes, report the best shooting of the season, the largest bag we have heard of being made by I.W. Davis and Walter Bartlett, two of the crack shots of the Ferndale Game Club, who returned to town that evening with 71 birds to their credit....

FE (8 Dec. 1905) C.B. Sweet, who owns a place in the upper Wild Cat section, has taken charge of the Occidental ranch, west of Port Kenyon, for the Z Russ & Sons Co. Mr. Sweet has been in the employ of this company as foreman of the Fern Cottage farm, for the last 16 years and is one of the firm's most trusted and valued employees.

FE (9 Jan. 1906) James Andreasen of Port Kenyon, while hunting on the marsh, killed a cinnamon teal...Several of our oldest nimrods state that this is the first duck of a like species they have ever known to be killed on the Centerville marsh.

FE (19 Jan. 1906) The storm and high water have brought ducks onto the Centerville marsh by the thousands, and yesterday reports received from that section stated that the birds were so plentiful that the bag limit could be secured in a very few hours...

FE (26 June 1906) Work on J.A. Shaw's new barn at Centerville is progressing very satisfactorily. When completed, this will be one of the most convenient barns in the valley.

FE (26 June 1906) Considerable dyking is being done on the Centerville slough on the marsh. The dyke which is now there is being added to at the top and a new one is being built entirely along the opposite side of the stream.

FE (31 Aug. 1906) Ducks are reported unusually numerous on the Centerville marsh for this time of year. If the Ferndale Gun Club, organized last fall, expects to get better shooting than was the case last year, now is the time to begin feeding the birds. Close to \$150 remains in the treasury of the club, and this amount could be expended to good advantage if the officials and members of the organization would begin to get busy. Less than two months remain in which to prepare for the season.

FE (2 Oct. 1906) The open season for ducks, quail and jacksnipe commences a week from next Monday, the 15<sup>th</sup>. Quite a number of ducks are now on the Centerville marsh and it is hoped by those who enjoy shooting that the opening day this year will give more sport than was the case last season.

FE (9 Oct. 1906) Ducks were reported quite plentiful on the Centerville marsh a few weeks ago, but we are told that at present they are not noticed there in very large numbers.

FE (24 May 1910) Work will be commenced in the near future on the construction of a five hundred foot breakwater at the Riverside ranch near the house, where Salt River threatens to cut into the bank.

FE (17 June 1910) The big barn at Fern Cottage west of town is undergoing extensive repairs.

FE (22 July 1910) Contractor A. Rusk of Port Kenyon and crew have completed the work of constructing a fine new barn at the Occidental ranch, and are now engaged in remodeling other buildings on the place. During vacation, Mr. Rusk's son, Bertram, a student at the Ferndale Union high school, is working with his father.

FE (14 Oct. 1910) The Centerville duck preserve of the Ferndale Fish and Game Club will be opened to members of the Club Sunday. Ducks are reported unusually plentiful on the marsh at present.

FE (18 Oct. 1910) J.H. Ring Hears From His Whale--[Recalls event of 1904 when Ring furnished a whale skeleton from Centerville Beach to National Museum in Washington, D.C. Recent bulletin describes whale, identified as *Berardius bairdii*, as belonging to the family of beaked whales, so rare that not more than five or six mounted specimens were extant. Centerville whale was 41 feet long, the longest ever found.]

FE (2 Feb. 1915) P.H. Christensen will sell his lease to the Riverside ranch on the Island to Chas. Joppas of Eureka. The Riverside ranch is the biggest dairy in the valley and is owned by Putnam & Shaw. Mr. Christensen has managed it for about six years previous to which time Harry Caltoft had it. Mr. Joppas up to a year ago managed a large dairy on Cannibal Island....

FE (5 Feb. 1915) Storm and Flood News--....The water was 17 inches deep in the home of C.B. Sweet and family on the Occidental ranch. A barn was carried away and about 30 head of yearlings drown. Part of another barn was also demolished. The water was 20 inches higher than last year. The wind caused heavy waves which threatened to demolish all the buildings....A horse which was swept away when a barn on the Occidental ranch collapsed swam to the Lindrum ranch and was saved.

FE (5 Feb. 1915) Storm and Flood The Most Disastrous for Many Years....The water on the Centerville marsh was higher than ever before known with the possible exception of the big flood in the '70s....On the Occidental ranch...for the first time in the memory of the people familiar with conditions there, water came up into the house, being 20 inches deep on the lower floor.

FE (12 Feb. 1915) slides across Centerville road near home of L.J. Lindrum....

FE (13 April 1915) Claude Sweet, son of Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Sweet of the Occidental ranch, returned home Friday from Los Angeles, where he has been working the past 2 ½ years. He expects to remain home for the next few months at least and may stay permanently.

FE (7 May 1915) Miss Iola Sweet was tendered a surprise party last Friday evening by a number of her friends at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Sweet on the Occidental ranch...being in honor of her birthday.

FE (16 July 1915) Port Kenyon—Miss Jeanette Sweet departed for Union Mattole where she will teach school.

FE (26 Jan. 1917) The dredge Delta is making good progress in the diking work in the Cannibal Island section. It will be moved in a few weeks to the Centerville marsh and do a considerable amount of diking for the Russ Co.

HT (15 Aug. 1917) Russ Creek Bridge Contract Let To Thomas Englehart

FE (9 April 1918) The dredger Delta, which for several months past has been engaged in diking and dredging land on the Centerville marsh and in the Cannibal Island section, has completed the work and within a few days will be taken to Eureka...

FE (18 July 1919) Obit Mrs. Charles Sweet at Sweet ranch near Turlock, which she had been visiting since January with her children; ill with typhoid fever for 17 days; born Nova Scotia March 18, 1862 as Sarah Lytle; married Charles Sweet in 1882 in Nova Scotia; came to Ferndale in 1883. Eight children, all surviving excepting Morton; survivors: Margaret, Maurice, Claude, Jule, Jeanette Richards, Iola Young and Bertha Sweet.; also aged parents Mr. and Mrs. William Lytle, Ferndale and brothers and sisters; had planned that Charles would live on Turlock ranch beginning January 1920; burial Ferndale cemetery.

FE (28 Nov. 1919) A. Rusk Leases the Occidental—A Rusk of Port Kenyon has leased the Occidental Ranch on the marsh near Port Kenyon for a term of years [no number given] and will take possession Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chas. B. Sweet, who has been in charge of the ranch for many years past, will go to his ranch near Turlock which has been conducted by his sons Maurice and Jule the last few years.

FE (19 Dec. 1919) Chas. B. Sweet, who recently gave up the management of the Occidental ranch, expects to leave for Turlock, where he will make his home on his ranch....

FE (1 Oct. 1920) Warning Notice—Notice is hereby given that hunting, shooting, and trespassing is strictly prohibited on the lands owned or leased by the undersigned on the Centerville marsh. Violators of this notice will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Z. Russ Co., A. Rusk, A.P. Meng, B. Grinsell, A. Lorenzen, Guilio Moranda, Nis Eskildsen, B.H. Wolf, Ferndale Fish and Game Club.



FE (1 Oct. 1920) Timely Warning--....The owners of lands and lessees adjoining the preserve have been bothered and injured in several ways and they too join us in this message of warning....[warden will become Deputy Sheriff; he will make arrest....Ferndale Fish and Game Club.]

FE (15 Oct. 1920) The duck season opens tomorrow, Oct. 16. Ducks are reported quite plentiful on the Centerville marsh. The Ferndale Fish and Game Club which has the marsh leased is a preserve, will begin the season next Sunday and hunting will be indulged in only on Wednesdays and Sundays, a portion of the membership shooting on one day and the balance on the other.

FE (26 Aug. 1921) Marriage of Alice Rusk and Emmet J. Weir of Crescent City; bride daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Rusk of the Occidental ranch.

FE (23 Sept. 1921) J.S. Markham of the Occidental ranch sustained a broken arm, the result of a fall.

FE (21 Oct. 1921) Mr. and Mrs. J.S. Markham of Occidental ranch....

FE (14 April 1922) Obit Guilio Moranda at ranch at Centerville; born 1847 in Switzerland....

FE (19 May 1922) Dan Rusk, a student at the University of California, has returned to his home on the Occidental ranch to spend his summer vacation.

FE (9 June 1922) Obit Mads Madsen, died in Denmark, formerly of Riverside ranch.

FE (9 Feb. 1923) Improvements are now being made at the Central Creamery Company's skimming station at the old Ferndale Creamery in the Centerville section...

FE (24 Sept. 1926) Obit Antone Zana, born 6 Jan. 1870 in Italy; came to U.S. in 1892; came to Humboldt in 1901; married in 1905; survived by wife and children, including Felix Zana.

FE (5 Oct. 1928) Duck Season Opens--....The Ferndale Fish and Game Club will open the season with its first shoot on the Centerville preserve Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>.

FE (2 Aug. 1929) Excellent fishing has been reported at the Centerville beach. Great numbers of perch, smelt and candle fish have been taken, much to the delight of local anglers.

FE (14 Feb. 1930) Charles B. Sweet Called by Death—Charles B. Sweet, a well-known and highly respected former resident of this community, died last Friday at his home in Turlock. While he had been in quite poor health for some years past, it had not been known here that there had been a change in his condition....

Decedent was a native of Nova Scotia and was 72 years of age. He came to the county when a young man and had spent most of his life here until a few years ago, when he moved to Turlock. For many years, he was manager of the Occidental Ranch in the Port Kenyon section.....survivors: Mrs. Margaret Washburn, Turlock; Maurice Sweet, San Francisco; Claude

Sweet, Ferndale; Jule Sweet, Turlock; Mrs. Robert Young, Stockton; Mrs. E. Fox, Modesto.; one brother James F. Sweet, Camp Weott; burial Ferndale cemetery.

FE (27 June 1930) Adam Putnam, Pioneer of the Town, Called by Death—Adam Putnam, a pioneer resident of Ferndale and one of the best known men of Humboldt County, died Tuesday morning at his home here after an extended illness....Adam Putnam was born in Nova Scotia on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> 1847 and was a young man of twenty years when in 1867 he came to California by way of the Isthmus of Panama and settled in Marin County where he worked on a ranch for a few months. He then went to the Sierra Nevada where he was engaged in construction work on the Dutch Flat Railroad, now a part of the Southern Pacific system and also drove a stage from Little Truckee to Sierra Nevada, now Verdi, being at the time also a Wells Fargo express messenger.

In Dec. 1869 he came to Humboldt County, where shortly after his arrival he formed a partnership with the late H.D. Smith. They rented ranch land and soon became extensively engaged in buying cattle and ranching in northern California, eastern Oregon and Nevada, whifh partnership was maintained for many years.

In 1876 he acquired a substantial interest in the mercantile business of Russ & Searles in Ferndale, now the Brick Store, the firm name then being changed to Russ, Searles & Putnam and later to Searles and Putnam. Mr. Putnam was active in the management of the business until 1888, when he disposed of his interest.

In the year 1893, the Ferndale Bank was organized, Mr. Putnam being the leading figure in its promotion and became its first president, holding that position continuously up to the time of his death having at the last annual meeting been elected for the 38<sup>th</sup> consecutive time.

He was united in marriage in 1877 to Mary A. Johnson, who died July 5, 1821. He was the last of a family of nine brothers and sisters of whom he was the youngest. Surviving him are a son, Mason Putnam of San Francisco and a daughter Miss Edna Putnam of Ferndale.

Adam Putnam played a prominent part in the upbuilding of Humboldt County and the town of Ferndale. While never seeking political office, he was called upon to serve a number of terms as a member of the board of trustees of this town and in his younger days was prominent in the councils of the Republican party. During his long business career he had amassed a large fortune and had made many generous donations to charitable causes....Remains taken to San Francisco for cremation.

FE (1 May 1931) One of the largest salmon catches in years was made Saturday by the fishermen operating out of Eureka, approximately 45 tons of salmon being taken from the ocean off Centerville.

FE (5 Feb. 1932) New Specimen Of Goose Found Here--James Moffit of the California Fish and Game Commission took a specimen of the Cackling Goose on the Centerville marsh last month, which is a new species to the list of California birds, this being the first of this form known to have been taken in California. The bird is a large goose of the white-cheeked variety.

FE (31 March 1939) Z. Russ Company Makes Division of Holdings—Representing one of the largest and oldest property holders in Humboldt County, the Z. Russ Co. transferred property

among the company members to an extent estimated at from \$300,000 to \$400,000 last week. The property was partitioned to Mrs. Margaret Russ Coombe of San Francisco and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Russ, Sr. The remainder of the company's property is held by Mrs. Annie Harville, Mrs. Bertha Lytle, Mrs. Harris Connick and Mrs. Dorothy Russ McBride.

In the transfer, Mrs. Coombe and Mr. and Mrs. Russ receive stipulated shares of all livestock held by the company as well as valuable ranch properties. Mrs. Coombe was deeded the Rainbow ranch consisting of 1480 acres lying in the south of Bear River, the R.M. and Forest Home ranches on Bear River ridge and other properties in that section amounting to 62,00 acres and 118 acres at Centerville. Jointly with her brother, Joseph Russ, Sr., Mrs. Coombe also received ownership of approximately 1000 acres in a ranch at Coquille, Oregon. A like amount of acreage in the original Oregon ranch remains the property of the Z. Russ Co.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Russ, Sr. received the deeds to the Redwood ranch and Murphy Meadows east of Korbel consisting of 14,279 acres, the 550 acre Davis Creek ranch north of Petrolia and 215 acres at Centerville. Mr. and Mrs. Russ also own in southwestern Humboldt, the well-known 1400-acre Mayflower ranch, the 12—acre Woodland Echo ranch and the 2100 acres Ocean View ranch, operated by their sons Joseph, Jr., Herbert, and John.

The properties involved represented one-half the estate left by the pioneer Joseph Russ, father of Mrs. Coombe and Joseph Russ, Sr., who passed away in 1886. AT the time of his death, his widow Zipporah Russ received a half interest in the estate and the children each a 1/12 interest. A short time after the elder Mr. Russ' death, the Z. Russ Co. was formed and included the holdings of the widow.

HT (8 Oct. 1939) Ferndale fire dept. called to Centerville to extinguish a fire in the high barn belonging to the Z. Russ Company.

HT (10 Oct. 1939) On Centerville beach.

FE (4 Sept. 1942) Mr. and Mrs. Harris R. Connick and daughter Virginia of the Bay region arrived in Ferndale on Wednesday evening and have taken the Chris Winkler home at 351 Shaw Avenue. Mr. Connick will assist in the operation of his mother's ranch holdings. Mrs. Connick, nee Mary Harriet Hine, is a former Eureka girl, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hine.

FE (4 Dec. 1942) A son, John Adams, was born to Mr. and Mrs. H.R. Connick of this city on Monday, Nov. 30 in Eureka. The child weighed 7 and ¼ pounds and is the second child in the Connick family, they have a daughter Virginia a year and a half old. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hine of Eureka are the maternal grandparents and Mr. and Mrs. Harris Connick of Fern Cottage are the paternal grandparents.

FE (27 April 1945) The Mouth Of Salt River In Early Days By Joseph Bognuda-

It was a common belief among the early pioneers that Salt River at one time flowed into the ocean at Centerville near the base of the Pioneer Cross.

Late evidence shows that Salt River flowed into Centerville Slough through the Occidental Ranch and on through the Russ marsh towards Centerville.

On Thursday, April 19, Frank Moranda of Centerville noticed, for the first time, a thick layer of marsh land, sediment and a large deposit of river gravel exposed in the ocean due west of the Pioneer Cross at Centerville.

Upon examination at low tide, I found the deposit to be regular river sediment, deposits, and gravel that came from far inland, also redwood bark and pieces of madrone. These appear to have been buried near this entrance long ago and could have been the mouth of Salt River.

FE (24 Aug. 1945) Eel River Flood Control Recommended To Save Valuable Land--J.J. McCloskey, secretary of the Eel River Delta Association, has submitted a report made to the U.S. Engineers at a meeting held on August 10th, in the Court House in Eureka.

The Flood Control committee and people in southern Humboldt who recognize the seriousness of the situation appeared before the federal engineers and asked that the waters of Eel River be taken under consideration by them.

The report made is as follows:

The Eel River Delta from the mouth of the Van Duzen to the sea, including the bottom land along the Van Duzen from Cuddeback down, has an area of 33,280 acres, not including the Towns of Fortuna and Ferndale, with an assessed value of \$3,266,020.00. Based on actual value, excluding some 6,000 acres in river bed and gravel bars, this area has a nominal average sale value of \$400 per acre of \$10,912,000.00.

By far the largest income from this area is from the dairy industry with some 18,000 cows with an average annual income over a period of years [of] approximately \$2,185,200.00. Sales of livestock and animals slaughtered, potatoes, and truck crops, hay, grain, and seed, poultry and eggs would materially increase this amount. According to a report compiled by Earle Mills, Agricultural Commissioner, the total returns to agriculture for 1944 was \$4,384,469.00.

From surface indications, it can be readily seen that Eel River has in past years meandered over practically all of this valley with the possible exception of the Centerville and Loleta marshes, which in those days was undoubtedly a large tidewater bay. Since the first white settlers came to the valley, river courses have changed, land has built up and farmed for years and at the present time is river bed and gravel bars. Since most of the timber and brush has been cut away along the river banks these bars are gradually widening and building up and on this account it would take many years, if ever, before this land would be as productive as originally.

In the last forty years it is estimated that some 3,000 acres, with a nominal value of \$1,200,000.00, have been washed away. Of the total area in the delta, some 19,000 acres are subject to extreme floods and are in great danger of being cut away before many year elapse owing to changes in channels and river bends at different points. These changes are not very apparent at the time, but over a period of years they are very noticeable, especially in the Sandy Prairie, Pleasant Point, Singley's, Ellery, Walker and McCloskey, and Niles Bend areas.

In 1928 the river course from the mouth of Eel River to the mouth of the Van Duzen was surveyed for the County Assessor's Office to bring the maps up to date for assessment purposes. In some instances it was found, on the older maps made in the 1890's, the river course was a mile or more away from the correct point. Since that time, providing that any appreciable amount of erosion has taken place, measurements are made each year to find the amount of acreage lost to determine reduction on land valuation. No measurements were made in 1944 or 1945 as there were no damaging floods in the past two winters, but since 1928, as the previous mentioned points, the river has cut back the following distances:

Sandy Prairie: 1050 feet. Of this distance 559 feet were cut away between April 6, 1938, and April 22, 1943.

Pleasant Point: there was no cutting in this section from 1938 to 1943 as the entire course of the river has changed from here to the Fortuna side and is gradually working back into the course

it followed about fifty years ago. In this area a greater acreage of valuable land has been cut away than any other portion of the valley. Some 1,200 acres are now in the river bed and bars, although some small portions of it is building up into fair cultivatable land.

Singley Bend: 1196 feet. At the present time the main current has left this bend and cut across the opposite bar and little cutting should be anticipated here for a number of years at least. The river banks at this point are a mile apart and several ranches and a total of over 640 acres have washed away here in the past fifty years.

Ellery Bend: 469 feet. At this time, from a standpoint of erosion and flood damage, this is in the area of greatest loss and since the '90's the river here has moved north more than a mile and over a section of land has been washed away.

Walker Bend, on [Eastlick] Slough, commonly known as Eastlake Slough, which is now the main channel of the river; 1210 feet. On its present course there is very great danger of the river cutting a channel across into Cheney Slough and washing away Camp Weeott, with 40 cabins and summer homes of an approximate value of \$12,000, besides boats and other personal property. On account of a greater increase of flood water through this area, County Supervisor Lindley of this district had to abandon the location of the summer bridge at the south side of Cock Robin Island and change it to the channel on the north side to connect with the county road west of Loleta.

McCloskey Niles Bend: 530 feet. No erosion has occurred here for the past three years and the former channel is fast filling up. On the map of the Army Engineers Survey, made in 1937, showing a depth of water of as much as 15.8 feet at low water is now dry at this stage of the tide. This change was caused by a new channel cutting across the bar on the north side of Cock Robin Island and the shifting of main flow of the river into [Eastlick] Slough on the south side of Cock Robin.

Near the mouth of the river Heckman Island, with an area of thirty-five acres, has been entirely washed away and from one hundred to four hundred feet on the Belli and Davidson-Pedrazzini ranches for a distance of one-half mile has been cut away.

In past years many predictions have been made on the future course of the river at different points but many of these did not materialize, which goes to prove that it is impossible to tell just where the course will eventually be.

Up until some twenty-five years ago it looked very definite that the main channel would break into the head of Salt River in the Pleasant Point section but since then the course has changed to the Sandy Prairie side as before mentioned. Another danger point was at the Johnston place opposite the mouth of the Van Duzen, where in 1929 it was feared that the river course would take through a low sag just east of Grizzly Bluff and on down through the Pleasant Point area.

From this it can be seen that any predictions cannot be reliably made but at the present time some changes are taking place that may eventually cause great damage and loss of land unless protection measures are undertaken in the very near future. Otherwise it may be too late.

Probably the most noticeable of these changes is in the area above Fortuna and down to a point opposite Palmer Creek. Unless some action is taken it looks very definite that the channel may take down the old course towards the railroad depot at Fortuna and opposite Palmer Creek. There are indications that the course may work down through the comparative low area in the Paradise Island section and isolate the concrete bridge at Fernbridge.

Unless measures are undertaken to straighten the channel here, which at present is a sharp double elbow, immense damage from floods and soil erosion can be looked for in the not very far distant future. This would jeopardize some fifteen hundred acres of valuable dairy land and

bring the river back into where it flowed as late as the 1880's and if not checked may repeat its cycle in time. In a report from the Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army, dated August 23, 1933, mention is made of this probability, excepting at that time a break through was feared at the head of Salt River when a larger area was involved. At that time their estimate, if any and when it should occur, would entail an estimated loss of three thousand acres of land valued at \$1,200,000.00, as well as buildings and other improvements and involve the replacement of roads and bridges with a total loss probably exceeding \$2,000,000.00.

A very noticeable menace here can be seen from the upstream side of the bridge where quite a large island has been forming the past three years and at present a healthy growth of willows are getting a good foot-hold and if allowed to stand will be a very serious factor on channel shifting here.

With the present course below Singley's a change has been taking place that looks very definite that the main channel may take down an old course on the north side of the Tappendorf [ranch] and, although it would eliminate the damaging bend on the Ellery and Thomsen ranches, cause immense damage down through what is known as the lower Island country. It is very apparent that if a channel was dredged through the bar here reaching to the river just above the Fulmor Pool, and with bank protection work along the Tappendorf ranch, it would relieve the Ellery Bend from further damage and still save the land along the south side of the river. As in many instances in the past, where the distance around a river bend is two and one-half or three times the distance across it, almost invariably the river cuts across and leaves the former course to gradually fill up. A good example of such a change can be seen at the Niles-McCloskey Bend, where from a small channel twenty-five feet wide some six years ago is now three hundred feet across and is now the main course of that part of the river on the north side of Cock Robin Island.

The consensus of opinion of many, who are familiar with Eel River over a period of many years, is that by straightening channels by dredging and maintaining them with a series of wing dams or jetties would be the solution of eliminating serious flood damage and would most certainly check bank erosion on the several dangerous bends. Good examples of wing dams in controlling river bank erosion may be seen at the Brambani Ranch at Pepperwood and at Dyerville just above and below the South Fork of Eel River. At the Brambani Ranch the channel was shifted away from the bank filling it back in with sediment and where a heavy growth of willows is now growing. Had there been about three more wing dams built farther downstream below this point it is very likely the whole course of the river would have been shifted on this bend.

At Dyerville, where Highway 101 was in danger of being washed out, several short wing dams have apparently eliminated the menace. Just above the mouth of the South Fork the wing dam there appears to have started to shift the channel back into its former course, but it may take several floods to determine definitely as to its ultimate success.

Some forty-five years ago the State understood protection work by building jetties and rip rapping the banks at East's Ferry and at the Sevier Ranch at Pleasant Point. Although some of the rip rap work was washed our much of the work was successful and still can be seen along the Bryant place near the former site of East's Ferry.

In 1936 the U.S. Army Engineers made a survey and report on flood control from a point above Fernbridge to the mouth of the river. It was recommended by them that rip rap work be done on the different dangerous bends and levee work on several low spots to prevent overflow

at these points. The Flood Control District was asked to provide rights of way and easements and assume responsibility on maintenance after the work was completed.

At a meeting of the Directors of the Flood Control District in Ferndale on February 12, 1938, they went on record as being opposed to any levee system as it was felt it would be impracticable to try and prevent overflow and inundation of the land. They also were opposed to the plans on protecting the banks without first straightening the channels and also on assuming responsibility of maintenance and any liability to damages of property that might result from the work.

They also felt that the following recommendations made to Captain Gelland at a meeting in Ferndale on December 16, 1937, would be the more desirable method. This effect was to straighten the river course by dredging through the bars and deepening the channel. This should accelerate the run off in a tremendous degree and would lower the height of floods. Also if the channel was straight it would have a tendency to keep it deeper and could in the future be kept in its course at a moderate maintenance cost.

Since then nothing further has been done with these plans but some control work was undertaken under the supervision of County Engineer, Frank E. Kelly, on the Van Duzen with good results and bank protection work on the Ellery Bend, the work being shared by the State, County and property owners. This latter work, while not altogether successful, in all probability has had some effect on retarding bank erosion. The method used had never before been tried on Eel River but had been used successfully on the Salinas River. A series of jacks built from railroad iron were assembled on the bank and dropped overboard from a barge held by cables and anchored back from the bank. After high water it was found many of the anchoring cables had broken loose or pulled out of the bank but there is no doubt that a large percentage of the jacks are still imbedded in the bottom of the river as none of them were ever found washed out and carried into shallow water where they could be easily seen during the low stage of the river. The County and State spent about \$10,000 on this project in 1941.

Although the Army Engineers made a very thorough survey and report on all phases of conditions and remedies for flood control, many changes have taken place along the river course since 1937, that would make many facts obsolete at this time. Although the past two winters have been considerably milder than the average as far as flood damage and soil erosion is concerned some one hundred fifty acres have been washed away since this survey and report was made.

Much credit is due to Mr. J.M. Jones, formerly in charge of the United States Weather Bureau in Eureka, when he instituted the practice of issuing flood warnings over the radio and phoning to different points in the danger areas. On his receiving rainfall data and river heights from such points as Willits, Dos Rios, Garberville and Bridgeville it was possible to forecast a very accurate flood stage at Fernbridge as much as twenty-four hours in advance. This has been the means of saving the ranchers thousands of dollars from losses in getting their livestock from low areas and giving the creameries ample time to distribute enough milk cans to last until the roads could be reopened, which is usually about two days. Although no flood of any consequence was expected at the time, a very good example of the value of the flood warnings can be seen in the flood of January 21-23, 1943, when there was a light rainfall locally and exceptionally heavy in the headwaters which resulted in a flood reaching in some points higher than the near record one of December, 1937.

This work is being carried on by the present Observer, Mr. Ivan Anderson, who hopes to have automatic gauges installed at different points on the upper river.

Of late there has been some agitation on the proposition of building dams on the head waters of the different branches of Eel River. The main drawback to this would be in obtaining a site suitable for a reservoir large enough to impound enough water to prevent floods in the Delta area, though it is possible that enough water could be held back to materially reduce the height. Aside from this it would greatly increase the summer flow which in past years has been so low as to greatly impair the streams from fishing and recreation. Such an effort can be seen on the Russian river since the diversion of water from the Eel. This stream which formerly was practically a dry river bed near Ukiah now apparently carries as much water as the summer flow of Eel River.

There has been created by the Legislature of the State of California a Flood Control District embracing the entire County and designating the Delta area of the Eel River as Zone 2, and which set up the Board of Supervisors as the Directors of said District authorizing them to enter into agreements and contracts and cooperate with the State and Federal Governments in the Flood Control projects Senate Bill 663, Chapt. 939 of the Statutes of 1945. In the enactment of Senate Bill 663, now Chapt. 1514 of the Statutes of 1945, there was created a State Water Resources Board and committed the State of California to a policy of assisting local units and subdivisions and counties in flood projects.

It is the desire of the people of Humboldt County that the flood waters in the Delta area of Eel River be controlled to protect the lands, buildings, stock, farming and public installations, such as bridges and highways, from damage and to prevent further erosion. Such a project is beyond the possibilities of local resources and the benefits to be derived are far greater than the expenditure of money that will be required. Local interests and people recognize that the type of work to be constructed is largely to be determined by the Engineers and they recommend a channel rectification and straightening and a system of bank revetments and planting of willows to protect the banks and keeping clear of debris, obstructions and willows in the bed of the river or on its bars where it is apt to deflect the course of the river.

The District will probably be in a position to furnish the necessary easements and rights of way in cooperation with the State of California, and will endeavor to work out a reasonable plan for the maintenance of said construction and to keep the Federal Government free from damage.

This Committee has made no particular study of the possibility of dams in the upper regions of the river to control flood damage on the lower Eel River and recommends that flood protection in the Eel River Delta be given first priority.

FE (5 Sept. 1947) Let's Go Fishing—Centerville beach is attracting more regular fishermen than any one specific area with hundreds of surf fishermen, their families and spectators all enjoying the beach over the weekend. Beginning Saturday afternoon, hundreds of pounds of smelt were dipped from the surf each day through Tuesday...

FE (9 Sept. 1947) Let's Go Fishing—Centerville Beach is the high key of sports fishing here with literally tons of surf fish being taken there over the weekend. All day fish now...

FE (20 Feb. 1948) Ranch, Farm Leaders Seek University Aid on County's 1948 Agricultural Program—Meeting in Eureka Friday, several hundred Humboldt county farmers and ranchers outlined a program of development for county agriculture for 1948. Their comprehensive program will be presented to the agriculture extension service for assistance....Five major phases  
1) improvement of livestock, dairy cattle, beef and sheep, Joe Russ chair



- 2) improvement of general farming conditions, including poultry and bulb growing, F.L. Real, chair
- 3) dairying, Felix Zana chair
- 4) 4-H Club activities, Louie Pontoni, chair
- 5) home and rural life improvement, Mrs. Ruth Barnes, chair

FE (9 Sept. 1949) Photo Spectacular Fire Destroys Centerville Beach Landmark, 200 Tons of Hay....The above photograph, taken at 4 a.m. Saturday morning at the "high barn" near Centerville shows two of the frustrated firemen who were unable to do anything at the early morning fire....

Fire which broke out sometime during Friday night completely destroyed the Russ barn which stood near the ocean beach on the Russ marsh for some 35 years or more. The barn, landmark in the Eel River delta area, known as the "high barn," was only recently filled with 200 tons of chopped hay to be used for winter feed of Russ-Connick stock brought into their feed pastures in the delta. The hay had been causing critical temperatures but tests over a period of two weeks had not indicated it would burst into spontaneous combustion. Its temperature had dropped only a day or so before the fire which has been definitely attributed to spontaneous combustion.

The huge pile of hay, located in the forward high structure of the barn was still burning this week. The barn itself had a value probably in excess of \$10,000 and the hay had an estimated worth of \$5000. The loss was partially covered by insurance.

Heavy fog shrouded the blaze and made it barely visible from Centerville, a mile away. Charles Manzi, operating the Shaw ranch at Centerville, was the first to discover the blaze as he prepared to start milking about 3:30 a.m. Saturday morning. At first believing it was the barn at the Pries place, he hurried to his neighbors to awaken them. Joined by Tony and Henry Pries, they turned in the alarm, then met the fire truck at Russ Lane at Fern Cottage to guide the men across the field to the blaze. Firemen arriving a few moments later were at a loss to know where the blaze was or to find it if they did, since it was entirely obscured by the fog.

Arriving at the blazing barn, it was found beyond help and the firefighting equipment ordered back to Ferndale. The blaze at that time covered the entire building, an area of about 60 feet by 100 feet and shot high into the air. No other structures were near the big storage barn.

FE (7 Oct. 1949) [Centerville Beach dedicatory ceremony Oct. 16, first public beach pack in area; acquired by County.]

FE (9 Dec. 1949) Mr. and Mrs. Harris Connick left yesterday, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. James Cook of Petrolia to attend the Cattlemen's Association meeting in S.F.

FE (9 Dec. 1949) [John Connick celebrated 7<sup>th</sup> birthday; Virginia and Tommie were present and others]

FE (2 June 1950) Sunday afternoon of last week, Mr. and Mrs. Harris Connick entertained a number of their guests from all sections of the county at a tea at their home on Shaw Ave. [long list of guests]

FE (3 Nov. 1950) Worst Storm in History Isolate Ferndale Area--An official report in Eureka listed over 5 inches in one 24 hour period. An unofficial record at Centerville totaled 9 inches for the period from Wednesday night to Sunday night.

FE (16 Feb. 1951) Red Bluff Bulls Bring High Prices—10<sup>th</sup> annual Red Bluff Bull Sale record-smashing three days; 295 Hereford bulls selling for an all-time high total of \$454,760. The sensational average of \$1,316 per head is unprecedented for any consignment sale ever held anywhere in the world. Humboldt ranchers on the buyer's for Saturday included the Russ-Connick Co., which purchased one Hereford bull from Herbert Chandler of Baker, Oregon for \$3,250 [ long articles on bulls and prices paid]

FE (11 May 1951) Virginia Connick observed her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday recently with a party at the home of her parents the Harris Connicks; John and Tommy Connick there.

FE (31 Aug. 1951) County Cattle Plan Field Day at Rohner Tomorrow—The Field Day and Barbecue of the Humboldt County Cattlemen's Association will be held tomorrow....Jack Rice of Scotia is the program chair with Prescott Branstetter of Singley Hill as his assistant. Wm. O. Perry will be in charge of barbecuing 600 pounds of steer beef. Other committeemen are Joseph Russ, Jr., Harris Connick, Knowles Clark, G.L. Speier and James Cook.

FE (7 Dec. 1951) One storm casualty during the week came with the high waves on Centerville beach which broke through the sand dunes and dikes at the Russ-Connick property near the mouth of Eel River. The break poured salt water over an estimated 200 acres of valuable reclaimed pasture land.

A fairly high tide along with the gale of Tuesday morning and the high breakers which continued long after the storm subsided broke through protecting sand and dikes for a distance of about 200 feet.

FE (11 Jan. 1952) Harris Connick of this city was elected president of the Area Council, Camp Fire Girls....Mr. Connick has been particularly active in administration of the youth organizations in the county, serving in other offices for the past several years.

FE (18 April 1952) Mr. and Mrs. Harris Connick and children, Virginia, John, and Tommy went by plane to Portland to visit Mr. and Mrs. Scott Smith. Mrs. Connick and Mrs. Smith are sisters.

FE (16 May 1952) Fourth birthday for Tommy Connick.

FE (23 Dec. 1944) Worst Flood—Felix Zana lost 150 head; 300 head of dairy stock were brought out of the Riverside Ranch; driven to fair grounds.

FE (30 Dec. 1955) Three photos. Members of rescue team and their boat wait for second boat to return from Occidental Ranch with Felix Zana family. Group stands on Russ Lane. Cross fence in distance is where lane turns left to Russ Willow barn.

Boat from Occidental with Felix Zana family. Charlie Zana standing after getting out boat, maybe 10-12 years old. Claude Sweet, Russ-Connick ranch overseer gazes off in direction of flooded Frank Latham barn a half mile distance, photo Dec. 22.

Photo on another page: Partially submerged dairy barn for Frank Latham herd just north of Fern Cottage at Centerville. Photo taken from Russ Lane, ½ mile from barn, flood nearing peak 4 p.m. 22 Dec.

Photo on another page: A rescue boat is met by willing helpers as it comes into shallow water on the Centerville road (at old Ferndale Creamery on Jespersion ranch). Another photo: bringing out Tony Pries and sons.; wife swimming out horse.

FE (6 Jan. 1956) Camp Weott, county-owned fishing camp at the mouth of Eel River, may have received its death blow in the December flood. With the destruction of at least 17 cabins, the loss of a cable pedestrian bridge, bank protection, boat float docks and a water well and storage tank, county authorities are not likely to invest more county money in the property nor are any of the former cabin owners talking about rebuilding....

FE (13 Jan. 1956) Virginia Connick, a student at the Katherine Branson School for Girls at [Marin?], spent the Christmas holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harris Connick in Ferndale.

FE (13 Jan. 1956) Late in the afternoon the group [rescuers during flood] was moved to Centerville where they arrived at the Tony Pries' dairy almost simultaneously with his call for help. Never before flooded and apparently safe until afternoon, the flood raised two feet an hour at Centerville when it began to pour into that area pushed by an extra high tide...landed safely on the Centerville road where the old Ferndale Creamery building still stands.

FE (20 Jan. 1956) [lot of damage Camp Weott was from debris rather than high water]

FE (23 March 1956) Long article and photos regarding Camp Weott, including history

FE (6 July 1956) Mr. and Mrs. H.D. Connick have returned to Fern Cottage following a several months' day in the bay area.

FE (21 Dec. 1956) Navy Project at Centerville Now Beehive Busy

FE (24 July 1959) Obit Mrs. Harris Connick, former Mary Harriet Hine; funeral Christ Episcopal Church, Eureka; died in Eureka hospital following an extended illness; burial Ferndale; memorials to Cancer Society; born 3 Sept. 1913 in Eureka; graduated from Stanford University in 1934 with BA in economics. On 3 June 1939 married to Harris Russ Connick; worked in publicity department of S.F. exposition at Treasure Island in 1939 and resided in SF 3 years after her marriage; member PTA, Village Club, Board of Trustees of Ferndale Library; Camp Fire work and Cub and Boy Scouts; Republican Women; member Pioneer Hunter family. Survived by husband, daughter Virginia Russ Connick, sons John Adams and Thomas DeHaven Connick

of Ferndale; parents Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Hine, Palo Alto and sister Mrs. Scott L. Smith, Portland; nephews.

FE (21 Dec. 1962) Alonzo Rusk Rites—Word was received late yesterday that Alonzo Rusk for many years a Ferndale dairyman until his retirement some years ago, had died at his home in Garberville.

FE (28 Dec. 1962) Alonzo Rusk Buried Here Last Saturday—Burial Ferndale cemetery, serving as pallbearers Claude Sweet and Felix Zana and others; lived with son and daughter-in-law for several years at Redway; born 13 June 1859 in Springfield, Illinois; came west with parents when he was age 1; settled outside Portland, OR. In 1890 he came to California, bringing the first wagon and livestock over the Oregon Mountain, stopping for remainder of winter in Crescent Citty. Came to Ferndale area in the spring. Worked as contractor and bridge builder, built church steeples and later worked for Humboldt County. Mr. Rusk made his home at the Occidental ranch starting Dec. 1919, where he resided for 35 years; later lived in Fortuna and for past 1 ½ year in Garberville.

FE (25 Dec. 1964, Friday) Worst Flood—Marked in the beginning by a warning Dec. 21 of a moderate 22-foot high water at Fernbridge, few residents of the Eel River Valley believed they were in for more than a normal winter freshet. An additional warning to Weott and Myers Flat people to leave their homes did no more than create mild apprehension here. But revised flood warnings—always upward—followed quickly until by 11 p.m. Dec. 21, most delta residents knew it was to be “worse than 1955.”

It was worse. In this writer’s studied opinion, the loss in property is three times as great, the loss in lives four times greater than 1955, Dec. 21, 1955....Until then the worst disaster to strike Ferndale in the memory of men. In 1955, the flood peaked at 27.7 feet at Fernbridge gauge. It reached an all-time high of 65 feet at the Scotia Bridge. It was the “once-in-a-lifetime” flood disaster.

Yet nine years later to the day, the Eel rose two feet higher than ever before. Cliff Detlefsen at Fernbridge took the final official reading of the Fernbridge flood gauge at 9 p.m. Dec. 22. It had then reached 29.1 feet, water entered Humboldt Creamery buildings and closed off the Fernbridge approach to the bridge until midnight when temporary devices indicated a height of 29.5 feet was the peak....At the same time an unofficial measure at Scotia Bridge placed the height there at eight feet above any previous mark—a record of 83 feet.

FE (25 Dec. 1964) Toward the West—Mrs. Albert Albertini warned Centerville Road residents at 7:30 a.m. Monday [21<sup>st</sup>] that the dike at Max Sherman’s was about to go under. This would permit more water into the lower Centerville area although the major flood effect at Centerville comes with a combination of high tide and high water. This was reached Tuesday night when a 7.2-foot tide, plus the 28-foot flood pushed water further into Centerville than ever before. The road was out nearest Ferndale a few feet past the old Ferndale Creamery building just beyond the Jespersen (now Tony Pries home). The Petersen place, now leased by Eddie Machado, had water beginning to seep in at the back door. This was about two feet higher than it had been in 1955....

Tony Nunes...drove his pickup through the waters of the Pries (now Russ Creek ranch) lane to the Machado barn, bringing the marooned family to his home for the night....

The road was closed west of Nunes. Frank, Julius and Amelia Moranda had moved to the Jack Halley home in Ferndale on Monday. They had remained in the Centerville home for the 1955 flood. The '55 flood was in the house a foot. This year it was three feet deep in the same place....

Eel River's mouth appeared Dec. 26 to be about two miles wide, extending southward. The sand dunes appeared to have been flattened for an additional mile to the south. The entire distance of two miles on Dec. 26 appeared subject to overflow at high tide. One section about directly west of the Occidental ranch was deep enough to form a new channel if scouring conditions continued.

The Russ Creek ranch dairy barn at Centerville had disappeared completely by the morning of Dec. 23. Approximately a 120-cow barn, it had been rebuilt after a partial collapse in 1955 when Tony Pries operated it as a dairy. In 1955 the flood almost covered the barn windows. This week it had passed that point and wind-driven breakers were pushing onto the roof several hours before the flood peak. The barn, now owned by Joseph Russ, was sighted a half mile east where it had floated, a complete wreck.

The Russ-Connick Willow Barn appears to be badly wrecked. Other Russ barns, once situated along the inside of the sand dunes, appear to have floated to new locations, but may be intact.

Barns on the Occidental Ranch, two mile north and nearest the river mouth, were destroyed. Felix Zana brought out his dairy herd prior to the flooding, but lost most of his young stock and considerable fish and equipment. The Occidental was reported all clear Wednesday morning when John Berti came in from helping....

Joe A. Mendes of the Riverside Ranch lost a big dairy barn and a feed barn and an undetermined number of animals.

FE (8 Jan. 1965) Photos of flood—Waves from four to five feet high were commonplace in the vast sea covering the delta from the Wildcat foothills to Table Bluff.

FE (22 Jan. 1965) Levees Given O.K. By U.S. Engineers—General Wilson...added that the flow of more than 700,000 cubic feet per second at the mouth of Eel River was three-fourths as great as the greatest flood that ever came down the Columbia River. The only way you can manage this kind of force is through a system of engineered structures which would be a combination of upstream reservoirs, channel improvements, and levee system for areas requiring specialized protection. [when asked "would improved forestry practices have prevented this flood?" replied vehemently that they would not.]

FE (6 Jan. 1966) Obit Harris D. Connick, died 28 Dec. 1965; services in S.F.; burial in Oakland; native of Eureka; survived by wife Edythe of 1408 Hawthorne Terrace, Berkeley; brother Walter of Oakland; son Harris R. Connick of Ferndaler, grandchildren Mrs. Phil Dwight (Virginia), John and Tom Connick; two great grandchildren.

Chief director of the 1939 World's Fair; graduate engineer of Stanford class of 1897; served as Chief Designer of the S.F. sewer system and as chief assistant city engineer of S.F. shortly after turn-of-century.

He was in charge of the construction and operation of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in 1915, when acres of swamp and marsh lands were filled in what is now the Marina District for the exposition site.

He was appointed chief director of the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition, a post he held for more than a year. He was president of Associated Music Publishers, finance chairman for Famoas-Players-Lasky and a director of several national public utilities companies. A member of American Association of Civil Engineers and the Bohemian Club in S.F. Married former Edythe Russ and was a frequent visitor in the area. He was also active in the management of Russ-Connick properties here.

FE (3 March 1966) Final Rites Held for Mrs. H. Connick—Edythe Connick died in Berkeley Feb. 25. Native of Ferndale; aged 92; wife of late Harris DeHaven Connick; burial Ferndale cemetery; services at Citizens Mortuary.

Following her marriage, the couple made their home in the Bay area for most of their lives and were prominent in the economic and social development of that district. Both were frequent visitors to this county and in recent years had spent much time at Fern Cottage, the Russ family home. Preceded in death by husband who died early January of this year. Surviving are Harris Russ Connick of Ferndale, grandchildren Mrs. Phillip Dwight of Montague and a sister Mrs. Bertha Lytel [family history of Russ children given in obit]

FE (11 Sept. 1969) Obit Claude Sweet, died Sept. 2; died at Fern Cottage where he had been employed for over 60 years. Born Dec. 30, 1886 at Grizzly Bluff. Mr. Sweet lived his entire life in Humboldt County; preceded in death by wife, Mildred; leaves one son Francis Sweet, Ferndale, three grandchildren, Connie Gale, Becky Lynn and Sandra Lee Sweet, all of Ferndale; three sisters Mrs. Margaret Washburn, Turlock; Mrs. Iola Young, Placerville; Mrs. Bertha Fox, Shingle Springs; sister-in-law Mrs. Jane Sweet; aunt Mrs. Bertha Russ Lytel; pallbearers included Francis Bugenig; Lutheran service, buried Ferndale cemetery.

FE (30 Oct. 1993) Obit Felix A. Zana, age 79, died 15 Oct. at his home in Ferndale; born Port Kenyon; survived by wife of 50 years, Dora Zana, sons Charles and Pam Zana of Fortuna; daughter Louise and Robe Acheson, Washington. He owned and operated his own dairy ranch for many years retiring in 1978. [more]

FE (20 Oct. 1994) Obit John A. Connick, 51, native of Eureka; resident of Ferndale all his life; graduate of Ferndale High School. He was self-employed as a cattle and sheep rancher his entire working life. Descendant of the Hunter, Hine and Russ families. Member state and local Cattlemen's and Wool Growers Associations and Farm Bureau.

John will be fondly remembered as a self-educated historian by any who visited with him; survived by father, brother Tom (Patty) of Santa Rosa; sister Virginia (Phil) Dwight. He was uncle of Lawrence and Marcell Dwight, Mariette and Wally Coppini, Tom Connick; special family friends Jack and Linda Russ; his special companion, dog Shorty; memorial services at Fern Cottage; burial Ferndale cemetery.

FE (1 Nov. 1994) Obit Harris Russ Connick; died 28 Oct. 1994 in Ferndale; age 82; descendent of Russ and Connick families who were among the early settlers of Humboldt county.

Born in San Francisco; graduate of Princeton and held a graduate degree from Harvard. Lived and worked in San Francisco before moving to Ferndale in early 1940s, where he worked as a rancher for over forty years. He was the owner of Connick Livestock Company.

Actively involved in the livestock industry, he was a member of the Cattlemen's Association, Wool Growers Association, and the Farm Bureau. He was also interested in community activities, including the Lytel Foundation, Repertory Theatre and had been a member of the construction advisory committee for the Humboldt County Library. Long time member of Ingomar Club. Survived by daughter Virginia and Phil Dwight of Ferndale; his son Tom and Patty Connick of Santa Rosa; grandchildren Lawrence and Marcell Dwight, Arcata; Mariette and Wally Coppini, Ferndale; Tom Connick, Mesa, Arizona; stepson Denton Foster and family of Cottonwood; step-daughter Becky Rodriguez and her family of Austin, Texas. Preceded in death by son John Connick, Ferndale; his wife of 20 years Mary Hine Connick; and his second wife M. Odell Connick. Private family memorial services have been held; Contributions to Hospice, Humboldt Home Health Service or Humboldt County Library building fund.

T-S (27 Nov. 1997) Obit Francis Bugenig; died 25 Nov. 1997. Born 22 Jan. 1915 to William and Anna [Jennie] Bugenig in Arcata; he was one of 12 children—eight boys and four girls. He grew up on a dairy ranch in McKinleyville and went to school there. Instead of going to high school, Francie (as he was known) chose to start working on livestock ranches. He first worked for some of the Hunt family. Soon after that he had a job working on several ranches owned by the Tooby Brothers. For over 50 years, he worked for the Russ and Connick families.

In the 1960s he and his wife inherited a cattle ranch located between Bridgeville and Blocksburg. His family still operates it and has many happy times out there.

As a young man, Francie's greatest joy was participating in rodeos. He loved to ride bulls and bucking horses and also did some roping. In later years, he liked to break colts and train stock dogs. He and his dogs won prizes several times at the wool growers picnic at Fortuna. He also entered horses he had broken in hackamore and stock horse classes at local fairs and rodeos. After he retired from working for ranchers, other than himself, he worked for Lee Mora at the Humboldt Auction Yard. He sometimes worked in the ring, and also hauled livestock to the sale with his little truck. This, he enjoyed a lot.

He leaves to mourn his passing, his loving wife of 56 years, Phyllis, and seven children, Marilyn Phillips of Arizona; Jane Trolard of Illinois; Nancy Hawes, Millville; and Jerry, Lawrence and Clarence B. and Barbara Hunt, all living in Humboldt County; eight grandchildren [listed]; one brother and sister]; preceded in death by brothers Clarence, Louie, Joe, Fred, Lawrence, Billy and sister, Sister Ann Bugenig and a tiny baby.

[Perry Family Tree, Ancestry.com: Francis was born Dows Prairie to William Bugenig, born Austria in 1874; died Arcata, 24 July 1940; William to U.S. in 1888 at age 14; William's wife Jennie Bugenig born May 1884 in Austria; died Arcata 21 Dec. 1946; came to US. 1905 at age 21; family lived in Union township. William's father was Peter Sr. Bugenig, Austria, born 1843; died in Arcata in 1914. Peter's wife was born Austria in 1844; died Arcata 1904. Francis married Phyllis Perry. 1940 Census, Francis was working at Garberville as ranch hand, age 25]

T-S (17 Dec. 2008) Obit Phyllis Bugenig, daughter of Ethel and William Perry; born Ferndale 13 March 1920; married to Francis Bugenig for 56 years; family homesteaded Blocksburg area; went to Santa Barbara State College; very active in rodeo activities; Cowbells, ranch life; seven children; died at Sequoia Springs in Fortuna.

T-S (13 Jan. 2010) Obit Joseph Charles Grinsell; born 11 May 1929; died 8 Jan. 2010; born Ferndale; married Blanche Lanini, who died in 2009; very involved in fire department, golfing; five children; dairied on his ranch on Centerville Road in 1963; son Jim and Susan Grinsell.

## Interviews

### Interviews with Tom Connick

**Introduction:** Tom Connick, grandson of Edythe Russ Connick, and great grandson of the first Joseph Russ, lives in Santa Rosa. His father, Harris Russ Connick, was born in San Francisco, graduated from Princeton and held a graduate degree from Harvard. He lived and worked in San Francisco before moving to Ferndale in 1942, when he traded city-life business for ranching, which he pursued for more than forty years as owner of Connick Livestock Company. Harris was actively involved in the livestock industry as a member of the Cattlemen's Association, Wool Growers Association and the Farm Bureau. But he was also interested in community activities, including the Bertha Russ Lytel Foundation, Repertory Theater and Humboldt County Library (Ferndale *Enterprise* 1 Nov. 1994). His son, Tom, negotiated the sale of the ranch from the family trusts to the Conservancy in 2008. The "interviews" were conducted via emails in November 2013.

**Interviews:** The two feeds barns, designated North and South, were located on the dunes because the dune promontory assures good winter drainage and the dunes are usually warmer and more protected than the marsh during storms. Hay was delivered to the barns during the summer from the fields across the slough and during winter, access was for the most part from Centerville beach. The North Barn was almost totally destroyed in the 1964 flood. The silo base on the beach between the two barns was deposited there with the '64 flood.

The big barn, that was located north of the Quonset Hut and is no longer standing, was a large dairy barn, but was later used as a feed barn with hay stored in the middle section and feeding on both sides. The ranch used to make silage and store and feed out of the two silos, which were on the outside of the barn with access into the barn between the two silos. The barn was destroyed in the '64 flood, the only thing left after the flood was the east silo that fell over around 2000.

The Quonset Hut was for grain storage, oats? [actually it was barley]. They had a machine to roll the grain for cattle feed. The Conservancy's headquarters was the potato shed. It was built to handle potatoes grown on parts of both Fern Cottage and the Occidental ranches. Part of that building was a semi-open equipment shed and closed-in shop. The nearby corrals were used for two purposes, sheep and cattle. There is a sheep dipping vat for controlling foot rot, was located behind the scale. Cattle were marked and treated for various ailments using the corrals and squeeze chute. The east corrals were for sheep; the west for cattle.



The oldest flood gates go back to the original reclamation in 1886. The present flood gates now being used were built in the mid 1970s. The old flood gates are a little distance to the east of the present gates under a thicket of shrubs (email Tom Connick, 5 Nov. 2013).

A subsequent email from Connick included aerial photos of the South and North barns and the big barn (Willow Barn) north of the Quonset Hut after the 1964 flood (email 10 Nov. 2013). Two other photos were provided in a 25 Nov. 2013 email: the South Barn under reconstruction and an aerial showing the North Barn and Scotia Duck Club cabin just off to the north of a bend in Cut Off Slough, probably in the very southwestern corner of Section 29, 3N2W. He dated these last two photos as November 1948.

### **Interview with Virginia Connick Dwight**

**Introduction:** Interviewed by phone, 14 Dec. 2013, 786-4735 or cell 498-4735. Husband, Phil, also provided info. Virginia, who lives in Ferndale, is the daughter of Harris Russ Connick and Mary Harriet Hine and granddaughter of Edythe Russ and great granddaughter of the first Joseph Russ. Her brother, the late John Connick, was a cattle and sheep rancher his entire working life and knew the Connick ranch from childhood forward. In noting his untimely passing at age 51, the newspaper said "John will be fondly remembered as a self-educated historian by any who visited with him." His survivors included his father, brother Tom Connick, and sister Virginia Dwight, and his "special companion, dog Shorty," (Ferndale *Enterprise* 20 Oct. 1994). Virginia was interviewed by phone on 14 Dec. 2013.

**Interview:** The South Barn was called the Beach Barn. She confirmed that it is the rebuilt barn from an earlier barn that burned. The North Barn is much older and recalled that her husband, Phil Dwight, worked on its repair, shoring it up, after the '64 flood. She said that John would have known about the barns.

Virginia said the Quonset Hut was put there by the gun club after the '55 flood. Harry Hine, her grandfather, and Bob Gardner were involved with the club at that time. They grew barley on the ranch and used the Hut for threshing it out.

She said there were two Occidental ranches, the one down from Port Kenyon, which was owned by Bertha Russ Lytel and the other was the Connick ranch. She thought the buildings at the dairy were destroyed in the '55 flood. The Connick ranch ran lots of sheep, perhaps 1000-2000 feeder lambs fattened on grass for several months before they went to market. The cow-calf operation involved about 120 pair.

The potatoes were marketed to Laura Scudder for potato chips, but potato cultivation also conditioned the soil. The Preserve headquarters was the potato shed. It housed conveyors that and bins for sorting the potatoes. Charlie Davy was involved in the potato business with the Connicks. She emphasized that there were two different companies, the Russ-Connick partnership between her father, Harris Russ Connick, and his mother, Edythe Connick. Then there was Connick Livestock, involving her immediate family. Her father, Harris Russ Connick, came up in 1941 to run the ranch and thousands of sheep.

## Interview with Lou Bugenig

**Introduction:** Interviewed by phone, Ferndale, 834-1064 on 18 Dec. 2013. Francis Bugenig, Lou's father, was a long-time employee of the Russ and Connick families. Born 22 Jan. 1915 at Dows Prairie to William and Jennie Bugenig, natives of Austria, Francis was a rancher all his adult life. He was married to Phyllis Perry about 1941 and they were the parents of seven children. Francis was working as a ranch hand in southern Humboldt in 1940 and perhaps that is where he met Phyllis, whose family homesteaded in the Blocksburg area (Perry Family Tree, online; *Times-Standard* 17 Dec. 2008). After his retirement, Francis and Phyllis moved to Hydesville, where this author interviewed them in 1986 while preparing the Fern Cottage District National Register nomination.

Francis Bugenig...was one of twelve children—eight boys and four girls. He grew up on a dairy ranch in McKinleyville and went to school there. Instead of going to high school, Francie (as he was known) chose to start working on livestock ranches. He first worked for some of the Hunt family. Soon after that he had a job working on several ranches owned by the Tooby Brothers. For over 50 years he worked for the Russ and Connick families.

As a young man, Francie's greatest joy was participating in rodeos. He loved to ride bulls and bucking horses and also did some roping. In later years, he liked to break colts and train stock dogs. He and his dogs won prizes several times at the Wool Growers picnic at Fortuna. He also entered horses he had broken in hackamore and stock horse classes at local fairs and rodeos.... (*Times-Standard* 27 Nov. 1997)

**Interview:** Francis Bugenig worked for the Russ Co. until it was broken up and then for the Connicks from 1943 until 1976-77. The family moved to the Sanctum, across the Centerville Road from Fern Cottage, when Lou was four-years-old, about 1955 or '56.

Stock was fed hay out of the two feed barns located inside the dunes. He recalled that on one occasion when they had calves penned up at the South Barn, they had a problem with scours, so the calves were put out in the field, where they were fed, using a tractor and wagon kept at the barn. During the '64 flood, every bale of hay was washed out of this barn and scattered on the beach. At the North Barn, the hay remained inside but was ruined by the water. They fed in this barn. Lou said the stepped-roof design of the North Barn indicates that it is older than the South Barn. The duck club cabin nearby belonged to the Scotia Duck Club, whose membership consisted of Ferndale people. He mentioned Joseph Grinsell as one of the active members and suggested speaking with his son, Jim, about the club.

Charlie Davy lived at the Sanctum and had a sharecrop arrangement with the Connicks to raise potatoes in early 1950s. The potato shed is now the Conservancy's headquarters. The Quonset Hut housed the mechanism for rolling the barley, raised on the ranch and sacked in the field. After it was rolled, it was re-sacked and stored in the large barn nearby—the Willow Barn—no longer standing. The barley was calf feed.

The feeder lambs, brought to the ranch in April or May, were grass fed until they went to market in the fall. He estimated they pastured 4000-5000 lambs, some brought in from Mazeppa, where they ran about 1500 ewes and from What Cheer, 700-800 ewes. Others were purchased at Ukiah and Dixon. Even on grass, the lambs put on two-thirds of a pound of weight per day, so in

four or five months they were ready for the market. He felt the feeder lamb business was marginal and beef cattle eventually became the main operation on the ranch.

The Willow Barn, the large barn just north of the Quonset Hut, is no longer standing. He did not know when this barn was built, but said Claude Sweet was a carpenter and built barns and such for the Russ/Connick family. He suggested talking with Claude's son, Francis Sweet, who lives at Petrolia on a ranch formerly owned by Bertha Russ Lytel.

### **Interview with Francis Sweet**

**Introduction:** Interviewed 20 Dec. 2013 by phone from Petrolia, 629-3346. Eighty-year-old Francis Sweet, son of Mildred Larsen and Claude Sweet, lives and ranches at Petrolia. His grandfather, Charles Sweet, worked for the Russ family, first at Fern Cottage from about 1888 to 1904 and then from 1905 until 1919, when he leased the Occidental Dairy. Claude Sweet's obituary said that he died at Fern Cottage where he had been employed for over sixty years and was survived by his son, Francis Sweet, and three grandchildren, all of Ferndale; three sisters and his aunt Mrs. Bertha Russ Lytel (*Ferndale Enterprise* 11 Sept. 1969), Francis was interviewed by phone from Petrolia on 20 Dec. 2013,

**Interview:** His father, Claude Sweet, worked for the Russ family before the division of the ranch in 1942, when the Russ-Connick Co. took over what became the Connick Ranch and now incorporated into the Preserve. After the division, Claude went to the McBride Ranch [William Russ' daughter, Dorothy Viola and her husband Rex McBride had this ranch] at Salmon Creek, but during his years with the Russ company, he did just about anything, including construction of barns and lambing sheds on the Fort Baker Ranch and ranches at Bear River, but not on the Connick Ranch.

Francis worked for Harris Connick from 1951 until 1962, doing general ranch work. Connick ran a cow-calf operation, usually keeping the calves over winter until they reached about 900 pounds, feeding silage and rolled barley. He agreed that the South Barn burned and was rebuilt. He recalled riding his horse in winter to feed two-year-old steers at these barns. The stock was not enclosed, but on pasture, coming to the barns when he arrived to put out hay. He explained that the two feed barns were placed adjacent to the dunes because that provided a higher, drier place than the marshes and since cattle were scattered throughout the ranch, almost to the mouth of Eel River, the barns were located where the cattle were.

Harris Connick had Hereford cattle, but, like many, gradually switched to Angus. In addition to his grade cows, he kept a purebred Hereford herd of 45-50 cows, complete with ear tags and pedigree records. Francis recalls that he sold bulls from this herd, Harold Prior being one of the purchasers. Calves born at the Petrolia ranch, where Harris kept about 100 cows, from a 40-50 cow-herd at Mazeppa and from cows at What Cheer, were brought to the Connick Ranch after weaning. The feeder lamb operation included some from Bear Ridge ranches, but these were shipped directly to market. Most of the feeder lambs were purchased locally, brought to the ranch for four or five months, then sent to market. He mentioned a Eureka market which selected 45-50 lambs periodically for slaughter. He thought Harris Connick continued his lamb business until maybe the late 1960s, Francis recalling that he came to the ranch to shear about five years after he left in 1962.

Francis said that in 1951-52, the Connicks farmed about 70 acres of potatoes. When they were looking for laborers to pack the potatoes, he drove Harris, who had injured his knee and was unable to drive, to recruit Indian workers from Table Bluff, Alton, and Rohnerville. As a result about 40 men and women showed up. Family names he could recall readily included Keiser, Sherman, Thomas, Moon, James and Bill Seidner. What is now the headquarters office and equipment storage building was the potato shed, where the potatoes were mechanically sorted by size, followed by hand sorting to pick out spoiled potatoes. He mentioned Charlie Davy as the person who convinced Harris to raise potatoes. He said the potatoes went south to a plant that made Blue Bird potato chips.

During his time on the ranch, they raised about 75 acres of barley, which was mashed or rolled by the mechanism still present at the rear of the Quonset Hut. This sacked feed was stored and fed out of four barns—one on the hill south of the ranch, the creek barn behind Fern Cottage, the Green Barn to the east of Russ Lane at its terminus, and the Willow Barn, the big barn no longer standing but located just north of the Quonset Hut.

When he left the Connick Ranch in 1962, Francis worked for the Division of Highways, now Caltrans, for about twenty years, retiring in 1983 and returning to the Petrolia ranch the following year. He had sheep as a kid and, unlike most sheep growers who got out of the business because of poor markets and predators, Francis runs about 300 ewes, plus 125 cows on his 1540 acres, half of which is in timber. In the past he never saw coyotes, but can now operate only because of his dogs. He said that in one night a coyote can kill 40 lambs, not so much for food, but as part of the chase. This year he sold all his lambs locally with the help of Jill Hackett. He reported on the night of the interview that they were in the midst of lambing. It's a three-man operation—Francis, his grandson, and another fellow Francis' age. [Lots of work for a youngun and two oldsters!]

### **Interview with Brian Muessig**

**Introduction:** Brian is 82 and was a caretaker at Fern Cottage for some years and was there in 1986 when I was working on the Fern Cottage National Register nomination. He lives at 311 Lawson Lane, Ferndale, 786-9556. Interviewed by phone 31 Dec. 2013.

**Interview:** There was the Occidental Ranch and the Occidental Dairy. Connick ended up with the ranch, where they raised cattle, but there were no buildings. The school house in the apple orchard, which Joseph Russ built for his children after they outgrew the school room over the master bedroom in Fern Cottage, was dragged down to Occidental Ranch and used for the duck club. That school house was built across the creek at north end on east side of creek. Duck Club was started by Harry Hine, Mary Hine Connick's father. Her mother was Grace Hunter Hine. Family home was on the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and F in Eureka, diagonally across intersection from the Municipal Auditorium. Harris Connick had an abstract which listed lots of little duck hunting preserves. The only person he recalled as working for the Russ family was Charlie Larsen. The Willow Barn was on Bertha Russ Lytel's property. He didn't know anything about the South and North barns or the Scale inside the building at the corrals. He suggested talking with Jim

Morrison who is the attorney for the Bertha Russ Lytel Foundation and holder of the Occidental Dairy property.

### **Interview with Jim Grinsell**

**Introduction:** Jim owns the liquor store in Ferndale. Jim was born 1952. His father was Joseph Grinsell. Interviewed by phone 20 Dec. 2013, 786-9590.

**Interview:** The family was not involved in the Centerville Duck Club, but the Scotia Duck Club. The cabin there burned down 20 years ago. That was his father's club. When Jim was growing up, we were always down there. Club started early 1900s. At one time that land was on a proposed Centerville Plank and Railroad Co. to cross mouth of river to Eureka for shipping from Petrolia to Eureka. He doesn't know how Scotia got into it.

His father Joseph got involved in Scotia Duck Club through his father-in-law, Louie Lanini [died March 1979] about 1948. Cabin was right on dunes. They drilled under dunes and came up with water. They didn't flood ponds, but hunted the canals, ditches and sloughs. They called one area the bath tub across dike; all tide water. They fished at flood gates and caught perch and Jack smelt. They stopped hunting there in 1970s. Cabin was built by Prof Blum, first superintendent at Ferndale High School. Opened in 1918. It was a log cabin. They accessed cabin by going up the Centerville Beach, turned right about 200 yards to cabin. Inside cabin were wood stove, sink, fireplace on one wall and bunk beds for sleeping 10 people. He said they kept hay in the beach barns. Mentioned Lee Tomasini, five years younger as a contact.

### **Interview with Brandon Larson**

**Introduction:** Brandon is an engineer with Caltrans. Referral from Jamie. Interviewed 18 Dec. 2013 by phone at Caltrans office, Eureka.

**Interview:** Brandon is president of the Centerville Duck Club. It was organized in 1954 and moved McBride property on south bay to the Russ property. The room on back of Quonset hut was built in late 1950s or early 1960s. Gun club started on McBride property in 1908; Eel River Gun Club, mid 1970s. At Centerville, they pump water from an artesian well for flooding ponds dug out of agricultural land in 50s and 60s. Pump and well are due west of club house. There are five ponds, ranging in size from 20 yards to 75 yards in diameter. He referred me to John Wenzler, who has left the Centerville Club after the Conservancy took over, but had been in the club for 40-50 years.

### **Interview with John Wenzler**

**Introduction:** Interviewed John Wenzler at his home by phone 442-5502 on 19 Dec. 2013.

**Interview:** He is the oldest member of the club. He did not know when the club room at the west end of the Quonset hut was built. They had farm tools and equipment in the hut. Adjacent to hut about 50 feet north were big circular silos; they were not successful. Top of silo removed. He was a member of the club on the McBride property. He was invited to join the

ranch club at Centerville. There is an article about the Centerville Duck Club in the Humboldt Historian [Trichilo, Fall 2007].

John's father belonged to duck club at Brainards during W II; they flooded 5 acres with fresh water. At Centerville there are two major ponds, 3-4 acres in size adjacent to each other; installed blinds on two other natural ponds. Located north of Quonset hut, two gates to get to them. The well is about 1000 feet from Quonset hut. It is adjacent to smaller of the two ponds.