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### Drive Through Arcata Bottom Interview With Ike Moxon (2004)

Susie Van Kirk

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**DRIVE THROUGH ARCATA BOTTOM  
INTERVIEW WITH  
IKE MOXON  
FEBRUARY 3, 2004**

Ike drove and Susie took notes. We started out by trying to identify the remaining dairies on the Bottom: 1. Cardoza (Masonic Lodge property on Jackson Ranch Road, formerly Richard Moxon's place; 2. John and Jack Mason's on Foster; 3. Louie Ferreira on Lanphere Road; 4. Jose Homem at north end of Seidell Road, old Pontoni place; 5. Collenberg on Mad River Road where road turns to the west; 6. Gomes on Parton Lane near Janes Road and on West End Road; 7. Domingo Santos on Vaissade Road; 8. Nicholson on Mad River Road; 9. unknown on west side of Parton Lane.

Ike said that at the end of World War II, there were 154 dairies on the Arcata bottom and three creameries: United where Greenview Market is located; Golden State between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> streets west of railroad; and a cheese plant Nye-Nissen built west of present Recycling Center. He said that up to WWII, dairying was as good a job as working in the woods or mill. Twenty cows, two horses, a little tractor would net \$1,500 a year. The best dairying period was between 1946 and 1953, but not paying much any more. Ike estimated bottom covered about 5,200 acres. He said it takes about 1 ½ to 2 acres per cow.

**Upper Bay Road**

**Day House:** Vivian Day, sister of Louie Ferreira, lives in first house on north side of road just east of Seidell road. Rasmussen on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Yellow Bungalow:** On south side of road. Rocha on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Martin Pontoni Place:** On north side of road; bungalow. Lorenzen on 1922 Belcher

**Old Oliveira Place:** Gray bungalow with barn on north side of road; 40 acres; large Oliveira family; Ed was a son. Identified as "M.J. Oliveira" on 1950 Metsker Map.

**Old Jim Hill Place:** Yellow house, hay barn and milk barn on south side of road; 60 acres. Hill on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Cardoza Place:** On south side of road where Upper Bay and Mad River roads intersect. Averell on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Old Nelson Place:** Two-story house on south side of road, where bulb farm offices are; Albert Nelson place; 1950 Metsker "M.F. Nelson."

**Mad River Road**

**Old Green Place:** Old house gone; present house is the ranch-style (red) Collenberg house; barn; 60 acres. Identified as "M.J. Green" on 1950 Metsker Map. Chaffey on 1922 Belcher.

**Nicholson:** House on west side of road; Gary Nicholson lives in house and operates dairy; he leases Oliveira land for total of 100 acres; milking about 80 cows; little house just north and alongside road is where his Mexican milker lives. Identified on 1950 Metsker map as "M.E. & M. Nicholson." Foster on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Old Stuart Foster Place:** On east side of road; no buildings remain, but site is marked by large tree that went down and has been cut-up; tree was part of the hedge; 20 acres; now owned by Hunt. Identified as "V.M. Foster, et al." on 1950 Metsker Map. Foster on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Harold Hunt:** House and barns are at the end of a lane back from the road; bungalow house; 80 acres (60 plus 20 from Foster Place). Identified as "C.E. Hunt" on 1950 Metsker Map. A.N. Hunt on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Old Ben Chaffey Place:** One-and-a-half story on west side; one acres house site; just north of Hunt's driveway.

**10 Acres:** At northeast corner of Mad River Road and Miller (Iverson); formerly belonged to Pontoni; now owned by Peter Bussman. Identified as "M.L. Pontoni" on 1950 Metsker. Pontoni on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Peter Bussman:** New fencing, corral, chutes on west side of road; 40 acres. Identified as "M.J. Horton" on 1950 Metsker..

**Old Dan Turner Place:** Large house, c. 1914; 120 acres in long narrow parcel; "E.S. Turner, et al." on 1950 Metsker. Wm. W. Turner on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Old Fulton Place:** Fulton house and barn on east side of road; originally 60 acres, but with Bussman's purchase of the corner 10, there are now 70 acres; Fulton was Bussman's uncle. Frank Fulton on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Old Will Turner Place:** On east side of road, where there is a red bungalow; old house gone; Grandfather Collenberg came up from Ferndale, son Tony, now grandson operates dairy. Identified as "M.F. Horton" on 1950 Metsker. Daniel J. Turner on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Kjer Place:** House and barn on west side of road at curve; 40 acres; Earl Kjer moved back to old house after his father Axel died; identified as "A.T. Kjer" on 1950 Metsker. Kjer on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Canal School:** On south side of road. On 1922 Belcher.

**Pifferini Place:** On north side of road; house, barn, outbuildings; vacant, but Paul Giuntoli raises truck garden here; 60 acres; Hazel Pifferini and Esther Giuntoli are sisters, living together in town. Paul is Esther's son. Identified as "M. Pifferini, et al." 1950 Metsker Map. Pifferini on 1922 Belcher.

**Sherman Place:** Down lane on south side of road; 20 acres; Hugo Sherman lived here, raised a family and drove a Buick with 10 cows; "H.V. Sherman" on 1950 Metsker Map. Sjoman on 1922 Belcher.

**Shirley Pifferini Place:** Widow of Johnny Pifferini; 1940s house; on north side of road; 60 acres; Shirley living in Eureka now.

**Emerson Graham Place:** On south side of road (1080 Mad River Road); 1950s house (?); Emerson married Verla Getchell from Bayside; 20 acres; now owned by Shirley Pifferini; identified as "E. Graham" on 1950 Metsker Map. Graham on 1922 Belcher.

**Old Graham Place:** Next house on south side of road; Emerson's sister, Mary Graham, taught at Arcata High School; now owned by Shirley Pifferini. Her son, Charles, wants to turn old house around; address 1046 Mad River Road; identified as "E. Graham" on 1950 Metsker Map.

**Spetz Place:** On north side of road; first little house is where the family lived with two daughters, one of whom was Marseille; after girls left they built the bigger house on west; barn built circa 1930s; Spetz had a milk route and delivered around town; little building in front of barn was where they bottled the milk; Masons lease Spetz land; identified as "Eliz. Spetz" on 1950 Metsker Map.

**Larson Place:** On south side of road at curve; W.W. Stone place, later Herb. Larson who purchased it before WWI; before Stone it was Lovern, who had creamery here; Lovern took milk on slough to Eureka; milk in tank and people dipped it out with pitcher; Mrs. Larson lives in bungalow; her daughter Mrs. Harden, who works as an appraiser, lives in little house to west



across driveway; old barn blew down; identified as "Chas. B. Stone, et al." on 1950 Metsker. Stone on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Old Edward Olson Place:** Mrs. Spetz had two brothers; Edward owned this yellow bungalow on east side of road; 20 acres; Kjer bought place; "Edw. Olson" on 1950 Metsker. Olsen on 1922 Belcher.

**Old Hanz Olson Place:** Second brother, Hanz, owned this green bungalow on east side of road; later Henry Russow, now Furtado; 20 acres; identified as "Hanz Olsen" on 1950 Metsker.

**Railroad and Bridge:** Ike said Carson built railroad from Fieldbrook across Dows Prairie and across this bridge, which he thought was built about 1905 [Carranco and Sorensen, 1988, *Steam In The Redwoods*, p 71: photo of old wooden covered bridge over Mad River to be replaced with a new steel bridge, spring 1941, Hammond Redwood Company Railroad] the railroad from Crannell met Carson road west of about where McKinleyville shopping center is; road from Crannell built by Hammond in 1930s; railroad grade along road south of bridge is covered with brush; runs straight south to Foster Road where it crosses and curves westerly through the Cochrane Place; identified on 1950 Metsker Map as "Humboldt Northern Railroad."

[From Carranco and Sorensen, 1988: pp. 44 Photo of covered bridge, captioned "The original Mad River Bridge of the Humboldt Northern Railway in 1930. The bridge was in use from 1905 until 1942." pp. 49 "The Dolbeer and Carson Lumber Company had made an agreement with the Vance company on March 1, 1896 to haul Dolbeer and Carson's logs, and their contract expired. Dolbeer and Carson had many logging spurs leading out of Fieldbrook in the Lindsay Creek basin. William Carson decided... to build his own; the Humboldt Northern Railway, from Cole's Landing to Fieldbrook with a branch to Arcata. During 1904 and 1905, the Dolbeer and Carson Lumber Company built its railroad and in 1905 a bridge was completed across Mad River." pp .58 "In Sept. 1922, the town of Bullwinkle was renamed Crannell in honor of Levi Crannell, a Canadian who was then president of the Little River Redwood Company. In 1930 the Little River Redwood Company purchased the Humboldt Northern Railway from the Dolbeer and Carson Lumber company. In 1929 the Little River Redwood Company built a railroad west from Crannell, crossing over Highway 101 to the ocean beach, then south along the beach to connect with the old line of the Humboldt Northern Railway. The former Carson line through McKinleyville was abandoned."

**Old Fulton Place:** Lane down to house runs along east side of old canal on south side of road; Lois Wallace's mother was a Fulton; 90 acres. Frank Fulton on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Canal:** Remnants of old canal marked by willows, water, ditch; road crosses canal.

**Ruined Cabins:** On north side of road, west of canal; Ike said there were a couple of little fishing cabins here; Alex Anderson had one of them; the bashed in one was hit by car driven by some relative of Ike.

**Kjer Place:** Earl Kjer built this house, barn, and smaller house; across road was a gravel bunker; excavated gravel from river bed. Kjer on 1922 Belcher Map. Very small parcel

**Tyee City:** Weekend places on south side of road; Ike said there were cabins on north side, but were washed away; bank there now is right on road.

**Old Tom Bair Place:** House and barn on south side of road just before Mad River Park; this was Tom Bair ranch, then Vieira, then Lee Larson; 90-100 acres. Fred S. Bair on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Wiyot Site:** Forested site located on south side and at very end of road where it goes into the beach parking lot; Ike said Old Si and family lived here; about 20 acres; right onto sand dunes; abandoned by WWII; family weeded beets for farmers; women were fast workers; could weed three acres in about one-and-a-half-days; hung their babies' basket cradles on fence posts while

they worked; sometimes brought their tent to stay in while working for the farmers. Ike said there was another site just north of where Hammond Road hit Peninsula; excavated by University in 1930s.

### **Miller (Iversen)**

**Cottage Grove Dairy:** Iver Iversen's; bungalow house; big barn; milk barn; little milk house where milk was bottled; 120 acres; now owned by Miller; Collenberg leases. Iversen on 1922 Belcher Map.

### **Parton Lane**

**Sherman Place:** On west side of lane; Lois Wallace lived here with her parents; 20 acres; on 1950 Metsker Map "H.W. Sherman." Sjoman on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Parton Place:** On east side of lane; 60 acres; 1950 Metsker Map "H.&L. Parton." Parton on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Billy Bugenig:** On east side of lane; two houses, newer one in front; older behind; 1950 Metsker Map "W.L. & N.M. Bugenig." Parton on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Unknown Dairy:** On west side of lane; house and barn; 1950 Metsker Map "W.L. & N.M. Bugenig." Smith on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Alm House:** On east side of lane where it turns east; Ike said a man named Ballinger lived here in 1930s; he was head mechanic at Brizard's; 1950 Metsker Map "M. Brogan, et al."

**Tony Gomes Place:** On north side of Parton Lane just west of Janes Road; Tony and his son Tim have a dairy on West End Road where Janes Creek comes down of the hill and out of the forest; cows at Tony's.

### **Lanphere Road**

**Louie Ferreira Place:** Old house on north side of road; Louie's parents lived here, purchased place in 1950s; 120 acres; Louie's newer house is across the road on south side. Cornelius Rasmussen on 1922 Belcher Map.

### **Seidell Road**

**Old Pontoni Place:** Located at northern end of Seidell Road; now owned by Jose Homem; 100 or more acres; leases more acres. Pontoni on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Old Lorenzen Place:** On west side of Seidell north of Lanphere; 80 acres; old house consists of additions from different periods and styles; Emily Rocha lives in salmon-colored house adjoining on west; barn falling in. Niels Lorenzen on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Bob Graham Place:** On southwest corner of Lanphere and Seidell; old house with some 6/6 windows; 20 acres; big trees removed; old hedge still in front; Louie owns now and son lives here. Graham on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Bungalow:** On west side of road; 20 acres; Lorenzen's son owned. Lorenzen on 1922 Belcher.

**Redmond Place:** On west side of road, where Valerie Davis and Tim live; Redmond's land extended to slough, 400-500 acres; place is now 20 acres. Redmond on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Miller Seidell Place:** On east side of road; two-story late 1890s house; 40 acres; trees; Ike said Miller was sent her by government to teach the Indians at Hoopa how to mill grain. Miler's sons were Art and Albert. Lee Seidell was Miller's brother. Seidell on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Lee Seidell House:** Southwest corner of Foster and Seidell; beautiful bungalow built in 1932; 46 acres. Seidell on 1922 Belcher.



### **Dolly Varden**

**Present Richard Moxon House:** On west side of Dolly Varden; house belongs to Ike's cousin; this was Kneeland House. Kneeland House built 1895; Gilbert Kneeland owned land from Dolly Varden west to Slough and between Foster and Bay School roads, about 300-400 acres. Kneeland landing was on slough; Ike said Australian ships left ballast rock there; hauled away none left. 1922 Belcher Map shows house site; bigger piece of land is Vieira.

### **Foster Avenue**

**Haugh Place:** Jack Mason's place on north side of Foster; has dairy. Jacobsen purchased in 1932; he was married to Rose Peterson; he was gardener, had beautiful flower garden on north F street in Arcata; Jack Mason's father Warren came to County to log; Jack bought from Jacobsen. Haugh on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Avila Place:** Big blue house and newer house; barn at southeast corner of Foster and Dolly Varden; Johnnie Avila has built new house on west side of Janes Road across from St. Mary's. [Ike 1999 interview: old style barn; in 1930s belonged to Manuel Barcelles; covered corral in back of barn; Al Caston was carpenter on barn; he worked for Ben Chaffey; house belonged to Isaac Minor's brother; Belle Minor was Isaac Minor's niece.] Minor on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Cliff Cochran:** Bungalow on west side of Polaris; bungalow built 1931; old house was east of trees; now gone; little sheds behind bungalow; one with wall broken in was house for skimming milk; put pans on shelf to let cream rise to top then skimmed with ladle; Ike dates little shed to 1905. Cliff was Irving brother, both sons of John. Cochran on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Railroad grade:** Crosses Foster onto Cochran place and this point begins to curve westerly to cross Jackson Ranch road on north side of Liscom Slough; Vance retained right of way through Cochran place; went to Mad River Slough, where it crossed two times on pilings, then through trees, then turned south to Carson dump in slough north of Emmerson's mill; Hammond's road continued on out Peninsula.

**Irving Cochran:** Irving lived with his mother in house, built circa 1921, copy of house built in Panama; Ike learned carpentry from Irving, who learned from Ben Chaffey; Irving built all the little buildings whenever he needed one; north of the smaller barn was an oxen shed where Vance kept oxen during winter. Cochran on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Hunt's Chutes:** Located on north side of Foster just before curve onto Jackson Ranch Road; Will Johnson place; house burned down about 1951, 300 acres went clear up to Lanphere Road; west of house was 6-man bunkhouse; had 100-cow dairy; now owned by Rich Hunt, previously owned by his father Vinal. Unclear either Ralph W. Bull if south of slough or Trustees of T.E. Bair if north on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Wetland:** Water on north side of road, where geese and cow photo was taken Jan. 31, 2004; Ike said this was an active slough before the built the road about WWII; Kjer hauled 7000 yards of gravel from Mad River to build up road and cut off slough; once used slough to barge potatoes to Eureka; there was a nearby potato sorting shed.

### **Jackson Ranch Road**

**Gregory Land:** Esther Cochran Gregory, Cliff Cochran's daughter, owns about 40 acres on either side of road. Cochran on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Railroad Grade:** Crosses road north of Liscom Slough dike.

**Earl Kjer:** Owns land along slough; narrow fenced area runs westerly from Jackson Ranch Road; 40 acres. Cochran on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Bridge Over Liscom Slough:**

**Old Deuel Place; Old Liscom Place:** On east side of Jackson Ranch Road; now owned by Domingo Santos; Mrs. Deuel and Mrs. Cochran were Goble sisters. Domingo now owns about 540 acres. Deuel on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Break in Mad River Slough Dike:** Ike said during an exceptionally high tide, 8 ½ feet, the tidal water in the slough began to overflow the dike, then dike began to break; put 1 ½ feet of water on the road; took them 10 day to fix; brackish water onto pasture land.

**Jackson/Lodge Land:** Ranch where Richard Moxon was; now leased by Chris Cardoza, who is running an organic dairy; milk goes out of area; milking 100 cows; break in slough dike put water on his land. H.W. Jackson on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Old Samoa Road**

**Hank Lambert Place:** House on east side of road; barn on west; slough running under road here; originally Ralph Bull Place; 80-90 acres. Ralph W. Bull on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Old Albert Nelson Place:** After road turns east, house and barn on north side of road; no evidence now. Ralph W. Bull on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Dike/slough:** More water than normal on Wallace's land on south side of road up to dike.

**Wallace Place:** Jack and Lois Wallace house and barn on south side of road; 100 acres; old Frank Graham place. Wallaces there since 1964. Frank Graham on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Fish and Game Barns:** Westernmost barn and middle barn both with houses belonged to Peterson. Domingo and Peter Bussman are grazing on 150 acres of Fish and Game property. Easternmost barn had a house, 80 acres; belonged to DeMello. Hansen & Petersen on 1922 Belcher Map. Eastern barn, J.C. Bull Heirs on 1922 Beulcher Map.

**Charles Pifferini:** Presentlys own piece of land sandwiched in between Fish and Game land; he is grazing it. Moranda on 1922 Belcher ?

**Fish and Game Land:** Beyond Pifferini's piece is an ungrazed field belonging to Fish and Game. This was old Brizard place of about 200 acres; there was house and silo near where road turns north; both gone now. Brizard Est. Co. 1922 Belcher Map.

**Diaz Place:** House and barn; 80 acres; belonged to Ike Diaz's father; bought from George Zehndner. Brizard on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Vaissade Road**

**Old Kneeland Place:** No buildings; on south side of road before Moxon Lane. McCurdy on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Liscom/Vaissade Place:** Located at western end of Vaissade Road. Chevret on 1922 Belcher.

**Pacheco Place:** At southwest corner of Vaissade and Pacheco; was old Sylvester Myers place. Pacheco on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Moxon Lane**

**Domingo Santos Place:** Domingo first lived in house on south side of Vaissade where Moxon Lane intersects; now lives at north end of V street; Domingo built barns here; old barn burned about 30 years ago; Domingo's father was at Jackson place originally; brought money into country from Azores; bought up land. Handy & Parton on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Old Handy Place:** House on west side of lane on rise above slough; 80 acres; old barn burned. Handy & Parton on 1922 Belcher Map.

**Hade Seely/Moxon Place:** House on west side of lane; old house with center gable and lapped board siding; two additions to house; purchased by Ike's grandfather, Isaac Moxon, in 1924 after they left the ranch at Hayfork. Clarence and his wife Grace lived there. Bill Moxon dairied here. Now owned by a number of Moxon heirs; leased to Alto Brothers. Moxon owned Hayfork ranch 1912-1924. Isaac Moxon on 1922 Belcher Map.

**John Costa Place:** House on east side of lane; this was a Haugh daughter's place; outbuilding constructed by Jonnie Avila; now owned by Thomas. Haugh on 1922 Belcher Map.

### **Bay School Road**

**Bay School:** Located on north side of road at intersection of Dolly Varden and Bay School Road. This is second school. First burned and Nelson B. Johansen built second in 1922.

**Moxon Place:** Ike owns between Dolly Varden and Polaris and between Foster and Bay School roads; 70 acres; old house on north side of road across from Ike's present house was moved to this site from west side of Moxon Lane across from Joe Costa House; Ike said it was built for Hade Seely in 1878 and moved here for Newmans in 1895 [actually 1899]. They had 20 acres. Ike's grandfather bought place in 1902; Ike's dad took over ranch in 1912; Mrs. Deuel lived in old house and cooked for the five hired men who worked for his dad on the dairy; hired men lived in bunkhouse behind two-story house south of Ike's present house. When Ike's dad married his first wife in 1917, they lived in the old house. Ike lived in house from birth until he left for Army. Built his present house over period of years in late 1950s into 1960s. John Mason leases Ike's land; they are milking about 150 cows. Barn west of old house was built in 1895 [actually 1899] for Newmans. Used Doug fir for beams and they are deteriorating.

**Isaac Moxon House:** At south end of lane in front of Ike's present house is his grandfather's house, a two-story structure with a wing on the south side; this wing was a house, which was moved from a location across the slough to the south; bungalow on site was built by Leslie Moxon in 1924. One lone Monterey Cypress in the pasture to southwest of Ike's present house was part of a hedge that extended easterly up to his grandfather's house. To the south of this wind break was a large orchard of plums and apples. Ike said Brett Harte lived in a little cabin by the orchard.

**Old Deuel Place:** Located at very end of Bay School Road.

**Bungalow:** On south side of Bay School Road at intersection with Polaris; now 20 acres owned by Shirley Pifferini; her son Charles lives in bungalow; works for Assessor's office. Pedrazzini on 1922 Belcher Map.