

CULTURAL VALUES
LOWER REDWOOD CREEK

Prepared for

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by

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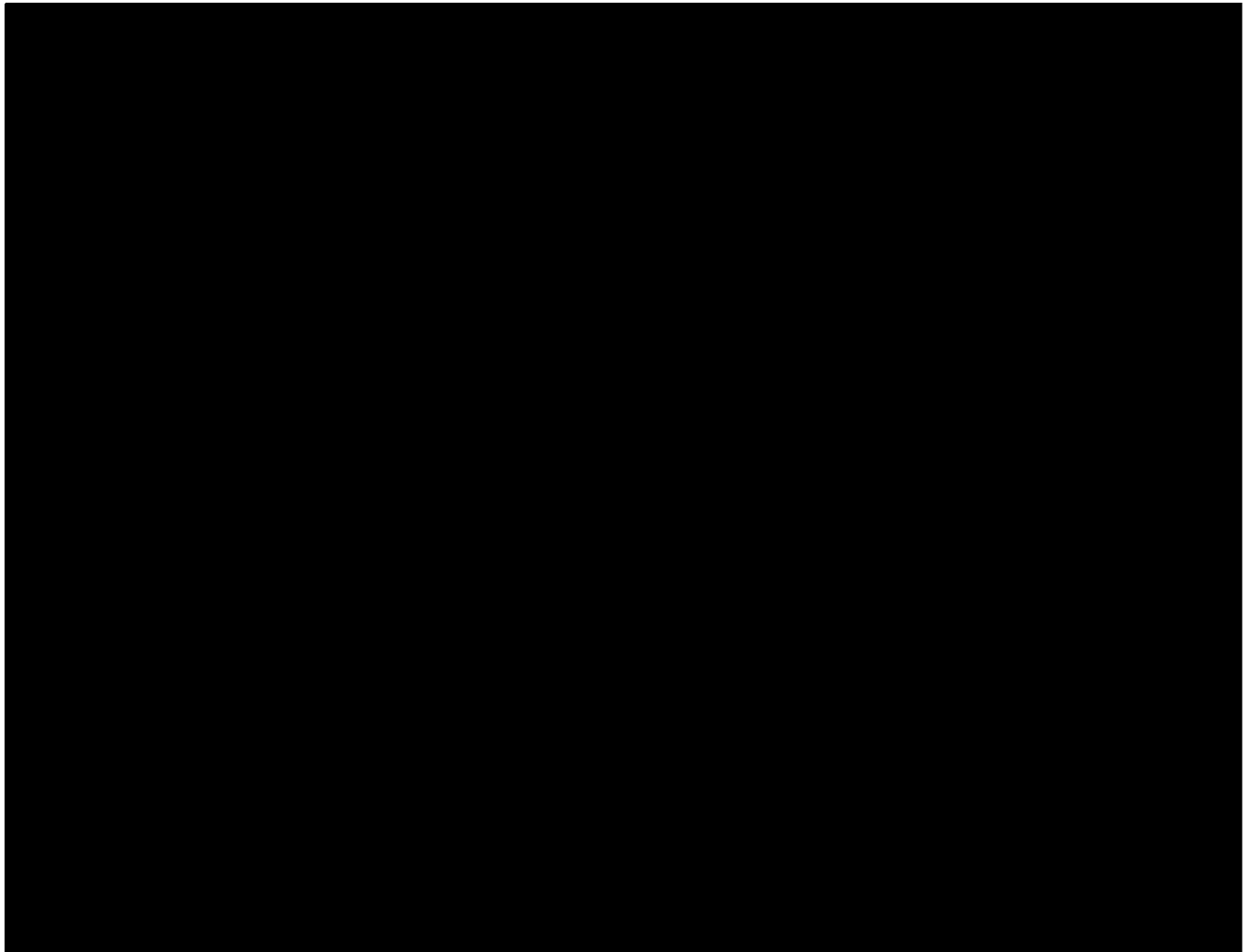
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Introduction

Levee construction on lower Redwood Creek from near its mouth to the mouth of Prairie Creek was completed by the Corps of Engineers in 1968, resulting in significant impairment of the estuary's hydrology and its biological functions. In an effort to reestablish those functions and more particularly the fisheries of the creek, Redwood National and State Parks is developing a plan for estuary management. The following general statement about cultural values in the project area and vicinity was prepared to expand the historical information in the draft plan.

Ethnographic Values

Lower Redwood Creek and adjacent coastal areas, both north and south, are the aboriginal lands of the Yurok people. In the immediate vicinity of the estuary, two town sites, a sweathouse, and a "collection of houses" were recorded by Waterman (1920).



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Ethnographic Uses

As a coastal and riverine people, the Yurok had strong cultural and economic ties to the resources of these systems, particularly fish. Annual salmon runs into Redwood Creek were harvested as were the surf fish (smelt or nightfish) that came in with the waves.

For many years, Jim Marks and his family had a fish camp on the beach south of the creek, where they caught and preserved surf fish mostly for home use, but also for commercial sale. It is unclear just how long this camp operated, but Mr. Marks' death certificate (August 26, 1959) listed his occupation as "fisherman" and the length of time he had pursued that occupation as "50 years" (Vital Records Center, Eureka). His wife, Josie Brown Marks, oversaw the drying and smoking of the fish. Butch Marks, a grandson, spent his childhood summers helping his grandparents at the fish camp. He and his brother Ralph gathered rushes upon which the surf fish were laid to dry and the boys were responsible for keeping the flies off the fish. When the skin hardened, the fish were removed and spread-out on the pea-size gravel where the drying process was completed. At the end of summer, the preserved fish were carried in onion sacks to the family's home at the south end of Freshwater Lagoon (Butch Marks Interview, 19 March 1996).

In addition to beach fishing, the family fished Redwood Creek, where they caught salmon and steelhead in the north slough and cutthroat trout in the south slough up to the "Deli" on the highway. Butch Marks indicated that these trout, which were fished in late summer using the white flesh of bullheads, were 20 inches or better in length (Interview, 19 March 1996).

Beeb White tells of his grandmother fishing in the creek. Annie Griffin Frey, who lived above the north slough, had her own dugout canoe and one fall, according to Beeb's mother, Eunice White, her mother announced that it was time to go fish for the winter. They went in the dugout up to Savage Slough which Beeb described as an old river channel located near the "Deli." The children, Eunice and her brother Joe, gathered wood for a fire and fell asleep while their mother fished. Early the next morning, she awakened them and when Eunice got into the dugout, "the whole bottom was covered with salmon," about forty in one night. Annie used horses to pull a sled full of salmon up the hill to the house where she both salted and smoked the fish (Interview, 7 Sept. 1994).

But the creek and its beach provided more than material sustenance. Photographs belonging to Beeb White show family outings with Annie, her daughters and their children, and even Trixie the dog, enjoying a day at the beach. Other photographs are of family members holding up immense salmon, caught in Redwood Creek with hook and line. Jean Hagood, a white woman, recalled a "wonderful life growing up" when she, her sister Carol and Eunice

White's older daughters, Blanche and Eleanor, had suppers on the beach at the mouth of Redwood Creek on summer evenings (Interview, March 1996). Blanche Blankenship recalled playing baseball on the hardpack near Jim Mark's fish camp and enjoying a boat ride on the north slough (Interview, 14 March 1996). Growing up in the 1940's and 1950's, Butch Marks lived and played along Redwood Creek and its beaches, fishing, hunting, and gathering (Interview, 19 March 1996). Life was basic and demanding, but there were pleasures, too, and the creek and beaches offered the setting and resources to provide many of those pleasures.

Euro-American History

The northwestern California coast was settled by Euro-Americans beginning in the spring of 1850, when the Humboldt Bay region and Trinidad, south of Redwood Creek, were invaded by miners and merchants. Gold-seeking adventurers, heading for the interior mining districts on the upper Klamath and Salmon rivers, entered Redwood Creek country as quickly as the boats could be landed and pack mules obtained. They crossed the creek far above its mouth at today's Tall Trees Grove on their way to Elk Camp and the country beyond, leaving lower Redwood Creek and its valley relatively undisturbed for some years.

The following information is taken from Stanton and Van Kirk (1995). It is unclear who the first white settlers were or when they reached the Orick Valley. Land records are incomplete because the area was part of Klamath County until 1874, but first-settler status is attributed to Charles Jewell, who drowned with his friend Charles Savage at the mouth of Redwood Creek in 1903 at age 74 (HT, 5 Aug. 1951; BLA, 28 Nov. 1903). Serious development of the valley, however, didn't begin until the arrival of George Griffin in 1870 and that of his second partner, Robert Swan, soon afterwards. Their initial enterprise was beach mining at the mouth of Redwood Creek, where Griffin had a mining claim and some land.

Mining was apparently profitable because the partners began acquiring land and livestock, including cattle, hogs, and dairy cows. At the time of Griffin's death in 1883, the partnership owned roughly a thousand acres in the valley and on lower Redwood Creek. Tax assessments for the pair in 1882 listed a mining claim on the north side of Redwood Creek; farm tools, guns, and harness; 10 horses and colts; three mules; 40 cows and calves; 37 stock cattle; 18 hogs; and 12 poultry.

Griffin married a young Yurok woman given the name Annie and they had four daughters, Myr, Ola, Ida and Fay. For a time they lived above the north slough at the mouth of Redwood Creek, perhaps near the site where Annie and her second husband, Emil Frey, built a house, later occupied by Eunice and Ed White and now owned by the Park. This site is of both ethnographic and historical importance, as documented in Stanton and Van Kirk (1995).

After Griffin's death, Swan went on to dominate the valley's business life, operating the creamery, sawmill, general merchandising business, and hotel. Beginning about 1919 and continuing through 1928, the year before his death, Swan liquidated his holdings. Through the years his large parcels of bottom land have remained in agricultural use, generally as pasture for dairy cows.

There remain only a few buildings of historical interest in lower Redwood Creek, but lacking adequate research, their significance has not been determined. The Frank Hufford house located above the north slough off Hufford Road was built by Frank Hufford, using spruce lumber from his nearby sawmill. According to Thelma Hufford, Frank's daughter-in-law, the house was constructed in 1916 (Interview, 11 Sept. 1994). Frank Hufford was married to Annie and George Griffin's oldest daughter, Myr, and they had a large family of children. The house is a two-and-a-half story, side-gable structure with rear attachments. Across the road and down slope of the house is a newer, gabled-roof barn.

Two other barns in lower Redwood Creek, but outside the project area, are worthy of identification and further research. One is located inside the sharp curve near the beginning of the Hufford Road and the other is farther down the road and consists of several attached structures.

Historic Landscape

In Robert Swan's diary, he writes of his westward migration to California and subsequent arrival in Eureka in the fall of 1867. In 1870 he went to Trinidad where he worked in a sawmill and met George Griffin. When Swan and Griffin began their partnership in the Orick valley, he described a much different landscape that today's:

...We lived at the mouth of the creek for four years and in 1887 [sic] moved to the place now known as Dr. Hunt's ranch [south of Highway 101 behind Orick]. At that time, with the exception of about six acres, the land was covered with large spruce trees and a heavy growth of alder, salmonberry and elder. We built our house on the edge of the prairie and proceeded to cultivate the land. We raised a crop of oat hay the first year which we used to feed our pack animals. At the same time we started in raising cattle, cutting brush, plowing and seeding. All this time we mined, this being our main income. We made enough off the mine for our living and to invest in stock. Later we dairied-- milked cows and made butter...(HT, 5 Aug. 1951).

When the editor of the Western Watchman, William Ayres, took a trip up the coast in the spring of 1897, he visited places on Redwood and Prairie creeks. He found many hundreds of acres of the very best bottom land still in brush, only a portion of the land on Redwood having been cleared (WW, 8 May 1897). An old-time Orick resident recalling the valley as it was before the turn-of-the-century, said he remembered that the valley was "heavily

timbered on the lower end" (Barlow, et al., 1984:45). Frank Hufford operated his sawmill on the north slough during the early part of the century, sawing spruce logs, some of which must certainly have come from the hillside and lower reaches of Redwood Creek. A Park photograph, taken by Irene Davison probably in the early 1900's, shows a man standing in a dugout in Redwood Creek lagoon with a thick spruce forest backdrop at the water's edge. Blanche Blankenship recalled that her mother, Eunice Frey White, said the whole valley was a "dark spruce forest" when she was a girl riding her horse to school. Blanche also remembered that willows and some cottonwoods lined the banks of the north slough. She said the spruce forests were cleared away to create pasture for the dairies and that throughout the valley, fires burned all year as the farmers tried to remove the stumps (Interview, 14 March 1996).

During the summer months and into the fall, the creek's mouth was closed by a sand spit, forming a large lagoon. Blanche Blankenship described the lagoon as "clear and deep" (Interview, 14 March 1996). Butch Marks, who fished the north slough for salmon and steelhead, described it as being "very deep" (Interview, 19 March 1996). When Frank Hufford and Emil Frey were constructing a bridge over the Hufford slough [north slough] in 1900, it required timbers 125 feet in length to span the channel (AU, 27 Jan. 1900). A turn-of-the-century photograph looking southward from the hill above the north slough, probably from the Annie Frey\Eunice White House, shows a well-defined north slough and a lagoon that stretched to the base of the divide between Freshwater Lagoon and Redwood Creek--clear to the town of O-re'qw (Esterfay McBride Pfremmer Collection). Local residents interviewed in the spring of 1981 gave similar descriptions (Ricks, 1983). Beeb White said the water was at least 20 feet deep against the north cliff at the mouth. Donald Tipton said there was a deep hole where the creek flowed against the cliff before flowing out into the ocean. Blanche Blankenship's 1909 railroad survey map noted the presence of a large lagoon at the mouth, 70-80 acres in size!

The estuary at the mouth of Redwood Creek is a concern to various groups of people...Until the levee was built, a lagoon was at the mouth of Redwood Creek, deep in winter and lower in summer. People in rowboats (motor boats were scorned) trolled for salmon up Redwood Creek up as far as Hendriksens Lodge--now Waldkerch's Deli--up Strawberry Creek (now completely cutoff by the levee), and on the north side up the slough and up Sand Cache Creek...(AU, 10 May 1984).

Modern History

Up to and through World War II, dairy ranching was the mainstay of the Orick valley and lower Redwood Creek. There was logging--Swan had a sawmill early on and Hufford continued it well into the 20th century, and there were other small operations--but the extensive logging which caused a major boom in the Orick economy didn't begin until after the War. Accommodations for woods and mill workers and services for these operations

developed in Orick and with this influx of people and vehicles, an alternative was needed to the Old State Highway, considered a "dangerous road" with "many traffic problems." Work was started on the 3.8 mile long stretch of highway across Freshwater spit in the spring of 1949 and completed in August 1950 (AU, 29 April 1949; 11 Aug. 1950). The 1950 Arcata Union article noted that the highway was a "remarkable feat of engineering" and that construction across the sandspit was not possible many years prior when the highway was built around the lagoon, because they lacked modern-day heavy equipment to move the tons of earth, rocks, and gravel. It was that modern-day equipment that cut off the point of the divide and destroyed the O-re'qw cemetery.

The California Pacific (Cal-Pac) mill was built on the beach just south of the mouth of Redwood Creek in the spring of 1953 (HT, 26 April 1953).

A new fir and redwood sawmill is being built on the beach just west of Orick by the California-Pacific Redwood lumber company of Orick because "land is so hard to get," according to Lawrence Turner, mill superintendent. The new mill, sitting out in the sand near the mouth of Redwood Creek, seems out of place at first sight because there are no nearby trees and so far, not even a road to the mill from the highway...

The company is currently operating a redwood mill a few miles northeast of Orick, but the property is only leased, so they are building the new plant. The new mill's output, says Turner, should be in the 60 to 70 thousand feet per day neighborhood... Cal-Pacific buys all its timber from the Wolf Creek Logging Company... Wolf Creek is operating in the Prairie Creek area, cutting mostly redwood...

The Cal-Pac mill operated at this site until September 1980, although the property was incorporated into Redwood National Park in 1968 (AU, 21 Aug. 1980). In early 1981, the mill was dismantled, its machinery going to local and out-of-state mills (AU, 8 Jan. 1981). In June of 1984, a \$1.36 million contract was awarded to Beacom Construction Co. of Fortuna for construction of the Redwood Information Center. The 4,000-square foot building occupies the old Cal-Pac site and is the primary visitor center for Redwood National and State Parks (Barlow, et al., 1984:297).

Loss of livestock, buildings, and crops occurred periodically from Redwood Creek flooding, but until the mid-20th century, it was something valley residents lived with. Flooding in January 1950 and again in January 1953 prompted local residents and the County of Humboldt to seek assistance from the federal government.

Emergency bank protection work was performed by the Corps of Engineers in 1953 and again in 1956 (Corps, 1966) and with authorization from the Flood Control Act of September 3, 1954, the Corps began a flood control survey of Redwood Creek (Corps, House Document No. 497). There were apparently several versions of the Corps proposal for

controlling the flooding on Redwood Creek. An early version which treated a mile of creek grew into a plan for treating three miles (Corps, 1961).

The proposed plan for control of floods along the lower part of Redwood Creek provides for channel improvements, with levees on both sides for a distance of 3.4 miles in the vicinity of Orick...The improvements will consist of channel enlargement, earth levees with service roadways on top, riprap slope protection along the levees and sides of the channel and other features pertinent to a channel improvement project. The work will extend from above the mouth of Prairie Creek almost to the ocean...Realignment of the channel near the mouth of Redwood Creek will provide for a more direct and effective flow to the Pacific Ocean...(Corps, 1966).

In an April 18, 1962 letter from the California Dept. of Water Resources to the Corps regarding the project, the State agreed that the recommendations and suggestions of the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "should be adhered to in order to minimize damage to fish and wildlife resources." The letter concluded with a note of concern, however, because the Corps report did not indicate acceptance of either the Department's recommendations or those of the Fish and Wildlife Service (Corps, House Document No. 497).

The Department of Fish and Game asked that spawning gravel be protected, that the channel at the lower end be modified to allow fish passage, that resting pools be provided and that the Corps request the assistance of technical personnel from the Department and the Fish and Wildlife Service (Corps, House Document No. 497). The Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in a letter of March 15, 1960 to the Corps of Engineers District office in San Francisco, had recommended that the construction period be limited to July 1 to Oct. 31; that the existing low flow channel and pool be preserved and a training channel not less than one foot deep and 6-10 feet wide be installed in sections of the existing low water channel destroyed or disrupted; and that riparian vegetation be preserved (Corps, 1961).

In that March 15, 1960 letter, the Fish and Wildlife Service discussed the project, noting that the streamside vegetation in the project area was "composed largely of willow thickets with some alder and cottonwood trees...with an understory of blackberry vines and forbes." The letter also provided the Corps with information on the fisheries:

It is estimated Redwood Creek presently receives average annual runs of 5,000 chinook salmon, 2,000 silver salmon and 10,000 steelhead trout. These spawning runs ascend the stream for a distance of at least 48 miles. The lower section of the stream and Prairie Creek support good populations of sea-run cutthroat trout. Chinook salmon and silver salmon utilize Prairie Creek and reaches of Redwood Creek for spawning. A moderate amount of chinook salmon spawning occurs in the project area. The stream section that would be affected by the project is a valuable rearing area for young steelhead

and salmon. Steelhead spawn inaccessible headwater areas. Fishing pressure on Prairie Creek and lower Redwood Creek is moderate.

In a September 1961 letter to the District Engineer, the Regional Supervisor for River Basin Studies, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, expressed considerable concern about the project, noting that the current project was more comprehensive than that on which they had commented on March 15, 1960. It would intensively channelize and confine by levees about three miles of the creek rather than one, resulting in a project "more damaging to fish and wildlife." Furthermore, the Service considered the discussion of the impact on fish and wildlife to be "inadequate."

Your present plan calls for complete channelization with loss of existing pools, and essentially complete removal of vegetation along 3 miles of the creek near Orick. Both fish habitat and wildlife habitat will be destroyed with resultant losses to their resources as discussed in our March 1960 report. Our recommendations...specifically requested avoidance of this type of damaging construction, yet no comment on this fact is contained in your report...Paragraph B-11b, p. B-6 mentions the gravel bars near the confluence of Prairie and Redwood Creeks as a source of sand and gravel. These bars are used by salmon for spawning. None of the gravel bars within the channel normally watered by the fall and winter flows (excluding flood peaks) should be disturbed unless absolutely essential to the planned channelization...(Corps, 1961).

Construction of the project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1962 (Corps, 1966). Because the Redwood Creek Flood Control Project was developed prior to the passage of the National Environmental Policy Act, virtually no consideration was given to the potential impacts of the project on environmental and cultural values. Even the minimal recommendations from the Dept. of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were ignored.

Ground-breaking ceremonies for the project, held in early May 1966 in Orick, included remarks by local dignitaries and key-note addresses by Congressman Don Clausen and State Senator Randolph Collier (AU, 6 May 1966). Orick celebrated the completion of the project in September 1968 with a "mop burning" at the mouth of Redwood Creek. A beef barbecue, games, music, and speeches followed the dedication. The Orick correspondent said that the mop burning day "means more to the people of Orick than words can explain," but noted, as an aside, that the fish-- salmon and steelhead--were running in Redwood Creek (T-S, 21 Sept. 1968).

Conclusion

Lower Redwood Creek and beach are areas of ethnographic and historic significance, but in order to determine the significance of several potentially-important structures, additional research will be needed. Unquestionably, the lagoon was of considerable cultural importance to local Yurok, and, because of its vital ecological role in maintaining the creek's fisheries, also important to both native and settlement economies. Oral histories and more detailed research should be undertaken to obtain information on ethnographic sites and uses, and to document historic resources. With the passing of Yurok elders and the valley's old-timers, little time remains for gathering this information.

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Interviews:

Blanche Blankenship, 37 Hufford Road, Orick, CA.

Jean Hagood, 560 G Street, Arcata, CA.

Thelma Hufford, 1643 Hufford Road, Orick, CA.

Harvey (Butch) Marks, 300 Robinson Road, Orick, CA.

Francis (Beeb) White, Smith River, CA.

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Blanche Brown Blankenship, 37 Hufford Road, Orick, CA 95555, March 14, 1996.
Interviewer Susie Van Kirk.

Blanche Brown Blankenship is the daughter of William Brown and Eunice Frey Brown [White]. Blanche was born in 1918 and lived in the Orick Valley until she went to Arcata to attend school in the 7th grade. In 1948 she returned to Orick, where she owns farm land along lower Redwood Creek.

She said her mother told her that when she was girl and rode her horse to school, the valley was a "dark spruce forest." Local farmers let their cattle roam in the forests and their bellowing frightened her. Blanche said that Bill Antonioli's mother was able to have a garden and raise tomatoes where the Orick dump is located, because the forests stopped the fog and wind. She recalled riding in a boat up the north slough to the bridge and that the banks were lined with willows and some cottonwoods. She is managing her farm lands to save the remaining cottonwoods. The dairymen cleared the trees to create pasture for their livestock, and fires throughout the valley were burned year round in an effort to burn-out the stumps.

She located Frank Hufford's mill "over the bank" before you reach the Hufford barn and house. She did not know when the mill ceased running, but said Thelma Hufford keeps a time line of events and would know the dates of its operation. Ira Dorrance lived where the village site is north of the mouth of Redwood Creek, and according to Blanche, he had lots of artifacts from the site. Dorrance lived in a house that was Fanny's [Flounder] and later lived in by Blanche Hufford Francis and Jack Francis. The house burned down.

Blanche said the large barn at the big curve on Hufford Road was probably built by Robert Swan, since he owned most of the valley at one time. The house burned. She said Amanda Chapman purchased the land from Swan and when she moved to Seattle, the place was leased out for dairying.

Jim Mark's fish camp was on the beach on the south side of Redwood Creek. They smoked and dried surf fish, drying the fish on the larger gravels. She recalled the mouth closing in the summer and forming a lagoon which was "clear and deep." She identified features in the Park photograph showing the road down the beach. The barn in the bottom right corner belonged to Lawrence Graham and was located on the Old State Highway near the "blue trailer" below Zuber's new house. The road through Graham's place was the access to the beach off the highway and he charged 25 cents to use it. She recalled playing ball down on the hardpack west of the road at the mouth of the creek. Jim Mark's fish camp was at the end of the road.

She said her land, now leased to Larry and Cheryl Zuber, is much drier since the levees were built. The levees have protected the lower reaches of the creek from flooding. She would have concerns about removing the levees since that could affect her dairy.

Blanche always responds graciously to this interviewer's questions. She is hospitable and pleasant and ever willing to provide information. This interview was conducted at Blanche's home at 87 Hufford Road in Orick on a beautiful spring morning.

Interview with Harvey (Butch) Marks, P.O. Box 295, Orick, CA 95555, March 19, 1996.
Interviewer Susie Van Kirk.

Butch Marks was born in 1940. His mother was Jessie Van Pelt from the Klamath River; his father was Harvey Marks who lived on the hill at the south end of Freshwater Lagoon. His grandparents were Jim Marks, born at Morek on the Klamath River, and Josephine (Josie) Brown Marks from Espa. Jim's Morek name was changed to Marks when he started school.

Jim Marks had a fish camp on the beach, just above tideline, on the south side of Redwood Creek. As a child, Butch spent his summers with his grandparents at the fish camp, where they caught and preserved surf fish both for family use and commercial sale. One of the buildings at the camp was their living quarters and Butch recalled cleaning the floor by raking the sand. He did not know when Jim Marks first began fishing there or when the buildings were constructed, but the camp was still in use when Butch graduated from the Stone Lagoon School in 1955-56. Personnel from the Cal-Pac mill, constructed just south of the fish camp [present site of the Redwood Information Center] in 1953, said the fish camp burned. [Jim Marks died in August 1959, so the camp was probably last used in the mid 1950's.] Butch lost all his fishing gear when the buildings burned.

At the fish camp in the summer, Butch and his brother Ralph used dip nets made for them by their grandfather to catch surf fish on the beach. They also fished Redwood Creek, where they caught salmon and steelhead in the north slough which was "very deep," and cutthroat trout in the south slough up to the "Deli." When asked how big these trout were, Butch indicated with his hands a length of more than 20 inches. The white flesh of bullheads was found to be good bait for the cutthroat trout, which they fished in late summer, but he hasn't fished for cutthroat in years. He said there were cutthroat in Stone Lagoon. The Indians opened the spit at the mouth for the salmon to come in and they caught steelhead in dip nets. Butch recalled that he and Ralph caught lots of big fish in Redwood Creek; Albert Zuber says the salmon caught in more recent years are nothing to compare with the fish of the past which weighed more than fifty pounds. They only took the number of fish that they could use, only what they needed which was mostly canned. They also used boats to go out to the rocks to gather mussels which they carried in burden baskets. His grandmother cooked them in their own juices in the ashes of an outdoor fire.

The boys gathered the rushes from the wetland\slough areas and spread them on the sand. The surf fish were laid on the rushes which allowed the air to circulate and when the fish reached a certain point, they were removed to the pea-size gravel to finishing drying. It was Butch's job to keep the flies off the fish when they were first put out to dry. Josie dried and smoked the surf fish, which were stored in onion sacks and put away for winter food, although Jim took some to Eureka to sell. Butch said that other people came to the beach from Hupa and Weitchpec to lay in a winter supply of fish. When summer was over they moved back up to the hill above Freshwater Lagoon.

In talking about the decline in Redwood Creek's fisheries, Butch felt it was a slow decline that occurred over time, although he did mention the gravel removal operations for the Prairie Creek Bypass as having affected the fish, saying the fishing hasn't been worth a darn since then.

He recalled watching the construction of the highway across Freshwater Spit [1949-50]. The point of land dividing Freshwater Lagoon from Redwood Creek extended to the ocean, so far, in fact, that when the tide was high, it was not possible to pass along the beach at this point. Highway construction resulted in considerable cutting of the point and, in the process, the unearthing of burials. Josie Marks was consulted by the highway engineers and they were told to rebury the remains on the beach. They were buried in the highway right-of-way, but Butch feels there are other burials, and he wants them to remain undisturbed.

The slough that runs alongside the Redwood Information Center parking lot and up to the highway was once deep and wide enough for boats to turn around. Butch recalled taking the boats up to the end of the slough where they picked blackberries to sell. They also caught fish to sell to the tourists. Ralph and Butch sawed up drift on the beach to make posts which they sold for 50 cents a piece.

Butch said the road to the beach off the Old State Highway was at a point where there was a two-pump service station and cafe. That place was just across from a present-day blue trailer which is just down from Albert Zuber's house, far up on the hill. The grade from the road is still visible from a distance. It came down past Orick Bob's house and hit the flat about where the road into the Redwood Information Center turns off of Highway 101. Butch said the Park tore down another house located above where Orick Bob's house was. You paid 25 cents to pass through the private property to the beach and Jim Mark's fish camp was at the end of the road on the beach side. He thought the sweathouse [Park photograph] was located across the road from the fish camp. [Another park photo shows this road or track on the beach.]

Butch indicated that there was a village on the slough alongside the parking lot at RIC. He pointed out the location of Orick Bob's house and barn on the sidehill on the north face of the divide between Freshwater and Redwood Creek. The village, located north of the mouth of the creek, still has many artifacts and should remain undisturbed. He expressed concern that when the Park uses a bulldozer to open the spit and the water is high it could go onto the site.

In the course of his conversation, Butch offered information about other topics. He said the people who lived at Espa had to leave because of the mining at Gold Bluff. They moved down the coast to settle at Freshwater and Stone lagoons. His grandmother, Josie Marks, remembered the jump dance at Stone Lagoon, where the men jumped "so high." He said Johnny Skirk lived at Stone Lagoon. He mentioned that there were power grounds and dancing places in the area and of his concern that they not be disturbed.

Butch served in the military between 1958 and 1961, returning to Orick afterwards. Fishing and hunting have always been important parts of his life. He retired two years ago and wouldn't want to live anywhere but where he is. He is close friends with Albert Zuber with whom he visits often; Butch and Coleen were married at the Zuber place on the hill. Butch has been active in the organization of the Yurok tribal government, noting that the Yurok are the largest tribe in California. Because of his health, he has had to curtail his involvement, but continues to consult on activities which could affect cultural sites and uses.

The interview was conducted inside the Redwood Information Center on a cool, foggy morning. A pleasant, easy-talking man, Butch was a good informant, readily responding to the interviewer's questions and happy to recall the good life he enjoyed as a boy with his grandparents, Jim and Josie Marks at the mouth of Redwood Creek.