

# memorandum

H14

DATE

June 12, 1981

Randy Feranna

SUBJECT

Historic Information

TO:

Superintendent  
Through: Chief, Technical Services *pu*

As you know, Cindy Ricks and I have been collecting historic information about the fishery and floods of Redwood Creek. While collecting information, especially while interviewing long-time residents of the area, we realized it would be a mistake to ignore other historical information. Consequently, a relatively small project expanded to include all pertinent historic information. Duplication of historic photographs, accompanied by descriptions depicting fragments of the area's history, has been our major effort. Because we have other responsibilities (and I must return to the Forest Service), details on the project are being given in its present state.

A copy slide of each historic photo and the corresponding index sheet and photo description is provided for the Crescent City and Arcata offices. Duplicate copy slides, black and white negatives and proof sheets will be kept in the Arcata office to manage for interpretative programs and use by Arcata staff. Black and white enlargements can be selected from the slides or proof sheets and printed from negatives.

## INDEX SYSTEM

The index system is based on the contributor's last name. The photos, slides, and negatives are indexed and labeled with the contributor's name and a number. The index sheets correspond with the same information, plus additional information concerning the interview. In some cases, the description is sketchy or non-existent because we were unable to obtain the information.

## INTERVIEW NARRATIVE

A narrative of our interview with certain contributors was prepared to record this information. The narratives generally focus on floods and fish, but not always. This information depicts the lifestyle, history, and hardships of these people. The narratives may be fragmented or tend to ramble but that's how the interviews went.

## POTENTIAL USES

The information collected during this project may have many uses. It may be useful for interpretive programs and displays and for historical, biological, and physical science research. The photos depict some of the history of the people who settled in the redwoods, floodplains, and the Bald Hills. The project touches on the history of the Indians and pioneers who settled the area, and provides names of people who can provide additional information. This information is but one step toward increasing our understanding of the history and resources of the park, and of the history of the people who settled and now live in the area.

ORICK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PHOTO COLLECTION

We agreed to provide Mrs. Savina Barlow, of the Chamber of Commerce, negatives to print photos for the Chamber historic photo collection. In 1972 - 1973, Savina collected historic photos for RNP (Steve Veirs) and for the Chamber collection. We found photos presently not a part of the Chamber's collection and agreed to help expand their collection. Someone should follow up on this, either Cindy Ricks or Jean Swearingen.

The patience and financial support provided by Technical Services (Purkerson, Sacklin, Hofstra) for this non-programmed project is appreciated.

  
Randy Feranna

cc:  
J. Swearingen  
C. Ricks

## INTRODUCTION

Information contained in the narratives and historic photo descriptions is based solely on interviews with individual contributors. Interpretation and editorial compilation may have created misconceptions of the actual occurrence. It is important to mention that the focus was on the historic floods and fishery of Redwood Creek. Questions were intended to explore those areas only. During the process, however, a wealth of other historic information was revealed and a relatively small project expanded to include all information.

It was our impression these people rarely exaggerated; the truth was incredible in itself. The following pages represent our best effort to objectively report this information. Caution as to accuracy is suggested. Much can be lost in the translation of old adventures, people and places when conveyed from one person to another.

## INTERVIEW NARRATIVE

INTERVIEWED BY: Cindy Ricks and Randy Feranna

DATE: May 15, 1981

CONTRIBUTOR: Francis C. White ("Beeb")

### FAMILY HISTORY:

Francis C. White ("Beeb") family history told by Jackie White - May 29, 1981 (supplemented by information from Thelma Hufford - September 14, 1980).

Annie (Annik) Tepsaw, a full-blooded Yurok from the Ossagon village, located on the upper end of Gold Bluff beach, married George Griffin, who found gold on Sand Cache Creek in the 1860's. They had four daughters, Myr, Ola, Ida, and Fannie. In the 1870's, Griffin entered into partnership with Robert Swan. At the age of 36, Griffin caught pneumonia and died in 1883. Later, Annie married Emil Frey, who came from Switzerland. Emil helped Annie and her four daughters settle George Griffin's estate, which Robert Swan had taken over after Griffin's death. Ola, Ida, and Fannie received cash for the settlement. Myr Griffin obtained land in the settlement and married Frank Hufford in 1892. For the Hufford family history see Interview Narrative - Thelma Hufford.

Emil and Annie later settled near Ira Dorrence's place on the north slough. They lived in a crude shed until they built a house. A man named Provost helped build the house in exchange for room and board. Annie and Emil Frey had two children, Joe and Eunice. Eunice was born in 1889. Joe Frey lived in a cabin where Beeb and Jackie White's house is located. The house Eunice Frey lived in was built in 1898-9. Eunice married a man named Mr. Brown and they had two daughters, Eleanor ("Brownie") Smith and Blanche Blankenship. When Mr. Brown died, his cousin Edward White married Eunice. Ed White was half Indian, and Jackie explained this was often the custom. Ed and Eunice had three children, Clara Ann Dawson, Emil Edward White, and Francis C. ("Beeb") White. Beeb was raised on a dairy ranch in the Orick Valley near the three cedar trees (just south of Doug Lane's ranch in Orick today). Beeb used to go up to the mouth of Redwood Creek to his Uncle Joe's house on the weekends.

### NARRATIVE

Beeb told how his grandfather, Emil Frey, packed sand from the beaches in the north in the late 1800's (presumably Gold Bluffs Beach), to a small creek on the coast to pan the sand. This is also how Sand Cache Creek got its name. Beeb's mother, Eunice, told him many stories of how different things were then. For example, Ed White ordered his entire stock of winter supplies from Portland one year. The cost of the goods and freight from Portland was \$21.00. Beeb's great aunt, Jenny, came with a group of Yuroks in dug-out canoes from Requa to Gold Bluffs. In heavy surf the canoe turned over and Jenny's hands were caught under it. She suffered tendon damage and always had crippled hands because the nearest doctor was in Hoopa, too far for help.

### COASTLINE CHANGES

The large sea stack to the north of the mouth of Redwood Creek used to be attached to the mainland. Ira Dorrence was talking home one Thanksgiving evening, thinking

he would have to climb over the hill since the tide was high around the cliffs. He found a hole through the point just big enough to crawl through and after that the rock eroded away rapidly. Ira Dorrence lived in the area from about 1919 to 1971, making it difficult to establish the date of this event. Deer Rock was once like a miniature Gate Point (Gate Point is called Mussel Point on the topographic maps). Deer Rock was wedge apart in 1946. Eunice could walk on the sand between Twin Rocks (just north of the mouth of Redwood Creek) during June at low tide and would rake crabs from the tidepools.

#### MOUTH OF REDWOOD CREEK

The mouth was usually left alone. In the early days there was enough filtration through the beach to keep the water level in the lagoon down. That was before all the clay plugged it up. When it rained for several days, the water got murky, not muddy like it does now. One dry year in the early 1900's, Eunice recalls that the rains did not come until late December and the mouth remained closed. She saw seagulls feeding in the ocean near the mouth and noticed salmon eggs on the beach, suggesting the salmon could not wait to spawn any longer and spawned where the creek's water was seeping out of the sand. When the mouth opens, the salmon move rapidly upstream. One fall, Edward White and Joe Frey started up the Redwood Creek - Big Lagoon Trail to pick up winter supplies. It had rained the night before, opening the mouth and by 3:00 p.m. that day they saw salmon 11-12 miles up Redwood Creek.

When the mouth first opened, king salmon entered the creek in large numbers. Beeb said he was pretty good with a spear but when many kings were in the riffles, the kings were so thick it was hard to make up your mind which one to spear. The hookbills (silver salmon) came later, usually mid-November to December.

#### NORTH SLOUGH

The water was at least 20 feet deep from the inlet near Ira Dorrence's place all the way around the cliff toward the mouth. Beeb thinks salmon went up the north slough because of the freshwater from Sand Cache Creek. Beeb's youngest son, Howard, while deer hunting along Sand Cache Creek, shot a salmon and brought it home instead of a deer. The south slough was fished during the outgoing tides and north slough during the incoming. In about 1930, Edward White and Joe Frey set nets on the north side of the north slough forks. They had fastened one side to the bank when they felt a fish hit the net. Several more fish hit the net so they quickly pulled the net in. In a matter of minutes they caught 21 salmon. These were not Redwood Creek salmon, they thought, because they had a stubbier nose, similar to Klamath River salmon. Beeb thought they probably had come in the north slough, circled around, and were on their way out to go further up the coast.

Most of the time when Redwood Creek flooded, the water came through the Hendriksen's fields and into the north slough. There was a large hole where the county road bridge crosses the north slough. The bridge was an old railroad car that had been placed there. After the Hendriksen's put their dike in, the north slough was not affected by floods so it started to fill up with sediment.

#### 1964 FLOOD

This flood brought more debris down the creek than earlier floods. There was trash for a quarter of a mile out in the ocean. The south wind and flood tides carried the debris back up into the north slough. Breakers came all the way against the middle island after this flood.

#### OTHER STATEMENTS - FISHING

There was an old abandoned channel that tied into Strawberry Creek below Olga Boydson's (Shoreline Deli). It was called Savage Slough. In 1897 or 1898, Eunice was out all night tending nets from a dug-out canoe in Savage Slough. They caught 40 salmon and sleded the fish by horse back to the house. Eunice began the task of cleaning and curing the fish since they did not have freezers.

Beeb said they used to catch quite a few sea-run cutthroat and did not think anything of it. In fact, the cutthroat used to steal eggs off their line while salmon fishing. Candlefish were netted in pools when they were running. They caught "trout" (young salmon) on Redwood Creek year-round.

#### OTHER STATEMENTS

Spruce stumps were burned out by burying the fire with sod.

Eunice said one species of mushroom was in the area until the 1950's when a second type appeared.

Beeb mentioned that there was lots of game here until the last ten years. He found a natural duck-hunting blind on the north slough fork, a stump that is still there. Later he discovered that his father and grandfather had used that spot too.

The cheese factory was used as a truck repair shop after they started to ship the milk south. It burned about 1955.

Jackie told how the elk came down from the hill above the White's house to the middle island every year before the dike was constructed in 1968. Then they did not come the next year. Two years later they came down to the levee and a large elk tried to cross, but they went back and have never come down again.

## INTERVIEW NARRATIVE

INTERVIEWED BY: Randy Feranna and Cindy Ricks

DATE: May 15, 1981

CONTRIBUTOR: Florence Kring

Florence moved to the Orick area in 1946. During the 1950 flood and later floods, Florence taught at the Orick school and had to clean mud out of the gymnasium many times. After the 1955 flood, Pauline (Ruby Jean McNamara's sister) found her car downstream in a field after her garage washed away. During the 1964 flood, the water was three to five feet deep across the Orick Valley. Del Bert and Mary Roche were stranded on the roof of their home. Edith Taggart hiked over the hill to the ocean and saw waves crashing halfway up the cliffs, tossing logs in the surf like toothpicks. When the water finally receded in the Orick Valley, gravel and mud was everywhere and the floodplain looked like a desert. Tom McNamara moved his house back away from the river after the flood. Bob McNamara's Palm Motel and Dorsey's Lumberjack received bad flood damage. Pat Dorsey promoted to get the dike constructed.

Florence remembers the Army Corps drilled many test holes in the Orick Valley and offered to let people cap them for water wells. After the dike went in, Florence Kring claims their water became rusty, greasy, and foul smelling.

Peter Kring caught alot of salmon from Redwood Creek using (gill) nets and would haul horse drawn wagon loads away. Ada Kring went fishing every year and always caught fish. Around 1919 she caught a 65 pound salmon, according to Florence. When Florence arrived in the Orick area about 1946, 20 or 30 of the local women would gather on Redwood Creek about once a year to spear salmon. They went at night to avoid the game warden, and when they could hear the fish coming up the riffles they would try to spear them.

Florence and Don fished the holes made by log jams. Across from the Baine's place (later the Foster's ranch) on the creek was a nice hole created by a log jam. There were also some good snagholes in the north slough. Don enjoyed fishing for steelhead.

In April of 1973, an unusually large run of candlefish occurred for two to three days. You could grab them out with your hands. The candlefish they did not eat were used as fertilizer.

## INTERVIEW NARRATIVE

INTERVIEWED BY: Randy Feranna and Cindy Ricks

DATE: March 29, 1981

CONTRIBUTOR: Blanche Brown Blankenship, Clara Ann White Dawson, Francis C. ("Beeb") White, Jackie White

(SEE FRANCIS C. WHITE - FAMILY HISTORY)

Blanche has an old Railroad Map of the Orick Valley. The surveys were done in 1909, scale 1" = 500 feet. It shows the property boundaries along the proposed railroad route. People sold land to the company but later bought it back. The map notes during high tide the mouth of Redwood Creek creates a 70-80 acre lagoon.

The family recalled several incidents involving "Brownie" (Elenor Brown), including falling from boats and off piers into the water. The family also recalls a snow-storm in Orick in the winter of 1916.

In the late 1930's, Mr. Irvine fly fished the Redwood Creek lagoon for trout from a canoe. Beeb White remembers guiding the boat for Mr. Irvine for a dollar a day.

The salmon runs came in waves, with the kings coming first and then the red hookbills (coho). The coho was called silver salmon because the female was shiny bright.

Beeb said his mother, Eunice, remembers not going to school because of high water. Then, they called it high water or freshet, not a flood. The 1949 (?) waters came up to the Blankenship home and they were unable to get back to their home.

HISTORIC PHOTOS: Orick and Redwood Creek area.

COLLECTED BY: Cindy Ricks and Randy Feranna.

DATE: March 29, 1981.

CONTRIBUTOR: Blanche Blankenship.

| COPY TYPE: | PHOTO NUMBER: | DESCRIPTION:                                                                                                                                  |
|------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S-4        | 1             | Left 1/3 of framed photo of Blankenship Ranch (panorama) taken in 1926 by A. L. Monroe from Drain, Oregon. View to south across Orick Valley. |
| S-4        | 2             | Middle 1/3 of above photo.                                                                                                                    |
| S-4        | 3             | Right 1/3 of above photo.                                                                                                                     |

HISTORIC PHOTOS: Floods and fishing at the mouth of Redwood Creek.

COLLECTED BY: Cindy Ricks and Randy Feranna.

DATE: February 1981.

CONTRIBUTOR: Teresa Michna Lewis.

| COPY TYPE: | PHOTO NUMBER: | DESCRIPTION:                                                                                                      |
|------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S-2        | 1             | View toward mouth of Redwood Creek at time of December 1964 flood. Floodplain and overflow channel are inundated. |
| S-2        | 2             | Same as above. Main channel is to left of the island.                                                             |
|            | 3             | Same view as other photos but not flooded.                                                                        |
|            | 4             | View toward mouth showing floodplain flooded during 1964 flood.                                                   |

INTERVIEW NARRATIVE

INTERVIEWED BY: Randy Feranna and Cindy Ricks

DATE: March 29, 1981

CONTRIBUTOR: Ima

Ima lived on River Road (now Hufford Road) in 1949 - 1950 the first time she experienced flooding by Redwood Creek. In following years the creek seemed to flood higher and more often. They measured and learned when to leave their house by how high the water was in the house. You had to clean up the mess four or five times a year. The 1955 flood was not as bad as the 1964. In 1964 the wind blew hard and it rained hard for six weeks.

## INTERVIEW NARRATIVE

INTERVIEWED BY: Cindy Ricks and Randy Feranna

DATE: May 6, 1981

CONTRIBUTOR: Maxine Pelroy

Maxine's husband Fritz passed away three years ago and was known as one of the better fishermen on Redwood Creek. Doctors and lawyers came from far to fish with Fritz. They claimed he could catch fish where there weren't any. Fritz started fishing on Redwood Creek in 1955. Maxine told us that the fish used to hold in the deep hole where Prairie Creek meets Redwood Creek. It was 15-20 feet deep. Fritz hooked a 45-50 lb. king salmon in this hole but was unable to land the fish until he got down to the 101 bridge. The fish was so strong it exhausted Fritz, constantly taking line and going downstream. This was in the later years of his life when he had to have someone help carry the fish. Maxine showed us a photo of a 40 lb. salmon that Fritz caught in 1962 or 1963. He caught about the same number of cohos and kings until about 1975. However, she mentioned that after 1975, few silvers could be caught. A lot of "trout" could be caught with salmon eggs when the steelhead were in.

In 1955, Maxine and Fritz lived across from the Orick school. The flood water came up to the running boards of their pickup and later into their house. They later moved to the present location on the hill. In the 1964 flood they observed that the water came just across Highway 101.

The old Redwood Creek Cafe was in one of her photos. It has been converted into a burl shop, which is located just north of the Shoreline Deli.

## INTERVIEW NARRATIVE

INTERVIEWED BY: Cindy Ricks and Randy Feranna

DATE: March 30, 1981

CONTRIBUTOR: Frank ~~McGill~~ *miguel*

Frank fished Redwood Creek since 1956 and claimed it was "nothing to catch fish (kings) up to 50 pounds." He fished for salmon mostly in the lower portion of the creek, at the deep hole along the cliff near the mouth, or the deep hole where Prairie Creek enters Redwood Creek. He used spinners or anchovies with a ~~steel~~ leader so large fish could not fray the line and break off. Frank recalls the kings being long and heavy, some nearly "six feet long!" The largest fish he saw from Redwood Creek was 60 pounds and the biggest he ever caught was 53 pounds.

Frank believes that during the 1960's more cohos than kings were in Redwood Creek. Cohos averaged 8-12 pounds and it "was nothing to catch a silver to 18 pounds." Frank believed that the cohos entered the creek before the kings. Frank felt that in 1968 Prairie Creek Hatchery stocked many cohos because a few years later there was a good run of cohos.

In the late 1950's, "you didn't have much of a change<sup>c</sup> to fish steelhead in the winter, it rained hard and the creek stayed muddy much of the time." Most people did not care to fish steelhead, king salmon were the best fish in the creek. Sea-run cutthroat were also nice eating fish which could be caught early in the year, before the heavy rains muddied the creek for prolonged periods. Frank said he had caught sea-run cutthroat up to 6 months.

Frank recalls the hole where Prairie Creek enters Redwood Creek as "the salmon hole" - "it was very deep." Frank said he plunked "a big gob of roe in the hole and would just wait" for a salmon, steelhead, or cutthroat to take it. He also said the 1964 flood filled it in some but it did not really change until the dike was built and channel modifications were done near the confluence.

Frank reflects on the past few years and recalls the drastic decline of the creek's fishing, especially king salmon: "The salmon do not have anywhere to hold up in the (lower) creek. They will not stop in the shallow water, so they must go upstream before they are ready, or else they are likely to be killed - legally or illegally. Now it takes a tree, log, or stump to create a temporary hole to provide a holding, resting, and hiding place. I only caught 3-4 salmon this year."

INTERVIEW NARRATIVE

INTERVIEWED BY: Randy Feranna and Cindy Ricks

DATE: March 30, 1981

CONTRIBUTOR: Jim Hagood

Jim's mother, Jean Hagood, lived in Orick since 1918 but now lives in Rio Dell. Jim's younger brother, Bobby, was a photographer and took many of the flood photos Jean contributed to Steve Veirs. Jim has lived in the Orick area since 1945. Before the 1953 flood, the bed of Redwood Creek was narrow and quite deep. The 1955 flood widened it some. During flooding the stream might raise two feet per hour. After the 1964 flood, three feet of silt was deposited north of Hagood's Hardware Store. Inside the store the water had been about one foot deep and two inches of silt was left. The floods created hard work but brought unity to the town because everyone needed help.

Up until 1955, "it was nothing to catch a 40 pounder" in Hufford's slough. The creek bed also had lots of holes, stumps, and rocks, but Jim never fished much.

## INTERVIEW NARRATIVE

INTERVIEWED BY: Cindy Ricks and Randy Feranna

DATE: March 29, 1981

CONTRIBUTOR: Bob and Ruby Jean McNamara

The McNamara's have lived in the Orick area for 40 years and have vivid memories of the floods. For the past 12 years they have lived in a house located on a hill along Hufford Road that offers an excellent view of the Orick flood-plain. In addition, they owned the Palm Cafe-Motel during the 1955 (?) flood. The McNamara's believe the 1955 flood deposited half as much silt as the 1964 flood in Orick, and the water level remained high for a longer period in 1964. In 1964, 21 inches of silt was deposited in the yard at the Palm Motel. During the highest flow, a log floated through town and damaged a window at the motel. Mr. McNamara commented that a standard fence post with 54" above ground was half buried with silt after the 1964 flood. The fence post mentioned is located behind the Orick theatre. He also noted that the water was 10 feet deep at the bottom of their driveway along Hufford Road (near the Lumberjack).

Bob told us they lost a motor over the side of the boat near the mouth of Redwood Creek. One of the people with them was a good diver but could not dive to the bottom because it was too deep. Motors were seldom used on the creek; usually boats were rowed. Photo #2 shows a king salmon caught in the north slough. Bob also recalled that a 62 lb. salmon was once caught at the "Forks" (junction of Prairie Creek and Redwood Creek) prior to the 1964 flood.

The telephone company once did some drilling in the valley and hit a fir log at 183 feet. They encountered another one at 210 feet. Bob thought that someone at Humboldt State University had identified the logs.

HISTORIC PHOTOS: Floods and fishing at the mouth of Redwood Creek.

COLLECTED BY: Cindy Ricks and Randy Feranna.

DATE: March 29, 1981.

CONTRIBUTORS: Bob and Ruby McNamara.

| COPY TYPE: | PHOTO NUMBER: | DESCRIPTION:                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S-5        | 1             | Early 1940s. Trolling for salmon in the south slough with a motor. Use of a motor was uncommon and generally only rowboats were used on Redwood Creek.                       |
| S-5        | 2             | Early 1940s. Ruby Jean McNamara holding 30 + pound king salmon caught from the north slough while trolling with a silver spinner and light weight. Ada Kring rowed the boat. |
| S-7        | 3             | 1955 flood. View of Palm Motel-Cafe in Orick during flood. The palm tree on left eventually fell over from the flood water.                                                  |
| S-6        | 4             | 1955 flood. View of Hagoods or valley view in Orick during flood.                                                                                                            |
| S-5        | 5             | 1945. View of Orick north on Highway 101 from the bridge over Redwood Creek.                                                                                                 |

HISTORIC PHOTOS: 1955 Flood, Orick and Klamath  
FROM: "..... AND HIGH WATER! Pictorial Review of  
Northwestern California's Disasterous Christ-  
mas Flood of 1955."  
Compiled and published by the Pacific Logger,  
P.O. Box 939  
Eureka, CA 95501

COLLECTED BY: Cindy Ricks and Randy Feranna.

DATE: March 29, 1981.

CONTRIBUTORS: Mike and Myrle Modrow.

| COPY TYPE: | PHOTO NUMBER: | DESCRIPTION:                                                                                                                 |
|------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S-3        | 1             | Aerial view of flooded Orick and a portion of Redwood Creek. (detailed description on slide)                                 |
| S-4        | 2             | Aerial view of the town of Klamath being washed away by flood water. (detailed description on slide)                         |
| S-4        | 3             | View of north approach of old 101 bridge over Klamath River, showing damage caused by flood. (detailed description on slide) |
| S-3        | 4             | View of main street of Klamath shortly after flood showing flood damage. (detailed description on slide)                     |

HISTORIC PHOTOS: Orick and Redwood Creek area.

COLLECTED BY: Cindy Ricks and Randy Feranna.

DATE: March 29, 1981.

CONTRIBUTORS: Mike and Myrle Modrow.

| COPY TYPE: | PHOTO NUMBER: | DESCRIPTION:                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S-6        | 1             | 1937. Myrle Modrow on left. Salmon caught from the hole at the base of cliff near the neck of the north slough. This hole is now filled in with sand. Dock was located on the north slough, where Hufford's rented boats. |
| S-5        | 2             | 1947. Virgene Lane on left. Dale (?) on right. Sea-run cutthroat caught from Redwood Creek near Foster's field. The original channel and "island" in background.                                                          |
| S-5        | 3             | 1939. Salmon caught from Redwood Creek. Mike Modrow on left.                                                                                                                                                              |
| S-5        | 4             | Mike Modrow and Dicky (unknown last name) with salmon caught at confluence of Redwood and Prairie Creeks. The hole was reported to be about 20 feet deep during the early 1940s.                                          |
| S-5        | 5             | Sea-run cutthroat taken from Redwood Creek.                                                                                                                                                                               |
| S-6        | 6             | Rowboats rented from Hendricksens and used to fish on Redwood Creek.                                                                                                                                                      |
| S-8        | 7             | 1937. View north toward mouth of Redwood Creek.                                                                                                                                                                           |
| S-5        | 7             | 1937. Closeup view of estuary area.                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| S-5        | 8             | Orick garage owned by Donald Tipton ("Tip").                                                                                                                                                                              |
| S-4        | 9             | View of beach, south of Redwood Creek, mouth after flood of ____?____.                                                                                                                                                    |
| S-4        | 10            | Sediment deposition in Orick after flood of ____?____.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| S-4        | 11            | Sediment deposition in Orick after flood of ____?____.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| S-4        | 12            | Orick area, Highway 101, after flood of ____?____.                                                                                                                                                                        |
| S-4        | 13            | Redwood Creek, after flood of ____?____.                                                                                                                                                                                  |

## INTERVIEW NARRATIVE

INTERVIEWED BY: Randy Feranna and Cindy Ricks

DATE: March 30, 1981

CONTRIBUTOR: Pinky Zuber

Pinky came to Orick in 1923 and lived near the Redwood Creek bridge during the 1927 flood, which covered the valley from wall to wall. She remembers stories told to her of a flood in 1921. She moved near Lookout Point in February, 1930, and established the Lookout Lunchroom. When the Lookout Lunchroom began to develop cracks, she moved down to her present home in July, 1949. The Lunchroom eventually fell apart and is no longer standing. During World War II in February, 1941, a Coast Guard Station was established on Lookout Point to watch for foreign ships.

Pinky learned to fish from Conrad Zuber, and Conrad and Pinky fished Redwood Creek often. They caught many large fish (GAZ photo #20). Her photo (PZ #2) shows a 42 pound salmon caught in the north slough. In the 1930's her brother, Bradley, caught a 52 pound salmon. They trolled using spinners with 50 feet of line for the north slough or 25 feet in the main channel (now the south slough). Sometimes they used a piece of trout as bait to catch chubs. Spawn was used to catch cutthroat and steelhead following the salmon. One day Pinky caught 17 fish. Big sea-run cutthroat were sometimes caught, from four to six pounds.

When dark or red salmon were caught, they were given to Orick Bob to smoke. Indians had drying racks on the beach, and they never wasted any of the fish. The eggs were cooked, tails were dried, and soup made from the head. Jim Marks built a fishing camp and had drying racks for surf fish near the mouth.

Fishing season opened on Declaration Day (Veterans Day?). The best salmon fishing was from October 15 until the first hard rains. Occasionally, fish came into the mouth on the washover before it was open. Pinky also said the best salmon fishing was after the first rain.

The water came up so fast in the 1955 flood, cabins washed away and one man drowned. Six to eight inches of mud was left in the old store (location?).

Pinky mentioned the north slough was sometimes so full of wood debris boats could barely pass, even before the levees were constructed.

HISTORIC PHOTOS: Orick and Redwood Creek area.

COLLECTED BY: Cindy Ricks and Randy Feranna.

DATE: March 1981.

CONTRIBUTOR: Pinky Zuber.

| COPY TYPE: | PHOTO NUMBER: | DESCRIPTION:                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S-4        | 1             | September-October 1944. Conrad and Pinky Zuber with king salmon taken from Redwood Creek while trolling from a rowboat near the mouth/north slough area. Fish estimated to be in the 20 pound class.                         |
| S-5        | 2             | September 16, 1944. Conrad Zuber (left), others unknown. King salmon (35 pounds) taken from lower Redwood Creek. Photo taken in front of Lookout Lunchroom, located on old highway, owned and operated by Pinky Zuber.       |
| S-4        | 3             | Early 1930s. Fish taken from Redwood Creek. Species unknown. Larger fish probably coho or "chub" salmon. Taken in front of the Lookout Lunchroom.                                                                            |
| S-2        | 4             | 1962. Bradley Zuber (Pinky's brother) with king salmon (estimated weight 25-30 pounds) taken while casting spoons in Lower Redwood Creek. Taken from Pinky Zuber's yard, view toward lower Redwood Creek.                    |
| S-3        | 5             | 1962. Larry (left) and Bradley Zuber with steelhead taken from Redwood Creek.                                                                                                                                                |
| S-2        | 6             | View from Pinky Zuber's yard toward mouth of Redwood Creek. Photo shows accumulation of sand and woody debris beginning to cut off neck of channel. Photo taken four years after completion of channelization/levee project. |
| S-4        | 7             | 1962. View from Pinky Zuber's backyard toward lower Redwood Creek. Island and original channel in background.                                                                                                                |
| S-4        | 8             | Winter 1950. Redwood Creek. View toward original channel, island, and north slough in background to left. Photo #8 and #9 match together to show entire lower area of Creek.                                                 |
| S-4        | 9             | Winter 1950. Redwood Creek. View toward mouth. Note breach point (center of photo), overwash, and extent of North Slough. Photo #8 and #9 match together to show entire lower area of creek.                                 |

| COPY TYPE: | PHOTO NUMBER: | DESCRIPTION:                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S-4        | 10            | About January 1972. View from Pinky Zuber's backyard toward mouth of Redwood Creek.                                                                                   |
| S-5        | 11            | May-June 1964 (color print). View from road above Pinky Zuber's house toward mouth of Redwood Creek.                                                                  |
| S-5        | 12            | Early 1950s. View toward mouth of Redwood Creek showing original channel and island. Photo #12 and #13 match together to give a broad view of the area.               |
| S-5        | 13            | Early 1950s. Looking upstream at original channel and about half of the island. Photo #12 and #13 match together to give a broader view of the area.                  |
| S-6        | 14            | 1950. View toward mouth of Redwood Creek during flood.                                                                                                                |
|            | 15            | 1950. View of wetlands along sand spit between Cal Pac mill site (off photo to left) and mouth of Redwood Creek (off photo to right).                                 |
| S-4        | 16            | March-April 1959. View from Pinky Zuber's backyard toward mouth of Redwood Creek.                                                                                     |
| S-1        | 17            | About 1942. Albert Zuber's log truck. Photo taken in front of the Lookout Lunchroom which was located on the old highway between Freshwater Lagoon and Redwood Creek. |
| S-1        | 18            | 1947. Albert Zuber's log truck, a converted military truck.                                                                                                           |

HISTORIC PHOTOS: Orick and Redwood Creek area.

COLLECTED BY: Cindy Ricks and Randy Feranna.

DATE: March 29, 1981.

CONTRIBUTORS: Gloria and Albert Zuber.

| COPY TYPE: | PHOTO NUMBER: | DESCRIPTION:                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S-7        | 1             | 1942. Pinky (left) and Conrad Zuber in row-boat holding king salmon from lower Redwood Creek.                                                                                                                                 |
| S-6        | 2             | 1944. Conrad Zuber (left) and Lawrence Graham with king salmon from lower Redwood Creek.                                                                                                                                      |
| S-5        | 3             | October 1943. Conrad Zuber holding king salmon caught from Redwood Creek in front of Zuber's Lookout Lunchroom.                                                                                                               |
| S-7        | 4             | September 1944. Conrad and Pinky Zuber with king salmon caught from Redwood Creek.                                                                                                                                            |
| S-4        | 5             | 1946. Mr. Gilbert Ramsey holding king salmon from Redwood Creek. Conrad Zuber in background. Fish weighed about 30 pounds.                                                                                                    |
| S-6        | 6             | 1946. Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey holding same fish shown in photo #5. Taken in front of the Zuber's Lookout Lunchroom.                                                                                                               |
| S-5        | 7             | September 30, 1944. Inez Ramsey (Pinky Zuber's sister) with king salmon taken from Redwood Creek.                                                                                                                             |
| S-5        | 8             | November 1946. Albert Zuber (left), Conrad Zuber (center), and Russel Lewis (right). Albert shot ducks in upper end of the north slough while the others fished and caught the king salmon from Redwood Creek near the mouth. |
| S-6        | 9             | 1944. Conrad Zuber (rowing boat) and Pinky Zuber on lower Redwood Creek, near mouth-north slough.                                                                                                                             |
| S-5        | 10            | October 16, 1942. Conrad and Pinky Zuber with king salmon taken from Redwood Creek. These fish weighed about 35-45 pounds.                                                                                                    |
| S-5        | 11            | 1942. Coast Guard personnel, Joe Leterberg (left) and Jack Patapaff, stationed in the area to watch coastline during World War II, hold king salmon taken from Redwood Creek.                                                 |

| COPY TYPE: | PHOTO NUMBER: | DESCRIPTION:                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S-6        | 12            | 1935-40. View toward mouth of Redwood Creek during high water, showing overflow wetland area in foreground.                                                                                                                |
| S-6        | 13            | 1935-40. View toward mouth of Redwood Creek.                                                                                                                                                                               |
| S-5        | 14            | 1935-40. View toward mouth-estuary of Redwood Creek. NOTE the outlet channel has migrated south along the beach.                                                                                                           |
| S-6        | 15            | 1944. View from Zuber's home toward mouth - estuary of Redwood Creek.                                                                                                                                                      |
| S-4        | 15<br>closeup | 1944. Closeup of estuary - north slough area.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| S-6        | 16            | Early 1940s. View toward mouth Redwood Creek.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| S-1        | 17            | Early 1940s. View toward mouth Redwood Creek.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| S-6        | 18            | February 1939. View toward mouth Redwood Creek and overflow wetland area to the south. Note the overwash from the rough sea along the beach.                                                                               |
| S-2        | 19            | February 1939. Same as #18 but the view is a little to the south.                                                                                                                                                          |
| S-5        | 20            | Lookout Lunchroom, run by Pinky Zuber on Old State Highway. The lunchroom was abandoned when cracks developed as the hill began to slide away from beneath it. Many fishing pictures were taken in front of the gas pumps. |

## INTERVIEW NARRATIVE

INTERVIEWED BY: Randy Feranna and Cindy Ricks

DATE: April 17 and May 6, 1981

CONTRIBUTORS: Robert and Alma Davison

### DAVISON'S FAMILY HISTORY

Arthur Davison came to the Orick area in 1881. He met Irene in San Francisco and they returned to the Orick area together in 1889. Irene was one of the first people to own a camera in the Orick area. The Davisons settled a large portion of Prairie Creek Valley and had three children - Robert, John, and Gladys. Robert is presently 88 years old and lives with his wife, Alma, on Davison Road (married February 1, 1923). John Davison's wife Marion (Mary) also developed and printed pictures taken by John. Their daughter Marion Ledgerwood (442-6332, Eureka, CA 95501) has a collection of photos and equipment that belonged to Irene Davison. The February 1, 1973 issue of the Arcata Union (page 13) offered an article about Irene entitled A Pioneer Woman's Photo Legacy. Savina Barlow wrote the article using Irene's photos and had it published for Robert and Alma's 50th wedding anniversary.

Robert and Alma have four sons - Lowell, Robert Richard (Dick), Maurice, and John Melvin (Mel). Dick, age 54, runs the Davison's dairy on Davison Road where Robert and Alma also live.

### FLOODS

Robert remembered the debris line left in the trees after the 1860 flood, which showed for years where the old county road went around the swamp near Skunk Cabbage Creek.

Arthur and the others told Robert about a family from Missouri, the Rileys, who built a house on an island in a slough near the present Redwood Creek bridge. In 1890 the house washed downstream, caught on a spruce log, and was torn to pieces. Mrs. Riley's sewing machine was lost and buried in the sediment but a mechanic found and repaired it. Prairie Creek also flooded in 1890, and their cows mired down in the deep mud. Prairie Creek flooded often around the Davison's ranch until they built a dike in 1954 to protect the house. Robert said the log jams were so bad on Prairie Creek that flooding occurred with almost every hard rain. They dynamited the log jams using 15-20 sticks of dynamite to keep the creek from flooding so often. In October of 1950 or 1953, they had a large storm which they termed a "typhoon." The power was off for more than 48 hours, and the flood water rose fast during the night. At 3:00 a.m. they went out looking for their cattle. Later in the morning they were able to use a 4-wheel drive and then a boat to get to the cattle. The water was four feet deep in places on Davison road. Their son, Mel, tried to wade to the cattle standing on an island of high ground but was nearly washed away. He was saved from washing down the creek by people in the boat. The Davisons never had water come into their house until the 1953 or 1955 flood, when water came up on the front porch and through the floor. The high water did not come every year but when it did, it deposited six to eight inches of silt on their lawn and lots of debris and driftwood. Alma remembered they had high water on January 17 for several years, which is their third son's,

Maurice's, birthday. They said that in past years it seemed to rain more than now. Dick Davison has a rain station at the Davison's ranch with records back to 1950.

During the big floods, they could not get out to Orick because the confluence of Redwood Creek and Prairie Creek became "one big lake." The Arcata Redwood mill site was built up about ten feet from the natural level. Conditions were bad in Orick after the floods and the people cleaned out their closets to give others clothes to wear. Sixty people stayed at Larry Crivelli's place during one of the floods. He was washed out in a later flood and moved to the Requa area. After the 1955 flood in Orick, people walked around a large fire trying to dry their clothes. Many were wearing the only clothes they now owned.

Prairie Creek was not as bad as Redwood Creek in the 1964 flood, since more rain fell inland. Robert worked at Klamath Glen in a mill yard which was 20 feet below the normal river level. The Klamath River came up 24 feet above the mill yard washing all the logs in the yard away. Alma showed us a booklet called Christmas Floods 1964, a reprint from California Highways and Public Works Magazine, January - February 1965. It had lots of pictures of the Klamath and Eel River but nothing on Redwood Creek or Orick.

#### HISTORIC SALMON FISHERY

Several canneries were at the mouth of the Klamath River until the 1920's. Commercial fishing was done at night, but not during the day so the native "Klamath salmon" could run up the river. Arthur Davison knew an Indian named Charlie who used his net in the daytime. He netted 55 salmon in a single haul one day. The Davisons showed us a special needle used for knitting nets. One hundred years ago there were salmon canneries on the Eel River also. Big seines were used to haul in the salmon.

Redwood Creek was never fished commercially except in the ocean off the mouth. It was illegal to spear salmon except for the Indians who used nets and spears. But because there was "no law north of Trinidad" and "hundreds of thousands" of salmon came up the creek, an occasional spear fishing party was held. Before Alma came to the area in 1923, so many spawned out salmon could be found along Boyes Creek that you could not walk there because of the smell. On Strilow Creek, up near Gold Bluff Road, a dozen salmon were trying to spawn on every riffle on Thanksgiving, 1911. Robert also told about trapping bear up Lost Man Creek (in the 1920's) when pig meat was used for bait rather than salmon, because there were hundreds of salmon carcasses along the creek. The red-sided hookbills or silver salmon were native to Prairie Creek, according to Robert. He said that Mr. Hume, a cannery owner/operator on the Klamath River, planted king salmon upstream on Redwood Creek at the turn of the century. The younger kids were told a story that the fish had chin hooks (chinooks) to use for resting in the stream.

Robert feels the salmon fishery decline is not related to the sediment. The placer mines on the Klamath River made the water so dirty that you could not see an inch away.

#### FISHING ON REDWOOD CREEK

Robert Davison remembers standing on the shore to spear salmon. He recalled a story about a Mr. Frey trolling from a canoe, hooking a 75 pound salmon, and

had to be towed by another boat to land it. Robert thinks he once caught an 80 pound salmon but it wasn't weighed. Salmon were generally caught near the mouth of Redwood Creek and steelhead fishing occurred from Prairie Creek down to near the mouth of Redwood Creek. The steelhead came later in the season, from December on, even though there "never was an awful lot of steelheads." Robert thought that a 28 pound steelhead was caught but did not recall when. His mother, Irene, would fish in Prairie Creek in the afternoon to catch trout for supper - you could always count on catching plenty. Robert said when Dick was nine years old (1936), he caught three salmon in Prairie Creek that totalled over 100 pounds.

John and Dick tried to see how many candlefish they could grab with one hand at the mouth of Redwood Creek in 1967 when a big run was in. John's larger hand pulled up 22 in one grab.

Orick Bob, an Indian that lived with his wife, Laura, on the hillside between Redwood Creek and Freshwater Lagoon, got his name from the Orekw Indian village once located at the mouth of Redwood Creek. People were grieved to hear of his death, which occurred while drinking with friends up on the Klamath where he fell off a cliff.

The Indians liked to catch the hookbills (silver salmon) because they had less fat than the kings and kept better when dried. They would trade dry fish for acorns. An Indian named Skirks had a little cabin at the mouth of Redwood Creek and an old sweathouse with a pit nearby where they could jump in the water.

Bert Robinson used to catch fish in the 1920's or 1930's on Redwood Creek near the Tall Trees and salt them in a brine pit in a hollowed out redwood log. Fish were smoked in a hollow tree by Bert and/or some Indians. The smoked Redwood Creek salmon were better than the Klamath River salmon, because the fish had less fat. Bert trapped some too and dairied at his father's place next to the Davisons in the summertime.

#### WILDLIFE

They mentioned that beaver were planted on Prairie Creek in the 1930's by California Fish and Game, and do much damage, but the agency denies this. Otter sometimes take charge of old beaver homes.

HISTORIC PHOTOS: Orick and Redwood Creek area.

COLLECTED BY: Cindy Ricks and Randy Feranna.

DATE: April 17, 1981.

CONTRIBUTORS: Robert and Alma Davison.

| COPY TYPE: | PHOTO NUMBER: | DESCRIPTION:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S-4        | 1             | Date unknown. Referred to as the Bald Hills Ranch and suggested to be part of the Thomlinson Ranch.                                                                                                                                           |
| S-4        | 2             | Date unknown. Photo taken somewhere on the Bald Hills.                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| S-4        | 3             | 1904. Looking downstream, wood bridge constructed over Redwood Creek, Orick in 1904. A ferry operated on Redwood Creek prior to bridge construction. The wood bridge broke in 1924 and was later replaced by the present, constructed bridge. |
| S-4        | 4             | 1910. Redwood Creek at Orick, looking downstream from bridge.                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| S-4        | 5             | About 1910. Martins Ferry on the Klamath River. T. F. Martcole & Party in the Indian dugout. Mr Tom Riley & Tom Jr., and Mr. Kirkpatrick on bank.                                                                                             |
| S-4        | 6             | 1924. Wood bridge over Redwood Creek at Orick. North approach broken by a heavy loaded (gravel) truck.                                                                                                                                        |
| S-4        | 7             | 1889. Pack mules in route to Gold Bluff mines from John Chapman's Orick Cash Store and Post Office, later purchased by Webster and Chaffey.                                                                                                   |
| S-4        | 8             | 1912. Orick Post Office, also a dry goods and grocery store. Building located next to the Orick Inn and operated by E. Devlin.                                                                                                                |
| S-2        | 9             | 1935-40. Jim Marks, center, son Harvey on left. Harvey lost one leg in a logging accident. Stories claim he could go through the woods better and faster than a man with two legs.                                                            |
| S-4        | 10            | 1915. Arthur Davison's (Robert's father) home. Located on Davison's Ranch and believed to be one of the oldest homes in the area. Right portion of the building is still standing.                                                            |
| S-4        | 11            | 1910. Fishing net drying racks at Requa, Klamath River.                                                                                                                                                                                       |

| COPY TYPE:                                            | PHOTO NUMBER: | DESCRIPTION:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S-4                                                   | 12            | Date unknown. Orick cheese factory, located across the street/highway from the Orick School. View to west, northwest. Established in 1917. Shut down in the 1940s when milk was sent to Loleta to be processed as dry milk to ship overseas for World War II.                            |
| S-4                                                   | 13            | 1914. At French Camp, located up Bald Hills Road near Martins Ferry Road.                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| S-2                                                   | 14            | About 1912. McComahes first truck used in the Trinidad to Orleans run, by way of Orick, Bald Hills Road, and Martins Ferry. Driver: John Davison; passenger, sister, Gladys, or wife, Marion, (unsure). Truck is a 4-cylinder chain drive Reo.                                           |
| S-2                                                   | 15            | Date unknown. Hauling hay with pack stock to the Gold Bluff mines.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| S-4                                                   | 16            | About 1910. Mine Headquarters building at Gold Bluffs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| S-12<br>(closeup of<br>various portions of the photo) | 17            | 1915. View toward mouth Redwood Creek from old highway or lookout point. The Davison's Model-T truck.                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| S-4                                                   | 18            | 1911. Gold Bluffs beach. Left to right, John Chapman, Bob _____, Miss Beach, Sherman Lyons, Miss Cameron, Mrs. Lyons, Gladys Davison, and Andrew Worth.                                                                                                                                  |
| S-4                                                   | 19            | 1912. The old highway near Big Lagoon. This stretch was called Devils Canyon because of the narrow road and steep slopes.                                                                                                                                                                |
| S-4                                                   | 20            | 1914. The old road near Big Lagoon. Section #19                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| S-2                                                   | 21            | About 1915-20. Two bears taken from the Lost Man Creek watershed by (left) Robert Davison; brother John Davison (center), and (right) Ray Gruber. Normally fish would be used to trap bears, but because there were so many dead salmon along Lost Man Creek, pig meat was used instead. |
| S-4                                                   | 22            | 1910. Redwood Highway near Prairie Creek State Park. A large tree fell across the road, stopping traffic. Photo shows the "Good-ole-day models that paved the way for the modern streamliners," claims Robert Davison.                                                                   |

## INTERVIEW NARRATIVE

INTERVIEWED BY: Cindy Ricks and Randy Feranna

DATE: May 12, 1981

CONTRIBUTOR: Donald ("Tip") and Alice Tipton

Tip was born in 1893 and moved to the Orick Valley in 1937. He built the Orick Garage (photo-Modrow #8) and offered a tow service; he and his wife also ran the lunchroom for 11 years. While operating the lunchroom and garage, they built Tipton's Motel in Orick and operated it for 42 years (the motel north of the Texaco station). In 1980 they sold the motel and moved from Orick to Arcata.

Tip fished often on Redwood Creek, usually in the lower portions near the mouth, or in the north slough. He claimed fishing was very good between 1937-45. Tip told us a story that occurred in 1941: Large kings were in the creek and a little kid named Billy Pugh gaffed a large fish that pulled him into the creek. Billy would not let the fish go and was struggling with it in the creek until the game warden saw them thrashing in the water. Billy got mad because the game warden came down and took his gaff.

Tip and Alice and others favorite fishing spot was near the mouth of Redwood Creek, along the cliffs. A deep hole and a slow eddy formed where the creek flowed into the cliff before exiting to the ocean. Apparently fish entering the creek over the shallow bar would temporarily hold in this hole. Tip recalls a fishing closure ordered by California Fish and Game near the mouth more than 20 years ago. The closure was ordered because someone opened the mouth and people gathered with pitchforks, clubs, and shotguns to get the salmon trapped in the low water.

When good runs of fish entered the estuary, Tip said 35-40 pound kings could be caught most anywhere in (the north) Hufford's slough, even up the slough as far as where the county road crosses. Large kings and chubs could be found in the north slough but generally few cohos. Tip recalled that Mrs. Ada Kring caught a 75-pound king in the lower portion of the creek. However, Florence Kring told us that Don, Ada's son, remembered that the fish only weighted 65 pounds.

Between 1937-45, when large runs of fish were in the creek, they could actually be seen splashing through shallow areas on their way upstream. Tip said the fish could be heard from town, splashing and going upstream, backs out of the water. Kings often spawned in Redwood Creek below Prairie Creek downstream to just above tidewater. When the kings were spawning, alot of sea-run cutthroat could be caught. Cutthroat were caught drifting worms or eggs along the willows. Large cutthroat from 4-6 pounds were sometimes taken.

In the estuary - north slough area, motors were seldom used, it was too small of an area and the locals would complain and "shout you off" the water. The only accepted, sporting way to fish was from a rowboat, slowly trolling spoons, spinners, or bait fish. The north slough was deep, Tip said, but when trolling slow one always had to be careful not to snag on the many logs on the bottom. One day Tip was trolling with Alice in the north slough when she thought she had become snagged on a log. She pulled and jerked and the log began to move!

Alice had hooked a large, heavy fish that broke off on a long run back toward the mouth. They never saw the fish.

Tip told us that as long as he had lived in the area, the mouth closed off every year and never seemed to open up in the exact same place. Tip told us that whenever private pasturelands flooded for long periods or when the locals became anxious to do some salmon fishing in the fall, someone would open up the mouth. Tip recalled a story of opening the mouth in about 1940: Tip, Elmer Hufford, Jack Francis and Joe Frey took Joe's team of mules out to plow the mouth open to let fish into the creek. It was in the fall and they knew a lot of fish were waiting just off the mouth, ready to enter the creek. Once at the mouth with the mule team and plow, they argued amongst themselves how to plow open the mouth - from the mouth toward the ocean or the ocean toward the mouth. They decided to plow from the mouth toward the ocean which was the wrong way, because they almost lost the mules as the backed-up water rushed out to the ocean, cutting and washing the sand berm out from beneath them. As they expected the fish became excited by the freshwater and entered Redwood Creek. Tip mentioned that Joe Frey went upstream later and spread salmon.

Tip and Alice said that after the 1964 flood, up to three feet of silt was deposited in some places around their motel. They claimed the 1964 flood left more silt than previous floods because the water was half mud. Tip felt that the fishing was poor the next year because of flood, but seemed to improve slowly the following years. Tip stated that after the upstream logging, floods and construction of the dikes, the fishing was ruined.

Alice, a full-blooded Indian, was born in Orleans in 1900. She recalls the long mule trains from Brizzards that came to Orleans via Trinidad, Orick, the Bald Hills, French Camp and Martin's Ferry. Both Alice and Tip remember the spruce plank road built up into the Skunk Cabbage drainage to haul logs.

Before Highway 101 was built, Tip's favorite duck hunting spot was on Freshwater Lagoon.

HISTORIC PHOTOS: Orick and Redwood Creek area.

COLLECTED BY: Cindy Ricks and Randy Feranna.

DATE: May 12, 1981.

CONTRIBUTOR: Donald ("Tip") and Alice Tipton.

| COPY TYPE: | PHOTO NUMBER: | DESCRIPTION:                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S-2        | 1             | Palm Motel during the 1950 or 1953 flood.                                                                                                                                  |
| S-3        | 2             | Palm Motel during the 1950 or 1953 flood.                                                                                                                                  |
| S-3        | 3             | The 1950 or 1953 flood. View from Redwood Creek bridge looking toward the Lumberjack.                                                                                      |
| S-4        | 4             | Pile of mops and brooms on the end of the newly constructed levee (October 1968). Orick residents had a bonfire to celebrate the end of cleaning out mud from their homes. |

## INTERVIEW NARRATIVE

INTERVIEWED BY: Cindy Ricks and Randy Feranna

DATE: April 28 and May 6, 1981

CONTRIBUTOR: Savina Antonioli Barlow

In 1972-73 Savina collected historic photos for Steve Veirs from longtime Orick area residents Jean Hagood, Davison, Hendriksen, Zuber, White, and Ida Hufford Francis. Peter Palmquist, photo historian for Humboldt State University, copied the photos for Steve Veirs. This historic photo collecting effort provided photos for Redwood National Park and the Orick Chamber of Commerce. Veirs retained the collection, which is now in the Arcata office, but unfortunately the indexing system for the Redwood National Park photos and Chamber photos do not match. The Chamber photo collection is preceeded by a letter of appreciation from Redwood National Park, dated January 1973, file code K3023.

Savina expressed an interest to continue adding photos to the Orick Chamber of Commerce collection. We agreed to provide her with negatives to copy new photos for the Chamber collection in exchange for some of her photos. We borrowed some photos to copy which were not already a part of Redwood National Park (Veirs) collection. Savina took them with an "old box camera" (probably a 120 mm).

Savina once wrote for the Arcata Union and several historical articles are available from that source. Savina has also written articles for the Humboldt Historian, which comes out every two or three months (see index in the Eureka Library). One of the articles talks about the mill on Hufford's slough (1912, photo #15). Frank Hufford milled spruce from Orick Valley for homes and for World War I airplane construction. Logs were contained in the north finger of the north slough by a cable. In May of 1927 a late flood washed them out. She emphasized that sometimes they had highwater and floods in May or June. The mill closed down after the contract for timbers for the bridge over Redwood Creek was completed.

Savina recalls when the Orick floodplain had vegetation and large Sitka spruce. Spruce limbs and scraps were taken to the Orick cheese factory to power the steam boiler. Stumps were blasted apart and burned to clear the land. She recalls seeing the valley full of spruce stumps and snags burning at night, "all alight, looking like candles."

We asked how long people had been digging out the sand berm at the mouth of Redwood Creek. She stated it was dug out when pastures flooded.

The Hendriksens' rented cabins and had a lodge converted from an old barn from the 1930's. They rented boats on Redwood Creek (see photo Modrow #6) from behind the lodge. Henry Hendriksens' son Melvin and wife Martha still live in the red house past the Lumberjack (brother Earl and his wife Sally are in photo, 1940's, Christmas Day). The Hendriksens' sold the lodge and cabins to the present owners of the Shoreline Deli. The buildings were condemned and torn down.

Savina fished Strawberry Creek for cutthroat trout and steelhead (see photo #13). When Strawberry Creek is cleaned out, access to the holes improves the fishing. Savina also indicated the steelhead fishing was good in the tributaries of Stone and Freshwater Lagoons after the spit broke open.

She stated that some floods brought small steelhead into the slough of Redwood Creek where they would die, perhaps the dirty water caused them to suffocate. People would eat these fish if they got them soon enough after they died.

When the biggest runs of fish were in, Hufford's Slough was always a good area to troll in a boat. There were lots of both kinds and cohos. The kings were short, thick, and heavy. In the 1930's, when Savina taught at the Orick school, she would go to the creek in October during recess and count 10 or 12 salmon passing at one time.

There was a heavy run of candlefish in 1967. Savina attributes this to warm spring weather. Photos four, five and six show them being netted from the rocks of the newly constructed levee.

The bad floods did not begin until the 1950's. When Prairie Creek floods, a large lake of water forms near its confluence with Redwood Creek. Savina has pictures of Prairie Creek flooding. Marvin Barlow related a story of Redwood Creek flooding during the winter of 1953. He was living alone at the time in a cabin at the base of the hill near Hilton Road when Redwood Creek came up in the evening. He tried to get his neighbors, the Antonioli's, to leave but William (Bill) said he had seen floods and lived there for 30 years and was not about to leave his home. Marvin returned to his cabin and at 1:10 a.m., woke up wet with water at the base of his bed and a roaring noise outside. Marvin went out the door and jumped off the porch into water at chin level. He walked along hanging to the top of a barbed wire fence to get over to the Foster's ranch for a boat. He rowed the boat back along the willows where the current was milder. When he returned to his house he found that one of his calk boots had washed away and the other was in the toilet. Water was hip deep at the Antonioli's by then.

In 1955, three inches of the rafters of Marvin's house were underwater. The garage washed over to the Fosters' and turned upside down (photos #31 & 32). The Himalaya bushes outside his house may have protected it from washing away too.

Savina and Marvin said that the floods of 1950 and 1953 had about the same flows. When the creek is flooding and still rising the discharge is strong on the floodplain until it begins to recede, then it spreads out into a lake and everything appears quiet. As the tide goes out, the land begins to drain. When it is flooding and there is a high tide, the waves come up as far as Baines turn.

Savina's house never got mud in it because they built it up on a knoll between two sloughs (lower areas that took the overflow water from the river). Hagoods was built on an old bog and always had drainage problems and potholes forming in the parking lot. The Lundblade subdivision in back of the Orick Inn was built right on a marshy slough area. Savina thinks that is why there was so much pressure to put in the levees, because people built in the wrong places. There used to be a small bridge across one of these sloughs through Joe Romanini's field. The bridge was removed and culverts installed when Savina was three to five years old. The culverts filled and now the drainage is underground.

Photo #1 shows the fence posts covered with three to four feet of silt near Savina's house from the 1964 flood.

HISTORIC PHOTOS: Orick and Redwood Creek area.

COLLECTED BY: Cindy Ricks and Randy Feranna.

DATE: April 28, 1981 and May 6, 1981.

CONTRIBUTOR: Savina Antonioli Barlow.

| COPY TYPE: | PHOTO NUMBER: | DESCRIPTION:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S-4        | 1             | Date unknown. Sally Hendricksen and Savina Barlow holding king salmon caught by Sally and her husband, Earl Hendricksen. The Hendricksen's lodge (in background) was converted from an old barn in the 1930s. It was located near the Shoreline Deli, and row-boats could be rented for use on Redwood Creek. |
| S-4        | 2             | Date unknown. William (Bill) Antonioli holding king salmon caught (from Neilson's log jam) on Redwood Creek. The log jam provided deep holding water for fish and was a favorite fishing spot for years until it washed away and the hole filled in after a flood.                                            |
| S-1        | 3             | Early 1960s. Clarence Sharp with a large Redwood Creek king salmon.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| S-3        | 4             | Spring 1967. Marvin Barlow with candlefish taken from Redwood Creek. The Barlows claim that the Creek was full of these fish during the 1967 run.                                                                                                                                                             |
| S-2        | 5             | Spring 1967. View of candlefish in Redwood Creek during the run. Candlefish could be seen in the shallows along the creek's edge during the run.                                                                                                                                                              |
| S-3        | 6             | Spring 1967. Netting candlefish (mentioned in photos 4 and 5) from Redwood Creek below the Highway 101 bridge in Orick.                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| S-4        | 7             | December 1964. Barlow's farm in background. Photo shows deposition after the December 1964 flood. Note deposition against the fence posts ... normally, about 54" of a standard fence post remains above ground.                                                                                              |
| S-3        | 8             | December 1964. Thelma Hufford going to clean out the gym at the Orick School, which was full of mud after the December 1964 flood.                                                                                                                                                                            |
| S-4        | 9             | December 1964. Photo shows deposition following flood in front of the Orick School.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

| COPY TYPE: | PHOTO NUMBER: | DESCRIPTION:                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S-4        | 10            | January 1953. View from Barlow's home showing the flooding of January 18, 1953.                                                                                                                             |
| S-3        | 11            | 1950. Mr. S. Mozzini holding coho (left) and king (right) salmon taken from Redwood Creek.                                                                                                                  |
| S-2        | 12            | Date unknown. Savina Barlow's children with king salmon caught from Redwood Creek.                                                                                                                          |
| S-2        | 13            | Date unknown. Cutthroat trout caught by Savina Barlow in Strawberry Creek. She fished below Highway 101 with worms. The middle fish is larger than 12 inches.                                               |
| S-2        | 14            | Looking upstream from Redwood Creek bridge shows the stream bank cut during the 1953 flood, which destroyed the country road. It was reconstructed around the back of the Orick School.                     |
| S-0        | 15            | Same as 14.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| S-2        | 16            | Same as 14.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| S-0        | 17            | Same as 14.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| S-2        | 18            | Same as 14. Emergency rip rap placed by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1953 to prevent further stream bank cutting.                                                                                         |
| S-3        | 19            | Redwood Creek, view downstream after the 1953 flood.                                                                                                                                                        |
| S-0        | 20            | Redwood Creek from the Highway 101 bridge looking upstream after the peak 1953 flood discharge.                                                                                                             |
| S-0        | 21            | Same as 20.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| S-3        | 22            | Date unknown. Redwood Creek "lagoon" looking north near where the Cal Pac Mill was located. Zuber's shed and part of the old fence that Orick Bob built.                                                    |
| S-5        | 23            | Date unknown. View of Orick floodplain, looking toward mouth of Redwood Creek.                                                                                                                              |
| S-3        | 24            | Date unknown. Redwood Creek looking downstream from bridge along south bank. A portion of the Orick Creamery is visible on far left of photo. Streamside willows were destroyed when the bank was cut back. |
| S-2        | 25            | After the December 23, 1955 flood. Barlow's apple orchard filled with silt.                                                                                                                                 |

| COPY TYPE: | PHOTO NUMBER: | DESCRIPTION:                                                                                                                                                   |
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| S-2        | 26            | After the 1955 flood. Sediment in fields. Note drainage gullies that formed.                                                                                   |
| S-2        | 27            | 1955 flood. Photo at the Barlow's ranch.                                                                                                                       |
| S-3        | 28            | Rescue operations during the 1955 flood in an old Klamath River-type boat. During peak discharge current was so strong, Mr. Barlow was unable to row the boat. |
| S-3        | 29            | Date unknown. Photos shows flood water inundating Orick Valley. View believed to be toward Hilton Hill and the Antonioli's ranch.                              |
| S-2        | 30            | 1950 flood. Photo shows flood water in Orick Valley. View toward where Hilton Road and Highway 101 meet.                                                       |
| S-2        | 31            | 1953 flood. Note garage in foreground. Photo taken at the Barlow's ranch.                                                                                      |
| S-3        | 32            | After the 1953 flood. Garage is upside-down in the field.                                                                                                      |
| S-2        | 33            | Date unknown. Photo shows flood water from Barlow's ranch. View toward where Hilton Road and 101 meet.                                                         |

## INTERVIEW NARRATIVE

INTERVIEWED BY: Randy Feranna and Cindy Ricks

DATE: May 15 and June 6, 1981

CONTRIBUTOR: Marilee Kring Taggart

### KRING FAMILY HISTORY

Marilee's grandparents came to this country in 1904. They moved to the Orick area in 1915 and had nine children - Mads Peter, Theodore, Hoagie, Jimmy, Searns, Mary, Hilga, Ema, and Elsa. Mary Kring married John Davison (Robert Davison's brother) who was a game warden at the time. Ema Kring taught school near the Prairie Creek bridge. Mads Peter Kring married a woman named Ada (last name unknown). Their two children were Donald and Marilee. Don married Florence after she arrived in 1946 (see interview narrative - Florence Kring). Marilee married Baldwin Taggart and they had three children - Peter, Elith, and Elicia.

Marilee has a photo of the Kring's ranch in 1926 taken by photographer A.L. Monroe, from Drain, Oregon. He also photographed other ranches in the area that year (Huffords, Blankenships).

None of the floods after 1915 came up to the Kring's house but Myr Hufford has seen flood water above their house before then. Marilee remembered the bad flood that occurred when she was very young (probably 1927, she was born in 1924). The Hendriksen's dike broke during this flood.

The Kring's fished alot at the mouth of Redwood Creek. Marilee's mother, Ada, caught a 57½ pound king salmon with a hand line early in the 1930's. Marilee said the salmon sounded like a herd of horses coming up the river. In a very dry year, 1936, the salmon could not get up the creek to spawn, and the Russian fishing boats were seen offshore.

When Marilee was young, the banks on Redwood Creek were steep and well vegetated. That was before the late 1930's when beaver were introduced and began creating problems. Felled trees were sometimes brought to the creek by the ranchers and placed along the bank to prevent bank erosion and loss of their land.

In the old days Indians burned the underbrush. Marilee's uncle, Theodore Kring, hunted in the area from the Bald Hills over to Orleans. He often went with Gus Landergren, the government hunter. Marilee believes Gus still lives in Rohnerville. Some of Marilee's hunting pictures probably include these two men.

Marilee's son, Peter, told of finding a 75 pound turtle washed on the beach by a big storm in about 1970.

HISTORIC PHOTOS: Orick and Redwood Creek area.

COLLECTED BY: Cindy Ricks and Randy Feranna.

DATE: May 1981.

CONTRIBUTOR: Marilee Taggart.

| COPY TYPE: | PHOTO NUMBER: | DESCRIPTION:                                                                                                                      |
|------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S-2        | 1             | For information on these hunting pictures, Marilee suggests that Gus Landergren from Rohnerville would know where, who, and when. |
| S-3        | 2             | Same as above.                                                                                                                    |
| S-4        | 3             | 1948 or 1949. Redwood Creek from the Bald Hills Road. View toward toe of Orick Ridge where horse trail trailhead is located.      |
| S-3        | 4             | Same as in #1.                                                                                                                    |
| S-2        | 5             | Same as in #1.                                                                                                                    |
| S-3        | 6             | Same as in #1.                                                                                                                    |