

E CLAMPUS VITUS  
PLAQUES

# E CLAMPUS VITUS PLAQUES

*A compilation of historical plaques  
with photographs  
dedicated by the Ancient and Honorable Order of  
E Clampus Vitus  
1930 - 1995*



COMPILED BY  
KENNETH M. CASTRO, CLAMPLAQUERO  
AND  
EUGENE L. "GENO" FAMBRINI, CLAMPHOTOGRAPHER

HISTORIC SITES AND PLAQUES COMMITTEE,  
THE GRAND COUNCIL OF E CLAMPUS VITUS

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*Designed by*  
*John "Fakowee" Hard and Kevin Hard*

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1995

**GONE TO THE GOLDEN HILLS**

*The production of this book*

*is dedicated to:*

*Kenneth M. Castro*

*Clamplaquero*

*1995*

## **CARL I. WHEAT**

(12/5/1892 TO 6/23/1966)



(Profile by Bill Huff)

who together with George Ezra Dane and Leon Whitsell revived  
the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus in California.

A benevolent fraternal society in Gold Rush Days,  
now active in preservation of Western history and lore.

On the founding of E Clampus Vitus Redivivus, we have in Wheat's own words of how this came about in 1930:

"... Ezra and I, while driving down the long grade to the river, north of Columbia, determine after much weighty cogitation that the Ancient and Honorable Order should be revived. We had been spending a few days together in that region and every mountain, bar and flat shrieked with the memories of long forgotten Clampers, and we then and there declared ourselves for a revival. After our return to Yerba Buena we enlisted the interest of that lusty brother Leon Obstreperous Whitsell, and shortly thereafter we three formally proclaimed the resuscitation of the Order. That deed was appropriate and is now apparent."

## **ADAM LEE MOORE**

(1847 - 1947)



He was the connecting link between the revived order of ECV  
and the old ECV of the gold rush days.

He became a Clamper in Sierra City in 1863;  
was the Clampatriarch - Yerba Buena, 1931 - 1945.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Out of the darkness into the light.  
Enlightenment is man's emergence from his nonage  
- said philosopher Kant in 1784.

E NIHILO NIHIL  
- said the Roman satirist Persuis.

I have received such enthusiastic cooperation from Brother Clampers that I have really enjoyed working on this compilation recording the Clamplaquing part of our Order's activities, recording ECV's contribution to the perpetuation of our heritage in the form of monuments and plaques, compiling a list of plaques which we have erected to persons, places and events which history and civilization might otherwise have forgotten. Above all else, our Order is dedicated to preservation and care of history.

ECV Redivivus now encompasses chiefly California and Nevada, but we are spreading into Utah, Arizona, and the "Sandwich Islands" (Hawaii). One estimate says we have 280,000 members - Credo Quia Absurdum - but, "once a member, always a member," This revised compilation contains more than 1,100 plaques - the first plaque by ECV Redivivus was erected 9/15/1934 by Platrix Chapter No. 2 at San Gabriel Canyon, Los Angeles County. (There were 600 Plaques in "E Clampus Vitus Plaques" published in May 1981, of which this is the first revision.)

It was the late Hobart "Ik" Lovett, then Clamparchivist for the Grand Council, who helped me get started on this project when Dr. Charles L. Camp appointed me in May 1968 -- "Ik" sent me information on two plaques, with his blessing for my success, saying "Herewith the only material pertaining to plaques... in the Clamparchives. The official archives do not have a section on plaques." I remember the Sublime Noble Grand Humbug who have continually encouraged recording plaques, including: Archie D. Stevenot, who created the Historic Sites and Plaques Committee in 1963. Dr. Al Shumate of Yerba Buena Redivivus Capitulus No. 1 and Sid Platford of Platrix No. 2 for assistance on plaques erected in the 1930's, '40's, and '50's, which they witnessed; it was "el Cid" who single-handedly bestowed the "Clamplaquero" title upon me. Max Johnson and Carl Briggs, who kept me in this position when the going seemed rough. Bill Byars, for his enthusiastic help in spreading the word among all Clampers. Clampsculptor William Gordon Huff provided a stimulus, he working on his Wall of Comparative Ovations here in Murphys, on the exterior wall of the building in which mu lapidary was located at the time.

A compilation is only as good as its sources.

I am grateful to Clampers who have assisted me throughout the past twenty-five years, some of whom have now gone to the Golden Hills. I can not name them all herein, Chapter NGH's, historians, archivists, GNR's, even a bibliographer. Several Clampers sent material indicating only the Chapter name, omitting their own name. My incomplete list includes the following; showing the principal Chapter represented, although many Clampers are multi-Chaptered (and all Clampers are welcome to any other Chapter's doings): Billy Holcomb 1069 -- Sid Blumner, Dana "Yosemite Sam" Zanone, and Phillip Holdaway, author of "Billy Holcomb Plaques Book." Bodie 64 -- George C. Delury, Jr. Chief Truckee 3691 -- Leon Schegg, Rod Stollery. Dr. Samuel Gregg George 1855 -- Bill Rodgers, Daniel Boone. Estanislao 58 -- I. N. "Jack" Brotherton, Lloyd Ploutz, Al Menshew. Eureka 101 -- Ray Polston, Ron Zaitz, Donald S. Davis, Spencer Clifton. Frank C. Reilly 5978 -- Albert W. Aubrey. Growlersburg 86 -- Dave Smith. Grub Gulch 41-49 -- Thomas L. "Shep" Shepherd. De la Guerra y Pacheco 1.5 -- Neal Graffy, Dean E. Miller, David Holmes, Tim Spencer. Humbug 73 -- W. J. (Mac) McKellar, Carroll Pepperdine, Micheal Raymond. James D. Savage 1852 -- Wm. "Bill" T. Atkin, Kenneth J. Fryer, Ernest J. Nielsen, Elmer Tuschhoff, Marion F. Foster - Author of "James Savage Monuments and the Men Who Built Them," Ron Liles. James W. Marshall 49 -- Robert E. Roberts, Scott Jenny. Joaquin

Murrieta 13 -- Alan D. Ramsey, Bob Ryan, Eugene "Geno" and W. A. Fambrini. John P. Squibob 1853 -- "Uncle" Ben Dixon, Eugene K. "Gene" and W. M. Chamberlin, J. Francis Mergen, Fred S. Wright. Julia C. Bulette 1864 -- Louis Beaupre, Chip Gash, Leo Gervais, Rod Stock, Dail E. Turney, Peter Van Alstyne. Las Plumas del Oro No. 8 -- L. V. "Duke" Aaserude, Henry E. Magill, E. K. "Ernie" Murray, R. D. Reynolds, Scott Lawson. Lost Dutchman 5917 -- Robert "St. Ragnell" Stragnell, M. D. "Country Doctor." Matt Warner 1900 -- Ronald K. Jewkes. Matuca 1849 -- Larry Lavagnino, Glem Rouse, Earl Akin, Blackie Perrotta, "Turkey Lee" Freeman, Bruce Hauschildt. Monterey Viejo 1846 -- Frank G. Borovich, Harry A. Hill Sr., David M. Kennedy, John R. Lamoreaus, Ken Roberts, Ellsworth Amos. Mountain Charlie 1850 -- Louis I. Bonesio, Jim Tanner, James M. Arbuckle, Mike Eckley. Neversweats 1863 -- Tim I. Purdy. New Helvetia No. 5 -- Alan Wilson, Larry Harrison. Pair-O-Dice 7-11 -- Nick Becker. Peter Lebeck 1866 -- Walter E. Stewart. Platrix No. 2 -- Glenn H. Thornhill, Steven Born, Dick Hough, W H. Newbro, George "Big Red" Sturtevant, John R. Handschin. Sam Brannan 1004 -- Edward D. Hawkins Jr., Loren Alan Wilson. Slim Princess 395 -- Robert F. Tobey. Snowshoe Thomson 1827 -- John W. Riggs, Dale Goings. Trinitarianus 62 -- Hal Goodyear, Harold Lovely, Steve Roberts. Wm. Bull Meek - Wm. Morris Stewart No. 10 -- Thomas G. Barry, Robert M. Wyckoff. Yerba Buena Redivivus Capitalus No. 1 -- many, under enthusiastic leadership of NGH Bruce Shelton, including, but not limited to, Bert Stubblefield, James W. Crumpler, Deke Sonnichsen, Wally Free, and Gerry Sample; Clyde Arbuckle, Elliot Evans, Frank Honn, Harry J. S. Smart, Louis J. Stein Jr. T.R.A.S.H. -- Earl Schmidt.

To all those Clampers who assisted me in making this compilation possible, "Thank You."

I wish to express thanks to Members of the Office of Historic Preservation, California State Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento for the interest and assistance they have continued to give to me and to the various Chapters since our earliest years.

Special thanks to those who have assisted me in making this printed revision possible, Clamphotographer Eugene L. "Geno" Fambrini, Clamprinter John "Fukowee" Hard, Kevin Hard, and the Grand Council of the Venerable Clampatriarchs of E Clampus Vitus.

NIHIL OBSTAT.

Kenneth M. Castro  
 Clamplaquero, Grand Council, ECV Redivivus  
 Murphys, California  
 "unofficial capitol of all Clamperdom"  
 January 18, 1993  
 In hoc siccum, est Sal Atticum.

"Build thee more stately monuments, O my soul!"  
 (Author unknown.)



## CREDO QUIA ABSURDUM

The symbol of the Braying Jackass was designed by Clamper Holling C. Holling in 1941, (see the "H" in the Rock), originally for the letterhead of Platrix Chapter. The Grand Council adopted it as the Official Symbol of E Clampus Vitus.

Per caritate vidouribus orphanibusque,  
sed prime viduaribus.



## CARL I. WHEAT

It was most appropriate that the ECV monument be placed on the road from Columbia to Parrott's Ferry, for here in 1930 the revival of E Clampus Vitus was conceived by Carl Wheat. Later, in recalling the moment, he described how evil days had fallen on this noted and notorious fraternal order of the Gold Rush days and how he realized there was a need for this old California institution to let the light once more shine over the world. Thus, after a few months of gestation, there was issued a call to revive the lodge, which resulted in the first meeting, held at the Cliff Hotel in San Francisco on April 12, 1932.

### ECV was reborn!

Its growth may not have 'spread like wild fire' as in the 1850's, but now, half a century after the rebirth, the hewgags blow from the mountains of Trinity County to the deserts of San Diego.

I first met Carl after I was 'shown the light' at the Hall of Comparative Ovations in Tuolumne City on May 29, 1937. Later, I had the pleasure of accompanying him on several trips, including the Mariposa Centennial Celebration in 1954 and the Downieville Dedication of the plaque honoring Adam Lee Moore in 1955. Carl was the principal speaker on the latter occasion.

Carl Wheat's tremendous energy and vitality combined with his brilliant mind made him 'a man for all seasons'.

Raised in Los Angeles, he received a Phi Beta Kappa key and his bachelor of arts degree, cum laud, from Occidental College in 1915. After World War I duty in the United States Army Air Service, he entered Harvard and received his law degree. In the 1920's he associated with the Railroad Commission of California, serving as Chief Counsel. He carried on his legal work in the 1930's in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Washington D. C..

Carl was one of the first members of the Zamorano Club of Los Angeles and founder of the Roxburghe Club in San Francisco, serving the latter as its first Master of the Press - The "Wheat Stalk."

For many years Carl was a director of the California Historical Society, as well as editor of its "Quarterly." He served as president of the Friends of the Bancroft Library and as a member of the National Parks Advisory Board. He was an active member of the Bohemian Club and a trustee of Pomona College.

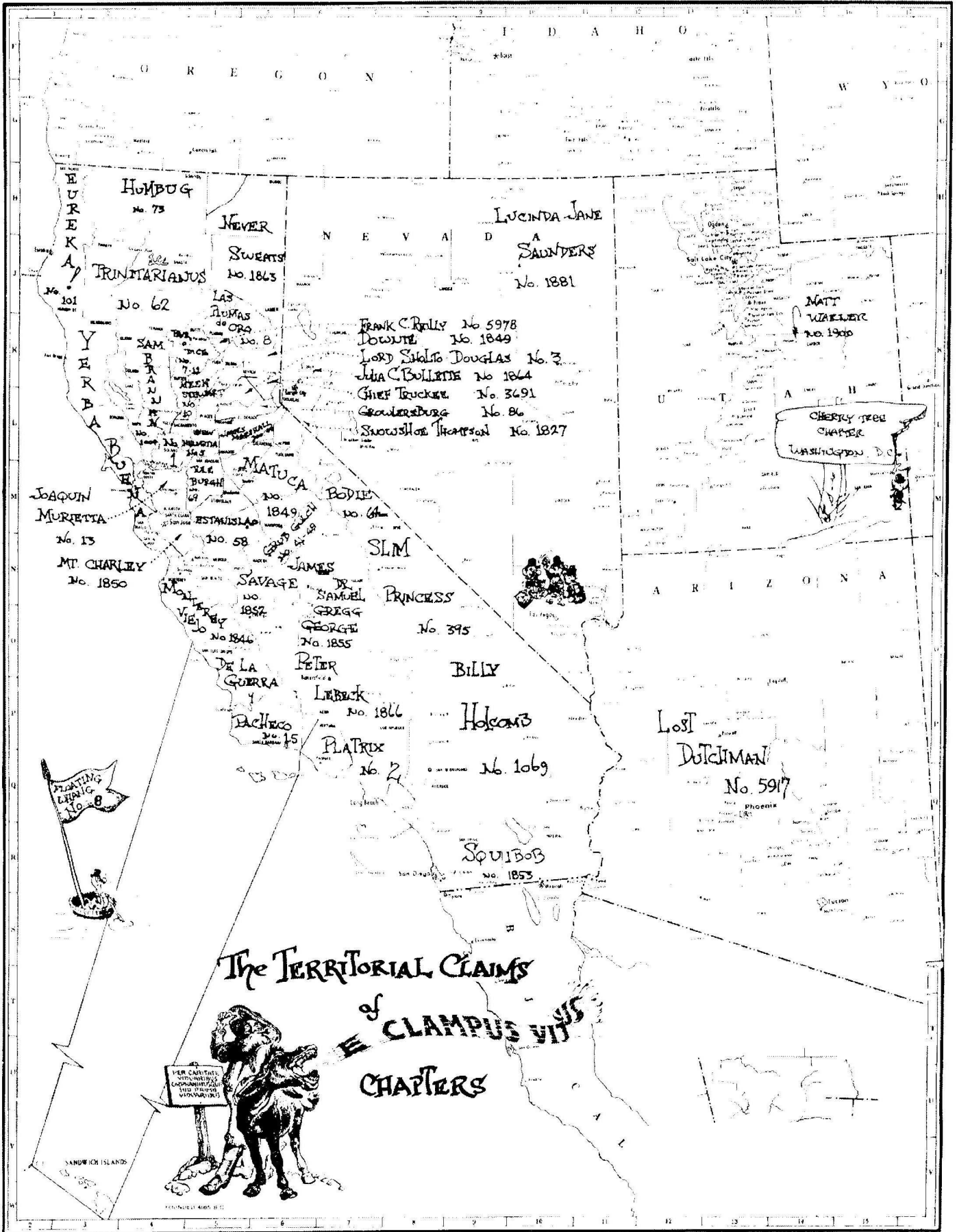
Of the many historical articles and books he wrote. Carl's monumental five volume cartographic study, Mapping the Transmississippi West, stands unsurpassed. For this work he received the prestigious Wagner Award of the California Historical Society.

No activity was closer to Carl Wheat's heart than the Clampers. His "official" title was His Benign Austerity, Honorable Noble Grand Humbug of the Skunk's Misery Chapter. When he named and established the Grand Council of the Venerable Clampatriarchs of E Clampus Vitus, Redivivus, he described it with adjectives that may equally well be applied to him: "The unmistakable, undeniable, unconditional, indisputable, unmitigated, irrefutable, incomparable,

-- Carl Wheat!"

-- Al Shumate, xSNGH

(Written on the occasion  
of the dedication of Inspiration Point.



# INTRODUCTION

by Verne H. Cole, xSNGH 1992 - 1993

"There's a historical marker ahead. Let's pull over and see what it says."

That phrase, or some version of it, undoubtedly has been spoken countless thousands of times in the last half-century as more and more people stream past sites where important and not so important events took place. Those events and the people who contributed to their happening should be remembered. They helped mold the world in which we live.

So it is fitting that members of this fun loving fraternal organization, E Clampus Vitus, should, while marching forward, look back to those events and people. It is fitting that we honor both by erecting plaques, markers and monuments. Although sometimes with tongue in cheek, we have assumed the often thankless task of educating our peers about recent history. In the last 50 years, we have made a great contribution to the numbers of historical markers scattered throughout California and Nevada and more recently in Arizona and in the vicinity of Helper, Utah.

Few markers, though, have had such an impact as the one erected at South Pass, Wyoming, marking the route across the Continental Divide of thousands of emigrants flocking to California and Oregon Territory in the mid 1800's. That route also was used by Brigham Young and his Latter Day Saints who sought refuge in the vicinity of the Great Salt Lake. The TransSierra Roisterous Alliance of Senior Humbugs (TRASH) in 1988 contributed funds to the U. S. Bureau of Land Management for the erection of a historical marker at the summit of South Pass. TRASH's Humbug Hike XIV that year was a pilgrimage to the dedication of that marker. In 1992 xSNGH Earl Schmidt wrote that marker "triggered local Wyoming support for the total Emigrant Trail-marking program by the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) in the state and may have been the 'proximate cause'... for (U. S.) Senate approval of action to include both the California Emigrant Trail and the Pony Express trail within the National Historic Trails System." This means the federal government will erect more markers, in effect continuing and expanding on a project initiated by Clampers.

Unfortunately, a few Clamper markers do not pertain to history and are not mentioned in this book. But what is worse by far, is that a very few Clamper plaques are inaccurate and therefore distort history. None should ever say we didn't care enough about history to get it right.

Clampers have dedicated markers in places as diverse as downtown San Francisco, Elko, Randsburg, Virginia City and Converse Basin. There are Clamper plaques in the high desert of Nevada, the High Sierra, on Rocks near California's Oregon border, along the Pacific, and in the desert sands near the Mexican border. They mark such things as Pony Express stops, railroads, ghost towns, mines, missions, bordellos and mountain passes. They honor explorers, soldiers, miners, traders, saloon keepers, settlers, ranchers, authors and Indians. They remember outlaws, prostitutes, confidence men and fools. There will be more such markers. It's our duty.

xSNGH Sid Blumner, Ph.D. once said: "If you aren't plaquing, you aren't Clamping." We've been Clamping all right. The evidence is plentiful - cast in aluminum and bronze and etched in stone, as the following pages testify.

The Only True and Authentic  
ECV COAT OF ARMS



By Don Luis Perceval

Printed with special permission of Yerba Buena Redivivus No. 1.  
Original Painting at the Huntington Library, Collection of xSNGH Sid Platford.

The artist himself, Clamper Perceval, gives the following simple statement of the Blazonry involved.

### THE ARMS OF ECV

Quarterings of  
the Escutcheon:

1. Sable, a clamp or, debriused by a baton sinister gules, for Clamp-bastard.
2. Or, a jackass sable balled of the first. For the state of Wellness.
3. Or, guttee de sang, a heart gules. For a heart bleeding for all widows.
4. Sable, a record book proper. For Grand Noble Recorder.

the Crest: Issuant from the wreath of the colors, an arm coupled at the shoulder proper, and over it, on an escrol, the word "Satisfactory."

Supporters: Dexter, a Clamper proper, holding in his hand a bottle of "Taos Lightning."  
Sinister, a Clamper-Elder, holding in his hand the Staff of Relief, tipped gules.  
Both standing upon the gold strewn land of California.

Motto: CREDO QUIA ABSURDUM, which is also the motto of the Order.

For those who find the foregoing obscure (or opaque) the following glossary may be elucidating.

*Baton.* A diagonally placed stick or staff one fourth as wide as a bend and couped at both ends used as an abatement in a coat of arms to denote illegitimacy.

*Couped.* Cut off from the body or cut at both ends so as not to touch the edges of the shield.

*Debruised.* Any charge with an ordinary (in this case a baton) placed over it is said to be debruised.

*Dexter.* The side of the shield to the right of the bearer and to the left of the viewer.

*Escutcheon.* Either whole coat of arms or the field, usually in the shape of a shield, upon which the arms are painted.

*First.* The first tincture, or color, mentioned in the description of that particular quartering.

*Gules.* Red.

*Guttee de sang.* Guttee, a field sprinkled with drops. In this case *de sang*, of blood.

*Proper.* In natural aspect and coloring.

*Quartering.* The division of an escutcheon containing different coats of arms into four or more compartments.

*Sable.* Black.

*Sinister.* The side of the shield to the left of the bearer and to the right of the viewer.

(From a keepsake by Hobart "Ik" Lovett, Grand Council Archivist and NGR Yerba Buena Redivivus Capitulus No. 1, 1969; designed and printed by Clamper George Hawkins, Jr.)

**THE STAFF OF RELIEF**  
of the Grand Council of the Venerable Clampatriarchs  
of E Clampus Vitus

Staff of relief held Ten Years by Five Men



Left to right: Dr. Charles L. Camp, SNGH 1967-69      Sid Platford (reward), SNGH 1965-67  
Hal Goodyear, SNGH 1971-73                      John Porter, SNGH 1969-71  
Dr. Al Shumate, SNGH 1963-65

The Staff of Relief is used at the opening of all Grand Council convocations.  
When not in use in its official capacity, the Staff is on display at the Old Timers Museum, Murphys,  
"unofficial capitol of all Clamperdom."

The Staff of relief was made by Clamper Lou Osborne,  
and presented to Archie D. Stevenot (SNGH 1961-63).  
It was passed on in 1963 to Dr. Al Shumate, incoming Sublime Noble Grand Humbug,  
and given to the Grand Council.

(Photo taken May 29, 1971, Murphys)

# PRESIDENTS AND SUBLIME NOBLE GRAND HUMBUGS

of The Grand Council of Venerable Clampatriarchs  
of the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus  
since 1940, when Yerba Buena Redivivus Capitulus No. 1  
commenced action to form a corporation.

Lee L. Stoppel	President	5/18/1940 - 11/9/1945
Leon Whitsell	President	11/9/1945 - 2/27/1945
Carl I. Wheat	President	2/27/1954 - 8/20/1955
Edgar B. Jessup	President	8/20/1955 - May 1957
	SNGH	May 1957 - May 1961
Archie D. Stevenot	SNGH	1961 - 1963
Albert Shumate	SNGH	1963 - 1965
Sid Platford	SNGH	1965 - 1967
Charles L. Camp	SNGH	1967 - 1969
John E. Porter	SNGH	1969 - 1971
Hal Goodyear	SNGH	1971 - 1973
George Washington	SNGH	1973 - 1975
Max M. Johnson	SNGH	1975 - 1977
Bill Byars	SNGH	1977 - 1979
Earl F. Schmidt	SNGH	1979 - 1980
Carl Briggs	SNGH	1980 - 1981
Alan Wilson	SNGH	1981 - 1982
Duff Chapman	SNGH	1982 - 1983
Richard B. Hoegh	SNGH	1983 - 1984
Robert Tobey	SNGH	1984 - 1985
Dail Turney	SNGH	1985 - 1986
Ron Cox	SNGH	1986 - 1987
Sid Blumner	SNGH	1987 - 1988
Al Menshew	SNGH	1988 - 1989
Cappy Cook	SNGH	1989 - 1990
C. W. Jones	SNGH	1990 - 1991
Bill Dore	SNGH	1991 - 1992
Vern Cole	SNGH	1992 - 1993
Ron Zaitz	SNGH	1993 - 1994
Buck Jones	SNGH	1994 - 1995

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