

Davenport Will Unveil Tribute To Whale Today

A population explosion is anticipated in Davenport this afternoon to watch the unveiling of a tribute to the gray whale.

Unbeknownst to the mammoth mammals who have lent a picturesque off-shore atmosphere to the village 12 miles north of Santa Cruz on the Oceanshore highway, a plaque will be revealed at 2:30 p.m. directing the attention of passersby to the whales' playground.

To embellish the occasion there'll be music by the Santa Cruz high school band, a touch of patriotism aided by a navy reserve color guard; a moment of silence during the blessing by Fr. Marzio Gaioni of the St. Vincent de Paul church; and a burst of prestige straight from the capitol of California in the person of Assemblyman Glenn Coolidge.

All of this is to take place across from the Ocean View hotel, Davenport's largest business building.

Special invitations have gone hither and yon to dignitaries, former townsmen and relatives of former townsmen. It is hoped that Charles Bella will be there. He's Davenport's unofficial mayor, but he lives in Santa Cruz.

The tenor of the dedication is reportedly that Davenport (landing) had at one time been a whaling station. John Davenport, founder of Davenport in the 1860's, wharf builder, whaler, justice of the peace, real estate broker, and a handsome bloke to boot, apparently found this area quite a whaling hangout.

But even as the paint dries on the plaque, a controversy continues over this contention.

Elio Orlando, chairman of the whaling committee, and director of research, said: "One group insists that Davenport Landing was never a whaling station, believing that the mammals were towed to Moss Landing. Another group is just as insistent that the landing was a whaling station."

Whaling station or not, the fact is that whales still return to this section of the bay between January and May and that you may see them.

"I saw two out there Friday morning," said Alvin Gregory, president of the Davenport Improvement association, which is the town's chamber of commerce.

According to Orlando, "the reason the whales come to this area is that they feed in the large beds of kelp and scratch their itchy skins on the rocks along the beaches of Davenport." Whether the rocks in this area are geologically favorable as whale backscratchers is not known.

Gray whales range from 40 to 60 feet long. Research information out of Davenport revealed that between 1846 and 1875, about 11,000 whales were killed in the Pacific ocean.

As much as it would enhance your prestige as an angler, you may not catch whales. They are permanently out of season.

To give the dedication area atmosphere the committee has been searching for whale bones to place near the sign.

So far, according to Gregory, all they've been able to come up with is some rib bones and a couple of vertebrae — about one-one hundredth of a whale.

Davenport, prematurely grayed by cement dust from the nearby Pacific Cement and Aggregates plant, is going to spout today and town officials have their fingers crossed that the whales will do the same.

Rescued Air Force Still Are Not Seen

Topeka, Kan. (P).—John McKone and Freeman Olmstead came home yesterday, rushed through a restrained ceremony and were reunited in private with the children they had not seen in eight months.

The two air force captains, released Wednesday after nearly seven months as prisoners in Russia, began a period of secluded relaxation with their families.

"I'd say they're real tired at this point," said an air force officer who accompanied the men on their flight from Washington to Topeka.

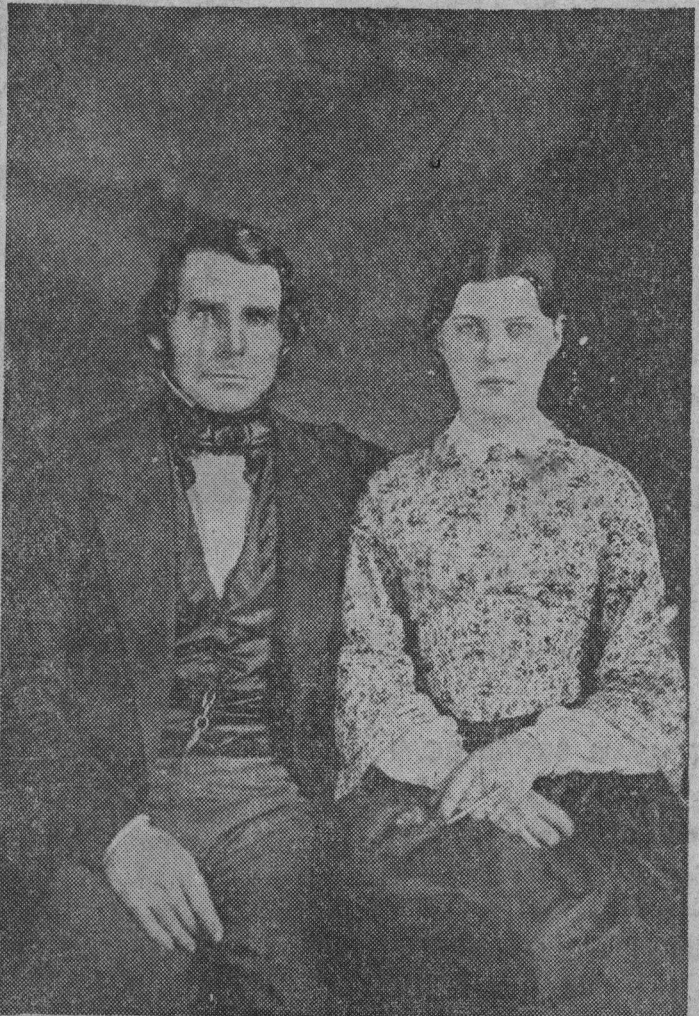
Newsmen have not been allowed to talk to the two since they were released. Col. Charles Van Vliet, an information officer, told newsmen the fliers expressed joy at being at Forbes air base where they were stationed before being shot down over the Barents sea near Russia last July 1.

"Boy," Van Vliet quoted one of the fliers as saying as the plane neared Forbes, "there are the old RBs—RB47 reconnaissance bombers used at Forbes. Don't they look great. Look, there are some H's (a model H RB47)."

There still were no answers for questions which have troubled the public and some national political figures since the fliers were released.

One of the major points was the fate of three other Forbes fliers

He Founded Davenport



This family portrait is of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Davenport, taken shortly after their marriage in 1852. This pioneer came around the Horn

to Monterey and finally established Davenport. He will share honors with the great gray whale on a special plaque to be unveiled today at 2:30 p.m.

Pair Saved From Boat Damaged By Huge Wave

San Diego (P).—A half-submerged cabin cruiser and its two occupants were towed to the beach by the Coast Guard Saturday after the boat crashed against a bait barge and flooded its engine room.

The owner of the cruiser, Ernest A. Williams, and his brother, Elvin, both of San Diego, were not injured.

Ernest Williams said he and his brother were tying up the barge near the harbor when a wave hit the boat against the barge.

FLU EPIDEMIC UNDER SIN 24

Tokyo (P) Junior high schools are closed for primary influenza.

Primary influenza high school.