

Boulder Creek Memorabilia Now Has a Home

By DENISE SIEBENTHAL
Sentinel Staff Writer

The Boulder Creek Historic Association, homeless since its incorporation several years ago, has found a place to store and display its historical objects at the new Lorenzo Center in Boulder Creek.

Memorabilia of Old Boulder Creek will be housed in the upstairs loft of the new building within a few weeks. One can't miss the Lorenzo Center along Highway 9 - it resembles a big, bright red barn.

The Lorenzo Center is owned by Al Johnson who has donated 1,500 square feet of the upstairs area for the historic display.

The end to the association's long search for a home came this week as the board of supervisors approved the construction of an outside deck on the second level of the building.

This deck will serve as an access for people who want to take a look at the hundreds of interesting objects the Boulder Creek Historic Association has collected from the town's past.

The entire collection currently is cramped into the barn of member John Holm. Taking a look at the dozens of old pictures of Boulder Creek the association possesses and then rummaging through all the memorabilia takes one back to the days when Boulder Creek bustled with the lumber industry.

The pictures show a quaint, small town, accented by a broad, dusty street lined with large trees. The train, which once ran through town, is featured in many of the photographs.

Camera bugs of Old Boulder Creek also found interesting subjects in the burly men who worked in the lumber camps around the town.

And then there is the school with the crowds of children in the yearly group pictures on the school house steps. The old Boulder Creek School was an impressive building, sitting on a hillside overlooking the town.

Many of the still existing buildings, such as the structure which currently houses the Black Forest Bakery, are shown in the old pictures as new, brightly painted additions to Boulder Creek.

One could spend hours mulling over this collection of old photos, but the association also has an extensive collection of antiques from Old Boulder Creek.

Most of the objects were donated from longtime residents who discovered them forgotten in dusty attics or who found unusual items while walking in the

bowie knife and the other resembles a machete. Holm said the knife probably date back to 1875.

One of the most fascinating items is a ledger from the Hotel Hartman which was located in the town of Lorenzo, now the south end of Boulder Creek. The large guest book apparently was purchased from another hotel in Santa Cruz and the first name to be entered was J. W. Peery of Lorenzo on April 11, 1883.

By the way, the ledger doesn't note that Peery paid his hotel bill. Holm suggests that perhaps the first guest received a free night's lodging.

The ledger, Holm claims, holds such notable signatures as those of Presidents Ulysses S. Grant and Grover Cleveland.

Sometimes, signatures are repeated down a page of the ledger as children apparently practiced their penmanship. Another entry shows when a circus came to town and lists the names of all the performers.

The old Hartman Hotel was located where a laundromat now is, Holm said. The historical ledger was donated by Mrs. Phil Hartman.

Another interesting item given by Mrs. Hartman is a set of team bells that were used on lead horses so other team would know when they were coming.

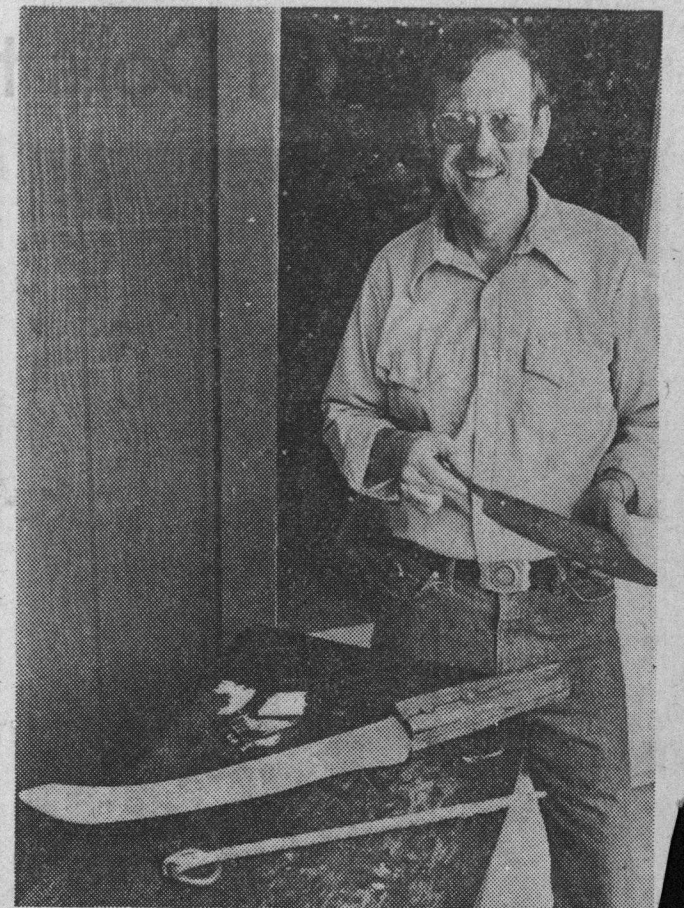
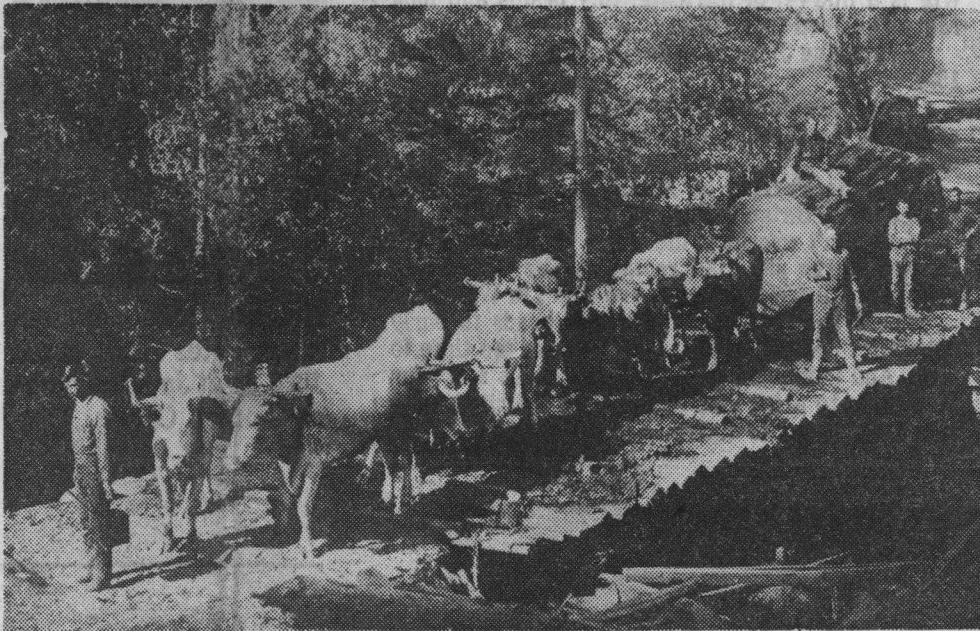
The bells belonged to Phil Hartman, who was the town constable. Holm related that Mrs. Hartman told him that she knew the sound of those bells so well that she could hear her husband coming into town. With this clue, she would start dinner.

Another interesting item is a facade with the huge, black numerals "1893" embellishing its front. This piece of roofing came off the old library and reading room which some women in town formed to have a social place where people could come and stay out of the bars, Holm explained.

The facade once decorated the building which now is owned by Ann Locatelli and houses the Old General Store antique shop. It was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Art Bell.

The list of objects of old go on and on — leather trunks which carried people's possessions to Boulder Creek, old tie downs for horses which were placed on the sidewalk and used to tie the reins to, minutes from the Ladies Aid Society which had its first meeting meeting October 13, 1891.

Holm said that many people are holding items to donate until the association is settled in its new headquarters.



John Holm, member of the Boulder Creek Historic Association, displays two knives which are the association's oldest items. The knives, dated around 1875, were found in the woods near Big Basin.

Among photos in the collection of Boulder Creek memorabilia are a street scene in possibly the early '20s and at left, oxen pulling a huge redwood log, a scene probably from the 1890s.

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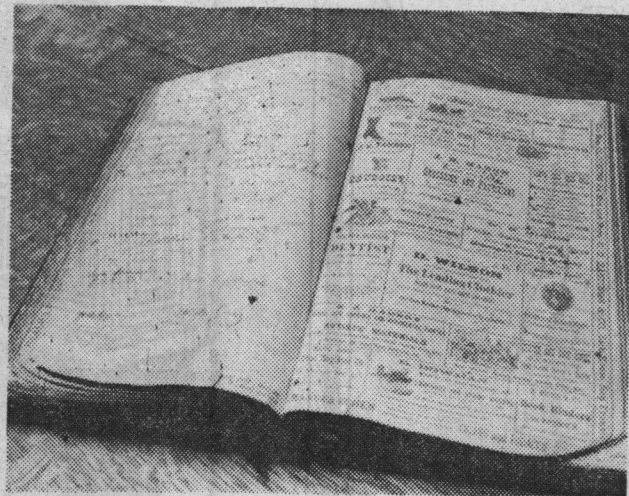
woods.

The association's oldest items, for instance, are two rusted knives found in the woods up by Big Basin. One is a

When the move is complete, a visit to the Boulder Creek Historic display will be an interesting and nostalgic trip into the past of the San Lorenzo Valley town.



Badges and billy club belonging to Constable Phil Hartman were donated by his wife Gladys. Below, names of presidents and other entries dating back to 1883 are recorded in this old ledger from the Hartman Hotel.



Gladys
H
BEAUTY
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THE GOLDEN GOOSE SCHOOL...

Boulder Creek's Lorenzo Center, named after the old town of Lorenzo situated in what is now South Boulder Creek, will house the displays of memorabilia collected by the Boulder Creek Historic Association.

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