



# RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

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### RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

*The Official Publication of the Healdsburg  
Museum and Historical Society*

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A nostalgic poem recalling teenage years of the 1950s, a look at the history of making beer in Healdsburg, a fun game seeing if you can recall the old, older and oldest in Healdsburg and an important look at the history of the lumber industry from the 1940s to the 1980s.

Al Hammersley, a Healdsburg High School graduate of the class of 1954, wrote a tribute to his classmates for the class' 50th reunion. We thank Al's classmate, Darla Williams Budworth for bringing this to our attention and urging the publication in the *Recorder*. Darla is a long time supporter of and volunteer with the Healdsburg Museum.

A while back Charlotte Anderson and Holly Hoods talked about doing a "fun" piece about recalling what is old or older or oldest. Sitting around the conference table one day we started to enumerate what businesses were still in existence, what had changed, etc. And so we came up with an article entitled *Old, Older and Oldest in Healdsburg*. This is not a new concept and must acknowledge with thanks Columnist and Historian Gaye Lebaron's many years of jogging our memories.

In discussing the winter issue of the *Recorder* Research Curator Holly Hoods said that she had come across some very interesting facts about the brewery business in Healdsburg and would like to pursue it further. The result? The very informative and well written article you will find in this issue.

Frank Zak, a member of the Museum's board of directors and with his wife, Eleanor, Museum volunteers for many years, brought to Research Curator Holly Hoods some photos of the family lumber business and some comments about lumbering in the 1940-1980s. At Holly's urging Frank wrote a very comprehensive and factual history of the lumber industry. Because of his involvement in the lumber business, Frank is able to give a very clear picture and fascinating look at what was an economic stimulus at that time in Healdsburg's history.

At this time we wish to thank the Museum members and the officers for their encouragement and support during the past year and wish you all a Happy and Great New Year.

Arnold Santucci

Editor





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## 4 Perceptions of a Small Town

*by Al Hammersley*

Hammersley, a 1954 graduate of Healdsburg High, wrote this poem to honor his classmates at the class' 50th reunion. As Darla Williams Budworth, a classmate, points out "it is so Healdsburg of our youth".

## 5 Old, Older, Oldest of Healdsburg

*by Holly Hoods, Charlotte Anderson and Arnold Santucci*

The staff, with help from a number of long time residents, brings you the first of what we hope will be a series of nostalgic looks back. Join us in this old, older and oldest game.

## 7 A History of Breweries in Healdsburg

*by Holly Hoods*

Over the years Healdsburg became well known for various industries and agricultural products. Among them, in the mid and late 1800s to the early 1900s, was hops and the making of beer. Beginning with German immigrants Carl Muller and Henry Fried and the F.O. Brandt family the tradition of brewing prize winning beer continues today by the Richard Norgrove family.

## 10 Lumbering: 1940-1980 in the Greater Healdsburg Area

*by Frank Zak*

As a member of a lumbering family who came down from Oregon to start a lumber company in the Healdsburg area Frank Zak gives us first hand a very informative account of lumbering in the 1940s-1980s. The lumber business had a great impact on Healdsburg's economic well being.



*Al Hammersley from 1954 Sotoyoman*

**This poem was written by Al Hammersley, my classmate. It is so Healdsburg of our youth; I love the poem because it reminds me of those days. This is the way it really was in the late 1930s to the late 1950s. I wouldn't trade it for a million dollars! Al Hammersley is a HHS Class of 1954 graduate. His uncle and father owned Hammersley's Paint Store on Center St, across from the Plaza for many years. Al resides in Santee, Ca today and he wrote this poem in 2004, in honor of our 50th year class reunion.**

*Darla Williams Budworth, HHS Class of 1954*

## **PERCEPTIONS OF A SMALL TOWN**

By Al Hammersley

*Oh, there was truth and goodness,  
in that land where we were born.  
Where book and radio ruled the evening,  
before there was TV.  
There lived a race of innocents,  
and they were you and me,  
long ago and far away,  
at that time,  
in that town,  
that made me me.  
Fifteen hundred residents strong,  
nothing could possibly be wrong.  
On streets plied with skates held by key,  
when hardware was a box of nails, and bytes came from a flea.  
Where schoolmates parents' tables, had no costly labels,  
for home grown wine, drunk at dinner time.  
at that time,  
in that town,  
that made me me.*

*Roosevelt, Truman, Ike,  
rulers of the White House three,  
guided us through peace and war, all made history.  
We'd never heard of microwaves, or telephones in cars,  
where navels were for oranges, and fruit was put up in jars.  
We hadn't seen enough of jets, to talk about the lag,  
and microchips were what was left, at the bottom of the bag.  
Coke came just in bottles, and skirts came to the knee,  
at that time,  
in that town,  
that made me me.*

*Summer Saturday nights to the baton beat of Sweeten.  
The Plaza, a place to be, surrounded with stores  
owned by Gromo, Stine, and Hammersley.  
In a land that time forgot,  
before the days of Dylan, or the dawn of Camelot.  
And airplanes weren't named Jefferson,  
and Zeppelins weren't Led.  
Buicks came with portholes, Carnival sideshows came with  
freaks,  
bathing suits were big enough, to cover both your cheeks.  
Madonna was a virgin, and Beatles lived in gardens, and Monkees  
in a tree.  
Rocket ships were fiction, and gay meant fancy free,  
at that time,  
in that town,  
that made me me.*

*There were no golden arches.  
Lonnie's, Gordon's or the Office; the Places to be.  
Only boys wore flat tops, only girls with rings in ears,  
unwashed Levis a must, for acceptance by your peers.  
Adolescent dances in the school gym,  
caused heart break or romances, depending on whim.  
Crowded dancers on the floor, at that event we called a sock,  
never had enough always yelled for more.  
Gyrations included were bop and bunny bop.  
at that time,  
in that town,  
that made me me.*

*But all things have a season, or so we've heard them say,  
and now instead of Dixie Peach, we swear by Retin-A.  
What is the reason for all those invitations to join A.A.R.P?  
Could it be time is passing? No, not ever, not for me.  
We've come a long way, baby, but in slightly larger jeans,  
and I keep wondering why they're using,  
smaller print in magazines.  
But as long as memory stays,  
I will always remember the ways,  
that that town  
made me me.*



# OLD, OLDER, OLDEST OF HEALDSBURG

by Holly Hoods, Charlotte Anderson and Arnold Santucci

(with apologies to Gaye LeBaron)



*Aven Theater, circa 1957*

You're old if you remember the inflatable slide at Brandt's picnic grounds on the Russian River. You're older if you remember the two-tiered diving board at the River. You're oldest if you remember the toboggan slide at Merryland Beach at the River.

You're old if you remember the McDonald's Restaurant going in on Healdsburg Avenue. You are older if you remember Lonnie's Coffee Shop in the same location. You are oldest if you remember when it was Wittke's Coffee Shop.

You're old if you remember when the Raven Theater was built. You're older if you remember when it was the "Aven" Theater. You're oldest if you went to the movies at the Plaza Theater on southwest side of West Street.

You're old if you remember when the Old Redwood Highway became Highway 101. You're older if you remember when West Street changed its name to Healdsburg Avenue. You're oldest if you remember when Powell Street changed its name to Plaza Street.

You're old if you remember the last of the three adult communities, "River View," being built. You're older if you remember when the first adult community, River's Bend, was built and its developer, John Bruce, went broke. You're oldest if you remember when the subdivisions were all planted to prune orchards.

You're old if you remember picking prunes to earn money for your new school clothes. You're older if you remember harvesting hops.

You are old if you bought school supplies at Wainscott's Stationery at the corner of Center and Plaza Streets in the Masonic Temple building where Powell's Candy store is located now.

You are old if you remember the Ben Franklin Store at the northwest corner of Center and North Streets. where the Toy Store is now. But older still if you bought all types of variety goods at Whitwell's Variety Store on West Street.

You are fairly old if you went to the post office when it was located where the Center Street Deli presently resides. And older still if you enjoyed buying groceries, produce from the Stines and meat from the McCord Brothers in the Plaza Market next to the post office.

You are old if you bought dresses from Nell Shelford's Dress Shop located on the west side of West Street (Healdsburg Avenue) and older still if she sold you one of her millinery creations.

You are old if you remember that Mel Wood owned and operated his Pontiac auto agency south of town across from what is now McDonald's. It was later sold to Lee Silveira who moved the agency north of town where it is now located.



*Ribbon cutting ceremony at Silveira Pontiac-Buick, GMC at its present location north end of town. Left to right, Ron Silveira, Lee Silveira, Dorothy Silveira, Doug Badger and Art Ruonavaara.*

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You are old if you remember that Ball Buick was housed for a few years in what is now W.C.Sanderson's Ford Agency.

You are old if you remember buying clothes at Merle's Men's Wear and shoes from Cliff and Betty Fraser right next door on Center Street next to what is now Zin's (which used to be the Home Bakery).



Cliff Fraser of Fraser's Shoes, Circa 1954

You are old if you remember shopping at Magill's Market operated by the Biasotti Brothers, produce department by Fred Tonelli and Joe Howard, the meat market by Ray Giometti and Bob Brady between Plaza and North Streets where the parking lot for the Jordan Company is located now. It formerly was the parking lot for the Rosenberg and Bush Department Store.



Mode O' Day Shoppe, 1952

You are somewhat older if you remember buying dresses at Martha Newgen's Mode O' Day shop on West Street. And you are

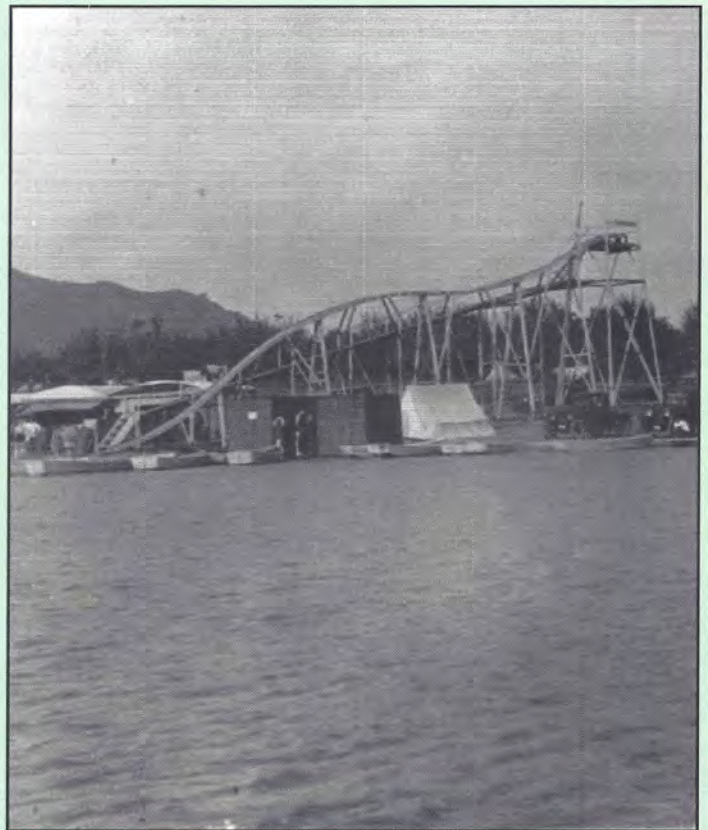
older if you remember that The Little Folks Shop owned by Molly Thrift and The Lingerie and Gift Shoppe owned by Rose Moore were located in the space now occupied by Gallo Wine Company at the corner of Center and Plaza Streets.

You are older if you shopped at J.C. Penney Store in the Healdsburg Shopping Center where the Raven Film Center is located but older if you did your shopping at J.C. Penney when it was located on West Street near North Street.

You are older if you remember that Garrett's Hardware Store was located on the south side of Matheson Street between Center and Healdsburg Avenue.

You are older if you attended City Council meetings in the one story city hall built in 1960, located where the Oakville Grocery/Delicatessen complex is now, but much older if you watched the city council proceedings from the hard benches in the two story Victorian City Hall also located at the southeast corner of Matheson and Center Streets.

You are older if you remember that the *Healdsburg Tribune* was housed in a wood and brick building at 133 Matheson where the Healdsburg Senior Center is located now. Much older if you recollect that the was located in a brick building on East and Tucker Street that once housed the elementary school.



Toboggan Slide, 1929



# A HISTORY OF BREWERIES IN HEALDSBURG

by Holly Hoods



*Healdsburg Brewery*

## FIRST BEER: "HEALDSBURG BREWERY"

German immigrants can be credited for bringing beer and brewing to the thirsty residents of early Healdsburg and the vicinity. Carl Muller built and established the "Healdsburg Brewery" with his partner, Henry Fried, in 1866. This first brewery, a steam beer brewery, was thriving within the first decade of the town's founding in 1857. Muller and Fried erected their brewery at the corner of West (now Healdsburg Avenue) and Grant streets. This location was outside the northern town limits--which then ended at the north side of North Street.

Locals rejoiced at their first taste of the "excellent lager beer" from the new brewery. An October 1866 newspaper editorial called it "INSPIRATION: producing outbursts of poetry, eloquence and song with which our office has resounded during the past week." The (Healdsburg) Democratic Standard, announced the brewery's readiness to sell beer "by the keg or by the gallon" to "hotels, saloons and families" in an October 3rd ad. Subsequent ads also noted that fresh yeast was "constantly on hand." Two years later the brewery owners, Muller and Fried, were touted in an editorial as "Enterprising Men of Healdsburg" in the Democratic Standard New Year's review of businesses. They had evidently spent close to \$12,000 on the buildings, equipment, wagons and horses for the brewery--quite a substantial sum in the 1860s. Advocating the

importance of supporting "a home enterprise," that was "supplying all the country north of this place and nearly every place south," the editorial mandated that "every family should keep a keg of this beer." The writer urged, somewhat incoherently, "A glass full drank at every meal, especially by weak persons, its properties are such that it will invigorate your system. Try it."

Try it, they did. The Healdsburg Brewery thrived and its owners prospered. In the fall of 1876, the business moved to a spot closer to the commercial heart of town: the northwest corner of West and North streets, across the street from the Sotoyome livery Stable. At the new location the brewery boasted an outdoor, family-friendly, "beer garden." The following year, 1877, Fried sold his share of the business. Carl Muller became the sole proprietor of Healdsburg Brewery until he retired 30 years later. Henry Fried opened his own bar, the "Bank Exchange Saloon," down the street from Muller in an old bank building at the corner of West and Powell (now Plaza) streets. There he offered a selection of stronger beverages in an all-male, adult environment. Fried's saloon specialized in "Whisky, Oysters, and Cigars," and featured late-night card games in its smoke-filled card rooms. Bars multiplied downtown. There were more places to "wet your whistle" than worship in 1877 Healdsburg.

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F.O. Brandt, 1800's

## FROM BREWERY TO BOTTLING: F.O. BRANDT, ENTREPRENEUR

Healdsburg got the chance to try a new brew in the late 1880s. Frederick Otto Brandt moved from Wisconsin to California in 1888, following the migration of his brother, August. The brothers were natives of Germany. Frederick and his wife, Bertha Dahlke Brandt of Green Bay, Wisconsin, moved into a house on the east side of University Street between North and Matheson streets. There he built and established the F.O. Brandt Brewery. The brewery specialized in steam beer, which, in the years prior to refrigeration, had to be delivered in small barrels on the same day as brewed. The brewery was in full operation in 1895. The next year F.O. purchased machinery for bottling lager beer. Beer was just the beginning for Brandt. Having a large facility, he began bottling beer and soda for other businesses, so much so that the Brandt business name was changed to Healdsburg Soda and Bottling Works in 1898. By the time a detailed review of the Brandt plant was presented in the Healdsburg Tribune, 22 December 1904, six years later, the company was producing a lot more than beer:

*For the past 12 years, the Healdsburg Bottling Works, conducted by F.O. Brandt, has supplied the people in this section of the valley with a superior line of ciders and carbonated drinks, and the business has steadily increased in dimensions. In addition to a large local trade for supplies most of the dealers between Santa Rosa and Cloverdale. He manufactures sodas of all flavors, sarsaparilla cream, ginger ale, Queen Charlotte cream sodas, champagne cider and sarsaparilla and iron. He also handles National Steam Beer and bottles lager beer and is the sole agent for Aetna Mineral Water. Mr. Brandt gives the business his personal attention, his plant is fitted up with the latest improved machinery and in the manufacture of goods he uses absolutely nothing but pure ingredients and filtered and sterilized water. He also does an extensive business in sand and sawdust, which he is prepared to furnish in any quantity on demand. Mr. Brandt is a liberal, enterprising businessman and fully deserves the extensive business he has built up.*



Brandt delivery wagon

## ICE AND OTHER INNOVATIONS

F.O. Brandt's sons August, Frederick and William, worked with their father to grow and diversify the enterprise into a successful family business. Frederick Otto Brandt built a new ice manufacturing plant on the University Street property in 1905. In 1907, F.O. Brandt's ice plant and bottling works was featured in a *Healdsburg Tribune* article. According to the article, the manufacturing plant had grown from a 12' x 14' building with a single horse and delivery wagon to "a fine up-to-date ice plant with a capacity of seven tons per day, in connection with the bottling works, and it requires 20 horses to do the business."

In 1907, a large barn, 36' x 70', was being built, where 20 horses and numerous wagons would be housed. The blocks of

*Continued on page 9*





Brandt ice making tank

ice, made from distilled water, weighed from 100-200 lbs. and were stored in a solid condition in a refrigerating room. For cleaning, the bottles were placed on a large wheel—the invention of Mr. Brandt—which slowly revolved in a large tank of water. From this they were passed to the washing machine which did 30 bottles per minute. Then they were filled. According to the article, Brandt usually received more orders for ice than he could meet, and occasionally, when his ice supply exceeded the local demand, he sold it in St. Helena. The bottles came in three sizes: quart, pint and half pint. The half pint was used in saloons as a back or chaser. Brandt changed the business name again in 1908 to Healdsburg Bottling and Ice Works, reflecting the importance of the company's icemaking. When sawed into 200-pound blocks, the ice would be used in railroad cars for shipping produce and for delivery to taverns throughout northern Sonoma County.

F.O. Brandt opened a creamery at his University Street plant in 1909. In 1911, his son Frederick John bought a portion of the old Fitch Sotoyome Rancho property from the Bailhache estate. The 27 acres included the old adobe landmark "Fitch's castle." F.J.'s plans to develop the historic home into a resort on the Russian River literally went up in smoke when the house burned down in 1913. Frederick Otto Brandt died in 1918 and his sons Frederick John and William August continued the brewery for a short time until Prohibition shut them down for good. The plant continued to operate as a creamery and ice works until 1935.

## BEAR REPUBLIC

It took more than 50 years for another brewery to rise again in Healdsburg. The Bear Republic Brewing Company was incorporated in 1995 by a family partnership consisting of Richard R. and Sandy Norgrove, their son, Richard G. Norgrove,

and his wife, Tami Hucke Norgrove. That year the first floor of the Swenson Building at 345 Healdsburg Avenue, (formerly "Matuzek's Restaurant") underwent an extensive remodeling. The major task and cost was redoing the floors of the restaurant to support nine 1500 gallon brewing tanks (more than 50 tons if all tanks were full). The brewery and restaurant opened its doors to the public in 1996. It has been a popular watering hole ever since. The "Bear" is also a satellite location of the American Bicycle and Cycling Museum, featuring overhead displays of bicycling gear and equipment.

In 2006, the Norgrove families moved the main production facilities to Cloverdale and expanded the bottling capacity. Today the company is the 11th largest employer in Healdsburg, with 68 employees. The award winning beers at Bear Republic have made the company famous outside the local area.

## HOPS

Excerpted from *Beer and Ale: Grace Brothers and the Grace Brothers Way*, undated pamphlet (c. 1960) in Healdsburg Museum archives.

Hops are a perennial, originally propagated from root cuttings that grow in the form of vines, supported by wire trellises. The rich bottom land along the Russian River is one of the few hop-producing areas in the United States—the others being in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, New York, Mendocino County and the Sacramento Valley. The cones of the female plant are what is used in brewing. These are harvested in a three-week period starting about August 15 in Sonoma County. These cones are dried to 8-10% moisture on kilns at a temperature of 120 to 145 degrees Fahrenheit, depending on the humidity of the atmosphere.

After kilning, the hops are compressed to 11 lbs. per cubic foot into bales weighing about 195 lbs. They are then stored off the floor in dry, dark, clean rooms with a temperature of 38 degrees Fahrenheit and humidity of not over 75%. If properly handled, hops stay fresh for well over a year.

### Sources:

*Democratic Standard*, 3 October 1866; 11 January 1868.

*Healdsburg Enterprise*, 9 September 1876; 1 January 1890.

Healdsburg Museum subject files, historical photos and historical newspaper index, "Breweries."

*Healdsburg Tribune*, 23 January 1896; 13 January 1898; 22 December 1904; 24 August 1905; 16 March 1909; 19 August 1909; 8 February 1917; 21 November 1918.

*Sonoma County Tribune*, 14 May 1891.

*Healdsburg Tribune*, Healdsburg and Northern Sonoma County: A Pictorial History, 1996.

*Healdsburg Tribune*, 13 December 1995.



# LUMBERING: 1940-1980 IN GREATER HEALDSBURG

by Frank Zak



California Timber Products Co. main band saw. Operator is Pat McGraw

Production of lumber in our immediate area really started east of Guerneville with the Korbel Brothers, Joseph, Francis & Antoine, in 1862 near the current winery site. They harvested redwood timber to make lumber for cigar boxes which was their chief business. Harvest and production continued here until 1880 when Korbel ran out of accessible timber.

Lumbering in the more immediate area started in the early 1940's and was centered in the Mill Creek drainage, including Puccioni Road, Palmer Creek and other tributaries of Mill Creek. These were basically all small mills with limited production. All were "circle sawmills" using one or two circle saws, usually 36" and larger. These saws all were the "inserted tooth" type which utilized removable teeth held in place by a "keeper". This method allows replacing one or two damaged teeth without the need to change the entire saw. These are quite efficient but create a lot of sawdust and reduced production due to the high degree of waste.

A reliable source has told me that he can identify 19 sites were identified in the subject area where lumber was produced. Several sites were the result of moving the mill from site to site rather than hauling the logs. Here is a list of names of lumber men milling this area:

Goehring	Stone
Harrington	Inman
Preston	Carl Medford
Craighead	Opperman
Castille	Stacy
Patterson	

Forklifts and straddle carriers weren't that common in these early days. Most mills utilized a system called "knock-down" jacks

for loading lumber on the transport trucks. Lumber was pulled onto skids where the one closest was rigid and the outboard jack was movable. Loads of lumber were usually about 8' wide and 4' high. When a load was ready to be shipped, a truck with rollers on the bed would back under the load and "knock-down" the outboard jack, dropping the load onto the truck bed. A cheater bar was then used to roll the load fully onto the truck. Away they would go to their destination of a lumber yard, concentration yard, or a remanufacturing plant.

Healdsburg and near surrounding area supported 5 re-man operations, including Sauers Forest Products, Idaco Lumber Co., & Sonoma Wood Products in town, and Rounds Lumber Co. at Asti and Ralph Kappler Lumber on Airport Blvd., Windsor. George Sauers came south from Humboldt County in 1948 and purchased 30 acres just north of Dry Creek Road. The site abutted the N.W.P. Railroad on its East side. A rail spur was built that could accommodate more than 10 railcars. A shed was built over part of the rail spur to allow handling dry products if it rained. This was a significant re-load facility in the area. The actual lumber processing included a large variety of lumber processing equipment. There were planers, moulders, resaws, trimmers and several resort chains. This was a very active operation until 1955 when a major fire destroyed nearly all of the re-man equipment. The rail spur and shed were not involved in the fire and continued in their use. In 1957 the business was involved mostly in the manufacturing and installation of redwood tanks for wine and water. Patio furniture of redwood and picnic tables and benches was also produced. Leasing space to two other businesses, Standard Structures and Coast Trim Co., rounded out business at Sauers Forest Products.

Idaco Lumber Co. was a very large operation on the north edge of Healdsburg. Nearly everything involving lumber was done at this site. There was a small sawmill that converted raw logs into lumber, and that was just for starters. On site was a variety of re-man equipment. Included were planers, timber sizers, resaws, resort chains chop saws and a major truss building facility. Part of the operation was building packages of pre-cut lumber for the home building industry. Supplying all framing materials was coupled with roof and floor trusses plus plywood and siding for a complete package. Manufactured Homes in downtown Healdsburg was a division of Idaco that literally pre-built home sections. Entire walls with windows and doors installed were produced at this operation. The business changed hands several times and ceased all operation about 2000.





Isaco Lumber Company, 1964

Sonoma Wood Products on Healdsburg Ave. and the R.R. tracks started as a Co-Op in 1946 with a different name. The Nell family from S.F., with father Edward and sons Phil and Ted purchased the operation in 1949 and is still going strong. During these early years the business was almost exclusively redwood products. Like other re-man plants this operation contained the usual variety of planers, moulders, resaws, trimmers and resort facilities. SWP also had dry kilns to convert rough green lumber into dry material to be made into a variety of siding products. Several suppliers provided short pieces of redwood lumber which when dried were finger jointed and glued into 20' long blanks that could then be milled into a variety of siding products. When I say short pieces I mean exactly that. Most of the pieces were less than 24" long. This was a major change in the industry, usually these ends were waste and were burned. The business is still prospering but has seen major changes in the operation. Today, the name has changed to "Nu Forest Products" and the business caters only to lumber yards and wholesalers still supplying a variety of siding products but including cedar along with redwood. Nu Forest is a major supplier of dry dimension lumber and carries a large inventory of heavy fir timbers. This operation will be vacating the current site and moving to Cloverdale probably in 2009.

The Ralph Kappler Lumber Co was located just east of the R.R. tracks on Airport Blvd. in Windsor. This was the smallest of the 5 re-man operations in our immediate area. The plant contained the same assortment of lumber processing equipment as the other plants but on a smaller scale. They also had a rail spur on the N.W.P. railroad where lumber could be shipped by flatcar or closed boxcars to East or South markets.

Rounds Lumber Co. at Asti was another large processor of redwood lumber. Unlike the other re-man facilities Rounds had extensive air drying space for processing their redwood lumber.

Unlike other white wood species of lumber redwood is a difficult lumber to dry from the green stage. It has the bad habit of collapsing and deforming into an unusable mess. Most operations will stack the lumber on separators called "stickers", small slats usually  $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 1-1/2" x 48" long, to separate the courses during this air drying process that might last from 6 months to more than a year. Rounds had a large kiln capacity for drying their lumber. They also had all the usual reman planers, saws and sorting facilities. Most of the upper clear grades of redwood were dried and further processed before shipping. One of their early lumber sales persons was Harry Merlo who went on to become President of Louisiana Pacific Corp that was a major player in western U.S. lumber industries. This site is still in operation but is currently a part of Redwood Empire Industries. They also have a redwood sawmill in Cloverdale.

One of the oldest reman facilities in the area was the Goehring family's operation on Mill Creek Road. It was located about two miles west of Westside road. They processed a lot of the lumber from the small mills further out Mill Creek. They had planer facilities with resaw and other equipment to process the rough lumber for the retail market. This operation ceased operation in the mid to late 1950's.

Several sawmills were located near Healdsburg or had offices here. North at Lytton the three Daniels brothers, R.W, June, & Jack, from Texas had a small mill between the N.W.P. railroad and current freeway. Next-door, from Oregon, was a mill owned by Howard Maloney and Ted Snyder. On the north end of this property Roy Sjolund had one of the earliest plants specializing in re-usable wooden pallets. Royal Pallet Co. Further west on Skaggs Springs road near Annapolis were several mills. Golden Lumber a division of Rounds Lumber was 30+ miles out near Soda Springs. A large mill for the area was built on the old McMillan Ranch 4 miles west of Annapolis. Offices were on Center St. Construction started on this mill in November 1953 with lumber production beginning in June 1954. The mill was called Calif. Timber Prod. Co. Owners were the three Denney Bros. from Oregon, George Barry and Frank Zak from Smith River. This mill boasted a 10 foot diameter bandmill driving a 15" wide saw with circumference over 60 feet. This state of the art mill produced over 100,000 board feet of green lumber per shift. Production included Douglas Fir as well as redwood. Continuing toward Annapolis was a small mill owned by the Fish brothers. Phil Campbell's Annapolis Milling Co had been sawing lumber on Soda Springs road since the early 1940's. This operation was closed down about 2005. All of the lumber from these operations was routed through Healdsburg for re-loading or further processing.

Cloverdale's lumbering really took off in the 1950's with a





*California Timber Products Company's five partners. Left to right, Bud Denney, Frank Zak, Sr., Bob Denney, George Barry and Bill Denney.*

happening. Paul Kelly and wife Lucile came south from eastern Oregon with one goal in mind: that was to build a toll road west to open large tracts of timberlands that were previously not accessible. Paul Kelly negotiated rights of way through many properties but died before all access had been secured. Wife Lucile and employee Hilbert Hanson concluded these negotiations and proceeded to build a road west. This was always considered to be a logging road so there was no thought of paving. This road stretched from Cloverdale west to the Buckeye Creek north of Annapolis and near Annapolis Milling. Loggers and truckers using this road paid a fee based on log load sizes. This opened a very large area that had previously not been accessible.

Mills and manufacturers in the area at this time were peopled by some of the following long time lumbermen. Cliff Smoot, John Bryson, Wayne Humphries, Harold Trimble, Fred Gummerson to name a few. Mills of this time included Mollala Forest. Prod Hollow Tree Lbr. Co., Cloverdale Lumber Co., Cloverdale Dry Kilns, Rolando Lumber Co., Kinton Lumber. Co., Lindrith Plywood and G & R Lumber. Barnes Lumber has had a retail yard on McCray Road for many years.

Specialty uses of lumber was important early on as it is today. One of the earliest businesses still going today is Bellagio Wood Tank Co. that makes all sorts of wood tanks for water and/or wine. Pan-Abode in Windsor made simulated log cabin siding for a number of years. Standard Structures started business in Sacramento before moving to Healdsburg in 1953. They were always in the laminating business but early products were "bow-string" trusses for use primarily in industrial buildings. At Healdsburg the business changed to more solid glue laminated timbers. These were used primarily in large warehouses and retail businesses. Complexes like Coddington, Penney's and K-Mart were a few buildings whose roofs were supplied by Standard Structures.

This business moved to Shiloh Road in 1971. A business called Speed Space Corp. had occupied this site originally. They also produced Glu-lam beams but in addition built completed relocatable classrooms for schools. These were delivered to school sites ready for students. Next door to the west was Sante Fe Tank and Tower that used large amounts of clear and select redwood in the production, maintenance, and repair of water cooling towers. They were later purchased by Ecodyne Corp. that continued in the same business.

Cali'co Hardwoods off Airport Blvd. produced gun stock blanks from a variety of hard-woods including local oaks, stump burls and black walnut. Still in business today, Gordon Wagonette had a lath mill in conjunction with Calif. Timber Products mill at Annapolis. Several local businesses were a great help for all these industrial operations. Helping to keep the wheels turning were E & M Electric Co., Healdsburg Machine Shop, Brommer Bros. Welding and Gordon Burkhart supplying all sorts of power transmission equipment.

These years from the 1940's through the 80's was a very active time for the lumber, logging, and wood products remanufacturing in the Healdsburg area.