

"Tokens of History"

by

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This edition of Tokens of History ties the newest addition to my token collection to two others, as well as to the history of the A.C.I.D. Canal in honor of its Centennial Celebration.



MECHANICS SALOON / FRANK / BARTOSH / KESWICK, CAL.
GOOD FOR A / 5 (¢ within curl) / DRINK (sm.) KLINKNER & CO. S. F.

This token is from Frank Bartosh's "Mechanics Saloon" in Keswick. As you can see, this token has two holes drilled through it. There have been several tokens that turned up recently with similar holes, and the story is that they were all mounted on a belt once proudly worn by some history lover.

The Searchlight, October 30, 1925:

FATHER OF SIX DIES IN KENNETT

FRANK BARTOSH, RETIRED, WAS NATIVE OF AUSTRIA AND AGED 72 YEARS

(Special to The Searchlight)

Kennett, October 29--Frank Bartosh, retired, died at home here at 1 o'clock this afternoon. He had been in failing health for weeks. The decedent, a native of Austria, was aged 72 years.

During the boom days of Keswick, Bartosh had a lodging house in that town. When Keswick went down he came to Kennett and engaged in the same business. His house burned down five years ago, and since that time Bartosh had lived retired.

The decedent leaves these sons and daughters: John J. Bartosh and George R. Bartosh, Redding; Frank A. Bartosh and Joseph P. Bartosh, Sacramento; Mrs. Fred Pritchard and Miss Mary Bartosh, San Francisco...

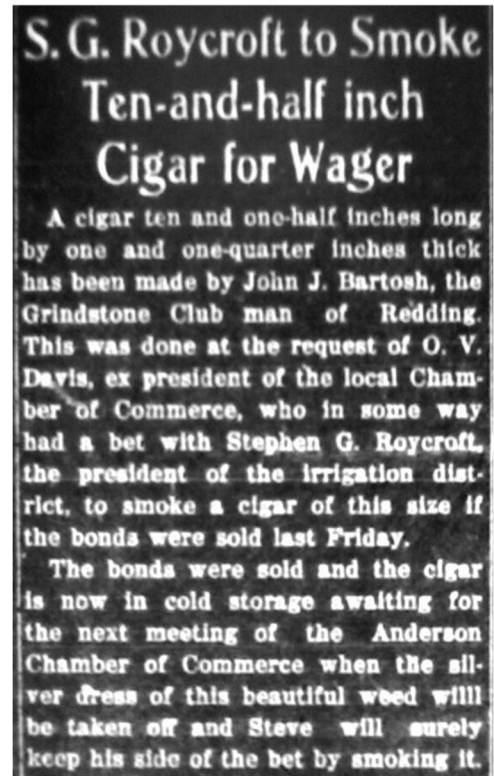
Frank Bartosh is buried at the Old St. Joseph's Cemetery in Redding.



GOLDEN EAGLE / CIGAR STORE / REDDING
GOOD FOR / *5* / CENTS / IN TRADE

One of Frank's sons, John J. Bartosh, owned the Golden Eagle Cigar Store, located in the Golden Eagle Hotel, from 1907 until he retired in 1959. He was the second "Patron Saint" of the historic Grindstone Club which started in Shasta back in the 1870's, moved to the Golden Eagle in Redding in the late 1880's, and was resurrected back in 2000 (go to www.grindstoneclub.com for complete history). John Bartosh was to play an important part in the celebration of the bonds being sold to pay for the building of the A.C.I.D. Canal...

Anderson Valley News headlines for February 10, 1916:



Stephen Gilbert Roycroft was the president of the Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District, and had previously been bartender at the Oriental Hotel bar. The Oriental Hotel was originally called the Marshall House in the 1880's, and was eventually known as the Anderson Hotel, where the celebrations mentioned above took place (see the April 2013 Stagecoach for full history):



Both the Anderson Hotel and the Golden Eagle Hotel would meet their demise by fire about fifty years later (and about fifty years ago):

February 26, 1969:



Located across from the Southern Pacific Co. depot, the hotel had once been a fashionable stopping place. But in recent years it had served as way station for construction workers, the aged and some who were down on their luck.

No one was killed or hurt in the fire.

The fire was already out of control when firemen arrived on the scene at about 8 p.m. Firemen donned breathing apparatus and entered the building to see if anyone had been trapped inside.

Firemen and an Anderson policeman also plunged into the smoke-filled structure to retrieve cash from a safe at the rear of the building. The undetermined amount of cash represented part of the assets of the hotel bar.

At first, one of the hotel tenants was unaccounted for and it was feared he was trapped inside the ancient structure. But the tenant was discovered later having a drink just down the street in another bar.

Like a modern-day bucket brigade, tanker trucks shuttled back and forth between the blaze and the fire department headquarters four blocks away to pick up loads of water, spew it on the flames and go back for more.

Anderson Fire Chief George Williams said the fire apparently started at the rear of the structure and spread quickly through it. Residents and business operators in the building had practically no time to retrieve belongings or equipment, he said.



The Golden Eagle Hotel was destroyed by fire on September 22, 1962. Pictured left is a firefighter trying to fight the blaze. Perhaps he was once a Grindstoner, smoking his cigar as a final tribute.

Cigar clenched in mouth, a fireman plays water on blazing Gold