

"Tokens of History"

By

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This month brings five tokens and more connections between Shasta County towns, businesses, and their owners/managers/proprietors.

The first token is from the Annex in Keswick, owned by Dan McCarthy:



ANNEX / D. Mc.CARTHY / KESWICK, CAL. // GOOD FOR / ONE / DRINK

According to the Republican Free Press (March 2, 1889), McCarthy was a "Montague hostel man" prior to operating in Keswick. Here are some snippets from local newspapers from 1897 and 1898:

*Dan McCarthy, who is sometimes called the daddy of Keswick or South Park addition, was among the Shasta visitors last Sunday. When Keswick becomes an incorporated place McCarthy will no doubt be the first mayor.*

*Dan McCarthy has a force of men taking down the brick building opposite the school house, the bricks to be used at Keswick. We hear that Mr. McCarthy will erect another building on the site.*

*Keswick parties have made out to purchase two or three brick buildings in Shasta with the view of taking them down and rebuilding in the former place where wooden structures are in danger of fire.*

*Concrete will be used in the construction of buildings in burnt district of Keswick. This to do away with much wood work to make the buildings proof against fire, or anything but a United States rifled cannon.*

May 27, 1898:

*KESWICK ON THE BOOM, A LARGE BRICK HOTEL IN VIEW.  
A Concrete Fire-Proof Building to Be Erected By Menzel.*

*Keswick, May 27 – D. McCarthy, now the sole proprietor of the Hotel Keswick, will rebuild the annex to the hotel that was destroyed in the recent fire. The new building*

*will be of brick, and will have a frontage of almost seventy-five feet on Main street. It will be two stories high, the upper story being cut up into bedrooms and the lower into business rooms. It will be Keswick's first brick building, the forerunner, it is hoped, of others to come. The Hotel Keswick is now crowded to accommodate its guests; the annex is needed to provide for the overflow. As it is, beds are nightly provided for ninety sleepers. The front of the building is now fresh in appearance because of the touching up the painters have given it since the fire. The bar-room and barber shop have been handsomely redecorated with new wall paper.*

The second token, from the Hotel Keswick, with several owners over the years:



HOTEL / KESWICK // GOOD FOR / 1 / DRINK



Note the McCormick-Saeltzer store on the left, hotel bar on the right and in next photo.



Note that the sign appears to read: "McCarthy & Gillespie". The Gillespie family was involved with several Redding businesses over the years, including the Depot and Lorenz Hotels.

Weekly Shasta Courier add, 1899:

*Keswick's Leading Hotel,  
HOTEL KESWICK,  
A. J. Drynan, Mgr.*

...

*D. McCarthy, Prop.  
TAYLOR P. O.*

Daily Free Press January 2, 1900:

**DRYNAN AT KESWICK**

*Popular Redding Man Will Manage Hotel Keswick*

*A. J. Drynan, former well known county clerk, arrived in Keswick Sunday...D. McCarthy, the proprietor, disposes of none of his interests, but simply shifts the care of the management from his own shoulders upon those of Mr. Drynan.*

*Feb. 22, 1900: Dan McCarthy sold the stock and fixtures of Hotel Keswick to J. W. Brace. Brace came to Redding from Oakland and also owned hotels in Nevada City.*

*Jan 29, 1901: Dan McCarthy, hotel man and capitalist of Keswick, announced he would build a four-story hotel on the corner of Market and Yuba streets (in Redding). The hotel would be built of brick and modern in every way.  
(See token # 3 below)*

*March 30, 1901: "Italian John," 62, of Flat Creek dropped dead in front of the Hotel Keswick. He was seeking medical treatment as he had been ill for some time.*

*Oct. 20, 1901: In a horse and buggy accident Margaret Gillespie and Mrs. J. Merrill and her child were left to walk home, stiff and sore, on their way from Keswick to Redding.*

*The horse let the buggy slip on a narrow grade atop Diestlehorst hill. Merrill grabbed her child and jumped out. Gillespie was thrown off as the buggy overturned.*

1902:

**Sold a Keswick Saloon.**  
R. E. Whitcomb of Keswick gave  
a bill of sale to Barner & Hiebe on  
May 14, 1902, for \$250, to the Annex  
saloon in Keswick, with fixtures and  
stock.

R. E. Whitcomb also had a token issued when he was owner of the Annex. Unfortunately, I do not have a specimen in my collection, but here the description (I do as of 2020, from the Ron Lerch collection):



R. E. WHITCOMB / ANNEX / KESWICK. // GOOD FOR / ONE 10 CTS. / DRINK

The Hotel Keswick token pictured above was obtained from Sandra Orr in 2005, granddaughter of Clay Baker, found in his belongings after he passed away. Clay was a well-known character and eyewitness to 100 years of Shasta County history:

*Sidney Clay Baker was born in Ono January 24, 1876...in 1906, the Reverend William S. Kidder of Ono persuaded Clay to run for County Tax Collector. He ran successfully and held his office for two terms. In 1914, Clay opened his own real estate and insurance office in the Golden Eagle Hotel. A few years later he moved his office to the Lorenz Hotel where he stayed for forty years. He was appointed California State Inheritance Appraiser in 1925 and served in that office until he retired at age eighty-eight in 1964, having been the oldest Tax Assessor in age and years of service in the State of California.*

*Clay was a charter member of the Chamber of Commerce, belonged to the Redding Kiwanis Club, Shasta Historical Society, and the Senior Citizens Organization of Shasta County. He was a life member of the Redding Elks Club and the Moose Lodge, the oldest*



*living member of both. In 1976, when he celebrated his 100th birthday, Clay received a citation signed by President Gerald R. Ford.*

*Clay witnessed most of Shasta County history! At (sixteen), he saw the lynched Ruggles Brothers hanging near the railroad tracks in Redding. At thirty, he was jolted from bed in Anderson by the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. He turned forty during the years that Mt. Lassen was erupting. He was fires and floods, births and deaths, success and failure...*

*Baker told the Record Searchlight in 1976: "It's been a very good life. I would like to make some changes, but not of any consequence."*

In October of 2005 I was having my hair cut by Charlie Hackler of Cascade Barbershop (next to Damburger), and told him about the token I had recently obtained. Charlie said he used to cut Clay Bakers hair, including in the last year of his life. At almost 103-years-young, old Clay would still come into Damburger on a regular basis. He always ate barbeque chips and put hot sauce on every bite of his burger. When Charlie asked how he could handle it, Clay stated that at his age "everything hurts , so it didn't really matter." Also, when cutting Clay's hair, Charlie's concern of hurting the fine gentleman brought this response: "Every hair on my head hurts, and everything hurts, so don't worry about it." Clay passed on November 19, 1978, not long after having one last haircut from Charlie... but I'm sure he is not to blame.

The third token from Dan McCarthy's "The Royal" saloon in Redding:



DAN MCCARTHY / REDDING / CAL. // GOOD FOR / ONE DRINK / AT / THE ROYAL

1903 Searchlight add:



Dan didn't stay in Redding very long, according to this article from 1903:

#### *D. M'CARTHY BUYS AN OAKLAND HOME*

*Dan McCarthy has purchased a beautiful home in Oakland. It is situated in Fruitvale, which is really only an Oakland suburb. The house has twelve rooms and is built on grounds that are beautifully laid out in trees and shrubbery.*

*That it is a place of some pretension may be gathered from the fact that it was built for Ed James, a former supervisor of San Francisco, at a cost of \$15,000, although Mr. McCarthy did not have to pay that much for it.*

*Next week McCarthy will move his family from Copley, where they have long lived in a neat cottage, to the new home in Oakland.*

A little later:

*D. McCarthy took the overland train Monday night for Oakland after a short visit in this city. The family recently moved to Fruitvale, where Mr. McCarthy owns a handsome home. Almost every member of the family suffered an attack of malaria, and they returned to their former home at Copley to recuperate.*

The 1904 Redding Directory lists "Dennis & Lammon" as the proprietors of the Royal Saloon, at 4515 Market Street. This, along with tokens four and five, show that the Royal also went through several hands over the years:





The only lead I have been able to find on “Gross & Son” is from the 1910 census that has a Franklin S. Gross as proprietor of a hotel.

Thanks for joining me once again on a trip through Shasta County history. If the reader has any additional information about any of the people or businesses mentioned in this article, please share: [chetsunde@gmail.com](mailto:chetsunde@gmail.com), or (530) 244-4436.