

"Tokens of History"
by
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J. MILLER / KESWICK, CAL. // GOOD FOR / 5 (c within curl) / IN / TRADE



When dry and hot drop in John's place and get one of those refreshing beers. He makes you all feel at home.

The 1900 Census for Keswick shows a John Ernest Miller, saloon keeper, born in Germany in 1866, emigrated to the U.S. in 1881. His wife is Helena H., working in a lodging house, born in Germany in March of 1876. They were married in 1893. I could not find them in 1910, but in 1920 they are living in Oakland, John is the proprietor of a hotel, Helene is manager, and their daughter Katherine (single, age 27, born in Ohio) is the assistant manager. They are still in Oakland in 1930, Katherine is still single, and all are listed as not having an occupation.

Fire in Keswick, September 2, 1898:

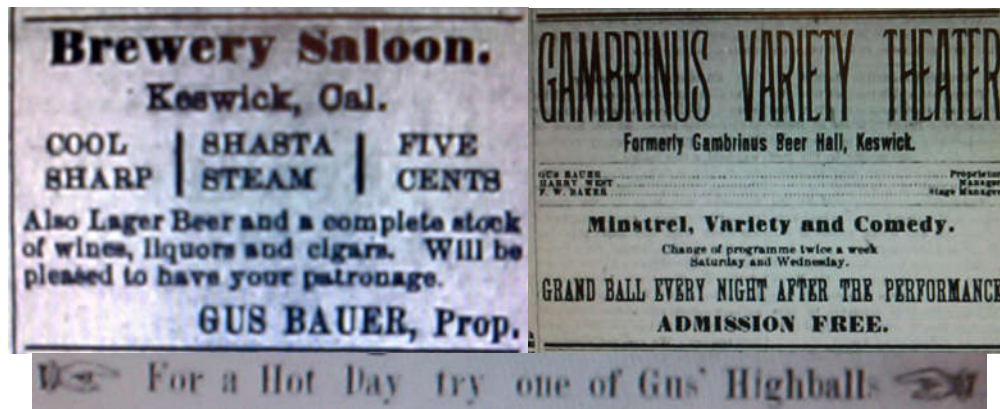
At 3:30 this morning John E. Miller's saloon building on West street was discovered to be on fire. The loss was total. Not one dollar's worth of property was saved...Fortunately at the time of the fire the air was perfectly calm. Had there been wind from the north, it would have been impossible to have saved either Bauer's place or the company's stable. James Smythe, the well-known piano player, was burned to death in the fire. The coroner's inquest...was held in the Hotel Keswick [yes, this place also had a token]. District Attorney Rose assisted Coroner Earnest. It had supposed that some clew (sic) to the origin of the fire could be discovered. After a score of witnesses had been examined only two facts of importance were established, namely, Miller's saloon had burned up and James Smythe was burned to death.

Again, in 1907:

Keswick opera house, the two story building owned by John Miller, and the adjoining saloon, totally destroyed: loss \$7000, no insurance.



GUS BAUER / KESWICK // GOOD FOR / 5c / IN TRADE



The Keswick fire of 1898:

Gus Bauer's place, the Gambrinus beer hall, had a close call, owing to the brush lying between his place and Miller's.

The marriage index shows that Gustave Robert Bauer married Dolly Oxendine May, 26 1890 in Shasta County. The 1894 voter's registry shows him living at Old Diggings, from Germany, naturalized in 1890, with a Hart post office address. The 1900 census has them in Keswick, Gus born in February of 1861 in Germany, immigrated in 1886, and occupation is a "capitalist." They have sons Walter, age 7, and Carl age 4. The 1910 Redding "Indian Population" census shows Dollie is now divorced, doing "housework", living with her sons and a daughter "Gusta" (Augusta) age 9.

**MRS. BAUER DECLARES SHE WAS DEFRAUDED
SENSATIONAL POINTS IN A DIVORCE SUIT**

Erstwhile Keswick Man May Lose His Wife and His Property Too

A sensational suit was filed in the superior court late Thursday afternoon. It brings to light the guilty amours of a married man and the peculiar disposition of his property affairs in which the wife is alleged to have been defrauded of her rights. Mrs. Dolly Bauer of Keswick sues for divorce upon the ground that her husband Gus Bauer, late sporting man and property owner of the smelter town, has not been true to her. She names a notorious woman as co-respondent. She asks the custody of the three young children and the setting aside of a certain mortgage for \$3000 which her husband holds upon all their property. Gus Bauer's departure from Keswick for Thunder Mountain a month ago was precipitate. His wife invaded a private apartment and had her suspicions confirmed. A pitched battle with fists ensued. Bauer deeded all the property to his wife, persuaded her to give him a mortgage upon it and departed.

Several firms which brought attachment suits found everything in the wife's name. Mrs. Bauer now alleges that she signed the mortgage under a misapprehension, not knowing what it was. She asks to have the whole property given to her.

March 17, 1923:

Oil Derrick Is Wrecked by Wind

The derrick on what is called the "oil well" on the east side of the river northeast of Redding was blown down by the high wind of last Friday. The derrick was a sort of land mark, as it was plainly visible from all parts of Redding. It was erected by Gus Bauer, former resident of Keswick, who interested some local capitalists in the enterprise four or five years ago. Several hundred dollars were invested, all to no purpose. Drilling was abandoned before much of a hole was made. The derrick remained, however. Now all that is left is the hole in the ground.



E. GIUBBANI / KESWICK / CALIF. // GOOD FOR ONE /10¢ / DRINK

The Miller and Bauer properties, after being burned and rebuilt numerous times, were eventually purchased by Eugene Giubbani, and his brother in law Elia Bui. The properties would burn yet again.

Searchlight, October 30, 1918:

HUSBAND DIES WHILE WIFE IS IN HOSPITAL

Elia Bui, Italian Hotelkeeper, Passed In Keswick Tuesday Afternoon

KESWICK, October 29--Elia Bui, Italian hotelkeeper and business partner of his brother in law, E. Guibbani of Redding, died at home here at 2:40 this afternoon. He was ill for ten days, influenza being followed by pneumonia. His wife, Mrs. Devina Bui, is in a hospital in Redding, where she has just about recovered from a ten days' illness from influenza. She does not know that her husband has passed beyond. The sad tidings will be kept from Mrs. Bui for a few days, or until she is much nearer her normal health.

E. Bui was born in Italy and was aged 32. He came to this country twelve years ago and to Keswick a year later. Here he had prospered in business and around him grew a happy family--his wife and two children--Silvio and Marguerita. Bui was enterprising and for the past year or so had done a good deal in the way of mining.

The Searchlight, June 10, 1919:

A defective flue in E. Giubbani's boarding house caused a fire yesterday afternoon that wiped out about all that was left of the business part of Keswick and entitled an approximate loss of \$14,000. It would cost more than \$10,000 to replace the buildings burned, but owing to the approach of prohibition and the general dullness of the camp they were not worth that much.

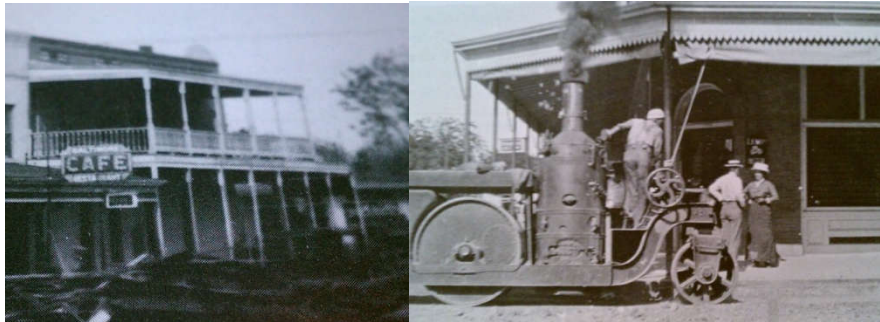
E. Giubbani lost his large boarding house and saloon, together with two large lodging houses on each side. One of these lodging houses was a large frame building famous in early days as John Miller's saloon and variety theater. Giubbani lost a large stock of liquors and provisions. He estimates his loss on stock at \$2500, making his total loss \$12,500; insurance, \$7500.

There is no saloon in Keswick.

Giubbani's was the sole survivor of the thirty-two the smelter town had in the boom days... E. Giubbani, who has large interests in Redding, is in doubt whether he will resume, for prohibition approaches and the camp is dull on other accounts. However, he was doing a good business at the time of the fire. Considerable of Giubbani's stock was carried out, but it was not carried far enough. There were frequent explosions of "booze, whisky and brandy barrels going with a bang and shooting up into the air." All the buildings were in good repair and Giubbani had recently laid new floors. His lodging houses had 49 beds.

The lodging house on the north was John Miller's old saloon. This is the third time a building on that side has burned. Giubbani's saloon and boarding house was built by Gus Bauer, who opened with a variety theater in the early days. Sparks and embers were carried several blocks by the high wind...

Giubbani would build in Redding. Below are pictures of the Giubbani Building in the early days (1900 -1920)



EUGENE GIUBBANI December 6, 1875 – November 16, 1946:

Eugen Guibbani, Businessman, Dies

Eugene Guibbani, 68, Redding business man and property owner, died last night at Mercy hospital, where he had been a patient three weeks. He had been in poor health for a year.

Born in Italy, Dec. 6, 1877, Guibbani came here in 1904. He operated a hotel at Keswick during the busy mining activity. After his hotel burned, he came to Redding and started building the Guibbani block which houses a number of retail stores and the El Nido apartments. His home was at East and Butte streets.

He leaves his wife, Mrs. Marguerite Guibbani; a niece, Mrs. Elmer Nixon of Redding; a nephew, Silvio Bui of Redding; a brother and two sisters in Italy. He was a member of the Moose lodge and of the Redding chamber of commerce.

MARGUERITA GIUBBANI February 6, 1879 – July 15, 1949:

Mrs. Giubbani Dies in Hospital

Mrs. Marguerita Giubbani, 70, died last night at Memorial hospital. She had been a resident of Redding for 40 years. Her late husband, Eugene, built the Giubbani building on Market and Tehama streets here. Mrs. Giubbani had been ill for some time.

Rosary will be recited at McDonald's chapel Monday at 8pm., the Rev. Father A. T. Gavin officiating. Requiem mass will be celebrated at 10 am Tuesday at St. Joseph's Catholic church, interment will follow in St. Joseph's mausoleum.

Mrs. Giubbani leaves two brothers, John Petricciani of Reno and James Petricciani of Italy; three sisters, Mrs. Devina Bui of Redding, Mrs. Iside Galazzi of Italy and Mrs. Carolina Blandini of Italy; a niece, Mrs. Elmer Nixon of Redding and a nephew, Silvio Bui of Redding.



The Giubbani Building in its Middle Years.

When Marguerita Giubbani died, her building was described as having a "remaining life... between 30 and 35 years." They were wrong. 35 years would take it to 1984. It's been almost another 30 years, and the Giubbani Building (now called the Sherven Square) is still going strong:



The Giubbani Building (now Sherven Square) today.



Marian Carter Bui and Silvio Bui in 1950.

MARIAN CARTER BUI, April 25, 1915 – August 30, 1960:

Marian C. Bui, 45...died from a blood clot and was a complication of an illness that had plagued her for many years. She was the daughter of the late Supreme Court Associate Justice, Jesse W. Carter, formerly of Redding, and attended Redding schools before enrolling in Chico State College. Her brothers grew up to become Federal Judge Oliver J. Carter of San Francisco, and Harlan F. Carter, a retired basketball coach from Shasta high school. She was active in the Redding chapter of Sigma Phi Gamma International Sorority, a child welfare group. Mrs. Bui's husband, Silvio, operates a beverage firm here. She is survived by daughters Linda and Sylvia, and son Douglas.

After Marian died, Silvio married Theo Gail Bassett. They had two daughters together, Sabrina and Felicia.



SILVIO EUGENE BUI, March 23, 1913 - August 16, 1974:

Silvio "Sil" Eugene Bui, 61, of Redding, a civic community leader for many years... the owner of Ramona's Mexican Restaurant in Redding for the past six years, died suddenly after collapsing for unknown reasons Friday at the restaurant. Born at old town of Kennett, now covered by Keswick [Shasta] Lake, on March 23, 1913. Bui had resided in the county all his life...attended local schools and graduated from Shasta High School in 1929. He later attended the University of Santa Clara. He was a

member of the Redding Elks and Rotary clubs and an active Teamsters Union member. Bui owned a beer distributing business for 20 years. He was an honorary mayor of the City of Redding during the post-war 1940's. Bui was also a founder of a youth baseball club in the 1950's...an avid golfer and champion bowler.



Silvio managed and eventually owned the Wonderland Beverage Company, located at 1604 Trinity Street (later the U. S. Post Office annex, now Cycle Salvage). In 1968 Silvio bought out Irene Jackson's share of Ramona's Restaurant located across the street at 1100 Center Street (Irene was murdered at her home, 1095 Center Street, by two escaped convicts on New Years Eve of the same year). Irene had been a secretary at the Wonderland Beverage Company in the 1950's, and had become a partner with Manuela Mortorell in Ramona's after Manuela's husband had died. Ramona's eventually became Grady's Irish bar and restaurant, a popular place (especially on Saint Patrick's Day) in the 1990's. This location is now Gironda's Italian restaurant.

FULL CIRCLE:

When I started writing this article, I was planning on writing about just one of the tokens in my collection (Guibbani's), but quickly found that it was related to two others (Miller's and Bauer's). In the end, I found that I had crossed paths with several people who were involved with the history of these tokens: I had attended one year of high school (Shasta) with Silvio Bui's youngest daughter, Felicia; his daughter Sabrina is married to a high school friend of mine (David Mantei); I had worked with Silvio's second daughter, Sylvia, for several years in the 1990's at Redding Specialty Hospital; and Silvio's second wife, Theo Gail Bassett, attended Shasta with my mother-in-law, Cheryl Hart Loring, and is now married to Ken Knighten, owner of the 9-10's building (formerly the Field's Jeweler's building, formerly the Crocker Bank) in which I opened my first private practice office in 2004.