

"Tokens of History"

By
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ORIENTAL HOTEL / BAR / S.G. ROYCROFT / L. H. MOISE S.F. // GOOD FOR / 1 / DRINK

This month's article was initially somewhat confusing to research for several reasons: 1) the name of the business, "Oriental Hotel", turns out to be the second of three names that this hotel had over the years (first it was the Marshall House, and last it was the Anderson Hotel); 2) the name on the token, "S. G. Roycroft", is for "Stephen Gilbert Roycroft," the son of the original owner, known simply as "Stephen Roycroft"; and 3) it turns out that two later owners also produced tokens for this business which I have in my collection. After sifting through all this information, I believe that I have it sorted out correctly. I will let the newspaper articles and obituaries speak for themselves, but in some cases I have found other information in addition or even in conflict

Upon arrival in Shasta County, Stephen Roycroft (senior, 1832 - 2 Jan 1908) operated Roycroft's Ferry across the Sacramento River immediately below the mouth of Cow Creek at the former location of Magee's Ferry (1864), and was operating in 1883. He then moved to Anderson and established a brick yard at the corner of East and North Streets. His home, along with wife Margaret Ward (15 Jun 1836 - 1 Aug 1924) was on the corner of Howard and Freeman Streets, and in 1885 he built the Marshall House hotel:



According to "Where the Valley Meets the Mountains," the Marshall House was renovated in 1888 to become the Oriental Hotel:



Obituary from 1908:

*STEPHEN ROYCROFT IS CALLED BY DEATH
DECEASED WAS ONE OF BEST KNOWN PIONEERS OF THE NORTH*

Stephen Roycroft, one of the oldest, best known and most universally respected and loved pioneers of Tehama county, died Thursday at the St. Elizabeth Hospital, at 6 o'clock. Death was due to the infirmities of old age. Mr. Roycroft having passed his three score and ten by six years. He was taken with his last illness nine weeks ago and all that medical skill could do was done for him, but all efforts were in vain.

Stephen Roycroft was born seventy-six years ago in County Claire, Ireland, whence he came to the United States at the age of five years. His childhood and early manhood were spent in St. Louis and at the age of 21 he came across the plains to California. It was in 1852 that Mr. Roycroft arrived in California, and he immediately embarked in the cattle business, buying and shipping in Trinity county.

Business prospered with Mr. Roycroft and in the early sixties he opened a meat market in Red Bluff. This was a successful venture. Mr. Roycroft sold meat all over Northern California as far as Weaverville. While Mr. Roycroft engaged to some extent in mining in Trinity county, the active years of his long life were mainly occupied in the livestock business. For tight years he farmed in Shasta county. In 1888 he opened his hotel at Anderson. The hotel is now under lease to other parties.

Mr. Roycroft married Miss Margaret Ward in San Francisco in 1856. Mrs. Roycroft survives the deceased as do four children.

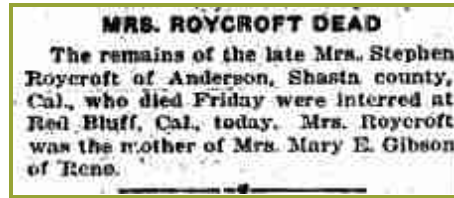
The children living are Mrs. S. C. Gibson, who lives in Reno, Nevada, Robert S. Roycroft, superintendent of the Terry Lumber Company at Bella Vista, Shasta county, Mrs. W. S. Anderson of Red Bluff and Stephen G. Roycroft of Anderson.

The funeral services will be held at the Catholic church, in Red Bluff, Saturday, January 4th, at 10:30 a.m., and interment will take place in the Oak Hill Cemetery in that city.

August 15, 1911, Nevada State Journal:

A wedding of more than usual interest and prominent in social circles was solemnized last evening when Miss Agnes Pearl Gibson, the only daughter of Dr. and Mrs. S. C. Gibson, became the bride of Mr. Edward H. Chester of Sacramento, Cal, at the home of the bride's parents on West Second Street...Miss Ethel Anderson of Anderson, Cal., a cousin of the bride, was her only attendant...in attendance: Mrs. R. Roycroft, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Roycroft, Mrs. W. S. Anderson, Mr. Steve Roycroft, Master Roy Anderson...They left on number 9 for a tour of California before occupying their cottage in Sacramento.

Reno Evening Gazette (Reno, Nevada), 1924:



Taste and Tales of the Past published by Anderson Historical Society in 1996:

...Mr. Roycroft built, in 1885, "The Marshall House," a large hotel in Anderson. Baseball players were his big customers, as baseball was the favorite sport of the times. Fierce competition existed between the various communities. The teams would sometimes travel by train to the gold mining communities of Kennett and Corum (sic), in the Sacramento River Canyon, north of Redding. At other times, they would go to Cottonwood and Red Bluff. When the teams traveled the players would stay in the hotels in the various locations.

In those days, money was in "gold slugs." One time when Roycroft was leaving, he wrapped his gold in red underwear and buried it. Upon his return, his underwear was in shreds all over his yard. The local pigs which were quite prolific in Anderson had dug it up. He did retrieve his gold...

The name of the hotel changed many times from its original name of Marshall House. Finally it was known as the Anderson Hotel. Young Steve became a bartender there, which caused great worry for his mother.



July 5, 1950 Reno Evening Gazette:

Wedding Held At Reno Church

With a large group of friends and relatives in attendance, Miss Carol Kane and Samuel C. Gibson were married at Our Lady of the Snows church on July 1 at an informal ceremony...The new Mrs. Gibson is the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Kane, and the bridegroom is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Gibson, all of Reno. Both are graduates of Reno High School, and Mrs. Gibson is now attending Reno business college. Mr. Gibson attended the University of Nevada and is now employed by Sears,

Roebuck and Company...Among the out-of-town guests was Steve Roycroft, Shasta County, Calif., a great-uncle of the bridegroom.

Obituary:

Stephen G Roycroft
19 Mar 1874 - 8 April 1969

Stephen Gilbert Joseph Roycroft, ninety-four, died April 8, 1969. His death closed a chapter in Anderson history, where his spare figure was a familiar sight for many years. He spent his declining years at a nursing home near Sacramento. He was born in Red Bluff on Saint Joseph's Day, March 19, 1874, and came to Anderson with his parents eighty-five years ago. He helped his father build the Anderson Hotel, almost destroyed by fire recently, as a way to stop for those traveling by train. His first job was with the Terry Lumber Company at Bella Vista, as an accountant. He was also postmaster at Bella Vista, and later a bartender at his father's hotel, all before the age of twenty-one. Of his later life he said, "I've bought and sold so much I've lost track of it. Rentals have been my business all my life." For many years he was manager of the Shasta District Fair.

He was a fifty-year member of Knights of Columbus, belonging to the Redding Elks Club, the Holy Names Society of the Catholic Church, and Shasta Historical Society. He never married.



ANDERSON SALOON / ED. SCHULZ, / PROP. / MOISE K S.F. // GOOD FOR / 1 / DRINK

Cottonwood Enterprise November 3, 1906:

Ed Schulz has leased the Roycroft Hotel in Anderson and will take possession in a few days. Mr. Schulz is a wide awake wrestling young man and will no doubt make a first-class landlord, and will conduct the hotel in a way that will draw deserving patronage.



According to the 1898 census, Edward Schulz is a farmer living in Anderson with his wife Annie H., his father Richard, age 71 and a physician from Germany, daughters Reina Emma age 6 and Dorothy age 4, and son Edward R. Jr., and infant. In 1920 he is living in Redding and operating a Shoe repair shop.

Eddie Junior was killed in a tragic accident at age 10 on July 21, 1910. His obituary from the Cottonwood Enterprise July 30, 1910:

The funeral of Eddie Schulz, who was accidently killed near Anderson last Thursday, was held Friday evening at the Masonic Cemetery. The accident was a deplorable one and very sad. The grief-stricken family have the sympathy of all in their trouble. Eddie was a bright boy and held in high esteem by his playmates and all who knew him.

The sad death that befell Eddie Schulz at Anderson is an object lesson in young boys carrying firearms. No boy should be allowed to carry a gun until old enough to properly handle them. In this case a 22 calibre (sic) rifle did the deadly work, and a great many accidents happen with these kind of guns as they are generally considered too small to do any damage. They are dangerous in the hands of children and some grownups as is proven in many cases."



J. MIRANDETTE / ANDERSON. / MOISE. S.F. // J. MIRANDETTE / ANDERSON.

January 14, 1911

**CLINESCHMIDT SELLS ANDERSON PROPERTY
DISPOSES OF FINE CORNER LOT TO JOHN MIRANDETTE FOR \$3500.
(Special to The Searchlight)**

ANDERSON, January 13--The biggest property transaction in several years was negotiated today when Henry Clineschmidt, proprietor of the Temple hotel in Redding, sold his valuable corner lot in the main street, to John Mirandette, who conducts the Anderson hotel. The purchase price was \$3500 and the lot, which is No. 1 of block 7, was owned by Clineschmidt for ten years. The saloon of Ed Schultz now occupies the site.

Oct. 14, 1911:

Jack Marinette, proprietor of the Hotel Anderson, pleaded guilty before Justice of the Peace Cunningham to selling liquor to Indians. He was arrested by federal officers and expressed no desire to stand trial. A fine of \$20 was imposed.

March 29, 1912:

**O'GRADY BROTHERS GO TO ANDERSON
KENNETT FIRM TAKES A LEASE ON HOTEL ANDERSON FROM
JACK MIRANDETTE**

(Special to Courier-Free Press)

ANDERSON, March 29—William O'Grady and George O'Grady of Kennett today closed a deal with Jack Mirandette of this place, whereby they by sub-lease will take possession of the Hotel Anderson on the first of April.

Mr. Mirandette is the owner of a 50-foot frontage on Main street two blocks north of the hotel, which is partly covered by a saloon building formerly conducted by P. C. Petersen. He will build a two-story building on the unoccupied part of the lot and conduct a saloon and lodging house.

Sept. 6, 1912:

HOTEL MAN TURNS PRUNE CULTURIST

WILLIAM O'GRADY BUYS WILLIAMS FARM NEAR ANDERSON FOR \$5,500.

(Special to Courier-Free Press)

Anderson, September 6—William O'Grady, who recently retired from the hotel business, has bought the Williams fruit farm across the river from Anderson. The place contains eighty acres and the price paid was \$5,500. Mr. O'Grady will take possession on October 1, or after all the fruit is gathered. Mr. O'Grady was in the saloon business in Kennett up to the time of the big fire in March. He will now become a farmer.

According to the 1954 directory, the Anderson Hotel sat at 1829 East Center St. Today, this is the location of the Allen & Dahl Funeral Chapel:



If the reader has any additional information about any of the people or businesses mentioned in this article, please contact me at: chetsunde@gmail.com, or (530) 244-4436.

I later found an article about it's demise, on February 27, 1969.....

Long fire destroys the Anderson Hotel



Photo by Pat Kelle

FIREMEN DIRECTED WATER STREAM AGAINST BURNING HOTEL
Blaze lasted from 8 p.m. Wednesday to about 4 this morning

Night- old-tin

By WES HUGHES

ANDERSON — The 80-year-old Anderson Hotel, a landmark here, was gutted Wednesday night by a fire that raged for more than eight hours.

Firefighters from Anderson, Cottonwood, Redding and the California Division of Forestry battled the blaze and prevented it from spreading to adjacent buildings.

Light from the fire could be seen for miles.

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.

Besides the bar, the hotel building housed a restaurant, barber shop and beauty parlor.

Firemen estimated that more than 250,000 gallons of water were poured onto the blaze from the tankers and pumper trucks hooked up to the area's two hydrants.

The hotel building was valued at about \$85,000.

Insurance adjusters were at the scene this morning consulting with fire officials and the building owners, but firemen said the building probably will be a total loss.

The owners are Leslie O. Cody and G. C. Manning of Red Bluff.

There were about 45 firemen and nine trucks at the scene. Anderson firefighters were assisted on a mutual aid basis by men and equipment from Cottonwood, Redding, the California Division of Forestry.

Location:

