

E Clampus Vitus Collection 1969-1998

**Ontario City Library
Robert E. Ellingwood Model
Colony History Room**



Ontario, California

**Contact Information: Ontario City Library Model Colony Staff
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Processed by: Joanne Boyajian, March 2008

Date Completed: March 2008

Descriptive Summary

Title

E Clampus Vitus Collection 1969-1998

Creator

This collection was given to the Model Colony Room by Phillip Holdaway, Archivist of the E Clampus Vitus Billy Holcomb Chapter, Riverside-San Bernardino Counties in 1998 or thereabouts. Donor form is undated. Terry Carter also donated items. No donor form found.

Extent

Number of containers: 2

Linear feet: 3

Abstract

The "historical drinking society" known as E Clampus Vitus originated in what is now W. Virginia between 1799 and 1802. Ephraim Bee is considered the father of this spoof of fraternal organizations. The society was brought to California in 1850 by Joe Zumwalt who established a chapter in Hangtown (Placerville). By the 1950's, California had chapters up and down the state.

The local chapter, Billy Holcomb, was founded in 1969 at Los Flores Ranch in San Bernardino County by L. Burr Belden, a noted Southern California historian. The Chapter is active in State, Local, and county Historical Societies and works with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the CA Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to place plaques at greater and lesser historical sites within its territory of both San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. Since October 1969, Holcomb Chapter has erected and dedicated 109 plaques, including those along parts of the Mojave Road, The Patton Desert Training Center (C.A.M.A.), Route 66, Speed of Light Experiments, various Historical Buildings and Other Edifices, Local Native Sites and Ruins, and other varied and sundry Persons, Places and events of Historical significance. A "clampout" is arranged, cement is poured, a dedication given and a "Keepsake" written after each dedication.

In 1998, a fundraiser for the ECV was held at Guasti Mansion with the proceeds going to the purchase of a fire safe for the Model Colony Room. Daniel Mikesell, Ontario Mayor and San Bernardino County Supervisor was active in this society during his lifetime.

Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open for research during the operating hours of the Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room, or by appointment.

Preferred Citation

E Clampus Vitus Collection, date range. Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room, Ontario City Library.

Acquisitions Information

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Container List

Box 1

Folder

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | 19 newsletters from 1984-2008 from Billy Holcomb Chapter |
| 2 | ECV Plaques Anniversary Book 1930-1980 |
| 3 | 11 newsletters from 1984-1998 from other California Chapters |
| 4 | 2 newspaper articles from 1985 and 1998. (Latter article details a fundraiser at Guasti, proceeds of which went to the Model Colony Room for purchase of a fire safe). |
| 5 | Misc. flyers of upcoming ECV gatherings 1980's-1990's |
| 6 | 2004 history of ECV from ECV website and "Widow's Guide" pamphlet and "Ceremony for the Dead" pamphlet. |
| 7 | Gold Dust Reports (Treasurer's Reports) 2 from 1997 |
| 8 | Billy Holcomb's Own Story |
| 9 | Copy of 1949 booklet, "Credo Qua Absurdum" |
| 10 | 5 Keepsakes (historic marker dedications) from the 1960's |
| 11 | 14 Keepsakes from the 1970's |
| 12 | 26 smaller Keepsakes from the 1980's |

- 13 30 larger Keepsakes from the 1980's
- 14 6 undated Keepsakes
- 15 39 Keepsakes from the 1990's

Box 2

Ephemera

Folder

- 1 3 plastic license plate frames "Historically – Clampers do it Best"
1 metal orange and white plate "Noble Member-E Clampus Vitus"

- 2 Badges/patches:
 - Three from Shaver's Well II
 - Five from Amboy Crater
 - Four – "Billy Holcomb-King of the Mountains and Desert"
 - One from Taylor's Ferry-ECV Southern Alliance
 - Two with Club insignia/crest of arms

- 3 Three meal tickets
Black ribbon "Lost Dutchman Chapter 5917"
Four red large plastic paper clips
One red keychain-bottle opener
Campaign button/pin "Lost Dutchman ECV 5917"
One 3-part lapel sign 'Billy Holcomb Chapter Hemorrhoid
Oatman, AZ, 1988 Old Taylor's Ferry Apr. 88"
One token from the Red Door Saloon Tucson, Ariz.

- One red and black fabric and mesh cap with ECV logo
Six red T shirts from various "clampouts"
One (apparently) real coonskin cap