

December 27, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

At the request of James Baumann, I am documenting my recollection of the ranching operation of the Baumann Ranch, also known as the Hunter Ranch, located on Simpson Creek, approximately three miles NE of the townsite of Eureka, Nevada.

I was born in January 1944, to a ranching family in Eureka County and have lived my entire life in the area. I attended schools in Eureka and as a youngster, I spent time scouting around the hills in many of the areas around Eureka including the area where Fred, Lani, Middle, Bullwhacker and Richmond Springs are located. Many years I saw the Hunter cattle in or near the area where the springs are located.

As an adult, I married and raised my own family in Eureka and owned my own heavy equipment business. I also served as a board member of the Eureka Water Association for several years. During my years as a board member of the Eureka Water Association we tried to develop Lani spring after it sat abandoned for 20-30 years. Lani spring was a hand dug trench covered over with timbers resulting in an old tunnel like structure. We attempted to develop the spring with an old time backhoe to incorporate more water into the town water system. We weren't very successful in developing any great amount of water from the spring but we tried to include some in the pipeline. There was however, always a small ditch of running water coming from the tunnel like structure where the Hunter cattle and wildlife were able to drink.

Being from a ranching back ground, I've had the opportunity in a large part to know most ranchers and I became acquainted with their ranching operations including their grazing allotments and spring locations that benefited their cattle. I learned a great amount of history from the old timers of Eureka including my own relatives who were also in the ranching business. Because of my interest in the history of Eureka and Eureka County, it became a hobby of mine to learn more about the areas and I assisted some ranchers in researching their vested water rights including the Baumann Ranch (Hunter Ranch), the Roberts Creek and Alpha Ranches to name a few.

Any claim that the Baumann Ranch (Hunter Ranch) has not used the springs in and around the townsite of Eureka, or any of the springs east of Highway 50 near the townsite of Eureka, is ill founded.

Until recently, there was debate within the Eureka County Government about the usage of the water from those named springs being included in the water supply for the townsite of Eureka

since a large portion of the springs above town were out of the water system for many years and most of the springs were contaminated from the smelting process of early Eureka.

Being only a few miles from the Baumann Ranch (Hunter Ranch) and historically a part of the ranch's allotment and operation, the springs were unfenced with meadows around most of them which is a magnet for livestock and wildlife and it was not unusual to see either or both watering or grazing around the springs in the area. In the early years, the springs such as Bullwhacker, Fred, Lani and Middle Springs produced good streams of water because no trees remained on the mountains after the Woodcutters from early years harvested the trees for charcoal used in the smelters. Those springs have always seen usage from livestock and no enclosures ever surrounded any of the springs until the last decade when Eureka County assumed control of the springs previously owned by the Eureka Water Association.

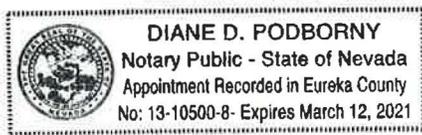
During the early years, the Hunter cattle, (and in later years the Baumann cattle), would sometimes wander through and into the town of Eureka as they migrated back to the ranch in the Fall of the year. In the 1970s, and in response to the residents complaining, the Eureka County Commissioners fenced the townsite of Eureka to prevent cattle from grazing in people's yards and gardens.

To some degree, conflict has always existed between the cattle utilizing the Baumann (Hunter) grazing allotments since the 1800s.

Signed, Leo G Damele

State of Nevada  
County of Eureka

This instrument was acknowledged before me on January 18, 2019  
by Leo G. Damele.



Diane D Podborny  
Notary

My Commission Expires March 12, 2021