SAOMA--Between Bay and Sunset Sea

Where Ships Call From World Ports

by CHEF SCHWABE

PHOTOS BY RICK DARN

Nearest neighbor to Eureka, as the crow flies, is the town of Samoa, which occupies part of the peninsula on the mouth of the Sacramento or San Francisco side of Humboldt Bay. Headquarters for the San Francisco-Humboldt lumber company operations in the northern Redwood Empire, Samoa Samoa is joined to the mainland by a narrow, mile-wide strip of land. The lumber company's shipyard is located at the mouth of the South Fork of the Samoa River, and its sawmill is on the south side of the bay. The town itself, however, is dominated by the nearby Ship Canal, a navigable waterway that connects Humboldt Bay with San Francisco Bay and serves as a major outlet for timber from the surrounding forests.

The town of Samoa is a bustling place, with many ships calling at the docks each day. The Samoa Lumber Company, which operates the shipyard and sawmill, is one of the largest employers in the area, providing jobs for hundreds of people. The town is also known for its beautiful beaches and its proximity to the Redwood National Park, which is just a short drive away.

Humboldt Lumber Co. store and offices on Samoa's main street.

A BIT OF HISTORY

Samoa's rich history is closely tied to its location at the mouth of Humboldt Bay. The town was founded in the late 1800s as a shipbuilding center, and it quickly became a major hub for the lumber industry. The town's name is derived from a local Chumash word meaning "sea monster," and it was once a favorite haunt of shipwrecked sailors. Today, Samoa is a thriving community, with a population of about 2,500 people. The town is known for its friendly atmosphere and its beautiful beaches, and it is a popular destination for tourists and nature lovers.

Where two generations of family lived--Samoa's Hammond house.

Where did the town of Samoa get its name? Some say it comes from the Chumash name for the mouth of the Samoa River, while others believe it is derived from a local Chumash word meaning "sea monster." Regardless of its origin, the town is a unique and fascinating place, with a rich history and a bright future.