

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWS BULLETIN

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April 1987



"AUNT CARRIE" FORDERHASE

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS BULLETIN

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The News Bulletin is published quarterly by the Society at Yuba City, California. The annual membership dues includes receiving the News Bulletin. To insure delivery of your Bulletin please notify the Treasurer, P.O. Box 1004, Yuba City, CA 95992, of any change of address.

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An index and file of all the past issues of the Bulletin may be found in Sutter County Library, Yuba County Library and at the Community Memorial Museum.

APRIL DINNER MEETING

PLACE: THE HANGAR AT HILLCREST PLAZA. TIME: 6:30 P.M. COST: \$10.
PER PERSON. PREPAID RESERVATIONS AT COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM
BY FRIDAY APRIL 17TH PLEASE. SPEAKER: DAVID NOPEL OF CHICO.
SUBJECT: "THE OREGON TRAIL". COME AND ENJOY.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Society is thirty-three years old. We have accomplished our first goal, we have a museum. it is a good beginning. should a history of our Sutter County agriculture be the next project? If so, a building to display the many artifacts that have been used over the many years is needed. Pictures and stories relating to our farming community will be wanted. staat thinking and start collecting.

The many events and activ ities that our Society and Museum sponsor need your attendance. Enjoy the fellowship by visiting with your friends at the Museum.

The Annual Dinner Meeting will be held at the "Hangar" in Hillcrest Plaza on Wednesday, April 22nd at 6:30 P.M. The sit down meal will feature roast beef. In order to enjoy our good food and interesting speaker get your reservation in by contacting the Museum at 741-7141 . The cost is \$10. per person

BUS TOUR OF HISTORIC SITES AROUND THE SUTTER BUTTES

APRIL 4TH.....\$5. PER PERSON....PREPAID RESERVATIONS AT COMMUNITY
MEMORIAL MUSEUM BY APRIL 1ST....MEET AT MUSEUM AT 9: A.M. AND
RETURN BY 1: P.M.

The Director's Report

Spring brings a variety of activities and events to the Museum, each designed to appeal to the diverse interests of our museum audience. On April Fool's Day we are hosting a potluck luncheon to kick off a cookbook we will be putting together with the Mary Aaron Museum. The yellow flyer included in your Bulletin will give you more details. I hope that everyone will come and participate in the cookbook luncheon. It is a great opportunity to share a favorite recipe, catch up on old friendships and maybe make some new ones.

Later in April, on Thursday the 16th at 2:00 p.m., the Museum will become a most bearable place when the Teddy Bear Picnic takes place. This is a chance for children of all ages to come, accompanied by a teddy bear, of course, and partake of lemonade and cookies while chatting with other bears and their owners and enjoying an exhibit of very special bears. There will be four prizes given away for : largest, smallest, most elegant and best loved bears. All who participate will receive a certificate of appreciation.

The main event in May is the Commission's Annual Wine and Posies Gala fundraiser on Friday, May 8, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. This year, in addition to all of the regular festivities, the Gala will also serve as the opening reception for our "A View of the Buttes" photo contest and exhibit. The contest winners will be presented with their awards that evening and their work, along with some of the other contest entries, will be on exhibit. The deadline for the contest is April 10, so you still have time to enter if you hurry.

One final event to end Spring with a flourish will be a showing of watercolors by Walt Anderson the week of June 15. Sometime during that week, we will feature an evening reception for the artist, where he will talk about the Sutter Buttes and his travels in and around them. We will let you know when the date for that has been confirmed.

There are so many wonderful and exciting things happening at the Museum that there is absolutely no excuse for anyone to stay away, so come and join us. We are always happy to see your smiling faces.

Jacqueline Lowe

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Euna Proper Hall

In memory of Elizabeth Epperson
In memory of Marie Atwater
In memory of Elizabeth Epperson
In memory of Winnie Greene
In memory of Bette Epperson
In memory of Betty Epperson
In memory of Elizabeth M. Epperson
In memory of Elizabeth M. Epperson
In memory of Elizabeth Mary Epperson
In memory of Elizabeth Epperson
In memory of Elizabeth (Betty) Epperson
In memory of Elizabeth M. Epperson

In memory of Bette Epperson
In memory of Mae May
In memory of Betty Epperson
In memory of Jessie M. Atwood
In memory of Elizabeth Epperson
In memory of Elizabeth M. Epperson
In memory of Bette Epperson
In memory of Betty Epperson
In memory of Elizabeth Epperson
In memory of Bette Mary Epperson
In memory of Elizabeth Epperson
In memory of Bette Epperson
In memory of Winifred Greene
In memory of Elizabeth Epperson
In memory of Betty Epperson
In memory of Winifred Grace Greene
In memory of Winnie Greene
In memory of Bette Epperson

In memory of Robert L. and
Frances M. Miller
In memory of Alan D. Winship
In memory of Elmer C. Smith
In memory of John Paxton Onstott, Jr.
and Carrie Morehead Onstott
Donation from Christmas Preview at Gilpatrics
In memory of Elmer C. Smith
In memory of John L. Sullivan
In memory of Aylett Sparkes
In memory of Jessie Brander
In memory of Theresa Turano
In memory of Winnie Greene
In memory of Elizabeth Epperson
In memory of Elizabeth Epperson
In memory of Betty Epperson
In memory of Jessie M. Atwood
In memory of Jesse Craddock Atwood
In memory of Bette Epperson
In memory of Bette Epperson
In memory of Winnie Greene
In memory of Elizabeth Epperson
In memory of Winnie Greene
In memory of Bette Epperson

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Bogue Country Club
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In memory of Bette Epperson
In memory of Bette Epperson
In memory of Bette Epperson
In memory of Jessie Atwood
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In memory of Alta Gray
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In memory of Winnie Greene
In memory of Bette Epperson
In memory of Irene Gross Fonley
In memory of Elizabeth Epperson
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In memory of Sylvia Harrington
In memory of Robert H. Blackford, Jr.

DOES ANYONE HAVE THESE TWO BOOKS THAT BELONG TO RANDOLPH
SCHNABEL? HE REALLY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THEM BACK.

1. William Brown Ide, President of California Republic

by George Kirow - April 23, 1935 Published by "California Senate"
George Hatfield - Pres. of Senate - W. P. Rich, Pres. Pro Tem

2. "This Is My Own My Native Land" by Steve Hust

Published by Independent Press, Yuba City, Calif. Copyright 1956

Proposed Merging of the Historical Society and Museum Memberships

Fee Schedule would remain basically the same:

Student/Senior Citizen	\$7.50
Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$25.00
Business	\$50.00
Sponsor	\$100.00
Corporate/Benefactor	\$1,000.00

By combining memberships, each organization would double in size and the advantages to the membership would increase.

Membership Benefits:

- Would receive the Historical Society Bulletin and the Muse News (sending some sort of publication 8 times a year would keep the Museum and the Historical Society before the public year round. Would require an adjustment of the Muse News Schedule so publications would be somewhat staggered - makes it easier on the editor)

- 10% discount in the Museum Gift Store

- Advance notice of special events such as Museum Galas and Historical Society Tours

- Invitations to exhibit openings

Benefit to each organization:

- Increased membership

- Ability to offer more to the membership

- Some unification of effort

- Each organization would still maintain its own identity, yet would be working together for a common goal: maintaining and improving the museum's ability to collect, preserve and interpret the history of Sutter County.

Financial Arrangements:

The basic purpose of the funds that the Historical Society raises seems to be for the Museum Agricultural Equipment Building and to produce and distribute the Bulletin. Membership fees appear to go primarily to paying the Museum for the printing of the Bulletin and to the Post Office for mailing of the Bulletin. Should the memberships be merged, all funds could be paid directly to the Museum. The Museum would no longer charge the Historical Society for printing the Bulletin, and bulk mailing of the Bulletin would be paid for with a check written on the Museum Commission's checking account. A separate accounting of membership income and expenses would be kept and distributed to both organizations on a quarterly basis. The Historical Society would maintain its separate account and proceeds from the annual dinner and Buttes tours for the Agricultural Building.

"AUNT CARRIE" FORDERHASE

This is Dewey Gruening recording for the Sutter County Historical Society, this 23rd day of August 1986 at 6949 College Avenue, Sutter, California, the long-time home of Emily Caroline King Forderhase, who is 102 years old-- born 7/22/84--that's 1884! We have Joe King Roberts and Randolph Schnabel mikeside, who will use their extensive knowledge of family and regional history to focus the interview on matters of interest to our membership. Here's Joe King Roberts and his "Aunt Carrie";

JKR - We were looking over some things over here, but I thought maybe the first thing we'd start out right at the beginning. You were not born here but NO I WAS BORN IN SAN FRANCISCO. MY FOLKS WERE LIVING WITH MY GRANDPARENTS WHO WERE LIVING THERE.

RAS - What did your grandparents do down there in San Francisco?
MY STEP-GRANDFATHER WAS A SEA CAPTAIN, AND AFTER HE WASN'T ON THE BOATS ALL THE TIME HE'D STAY IN PORT. HE'D PAY OFF THE FELLOWS WHO CAME IN ON THE BOATS, AND ALL THOSE THINGS. MY MOTHER'S REAL FATHER WAS MORE OR LESS A CARPENTER. ON THAT PRINCIPLE HE CAME TO SAN FRANCISCO, BOUGHT UP PLACES, REPAIRED THEM AND SOLD THEM OVER AGAIN. THAT'S WHAT HE DID. GRANDMOTHER CAME AROUND THE HORN ON A BOAT. THAT'S HOW SHE MET MY STEP-GRANDFATHER. HE WAS THE CAPTAIN ON THE BOAT.

RAS - Shipboard romance!

NO -SHE WAS ABOUT TEN YEARS OLD. HE SAID (AFTERWARDS) "LITTLE DID I THINK I WOULD EVER MARRY THAT LITTLE TEN YEAR OLD KID RUNNING AROUND THERE". AFTERWARDS HE AND MY MOTHER'S FATHER BECAME GREAT FRIENDS, SO THEN AFTER THE FATHER PASSED AWAY, SHE WAS MARRIED ...TO HIM.

JKR - It was 1848 when she came around the Horn wasn't it?
WELL, IT WAS ALONG ABOUT THAT TIME. I DON'T KNOW JUST EXACTLY THE YEAR, BUT IT WAS ABOUT '48 OR '49. AROUND THERE SOMEWHERE.

JKR - Your father was born in San Francisco in 1856, Aunt Carrie was born there but from there they went back up to Lake County.

I WAS BORN IN SAN FRANCISCO, BUT AFTER MY FATHER AND MOTHER WERE MARRIED THEY LIVED UP THERE, AND WE STAYED UNTIL I WAS ABOUT 8 YEARS OLD.

RAS - Where in Lake County were you?

WE LIVED AT HUSS SPRINGS. THERE WAS HUSS SPRINGS, ALLEN SPRINGS, AND BARTLETT SPRINGS. THEN YOU WENT ON OVER TO LAKEPORT.

RAS - What were these springs good for up there?

WELL, THEY WERE MINERAL SPRINGS. THERE WAS SODA, MAGNESIUM AND IRON IN THOSE SPRINGS. I LAY SOME CREDIT ON THEM FOR THE FACT THAT I HAD GOOD HEALTH.. WE DRANK NOTHING BUT MINERAL WATER BECAUSE WE LIKED IT BETTER THAN THE FRESH WATER. YOU GOT SO YOU DIDN'T LIKE FRESH WATER WHEN YOU DRANK MINERAL WATER. IT WAS THE FLATTEST-TASTING STUFF. BUT WHEN PEOPLE CAME UP FROM SAN FRANCISCO AND WENT TO ONE OF THOSE SPRINGS AND GO TO DRINKING IT THEY THOUGHT IT TASTED TERRIBLE. AND THEY'D COME OVER TO OUR PLACE, WHICH HAPPENED TO BE THE ONLY FRESH WATER AROUND THERE. THEY'D COME OVER TO GET A DRINK OF WATER. AND WE WERE GOING OVER THERE TO GET OUR WATER TO DRINK.

RAS - How long did you stay there?

WE LIVED UP THERE UNTIL I WAS ABOUT 8 YEARS OLD.

RAS - Then where did you go?

THEN WE CAME DOWN TO THE VALLEY HERE. FIRST WE LIVED IN A LITTLE CABIN, FOR JUST A FEW MONTHS, ON THE EPPERSON PLOT WHERE THEIR BEAN FIELD WAS. THERE WAS A LITTLE CABIN THERE AND THE LAMMES LIVED NEXT DOOR TO US. THEN AFTERWARDS WE LIVED OUT HERE WHERE THE TWO STORY HOUSE IS WHERE THE SEVER-- SONS LIVE ON BUTTE HOUSE ROAD. THERE WAS A SMALL FIVE ROOM HOUSE THERE AND WE LIVED IN THAT FOR CLOSE TO TWO YEARS OR THREE, AND THEN WE MOVED TO YUBA COUNTY. I'VE BEEN IN ALL THE SCHOOLS. I TRIED THEM ALL OUT.

JKR - I think you started school up in Indian Valley School, didn't you?

THE VERY FIRST SCHOOL I WENT TO WAS RIGHT CLOSE TO OUR HOUSE, AND THEN WHEN WE WENT BELOW THERE WHERE THE RESERVOIR IS NOW, OVER IN THAT PART OF THE COUNTY THAT'S ALL UNDER WATER, THERE WAS A LITTLE LOG CABIN THERE THAT THE FOLKS -FARSAGES- HAD BEEN LIVING IN. THEY HAD GOT MY FATHER TO HELP BUILD THEM A FIVE ROOM HOUSE, SOMETHING LIKE OURS, AND WHEN THEY MOVED INTO THAT, WE USED THE LOG CABIN THEY HAD BEEN LIVING IN FOR A SCHOOL HOUSE, UNTIL THE SCHOOLHOUSE WAS BUILT. IT TOOK A LITTLE WHILE TO GET THAT BUILT. OH - I STARTED THEM ALL OUT!

JKR - When you lived in Yuba County, you lived up in

I LIVED UP ABOVE MARYSVILLE, ABOVE OLD JACK'S SLOUGH THAT THEY WERE SWIMMING IN ..

RAS - Simmerly Slough...

THEY CALLED IT "NIGGER JACK SLOUGH" WHEN I WAS A KID AND WE LIVED OVER THERE ON THE LOOVEL RANCH; JUST AS YOU WENT OVER, YOU TURNED AND WENT IN WHERE YOU CAME TO TWO BARNs AND A TWO STORY HOUSE. WE LIVED THERE FOR THREE YEARS AND WE HAD SEVEN FLOODS. OH, WE HAD A GOOD TIME THERE.

RAS - They had levees around Marysville at that time already, didn't they? WELL, THEY HAD A LEVEE AROUND MARYSVILLE, BUT OUR HOUSE THAT WE WERE IN WAS A TWO STORY HOUSE, AND THE WATER WAS HIGHER IN OUR HOUSE THAN MARYSVILLE WAS. WHEN THE WATER WAS UP WE HAD ONE FLOOD THAT WAS SEVEN FEET DEEP IN THAT HOUSE. BUT IT WAS NEARER TO GET INTO MARYSVILLE THAN TO GET INTO OUR HOUSE, SO WE STAYED THERE UNTIL AFTER THE FLOOD WENT DOWN. WE HAD QUITE AN EXPERIENCE THERE. WE WATCHED THINGS COME FLOATING BY. WE'D PICK UP WOOD, WHILE OUR WOOD WENT FLOATING DOWN TO THE NEXT PLACE. MY UNCLE AND A FELLOW FROM TOWN CAME OUT TO SEE HOW WE WAS MAKING OUT AND TAKE US TO MARYSVILLE AND THEY SAID IT WAS ABOUT A FOOT AND A HALF GOING IN TO MARYSVILLE. WE SAID, WELL, WE HAVE TWO FEET HERE, SO WE'LL STAY HERE. ABOUT THAT TIME THEY LOOKED UP AND OUT THERE IT LOOKED LIKE THERE WAS SOMEBODY STANDING OUT THERE IN THE WATER WAVING HIS ARMS. THEY WENT OUT THERE TO SEE WHAT IT WAS. ABOVE US THERE WAS AN OLD BARN AND THERE WERE SOME CHINESE LIVING THERE. THE CHINAMEN HAD GOT OUT ON THE ROOF. THEY WERE BEGINNING TO GET SCARED AND THEY WANTED TO GET HELP. ONE OF THE CHINAMEN TOOK A TABLE, TURNED IT BOTTOM SIDE UP, FASTENED HIMSELF TO THE LEGS AND CAME FLOATING ON DOWN. WHEN HE SAW THE BOAT THERE AT THE HOUSE HE COMMENCED HOLLERING AND YELLING FOR HELP SO THEY PICKED HIM UP AND TOOK HIM TO TOWN. THAT OLD CHINAMAN NEVER DID FORGET. OLD OTATE HIS NAME WAS. WHENEVER WE CAME TO TOWN WITH BUTTER OR EGGS OR ANYTHING FOR YEARS AFTERWARDS ALL HE DID WAS "MISSY KING, MISSY KING, I TAKE EM, I TAKE EM. I TEND TO THAT FOR YOU". AND HE'D TAKE THEM DOWN TO CHINATOWN. PRETTY SOON HE'D COME BACK WITH ALL THE STUFF SOLD OFF.

RAS - He was your "agent" in town, then.

YES HE WAS OUR AGENT, SALESMAN! HE HAD A GOOD TIME.

RAS - You moved into this house here---

I MOVED INTO THIS HOUSE IN 1907. I WAS MARRIED IN 1906 DOWN ON THE RANCH AND THEN I LIVED ONE YEAR BACK OF THE CHURCH UP HERE. AND THEN ON JULY 4, 1907 WE MOVED INTO THIS HOUSE. IT WAS FOUR ROOMS THEN, WITH A BIT OF A NARROW PORCH IN FRONT. AND A PUMP DOWN THERE IN FRONT OF THE STEPS, AND A FEW OTHER THINGS. AND WE COMMENCED WORKING IT OVER FROM THEN ON.

RAS - And you didn't have any inside plumbing at that time either did you? OH NO, NO, NO -- DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING. WE HAD A PUMP DOWN THERE IN THE YARD AND A BIG BARREL THAT WE PUMPED THE WATER INTO. NO, WE DIDN'T HAVE INSIDE PLUMBING!

RAS - You had an outhouse?

YES - BACK OF HERE. THEN WE HAD A SMALL BARN OUT THERE, BACK WHERE THE BIGGER BARN IS. WE HAD TO BUILD THAT. AND WE PUT ON THE BIG PORCHES HERE, AND CHANGED THE ROOF. WE WENT ALL OVER THIS HOUSE, ALL OVER IT AND AROUND IT AND UNDER IT.. WHEN WE CAME HERE IT WAS BIG SQUARE BLOCKS UNDERNEATH THAT IT WAS BUILT ON. BUT AFTER OUR SON-IN-LAW AND DAUGHTER CAME TO LIVE WITH US WE PUT A DIFFERENT FOUNDATION UNDER IT. WE PUT IN A CEMENT FOUNDATION.

RAS - This house was built for you?

NO, NO -- THIS HOUSE, THE FIRST FOUR ROOMS, WAS AT LEAST TEN YEARS OLD WHEN WE BOUGHT THE PLACE. THEODORE VAGEDES--YOU'VE HEARD OF LIZ VAGEDES--HER FATHER, WAS THE HEAD CARPENTER. YOU SEE, THE HOUSE THAT WAS OUT THERE FACED WEST, AND IT BURNED UP. AND JIMMY PUTMAN'S AUNT LIVED IN IT--HER NAME WAS GILKEY--AND WHEN HER HUSBAND DIED, SHE HAD THESE CHILDREN AND NO HOUSE. SO THE PEOPLE IN TOWN GOT TOGETHER, AND THEODORE VAGEDES, THE HEAD CARPENTER--HE'D LEARNED HIS CARPENTER WORK IN GERMANY--BUILT THESE FOUR ROOMS FOR HER ON THESE LOTS THAT SHE OWNED. SO THAT'S HOW IT CAME TO BE ON THIS SIDE. WE KEPT ON ADDING TO THE HOUSE UNTIL WE HAD IT THE WAY WE WANTED IT!

RAS - Since that time you've seen a lot of changes in your community here... OH MY GOODNESS ALIVE...WHEN WE CAME HERE, THIS HOUSE WAS HERE, AND UP AT CALIFORNIA STREET...NO, NOT CALIFORNIA...UP HERE AT MULBERRY CORNER...NO IT WAS UP AT PALM STREET CORNER...IS WHERE MY BROTHER-IN-LAW LIVED. THERE WERE SIX FAMILIES OF FORDERHASES THAT LIVED HERE WHEN I FIRST CAME AND FOR A LITTLE WHILE AFTER I FIRST CAME HERE...THE FATHER AND FIVE OF THE BROTHERS. THE OTHER BROTHER, FRANK FORDERHASE, WAS A SCHOOL TEACHER. HE LIVED IN REDDING FOR YEARS AND YEARS. THERE WAS QUITE A FAMILY...

JKR - All the rest of them lived here in Sutter didn't they?
ALL THE REST OF THEM LIVED HERE IN SUTTER, YES.

RAS - Even those that owned property up in the Buttes lived here in Sutter at that time?

AT FIRST THEY DID. THEY LIVED HERE FOR A LONG WHILE.

RAS - And then they moved up to the Buttes?

YES, AFTERWARDS, SOME OF THEM, BUT AT FIRST ALL OF THEM LIVED IN HERE. ZIEGLERS LIVED IN ONE HOUSE WHERE OTTO FORDERHASE LIVED. AND WILL FORDERHASE LIVED UP THERE AT THE PALM STREET CORNER. AND GEORGE FORDERHASE LIVED WITH THE FOLKS UNTIL HE MARRIED, BUT AFTERWARD LIVED WHERE HE BUILT WEST OF MUNGER'S STORE...OUT THERE WHERE THE SCHNABELS....

RAS - Schlags...

WHERE SCHNABELS LIVE NOW.

RAS - Schlags.

YA. ANYWAY, THEY WERE ALL LIVING HERE.

JKR - Where your son lives..

RAS - On Griffith...

YA IN THAT GRIFFITH TRACT. COULDN'T THINK OF THE NAME OF IT FOR A MINUTE THERE. THAT WAS THE URBAN GRIFFITHS TRACT....

JKR - Were many of the big old mansions around here then?

THERE WERE QUITE A FEW OF THEM. THE OLD GARDEMEYER HOUSE WAS THERE... COURSE IT BURNED UP AFTERWARDS. THEN THERE WAS THE HOUSE WHERE SOME OF THE MCPHERRINS LIVED...I THINK THEY CALLED THAT DR. SCHLESSINGER'S PLACE. HE HAD ORIGINALLY BUILT IT. THEN THERE WAS ANOTHER ONE OR TWO MORE BUT I'VE KIND OF FORGOTTEN WHO THEY DID HAVE IN THEM. WILL MCPHERRIN LIVED JUST NORTH OF WHERE THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL IS. HE LIVED THERE FOR YEARS. AND JAKE MCPHERRIN LIVED AT THE LAST IN WHAT I THINK THEY CALLED THE SCHLESSINGER HOUSE. THAT'S PAINTED REAL GREEN...YOU CAN SEE IT FOR MILES NOW. IT'S REAL MODERN, BUT IT WAS ONE OF THE OLD HOUSES.

RAS - When did the cemetery really get started out here?

THE CEMETERY WAS STARTED, I THINK, A LITTLE BEFORE SUTTER CITY WAS LAID OUT, BUT I WOULDN'T SWEAR TO THAT. AND THE VERY FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE THEY HAD WAS ACTUALLY IN THE CEMETERY...WHERE THE CEMETERY STILL IS. FOR A WHILE LIZZY KENNEDY WENT TO SCHOOL TO IT WHEN IT WAS IN THE CEMETERY AND SHE SAID THAT WHENEVER THEY HAD A FUNERAL THEY' HAVE TO CLOSE DOWN SCHOOL. AFTERWARDS, THE NEXT SCHOOL THEY BUILT WAS OVER ON THAT CORNER WHERE ROBERT STOHLMAN DID LIVE. THAT'S WHEN ED'S FOLKS FIRST CAME TO CALIFORNIA...CUZ THE SCHOOL WAS THERE AND HE AND HIS BROTHERS DID THE SCHOOL WORK...JANITOR WORK... AFTER SCHOOL.

RAS - You mentioned "Ed". Ed who?

ED FORDERHASE.

RAS - Oh, your husband.

YES. YOU SEE HE CAME WHEN HE WAS ABOUT SIXTEEN OR SEVENTEEN. WHEN THEY CAME FROM MISSOURI. THEY CAME FROM WRIGHT CITY, MISSOURI. GARDEMEYER'S WIFE WAS A SECOND COUSIN TO MY HUSBAND'S MOTHER. SHE WAS AN ERKE. HIS MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME WAS ...I THOUGHT...I'LL TELL YOU IN A MINUTE.. WAIT A MINUTE..I'VE GOT IT RIGHT HERE IN MY BOOK, KING...JUST READ IT THE OTHER DAY...

JKR - I don't ever remember hearing what her name was, but if Uncle Ed was about 16 or 17, that would make it about 1893 when they came to California?

OH NO - IT WAS EARLIER THAN THAT.

JKR - Was it?

YES, BUT I'VE KIND OF FORGOT. SHOOT THE LUCK!

JKR - Is that the same high school my mother went to?

WELL...SHE WENT TO THE OLD BUILDING. THEN A NEW ONE WAS BUILT AFTER THAT. THEN THERE WAS ONE AFTER THAT! WE HAVE SOME PICTURES OF THAT OLD HIGH SCHOOL. I'M SURE WE HAVE LOTS OF THEM. YOU KNOW WHERE I PUT THAT BOOK THAT HAD... HERE IT IS. WISBROOK WAS HER NAME. BUT SOME OF HER FOLKS' NAMES...THE ONE THAT WAS MARRIED TO GARDEMEYER - HER MAIDEN NAME WAS ERKE. THERE WAS QUITE A FAMILY OF ERKES HERE. I COULD TELL YOU SOME MORE OF THEM IF I THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

RAS - You mentioned Gardemeyer. He was the fellow that laid out the town. HE HAD ALREADY LAID OUT ONE YEARS BEFORE THAT IN SOUTH AMERICA OR SOME DARN PLACE...WAY OFF ANYWAYS. HE UNDERSTOOD LAYING OUT A TOWN BECAUSE THIS TOWN WAS REALLY WELL LAID OUT.

RAS - That's right. It is.

HE LAID IT OUT BUT IN SELLING IT OUT, LOTS AND EVERYTHING, HE GAVE IT SUCH A BIG BUILD-UP. MADE PEOPLE THINK THAT THIS WAS GOING TO BE SUCH A BIG TOWN THAT THE COLLEGE PARK WAS GOING TO BE HERE. AND THE BIG, BIG BANK BUILDING... A TWO STORY BUILDING. THEN THEY DID MAKE BRICKS IN THE TOWN HERE AND THOSE BRICK BUILDINGS THAT THEY BUILT WERE BUILT OUT OF THE BRICKS THEY HAD MADE HERE. HE MADE SUCH A BIG BUILD-UP THAT LOTS SOLD OFF FOR A GOOD PRICE. ONE MAN GOT IT ON HIS MIND SO THAT HE WENT CRAZY AND TRIED TO SHOOT GARDEMEYER BUT MADE A MISTAKE AND SHOT MRS. GARDEMEYER

JKR - Who shot Gardemeyer?

SOMEBODY WHO WAS HERE. I DID KNOW THE NAME.

JKR - I think a lot of those lots were sold out at that time to a lot of different people.

OH, THEY WAS. THEY WERE SOLD ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY. THE LAST ONE THAT WE BOUGHT WAS FROM TWO WOMEN THAT LIVED IN SACRAMENTO, AND THOSE HAD BEEN INHERITED FROM DIFFERENT OWNERS THAT BOUGHT THEM. THAT WAS THE LOT OUT HERE WHERE ARIEL BUILT.

JKR - This was an empty block--no houses on it for years. And this was in an orchard.

WE PUT IN ORCHARDS. WE PUT THESE TWO BLOCKS HERE IN ORCHARDS. AND THOSE TWO OVER THERE WHERE EVELYN BOUGHT, THOSE WERE FROM DIFFERENT ONES THAT OWNED A GOOD MANY OF THEM. SHE BOUGHT UP SOME OF THEM THE SAME AS WE DID. EVERY NOW AND THEN THEY'D GO DELINQUENT FOR TAXES, AND MAYBE THEY'D SELL THREE LOTS.. MAYBE ONE WOULD BE HERE AND ONE OVER THERE AND ONE SOME PLACE ELSE. YOU'D BUY THE WHOLE BUNCH. IF YOU GOT ONE THAT YOU DIDN'T WANT YOU'D SELL TO SOMEONE WHO DID WANT IT. THAT'S THE WAY IT WENT. AFTERWARDS THEY MADE A RULE THAT YOU GOT A CLEAR TITLE IF YOU BOUGHT IT FROM THE STATE WHEN THEY SOLD IT FOR TAXES. AT FIRST WE DIDN'T GET CLEAR TITLE. THAT'S WHY WHEN WE KEPT BUYING THEM UP WE'D TRADE THEM TO GET WHAT WE WANTED AND OTHERS WOULD GET WHAT THEY WANTED.

JKR - A lot of those were bought as speculation since way back when they were laying out the town, and then they were still owned in the thirties. It was usually in the early thirties that many of these lots around here were bought for delinquent taxes.

THIS IS THE BOOK THAT MY FATHER-IN-LAW HAD WITH ALL THE THINGS THAT THEY WANTED TO KEEP FOR RECORDS...THE AGES OF HIS CHILDREN, WHEN HE AND HIS WIFE WAS MARRIED, BUT HE DIDN'T PUT DOWN WHEN HE CAME TO CALIFORNIA.

RAS - King showed me a copy of a bill of sale for your furniture that you bought when you moved into this house. That, to me, should be duplicated. I HAVE QUITE A BIT OF THAT FURNITURE YET...THAT ROCKING CHAIR KING IS SITTING IN, THAT TABLE BACK OF YOU. IT WAS ALL GOOD FURNITURE AND IT WAS SO CHEAP. WE FURNISHED THE WHOLE FIVE ROOMS OF THE HOUSE.

RAS - And the total bill came to \$246.80
ISN'T THAT AWFUL?

RAS - It was purchased from the S.D. Johnson, dealers in furniture, carpets, stoves and Hardware, wood and willow ware, tin and agateware, rugs, matting, oilcloth, and linoleum.

DHG - Where was the place?

RAS - Marysville...on 409, 411 and 413 Third Street, and then on 114 & 116 D Street, which was the Ellis Block. And the little cartoon up in the corner says: "Goods sold for cash or a little at a time."

WELL, WE PAID CASH FOR IT. WHEN WE CAME HOME THAT DAY, WE HAD EVERYTHING THAT WE WERE GOING TO GET BUT THE RUG FOR THE FRONT ROOM FLOOR. HE CAME TO ME A FEW DAYS BEFORE WE WERE MARRIED AND SAID "LET'S GET YOUR MOTHER. WE'LL GO TO TOWN AND PICK OUT THE FURNITURE". AND I SAID "ALL RIGHT!"

HE SAID "YOU FOLKS GO FROM YOUR PLACE IN AND I'LL COME...CUZ HE HAD TO BE WORKING THAT DAY...AND THEN I'LL COME IN THE MORNING AND WE'LL MEET AT THE FURNITURE STORE." SO THAT'S WHAT WE DID. AND WE GOT EVERYTHING THAT DAY BUT THE RUG FOR THE FRONT ROOM. HE SAID "WHY DON'T YOU GET THE RUG?" I SAID "I SAW THAT OVER AT THE S.G. KING COMPANY AND THAT WAS A MADE RUG AND THAT WAS TOO EXPENSIVE."AND HE SAID "WHAT WAS IT LIKE?" "WELL," I SAID "THEY WANTED TWENTY FIVE DOLLARS FOR IT." AND HE SAID "WELL, I THINK WE CAN AFFORD THAT. LET'S GET IT!" SO WE DID. AND WE HAD THAT FOR OUR FRONT ROOM CARPET FOR YEARS AND YEARS. FINALLY, AFTER WE WERE HERE FOR A WHILE, I DON'T KNOW I TOOK IT DOWN.

JKR - I think there's a couple of interesting things about the churches that were here. They had two churches and they...

OH YES - WHEN WE CAME HERE WE HAD THREE CHURCHES...THE SOUTH METHODIST CHURCH WAS AT THE NORTH END OF TOWN AND THE NORTH METHODIST CHURCH WAS AT THE SOUTH END OF TOWN. IN BETWEEN WAS THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH. SO WHEN THEY PUT ON ANYTHING WE WORKED FIRST AT ONE AND THEN WE'D DO IT AT ANOTHER ONE. THERE WEREN'T ENOUGH CHRISTIANS TO KEEP THE THING GOING SO THEY BROKE DOWN FIRST. THEY CAME BACK TO THE TWO METHODIST CHURCHES. AND THEN WHEN THEY GOT SO EVEN THEY COULDN'T MAKE IT THEY DECIDED TO PUT THE TWO CHURCHES TOGETHER. THAT DIDN'T GO OVER SO BIG WITH SOME OF THE OLD-TIMERS. THEY WERE JUST AWFULLY UP IN THE AIR ABOUT THAT. FINALLY WE DECIDED WHAT WE WOULD DO. WE TOOK AND USED THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH THAT WAS STANDING FOR A CHURCH WHILE WE WERE GETTING THE OTHER TWO PUT TOGETHER. THEN WHEN WE GOT THEM TOGETHER WE WENT DOWN TO THE SOUTH END CHURCH. I'LL TELL YOU WHO PUT THE TWO BUILDINGS TOGETHER AND DID A BLAMED GOOD JOB OF IT TOO...THAT WAS MCFARLAND. HE REALLY UNDERSTOOD IT. WE HAD A GOOD CHURCH...BUT AT FIRST THEY WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH EACH OTHER. FINALLY I SAID TO BERTHA DEWITT "I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT THIS, BUT I'M GOING TO GO DOWN THERE." SHE SAYS "I WILL THEN TOO!" SO TWO OR THREE OF US DID THAT AND FINALLY THEY GOT TO THE PLACE WHERE THEY DECIDED THEY'D ALL GET TOGETHER. THEN THEY HAD AN ORGANIZATION THAT FORMED ONE OF THE WOMEN'S CLASSES. NORTON WAS ITS TEACHER AT THAT TIME AND HIS WIFE HAD AN ADULT BIBLE CLASS. IN HER CLASS EVERYBODY COULD COME AND JOIN IT. ALL THEY HAD TO DO WAS GO TO CLASS. THEY CALLED IT "WILLINGLY HELPING OTHERS." "WHO". WE HAD A BIG CROWD. EVERYBODY JOINED THAT. THAT'S WHERE WE GOT STARTED HAVING THOSE BIG SUPPERS OUT HERE FOR YEARS AND YEARS.

BUT THE CHURCH ITSELF -"THE CONFERENCE" - DIDN'T LIKE THE IDEA THAT WE DIDN'T CALL OURS A "LADIES AID" BUT KEPT IT SEPARATE. I SAID "WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? WE BELONG TO THE CLASS THAT'S IN THE CHURCH!" OH, THAT WASN'T RIGHT. IT JUST WASN'T RIGHT. BUT JUST THE SAME WE WENT ON THROUGH. WE KEPT THAT THING GOING WHEN THEY HAD THE DEPRESSION. IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THAT WE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD A CHURCH OR SUNDAY SCHOOL OR ANYTHING. WE KEPT IT GOING.

JKR - Where they hold the services now was that the old church?
THAT WAS THE OLD NORTH METHODIST ... DOWN THERE AT THE SOUTH END OF THE STREET.

JKR - Then they brought the other one in and set it alongside?
MY HUSBAND AND ED DEAN WERE THE ONES THAT STARTED BUILDING THAT OLD HALL THEY HAD HERE. THEY USED IT FOR A GYMNASIUM FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL FOR YEARS. THEY BUILT THAT FOR A DANCE HALL...AFTER A WHILE THE YOUNG FELLOWS GOT TOGETHER...THEY WANTED A DANCE HALL. SO THEY BUILT THIS DANCE HALL AND USED IT FOR A GYMNASIUM UNTIL ONE WAS BUILT AT THE OLD HIGH SCHOOL.

RAS - At any time here in Sutter did they have a department store or one like the old King Company or anything like that?

NO...I WAS TRYING TO THINK. NOT OUT HERE IN SUTTER. ONLY THE GROCERY STORE CARRIED A FEW KNICK-KNACKS AND THINGS. OTHER THAN THAT, WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY.

JKR - Where was the grocery store? Was it where Munger's is?
THE TWO-STORY BRICK BUILDING HERE ON CALIFORNIA STREET, WHERE THE POST OFFICE WAS FOR A LONG TIME. YOU SEE THE POST OFFICE WAS IN THAT ONE CORNER AND IN BACK OF IT THE MCLEANS LIVED FOR WHILE. SAMUEL, AND ED, AND FLORENCE'S FIRST WIFE'S HUSBAND RAN THAT STORE. HE AND D.J. MCLEAN, IN THAT OLD BRICK BUILDING WHEN IT WAS USED FOR A STORE.

JKR - Was Florence's first wife a Cockrill.

YES. HER NAME WAS LIL FORDERHASE COCKRILL. SHE WAS FIRST MARRIED TO SAMUELS. THEN SAMUELS COMMITTED SUICIDE AND AFTERWARDS SHE AND FORBES WERE MARRIED.

RAS - The question has been asked about the bank building. It was never a bank....

IT NEVER WAS A BANK. THE NATIVE SONS AND NATIVE DAUGHTERS USED IT FOR A LONG TIME. THEY HAD A BUTCHER SHOP DOWNSTAIRS IN THE OLD BANK BUILDING FOR A LITTLE WHILE. THE NATIVE SONS MET UPSTAIRS FOR A LONG TIME. THEN THE NATIVE SONS AND DAUGHTERS GOT WHERE THEY COULD MEET IN THE SAME BUILDING. I FEEL IT'S TOO BAD THEY DON'T FIX IT UP AND KEEP IT

RAS - Didn't they used to have some sort of entertainment here in Sutter in the early days, of what I call "Motion Pictures?" Didn't they have a show of some kind?

OH, WE HAD IT AT SCHOOL FOR A WHILE. THEY PUT ON KIND OF MOTION PICTURES FOR A WHILE. WHEN DOROTHY AND KING WERE STAYING WITH ME ...ABOUT THAT TIME... THEY PUT ON MOTION PICTURES RIGHT AT THE SCHOOL. OF AN EVENING WE COULD GO THERE.

RAS - Did the Chatauqua Circuit ever come here to Sutter?
NOT TO SUTTER, BUT THEY DID TO YUBIT'S TOWN. I'VE BEEN TO CHATAQUA THERE. I KIND OF LIKED THOSE CHATAUQUAS. I ENJOYED GOING.

THIS IS WHERE WE HAD THE VERY FIRST SUNRISE SERVICES. I REMEMBER GOING UP TO THE VERY FIRST ONE WE HAD, BEFORE THEY EVER HAD A PUBLIC ONE.

RAS - When did that get started, that idea?
WELL, I'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT NOW...KING, YOU'RE QUICKER THAN I AM. EVERETT AND MELVIN WERE ...I GUESS, ABOUT EIGHT YEARS OLD WHEN WE WENT UP THERE THE FIRST TIME.

JKR - Would that have been about 1920?
I GUESS SO. ANYWAY IT WAS JUST ABOUT SIX OF US THAT FIRST TIME.. THE MINISTER WE HAD WAS A YOUNG MAN. HIS NAME WAS JULIAN. HE CAME FROM ONE OF THE EASTERN STATES AND GLADYS MOHR BETTY AND SAM BETTY WENT UP THERE AT THE FIRST YEAR AND THEN THE NEXT YEAR THERE WERE A FEW MORE. ABOUT THE THIRD YEAR THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR CHURCH GOT KIND OF INTERESTED IN IT AND IN GETTING THE ROAD FIXED UP. WE HAD A LITTLE WOODEN CROSS UP THERE ABOUT WHERE IT IS NOW. AFTER IT GOT GOING THE YOUNG PEOPLE TOOK IT OVER ENTIRELY AND THEY DID A REALLY GOOD JOB. THAT WAS ABOUT THE ONLY ONE AROUND HERE FOR YEARS. LAST YEAR THERE WERE THE MOST THAT I'D EVER NOTICED IN THE PAPERS. THERE WAS ONE AT LIVE OAK AND ONE AT MARYSVILLE. EVER SO MANY PLACES AROUND.

JKR - That's on the Wadsworth Ranch isn't it?

RAS - No. Lemenager. That property is owned by Lemenager's now isn't it?
WELL NOT ALL OF IT. THERE'S SOME WADSWORTHS MIXED UP IN IT YET.

JKR - Yes, but they bought them out in the last couple of years. Their cousin was music professor in Chico and they bought him out.

I LIVED AT ONE TIME OVER ON THE PENNINGTON SIDE AT THE FOOT OF NORTH BUTTE. I LIVED THERE FOR A WHILE, WENT TO SCHOOL, PENNINGTON SCHOOL, FOR ONE YEAR.

AND THEN I WENT TO SCHOOL ONE YEAR WAY BACK UP TOWARDS THE PUGH PLACE...
WAY BACK IN THERE WAS A SCHOOL HOUSE. TO KEEP THE SCHOOL GOING, THE TEACHER,
ALICE AMMEDON, AND HER BROTHER HAD A CART AND HORSE AND THEY'D COME BY OUR
PLACE AND PICK UP THE THREE OF US AND WHEEL ON UP TO THAT OLD SCHOOL... TO
KEEP ATTENDANCE HIGH ENOUGH TO KEEP THE SCHOOL GOING. MANAGED TO KEEP IT
GOING ANOTHER YEAR OR TWO AND THEN WE WENT BACK TO PENNINGTON.

RAS - That was the road going up to the pugh place/

YES. IT WENT RIGHT THROUGH WHERE WE LIVED. WE LIVED THERE WHERE THE BOYD'S
OWNED THE PLACE, STRAIGHT BACK OF WHERE SPILLMAN'S LIVE. WE HAD TO GO IN A
GATE BACK IN THERE.

RAS - Do you remember the name of that school?

IT WAS EITHER THE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL OR THE HILL SCHOOL. NOW THE ONE THAT USED
TO BE OUT HERE ON TOWNSHIP A LONG TIME AGO ABOVE WHERE

RAS - Union School?

NO, IT WASN'T UNION. UNION SCHOOL WAS UP THIS WAY.

RAS - Encinal School?

NO. THERE WAS ONE CALLED EITHER THE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL OR THE HILL SCHOOL OUT
THERE. THAT'S WHEN I FIRST CAME TO SUTTER. THAT'S THE VERY FIRST SCHOOL I
WNET TO IN SUTTER COUNTY. IT WAS CALLED EITHER THE MOUNTAIN OR THE HILL.
THE OTHER ONE UP IN THE BUTTES WAS EITHER THE MOUNTAIN OR THE HILL. I'VE
GOT THOSE TWO TWISTED. AND I CAN'T BE CERTAIN, EXCEPT IT ALWAYS SEEMED TO
ME THEY HAD THEM NAMES WRONG. THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T KEEP THEM STRAIGHT.

RAS Either place...

JKR - I think my mother started school up there at Pennington didn't she?
YES THAT WAS HER FIRST SCHOOL.

JKR - That must have been about '94 or '95.

MY FIRST SCHOOL DOWN HERE AS I TOLD YOU WAS OUT ON THAT ROAD. FROM THERE
WE WENT TO YUBA COUNTY AND I WANT TO MARYSVILLE SCHOOL. THEN FROM YUBA COUNTY
WE WENT TO THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL. OH I TRIED THEM ALL OUT.

JKR - When you lived up there in Jack's Slough and you went to school in
Marysville, you had to walk in all the way...you and Edgar, didn't you?
WE'D HAVE TO WALK IN TO SCHOOL. SOMETIMES THEY'D HAVE A CHINESE FUNERAL...
WE'D GO BY THE CHINESE CEMETERY AND THE CHINESE WOULD BE HAVING THEIR RICE
AND STUFF OUT THERE. HOBO'S WOULD COME ALONG AND THEY'D HAVE A PICNIC (off
the food left in the cemetery)

RAS - The Chinese cemetery is just north of the old Marysville High School, and that was right on the road going to Oroville.

YES, BUT IT WAS ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE, NOT THE RIGHT HAND SIDE. I ALWAYS REMEMBER ABOUT GOING TO SCHOOL. WE ALWAYS COULD TELL WHEN WE GOT TO THE BREWERY. DID YOU SEE THAT PIECE IN THE PAPER NOT LONG AGO ABOUT THE KEMP GIRLS? WHEN I READ THAT, I HAD KIND OF FORGOT ABOUT THE KEMPS BUT IT CAME BACK TO ME RIGHT AWAY. THE FATHER RAN THAT BREWERY. WE'D COME ALONG AND WE'D ALWAYS RUN INTO THE KEMP GIRLS.

JKR - You had to walk down town to the Post Office didn't you, to pick up the mail?

YES. YOU SEE WHEN WE WENT TO SCHOOL THE POFT OFFICE WAS WAY DOWN THERE BY THE DECKER-JEWETT BANK BUILDING.

RAS - On the south end of D street.

WAY DOWN THERE CLOSE TO CHINATOWN. WE'D GO DOWN THERE AND GET THE MAIL THEN WE'D HAVE TO WALK ON BACK HOME.

RAS - Do you remember how far north on "D" Street the sidewalks went? WELL, IT WASN'T ALL THE WAY TO 5TH STREET, BUT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN -- JUST ABOUT ONE OR TWO BLOCKS IN THERE. I CAN REMEMBER LAMME'S LIVED ON "E" STREET AND THE SEIDER'S HAD A LIVERY STABLE DOWN THERE. AND THAT LIVERY STABLE, WHEN IT RAINED, WAS RIGHT OUT IN THE MUD. I CAN SEE MRS SEIDER COMING RIGHT ACROSS FROM WHERE I WAS BOARDING AT THAT TIME. SHE'D COME WITH HER HORSE AND TIE IT UP IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE AND THE HORSE WOULD BE DOWN IN THE MUD ABOUT THAT DEEP.

JKR - Wasn't it about that time that everybody out in the country went to town on Saturday?

NEARLY EVERYBODY WENT TO TOWN ON SATURDAY. SUTTER COUNTY WAS PROHIBITION AND YUBA COUNTY WASN'T. WE'D COME ACROSS THE BRIDGE TO YUBA COUNTY. THERE WAS THE OLD DEADFALL HERE, THEN YOU'D COME TO CHILD'S. WHEN THEY CAME HOME THERE WAS THE "LAST CHANCE" AND THEY STOPPED. BY THE TIME SOME OF THEM HEADED HOME IF THE HORSES DIDN'T KNOW THE WAY THEY WOULDN'T HAVE GOT THERE.

JKR - Didn't most of the women gather at 4th and "D" and the men down at 3rd and "D"?

OH...DOWN THERE WHERE KING'S STORE WAS USUALLY WHERE THE WOMEN GOT TOGETHER, AND THE MEN TOO GOT TOGETHER.

RAS - Did they have the peanut wagon there at 3rd and D street in those days?
PEANUT WAGON? I DONT'T REMEMBER THAT.

RAS - It may have been later than that.

NO...I DONT REMEMBER IT. I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT THE MAN'S NAME WAS, BUT I DO REMEMBER SEEING THAT MAN WALK DOWN THE STREET WITH THAT GREAT BIG DOG. HE HAD A GREAT BIG TAN DOG, AND HE HAD A COLLAR AND CHAIN ON HIM AND HE'D TELL PEOPLE AND KIDS, "PLEASE DON'T DOUCH HIM." I KNOW I WAS ALWAYS AFRAID SOME YOUNGSTER WAS GOING TO GET HIS HEAD BITTEN BY THAT DOG BECAUSE IT WAS A TEMPTATION. HE WAS A GREAT BIG DOG. BUT I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT THE MAN'S NAME WAS. I HAVEN'T HEARD OF THAT FELLOW IN YEARS, BUT JUST HAPPENED TO THINK ABOUT IT.

JKR - Aunt Carrie and my cousin Evelyn, her daughter, were both, I think, walking encyclopedias of who married who for generations back. you and Evelyn were certainly experts on knowing the geneology of everybody in Sutter County.

OH YES. EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE SOMEBODY COMES AND ASKS ME SOMETHING. MY DAUGHTER WAS EXPERT ON IT, AND I WAS KIND OF INTERESTED IN IT. AND MELVA, I FOUND OUT AFTER EVELYN WAS GONE, REMEMBERED A LITTLE MORE OF IT THAN I THOUGHT SHE WOULD.

JKR - Yes, I found that out too.

EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE SHE'D SAY, "WELL I'LL TELL YOU MOTHER...." BUT SHE WAS NO HAND TO SAY IT LIKE EVELYN WAS.

DHG - Well, on romance....How did you and Ed meet?

WELL, HIS SISTER WAS GOING TO HIGH SCHOOL UP HERE AND I WOULD GO UP AND GET HER ON FRIDAY AND I'D BRING HER BACK ON SUNDAY NIGHT, QUITE OFTEN. SOMETIMES REAL EARLY MONDAY MORNING. THE TWO EDS HAD ALREADY BUILT THE DANCE HALL THERE SO WE'D GO OVER THERE TO THE DANCES. THAT'S WHERE I MET HIM.

RAS - What kind of music did you have?

WHY, WE HAD GERNS OR SOMEONE.

RAS - Bill Gern?

YES. GERNS FROM MARYSVILLE. HE'D COME OUT. AND AT TWELVE O'CLOCK WE'D ALWAYS STOP, EATE A LITTLE SOMETHING....IT ALWAYS CAME FROM SINGERS...NO... WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THAT BAKERY? (HEISINGER'S BAKERY?)
I KNOW THEY ALWAYS HAD JELLY ROLLS FROM THAT BAKERY.. FIRST TIME I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THAT OLD BAKERY IN A LONG WHILE.

RAS - In other words, the dance hall was your downfall as far as meeting your husband?

THAT'S WHERE I MET HIM. AND I HAD TO BE VERY CAREFUL TOO. I COULDN'T TELL HIM AND HIS BROTHER APART. I COULDN'T TELL THEM APART! THEY LOOKED QUITE A BIT ALIKE, ALTHOUGH ONE WAS FAIR AND THE OTHER DARKER. BUT WHEN I'D SEE ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER, HE'D LOOK FAIRER OR DARKER. I NEVER WAS JUST SURE FOR QUITE A LITTLE WHILE. BUT I NEVER DID LET THEM KNOW IT!

JKR - Which brother was that?

OTTO AND ED. AND I NEVER LET THEM KNOW, EITHER ONE OF THEM. THEY'D HAVE PLAYED SOME JOKES ON ME IF I HAD TOLD THEM!

DHG - What impressed you? Was he a good dancer, or what?

I DON'T KNOW. THEY WERE BOTH VERY GOOD DANCERS, BUT ED FORDERHASE NEVER DANCED TWO-STEPS, BUT NEITHER DID OTTO. BUT THE EAGER BOYS WERE DISTANTLY RELATED TO ME....ANYWAY HARRY EAGER LIKED TO DANCE THE TWO-STEP AND SO DID I, SO HE DANCED THE TWO-STEPS WITH ME. ED DANCED THE WALTZES...AND NEVER WITH ANYBODY BUT ME AFTER WE WERE MARRIED. BUT HE NEVER DID DANCE TWO-STEPS!

DHG - So where were you married?

DOWN ON THE KING RANCH. IT WAS AT HOME. WE DIDN'T HAVE A VERY BIG WEDDING. WE HAD JUST THE FAMILY AND A FEW OF THE FRIENDS THERE.

JKR - The King Ranch was on Bolton Road, about a half mile south of Boswell. And I believe they had a rather large wedding with all kinds of invitations and all the San Francisco relatives there.

WELL, IT WASN'T A BIG WEDDING, KING, BUT IT WAS WHAT YOU CALLED A "HOME WEDDING". THERE WAS MOST OF THE FAMILY AROUND AND SOME OF THE NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS, AND ALL.

DHG - Who officiated?

HIS NAME WAS REVEREND JOHNS.

RAS - Watson L. Johns?

YES. JOHNS USED TO BE THE MINISTER HERE A LONG TIME AGO. HE WAS GETTING TO THE PLACE WHERE HE'D SLIP....HE PUT THE WRONG NAME DOWN SOMEPLACE ON THE MARRIAGE LICENSE. YOU RAN ACROSS THAT NOT VERY LONG AGO, KING.

JKR - He made a mistake in the way he wrote things on the marriage license. What did he do...baptize you?

HE WROTE THE NAME IN ONE PLACE AND ANOTHER NAME IN ANOTHER PLACE.

DHG - Where did you go on your honeymoon?

I DIDN'T GO ON A HONEYMOON. I SAID TO ED...WHAT SENSE IN US GOING ON A HONEYMOON? LET'S GO UP AND GET THE HOUSE IN SHAPE. YOU SEE, HE HAD ALL THE FURNITURE OUT THERE, SO THAT'S WHAT WE DID. WHEN WE WENT ON OUR HONEYMOON WAS WHEN OUR GIRLS WERE ABOUT SIX...WE TOOK THEM AND WENT TO SAN FRANCISCO TO THE 1915 FAIR. WE CALLED THAT OUR HONEYMOON.

DHG - That worked out.

YES, WE DID EVERYTHING DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS.

DHG - You went right to housekeeping?

RIGHT TO HOUSEKEEPING, YES. I WAS JUST THINKING THE OTHER DAY BOUT THAT KITCHEN. NOWHERE'S NEAR ALIKE! WE HAD A TABLE WITH A DISHPAN ON IT. THAT WAS TO WASH THE DISHES, AND A ROASTING PAN OVER HERE TO DRAIN THEM. AND A LITTLE SQUARE STOVE ABOUT THAT BIG THAT WE COOKED EVERYTHING ON. YOU TOOK YOUR BATH BEHIND THE STOVE IN THE WINTER BECAUSE IT WAS WARMER THERE. WE DIDN'T HAVE A BATHTUB...DIDN'T HAVE INSIDE PLUMBING OF ANY KIND. AFTER WE WERE THERE ABOUT A MONTH OR SO SIS, MOTHER AND OUR NEIGHBOR GIRL, WHO LIVED ACROSS THE STREET AND WAS JUST LIKE OUR SISTER, CAME AND SAID "CAN'T WE COME AND BOARD WITH YOU AND GO TO SCHOOL? WE WOULDN'T HAVE SO FAR TO GO?" SO THEY CAME AND STAYED WITH US. THAT'S WHEN WE WERE MARRIED ONLY A VERY SHORT TIME. THEY STAYED WITH ME THE NEXT YEAR TOO. MY SISTER AND RUTH SMITH STAYED WITH ME UNTIL THEY GRADUATED.

RAS - Then you ran a boarding house for school girls?

YES, THEY STAYED WITH US AND FINISHED SCHOOL.

RAS - At that time Maude was living on the King Ranch south of town?

YES

JKR - You know Ruth is Ruth Grant.

OH, RUTH GRANT WAS LIKE A SISTER TO US. SHE LIVED RIGHT ACROSS THE ROAD.

RAS - Whe lived across the road from us when I was little, on Live Oak Highway.

JKR - I really enjoyed that article Ruth Grant wrote for the paper about her early life in Yuba City. Ruth wrote about the covered bridge going into Marysville. Do you remember that?

WHEN I CAME TO THE COVERED BRIDGE I'D HAVE TO WALK REAL SLOW, AND EVEN BEGRUDGED THE DOGS BECAUSE THEY COULD GO A LITTLE FASTER. THEY'D JIGGLE THE BRIDGE EVEN MORE THAN THE HORSES AND WAGONS DID. THE BRIDGE DIDN'T HAVE ANY WINDOWS SO IT WAS KIND OF SPOOKY IN THERE.

JKR - What do you remember about Yuba City.

IT WAS A WHOLE LOT SMALLER PLACE THAN IT IS NOW BUT I DON'T KNOW AS I REMEMBER TOO AWFULLY MUCH AT ALL ABOUT IT.

DOWN MY VERY OWN MEMORY LANE

THE LONGER ONE LIVES, THE MORE TIME THERE IS TO ACCUMULATE THOSE MEMORIES IN THAT OLD TREASURE CHEST, AND AFTER EIGHTY-FOUR YEARS MINE IS FILLED TO OVERFLOWING. AFTER DUSTING OFF THE COBWEBS AND EMPTYING ITS CONTENTS, HERE IS PART OF WHAT I FOUND STORED THEREIN.

IN 1910, I REMEMBER WITNESSING THE SPECTACULAR APPEARANCE OF HALLEY'S COMET, PLAINLY VISIBLE IN THE SKIES OVER NORTHERN MINNESOTA. IT IS HARD TO DESCRIBE BUT IT WAS VERY LARGE AND BRIGHT WITH A LONG TAIL. IT WAS AWE-INSPIRING - TO THE YOUNG IT WAS EXCITING, BUT MANY GROWNUPS WERE FRIGHTENED AND WONDERED IF IT WAS SOME KIND OF AN OMEN. AS SHOWN ON TELEVISION DURING ITS RECENT APPEARANCE, IT HAD NO RESEMBLANCE TO THE EARLIER EVENT. TO ME, IT WAS MOST INTERESTING TO REALIZE THAT VERY FEW PEOPLE WOULD BE PRIVILEGED TO SEE IT THE SECOND TIME.

IN THE EARLY 1900s, WE LIVED IN THE SMALL TOWN OF VIKING IN NORTHERN MINNESOTA. AS A CHILD, I WELL REMEMBER OUR ONLY COMMUNICATION WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD BEING THE TELEGRAPH OPERATED BY THE SOO LINE RAILROAD STATION MANAGER. WE WERE SO FASCINATED WITH THE CLICKS OF THE "DOTS & DASHES" WHICH CAME OVER THAT SMALL GADGET AND AMAZED AT HOW HE COULD INTERPRET WHAT IT WAS SAYING. HE WAS ALSO ABLE TO SEND MESSAGES. THIS WAS THE TOWN'S ONLY SOURCE OF NEWS AND IT WAS MOSTLY HEADLINES, AND BY WORD OF MOUTH THE INFORMATION SPREAD THRU THE TOWN. IT WAS ALSO OUR ONLY WEATHER STATION, WARNING OF BIG SNOWSTORMS COMING OUR WAY AND ADVISING CHILDREN IN SCHOOL TO HURRY HOME - WE HAD TWO MILES TO GO ON SKIS.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS BEFORE ANY MODERN CONVENIENCES WHICH WE NOW TAKE SO FOR GRANTED - NO ELECTRICITY, NO RUNNING WATER, NO TELEPHONES, NO REFRIGERATION, NO WASHING MACHINES AND NO NEWSPAPERS. WE USED

KEROSENE LAMPS AND THE REGULAR JOB OF CLEANING THOSE CHIMNEYS WAS SOME CHORE. I WAS ABOUT 12 YEARS OLD WHEN I SAW MY FIRST ELECTRIC LIGHT WHILE VISITING AN UNCLE IN WARREN, ABOUT 25 MILES AWAY BY TRAIN. IT WASN'T A VERY BRIGHT LIGHT, BUT IT PROVED TO BE ONE OF THE COUNTLESS INVENTIONS WHICH I WOULD LATER BE PRIVILEGED TO WITNESS.

I HAVE LIVED THRU TWO WORLD WARS, WITH FOOD AND GAS RATIONING; AND THE DAYS OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION - ALL OF WHICH EVERYONE HOPES WILL NEVER AGAIN OCCUR. FOR MY FAMILY OF FIVE TO HAVE SURVIVED THE VERY DANGEROUS "FLU" EPIDEMIC OF 1918 IN NORTH DAKOTA WAS SHORT OF A MIRACLE; WHEN UNBELIEVABLY MANY HUSKY FARM HANDS - FINNS, SWEDES, NORWEGIANS AND GERMANS - WERE NOT SO FORTUNATE.

IN THE 1920s THE MODEL-T FORD WAS THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION. IT WAS NOT MUCH LARGER THAN A ONE-HORSE BUGGY AND AT TIMES NOT AS DEPENDABLE AS A GOOD HORSE. DIRT ROADS, AFTER SOME RAIN, MADE TRAVEL ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE WHEN WHEELS GOT STUCK IN THE DEEP RUTS. IT IS HARD TO PICTURE THE PASSENGERS HAVING TO GET OUT AND PUSH - EVEN THE WOMEN IN THEIR LONG CAR COATS AND LARGE HATS TIED DOWN WITH LONG SCARVES IN ORDER TO KEEP THEM ON. IT TOOK A LOT OF PATIENCE ON THE PART OF THE DRIVER TO TRAVEL JUST A SHORT DISTANCE. WITH THE ADVENT OF OTHER MAKES OF CARS, SEVERAL OF WHICH WE OWNED, THERE WAS MUCH COMPETITION, BUT FORD WAS ALWAYS POPULAR WITH US. IN 1931, WE OWNED THE YELLOW CABRIOLET WITH A RUMBLE SEAT; AND IN 1953, I PURCHASED A 1953 FORD V-8 FOUR DOOR SEDAN AND STILL OWN IT. IT IS NOW CONSIDERED A VINTAGE CAR AND IS INCLUDED IN THE LIST "FROM THE MODEL-T TO THE '53".

EVENTUALLY, THE TELEPHONE WAS INVENTED - THE FIRST ONE A FUNNY LOOKING CONTRAPTION MOUNTED ON THE WALL WITH A RECEIVER ON A HOOK ON THE LEFT SIDE AND A THING ON THE FRONT INTO WHICH WE SPOKE. FIRST, YOU HAD TO RING FOR THE OPERATOR USING A CRANK ON THE RIGHT SIDE.

SHE WAS GIVEN THE NAME OF THE PERSON YOU WERE CALLING AND THE CALLER WAITED PATIENTLY FOR SOMEONE TO ANSWER - STANDING THRU IT ALL. CONNECTIONS WERE POOR AND A PERSON HAD TO SHOUT TO BE HEARD. IT BECAME A VERY FASCINATING GADGET TO EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY THE HOUSEWIVES, AND THERE WAS A LOT OF COMPETITION - MOSTLY GOSSIP - AND MANY TIMES IT RESEMBLED THE PRESENT DAY "SOAP OPERAS". IT WAS ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA TO BE VERY CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT A NEIGHBOR AS THERE WERE ALWAYS A LOT OF EAVESDROPPERS. THIS WAS EASILY DETECTED AS CLICKS COULD BE HEARD ON DOWN THE LINE, NO MATTER HOW CAREFUL THEY WERE IN REMOVING THE RECEIVER. WOMEN WHO HAD BEEN HELD CAPTIVE WITH THEIR TIME CONSUMING CHORES, WITH SO MANY INCONVENIENCES, WELCOMED THIS NEW OUTLET AND MADE GOOD USE OF IT. MEN AS A RULE DISLIKED THIS MISUSE OF SUCH A WONDERFUL NEW INVENTION WHICH SHOULD ONLY BE USED FOR EMERGENCIES AND IMPORTANT CALLS.

LATER IN THE 1920s, AN INTERESTING NEW ERA IN COMMUNICATIONS CAME WITH THE INVENTION OF THE RADIO WHICH TRANSMITTED ELECTRONIC SOUNDS THRU SPACE WITHOUT WIRES. THE FIRST ONES LOOKED SOMETHING LIKE A BIG CLOCK. THIS BROUGHT US THE NEWS AND IN THE EVENINGS KEPT THE WHOLE FAMILY QUIETLY LISTENING WITH EARS GLUED TO THE SET SO AS NOT TO MISS A WORD. BESIDES WELCOME NEWS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, WE WERE TREATED TO COMEDIES WHICH WERE REALLY FUNNY AND BROUGHT MUCH LAUGHTER. WE COULD USE OUR IMAGINATION AS TO THE CHARACTERS, EACH TO HIS OR HER OWN LIKING, AND THE SOUND EFFECTS WERE SO REAL THEY NEEDED NO IMAGINATION. IT WAS ALL VERY EXCITING. SUNDAY NIGHT WAS THE BIG LISTENING NIGHT WITH COMEDIES SUCH AS JACK BENNY, BURNS & ALLEN, FIBBER MCGEE & MOLLY, EDGAR BERGMAN AND CHARLIE MCCARTHY, PHIL HARRIS & ALICE FAYE, AMOS & ANDY, AND MANY OTHERS. RADIO HELD ITS OWN FOR ABOUT THIRTY YEARS.

SOME OF US WERE SLOW IN BECOMING CONVERTED TO THE ADVENT OF TELEVISION. FOR AWHILE, ADDING PICTURES DIDN'T SEEM TO INCREASE OUR INTEREST IN TELEVISION SINCE THE CHANGE FROM RADIO WAS SO DRAMATIC AND LEFT NOTHING TO OUR IMAGINATION, AND THE SAME CHARACTERS WERE NOT AS WE HAD PICTURED THEM. HOWEVER, TELEVISION BECAME THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT IN HOMES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. IT IS REMARKABLE HOW NEWS STORIES CAN TAKE US TO SCENES ALL OVER THE WORLD AS SOON AS EVENTS HAPPEN.

AN INTERESTING CHANGE IN MY LIFE CAME WHEN MY YOUNGER SISTER AND I CAME TO BERKELEY FROM FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA, IN THE SUMMER OF 1921. WE WERE INTRODUCED TO OUR FIRST FERRY ON WHICH THE TRAIN WAS TAKEN ACROSS CARQUINEZ STRAITS. UPON OUR ARRIVAL IN BERKELEY, WE FOUND THAT THE ONLY MEANS OF GETTING TO ANY POINT AROUND SAN FRANCISCO BAY WAS BY FERRYBOAT. I COMMUTED FROM BERKELEY TO SAN FRANCISCO FOR TWO YEARS AND RIDING THE FERRYBOATS WAS RESTFUL, EXCEPT IN THICK FOG. KEY SYSTEM ELECTRIC TRAINS TOOK COMMUTERS FROM ALL OF THE TOWNS TO THE FERRY SLIPS. EVERYTHING WAS CLEAN IN THOSE DAYS - THE AIR AND WATER - BECAUSE OF THESE METHODS OF TRAVEL. AS AUTOMOBILES BEGAN TO BE USED, THEY TOO WERE TAKEN BY FERRYBOAT. NOW, WITH ALL OF THE BRIDGES WHICH HAVE BEEN BUILT, TRAFFIC PROBLEMS KEEP GROWING WITH NO SOLUTION IN SIGHT AND AIR QUALITY IS GETTING WORSE.

DISLIKING THE COLD AND FOG, I CAME TO YUBA CITY IN 1923 AND WAS DELIGHTED TO FIND A SMALL RIVERFRONT TOWN OF ABOUT 2000 FRIENDLY PEOPLE, WHERE I HAVE LIVED EVER SINCE AND LOVED IT! SECOND STREET WAS THE MAIN STREET WITH ONLY A FEW SHORT SIDE STREETS.

IN A SHORT TIME, I MET AND MARRIED A YOUNG MAN WHO HAD ARRIVED EARLIER FROM SEATTLE. WE HAD A WONDERFUL 53 YEARS OF ENJOYMENT OF

THE GREAT OUTDOORS - OUR INTERESTS CHANGING WITH THE SEASONS.

WE WERE THE FIRST TO HAVE SKIS IN THE YUBA-SUTTER AREA IN 1931 AND BELONGED TO THE AUBURN SKI CLUB AT CISCO. THIS WAS AS FAR AS THE OLD 2-WAY HIGHWAY 40 OVER DONNER SUMMIT WOULD BE OPEN MOST WINTERS. THERE WERE NO SKI LIFTS, NOT EVEN A ROPE TOW, SO ALL SKIING WAS CROSS COUNTRY. WE PUT OUR SKIS ON RIGHT AT THE CAR. MANY A SUNDAY OR HOLIDAY, THERE WOULD BE ONLY ABOUT 16 OR 20 OF US AT CISCO SO WE HAD THE MOUNTAINS ALL TO OURSELVES AND THE ONLY TRACKS AHEAD OF US WERE THOSE OF WILD ANIMALS.

FROM 1937 TO 1942, WE ENJOYED BOATING ON THE FEATHER, SACRAMENTO AND SAN JOAQUIN RIVERS. WE HAD A 25-FOOT TWIN-MOTORED INBOARD CABIN CRUISER, "THE CURLEW", BUILT BY MY HUSBAND AND A LOCAL BOAT BUILDER. IT WAS THE LARGEST BOAT EVER TO BE LAUNCHED IN THE FEATHER RIVER. ON FEBRUARY 17, 1937, ON THE EAST BANK QUITE A CROWD GATHERED TO WITNESS IT AND TO SEE THE LOOKS OF PRIDE ON THE FACES OF THE TWO YOUNG BUILDERS; AND IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL BOAT, AS WELL AS A STURDY SAFE ONE. WE TOOK MANY VACATIONS TO THE BAY AREA AND IN 1939 WE SPENT TEN DAYS AT TREASURE ISLAND WORLD'S FAIR. WE RENTED A BERTH IN THE "PORT OF TRADE WINDS" WHERE WE COULD WATCH THE "CHINA AND CALIFORNIA CLIPPERS" LAND AND TAKE OFF. WE WENT ASHORE WHENEVER WE WISHED, HAVING A PASS, AND IT WAS NICE TO HAVE A NEARBY PLACE TO REST AFTER A LOT OF WALKING. SITTING ON OUR BOAT, AT NIGHT THE FIREWORKS DISPLAYS WERE SPECTACULAR RIGHT OVERHEAD. THE GOLDEN GATE AND BAY BRIDGES HAD BOTH BEEN COMPLETED.

WE KEPT OUR BOAT AT MCGILL'S BOAT LANDING ON THE YOLO SIDE JUST ABOVE THE TOWER BRIDGE AT SACRAMENTO. WE COULD SIT AND WATCH THE DELTA KING AND DELTA QUEEN, ALWAYS FILLED TO CAPACITY, BEING TURNED AROUND TO START THEIR JOURNEYS BACK TO THE BAY AREA. IN 1939, WE HAD A FRONT ROW SEAT AS WE WATCHED A RACE BETWEEN THE TWO BOATS.

IN 1940, WE TOOK THE TRIP TO SAN FRANCISCO ON ONE OF THE LAST RUNS OF THE DELTA KING. THE DELTA QUEEN HAD ALREADY BEEN MOVED TO THE MISSISSIPPI. THEY WERE BOTH "KING AND QUEEN" OF THE RIVER AND A THRILL TO WATCH BEING SUCH LARGE BOATS WITH THE FASCINATING PADDLE-WHEELS. TO ME, IT IS VERY GRATIFYING TO KNOW THAT THE DELTA KING IS NOW BEING REFURBISHED AND WILL BE A PERMANENT ATTRACTION ON THE SACRAMENTO RIVER.

BESIDES ALL OF OUR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, WE SPENT MANY ENJOYABLE YEARS IN OUR COMFORTABLE HOME BUILT IN 1941 ON AN ACRE PLANTED TO WALNUTS, AND I AM STILL ENJOYING THE QUIET ATMOSPHERE OF MY "PRIVATE RESORT AND PARK".

MUSIC HAS ALWAYS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN MY LIFE AND WAS APPRECIATED BY MY HUSBAND. I STARTED ON AN OLD PUMP ORGAN WHEN I WAS TWELVE AND NOW PLAY THE HAMMOND ORGAN AND PIANO, WHICH I HAVE ENJOYED FOR MANY YEARS. MY GREATEST JOY IS SHARING IT WITH FRIENDS AND RELATIVES BY MAKING CASSETTE TAPES. FOR YEARS, I PLAYED CHRISTMAS CAROLS FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD OVER TWO BIG OUTDOOR SPEAKERS. MUSIC IS SOMETHING WHICH I COULD NEVER LIVE WITHOUT AND IS NECESSARY IN MY DAILY LIFE.

I HAVE SPENT MUCH OF MY LIFE WORKING IN VARIOUS BUSINESSES, MOST OF THE YEARS WERE RIGHT HERE IN YUBA CITY, WITH ELEVEN YEARS IN THE SUTTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE; FIRST, AS DEPUTY TREASURER AND THEN AS DEPUTY ASSESSOR. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY 33 YEARS WITH THE SUTTER COUNTY TITLE COMPANY. I STILL HAVEN'T QUIT WORKING IN THIS SAME INTERESTING FIELD. FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS, I HAVE WORKED FOR SEVERAL RECLAMATION AND WATER DISTRICTS - SEARCHING SUTTER COUNTY RECORDS ONCE A YEAR FOR CHANGES OF OWNERSHIPS. ALSO, FOR 37 YEARS, I HAVE TYPED THE MINUTES OF BOARD MEETINGS FOR LEVEE DISTRICT NO. ONE. THE NICE PART IS THAT I DO MOST OF THIS WORK AT HOME.

IN MY JOURNEY THRU LIFE, I HAVE FOUND IN MY LINE OF WORK IT HAS BEEN A CONSTANT LEARNING PROCESS, WHICH HAS MADE IT SO INTERESTING. EACH POSITION WAS DIFFERENT AND I HAD TO LEARN NEW THINGS.

IN 1921, AT S. L. JONES & COMPANY, EXPORTERS & IMPORTERS, IN SAN FRANCISCO, I LEARNED HOW TO DECODE OVERSEAS CABLEGRAMS. MANY TIMES, THEY WOULD ARRIVE JUST AT CLOSING TIME AND I WOULD HOLD MY BREATH FOR FEAR THE PRESIDENT WOULD COME IN WAVING A CABLEGRAM, ANXIOUS TO KNOW ITS CONTENTS. THAT MEANT I WOULD MISS MY FERRYBOAT FOR BERKELEY AND WOULD HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE NEXT ONE.

ON MY FIRST JOB IN YUBA CITY IN 1923, IT BECAME NECESSARY FOR ME TO LEARN HOW TO OPERATE A NEWLY INVENTED REMINGTON BOOKKEEPING MACHINE ON WHICH I WROTE THE FIRST TYPEWRITTEN ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE COUNTY OF SUTTER AND FOR THE CITY OF YUBA CITY.

AT THE TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY, I LEARNED HOW TO SEARCH THE COUNTY RECORDS FOR TITLES OF PROPERTY, AS WELL AS ALL TAX ASSESSMENT ROLLS AT THE COURTHOUSE. THIS PREPARED ME FOR PART-TIME WORK IN MY RETIREMENT.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS WHICH HAVE MADE MY LIFE SO REWARDING AND FILLED WITH CHALLENGES. I FEEL THAT A GOOD MOTTO BY WHICH TO LIVE IS "NEVER STOP LEARNING". MUCH OF MY FUN HAS COME FROM WORKING AND STILL DOES. IF WE JUST LOOK IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND USE SOME SELF-RELIANCE WE CAN STILL FIND THAT LIFE CAN BE EVEN MORE REWARDING AND FULL OF SURPRISES. LIFE ONLY PAYS DIVIDENDS ON THE AMOUNT WE INVEST.

WITH MANY WONDERFUL MEMORIES OF ALL OF THESE YEARS WHICH HAVE BEEN GOOD TO ME, I AM LIVING EACH DAY TO ITS FULLEST, WITH A HOST OF LOYAL CARING FRIENDS.

REMEMBERING THE GOOD TIMES, AS WELL AS THE HARD TIMES, I FEEL QUITE SATISFIED WITH MY LOT IN LIFE, AND AS THE SONG GOES "IF I HAD MY LIFE TO LIVE OVER, I'D DO THE SAME THINGS AGAIN".

WRITTEN BY MYRTLE
MAY 1986