

THE ALPINE ECHO

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ECHOES OF THE PAST

The Old Timer

By Niel Galloway

Well, we had a glorious rain. To date I have 16.40 in. which is some above our normal average. This reminds me of 1916 when we had a normal rain year and got 16 inches in just a few days. The soil on the mountain got so wet it slipped off; rocks and big oaks over 100 years old came sliding down. The Hancock homestead then was in the narrows of the canyon where the Harbison Canyon water tanks now stand. Big rocks rolled off of the mountain east of the road and just stopped before they crushed the house. The mud and water ran right through the house. The four women went and slept in the barn. I saw them the next morning after the storm. Their hair was full of hay. The barn was on high ground. The neighbors was going to help move the house to higher ground; they helped one day and my brother and I put in nearly a week getting it the rest of the way a few feet at a time. We had no house moving equipment. Mrs. Bishop lives in the house now.

Next I am going to talk about the 120-acre Jewet homestead. When I came here the home on South Grade Road where Mrs. Ballenger lives was the C. O. Andersons. It was one of the show places of Alpine. It had a beautiful cypress hedge and a deciduous orchard around it. C. O. Anderson married a Jewet daughter. They had both been married before and had grown children. C. O. Anderson and his brother Oscar came from Sweden. They were both shoemakers; made shoes by hand. Oscar continued making shoes by hand until he died.

Spreckles had a club foot and Oscar hand made his boots, and for others too. Charlie had charge of Marston's shoe department for several years. He finally got a job as salesman for Utes and Doon. They made women's and children's shoes. He made good money and built that big white house. The lumber was furnished by the W. D. Hall Co. in El Cajon and all hauled by horses.

Charlie Anderson always had some kind of hired help; Joe and Bertha Foss worked there shortly after they were married. They lived in the old homestead house which set on the corner of Petra way and South Glen Oaks Drive North. There was no drive at that time. It was a ranch. Charlie built a dam up the canyon east and irrigated some bottom land to raise alfalfa for some dairy cows.

I don't think Charlie could milk a cow but he had help. He went to some of the lakes in the county and caught some bass and put them in the lake. They kept disappearing; he did not like it; he thought someone was poaching. I told him it was coon. A coon is a good fisherman. Well, in 1916 that dam was plum filled with mud clear to the top. There was only a six-inch pipe to let the water out. Later Kelso made a two-foot square opening to sluice some of the mud out. The dam was rock and cement.

The old homestead house set on the corner Edwin and Edith Daily now have and was moved across the creek by W. A. Kelso and is the house Roy Porter now lives in. Charlie and Blanch P. Anderson traded the ranch for an apartment house on 25th and I or J Street in San Diego. Charlie loaned his money to a shoe store in Los Angeles. He finally had to take the store. When he did he found the shelves full of empty boxes. His collateral had vanished, so

they both finished their days at 25th Street in San Diego renting apartments.

They traded with Walter Buck. The Bucks had some kind of a building material place in San Diego. They had a lot of cement. Spreckels did not like their price, so he got a boat load from Belgium and sold at cost. That broke the Bucks and Walter laid a lot of sidewalks in San Diego to use up that cement. The Bucks were not there too long but Andersons had a \$3500 mortgage on the place that was boot in the trade. I forget who got it next, but it was a widow woman.

Then came De Ruse, a Jew—he talked the Warners from Chicago into buying it and subdividing it. The money, most of it, belonged to Mrs. Warner, the mother. The Jew talked the daughters into this. The Warner girls had diamonds when they came, but De Ruse got them.

When the Warners got it they had it surveyed or the Jew did, into lots and on the side where the Anderson home was, he had a seven or eight-hole golf course built. DeRuse did a lot of strutting around. Big man that did not know what it was all about. The Anderson home was turned into a clubhouse and a membership in the clubhouse was given with the purchase of each lot, but it said nothing about the clubhouse building.

The purchasers were sure they owned part of the clubhouse but found out different. De Ruse did some advertising and had a lot of Woopala also, same time Harbison Canyon was going on. He had several men working all the time—the Warners footing the bill, and the black bottle traveled around quite freely. The late John Demott of Alpine was one of the salesmen. He sold a few lots, too.

The subdivision was called Glen Oaks. A man by the name of Fred Bogglan was among the first to build. He built where Johnnie Jutilla now lives. The Bogglan house is torn down now. Bogglan ran a private night watchman service in Coronado. His son still does.

The imitation log house on South Glen Oaks Drive was the real estate office! that set where Norm and Hazel Foster now live on Arnold Way and South Grade Road. John J. Howley bought it and had it moved where it is now. Hawley had one son and three daughters. He dropped dead going from his house to the car a couple of years ago in Glen Oaks. He was 78.

Dr. R. J. McBride was one of the real early ones. He built the house just east of Dallys on South Glen Oaks Drive, spent week-ends there, where Jim Radford now lives. The Edmon and Edith Dally home was the Warner's place. They built it there for a winter home. They came from Chicago. Across the street from the Radfords lived the Wanamakers. He was a barber in Alpine for a long time, boarded the men and the two Kelso boys by the first marriage and worked on the subdivision.

Kelso received a lot where Roy Porter lives and the old Jewet homestead house. He moved these as part of his pay. Robert Kelso worked for the U. S. Government on a surveying gang in the desert and purchased some other property in the subdivision. Later on the Kelsos sold the corner where Roy Porter now lives, to Edwards and moved into a chicken house. It caught fire and they lost everything.

The Gene Hallet home was built on part of the subdivision. They moved to Hope, Idaho last week. Up in the toe of the horse's shoe live Walter and Doris Parrish. It is a big rock pile. For energy these people are hard to beat. They move them rocks around, make terraces, carry up dirt to put in the terraces; that is sure getting land to plant the hard way. They came from Chicago. They have many kinds of plants and trees. Walter is a died-in-the-

wool organic gardener and has a big compost pile, raises worms also. He will not use an insecticide on a plant for anything.

Now for years Glen Oaks subdivision really went to the dogs. There were several of the houses sold for the taxes. I have seen this happen twice in my life time and it can happen again, in fact the part of Glen Oaks that was not sold in lots was bought for \$500 for the mortgage on it. Mrs. Anderson signed off her rights and the purchaser paid the back taxes. Some of the other houses was obtained by tax title and this can happen again.

When the Bucks sold they kept the part across Arnold Way, a little over 40 acres. A young Swede, Olaf Anderson, got it; started a subdivision, sold three lots, sold the rest to Nellie Woolf. She built down in the canyon and it was finally sold to M. E. Anderson, the present owner. Where Frank and Gladis Walden live is part of the same property, also where the pumping station is, also Smithie's place.

That 40 acres sold for \$1200. De Witt finally got it and built the Waldon place and Smithies. That was called Twin Brooks. So don't be too sure you are going to sell for a lot of money just because you have Colorado River water.

There is an awful lot of land between San Diego city limits and Alpine to build on. Anytime you think you are going to get State and Government money for nothing you are fooling yourself. You have to give them \$2 or \$3 to get one back. The State and Government have nothing. All bonds are nothing, but another mortgage on your home, regardless of what they are for. I mean mortgage.

I nearly forgot the final chapter of Glen Oaks. Mrs. Warner had two sons in Chicago. They began to think something was bad wrong. They came out to see about it and came to me. I told them the story and they soon booted the Jew out, but by that time he had all the money and diamonds. His wife, Petra De Ruse had them. The mortgage was never paid, and Mrs. Anderson did not have the money to foreclose it, so it went default, as I said, for taxes.

Mrs. Ballenger's son-in-law by the name of Ringer got it for \$500 and the taxes.

Bea La Force did a beautiful job on the Foss article, stole part of my thunder, however, I can add a lot to it later.

Neil R. Galloway

P. S.

I am very glad to read in a back number of the Echo that the Women's Club decide to keep the old Historical building. It was the first building where gatherings and entertainment was held. I had many an enjoyable time in that building in years past.

I may write about some of it later in Echoes of the Past. The present generation are all too fast to cast off the old for the new. It should be preserved. I had some stock in it, 10 shares once. Sold it to Flegal. The men in the community put on a new roof when it was needed and also painted it.

To my friends in Alpine—you can make this a grand country newspaper if you all help out. I am sure the Editor will be glad to have your help and suggestions. Phone or write in your news items and don't wait for someone to come after them.