

This Week's Guest Writer

Mrs. Tom Hill, Sr., came to Alpine with her family in 1927 from San Diego. Previously they had lived for 7 years in Imperial Valley. Mrs. Hill is active in the Alpine Woman's Club, having held all the different offices at one time or another, and before the PTA was organized was a member of the Mother's Club.

April marks the 24th year of our residence in Alpine. I truly believe that change is the surest thing in life; certainly there have been many changes in Alpine in those years.

Our little school house was a one-room building then. There were seventeen children who attended. We saw it grow and unionize. Mr. Hill built the first school bus and drove it for a number of years.

In those days we had rains in Alpine—real rains. Sometimes they even closed the school on account of the rain. Tavern Road was not paved in those days and often in rainy weather Mr. Hill would have to leave the school bus at the neighbor's ranch (now the Howard Ball's ranch). The 'dobe stretch up the hill from Dr. Ball's ranch past our ranch would be so slippery and sticky Mr. Hill could not make it with the bus. We were often marooned a week or two on our ranch. We had to ride out horseback or walk for our groceries, believe it or not. I don't know what became of our rains in recent years, but I do know that it really rained in those early years that we were here.

We, also, dry farmed and our orchards flourished. Some of the finest peaches and other fruit were produced on our ranch. We'd have as high as twenty-five and thirty ton a season. But the last five years the drought has taken its toll, and our beautiful orchards are no more. The trees have all died and had to be pulled out. We still pump from three wells and we are irrigating our orange grove of a hundred trees. But they, too, are beginning to show their lack of water and I'm afraid if we don't get some real rain soon they, too, will disappear from the ranch.

However, with all of our loss of lovely trees, we still love Alpine, and we can say we have no regrets. We have all gained our health and above all we have given our children a beautiful childhood on the ranch in Alpine. The ranch and Alpine always remains the bright spot in their and in our memory as the years go by.

Flora E. Hill