

## VICTOR HEAD CORRESPONDENCE—TYPED FROM ORIGINAL

409 Bensal Road  
Hatboro, PA 19040  
Friday 26 January 2007

Barbara Cater  
1347 Viejas View Lane  
Alpine, CA 91901

Dear Barbara Cater---

The U. S. Post must have needed a rest after the holidays and fell back on the Pony Express! Your letter dated 4 January arrived on 12 January. Getting this bundle to you may take even longer; the wind and low temp may prevent me from getting to the post office for a few days.

Enclosures include:

Requested GRIST winter 95/96 with corrections per Roy Williams.

Letter I wrote Patty on 10 May 2005 describing my first New Hampshire winter 1929/30

Letter from Roy Williams, 6 December 2003

"The Old West" from GRIST, summer 1994

Three issues GRIST telling of my life at Sacraero Valley. They made me editor of GRIST during the series and for five years.

Photos from my 1949 movie

Two sheets photos my mother took

Copy of part of a USGS contour map

McKitrick Hill group (and in recent GRIST)

Hazel's [Hohanshelt] obituary

In the third of the Sacraero Valley series "Storm on the Sweetwater" is must have let my imagination run wild, inventing a Taylor Creek and a Taylor Ranch; Roy Williams' letter straightened me out, how Hazel came from North Dakota. Her obituary indicates she was 18 or 19 when she came to Alpine. I had thought from something my mother said that there had been homesteading, and that she had "normal school."

Imagine my surprise last week when I found there really is a Taylor Creek, originating in square K -2 and running into another creek, which I believe was Deer Creek, at the east edge of I-4. Then Deer Creek continues to enter the easternmost point of Loveland Reservoir in H-4. I believe that part of the reservoir was Sacraero Valley. I clearly remember as a child the beautiful view of Bell Bluff which is in K-5. The Indian burial ground where Mary Denny and I played would have been near the west edge of H-4.

I don't want to belittle the monumental work Beatrice LaForce did putting together 519 pages and 504 photographs. The two most conspicuous omissions were:

(1) Anything about Captain Parks

(2) Anything about the Kosmon Community Ranch in Sacraero Valley where for some decades they raised children from the San Diego orphanage [Beatrice LaForce does mention this as the Cosmon Community on page 75 of her book.]

Other omissions include the names of two teachers just preceding Hazel Hohanshelt [she started in 1928]. Mr. Beadle (sp?) and Miss McClain. Mr. Beadle was of the old school. Once when I was in third grade I wandered with Ruth Schultz, also third grade, off the school grounds and got back an hour after noon hour was over. Mr. Beadle, in roaring voice: "Where were you?" Vic, voice shaking: "We were looking for elves and fairies under the Manzanita bushes on the hill." All the kids roared with laughter and Mr. Beadle couldn't help laughing too so he never punished us. Miss McClain was next, for only one year. I think. This was Patty's [Patty Foster Heyser] fourth grade. I was at Sacraero Valley under doctor's orders except for the last few weeks of her year, spring of 1928.

My mother died in Hatboro in May of 1954, but she had received from Beatrice LaForce an early edition of part of the Alpine book. She pointed out a wrong picture and wrong caption which remained in the final 1971 edition on page 412, no. 493. The woman pictured is not my mother nor is the boy with the violin my brother. (I've enclosed a picture of her.) What's more, my mother, pseudonym Zuella Sterling, was poet laureate of New Hampshire and never lived in New Jersey.

Patty [Patty Foster Heyser] and I were both ten years old at the start of Hazel's first year, 1928-1929, at Alpine. However, photograph no. 192 on page 163 incorrectly labeled "The whole school, 1928" would include me if the label were correct. Actually, this photo includes Patty at age 13 in eighth grade (long after I had moved to New Hampshire) with her visiting little sister Peggy, age five, and shows the whole school at what was Hazel's fourth year at Alpine, 1931-32.

I lived with the McNetts in the old adobe ranch house (summer 1926 I think). Page 225 gives the impression that the principal products were goat's milk and beef. I remember their really big activity was a large herd of semi-wild horses from which they would bring one in, train and sell as a riding horse. But I've taken too long, and must get this in the mail today, 30 January.

With gratitude for all you've done!  
Vic Head