

Sunland

By Enid Larson - 1983

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This scrapbook has been prepared in 1983, authored by Enid A. Larson, Big Pine, and typed by Meredith Foster, Big Pine. Hazel Schober Tatum did the lettering on the cover and the holly border on the first page – reminiscent of the Christmas season at Sunland School when the teacher had her decorate the blackboards. She lives in Bishop and continues to be artistic in her home. Joan Larson, Salinas did the beautiful calligraphy.

The purpose of this book is to give some of the history of an early 20th Century rural school in an isolated valley of California, and a community's way of life. Much remains to be said. Blank pages have been left so that contributions by others, perhaps, may be added. Hopefully, they will sign their contributions. Many photos of school classes were loaned by Hazel Schober for copying. As children we found this way of living very rewarding.

After I went away to school it was not until I was at the university of California, Berkeley, in 1926 – 28 that I ceased feeling “inferior” because of my rural education. On Hilgard Hall, carved deeply into that building's westerly wall were these words:

“To Rescue from Human Society the Native Values of Rural Life.”

THE SONG OF SUNLAND

(Probably written by Janie Rhead)

I love you, sunny Sunland
You're the finest home to me.
I love your fertile uplands,
Every sage bush, every bee.
I love your purple mountains,
Your running water I adore.
I love your friendly people,
And your children even more.

There the wide spreading fields of alfalfa,
Greet the eyes, with their bright rich green,
While the tall poplar trees stretch in long lines between.
And the blue dome of heaven,
Smiles o'er all.

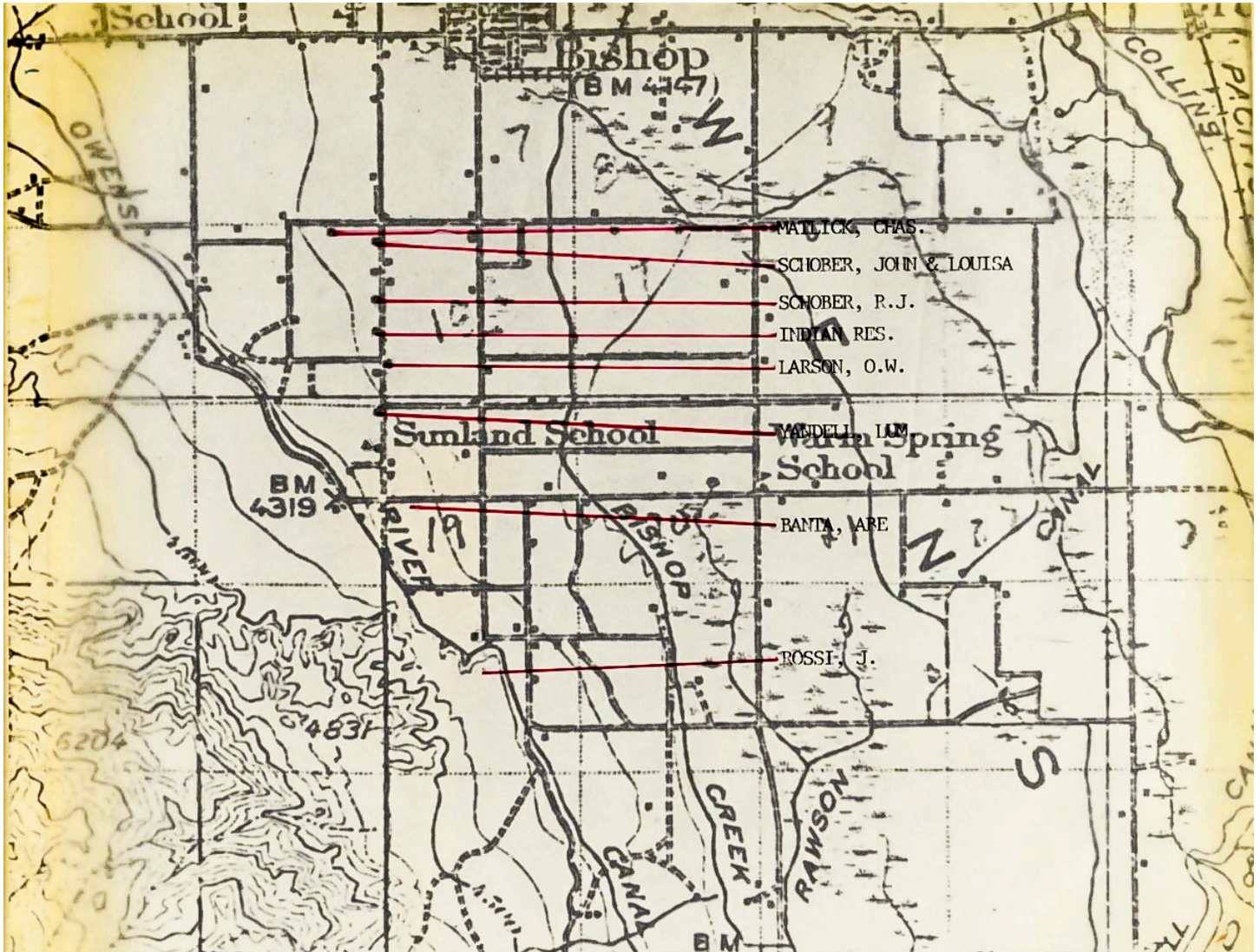
There the fields yield sweet corn and potatoes.
There the grape most luscious grows.
And the young orchard trees,
Flaunt rare fruit to the breeze.
Oh, I love you sunny Sunland

SUNLAND

Sunland was a community in which the school was its center. Interdenominational religious services were provided by various traveling ministers and from Bishop. Sunday school was conducted weekly. Thanksgiving and Christmas programs and services were held.

Doc Howell once was Santa Claus. He came through a window which supposedly had been left open but someone in the audience had partly closed it, and as his leg flew up for balance his boot shattered the glass. Such a commotion!

Mrs. Van Fleet lost her husband just before Thanksgiving one year. When the minister in charge of the Thanksgiving service asked for testimony of thanks, this elderly woman, overweight and overworked, rose to her feet and with tears streaming she said, "I want to give thanks for having had my husband for so many years . . ." As a child this made a great impression upon me.



The following is an excerpt from the minutes of the
Inyo County Board of Supervisors meeting of February 4, 1908.

Upon motion duly made and seconded School District to be known as Sunland was formed with boundaries as follows:

Beginning at the South East corner of S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 32, Township 7-33, thence North $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to center Section 29, thence West $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, thence North $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, thence West $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, thence North $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles, thence West $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, thence North $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to N.E. Corner N.W. Section 18 Township 7 Range 33, thence West 1 mile, thence South $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, thence West $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, thence South $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, thence West to West line of Township 7, Range 32, thence South $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles to S. E. Corner N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 25 Township 7, Range 31, thence West 3 miles to N.W. Corner S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 27 Township 7 Range 31, thence South $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Township line, thence East to place of beginning.

HISTORY

Joe Rossi came to Bishop from Tonopah. Ms. O. W. Larson knew him there when she taught school in Tonopah. He peddled buckets of water from a spring 11 miles away to residents at 50¢ a gallon!

Rossi Hill became a landmark. School picnics were often had by the “loaf of Bread” rock at the summit. How we loved climbing among the rocks.

Joe planted a variety of trees and shrubs to see which might survive. On the east side of the road he had a row of “Thuja” evergreens. Among his fruit orchard he had nectarines and a variety of plums.

He proposed the name “Sunland” and circulated the petition for the formation of the school district. The 5 acres on which the school was built were purchased from Jake Schober. This school district was separated from Warm Springs. Among the older students who are remembered going to the small, dirt floor, one-room building were: Ella and Leo Penny, Walter and Hazel Schober, the older Silvey boys and their sister Leola; the Monroes: Arthur and Florence; Florence Dixon; and two Enloe boys who were related to Rachael Brierly, the first to receive a homestead in Inyo



Joe Rossi

The Galen Dixons owned acreage that bordered the east canal bank. He began subdividing in five and ten acre parcels. He could be the first land developer in the Owens Valley. He envisioned Sunland as a suburb of Bishop. Among the purchasers from Bishop of these acreages were:

Henry McDonalds (she had a millinery store in Bishop)
L. C. Hall – lawyer. Pated an orchard.
“Herzy” Herzinger – Indian Affairs Office with Parrott!
“Doc” Ed Howell – Veterinary
W. L. Rowan – Insurance

Carter the Candy Man
George Vonderheid – Pool Hall
_____ Clapp – lived north of road below canal near Vonderheids

Galen Dixon's mother was aged yet she was often seen walking between this home and Mrs. Hogle (her daughter) three miles cross-country, passing the school e route, a sun-bonnet, cane and gingham dress. Sarah Dixon, his wife, provided board and room for some of the teachers. Their children were Mary who married Francis Banta, and John.

Ed Tichenors came from Waynesville, North Carolina. He became mentally ill; had two daughters; Doris who married Ted Olds, and Hazel. Ed suggested and helped build a cistern for the school's drinking water. Up to this time we drank from the ditch that brought water to the Larson property from the canal.

Ora Boring insisted on "individual" drinking cups for each child. We carried collapsible aluminum drinking cups in our lunch pails. She also planted seeds of the California Poppy (*Eschscholtzia Californica*) our first sighting this flower.

Springtime was a delightful series of wild flowers that grew on the decomposing granite of the alluvium.

J. G. Bryan tolled the bell in the school house when Mrs. L. P. Stevens' mother died (Mrs. Brockway). Services were held, then a long line of horse-drawn buggies and wagons followed the hearse to Pioneer Cemetery in Bishop for burial.

Alton L. Hall frequently was the preacher for Sunday afternoon services. His oldest daughter, Mildred, was in high school. He became the chemistry teacher at B.U.H.S. George, Flora, and Lawrence were his other children. Their mother was dead before they came to Bishop. In 1916 he married Bertha Bridges who lived in New York. She sometimes worked at the telephone company in Bishop and walked home after work (3.5 miles) to their house at the edge of Owens River Canal, built by John Bulpitt. Often she rested at our house and loved a slice of Mother's freshly baked bread (8 loaves twice a week).

OWENS RIVER CANAL

An account of Sunland would not be complete without reference to our Canal that was our lifeline. All acreages in Sunland district were watered from the Owens River Canal. The water for this canal was diverted from the Owens River at a point NNW of Bishop. This canal was completed in 1887-1888 and was truly a marvel of "pioneer's engineering skills." Its bed was so laid to follow the contour of land in order to regulate the flow of water as a gentle but continuous stream. Its southern limit was south of Keough's Hot Springs; south of this was the Rawson Ditch.

A wooden flume carried the Owens River Canal water across Bishop Creek.

A zanjero was hired to patrol and distribute the water to stockholders according to their owned water shares.

Cleaning was an annual task, usually done by a series of one-horse drawn "slip-scrapers" – later by Fresno scrapers which were each drawn by a team of horses.

One year the eastern wall of the Canal broke near Red Hill. The cry was raised, an appeal for help went out. All canal users assembled with men, shovels, horses, and scrapers for repair work. A slanting road for access into the now drained channel was cut into the west wall so that teams and scrapers could bring in the necessary rocks and gravel for repair. Each team was closely followed in succession so that as one scraper load was dumped, another was close behind. Glory be! How those teams and men worked, like an unbroken chain, in close cooperation! Women gathered there by mid-day and by noon had a meal ready. By later afternoon water again flowed southward in the Canal. Dairy stock on ranches suffered most when in an emergency water was denied even for a few hours.

As children, we watched excitedly the water level rise and reach into the bed of our horse-drawn wagon as we drove across "The Canal." There were no bridges, only fordings. Horses sometimes were reluctant to ford this stream in periods of "high water."

In winter, the Canal was frozen over and Sunland School children often went skating on its deeply iced surface. Art Monroe from Canada was expert on skates; he impressed us all.

In summer, children learned to swim in this Canal. There were no life guards, but never was there an accidental drowning, even though no signs warning of danger were posted. We learned in our early years to be responsible for our own survival.

Hazel Schober recalls that with two boys, one on either side, holding her hands she enjoyed skating on the Canal. I just went "sliding" on the ice.

After more than 40 years in which no water ran in this Canal (late 1920's to 1969) a most heavy snowpack runoff year forced DWP to divert water back into the Owens River Canal as a flood control measure for Bishop. On my visit that year to the Valley, I witnessed water once again flowing in our great Canal. That was in 1969, I think.

A heavy snowpack in 1982-83 no lies on the slopes of the Sierra; this suggests, at this time of writing, that all the old ditches may be called once again into use for carrying excess runoff water this spring and early summer.

In 1900 this house, built by Shelly was purchased by Wood Larson (Coleville, Mono County) when Tom Rickey "froze out" their ranch holdings water rights – On the way down to Bishop, Wood Larson died of a stroke in Bodie. They had stopped in Bodie to visit Mrs. Larson's mother (Araminta Jane Lewellyn Owens) and her brother Will Owens. Burial was in Bodie – A stained glass window in the Methodist Church on Fowler Street in Bishop was given in his memory when that church was built in 1908.

Of their children, Tessa, Arthur and Owen lived on ranches in the Bishop – Sunland area.

What is now "Schober" Lane was "Shirley" Lane as it became the North boundary of Sunland Avenue.

Owen returned from Washington where he had gone to homestead an acreage along the Okanogan River! When the news reached him of his father's death – he purchased the N.W.40 acres of the Shelly homestead from his mother – laid out ditches, cleared the land from the dominant brush, built his own house of four rooms and brought his bride, Elva C. Patterson, 1903, from Carson City to raise their family along what became known as "Sunland Avenue." He planted Peruvian Alfalfa and began building a herd of dairy cows. He had

hoped to become a Civil Engineer, while at the University of the Pacific in San Jose but eye problems thwarted his ambition.

He was an expert accountant and worked in early days for Leece & Watterson Hardware store in Bishop.

When he built his house, he put down a hand-pumped well, surveyed for ditches which he dug by hand labor with shovel and horse drawn slip scraper.

On this acreage a Paiute Indian encampment was established. Long John died here and father took boards to make him a coffin from those with which he was building the house. Suddenly the Indians moved away. Father was afraid they might think his purchase of these acres was the cause of Long John's death but they showed no violence – just displaced by the moving of the whites into Owens Valley.

North and west of the Shelly house was a muddy swamp. On the hill south about 500 feet was a cellar dug into the hillside where water dripped continuously and kept the interior cool. The entrance was timbered and burlap sacks were used to aid in evaporation in the hot summer months.

J. W. Swall owned the property adjoining on the North along what is now Highway 395.

Much of Shelly Hill has been removed in building Highway 395. In 1982 the Beacon was demolished by DWP and the land cleared of all human habitation. The date when this Shelly house was demolished remains unknown to me but the Beacon seems to have been built in the 1940's on the site of the house in the photo.

Robert N. Larson, Salinas, has the original Shelly Homestead papers for the property sold to Wood Larson. This certificate was signed by President Benjamin Harrison to Joseph Shelly.

DAILY ACTIVITIES

O.W. Larson arose at 4 AM for milking and feeding the livestock. The milk was separated in a Galloway cream separator with a water-cooled aerator attached for immediate lowering of temperature. The cream was stored in a burlap covered water-drip cooler until transported to Bishop to the Inyo Cooperative Creamery where Mt. Whitney brand 2 pound bricks of butter were sent (ice packed) to Los Angeles Market. Los Angeles customers paid 2¢ per pound higher for Owens Valley butter because the deep-rooted alfalfa on which the cows were fed gave "better flavor."

Mother washed and scalded the separator. The discs were boiled for sterilization on our wood burning kitchen stove. All parts were dried and hung in the sun for further sterilization. Father put the separator back together before milking again in the evening.

All irrigation was done by flooding method (now by overhead sprinklers). Miles of walking the ditch lines with shovel were required to change the course of flows. Large wooden boxes were at ditch junctions so that direction of water flow could be controlled. A good irrigator who understood water flow was needed. Sometimes one of the Indians helped.

We had a hand operated washing machine but most washing was done on washboard by rubbing. White clothes were placed in a copper boiler and boiled on the kitchen range. Rinse water was hand pumped.

Sometimes Amy Yandell or Minnie Williams came on wash day to help. One Paiute woman had a baby in a Hoopa which she hung on a branch of a tree.

All bread was home baked with a yeast starter made with potato as the base. This starter was given to the family by a Methodist Minister's wife. Grandmother, Tessa, Arthur and Owen borrowed if one "lost" their yeast. About one quart of starter was needed for our baking of 8 loaves twice a week. Dreadfully hot kitchen on baking and washing days.

We fed the hogs the excess milk after the cream had been separated. Father butchered our animals. Beef meat was placed in empty flour sacks then hung on North side of the house and let up and down by pulley as needed. Port was put in large crocks in brine, salt to float and egg, brown sugar and a small bit of saltpeter for preservation. Neighbors shared fresh meat at butcherings. We had our own fresh meat from October until the warm days of April.

Hair from the hogs was hand scraped after dipping a carcass in boiling water. We made our own sausage and head cheese. Sweetbreads, liver, heart were all used.

Lard was rendered and skin of the hog when freed from fat were "cracklings." Leaf lard was preferred and was rendered from the mesentry of the intestine. Lard was "sweetened" by frying pieces of raw potato with it.

Father had dug and cased our well. Sometimes we had to hand pump for the cows if anything shut off our water supply even for a few hours.

Father cut, raked, bunched the alfalfa, then when cured, loaded onto large wagon and was brought to stack near the corral. Then by horse drawn Jackson Fork was transferred to the stack. Bob Shaw, Paiute, father had trained to work with him as a "stacker." We children carried freshly pumped cold water to the men as they worked at the stack.

Once we had trouble getting an Indian to help in the hay field. I went over to the Sunland Reservation and found Johnny Powers. When he came father said "why aren't you in Lone Pine with the movies (making Cimmaron in 1922)?" Johnny said "Me no take off my clothes for \$20 a day."

We seldom got away from the ranch.

1. To Laws to load coal from the railroad car onto our wagon once a year – 2 horses to pull.
2. Horse to catch, to harness, to drive to Bishop or walk.
3. To Chinese Gardens west of Bishop along Bishop Creek for annual Sunland's Fish Fry and Pot luck dinner.

As we children grew, our recreation was primarily listening to our parents reading to us – especially from the Youth's Companion, a weekly journal. Father read Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*. Other periodicals were: *Review of Reviews*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *Woman's Home Companion*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *Country Gentleman*, *Successful Farming*, *Hoard's Dairyman* (Wisconsin publication), *San Francisco Bulletin*, and *Inyo Register*.

Among the games in the evening, we played: Authors, Flinch, Pit, Nellie Bly and Her Trip Around the World in 72 Days (Spinner), and Checkers.

We were never at a loss to entertain ourselves – never bored!

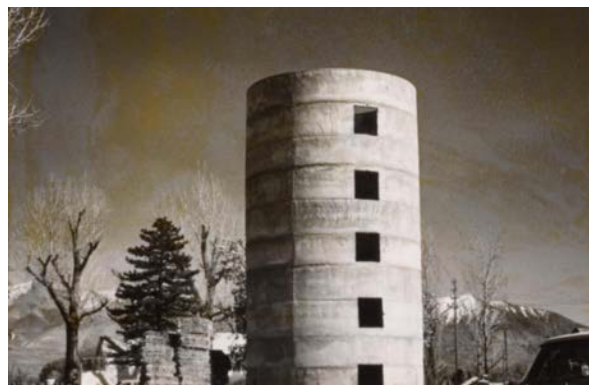
CATTLE

George Watterson, brother of William Watterson, brought in and developed the first pureblood registered Herefords on the Warm Springs Ranch.

Silos were constructed to ferment corn stalks to cattle fodder. Few silos were built in the Valley earlier than about 1910.

One on the Shelly-Larson ranch was constructed by Garner, I think. (Demolished before 1960's).

North of Shirley Lane on Sunland Avenue A.E. Larson built one about 1920 that still stands (1983).



Larson Grain Silo

SHEEP

Flocks of sheep were driven northward in the spring to feed in Mono County (See Mary Austin's *The Flock* based on events on the William Watterson Ranch in Warm Springs).

As children we were excited when the big bands came through. First the great clouds of dust, then odor, then the leaders with the milling around and bleating. We stood at the window and counted the black sheep. These were used as Counters (1 black sheep to 100 whites) in some flocks.

WOOL

In 1918 the price of wool was high and higher. Jim Thomas had his storage shed full. He watched the price per pound reach 50¢, then continued upward. He decided to sell when the price reached 55¢ per pound. It went to 54¢, then 54½¢ - the Market broke and the next day dropped to 6¢ per pound!

Sheep men: Jake Schober, Jim Thomas, Orciers – Leon and Eve, and the Gireau family. (French sheep herders were here in the Valley long before the Basque).

PAIUTES
Sunland Reservation

Sometime after George Clarke bought the acreage from Orciers, it became a federally administered Indian Reservation.

Among those living on the allotments of 2½ acres were:

1. Tom and Amy Roberts
They were visitors at our home one evening. Tom had a great sense of humor and he was making fun of his Amy. Father said "Tom you'd better not say those things to your wife or you'll lose her." Tom said "Me no lose her. I go to Courthouse in Independence and pay \$2.00 for her." (License fee)
2. Jenny Thomas
Her grandson in 1983 is a Silversmith in Bishop, married to a Navajo girl.
3. Amy Yandell
Amy had two children: Lilas and Raymond. When Lilas died of pneumonia there was a great wailing – a roaring noise that could be heard more than a mile as the Indians mourned the dead. Was this the Cry Dance?
4. Dave and Ida Warlie
Ida was born in Mono County. She told me her mother died when she was born at the Duke Ranch near Benton. Her father was John McBride. Her aunt at Lee Vining raised her. Each year Ida had the best garden: corn, tomatoes, melons. They had 7 children. Some still live in west Bishop. One boy became a pilot in North Africa in Algiers in World War II. He later died of a heart attack.
5. Johnny Powers
He often worked at our ranch.

One day I was driving our horse, Bird, from Bishop. As I turned on to Sunland Avenue there were 5 or 6 Indian children coming back from school. Just as I got opposite this group, Danny Warlie broke from the group and ran across the road, passing under the belly of the horse. How the front wheel of my buggy or the hooves did not strike him, I'll never know. I was so frightened!

One of the older Indians was Old Joe! He came to our house often asking for food "Me heep big hoogadie!" this word was taught to the Bishop Paiutes by the Chinaman who ran a restaurant in Bishop (Note: this was not a Paiute word).

We were friendly with Mose Wayland and Harrison Diaz, Sampson Dewey, and Bob Cromwell.

Sometimes as I walked home from school in Bishop, an Indian would give me a ride in his wagon.

Mahalas (Indian women) were never called "Squaws." This is a vulgar term. They used to sit on the boardwalk at Marks and Cohen store and in front of Fred Bulpitt's store.

Others living above the Canal were:

1. Bob Shaw

Was a real friend and helped us in haying season - \$2.00 per day and meals. In 1925, after more than 20 years close association, father and Bob had a sad farewell when the ranch was sold to the City of Los Angeles in the water troubles: Bob said "By'em by, mabe I saddle my horse and come over to see you someday."

2. Jack Shaw

He bought some hay for his horse and paid up with 50 pounds of pine nuts. Once his wife threw a stick of wood at him as he knelt in prayer in the Indian Church.

SCHOOL

The first school trustees were:

Joe Rossi

R.J. Schober

O.W. Larson



Joe Rossi



O.W. Larson



R.J. Schober

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Each Christmas we had a party. When Mrs. Mamie Clarke was teacher she gave the children each a present. My first year's present was a miniature teapot with a small vial of perfume. The next year she gave us each an 1847 Rogers silver plated teaspoon with our last name initial. The next year the gift was a different patterned teaspoon with the initial of our first name engraved. I cherished these and still use them in 1983.

On February 14 we had a Valentine's box and usually made our own "hearts." Later, as we grew older, 5¢ sheets were given to one another. "You're sour as a pickle" Some of the individual cards were beautiful, some were ugly and unkind. One child was chosen to deliver the cards; no one was forgotten.

DAILY PROGRAM - 1914

6th Grade

MONDAY:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arithmetic 2. English 3. Reading 4. Hygiene 5. Oral Spelling
TUESDAY:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arithmetic 2. English 3. History / Reading 4. Geography 5. Written Spelling
WEDNESDAY:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arithmetic 2. English 3. Reading 4. Hygiene 5. Oral Spelling
THURSDAY:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arithmetic 2. English 3. History / Reading 4. Geography 5. Written Spelling
FRIDAY:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Varied Program

SCHOOL TEACHERS



Sunland School

Mamie Clarke, a large woman, came to the Valley before 1890. She was the second teacher at Sunland. She taught four years at Sunland; the first year she drove horse and buggy from town. After she became County Superintendent of Schools she had a Model T. Ford.

Doris Tichenor once wrote that she remembered Mrs. Clarke milking the mare at recess time. The horse was unharnessed when she arrived and reharnessed at the end of the school day. Sometimes the boys helped.

Mrs. Clarke was an authoritarian teacher, strict disciplinarian, and kept the older boys in line with methods that frightened us younger children.

1. She put Johnny Schober, Jimmy Thomas, and Jim Irwin in a large waste paper basket and shoved it under her desk.
2. She told me "to turn around and finish my arithmetic or she would take me by the nose, whirl me around her head three times and throw me out the window."
3. She derided the slower learners.

4. She picked up Johnny Schober by the collar and cuff of his Levis and whirled him like a windmill – all his possessions in pockets fell on the floor.
5. Once Arthur Smith (Goldie Stone's half brother) in 8th grade hit little Bessie Bryan; she came in after recess crying. So Mrs. Clarke had Bessie go get a willow switch and beat on Arthur who just sat and grinned as Bessie gently struck him several times.
6. She pried John Schober's mouth open and put wooden match sticks between his teeth to make him open his mouth when he tried to read aloud.

In spite of all of this, students respected her with all 8 grades together learned a great deal.

SUNLAND SCHOOL SALARIES

		Per month
1908 – 09	Miss Rhead	\$70.00
1910 – 11	Mrs. M.A. Clarke	\$80.00
1915 – 15	Miss Ora Boring	\$100.00
	Mr. Neil O. Best	\$85.00
	Mrs. O. W. Larson	\$95.00
1916 – 17	Miss Myrtle Roe	\$95.00
	Miss Mae Jenkins	\$85.00

SUNLAND SCHOOL TEACHERS

1908 – 09	Miss Susie Rhead
1909 – 10	Miss Susie Rhead
1910 – 11	Mrs. M. A. Clarke
1911 – 12	Mrs. M. A. Clarke
1912 – 13	Mrs. M. A. Clarke
1913 – 14	Mrs. M. A. Clarke
1914 – 15	Miss Ora Boring
1915 – 16	Miss Ora Boring and Mr. Neil Best Mrs. O. W. Larson taught when Miss Boring became ill with pneumonia
1916 – 17	Miss Mae Jenkins and Miss Myrtle Roe
1917 – 18	Miss Mae Jenkins and Miss Myrtle Roe Miss Anita Patterson taught after January when Miss Mae Jenkins left to be married
1918 – 19	Miss Elinore Parker and Miss Nell Ray Miss Anita Patterson taught after Miss Ray left in mid-year
1919 – 20	Mrs. Bolton and Miss Anita Patterson Mrs. Paula War taught when Mrs. Bolton left in mid-year; also in 1920 – 21
1920 – 21	Miss Helen Kelso and Mrs. E. Lodge Luella Cos name also appears on the roll book as teacher of Hygiene and Reading and Business during March and April

On September 21, 1921 all funds of Sunland School were transferred to Bishop Consolidate Elementary.

The following teachers were graduated from Bishop Union High School: Miss Susie Rhead, Myrtle Roe and Mae Jenkins. Susie Rhead taught in 1907 – 08 in Fish Springs before coming to Sunland.

Miss Ora Boring was graduated in the first class from Stanford University.

SUNLAND SCHOOL ROLL

1918 – 19 – Roll book signed by Anita Patterson and Nell Ray

Groups in primary division not arranged wholly by grade

Alcorn, Marie Matlick, Vera Price, Louise Rowan, Evelyn Shelly, Carrie Schober, Mildred Swartfeger, Marguerite Matlick, Kenneth Montgomery, George Schober, Laura Edwards, Carmen Gillespie, Verna Hall, Lawrence Rowan, Vivian Shirley, Donna Alcorn, Ray Dodge, Cyril Johnson, Bernard Johnson, George Price, Newton Shelly, June Tichenor, Hazel	Banta, Alfred Cory, Barbara Johnson, Bernard Matlick, Lloyd Moore, Byron Moore, Florence Alcorn, Ray Johnson, George Tichenor, Hazel Shelly, June Banta, Eric Cory, Helen Dixon, Jennie Gillespie, Verna Hall, Lawrence Matlick, Kenneth Powers, Wesley Price, Newton Rome, Robert Rowan, Vivian Edwards, Carmen Hess, Elwyn Matlick, Vera Montgomery, George Powers, Lucile Schober, Laura Swartout, Gladys Shumate, Marion
Out of district students in attendance: Donna Shirley and Ada Fortune	

SUNLAND SCHOOL ROLL

1919 – 20 – Roll book signed by Mrs. Bolton and Mrs. War

5 th Grade	6 th Grade
Alcorn, Marie Hess, Mildred Moore, Pearl Price, Louise Rowan, Evelyn Schober, Mildred Shelley, Carrie Fortune, Ada	Banta Robert Edwards, Wayne Gillespie, Robert Larson, Wilbur Leidey, Joe Moore, Bruce Schober, Harold Keston, Delpha

7 th Grade	8 th Grade
Cory, Lloyd Fortune, Kenneth Greene, Randolph Hall, Flora Larson, Robert Price, Myron Schober, Arthur Shelley, Alfred	Edwards, Hubert Hopkins, Luella Matlick, Gladys Rowan, Melvin Schober, John

ANNUAL FISH FRY

This event was held each year at Chinese Gardens by Sunland residents on Bishop Creek, usually the last of May. Three days in advance the men would go out to catch the trout. The fishermen were R.J. Schobers, Abe Bantas, J.G. Bryans (boys and men).

Frying pans were brought; the men brought the fish that had been cleaned, packed in ice, and wrapped in canvass. A fire was built in a long trough; a large piece of iron served as a stove top and the cooks lined up. Fish were dipped in corn meal and fried in bacon drippings. Ice cream freezers were turned and a real feast was provided. Temporary tables were boards set on saw horses.

The children played in the creek waters or explored the dense understory, or walked across on fallen logs.

Chinese gardens were below Plant 6, south of West Line Street. By 1920 the festival was no more.

TOLERANCE

Racial intolerance was shown toward the Indian children enrolled in our school. Mr. J. Thomas, rancher, arrived one morning and at recess drove the Paiute children from the school grounds with a black-snake whip. As small children we were terrified.

Afterward, although residents of the district, the Paiute children attended a government Indian school in West Bishop

Ernest Green in 1973 at our 50th reunion of the High School Class of 1923 still felt keenly about having been discriminated against in Sunland because of skin color. His father, Ed Green, was married to Addie Sais, Mexican ancestry. Of their children, George had dark skin, Ernest and Roswell had olive skin, and Randolph the youngest had dark tan skin. They lived in the Hogle house south of Shelly Hill.

George died in his early 40's after doing a remarkably accurate survey job for the Metropolitan Water District canal construction in Imperial Valley. Randolph died of a stroke in the early 1970's, at his home near Redding, California. Ernest became a pharmacist, and lives in Merced, 1982, and often visits the Owens Valley.

Bishop High School students were intolerant of the "Country-hicks" from Sunland, called us "Hay seeds" and derided our clothes, home made, and our heavy walking shoes.

In the years of World War I intolerance was shown toward those of German ancestry.

WINTER 1915 - 1916

An unusually heavy snowfall came in late December that closed all roads in the northern end of the Valley. It snowed 2 full days and 3 nights without let up. Christmas morning dawned clear. Since it was Christmas and we were under at least 4 feet of snow the men decided to wait a day before hitching up teams to wagons to "break road!" that night the temperature dropped to 3 degrees below zero.

December 26 dawned clear and cold in a sparkling world with a heavy crust on the snow. No horses could be used! For more than six weeks roads were closed and we walked on the crust over fences, no wires or posts visible. All brushes were covered and the expanse of white was awesome.

Cows on our ranch had huddled that night beside the haystack. Cream had to be man-power hauled on barrel stave homemade sleds to Inyo Creamery for several weeks.

It was exhilarating as we walked on the crust and all reminiscences from Sunlanders, yea, even now in the 1980's, mention the experience of "walking over fences and bushes."



Ora Boring, teacher, walked on the crust to Bishop, from the Galen Dixon home where she boarded, to consult with Willie Chalfant at Inyo Register on an historic item concerning Owens Valley. Apparently due to the low daytime temperature she came down with pneumonia, and had to be replaced. Mrs. O.W. Larson, trained at University of Nevada, finished out the term with Nell O. Best.

In winter we children learned to warp our shoes in burlap (sacks) in order to walk through snow. Once a week we sat around the kitchen stove and rubbed our shoes with mutton tallow to prolong the life of the leather.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Each year between at least 1910-1915 in October a Harvest Festival with floats, parades, and exhibits of produce was held in Bishop. One year produce was exhibited in the courtyard of the Istalial Hotel (built by J. Borlind, later run by Mr. & Mrs. Bert Rhine, burned in 1923).

Sunland was proud of the fruit and vegetables on display. The canned fruit, jams and jelly took many blue ribbons in competition throughout the county.

The school entered a float in the parade each year.

1. "The Old Lady Who Lived in a Shoe"
 - a. Jim Thomas driving. His son beside him.
 - b. Louise Penny as the Old Lady
 - c. Enid Larson and Bessie Bryan with heads in lower holes by Key.
 - d. Clyde Bryan standing on the left
 - e. Among those on the upper deck: Joe Leidy, Doris Tichenor, Mabel McCain with hat.



2. “Ship Strung With Apples on Wires”
 - a. A.A. Shirley driving. Two boys – Walter Schober as one boy in sailor’s cap, and Victor Hogle(?).
 - b. Mrs. O.V. Larson prepared the sign. Sunland letters were made of autumn leaves.
 - c. I’ve forgotten who painted the waves on the canvas covering the sides.

One Harvest Festival about 1911 had an exhibit of a large rock wall with a waterfall and flowing water with moss and ferns surrounding. I thought I had never seen anything more beautiful or as delightfully cool. This exhibit was set up in Halliday’s Blacksmith Shop.

These exhibits far outshone those of today set at the Tri-County Fairgrounds each July. There was always a Queen and her attendants. One year Grace Devore almost won.

The suburbanites who move out from Bishop brought “town ways” and tended to scorn our rural values. This diversity was divisive until there was no longer any positive direction for community and as such Sunland fell before the onslaught of suburbia coupled with the rising specter of the water problems.

SUNLAND IMPROVEMENT CLUB

Someone gave several small trees to be planted on the school grounds. The Club met and there was disagreement where the trees should be planted.

Elsie Banta remembers that while the arguments went on, her father, Henry Banta and Joe Rossi (?) sneaked out and planted the trees – no more argument.

R.J. Schober cut a pine tree and prepared the trunk for a flagpole. The trustees were present when the flagpole with a gilded ball atop was raised and bolted to a well-braced base.

Play equipment was installed on the grounds: teeters, swigs, travelling rings, swinging chinning bars, and flying rings on a central pole like a Maypole.

Some of these are now considered dangerous – especially when a child was knocked down by a swing in motion; sometimes a child would jump from one end of a teeter-totter and let the other end fall.

ELECTRICITY

The roar of the turbines generating electricity was the high point to a visit to the Southern Edison’s power plants. We were hopeful of our rural area having electric lights – but no. it cost \$500.00 to have a transformer installed at a ranch, and most ranchers could not afford this price. So we stayed with kerosene lamps, later gasoline Mantled lamps that pumped up to develop pressure, or Aladdin lamps that had Mantles. No energy for a washing machine or a refrigerator – so we did without – even to 1925.

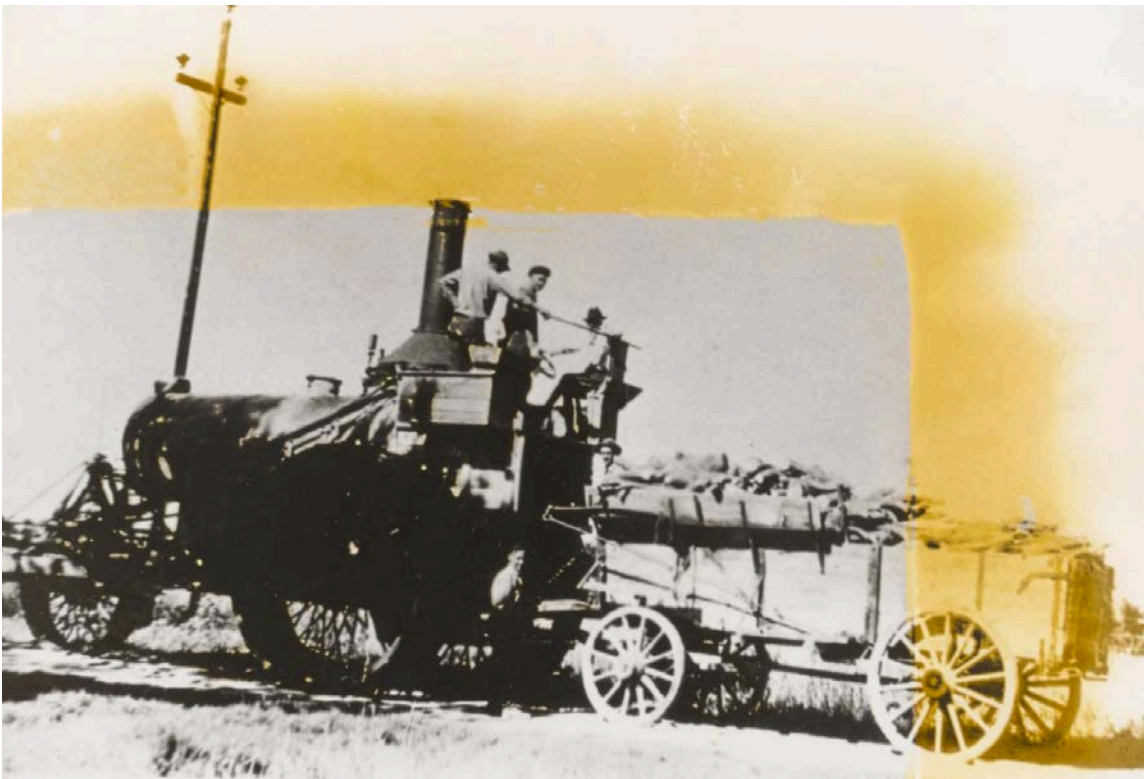
DISEASE

The Robinsons, a migrant poor family with several children, at least two of which were retarded, arrived in the district in 1914-15. Clothes, bedding and food were collected to help them.

They brought with them a skin disease diagnosed as Impetigo. This infection ran rapidly through our school.

Miss Boring, the teacher, procured from a doctor in Bishop a zinc-ammonium ointment and treated each child. Heavy, large sores developed on feet of bare-footed children. Laura Schober had a large scab of this in her hair so that some of her beautiful curls had to be cut away at scalp level.

TRACTION ENGINE



At the Controls – F.O. Penny
 Standing – R.J. Schober
 Seated – Walt Schober

Caboose filled with wood for fire box. This engine ran on steam power and required a large water tank.

HISTORY:

This traction engine was brought to the Owens Valley in the late 1890's. after hauling freight for Edison Power Company, it freighted from Railroad Station at Laws. It was then taken to Saline Valley and was in use there in the building of the Tramway. Later it was used at Casa Diablo.

It was immobilized in the yard of R.J. Schober, along Sunland Avenue, and was not infrequently fired up to run short distances. Finally it was sold for scrap iron after John Schober removed the water tank.

As it came “snorting along the road” horses drawing wagons were in panic, often running away. Once, mother (Mrs. O.W. Larson) was driving our horse, “Chief,” and we children were with her. As we came over the brow of Shelly Hill, there was the traction engine moving toward us. Our horse stopped, snorted and blew. Mother had us children get out of the wagon for safety. Then she tried to get the horse moving ahead. He would have none of it. In a flash, he whirled and started a speedy retreat. Thankfully our wagon was not overturned! The men recognized our trouble; I think they turned off the noisy engine, and with “Chief” making a wide detour, snorting and trembling, we somehow passed.

The horses in the valley also showed fear in by-passing this engine when it was not moving. The engine was quite a sight to watch as it moved and we children always ran out to watch as it spewed forth smoke, hissed steam and moved clumsily along the road.

1918 FLU

Although Owens Valley is known to have suffered the highest per capita death rate of any place in America from this flu, no one from Sunland died.

This epidemic was deadly to the middle age group from 25-42. For two months we were forbidden to go into Bishop without a “mask.” Mr. Levison said that the best preventive was to eat green peppers and get as much sunshine as possible. Green peppers are known today to contain the highest content of Vitamin C of any fruit or vegetable.

One doctor prescribed aspirin for his patients. Of these about 90% went into pneumonia and died. Another doctor gave no medicine but prescribed staying bed and taking in great amounts of liquid. His patients came through 100%.

Dr. Dorrance prescribed a solution for gargles of: 1 teaspoon carbolic acid, 1 teaspoon table salt, and 1 teaspoon baking soda in a quart of water for quinsy and other forms of sore throat. This was effective.

A darkened room was imperative with children with measles.

Dr. Dorrance also treated arthritis and rheumatism at Coso Hot Springs mud baths. This was used for generations by Indians, was bought in early 1900's by a doctor in Chicago, and later owned by W.W. Watterson. A surprising number of “old timers” in the Owens Valley lived and some are still living long lives. Here are the records of a few.

Mrs. McGee, died in the 1960's, Merced, in her 104th year

Arlie Brierly lived into his 98th year

Mrs. Tessa Laarson Shirley died in Fontana and lived into her 100th year

Mrs. Ed McCain (Myrtle Wilderson) is living in Idaho (1983) in her 98th year

Mrs. A.B. Wheldon died in the late 1970's at 94

Elva Larson (Mrs. O.W. Larson) died in San Jose in 1969 and lived into her 94th year

Mrs. Mary Christina Banta lived into her 94th and died in Oroville, CA

Mr. George Clarke, died near Merced, CA at the age of 90
Joe Rossi lived past 90 years old
Mrs. Ella Penny Brown, Bishop, is living past 91 and is still active in 1983
Mr. J.G. Bryan, Paradise, CA lived into his 96th
Mary Watterson Gorman (Mrs. Val Gorman) is still active in Bishop Rest Home after more than 50
years on Oak Creek, Independence - 94
Mrs. Ida Kispert Shelly died near Bishop 96+ years in the mid 1970's
Vase Cline

ADDITIONAL RESIDENTS

Gone but not forgotten:

W.L. Leffingwell, a surveyor
Henry Gerkin, his vineyard and orchard (now Wilderson's) is a name on a road
_____ McDole and his fruit ranch (DWP)
Shorty Gillispe
Walter Walker; Fred Walker – I do not know their relationship.
_____ McConnell, planted an apple orchard
_____ Enloe
Sylvester Garner
Florence and Art Monroe (her brother)

East of Highway 395:

McKays
Alice Dixon and husband (daughter: Florence)
Windy Gibson
Arlie Brierly – teacher, County Sup't of Schools, county surveyor, father of Judge Hugh Brierly, son of
Rachael Enloe Brierly
W.A. Shelly, bee man in Bishop in later years
Mrs. Carpenter, a midwife, for whom Carpenter Lane was named
George Rome, house blew down in wind storm February 1923
K. Wiley
Tom Schumate, started a small herd of cows, but cow pox sores covered his hands and he could not milk

To Linanthus Dichotomus
“Now That April’s Here”

The rocky hillside now is
Fragrant with the blooms of the
Flowers that go to sleep in the daytime...
So Flora told me.

Back to childhood and the wonders
Of the springtime in Owens Valley
When the fields, where Nature still maintained her ways –
Bloomed with the Purity flower at eventide.
But never to be found in cultivated areas,
So mutilated by man in his hast for
More – more – more

Alice Eastwood, botanist, said that
Children best knew the secrets of the natural world.
They, in their simplicity,
Called these flowers “Evening Snow.”

Memories overwhelm me!
In recognition of my childhood love for all the out-of-doors,
My father once gathered a great bunch of these flowers
While he walked the irrigation ditch –
A ribbon of water streaming through
An undisturbed acreage of sage and Indigo brush –
He brought them to me as his gift.

Fragrance, freshness –
Never bottled by Chanel in Paris –
Filled my room that night.
Morningtime and all the whiteness was gone.
The flowers, each tightly curled with petals rolled in spiral,
Showed only cones of purple-pink.

“Purity,” I cried, “where have you gone?
Gone forever?
No! At nightfall you returned to me with all your fragrance.

Oh, wonderment of strange response to light!
A feeling grew within
Irresistibly forcing me onward –
On the pathway of a great unending quest
A search and thirst
To know – TO KNOW.

Enid A. Larson
1974

COMMENT

What Bishop thought of Sunland is portrayed in later years (1970 – 1983). The Shelly Homestead land south of an eastern extension of Sunland Avenue and west of the Highway 395 where the 2-story home stood in 1900 has become the Waste Disposal site. Can you imagine the visual effects of blowing debris on tourists who enter Bishop on 395 from the south? The county is maintaining a gravel pit, digging and removing soil from the site of Sunland School north to the F.O. Penny property. This action continues to remove some of the most fertile alluvium in Owens Valley, and denies possible agricultural development. Decomposing granite soil was most sought after for ranching in by gone days.

Today the Schober acreage, the Indian Reservation, J. Thomas and O.W. Larson ranches are now producing alfalfa on City of Los Angeles leases; overhead sprinklers distribut water by pumping from ground water sources for this hay production. The City of Los Angeles is not altruistic in this endeavor as water so pumped percolates rapidly and drains easterly into their aqueduct.

The J.W. Swall ranch has become the Bishop Golf Course.

SUNLAND DISTRICT

By W.A. Cashbaugh

Early in the 1900's the last of the large irrigation canals was built, starting on the Owens River near where the Pleasant Valley Dam now is, extending on the west side of the valley to a few miles north of Big Pine. The canal was known as the Owens River Canal. The last few miles of the canal was called the Mesa Ditch.

There was a large acreage – over 12 acres, under the canal southwest of Bishop called the Sunland District. In a few years, the Sunland District was settled by lawyers, doctors, school teachers, merchants, and home people, who had mostly tracts of 40, 20, and 10 acres.

The soil was gravelly sandy loam. The location and terrain of the land was good for raising fruits and vegetables. The morning sun kept the land warm and free of frost, and the water running a long distance in the canal was warm.

The main crops were apples, peaches, pears, grapes, vegetables and alfalfa. In the spring when the trees were in blossom it looked like the desert in bloom. In the summer, when the fruit was ripe, the red apples glistened on the trees. In the fall at harvest time, the fruit was delicious to eat. And in the winter time, the land owners were busy pruning, fertilizing and cultivating.



Among the prominent residents of the area in the early days were the Dixons. Will G. Dixon was elected Principal of Inyo Academy in September of 1889. Later he was surveyor. Galen Dixon was an early land owner. During President Theodore Roosevelt's term, Galen Dixon was sent to Washington, D.C. to represent the valley people in connection with the reclamation project of building a storage dam in Long Valley.

MENU FOR SUNDAY DINNER SERVED AT HOME IN SUNLAND

By Isaac L. Levison, Chef, and Alatheia P. Levison

Sunday, September 7th, 1919 Menu

Relishes

Dill Pickles, Homemade Pumpernickel Salami

Soup

Vegetable

Fish

Salmon Bouillabaisse

Salad

Crab Mayonnaise in Louiato

Entrees

Lambs Tongues with Caper
Sauce Apples a la Colbert

Roast Beef

Creamed Cabbage, Pickled Beets & Mashed Potatoes

Desert

Lemon Meringue Pie

Finish

Coffee

The Story of OWENS RIVER VALLEY ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY

A line from Bishop to Laws, California, known locally as “The Red Apple Route”

In 1910, the Sunland District was producing an abundance of fruit and vegetables, and the growers wanted some way of transportation for getting their crops to the nearest railroad station, which was at Laws, California

In November of 1910, a committee was formed, and came up with a proposal to build a railroad from Bishop to Laws. Harry Shaw, a large landowner and President of the Owens Valley Bank, was elected President, with H.N. Beard as General Manager.

A franchise was obtained to build an electric railway. A survey was made, the right of ways were acquired by June of 1911. George Clarke, a civic leader, gave a plot of land on South Main Street in Bishop for a station and the starting of the line.

The rail-line road was about 4.5 miles long over fairly level land. Herb Francisco (husband of Kate McNally), and Neil McLean were given the contract to do the grading and install the necessary culverts.

On June 16, 1911, a big celebration took place, and all the stores in Bishop were closed for two hours.

On June 18, 1911, the grading started, with forty men on the job.

From the point of beginning in Bishop to the Plumley Ranch just south of the North Fork of Bishop Creek, the land was level and not very much grading was required. Proceeding northerly from the creek for about 500 feet, a fill of from 15 feet to 5 feet was made. Again, on the Cain Hill, there was a cut about 50 feet long and 17 feet deep in places, and a fill of about 15 feet deep and 100 feet long. Culverts were placed in all the ditches and wastewater ways.

Some fence posts were set along the right-of-way. The posts were sawed 6” x 6” x 8’ long, cut out of Tamarack and Bristlecone timber from the White Mountains east of the Valley. Some of the posts on corrals are still in good condition.

The grading culvert to the Owens River were completed in late November of 1911. Work was to resume in the spring of 1912, but for some reason no more work was done. The failure to complete the project was a big disappointment to the community.

At three different times, the peoples’ hopes were high from rumors that “The broad gauge is coming.”

Now the railroads are gone, the farmers and fruit growers are gone. The electric railway grade is still there.

DIVINITY FUDGE

By Enid A. Larson

Just before Christmas the women often held a candy-making session. The candy was sold for fund-raising for the school

Here is the recipe for Divinity Fudge:

Ingredients: 2½ cups sugar
½ cup Karo Syrup
½ cup cold water
2 egg whites beaten stiff
1 cup nuts – chopped

Preparation: Cook the syrup, sugar and water until it forms a hard ball in cold water. Pour slowly into beaten egg whites. Add the nuts. Beat until hard. Pour and then cut into squares or drop onto marble slab to cool rapidly.

Hazel Schober Tatum still makes her Divinity each pre-holiday by this recipe. We used the meats of Black Walnuts, cracked by the children. These walnuts grown in our Valley had much better flavor than store-bought walnuts.

One winter we went to Mrs. Galen Dixon's home for this event. I think this was December 1914.