

Mine, 1943.

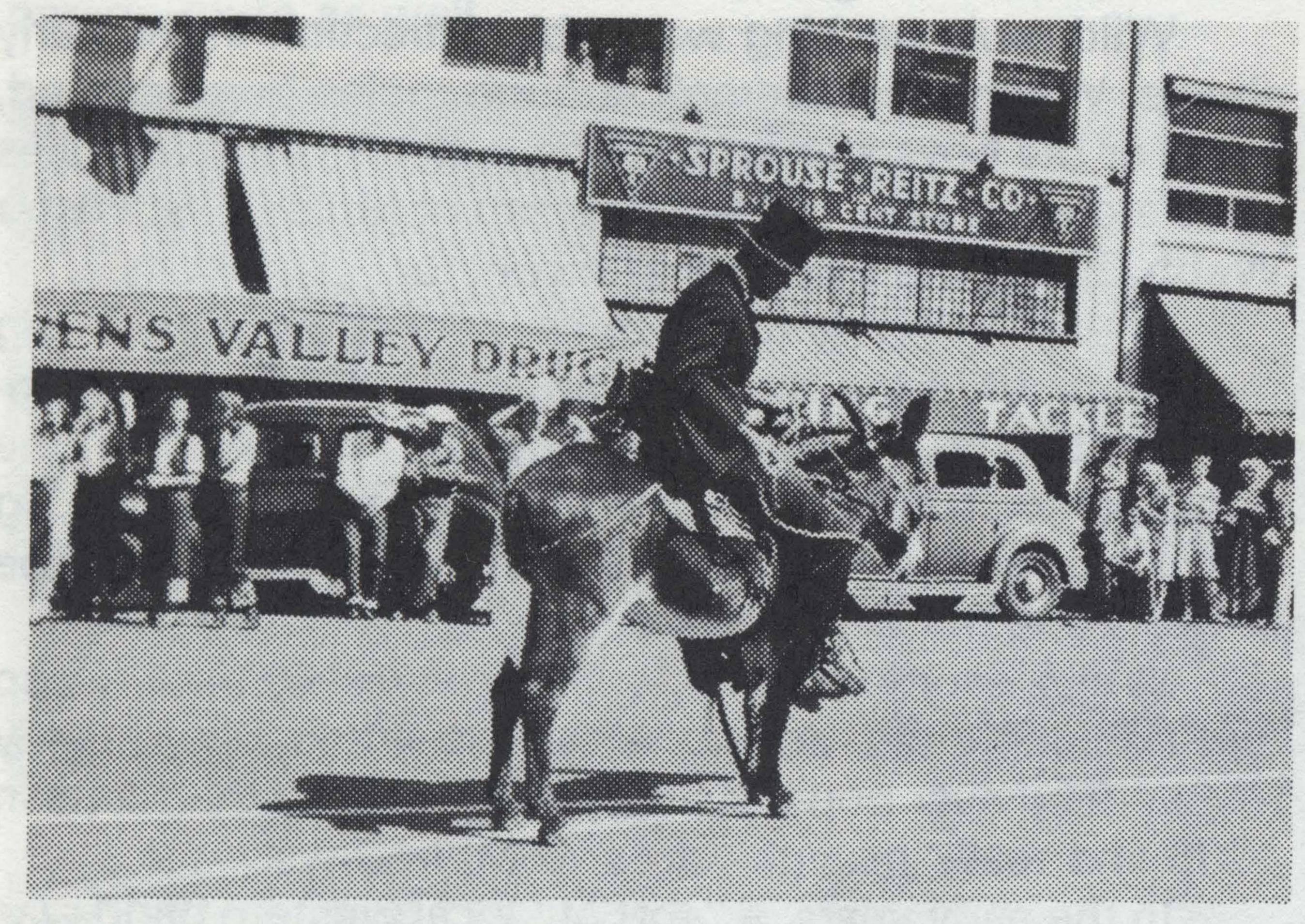
in his own words is a brief sketch of his life.

Born in Bishop, my early childhood was spent in team and cow camps, my dad ran cattle for Summers and Butler. We spent our summers in Long Valley and Mammoth, winters were spent in the desert, mainly at Coso Hot Springs.

When I was about 10, my dad had a wood camp at what is now Shady Rest Campground in Mammoth. The wood was hauled by a six animal mule team. I made several trips to Bishop, riding the 50 miles on "Mike," a one-eyed mule. I would stay two nights at my grandparents house, go to the show, play with my friends while "Mike" rested and three days later, ride him back to Mammoth.

I had mule and burro teams, saddle horses and pack animals while growing up. Later owned and operated a commercial pack station packing silimanite ore out of the renown Champion Spark Plug Mine near Benton, in the White Mountains. A year-round operation, two strings of eight mules carrying four hundred pounds each, we made two trips a day through summer heat and winter cold, ice and snow.

Also packed telephone poles and long timber up hill - one pole on two mules. A swivel device on each aparejo allowing each mule to turn around under the pole and maneuver on switch backs.



Dressed up as young Abe Lincoln, Ernie Kinney rides a mule in the 1938 Homecoming parade, downtown Richan

enlisted in the navy and went overseas during World War Two. When I was discharged in 1945, I returned to Bishop and bought and operated the Pine Creek Pack Outfit. Later sold it when I went to work for the City of Los Angeles on the Owens River Gorge Project and for about 13 years was C. and M. Foreman.

Ernie packing pinon wood on "Nick" at the Spark Plug

I've been a western artist the last twenty five years, much of it depicting mules in all situations including two covers for previous Mule Days programs (1974 & 1979). For ten years the late historian artist C. Loren Ray and I decorated town windows with all types of western scenes and lettering.

