

Our New Life ... 1920

By Rena Elizabeth Roop-Moore

...Especially for this City-Girl, Rena

On May 8th, 1920 my husband, Fred Moore, and I were newly married at the Los Angeles, California, courthouse, then took a train on to Lone Pine, California.

My previous youth and years were busy keeping up with all the Roop-Family functions that mostly involved my father's works in the creation of animation, miniatures – that were placed in movie scenes. When shown, they took on the looks of larger, natural sized animals, people, and some real life features. He also sculpted some beautiful statues, [*that are*] scattered from Kentucky to Indiana to California.

The family was expected to show up on special dates for photo-shoots. Well, we were always on the go. So this Western Cowboy Life, that Fred has lived all his life, struck me as a place I could really love, that I didn't even realize existed! It was called Owens valley.



Fred & Rena Moore

The Valley is situated between the Inyo Mountains on one side and the Sierra Nevada Mountains on the west – for many miles – stretching 400 miles through central California. North and south, it contains several national parks and forests, and some of the highest peaks in America, including Mt. Whitney.

Some of the most visited and popular areas are north from Lone Pine to beyond Bishop on the eastern side and on the western side, Sequoia, Grants Grove, Kings Canyon and Yosemite, with many interesting places in between.

Lone Pine is said to be “in the shadow of Mt. Whitney” in brochures, etc., and Independence, the county seat, is 16 miles north of there.

When I was in my 20s, we lived in Independence where I wrote the Social Column for the local paper and Fred worked for the County Surveyors.

Summer found us in Lone Pine for the “packing” season, most every summer until 1945.

Winters we spent in other places as the Sierra's were snowed under. Sometimes [*we spent our time*] in the Sierra Madre, where packtrains supplied the mountain area near Mt. Wilson the year around, but we preferred to live in Inyo County. So, sometimes Fred would work for one of the chemical companies in the small town of Bartlett, along the

[*shores of*] Owens Lake. Every summer we spent in the mountains, mostly the Sierra's, and most often at Whitney Portals.

It is still a favorite place to make a base camp for hiking the rugged trails of the High Sierra's!



The town of Bartlett in Owens Valley