

THE ALPINE ECHO
February 22, 1962

ECHOES OF THE PAST
The Old Timer

By Niel Galloway

This week I will start in Harbison Canyon and work north. I don't know what year Harbison came to the Canyon. It is said he came around the Horn in the days of '49 and that he brought with him some bees, and sold the honey to miners here for one dollar a pound. A good strong swarm of bees can gather a 100 pounds of honey or more in a good year, so you see he had a small gold mine. More about bees in a later agriculture article.

Mr. Harbison filed water right on a spring I told about last week in the Hancock story. This spring used to flow a small amount of water year round. Harbison built a reservoir in a small gulch to store the water. Pioneers' children told me about swimming in it. It was also stocked with fish and deer used to come there. Many a one was shot at that spot. The water from this reservoir was used to irrigate a family orchard and garden.

The Harbison family had all left the canyon before I came, and the homestead burned down. The Sidel family bought in the canyon in 1911 and moved there in 1913. They were a large family. One girl, Elsie, is still a registered nurse at Paradise Valley Hospital. The brothers took care of the Harbison apiary for some time, but the land was useless for agriculture. It was east of Nokes Street.

After the Sidels left, there was an old bachelor named Rassmussen, from Denmark, I think, took over the Harbison bees. Then Shreeves bought Harbison Canyon and started to sub-divide. They had all the whoopla that goes with it, lots of advertising and free lunch every Sunday. A few lots were sold and the first house was built by Marguriete White's husband, an electrician. I think it was the second house on the right bank going into the canyon. Another early one was Mrs. Stines, who just lately passed on at over 80 years. There have so many moved in I can't keep track of them. Must be over 200 homes there now and an awful lot of children come out of there every morning on school busses. Must be all of six busses twice a day.

About one-fourth mile east of the Harbison road is the beginning of the Roslin A. Pennoyer place. Another party started the original homestead and sold his right to Pennoyer who proved up on it and got title to it. I knew Pennoyer and his wife, Lula well. He was a carpenter who helped build several houses in Alpine. He had two boys, Harry and Will. Will got killed in an elevator accident in San Diego before I came. Harry was also a carpenter and they were all talented musicians. Roselin, he was always called Rose, played violin; Lula, piano, and Harry could play most any kind of a musical instrument. The family used to play for the early day dances in the community hall at Alpine and sometimes elsewhere. Harry later played in the Sciots' band. He was a Mason, quite high up, probably 32 degree. He had a family of three boys and two girls. One of the girls did live off of Highway 94, I don't know where the rest are.

Rose Pennoyer built the house where Senator Wheeler lived on Tavern Road, Rancho del Sequan. Clayburn La Force lived there when it burned down about 10 years ago in the early hours of the morning. They saved nothing. The house was very large and had a wide porch all the way around it. Rose and Harry, they built it.

Now Rose Pennoyer had a brother, Shear. I think he also homesteaded. He had 120 acres where Calyburn La Force now lives, but the house was west of where Mrs. Key lives off South Grade Road.

The Rose Pennoyer place changed hands so many times I've lost track of how many owners and who they were. The Shrugers own it now. One of the early day owners was Mattie Monroe. She was a well-known character around San Diego. She was married at least twice. She had a son, Dr. Thomas Wier, and a son, Major Wier. Mattie was a great-big-hearted lady that loved horses and dogs and that was her main reason for moving to the country. I knew her very well.

Continued next week. We move on north with Niel through early days.