

TAPE #30JANE BOITANO

Taped: April 1979

Subject: Sutter Creek and Amador County

On the old road to Amador was an Ice Factory run by Louis Watmeister. He delivered it around town. Then coming south, the next business place was a sulphur works that hired quite a few men. It's right up there where there are now three homes. A Mr. Darrow worked there for many years. Then from there, on the right hand side coming into town was a brewery run by John ^{Raddatz} ~~XXXXXX~~ and his family. They delivered beer around the county in a two-horse wagon. It was a steam beer factory, by the way. Raddatz was the way he spelled his name. Next, was a ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ saloon. This was run by Mr. Sargentenia. Then there was the Brin House, which was a lovely eating place until just recently. The next was Senator ~~Von~~ Vorhiss' home. That is now the Sutter Creek Inn. Then the Brignoli home and their store. They had a general merchandise store. It was a large family; I think there were three girls and three or four boys. They also bought and sold gold in the store in the early days. Next, there was a telephone exchange. Then a tailor shop run by a Mr. McKenney. Then was the Mascot Saloon. Right across the street was Lavaggi Hall, and they used to put sawdust over the muddy streets so the men could go from one to the other without getting dirty. Then was the general merchandise store run by Tom Bennetts. Then, the butcher shop. George West ran it, and it was where Liz-Anns Antiques is now.

Waechter

But the name was changed to W-e-s-t-e-r. Let me show you a picture of the butcher shop. (This photo will be in the Sutter Chreek photo album)

Then we come to the corner of Main and Spanish Streets. Then we have the Keyes Building. Travelling salesmen used to show their samples there. Later John Ratto had a theater there. It was there until he built a new one across the street in 1919. Then Nixon had the American Exchange Hotel which is Belotti's Inn now.

Then there is a little alley and next the drug store. It's closed because the owner passed away in January. (1979) The post office was next; that's where Dr. Hicks is now. And in back of the post office was the Bank of Sutter Creek. It was called the Jackson Dennis Bank at that time. The phone exchange was also there before they put it in the other place up the street. And there was an opening between that place and the drug store at that time. Then you had the Masonic Hall.

Downstairs there was a saloon. It was run by a Mr. Howard.

Then the other building was Howard's Hall. It was the town hall at that time. Later, it was made into a store. My mother ran that store from 1909 untill 1933 when she passed away. I ran it for ten years. It was called Guild's store, and it was just candy and milk and breads and a few groceries. And this building (21 Main Street) was called the Footerd Bldg downstairs and upstairs people named Hubbel owned it. It was owned by two people in those days. And we had a community wall, because people next door owned it too. About two years ago I managed to buy it, now I own the whole wall---finally! My mother bought the building in 1927, and she put in a little store that was a shoemaker's shop. It was also a barber shop.

Now where the shoe shop was is the Chatterbox, and where the barber was is the real estate office. The next building was a bakery. It was owned by the Malatesta family. It was torn down, and the post office was built. Then, across the creek, was the electric light and power company house. This was owned by Mr. Downs. Then there was a large empty area. I heard the old foundry was in back there at one time. But I don't know about it; that was before my time. Now---on the left side of the street coming in was a mortuary. And then a saloon and then Sirocco's store. And their home was above the store. Then there was the Corner Saloon owned by a Mr. Boro. Then, across the street, was Dr. Goodman's front. For a while, the old home that was in back of his office, was used as a kind of hospital. He has never been replaced; he and Dr. Lynch would go night and day. Someone would call, and Dr. Goodman would jump in his buggy with his shoes unlaced and head off. Dr. Lynch lived in Amador City, but he opened an office here after Dr. Goodman passed away.

(When did Dr. Goodman die?)

I don't know, but he's ~~buried~~ buried up in the cemetery, and you can find out.

Then Gene Tucker had a little home, and he put a plumbing shop out in front. Then a jewelry shop; it was later sold to a Mr. Jerauld. Then you would go up the steps, and it was a shoemaker shop. Mr. Norton ran the shop. He has two grandsons living in Sutter Creek right now. He was quite deaf, but he would sit around playing his fiddle. Then a building that has been torn down. It's the plaza now. Well, upstairs they had a meeting hall, and there was a restaurant and there was a saloon. And another barber shop that was run by a man called Diamond Dick. Then, where the Wells Fargo Bank

is now was just an empty space. Next, The Native Sons Hall was then The ^{Moore} ~~XXXXX~~ Hotel. Then you had Lavaggi Hall, and that was a dance hall. A drug store was in the front of the dance hall. It was run by Mr. Morrish. Then, Charlie Richards had a general merchandise store right below there. Next, was a saloon run by Hancock. Then, where the Ratto Building is now, there was a saloon run by John Cox, and a barber shop run by an Italian family. The next, which is now the Odd-Ball Antiques, was run by Mr. Show, and it was a general store. Next to that was Caroda's store. This was a variety store. And on the corner in the early days Mr. Brinn owned that store. It was closed for some time, and then Malatesta bought it. Then the Fan Saloon across from it has been the Fan Saloon for years and years. Next was the ~~millenary~~ millenary store. This was run by Mrs. Morris. Later a restaurant went in. Today it is Toby Tylers store. Then we had Mr. Cuneo's plumbing shop. Next to it was a restaurant run by Mrs. Kraft. Then it was sold and a boarding house was put in there. Then the present antique store went in. The next building is not an old one; it was probably built after 1915. There used to be a little, old home there. Then the livery stable was next. It was sold in 1927 to the Sutter Creek firemen who tore down the old stable and built the town hall. Later it was turned over to the city. Next to it was Dan Fraser's blacksmith shop. Then the Methodist Church, and then another blacksmith shop. Bat Ladoo ran it. That was the extent of Main Street from about 1909 to the present.

We had muddy streets, and right in front of the post office at that time we had a town pump. We had a tin cup to drink from, but they decided that was unsanitary. So they took the pump out and put in a fountain, but it never worked.

(What about the opera house?)

That was before my time, but we used to have dances there.

And travelling shows would appear there too.

My husband worked at Knight's Foundry, and it's the only water-powered foundry in the United States. They opened in that location in 1873, and they have never missed a payday. And if anything went wrong with the water, such as snow getting in the ditch, they would close the shop until the snow melted. The Knight home was torn down, and a little bungalow is there now. It's just this side of the gas station that's just out of town, and the gas station is where the old steam beer brewery was.

Let me give you information on the mines.

First was the Lincoln Mine, it was on the old Amador Road on the top of the hill. Across from that, on the other hill, was the Mahoney Mine. Down on the flat was the Wildman Mine. Then up here, as you're making the turn, was the Hetty Green Mine. We called it the Old Eureka. The Central Eureka was at the top of the hill. And the South Eureka was across from that. The Central had forty stamps, the South had forty stamps and they ordered more, so they had sixty stamps each. ~~AAA~~

The Amador County Laundry was right around the corner. Where the

first foundry was located.

(Where did you go to school?)

Right here. I started high school in the first high school; it was over in the skating rink. There was a high school in Ione, but we wanted another. They worked for it and finally decided to have an election, voting for either Jackson or Sutter Creek. Well, Sutter Creek won. Jackson was so angry that they went to the Board of Supervisors and asked for one in Jackson. So, our first school was over around the corner, and the first principal was John Curtis. I remember we voted on the colors. Today they are blue and white, but they were originally blue and rose. But nobody could get the same rose color when they wanted something made. So now it is white!

(Did you do much travelling?)

Well, the only way in and out was by stagecoach. It ran from here to Martel, and then we would take the train.

(Do you remember your first trip as a kid?)

Yes. We went to Sacramento in a Stagecoach. Slough House was the way station, and it looks the same today as it did then.

(Did you attend the Ratto Theater?)

Yes, I did.

(Did it have a balcony?)

No. Lavaggi Hall had a balcony however. On both sides, as a matter of fact.

(When did the Ratto Theater close?)

Towards the end of the Second War, I think.