

WALTERS, Dean and Mabel

Lois O Blye
May 20, 2005

Dear Susan,

Another sleepless night, so I decided to try again to dig up out of my memory basket some ideas for your Naramata Museum records.

First comes to mind something I had hoped to do for family memories and myself. That would be to get permission to 'explore' the very old records of the Penticton Herald. I do remember that someone in Naramata contributed to a Naramata News column each week. That is where you might find historical news of those early days of the 1910s, 20s & 30s.

The first baby boy was Avery King c.1910. The first baby girl was Alice Walters 10/03/1910. I arrived prematurely on Feb 4, 1912. (Alice's birthplace is now the 2nd Floor of the Naramata Inn & Spa Office on Robinson Ave.

As I best recall, the Girl Guides were organized and captained by Dorothy Robinson around 1922. I remember I was a few months under age for joining as a Girl Guide (age 11 in 1923) – there was no Brownie Group. The Troop's first summer camp was held at Miller's Point just north of Summerland. Dot Partridge was my Patrol Leader and the other 'Poppies' were Eileen Horsewill, Dora Cross, Mollie Rayner and the shrimp of the group Lois Walters. My sister Alice Walters, Alice Cross, Annie Smethurst, Violet Laurence? & Colina Kennedy? were in a Patrol led by a Hancock girl or other North Bench girl.

One of the Girl Guides Camps was disbanded early (not sure the year) as one of the Penticton girls had been killed in an auto accident on Shore Rd north of Penticton. Our camp held a mock funeral for all our rubbish – tin cans, garbage, etc after digging a deeper latrine hole. A special song was composed. Such originality!!!

Our tents were pitched on a small gravel rise on northwest side of the beach. To get back and forth to camp we were transported by Peter Roe's launch. I've forgotten its name. Overlapped blankets made our sleeping bags. This was the same launch, I do believe, that took a load of Naramata School kids across to the Summerland dock where the Sicamous Paddle Wheel Boat stopped to allow us a first close look at our handsome Prince of Wales. It was his world tour in 1920s. There must be some record of that in the Herald or Summerland News.

The Silent Movies came to Naramata sometime after Armistice Day. Dad took us to town for the BIG evening event. At the time the big news of town would come from the Post Office – a booth cage at rear of Robin-

son's General Store. This was directly across from the Naramata Hotel. Had a short boardwalk in front. In later years some smaller buildings were constructed north of the 2-storied General Store. An outside, north side entrance, reached its second floor. There was a stage at east end. One Xmas, a party with a huge tree, with trimmings & gifts for all the children, was held up there. Also a special Naramata International Show – with the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides participating. My sister Alice and Annie Smethurst did a costumed Irish Jig Dance. My neighbour girl friend, Eileen Horsewill and I were dressed & danced in wooden shoes for a Dutch Clog Dance. I remember that well, especially all the rehearsals we did after school.

Speaking of school, in the cold winter months when most of the kids brought their lunches, the school mothers (PTA?) supplied items for all those children to have hot cocoa supplied. We girls took turns preparing the cocoa down at the 'winter' wood stove in the girl's play basement, which was on the East side of the school. To the south of the school building, was a roofed wood shed, over which the ball went for 'Anti-I-Over' game. It also likely was the shed for Mr. Smith's lawn mower.

The Boy Scout Troop was very much a part of the activities for boys. Those early years, my brother Mac (Malcolm) was in High School in Battle Creek, Michigan, there being no High School in Naramata and we had no horse or car for transport to Penticton. When Alice was ready for High School, we were living about 1 ½ years in Penticton. We returned to our 'unsold' ranch in Naramata in 1924-25 so I was one of the 1926 8th grade graduates. Somewhere I have a record of our Teacher at that time. Our final exams were sent away to be checked – we didn't know our grades 'til later by mail. To graduate from a class of 6 or 7, (the go) to a Seattle, Washington high school with a freshman class of 1,000 students was quite a shock to me. When I graduated from Broadway High in 1930 I was still a shy, freckle faced, country girl! Never had a boyfriend date 'til I was nineteen!

The elder Mr. Smith kept our front (NW) lawn of the school mowed and kept flowers blooming along the sidewalk to the front gate on Robinson Ave. One Halloween the front gate showed up on the peak of the School roof. Strange happenings in those days were apt to happen on Oct. 31st.

May Day Celebrations on the School lawn – the Maypole Dance for lower grades – the Sir Roger DeCoverley formal dance for the older. The museum has a snapshot of one set of these dancers, seated on a truck, heading someplace – perhaps just a parade.

On Robinson Ave I recall a baseball field being on the vacant flat area due north of the school. It boasted a covered grand stand & Naramata Men's baseball team (about 1915).

When the early orchards started to produce, there was a fruit packing house on north shore of Naramata. Also a dock for the 'Okanagan'. This area also boasted an 'ice house', a two-storied building which was filled with block ice sawed out of the north shore bay in middle of winter. My only connection to it was the fact we used it for changing our swimming clothes when we went swimming. By summer the corner we used had been emptied of most of the ice and all that remained would be those piles of sawdust, used to insulate the ice. I expect the ice was mainly used to pack the fruit as it left town via the boat. In thinking back, the hotels probably used some in their kitchens. The 2nd hotel was near the dock for the Sicamous Paddle wheeler.

I recall my first trip on that 'grand' little ship. It was the fall of 1918. My mother, Mable Walters and good friend Mabel Salting journeyed by boat & train to visit relatives in North Dakota and Battle Creek, Michigan. My baby sister Carolyn and I were with them. I was six and do remember some events quite clearly. I believe Mother, with we two little girls, spent the night at Salting's. We were driven by Don Salting at early hour to catch the 6 o'clock stop at Naramata. Breakfast was on board and the highlight being we had 'finger bowls' at our table places and linen table cloths & napkins! From north end of the Okanagan (Vernon?) we rode the short train route to Sicamous Lake. There it was an overnight at the R.R. Hotel and boarding the Canadian Train on a very foggy morning. My first experience of heavy fog over the Lake & Valley.

Love,
Lois O Blye
May 20, 2005

Susan, please see additional attachments Re: Walters family genealogy. Mom wanted me to put these into the computer for easier copying. At 93 her handwriting is still very good and legible. She is recovering nicely from replacement surgery (right knee 1st then left in a few months) done on 5/3/05. She will be moving back to her apartment on Monday, 5/23. We will have some in-home care for her until she is completely 'back on her feet'. She is amazing! We've all held up well, been a little stressful at times, as she is still very independent & stubborn. Hope this gives you a little more information.

Take care, sincerely, Kathy Brewer

Brief Walters Family Genealogy:

Dean (d) & Mabel (Kenison) Walters (d) arrived in Naramata, BC, Canada in spring 1910

Dean & Mabel had 4 children:

Malcolm Mac () Walters b. 1906 Battle Creek, Michigan, d. 1995 Kent, WA

Alice W. Brown (McLenn) b. 10/3/1910, Naramata, BC d. 2002, Bothell, WA

Lois Miriam W. (Oelschlager) Blye b. 2/4/1912, Naramata, BC

Carolyn W. (Atkins) Horstman b. 6/6/1916, Atascadero, California d. 1983, Salem, Oregon

Family returned to Naramata around 1919 or '20. Later moved to Seattle in July 1926 to housekeeping rooms where Harborview Hospital in Seattle, Washington now stands.

Lois graduated from Broadway High School in June 1930. 1st employed at Seattle Public Library in 1929. Married William Arthur Oelschlager (b. 8/20/1899 Long Siding, MN) in Seattle, WA 10/1/1938. Bill died 8/16/70 in Winona, MN.

Bill & Lois had 4 children:

Donald Ames Oelschlager b. 12/5/39 Seattle, WA

m. Shirl (?) 5/28/78

Kathleen Joy Oelschlager b. 9/25/41 Seattle, WA

m. Douglas Cecil Kirkey 1/14/61 Seattle, WA div. 6/4/64

Keely Joy Brewer Raker b. 8/6/61 Seattle, WA m. Brad Raker 8/13/96, Kent WA

Caroline Joy Raker b. 6/18/2002 Auburn, WA

Kerry Jill Brewer Helser b. 10/3/62 Seattle, WA m. Greg Helser 8/14/81

Jeremy John Helser b. 9/12/86 Shelton, WA

Dylan Michael Helser b. 10/10/93 Olympia, WA

m. Douglas Keith Brewer 7/2/64 Coeur d'Alene, ID acquired following step children:

Linda Lois Brewer b. 5/28/51 Puyallup, WA m. Stanford D Smith (?) Las Vegas, NV div. (?)

m. James Hidalgo (?) Honolulu, HI – div. (?) Las Vegas, NV

Ryan Daniel Smith b. 11/29/75 Yakima, WA

Joshua James Hidalgo b. 5/28/79 Las Vegas, NV

Jordan Douglas Hidalgo b. 9/24/84 Castro Valley, CA

Donald Eugene Brewer b. 12/22/57 Puyallup, WA (Ex wife Jodie Wohl)

Nathanial Eugene Brewer b. 10/10/83 Renton, WA d. 6/18/96 Kent, WA

Stefanie Lee Brewer b. 6/7/85 Renton, WA

Lori Lynn Brewer b. 7/16/59 Puyallup, WA – common-law Chris Archer 1/1/80

Christopher Barrie Archer b. 8/22/98 Kirkland, WA

Eileen Rose Oelschlager b 2/5/45 Seattle, WA

m. Richard Morris 1/3/69 Tacoma, WA

Jennifer Rae Morris b. 8/3/69 Tacoma, WA

Allison Kae M. Griffen (Jay) b. 8/3/69 Seattle, WA

Jean Louise Oelschlager b. 4/9/50 Seattle, WA
m. Mario A. Crispieri 4/19/75 Reno, NV

Married Don Lee Blye September 1, 1972 Seattle, WA. Don died 2/12/83 in Apache Junction, AZ.
Sold West Seattle home in March 1990 and moved to Panorama City Retirement Community, Lacey, WA
where she still resides.