

This is where the picture of Stou came from February 13, 1996

MOBILE HOME

NEWS EXPRESS

A Weekly Supplement to **THE HEMET NEWS**. Serving San Jacinto Valley Mobile Home Communities and Seniors.

REMEMBERING THE PAST

HISTORY: Pat Hewitt recalls life in the Valley around the time of the Great Depression

By **MERRIAM HAMILTON**
Mobile Home News Express

A native daughter of the San Jacinto Valley who never moved far from her first home is Pat Hewitt, born in the little-known settlement of Brownland near Lakeview.

Now living in a Romoland mobile home on a five-acre plot with her husband, Bob, Hewitt recently told San Jacinto Valley Museum Association members how it was growing up in Brownland on a lake bottom farm. The land is now under Mystic Lake, located between Ramona Expressway and Gilman Road.

Hewitt displayed a map her son, Robert of San Jacinto, made for her presentation, showing landmarks of the area in the early part of the century. Robert works with farmers on land and water problems for the Federal Soil Conservation Department. Part of his region encompasses the wetlands off Ramona Expressway, once part of Brownland.

During the hard days of the Great Depression, and even before, "we were poor, but we didn't know it because everyone else was, too," Hewitt said, "especially after the family well ran dry. There was either not enough water (drought and dry wells) or too much water (floods)."

But there was no lack of entertainment. "We had many picnics and hayrides to Mas-

sacre Canyon and the surrounding foothills. At that time there was a lovely stream and waterfall at Massacre Canyon. And there were dances and parties at Lakeview School."

During a storm in 1936, "it seemed the rain would never stop. It happened quickly in the middle of the night, Daddy woke us saying, 'it's time to go, pack up everything on the wagon.' As we loaded up, Mother said to me, 'Here take the baby' and Daddy called to the neighbors about a half-mile away, 'Come on, let's go.'

"We all piled into the wagon, I remember our dog sat up front with Daddy and he tied our cow to the back. There was no way out except by horse and wagon so we followed the road by watching power poles down each side and drove down the middle.

"We went up to Eden School on higher ground. We children thought it was a great adventure. We moved in with 15 or 20 families who lived in Lakebottom, as we called it. I imagine it was a couple of months before the water went down. It was all fun and games for us.

"We were flooded out several times more. There was always the threat when it was raining the levee would break up above us. Many of the early settlers left after the floods of 1916 when the San Jacinto River went over its banks and covered the lowland farms."



DeeAnn Bradley/Mobile Home News Express

Pat Hewitt points out the gas pump in front of her grandparents' store in Lakeview, which is still standing. She and her husband, Bob, commissioned the painting by Temecula artist Ken Ebert.

After the flood in 1936, most of the families moved out. "Dad and Mother tried to

make a go of it until 1939. When the bank called in the mortgage, they gave up on

Lakebottom and moved to Lakeview. Daddy went to

HISTORY

(Continued from Page 1)

work for other farmers.

"We went to the old Lakeview School until about 1930 when my Daddy helped build the new Eden School. It was beautiful with hardwood floors, gymnasium, stage AND indoor plumbing most of us didn't have at home. I don't know where they got all that money in those Depression times."

About 1911, Frank E. Brown of Redlands, who had built Big Bear Dam and water systems for Redlands and Moreno, attempted to develop Brownland and offered small farm tracts and residential lots on city type streets. He built the Lakeview Hotel, store and post office to accommodate prospective investors from Los Angeles.

"Mr. Brown would go to the Perris Railroad Station and bring them to his three-story hotel," Hewitt said. "But a lot of his development went by the wayside when the wells went dry."

Hewitt's grandparents, Ernest and Nora Holland, were one of the first families to buy land in the Brown development, 15 miles northwest of San Jacinto.

The Hollands farmed for awhile, "then purchased the Lakeview store and hotel from Mr. Brown about 1920," Hewitt said.

Hewitt's mother, Rita, a teenager when she moved to Brownland in 1911, married Walter Deter, a well driller. He died in a mining hoist accident in Arizona. Rita had moved, with her son Billie, to her parents home to await the birth of her second child, Lorita May, when she heard of her loss.

At the time, the social life of Lakebottom families centered in Lakeview and Nuevo. Rita met her second husband, Ben Mather, at a community dance in the old Lakeview School. They were married in 1920 and two children were born to the couple, Patsy in 1926 and Ben Jr. in 1935.

"We all piled into the wagon, I remember our dog sat up front with Daddy and he tied our cow to the back. There was no way out except by horse and wagon so we followed the road by watching power poles down each side and drove down the middle."

— Pat Hewitt, recalling a 1936 storm

view Junior High, which later combined with Nuevo into Nuvview School," Hewitt said. "I started high school at Perris, then we moved to San Jacinto, where I graduated in 1943."

A haunting memory for Hewitt when she looks at her

early school pictures is the knowledge that "many of the children I went to school with were Japanese and the government moved them out. It was very sad. I still wonder what could have happened to all those friends."

Pat retired as secretary to

the principal at Hemet Junior High School after nearly 15 years, first for Lew Moore

and then Chuck Reeves. Before retirement, Bob was a salesman with Nelson's Machinery Co. in Hemet for 25 years. Also, they formerly operated a Christmas tree farm on their Romoland acreage.

The Hewitts have three children, Paula of Oregon, an office manager for Northwest Hills Baptist Church in Corvallis; Lorrie Conley, a teacher of handicapped children in Visalia, and Robert of San Jacinto. Also, they have seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

May - 1976



Detailed painting shows Lakeview store

The painting of the Lakeview building, done from a photograph owned by the Ben Mather of Romoland, is one of the many paintings by Ken Eberts that will be on display at Chriswood Gallery in Rancho California from May 5 to May 14.

The Lakeview building, built prior to 1900 was built as a hotel by a man named Brown, who was promoting the lake bottom area. He met prospective customers at the train depot in Perris and brought them by carriage

to his hotel in Lakeview, about eight miles to the east.

About 1920, the property was taken over by Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Holland, parents of Mrs. Mather. They operated a store there until about 1925.

During that decade the third

floor of the building was removed, leaving the two stories that are in use today.

The Eberts painting is owned by the Hollands' granddaughter, Pat, and her husband, Bob Hewitt of Romoland.

The Lakeview California Store & Hotel

Louis Embertson worked for Mr Brown before Mr Brown came into the Lakeview Valley. Over in Moreno California The Lakeview store or Hotel was built for Mr Brown. Louis Embertson hauled the lumber that went into the three stories. Then when the third floor of the building was removed Louis and Martyn Embertson hauled the sand by team of horses and wagons. The sand was hauled from Bridge Street - Sacramento River sand.

The Store owners as Martyn remembered
Ellis
E. Holland
Harry Hagen
Dan Marsh
Leon Gant

Before they turned the Hotel into a store at Lakeview they had a store at Mevo. Nansen ave was layed out for street car tracks. When Hagen bought the store he lived in a tent across from the store while the store was being remodelled. Julia Marsh cooked for them.

Dorothy Chapman Becomes Bride of Martyn Embertson

Miss Dorothy Chapman, daughter of Mrs. Gabe Necochea of Lakeview, was married on Monday in Quartzite, Ariz., to Martyn Embertson, well-known Lakeview grain rancher, it was announced this week.

Following their wedding, the couple left for the Grand Canyon and will tour other points of interest in northern Arizona during their honeymoon. On their return they will make their home in Lakeview.

Miss Chapman was honored at a farewell party on Sunday evening. Those attending were Mrs. Necochea, Mr. and Mrs. Clark Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. Estil Garland, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Chapman and families.

July 4th evening events MCed by Bill Whitaker were the presenting of the Western Fairs Blue Ribbon Award to Mrs. Martyn Embertson.

Mrs. Embertson received the award as the highest award Western Fairs has. This presentation is given to residents of California who have been invaluable in their area in supporting fairs. The plaque cited Mrs. Embertson, for achievement of the highest order, aiding progress through fairs, stimulating energy, enterprise, intellect and the quickening of human genius.

Leonard I. Will made the presentation. In making the presentation Director Will noted that the award was given to outstanding individuals who unselfishly gave of their time and talents in promoting their fair.

In the 25 year history of the Tulelake-Butte Valley Fair Dorothy Embertson is the fourth person to receive this award. Past recipients for this award are: Bert Johnson, Bonnie Stephens and Mrs. A. J. King.

Ralph Morrill, fair manager stated that Mrs. Embertson for several years has spent countless hours in improving and updating the museum, and that

she has a natural talent and enjoys this type of work.

Items Donated To Malin Library Are Interesting

MALIN — Dorothy Embertson, an enthusiastic supporter of the Malin Library, notes 4 items donated to the Library Museum by Wayne Meek in honor of his grandparents, Earl and Lillie McVay.

The machinery and coffee can were taken from the old home place near Lost River School.

Earl McVay passed away on Nov. 19, 1974 and Mrs. McVay now lives on Gaines Road.

The potato sorter has wooden pulleys and slats. The potato vine cutter with two metal disc wheels was horse drawn. The potato hiller, used to hill up the rows of potatoes was also drawn by horses.

The 4th item, a Golden West coffee can, 1927 copyright by Closset and Devers, Portland, Or. "We prefer the drip method of making coffee using fresh boiling water." Tested and approved by the Bureau of Foods Sanitation and Health. Good Housekeeping says, "Just right."

These articles are at the back of the library on the lot. It is hoped that a fence and shelter can someday be provided to protect Malin machinery of long ago for the youth of today.

Thursday, March 3, 1983

Malin News

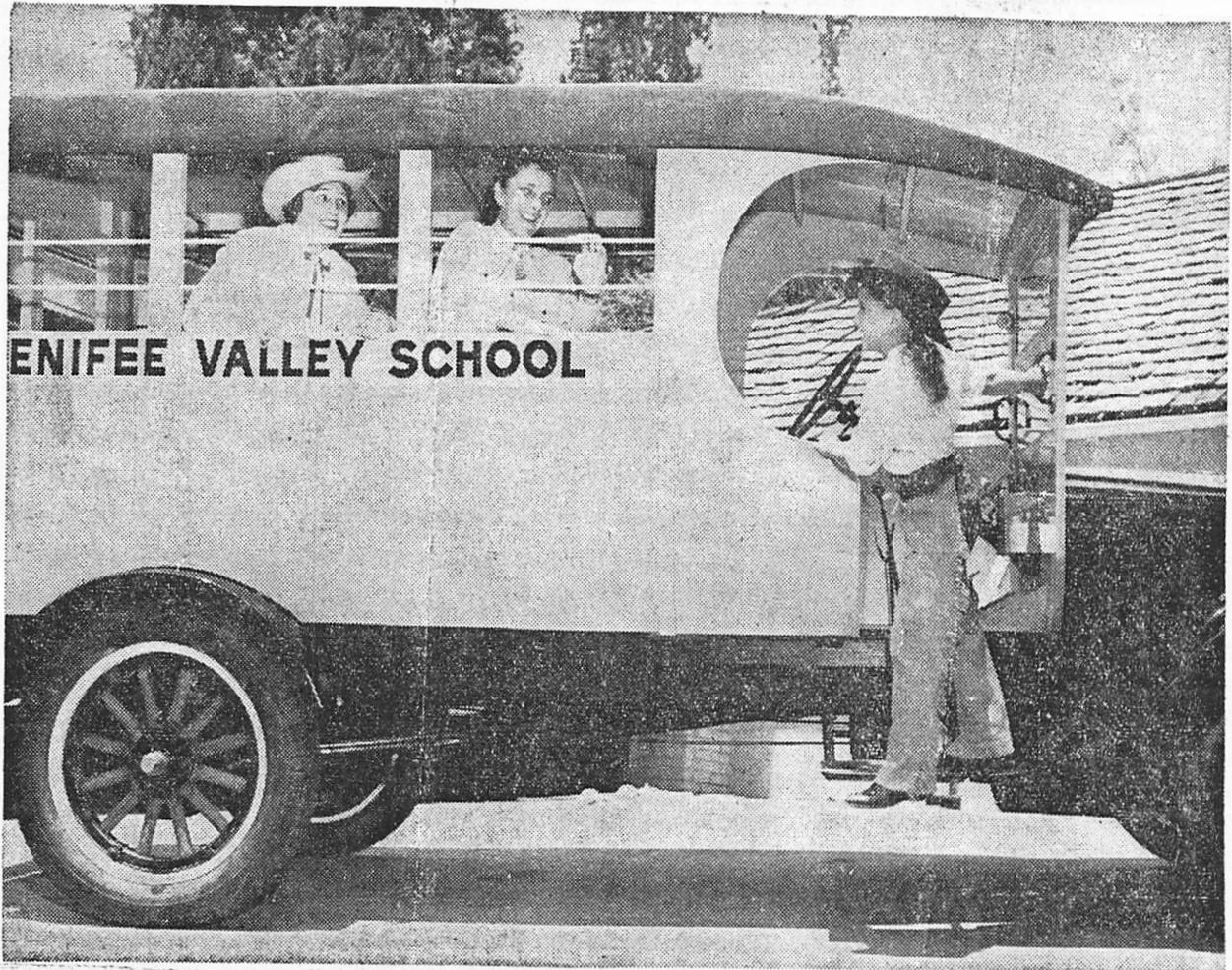
Vi Hachenberg - 723-5141

OR 723-4671

"Les Embertson, you're sure looking fine on a snowy day," I told him. "Yes," he replied, "Warm too, just look at this new flannel shirt my mom made for me." Excellent workmanship, Dorothy, I like your pattern. (Lucky guy, Les).

*My claim
to fame*

Martyn Emberton rode this Bus when he



Historic School Bus Figures in Party Plans

Menifee Valley's school bus figures in plans for Children's League's "Guestward Ho Night" on June 24. Here Kyle Kennelly, 8, dons western costume to board the bus, joining her mother, Mrs. William Kennelly, and Mrs. Owen Locke, left, as passengers to the party.

The 1924 model T school bus is owned by Dr. Erwin P. Miller of Riverside, who came across it in 1958 when he was hunting in the Menifee Valley. He located the original body designer in Los Angeles to help him and his son, James W. Miller, restore it to its original condition.

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Hayden are opening their home at 5596 Jurupa, for the chuck-wagon dinner and dance. Round up time is 6:30. Dinner and dancing at 8 will feature music by Hi-Lites. Reservations close June 20 and are to be mailed, at \$3.50 per person, to Mrs. George Fader, 3540 Hoytt, Riverside.

*Martyn was expelled
from Lakeview
school & stayed
with Ival & Dow
They lived close to
Winchester Ca.
But in Menifee
school district
He rode horse back
to Lakeview on
weekends*

Went to Menifee School

Walt-Mart Embertson Operation

The partnership of Walt and Mart Embertson, one that began nearly 20 years ago and is still going strong, operates a 350-acre farm in the Lakeview area mostly devoted to potato production.

The name, Embertson, is far from new to the farming community around Lakeview, for it was in 1888 that the late Louis Embertson, father of the brothers, bought land from a development company and settled in the area. Local experience is one of the long-suits of the present operators of the Embertson holdings.

"I've been around farming here just about all my life. Before going in with Mart, I farmed with my dad ever since I was old enough to do any work," Walt observed.



WALT EMBERTSON

... with the tool of his favorite trade ...

"Potatoes are our main crop. We grow about 100 acres each Spring and a little less in the Fall", Walt explained. Yields in Fall potatoes last year were a little disappointing. Walt said, "We had a little tough luck in our potato crop this year, and only got about 60 to 70 sacks per acre. We were hit by curly leaf and blight, and there's not much you can do about those two diseases."

The Embertson brothers own most of the 350 acres they are farming. Their land is made up of three separate pieces with three wells providing a total of 210 inches of water.

Beside their main-stay of potatoes, the Embertson brothers round out their farming activities with grain, watermelons, onions and alfalfa. In past years the two Embertsons have harvested as much as a thousand acres of grain, but these days grain is planted only as a rotation crop and is subordinate to other crops in their over-all plan.

Caterpillar and John Deere equipment have always stood in high favor with Walt and Mart Embertson. In their former extensive grain farming operations, their equipment was exclusively John Deere. Now they own a model 12A harvester, a No. 5 mower, grain drills, and other miscellaneous John Deere equipment.

Walt Embertson said the partnership hopes to acquire a Caterpillar D4 tractor in the near future. "We've got our minds on a D4 and that is the tracklayer we'll get when the time comes," Walt said.

"We like John Deere equipment because of its simplicity and econ-

omy. The first tractor I ever owned was a John Deere model D, and it did us a fine job," Walt added.

Both of the Embertson brothers are married, and they live in separate residences on the headquar-

ters place of their agricultural holdings. Walt has three children. Mart has two.

Both partners are fond of hunting as an outside interest, and each is a crack shot. Walt Embertson says he seems to be able to hit anything but geese. He can tell story after story of missing shots he should have made where that game is concerned.

"I just can't seem to hit them even when they're practically roosting on my gun barrel".

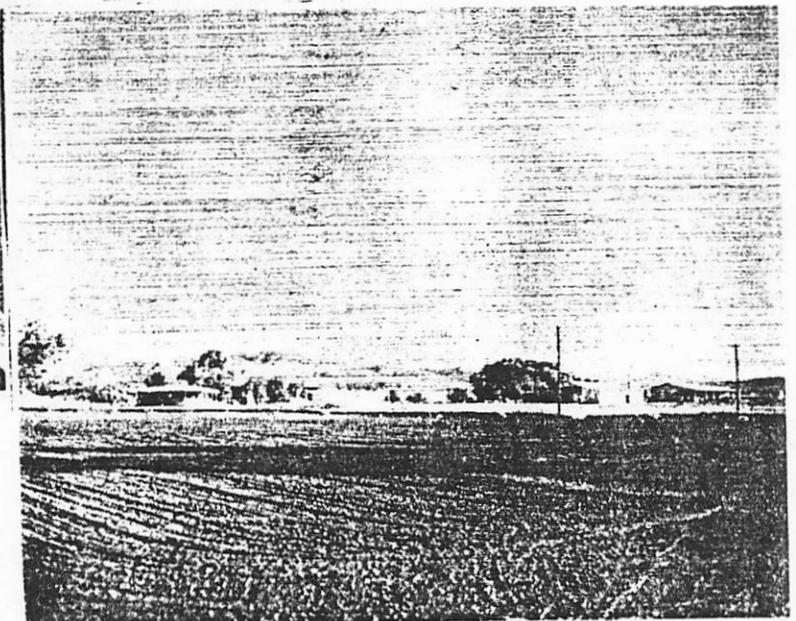
— January, 1953 —

EMBERTSON BROS.

Potatoes — Onions — Alfalfa — Grain — Cattle

LAKEVIEW, CALIFORNIA

Phone: Perris 2045 — Phone: Perris 2048



EMBERTSON BROTHERS RANCH

... with two new homes under construction ...