

EARLY HISTORY OF SOULSBYVILLE

(90 minutes)

Interview with
Mrs. Dorothy BALL
Soulsbyville, CA

by bess kirton

November 15, 1977

for

Oral History

Columbia College

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. DOROTHY BALL

MAJOR TOPICS

SIDE I.

- A. Barron Store
 - 1. Transportation of groceries and dry goods
 - 2. Source of supplies
- B. Windmill
- C. Water Supply
- D. Old Buildings and Homes
 - 1. School House
 - 2. Hotel
 - 3. Odger's Butcher Shop
- E. Discovery of Gold in Soulsbyville
- F. Ranchers and Homesteaders in Area Before Mines
- G. W.H. Barron, Prohibitionist - Ran for Senate
- H. Cornish Miners
 - 1. Pastes
 - 2. Families interrelated
- I. Communication
 - 1. Postal service
- J. High School
 - 1. Transportation to Sonora
- K. Christmas Celebration
- L. Dynamo House

SIDE II.

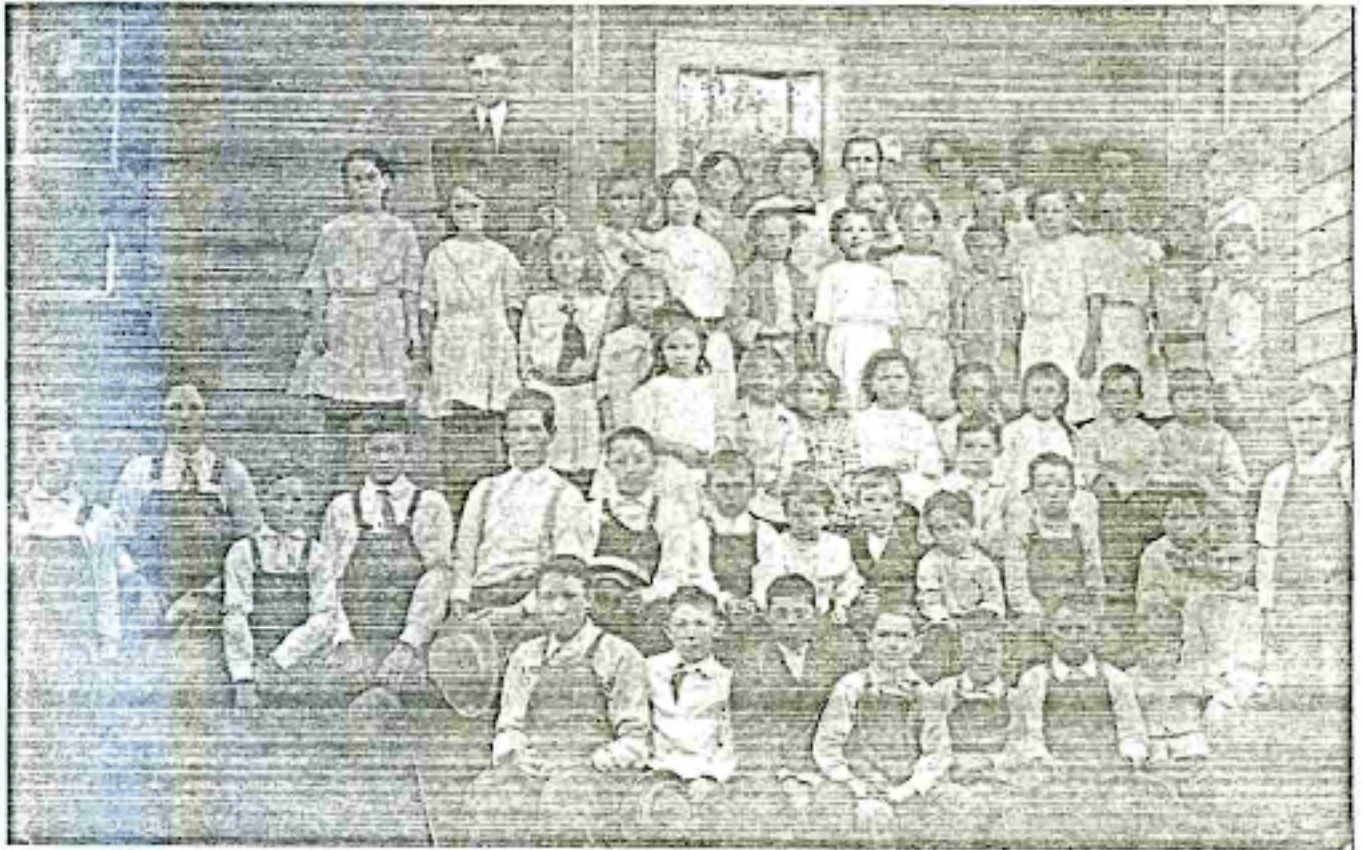
- A. Dynamo, cont'd
- B. Chinese
 - 1. Chinese New Year
- C. Soulsbyville Elementary School
- D. Indians
 - 1. Record book of Indian purchases at Barron store
 - 2. Indian possessions burned when they died
- E. Old Building Sites Where Jones Mill Now Stands
 - 1. Post Office
 - a. Mrs. Jones postmistress
 - b. "Pigeon holes" from old post office still preserved
 - 2. Store and other buildings
- F. Lumber
- G. Mines
 - 1. Housing
- H. Other Soulsbyville Families
- I. Band of Hope
- J. Good Templers Lodge
 - 1. Prohibition basic principle
 - 2. Source of local recreation

SIDE III.

- A. Silver Coronet Band
- B. Recreation
 - 1. Dancing
 - 2. Baseball
 - 3. Picnics
- C. Cornish Carols
- D. Soulsbyville Methodist Episcopal Church
- E. Recalling Old Soulsbyville
 - 1. Lion followed her home
 - 2. Horses, wagons and surr
 - 3. Lover's Lane
 - 4. Riding horseback to Sonora to see Mrs. Evaline Nicholls in hospital with first baby
 - 5. Horseracing
- F. Old Cemetery
- G. Mrs. Ball's Family
- H. Soulsbyville Today
 - 1. Few old families left
 - 2. "Johnny-Come-Latelys"
 - 3. No community social life
- I. Family Camping

After much searching I found out from Mrs. Don Segestrom about the "Tommyknockers". It seems that they were "little people" that went down into the mines with the miners to warn them of impending danger.

Bess Kirton



SOULSBYVILLE SCHOOL ABOUT 1916 - 1918

Mr. Tom Trengrove, Principal, at left. The only other teacher at the time was (probably) Olive Specker, four from the right in the top row.

Dorothy Barron, now Mrs. Robert Ball, is just to the left of Mr. Trengrove.



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