

FRED CUNEO

on

THE CALVARITAS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

by

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June, 1972

A tape recorded interview

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SIDE A ONLY

TOPICS INTRODUCED

(Abrupt opening)

Description of old Calavaritas

Calavaritas School District -

Established in 1858

Disolved about 1929

Sale of the old school building

School days -

Teachers and subjects

Classroom antics

Chinese and Negro students

Christmas season

Prominent graduates

Biographical information by interviewer

Fred Cu<sup>ne</sup>eno was born to a family of six children in 1900. Mr. Cu<sup>ne</sup>eno attended gram<sup>a</sup>mmar school in Calvaritas from 1908 until graduating in 1915. He then attended Calaveras High School in San Andreas until graduation in 1920. Mr. Cu<sup>ne</sup>eno graduated in 1924 from University of California at Berkeley.

Mr. Cu<sup>ne</sup>eno stayed in the bay area and worked for the United States Postal Service as Superintendent of out-going mail in Oakland. In 1953 he moved back to San Andreas when he was appointed Postmaster of the San Andreas Post Office, by President Eisenhower. He continued to work in San Andreas, but lived in his old home in Calvaritas, until 1972 when he retired from the Post Office.

Mr. Cu<sup>ne</sup>eno has since been employed by the Republican State Committee as a manager for candidates, local and state,

The Calvaritas school was built in 1858 with funds derived from the Calico Ball in Calvaritas. There are different estimates on just how much money was taken in, but most people around the community say around four hundred dollars. Many people say not all of this maney was taken in at the Ball, but that some was taken in at the local bar after many of the men had gotten drunk. The general thesis is that a group of women went to the bar, after the Ball and after the men had had time to drink a little, and got over two hundred dollars in donations in gold dust.

The school was built that summer and students attended the next fall. There is a little question on how many students attended that first year, but many figure around 40.

The school continued and was financed by the Calico Ball until the school district was formed around 1865, or thereabouts. At one time there were over 120 students in the one room school house, however on the last year there were only 8 or 10 students attending. This last year, 1929, was truly a sad year for Calvaritas.

P E O P L E   I N T E R V I E W E D

Mrs. Eve Cuen<sup>ne</sup>o, wife of Fred and life long friend of Mr. George Poore, historian of Calaveras County.

Mrs. Louise Greenlaw, sister of Fred, and a one time student at the Calvaritas School, plus a life long resident of Calvaritas.

Mr. George Poore, Calaveras County historian.

I looked through many old journals in the old county court house, however I could only find bits and pieces about the early days of the school and the Calico Ball.

Los Calaveras, in several different sections people made reference to the old Calvaritas school and to the Calico Ball, but only mentioned never went into any details.

County papers were of little help as the old papers are put up somewhere and we have two new papers since then. I did however find some information of Fred Cuen<sup>ne</sup>o in these papers.