

INTERVIEW
WITH CHARLES FITCH
TUOLUMNE CO. RANCHER

By Neil Mill

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TUOLUMNE CO. RANCHER

SIDE 1

Early Family origins

Grandmother came across Ismus during Civil War

Early hotel Business in Sonora

Father mined gold

Depressed Area during WWI

Social milieu during early 1900s

Stagecoaches

Early Automobiles

Circuses, carnivals and theater

Italian vegetable gardens

Old 49r mystique

Chinese community in Sonora

Indian Community

Worked for Forest Service 1919

Worked for Pickering at High Country logging camps in 20s

Side 2

Cattle Drives from oakdale to high country for summer grazing

Sheep drives to Nevada side of pass

Bought present cattle ranch in 1935

Economic, marketing, and health regulations affect local cattle industry

Chicken ranching

Sheep ranching

Land prices and developers