

ORAL HISTORY 133

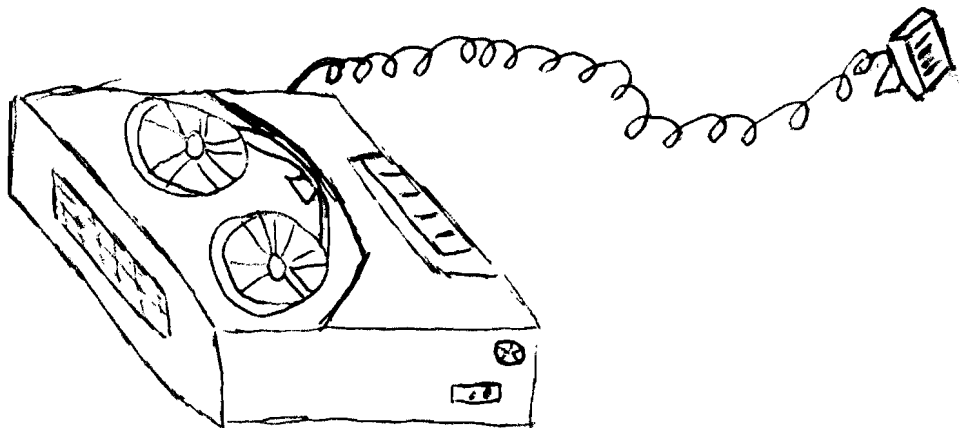
INTERVIEW

WITH MR. SANFORD PETER PUNTER

CONDUCTED BY ROCHELLE E. GODDARD

RECORDED ON NOVEMBER 29, 1972

HISTORY INSTRUCTOR: MR. RICHARD DYER







Oral History Interview

Recorded interview on November 29, 1972 with Santford Peter Punter, who was born on May 27, 1907 in Sonora, California. Mr. Punter's father was William Lee Punter, born October 9, 1870 on Campbell's Flat Road and died in 1950. His mother was Mahala Fitzgerald, who was born May 15, 1877 on Wards Ferry Road and she died in 1933. Mr. Punter's ancestors immigrated to America from both Ireland and England.

Pete Punter, as he is usually referred to, like his parents was raised in Sonora and his childhood years were spent at 57 Regular Street. At the age of nineteen he began working for his father in the Punter-Burns Tobacco Store on Washington Street in Sonora. In 1939 he then went into business for himself as a wholesale and retail tobacco dealer until 1950. Through the fifties Pete raised turkeys on his seventy-eight acre ranch between Sonora and Jamestown. Around 1960 he gave up ranching, or as Pete says "I didn't retire from business, just got tired of it," and he turned to fishing and hunting.

On the following page is an outline of the topics discussed with Mr. Punter on the accompanying tape.

The interview was conducted by Rochelle E. Goddard.

TOPICS INTRODUCED

Side One

- I. Indians
- II. Wilderness Areas
 - A. Wildlife
 - B. Rivers and forests
 - C. Parks
- III. Hoof and Mouth disease during the 1920's
- IV. Sonora's activities between 1920-1930
 - A. Bootlegging
 - B. Gambling
 - C. Police surveillance
- V. Chinese ruins in Sonora (end of side one)

Side Two

- V. (cont'd)
 - A. Chinese burial ceremony
 - VI. Movie industry in Sonora 1930's
 - VII. Progress comes to Sonora
 - A. Automobiles
 - B. Airplanes
 - C. Air balloon
 - VIII. Sierra Railroad
 - IX. Lime kiln near Sonora
 - X. Newspapers of Sonora area.
 - XI. Buildings which once stood in Sonora
 - A. Sonora Fire Department (efficiency)
 - XII. Stamp mill operations and marble quarry
 - XIII. Educational facilities
 - XIV. Farming and fruit crops
- (conclusion)

