

Oral History

ROBERT ROSENTHAL

Interviewed by

MARGE WEBB

Winter 1972-1973

Hisotry of the Hotel Leger

and

Mokelume Hill, California

Side 1:

Introduction and education background

Worked for Frank Tea and Spice Co. in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Decision to move West, 1959, enter Hospitality Field

Imperial 400 Motel

World's Fair, Seattle

Decision to move to San Francisco- Management Consultant Spice Co

Real Estate Courses

Industrial Division of Saxe Realty

Weekend trips to Mother Lode country

Discovery of Hotel Leger on weekend trip

partially restored

Myron Greve- owner -manager since turn of century

Made offer to buy Hotel

offer refused, counter offer too high

temporarily forgotten

negotiations renewed in six months

Hotel purchased

included many artifacts

no business

Entertainment needed

converted General Store area into Theater (not used for

65 years)

County Jail converted into dressing rooms.

Construction of Jail- Rhyolite Stone

installed water and electricity

cost higher than anticipated

Garden Court Theater

San Francisco artist painted floral scene
Stockton Civic Theater Group under contract
business increased, usually sold out weekends
enjoyed food, accommodations, theater and pool

Added Music to Bar

first piano
rock music
Dear Old Dad music
Country Western most enjoyed

Use of Hotel for T.V. and Movie settings

Recognition and publicity

Governor's Design Award
Front page Hotel-Motel Magazine
Architect West

French Couple- Honeymoon

other interesting and famous people

Records in County Museum at Murphys

Side 2

History-1854

population
famous outlaws and writers
town burned down twice
more permanently constructed after 2nd fire
use of Rhyalite Stone in buildings

County Court House built-later abandoned

Leger purchased Court House

Lower part General Store

Upper part Hotel Rooms

Architecture somewhat French

Converting General Store into Theater-Banquet Hall

construction begun fall, 1966

several groups interested in performing

Stockton Civic accepted, semi-professional

opening date set for June 24, 1967

Stage Curtains

ordered by catalog

carefully measured, diagrammed

Named Garden Courthouse Theater

John Johanson, artist, painted floral scene in 5 hours

Ticket Booth, Iron doors

Favorite play, Stop the World I want to Get Off

Director Al Muller

Cemetery

diversity of people of people buried there

Jewish, protestant, Catholic, segregated

Side 3

Nick, the Russian

colorful character, worked at Hotel

old timeres disappearing form scene

young people coming to town

scene changing

Transportation during Gold Rush

4:00 A. M. Stage to Stockton River
boats to San Francisco
trip took 16 hours

Bob's house

one of oldest in town
built by Mexicans before gold rush
used to be Mercantile Store

Walking Tour Map

Charles Danz
Emmett Joy
50 historic locations

Floors in Bob's House

Set vertical in stead of usual way
1 x 8

Art Gallery

Wells Fargo Building
frequent changes

Metamorphosis of town and Summary

(See Dyer for 35 mm. slides.)