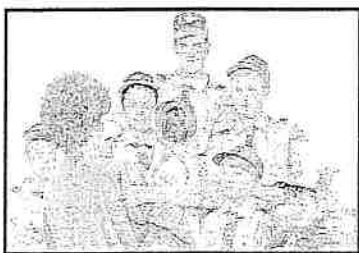


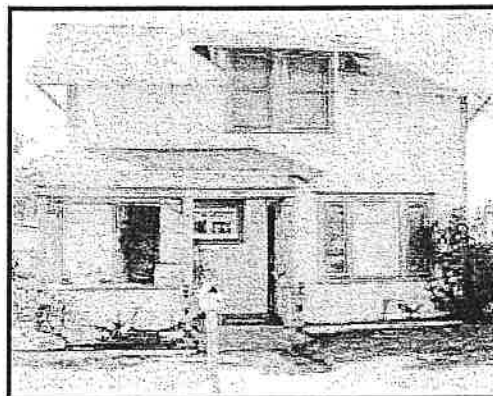
Robertson House, 1910

*La Mesa Historic
Landmark
Nomination Form,
July 23, 2002*

Great Beginnings



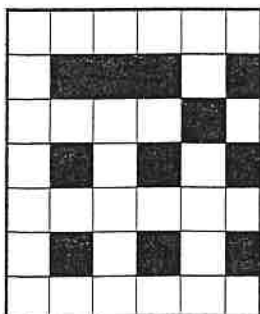
Boy Scouts founded,
1910



Robertson House built, 1910



Robert Peary
reaches North
Pole, 1909



First
crossword
appears, 1913

La Mesa Historical Society
P.O. Box 882
La Mesa, CA 91944



Monopoly board game introduced,
1910



HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION FORM

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Planning Division
8130 Allison Avenue, La Mesa, CA 91941 (619) 667-1177

1. NAME

Historic: Robertson Home
and/or common: Scott Home

2. LOCATION

Address: 4572 Palm Avenue
City: La Mesa State: CA Zip: 91941

3. CLASSIFICATION

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>OWNERSHIP</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>PRESENT USE</u>	
☐ District	☐ Public	☒ Occupied	☐ Agricultural	☐ Museum
☒ Building(s)	☒ Private	☐ Unoccupied	☐ Commercial	☐ Park
☐ Structure	☐ Both	☐ Work in progress	☐ Educational	☒ Private residence
☐ Site			☐ Entertainment	☐ Religious
☐ Object	<u>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</u>		☐ Government	☐ Scientific
	☐ In progress		☐ Industrial	☐ Transportation
	☐ Being Considered		☐ Military	☐ Other:

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name: Stephanie Glazer
Address: 4572 Palm Avenue
City: La Mesa State: CA Zip: 91941

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, etc.:
Address: 1600 Pacific Highway
City: San Diego State: CA Zip: 92101

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Title: La Mesa Historic Resources Inventory
Date: June 1984
Depository for Survey Records: City Clerk of La Mesa
City: La Mesa State: CA Zip: 91941

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ Excellent ☐ Deteriorated
☐ Good ☐ Ruins
☐ Fair ☐ Unexposed

CHECK ONE

☐ Unaltered
☒ Altered

CHECK ONE

☒ Original site
☐ Moved

Date: _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE:

Legal Description: Lot 21, in Block 11 of Parks Addition to La Mesa Springs in the City of La Mesa, County of San Diego, State of California, according to Map thereof No. 993, filed in the office of the County Recorder of San Diego County, June 5, 1906 described as follows:

Commencing at the southeasterly corner of said lot 21; thence northerly along the easterly line of said lot, 60 feet; thence westerly at right angles to said easterly line to the south line of said lot on the north line of "F" Avenue; thence easterly along the south line of said lot, being also the north line "F" Avenue to the point of commencement.

This two-story Victorian-style house has a steep gable roof and has been very well maintained. The windows are double sashed. Fancy trim can be seen on the second story just under the attic vents. The eaves are supported by knee brackets at the house corners on the second story and the rafter ends are exposed. On the first floor, a large window to the right has 16 panels of glass while to the left the porch like the eaves contains stickwork and scroll work. In a 1911 photo of the house, there was a ranch-style white fence around the property. There is a large palm tree and red waterpump in the front yard of the house. The red waterpump and gingerbread trim were installed in the 1970s

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE - CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Archeology-prehistoric	☐ Conservation	☐ Landscape architecture	☐ Religion
☐ 1400-1499	☐ Archeology-historic	☐ Economics	☐ Law	☐ Science
☐ 1500-1599	☐ Agricultural	☐ Education	☐ Literature	☐ Sculpture
☐ 1600-1699	☒ Architecture	☐ Engineering	☐ Military	☐ Social / Humanitarian
☐ 1700-1799	☐ Art	☒ Exploration / Settlement	☐ Music	☐ Theater
☐ 1800-1899	☐ Commerce	☐ Industry	☐ Philosophy	☐ Transportation
☒ 1900-	☐ Communications	☐ Invention	☐ Politics/Government	☐
	☐ Community planning	☐ Other (specify)	☐	☐

SPECIFIC DATES: 1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT: Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Robertson House is an example of Craftsman-style architecture. Pioneers of La Mesa built and lived in this house. One resident can even be traced to a Civil War conflict. As one long-time La Mesa resident put it, "Everybody knows that house." This house is well known and should be designated a Historical Landmark.

Harry L. and Vada Robertson purchased the lot from William L. Maxwell on August 19, 1909. Harry Leslie Robertson was born October 21, 1885 in Nebraska. Vada was born in Cloud County, Kansas on August 14, 1888. Harry and Vada met as teenagers in high school. Harry married Vada in 1909 and they came to California shortly thereafter. They had one child, Helen. Helen later married Bernard D. Sherman Sr. and they had one son, Bernard Roland Sherman Jr. According to the 1910 Census, taken on May 17, Harry was 24 and Vada was 21. The census placed them on Lookout Avenue. Vada was a 75-year member of the Eastern Star. Harry was a former member and past master of the La Mesa Lodge No. 107, F&AM and Scottish Rites Bodies and Ben Ali Shrine Temple, and IOOF. Harry was a building contractor in La Mesa and then in San Francisco where they later moved. According to their grandson Bernard Sherman Jr., Harry Robertson was an architect. He designed and built homes in La Mesa and in San Francisco. There is a music shop still standing today in Berkeley that he built. Vada was not employed. According to Mary Nelson, niece of Vada Robertson, Vada was named after the state of Nevada. Vada's father worked, with his twin brother, in the silver mines in Nevada so he could earn money to buy a farm back in Kansas. Vada's father loved Nevada so much that he named his daughter after the state. Vada and Harry eventually retired to Santa Cruz. Harry passed away on June 9, 1963 at the age of 77 and his wife Vada died at the age of 101 on July 26, 1990, a few weeks shy of her 102nd birthday.

On November 7, 1910, Harry L. and Vada Robertson sold the house to **Mable and Paul DeChaine**. According to the 1910 Census, taken on May 18, Mable was 23 and Paul was 32. They were married in 1903 and had four children, although only three were living at the time of the 1910 Census. Their daughter Adris was 5, their son Norman was 3 and another son Raymon L. was 3 months. Mable was born in Pennsylvania and Paul was born in Wisconsin. Paul worked as a house painter. They rented a house on Lemon Avenue prior to the purchase of the house. Their son Raymon Leon DeChaine eventually moved to

Shasta County, California where he worked in the tourist industry as a motel manager. Raymon had two children, seven grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

Sarah A. Pinkston purchased the house from the DeChaines on January 13, 1912. Sarah A. Lyon was born on May 2, 1837 in Richland County, Ohio. Her father William Lyon was a deacon in the Presbyterian Church and was once indicted under the Fugitive Slave Law for "riding along the road with a colored man." At the age of 17, in 1854, Sarah moved with her parents from Ohio to make a new home in California. Sickness in the family prevented further travel to California. They stopped in Independence, Missouri for a few weeks and soon realized that "a liberty loving and slavery hating Ohio family could not live in safety where the monster had eyes on all sides watching them." Kansas, they thought, with the Indians and wolves was preferable. They camped in Lawrence, Kansas in the spring of 1854 on what later became Kansas State University. Sarah and her family were one of the early settlers in what later became Lawrence, Kansas. She married John W. Mack on November 23, 1857. On August 21, 1863, when Sarah was 26, Lt. Col. William Clarke Quantrill led a band of 450 raiders (a Confederate guerrilla band operating out of Missouri known as the *Quantrill Raiders*) into Lawrence, Kansas in a supposed retaliation for a Union raid on Osceola, Missouri. Lawrence, Kansas was a stronghold of pro-Union support during the Civil War and the home of Senator James H. Lane, whose leading role in the struggle for free-soil in Kansas made him a public enemy to pro-slavery forces in Missouri. Although Lane did managed to escape by racing through a cornfield in his nightshirt, many residents did not survive. More than 150 residents in were killed in Lawrence, Kansas that night and most of the town was destroyed. Sarah survived this attack. Among the raiders that night were Frank and Jesse James, and Cole and Jim Younger. These outlaws used the hit-and-run tactics taught by their leader, William Quantrill, to create vicious outlaw gangs in the post-war West. Sarah's husband John Mack died on October 9, 1870. Sarah then moved to Cottonwood Falls, Kansas in 1871. Sarah was appointed postmistress under the U.S. Grant's Administration. Sarah married E.W. Pinkston on December 12, 1876. E.W. was a farmer and stock-raiser. Sarah and E.W. lived on a farm in Kansas for nearly 40 years, until the death of E.W. Sarah finally made it to California when she moved to La Mesa in 1912 where she lived until her death on March 15, 1926 at the age of 88. Sarah was a "brilliant intellect," wrote articles for the county and the State of Kansas and served as a delegate to the National Convention of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (prohibition). As an early settler in Kansas, Sarah's picture hung in Memorial Hall in Topeka, Kansas at one time in honor of her help in making Kansas a free state.

On January 13, 1922, Sarah Pinkston quitclaims the property to W.L. and Z. Maria Wood. W.L. Wood was probably the nephew of Sarah Pinkston.

On March 16, 1926, **Osmund and Jennie Ritland** purchased the property from the Woods. Osmund and Jennie Ritland had three children: a daughter Marjorie and two sons Hubert and Osmund Jr. Osmund Jr. was a teenager when he moved into the house and stayed until he joined the Air Force. As a teenager, Osmund Jr. was a paperboy and also worked at Elmer Drew's garage. Hubert never lived in the house, being out on his own at the time. He was a graduate of Stanford and later became a college professor. Marjorie lived in the house only a short time until her marriage to a Vander Veer. Jennie was born on May 29, 1880 in Huxley, Iowa. She was a housewife. Osmund Sr. was a house painter at one time and also a chiropractor, often called Dr. Ritland. His daughter-in-law Martha Ritland described Osmund Sr. as a good, kind man who tried many thing but was never very successful. Osmund Sr. was unable to keep up with the payments, so they sold the house to **Otto P. Rickmeyer**. Although Otto took over ownership, they all continued to live together in the house, the Ritlands and Otto. After Osmund Sr's death, Jennie stayed on at the house as housekeeper for Otto until she went into a nursing home. She died on April 16, 1957 at the age of 76. Osmund Ritland Jr. joined the Air Force and became a Major General before retiring. He logged nearly 10,000 hours as a pilot and received the Distinguished Flying Cross and two Legions of Merit awards. He married Martha Virginia Alsop in 1936. During his career, Osmund Jr. was an experimental test pilot where his tested the majority of American aircraft used during World War II. He served as commander of the Assam Air Depot in India and later assigned to a special weapons command in New Mexico where he tested equipment in the development of nuclear weapons. He also was in charge of

all aircraft participating in the Nevada providing grounds atomic test sites, for which he was awarded the Legion of Merit for his achievements during these historic tests. In 1961, he joined the newly created space systems division of the Air Force and later became deputy to the commander for manned space flights at Andrews Air Force Base. Osmund Jay Ritland, Jr. died on March 23, 1991 at the age of 81. Osmund Ritland Jr. even received an award 11 years after his death. His wife Martha Ritland resides in Rancho Santa Fe.

Otto P. Rickmeyer was born in Germany on April 10, 1880. He was married to Helen and he was a dry goods salesman. He died on March 7, 1949 at the age of 68. Martha Ritland remembers Otto as a quiet, good man who trusted the Ritlands.

The property continued to change hands at what could be described a "rapid pace." **Suzanne A. Albert** purchased the house from Otto Rickmeyer on May 23, 1947. Suzanne Albert lived in the house less than a year before she sold it to **George W. and Nellie G. Maynard** on January 19, 1948. The Maynards lived in the house until it was sold in a Sherriff's Auction on November 16, 1949 to **Englebert Christian Kanters**. Englebert Christian Kanters was born on May 26, 1889 in Michigan and died on November 29, 1951 at the age of 62 from leukemia. He was a civil engineer and participated in World War I. He sold the property to **Robert A. and Mildred B. Forcier**. The Forciers sold the house to **Charles W. and Rose Bunce** on July 28, 1952. The Bunces sold the house to **Albert J. and Marilyn Hancock** on February 23, 1954. The Hancocks were in the house 11 years before they sold the house to **Paul A. Berry** on March 19, 1963. On April 8, 1966, Sally Berry sold the house to **Sarah L. Kurtz** who was a real estate agent at the time. Sarah was born on May 10, 1918 and died on October 15, 1998 at the age of 80. Six days after Sarah Kurtz purchased the property, she sold it to **Richard Bussy**. On November 6, 1967, Richard and Jean Bussy sold the house to **Hilman C. and Jacqueline A. Imholz**. Hilman was a newspaper pressman for 42 years and actually worked at my same company for 7 years (The San Diego Union-Tribune) decades earlier. On January 3, 1968, the Imholzs granted one-quarter interest to **James R. and Winifried R. Jahn** and Charles D. and Frances Schreiber. Two years later, the Imholzs, Jahns and Schreibers all sold the house to **Shirley Bittner**, on December 7, 1970. That same day, Shirley Bittner sold the house to **Glenn A. and Sharon D. Stevenson**. During their stay, the Stevensons added the gingerbreading around the house and the waterpump. Sharon Stevenson reported hearing footsteps coming down the stairs one day. Since only she and her young daughter were in the house at the time, and her daughter was supposed to be sleeping, she went to investigate. She discovered her daughter fast asleep. She was never able to explain the footsteps she heard that night. The Stevensons stayed four years, selling on February 13, 1974 to **Michael A. and Jayne R. Gentile**. The Gentiles sold to **Peter C. and Beverly Horton** on December 14, 1977. On January 23, 1979, the Hortons sold to **Susan L. Scott**. Susan Scott demolished the garage that was in backyard in 1980. On December 18, 1989, Susan Scott sold the house to **Judd and Mary Carson** and **Angela Ann Carson**. On October 5, 1993, Mary Carson quitclaims her portion of the house to **Judd T. Carson**. On January 18, 2000, Judd and Angela Ann Carson sold the home to **James S. and Priscilla Reynolds**. James Reynolds is an inspector for the City of San Diego. And on February 14, 2002, James S. and Priscilla Reynolds sold the house to **Stephanie Glazer**. Stephanie is a copywriter/columnist/editor for The San Diego Union-Tribune.

9. SOURCES

Interview with Martha Ritland, April 15, 2002
Interview with Sharon Stevenson, February 25, 2002
Robertson House Historic resource Inventory Sheet, April 1982
Sanborn Insurance Map of La Mesa, October 1911
Sanborn Insurance Map of La Mesa, June 1929
San Diego City and County Directories
PBS Web site, www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/people/I_r/quantrell.htm
1910 Census for La Mesa area, (listed under Mission Township)
County of Shasta County, death certificate, courtesy of Robin Bills
Obituary of Ray DeChaine, Redding Record-Searchlight, Dec. 3, 1979, courtesy of Robin Bills
Obituary of Harry L. Robertson on June 11, 1963, Santa Cruz Sentinel, courtesy of Joann Tracy
Obituary of Vada Robertson on July 29, 1990, Santa Cruz Sentinel, courtesy of Joann Tracy
Obituary of Englebert C. Kanter on Dec. 1, 1951, The San Diego Union-Tribune,
Photo of Sarah Pinkston, courtesy of Kansas State Historical Society
Obituary of Sarah Pinkston, courtesy of Kansas State Historical Society
Information on Sarah and E.W. Pinkston, William G. Cutler's "History of the State of Kansas"
Obituary of Otto Rickmeyer on March 9, 1949 in The San Diego Union-Tribune
Obituary of Jennie Ritland on April 9, 1957 in The San Diego Union-Tribune
Obituary of General Osmund Jay Ritland on March 27, 1991 in The San Diego Union-Tribune
County of San Diego, Recorder's Office, death certificate information
County of San Diego, Assessor's Office, title search information
Obituary of Sarah Pinkston, Topeka Capital, courtesy of Kansas State Historical Society
Photo of house in 1911, San Diego Historical Society
Obituary of Sarah Pinkston, March 18, 1926, The San Diego Union-Tribune
La Mesa Scout, Feb. 11, 1921
La Mesa Scout, May 13, 1921
Interview with Bernard Sherman, Jr., May 2002
Interview with Mary Nelson, May 2002

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Lot size: 3,485 square feet

11. FORM PREPARED BY:

Stephanie Glazer, April 21, 2002

APPLICATION PREPARED BY:

Chain of Title
4572 Palm Avenue

January 29, 1907

C.C. Park and S.C. Grable
Book 409, pg. 81 of Deed

December 4, 1907

C.C. Park and Franie B. Park and S.C. and Lillian M. Grable sold to
Mrs. R.L Christoffersen
Book 430, pg. 192 of Deeds

May 9, 1908

Mrs. R.L Christoffersen and husband A. Christofferson sold to
William L. Maxwell
Book 438, pg. 368 of Deeds

August 19, 1909

William L. Maxwell and Eva M. Maxwell sold to Harry L. Robertson
Book 468, pg 367 of Deeds

November 7, 1910

Harry L. and Vada Robertson sold to Mable and P.M. DeChaine
Book 507, pg. 118

February 9, 1912

Mable and P.M. DeChaine sold to Mrs. Sarah A.L. Pinkston
Book 559, pg 272

January 13, 1922

Sarah Pinkston quitclaims to W.L. Wood

March 16, 1926

W.L. Wood and Z. Maria Wood sold to Osmund G. and Jennie Ritland
Book 1190, pg. 202

May 23, 1947

Otto Rickmeyer sold to Suzanne A. Albert

January 19, 1948

Suzanne A. Albert sold to George W. and Nellie G. Maynard

November 16, 1949

Sold in Sheriff's auction to Englebert Christian Kanter

July 28, 1952

Robert A. and Mildred B. Forcier sold to Charles W. and Rose Bunce
Book 4555, pg. 332

February 23, 1954

Charles W. and Rose Bunce sold to Albert J. and Marilyn Hancock

March 19, 1963

Albert J. and Marilyn Hancock sold to Paul A. Berry

April 8, 1966

Sally S. Berry sold to Sarah L. Kurtz

April 14, 1966

Sarah L. Kurtz sold to Richard F. Bussy

November 6, 1967

Richard F. and Jean B. Bussy sold to Hilman C. and Jacqueline A.
Imholz

January 3, 1968

Hilman C. and Jacqueline A. Imholz grants one-quarter interest to
James R. and Winifred R. Jahn and Charles D. and Frances Schreiber

December 7, 1970

Hilman C. and Jacqueline A. Imholz, James R. and Winifred R. Jahn,
and Charles D. and Frances Schreiber sold to Shirley Bittner

December 7, 1970

Shirley Bittner sold to Glenn A. and Sharon D. Stevenson

February 13, 1974

Glenn A. and Sharon D. Stevenson sold to Michael A. and Jayne R.
Gentile

December 14, 1977

Michael A. and Jayne R. Gentile sold to Peter C. and Beverly Horton

January 23, 1979

Peter C. and Beverly Horton sold to Susan L. Scott

December 18, 1989

Susan L. Edwards (Scott) sold to Judd and Mary Carson and Angela Ann Carson

October 5, 1993

Mary Carson quitclaims to Judd T. Carson

January 18, 2000

Judd Carson and Angela Ann Carson sold to James S. and Priscilla Reynolds

February 14, 2002

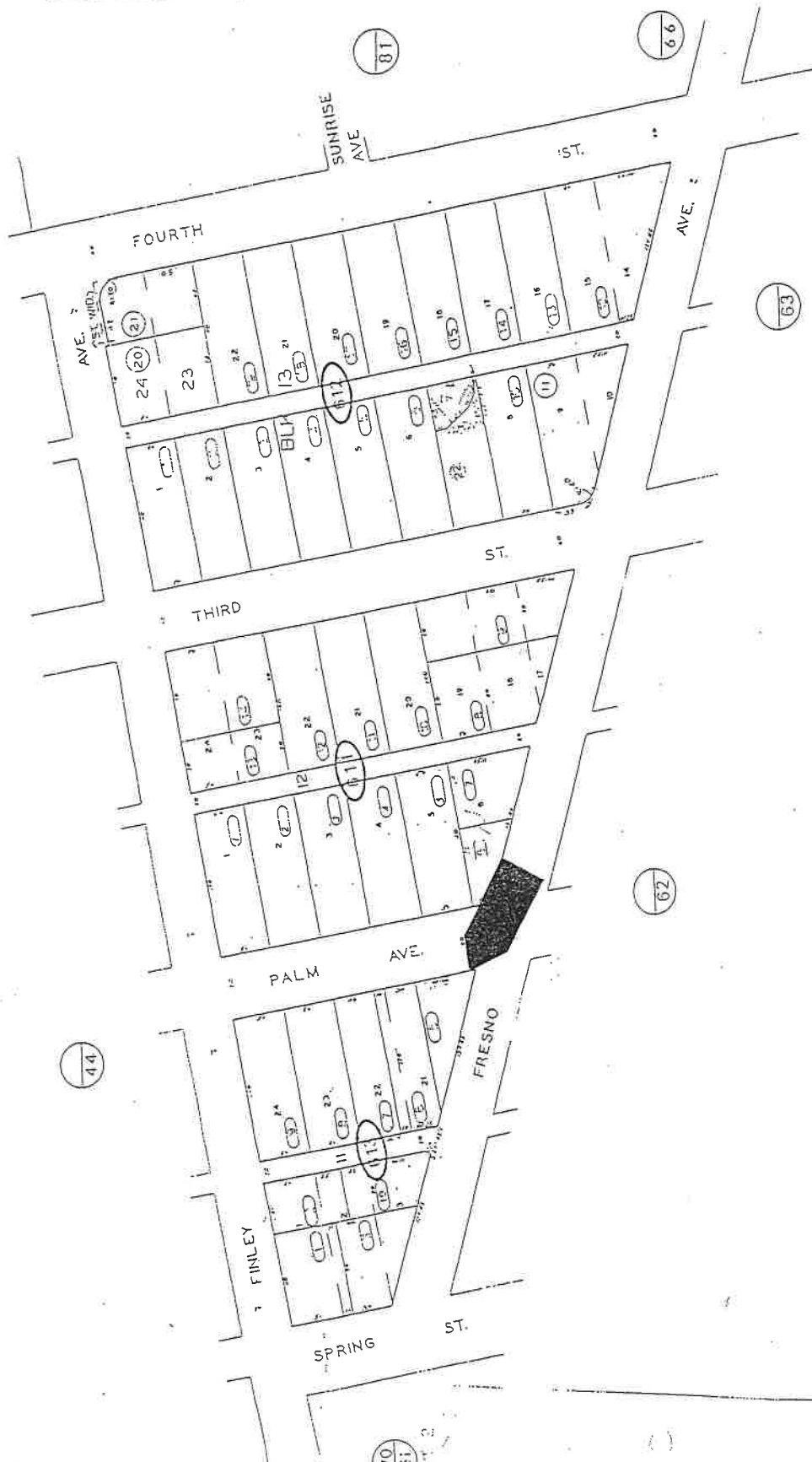
James S. and Priscilla Reynolds sold to Stephanie Glazer

City Directory Listings

Sarah Pinkston, 1912-1920
Isadora Barney, 1921-1923
Osmund & Jennie Ritland, 1924-1932
Otto Rickmeyer, 1933-1946
Jennie Ritland, 1947-1948
No record, 1949-1950
R. A. Forcier, 1951-1952
Vacant, 1953
Albert J. Hancock, 1954-1963
Carl Evans, 1964
David L. Ross, 1965
Clarence R. Peifer, 1966
Mrs. Audrey J. Butts, 1967
No return, 1968-1969
Shirley J. Bittner, 1970-1971
Allen G. Stevenson, 1972-1974
Mike Gentile, 1975-1978
Terence Bertsch, 1979
Susan Scott, 1980-1988
No return, 1990-1996
Gary Scott, 1997
No return, 1998
Judd Carson, 1999-2000
James Reynolds, 2001-2002

494-

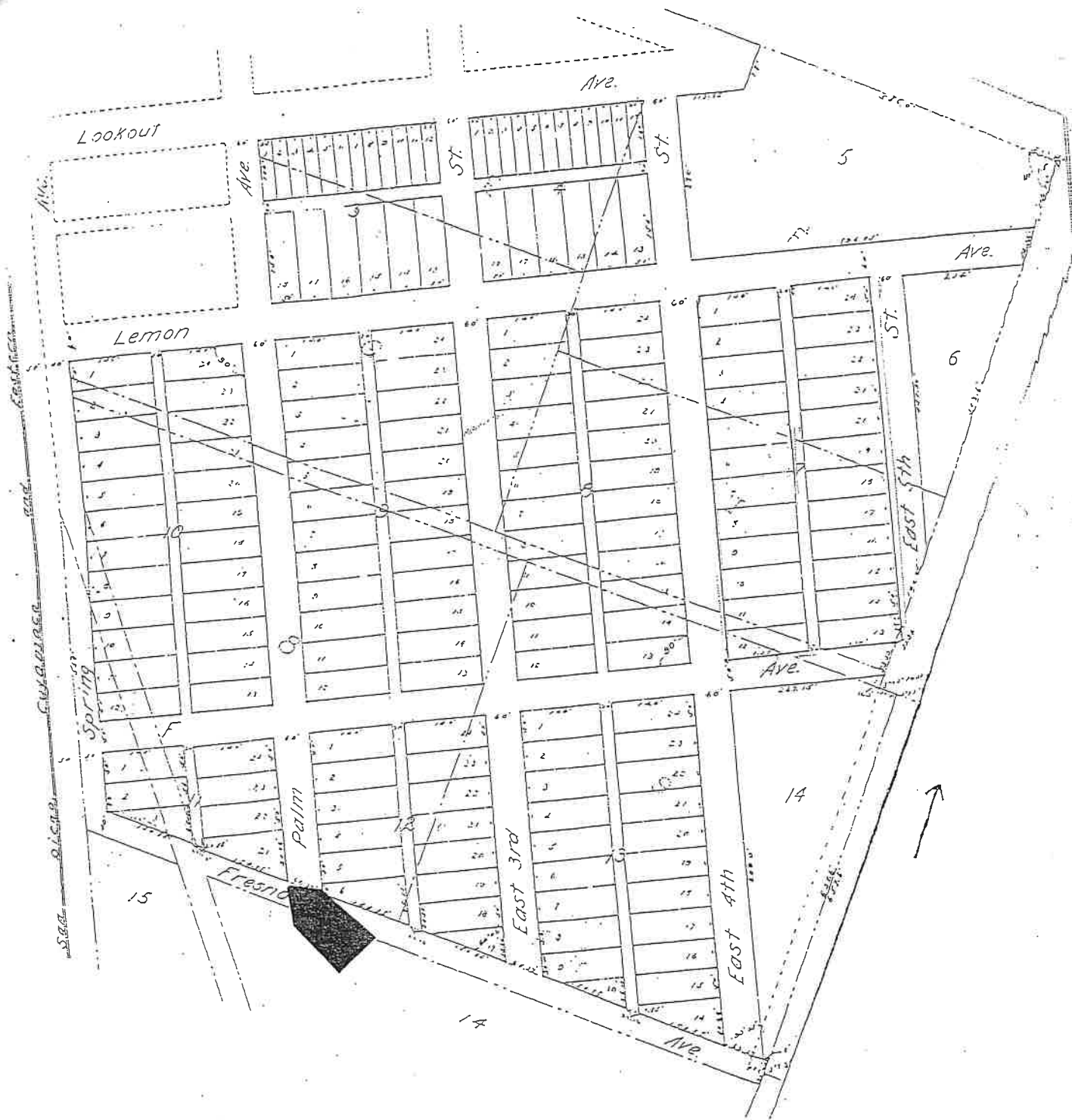
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MAP 993 - PARKS ADD.

Parcel #494-613-05
South portion of Lot 21, in Block 11 of Parks Addition to La Mesa Springs, according to Map 993,
filed June 5, 1906.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY
ASSESSOR'S MAP
BOOK 494, PAGE 61.



Subdivision map for Park's Addition #993, filed June 5, 1906.

Lot 21, in Block 11 of Parks Addition to La Mesa Springs, according to Map 993, filed June 5, 1906. On August 19, 1909 Harry L. Robertson purchased the lot from William L. and Eva M. Maxwell and built the house the following year. Lot 21 was resubdivided in 1910.

Sanborn
Map
Oct. 1911

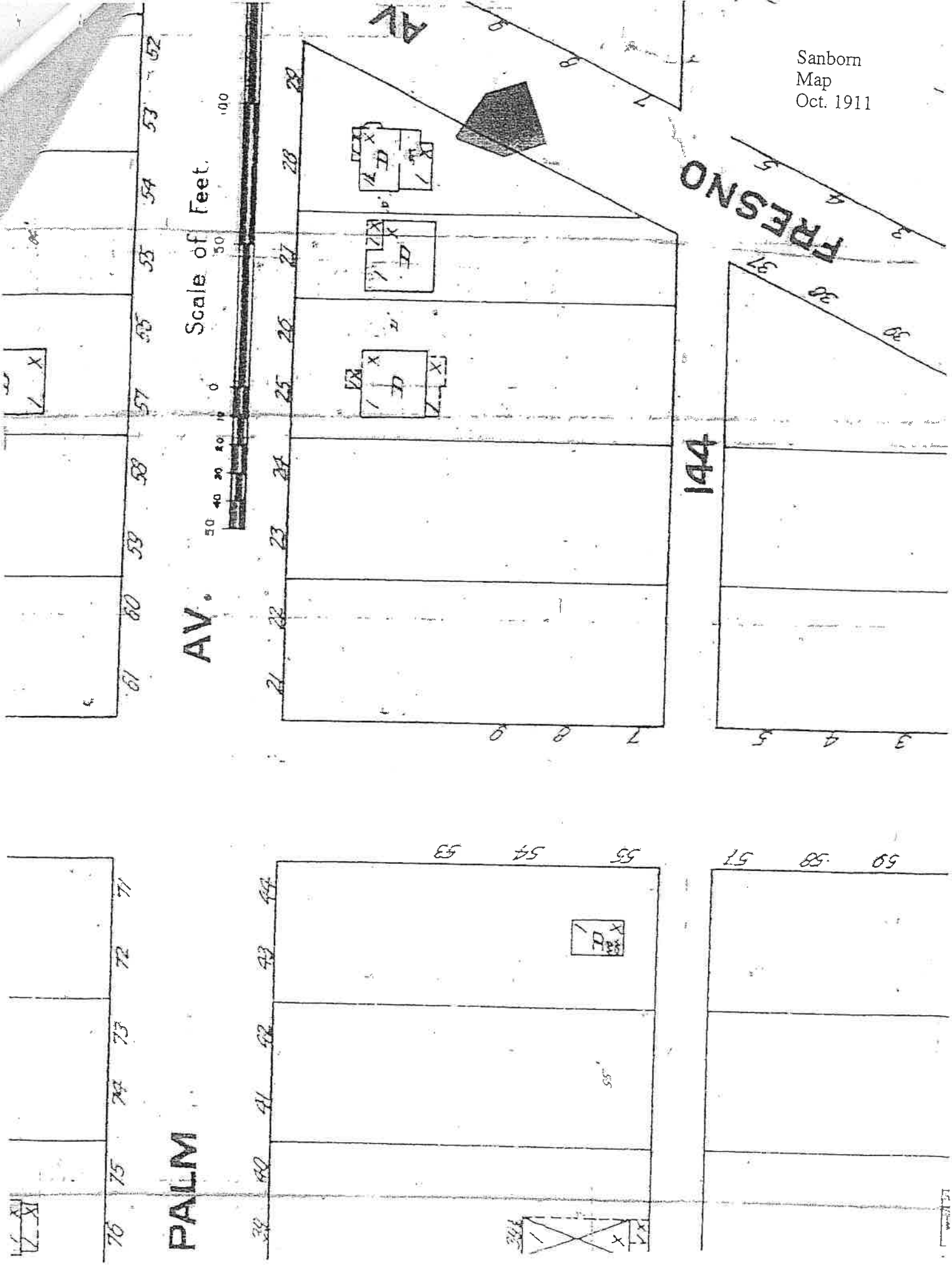
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Scale of Feet.

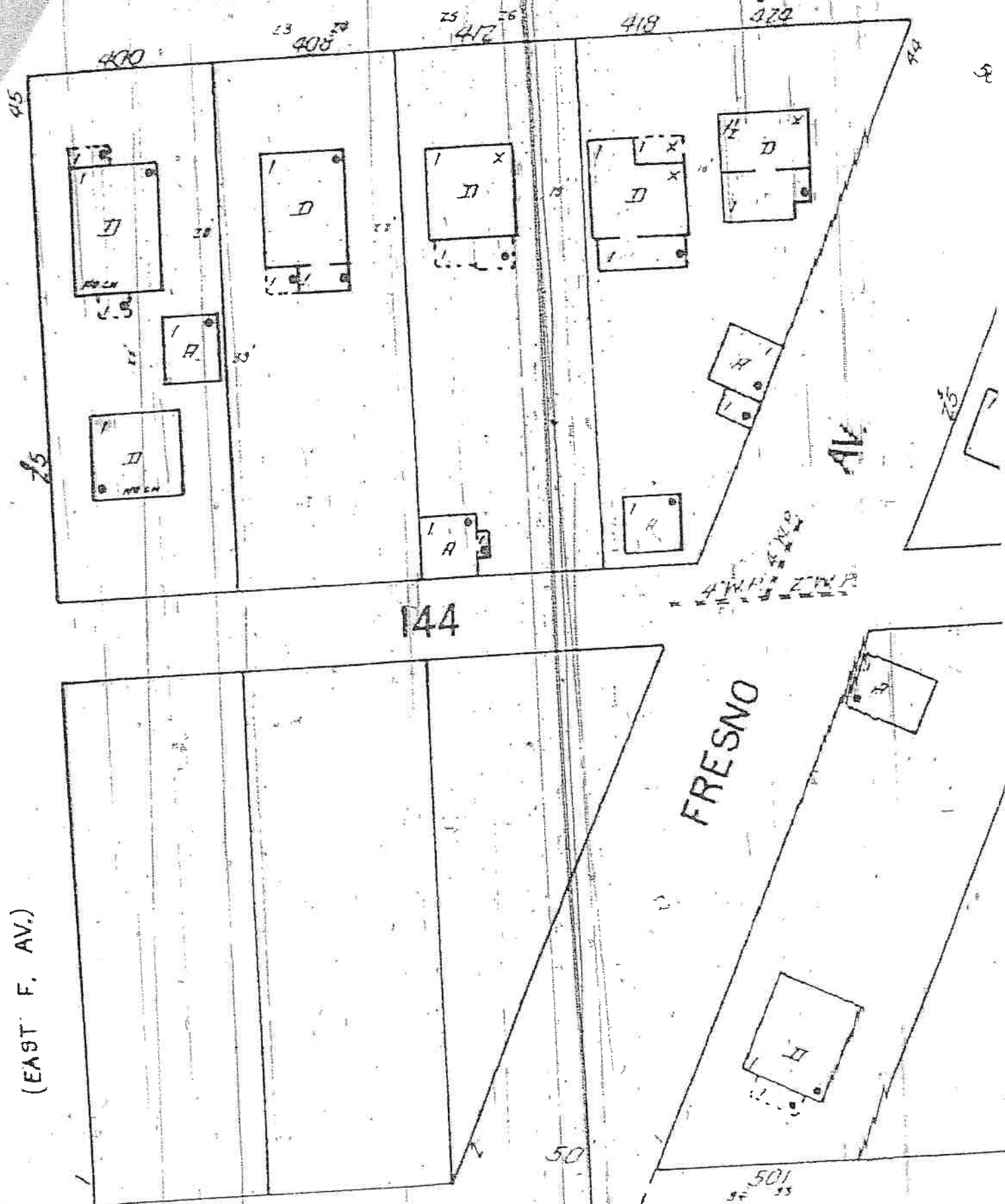
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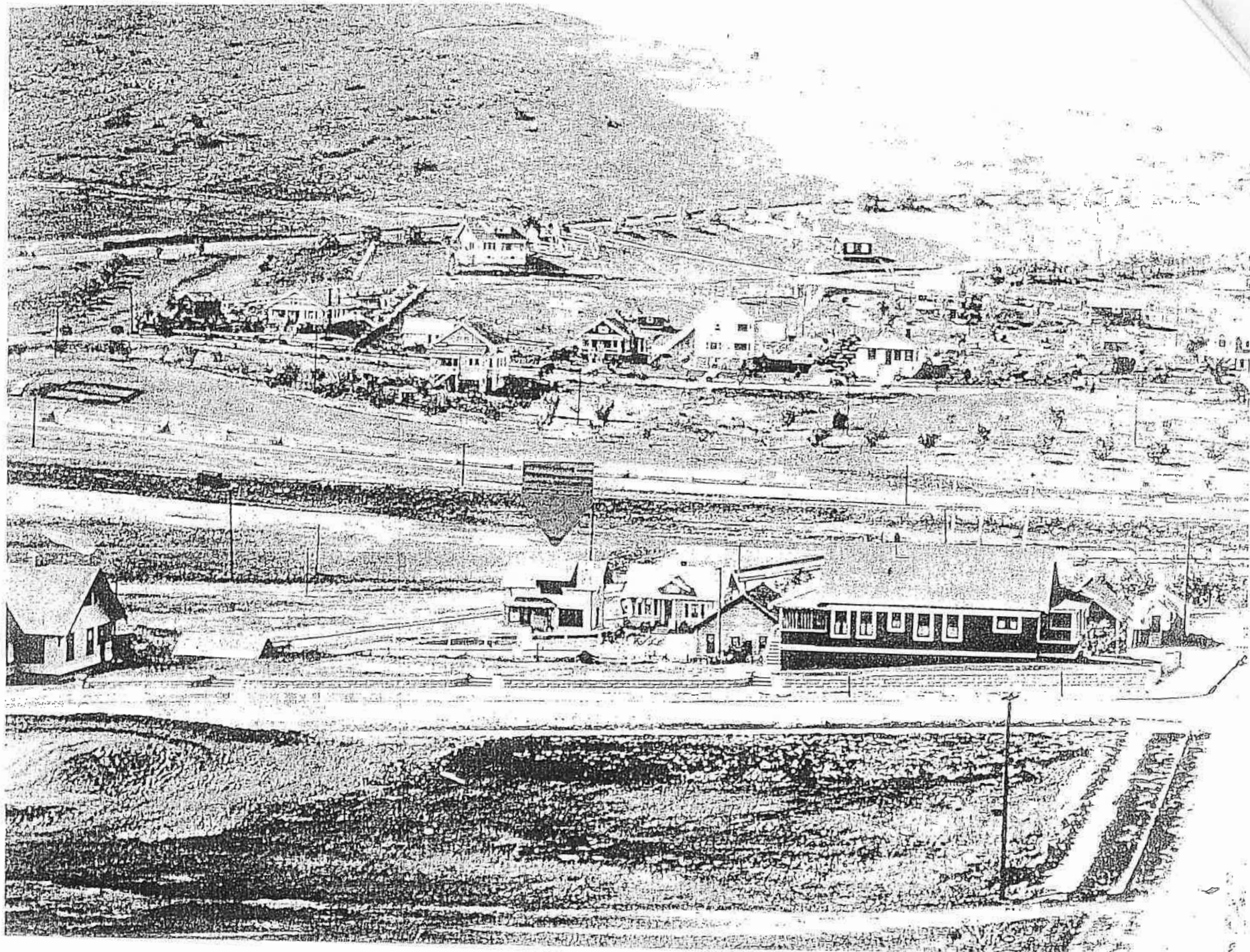
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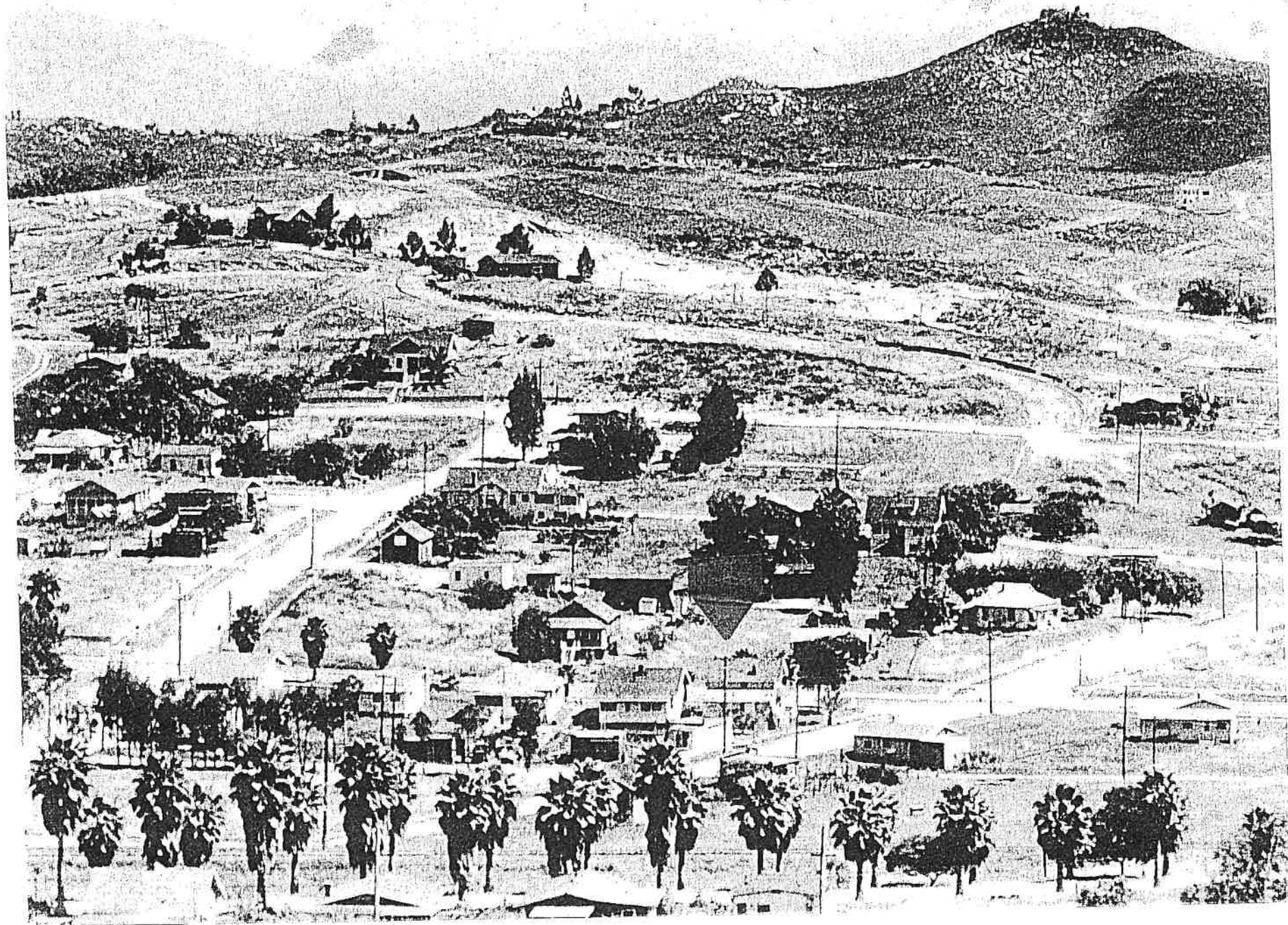
PALM AV.

9





Front of house, San Diego Historical Society, 1911



Back of house, San Diego Historical Society, 1927

Robertson House today



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Yahoo! - My Yahoo! Options - Sign Out - Help

Mail Addresses Calendar Notepad



Security Camera *have FUN!
feel SAFE!*

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Limited Time Offer. FREE Shipping. While Supply Lasts!

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Delete Move

Prev | Next | Inbox

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Date: Tue, 16 Apr 2002 17:13:48 -0700
 From: "JT" <jatrac@earthlink.net> | [Block Address](#) | [Add to Address Book](#)
 To: "NORCAL" <NORCAL-L@rootsweb.com>, "Stephanie Glazer" <stephanieglazer@yahoo.com>
 Subject: Santa Cruz Co/ Robertson, Harry obit

Santa Cruz Sentinel Tuesday, June 11, 1963 pg.16 obit

Harry Robertson, Retired Building Contractor, Dies

Harry Leslie Robertson, a retired San Francisco building contractor, died unexpectedly at his home Sunday.

Robertson was a contractor in San Francisco for 25 years. Before moving to San Francisco he was a builder in La Mesa and Orland. Robertson, 77, came to Felton two and one-half years ago. His home was at Highway 9 and Glengary road, south of Felton.

He was a former member and past master of La Mesa Lodge No. 107,

FF&AM, and Scottish Rite Bodies and Ben Ali Shrine Temple, Sacramento. Robertson was also a former member of the IOOF, both in La Mesa and Orland.

Survivors include his wife, Vada E. Robertson, a daughter, Helen (Mrs.

Bernard D.) Sherman, both of Felton, a grandson, Bernard Roland Sherman,

Oakland; two brothers, Alfred H. Robertson, Omaha, Neb., and Frank Robertson, Tuolumne; two sisters, Mrs. Myrtle Hackney, Lemon Grove, Calif., and Mrs. Lottie Richardson, Ventura.

Funeral services will be conducted at the Ferguson mortuary on Friday at 3 p.m. Rev. Noah J. Houk will officiate. Private cremation will follow at the IOOF crematory.

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Santa Cruz Sentinel, June 11, 1963

= Online, = Offline

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*Mr. C. R. Rowland
announces the marriage of his daughter*

Vada

to

*Mr. Harry L. Robertson
on Tuesday April the twentieth
nineteen hundred and nine
at Lexington,
Nebr.*

*At Home
After May tenth
Los Alamos, Calif.*



Harry and Vada Robertson's wedding announcement and wedding photograph.

Robertson-Rowland

Mr. Harry Robertson and Miss Vada Rowland were married at the Methodist parsonage in Lexington, Tuesday, April 20th. '09 by Rev. B. F. Gathers.

The bride is one of Overtons' most highly esteemed and accomplished young ladies and will be sadly missed by her circle of friends here. The groom is a stranger to Overton coming from near San Francisco Calif. but formerly of Nelson Nebr. and is to be congratulated in his success in winning for a wife one of Overtons' fairest and best young ladies. A reception in their honor held at the brides home, Wednesday night was largely attended and enjoyed. many beautiful and usefull presents were tendered them and the wish for their future success and happiness.

Wedding announcement of Harry L. Robertson and Vada Rowland. Date unknown.

BAKES PAN OF BISCUITS EVERY DAY FOR 57 YEARS FOR HUSBAND—THREE MILES OF FLUFF

Mrs. James C. Robertson Issues Challenges to All Culinary Experts to Equal Record; Wed in Illinois.

San Diego biscuit makers, young and old, a challenge has been flung into your faces.

Mrs. James C. Robertson of 619 Twenty-seventh street has missed only one day in 57 years baking biscuits for her husband. He makes this challenge to the women of San Diego.

"My wife is the best biscuit maker in this city, for money, marbles, or chalk."

One of Mrs. Robertson's golden brown, fluffy biscuits was measured. It was three inches across. For 57 years Mr. Robertson has averaged three of them daily—nine inches of biscuits a day, 3295 inches in a year, a total of 187,815 inches in 57 years, or a row of biscuits, if placed side by side, that would be three miles long. Some biscuits!

Seated in their cozy home, Mr. and Mrs. Robertson recounted some of the interesting events in their 57 years of married life.

DRIVE THROUGH SNOW

On Nov. 20, 1872, when the Robertsons were married, at Lovington, Ill., they drove 20 miles with horse and buggy through 10 inches of snow to buy the license. A few years after their marriage they went to Cornish, Neb., where they took a homestead of 160 acres and built a sod house. Their family of eight—six of whom are living—was born in the sod house out on a bleak Nebraska prairie. Their surviving sons and daughters are Mrs. Lottie Richardson, Richmond, Va.; Mrs. Lillie Schafer, Pipestone, Minn.; Alfred H. Robertson, Lincoln, Neb.; Harry L. Robertson, Oakland; Mrs. Myrtle Hackney and J. Frank Robertson of San Diego. For the last 20 years they have lived in the same house with their son, Frank, and wife. They keep their own apartments and Mrs. Robertson does her own housework.

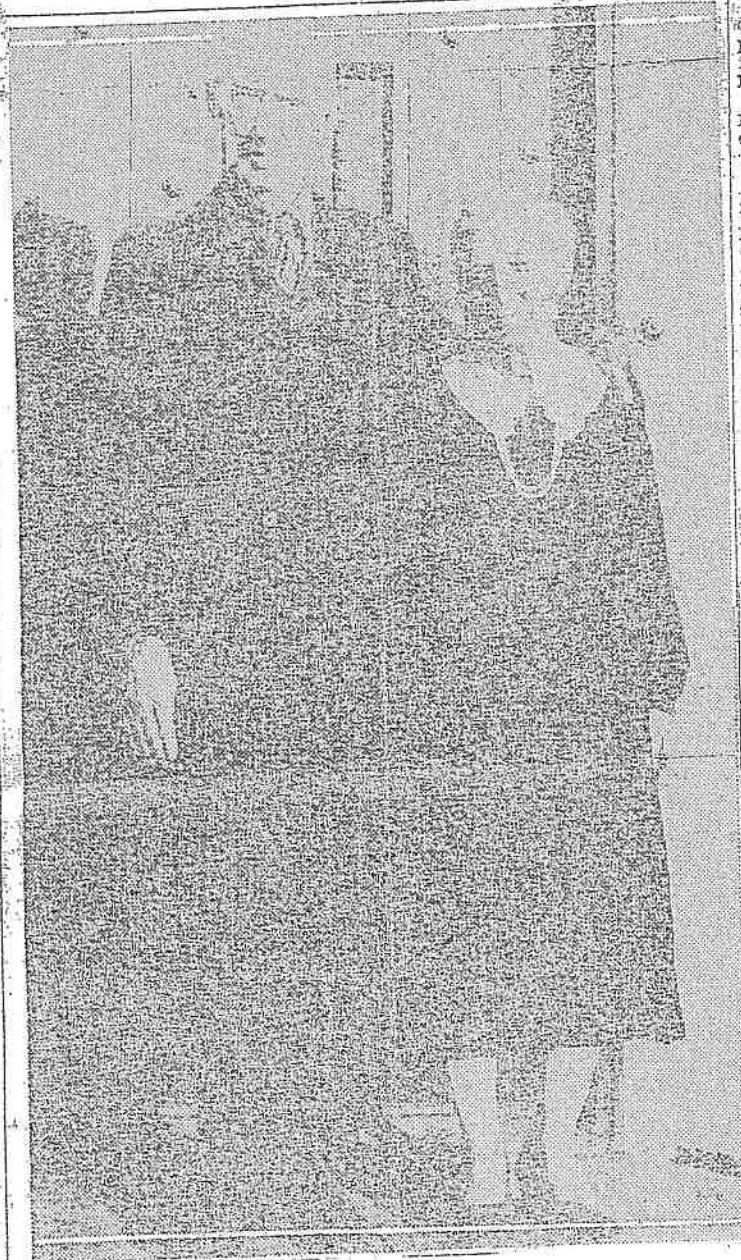
Coming to southern California 20 years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Robertson lived in La Mesa for eight years. They have nine grandchildren and the same number of great-grandchildren.

"I have been married to that woman three times," said Mr. Robertson. "The first marriage ceremony was performed 57 years ago; again when we celebrated our silver anniversary, and the third time at our golden wedding celebration. That was a big day for me, because I kissed 90 women—both old and young—and I did not get a count of the younger ones who went around to the end of the line and repeated. Guess they must have liked 'em."

"What was your wife doing all the while you were kissing so many women?" he was asked.

He Thrives on 'Em

For 57 years, Mrs. James C. Robertson, of 619 Twenty-seventh street, has baked biscuits once a day for her husband, and if her fluffy, golden-brown biscuits were placed side by side they would make a row of biscuits three miles long. Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, shown below, celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary on Nov. 20.



"O, she was looking out for herself—she was kissing the men," he said. "You bet I was," chirped in Mrs. Robertson, "and I kissed as many men as he kissed women at that golden wedding anniversary."

Mrs. Robertson was 75 years old last June, and he was 76 last March. He is a great reader and enjoys all the latest books, and is never too busy to talk on any subject, and, above all, he loves his little game of cards in the evening.

"Do you love your wife as much as you did 57 years ago?" he was asked. "I love her 57 times more than I did the day we were married," he replied. "Our love for one another has increased with the years we have lived together."

Busily engaged in bead work, Mrs. Robertson smiled her approval of everything her husband said about their happy lives.

"But please do not put it in the paper that we have never said a cross word to each other," he said. "We've had our little tilts, and there's a heap of fun in getting things straightened out, and we kiss and let by-gones be by-gones. That's our way of having a fuss. We get things off of our chest then make up. Do you do that way?"

SAMPLE BISCUITS

Mrs. J. Frank Robertson, their daughter-in-law, said she would like to have the visitors sample Mother Robertson's biscuits. Two had been left from the noon meal. They were buttered and jellied and served.

"I do not use a speck of shortening in my biscuits," said the 57-year biscuit maker. "They are nice and light and would not hurt anybody."

Hot bread once a day for 57 years has agreed with Mr. Robertson. He

eats very few vegetables, he says, and dislikes spinach.

"My wife and her fluffy biscuits have kept me young at 76, and I've just got to have my hot biscuits once a day."

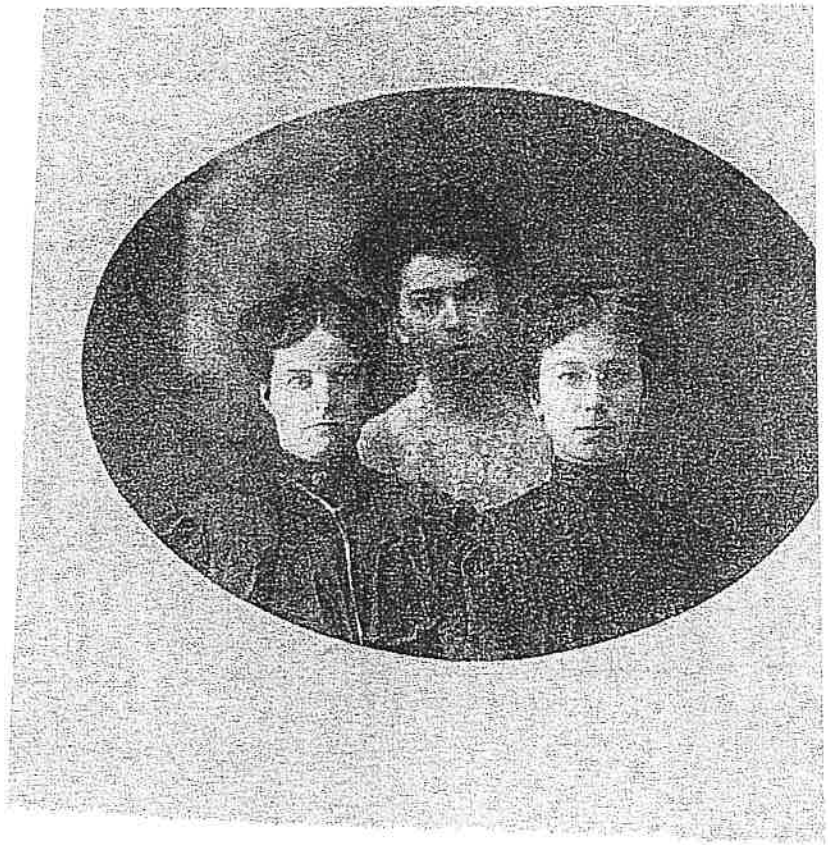
"We have breakfast, dinner and supper at our house. That's what they were 50 years ago, and we are just old fashioned enough to believe in calling them that way. No lunch at our house, unless you go to the cupboard and help yourself."



Vada Robertson. Date unknown.



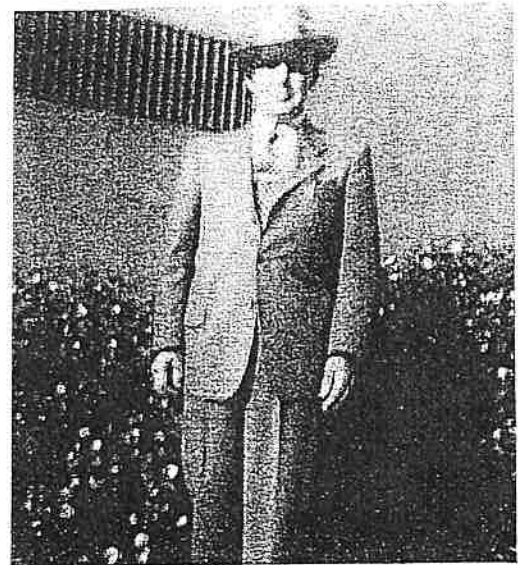
(far left) Harry L. Robetson, Jan. 7, 1951



(left to right) Della, Effa and
Vada (with glasses) Rowland



(left to right) Harry L. Robertson, Vada Robertson,
Mary Ruth Nelson (Vada's niece) and
Mary Ruth's father "Uncle Lan"



Harry L. Robertson, date unknown



Vada Robertson at daughter's 50th wedding anniversary, March 1981.
Ben Sherman Sr., son-in-law; Vada Robertson (age 93); Helen Sherman, daughter;
(left to right, front row) Yvonne Sherman, grandson's wife; and Barney Sherman Jr.,
grandson.

Vada Robertson,
who was born Aug.
15, 1888, was
honored with a big
party Saturday in
Capitola.

NOT ONE CAKE, but two —
along with a full dinner — were
served in honor of Nada Rob-
ertson's 100th birthday Saturday
at Capitola Gardens Apartments,
with 175 guests to enjoy.

A native of Concordia, Kan., Mrs.
Robertson was born Aug. 14, 1888.
She moved to California when she
got married and worked as a sales-
woman, apartment manager and
homemaker. She's a past matron
and life member, Order of the East-
ern Star.

She moved to Capitola in 1978
and maintains a lively life — walks
to the grocery store and laundry,
has her hair done, reads, sews and
plays bingo, attends the First Pres-
byterian Church and eats balanced
meals. That's the secret, she says.

"And I don't smoke. You know,
that has a great deal to do with
it"...

* * *



Sarah Pinkston,
Kansas State Historical Society



American Field Guide



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Red Cloud

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S-Z

(1837-1865)

Leader of perhaps the most savage fighting unit in the Civil War, William Quantrill developed a style of guerrilla warfare that terrorized civilians and soldiers alike. Quantrill was born in 1837 in Ohio, but little is known of his early life. It appears that after being a schoolteacher for several years, he travelled to Utah in 1858 with an army wagon train and there made his living as a gambler, using the alias of Charles Hart. After a year, he moved to Lawrence, Kansas, where he was again a schoolteacher from 1859 to 1860. But his past and predisposition soon caught up with him and, wanted for murder and horse theft, Quantrill fled to Missouri in late 1860.



Quantrill entered the Civil War on the Confederate side with enthusiasm. By late 1861, he was the leader of Quantrill's Raiders, a small force of no more than a dozen men who harassed Union soldiers and sympathizers along the Kansas-Missouri border and often clashed with Jayhawkers, the pro-Union guerrilla bands that reversed Quantrill's tactics by staging raids from Kansas into Missouri. Union forces soon declared him an outlaw, and the Confederacy officially made him a captain. To his supporters in Missouri, he was a dashing, free-spirited hero.

The climax of Quantrill's guerilla career came on August 21, 1863, when he led a force of 450 raiders into Lawrence, Kansas, a stronghold of pro-Union support and the home of Senator James H. Lane, whose leading role in the struggle for free-soil in Kansas had made him a public enemy to pro-slavery forces in Missouri. Lane managed to escape, racing through a cornfield in his nightshirt, but Quantrill and his men killed 183 men and boys, dragging some from their homes to murder them in front of their families, and set the torch to much of the city.

The Lawrence Massacre led to swift retribution, as Union troops forced the residents of four Missouri border counties onto the open prairie while Jayhawkers looted and burned everything they left behind. Quantrill and his raiders took part in the Confederate retaliation for this atrocity, but when Union forces drove the Confederates back, Quantrill fled to Texas. His guerrilla band broke up into several smaller units, including one headed by his vicious lieutenant, "Bloody Bill" Anderson, known for wearing a necklace of Yankee scalps into battle. Quantrill himself was eventually killed on a raid into Kentucky in 1865.

Even after his death, Quantrill and his followers remained almost folk heroes to their supporters in Missouri, and something of this celebrity later rubbed off on several ex-Raiders - the James brothers, Frank and Jesse, and the Younger brothers, Cole and Jim -- who went on in the late 1860's to apply Quantrill's hit-and-run tactics to bank and train robbery, building on his legacy of bloodshed a mythology of the Western outlaw that remains fixed in the popular imagination.

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CHASE COUNTY, Part 7

EPHRIAM W. PINKSTON, farmer and stock-raiser, Section 31, Range 20, Township 6, P. O. Cedar Point, was born in Sullivan County, Ind., March 1, 1830. He was brought up on a farm and resided in his native county until he attained his majority. His educational advantages were very limited. He then went to Illinois, and there acquired an academic education. He then entered mercantile life in Illinois, which he continued until the spring of 1857, when he came to Kansas in April of that year. He located a claim, August 12, on the Cottonwood River in Cottonwood Township - then Wise County now Chase - and left it in charge of friends while he returned to Indianola and closed out his mercantile business in which he had been engaged since April. In April, 1858, he settled on his claim, built a log cabin and began to make improvements. He has added to his farm by subsequent purchases so that it contains 545 acres. He also owns 160 acres situated on the Cottonwood River one mile east of the home farm. He has placed valuable improvements upon his farm including a substantial stone dwelling, a good barn, granary and other farm buildings and an orchard of about three acres. He has about 300 acres under cultivation and 100 acres of timber land. His principal crops are corn, wheat and rye. He keeps a herd of about 250 head of cattle, including some thoroughbred and high grad short-horn stock. Mr. Pinkston has been a member of the Board of County Commissioners of Chase County for eight years. Has held the office of Treasurer of Cottonwood Township one term, and has held other local offices. One of the earliest settlers of Chase County, he has ever since remained upon his original location, and although he came here with limited means and has met with several reverses and lost considerable by fire upon two occasions, he has by the exercise of industry, frugality and good business principles placed himself upon a level with the most prominent farmers in Chase County. He has been twice married. His first wife was Miss Clara J. Young, of Cottonwood Township, whom he married May 12, 1867. She was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, December 24, 1848; came to Kansas in May, 1866; died January 10, 1875. They had four children, of whom Hattie M. and Florence L. are now living. He married Mrs. Sarah A. L. Mack of Lawrence, December 12, 1876. Mrs. E. W. Pinkston was Sarah A. Lyon, youngest daughter of William and Elizabeth Lyon; was born May 2, 1837, in Richland County, Ohio; received a good school education, and in 1854, came West with her parents, two sisters and one brother. After a sojourn of four weeks in Independence, Mo., the family moved into Kansas. On the last Sunday in July, 1854, they stopped to rest on the very ground where now stands the State University. From that elevated position no sign of human habitation could be seen except down near the river a few logs were laid up. The family decided that it must be a deserted Indian lodge; it proved to be the foundation of a house on a claim taken by a Missourian who had returned to his home in Missouri. Two weeks later the first company came from New England, bought out the Missouri settler and located the city of Lawrence. Three miles farther west, on the old California road, the father located a claim and commence improving it. Many a weary, hungry claim hunter found rest and comfort in the hospitable home. Sarah, then seventeen years old, walked the three miles to the city of tents to attend divine services; heard Rev. S. Y. Lum preach the first sermon ever preached in the city of Lawrence. She was the first young lady in

Lawrence. Was married November 23, 1857, to John W. Mack, who was born in Milton, Mass., February 10, 1835. They lived thirteen happy years together; no children; he died October 9, 1870. He came here a young man of nineteen years with no fortune but a strong, robust constitution and a willing heart and hand to take hold of any work by which he could make an honest living. He will be remembered by many old settlers as the cheery, hospitable landlord of the Cincinnati House of Lawrence. He was Orderly Sergeant in Company A, a volunteer company of Border Ruffian times. He was in the employ of the Kansas Pacific Railroad Company and United States Express Company several years prior to his death. He was express messenger on the L., L. & G. R. R., when he was taken sick from exposure and overwork and laid down the burden of life with many friends around him. His widow was married December 12, 1876, to Ephraim W. Pinkston, of Cedar Point, Chase County.

<http://www.ukans.edu/carrie/kancoll/books/cutler/chase/chase-co-p7.html>

"AUNTIE" PINKSTON

Sarah A. Lyon was born in Highland County, Ohio, May 2nd, 1837. She died at La Mesa, California, March 15th, 1926, aged 88 years, 10 months and 13 days.

When seventeen years of age, in 1854, she moved with her parents, William and Elizabeth Lyon, to Lawrence, Kansas. November 23rd, 1857, she was married to John W. Mack who died October 9th, 1870. In 1871 she came to Cottonwood Falls with Col. S. N. Wood, whose wife was her sister. A year later she was appointed Postmistress of Cottonwood Falls under the U. S. Grant administration and served three years.

December 12th, 1876, she was married to E. W. Pinkston of Cedar Point and lived on the farm near that town for nearly forty years. For the past eight years her home has been in La Mesa, a suburb of San Diego, California.

In Ohio in her young womanhood she united with the Methodist Church and remained a faithful Christian until her death. While living at Cedar Point she worked with the Presbyterian Church and was one of the charter members of the Cedar Point Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Pinkston, commonly called by her host of friends, "Auntie" was a wonderful character. Born with a brilliant intellect, educated in the Ohio schools, among the less fortunate pioneers, she was a born leader. She was an eye witness of the sacking of Lawrence during the Quantrill raid. She wrote many articles for county and state papers. Her picture now hangs in Memorial Hall at Topeka with the early day settlers who helped to make Kansas a free State. She was a prominent worker in the W. O. T. U. and was a delegate to the National Convention when Francis Willard was its President.

This whole neighborhood remembers the many good deeds she has done in our community. She acted as Sunday School Superintendent; was President of the Ladies Guild and always working for the Church. As a boy I heard her talk many times in class meetings. Those talks were an inspiration to me but her best work was done for the poor and needy. No night was too dark nor roads too muddy for Auntie to visit a sick child or mother. When Auntie came to Kansas the settlers were far apart. Indians and buffalo were common.

The mode of travel was by horse back or ox wagon. There were no railroads this side of Kansas City and even a buggy was unknown. Auntie was a fair artist. One of my most valued possessions is an oil painting given me as a wedding present.

In her life she had taken two homeless girls and raised them to womanhood. Gave them a good education both in school and music. Today the whole community is proud of these girls. She leaves to mourn her one daughter, Mrs. D. A. Ellsworth, of San Diego, Calif., who is now worn out and sick and unable to come, and a host of friends. If all the people were like Auntie Pinkston, we would need no law.

The body will be laid to rest in the family lot on the old Pinkston Homestead.

stead beside her daughter Florence, who died in her early childhood, but whom Auntie never forgot. It has always been her wish that she be buried beside her. John Madden of Wichita, an early day friend, will deliver the funeral oration. Rev. Brewster will read Auntie's favorite Scripture, the 23rd Psalm. Her friends were Legion and all loved her. God be with her 'till we meet again.

C. A. Sayre,

A Life Time Friend.

"AUNTIE" PINKSTON'S FUNERAL

D. W. Wood has received word that the body of "Auntie" Pinkston will arrive at Cedar Point, Thursday afternoon at three o'clock.

The funeral services will be held at the Presbyterian church at Cedar Point at three-thirty. The services will be in charge of Rev. Brewster. John Madden of Wichita will speak. Burial will be made in the Pinkston private cemetery, which is located on the old E. W. Pinkston farm.

Kansas State Historical Society
Sarah Pinkston, March 15, 1926

Topeka Capital
March 25, 1926

WOMAN WHO SAW RAID BY QUANTRILL IS DEAD

Mrs. E. W. Pinkston Came
To Kansas in 1854.

With Her Parents She Camped on
Site of University Before School
Came Into Being.

Cottonwood Falls, Kan., March 24.—(Special)—Mrs. E. W. Pinkston, early day Chase county pioneer and eye witness of the sacking of Lawrence by Quantrill and his band, is dead.

Mrs. Pinkston, who was familiarly known in Chase county as "Auntie" Pinkston, was born in Richland county, Ohio, 1837. Her death occurred at La Mesa, Calif., where she has been residing for several years. Funeral services will be held at Cedar Point Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. Pinkston came to Kansas with her parents, William and Elizabeth Lyon, in 1854. They camped in Lawrence that spring on the site that is now occupied by Kansas university. At that time there was only one farm visible to the eye from the hill.

She was married to John Mack whose death occurred 1870. The following year she came to Cottonwood Falls and lived with her sister, Mrs. S. N. Wood. Shortly afterwards she was appointed postmistress at this place under U. S. Grant's administration. In 1876 she was married to E. W. Pinkston.

Mrs. Pinkston had written many articles, giving first hand information of those troublesome days when Quantrill and his men were raiding Kansas towns of the eastern part of the state and killing and burning as they went. She saw the massacre at Lawrence in all its frightfulness.

At the time Mrs. Pinkston came to Chase county there were no railroads this side of Kansas City and the mode of travel was by horseback or with ox wagons or teams. The settlers were far apart and the Indians and buffalo were common.

Mrs. Pinkston is survived by one daughter who is Mrs. D. A. Ellsworth, of San Diego, Calif.



MRS. E. W. PINKSTON

Vada Robertson

Services were held for Mrs. Vada Robertson who died Thursday. She would have been 102 on August 14.

A native of Cloud County, Kans., Mrs. Robertson came to California with her husband. They settled first in San Diego, and later in San Francisco for many years, before retiring to Santa Cruz in 1960. She was a 75-year member of the Eastern Star and a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Cruz.

She is survived by her grandson, Bernard D. Sherman Jr., and her son-in-law, Bernard D. Sherman Sr., both of Felton; her niece, Mary Nelson of Pismo Beach, a great niece and great nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harry L. Robertson and her daughter, Helen V. Sherman.

Services were conducted at Santa Cruz Memorial Park, with interment at Santa Cruz Memorial Park Mausoleum.

Memorial contributions to a favorite charity are preferred.

Santa Cruz Sentinel, July 29, 1990

RICKMEYER—Otto Paul Erickson-Anderson Mortuary.

The San Diego Union-Tribune, March 9, 1949

The following letter has been received from Mrs. E. W. Pinkston by one of the local American Legion members which will be of interest:

My dear friend: The La Mesa Scout brought to me your Christmas message to the "Gold Star Mothers."

I can not claim the honor of being a mother, but many went down who were close to me. I want to thank you for the message. I cut it from The Scout, placed it in my Bible, and have read it over and over, and I thank God for the dear boys who were spared in mercy to return to La Mesa. Next to the message we read in John, 3:16, it is the best. It touches my heart, and my sympathy goes out to the glorious Gold Star Mothers of our country.

I am preparing to return to my home in La Mesa.

My health is very good again.

Am thinking of all you good people, of my good neighbors who were so good to me. I want to see them, and be at home. There is no place like home. I hope to be there some time in February.

Again thanking you for that wonderful message, and asking to be remembered as a friend of every soldier who did his part well.

Very sincerely,

MRS. E. W. PINKSTON,
Cottonwood Falls, Kansas.

Mrs. Sarah Pinkston, who has been living in Cottonwood Falls, Kansas, for a year and a half, returned Friday and says she is glad to be back in her La Mesa home again.

La Mesa Scout, May 13, 1921

PINKSTON—At La Mesa, Calif., March 14, 1921, Sarah Ann Lyon Pinkston, mother of Mrs. D. A. Ellsworth of San Diego, Calif., aunt of Florence Wood Abbott of Hagerman, Idaho, David Wood of Montrose, Colo., Wm. L. Wood of Cottonwood Falls, Kansas; a native of Ohio, aged 55 years 16 months, 17 days.

Friends are invited to attend the funeral services to be held from the Erickson Funeral Parlor, La Mesa, Friday, March 18, 1921, at 3 p. m. Rev. James W. Hibbard officiating. Interment Cedar Point, Kansas.

Ray DeChaine

Services for Ray L. DeChaine of Redding will be conducted at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Lawncrest Chapel in Redding.

The Rev. Roger E. Chamberlain of the Enterprise Community Church of God will officiate. Cremation will be followed by inurnment at Lawncrest Memorial Park.

Mr. DeChaine died Saturday at Memorial Hospital in Redding. He was 69.

Born Jan. 29, 1910, in California, he came to Shasta County in 1950. He was a retired motel manager and owner.

He is survived by his wife, Emie of Redding; daughters, Ramona Rogers of Garberville and Joyce Level of Redding; a sister, Edris Sopp of Los Angeles; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. today at Lawncrest Chapel.

Redding Record-Searchlight,
Dec. 3, 1979

KANTERS - Engleberg C. Husband of Margaret Kanters. Father of Robert Kanters. Brother of Mrs. R. A. Brandon. Services Sat. 11 a.m. Greenwood Mortuary. Remains will lie in state until Mon. noon. Interment Greenwood Memorial Park.

Gen. O.J. Ritland; wartime test pilot

Retired U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen.

Osmond J. Ritland died Saturday of a heart attack at Scripps Memorial Hospital. He was 81.

In a military career spanning 27 years, Gen. Ritland logged nearly 10,000 hours as a pilot and received the Distinguished Flying Cross and two Legions of Merit.

Gen. Ritland was born in Berthoud, Colo. He attended San Diego State College, before starting his military career in 1932.

He was married in 1936 to the former Martha Virginia Alsup of San Diego. After a five-year hiatus from the military, during which he worked as a pilot for United Airlines, Gen. Ritland returned to active duty as an experimental test pilot.

In this capacity, he tested the majority of American aircraft used during World War II, and received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

On several occasions, Gen. Ritland made emergency landings because of fires or structural failures in flight.

In 1943, he parachuted from a burning British Mosquito bomber seconds before it exploded in the air. The force of catapulting from an aircraft at 370 miles an hour snapped some of the lines of his parachute, leaving only a portion of the canopy to slow his fall. He suffered a broken back but returned to work within two months.

In 1944, he was transferred to Asia and served as commander of the Assam Air Depot in India until 1946.

Gen. Ritland later was assigned to a special weapons command in New Mexico, where he tested equipment in the development of nuclear weapons.

He was also in charge of all aircraft participating in the Nevada proving grounds atomic test sites. He was awarded the Legion of Merit for his achievements during these historic tests.

Gen. Ritland attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and later worked as the chief of the Air Force Atomic Energy Division. In 1959, he was promoted to major general.

In 1961, he joined the newly created space systems division of the Air Force. The following year he was named deputy to the commander for manned space flight at Andrews Air Force Base.

After retiring from active duty in 1965, Gen. Ritland worked for five years as vice president for launch operations at McDonnell Douglas.

Besides his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Kathleen Montoya of Fremont, Calif., and Susan Kosich of

Local

Los Gatos, Calif., and five grandchildren.

A memorial service will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Miramar Naval Air Station chapel.

Jennie Ritland Rites Scheduled For Today

Mrs. Jennie Ritland, 76, of 4834 Art St., a resident here since 1924, died Tuesday in a hospital. Survivors include—a daughter, Mrs. Marjorie Vander Veer of San Diego; and two sons, Hubert and Osmond, both of Los Angeles. Services will be at 2 p.m. today at Erickson-Anderson Mortuary.

The San Diego Union-Tribune, April 9, 1957