+ Valle Vista + Moraga

We bought the lot on Hillside in the Spring of 1914. and moved out there about June of 1915.

Later we bought 2 1/2 acres in Moraga on the Old Redwood Rd. just off the County Rd from Canyon to Moraga. We then traded with the Irwin Co. for 2 1/2 acres in Valle Vista on the East side of the Creek between the two bridges and boardering the Creek. The Moraga place backed up to the Larch property where Mrs. Larch still lives or did a few years ago. Spring meyers also had property there, later buying the Hotel + Store property later a liquor store at Moraga, where Mrs. Talbot had the store and Post Office first. She then moved to a garage building on the road to the So of the old place. About 1917 or early 1918. they sold and moved to Berkeley. When this property was laid out there was a big sign in + near Moraga Ota (Watch Moraga Grow.) It didn't due to the 1st. World War, until many years later. In 1915. when we moved there, there were the 3 larger houses on the hill the Co. built, then the Robinson + Lansdale, Hodgkins Sr.

and the Hodkins Jr. also house next to Hodgkins Jr. Where an elderly man lived before selling to the Dr. Merills.

The 3 company houses Mr + Mrs Arbuckle lived in the lower one. Then on the top of the road Dr. + Mrs Witham. Later they sold to Mr + Mrs. Gilkey and family, they later selling to Miss Cooper. Facing the other street was the dentist Dr. Busch + family He had his office in Berkely on University Ave just at end of Shattuck Ave. They later sold to Mr + Mrs. Hoyt an engineer on the So. Pacific R. R. They also later bought property on the upper side + across the road, also facing creek and were the last to sell to the Water Co. Both the Hodgkins commuted to San Francisco Earl was with the tele Co. Also in the Army during the first World War. Mr. Arbuckle was away from home a lot. The Withams + Gilkeys were retired. Dr. Merill had some kind of Therapy and Mrs. M. a trained nurse later got permission to practice medicine. Mr. R. Holt worked for the P. G. + E. main office S. F. and Mr. Jackson the Ferry Post Office in S. F. The Lansdales and the Robinsons were both retired and

not there all the time. Later they rented the places. Robinsons to Mr + Mrs McPhee whom worked at the quary and later bought the Hodgkins Sr. property. Dan Dessions + Mrs Dessions who worked for the Water Co. as inspector rented the Sandale place later buying a house on hill facing the station. They then moved south and sold to Dr. Wall. He just used it for vacationists. The Dr. Merrill property was later rented to a auto body man + wife who worked in S.F. Mr + Mrs. Burnham raised pidgeons but later took over the delivery of the Oakland Tribune.

Mr + Mrs Green also rented the Robinson property and later bought the Campion property. Mr. Campion very seldome on the property. He lived in Oakland.

We farmed, had cows + delivered milk to the valley people, also had dry beans planted in rented property and later planted hill side to hay on shares with the Co. Rain caught us with no place to store hay after baling so we quit and moved to So. Calif. in Nov. of 1920. Later selling to

the Water Co. I also Worked for the P.G. & E. in 1917-18.

Every morning the commuters took the C. & A. train & Key Ferry to S.F. from Valle Vista Sta at 6:30. a.m. arriving in S.F. at 7:30 A.M. Some mornings it Would be 18° so men built a fire on track to Warm us While Waiting for train. We had to catch 5:15 Ferry from S.F. or wait until 8 P.M. last train from Oakland at 8:30.

We had an Improvment Club including Moraga & Canyon. Also the Tribute Ranch back of What is now St. Marys College That was one time a Country Club. We Worked for Connors Supervisor and even went to Rodeo for a Banquet & Dance Mrs Talbot our first Post Master got the post office for Moraga. The mail came by train to Martinez then Walnut Creek & by horse back to Lafayette and Moraga.

I cast my first Vote at the little school (white) room on the road to Lafayette later a new building Which still stands It had 2 school rooms and a nice Auditorium. It Was the Spring Valley school district. The Moraga school

living on the road to Orinda about half way from Moraga. Dances & elections were held at the school. We were paid $8.00 for elections and I took the returns to Martinez next day for millage which amounted to 8.00 School board elections no pay. The little Valley of Valle Vista had good roads, but county roads in Winter were not passable with a car. Farmers used horse & cart mostly so we never bought car license until April.

You, Wilbur, started school in Moraga and I drove you in the car when roads were passable or drove you in horse & buggy. Also would pick up some of farmers children. Our only children at Valle Vista was Flora & Virginia & you. They started school after we left and the Buck children left before you started.

Father drove jitney between Madrone Park and Canyon and Irene soft drink stand for Mrs Talbot on Sundays in summer. If I think of any thing more or if you do will add it later Mother