



## RECOLLECTIONS OF WALLACE

BY WALTER HADDOCK

The Northwest corner of Calaveras County has received too little attention in the pages of "Las Calaveras." We will attempt to remedy the situation with these memories of Walter Haddock and his sister, Rose Harrington, who formerly lived near this town.

On top of the first range of hills, a mile or so east of the county line, was Catts' Camp, a trading post operated by Samuel Catts for the local miners. A short distance farther east, on the Mokelumne River was Camanche. In '83 the little town of Wallace came into existence when the San Joaquin and Sierra Nevada Railroad was built. Catts' Camp was soon replaced by Wallace. The Haddock ranch was about a mile north of town, right on the county line.

My grandparents, Rosetta and George Haddock, came from Newcastle, England, in 1858. On my mother's side, her parents, Henry Little and wife, came across the plains in a covered wagon train in 1849.

My father, Charles Haddock, was six years old when he

came from England with his parents and sisters across the Isthmus of Panama to San Francisco, and by boat to Stockton. They took up land at Waterloo, and my father went his first term of school at Harmony Grove, between present-day Lockeford and Waterloo.

They left the Waterloo area a year later and moved to a ranch near the place that is now Wallace, and near the Chalk Ranch (Jack Millers'). All this is now under water or covered by Camanche Dike.

My father went to school in Camanche with his oldest sister, Nellie. Mrs. Hill's two oldest sons, Jess and John, went there too, as did John and Tom Marrow, of Camanche. On Saturday and Sunday, my father would take eggs and chickens on foot to the miners on the Catts' Camp hills. There was lots of mining in the hills then. Catts' store was on top of the hills near the present East Bay road, just north of Wallace.

In 1870, my grandparents moved to Gridley, Butte County, and my father ran away from home and came back to Catts' Camp and Camanche. This was when he was 17 years old. He worked on the Martell Ranch, just west of present-day Wallace, until he was 21, when he got his citizenship papers.

He married Lecta Little who lived about a mile away from Martell Ranch. They were married near Clements by a Justice of the Peace on January 29th, 1877. Then he bought 80 acres of railroad land, just west of Chalk Ranch. The home he built there, in 1877, was about a half-mile north of the stage and freighter road going from Stockton to Mokelumne Hill, by way of Clements, Catts' Camp, Camanche, Camp Seco, and Paloma.

My mother's father lived west of the county line, and bred and sold horses to the stage operators. It took about 30 horses for one six-horse stage from Stockton to Mok Hill, as they had four or five relay stations on this route.

My father built our home from lumber he freighted from the sawmills above Murphys. He was both a farmer and a freighter—a long line teamster. He hauled hay, grain, watermelons and groceries to the mountains and brought back lumber. This old home, where all five of us children were born, is gone, under the waters of Lake



WALLACE—As it appeared about 1910. This part of town was later dredged and then became the yard for the sawmill.

Camanche.

Wallace was founded in 1883, when the railroad to Valley Springs was built. The townsite and the two lots for the school yard were donated by the railroad company. Tom Hannagan built the first store, where Thornburg's office is now. The town was named for the surveyor, J. H. Wallace, as the railroad company said that Catts' Camp was not an appropriate name for a railroad station.

My two sisters went to school at the Hannagan store in 1884-85, in the hall above the store. The citizens of the Wallace community hired Miss Terry and paid her by collection. She boarded two weeks with each farmer and resident of Wallace.

Then they appointed three trustees for the district, Alex Grishaber, William Holman, and Charles Haddock (chairman), and they hired Miss Terry for the second year, with the county paying her salary, and she boarding with Rose and William Hannagan in Wallace. This was the last term in the town hall. The new school was completed in the summer of '86. Hannagan's store burned down in 1896.

The first teacher in the new school was Miss Maggie McAllen, of San Andreas. I started school in this building in 1896.

Here are the names of the people that gave the labor and cash, and their children: Auntie Hill, \$50; Mr. Hannagan, father of Will and Tom, built the brick pillars under the building—he was a carpenter and brick mason; Bud Thorp, who married Alice Hitchcock, cash—three children; Thomas Evans, cash—two children; Ed Walker, who married a Lamb girl from Valley Springs—two children; John Walker, a bachelor (the Walkers did most of the framing of the building); A. Grishaber, blacksmith—two children; Kilgore, an albino negro; Schultz, a bachelor; William Holman—three children; I. N. Holman—one child; Pat Breen—two children; Peterson—three children; Athern—two children; and Charles Haddock—two children.

The railroad was first built narrow gauge, and all freight had to be transferred at Lodi from standard gauge. In '04 or '05, the railroad company imported some 200 Japanese laborers to rebuild the roadbed for standard gauge. If you have ever watched "Petticoat Junction" on TV, that is what Wallace was like in 1895, when I first went to school there.

In 1906, the Pepper Mining Company of Philadelphia brought in a steam shovel on the railroad on dollies. I was 16 years old at the time, and as my father was sick, I used to drive team to help move the track ahead to take the shovel to the Mokelumne River, three miles away, to dig a sump for a gold dredger, one of the first in California. I later worked on the dredger.

After the railroad was completed from Lodi to Valley Springs, the stages that used to go from Stockton, Bellota, Stone Corral, and the station just east of the present site of Valley Springs, to San Andreas and Angels, now went from the railhead at Valley Springs. They hauled passengers, baggage, mail, and Wells Fargo Express business. When carrying gold from the mines, they had a shotgun messenger.

My dad used to haul freight from Valley Springs to the Penn Mine at Campo Seco. He would take over coke to fire the furnace and would bring back copper matte to ship to Selby Refiners at San Francisco. I often went along with him when I was 8 or 9 years old, and remember that it was quite a sight to see the four and six-horse stages lined up at the depot waiting for the afternoon train at 2:30. I went with my dad to the mountains from the ranch. We took ten tons of watermelons on one trip to Murphys, and brought back lumber from Matt Manuel's sawmill, above Avery.



**THE HADDOCK FAMILY—1891**

**Rose and Mary standing, George in front. Walter is the baby. Another son was born later.**

Camanche once had 2000 Chinese miners and three Chinese stores. The Hill Ranch, two miles west of Camanche, raised buhach, a yellow flower that was picked and dried, and then ground to a powder in a mill.\* It was used to exterminate insects, fleas, and the like. I'm the only person living today that worked in that mill and field in 1905.

Goodman's Corner was being built in 1901. I was eleven years old when Under-sheriff Samuel Holman was shot. His son, Lee, and I were the same age and had started school together five years before. I am the only person still living that was there right after the shooting. His son is still alive, but wasn't there. We lived only about two hundred yards back of the roadhouse, so we could hear the shooting very clearly.

A man named Biddle, and his partner, had stopped under the front of the roadhouse, then being built, with no windows or doors in yet, in order to get out of the storm. They had a horse and buckboard loaded with ladders, buckets, and other painting supplies, for they were transient house and barn painters. Sheriff Holman came by on his way to Camanche and told them to leave before he got

\*The Las Calaveras issue of October, 1955, contains an article on the Hills and "buhach." Pleasant Hill, III, grandnephew of "Auntie" Hill, said in a recent letter that her first name was Euphenia. He also stated that Irving was not her only son; the two elder boys died in their twenties at the ranch. These were Jess and John, mentioned by Mr. Haddock. The April, 1956, issue of Las Calaveras has additional information on Wallace and vicinity.



back. When he came back they were still there, so he went to Wallace and deputized three men, Joe Robinson, Robert McMurry, and Print Hamrick, and came back. Holman had a span of dapple-gray matched high steppers and a one-seat buckboard.

Holman went to their wagon and took their shotgun, which they used to kill game to eat. There were no hunting laws in those days. Then he went over and knocked Biddle's partner off the nail keg he was sitting on, and then turned on Biddle with his sawed-off shotgun. Biddle shot him in the stomach, and Holman's first barrel hit one of Biddle's legs at the knee. The other shotgun charge went through the wall of the roadhouse.

Holman asked the deputies to take him home. When they got back to Wallace to his house, he had them pull his boots off, and he died a few minutes later. Everybody had said he would die with his boots on.

My father came up from Camanche just as the shooting started and saw it all. All three deputies emptied their guns, too, but never hit anything. About two o'clock in the morning we heard a shot. Biddle had shot himself in the head, and his partner had hooked up the horse and left. The latter was arrested the next day in Ione and brought back to San Andreas for trial. He got six months in the county jail for a vagrant, as he had no gun and had done no shooting.

Goodman's later became known as Dead Man's Corner. Two others were killed here later on. A man by the name of Littlejohn tipped over a load of hay and broke his neck. Th's was before the new roadhouse was built. After it was moved down on the new highway, Ed Fitzgibbons was shot there.

At one time, Dead Man's Corner had a saloon, grocery store, grain warehouse, dance hall, baseball field, blacksmith shop, and two cabins.

In 1908, my father died of cancer. I was eighteen years old. My brother George was 22, and my younger brother 14. My two sisters were both married. The next year I left the ranch and went to work for Wells Fargo Express, where I was employed for ten years.

## THE LITTLE TOWN OF WALLACE AS I FIRST REMEMBER IT

BY ROSE HADDOCK HARRINGTON

The first event I remember well was when the narrow gauge came to Wallace in the spring of 1883. There was quite a crowd of people in the neighborhood gathered to see and welcome the train. McClellan, of Woodbridge, was the conductor and remained so for quite a few years. He was known as "Pop" or "Mac" to everyone. Sam was the engineer.

At one time Wallace could boast of a two-story hotel. This burned in '88. There was a large general merchandise store, with a big hall overhead. Hitchcock and Thorp were the first two to have a store and post office, as I remember. There was a livery stable with stalls for twelve head of horses, owned by L. B. Hannagan, Sr. He and his two grown sons had a very nice home there. L. B. Hannagan sold the stable and shop to Sam Rothenberger, who in 1908 sold it to J. J. Simpson and Sons for a tractor and harvester repair shop.

There was a blacksmith shop. A man by the name of Grishaber was the smith. His wife and two sons also lived there. Their home was the only building on the north side of the highway at that time. Rossetti's place of business is located on that lot at present. Wallace also had two

saloons, one in connection with the hotel.

Dr. March, his wife and two eldest sons lived a short time in Wallace. From our little town he moved to Burson. The doctor, when called to come, might be a little late, but he never failed to come, day or night, rain or shine.

Eight or nine homes were all there were in the town at my first remembrance. Weinholdt built next, then Will Hannagan who married Rose Martell, then Tom Hannagan, Jr., who married Mamie Holman. These two houses are still in the town. Gerlacks and C. C. Hamrick (my brother-in-law) live in the Tom Hannagan home, but it has been moved across the highway. When the dredging company came in, they moved it back. In fact, they moved nearly the whole town.

These were the teachers during my days at school in Wallace:

Miss Maggie McAllen of San Andreas

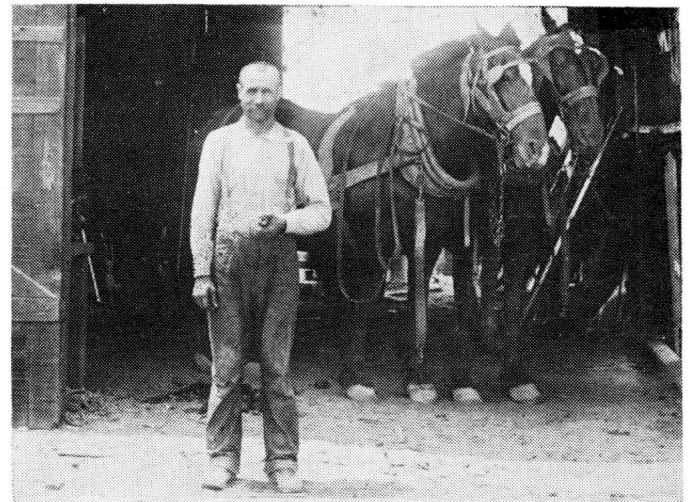
Miss Mary Mulgrew of Camanche

Miss Louise Weithoff of Camanche

Miss May Hopkins of San Andreas

Miss Sammy Henderson of Jenny Lind

Miss Henderson finished a term of the only man teacher Wallace ever had, a Mr. Ligginger, who resigned on account of illness.



**BLACKSMITH ERNEST MURPHY — who ran the smithy at Dead Man's Corner during the first two decades of the century, pauses in his work on the Haddock team to pose for the camera.**

Wallace had a small circus visit the town, in the early years of the century, with trapeze, trained animals and an elephant. We had skating in the town hall, and once a year a traveling show.

The Catts' Camp hills north of town were quite a mining center in the '60s. The work was done by hand with pick and shovel, wheel barrows, sluices, rockers, and in shallow tunnels.

Wallace has had four fires. First the Hitchcock home, quite a landmark, burned. The second was the old general merchandise store about 1900. Then third the Dixon Brothers store that burned down the night that Woodrow Wilson was elected to his first term as President, in November, 1912. Fourth, a house burned, and if my memory is correct, two little girls were burned to death.

My sister, May Hamrick, was postmaster in Wallace for 37 years. I was married to George F. Harrington in May, 1900.

