

TAPE #111

GEORGIA WHITE

Taped: June 1979

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Reference: Old Pine Grove buildings.

(Let's start with the Galli Hotel. What can you tell us about it?)

It was originally Mrs. Leonard's hotel. She was one of the five people who named Pine Grove.

(How did it get to be named Galli Hotel?)

Old man Galli bought it in after years. I think I was in the 5th grade when he bought the Hotel. But I think it was built back in 1859.

(Linda Cuneo lived at New York Ranch. Where was it?)

When you go down the Ridge Road out of Pine Grove and you hit the level where Climax Road joins in, that was New York Ranch.

(Here's a picture of the town hall in Pine Grove.)

Yes. And I remember that dirt road, boy! The building next to it was Hugh Luttrell's store. (It's spelled LUTTRELL) I used to run across the plaza, my sister and I, and we shopped there.

We shopped for Grandma and Mama. Luttrell was born in Pine Grove and you shopped with gold pieces---if you had any.

And this next picture---that's the first church in Pine Grove. And you can just see a corner of the Parsonage in the picture. Grandma helped to found the church. Louisa James, her name was.

(What was the name of the church?)

It was the Pine Grove Methodist Church.

(What happened to it?)

It caved in from the snow. That was about 1938. It was sad; Mama and I felt so bad.

(Where was it located?)

It was in practically the same spot as the church that is there now.

(Now, what is this building?)

That was the first Post Office in Pine Grove. I think Fred Serine(?) was the first post master there; he was Spanish. He was Aunt Sara's husband. Out of the picture was Otis Webster's house, and next to his was Grandpa's house. I remember it well; I went there hundreds of times with Mama.

(What about this next building?)

Papa built that in 1897. It is still there; in back of the NAPA Auto Store in Pine Grove. It was the first building on the homestead and Papa built it out of adobe. Mr brother Mark and my sister Florence were born there. Charlie was born in Grandma's house in Pine Grove, and I was born on top of the hill, in the log house.

(Who's in the picture; the little girl?)

Could be my sister. Could be me!

(Who is this lady?)

It looks like Mrs. Payton. But I never saw Mrs. Payton wear a cap.

(Who is this man?)

I just can't get over it. I can't believe it. It's PAPA!

Papa was George Wellington Preston, born in Connecticut in Sept. on the 19th, 1863. Papa was an orphan.

He died in 1927 at the age of 64.

(What about the pan at the back of his head in the picture?)

That was a Mexican gold pan. He mined with it, and it was made of wood.

The first gas pumps in Pine Grove were in front of the Galli Hotel. They were just down from the horse trough.

Getting back to the picture of the little girl. Well, she's sort of chubby, and Grandpa used to call me that! My father was a shutter-bug, he used to develop his own pictures and everything.

Now, Luttrell's grandpa, Jushua Luttrell, my Grandpa, and three other persons named Pine Grove.

You know when some of these newcomers come around, and if I told them the school was established in 1862, they might say you don't know what you're talking about. So I say nothing. People say the school house that's there is the first one here, but it isn't.

I know what house it is now! It's Lowery's place.

You know where the auditing shop is on 88? Well, just to the right of it was the blacksmith shop. I remember as a small child standing in the door, watching the blacksmith beat away on his iron.

(We have a change. What is the house now?)

I think it's Uncle Fred Serine's home. But everybody says its spelled a different way. I'd write it that way for an article, and they'd change it to some fancified spelling.

See, my Aunt Sara was an Avery, as my grandmother was. She married Fred Serine, who was Spanish. It's just before the Pine Grove cemetery, on the left side of the street. The first house. It's now known as the James house.