

Round Valley

Sept 24-'81

13

2010.25.13

Captions, Round Valley

1. Dave Olds home in Round Valley. Aunt Nettie Bulpit, sidesaddle, Granddad, Charles, (father of Lillis,) Grandma Martha on porch.

Lillis Olds Killian collection

2. The large barns. Dave Olds, Aunt Nettie and workers.

Lillis Olds Killian collection

3. Round Valley School. Left to right, on horseback; Claude Steddham, Ella Steddham, Willie Roberts, Roland Lord, Fred and Floyd Brooks, Lorane Jones. 2nd row; I? , Deb Smith, Mrs Dan Conner, teacher in 1901 and 02, May Smith. Front row, Edith A. Barter, ? , Steddham, ? , Mildren Jackson, ? , John Barter, ^{ERNEST} Ernest Bulpitt, ^{Bill} ~~Bill~~ Jacks, Willie Wells, and Dan Conners.

Robert Brooks collection.

4. The Round Valley store was located on the Hilton property near the corner of old Pine Creek road and West side road. Owners through the years, Blaisdell, R, Fred Brooks and Brack Summers .

Ray McMurry collection

5. The Roberts Creamery stands on Schober lease. The upper story was with rooms an Inn/for travelers.

Adele Reed Photo

6. John E. Jones flour sack used in his Round Valley Flour Mill.

Genny Smith collection
Adele Reed photo

7. Fred S. Brooks, grandson of J. L. C. Sherwin. Fred was a noted historian of Inyo-Mono.

Adele Reed Photo

13. Round Valley Sept 24-'81

4/ small pies in

3 large out of env.



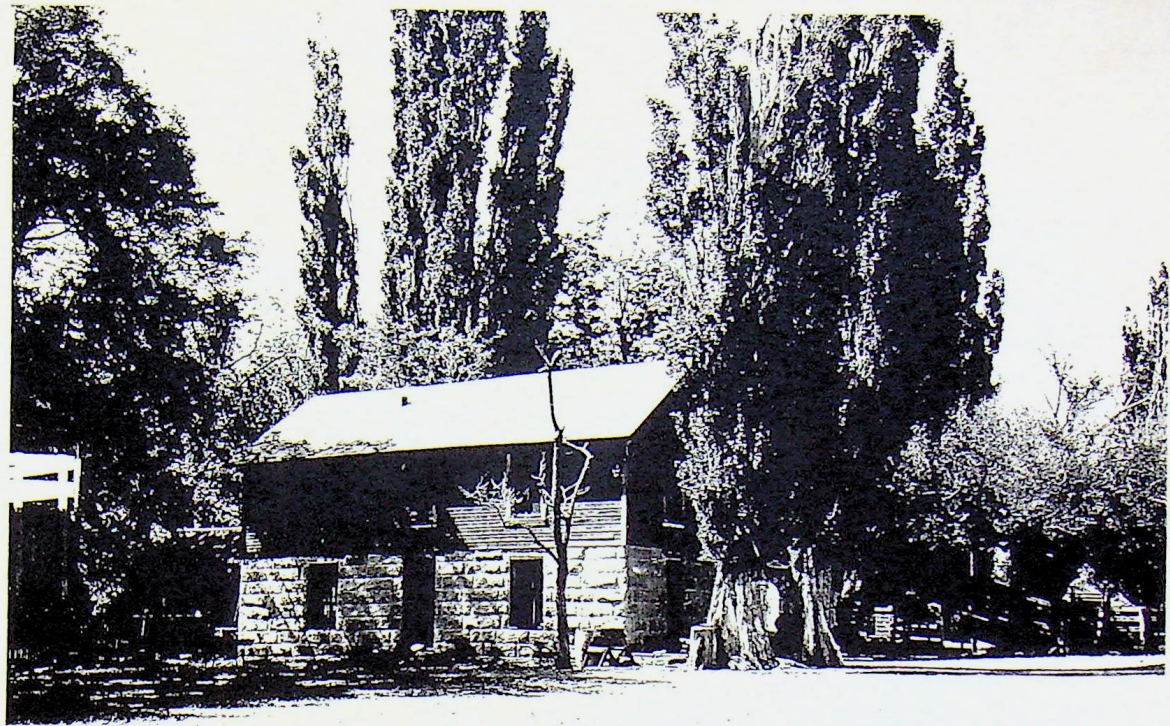
THE MOLD MARK

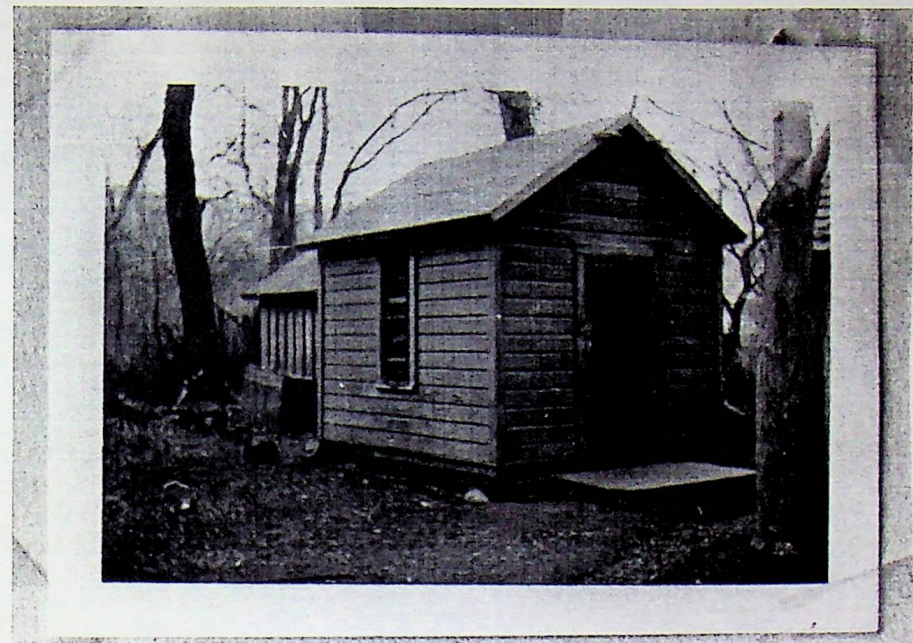
Bishop Belles and Beaux Bottle Club., Inc.

P. O. BOX 1475

BISHOP, CALIFORNIA 93514

● PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE





'A part of the good land to live'

and built a steep, rough road northerly over a summit and down into Rock Creek Canyon, his plan was a sawmill.

Fred Brooks used to recall: "My grandfather, James L.C. Sherwin came to Round Valley in 1866. I used to go with my grandfather on his trips to Mono Mills and Bodie when I was a boy, that is, when we could get through. My aunt Nannie of Merced wrote this letter to me; J.L.C. Sherwin built the sawmill at the foot of Sherwin Grade in Rock Creek Canyon in 1870. Associated with him in the building of it were the Rohn brothers, James and Joseph.

They built a dam across Rock Creek to make a large pond. The logs for the lumber were cut from trees west of the top of the canyon (at Swall, earlier called Sherwin Meadows). The logs were hauled to the top of the canyon by ox team and then rolled down the hillside into the pond. Then they were floated onto the carriage attached to the mill and

'My Grandfather, James L.C. Sherwin, came to Round Valley in 1866.'

drawn into the mill and sawed into lumber. The road up the hill into timber was also made by Sherwin. In 1879 he built the road through Rock Creek Canyon on through Long Valley to Mammoth City, a lively mining camp at that time.

My father, R. Fred Brooks, was born in Round Valley on the Hilton ranch. He has a store there, 1883 to 1889. He wrote a beautiful hand and his records list the purchases for the store. He used to buy liquor from San Francisco."

The Sherwin road to Mammoth was operated as a toll road sometime in the 1870's. Both the hill and the road were named Sherwin and continue. The family enjoyed a summer cabin in green meadows from where a short cut road ran directly across and into Rock Creek Canyon. Nancy Sherwin, on one of her trips to the sawmill, was driving a spirited team that "headed for home" on the return trip, run-away that she handled, staying in the seat!

The High road was built from Round Valley and Sherwin Meadows for winter use. The route was by the Wiche Cabin and spring, once a ranger station. Thence to Rock Creek Station and north by Little Round Valley, Whiskey Creek, McGee Meadows, and Laurel and Sherwin creeks to Mammoth City. The road passed the Sherwin Shake and Shingle Mill on Sherwin Creek.

The Dry Road has seemed to be elusive as to location. Recently, a hand drawn map by Fred S. Brooks was discovered by his son, Robert, in Freddie's memorabilia. As noted the road was used for travel to Long Valley, Mammoth and Bodie when deep snow in the canyon or on the High Road halted travel. The road turned off 395 near the Robert's ranch and lead north, keeping east of Rock Creek Canyon and west of the Owens River Gorge. It joined the other road at Little Round Valley. We are indebted to an early road builder and his grandson who left a map.

After the years of activity of roads and sawmills

the Sherwin family lived on their Round Valley land, the main interest was in growing produce and fruit. The old apple orchard, well known to many, has borne fruit for long years, without water. James and Nancy raised six children, May, Nannie, Grace, Birkett, Kathy and Jamie (Jim). While working

'Last Thursday the good people of this vale held a picnic under the auspices of the Round Valley Sunday School.'

at Bodie, Jim met Idelle Gregory of the Bodie Ranch. They were married in the U.S. Hotel in Bodie in 1900. Jim and Dell settled in Bishop. They raised four children, Guen (Thompson), Dorothy (Joseph), Carol (Faure) and one son, Raymond. Dorothy has continued to live in Bishop and recalls that she and Carol were born at the Bodie Ranch. We have relied on Dorothy, granddaughter of J.L.C. for the interesting family history. James was an energetic road builder who left no records!

Miss May Sherwin and R. Fred Brooks were married in the old school in Round Valley, the whole community attended the ceremony.

It was a privilege recently to read through a colorful scrapbook with a printed "calling card" pasted on the opening page having the name of "May Sherwin". In handscript was "Property of Lillie May Brooks, mother of Fred S. Brooks and Lloyd E. Brooks." Many clippings and pictures but only one Round Valley news item, no date or place.

"Last Thursday the good folk of this vale held a picnic under the auspices of the Round Valley Sunday School. Quite a congregation enjoyed literary exercises and singing by Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. I.P. Smith and Miss Kathie Sherwin. A dialogue and singing by the little folks was next and we chronicle their names; Millie Hilton, Rae Varney, Eva Wells, Birdie Smith, Blanch Brooks, Evalina Evans, Stei-

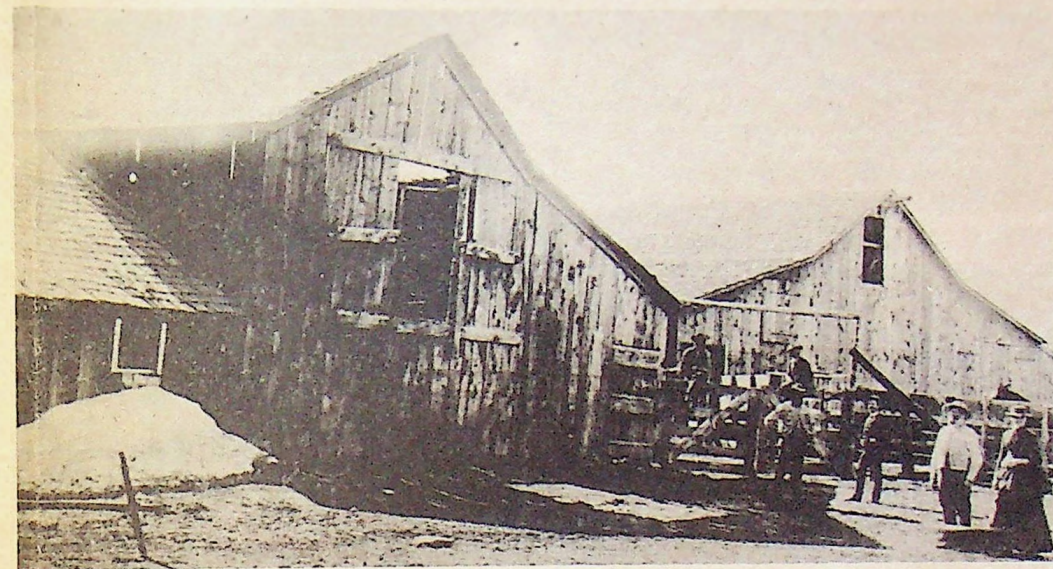
la Jones, Willie Wells, Freddie and Lloyd Brooks, Leland Varney. Always the chief attraction at a pic-

'... we of Inyo are blessed with abundance!'

nic is food and a magnificent spread of turkey, chicken, pies, cakes, fruit, lemonade, ice cream made a festive board. Ladies who took an active part were;

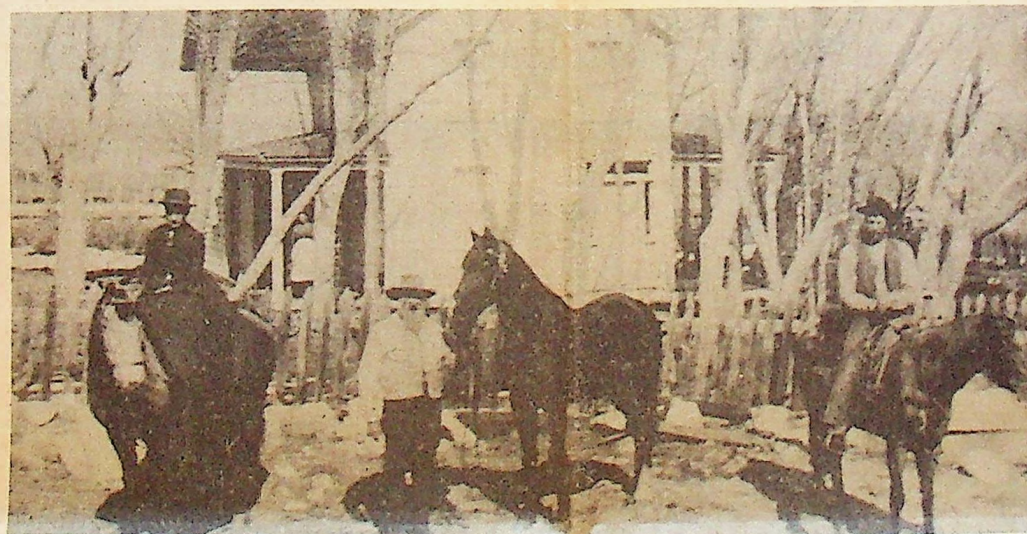
the Mrs. Brooks, Hilton, Blaisdell, I.P. Smith, Wells, Barter, T.E. Jones and Miss Kathy Sherwin. Despite our frequent whining and grunting in this Valley, we of Inyo are blessed with abundance. We can truly appreciate the bounteous repast. Signed "Picknicker"

The scrapbook material is courtesy of great-grandson, Robert Brooks. From the days when many farms in Round Valley had sod fences with willows growing out of them and the sweet tones of the team bells could be heard long distances, the people were noted for their great hospitality. No person can quite describe the charm of living in a land of enchantment as Round Valley, once was.



The large barns. Dave Olds, Aunt Nettie and workers.

Lillis Olds Killian collection



Dave Olds home in Round Valley. Aunt Nettie Bulpit, sidesaddle, Granddad, Charles, (father of Lillis), Grandma Martha on porch.

Lillis Olds Killian collection

HOME DECORATING SALE

'We of Inyo are blessed with abundance' . . .

by Adele Reed

Among the early pioneers to Inyo were some who found a virgin valley, beautiful as no other, for it nestled at the base of the Sierra Nevada mountains. These people desired a part of the good land "to live to the end of time" and they named the vale Round Valley. Many hardships were endured during the beginning years.

Two of the first permanent settlers were the Jones brothers, Thomas and John. We quote with permission from a letter by Gladys (Jones) Jewett, daughter of Thomas: "My father and uncle came from Wales by sailing vessel, landing in New York in 1858. My father went by ship to Nicaragua, walked across the Isthmus, then by ship to San Francisco. After spending four years over California and Nevada by foot, horseback or by team of oxen or horses, he arrived in the Owens River Valley in 1863 via Benton. Uncle John came across the plains with a wagon train and stopped in Salt Lake City where he eventually acquired a wife with three children. They came by wagon and oxen to Carson City, thence to Aurora, Benton and Round Valley."

My mother wrote of her wedding trip from Utah: upon arriving at Carson City May 18, 1877, my husband's brother and two children were waiting with a big four-horse wagon loaded with food and supplies for both the families. An important item as this would last until the next long trip. An early start was made the next morning. I enjoyed the camping out immensely at Aurora, Sweetwater and Adobe Meadows. While at Adobe a man named Al Matlick drove in with big wagons drawn by 18 mules. He was a noted freighter (mule skinner), the owner of the outfit was a man named Tade. Most of the supplies for Owens River Valley were freighted from Aurora. We stayed one night at Benton and arrived in Round Valley the next day."

The Jones brother's land, for which they got a patent, ran the entire width of Round Valley. The Thomas Jones home was easterly near the present Art and Dolly's place and the land extended west to John's farm. It was located on a diversion from Pine Creek called Mill Creek and a pond with water

milk. Olds sold butter and milk in town, Bishop Creek, and people often wonder today why the name."

Besides the large home there were two big barns, corrals and a blacksmith shop, very important to the early day travel from Bodie and Mammoth Lakes. The Olds place was a way-stop for the stages and also teams and drivers. They had a tack room, hay lofts and an upstairs sleeping quarters for the help.

Wm. Thorington was next owner of the ranch. He and sons Sid and Cecil raised a big flocks of Angora goats that were summered on meadows directly below Mount Tom. We find in "100 Years of Real Living, Bishop, Cal." June 1900. "W.R. Thorington of Round Valley has sold about 5000 goats to R.W. Carey of Omaha. A train of 13 cars left Laws Monday night. Another 9 cars last night and 13 more will go tomorrow." The Thoringtons built a tall, graceful white silo that still stands. There are remains of a rock corral and goat pens on the historical ranch that was the scene of many fourth of July gatherings under the big shade trees. People came by cart, wagon, buggy, horseback for a day of fun.

The Laxague family operated it as a sheep ranch, trailing their flocks north by the Rickey Trail to meadows in upper Mono. It has long been in the ownership of the DWP.

"Round Valley's first schoolhouse was down Evan's Lane about a half mile or more, in the



The Round Valley store was located on the Hilton property near the corner of old Pine Creek road and West side road. Owners through the

years, Blaisdell, R, Fred Brooks and Brack Summers.

Ray McMurry collection

'When I was 9 or 10 I'd ride my horse . . . to fetch my mother a 5-pound round of cheese, the best ever!!

1870's," as recalled by Gladys Jewett, "and a larger two story school was built at the corner in 1907." The newer one is pictured in "Inyo Anno Domini, 1912, Beautiful Owens Valley." There were two entrance doors and many windows along the sides. Above the second floor was a bell in the bellfry making a handsome building. It was blown over in a hard wind a few years later and a more modern one replaced it.

The beautiful Evans Ranch has been in private ownership until recent years when the DWP bought the buildings and wide green fields of an early alfalfa and sheep ranch homesteaded by Henry Evans, Senior. Round Valley once boasted a cheese factory on the Wm. Roberts Ranch in the northern end. The "Fairview Jersey Ranch" produced cheese, butter-milk, all items eagerly sought. The late Charles Olds of Bishop, (grandson of Dave) used to tell, "when I was 9 or 10 I'd ride my horse across the Valley to the Robert's place to fetch my mother a five pound round of cheese, the best ever!"

The milk and cheese house was built of Tufa rock blocks with a second story of wood. It is much older than the 1898 rock silo and quite famous as it once served as an inn for early day travelers.

There were some fine ranches and settlers in the well-favored Valley, but only one, farther north, Sherwin chose acreage that bordered both sides of the Inyo-Mono line. Sherwin brought his wife Nancy and two daughters, May and Nannie to the Valley in the 1860's from Virginia City, Nevada. They had arrived there from eastern states in 1859.

The first thing was to build a home for his family. It was near the clear, tumbling waters Rock Creek. Due to scarcity of trees for lumber, James planned

'The mill was brought from Carson on horseback by Tom in 1865'

wheel and grist mill were the beginning of an important industry. The brothers were noted for the first wheat crop and flour mill. The mill was brought from Carson on horseback by Tom in 1865. It is at the Eastern California Museum at Independence. An advertisement in the Mammoth City Herald, 1880, is of interest.

"Round Valley Flouring Mills, J.E. Jones, prop. Flour manufactured from the finest quality of wheat. Cornmeal and graham flour freshly ground, the best blend always on hand. George W. Rowan of Mammoth City has been appointed agent for the products of this mill and purchasers will find them at his store in quantities to suit."

There were families and farms on both sides of the Jones' properties. Three lanes crossed the Valley. The latter became the most used after the road was built over Sherwin Hill as it was more direct.

The Round Valley Store was located on the Hilton property near the corner of the old Pine Creek and West side road. Owners were Blaisdell then R. Fred Brooks and later Brack Summers. The Round Valley Post office was in the store for a while then moved to another little store off the main road and run by Glover Allen. In about 1909 it was moved to the Tom Jones home where a daughter, Irene, took care of it on the screen porch. The mail was brought from Bishop by spring wagon and two horses. Cans of cream from dairies were the return load to bishop Creamery. Continuing south there is a sharp left turn that marks the Dave Olds homestead.

A recent visit with Lillis (Olds) Killian of Bishop brought forth interesting history of her grandpar-



John E. Jones flour sack used in his Round Valley Flour Mill.

Genny Smith collection
Adele Reed photo

road. The latter became the most used after the road was built over Sherwin Hill as it was more direct.

The Round Valley Store was located on the Hilton property near the corner of the old Pine Creek and West side road. Owners were Blaisdell then R. Fred Brooks and later Brack Summers. The Round Valley Post office was in the store for a while then moved to another little store off the main road and run by Glover Allen. In about 1909 it was moved to the Tom Jones home where a daughter, Irene, took care of it on the screen porch. The mail was brought from Bishop by spring wagon and two horses. Cans of cream from dairies were the return load to bishop Creamery. Continuing south there is a sharp left turn that marks the Dave Olds homestead.

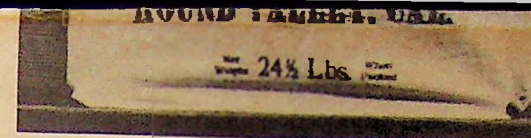
A recent visit with Lillis (Olds) Killian of Bishop brought forth interesting history of her grandparents, David and Martha Olds of Round Valley. "My grandparents traveled from England to an eastern state" as told by Lillis. "That was in the 1850's and then Grandad decided he and his family would settle in California. They chose a spot near the town of Genoa, which was then in California and soon to become the Territory of Nevada.

In the year 1866 the Olds family moved again, this time to Round Valley in Inyo County, California. They homesteaded 160 acres of good land and eventually built a lovely two story home that became a landmark. It was built by hand work despite adversity and the Indian hostility of the early years. I remember there were five bedrooms, a large living room, dining room, kitchen, pantry and a hand pump in the kitchen for water. There was a "two holer" with a crescent cut in the door, it was out near the fence covered with hops.

The upper story was a very large room with inside stairs. It was often in use for dancing and had wooden benches instead of chairs. Three children were born to this union, Lillis, Nettie and my father, Charles. "Uncle David" as he was known from Mono county to Owens Lake, was a prosperous farmer. He had a dairy and in spring and summer moved the cows up to a meadow known as Butter-

Sherwin chose acreage that bordered both sides of the Inyo-Mono line. Sherwin brought his wife Nancy and two daughters, May and Nannie to the Valley in the 1860's from Virginia City, Nevada. They had arrived there from eastern states in 1859.

The first thing was to build a home for his family. It was near the clear, tumbling waters Rock Creek. Due to scarcity of trees for lumber, James planned



John E. Jones flour sack used in his Round Valley Flour Mill.

Genny Smith collection
Adele Reed photo

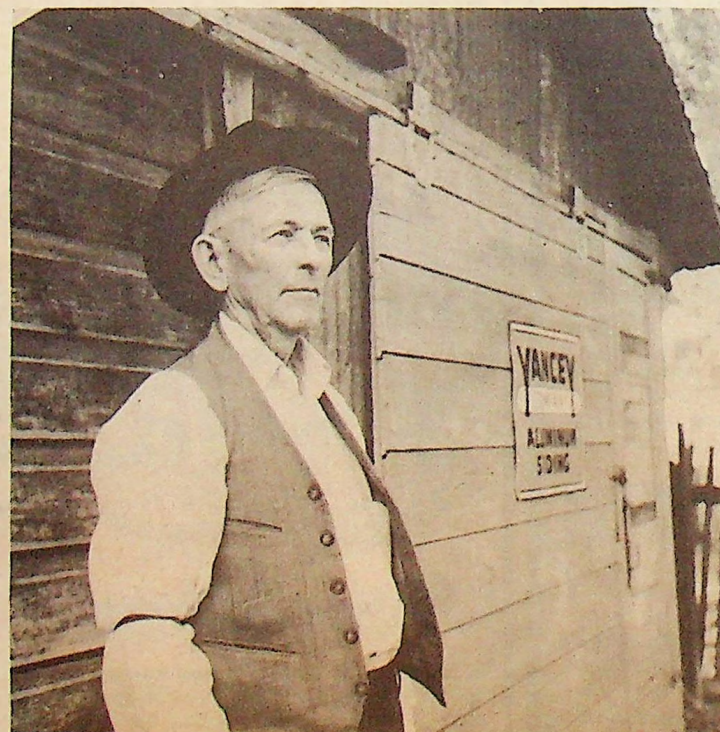


Round Valley School. Left to right, on horseback; Claude Steddum, Ella Steddum, Willie Roberts, Roland Lord, Fred and Floyd Brooks, Lorane

Jones. 2nd row; ?, Deb Smith, Mrs. Dan Conner, teacher in 1901 and 02, May Smith. Front row, Edith A. Barter, ?, Steddum, ?, Mildred Jackson,

?, John Barter, Ernest Bulpitt, Bill Jacks, Willie Wells, and Dan Conners.

Robert Brooks collection



Fred S. Brooks, grandson of J.L.C. Sherwin. Fred was a noted historian of Inyo-Mono.

Adele Reed photo



The Roberts Creamery stands on Schober lease. The upper story was an Inn with rooms for travelers.

Adele Reed photo