

# Harry Remembering Family

Page last updated: 11/25/55422 19:22:13

*These were the good old days*

## **Grandfather Al Ferlemann**

In the years that I was around him the only time off from cutting meat in the store was when once when grandmother had him put in the city jail to get him sobered up. I had to carry his lunches to him. It was dished up on a plate and handed to me. I walked a half block up the alley to the jail and went into the cell while he ate it and then I returned the dirty plate and utensils. I got along with him good. This turned into very good after I walked into the living room during his nap time one day. Their bed was in an alcove off the living room. I suppose there were curtains that could have been pulled to hide the bed from sight but I don't ever recall seeing them used. Anyway I walked in and found the hired girl Theodosia on top of him. Very obviously they were having sex. I turned around and left. I never said anything about it to anybody. I did come to realize that whenever I wanted change to go to a movie he was always good for it.

## **Grandmother Ferlemann**

I remember her sister's name was Lucy but sitting here I can't truly remember her name. She was the kind of grandmother that every one wishes he or she had. I never ever recall her raising her voice or giving me a bad time. She was just an extremely kind loving person.

## **Alberta Ferlemann**

She must have been in her later teen-age years when I was about 6 or 7. I remember her well but can't tell you much about her, and I didn't ever get to know the guy she married.

## **Barney Ferlemann**

He was always in some kind of scrape it seems to me. He chased around with a wild bunch of young people. He had gonorrhea several times. I don't know that grandmother and grandfather knew it though. They were always preoccupied in working the meat market in the store for him, and in running a household and working in the store for her. Barney clerked in the store and diverted enough cash to supplement his rather wild way of life. He was walking down Poyntz Ave one evening when the cops rushed at him. He had a bottle of alcohol on him and when he saw them coming he threw it down on the sidewalk. It didn't break, which he wanted, since it took only 8 drops of the alcohol for a conviction. They marched him off to the jail. When I was trekking across North Africa during the war Barney was a mess Sgt. In some outfit in England. He and Dad got connected up. He used to provide Dad with all the stuff from the mess hall that made life a little better than any one else's. When he came to California after the war Dad asked him how he happened to marry Alice, his wife. He told Dad that he was having sex with her, her mother and her two sisters and she was the best of the lot.

### **Mary Ferlemann**

Mom had the onerous task of living with Dad. She kept books at the store. This was done in the space under the stairs that led from the street to the upper story. I seem to remember that some of the other buildings along the street had living quarters above them.

### **Ronald O'Neal**

Dad worked in the store from 8:00 AM until it closed at 9:00 PM 7 days a week. He got a break though on Sundays because it closed from 1 to 4 in the afternoon. He must have gotten a day off in the middle of the week because I can remember riding in the rumble seat some times. I always had a sack of bottled home-brew beer with me. My job was to open the bottles and hand them into the front when they called for them. Of course it was a dry business. Every once in a while I had one too.

Dad started the restaurant across the street and it seemed to me that it did a good enough business. What I didn't realize at the time that dad was screwing one or more (and I don't know if there was more than one but there must have been) of the waitresses. The waitresses were handing out free food to their boy friends. I heard him once tell some one that this was where his profits went.

### **Clyde Ferlemann**

Clyde was one I never had any use for. He always treated me like he'd just caught me doing something I ought not to have been doing. And he probably had, but I didn't have to like it. I heard him telling Dad one time that some young woman had come back to the meat market area of the store and made suggestive remarks to him. He ended up taking her down into the basement, sitting her up on a sack of the potatoes that were piled up there and having sex with her. He said she came back quite often for this treatment. During the war he must have been deferred. He went out among farmers that he knew bought steers from them, butchered, sold the meat without requiring the meat coupons he was supposed to get.

### **Della Riat**

Nearly all I remember of her was that she thought she was a bit better than she possibly was. She seemed to think that in Wamego, Kansas where she came from that her family was high up on society's scale. She was always out trying to find a baby setter for her kids. She was nice enough though.

### **Charles O'Neal**

Grandpa O'Neal I know very little about. I saw him around the barn after the war but we never acknowledged each other.

### **Bob O'Neal**

Mostly all I remember about him is that he was a cop and worked at one of Warner Brother's studio. Whenever he was around and any drinking went on he held up his end. I never ever really cared much for him.

### **Clara Schlegel**

She had a couple of loose screws in her head. I used to see her walking around Burbank occasionally, wearing cowboy boots and western

wear. She got jobs at the studio as an extra quite often and when she wasn't working there she dressed up and went out on the streets.

### **Harry O'Neal**

Uncle Harry was an alcoholic in his later years for sure. I'm not really positive about his early life if he'd fit that title but I do know he drank a lot even then. While he and Grace were living on a farm they'd financed through a federal loan of some kind Grace lost her job as the head policewoman in Kansas City. I don't know if it was Missouri or Kansas but I think Missouri. It was a political appointment under the Pendergast political machine of that time and he got voted out of office. During that period Harry was in a car wreck and ended up in a hospital, at least as I remember the story, they reported he was inebriated. And the railroad fired him. Said he couldn't have gotten that intoxicated in the 20 minutes after his shift ended that he had to be drinking on the job. I think his job was as a yard switchman in the Kansas City rail yards. Any way the depression was in full swing, they couldn't make the payments on the farm, so they loaded all their possessions on a stake bodied truck and came to Manhattan, Kansas. Grace wanted to know who ran the town politically. Dad took her to someone who must have fit that description. Anyway the following week they'd rented the upstairs floor of one of the buildings across the street from granddad's grocery and about 4 or 5 buildings closer to 2nd street. It ran wide open. They had a bar, you ordered a drink, and it was served. When the cops were supposed to raid the operation Grace was notified so they could hide most of their supplies. When the festivities were over the truck headed for Kansas City, Missouri for another load of booze. When they made enough money they shut down and headed for California. To my knowledge Harry never ever quit drinking. He used to go to a beer joint there on Lankershim after work, he'd go home with some floozy, drink and have sex until morning and then come to work. Grace's mother was a ward healer under the Pendergast machine. If you wanted a job you went to the bar where she hung out, made a financial arrangement with her and got the job. She always had a roll of money in her purse along with a .38 pistol. She carried a .32 caliber Iver Johnson hammerless revolver in her stocking top. Grace ruled the roost all the years she was alive. She was with the family in the house that was rented from the insurance lady. Harry came in and he'd been drinking. He had a few words with her and she belted him one. He went backward fell over a pull down bed and ended up on the floor on the far side of it. While they lived in an apartment in Kansas City for some reason Elsie Root was there in the apartment with them. Harry said it was real hot, and Elsie was sleeping on the floor in the living room. Harry decided to sleep on the floor also. Before the night was over he'd had sex with Elsie. After Grace died he ended up marrying Elsie. She lived with him until she decided to return to Kansas City. I don't know when she divorced her husband Bill Root or if it was he divorced her.

### **Lorena O'Neal**

Aunt Lorena was my favorite of all the relatives in California. She was always looking out for, or doing things for me. I could always get something to eat at her house. She must have had a soft spot for me. I think I spent as much time at her house as I did ours when we lived close to the Hartsook Ave. house. She was always finding someway to give me change. Fat was good to me too. He always had some project for me to work on at the barn. Building stagecoaches was one of his projects. He had a roving eye though like all the others. He'd buy a sack of groceries and take off to the gal he finally married after Lorena died. I had it good there. He e had bought a new Studebaker or Cadillac and the pigeons crapped on

it. Some one told him the crap took all the gloss off the paint so I got to shoot pigeons whenever the fancy took me. He furnished the shells.

### **Della Jones**

Della was nice after she'd settled down a bit. When she was younger she must have been a waitress in some place in Hollywood. She got tangled up with a cook that worked there. When she abandoned him he got nasty about it. I remember her telling Lorena that he'd crapped in a pair of his shorts and then wrapped them up and mailed them to her. She was with us for a while on the ranch. I always liked her.

### **Doris Jones**

Doris was always nice to me. I kept hearing about trouble she'd given Fat and Lorena but I never found out what it was. I remember when she first met Jack Milstead and decided to marry him. Then I saw all the antics she went through but she finally caught him.