

The following narrative was written for Genevieve Lobaugh Morgan by her father Dean Lobaugh; Genevieve's mother was Eleanor Everett, the granddaughter and adoptive daughter of Fremont and Eva Shumway Everett. While it is pretty long it is interesting and well-written; Dean clearly tried to be both accurate and fair.

Davis, CA

December, 1977

Dear Gigi,

As a part of your family record - which I trust you and your children will find of value now and in the years ahead - I have put together a story of your mother's mother's family. Throughout the narrative I make reference to some of my sources, but admittedly hearsay and speculation and fading memories are incorporated. As you will see I have written this in terms of your relationship to the various characters in the story, which we might call

THE EVERETT-SHUMWAY CONNECTION

Over one hundred years ago, on July 3, 1877, two important lines in your heritage merged in the marriage of Fremont Everett and Mary Evelyn Shumway. Both were born in a region known as Portland Prairie, part of it lying in Minnesota, and part in Iowa. Fremont was born in 1855 in Iowa, Mary Evelyn in 1858 in Minnesota. Presumably Fremont, who had moved to Burt County, Nebraska, with his parents in 1868, went back to Portland Prairie for his bride. Her move to northeastern Nebraska was followed by that of at least two of her brothers before her father and mother settled in the new town of Lyons in 1882.

Both the Everett and Shumway lines represented early American-New England stock. The first Everett of which I have record is William, born, presumably in England, in 1705. His wife's name was Mary Thorpe. We know that in 1733 he was living in Dedham, Massachusetts, for in that year his son Josiah Everett (the 1st) was born. This Josiah Everett lived until 1814, dying at Dedham. His wife was Jane Alexander.

Their son Josiah Everett (the 2nd) was born at Dedham in 1760. He was old enough to serve in the Revolutionary War, and saw a great deal of service, including the famous winter at Valley Forge. Late in the war he served on a privateer ship, "The Tartar," and from this adventure emerged with considerable prize money. After the war, now about 23 years of age, he married Rebecca Farrington, and they emigrated to what is now the State of Maine, then a part of Massachusetts. Apparently a farmer for the remainder of his life, the father of twelve children, he lived to the age of 88, dying in 1848.

His and Rebecca's oldest child was John, but it was to his second son that he gave his own name, and Josiah Everett (the 3rd) carries on the line we are tracing. He was your great-great- great grandfather, and was born in Somerset County, Maine, in 1797. He married Lucy Churchill, they had nine children, he made his living by farming and lumbering, and he died in 1875 at the age of 78. His wife Lucy, born in 1800, survived until 1896.

This brings us to your great-great-grandfather Franklin Everett, the fifth child of Josiah and Lucy, and a man well known to your mother, as he did not die until she was about fifteen. Born in 1831 on the Maine farm, as a young man he went, with one of his brothers, first to Wisconsin, then to Alamakee County, Iowa (Portland Prairie) where he took up government land. Then he went back to Maine and married the sweetheart (Clara Spencer) from whom he had been absent for two years; in 1853, by rail, water, and spring wagon, they went to the Iowa land. On this they built a log cabin, and it was there that your mother's grandfather (and legal guardian) was born in late 1855. He was the oldest of four children.

In 1868, as I have mentioned, Franklin and Clara Everett moved their family to Burt County, Nebraska,

some other members of the family having preceded them by a year or so. It is an understatement to say that Franklin Everett prospered in eastern Nebraska. Farms, lumber yards, mercantile establishments, and banks are among the enterprises associated with him. When he died about 1919 he was accounted a wealthy man.

The first Shumway to settle in America was Peter, who appears to have arrived in Oxford, Massachusetts, some time between 1660 and 1675. Oxford was a Huguenot colony, settled as a result of the great religious strife in France following the Reformation.¹ It is believed that the name Shumway was Anglicized from the French Chamois. Peter, born in 1635, died in 1695 at the age of 60; his wife Frances survived him several years. He fought in the Indian wars in New England, and left a will disposing of a modest estate, signed with a mark.

His son Peter was born in Massachusetts in 1678, and in 1714 settled in Oxford, Mass. In 1700 he married Maria Smith, with whom he had seven sons and two daughters. He was able to sign his will, leaving a substantial estate in lands, cattle, and cash.

This second Peter Shumway's second son, Jeremiah, was born Mar. 21, 1703, was married to Experience Learned in Oxford, where they spent their lives. They had twelve children. Jeremiah apparently saw service in the French and Indian Wars; we have no date for his death, but his youngest child was born in 1758.

The line we are following now moves through another Peter Shumway, the third child of Jeremiah and Experience, born April 29, 1735. Of him we know only that he married Rebecca Leavens, fathered twelve children as did his father, and lived out his life in Oxford, Mass.

It was there that the fifth in our Shumway line was born. He was Noah, born October 4, 1770, and the oldest Shumway of which we have a photograph. He had eleven children by three wives, all being born on the original Shumway farm at Oxford. Your ancestor Jeremiah was the son of Noah's third wife, Pamela Aldrich. Noah left Oxford in 1843, lived thirteen years in Rhode Island, and a year before his death in 1857 moved to Houston County, Minnesota, when relatives had preceded him. He was then 86 years old.

The sixth in the line, Jeremiah Shumway, born in Oxford in 1827, brings us to modern times, as he was well-known to your mother. He lived to the age of 95, dying in 1922 when she was 17. He had scant schooling, but learned farming and carpentry. At age 24, in 1852, he married Mary Maria Paine, a descendent of the founder of Rhode Island, Roger Williams; they lived in Massachusetts until 1854. Then, with their eldest child, Viola, they emigrated to Houston Co., Minnesota (Portland Prairie), where the remainder of their eight children were born; the second to be born in Minnesota was your great-grandmother, Mary Evelyn Shumway Everett.

Jeremiah and Mary Maria homesteaded on Portland Prairie, suffering severe hard times in the late 1850's, and being affected by the Indian wars of the early 1860's; Jeremiah enlisted² in the Union Army in 1864 and saw considerable service in Tennessee and Alabama. After the Civil War he farmed for some fifteen years, then moved to Lyons, Nebraska, in 1881, where he had been preceded by some of his older children, including Mary Evelyn. In Lyons and other towns he engaged successfully in several businesses (lumber, farm machinery, coal) as well as some farming. His wife died in 1898, but he lived on as a Lyons patriarch until 1922³. He apparently left a good estate, though it was divided among many heirs. He did not re-marry.

So a sort of Everett-Shumway dynasty took form in Lyons, and thereabouts, in the last quarter of the 19th century. The Everett and Shumway sons prospered, and the daughters married well. When your mother was a child she was taken each summer by her grandparents to visit in Lyons, and she remembers the large

¹ Actually the first Peter lived in Boxford, MA; his son Peter went with his family to Oxford about 1717.

² - No, he was drafted. HLF

³ He died Nov 1921 - HLF

homes and the large and prosperous families into which they were received. When she and I made a visit to the town in 1938 I was impressed with three large homes which made up a sort of compound in the center of the town. I do not know whether at that date any of them were in family possessions, but when your mother was a girl they were the family homes of Grandfather Franklin Everett, his son Burton, and his daughter Clara (Mrs. Will Newmyer). There are still Everett and Shumway descendants in and about Lyons in considerable numbers, I suppose, but the last of these with whom we had contact, Clay Newmyer, son of Clara Everett Newmyer, died a few years ago.

If we look at the children of Franklin Everett and Jeremiah Shumway in the latter years of the preceding century and the first years of this, we can see why they considered themselves to be among the "solid citizens" of northeastern Nebraska. Herbert Paine Shumway, Jeremiah's eldest, was the first of his family to earn a college degree (University of Minnesota, 1882). Upon moving to Nebraska in that year he went into the lumber business in the town of Wakefield, north of Lyons, with his brother-in-law, your great-grandfather Fremont Everett. He developed many business enterprises, served a term in the Nebraska State Senate, was narrowly defeated in a race for lieutenant-governor, and was an honorary colonel on the staffs of three Nebraska governors. He was involved in the big Mexican venture, of which more will be said later, and when your great-grandfather Fremont came to Oregon in 1906 to enter the lumber business, Uncle Herbert was an investor in, and officer of, the Sheridan Lumber Company, though he did not move to Oregon.

Viola Shumway Cass, the oldest child, did not distinguish herself in marriage (Will Cass was a carpenter or builder), but they lived long, good, and comfortable lives in Lyons⁴. Your great-grandmother Mary Evelyn and she were very close, and your mother and I stayed with Aunt Viola when we visited Lyons in 1938; she was then 85.

Edmund Shumway was Jeremiah's fourth child (Mary Evelyn was the third). He went to Colorado and became a Coal mine operator as president of the Rocky mountain Fuel Company. His presence in Denver could have been the reason why your grandmother Clara May was sent to Denver to college. Edmund married twice; the latter marriage was to a widow, Emma Coberly, who enters our story at a later point.

The fifth Shumway was Charles, who was involved in the family business enterprises of lumber yards and farm machinery dealerships in northeastern Nebraska, in association with the Everetts. In 1906, when the move to Oregon was made, Charles and his family were in the party. He was a partner in the Sheridan Lumber Company, and with his family lived for many years in Sheridan. Your mother remembers this family fondly, and it is unfortunate that we have lost track of them. Some time before I knew the family they moved to California; your mother and I looked them up in the summer of 1937, and were warmly received. Some of the children were at home.

The sixth member of your great-grandmother's family was Lorin Shumway, who also was involved in the family businesses in the Lyons area, but who later went into farming and stock-raising. He also re-enters our narrative a little later. The youngest of the Shumways was Martin, identified with family businesses in Lyons and Wakefield.

Turning again to the Everett line: the successful farmer, banker, and merchant Franklin Everett involved his children in the family enterprises at an early age. The second and third sons Walter and Burton worked in the family bank in Lyons while yet in their teens; and Will Newmyer, who became daughter Clara's husband, was also employed by the bank. The eldest son, your great-grandfather Fremont, however, set his own path, teaching school and reading law, then setting up a law practice in Lyons. (I do not know the nature or extent of Fremont Everett's schooling, but he spoke and wrote as a man of some education.) Like other members of his family and of his wife's family, he was soon interested in a variety of enterprises, in Lyons and other northeastern Nebraska towns, and he became a well-to-do man in his own right. Although he makes

⁴ - Well - an old letter indicates he was not a very good businessman - had to leave town for a while

no mention of his political activities in the account he wrote in 1915, it is your mother's understanding that he served more than one term in the Nebraska legislature, and either sought the Republican nomination, or was the party nominee, for Congress, but failed to get the seat. In the 1890's, when this efforts probably was made, Nebraska, suffering hard times, sent some Democrats to Congress, notably William Jennings Bryan from an adjoining Congressional district.

"Uncle Walter" Everett was a pretty important figure when I first knew the family in the later 1920's. As you will note later, your mother had considerable correspondence with him. At least once we met him in Portland; I remember being his dinner guest at the Hotel Benson. Fairly early in his life he settled in Los Angeles, a prosperous man with wide-spread business interests, including some in Nebraska.

Burton Everett made Nebraska his base of operations throughout his life, combining farming and business.

Clara Everett and Will Newmyer prospered, and built one of the homes in the "Everett compound" in Lyons. The men in both the Everett and Shumway families seemed to have a special interest in the lumber business in nearly treeless Nebraska; it is not surprising that when Fremont Everett first saw the tall timber of Oregon he was motivated to engage in the business at its source.

About 1900 several members of these two prosperous families became involved in an enterprise which they were assured would enhance their financial status greatly. It was the Mexican railroad adventure about which I was to hear so much in my early days of acquaintance with the family.

In his "*Some of the Everetts*" Fremont wrote at some length and most interestingly (he had justifiably some pride in his literary skills) of the Mexican venture and adventure. A Los Angeles promoter got in touch with Walter Everett about the possibilities in developing a railroad in southern Mexico, in the State of Chiapas, on the Guatemalan border. A European firm had gone bankrupt in such an attempt in the 1880's, but had left some completed track, and a great deal of machinery. The idea was to buy the concession from the Mexican government (those were the days of Porfirio Diaz, the long-time Mexican dictator, whom Fremont Everett thought one of the greatest men of the century) and complete the road. Included in the deal was the privilege of establishing a bank of issue in Chiapas; for working capital of \$250,000 the bank could issue currency worth three times as much.

Although his son Walter was convinced that the deal was a very attractive one, Franklin Everett, though then nearly seventy, insisted on a first hand look, so with one of the men of the Lyon family (from the founding family of Lyons) he made a most difficult journey through Mexico and returned to participate in the venture. Next, in 1901, Fremont Everett and his brother-in-law Herbert Shumway made a similar trip and came home similarly impressed.

So it was that at the end of 1901, when your grandmother Clara was 17, the Lyons entourage set out for Mexico. Although Fremont Everett does not give the exact date when the partially completed railroad was sold to other interests, it was apparently in late 1903 or early 1904, is indicated by the dates of your grandmother's enrollment at Denver University and her marriage.

The Mexican period of your grandmother's life became, as difficulties and disappointments marked her unfolding years, the shining highlight of her career. As a young American woman in a remote and backward part of Mexico, the daughter of an American capitalist, admired and almost worshiped by natives, she could never have envisioned that she would come to the end of her days lonely and disoriented in a decaying old farm house in Oregon.

With many difficulties, the Nebraska farmers, as they were referred to by workmen and other employees, managed to build a considerable amount of trackage in the jungles with the prescribed time limits. As the non-resident president of the company Walter Everett frequently had to make arduous trips from the States to settle disputes; Fremont, whose role was that of banker and paymaster, admitted that he wasn't very successful at the management level. In addition to family members, several men of the Lyons area had money

in the venture (men of character and great means, your great-grandfather described them). Several people on the expedition died of tropical diseases, including Uncle Walter's brother-in-law.

Three years were enough for the Nebraska farmers, and when they were able to sell out to Kansas City firm, and the Mexican government paid them bonuses in cash and bonds for the work already completed, they were glad to return home.

"Mexican bonds" became a by-word in the family, as you know. For twenty years members of the family who held these bonds clipped coupons and received interest. Then about 1924, the Mexican government defaulted on the bonds, so they became virtually worthless. For years after I knew the family Uncle Walter was working on schemes to get something for the bonds. After her grandmother's death your mother had three \$1000 bonds; eventually we sold these, long after Uncle Walter's death, for 11 cents on the dollar in Eugene.

As you know, Fremont and Mary Evelyn Everett had only two children - your grandmother Clara, born in 1884, and Harold (Hallie), born four years earlier. Hallie was only briefly connected with the Mexican business; according to his son Franklin he made one trip down there, accompanying some rolling stock for the railroad.

With the family settled in Lyons again, two significant developments changed the pattern of life for Clara and her parents, and for other members of the family as well. Clara enrolled in Denver University - probably because her Uncle Edmund lived in Denver. It is not clear when she enrolled - she and her mother may have returned from Mexico in time to permit her entry in the fall of 1903 - and we are not sure what preparatory training she had, though she probably was graduated from an academy in Nebraska, and appears to have had some schooling while in Mexico. And about this time, in 1903 or 1904, a young Englishman named Edward Merewether was enrolled in the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, a suburb of Denver. Your mother does not know just how they met, but it could not have been too long after Clara went to Denver, for they were married in December, 1904.

Just how Edward was introduced to the family we do not know; Uncle Edmund, on the site in Denver, would have played a role. We do know that before Clara's parents gave their consent to the marriage an investigation of the potential bridegroom was made in England, and Edward's credentials as the son of a Herefordshire country gentleman were established. Walter Merewether, himself the son of John Merewether, Dean of Hereford Cathedral and a "gentleman" in his own right, had a large family by his Welsh wife Jane Jones. Four of the sons, and two daughters, came to the United States. I was under the impression that your grandfather was the eldest son, and as such should have inherited the family estates, but he apparently chose to come to the new world to seek his own fortune (and marrying the daughter of a well-to-do American was probably seen as a good move in that direction), and sought to become a mining engineer. Two of his brothers engaged in mining in Mexico about this time; according to your grandfather's account written in his old age both died there, one as the result of a mine accident, and the other as a victim of the civil wars and insurrections that marked Mexico after the overthrow of Diaz in 1910.

So Edward Merewether and Clara Everett were married in December of 1904, and took a honeymoon trip to New York; one of Edward's sisters, Eleanor, lived there. Your mother obviously was conceived on this honeymoon, and was named for this aunt.

The second event about this time which greatly influenced the family destiny was a trip to Portland, Oregon, in the summer of 1905, by Fremont and Mary Evelyn. The occasion was an exposition celebrating the centennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition, and during this trip Fremont became excited about the possibilities in the lumber business in the Northwest. The upshot of this interest was that a year later the Everetts, the young Merewethers and your infant mother, and the Charles Shumway family had settled in Oregon. Fremont and Charles, along with uncle Herbert Shumway who remained in Nebraska, bought and began to operate the Sheridan Lumber Company, a sizeable logging and milling operation on Mill Creek near

Sheridan and Willamina, Oregon, an area with which the family is identified to this day. It happens that grandfather Franklin Everett, remaining in Nebraska, invested in the Sheridan business.

The Fremont Everetts first lived on the west side of Portland; I am not sure how Fremont participated in the lumbering operations, except for general oversight, for the mill property was about sixty miles from Portland, and those were still pre-automobile days for most people. It appears that Uncle Charles Shumway and his family lived in the town of Sheridan, but that Edward and Clara and the baby lived at the logging camp. Edward had obviously given up his pursuit of a mining engineering degree at Golden, and had, presumably, settled in Lyons after the honeymoon. Your mother was born there in September of 1905. It is her understanding that his role in the Sheridan Lumber Company was as bookkeeper or accountant.

Sometime before 1910 Fremont and Mary Evelyn bought a home on the east side of Portland, on Stark Street near 20th. It was a substantial, two-story home in what was then a good neighborhood, and remained the family home until 1928; by that time, however, the area had become "close in", and was deteriorating as a residential neighborhood. However, the house was still there, and not badly kept, when last we drove by it a few years ago.

It was with the Stark Street house that your mother's childhood and youth were identified, for when she was two years old she became a member of her grandparents' household. For reasons some of which can only be guessed at, a family decision was made to give the little girl to her grandparents, who would adopt her as their own. It may have been that grandmother, and perhaps Clara, were concerned about having the child raised in a logging camp, though it was in such an environment that both her brothers - Everett and Fremont - spent their childhoods. It may have been that your mother's life-long feeling that her father rejected her had a basis in fact, and there has been a suggestion that there may have been some kind of financial arrangement. In any event, your mother remembers no other home than that of her grandparents, except as she paid visits to her mother throughout the years. She became legally the sister of her mother and her Uncle Hallie.

Everett and Fremont⁵ were born in 1908 and 1910, respectively, either in Sheridan or in Portland.

About 1913, when your mother was about eight, Edward and Clara were divorced. It appears from letters written to your mother by her father after he was re-discovered in the early 1960's that, shortly after Fremont's birth he went to Honduras for two years to work in a mining company of which an uncle of his was president. He claimed to have contracted a disease there, stating that he returned a "sick man and almost insane at times." In a letter written from El Paso in 1964 he said "I was very grieved to hear of the passing of your mother. She had been on my mind always, and with sorrow at our parting. At the time I begged forgiveness for what errors I had made, and I have always felt that had it not been for her father she would not have left me." And again, in 1966, he repeated; "I have never got over the separation from your mother. It was a great loss to me and I don't blame her at all. I can only say that when I came back from Central America I was a sick man."

I do not know, nor does Fremont, where your mother and the boys lived during this Central American absence of their father:. It may have been at the Stark Street house, for we do know that by the time of the divorce an apartment had been fitted out for Clara in what had been the attic of the commodious home. Edward remained in Portland for a time, your mother recalling that he came to the house on occasion to take the boys on outings. He also had a brother, Robert, in Portland, who apparently was well liked by the family, but who took his own life a few years later.

By not later than 1915 Edward had left Portland, and disappeared as far as the family was concerned. Your mother says that her grandfather had one communication from him, asking for a reference; and for some reason which is unclear to her, he tried to have Edward traced by a private detective, without success. The

⁵ These were Everett and Fremont Merewether - the latter I knew well as he lived quite near me in Ojai -

failure of this effort seems strange, as we know that he did not really try to disappear, but by the time I met your mother in 1926 the family was treating him as a nonperson, and presumably dead. Clara fostered this idea - she was quite bitter toward him and passed on her negative views to her children - though in later years we sensed that she sometime thought of him, and as still living. (She died about four years before Edward's re-contact with the family.) She blamed the break-up of the marriage on alcohol; as you recall, she was a rabid prohibitionist. She had some reason, as hinted in your grandfather's statements above. Your cousin Mike, who became acquainted with him in his old age, said that he had periods of excessive drinking even as an old man.

From the accounts in his letters in the 1960's, Edward went to Chicago from Portland, trained to become a professional accountant, then lived and worked in Detroit for many years, quite successfully. He married at least once - his account is unclear - and divorced again, but he had at least four more children - three sons and a daughter. We maintain Christmas contacts with one family, the David Merewethers of Albuquerque; Mike and Fremont have maintained other contacts. Your grandfather moved from Detroit to Albuquerque, then after his second divorce moved to El Paso and lived alone, except for a short while before his death when he spent some time with the Dave Merewethers.⁶ Although he wrote two fairly long letters to your mother in 1964 and 1966 from which I have quoted, he let the correspondence lapse to Christmas greetings signed "Dad," although he had said in the 1964 letter "if I had only known you were pleased to hear from me I would have written you years ago," and your mother continued to write messages to him on her Christmas cards. He died in El Paso in 1973, at the age of 92. His last Christmas card to us was in 1971.

For the record, I should include the circumstances of the family's renewed contact with Edward, although you are personally aware of the facts. About 1963 your cousin Mike saw a letter to the editor of *Life* Magazine signed E. E. Merewether, El Paso, Texas. Mike followed through, and Mr. Merewether identified himself.

We should turn next to Frank Edwards, and his role in the family story. At the time of your grandmother's divorce Frank was the woods boss in the logging operations of the Sheridan Lumber Company. He was then in his fifties; I suppose he had been a logger all his life. Presumably your grandmother knew him, or was aware of him, while still married to Edward. He had been married - whether his wife died or there had been a divorce I do not know - and he had a daughter. In the period between 1913 and 1915 he courted your grandmother and she agreed to marry him, much against the wishes of Grandmother Everett. The Sheridan Lumber Company was apparently still in full operation; Fremont Merewether says that his earliest memory is of living at the Mill Creek logging camp. In 1915 Frank and Clara and the two boys moved to the State of Washington, living in succession at Hoquiam, Aberdeen, Olympia, and finally at a camp town called Bordeaux. It was here that Evelyn Edwards was born in January, 1916. Your mother remembers a visit to Bordeaux when she was about 11.

In 1917 Fremont Everett bought a farm and mill, complete with cookhouse, bunkhouses, and mill pond, on Gold Creek, west of Willamina, and Frank Edwards was brought back from Washington to take charge. There was a good farm house and farm buildings serving several acres of bottom land, but until possession of the house could be secured a place in the neighborhood was rented. In 1918 the house you knew so well was occupied, but the major interest was in the logging and milling of the considerable stand of timber on the hills within the property. I assume that by this time the Sheridan logging and milling operations had been disposed of, though the retail lumber yard in Sheridan remained in the family until 1928. (Franklin Everett says that his father told him that great-grandfather Franklin took his money out of the Sheridan firm, an obvious sign that matters were not going well.)

⁶ This is not true - after many years of research the children and grandchildren found that Edward Merewether married at least 4 times. His life and his family's many connections are memorialized in *The Searching Family: The Merewethers in England and the United States* by John Armstrong Merewether, MA, MSW, PhD
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Meanwhile, your mother was growing up in the Portland home. She had what her grandmother desired for her, a secure and happy childhood. Though your great-grandmother was notably careful with her money, they lived graciously. Until about 1917 there were regular summer trips back to Nebraska to visit members of the Everett and Shumway clans; there were summers on the Washington coast near Long Beach; there were dancing lessons and parties, attendance at operas and Shakespearean plays, Methodist Sunday School and youth activities. She was surrounded by family and school friends - the McDaniels, who lived next door; the Campbells, the McLeans, and later the Johnsons (Aura Neely). After her mother and family settled at Gold Creek she spent parts of her vacations out there.

The Portland family were devout adherents of the Methodist Church; during most of her girlhood your mother identified with the First Church on the west side of the river, to which she and her grandfather sometimes walked while grandmother rode the street car.

I am not certain, nor are Fremont or cousin Franklin Everett whose memories I have called upon, just what was the sequence of their grandfather's business ventures following the closing out of the Sheridan mill operations. I am inclined to think that it was during the war years and the early twenties that he was a lumber broker with a partner, in Portland. This apparently was to prove a losing venture; family wisdom has it that he was cheated by a Mr. Cutler, his partner. However, he was certainly not wiped out in this enterprise, and about 1913 his father Franklin's death brought him an inheritance that may have been as much as \$200,000.

He felt himself now ready for grander things in the lumber business. He invested heavily - presumably with a single partner - in a big sawmill at Tillamook, Oregon, and to bring the story quickly to the point, he failed - was wiped out. The causes for the failure. were no doubt complex - he may have again been "cheated" by his partner, there may have been mismanagement, or the lumber business may have undergone a serious slump at that time. But Frank Edwards once said to me that around the lumber camps and mills Fremont Everett was known to be an "easy mark," and it is the family consensus that he was never a business man, in spite of early successes; he was basically idealistic and trusting by nature.

The failure occurred in 1924; the force of it struck your mother between her freshman and sophomore years at Willamette. Grandpa lost nearly everything. What financial transactions took place following the loss of the mill we do not know, but what is known is that by the time Mary Evelyn wrote her will in 1926, all family assets were in her name. At the time I first met your mother, in the spring of 1926, Grandpa was operating the retail lumber yard in Sheridan, living on the premises during the week, and spending the weekends in Portland. He was then 70.

I first met the grandparents sometime in the spring of 1926, when your mother invited me down to Portland from school. I thought that they were living nicely, I found Grandpa likeable and interesting to talk to, and I was impressed with Grandma's dignity and force. They seemed to like me, although Grandpa was not impressed with my plan to become a teacher. In that summer of 1926, while I was working at all kinds of jobs in Salem, your mother was either at the farm or in Portland. My mother came down from Prosser to see me, and I had her stop in Portland where she met Mrs. Everett and what proved to be in time her daughter-in-law.

The family financial crash at first made it doubtful whether your mother could continue at Willamette, but she worked - for the first time in her life - some that summer, and with some income from the lumber yard, and some returns from the Nebraska farms - more later on this topic - they were able to carry on. But your mother never got over the shock of being one day nearly rich and the next nearly poor'.

Out at Gold Creek, the timber was logged off within a few years (Everett was old enough to work as a "whistle punk" part of the time, Fremont reports); when I first saw the place in 1926 there were vestiges of the mill and pond, but they are now obliterated. It was decided to develop the bottom land into a dairy farm. A herd was developed, and from that time forward to 1952, when Burdette left the farm, the sale of milk was the only regular source of income for those living there, though in later years, as we will note, some second

growth timber was marketed. Frank Edwards was neither a farmer nor a dairyman (though he worked hard), and he had a weakness for spending beyond his income and so falling in debt, so the Gold Creek family had pretty hard sledding through all the years of which I have knowledge, Burdette was born in August, 1919, at the farm.

I first saw the farm and the family members there on July 4, 1926. Clara and Frank Edwards, the two Merewether boys, and the two Edwards children - Evelyn then 10 and Burdette 7 - were eager to look over Eleanor's new boy friend. The impression I made was, I learned, somewhat less than favorable; however, I liked the little valley in which the farm stood, and as the years went by I developed a real fondness for the timber, the hills, and the creek. I can fully understand the attachment your grandmother had for the place, as well as the feelings that both Fremont and Burdette retain. And, anyway, your mother and I had a good day that Fourth of July.

She and I had become aware of each other in one or more classes after I enrolled at Willamette for the second semester of 1925-26; I recall that we served on a class project together, and after I joined the Alpha Psi fraternity about the first of April with fraternity brothers I often walked to the house at noon or at other times with girls from the nearby Delta Phi house to which your mother belonged. There was a strong social tie between the two houses, and much dating. So I became aware of your mother, and when a formal house party came up I took a "shot in the dark" and sent her an invitation. She accepted it, we had a very pleasant date, and that was the beginning. That summer, after the visit to the farm, we became informally engaged.

One time that fall we were at the Stark Street house; Mrs. Everett, not knowing of our commitment, saw more evidence of affection than she thought proper. We were no sooner back in Salem than she wrote your mother, expressing her concern, and asking, in effect, what my intentions were. The next Saturday I went down to Portland alone, and asked Mrs. Everett if I might marry her granddaughter when circumstances permitted. She most graciously gave her blessing. It is interesting to note that we did not think of talking to Grandpa, and certainly no such checkup was made on me as was made on Edward Merewether a generation earlier. We announced our engagement in Salem in the early spring of 1927; our tentative plan was to be married at the Stark Street house, but not until we had each taught a year and I had had some opportunity pay off my school debts. But a wedding at Stark Street in the summer of 1928 was not to be.

In the early fall of 1927, while your mother was beginning her teaching at Roseburg, Oregon, and I at Banks, Oregon, Grandma Everett, with whom Everett was then living while attending an automobile school, went with him on an errand. Becoming impatient, apparently, because he delayed - he was job-hunting, I think - she got out of the parked car and started to cross the street. She was hit by a car so severely that she died within a few days, never regaining consciousness. Grandpa chose to have her buried in Sheridan. The Friday that she died was the day for your mother's first planned visit home from her job in Roseburg. I came in from Banks to meet her, learned of the death - we had both known of the accident - and went to the station to meet your mother's train, and break the news to her. We both stayed until after the funeral. It is worth noting that from that time on Clara accepted me fully.

At this most critical point in the life of the family let's look at what had happened to Harold (Hallie) Everett and his family. I noted that Hallie made one trip to Mexico in connection with the family venture, but otherwise he remained in Nebraska until 1909.

About 1900 Hallie married Dorothy (Aunt Dot) Tranmer⁷. Her father was an Englishman, her mother a native of Ohio. During the first few years of marriage Hallie farmed and worked in a lumber yard in Coleridge, Nebraska; there Franklin Everett was born in 1902, and the second child and only daughter Meredith was born in 1908.

⁷ While she may have been known as Dot, her maiden name was Roseltha Ann - HLF

In 1909, three years after his parents had moved to Oregon, Hallie and Dot and two children moved to Patterson, California, to open a lumber yard in a town being built as a result of a new irrigation project. Fremont Everett provided financial backing. According to Franklin, a lumber yard owner in the nearby communities of Newman and Crows Landing considered the Patterson territory to be his, and when Hallie first set up his business he was confronted by this man, who set up a competing yard in the new town, and vowed to drive Hallie out of business. However, Hallie held on for nine years. In 1916 he sold the lumber business and bought a dairy farm. Your mother remembers visiting the family there, near Patterson.

The third child, Clifford, was born in Newman, California, in 1910, and the fourth, Fremont Alva, on the Patterson farm in 1918.

In the fall of 1920 the family moved to a dairy farm on the lower Columbia River, near Marshland, Oregon; they were there until 1926 or 1927, when they moved to another dairy farm at Trout Lake, Washington. Meanwhile, the fifth child, Harold Burton, was born at Clatskanie, Oregon, in 1921.

I am not sure just when I first met the family, but I was acquainted with Hallie and Dot, and perhaps some of the children in addition to Franklin, by the time of Mrs. Everett's death in October, 1927.

I have already noted that all the assets of Fremont and Mary Evelyn Everett were in her name, and were so disposed of in her 1926 will, at the reading of which I was present with your mother. She made her husband the trustee for the estate, valued at nearly \$100,000, a respectable sum in those days. It consisted of Nebraska farm land - more about this later - the Stark Street house, the Sheridan lumber yard, and the Gold Creek farm on which Clara was living. Grandpa was to be the trustee as long as he lived or until he re-married (an interesting provision) after which the trust was to be administered by a trio consisting of Uncle Charles Shumway, Franklin (Hallie's son) Everett, and your mother. The trust was to be administered so that one third of any income, less 10% as a trustee's fee to Grandpa, was to go to the heirs equally - one third each to your mother, Clara, and Hallie; or, the property was to be divided so that, when sold, the values of the heirs' portions would be approximately equal, less a \$4000 "dower" to Grandpa. Uncle Walter Everett undertook to arrange the distribution of the estate, and we have a copy of his letter of October 10, 1928, setting forth the details. Your mother made a trip to Portland about that time - we had just settled in Naselle - in connection with this final division.

Uncle Walter advised selling the Stark Street house and the lumber yard and one 160-acre Nebraska farm to provide cash to equalize the values of the farm properties. Your mother, by this arrangement, was given 320 acres of Cedar County, Nebraska land, valued at \$44,800, but mortgaged for \$18,000 for an equity of \$26,800. She was to get \$3200 in cash when other properties were sold. There was to be a similar distribution for Clara and Hallie, with the Gold Creek farm as a part of Clara's inheritance; the totals, after Grandpa's bequest and expenses, were based on \$90,000, or \$30,000 each.

At some time soon after October, 1928, the house and lumber yard were sold. After Grandmother's death Hallie came in from Trout Lake to take over the running of the lumber yard. The Stark Street house remained the family headquarters until at least the summer of 1928, with Grandpa living there, and young Fremont, and Everett, and after their January 1 marriage, Sabina as Everett's wife.

Franklin says that the lumber yard was heavily in debt - though this situation was not revealed in the figures given us by Uncle Walter - and that it was sold to a local lumberman for very little. For how much the house sold for we do not know, though possibly for not much more than Grandpa's \$4000 dower.

Clara did get title to the Gold Creek farm, though there appears to have been a \$1000 note outstanding, and I judge from what Fremont says that additional money may have been borrowed against it after the estate was settled.

We have no information about the sale of the 160 acres in Nebraska that Uncle Walter advised be sold. We do know that there was no cash from any estate settlement for either your mother or her mother, nor, so far as we know, for Hallie. What remained were the bulk of the Nebraska farms, quite heavily mortgaged.

At some time in the late spring or the summer of 1928 there was a three-way division of household furniture and other belongings from the Stark Street house. With items which came to your mother we were pretty well able to furnish our first little home in Naselle; some items, as you know, are still in our possession. We traded a Steinway grand for the upright piano we have had ever since our move to Naselle.

During the years of his Nebraska prosperity, Fremont Everett acquired a number of farms, and it is likely that as her share of her father Jeremiah Shumway's estate, Mary Evelyn may have become the owner of more. It is your mother's understanding that Grandpa deeded his farms to his wife in lieu of insurance; in any case, they were in her name, not his, and as the owner she had the right to mortgage them. Apparently in the farm depression which followed World War I - well before the general depression hit - her brother Lorin needed help, and she gave it by mortgaging her farms. The Shumways were a very close-knit family, and she felt a duty. It appears that nothing was paid back on these mortgages, and at Grandmother's death they were still outstanding. (I suppose something had been paid, but not enough to significantly lower the principal.) When the lands were encumbered, the amounts seemed modest, but as the farm situation worsened the mortgages represented a growing percentage of the values.

So what the heirs received were good Nebraska farms which by then were quite heavily encumbered. In 1929 Hallie, who had had considerable farming experience, went back to Nebraska to farm his share.

Uncle Walter, who was now looking after the farms for Clara and your mother, began to advise us that the farms could no longer meet the mortgage payments and taxes, and show any return. But he felt that we could hold on a little longer; the possibility of selling 160 acres of your mother's land to clear the other 160 was considered, but he advised against this move, as the cleared property would have been without farm buildings. By about 1931 or 1932, however, that option was lost, Uncle Walter saying that the only way we could save the farms, or a part of them, was to do the farming ourselves. Hallie had already decided that this was the best course for him. But we were young, and felt that we could make our own way in the education field. Although I knew something about farming, corn culture in the Middle West was completely outside my experience. So what we did was to take the crop rent for as long as possible before foreclosure, and let the farms go. Over a two year period we got a few hundred dollars, perhaps as much as \$1200, money which helped us buy a lot and build our first home in Walla Walla. Clara had, I believe, the same experience. Hallie also gave up his farms, taking two years' crop rent- even though he had worked one of the farms himself.

Grandpa, after the sale of the lumber yard, was at loose ends. He was now 73, and pretty much unemployable. He did get a few odd jobs, and for a time moved around the Portland area (we visited him once when he was working on a farm, and another time in Portland where he had a menial sort of job in a hotel). But for the most part he lived out at Gold Creek, trying to do a few chores, living mostly on the declining resources of the family, now consisting of Clara and Frank Edwards, Evelyn and Burdette, and Fremont Merewether. Fremont says that he thinks Grandpa got money from time to time from Uncle Walter. We know that during these years he sent rather expensive presents to a widowed sister-in-law in Denver, Emma Coberly Shumway.

He had obviously had an eye for Emma for a considerable time. As a widow she had married Edmund Shumway, Mary Evelyn's brother who was the successful Denver business man, so as a member of the family Grandpa had known her for many years. After he became a widower he began to court her by letter. She put him off for a considerable time, but about 1935 - he was then nearly 80 - she agreed to marry him. He had at that time some money which he said he was going to use to build a house in Denver. Where this came from we do not know, though possibly he had saved it from the sale of the Stark Street house.

So he left Gold Creek - there were serious conflicts between him and his daughter during those years of the early thirties - went to Denver, married his Emma, and started to build his house. But they had been married only a few months when he became ill; he never recovered, dying in the fall of 1936. Your mother - we had just settled in Walla Walla - went to Denver to be with him in his last illness and saw him buried there.

Some time afterward Emma wrote to say that because she had so long been identified as Mrs. Shumway, and had been married to Grandpa such a short time, she was taking back her former name, and trusted we would understand. What happened to the house value we do not know. About 1950 I was in Denver and called on Aunt Emma - she was probably in her nineties, and a most personable old lady.

Although Everett and Fremont had their actual homes with the Edwards family on Gold Creek, and attended the rural school in the neighborhood, much of their youth was spent at Stark Street, for they "lived with Grandma" while attending high school, for the most part. Everett had his first three years of high school in Portland, then lived and worked with Grandpa at the lumber yard while attending Sheridan High, from which he was graduated in 1926. But he again lived with his grandmother while attending an auto school, and as we have noted was living with her when she died in the fall of 1927. Fremont took all four years of high school in Portland, graduating in 1928. So during those years the boys were out at the farm on for the summers and other school vacations. Franklin, Hallie's eldest son, lived at Stark street for one year about 1919-20, attending Hill Military Academy, and again a few years later when he, too, attended an automobile school.

Everett remained in Portland after Grandma's death, working as a mechanic. On January 1, 1928, he was married to Sabina Allen of Sheridan, whom he had met at Sheridan High. They lived in the Stark Street house for a few months, then in various places in Portland for several years; Allen and Katherine were born there. About 1937 Everett took a new job in Eugene, and eventually set up his own shop near the Eugene Hotel.

About 1941 we became aware of difficulties between Everett and Sabina which, as you know, led to a divorce. With the outbreak of World War II Everett went to Alaska as a civilian employee of the military, and was there for several years. He re-married there, but about the time he returned to Eugene and reopened his business - late 1945 or early 1946 - this wife, whom we never saw, died by suicide. About the time we moved to Eugene, Everett married Lois. After a time they moved to western Montana where they remained for many years. Shortly after we moved to Davis they came to Roseville, then after a few years moved to Pacific City, Oregon, where Lois continues to live, Everett dying after several years of illness, in 1975, at the age of 67. He is buried in Eugene.

Sabina and the children continued to live in Eugene. A year or so after the divorce she remarried, but for reasons of which we are ignorant soon secured an annulment, keeping the name of Merewether. As you know, after several more years she married Paul Halweg with whom she appeared to have a good life, though he committed suicide in 1975, about the time of Everett's death. Sabina has always kept in touch with Everett's family.

From 1928, upon his graduation from high school until 1956, Fremont lived and worked at Gold Creek; after Frank Edwards died in 1931 he was the family mainstay (really before that). Fremont soon realized that his step-father had gotten the family into debt. Whether an additional mortgage had been placed on the farm after the title passed to Clara I am not sure, but Fremont speaks of the mortgage to be paid off, and of high store bills with a Willamina merchant, Mr. Kershaw. By the time Fremont left the farm the debts had been cleared.

Those were hard years, during which your mother and I were often at the farm. The burden of the indebtedness was compounded by the onset of the Depression, and a drastic decline in milk prices. Both before and after Frank Edwards' death, Fremont, and as time went on, Burdette, supplemented the dairy income in a number of ways - by cutting wood for pulp or fuel, by hauling gravel, and later by regular work which Fremont secured in logging operations in the timbered hills from Gold Creek up toward the summit of the Coast Range. He worked terribly hard, as did Burdette when the full burden later fell on him. But there were

neighborhood activities for the young people, centering in the Grange and the little Methodist Church, which occupied the same building down on the Yamhill River a mile or so from the farm. There were neighboring families, including the Woodens and the Unicomes, with whom there were good relations.

Fremont had known Mildred Ransdell in Washington High in Portland; she was two years behind him in school, but during the years that Fremont was at Gold Creek they kept in touch, the Ransdell family sometimes stopping at the farm on their way to the coast for vacations. As time went on Fremont, I think, felt that his choice among possible directions for his life lay between marrying a local girl and building a second house on the farm - going on as a farmer - , or striking out on a new career, hopefully with Mildred as his wife. During these years she had graduated from Albany College (now Lewis and Clark) and had begun a career in social service work in Linn County (Albany). As you know, he chose the second option, though the choice was not easy for him or for the remaining family. He decided to enter Oregon State to study forestry, and so left the farm in the fall of 1936. By this time he had acquired a direct interest in a portion of the dairy herd, and he and his mother agreed that he might sell his stock to help finance his college education. He was now 26 years of age. With this decision came the understanding with Mildred that they would marry as soon as feasible; this was to occur two years later, in the fall of 1938. Meanwhile, in the summers, Fremont worked in a blister rust camp in Idaho and as a forest lookout, and after he and Mildred were married they spent one summer in a lookout station. During the school years he waited on tables and washed dishes in a dormitory. During the last two years of college they lived either in Albany or Corvallis while Mildred continued to work.

I have made reference to "Dad" Edwards' death in 1931. He was about 73, and died unexpectedly. Your mother and I were in summer school in Seattle when we got the message late one evening; we immediately took off in our Ford coupe and drove all night to the farm.

Clara refused to attend the funeral, and although she was yet a relatively young woman - 47 - she became more and more withdrawn. She had once been active in the little church and in the Grange, but I do not recall that she had any significant social activity after Frank died. We know that she would have liked to re-marry - and she really needed a husband - but she did not put herself in any position to attract one. So for almost thirty more years she lived out her basically unhappy life, subject more and more to fears and fantasies.

In 1930 Evelyn, then 14, was ready for high school. We were teaching in Naselle, and we suggested that she live for a year with us, attending Naselle High School. So this plan was carried out, and she and we had a good year. Naselle High was a good little school, and Evelyn was quite popular there. She took her last three years at Willamina High School, graduating in 1934. She was quite a good student, and decided that she would like to be a nurse. 1934 was about the worst possible time for the family to finance a nursing education, so your mother and I, then both employed, offered to underwrite tuition, supplies, uniforms, etc., when Evelyn was accepted at Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland.

It didn't work out. Evelyn wasn't willing to submit to the discipline of dormitory living. She ignored a warning after she had been absent without permission after hours, and was dismissed. There followed some bad years, both for her and for the family. Eventually, about 1937, she went to live with a family in Nampa, Idaho; there she met and married Dick Seamans. In 1938 your mother and I visited them in their little apartment, and later she and Dick and his daughter by a previous marriage visited us in Walla Walla.

When Fremont departed for college in the fall of 1936, Burdette, at 17, became the man of the house at Gold Creek, and remained so for sixteen years. During the year 1936-37 he completed high school in Willamina while doing the milking and attendant farm work at Gold Creek. Until 1948, when he enrolled at Linfield College, he devoted full attention to the farm and the support of his mother, a devotion that Clara often showed strange ways of appreciating. These were difficult years for both of them, but Burdette found some relief from the tensions at home in neighborhood contacts, and especially in the little Methodist Church. A growing religious interest led him to secure what was called a local preacher's license in the Methodist Church, and he hoped at some time to study for the ministry. Through his church activities he eventually met

Kathleen Kelsven of Sheridan. Mr. and Mrs. Kelsven and three daughters had come out from North Dakota a few years earlier to operate a store in Sheridan. All three girls, well into maturity, were single, and it was apparently the hope of Mrs. Kelsven that they remain that way (as two of them did). They were a very religious family, and by the time Burdette knew her Kathleen was already an ordained minister in the Wesleyan Methodist Church, of which, however, there was no congregation in that area, hence an association in Sheridan with the Methodist Church.

Burdette saw, as did Fremont earlier in the case of Mildred, that he could not hope to win Kathleen if all he could offer was life on the Gold Creek farm, so in 1948 he decided to attend Linfield College. He felt that he could combine school attendance with maintaining the farm, though Linfield campus was 25 miles away.

It seemed an impossible project. Burdette was now 29, out of school for 11 years. He had a herd of cows to milk night and morning, and all the related farm chores, including the raising of some hay and grain. He had a difficult mother to look after, and to make it worse she did not approve of his college venture.

But he made it. In 1952 he graduated (your mother and Uncle Hallie and I were at the commencement), having made good marks, and showing that he had really enjoyed the intellectual stimulation and widening horizons which college gave him. He then prepared to leave the farm and marry Kathleen, the wedding taking place, I believe, in 1953.

Clara Edwards was now alone, in the old farm house, with only her cats for company. Burdette arranged to have the tillable land farmed on shares by neighbors, but the return was seldom enough to pay the taxes.

The farm consisted of more than 200 acres, most of it in hill land which had been logged over in the earlier mill operation on the site. But by the 1940' s enough second growth timber had matured to represent some value, and on at least two occasions timber was sold.

At some time during these years Clara and Fremont and Burdette had come to an understanding that the boys would share in the proceeds of such sales, and would inherit the farm on equal shares at Clara's death. So although your grandmother had no regular income from the farm after Burdette left, she did have modest funds with which to meet her simple needs. These funds were augmented later by the sale of a substantial amount of logged-over land to a local lumber company investing in the future. These funds were also shared with the boys, Clara feeling, properly, that by their work and sacrifices they had saved the farm and her home.

As you may recall, she had at least two serious illnesses after we moved to Eugene in 1946. On one of these occasions we brought her to Eugene for treatment, but at the last moment she refused to be hospitalized in Eugene, so we took her to an old family doctor in Portland. I do not recall the nature of the illness, but she was in a Portland hospital and later a convalescent home for an extended time. Your mother went down to Portland for several days, and stayed at a Portland hotel, to be near her. I believe that on another occasion, after Burdette had left the farm, she got to a neighbor's telephone to call us - she had had her own telephone removed and we again brought her to Eugene briefly, then took her to Portland. I remember that Fremont and Mildred, during their first Portland residence, were involved with at least the first illness.

None of her children was happy about having her live alone on her "HourGlass Farm", and all of us would have been glad to help locate her, elsewhere, but she would have no part of any plan to remove her from the setting which had become so much a part of her. For our part we suggested more than once that she let us get an apartment for her near us in Eugene. So for seven or eight years she was a virtual recluse on the farm, with no telephone, though keeping in touch with the family through mail and periodic visits. Long-time family friends by the name of Cook agreed to look in on her once a week, and to keep her supplied with groceries and other necessities. The circumstances of her death I will deal with later.

I mentioned earlier that Hallie and family had moved to Sheridan after Grandma Everett's death, operating the lumber yard until it was sold. In 1929 the family, including Franklin, went back to Nebraska,

to try to save, through farming the land, Hallie's part of the inheritance. Franklin says that they found the task an impossible one, and as I said earlier, they took crop income for a couple of years while letting the property be foreclosed.

For the next twelve or thirteen years the family lived in Lyons. Hallie bought a drayage business for local hauling, and for a time it was profitable; but it depended largely on transporting goods shipped in by rail, and as long-haul trucks began to replace much of the rail service the drayage business declined. Toward the latter part of this period the second son, Clifford, who had had some experience with his own truck in highway building, joined his father.

Franklin, on his return to Nebraska, went to work for the father of the girl who became his wife; he and Laura were married in 1930. Their first year was spent in Denver, Franklin working at any job he could find. Then his father's first cousin, Clay Newmyer, took over the family lumber yard in Lyons and offered Franklin a job that he kept for seven and a half years. In 1938, when your mother and I made the visit in Lyons which I have mentioned earlier, we had dinner with Dot and Hallie and family, but I believe that by that time Franklin and Laura had gone to the Northwest. Their daughter Darlene had been born in 1934.

After an attempt at farming, and several jobs in construction, Franklin was hired by the big paper mill in Camas, Washington; he stayed there until 1948, when he and Laura decided to buy a motel at Long Beach, Washington. It was there that we visited them in 1961. They kept the motel until 1968, but until 1964 Franklin supplemented the motel income by outside work, mostly in local lumber yards. From 1964 to 1968 they operated the motel exclusively., and in the latter year returned to the Camas-Washougal area, taking over the family home. Hallie and Dot had moved back to the Northwest in 1942; although Hallie was at that time 62 years old, shortage of help due to the war made it possible for him to get employment in the paper mill, where he worked until he was seventy.

All the children - Meredith, Clifford, Fremont, and Burton-settled in the Clark County, Washington area, in the early 1940' s; all are married and have families.

Fremont and Mildred Merewether, upon Fremont' s graduation from OSC in 1940, moved to Klamath Falls, where Fremont first worked for Weyerhaeuser Timber, and then for the Great Northern Railroad, for a total of two and a half years. In December of 1942 the little family - Mike had been born - moved to Montrose, Colorado, where Fremont began work for the U. S. Grazing Service, which eventually became a part of the Bureau of Land Management with which he spent the remainder of his career. About 1945 he was transferred to Portland, and they lived in the Cedar Mill area. After a few years they moved to Spokane, where your three cousins - Kathleen and Jean were born in Colorado - grew up. While living in Cedar Mill the Merewethers bought property in the area for a future home, and upon returning to Portland and living for a time on the east side of the city, they built the home in which they now live.

After a short period of working in the Willamina area after their marriage, Burdette and Kathleen went to Seattle. She served at first, I believe, as pastor of a little Wesleyan Methodist Church; Burdette secured work as a social worker, and studied for his master's degree in social work at the University of Washington. He has for many years, as you know, held a responsible position with one of the state institutions - Fircrest School— in Seattle. Cheryl, Rowene, and Clifford did their growing up in that city.

Evelyn and Dick Seaman were divorced in the early 1940's - I think he may have returned to his first wife - and after a time Evelyn married Les Stumbaugh. She had been a good friend of Les and his wife, and when the latter died, leaving four sons, Les turned to Evelyn. She did her best as wife and step-mother, raising the four boys, the younger two, as you will remember, being pretty difficult.

While we were still living in Walla Walla they moved to Spokane, where Les worked in the building trades. Les died in 1964, and for a time we had little contact with Evelyn. The next we knew she was married again, to "Fid" Meador, and living at Pacific City, Oregon, where Everett and Lois Merewether were operating a motel.

In early April, 1960, we received a call from Burdette in Seattle, saying that the Cook family of Willamina had called with the news that on their weekly trip to the Gold Creek farm to take supplies to Clara Edwards, they had found her dead. It was judged that she had died of a heart attack about three days previously (I believe that in this case they had seen her within the week). As you will recall, we notified Everett in Roseville, and he and Lois accompanied us to Willamina - or rather Sheridan - for the funeral.

A few old friends were at the service, but most of the mourners consisted of Clara's five children, and Hallie and Dot and their five children, and most of the spouses. After the burial the Cooks invited the two families to their farm home.

Clara was buried in a newly developed cemetery in Sheridan, with perpetual care. In the old cemetery, on a hill north of town, lie the remains of Mary Evelyn Everett and Frank Edwards.

Upon leaving the Cook farm on the day of the funeral, Clara's children went out to Gold Creek for the reading of her will. The remaining acres of the farm had been left to Fremont and Burdette, as had been understood. Only token bequests of \$50 each were made to Everett and to Evelyn, who placed their own interpretations on this action, not made more pleasant by the bequest of \$500 to your mother, not legally one of Clara's children. But Clara had long felt that she wanted to recognize in her will the help that had been given by your mother toward Evelyn's nursing education, as well as advances made during the hard years to help with mortgage payments, even tho the latter, and I think at least most of the former, had been repaid by Fremont and Burdette as times improved.

Clara's death in 1960 - she was nearly 76 - seems a fitting place to bring this narrative to a close, except to note that Uncle Hallie survived her by four years, dying at Vancouver, Washington, at the age of 84. Aunt Dot preceded him in death by two years.

I will keep recent letters from Fremont and Franklin, as well as Grandma Everett's will, and letters from Uncle Walter.

Affectionately,