

Albert Gerard Duhme

1891-1958

Very little about Albert Duhme survives - no pictures, no writings. There are a number of mentions, however, in newspapers and other odds and ends.

Albert always maintained that he was born 31 Dec 1880; however, he appears in the 1880 Census as being 5 months old, and having been born in December. His father died when he was about 9, and in 1892 Mary Duhme is described as having “a son now at the Military School at College Hill about 12 or 13.”^{1 2}

In 1900 Albert and his mother were living in Minneapolis at 1810 1st Ave, South, his occupation being a salesman of dry goods. The 1901 and 1902 Minneapolis City directories show him in the same area, but at 1921 Stevens Ave. In 1905 he was living at 1368 Spruce Place with his sister’s family, and he seems to have worked for his brother-in-law Charles Eustis as a salesman.

About this time Charlotte’s daughter Catherine had an unpleasant interaction with Albert. When she was a little girl, six or seven, she felt very plain and she really wanted friends. So she got eight pennies from her piggy bank and bought eight chocolate-covered marshmallow turtles with marbles in the middle to share with her acquaintances so they would like her. But Uncle Albert saw this and went and told her mother. Apparently nothing ever improved the opinion of Albert that Catherine formed that day.

Albert’s mother, Mary Galbreath Duhme, died in 1906, and it seems that he acquired enough money from his mother’s estate that he could change his lifestyle. An August 23, 1909 article in the Los Angeles “Times” with a society column from Lake Tahoe noted that included in a Launch Party [boat trip?] to Sand Harbor was A G Duhme of Minneapolis.

The Census of 1910 finds Albert in Goose Lake, Modoc Co., CA. “*Modoc National Forest Preserve , Albert G. Duhme [age 35 about], head , occ lumberman, logging, sawmill, planing etc., employer;*” in the same household are 14 men listed as Albert's

¹ Diaries of John M Miller of Westwood/Cincinnati, Ohio compiled by Susan R Alexander printed by BookCrafters, Chelsea, Michigan 1993

²This was almost certainly Ohio Military Institute, in College Hill, Cincinnati. It operated from 1890 to 1958.

employees. Albert was away from home for the enumeration the last two days of April and the first two days of May. And we know where he was, for on May 6, 1910 he was in Reno³. “*Albert G Duhme, one of the largest holders of timber lands in this part of the west and a man who controls several thousand acres at the California- Oregon line, is now in Reno on business and registered at the Riverside Hotel. Mr Duhme is most enthusiastic over the farming proposition which has just been opened up in the famous Surprise Valley.*”.. ...(Albert is referred to as Postmaster Duhme)⁴

Mr AM Duhme proprietor of the Fandango Lumber Co. in the Goose Lake Valley, has just returned from an extended trip through the east. While away, Mr Duhme was successful in interesting capital in the lumber business to the north and will now put in yards at Alturas, Davis Creek and Lakeview⁵...

In 1913 he was in Minneapolis, where he gave his occupation as “timber.”

By 1914 Albert’s fortunes may have had changed - he had moved about 120 miles SSW from Fort Bidwell to Lassen County; he spent New Year’s Day in Reno and gave his residence as Westwood. According to his enumeration in the 1920 Census he was employed as an inspector for a lumber company.

What else Albert may have done in the 1920's, he seems to have lived in the San Francisco Bay area, and to have involved himself in the Sierra Club. “*Trail Day will be observed by the Sierra Club next Sunday. Lunch will be provided for all men who give their services in the clearing of trails Sunday. Leaders, Albert Duhme and Maren Aun⁶*

In the 1930 Census he was enumerated in San Francisco, staying in the Hotel Somerton, 440 Geary St. He was described as a lodger, and a traveling salesman.

He worked at the Sierra Club campground at the Soda Springs, near Truckee. “*In the mid-'30s one of the memorable custodians was a gregarious bachelor named Albert Dühme [sic], a great camp cook who grew stout on his own creations. He put on potlucks, campfire programs, and flower walks, and occasionally threw a steak dinner for the rangers. His most notable contribution was the Bruin Baffle, a sturdy building*

³Nevada State Journal May 6, 1910 Reno Hotel Arrivals - at the Riverside was A G Duhme of Bidwell

⁴Nevada State Journal May 12, 1910

⁵ Nevada State Journal, Reno, NV Aug 16, 1911

⁶ Oakland Tribune Oct 15 1925

*with a galvanized iron door where members could stow their grub safe from marauding bears."*⁷

Albert was not greatly admired by his near relatives. One of Charlotte's half-brothers had owned a quarter-section of land in Walsenberg, Colorado, which Charlotte seems to have bought from him. Albert, who Dad described as a "will of the wisp," managed to separate some of the land from the 160 acres, and engineered the sale of the 10 acres ... which contained the spring! So the remaining 150 acres had little value.

By the time of the 1940 Census, Albert was living in Sausalito, Marin Co., and was the caretaker of the Sierra Club clubhouse. About that time he met a grandnephew and wife, Frank and Mary Duhme; my notes say that they met him through the Sierra Club; they really enjoyed him. They said that Albert was in WWI. He was a timber cruiser and in WWI he volunteered in some sort of construction battalion; but when he got there the war was over, so he was discharged as a Lieutenant. (I have been unable to verify this.) Albert was rather bitter about someone in the Duhme Co - there was money and then "all of a sudden it was gone."

During the last year of his life several letters about Albert were exchanged.

Dear Mr. Duhme,

I am a nephew of Albert Duhme. Mrs. Peck, my cousin, sent me your letter to her. It seems that you are easing his misfortunes with good sense and kind consideration. And I thank you.

There is one vacant grave space in the plot bought by Herman Duhme, Albert's father. The cemetery - Spring Grove Cemetery - 4520 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati 32, Ohio - tells me that Albert Duhme has the right to be buried there. Albert has always been a likeable fellow to me. He had money enough for his old age and I think he thought he was trying to save it. But financially he irritated me, for he ignored advice and I don't think he tried hard enough to take care of himself. But still I do feel sad about his situation. I'll reimburse you for temporary emergency expense. If you are unable to hold out his money for funeral expenses, I will pay them. But as for long range living expenses, I do not offer to pay such.

I'll be very grateful if you will write me now and then.

*Yours very truly,
Howard C. Ives⁸*

⁷O'Neill, Elizabeth Stone *Meadow in the Sky* ISBN 0-914330-67-5 1984

⁸. letter dated 6 Apr 1958 from Howard Caleb Ives, 2319 Grandview Ave, Cinti 6 OH to Frank Duhme

*"DUHME - In Mill Valley, April 9, 1958, Albert G. Duhme, beloved uncle of Frank Duhme, Jr. A native of Ohio; aged 77 years. A member of American Forestry Association, California Alpine Club, Sierra Club and Tamalpais Conservation Club. Friends are invited to attend the funeral Friday, April 11, 1958, at 11:30 a.m. from Keaton's, 5th and E streets, San Rafael. Inurnment, private. Memorial contributions to Cancer Society preferred."*⁹

And finally, this.

Dear Frank,

Regarding Uncle Albert I received about 5/7/58 your letter stating that "he was cremated and his ashes will be sent to Spring Grove."

To date no ashes or further word regarding his ashes has been received by "The Cemetery of Spring Grove, 4521 Spring Grove Ave, Cincinnati 32, Ohio," or by me. So I'm wondering what, if anything, I do next.

A grave space is available in his father's lot. I'll advise you of the expenses involved in the burial. If any of Uncle Albert's estate remains you can reimburse me. If there is no remainder I'll stand the expense.

It seems that Uncle Albert was right after all. He lived his life as he chose and came out even. So all my fussing was just so much personal Ives exercise.

Sure - thanks - I'll look you up when I get there - next week or maybe 10 years from next week.

Yours,

*Ives*¹⁰

Uncle Albert's ashes finally got to Spring Grove and were interred September 5, 1958 with his parents and many of his siblings.

⁹ San Francisco [CA] "Chronicle", April 10, 1958.

¹⁰ letter dated 25 June 1958 from Howard Caleb Ives, 2319 Grandview Ave, Cincinnati 6 OH to Frank E. Duhme Jr.

DUHME, ALBERT G. (ashes) NO. 145647

PLACE OF NATIVITY Cincinnati, Ohio

LAST RESIDENCE Tiburon, California

PLACE OF DEATH Ross General Hospital, Tiburon, Calif.

DATE OF BIRTH Dec. 31, 1880

DATE OF DECEASE April 9, 1958

DATE OF INTERMENT Friday Sept. 5, 1958 11AM

DISEASE Pending

PARENT'S NAME Herman G. Duhme & Mary Gallbreath

LOT OWNER H. Duhme SEC. 47 LOT 42 GRAVE

TYPE AND SIZE OF GRAVE 12x12

FUNERAL DIRECTOR D. Keaton, San Rafael, Calif.

PERMIT OBTAINED BY " & Howard C. Ives, (nephew)

~~SINGLE, MARRIED-OR WIDOWED-HUSBAND, WIFE OF~~

WHAT RELATION TO LOT OWNER *jr.* son

DATE OF DEPOSIT IN PUBLIC VAULT	GRAVE \$ 35.00	RES. GRAVE \$
PUBLIC VAULT PERMIT \$	GRASS LINING \$	CHAPEL \$
PUBLIC VAULT RENT \$	TENT \$	STONE \$
REMOVED FROM		