

Lottie M. Goodwin holds residence record

Arizona Republic
4-11-1971

The lady who's lived longest in Tempe is 87 now. She's straight and slender and tall — just a half-inch shorter than she was in those turn-of-the-century days when she rode her bike into Phoenix to teach school.

"I was born in Butte County, Calif., in 1884," says Charlotte Mullen Goodwin whose parents, the Joseph Mullens, brought their seven children to a quarter-section farm four miles south of Tempe center just two years after that.

The town beside the Salt River was just 15 years old then. And its progressive citizens had dipped into their pocketbooks to support a new normal school just that year. This small establishment was to grow into the 25,000-student university which, along with today's electronic industries,

now serves Tempe as its main economic base.

Lottie Mullen went to that school — and many, many years later she guided it as a member of the board of regents.

She was one of Arizona's original commuters — rode her bicycle from home to the railroad station, loaded it on the train. Then, in Phoenix, she'd bike down Central Avenue to teach at Central School. Now she treasures a picture of the flooding Salt, flowing by Tempe Butte around the trestle it had just wrecked — marooning her in Phoenix.

After 10 years of teaching, she married widower Garfield Goodwin — brought up his children as her own. Together, they ran the Goodwin Indian Store on Tempe's main street, Mill Avenue. He died in 1944. After his death, she moved back to the house of handmade bricks at 116 E. Sixth St. where, as a young woman, she kept house for her bachelor brother.

That prim and neat old house now lies almost in the shadow of Tempe's new city hall, an inverted pyramid with glass sides which was designed by her grandson Michael Goodwin.

The Garfield Goodwins' family has swelled with each generation. When all of the clan assembled last Christmas for their annual climb up Tempe Butte there were 46 children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Some are scattered to live in Nebraska, California, Kansas.

But when Lottie Mullen moved to Tempe, she came to stay.

Oroville Mercury Register

4-26-1971

Campbells Donate Land To Cemetery

An acre of land was donated yesterday by Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Campbell to the Cherokee Cemetery Association.

Mrs. Campbell, who was elected secretary-treasurer of the organization that owns and operates the Cherokee Cemetery, said the acre will be made available to the public for purchase of grave sites.

This was the second time the Campbell family has donated land to the cemetery. The late Edward Campbell, father of Leonard, donated much of the land in 1907. The graves at the cemetery date back 1857.

During the association's annual meeting held yesterday at the cemetery Verda Danker was elected president; Elizabeth Pollard, vice president; Hazel Coombes, John Arruda and Robert Richardson, trustees. Ralph Campbell was chosen as sexton.

Mrs. Campbell said information concerning the association may be obtained by writing Rt. 1, Box 306, Oroville.

Sacramento Bee

7-19-1971

Counsel Is Arranged In Oroville Hatchet Death

OROVILLE — Hazel Nisbet Coombes, 74, of Oroville, charged with the hatchet murder of her husband, Howard Prentice Coombes, 77, will be represented in court by a public defender.

Mrs. Coombes was supported by a matron when she appeared for arraignment in Justice Court before Judge Tillman Daley. He referred her case to the public defender when Mrs. Coombes, who appeared to be in shock, reported she had no funds with which to hire an attorney.

She is held in the Butte County Hospital.

Coombes was found on the bathroom floor of the cou-

ple's home last Tuesday with about 22 wounds on the head, face and neck. The wounds reportedly were inflicted with a hand axe found on the scene.

Police declined to discuss the questions of motives, statements or murder weapons but said no other suspects are being sought.

Mrs. Coombes has been hospitalized since the killing was discovered.

According to an autopsy report, Coombes died of a crushed windpipe resulting from blows.

The couple was married 51 years. Coombes was a retired Pacific Gas and Electric Co. employe.

Sacramento Bee
10-27-1971

Wife, 74, Makes Plea In Killing

OROVILLE — Mrs. Hazel Coombes, 74, of Oroville, entered a plea of no contest yesterday in the Butte County Superior Court to a charge of voluntary manslaughter.

Mrs. Coombes was accused of hacking her husband, Howard, 77, to death with a hand axe in the couple's home last July. Mrs. Coombes had originally entered a dual plea of not guilty and not guilty by reason of insanity to the murder charge originally filed against her.

In accepting the plea yesterday, Judge Jean Morony set Nov. 4 as the date for sentencing. Mrs. Coombes has asked for probation.

She has been held in the Butte County Jail since the slaying.

Concow Yankee Hill Informer

11-26-1971

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY RESIDENT OF THE MONTH

George and Marie Hopkins were chosen this month, they are fine people and many people in this area have very fond memories of both George and Marie Hopkins. We pay tribute to them with pride and pleasure.

George and Marie Hopkins moved to Concow in July of 1947, from Oakland, California. They taught school at Concow for six years. At one time during construction of the Poe Power Project, they had 83 students enrolled and attending school in the one room school, they had to turn four little

boys away as there was not another vacant chair on the premises. Finally an emergency school was opened at the Rock House. Through all of this, being over crowded and teaching grades 1 thru 8, Mr. & Mrs. Hopkins always had time for each individual child, they each took the role of teacher, counselor, doctor on occasion, and always friend. Their greatest feeling of achievement and pleasure was in giving their pupils self direction; those of us who were fortunate enough to have them for teachers, can recall having our say in choice of reading material, films, school plays, and play ground activities. Our suggestions and "complaints" never fell on deaf ears with George and Marie Hopkins.

Mrs. Hopkins great grandfather was a Creek Indian chief, she has a heritage she is, and well should be, very proud of.

George and Marie Hopkins were married 54 years ago in Oklahoma. Mr. Hopkins taught school for 25 years, and Mrs. Hopkins for 12 years. At one time she was a student in the same room he was teaching in.

While in Concow they lived on what is now the Eugene Ringel property. Their students were frequent visitors to their home after school was over. In 1948, they held an Indian Pageant in the field adjoining the ranch. All the children were allowed to participate, complete with costumes, fires and real covered wagons.

Those of us who were privileged enough to have been their students have great admiration, love and respect for them both. They were instrumental in the growth and advancement of our community.

They now reside in Paradise, California. Mr. Hopkins has recently been in the hospital, we wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

They would enjoy hearing from their friends and former students, take the time to give them a call or drop by and say hello when you are in Paradise.

Concow Yankee Hill Informer

12-31-1971

Ralph Eakle Miller

RESIDENT OF THE MONTH

During this month, the calls we received have indicated there are many of our readers who enjoy reading about the long time residents of our community, and how the community was in years gone by. This month, Ralph Miller has been chosen as the resident of the month. The following resulted from our interview with him. Get

your votes in now for the January Resident of the Month. The article will appear in the issue of January 28, 1972.

Ralph Miller's parents were in this area a good many years before he was born. They lived on what was then known as the "Eakle" ranch which has since been known as the Schager ranch, now owned by Eugene Ringel and the property is being subdivided and developed into a resort.

Ralph was born on December 7, 1895, at Deadwood. At that time it was a flourishing hospital. It is now the home of the Legget family.

He started school when he was 7 years old, the school he attended was a little school house that stood on the same spot as the Concow School of today. His teacher's name was Maggie Lynch, "a middle aged spinster, very prim and tough". There were 10 to 15 children in school then, some of them were 17 or 18 years old. Some of the students included Oliver Lunt, George Hodepp, Roda Evans, Evelyn Hendricks, and others Mr. Miller does not remember.

In 1902 Ralph and his family moved to San Francisco for a few years and then to Ono, in Shasta County, where his father bought a ranch. They stayed there until 1922, then the ranch was sold and Ralph moved his parents to a 1A plot in the center of Ono. Ralph then left and followed construction work as a carpenter, finally he drifted back to Yankee Hill to visit relatives, it seemed to him to be so nice and friendly that in 1926 he made preparations to settle down and take advantage of some of the opportunities that he observed all around him. The first investment he made was the 40A property from Cy Brown where he built the Pines Store in the winter of 1927. He then worked at Las Plumas for a long period of time in order to get the Store to the point where it could pay its own way. He ran the store for 21 years, later leasing it out. He then began speculating and trading in land and is still at it at 76 years of age. He has been a member of the Concow Grange for approximately 20 years. He states that Yankee Hill has been very good to him, and he hopes that he has done a little good for the community in return.

Ralph Miller has many memories of his own personal experiences and those of others, some dealing with mining and miners, and we hope that he will be kind enough to give us some of those stories in the future.

We have indeed enjoyed paying tribute to this long time resident of our area.