



# City of San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society P.O. Box 875, San Bernardino, CA 92402

## LIBRARY NEWS MARCH 2010

By Richard D. Thompson, Librarian

### MARY L. LEWIS FILES: Charles Augustus Rouse

Although the Mary L. Lewis project has been mentioned in past issues of this newsletter, an example of the approximately 35,000 "family sheets" has not been shown. Below is a reduced-scale copy of the sheet for Charles Augustus Rouse (see it larger by clicking on "Zoom" in the View menu). The head of the family is given at the very top, followed by vital statistics of first the husband, and then the wife. On the left the sources are noted, and below this the children are listed. Often a family member visits the Arda M. Haenszel California Room at the Feldhey Library and attaches something; in this case it is the obituary of family member Dorothy M. Hancock (the obit is of poor quality because it is an original newspaper clipping of a brownish color, and the ScanSnap only works well with black and white).

		HUSBAND (1) Charles Augustus Rouse				youngest of 5 ch	
Source		By Mo Yr	Place	County	State	Add. info.	
1. Ingersoll p 759	Birth	21 Jan 1884	Davenport	Scott	IA	21-1884, 32-1894	
2. 1894 Great Register	Marr.	27 Nov 1884		San Bernardino	CA	Bk D, p 219	
3. Lillian's d. rec.	Death	20 Mch 1935	San Bernardino	"	"	Bk 53, p 160	
informant Chas. Seibel	Burial	22 Mch 1935	"	"	"	Mt View Cremation	
6310 Orangeknoll Rd.	Occupation	RR at Colton. SPRR at SB.	Sheriff SB Co 1900, Cooper, Hotel				
4. M. rec. he of Colton	Church	Drayman	Military				
she of SB.	Other Wives (2)	Augusta					
5. Husb's d. rec. rec.	Father	Franklin Rouse b. NY/OH/Wales	Mother Margaret Davis b. NY/Wales				
CA 53 ys. Informant,							
Harry Rouse, SB.	WIFE (1)	Emma Brown			1910 &		
6. 1900 Census SB p 17A	By Mo Yr	14 Dec 1884	San Bernardino	San Bernardino	CA	22-1884, 45-1910	
634 D St.	Birth	14 Dec 1884	San Bernardino	San Bernardino	CA	22-1884, 45-1910	
7. Husb's father to Riv	Death	2 Feb 1948	"	"	"	Bk 128, p 224	
1885. Mother to US with	Burial	4 Feb 1948	"	"	"	Pioneer Cemetery	
pts as small ch. d. 1881	Occupation	Apartment keeper	Church				
8. 1910 Census SB p 109	Other Husb (2)	Sidney T. Royalty m 3 mos-1910					
#82, 634 D St., Harry	Father	John Brown, Sr.	Mother	Louisa Sandoval			
living with mother & step-father.							
Children		By Mo Yr	Place	County	State	Add. info.	
1. Lillian C. Rouse	Birth	24 Jun 1884	Colton	San Bernardino	CA		
*Bruno Seibel (d. pre wife)	Birth	17 Nov 1966	San Bernardino	San Bernardino	CA	Bk 230, p 917	
2. Edwin Rouse (Charles?)	Birth	Oct 1889	"	"	CA		
Marie	Birth	21 Jan 1892	San Bernardino	San Bernardino	CA	SB 1966, 17-1910	
3. Harry Martin - OH	Birth	21 Jan 1892	San Bernardino	San Bernardino	CA	age 85 - 1977	
Harry M. Rouse	Death	24 Aug 1977	San Bernardino	San Bernardino	CA	SUN 26 Aug 1977	
Floyda	Burial	27 Aug 1977	"	"	"	Mountain View Cem	
4.	Birth						
	Marr.						
	Death						
	Burial						
5.	Birth						
	Marr.						
	Death						
	Burial						
6.	Birth						
	Marr.						
	Death						
	Burial						
7.	Birth						
	Marr.						
	Death						
	Burial						
8.	Birth						
	Marr.						
	Death						
	Burial						
9.	Birth						
	Marr.						
	Death						
	Burial						
10.	Birth						
	Marr.						
	Death						
	Burial						

**Dorothy M. Hancock**  
GREEN VALLEY - Dorothy Marie Hancock, 64, former resident of San Bernardino, died after a brief illness Nov. 28, 1988.  
Born May 10, 1922, she and her husband made their home here for the past 25 years.  
She was the daughter of Charles and Marie Rouse, members of the John Brown Sr. pioneer family.  
Survivors include her husband, John L.; two sons, John A. "Tony" of Lake Berryessa and Michael D. of Vacaville; two sisters, Collen Grider of San Bernardino and Joanne Rouse of Vallejo; and several nieces and nephews.  
Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Mountain View Cemetery. Services directed by Bobbitt Memorial Chapel.

Besides the obituary, someone added, on a separate page, a photostatic copy of a newspaper story dated March 31, 1939. The article is about legal difficulties that Charles Rouse's heirs were having in regard to San Bernardino's Hotel Augustine, which he had built.

## SUIT DEMANDS DISCHARGE OF RECEIVERSHIP

Dispute Over Augustine Hotel  
Being Heard in Court With  
Trio Instituting Action

Discharge of the receivership of the Augustine hotel, 799 Third street, was sought in superior court yesterday by Harry M. and Charles Edward Rouse and Lillian Seibel, sons and daughter of the late Charles A. Rouse, founder of the hotel.

The three moved that Superior Judge Benjamin F. Warner vacate an order he made last April 5 appointing a receiver of the hotel property on grounds the court lacked jurisdiction. The hearing will be resumed today.

The motion was made in trial of an action brought by Anna S. Scott of Los Angeles, who claims a one-half interest in the property on behalf of the estate of the late Mrs. Gussie B. Rouse, wife of the founder. Miss Scott is Mrs. Rouse's niece and is administratrix of her estate.

### ASKED RECEIVER

She asked that a receiver be appointed to conserve and protect the assets of the property; that claims of the parties interested in the property be determined; that an accounting of the hotel receipts for the past seven years be made and that title to the property, now vested in Daisy F. Davenport, be returned to the estates of Mr. and Mrs. Rouse.

Mrs. Davenport and Alma Daley, who also claims an interest in the hotel property, are also defendants in the suit.

Miss Scott alleged, in her petition for a receivership, that defendants, with the exception of Miss Daley, entered into a conspiracy to purchase the property by foreclosing trust deeds which they had obtained from a defunct bank.

### ANSWER FILED

The defendants filed an answer and cross-complaint to Miss Scott's action, demanding an accounting of Mrs. Rouse's estate from Miss Scott. They alleged she is indebted to the estate.

Attorney Grant Holcomb represents Miss Scott; Attorney Fred A. Wilson represents Charles and Edward Rouse and Mrs. Seibel, the law firm of Surr & Hellyer is appearing for Miss Daley and the law firm of Guthrie & Curtis is counsel for T. F. Brioady, who was appointed receiver of the hotel.

As to the heirs of the estate, Mary L. Lewis' family sheet for Charles Augustus Rouse shows that he first married Emma Brown, daughter of San Bernardino pioneer John Brown, Sr. The couple had three children: Lillian C. (Rouse) Seibel; Charles Edwin Rouse; and Harry Martin Rouse. Charles and Emma divorced and both remarried. Charles' second wife was a woman named Augusta, who, as can be seen in the newspaper article, went by the name "Gussie." Emma married Sidney Royalty.

As a side note, in the mid-1970s I wrote a brief biography on Harry Rouse for the local Native Sons' publication, the "Arrowgrams." The occasion was Harry's 50-year-membership celebration with that organization, and I met with him a couple of times to get his story.



Charles Augustus Rouse



Emma Brown Rouse Royalty

I personally well remember from my childhood the Hotel Augustine because of Eichenberg's Café, where my family would go to eat occasionally.



Hotel Augustine, 799 Third Street – 1926

To my knowledge, only a few of San Bernardino's hotels were conceived, designed, financed, built and operated exclusively by local men. The Stewart Hotel was one of these, and, because of the preceding newspaper clipping on page 16, which states that Rouse was the hotel's founder, we now know that the Hotel Augustine was another.

Since Charles' middle name was Augustus and his second wife was named Augusta, he may have chosen the name "Augustine" accordingly. Or perhaps he chose the name because there were well-known St. Augustine hotels in Florida. The hotel Rouse built seems to be almost forgotten today, even by those old enough to remember it.

The Augustine appears in the 1913 City Directory, but not in the directory for 1912. It was located on the southeast corner of Third and G Streets. The hotel lasted for about six decades, until it was torn down to make way for the Central City Mall.



**Charles Augustus Rouse at his hotel**

Since this story has turned into a mini-biography of Charles Rouse, I would like to add one more photograph, that of Charles and Emma's home located on D Street, a couple of lots north of Sixth Street. He called it "San Carlos" (or "Saint Charles" in English). It stood until the 1950s, during which time our downtown commercial district expanded to this block, an area consisting of many of the finest houses in San Bernardino. Now, in place of the Rouse home, is Nena's Restaurant, an establishment that has made its own mark in San Bernardino's history.



**"San Carlos"  
The home of the Rouse family**

## LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

### —Fabulous Farmer

Our thanks to President Steve Shaw, who recently donated a copy of *Fabulous Farmer, the Story of Walter Knott and His Berry Farm*.

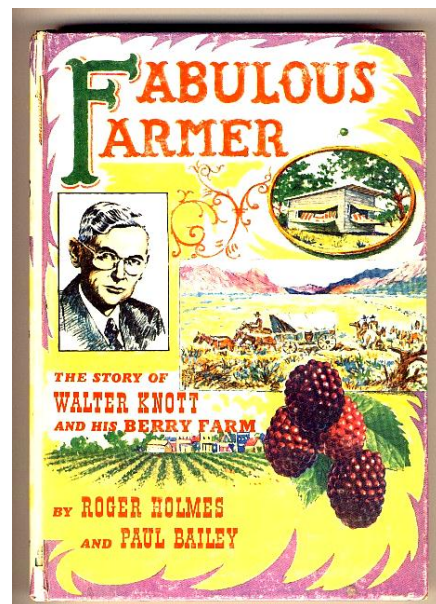
Although Walter Knott did not live in the City of San Bernardino, his grandmother Rosamond Daugherty resided there, as did his uncle John King, former sheriff of San Bernardino County.

Rosamond was a favorite relative of Walter's, and an entire chapter is devoted to her. Following the death of her husband in 1887, she purchased a "two-story, many-gabled boarding house in the then bawdy and prosperous town of San Bernardino. She named her venture The Star House, like a true Texan from the Lone Star State." The 1898 City Directory lists the address as 195 E Street.

Walter's time in San Bernardino County began in 1914 when he moved the family to a spot 25 miles east of Barstow, five miles from "Newberry," according to the authors. The family spent two-and-a-half years there, and it was just about as horrible as one might imagine. Strapped for cash, Walter went to work for a mining company at nearby Calico in 1915. The place had been a ghost town for 20 years, but somebody thought that the war economy might revive prices enough for silver mining to once again become profitable.



ROSAMOND'S "STAR HOUSE," SAN BERNARDINO



Knott left the desert for Orange County, and became quite successful with his famous Buena Park venture, which included a mock ghost town. He had not forgotten the real ghost town though, and in 1951 he bought the 70-acre town from the Zenda Mining Company for \$15,000. He restored it, and today it is a county regional park.

### —The Purple Giraffes

Alice Eby Hall donated her mother's copy of *The Purple Giraffes: Sympathetic True Stories of Teen-Age Problem-Posing Children*. The book is by Exposition Press, published in 1958. While the Knott book is somewhat scarce, Purple Giraffes is just about unobtainable. Gertrude Odell, a city librarian, told me about the book over 30 years ago and I was fortunate enough to locate one at the time. I have looked for another copy over the years, but without success. Alice knew about the book's scarcity and donated it anyway, which is much appreciated.

The book was written by Louise Van Metre, who at the time was the dean of girls at Sturges Junior High School. She had begun her career at the school in 1928. Van Metre wrote an inscription in the book to

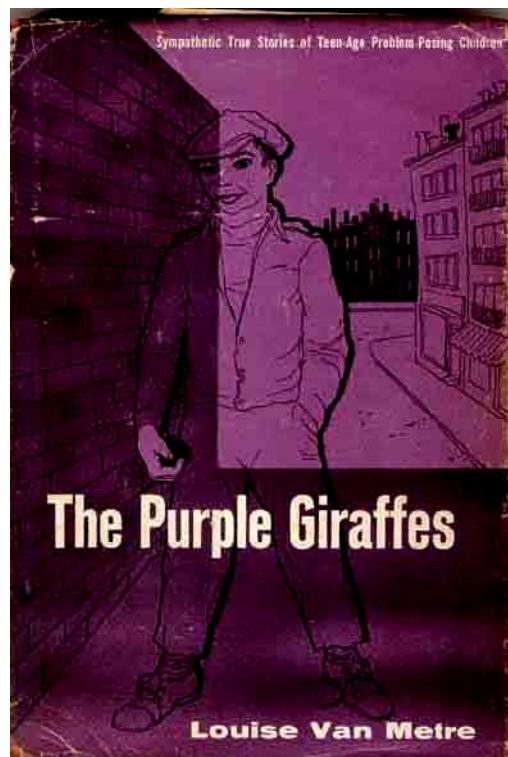
Alice's mother, Gladys Palmer Eby, which reads, "To Gladys, who has successfully raised three children with no Purple Giraffes among them."

Despite its serious subject matter, Van Metre manages to write about the trials and tribulations of a junior high dean with a great deal of humor. The book is a series of vignettes, all artfully written, and some of them so funny that you just might laugh out loud. This is one of my favorite books on San Bernardino, but it probably has been read by very few of the city's inhabitants. More's the pity.

To give an example of the author's writing, here are the first two paragraphs of the chapter entitled, "The Battle of Two Bulges":

OH, SURELY NOT! I must be seeing things! I walked slowly down between the rows of cafeteria tables so I could get a better view. I was seeing plenty! There sat Myrtle in the sheerest of nylon blouses and no slip. Her black skin gleamed darkly through the thin material, but not as darkly as the tips of her bra, which were a shining metallic black. Beside her sat Lupe, similarly attired. Her tips were a dark purplish red. Next to her was Dulcie, her round-faced baby blondness with its halo of peroxide permanent fading into insignificance in the light of her gay pink tips.

What should I do? If I told them to go to the office, Myrtle's loud, "What I do? Why you all the time pickin' on me?" would draw the usual crowd of excitement seekers. I glanced around to see whether anyone was noticing them. I could hardly believe my eyes, for there sat Mary—dear, good, dependable-most-of-the-time Mary—Felicitas, Ramona, Crystabel, Hazel, all with polished points. Lucie, too, but the effectiveness of her bright red polish was somewhat marred by a dirty sock hanging from one side of her bra. I had heard that she "used stuffing." And Wilma—poor, shy, drab, little Wilma—scrunching down in a vain effort to hide her pink tips below the edge of the table.



Van Metre changed the names of people and places, but Alice, who says she knows many of them, made some handwritten notes in the book identifying a few; for example, Sturges is called "Central" and Arrowview is "North Junior High." We have to ask her to identify more, as there are probably not many people who can still do it.

This is a great addition to our library. Thank you, Alice.