

Menlo Park's Almanac

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Old-timer

**"Dutch" Hallett
remembers
turn-of-the-century
Woodside**

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Old-timer

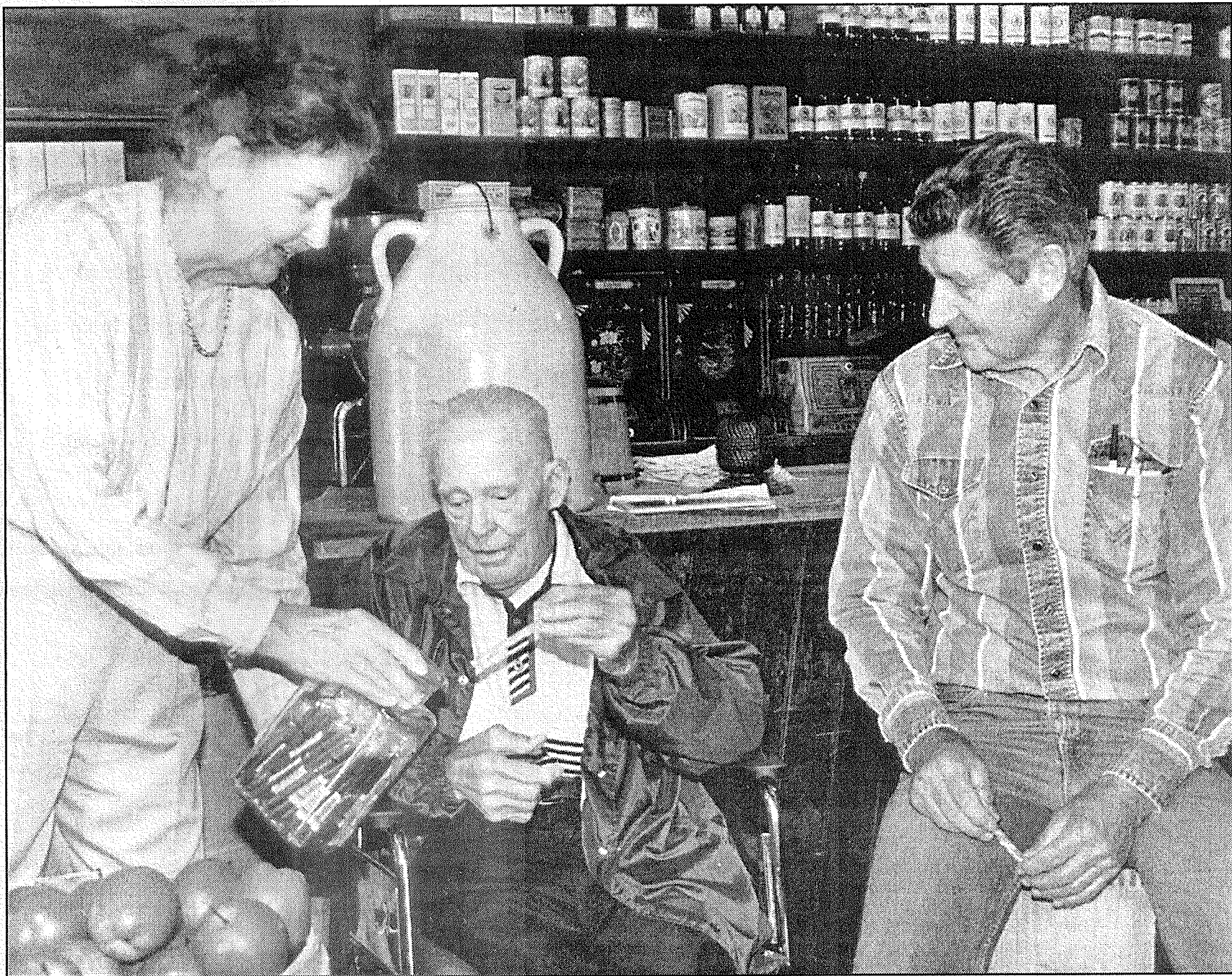


Photo by Carol Ivie

Carroll "Dutch" Hallett shares his memories of the old Woodside Store with former Woodside Mayor Jeanne Dickey and Harold Zwierlein, both of the Woodside History Committee.

Carroll "Dutch" Hallett remembers stagecoaches, the Earthquake, and the two-room red school house in turn-of-the-century Woodside

By Marion Softky

For 7-year-old Dutch Hallett, the great San Francisco Earthquake was a lark.

Dutch and his brother Joe were asleep when the beds started going back and forth and the walls started shaking. Glass and canned fruit crashed off the shelves as their Woodside home jerked off its foundation.

"The only thing I remember, my father hollered, 'Get out of here! Get out of here!'" Mr. Hallett recalls 90 years later. "We was having too much fun," he chuckles, his face lighting up with a big smile.

Born in 1899 and still lively, Dutch Hallett grew up in a very different Woodside from today's affluent suburb. He remembers log and tanbark wagons jangling through the ruts and

dust of Kings Mountain Road. He attended Woodside School. He used to pilfer tobacco from Dr. Tripp's Woodside Store, snitch ice from Tony the Iceman, and sneak rides on the stage that ran between Redwood City and Pescadero.

Mr. Hallett views turn-of-the-century Woodside through a child's eyes. Still sharp at 97, he relishes telling of the pranks and mischief he and his six brothers and sisters got into as kids.

What are his earliest memories? "Just raising the devil, I guess," he laughs during an interview in the Redwood City home where he lives with his daughter, Julia Moncrieff.

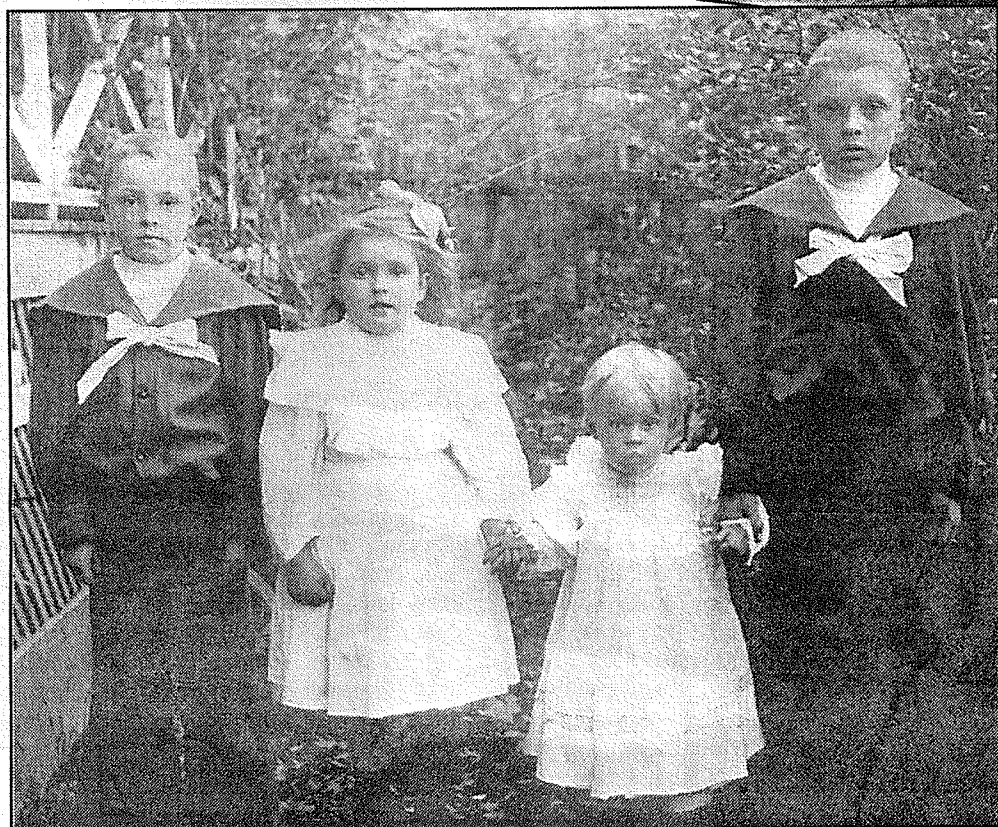
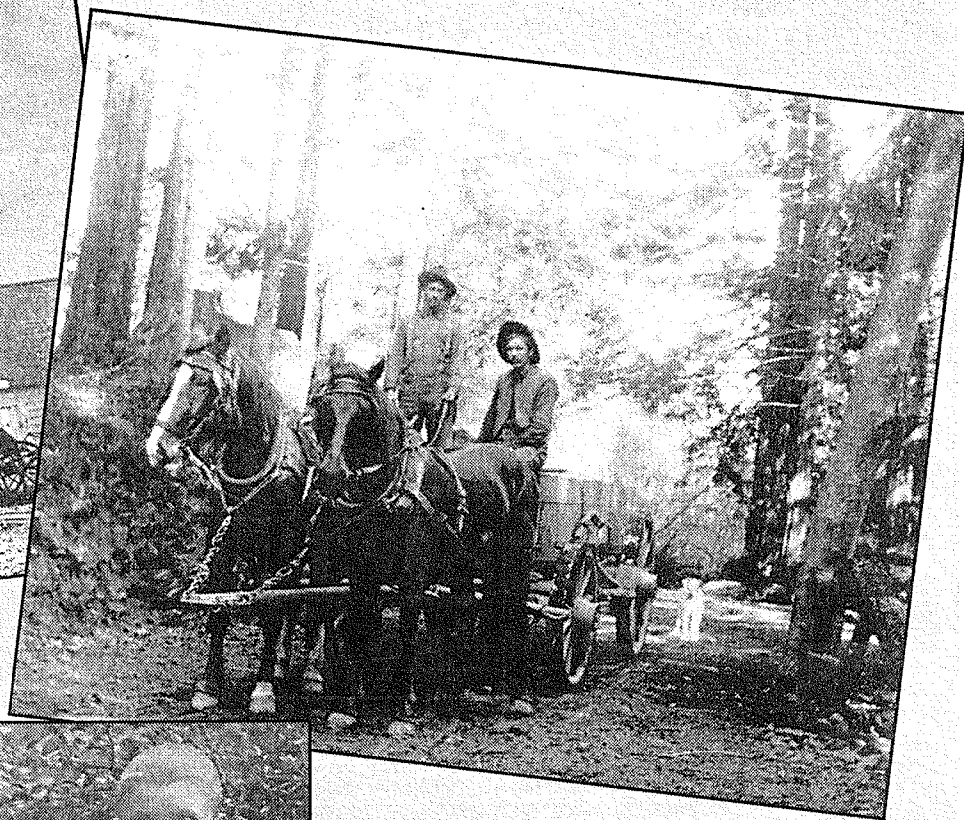
Then his eyes light up. "We used to put my sister in a baby carriage and let her roll down the hill," he recalls with glee. "She'd bang into the house, and then we'd get caught."

Mr. Hallett has lived more than half his life in Woodside. He grew up there until graduating from Woodside School in about 1914. He lived and worked in Redwood City and San Mateo for another 30 years, and returned to Woodside with his wife and two daughters in 1946.

His grandson will soon be moving into his Woodside home, and when his great-grandchildren, Amanda and Kyle Moncrieff, enter Woodside School next fall, they will be the fourth generation of Halletts to attend the school Mr. Hallett's parents attended more than 100 years ago.

A family way back

Mr. Hallett is a ninth-generation American and a third-generation Californian. His ances-



The old Pioneer Inn, top left, has been a Woodside landmark at least since the 1880s. Carroll "Dutch" Hallett remembers it had a bar downstairs, a hotel upstairs, and the kitchen at the back. Green and Bozzo operated a butcher shop in the building labeled "P. Hanson's Exchange," he says. Top right, his uncle, Henry Bottger, and Henry Meyer drive a wagon on one of the roads in what is now Huddart Park. Bottom, four of the seven children of Joseph Hamblin Hallett Jr. are Carroll, left, Eleanor, Earl and Joe in front of their Bottger grandparents' home at the corner of Kings Mountain and Greer roads.

tors came to Cape Cod in 1635.

It was his grandfather, a sea captain who traded with Japan and had a taste for buying land, who first brought the family to farm in Woodside. "My grandfather used to say San Francisco was no place to raise children, so he moved down to Woodside," Mr. Hallett says.

Later, Captain Joseph Hamblin Hallett gave up the sea after his ship, the wooden steamship America, burned to the water in Yokohama, Japan. He joined his family in their home on Manzanita Way and expanded the farm located east of Mountain Home Road. But he ended up selling several hundred acres to the Spring Valley Water Company, Mr. Hallett says. Why? "He couldn't make the payments, I guess."

Mr. Hallett's Bottger grandparents used to operate the old "Tole House" on Kings Mountain Road at Greer Road where they collected tolls from the lumber, tanbark and farm wagons

that plied the dusty track. "The dust was sometimes 2 feet thick," says Mr. Hallett. "The horses had bells on. We'd hear them coming for 2 miles."

Later, the Bottgers built a home with a big porch near the intersection of Greer Road, where lots of family pictures were taken. His grandmother Bottger was descended from the inventor of Dresden china, he says.

By the turn of the century there was quite a clan of Halletts and Bottgers in Woodside. Both Mr. Hallett's parents, Joseph Hallett and

Lucy Bottger, attended Woodside School. "I had all kinds uncles," he adds, counting to six — five Halletts and a Bottger.

Uncle Harry Hallett ran a grocery store and bar at the

old Hallett Store in Portola Valley. The building, much modified, still stands adjacent to Village Square, and is due to be restored to its original appearance by its new owners. "He let

us play the slot machines. It was just fun to hear them move," Mr. Hallett remembers. "He sold steam beer and lager in bottles."

Uncle Henry Bottger built the bridge to Huddart's house on what is now called Greer Road after another of the old Woodside families. Then it was called Huddart Farm Road after the San Francisco lumberman who had a big home with a lake at the end of the road.

Dutch's father had lots of jobs around Woodside; he was also a member of the school board. He used to drive the water wagon up Summit Springs Road and did gardening jobs. "He'd put the ladder on his shoulder and go around and prune — peaches and apples and stuff like that. I've still got the ladder," says Mr. Hallett.

Later Mr. Hallett's father was a coachman for the Josselyn family — until they got a car and wanted him to drive it. "It kicked back at him," says Mr. Hallett, who tends to talk in punch lines.

Early memories

Dutch Hallett was the second of seven children, and one of two who are left. His youngest sister, Helen Darnell, still lives in

Emerald Lake above Redwood City.

He was born in the family house, which had been called "Old Temperance Hall," on Tripp Road. Later they lived where "Big Louie" Cadish had an apple orchard nearby on Woodside Road, and then moved to Albion Avenue before the earthquake.

The Woodside Store, where Dr. Orville Tripp still pulled teeth and sold sundries, was a center of activity for kids as well as grown-ups. It's still a center of activity as a county historic park. When the stage coaches would lumber up Tripp Road — it wasn't called Tripp Road then — from La Honda, Dutch and the other kids would often hop on the back. "The driver would snap his whip at us," says Mr. Hallett gleefully. "As soon as he quit, we'd get on again."

Mr. Hallett's memory is specially sharp for mischief, like snitching tobacco from the Woodside Store and hiding it in a nearby oak tree. "I never could smoke much myself," he says.

Dutch's mother was a good friend of Dr. Tripp's daughter, Addie. When Miss Tripp's maid was away, Dutch and some of his brothers and sisters would stay with Addie Tripp in

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As a boy, Dutch used to pilfer tobacco from Dr. Tripp's Woodside Store and sneak rides on the stage that ran between Redwood City and Pescadero.

SPORTS 4 KIDS CAMP

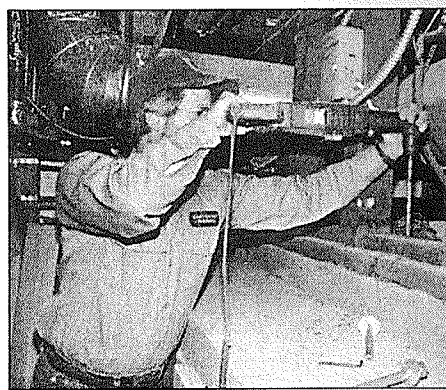


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OBJECTS FOR PEOPLE AND THEIR HOMES



Dutch Hallett poses with his daughter, Julie Moncrieff of Redwood City, in the old Woodside Store, where he used to play as a kid.

Photo by Carol Ivie

Old-timer

(Continued from Page 19)

her house, which still stands across Tripp Road from the Woodside Store. What was she like? She was an old maid — "like and old hen," replies Mr. Hallett.

Dutch and his friends worked lots of chores. "We'd get five cents a box for picking grapes or prunes," he remembers. "Then we could buy shoes for school."

They also had plenty of good times. They would hunt for rabbit and quail with a 16-gauge shotgun, and catch trout in the creeks coming down from Skyline. They swam in Searsville Lake, and would change clothes in the small caves on either side of the dam. The caves were dug by people looking for quicksilver, he says. There were also good swimming holes in the creek below the Josselyn place, near the Woodside Store.

The Halletts had two horses, a gentle white one called Old Dick for the kids, and his father's spirited buggy horse. "We'd get on a fence and jump on the horse and go," he says.

Their first car was an EMF with a right-hand drive. "We gave it to our father and he blew it up," he remembers with relish.

Later there was a 1914 Ford, a motorcycle to ride around on, and trac-

Mr. Hallett also remembers Town Center around the historic Pioneer Inn the way it used to be, with stores, bars, Tony the Iceman, and blacksmith shops. Did he ever have anything to do with the Pioneer?

"No."

Why not? "Too young."

School days

It's a good thing for Woodside School and its two teachers that the 1906 earthquake hit so early in the morning. "If it had been later, they'd have been killed when the bricks came down," says Mr. Hallett.

The school — it was red then — had two rooms, with a brick chimney between them. The first four grades were in one room and the second four in the other. Teachers were stationed next to the chimneys — which crashed into rubble when the ground shook.

Those teachers, Miss Doyle and Miss Hartley, were tough, Mr. Hallett says; they had to be, because some of the older students were bigger than they were. They shared a rawhide buckskin whip, and applied it for discipline. "The first thing we did after the earthquake, a whole bunch of us chopped it in little pieces. She couldn't use that on us any more," he says.

"If they caught you swearing, you sawed wood," he adds. Did he saw wood? "Not too much. They never caught me."

Many of Mr. Hallett's school recol-

lections are of games and mischief. They played baseball and blind-man's buff, and a ball-and-stick game they called "Peewee"; sometimes they made up their own games. They got in trouble for offenses such as throwing balls over the top of the school or betting on marbles.

What about learning at school?

Mr. Hallett chuckles, "Not too much."

Since 1915

Mr. Hallett left Woodside soon after he graduated from Woodside School. He couldn't go to high school because there was no way to get to Redwood City. Also, he says, "My brother worked for Neuman Brothers (the Woodside market before Roberts) for years. I couldn't see working in a grocery store."

He worked at the Mountain View Fruit Company in San Mateo and drove a taxi in Redwood City. Later he almost finished high school at nights, and became an electrician with Atlas Electric. He helped install wiring in many Peninsula buildings, including Macy's and the Emporium at Hillsdale Shopping Center, and San Carlos, Ravenswood and Woodside high schools.

He also kept in touch with his family in Woodside. Alvin, known as "Tick," was assistant fire chief to the late Chief John Volpiano and ran the Portola Valley fire station. Ethel worked in the Country Store, across Woodside Road from the Pioneer. Joe was a postman in Redwood City. Earl worked for PG&E.

When Mr. Hallett married Gertrude Beatty of Redwood City on Oct. 3, 1925, they had the wedding reception at the Woodside Inn, in what is now the back parking lot of Roberts grocery store, formerly Neuman Brothers. Altogether, three of the Hallett family, two brothers and a sister, married three Beattys.

The Halletts moved back to Woodside in 1946, so that Julia and her sister could go to Woodside School and learn riding with the Junior Riders under the late Myra Duncan. Mr. Hallett has two daughters, seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

If Mr. Hallett can hang on another four years, says Mrs. Moncrieff, he will have lived in three centuries.

Good luck.