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Santa Ana Valley

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PIONEER MEMORIES  
OF THE  
SANTA ANA VALLEY

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HAZEL IONE (SCHAFFERT) MAAG

by

Maureen McClintock Rischard

COVER

Hazel Maag and friend  
riding the range in Santa Ana Canyon

HAZEL IONE (SCHAFFERT) MAAG

One of Ebell's most interesting members is Hazel Maag who still resides on her ranch in the Santa Ana Canyon surrounded by freeways, a shopping center and civilization.

Hazel prides herself on being a woman rancher. When her husband, George William Maag, died in 1930 at the age of 35 years, Hazel picked up where George left off because she loved the outdoor life. In 1946 she bought out the other family interests and became the sole owner of the acreage which she has developed into her homeplace. At one time she owned a 240 acre wheat farm in Lancaster and interest in a 90 acre orange ranch in San Juan Capistrano.

She and George were married 9 Aug 1921 at the Mission San Juan Capistrano. George's tragic death ten years later was due to food poisoning. He was one of the eight sons of John A. Maag who came to the Olive-Orange area in 1891. George's brothers were: Frank P. who married Virtue Meats; Joseph A. who married Rose Ruplinger; Henry who married Florence Ammon; William H. who married M. Katherine Kramer; Charles E. who married Zola Powelson; Clarence E. who married Grace Kelley; and John W. who married Anna Lypps. His sisters were Mary who married William Altmiller and Elsie Mary who married Nicholas Brock.

The father, John A. Maag, was born in 1851 in Westphalia, Germany and died in 1931. He came to the Midwest where he was raised by his widowed mother. He married Catherine Stefters in 1884 in Nebraska. He visited California in 1889 and decided to move west in 1891. He bought a wagon and spent the next five months roaming the Southland before purchasing the Fairhaven property where he built a handsome house in 1899. He was very active in promoting the citrus industry in Orange County.

In June 1982 the John A. Maag house was moved to the Santa Ana Unified School District's Exploratory Learning Center (Discovery Museum) located at Fairview and Harvard Streets. According to an article in the Orange City News

"the six and one-half hour move which began at midnight went 'pretty well.' The two-story Victorian house was taken on a zig-zag route across Santa Ana to avoid obstacles. . . it was exciting."

In addition to the house, the carriage house and the pump house were also moved. They joined the H.C. Kellogg house at the Center. The buildings will be restored by students to train them in various building skills.

While looking at a photo of the old house, Hazel pointed to the upstairs rooms at the right and said, "That's where George and I spent our honeymoon!" She also related that when the movers were lifting the house they found a swarm of bees nesting in the laundry shoot. They kept everyone buzzing.

Hazel Maag has proved time and time again that she's a good business woman and rancher. She frankly says, "I've done everything!" The facts prove that she has done just that. In an article in The Register (20 Sep 1964) Louise West featured Hazel in a news story entitled, "Women Fill Many Important Roles in Orange County." Mrs. West wrote, "Today, the woman rancher is often a person of affluence and prestige such as Mrs. Hazel Maag of Santa Ana Canyon who leads an active social life as a member of the Santa Ana Altrusa Club, Santa Ana Ebell, Balboa Bay Club, El Rodeo Riding Club and the Friday Angling Club of Newport.

"Mrs. Maag owns and operates two citrus ranches and a cattle ranch which she started by herself. 'I cleared and fenced the land, put in a pipeline and a pump, even went on tours to learn about cattle and find out how other ranchers operated. I, often, worked 20 hours a day.'"

Other women featured in Louise West's article were: Joanne Spahn, a Santa Ana policewoman; Louise McCain, an Anaheim real estate developer; Darlene Stauffer, supervisor for Garden Grove Pacific Telephone Co.; and Marilyn Whiteside, a seller in securities at First California Co.

In her younger days as a member of the El Rodeo Club she was delighted to participate in their activities, es-



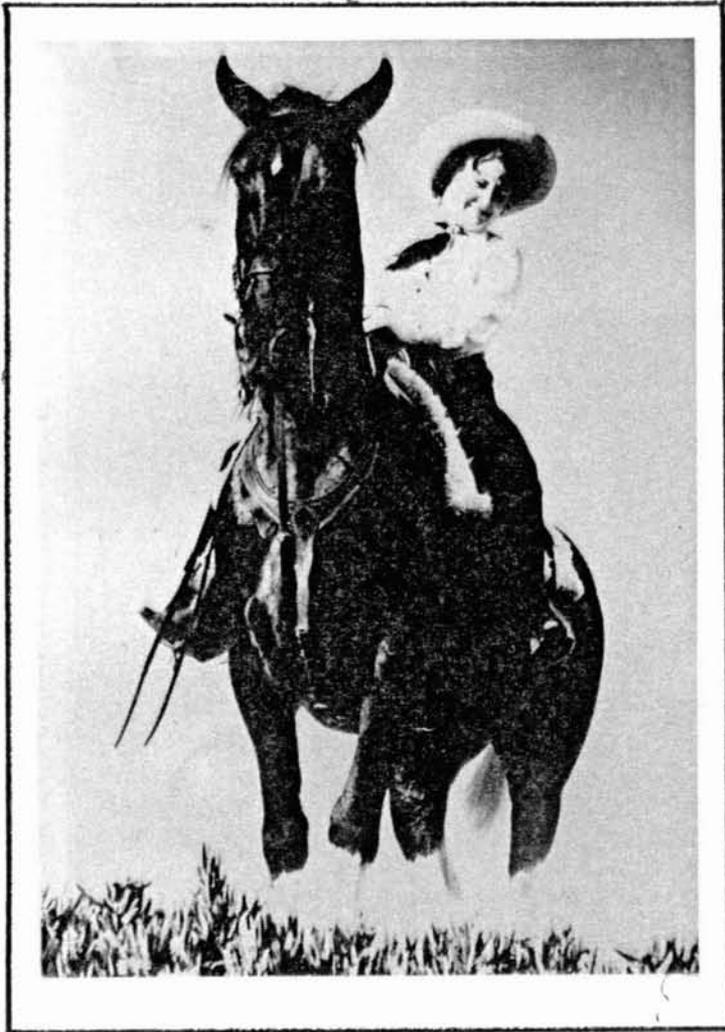
BLONDE COUSIN and BRUNETTE HAZEL MAAG  
(aboard ship, returning from Paris)



GEORGE WILLIAM MAAG



HAZEL IONE (SCHAFFERT) MAAG



HAPPY HAZEL, the rancher

pecially riding in parades. In 1940 (7 May) a headline read, "Famed Ranchos Thrill Rodeo Club Members on 3 Day Trip." Hazel remembers the trip which started at San Juan Capistrano and ended at Placentia. Thirty men and women took part. Here are some of the details, "Gene Thomas, general chairman of the event, mapped out the itinerary. . . mounting their horses at 8 o'clock Friday morning, El Rodeo members went up San Juan Canyon where they were met by Mr. Wright, foreman of Mission-Viejo Ranch. He escorted the group along Santa Margarita Ranch trails through the courtesy of Harry Whitman, superintendent.

"At the head of Bell Canyon, the party was met by Gene Starr, owner, and Homer Lock, foreman, of Starr Ranch, where camp was made Friday night. . .

"Saturday morning the riders were met by Mr. and Mrs. George Rasmussen and son, Norman, of Trabuco Canyon and directed over the Morro Trail. . . W.B. Hellis of the Irvine Co. arranged to have the party met at Bolero Lookout Station by Bascom Edwards who accompanied them to Irvine Park where camp was set up for Saturday. . .

"M. R. Davis, foreman of the Bixby Ranch in Santa Ana Canyon welcomed the group to the historic property Sunday morning. El Rodeo members rested at the Vincent Yorba Ranch before continuing to Placentia."

Among those making the trip were: Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Reafsnnyder; Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Benson; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Duke; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Turner; Mr. and Mrs. Ham Jones; Mrs. Dorothy Lynn; Mrs. Hazel Maag; Mrs. Otto McClure; Mrs. Mildred Lund; Mrs. Blanche Garner; Miss Frances Ludnum; Jack Robinson; Bud De Weis; William Franz; William Warren; Eldon Fairbanks and Dr. Choquette.

Hazel also enjoyed her membership in the Long Beach Vasqueros Riding Group that consisted of 24 housewives and business women who escaped from the duties of kitchen and office on weekends pursuing happiness on horseback. Their classical black and white uniforms were noticeable in Parades and horseshows.

Hazel's rambling ranch house with its terraced slopes and beautiful rose garden was the setting for many parties in the fifties. She also grew a variety of fruit trees: pear, apple, peach, pomegranate and fig which she still enjoys today. Her skill in canning was well-known. In recent years she just enjoys looking at the strawberry fields that have replaced what was left of the pasture land after the Riverside Freeway was built. Today, a small orange orchard insulates her home from the new shopping center at Imperial and Santa Ana Canyon Road. Canyon High School property replaced a prize orange grove.

A book could be written about Hazel's dealings with the civil authorities who keep nibbling away at her rancho. Of the original 58 acres she has lost 38 to government land acquisition. The Anaheim Bulletin headline of 1 Aug 1979 said, "Land-grabbing Agencies Devouring Woman's Farm." Hopefully she'll be able to hold progress off a little longer so she can still claim her title, "Strawberry Queen of the Santa Ana Valley."

Hazel Ione Schaffert Maag was born in Rock Creek, Kansas on 8 November 1900, the daughter of Henry and Geneva (Winslow) Schaffert. Henry, a native of Germany, was born 28 January 1874 in Everback, Wurtemberg, the son of Michael and Caroline (Miller) Schaffert. Hazel had a sister, Electa, and brothers, Julius and Cecil. The family came to Orange County in 1906 from Rock Creek. Henry purchased an orange grove and later established the Orange County Realty Co. A poem written about Mr. Schaffert which was published in an early (not dated) Orange newspaper follows:

THE VELVET HAMMER

by A. B. B.

*When Moses figured out the law and carved it on the rocks, he offered our psychology some anti-human knocks. "Thou shalt not covet," he enjoined, and added quite a list of other people's properties for which you mustn't wish, notwithstanding this the tenth and fundamental not, we wish we had a bunch of things which other guys have got.*

*It's Henry Schaffert's mission to promote this state of mind. He's always boasting trades among his human-kin and kind. He says to those dissatisfied with house or home or land, "I know another little place you'd love to beat the band. The man who has it wants a trade for such a patch as thine; I'll put it through because it's you and five per cent is mine."*

*Or if the deal is standardized with money from the bank, he's still the salesman gushing air of clean and clever rank. He jacks the values up or down, to nadir or the sky, depending on your point of view and if you sell or buy. He profits as the person should who serves his fellow man. He has a store of vocal ore that's always sure to pan.*

Hazel (Schaffert) Maag grew up in Orange. She was a 1916 graduate of Orange High School and continued her education at Santa Ana Business College. Before her marriage she worked as a cashier at the Denni-Sweets Restaurant.

Her mother, Geneva, was the daughter of Anna J. (Frazer) and Josiah W. Winslow, Quakers, who married at Cedar Creek Meeting in Henry Co. Iowa, 13 Oct 1864. Anna J. was born 5 Feb 1840 near Thorntown, Boone Co. Indiana. Anna was the daughter of Alson G. Frazer and Hannah Rees, daughter of Zachariah and Mary (Davis) Rees of Westfield, Indiana. Alson was the son of Henry and Mary (Utwell) Frazer. Hannah (Rees) Frazer died when Anna was about five years old. Her father married, secondly, Mary M. Hockett.

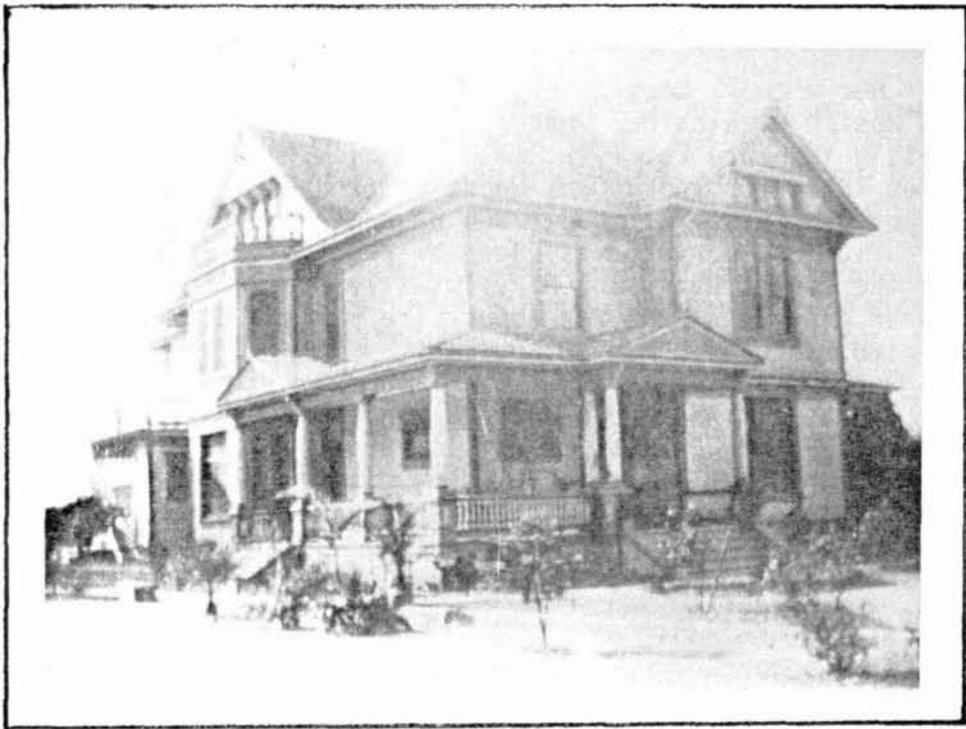
Anna J. Winslow became a Quaker minister. In her book, "Jewels From My Casket," she tells about leaving her family of four children to preach in some distant place, like another state. Seemingly, her absence was accepted by her husband and family. Besides, Geneva, the children were: Urestus Alson, Julius, Matthew, Philander, Zachariah and Lida Anna Winslow.

It is known that Urestus Alson married Minnie E. Davis, daughter of Daniel Davis of Jewell Co. Kansas.

Anna J. Winslow came to do evangelical work in California in the summer of 1907 in the annual meeting. She took up the pastoral work at El Modena on the 21 Aug 1907 and resigned at the end of 1908. The family bought property in El Modena at the time. The little Quaker Church still stands on Chapman Ave. near Hewes in El Modena.

Even though Hazel and George were childless there are many Maag descendants. A reunion of the family was held in May 1983. At that time, a great grand daughter reported that John and Catherine Maag had ten children, 13 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren, 32 great, great grandchildren and 4 great, great, great grandchildren!

Maureen McClintock Rischard, October 1988



THE JOHN ANTHONY MAAG HOME