

## Betty Grutzmacher

Family in CV: Grandfather foster owned foster's Auto Service @ E & 3<sup>rd</sup> --PHOTO

Grandfather Skinner owned hardware store on 3<sup>rd</sup>

Father worked at skinner hardware as kid, father dies, brother takes over store, father opens own Dry Goods Store next door—1929—all survive Great Depression—Betty & sister cared for by grandparents or left at home for neighbors to “look in” occasionally

Great Depression: all 3 family businesses survive—too young to remember problems

Early businesses: Early post office across from store--Walkway down center of 3<sup>rd</sup> avenue -lumber yard where Cong. Towers now—across street= Helms Buick (historical society now)--

Childhood: good friend + Caliente racetrack chef's daughter—arrives at school in limo—often went to Mexico with friend to bungalow, race track, roller skating—remembers friend's birthday party with ice carving her dad made

Transport: mother rode trolley downtown to work in Hosewalker Dept Store (SP?)

--Betty 1942 winter Sweetwater grad

1935 Exposition Balboa Park; betty & sister 11 & 10 take bus & trolley night and day—Cong Church Sunday school also

--ferry to Coronado and back= 5 cents—could ride all day for that

Entertainment: dances, exposition, work in family store

W W II: best friend = Japanese & deported to camp—Betty remains close until her death last year—very angry as child about fate of friend

--husband part of Occupation Army in Japan 1 year

--hospital where USO now

Integration: kids of many races in school; first black student in High school a curiosity to others

Greg Cox's Mom: great home ec teacher @Hilltop

Chula Vista Community Congregational Church: first CV church—started 1891—1940's Bradley Hall church dances, basketball for community—big dinner parties by Ladies Aide Soc, led by Grandma Mary Foster & Aunts Emily King & Keri Skinner