

On January 15, 2008

Susan interviewed **Evaline Simmons** about her life in Chula Vista. Much of what she told me below was not tape recorded.

She knew the **DeHaan** family.

She said "a long time ago" she was inside the house.

She said the DeHaan family was kind of odd; they were not particularly friendly.

The son, she described as huge, very tall and big. He used to walk around and talk to himself a lot. She speculated that perhaps he was shell shocked. When I mentioned that I'd heard he was sort of retarded, she immediately agreed with me.

Turns out, according to Evaline Simmons, this son was the child of Maud Smith.

(When Maud visited here at 2nd Avenue, she never mentioned having a child but was very bitter about her former husband.)

Maud was always a rather sharp person, snapped out things. She always made sure everyone knew her first name did not have an E on the end. She was a member of the Sweetwater Women's Club.

Evaline knew the DeHaan family because she was very good friends with the Cordrey's daughter Zelma. They used to hang out together a lot.

The 238 property she remembers as not having any houses on the south side along Davidson Street. Maud kept her horse in a corral at the corner of the property where Ricky Medina now lives (2008). It was a palomino, and beautiful.

Also, Twin Oaks did not go through the 238 property then. She said the land was planted to celery. She does not know where the name Twin Oaks came from.

Evaline knew Ann Van Wormer from the Sweetwater Women's Club. She said Ann quit going "a long time ago".

Evaline knew Richard Head. They graduated in the same class together, and he autographed her yearbook.

Evaline knew the Franke family (who lived next door to the Stein Farm House) and still does. She gave me their current telephone number and address.

Evaline knew the James and Kitty Wright family. She described where they lived, and said Kitty had beautiful white hair. She said there were lots of Wright brothers.

Evaline remembered her mother talking about the McCoy Hotel.

Evaline was interested in knowing why so many people came here from Kentucky. Her ancestors, John M. Davidson, James Wright, the house builder Haines (sp?) and several people involved with the lemon packing house were from Kentucky.

Evaline will gather up some **photographs from her family** that I can digitally photograph. I will include those pictures with her interview. She has a framed arrangement of a **sheave of wheat** from the field her grandfather was in when he died from being crushed in a hay mowing machine, framed over her fireplace. I will photograph that also. She also said her friend **Zelma Cordrey wrote something** about growing up in Chula Vista and she may find it for me to look at when I revisit.