

Pray Family Chronology

by Steve Schoenherr (ses@sandiego.edu), written July 9, 2010, revised Sept. 21, 2012

Ralph Marble Pray (1884-1928)

B: 20 Aug 1884 in Chicago, Cook Co., IL

D: 18 Nov 1928 in Chula Vista, CA

Louise Marie Huse (1885-1975)

B: 5 May 1885 Mason City, Mason Co., IL

D: 19 Aug 1975 Lemon Grove, CA

(Source: Pray & Brink Ancestors Family Tree, ancestry.com)

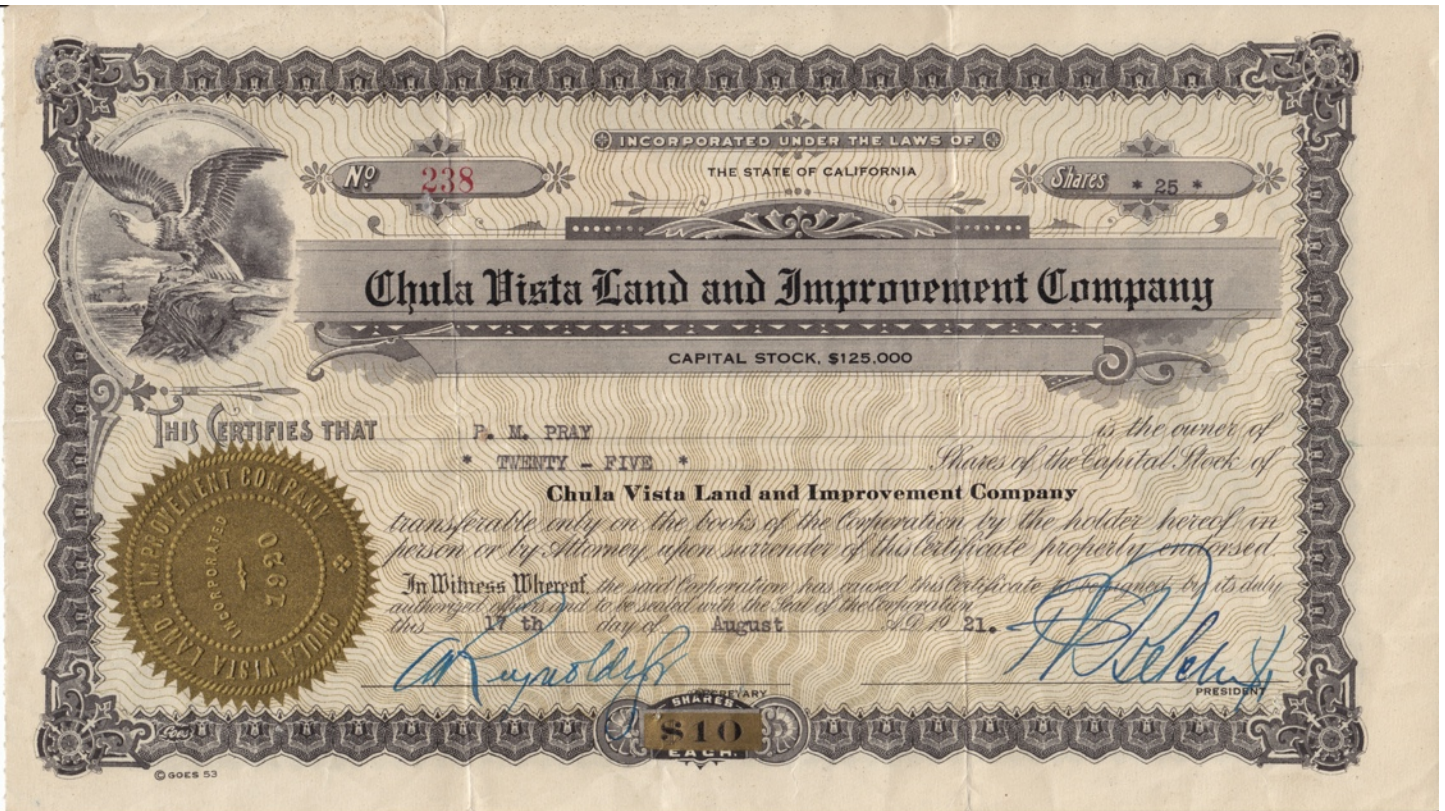
Children:

1. Lee "Bill" Huse Pray 1908- deceased
2. Ralph "Bub" Marble Pray, Jr. 1910-1997
3. Richard Huse Pray 1912- 1967
4. Margaret "Peg" Huse Pray 1915-2001
5. Sally "Susie" Baner Pray 1919 -

Grandchildren:

2. Ralph M Pray, Jr. m. Doris Thomson Pray
 - had 2 sons, oldest was Ralph Marble Pray III, b. 1938 in Coronado, died 2012
 - and youngest was Thomson Pray, born and living in Coronado
3. Richard Huse Pray
 - had 3 children: Richard Huse Pray, Jr., Robert King Pray, John Eddy Pray
4. Margaret "Peggy" Pray (1920?-2001) m. John K Pettit (1911-1998) in 1938
 - had 2 children, Ralph Bertholf Pettit and Louise Huse Pettit of Bonita

Ralph and Louise moved to Chula Vista about 1920, bought a lemon ranch of 20-80 acres south of D Street between Broadway and 4th Avenue, that included the house previously built by W. J. S. Browne. Ralph was a founding investor in the land developed for the San Diego Country Club in 1921. The Prays donated land for the first Woman's Club in 1922. Ralph also owned the 20 acres west of Broadway that was developed as the Shenandoah subdivision in 1925. Robert T. Conyers formed a partnership with Ralph Pray to buy and develop real estate, and at one time owned 65 acres in the city. Ralph was president of the Chamber of Commerce in 1925. Ralph Pray died in a hunting accident Nov. 18, 1928. The R. M. Pray Real Estate Company was first listed in the 1929 city directory, with Louise Pray as manager. Her son Richard lived in the historic house she owned on Church Street. During the 1930s Louise was the local agent for the Sweetwater Water Corp. She was a Sweetwater School District trustee, served on the Library Board and several public committees. The Conyers-Pray real estate firm was sold in 1943 to Mark Money who merged in 1957 with Dick Wilson insurance. In 1947-1949 Louise moved to the house in Sunnyside built by her daughter Margaret who married John Pettit in 1946 (see Margaret's account of her family history at the end of this chronology)



Ralph Pray's 1921 stock certificate for the company that developed the San Diego Country Club (courtesy of Thomson Pray)

CHRONOLOGY:

1920/08/19 - Chicago banker R. M. Pray bought the beautiful home of W. J. S. Browne on Highland Ave. (Chula Vista Star, Aug. 11, 1933)

1921/04/21 Pray's Orange Villa, Subdivision Map 1718 filed Apr. 4, 1921, by R. M. Pray, to develop land along H Street between 3rd and 4th owned by William E. Otis and Emma G. Otis. Source: # 6939

1921 - Oscar Floodberg and Esther arrived in Chula Vista to make their home in the spring of 1921. Oscar, Sr. bought ten acres north of D Street between First and Second (now Fourth and Fifth) and began building houses in that area. The family lived in several until the present family home was built in 1925 on Monte Vista Avenue. The street was named Monte Vista by them, chosen from the street on which they lived in Sheridan. The ten acres were empty fields in 1921, though the whole section south of D Street was lemon orchard, with the Pray home nested in the center. (11594)

1921 - Pray R M, orchardist h 150 old 2d av [today's 4th Avenue] (City Directory)

1922/02/07 - Mr. R. M. Pray as chairman of a committee of five from the Men's Club appeared before the Board in reference to bonding the city to build a City Hall that would be built along the lines of the Library Building and to be located on the corner of Center St. and Del Mar Ave, and the Board agreed to put the matter to the voters at the April election. (Minutes of the Board of Trustees, Feb. 7, 1922.)

In 1922 Mr. and Mrs. Ralph M. Pray donated land at Del Mar and Madrona Streets in Chula Vista to the 1st Woman's Club, and their first clubhouse-a redwood building was built there by 1924. (Family, Friends, and Homes, 1991, pp. 489-490.)

1923 - Woman's Club House - Old Clubhouse Building

382-384 Del Mar Avenue

Parcel number: 568-350-10

Construction date: Estimated 1923

Architect Style: Craftsman

Legal: CV Villa Tct No 2, Lot 10, Blk 6

In 1922, Louise Pray donated the land on which this building now stands to the Chula Vista Woman's Club. By 1923, the clubhouse had been constructed, but the membership soon grew so large that before long a move was necessary. In 1928, Frank A. Taylor purchased the clubhouse for \$4,000 and converted it into a residence. The money raised by the sale went into the building fund for construction of the present clubhouse at 357 "G" Street. The Chula Vista Woman's Club was organized on July 14, 1913, and since that time has been an important organization in Chula Vista. This building is significant as the former clubhouse of the Chula Vista Woman's Club and as an interesting and rustic example of the Craftsman style. This one story redwood duplex stands on a corner lot that slopes away from the street. The main part of the building faces the street with a wing at the right end extending to the rear at an angle. Features of the home include a low cross gable roof, wide eaves with exposed rafter ends, and vertical board and batten siding. The facade has a door at each end. Windows are usually paired wooden casements. An exterior brick chimney stands at each end of the main portion of the structure. The building has a rustic appearance, reminiscent of a mountain cabin. Interior alterations involve the conversion of this former clubhouse into a duplex residence. ("Woman's Club House," Webster, Historic Resources Inventory, 1985.)

1923 - Pray Louise H Mrs pres PTA, r 150 old 2d av (City Directory)

1924 - John Henry Greife and Bessie first home was on 5-acre plot at NW corner of Broadway and F St that had been purchased by John from the Land and Town Co. in 1888, and remained in the family until 1924 when sold to Mrs. Louise Pray. (Family, Friends, and Homes, 1991, p. 115.)

1924/07/18 - W. G. Huse, father of Mrs. R. M. Pray, died in Iowa, had spent some winters in CV. (Chula Vista Star, July 20, 1934.)

1924/11/05 - Subdivision at National Avenue and D: Mr. R. M. Pray presented a sketch of a subdivision of 20 acres of land at the southeast corner at National Avenue and D Street, which he said he intends to subdivide. He requested that the city take over the work of grading and graveling all the streets and one alley therein, he to pay for the work. The question of accepting half of Flower Street, on the south of this subdivision, was discussed, and in order to prevent this street from eventually becoming a half street, it was arranged with Mr. Pray that he place a deed in escrow deeding a small strip of land between the north half of Flower Street and the adjoining

property on the north, to the city, to be held in escrow, until such time as the south half of the street is opened. (City Council Minutes, November 5, 1924.)

1925 - Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce, Ralph M Pray pres, C S Timmons sec, 294 3d av (City Directory)

1925 Doctors A.A. and DeWitt Higgs, two of Chula Vista's pioneers. Dr. A.A. Higgs and his wife Blanche came to reside in Chula Vista in 1925. Their first home was a large house on the southwest corner of Third and E Streets. He set up his first office on the second floor of the old Seville building. His close friend was Ralph Pray, a realtor who helped set up his office at 353 Third A venue, now Logan's Plumbing. Chula Vista's population in 1930 was 3,800. The doctor and his wife had four boys and four girls: Richard (Dick), Marguerite, Donald, Angela, William (Bill), Betty, Lucille, and Sturman. Dr. Higgs practiced medicine until he retired in 1938. He passed away in 1943. Dr. DeWitt Higgs (known as Uncle Doc or Dee) was also born in Kentucky in 1877. He attended Northwestern, Loyola, and Chicago Medical School, now known as Rush. He worked his way through medical school as a motorman on the railroad. Prior to coming to Chula Vista, he had his medical practice in San Diego. Dr. DeWitt and his wife Vine had two boys and two girls: DeWitt (Dutch), Robert, Louise, and Lorraine. (Family, Friends, and Homes, 1991.)

1925/01/19 - PRAY'S SUBDIVISION AT NATIONAL AND D STREET: R. M. Pray asked the Board to complete the work of grading the north half of D Street, at the time he is grading the south half of the street. Referred to street committee, upon motion which carried. (Minutes of the Board of Trustees, Jan. 19, 1925.)

1925/04/03 - R. M. Pray proposed new Shenandoah Tract subdivision (Chula Vista Star, Apr. 6, 1950)

1925/04/10 - Shenandoah Tract, filed Apr. 10, 1925, by R. M. Pray and Louise Pray, west of National bet D and Flower. (Subdivision Map 1831, filed Apr. 10, 1925, Engineering Department, City of Chula Vista.)

1925/09/01 - R. M. Pray asked the board to have some trees trimmed, where the branches hang so low that they interfere with pedestrians on the sidewalks. He cited several places. The tree warden was ordered to trim all trees in the city requiring it, where the branches interfered as above set forth. The question of removing brush from tree trimming was discussed, and the fact was brought out that such brush is sometimes allowed to remain where it falls for some time. The tree warden was ordered to notify the street superintendent, in writing, keeping a copy of the notification, every time he trims trees, and the street superintendent was instructed to remove the brush at once, upon notification.(City Council Minutes, Sept. 1, 1925)

1925/12/01 - Mr. R. M. Pray advised the board that he is looking after the interests of the owner of the former Yacht Club Wharf, and that he stands ready to pay the tide land rental whenever a bill is presented by the city. (City Council Minutes, Dec. 1, 1925)

1926/01/22 - The minutes of the meetings of the Planning Commission of January 11th and 16th, 1926, were read and action taken as follows, R. M. Pray's offer to plant trees on the streets of Shenandoah Tract, the city to care for same, for a period of two years, was accepted, upon motion by Mr. Wentworth, seconded by Mr. Shaw, which carried. The trees so planted by Mr. Pray to be suitable to the Planning commission. The tree warden to purchase 500 Cocos Plumosas trees for planting on Third Avenue, at \$50.00 per 100 trees, as per an offer received by him and the city clerk to issue a requisition for the purchase, was directed by motion Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Wentworth, which carried. (City Council Minutes, Jan. 22, 1926)

1926/02/02 - R. M. Pray advised the Board that he has purchased the 5-acre tract lying at the southwest (southeast?) corner of 3rd Avenue and G Street, and intends to subdivide it. He proposed to plant trees throughout, and asked if the city would care for the trees so planted, for a period of not to exceed two years, the same as has been arranged for trees in Shenandoah Tract. Upon motion by Mr. Wentworth, seconded by Mr. Shew, it was agreed to care for any tree planted on public streets in the above mentioned tract, by the city, for a period of not exceeding two years, provided Mr. Pray procures and plants said trees. Motion carried (City Council Minutes, Feb. 2, 1926)

1926/07/27 - A letter from R. M. Pray, asking that when the various zones of the city that will be recommended by the Planning Commission, are finally adopted by the Board, that he be notified in sufficient time to have certain property owners present at such meeting, was read. Clerk instructed to notify Mr. Pray, if the information is available a sufficient length of time before the meeting in question. (City Council Minutes, July 27, 1926)

1926/12/07 - A letter from R. M. Pray, owner of the five acres at the southeast corner of 3rd Avenue and G Street, was read, in which Mr. Pray asked that the present sewer district be extended to include a line from G Street south through his five acres. Clerk instructed to write Mr. Pray that an ordinance is now under preparation, the provisions Of which will take care of hi. property. (City Council Minutes, Dec. 7, 1926)

1927/01/11 - The time having arrived for the public hearing on zoning, as submitted by the Planning Commission, in its tentative report, submitted at the last meeting of the Board, the President announced that all those interested would then be heard. The tentative map, prepared by the Planning Commission, showing the proposed zones, was exhibited and examined by all those present. Mr. Wentworth explained the views of the Planning Commission. Mr. R. M. Pray objected to the large area that is restricted to single family residences. The city attorney read extracts of the proposed ordinance on the subject, explaining the elasticity of the scheme. Mr. T. C. Macaulay explained that the large single family area is hardly intended to be zoned as such, but that it should be considered as unzoned territory, to be later zoned to meet any condition that may arise; that the entire scheme is intended to be elastic to cover any exigencies that come up in the future. Messrs. Herbert Shaw and Hulcey Phelps asked that the apartment area be extended, on third Avenue, from H to I Streets. They were advised to submit the question to the Planning Commission at its next meeting. (City Council Minutes, Jan. 11, 1927)

1927/05/03 - R. M. Pray, in a letter, stated that he represents the majority of the property owners on D Street, west of National Avenue, requested the installation of two street lights on D

Street, West of National. Referred to the Street Committee, with authority to act. (City Council Minutes, May 3, 1927.)

1927/07/26 - A letter from R. M. Pray, was read, in which he complains that the trees which he planted in Shenandoah Tract, are in a great part, dead. He cited the agreement of the Board of Trustees, of January, 1926, wherein the city was to care for trees planted in the above subdivision for a period of two years. Letter referred to the Planning Commission. (City Council Minutes, July 26, 1927)

1928 - Robert T. Conyers appointed in 1928 to board of directors of CV Citrus assoc, succeeding Ralph Pray who died in hunting accident. Conyers had formed a partnership with Ralph Pray to buy and develop CV real estate. At one time this partnership owned 65 acres in CV, including the corner where Ernie's Cafe is located at 3rd and Center, and built the building there now owned by Logan Plumbing, was for many years a sale room for Chevrolet, until it was purchased by Dick Wilson in 1942 for his cafe. Conyers was on the city council for 4 yrs and on the planning commission. (7193)



Richard Pray house at 406 Church Ave. (Google street view, 2012)

1928 - Richard Pray House - Merle Becker House - 406 Church Street - Parcel number: 568-420-08 - Construction date: Estimated 1928 - Architect. Style: Colonial Revival - Legal: Baird Sub, Lot3 - Caroline Copeland owned Lot 3, Quarter Section 138, from 1911 to 1925, but the Copeland house was not on this parcel. Ralph Pray, a prominent real estate broker purchased the lot by 1926, and by 1928, had subdivided it. This house apparently was built in 1928, and Louise Pray, R. M. Pray's widow, retained ownership. Richard Pray and his wife, Bernice, lived here in 1935. Richard Pray listed his occupation as a rancher. Families that rented this house included Milton and Loretta Price in 1929 (he was a steam shovel operator) and Harry Eichler, a draftsman, and his wife, Clara, in 1930 and 1931. The design of the porch on this house is quite rare in Chula Vista and demonstrates the interest in the Colonial Revival style in the late 1920s. Although there might have been some alterations, the home generally retains integrity of design and materials. Historical significance is added by the former ownership by the

Pray family, one of the best known and prominent families in the city. This rectangular one story house has a medium, side-facing, clipped gable roof with a boxed cornice and cornice returns. An exterior brick chimney pierces the eave at the left end. A Palladian open porch is centered on the facade and features a curved underside and twin columns at each front corner as porch roof supports. The front door has sidelights. Horizontal clapboard siding sheaths the exterior of this home. The porch is flanked on the left by a set of three windows and on the right by one small window. Since houses of this style are often symmetrical, the small window on the right might represent an alteration. There is also a small addition on the right end of this house. (Webster, Historic Resources Inventory, 1985)

In Sept. 2012, during Phase Two, ASM conducted an intensive survey and evaluation of 370 potential historic resources (Appendix E and Figure 31). As a result of the intensive survey, ASM recommends 201 historic resources as individually eligible for the City of Chula Vista Local Register of Historical Resources (Appendix F and Figure 32)

1928 - Elmer Mikkelson house - Max Budel House - 420 Church Street - Ralph Pray, a well-known real estate dealer and "builder of substantial homes" owned this lot in 1928. J. A. Gardner had the water connected on March 26, 1928, and by 1929, the Elmer Mikkelson family lived here. The house probably was constructed in 1928. Elmer "Fuzzy" Mikkelson was well known in Chula Vista. He was the son of Chris Mikkelson, a Danish immigrant who came to the United States in the last part of the 19th century. Eventually Chris Mikkelson started a garbage and trash collection service in National City and Chula Vista. On April 1, 1927, the Chula Vista collections were given by Chris to his son Elmer. From this beginning, Elmer Mikkelson expanded his business to include the La Mesa area and eventually communities in the South Bay and Sweetwater Valley. Although the Elmer Mikkelson House has undergone alterations, the home has some historical significance because of its connection with the Mikkelson family. Historic Site 32 (Webster, Historic Resources Inventory, 1985)

1929 - PRAY RALPH M, Louise H Pray Mgr, General Real Estate Brokerage, Builder of Substantial Modern Homes, Sold on Easy Monthly Payments, Monthly Installment Contracts and Mortgages Bought and Sold, 355 3d Av, Phone 109, h 440 D (City Directory)

1929 - Pray Louise H (wid Ralph M) mgr R M Pray h 440 D (City Directory)

1930 United States Federal Census California > San Diego > Chula Vista > District 30 > 22

Name: Louise H Pray

Home in 1930: Chula Vista, San Diego, California

living at 438 D Street (value \$30,000)

Age: 44 Estimated birth year: abt 1886

Birthplace: Illinois

Relation to Head of House: Head

Household Members:

Louise H Pray 44

Richard H Pray 18

Margaret Pray 15

Sally B Pray 11

1934 - photo of winning golf team at Agua Caliente (photo by Wilbur Austin)(standing) George Sample, Wilbur Austin, Gordon Cox, Herbert Baeder, Tom McWright (McKnight), Bill Pray, Sid Murrith, Bill Hickey (below) Gig Bramstead, Ed McKnight, Virgil Snodgrass, John Angle, Phil Seifert (Golf vertical file, Bonita Museum)



Sweetwater Water agent, from the CV Star, Jan. 5, 1934

1934/01/05 - Louise Pray is Chula Vista agent for the Sweetwater Water Corporation. (This is her first ad that will run every week in the Chula Vista Star.) She is agent for the California Water & Telephone Company 1935 thru 1942. The Sweetwater Corp. became California Water & Telephone Company November 18, 1935, until 1966. (Chula Vista Star, Jan. 5, 1934.)

1935 - Pray, Louise H (wid R M) mgr R M Pray, 438 D (City Directory)

1935 - Ralph M Mrs L H Pray mgr real est r 355 3d av (City Directory)

1940 - Pray Louise H (wid R M) h438 D (City Directory)

1941/06/20 - Mrs. Louise H. Pray of the Board of Trustees of the Sweetwater Union HS district gave diplomas to the largest junior high school graduating class in CV history. (Chula Vista Star, June 20, 1941.)



Louise Pray, from the CV Star, Oct. 3, 1941

1943/07/02 - Hoytt Construction of LA will build 40 homes in the Shenandoah tract on Madison and Jefferson and Woodlawn avenues, and the co. plans to build 100 more in CV. Lots were purchased from Mrs. Louise Pray, Mrs. Hilda Pray, Mr. Snell. The Co. has offices and warehouse in the Landacre bldg at 136 National Ave in CV and are using local labor. (Chula Vista Star, July 2, 1943)

1943/08/09 - Mayor Howe appointed Mrs. Louise Pray as a member of the Library Board for a term of three (3) years from. June 30, 1943. Upon motion which carried, the appointment was confirmed. (City Council Minutes, Aug. 9, 1943)

1945/11/26 - Mayor Keithley appointed the following as members of the Public Buildings Committee to confer with Mr. E. Ghertes Parke: Mrs. Louise Pray, Dr. C.B. Casey, Mr. Ray Coyle and Dr. John McCausland, with Mr. George Hay, Herbert V. Bryant and Frank Willits as Ex-Officio members. Upon motion carried, the above appointments were confirmed. (City Council Minutes, Nov. 26, 1945)

1946/07/15 - The Mayor appointed Mrs. Louise Pray as a member of the Library Board for a term of three (3) years from. June 30, 1946. Upon motion which carried, the appointment was confirmed. (City Council Minutes, July 15, 1946)

1947 - OBIT of Margaret "Peggy" Pettit - On an acre overlooking the Sweetwater Valley, Margaret "Peggy" Pettit and her husband, John, built a redwood home in 1947 that became their stake in Bonita's future. Mrs. Pettit, a resident of South Bay for 81 years, died of cancer June 13 in her Bonita home. She was 86. As an early member of the Sweetwater Valley Civic Association, Mrs. Pettit was instrumental in establishing zoning ordinances and road mapping for the area. She also was active in Preserve South Bay, the Sweetwater Woman's Club and in issues affecting education in the Sweetwater area. In the 1950s, the Sweetwater Valley Civic Association led opposition to plans for a gravel pit in Bonita. A golf course eventually was built at the site. In recent years, the group campaigned to prevent the extension of state Route 125 through Bonita. Born in Oak Park, Ill., Mrs. Pettit traveled by train with her family to Chula Vista in 1920. After graduating from Sweetwater High School, Mrs. Pettit earned a bachelor's degree in international business and marketing at the University of California Berkeley in 1937. She returned to Chula Vista to work in the family business until World War II. With a great demand for civilian workers in the defense industry, she joined the personnel department at Rohr Aircraft, where she met her future husband. They were married in 1946. When they found a spot in Bonita on which to build a home near the Sweetwater River, "they started with a one-room shack and kept adding on," said daughter Louise Pettit. Mrs. Pettit's husband, a former president of the Sweetwater Valley Civic Association, died in November 1998. Her survivors include a daughter, Louise H. Pettit of Bonita; a son, Ralph Pettit of Bonita; a stepson, John K. Pettit Jr. of Laguna Beach; and eight grandchildren. A memorial service is scheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday at Church of the Good Shepherd, Bonita. (obituary, San Diego Union-Tribune, July 10, 2001)



Photo of Southeast side of Bonita Road at Frisbie in 1947. Property of Louise H. Pray is on the hill at lower right.

1947 - Photo of Southeast side of Bonita Road at Frisbie. Property of Louise H. Pray. She owned many acres of orchards in Bonita, and Pray Street north of the Sweetwater Road was named for her. (Bonita Museum & Cultural Center)

1949 - Sweetwater Valley Civic Association (SVCA) founded 1949 - 4 founders were Violetta Horton, Louisa Pray, Bernice Huse, Pat Spies. Soon joined by atty Charles Provence, Stephen Gassaway, Lara Good, John and Peggy Pettit. (Bonita Post, March 19, 1981)

1955 - On July 1, 1955, James Jones became the first paid Fire Chief, was retired from the Navy and lived in Bonita since 1948. Bob Pray was the first full time firefighter, hired in July 1957.

1956 - Margaret H. Pettit elected to 4-year term on Board of Education, Chula Vista City School District. (City Council Minutes, April 17, 1956.)

1960/03/10 - Work to start in 30 days on private golf course at Bonita, BVCC of John W. Gardner, president, and Richard M. Allen, VP, and Charles E. Brown, secy, and Clayton Bullen, treasurer, and board members Billy Casper, Rep. Bob Wilson, William T. Fitzgerald, William T. Eckhart, Ward Fitzpatrick, Chris Franovich, Carrol S. Mohr, Gordon Pettit, Wesley Mohr, Richard W. Wilson. The 155-acre land east of the Bonita Bridge owned by Dick Wilson and Pettit, architect is Harry Rainville. (Box 10, Bonita Photo Archive)

1981/01/15 - Chet Skeen Trail opened thru Sweetwater Manor. The trail starts at Willow and Bonita Roads, runs along north side of valley, thru Pray Street Canyon, ends at north end of Conduit (Bonita Post, Jan. 15, 1981)

1998 - OBIT - John K. Pettit loved the outdoors and fought hard to preserve the semirural beauty of his hometown, Bonita. A member of the Sweetwater Valley Civic Association when it formed five decades ago, he remained active with the controlled- growth group over the years, fighting proposed freeway projects and promoting open land uses. He attended his last meeting of the group in June. He died of cancer at his home Nov. 21. He was 87. "He had a great appreciation for what Bonita represented," said his wife, Margaret "Peggy" Pettit. "He didn't want anything to spoil it." In 1940, Mr. Pettit landed a job at then-fledgling Rohr Industries in Chula Vista. He married in 1946, and three years later the couple settled in a redwood house he built in Bonita near the Sweetwater River. He became active in the community shortly after their arrival. Mr. Pettit was among a group of property owners who successfully campaigned against a proposed freeway extension through the area. He served as president of the group, which became the Sweetwater Valley Civic Association, when it defeated a plan to launch a gravel pit in Bonita during the 1950s. A golf course was eventually built on the site. Mr. Pettit suffered a personal loss in 1966 when his daughter from a previous marriage, Mary Griffiths, died in a car accident. In 1972, Mr. Pettit retired from Rohr, where he was director of transportation. The Pettits bought a second home in Julian and divided their time between there and Bonita. He stayed active with the Sweetwater association, though. In recent years, he was involved with the group's campaign to prevent the extension of state Route 125 through Bonita. Besides his wife, Mr. Pettit is survived by their two children, Ralph and Louise Pettit of Bonita; his son from a previous marriage, John Pettit Jr. of Laguna Beach; two brothers, Milton Pettit of Arcadia and Richard Pettit of Portland, Ore.; and several grandchildren. (obituary, San Diego Union-Tribune, Nov. 30, 1998)

This selection of the Pray family history was written by Peggy Huse Pray Pettit in 1979: "In 1920 we made the great move to Chula Vista. We came by train. three days and four nights. We stayed at the U. S. Grant the first night we arrived, then moved out to the Austin family's house in Chula Vista where we stayed for a couple of weeks while our house was made ready. Our house had been built by W.J.S. Browne in 1913. His son. Will, still lives in the area. The boys immediately contracted the mumps, one after another, but other than that, everything went more or less according to schedule. We started out with cows, chickens, rabbits, dogs, cats and you name it and went to farming with a vengeance for a while, while Dad resumed his real estate. We children all attended Chula Vista Grammar School (F Street, it was later called) and Sweetwater High School which at the time was the only high school south of San Diego. Chula Vista was almost entirely lemon groves with each block a quarter mile long to accommodate the care of the trees. Dad and the boys kept the table well stocked with wild duck, quail, dove and from somewhere we always had delicious venison. Farrell's store had wonderful ice cream cones. We went to the horse races in Tia Juana on Sundays quite often during the season; went to wonderful Sunday afternoon baseball games in a vacant lot in Chula Vista where someone passed the hat to take up a collection for bats, balls and other needed equipment. We took many drives into the back country over all sorts of terrible roads. The boys were very active in sports and two or three times Dad had to pay off in turkey dinners to teams who won championships. A

turkey dinner was a big deal in those days! I remember he took me out of school the afternoon of my 10th birthday and took just me to the races. In 1928 Dad was hunting at his gun club and slipped and his gun went off and he was killed instantly. After the shock of the tragedy was over, life changed in many ways and yet was really very much the same for us really. Mom slipped into the business and did a remarkable job during the terrible depression years. Bill went to the University of Illinois. Bub to Annapolis, Dick finished high school and went to work in the more than 70 acres of lemon trees and was Mom's right hand man and jack-of-all trades for many years. I finished high school and went to and graduated from Berkeley and Sally also went to college for a while at State and at Berkeley. During the World War II years, Bill and Bub were both in the service and Dick was in agriculture. I worked at Rohr and so did Sally for a time. John and I were married in 1946 in a simple ceremony at home and in 1947 we moved to our house in Bonita after a very busy year of building in every minute of John's spare time. Mom and Abie also moved to Bonita the same month (June) that we did. They moved just next door to Dick's house in the little house that Sally later had when Mom and Abie again moved over next to us. From here on I think it is up to the next generation to fill in events they remember as they grew up.”