

"To Editor Times Delta."

You are at liberty to use the following in
your "Daily" Or "Special." Or to discard it
or any part of it you cannot use,
I have cut short, and left out for fear of
making it too lengthy.

Respectfully,

R. J. Bagby.

Ken =
looks better for
you than Beland

Re himself

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Memories of the Visalia of Yesterday.

When I come to Visalia the business district was confined to two and a half blocks on Main Street, Garden Street to the center of the block between Court and Locust Streets.

There ^{were} no paved sidewalks or streets, there were a few businesses scattered about on Court and Church ~~and~~ streets, off Main St, a lumberyard where the Elks Building now stands.

The city water works and mills on the grounds now occupied by the Woodman Hall, the Armory Hall (now gone) was the principal meeting place for all gatherings of a public nature.

where the city Auditorium now stands was a Livery Barn, also where the Lary Building on the corner of Court and Center Streets was a Livery Barn. Incidentally, both of these Barns were destroyed by fire the same night a few years later.

There were no paved or oiled streets or sidewalks. The city sewer consisted of four feet by four feet castles along either side of the Allis, some near Mill Creek (which was then an open creek) used this method of sewer disposal.

(2)

which in hot and dry weather was not altogether
Satisfying to The Smell,

The Court House was about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the present old
Court House, the lower story was the then County
Jail. The first Street Paving in Visalia Was in
1894 Consisting of $2\frac{1}{2}$ Blocks, The first mentioned
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ blocks in this article, and by the way was
the first Street or Road paving in the San Joaquin
Valley.

The First full block of residential sidewalks (Cement)
I put in myself by hand with one helper. It is
there yet and baring Tree damage is in very good
Condition. It is the block on School Street beginning at
the corner of the now Mr. Bradley Residence and
running West on School Street.

The down Town Sidewalks walks. were either the
original dirt, dirt Sanded, or wooden.

The wooden walks were of varying widths and
heights, a few steps up or down not seeming
to matter, awnings were mostly of wood with
supporting posts, and just about as
uniform as are present day Promenade hats,

(3)

Visalia's entire School population was housed in one building, The Tipton Lindsay School. With 12 class rooms and an auditorium, and four of the class rooms were unoccupied for lack of scholars. This Building stood on the ground where the City Library now stands.

Later the first High School building was erected on the ground now the Lincoln Park oval. At that time the present High School property was the Farm Home of the Stevenson family. West Main Street came to a dead end at Conyar Street.

The only road outlet ^{West} was the Goshen Ave road, and String Town road. The Territory east of Court Street and South of Mineral King Avenue was mostly in grapes. The now Home Builders tract was a ranch of Barley and Peach Orchard. With a race track just west of Watson Avenue extend South to near Tulare Avenue.

We had as many Rail Roads then as now, not the same ones however. One of them ran from the westerly part of the city all the way to Goshen, and owned by Principle

(4)

by R. E. Hyde Sr and E. Jacobs. Later was taken over by the Southern Pacific.

The other from Main Street and South Court Streets to Tulare. Principle Owners "Herald and Son". And was abandoned on the entrance of The Santa Fe.

In those days a Republican had but little protection except those given them by the Game Laws, and we had no Game laws.

Most of the principal Churches of today were here then, none of them occupying the same buildings. The original Churches looked much like the old time School Country School houses.

I do not believe there is any one in business here now that was in business when I came to Visalia unless Charles Gasenberger is still tailoring, he had a Tailor Shop here when I came. There were no Plate glass fronts. The buildings with least changes are the Uhl and King harness shop building, The Smith building, (best known as the Stiffert corner) The Centennial building, The Palace Hotel and Annex, all of which have been changed considerably especially as to fronts.

Speaking of Horse days

Who now remembers the runaway Horse that —

(5)

ran up South Church Street to Main Street where ^{he} encountered an open trench being dug to lay the water main up Main Street. clearing the ditch and the bank of dirt on the side wagon and all, crossing the street hitting the Bank door squarely where he left the wagon stuck in the door, fell and slid up against the cashiers window seemingly somewhat surprised but little damaged.

Or the bucking Bronco that was trying to buck himself free of an empty saddle, finally got loose from his owner, the crowd on the street fenced him in and the only escape he seemed to see was the front door of the Hotel (old Vasaia House) so he took that ran through the lobby and out at the back door, where he found himself hemmed by a high board fence, the only escape ^{he} saw was a cobbler's shop door back of the Hotel this shop was about 6 by 8 feet, with door front and ^{back} the weather being warm were both open, this opening he took, went through the shop in pure Bronco style, scared the cobbler as bad as he himself was scared, and proceeded

(6)

To try to free himself of the saddle, winding up by falling on the sidewalk, and rolling up against the Bank of Visalia where bystanders pounced on him and held him down till he could be securely roped, "Damage slight."

Pop Johnson, Father of J. Sub Johnson was the Proprietor of the Hotel at that time, "Or" another -

Who remembers the Chinaman driving out of the alley between Church and Center streets into Church Street, and crossed up with a runaway Horse which had gotten loose from his wagon, but still had part of the harness, and a part of the Singletree.

He ran between the Chinaman's horses and the wagon crosswise, scaring his horses into a runaway, up the street they went with the other horse partly in the front part of the wagon and partly on the doubletree, after a half block the horse struggled himself free, fell through in front of the wagon which ran over him, he jumped up and took after the Chinaman's team which was brought under control up near the Catholic Church, the other horse stopped also, only slightly damaged.

(7)

On my arrival in Visalia there were no electric lights, and no Telephones.

The first lighting plant stood on the corner of West Center and North Excelsior streets, the manager was the late Charles Kinkler.

If I remember correctly, the first Telephone Office was located in an upstairs office in the old Bank of Visalia building, with Mrs. Tagelson (now the widow of the late T. A. Chatter) as manager, along with that she was local and long distance operator, cashier, collector, and what have you. Some of the businesses still existing that were in business when I came here are, The Cross Harlock Hardware (then Grangers Union Hardware Co) but has ^{changed} management, name, and location, several times. The Visalia Drug Store, which has also changed management several times, The Times is partly in ^{some fairly} the hand of the The Bank of Visalia, (now Bank of America) which has also changed names and personnel frequently of late years, The Drugstore in the Smith Bldg which has changed ownership frequently. There are others, But I think there ^{are} none under the same management. - A. Kerr Comer,
R. J. Bagby.