

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

August 2011, Issue 211

Walter Ingalls' 1947 Trip

Another warm and humid evening greeted our early August meeting: Bob & Marie Shaw, Christine Mickelsen, Stephanie Ingalls, Richard Ferriolo, Walter & Donna Ingalls, David & Judy Rundell, Tim & Judy Adams (Walter's nephew & wife), Dot Blenis, Dot Hesel, Kay Sutton (Walter's daughter, of course!) and son Walter, and Don Teator were in attendance.

Don started the meeting showing a book and a notebook. The book was Kenneth S. Joy's hard cover, self-published account of his life, a memoir in his own words left to his family, and to anyone else reading it.

My interest in the book (*Born on the Hill*) was the connections to Greenville. Ken's mother Lillian lived on the west end of Old Plank Road (where the family moved to after living on Sayre Rd in Medusa, thus the name of the book), and operated the residence as Meadowdale, a typical boarding house in the Town of Greenville in the early-mid century. Another connection is Ken's memories of the community and GCS, he being one of the earliest graduates from the centralized school. (He had siblings Dorothy and Walter.)

The notebook was a collection of family material from Ken's sister Dorothy, with a collection of vignettes of family and farm life.

I was first contacted by Ed Joy (the next generation; GCS class of '61?) who wondered if I was interested in Ken's book, and it went on from there. This is also my chance to remind all of you to write your life story and memories before people like me, or people you don't know, attempt to do so.

The program this evening was a Walter Ingalls' story. On one hand, it is only a six week cross-

country trip, something lots of people do sometime in their life. On the other hand, and the reason for the evening's focus, it was such a classic trip for a sixteen year old, connecting family and local history, that it was worthy of airing for the Local History Group.

Half of the fun of Walter's story is the background. He was sixteen in early July 1947, working to buy a car (the horse story is a bit heart-breaking), not really thinking about a summer trip. His father was busy; his mother suffered heart trouble the year before. It was this health issue that resulted in the trip – Eleanor was promised a trip on which she could see the sights she had wanted to see. Walter was 'talked' into the trip, and would become the navigator for almost all the 8000 miles, and this was just as he was turning seventeen years old.

His Uncle Merritt Elliott, and wife Ruth (sister to Stanley) were just 'retiring', having just stopped the boarding house and having the farm transfer to the next generation. So off took the brave band of five, usually with three on the front bench seat, and two in the back.

An interesting, and valuable, piece of information was the map. Eleanor had sent to Conoco her itinerary, and they sent her, free, a bound booklet with sectional maps of her driving route, probably about twenty-five map pieces, with the suggested route marked in orange. It reminded us of AAA, but on a much more personal scale.

So, the first page was the map. The next two pages, with pictures and compact text, were sites of interest. The fourth page was a listing of places to stay along the way. Then came the next map sectional. This book is a classic!

The first day took them to Walter's sister Edna's home in Oil City, PA (Tim Adams, present for this meeting, would be born just as the trip was finishing) and, by Day 3, the quintet was already in Iowa.

Walter also kept (or had passed down to) a photo album, a mix of washed out color photos and still-sharp black and whites. (I suspect they still evoke the feeling the first time he saw that view.)

And during all this, both Walter and his mother kept a journal, noting something about each day (and also how many miles were covered).

Don selected a half-dozen dates, with Don reading Walter's, and Stephanie reading Eleanor's. The first three days were read, with all of us agreeing that both people were on the same trip, although Eleanor soon gets into writing about twice the length as Walter's, which is understandable, considering it's her trip, and Walter is busy driving.

However, two dates were selected where the focus of the entries were quite different. For one of them, Walter focused on the saw mill operation, while Eleanor focused on the more 'interesting' things. The second entry had Walter focusing on the fair, while Eleanor's memories were elsewhere.

Two separate entries of Walter's were read, noting the awe he felt about the redwoods and about having to get his mother up early. A piece of Eleanor's was read, with her awe of the countryside and her ignoring the obvious danger of walking close to cliff edges.

Walter's last entry: HOME!

Some of the memorable pieces, either of Walter's, or of his re-telling this evening:

- Yellowstone
- redwoods, and driving the car through one
- Lake Louise – beautiful but dirty from runoff
- eating out for almost every meal
- seeing movies most nights
- Will Rogers' monument on Pikes Peak
- Eleanor's breathing difficulty at heights
- the heat on the way back (sticking newspapers between each other in the car to keep the other person's sweat off!)
- sense of country
- Walter's great pleasure in re-telling the story

Sixty-four years have passed since the trip transpired, but the details were still fresh, thanks to Walter's story-telling skills.

And as I am wont to didact, one of the great themes of literature, movies, life, etc., is that of the voyage – a trip that leads on to knowledge of others and self, that winds into the unknown to connect to what one has experienced, to test one's mettle and self-confidence (I could go on for a while but I won't). I had the distinct sense that this is one trip that grew in significance as time went on.

The next meeting is a share session, September 12th.

A special thank you goes to Stephanie for providing the cookie-brownie-cake concoction and for the juice. Much appreciated, Stephanie.

Reminder: this is my semi-annual subscription notice. If the date on the mailing label is dated January '12 or later, your subscription is good until the next notice. Five dollars, made out to Don Teator, will keep another year's worth coming your way.

Enclosed in this newsletter are:

- a copy of a map from Walter's Conoco book: of Flagstaff, AZ in the bottom right.
- the cover of *The Greene County Catskills*, and
- the centerfold map of this publication, and
- the boarding house page from this publication.

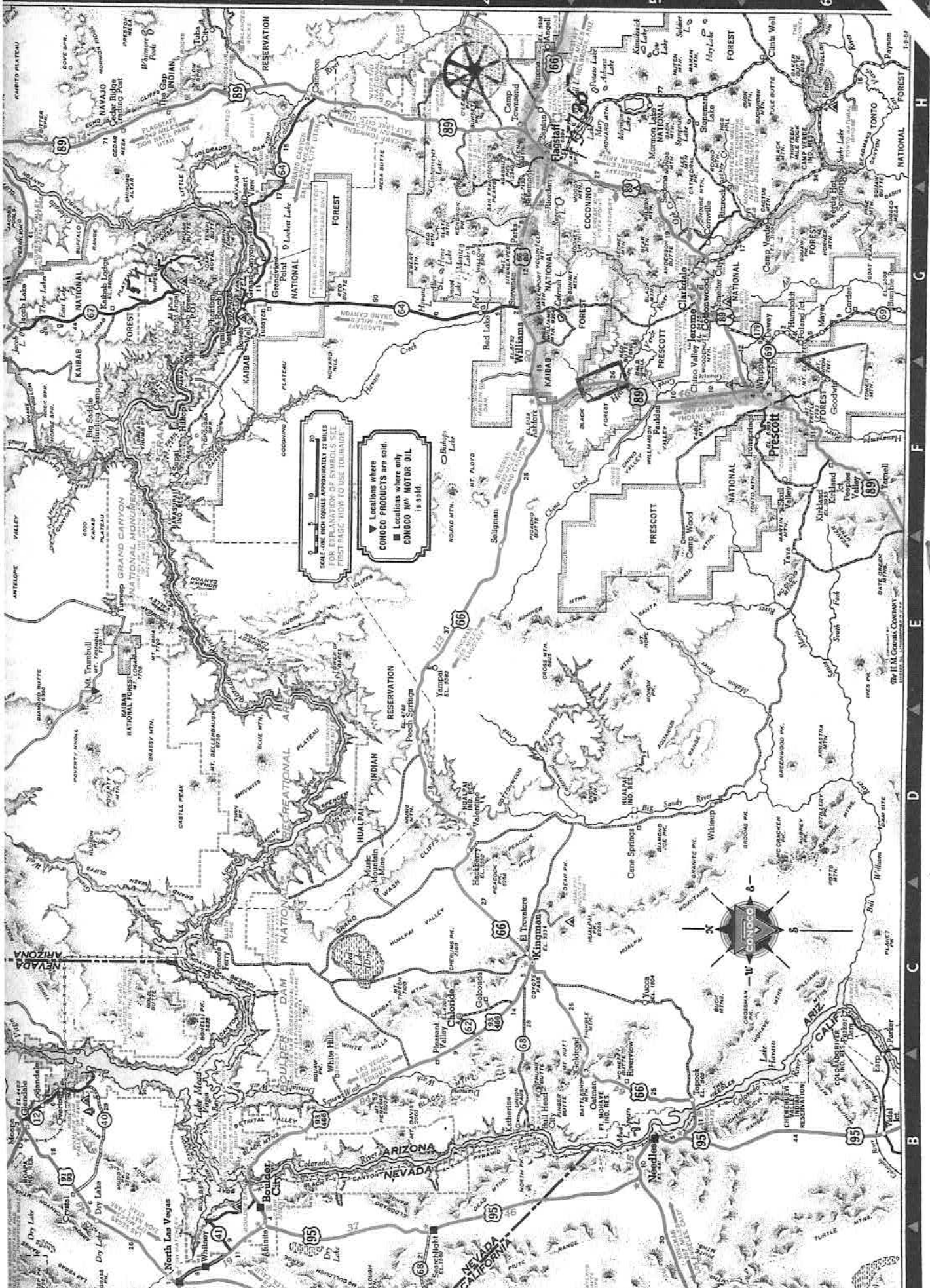
Even though Greenville is just a footnote in this booklet, it has just enough to be a good source of clues, especially about Freehold, which has a surprising number of businesses advertising. I'll copy a few more pages as space allows in the future.

A last note: Greene County Historian Dave Dorpfeld did a nice piece about Durham Center Museum a while back. From my vantage, Doug and Sancier have been quite helpful in connecting Greenville items to my attention. Even though I haven't used any material yet in the boarding house project, I know I soon will be, and will give credit as appropriate. We were guests at the Durham Center Museum a few years ago, and are appreciative of their efforts. So, go see the latest exhibit before Columbus Day rolls around.

Take care,

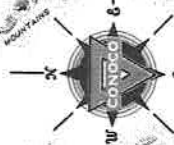


NORTHWESTERN ARIZONA - SOUTHERN NEVADA



0 10 20
 SCALE: ONE INCH EQUALS APPROXIMATELY 22 MILES
 FOR EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS SEE
 FIRST PAGE "HOW TO USE TOURMAP"

▲ Locations where
 CONOCO PRODUCTS are sold.
 ■ Locations where only
 CONOCO Nº1 MOTOR OIL
 is sold.



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NAVJO

KABAB

GRAND CANYON

RESERVATION

INDIAN

ARIZONA

NEVADA

NEVADA

Flagstaff

Coconino

Prescott

Kingman

El Tornado

Nicoles

North Las Vegas

Whittier

Clifton

Williams

Jerome

Chino Valley

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THE GREENE COUNTY CATSKILLS



ISSUED BY
THE CATSKILL CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE



CIRCLE COVERS POINTS OF INTEREST
WITHIN 50 MILES OF CATSKILL

**TRAILS AND ROUTES LEADING TO
— THE SCENIC CIRCLE —**

BY
RICHARD S. BARRETT

TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES

(All Busses Stop at Rest Room)

Hudson River Day Line—Daily passenger service between New York and Albany with landings at Kingston and Catskill.

Ulster & Delaware RR.—Operating through Pullman trains from Weehawken to Greene County resorts and connecting at Kingston with West Shore & New York Central R.R. and Hudson River Day Line.

Catskill Evening Line—Operating a daily freight service between Catskill, Coxsack, Hudson and New York.

Saugerties & New York Steamboat Co.—Daily except Sunday service between New York and Saugerties (passengers and freight).

Alex Yannoni—Garage and cars for hire to all points in the Catskills.

GREENE COUNTY HOTELS, BOARDING HOUSES, ETC.

ACRA
 Proprietor
 House Capacity
 Tremont House, E. Greenberger & Sons 125
 Mohican House, Guy E. Meddaugh... 75
 Grove Side Cottage, Cornwall & Paul... 60

ATHENS
 Hudson Athens Perry Company
 Frank S. Howland & Son
 Athens Steam Laundry

BEACH VIEW
 Proprietor Capacity
 Catskill Mountain House, John K. Van Wageningen..... 500

CATSKILL
 Proprietor Capacity
 New Sauphough, E. J. Thomas..... 100
 Edgemere, Arbogast & Bush..... 50
 Smith House, J. Kleiberg..... 100
 Creekside House, Frank Felino..... 100
 Heidelberg Inn, Robert Henke, Jr..... 75
 Swiss House, Nathan Cinn..... 75
 Mountain View House, N. Weisman... 100
 Otis View Manor, F. L. Farkis..... 40
 Salisbury House..... 75
 Summit Hill Manor, George Schubert 15
 Shady Lawn Inn, Albert Russek..... 50

HUNTER
 Hunter Board of Trade

CAIRO
 Proprietor Capacity
 Walkers Hotel, Julius Schad..... 75
 True's Round Top House, W. G. True 60
 Hillcrest, A. Millett..... 50
 Evergreen Grove House, H. Muehlbauer 100
 First National Bank of Cairo
 R. A. Austin the Druggist
 Rasmussen & France, Central Garage & Machine Works
 H. S. Olmsted, Hardware and Plumbing
 Charles H. Phelps, Building Material
 Cozine's Garage
 Oscar Horton, Meat Market
 White's Bottling Works, Benedetto Bros.
 Herbert Bogradus, Auto Dealer and Insurance Agent
 John Duncan, Prime Meats
 Cairo Garage, Jack Deyo, proprietor
 Ben Bennett, Taxi Service
 Cairo Chamber of Commerce

EAST WINDHAM
 Proprietor Capacity
 Butts Hotel, J. J. Barry..... 150
 Crystal Spring Inn, R. D. French..... 50
 Mt. Zoar Villa, C. Mellor..... 50
 Silver Lake Camp, T. M. St. John... 50
 Grand View Mountain House, J. W. Whitbeck..... 60

LEEDS

Proprietor Capacity
 St. George Hotel, George Jaden... 50
 Brooklyn House, Mrs. L. DeNyse... 50
 Elizabeth House, Mrs. Albert Peters... 100
 Leeds Inn, Otto Margraf..... 50
 Phelan-DeLury House, Charles Bunce 25
 Margaret House, F. N. Carpenter..... 40
 Central View House, Mrs. Kamm..... 40
 Warslawy Manor, Philip Warsaw... 75
 Leeds Bridge Hotel & Garage, M. P. McCabe

J. Breunig, Confectionery, Ice Cream and Souvenirs
 Leeds Garage, E. Corrin
 Louis F. Felch, Drugs and Souvenirs
 Weissel & Toborg, General Merchandise
 Central Garage, H. B. Edwards & Son
 Catskill & New York Express & Van Corp.

LEXINGTON

House Proprietor Capacity
 The Barnard, George O'Hara..... 25

PALENVILLE
 Proprietor Capacity
 House
 New Palenville Hotel..... 100
 Pine Grove House, Robert Stedman... 100
 S. A. Holcomb, Physician and Surgeon
 Recreation Hall, John Frankfurter
 E. A. Dederick, Grocer

SOUTH CAIRO

House Proprietor Capacity
 Pine Villa, Ira D. Wall..... 50
 Fairview Farm, David Cole..... 50

TANNERSVILLE

Tannersville Chamber of Commerce

WINDHAM
 Proprietor Capacity
 House
 Osborn House, Geo. W. Osborn..... 225
 Cole's Pleasant View House, Osborn A. Cole..... 180
 The Pines, W. I. Soper..... 100
 Coe's Mountain Home, H. N. Gifford... 75
 The Brainard Farm, C. A. Brainard... 50
 The Thompson House, I. Thompson & Son..... 100
 Hayden House, Thomas Hayden..... 50
 Miller Bros., Everything to Wear
 Cyrus Tibbals, Furniture and Paints
 G. F. Morse, Groceries and Ice Cream
 C. R. & F. M. Adams, Gift Shop and Tea Room
 Brockett & Strong, Hardware, Auto Supplies
 Harold B. Moore, Garage and Supplies
 Cyrus Tibbals, Funeral Director
 Windham National Bank

FREHOLD

House Proprietor Capacity
 Elmhurst House, John Segel..... 35
 Mt. Breeze House, Mangold Bros.... 50
 Cherry Hill Homestead, Mrs. A. L. Tunison..... 35
 Edgewood House, Howard J. Allen... 25
 Brookside Farm, Mrs. P. Cameron... 35
 Freehold House, Mrs. J. Parks..... 30
 Blossom Cottage, A. Smith..... 30
 Bennett House, Mrs. M. Bennett..... 25
 Evergreen Croft, J. T. Williams..... 25
 Brookside Dairy Farm, A. Levers..... 25
 Sunset View Farm, A. Brouse..... 25
 Chestnut Cottage, Mrs. L. H. Garrison 25
 Hall & Wood, General Store
 F. Palmer, Souvenirs
 A. E. Sulton, Garage and Repairs
 H. Phinney, General Store
 George Rausch, Police Dog Kennels

GREENVILLE

House Proprietor Capacity
 Ingleside Farm, W. T. Ingalls..... 25
 Rundell Farm, Mrs. Ward Rundell... 20
 Sanford Farm, Mrs. E. M. Evans..... 25
 Pioneer Co-Operative Insurance Co.

GREEN LAKE

House Proprietor Capacity
 Gutrie's Green Lake Farm Boarding Houses, George Gutrie..... 350
 Perry House, Myron Perry..... 70
 Green Lake Inn, George A. Desmond... 50

HAINES FALLS

House Proprietor Capacity
 Twilight Inn, D. Tuttle..... 200
 Sunset Park Inn, C. H. Becker..... 225
 Loxhurst, Henry J. Myer..... 100
 Kenwood, Elmer E. Pelham..... 60
 Renner's Hotel, R. W. Renner..... 50
 Alpine, George I. Beggs..... 30

HENSONVILLE

House Proprietor Capacity
 Mountnain Farm House, George H. Loughran..... 30
 Hensonville Hotel, H. H. Smith..... 100
 George C. Seeley..... 50
 Makeley & McGlashan, Hardware, Supplies
 Clark Seeley, Confectionery, Souvenirs
 Hitchcock & Haney, General Merchandise
 Elmer Hough, Garage and Repairs
 J. H. Haney, Builders' Supplies
 Dr. S. L. Ford
 A. M. Stewart, Cigars and Tobacco