



EDWARD POPPETT - 1923
Detective

compacted on a 5'9" frame, joined the San Bernardino police force and helped Chief Walter Shay compose the first uniformed police department in the history of San Bernardino. He served on the force for 47 years.

The Poppett's had three daughters, Myrtle Poppett Johnston, Iva Mae Demaree and Hette Kallman. Myrtle was born in Poppett Flats in April, 1892. The day she was born her father rode horseback to Banning to get the doctor and a nurse. He stopped at Manuel Lawrence's place to change horses, both going to and coming from Banning.

That evening, Myrtle's grandmother, who had come to Poppett Flats, to help take care of the new baby, heard a mountain lion scream. Opening the back door, she saw the huge cat, standing there in the lamplight. As surprised as the woman, to see her standing there, the lion quickly ran away.

The fifth oldest son born to Robert and Alice Poppett, Morson was born in 1876. His wife, Helena, born in 1881, had 5 children; three boys and two girls.

Similar in physical appearance to his father (minus the handlebar moustache), Morson

died in 1963, at the age of 86. Helena lived until 1981, dying at the age of 100.

The only son of Morson and Helena Poppett (there are two sisters still living) is Ray Poppett. Born in 1906 at San Bernardino, his home was located at the corner of 13th and E Street.

Ray remembers using his horse for transportation until about 10 years of age. As a youngster, he used to ride on the big red cars down D Street to Urbita Springs for picnics. Another favorite spot was the Isis Theater, where the price of a double feature was 10¢ and hot dogs were sold at 5¢ each.

Ray enjoyed spending his summers in the mountains. Many of his favorite spots were places known to him with somewhat different names than we are accustomed to hearing, such as: Mormon Springs (Crestline); Honey Suckle Flat (Running Springs); Big Green Valley (Green Valley Lake); Matthews Lake (Lost Lake) and Little Bear Lake (Lake Arrowhead).

Ray Poppett began teaching in the San Bernardino City Unified School District in 1929. He taught at San Bernardino High School from 1929 until his retirement in 1964, in the school's vocational department.

Ray remembers the summer of 1942 as a very special time in his life. He worked on horse patrol for the mountain "back country" that summer. Considering how much he has always enjoyed the outdoors, he had an opportunity to spend time patrolling some beautiful countryside and get paid for it too.

In 1944 Ray built a cabin on 80-acres of land in Crab Flats. On the land, overripe trees were timbered and 800,000 feet were cut and sold. He used the cabin as a summer retreat until he sold it, as well as the land, in 1963.

In 1960 Ray had a very memorable experience that he will probably never forget. An avid hunter all of his life, on one particular day another man, who was standing not far from Ray, fired a shot at a bear. The shot missed but scared the bear. The frightened animal ran right in his direction. Ray aimed his gun and killed the bear only 40 feet away. According to Ray, his hair "stood straight up on end."

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