

MEMORIES:

[From Page One] Hilary and Orion were sent to Courtland to meet an aunt, Grandma Wells' sister who was arriving on the train from Texas. On the trip back to White Water, Hilary was driving at a fast clip when they hit a chuck hole throwing the aunt into the air. She came down between the horses, astraddle the wagon tongue. This startled the horses and they bolted. Hilary was able to stop the horses with the brakes, but not until the aunt had fallen down to the ground and one of the wagon wheels ran over her leg, breaking it. They made her comfortable under a mesquite tree while Hilary went to get Granddad Wells.

Orion says that a dove stayed with him and his aunt while they waited for Hilary and Granddad. The aunt pleaded with Orion to "Please pull my leg off. It's hurting so bad and will never be good again." The dove was so close that the aunt could touch it. The dove's presence during this ordeal so impressed Orion that he would never shoot doves.

After moving her to their home, Granddad cut some boards and splintered her leg. A doctor finally came from Gleason about 4 or 5 days later. He left everything as Granddad had set it saying that he could do no better. She was able to walk with a crutch after about three months, so she went back to Texas, writing later that her leg healed and was as good as before the accident. Orion thinks she was 10 to 15 years older than his mother.

During the three years or so that the family stayed in White Water, the Wells family built a large swimming pond for recreation. They also sold farm produce in Douglas. This was about 1907.

Douglas was starting to grow so Granddad wanted to get into the stone quarry business. He first homesteaded eight miles NE of Douglas. His quarry was about a mile out of Rock Springs. Rock Springs had a rock corral enclosure for controlling livestock. Jeff saw a bear drinking water at the spring one morning. He ran back to camp near the quarry. Granddad went back with him, but the bear had gone. The spring flowed and spread out down the side of the hill. Careless weeds grew thick in this area, so Granddad bought some brood sows and raised some 30 or 40 pigs on these weeds and some acorns from oaks in the area. Rock Springs is almost due east of the Orion Wells homestead at the south end of a range of hills that include Castle Dome. This makes it NE of the Jeff Wells homestead.

Many of the stores still standing in Douglas were made from stone supplied from the Wells' family quarry: many of the stores on G Ave. including the Furgeson Drug building, and many on the west side from 9th Street south. The ornate stone work on these buildings was done by traveling stone masons. The crew was Granddad, Earl, Jeff, Hilary and Arthur. Orion was a young boy so he was just a flunky. They lived in a cave-like dwelling enlarged with timbers and with Bear Grass over the top. Most of the time Grandmother and Pearl lived at the homestead which you can't hardly find now but it was near the present location of the family cemetery.

Rube stayed in Gleason where he worked in the mines. He married Del Terry about this time. She was Ida Wells Terry's step daughter. Ida was the second girl in the Wells family, after Elizabeth. Sam was working for various cattle ranchers during this time and Ed was working in the area at various jobs. He later married Rosa Stone, a widow with three children. They homesteaded adjoining Granddad's place where their children were born and raised.

After brick products made the quarry unprofitable, Granddad went into raising fruit and vegetables and producing milk which he and Orion peddled in Lee Station, a limestone quarry in operation for the copper smelter in Douglas. Granddad helped Orion and Arthur to buy a well drilling rig, a #5 Keystone, and they drilled wells all over the area until Granddad sold the rig about 1914. Then they bought a #3 Keystone about 1918 and after drilling about six wells, a wealthy rancher, Ruiz, from Sonora MX made them an offer to work for the Governor of Sonora. They moved to MX and drilled wells that were steam powered and used mesquite below the border and coal north of the border.

Arthur married Agnus Blalock, a childhood friend and neighbor of Della Mae Patterson Wells, about 1925. They later moved to Ajo where Arthur was a power shovel operator in the mines. They raised a family of three sons and one daughter. Jeff married Francis about 1921. Mabel, by a former marriage, was about three years old. Their children were Vivian and Albert. They grew up on the homestead seven miles north of Douglas on Leslie Canyon Rd. Jeff worked at the smelter, retiring as a shift foreman at the roasters. Pearl Wells Forsha married a soldier in Douglas. They had two girls, Catherine and Elizabeth, which Collie and Pearl raised because the marriage was a short one. Colly the youngest child, never married but helped support numerous nieces and nephews. Colly was a gas station operator and mechanic and lived in California, Ajo, Douglas and lastly, Elfrida, AZ. O.L. married Della Mae Patterson in Tombstone, December 20, 1917. They homesteaded a ranch on Leslie Canyon Rd. 9 miles north of Douglas. They raised 7 children there while running a dairy. After selling the dairy, he continued in the cattle business until he moved to Oregon. Their children were Henry Linden, Lonnie Bert, Etta Irene, Peggy Virginia, Geraldine, Glen Alva. Patsy Mae was the first child to be born in a hospital [Douglas].

**MARGARET
"BETTY" WELLS
BRALY**

**December 10, 1916 -
October 24, 2006**

Betty Braley, a long-time resident of Nogales, AZ, passed away in Phoenix, AZ. Born to Edward David Wells and Rosa Anna McNair

Stone in Douglas, AZ, Betty had a sister, Zora [deceased] and Charles E. Wells of NM, and older half-siblings



from her mother's first marriage Rosamae Stone Garcia Clark, Nina Stone Kelly Brown and William Stone, all deceased.

Margaret is also survived by five nieces, Dorothy Tanner, Louise Clark and Myrna Alexander, all of Arizona; Carolyn Wells Chestnut, OR, and Charlene Wells Tolzin, Los Lunas, NM, & three nephews.

A member of a large, five-generation Cochise County family, Betty's childhood revolved around both the NBarS Ranch, and the Wells Ranch northeast of Douglas. At 21 years of age, Betty married Norvel Jesse Braly, then 25, a cowboy who retired after a long career with the U.S. Border Patrol. Jesse's job required the couple to establish homes in border cities in CA and later, Yuma and Nogales, AZ. The couple had no children but Betty enjoyed a long career in cosmetology. Private services and burial were held in the Elk's Cemetery in Nogales, AZ.