

# Growing Up In Corralitos

This section will be an ongoing collection of childhood memories of growing up in Corralitos. You are invited to contribute your memories, with or without photographs. No story is too long or too short, even a few lines about a most memorable experience will do.

## Memories from Eva Rippy Pybrum

In  
the  
year  
of



1916 while World War I was going on, Albert Einstein completed his mathematical formulation of a general theory of relativity, which includes gravity. Charlie Chaplin signed on with Mutual Studios and earned an astronomical and unprecedented \$10,000 a week, the cost of a first-class postage stamp was \$0.02 and on Thursday, March 2, Eva Lorraine Rippy was born to John and Florence Rippy in Pagosa Springs, Colorado. For a period of time when Eva was a baby, the family of three lived in a tent on Wolf Creek Pass while her father worked for the railroad.

Eva recalls:

When I was a baby, I had pneumonia. My parents had to walk a few miles to get me to a doctor. He put a tiny bit of whiskey in my mouth to help me breath. When I was four, I had Typhoid Fever. All my hair came out when I had that. Between the Macht family and the Rippy family I had a lot of relatives doting on me as the first grandchild in the family. My brother, Leslie, was born in December of 1918. We lived in a big house in Pagosa Springs then.





We moved when my father got a job with the D and RG Railroad in Chama, New Mexico. It is there that my sister, Norma, was born. In 1926, after Norma recovered from German measles, we left by train to travel to California. We planned to join our relatives Clint and Bertha "Bobo" Manchester who had moved to Corralitos. Bobo was my mother's youngest sister.



*Eva with her Aunt Bobo*



*Eva and Leslie*



*L to R: Gramma Emma, cousins Dorothy and Margaret Diehl, Eva in hat holding baby Norma, and Leslie*

For a short time, we lived in a house in Watsonville on Sudden Street across from the playground (Callaghan Park today). My brother, my little cousins, and I would take the waxy bread wrappers and put them on the slide so we could

go down faster. The lady in charge of the playground would get mad at us because that was a "no-no". We also took little bits of the tar that was used to seal the cracks in the swimming pool so we could chew it. My grandmother, Emma Macht Bayles, lived in a house at the top of the hill on Brennan Street. I skated down that hill a couple of times.

I attended third grade there before we moved out to Corralitos.

One incident that stands out is when I took a graham cracker. The kids who could pay a nickel got milk and graham crackers. I didn't have money so I



couldn't have them, but sometimes the teacher had me pass out the crackers. One day, I put a cracker in my pocket to take home. I was so ashamed of myself. My mother probably would have given me money if I had asked. One other time, there was a rumor going around town that the world was coming to an end on a certain date. When that date arrived, I was so scared. I just knew it was going to happen. I remember going out on the front porch in the evening to wait. I woke up the next day, though, and we were still there. My mother bought a magazine called "The Delineator." I couldn't wait for it to come because it had paper dolls in it. I'd cut them out with their little clothes and I'd play forever with them in my little world.

When we moved to Corralitos, Bobo and Uncle Clint had property on Browns Valley Road just up from the bridge (Raposa property). We lived by them in a tent until a small house could be built for us on their property nearer the creek.

We were poor when I was growing up, but I didn't realize it then. Everyone else seemed to be the same. It was the "Great Depression" years, but I didn't know that at the time. My parents always managed to do things for us and we were happy. Our house only had one bedroom. The ceiling was open rafters. Often at night, when Norma and I were in our bed the calico cat would jump down from the rafters onto our bed. It scared us every time. Once, when I wore shoes with the soles worn out I put pieces of cardboard inside them. Then, roller skates fastened to the side of your shoes. My roller skates fell off a lot when I had the

cardboard soles. I think I was one of the first to wear tennis shoes. They were ugly and gray, nothing like today. They weren't for sports. They were for everyday.

We walked to and from school. There was a big water pipe that ran across the creek near the bridge. Sometimes we would go by way of the pipe and other times we would climb up or come back down the hill by the bridge. The



schoolhouse was on Aldridge where Aldridge Lane Park is now. We had to walk past (Eng Chung's) apple dryer buildings. (To the left of the present day Woman's clubhouse.) They were old and the place looked scary. I didn't like going by there. I don't remember ever seeing people working there.

I was in a third and fourth grade class and Ruth Karstedt was my teacher. One hot day, I decided to roll down my long cotton stockings. I was scolded by the teacher who saw me. She made me roll them back up. I was so embarrassed. I didn't know I wasn't supposed to do that. Games we played were tag, kick the can, hop scotch, red line, jacks, marbles, hide and seek, and baseball. One time Annie Antonovich accidentally hit me in the head with a baseball bat. Dorothy Bradley, who was older, took me to the restroom and put cold paper towels on my head. She rubbed my forehead so hard that it broke out in a rash. Nothing else was done. I don't remember if they even told my parents. When I had the mumps, I was teased about it at school. Ruth Bradley ran around blabbing about it. Her brother, Paige, used to tease me all the time, too. I didn't want to go out for recess because I was so bashful.

In the fifth-sixth grade, Clara Munson was my teacher. All I remember is that we got to watch the eclipse of the sun through a piece of colored glass.



In the 7th and 8th grades, Elma Bradley was my teacher. By then, we were in the new school that was built on the same property. I was in the harmonica band. We went on a few trips. One trip was to San Jose to play at a

radio station. Another time, we rode an old bus to San Francisco to Golden Gate Park. On the way, I bought a couple of candy bars to take home to the kids. I had to carry them all day. They were slightly melted by the end of the trip. On Arbor Day, when I was in the seventh grade we planted a tree in front of the school. We put mementos into the hole. Every May 1st, May Day, we would fix little baskets of flowers and hang them on special people's doorknobs. We always had a May Pole. We held on to colored streamers coming down from the pole and danced around it. In eighth grade, I was the editor of our school newspaper C.U.S. (Corralitos Union School.) I still have a couple of issues of that.

Each year all the schools in the county would have a playday at Soquel grammar school (the same one that is there today). My mother always managed to make me a new dress to wear. When I graduated from eighth grade, I was salutatorian. My good friend Ella Marie Brodin was valedictorian. Each one of the graduates received bouquets of flowers. I received about 8 or 9 beautiful bouquets. My graduation dress and hat were pale lavender. We had gone to San Jose to buy it. The sales lady gave me the matching hat at no charge. I felt very grown up. Our graduation was held at Ceschi Hall. My best friend in grammar school was Annie Antonovich. We were like sisters. She lived far up Eureka Canyon off of Rider Road. One summer, we worked up there pitting apricots. We were just young girls, but Annie had to work hard. She couldn't run around with us. She didn't go on to high school with me.





*8th grade graduation*



*Ceschi Hall, once on Corralitos Road*

### Habits and Attitudes Desirable for Good Citizenship

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**Courtesy**  
Courtesy to associates; courtesy to teachers; respect for rights of others; fair play; cheerfulness.

**Cleanliness**  
Of person and clothes.

**Dependability**  
Self-control; self-reliance; self-direction; sense of responsibility.

**Effort**

**Thrift**  
Respect for property; recognition of value of time; care of books, furniture and building; care of own property; consideration for property of others.

**Co-operation**  
Willingness to co-operate for good of school; helpfulness; loyalty; promptness.

**Obedience**  
Willingness to follow directions; respect for law and authority.

### Report of *Eva Rippey*

*8th* Grade

SUBJECTS	SIX WEEKS PERIOD					TOTAL
	1	2	3	4	5	
Absent			5	1	2	
Tardy						
Phonics <i>MC</i>						
Reading—Silent			A	B	B+	13
Reading—Oral			A	A	A	17
Language			B	B+	C	18
Composition			A	A	A	25
Spelling			A	A	A	29
Writing			A	A	A	27
Drawing						23
Arithmetic			B	B+	B	21
Geography			B	A	B	24
History			A	A	A	27
Civics			A	A	A	25
Hygiene			A	A	A	25
Physical Education <i>WT</i>						21
Music			A	A	A	25
Book Reports			A	A	A	25
Citizenship			A	A	A	25
<i>Religion</i>			A	A	A	25

**METHOD OF GRADING**

A—Excellent—85-100      D—Below Average—61-74  
 B—Above Average—75-84      E—Failure—Below 60  
 C—Average—75-84      Promotion—C

At home every Sunday, my Mom would make a chocolate cake from scratch and fix a large meal with pot roast, gravy, potatoes, etc. for us and it seemed like when we were ready to eat some of our relatives would come to visit. Seems like we always had enough to eat when they came, though. One of my pet peeves in relation to preparing food was that I had to mix up the margarine (oleo) by hand. It came white with a little packet of yellow dye and I had to mix in the color to make it look like butter. This was only about ten cents a pound. We couldn't afford to buy real butter. My hands would stay yellow nearly all day.

My mother had certain days that she did things. Monday was washday. In the early days, she scrubbed clothes on a washboard and then rinsed them in clean water. She used Fels Naphtha Soap. We always had beans for dinner on washday. Tuesday was ironing day. Everything was starched so the clothes had to be dampened before ironing. I helped do that. Until we got electricity, she used two heavy irons heated on the stove. The handles had a claw hook to pick up the irons. When one cooled down, she would get the other one. It took a long time to iron and wash clothes in those days. Before the weekend, we would clean house and dust everything in case company came on Saturday or Sunday. I also helped her by babysitting and taking care of my grandmother, Emma, when she stayed with us. I remember one time when I went to Scott's store for my mother to buy \$0.25 worth of hamburger. Our cousin, Glenn Dufer, was the butcher at the time. I knew there was a one-cent sales tax, so I asked for \$0.24 worth of meat so I would have a penny for the tax. When I gave Glenn my quarter, he gave me a penny change. I asked about the tax,

and he told me there was no tax on food. He laughed about that, then he gave me a dill pickle for being so smart. I loved those dill pickles.

We kids always had fun things to do. I liked to read. My favorite books were Zane Grey and the Wizard of Oz stories. I think I read them all. Once in a while, if my Mom had ten or fifteen cents she would buy me a movie magazine. We didn't have a radio to listen to until I was in 7th or 8th grade. We had swimming holes in the creek just below our house. I was in 4-H, so every year I got to go to summer camp at Camp Loma. Once when I was 11 or 12, we went to San Francisco with Bobo and Uncle Clint. We got on a streetcar, but I don't remember where we were going. We were sitting behind the conductor and I got carsick and threw up. Uncle Clint teased me and said it went all over the conductor. Several weeks later we went to the city again. We started to get on a streetcar and Uncle Clint said it was the same conductor. He said he didn't think he would let us ride because he remembered me (Ha!) We did get to ride, but we sat clear in the back. Everything went fine, and I still don't think it was the same conductor!

I went to Watsonville High School. We rode a bus driven by Mr. Munson for a couple of years. Mr. Burgess, who also owned a turkey ranch (that's another story), took his place. When I started high school I met the Pybrum family. They had come to Corralitos from Madera and moved into a new house on Blake. The two oldest boys, Ed and Ray, hung out with my girlfriends and me. My close friends were Ella Marie and Connie Brodin, Garland Bradley, Pearl Kryger, and my cousin Dorothy Diehl. There were other friends, but I mostly did things with those five. Garland lived up on the cliff above our place. (Near where the CDF station is today) Her parents had carved out a space on the side of the hill so they had an outdoor area like a big camping site above the creek. Garland always wanted me to come over to sleep out there. I was too afraid to be away from home all night, so I never did.



*L to R: Garland Bradley, Ella Marie Brodin, Irene Zolezzi, Mildred Berry, Liddie Mae Gray, Annie Antonovich, Muriel Algeo, Bea Gray, Eva, Pearl Kryger*



*L to R: Grace Bradley, Connie, Olive, Ella Marie Brodin, Ruth Bradshaw, Gwen Manchester, Thelma Bradshaw, Dorothy Diehl*



*L to R: Dorothy Diehl, Garland Bradley, Eva and Connie Brodin*

Often in the evening, the boys would join us and we would skate from Scott's store (Corralitos Market) to the Five Mile House. We skated around the 5-mile button that used to be in the middle of the road at the intersection and skated back. Other times, we just sat on the sidewalk at the store and talked if we didn't have anything better to do. The boys pulled pranks all the time. That is where the turkey ranch comes in. It wasn't beyond them to steal a turkey around Thanksgiving time. My mother even cooked one of their turkeys. The kids all brought the rest of the food. The kids hung out at our house most of

the time. One time, I remember eleven boys there visiting my mother more than anyone else. (I know they weren't visiting me because that was after the senior picnic at the beach. I was sunburned so badly I could barely have a sheet around me it hurt so much.) That time it was Ed, Ray, Vernon Mackleheny, Willis Tindall, Harold Vorheis, Bill Bruin and some town boys and maybe a couple of cousins, probably. They liked to talk to my mom. She gave them popcorn and sometimes they played cards.

Besides school friends always being at our house, our cousins were often with us, too. Dorothy and her sister Margaret, who had been with us in Colorado, Bobo and Uncle Clint's daughter, Gwen, and a few other cousins were there now and then. Ed and Ray's cousins sometimes, too. My dad worked for the Southern Pacific railroad. He usually worked nights and slept during the day. There was just a thin wallboard separating him from all of us. I don't know how he slept. Sometimes, when he got up to go to work, he would drive some of the kids home first.

During the summer, I usually had a job besides all the fun things we did. For a while on Saturdays, I worked for two hours doing housework for Randolph Bradley's wife for \$0.25 an hour. (The house is still on Hames Road across from the entrance to the mobile home park). Ella Marie and I pitted cots together for Jim Work. We were in 4-H together, too. We took sewing from Irene Ceschi at her house at 554 Corralitos Road. Mrs. Ceschi would show us how to do something, but if we couldn't do it right she would do it herself. While in 4-H, I had swimming lessons. We were taken to the Boardwalk and used the pool called The Plunge that used to be in the area where the miniature golf is today. I loved to swim. One of the instructors told me I had strong arms, and the way I swam I could be in the Olympics. We always had a water hole in the creek when the weather got warmer. We would dam up the stream to make it deep enough to swim. The creek would usually dry up during the summer.

There is one time Ella Marie and I both remember. Garland was with us and we were sitting at the store talking when Ed came by driving his mother's car. He took us for a ride up Hames Road. The road wasn't paved. It had ruts and potholes. When we were coming down from the top of the hill by Gramma Roddy's (Catherine Rodrigues) house, the rear axle broke and the car went off the road. We three girls jumped out, left Ed, and ran for home. We must of thought we were in big trouble. We ran down to the store. Ella Marie lived in the house at the corner at that time. Garland and I continued to her house up the road. Her mother was very mad. I guess Garland wasn't suppose to ride in a boy's car. My mother just grinned when I told her. (Ella Marie and I are friends to this day. She e-mails me often and comes to visit from her home in Saratoga.)

My Mom knew Ed. He spent a lot of his free time at our house. He used to do things like borrow money from her to take me to a movie. He and I saw our first "talkie" movie together Min and Bill starring Marie Dressler and Wallace Beery. She won an Academy Award for it. Usually, when Ed and I went on a date it was with the gang or to a movie and Brownie's for a soda. (Some will

remember where Landis's was in Freedom. That used to be Brownie's.) We used to get a free dish each time we went to the movies. I don't know how many we collected, but if you went often enough you could get a set. You could do the same thing with Duz soap. When soap started being sold in granular form there would be a dish inside the box.



*The Rippy children*

In September when I was sixteen, my sister, Joyce, was born. All my friends and I were so much older but we couldn't wait to see her. The next day after she was born, I brought all my gang to the house. Everyone wanted to hold her. She was a real blessing to our family because when she was two months old my brother, Leslie, became ill and passed away. Doctors made house calls then. One day, three doctors came and had a consultation with my mom and dad. Leslie had to be taken to a hospital in San Francisco to be treated for a severe ear infection involving the mastoid area. His death was very hard on all of us. Leslie had made friends with everyone, old or young, and everyone liked him. His illness effected the whole community. Elma Bradley even let him drive her car once. He was a great teaser. He used to drive us crazy with his teasing. One day when we were doing dishes, he made me so mad I threw dishwater all over him. I almost had to run to Watsonville to get away from him. He was so mad. One year, he and I went alone to Pagosa Springs on the train. We got free passes because our dad worked for the railroad. On the train, Leslie worried me because he made friends with every one he met. Once when the train was stopped so everyone could get out to look at the Grand Canyon, I couldn't find him. He didn't come back to our seat. The train left and I was so scared. I thought that I had lost him. He had met someone and, while talking, got into the next car.

Also, when I was sixteen, the Corralitos Grange was organized. Meetings were held at the schoolhouse. Then, we had all our activities at the schoolhouse or at Ceschi Hall, which was just down the road from the store. My family was involved with the Grange. I had a lot of fun helping with the fundraisers to build the new hall next to the school property. Uncle Clint was the first master there. I was seventeen when I joined. I was in the drill team and got to wear pretty formals. I also held the office of Ceres. It was my job to carry in the American flag at the beginning of the meetings. When I was nineteen, the Grange sponsored me in The Goddess of Liberty contest in Watsonville during the 4th of July celebration. Winning was based on who could sell the most tickets rather than on beauty or talent. We did have to walk across stage in evening dresses, though. We went to luncheons, articles were written about us in the newspaper, and we were in the parade. I didn't win, but it was sure fun. I still have those newspaper clippings.



*Corralitos Grange Hall 1934*

Another memory I have is of getting my first permanent. The gal hooked me up to a machine that had about 10 clamps connected to electricity to heat. She then would part your hair in sections and put one of these hot clamps on each section. It got a little warm and your hair came out rather frizzy and dry but it was a perm, as such. When we did get our hair styled, it was called a Marcel. Usually, I wore a bob and my mother would cut my hair. Two things my mother hated were walking on spilt sugar and picking up bobby pins from the floor. With three girls around the house, that was common. As for nail polish, our Dad would hit the ceiling if we even opened a bottle near him. The odor made him sick.



*Norma, Joyce and Eva*



*Eva dressed for the prom*

After high school graduation, I went to Hartnell College in Salinas for one semester. I had a chance to work at the telephone company, and that was what I wanted to do. We didn't have a phone, so when I applied at Pacific Telephone



and Telegraph, I asked Elma Bradley if I could use hers for a reference number in case they called me. She was one of the few people in Corralitos that had a phone at the time. She lived between the Free Methodist Church and us. Then we lived in the house at 109 Brown's Valley. When they did call me to work, she came down to the house to tell me. When we got a phone, our number was 8y5. It was a party line with five other families. When the operator rang 5 short rings it was our phone.

I worked for Pacific Tel. and Tel. for six years. In the next few years, I went to work for the Southern Pacific Railroad in Watsonville as a PBX switchboard operator and connected with my school friend Annie Antonovich again. We continued to be best friends until her passing.



*Eva with Ruthie Brodin at a Southern Pacific booth at the auditorium once on Second Street in Watsonville.*

*Others in photo: Mr. Tucker, E.K.Springer, Mrs. Lee Williams, W.E. Luidsten, H.L. Sopher (engineer), and Ed Duebner*



*Eva and Ann Antonovich Clay at Watsonville depot*

I didn't date very many fellows. My mother made me go on a date with Phillip Benson once. His mother took us to the Boardwalk. I think I said two words to him the entire time. A boy named Don Herda used to come to our house with his folks. He had red hair and freckles and he really liked to tease me. I usually hid under the bed. He gave me a string of red beads once. He would sing to me. "Just Eva and me and baby makes three...." I really hated that! I was so bashful and shy, my mother had to make me go places. I remember going to a dance at Ceschi Hall, but I don't remember who I was with. I think I went with my girlfriends. I didn't dance. There were older boys there, Fred Frederick, Eugene and Eddie Spain. Eddie had the back seat wired in his car so that when a person sat down they were shocked. Garland and I got into the back seat only once!

All through high school, Ed was mostly my boyfriend. After high school, I dated Gordon Shaw. He was a dreamboat. I still have photos of him. I was still dating Ed most of the time, though. He went to Hartnell and then worked at Fort Ord. Eventually, I married him. We settled in Corralitos. At first, for a short while, we lived with my parents. They had moved to 547 Corralitos Road. We rented the house at 3 Blake before we bought our apple ranch at 354 Hames Road from the Rodrigues family.



*Ed and Eva on a date*



*A dance at the Grange hall.*

*L to R: Norma Rippey, Connie Brodin, Eva, Patty Howe -others not identified*

A few years after we were married, Judy was born. A few years later, her brother John was born. Then, we lived at Route 5 Box 610 (46 Blake) in the same house Ed's mother had bought when his family moved here. Actually, I've lived in Corralitos in about ten different places. Most all of the houses (some remodeled) are still here, too, just like me.

