

# The Sierran

— A Publication of the Sierra County Historical Society —

## Lagomarsino Cabin—Two Points of View

By Charles Smith & Bud Buczkowske

Introduction by Judy Lawrence



The Sierra County Historical Society is working to restore a cabin located in Loganville which is referred to as the Logomarsino Cabin. Charlie Smith, who has lived in Sierra City for many years, believes that the cabin which the Historical Society is restoring is not the Lagomarsino cabin. He believes the Lagomarsino cabin was located at a different location in Loganville. Following, are two points of view concerning the Lagomarsino cabin. Sierra County Historical Society President Bud Buczkowske presents one account of the cabin in question. Charlie Smith has written an explanation of why he feels the cabin in question is not the cabin occupied by the Lagomarsino family. Read these opposing views, and make your own decision about this interesting question from the past.

### Charles K. Smith's Account

This is the presentation that Charles K. Smith made to the Sierra County Historical at its annual meeting in Sierra City. Mr. Smith was concerned that the historical society's cabin, which we called the Lagomarsino Cabin, was incorrectly named since he knew that the

Lagomarsino family home was on the other side of the highway.

October 7, 2007

Sierra County Historical Society:



*Keirn-Lagomarsino Cabin, Loganville, CA*

In reading the Sierran for the Spring of 2007, I am puzzled by the article on the Keirn-Lagomarsino Cabin.

I am not denying that the photo on page 7 shows a Lagomarsino Cabin of some longtime ago ownership. However over 75 years ago I was taken to the Mrs. Lagomarsino home located on the opposite side of State Highway 49 between the highway and the South Fork of the North Fork of the Yuba River by Mrs. Lagomarsino. She stated she raised her large family during the absence of her husband who departed for

Italy and never returned. I met her son, Louis and daughter, Rosie. I lived (boarded with Mrs. Rosie DeMartini

Lagomarsino Cabin (Continued on Page 2) —

— THE SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY —



The Sierra County Historical Society is an organization of people interested in preserving and promoting an appreciation of Sierra County's rich history. The Society operates a museum at the Kentucky Mine in Sierra City, holds an annual meeting, publishes a newsletter and conducts historical research. Members are sent notices of Society activities, receive THE SIERRAN, and are admitted free of charge to the museum and stamp mill tour. If you would like to become involved in these activities or would just like to give your support, please join us!

#### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in the Sierra County Historical Society is open to any interested person, business or organization. Members need not be residents of Sierra County. Dues are due and payable each January for the calendar year.

Membership categories are as follows:

INDIVIDUAL	\$15.00
FAMILY & INSTITUTION	\$20.00
BUSINESS & SUPPORTING	\$30.00
SUSTAINING	\$50.00
LIFE (per individual)	\$250.00

Please send dues to the Membership Chair:  
Suzi Schoensee, PO Box 54, Sattley, CA 96124

#### SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Office Address:  
Kentucky Mine Museum  
PO Box 260, Sierra City, CA 96125 (530) 862-1310

#### Officers and Executive Board of The Sierra County Historical Society

**President:** Bud Buczkowske, Alleghany

**Vice President:** Joleen Torri, Sattley

**Secretary:** Lisa Mann, Goodyear's Bar

**Treasurer:** Bill Copen, Sattley

Board members in addition to those previously mentioned are Maren Scholberg, Sierraville; Suzi Schoensee, Sattley; Sherrie Allen, Alleghany; Mary Nourse, Sierra City; and Judy Lawrence, Sattley.

If you have any suggestions or comments, feel free to contact any board member.

#### Lagomarsino Cabin (Continued from Page 1)

(nee Lagomarsino) in 1946 after WW II in Grass Valley. Her son Frank DeMartini is retired from PG&E water division and lives near Colfax, California. Her daughter Lorraine has passed on.

The Lagomarsino property where she (ed. Mrs. Lagomarsino) raised her six children herself was in (title) contention by the District Ranger at the Downieville station, Frank Delaney who contested her ownership as homestead saying she had never become a U.S. Citizen

As a conflict of interest he was denied. So he moved on to the property on the Yuba Summit which was claimed under his wife's name. There was some contention there too.

As a young boy I spent many days going with Mrs. Lagomarsino to her old homestead picking cherries, apples and raspberries before the tourists and miners in the early thirties ransacked her place. Frank Delaney could have advised her that her children could have filed as there were from here (ed. i.e. U.S. citizens). All her children and many grandchildren have passed on. Grand son Frank of Colfax is still alive and can attest to his Grandmother's ranch location. I believe the Sorrocco and Zerga family grandchildren are to the four winds but if found could attest to the Sorrocco cabin still standing. Once also owned by Mr. Dobie. His heirs may know more.

The Sorrocco cabin that is still standing may have been owned, built or claimed by some of Mrs. Lagomarsino's family—sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, sister. Who knows? But this is not the old Lagomarsino homestead shown to me.

There is still part of a foundation standing of the old homestead of Mrs. Lagomarsino along with cherry and apple trees that are beyond the productive stage. From her house the whole meadow garden area of two plus acres could be seen. Now brush and trees obstruct the view. The USFS has some camp sites on part of the

#### Lagomarsino Cabin (Continued on Page 3)

### Lagomarsino Cabin (Continued from Page 2) —

property. The campground still uses water from this spring coming from the north side of the highway. The forest service protected the spring and pipeline which crosses Highway 49 to the Lagomarsino home. All the lumber and the furnishings from inside the home were taken by campers of the dust bowl migration.

Charles K. Smith then selected this site by request of Captain Wiggins, Commander 274 Signal Heavy Construction Company to hold specialist training in 1943 in preparation for overseas orders. We camped two weeks—using the water and this out of barracks living for this young signal company. Some of our company are still alive to attest to this field living. During this training we placed a telephone line to Cal Ida Lumber Company near Brandy City. Placed poles, wire and telephones. Cal Ida was considered a vital lumber company for the WWII war effort.

Nearly all local residents of Sierra City and that area (ed. i.e. Loganville) are gone now. Even Miles Schofield of Downieville was in the service. Just a few Downieville girls may remember. This old Lagomarsino homestead was widely known by the people of Sierra City, Loganville, Downieville from before 1880 and this hard working lady was dearly loved by all.

### Bud Buczkowske's Account

A fleeting moment becomes tomorrow's history with clear memory and clear vision of that event but as those memories pass into years it has a way of waning. So it is with history. We are sure of the time and place of a certain event yet when asked about a person, place or incident witnesses may have a slightly different recollection. Yet each feels that they are giving an honest response. So it is with the history of the Lagomarsino (AKA) family. Documents researched show the family name spelled a number of different ways, occasionally different spelling on the same page—Largomarsino, Logarmarsino, Logomarsino, Lagomarsino, Logarmisino and a Katherine M. Largomarsino b. 08/16/1889 d. 05/21/1892. Other were Charles M. Largomarsino b. 10/02/1893 d. 07/15/1917, Maria Logarmisino and Joseph Logarmisino. Whether or not they were related is not known.

From county record of Deed March 3, 1893, the cabin, still standing north of the main road and the North Yuba

River, was the resident of Giacomo Lagarmisino. It was surrounded on the sides by a once proud stone fence, now fallen and over grown with weeds and dirt. The dirt road directly south of the cabin and north of Highway 49 was once the main road and was called the Downieville - Sierra City Road.

The following is an excerpt from a letter from Joanne Busch - dated March 28, 2006

"The Lagomarsino - Keirn Cabin - the brother Giacomo of my Great-Great Grandfather Joseph Lagomarsino owned Loganville cabin and my great-grandfather John Baptist Avignone might have owned it. But whatever the case, I'm sure my grandmother was in and out of that cabin quite often since she was born in Loganville in 1890 and probably moved to Sierra City when she was about 12-years old."

Other names that once graced the cabin were Lizze and Charles Logomarsino, two children that lived at the cabin and preformed in the Loganville School recitation in 1902.

There was also the majestic ranch where Joseph Logarmisino lived in 1919. The Logomarsino Ranch was the largest of several ranches in Loganville. It was located on the south side (river side) of the main road.

Millard and Marvin Reed (brothers) spent the Christmas of 1939 with their grandparents William Gilbert Reed and his wife Anne Eathal Case Reed, who at that time lived in the Lagomarsino cabin. It was Marvin Reed that assured the Sierra County Historical Society that it was the Giacomo Lagomarsino cabin that his grandparents lived in during the mid-thirties to the early forties.

The Sierra County Historical Society is in the process of restoring the cabin beginning with the front porch and side entrance. Hopefully, the society will have its 2008 annual meeting at the cabin.

If anyone has pictures, notes, letters, family trees, mine names and their locations, and business of the Loganville area, please contact Bud Buczkowske—phone: 530-287-3287, email jelylady@sccn.net

Respectfully submitted by Bud Buczkowske, president of the Sierra County Historical Society, May 26, 2008.

## Ed G. White

By Sharon Elorza



All of his life Ed White was proud to have been born in Sierraville. That was on October 13, 1901. He was the first born of Cora Ann Dolley and David Galbraith White. The little family lived in the area of Sierraville that was then called Randolph on east Willow Street as did the large Dolley family. There were aunts, uncles and cousins living along the road to Sierraville and on the Blinman ranch across the Lemmon Canyon Road from Campbell Hot Springs.

Cora was the daughter of Amelia Matilda Blinman and Linus Coolidge Dolley who had been married in "Sierra Valley" in 1873. Ed's grandfather Dolley was a man of many endeavors to support his large family of seven children. He raised beef cattle, grew and cut hay, ran a stage line to Truckee, carried the mail over the Yuba Pass and to Johnsville in Plumas County, built and operated a brick general store in downtown Sierraville which is still there, and he was a vice president of the Merchants and Farmers Bank in Reno. Linus Dolley's brother, O.B. Dolley operated a store in Johnsville where Linus met Scotsman David White who was a carpenter at the Jamison Creek Mine. Dave White may have come to the area because his mother's brothers Jim and John McNair were ranching in the middle of Sierra Valley. Dave was introduced to Linus's daughter Cora and after a proper courtship they were married March 7, 1900 in the Dolley family home in Randolph.

Life on Willow Street was happy for Ed, his sister Dolley, and brother George. Their father had a lumber mill and a sash and door factory. About 1903 the family moved into their newly built two story home, which is still there, on the corner of Willow Street and Lincoln Street. Part of the building facing Lincoln Street was used as a general store. In later years, after the White family left

Sierraville, it became the longtime home of the Copren family.

Making a comfortable living was difficult and Ed's father Dave grew more and more dissatisfied with the bitter cold winters in Sierraville. He and Cora decided to move south to San Louis Obispo County where Dave's parents, Jean McNair and George Henry White lived on a ranch

in McMillan Canyon near the town of Shandon. Dave was familiar with the area as he and brother Richard had arrived there in 1882 from the family's home in Campbellton, New Brunswick, Canada. And it was there that the brothers became naturalized citizens in 1888.

Preparations were made to make the move. Belongings were packed, everything was in order, and then tragedy struck. On July 28, 1913 Dave suffered a major stroke, lingered, and died July 30th. Cora carried on. She buried Dave in the Shandon Cemetery and moved her

children there as had been planned. She and the children, 11 1/2 year old Ed, 10 year old Dolley, and 2 year old George settled into a new life, but after a year or so they moved north to Auburn where Cora's family now lived.

Linus Dolley bought Cora a house on Olive Street where she lived raising her family and working in a general store to support them. Son Ed attended Placer Union High School until he quit in his sophomore year. When asked "Why?" in later years he replied "I was too smart." Ed then spent time in Sierra Valley with his bachelor uncles Jim and John McNair. He liked ranching and would have chosen it for his life's work if his wife-to-be had not said "NO".



*Ed White*

Ed G. White (Continued on Page 5) —



*Ed's 1st garage in Loyalton, CA.*

#### **Ed G. White (Continued from Page 4) —**

During these teenage years of freedom, Ed and a friend, Cyril Gould, embarked on an adventure on bicycles. They rode up the Pacific Coast Highway, saw the ocean, the giant redwoods, the lumber camps and enjoyed themselves. They financed their excursion by working as they went. Upon returning to Auburn, Ed worked for a time for P.G.E Co. His aunt Evelyn Dolley Champion's husband Jack worked for P.G.E and helped him secure this employment. This could be when Ed decided to try the garage business and one of his McNair uncles loaned him \$1500 in 1923 to open a garage on Main Street in Loyalton. He knew the previous garage had failed. He was determined to succeed. He worked long hours, was thrifty and repaid his uncle in full. While beginning his garage business he lived in the Golden West Hotel with other bachelors who worked in the lumber industry.

Ed made some wise choices early in his business. He chose to sell Ford vehicles, from Model Ts to Thunderbirds, Goodyear tires, Atlas batteries, Standard Oil products, and became an AAA emergency road station. Once when questioned what he would have sold if not Fords, he replied "I hope I would have had the good sense to choose Chevrolet."

Now that he was doing well in business he became engaged to Auburn Rechenmacher who had been a stand-out basketball player at Placer Union High School. Their marriage took place September 16, 1924 in her mother's front room with family present. Auburn White later regretted the date chosen as it coincided for years with the opening date of deer hunting season and Ed was often gone hunting on anniversaries. They settled into a one bedroom small house on west Fourth Street in Loyalton that Ed had purchased for back taxes. Eventually the house was remodeled and enlarged to accommodate the addition of their children Roy, Lynn and Sharon. The front yard fence has iron sections which were recycled from the Dolley home in Sierraville. "The White House" was home to Ed and Auburn for 62 years.

One of Ed's first community concerns was fire protection for Loyalton. He had witnessed many destructive fires during his youth in Sierraville among them his grandfather Dolley's warehouse full of merchandise. He was able to bring together the men of Loyalton and form a volunteer fire department which he headed as fire chief for more than thirty years. To raise funds the fire dept.

#### **Ed G. White (Continued on Page 6) —**

**Ed G. White (Continued from Page 5) —**

sponsored an annual New Years Eve dance with musicians from Reno and they gave the dancing crowd party hats and noise makers.

Then once a year Ed purchased large Italian tamales from the “Capital Tamale Café” in Sacramento for a “firemen’s feed” in appreciation for the men’s dedication. When a new source of income was needed, the Fire Dept. staged an auction of donated treasures. It was held on Main Street in front of the Masonic Hall which is now the Assembly of God Church Hall. Many pieces of furniture were donated by the Golden West Hotel which was closing its hotel rooms. Another feature of the auction was the paintings of Loyalton’s young artist-in-residence, Leland Cross. This auction has continued and is now sponsored by the Rotary Club.

When the Rotary Club was formed Ed was a charter member and its second president. This group of men began a tradition of giving members nicknames. Ed was the only one whose nickname was his name. Fifty years later he was recognized for 50 years of perfect attendance. His advice at the time was to “miss the second meeting.” When Rotary International began awarding its Paul Harris Fellowship award, he was the Loyalton club’s first recipient.

In the 1930s Sierra Valley farmers and ranchers joined together to found the Grange at Vinton. Among its earliest members were Ed and his wife Auburn. Their membership continued most of their lives.

Also in the 1930s when the lumber operation closed down in Calpine, Ed saw an opportunity. He bought and moved four identical small houses from Calpine to Loy-

alton. They sit in a row on the south side of Beckwith Street still housing Loyalton families.

Sierraville was always special to Ed and so in the 1950s he purchased the land his grandfather Dolley’s home had been on. The Dolley two story white Victorian house had burned September 18, 1935 when sparks from a forest fire burning on Randolph hill ignited leaves of its roof. At that time it was owned by William Diltz. Ed enjoyed owning this family land which was mostly meadow. He would pick “Maiden Blush” apples in the fall from the trees planted about 1891 when the home had been built. Owning the land made him a member of the Randolph Water Company which he served as president for many

years. These meetings were held yearly in the home of Carrie Diltz. Eventually Ed built a gas station on the land bordering Highway 89—coming in from Truckee. And across the road from the station he built a cabin to stay in with large picture windows overlooking his meadow.

Following family tradition he joined the Masonic Lodge

as his father and grandfather had done. Then he became a member of the Ben Ali Shrine in Sacramento. He enjoyed the camaraderie of these organizations...they drank and had fun.

Another of Ed’s associations was the American Automobile Association or AAA. His garage was an official emergency road contact station. That is why his pickups were specially painted the AAAs colors of blue and golden yellow. This was one of his 50 plus years of service memberships. After he had passed on, AAA honored his memory with a family dinner at the Beckwith Tavern



*The White House in Sierraville. The three people to the right in the photo are Ed White as a child and his parents.*

**Ed G. White (Continued on Page 7) —**

**Ed G. White (Continued from Page 6)** —

and presented his children with memory books of the occasion.

He was not easily provoked and when he was he usually concealed it. A glaring exception was the arrival of a very nice gold mantel clock marking fifty years of selling Standard Oil products. He thought it cheap and inappropriate and left it in the box. That clock now tells time on his daughter's mantel and is regarded as a treasure of the past.

Around 1949 when the Sierra Plumas Joint Unified School District was created, Ed branched out into running school buses. The first run was from Sierraville to Loyalton. Clarence Bateman drove that bus over unpaved Newman Point and battled the winter mud. Mr. Bateman lost the job because he was principal of Loyalton High School and the school board ruled he had to be at school earlier and later than the bus schedule. Other routes to Chilcoot, Beckwourth, and Sierra Brooks were added as needed. Some of the early drivers, before the buses were turned over to Ed's sons Roy and Lynn, were Alfred Kitchen, Pete and Roma McElhenny and Thelma Weathers.

School buses were first purchased from Gillig in Hayward, California. Later he flew to Oklahoma and Georgia to drive the new buses to Loyalton. Boarding the airplane, his carry-on bag was very heavy. It contained tools he might need for repairs on the trip home. Finally he realized the need for a shelter for the fleet of school buses

and he had the "bus barn" built on the rounded corner of Beckwith Street in Loyalton. The exterior support poles were welded by Tom Fowler to large truck wheels that were buried. Then Ed sprinkled California poppy seeds to improve the landscape.

Loyalton needed a hospital. The community wanted a hospital and so did the Clover Valley Lumber Co. and the Sierraville Lumber Co. A group of men from these concerns began working together to accomplish the task. Ed was elected president of the board of directors. The small hospital was built and served the valley well for many years before it was enlarged to include a skilled nursing facility.

For several years in the 1950s Ed became a "city farmer." He leased fields to grow grain and hay. Mike Dawson was his partner in this endeavor. Ed had the vacant "Island School" building moved to the edge of Loyalton from its original location on Dyson Lane. He used the interior to store grain processed by Bob Fable and added lean-to sheds around three sides of the old school building to store bales of hay and to shelter his small herd of cows. After the cows were sold, one of the lean-to s was used to demonstrate to the community that a local TV cable company, if formed, could bring TV to town...and that's what happened.

For many years Ed was an undercover Sierra County deputy sheriff courtesy of longtime Sheriff Dewey

**Ed G. White (Continued on Page 8)** —

*Ed's Sierraville Service Station*

## Ed G. White (Continued from Page 7) —

Johnson. It is unknown if he ever exercised this authority.

Loyalton's main street post office building was a collaboration of Ed and "his" carpenter Forest McMahan of Sierra City. The pair also constructed the combined city hall-fire house by the railroad tracks, both in 1968. The previous too small fire house is now used by the Senior Citizens. Outside the city hall-fire house is a plaque mounted on a large boulder commemorating Ed's service to the community. Then mayor, Milton Gottardi, deserves the credit and thanks for this fitting memorial.

Downieville's respected citizen-author James Sinnott often dropped in on Ed at the gas station in Loyalton to obtain old pictures from Ed's collection for the book "Sierra Valley-Jewel of the Sierras" that was published in 1976. They spent enjoyable time together remembering old times and old timers.

It was a care flight helicopter that carried Ed out of Sierra Valley February 22, 1986 to a large hospital in Reno where he passed on. His ashes were brought back and he now rests out in Sierra Valley where his heart always was.

---

## Annual Meeting - September 14, 2008

You're invited to attend the Sierra County Historical Society 2008 Annual Meeting -

- **September 14, 2008 at 1 pm.**
- **Lagomarsino Cabin in Sierra City**
- **Bring your own lunch**
- **Dessert and Beverages will be supplied**

Hope to see you there!

Call Bud Buczkowske at 530-287-3287 if you have questions or need directions to the Lagomarsino Cabin.

## Volunteers Wanted

The Kentucky Mine Museum and Sierra County Historic Park in Sierra City is open for the 2008 season and we need your help. No special training is required. We will train and value you as a volunteer.

Please call 862-1310 or visit the Kentucky Mine

Museum to find out how you can become a part of this adventure in history!

