COVINA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

During the 1940's, Mary Etta Broadwell wrote a column for the Argus-Citizen. Thanks to Lucy Wheeler's scrapbooks (Mary Etta thought of it as just a job), we are able to reproduce them for you, one at a time. Bear in mind that OVER THIRTY YEARS HAS GONE BY since the articles were written. The old timers are no longer with us.

Down Memory Lane

BY MARY-ETTA BROADWELL

The Story of Covina's Pioneer Settlers and Families

C. W. TUCKER

For almost half a century "photo by Tucker" has become a familiar phrase to residents throughout the valley. These words have been the signature on pictures taken for three generations of residents in this community. It is a phrase that has been affixed to portraits hung in pictorial exhibits in all major cities of the United States and in many European countries.

The man who is responsible for this pictorial photography is Clarence W. Tucker, who, according to photographic supply houses, owns one of the three oldest businesses of this type in California.

His studio has been located on Citrus Avenue for over 40 years. Until three years ago when he moved into his present building, the studio was located where the Safeway store now stands.

In 1893 Mr. Tucker became a photographer's apprentice in Warsaw, Indiana, which was near his birthplace. In 1895 he came to California and for a time visited a cousin in San Jose. A few months were spent at Randsburg before becoming established at Lordsburg (later to become known as La Verne). During this time he met Miss Grace Doughty and they were married in that city on July 28, 1897.

From that moment Mrs. Tucker became her husband's partner, proving an able assistant. Forty-five years ago Mr. Tucker began doing business with residents of the Covina valley.

During his long and successful business career Mr. Tucker has won renown for quality of work, character studies and portraits of groups. His pictorial photographs have received enviable honors and many have been chosen for international exhibits in England, France, Canada and the United States.

He has photographed nearly every nationality in the world with the name of Tucker Studio, Covina, California, being carried into all lands. He estimates that during his 51 years as a photographer he has made many thousands of prints. Much of his business in later years has come from friends of satisfied customers throughout the country.

At the present time a large percentage of his work is in photographing service men. He and Mrs. Tucker work every day and practically every evening getting these prints finished before the allotted leave or furlough is up. However, the Tuckers find the long hours worthwhile and derive a great deal of satisfaction from knowing that these pictures of soldiers and sailors are being left behind with mothers and sweethearts to make the loneliness a little less acute.

On the other hand, many service men carry in their wallets a picture of their mothers, wives and children which bears that familiar signature "photo by Tucker".

Mr. and Mrs. Tucker have resided for 40 years at Second and College Streets. They have two daughters, Mrs. Howard (Violette) Varcoe of Adams Park Drive and Mrs. Houston (Valora) Alexander, both of whom attended Covina schools as did the Tucker's three grandchildren, Mrs. Edwin Chandler, Jr. (Valora Varcoe), Kathleen Varcoe and Joe Pummill, now serving in the U. S. Navy.