

## Trip to California for the wedding of Adela Mabel Tissot (1915-2009) and Everett Byer (1912-2008)

From the diary of Mary Book Byer (1883-1970), this amplified version prepared by David Byer 17 Jul 2010  
Latest revision: July 24, 2010

Entries from 1 March 1940-to 31 March 1940

March 1 Friday. Damp and cloudy. Dedrich [Elmer Dietrich] shelled some corn here A.M. Evert [her spelling, her son. He preferred Everett] & I went to Hia [Hiawatha] at noon. Boys went to BBT [Basketball tournament] at Morrill in eve Rained a lot & thundered at night.

March 2 Saturday. Cleaned up. Packed suitcase. Evert helped move his bed and things downstairs. And my things upstairs

March 3 Sunday. Went to church A.M. Glens [son Glen Dale Byer and Miriam Cassel Byer] came for dinner [noon meal of farming people]. Afternoon Evert & I went to Clay Co [Kansas] to Steinbreakers [Steinbrechers] overnight [William Henry Steinbrecher and Elizabeth G Heer Steinbrecher] so we could start on trip to Calif. on Monday. Muddy to Fairview [Brown County Kansas-approximately 8 miles of country roads from Byer farm to what is now US 36]

March 4 Monday. Nice day most of time. Left Clay Co. 3 A.M. Took Constance [Constance Irene Tissot Heer, sister of Adela] and Arthur [Heer] [Wife and son of Donald Heer] along to Calif. Had to buy a new tire at Junction City [Kansas]<sup>1</sup>. Went south thro Oklahoma & west thro Texas. Got to Santa Rosa [New Mexico] 9 P.M. Slept in cabin there.

March 5 Tuesday. Cold 20 above. Started 6 A.M. drove thro New Mexico & Arizona to Blight [Blythe] in Calif. Slept in cabin there. Drove thro snow in mountains in NM & Arizona.

March 6 Wed. Nice Quite warm. Got to Tissots [Arthur Ernest Tissot and Lucy Irene Williams Tissot, parents of Adela and Constance, Edison Avenue, Chino] about 10:15 A.M. Had dinner there. Evert took me to Upland to Lydias [Lydia Byer and Mary E Byer, sisters of Mary's late husband Levi Byer] PM. Went to Pyr M. [Prayer Meeting] at church in eve. [Lydia at 669 N 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Upland Brethren in Christ Church at 611 N 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave Upland]

March 7 Thursday. Very warm & Sunny P.M. Went with Lydia to sewing circle at church. Had dinner there. Afternoon Evert took me to Wendel's at Hollywood. [Her son Wendel and Laeta Scott Byer]

March 8 Friday. Nice sunny. Not so cold. Staid at Wendels. Wrote to Glen P.M.

March 9 Saturday. Rather cool. Cleaned up house at Wendels A.M. Evert came 5 P.M. and brought me back to Upland.

March 10 Sunday. Nice but cool wind. Went with Jesse Eyster [Jesse Ramp Eyster] to S.S. Convention at Chino Church. [Chino Brethren in Christ Church, Edison Avenue & San Antonio, Rev. J. R. Eyster, Pastor (1939)] Had dinner there. Came to Upland after afternoon meeting, with Ralph Byers [Ralph Byer and Emma Mae Lenhart]. Went to Upland Church in eve.

March 11 Monday. Nice. Lydia and Mary [Mary E Byer sister and caregiver for Lydia Byer] washed A.M. Lydia & I called on Mrs. Cassel A.M. [Emma H Hartman Cassel, wife of Harvey Elwood Cassel whose

daughters included Alma B Cassel and Miriam Cassel Byer] then went with Evert to orange [packing] house and to Lydias for dinner. Evert took Lydia Mary & I to Ontario to shop P.M. Went to R. Franklins [Roy Arthur Franklin and Beulah Zook Franklin] with Evert and Adela for supper. Folks had [pre-nuptial] shower there after supper.

March 12 Tuesday. Cold. Evert & I went to visit Beulah College A. M., also called at Clarences. [Clarence Byer, brother to Levi, Lydia, Mary E Byer, and Cora Elizabeth Page Byer]. Had dinner at Swartzendrubers for dinner Went with Evert to Tissots P.M. To Franklins for supper. To Lydias to sleep

March 13 Wed. Cold. Evert & I drove to Los Angeles early. Got there 7:30 Saw smudging on way. Evert went with Wendel to collect A.M. [They may have gone to collect payment from milk delivery clients, since next date entry suggests Wendel had a milk delivery route.] Afternoon Wendel & Laeta & us drove around Los Angeles to doctors office [Dorothy Louise, dau of Wendel and Laeta Byer b 3 JUL 1940] & to see ocean. After supper went to Griffith Park & observatory. Had car brakes relined A.M. at Los Angeles

March 14 Thursday. Quite warm. Evert went with Wendel early to deliver milk. I went to Sears Store with Wendel and Laeta A.M. Afternoon we all drove around and to see Airport. Evert brought me to Lydias again in eve.

March 15 Friday. Warm Lydia & I walked to call at A. Louise Deckers [Clara Louise Byer Decker, daughter of Benjamin Michael Byer and Nancy Steckley Byer, wife of Bertice Leroy Decker. Bertice and Clara appear in 1930 US Census at 339 Sixth Avenue, Upland CA. Her name in the entry is Louise. The A. may be an error, or she may have been assigned the honorific title of Aunt. She is one generation down from Benjamin and Nancy whose relationship is that of Uncle and Aunt of Lydia and Mary E Byer], Rhoda Eshelman, had dinner at Mrs. Harmons & Ednas. Saw W. Bohens new house [Walter E Bohem and Martha M Book Bohem]. Evert & Adela Mary & I drove into mts. Verland [Mary's son Verland Marle Byer] took me to see S. Mussers [Charles Sumner Musser and Emma Areta Ludlow Musser] & to literary [Thalonian Literary Society] at school in eve.

March 16 Saturday. Evert Verland, Lydia, Mary & I drove to heights to see where Lydia and Mary first lived in Calif.<sup>2</sup> Evert Adela and I had dinner at Cassels. I went to love feast at church afternoon and evening.

March 17 Sunday. Went to Upland Church & to Clarence Byers for dinner. To SS convention at church A. M. afternoon & eve. To Walter Bohens between afternoon & evening meeting

March 18 Monday. Cloudy early. Called on Martha Bowers [Martha K Haldeman Bowers, widow of Joseph Emery Bowers] A. M. She is recovering from operation. Went to Riverside with Evert and Lydia. Went to Eysters [Jesse Ramp Eyster and Malinda A Brubaker Eyster] for supper. Went P.M. with Verland to Ontario to select suit. [Verland served as Everett's best man]

March 19 Tuesday. Cloudy. Mary & I called at John Books [John M Book and Delilah Eldora Haldeman Book]. Lydia and I to see Mrs. Burkholder [Fannie E Zook Burkholder 20 Oct 1866 to 17 Aug 1940, widow of Christian Charles Burkholder]. I had dinner at Harvey Wingers. Pressed clothes P.M. Lydia and I called at Ralph Byers. P.M. Went to Chino in eve with Eysters to hear colored quintette.

March 20 Wed. Nice. Evert slept here last night. Took Lydia & Mary to Ontario A.M. Evert called on Mrs. Van Eichelberger A.M. [Mary Jane Sanner, wife of Silvanus Martin Eichelberger] Afternoon we went to Clarences to birthday party for Mrs. Page. [Elizabeth (Lizzie) Wingerd Page born 21 MAR 1872, widow of William Page, mother of Cora Elizabeth Byer] Called on Mrs. Cassel A.M.

**March 21 Thursday.** Cloudy. Evert & I called at Wagamans A.M. & packing house. [Jacob Henry (Bishop J. H.) Wagaman and Edna Madora Plum] Lydia & I called at Trautweins P.M. [Herman C Trautwein and Lillie Mauch Trautwein]. **Went to Wedding of Adela and Evert at Church near Chino.** Came to Hollywood after wedding with Adelas Aunt & Uncle [Mabel J Tissot Coupe and Richard A Coupe] to Wendels in automobile. [22 JUL 2010-Curtis Byer remembers the wedding. His mother, Cora Page Byer, sand at the wedding. She was afraid they might arrive late. He recalls the drive down Euclid Avenue.]

March 22 Friday. Nice. Spent day at Wendels cleaned up front room.etc.

March 23 Nice. Wendel took me to station on street car to take PE [Pacific Electric] back to Upland, got to Upland about 2:30 P.M. Went to wedding at church of Lowell Hoover & Dorcas Alderfer at 8 P.M. [Lowell D Hoover and Dorcas R Alderfer]

March 24 Easter Sunday. Foggy early. Went to church A.M. & with Verland to Harvey Lenherts for dinner. [Harvey Wingerd Lenhert and Ethel Alvina Lilley] Drove around P.M. to different places & to Dan Engles. [Daniel Jacob Engle and Stella Etta Sword] Went to hear Easter singing at church in eve.

March 25 Monday. Cool and foggy. Clarence took Mary and I to Camp Baldy A.M. after which Cora took me and her mother to lemon house & orange house. Cora, Mrs. Page & I had dinner at Lydias. Laona Hershey & Fannie called P.M. Called at Cassels & Mary and I called at Jesse Haldemans [Jesse Ira Haldeman and Carrie Mae Eshelman] & Mrs Markley [Anna Viola Page wife of Preston Herr Markley]. Went to store & Joe Berts [Joseph Page Bert and Ada Ruth Franklin]. Had supper at Clarences.

March 26 Tuesday Started for home with Evert & Adela & Constance & Arthur. Left A.M in rain. Stopped at San Bernardino to see Adelas Aunt and grandmother [Gabrielle Tissot Mulvane and Cecile Franc Tissot, half sister and step mother of Arthur Ernest Tissot]. Hunted up Louis Heise [Louis B Heise], son of John Heise and Sarah Rhodes] at Victorville<sup>3</sup>. Visited Boulder Dam P.M. Spent night at double cabin at Kingman [Arizona]

March 27 Wednesday. Cloudy. Drove to Grand Canyon There at noon. Rainy and cold there. Windy & stormy and dusty. Stopped at Holbrook [Arizona] for supper and at double cabin for night.

March 28 Thursday. Nice. Drove through mountains and across N Mexico. Spent night at Dalhart Texas driving after dark.

March 29 Friday. Left cabin at Dalhart about daylight Stopped at Wichita to see Lois [Lois Byer, daughter of Levi and Mary Byer]. Left Wichita after 3 P.M. Drove over No 15 to Clay Centre. Had to change tire before dark, got to Donald Heers after 7 P.M. Had supper there and drove home & got home midnight

March 30 Saturday. Warm. Glens had breakfast here then went home. Carol [Carol Isabel Byer, daughter of Levi and Mary Byer] and I carried better dishes upstairs storing on closet shelf. Adela unpacked her

dishes [Vernonware, Vernon Kilns, Vernon CA a gift of Adela's nursing school classmates. Now in possession of Joseph Caffrey, Jr. and Lois Byer Caffrey, Rochester MN]. Boys [Likely Everett and Donald Clark Byer, son of Levi and Mary Byer] planted potatoes & put linoleum rug in S. West room upstairs & moved cupboard from closet to N East corner & moved my dining room table upstairs. Went with E & A to Hiawatha in eve.

March 31 Sunday. Quite warm. No fire needed. Went to church A.M. and eve. Donald Carol and I had first meals upstairs. Slept P.M. and wrote. Uncle Miltons [Milton Byer, brother of Levi, and Ethel G Engle Byer] called P.M.

## FOOTNOTES

### 1. Junction City

This seems unusual, since Clay Co. is north and west of Junction City. If they left Clay Co. at 3 A.M. and back-tracked east to Junction City it would be a while before shops in opened.

### 2. Where Lydia and Mary first lived in Calif

On 24<sup>th</sup> Street West, property owned, free, classified as farm. Lydia Byer, head, occupation: Nurse, private home, with sisters Mary E Byer and Leah M Byer. Leah suffered from tuberculosis, succumbing on 4 FEB 1921. The adjacent property is rented, classified as farm with Clarence Byer, head, occupation: Farmer, worker, citrus farm and his wife, Cora E Byer. 1920 U.S. Census, Upland Township San Bernardino CA, 15 JAN 1920.

### 3. Stop in Victorville to look up Louis B Heise [1867 to 1950]:

This most likely was Everett's idea. Everett took an interest in people who left the church or were treated unfairly. In **John and Sarah Heise Summit View Kansas-Nebraska Border 1872** Everett speaks respectfully of Louis: The only son of John and Sarah was named Louis. He cared not for the farm. So he went west for adventure. Some have felt he became modestly wealthy from gold mining.

His father, John Heise, suffered a stroke in 1921 and became bedfast, cared for at home by Sarah, until he died in 1922 Louis came home to help care for his father in his last days and manage the farm for his mother, Sarah. Louis cared not for church, but after death of John, she [Sarah] could once more go to church. Louis dutifully brought his mother by horse and carriage to the River Brethren meeting house [Pleasant Hill] that she loved so much. Louis still loved his mother very much.

At the funeral for his mother in 1928 he chose the opportunity to advise the Byer boys to always be good to their mother. YOU HAVE ONLY ONE.

Mother Sarah had bought a new Ford glass window close auto for her grandchildren Faith and Orai [Lehman] to drive to church and elsewhere. When Faith and Orai left, Louis had no use for it. He placed it in a shed with axles blocked up, to save the tires. Louis went back to dependable horse-drawn buggies. Soon after, Louis returned to his beloved California.

Everett Byer married a California girl, Adela Tissot, March 21 1940. When Adela and Everett were on their 'honeymoon' trip to Kansas from sunny California, they stopped at Victorville to visit Louis Heise and were given a warm welcome at the shack of Louis in the south bank of the [Mojave] river that ran through town. There were a number of one person shanties along the river. Louis showed how handy it was to have a cool spring of water bubbling through his kitchen from a spring on the hillside. By closing a valve overnight he could get a head of water to irrigate his small garden.

In **John Heise Summit Farm 1925** Everett writes: Everett Byer was a year younger than Orai. One weekend Everett was a guest at Summit Farm. Two pictures shown above [original photos in album **Farm and Family 1920 to 1935**, in possession of David Byer] were taken using the new auto for background. It is still vivid in memory of Everett. [This event may have been in the summer of 1926. Passenger lists have Orai Lehman arrival New York from Southampton on the "Homeric" 9 DEC 1925. Orai's return journey to South Africa included arrival at Southampton from New York on the "Majestic" 11 OCT 1926.]

In **The John Heise Story** Everett writes further of Louis Heise: He had several cronies who looked over each other every day. At the time of his death no one knew of any relatives. By chance a check book was found with address of the Morrill State Bank and from that contact was made with relatives here in Kansas. The body was

brought back to Kansas for burial in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery beside his parents and so he did not get buried in a pauper's grave after all!

In **Summit View Funeral of Sarah Heise** Everett writes: Louis was a kind hearted man. He loved to entertain us with his old antique gramophone with its huge horn and old cylindrical records. The only picture we have of Louis shows him entering the gate to the house at the time of funeral of his mother Sarah. [The photo caption reads: Levi Byer-Wendel-Verland-Uncle Milton Byer and Louis Heise. It is in a Byer photo album likely in possession of David Byer, not yet located or scanned]

**Comments of David Byer:** It is obvious that Louis Heise left a good impression with Everett Byer, fifteen years old at the time of the funeral (2 May 1928). Everett appears to have taken Louis to heart, interrupting his college education upon the death of his father Levi (1935). He partnered with Glen D Byer to help save their mother save the Byer Family farm. Later, Everett attempted to continue his pre-medical studies because of his interest [Shared by fiancée Adela Tissot] in mission service. After an unsuccessful struggle with organic chemistry at the University of Kansas, he set his goals to farming. Many people recognize his skills as a master farmer who lived from a global perspective. For his children, this is only one of a number of examples of how he dealt with adversity and a need to change his plans. Please note my term 'master farmer' is in lower case letters to distinguish it from the Master Farmers Award, established in 1927 and sponsored by Kansas State University Research and Extension and Kansas Farmer magazine. (William Page received this award)

**Sources:**

FIVE YEAR DIARY 1937-1941. Mary Book Byer, original in possession of David Byer

BYER FAMILY TREE <http://www.ancestry.com/> David Byer. This family tree was prepared, in part, to demonstrate the extensive migrations of families.

VARIOUS WRITINGS OF EVERETT BYER, in possession of David Byer

VARIOUS PHOTOGRAPHIC ALBUMS OF ADELA AND EVERETT BYER, in possession of David Byer

VARIOUS FAMILY GROUP SHEETS prepared by various relatives including but not limited to Ardys Byer Heise, Wendel Byer, Mrs. Edgar P Rhodes and Curtis O Byer.

VARIOUS FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE, including but not limited to Glen Dale Byer and descendants of John and Sarah Rhodes Heise

BEULAH COLLEGE ECHO, 1939, in possession of David Byer

PERSONAL RECOLLECTION, David Byer

**Persons not yet identified:**

March 12 Swartzendrubers

March 15 Rhoda Eshelman Mrs Harmon and Edna

March 19 Harvey Wingers

March 25 Laona Hershey and Fannie