



MARGARET CLINE  
1921

My home town located high in the Sierras has been to me the finest home town that I could ever wish for and I have never wished for another. You see, I have never lived any where else but Graniteville. Margaret Cline was the seventh child of eight children, five boys and three girls, children of pioneer emigrants who arrived by wagon train. Her father, John Tolliver Cline, a Cherokee, at the age of 23 left Tennessee and arrived in Eureka in 1856. Margaret's mother actually was born on the Overland Trail somewhere in Utah Territory. Her mother was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Pfister who upon arriving, settled in North San Juan, Nevada County then Yuba County, and engaged in the brewery business. They reared a family of two boys and three girls. John T. Cline married Margaret Pfister on Dec. 3, 1868 and lived in Graniteville and reared their family.

Margaret Cline, named after her mother, was born August 9th, 1891 in her present home in Graniteville and with the exception of short intervals has always been a part of the happy and uncongested life that Graniteville enjoys. She attended Graniteville Grammar School and is shown in the front row of the cover picture with her class mates.

Margaret Cline became Mrs. Arch C. Travis in September 1923. Her husband a miner and blacksmith and in following his trade took Margaret away from Graniteville for her longest absence of less than two years. It so happened that Arch accepted a job as blacksmith on a dredger in 1924 for the Yuba Consolidated Gold Dredging Company at Hammonton, near Marysville. They returned to Graniteville and in 1937 Margaret Travis became Postmistress. She replaced Postmaster Dodson and served as Postmistress for the next twenty years with pride in her home town and revered by her town folks. She was followed by Mrs. Jean Minahan as Postmistress, then Mrs. Myrtle Clift until the Post Office was closed in 1959 and Graniteville citizens were served as a rural route out of Nevada City, as they are today.

Mrs. Travis during the winter resides in Grass Valley and during the summer returns to her home town. She recalls her experiences, of which there are many, and the winters with the heavy snows. "I think the heaviest snow fall was in 1952 when the snow lay thirteen feet deep on Main Street." "The activities of all kinds stopped and we, like everyone, depended on our pre-stored larder of food, our backlog of pre-cut fuel and our own resources."

Graniteville, according to Margaret, has had its good and bad times. She states that when she was a girl around 1906 the town had a general store, a blacksmith shop, livery stable, two hotels, and some saloons. She attended the local grammar school with 33 students in eight grades all in one room and Mrs. McCormick was her last teacher." In 1923 no stores or businesses were operating and that practically all residents of the Graniteville area came to Nevada City for their needs.

"When the Golden State Hotel in Graniteville burned from a butane explosion and fire in 1948 the town suffered its greatest loss and this brought disaster to Graniteville," says Mrs. Travis. There were no casualties and there was heavy snow which protected the other buildings and as she says, "If it had not been for the snow the whole town could have gone." She was alone at her home nearby when she heard an explosion and looking out her window saw the fire start and consume the historic hotel; and the center of social and business life of Graniteville for 50 years. The hotel had been closed for the winter and its destruction came in December and never again has Graniteville enjoyed the summer visitors that made the town a thriving and active scene each summer. The excursions, picnics, the ball games, the dances, the parties, the 4th of July Celebration and Parade and even the band music seemed to fade away. Only natures

beautiful gift of mountain scenery and a few loyal and proud citizens keep Graniteville a delightful place to reminisce and enjoy the friendliness of its few people. But remember; Its Margaret Cline Travis's Home Town and always will be.

Bio - By C.H. LEE  
N. C. H. Society

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Clinton H. Lee



Lawrence "Pete" Sherwood and his wife Ethel, a former Graniteville School teacher, (Ethel Ford), riding in Pete's new 1914 Stevens-Dureya. Pete operated a stageline between Nevada City to Moore's Flat and Graniteville from 1908 to 1916 and drove this car over 90,000 miles on his runs. This including the new school-marm for Graniteville who arrived in Nevada City from Michigan, Miss Ethel Ford.

