

Preface

Here, for the amusement of my sisters, and of anyone with whom they might share them, are some things saved from stories told in the family about earlier ages, including some corrections of stories that had been changed in the telling, or the remembering, to a more agreeable form. And something of our parents, who are themselves receding into what will soon be the unremembered past.

In his last years, our father traveled to Michigan and California, trying to track down some incidents, or maybe they were only rumors, about his mother. He got nothing. The present notes originated in an attempt to repeat that search. But what hope is there to find anything more, now that decades have passed, and yet another generation is coming to its end?

As it turns out, something. In recent years, many have been busy on similar questions about their own families, and we have the advantage of their results. Local history has been an object of intense interest; some newspaper files are available online; school records and current school personnel are often helpful. It would especially like to thank Judy Garner, Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles; and Ryan Costantino, Grand Vice President for Communications, Phi Delta Chi; and above all, our distant relative Anne Brooks, whose genealogical researches, available online, have been drawn on at many points in what follows.

I include some individuals, located a little to one side of our family tree, whose exploits have an interest of their own, as part of the world in which our own people lived and moved.

I have had to omit some unfinished pieces, and even some of those listed on the Contents page are not quite done, and don't appear in the online version. Time indeed passes, and as my own end approaches, I have obligations to my own work, to the half-dozen books that Taeko and I would like to leave behind, as our personal legacy to the future.

As for the rest, here they are, for whoever may find in them the answer to a question, perhaps a previously unasked question. It may suggest how we came on the scene – from what angle, and with what resources, we approached the business of being ourselves.

Let's hope the story will go on, and that the future record, in its own way, will offer something for the guidance and amusement of a yet more future time.

Bruce