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NEWSLETTER

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THE YEAR IS 2020

For several years, the "Ancestry Weekly Journal" included articles about what was happening in many years from the 18th Century to the 1960s, and we have frequently used some of these articles in this newsletter. American History is very important in our family history research. As we study the lives of our ancestors, we trace them from the original east coast settlements, to the Revolution and the founding of our country, and as many of them travel from coast to coast to where we find ourselves in 2020.

2020 is a very important year in our history, and August is a very significant month in our past and present history. 2020 is the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, and VE Day, VJ Day, and the final surrender of the Japanese in August, 1945 and the signing of the document of surrender in September marked major changes in the life of our country. Many of us remember these months and that year, and if we do not remember, we need to review these events.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Al Morse

My wife, Dorothy, and I grew up in Bates County, Missouri, which borders Kansas. My parents, Albert Frank and Mildred Catherine (Janssens) Morse, never took the family on a vacation. One reason is that my father worked 7 days a week for several years. Dorothy's parents, Herbert Edgar and Dorothy (McDaniel) Newcomb, never took a vacation either. So we never visited other states, except Kansas on rare occasions. When Dorothy and I got married on August 18, 1963, we honeymooned in Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

I taught school in Independence, so I had the summers

off. I did teach summer school on several occasions, but, of course, they did not last all summer long. In June of 1964, Dorothy and I drove to California for our first vacation trip. We traveled Route 66, passing through Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. The road was a 2 lane highway till we got near Los Angeles.

On the way west, we stopped for a couple of days in Flagstaff, Arizona. We went to the Grand Canyon and drove through Oak Creek Canyon. We then went to Torrance, California where we stayed with my mother's brother, Carl and Edna (Woodward) Janssens. When Uncle Carl and Aunt Edna and their two daughters, Diane and Judy, came to visit the family in Missouri, they always stayed at our house in Rich Hill, Missouri. So they were happy to have us stay with them, and we enjoyed visiting with their families.

We did the usual tourist things. We spent a day at a beach and got sunburns. We visited Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm. We drove through Hollywood. We visited my cousin, Oliver Jack Morse, and his family. Uncle Carl took us to a California Angels and New York Yankees baseball game. Dorothy became a fan of the Yankees' first baseman, Joe Pepitone. So when we got home, we went to a Kansas City Athletics and New York Yankees baseball game.

As we traveled home, we went to Santa Fe, New Mexico and Denver, Colorado. We drove through the Rocky Mountain National Park. We finally got back to our apartment in Independence, Missouri. We were exhausted, but we did really enjoy seeing the scenery, the freeway system, and even the smog in Los Angeles.

In 1978, we made this same trip to California with our sons, Brian and Steve. They were 10 and 7 at the time. In fact, by staying in motels with swimming pools,

Brian learned to swim. Route 66 was now a four lane freeway, Interstate 10, except for a section in either New Mexico or Arizona. We went to the Grand Canyon. We stayed at a motel in Anaheim, California. We went to Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, and the beach. We toured Hollywood on a guided bus tour, which I really enjoyed because I could look at the sights without having to look for traffic while driving. The guide pointed out things that were interesting. Uncle Carl and Aunt Edna were now living in Williams, Arizona. We spent a night with them as we were headed back to Missouri. They enjoyed seeing our sons.

In 1983, we went to Florida. The boys were now 15 and 12 and had their earplugs to their music as we traveled. We went through Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Georgia to get to Florida. We spent one night in Cocoa Beach. We visited the Kennedy Space Center. In fact, while we were there, a launch put Sally Ride into space. We then stayed in Kissimmee for 5 nights. We went to Disney World and Epcot Center. We had 3 day passes so we could take our time each day and not hurry. We did some other driving around. We then drove to Panama City, Florida, Biloxi, Mississippi, and Memphis, Tennessee. We, of course, visited Graceland, the home of Elvis Presley. This thrilled Brian.

In other summers we would go to St. Louis, Jefferson City, Lake of the Ozarks, or even local one day trips around Kansas City. We bought a tent and we did a lot of camping. We went a couple of summers to Branson, Missouri and stayed at Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park. We went to Silver Dollar City, saw some live music shows, and drove around to see the sights. We did purchase a membership to Lake Paradise, near Oak Grove, Missouri, about 25 miles from our house. Lake Paradise had 4 or 5 small lakes. We camped on Sunset Lake several times. We walked to another lake that had a nice sand beach for the swimming in the lake. We would go out there 2 or 3 or 4 times a year for the weekend.

After Brian went to Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana, Dorothy and I traveled there a couple of times a year. We enjoyed driving around with Brian and seeing the sights. On the way home, Dorothy and I would travel around some of the

smaller towns. Dorothy would always buy a new cookbook or two and read recipes to me as we traveled. When Brian became the minister at the First Christian Church in Earlington, Kentucky, we then traveled there a couple of times a year.

So we got to see much of the country. We know that the boys also enjoyed the trips, whether big or small. We had many cherished memories from them.

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U.S. CENSUS AND ELECTIONS

Marjorie Slavens

The year 2020 is remembered for many different events, as we have seen in the article about 1945 and the 100 anniversary of the 19th Amendment in previous articles. Most women were able to vote following several decades of struggle by the women who led the movement, but some were still challenged and did not receive the benefit of this amendment until many years later. After the end of World War II in 1945, there were many changes in our lives. There were more jobs and relative prosperity following the war than in the preceding decade.

The U.S. Census is very important for all of us as family historians. We trace our ancestors back from the latest census in which we can find them decade by decade. Although we can find our female ancestors in earlier census records, their maiden names are not included, and this presents many challenges as we try to trace the family lines of these ancestors. Marriage records are not always easy to find. In addition, the U.S. Census records before 1850 only include the names of the heads of house. The immediately preceding decades give information about males and females and some information about ages. The earliest Census records group the genders together, and it is difficult to identify those who were not heads of house unless we are able to find marriage, church, or will records that identify those who are grouped together.

Census records are very important for other reasons than tracing our ancestors. The number of U.S. Representatives in each state are determined from the previous Census, and some federal funds are distributed to the states according to the reported populations. 2020 has presented some additional challenges for the U.S. Census. Many of us were able to register for the Census online, and the spelling and writing errors that we have found in some earlier Census records should not be present. However, the pandemic presents some significant problems for those who could not or did not complete their Census forms online. We would like to think that everyone

has an opportunity to be included in these records.

From 1850 to the beginning of this century, the information provided in the Census increased. In 1850, the names of all people residing in a household are given for the first time. The 1880 Census provides the birthplace of parents of the people including, helping us trace them back to places from which they emigrated. In 1900, we are able to see how many children a woman had had and how many of them were living at that time.

This is the 60th anniversary of the election of the first Catholic President, John F. Kennedy. I cast my first vote in that election and have voted in 14 Presidential elections since that time. I have voted in two states, Missouri and Illinois.

I have been listed in 9 U.S. Census records, but I have not found myself in any of these records yet. We have not been able to find my family in the 1940 Census, and the 1950 Census will not be published until 2022, 72 years after this Census was taken. I have lived in Oklahoma, two cities in Kansas, five cities in Missouri, one city each in Florida, Ohio, and Illinois. We have much better records now because of technology, but if I had lived 100 years before, I would have been extremely difficult for future generations to find me.

In 1960, I was a student at Florida State University, and the Census taker insisted that I provide my Census records there. I told him I was a student, and my permanent voting residence was still at my parents' home in Missouri, but he insisted that I had to provide my information in Florida. Of course, I could not vote in Florida, but I counted for that decade in their records. My father was reported in the 1930 Census by his mother in Oklahoma and by his grandmother, with whom he lived then, in Asbury, Missouri, also being counted in two states..

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