

PICKERING SAGA

Between 1940 and 1969, Major Frank and Bertha Pickering made home movies of their travels and family gatherings. Many scenes are of their four children - Gordon Pickering, Elizabeth Walls, Francis Longenecker, Virginia Wiren - and THEIR families.

1940 and late 1940's

Forrest Walls, son of Wesley and Elizabeth Walls, was almost two when he visited his grandparents with his mother at the Presidio in San Francisco where Major Pickering was stationed with the Army. (Gordon Pickering shot the footage of Forrest.)

The Pickerings moved from the Presidio to Washington State where, just before the beginning of World War II, Major Frank Pickering was Adjutant at Fort Lewis.

The Pickerings bought the house at 9 Ray Street with the Walls family when Major Pickering was transferred to Seattle.

The Walls family bought the apartment house at 68 West Etruria in Seattle.

The Pickerings and Walls family went sledding at Snoqualmie Falls. Forrest and Burton Walls and their Grandpa used the "American Flier" sled.

Virginia and Bob Wiren's home.

Francis and Justin Longenecker lived at Walls family's apartment house while Justin finished his studies at the University of Washington.

The Pickering's "Uncle Hiram" in Peterson, Louisiana.

Frank Pickering's older sister, Sarah Knapp, and son, Frank, lived in Longmont, Colorado.

Christmas at 9 Ray Street. Francine Walls was dressed as an angel for a Christmas play held at McKinley Auditorium at Seattle Pacific College.

Christmas dinner included Walter and Harriet Smith, Francis Smith and Ruth Salistrand.

Virginia Wiren at her home in Innis Arden in North Seattle.

Cousins Caleb and Edna Harvey, daughters and son-in-law from near Ontario, California visited 9 Ray Street. (Bertha Pickering's mother was a Harvey).

Family gathering at 9 Ray Street.

Celilio (See lie lo) Falls on the Columbia River before the river was dammed.

Major Pickering's first school in Fulton, South Dakota (near Mitchell, South Dakota).

1950

The Walls family purchased the house at 2930 Queen Anne Avenue in Seattle, Washington.

The Cana Class Picnic from the First Free Methodist Church in Seattle held a picnic at Woodland Park which included the Pickerings, Wesley and Elizabeth Walls, Paul and Vera Walls, and Walter and Esther Helsel (and assorted children).

Lottie Neisler, Major Pickering's older sister, had a farm outside of Boulder, Colorado. Lottie was with husband, Will, sister, Sarah, Ruth Neisler Crow, Willis Neisler, his wife and daughter Helen.

Upon retirement (on disability) in 1948, the Pickerings moved to 987 Mesa Court in Upland, California. They planted peach and lemon trees. Major Frank Pickering was promoted to Lt. Col. but continued to be called, "the Major".

Virginia and Bob Wiren had a son, Kris.

Knotts Berry Farm

In the Fall of 1950, Wesley Walls was stationed for several weeks at San Pedro harbor, then transferred to Fort Warden, Washington before he was sent overseas to Korea as an Army Chaplin.

Francine's doll.

Justin and Francis Longenecker lived in a log house on Chuckanut Drive outside of Bellingham where Justin was on the faculty at Western Washington State University.

The Pickerings and Longeneckers traveled to Victoria B.C. through the San Juan Islands.

The Pickerings and the Longeneckers visted the Walls home at 2930 Queen Anne Avenue in Seattle, Washington. Justin Longenecker brought his mother, Mrs. Longenecker.

Bertha's Pickering's older sister Ethel Cook and Mrs. Longenecker visted the Pickerings in Upland.

Date palms at Indio, California.

1952

A 4th of July celebration was held in Colorado with Major Pickering's relatives, including the Neislars and the Hudsons.

Gordon and Rose Pickering and son Steven came from Honolulu to Seattle and brought leis.

Paul and Vera Walls (and their children, Lynda and Roger) had a party at their home in North Seattle.

1953

(During their lifetime, the Pickerings had eleven grandchildren and one great grandson. Gordon and Rose Pickering had Steven and Stephany. Forest and Elizbeth

Walls had Forrest Wesley, Burton Howard, Francine Elizabeth and Sylvia Jeanette. Justin and Francis Longenecker had Linda, Nancy and Jane. Bob and Virginia Wiren had Kris and Craig. Grandson Forrest and his wife, Vi Walls, had great-grandson, Ryan Wesley.)

At the Brewer Farm (Rose Pickering's family farm) in Illinois, Gordon Pickering was with his son, Steven.

The Pickering home in Upland California.

Knotts Berry Farm

Scenes inside the Pickering home in Upland.

Bertha Pickering's sister, Ethel Cook, and cousin, Zella Stone, visited. Zella Stone owned the town mortuary and served as mayor of Upland.

Justin and Francis Longenecker with baby, Linda.

Lake Tipsoo in Mount Rainier National Park.

1954

In 1954, Sylvia Walls was born to Wesley and Elizabeth Walls. Craig Wiren was born to Virginia and Bob Wiren.

Major Pickering's sister, Sarah Knapp, and son, Frank.

1955

Pickerings visited Gordon and Rose Pickering at their home at 1930 Alewa Drive in Honolulu, Hawaii, overlooking the Moana Valley. Baby Stephany with brother, Steven.

Paul and Vera Walls visited Honolulu.

Bertha Pickering's sister, Ethel Cook, arrived at Honolulu.

1956

The Walls family visited the Pickerings in Upland.

Knott's Berry Farm

A 4th of July after-parade lunch was held at the home of Maxine and Charlie Sauers and their daughter, Vicky. Maxine Sauers is the daughter of Esther Keller, Bertha Pickering's younger sister.

Nancy Longenecker and sister, Linda.

The Pickerings and Longeneckers visited the Alamo in Texas.

The Pickerings with Pauline and Lester Finger who helped them start the Free Methodist Church in San Antonio, Texas.

Pickerings with Gordon and Rose Pickering, Stephany and Steven in Honolulu at Christmas.

1957

Pickerings were ready for Pioneer Days held in Ontario, California.

Next-door neighbors, the Clippertons, stopped by with their daughter, Donna.

Kris and Craig Wiren, sons of Virginia and Bob Wiren.

The Pickerings, Walls, Wirens (except Bob) stayed at cabins at the Ohonapacosh campground, in Washington State.

Major Pickering's cousins, Greta and Harold Fleming, their sons and Raymond Neisler were with the Pickerings and Walls for a picnic at Carleton Park.

Easter with the Walls family.

The parents of F. Wesley Walls, E. (Epsom) Wilbur & Elsie Pearl Walls, visited the Walls family.

Virginia and Bob Wiren's home in Innis Arden. Virginia died of cancer in 1958. She was 35.

Gordon Pickering visited his parents.

1958-1959

Peaches and lemons were ripe on their fruit trees.

Walls and Longeneckers visited in Upland.
Justin and Francis Longenecker with baby, Jane.

Forrest Walls visited his grandparents in the 1950 Dodge (the little red wagon) on his trip around the United States with his friends, Dave Trepus (and Dean Roloff).

Pickerings visited Longeneckers in Waco, Texas where Justin Longenecker was on the faculty at Baylor University in Business.

The Walls family visited Upland. Burton and Francine were divining for water.

Gordon and Rose Pickering, Stephany and Steven in Upland.

1960 (This was the year of the Pickering's 50th wedding anniversary. They were married March 2, 1910.)

The Pickerings bought a piece of property at Hisperia, California. They sold it for about what they paid for it.

Forrest Walls graduated from Seattle Pacific College; Wesley Walls was on the faculty at SPC in Political Science. Helen Nazareus was Forrest's girlfriend at the time.

The Pickerings visited the Wiren home. After the death of Virginia, Bob Wiren married Agnes May Swenson, a widow, with two children, Tom and Terry Swenson.

The Pickerings at the Longenecker home in Waco, Texas.

The Longeneckers and Gordon Pickerings in Upland.

Big family picnic in Upland. Ruth Salistrand attended.

Oak Glen Pines Campground.

A reunion was held in Estes Park, Colorado, with the families of Major Pickering's sisters. Those attending included Margaret and Raymond Ashing, Ruth Neisler Crow, Joe and Margaret Neisler ~~Wesson~~, their two sons as well as the Longeneckers and members of the Walls family.

Sylvia Walls in Upland.

1962

The Walls family's home at 824 West Etruria, Seattle, Washington.

The Pickerings kept a trailer at the Oak Glen Pines Campground.

Knotts Berry Farm.

The three Davis sisters at Oak Glen Campground: Ethel Cook, Bertha Pickering and Esther Keller. (Their brother, Howard, died in his teens of pneumonia when their farm was snowbound and a doctor could not reach the farm.)

The Pickerings and the Walls at the Seattle World's Fair: The Century 21 Exposition.

Wiren's home in Innis Arden.

Calico, California, Ghost Town.

1968

The Pickerings at Longenecker's home in Waco, Texas

En route to Michigan to visit the Walls family (where Wesley Walls was Dean at Spring Arbor College), the Pickerings visited Buffalo Lake, Wisconsin where Major Pickering's parents, Jane and Issac Pickering farmed. The cousins they visited were descendants of Jane Pickering's sibling. (Coincidentally, Bertha Pickering's parents had also lived in this area.)

Valton Friends Church.

1969

The Pickerings visited the graves of Bertha Pickering's parents in Greenville, Illinois: her father, George Steven Davis (born 1862-died 1919) and her mother, Anna Harvey Davis (born 1862-died 1902). (Bertha Pickering's mother died at 40 of Bright's disease.)

Arch of St. Louis

Snow in Upland, California.

Bertha Elizabeth Davis Pickering born on February 23, 1892, died on March 13, 1969 at the age of 77.

In August, 1969, Major Pickering attended grand-daughter Francine's graduation from Seattle Pacific College.

Frank Issac Pickering, born June 26, 1887, died on June 18, 1976, just before his 89th birthday.

THE END