

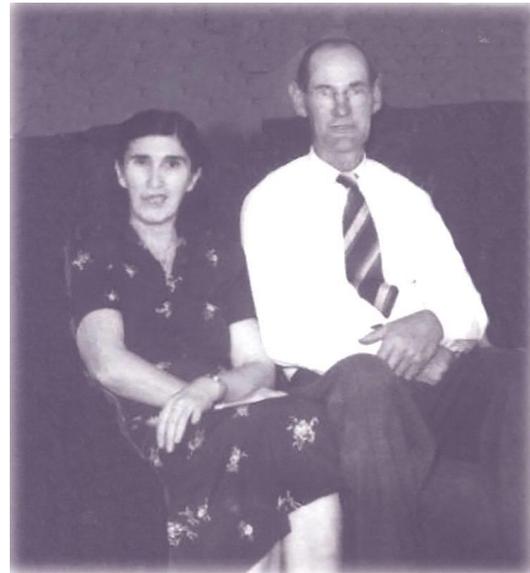


AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF JOSEPH A. COX

I was born on October 14, 1925 in Booneville Arkansas. I am the third child of Virgil and Viola Cox. They had nine children. Virgil was born on August 1, 1900 and died on November 6, 1953. His name was Melvin Virgil Cox but everyone called him Bert. He

was the son of John Tilman Cox Sr. and Sarah Scroggins-Cox. Emma Viola Tyler-Cox was born on December 23, 1903 and died on October 23, 1962.

Hazel Leona Cox, the oldest was born on July 10, 1920 in Ione Arkansas and died in Greenwood Arkansas on September 3, 2003. Anna Mae Cox was born on April 6, 1923 in Ione and I was born on October 14, 1925 in Booneville. Samuel Lee Cox was born on February 18, 1928 in Seminole, Oklahoma and died on May 27, 1996. Georgia Jhue Cox was born on March 14, 1930 in Ione, Virgie Bell Cox was born on April 7, 1932 in Booneville, James Kenneth Cox was born on July 18, 1935 in Fresno California and died on April 13, 1984, Julia Ester Cox was born on July 26, 1937 in Fresno, Ca and died June 10, 1985, Lucille Cox was born June 20, 1939 in Fresno, California.



Melvin Virgil & Viola Cox family



Top Row- George, Virgie Bell, Julia, Anna Mae, Joe. Bottom Row Jimmie, Hazel, Viola, Melvin Virgil, Lucille, Sam.

The Cox family farmed in Ione, Arkansas. My dad raised beef and sugar cane. We lived here until I was about seven years old. I remember helping with the hay crop and walking across the sugar cane fields. I stubbed my big toe one day and I still have a deformed toenail on my right toe. I helped my dad drive the team of

mules (Kit & Toby) and hauled supplies in the wagon. I thought I was really doing

something great but the mules knew where they were going anyway. I don't remember very much, but I do remember picking wild onions by the stream that ran through the sugar cane field, getting water from a spring by the little house that we lived in, my mother dad and some of their friends deeping the well by this house and a group of friends butchering hogs in the fall. I also helped with the making



of the molasses by keeping the mule going around and around as the cane was pressed and the juice was collected and boiled to make molasses. This activity involved all of the neighbors and everyone from the area came and helped make the molasses. This process was simple but it took a lot of expertise to boil the juice just right and to keep from giving the molasses a burnt taste. My dad raised several acres of sugar cane.

Above: Viola, Joe, Anna Mae, Hazel and Dad.

My sister Hazel and I had malaria, and I remember many days when I was cold and shaking with fever. We slept on a pallet on the floor and it was several years before we were able to live without getting the fever and cold sweat. About a year or so before we moved to California my grandfather died and Uncle Johnnie moved into the family home with my grandmother and we moved into Uncle Johnnie's place. This house was on the hillside overlooking a great meadow that was beautiful. There were all kinds of trees around this house as it was on a hillside and my mother raised chickens that ran freely. We also had a milk cow that was my responsibility to find when she strayed off into the hills. At times this had to be in the morning when it was really cold and I had to hunt all over the hills for her. She wore a bell around her neck that I could hear if she was close enough but this was usually not the case.



Dad and Mom in the early years

There was a large mulberry tree by a pond just down the hill from the house and it had mulberries that we ate during the season. The pond was large and held a lot of water. My uncle Johnnie would fish in it and it did have a lot of fish but it also had water moccians. These snakes were dangerous and we had to watch for them.

My dad also made his own homebrew and I helped him bottle it. My cousin Virdell and I would fill the bottles and would fill them a little too much and would drink the excess off.

My mother did not like this and she put a stop to it when she found out what was happening. One time I remember that the beer was hid in the hay stack and during the summer you could hear the bottles exploding as they got too hot.

My family had some friends named Carpenter and they visited us a lot. We played with their children and had great times. For some reason they moved and we never saw them again. We also played with the Lewis children but I don't remember much about them.

I remember that my dad was involved with bootlegging and he and my uncle Shade made moonshine and sold it around the area. The moonshine was put in five gallon shiny square cans and distributed by friends of our family. We had two Indians that helped. One was named Preston and the other was always called Chief. As the moonshine was loaded for distribution, there were a lot of guns in evidence. Evidently Preston stayed with us and all of us really liked him. He got married and that made us really sad.

Just before we moved to California and my dad had decided to sell his cattle and move to California Hazel and I were sent to the nearest gas station at Ione for some gas. It was about five miles from where we lived. Hazel and I got on this mule and headed for Ione. I was seated on the mule in back of Hazel and held a five-gallon can to be used to buy some gas. Before we got to the pond the mule got scared and I fell off and hit my head on a rock. I was taken to the doctor and it was several years before the middle of my head healed properly. No one thought I would live. I still have a sensitive spot right in the middle of my head but I don't seem to have any lingering effects.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEARS

I started kindergarten at Ione elementary school and went for about one year. (I think). I remember taking our lunch pails, a drinking cup and walking from where we lived to the school. We usually walked with a group. This was a long way. The brick schoolhouse still stands but today it is a community center



This was the Ione School and I in 1990. It still looks good. I did not see the well where we used to get a drink at recess and at noon but when we attended a Cox family reunion in 2000 I did see it. It was still there but was not being used. We each had to have our own drinking cup and we drank from a bucket that drew water from the well

Left: Joe Cox: around five

I never knew my grandmother on my dad's when we moved to care of us and was the mother was working. She and she was treated as one members. My mother's side lived in didn't see her very often. oldest son, Uncle Martin



years old

grandfather but my side stayed with us California. She took baby sitter when my was always with us of our family grandmother on my Oklahoma and we She stayed with her Tyler.



Right: Joe and Uncle Martin-Picture taken on our visit in 1940. Uncle Martin lived in Oklahoma.

I think this picture was taken on our visit in 1940. It was taken at Uncle Johnnie's house in Ione Arkansas.



Top—From left to right Mavis Scanlon (Esten's Wife) holding their baby, Esten was a son of Uncle Johnnie Scanlon and his wife Aunt Lulu (my dad's sister) Viola Cox, Uncle Johnnie, Me, Esten, Aunt Lulu, Anna Mae, Grandma Tyler, and grandma Cox. Lucille, Sam, Jimmie, George, Wanda Mae (Uncle David Tyler's Daughter)



Left: Jimmie Brown

Below: the Cox family (minus Joe). From left to right: George, Lucille, Anna Mae, Jimmie, Sam, Julia, Virgie Bell, Hazel



Right: The Cox Family. Top Row: Anna Mae, George, Jimmie, Julia, Joe; Bottom Row: Sam, Lucille, Virgie Bell, Hazel.



When I was about seven years old, my dad sold the cows and rented the land and we started for California. It took us several years. We stopped in Texas for a year or so and then at my Uncle Martin's place in Oklahoma. My grandmother's place (my mother's mother) in Oklahoma and then again in Texas. We did not go to school during this time. On the trip to California, we camped on the side of the road at night, cooked our meals, ate and slept in the open. We usually had to gather sticks and cow chips to build the cook fire. That was the job of the children. This was not easy as most of the land we traveled through seemed to be desert.

When we arrived in Reedley California, we lived in the country by a stream in the Minkler area and did not go to school. We later moved to a camping area on the banks of the Kings River by a bridge. This was in the Reedley area. Later we moved into a house in Reedley and I started school at Reedley Elementary school.

I can remember some of this experience. I did take part in recess but I am unable to recall the activities that we participated in except for softball. In the classroom, we had milk for a break and sometimes they gave us chocolate milk. I remember that as a real treat. In class the teacher tried to teach us music and she gave me two drum sticks to use. I hated this activity. This period was not very productive for me and I remember very little of any of the activities, school work and whether we took our lunch or had a hot lunch. It just seems like I blanked out during my Reedley Elementary school year.

It took some time for me to become a part of the school because I was new and my clothing was not the best. I always had a hard time making new friends. We had no friends that I could count on. I was given special help but it was not much. The part I

hated the most was the music time with the sticks etc. I hated that part of the school day. Music never was a favorite subject of mine.



We arrived in California in the middle of the depression and camped out by the Kings River and my dad worked at anything that he could find. According to him it was very hard but I don't remember the hard part.

Left: My dad's brother Shade and his 2nd wife

I remember playing with our cousins, walking into town and just having a good time. As we walked, we would look for cigarette butts and save them for my dad. He would take the tobacco out and roll the tobacco in another paper and smoke it. As the years went on he bought a cigarette roller and we rolled cigarettes for him from a special tobacco that was made for this machine.

My dad had moved to this particular location because Dee Cox, a cousin of his had moved here a few months previously. Dee had several children and we had a large group to play with. Time went fast. We moved to the bank of the Kings River, at the edge of Reedley, a few months later and we camped out there for several months.

We moved around the Reedley area for several years. We attended several schools over the years: Whatoke, Navelencia and Mt. Olive. My next recollection of elementary school days was in Mt. Olive Elementary school. We had moved to the country and I remember going to Mt. Olive. I really adored the teacher, Miss Andersen. She worked with us on penmanship, reading and regular school work. I hated the penmanship activity that we had to do every day. Miss Andersen was very careful and made sure that we made our letters correctly. We used a pen and dipped it into an open bottle of ink. I don't remember much about the other subjects. There were three grades in my classroom and I don't remember any problems that the teacher had with discipline. We were well behaved.

At Mt. Olive we went to school with Glen French and his sisters. These were cousins of ours from my dad's side of the family. We lived almost four miles from the school and we usually walked together. As we walked we fought verbally and sometimes physically. I took bologna sandwiches for lunch and sometimes I would trade a bologna sandwich for a rice ball with a Japanese student. This was a good break from the lunch routine.

We had an organized physical activity during the recess and lunch periods. Soccer, basketball and softball were the sports I remember the best. We were instructed in the rules of the game by the teacher and we followed them without any interference from the teacher. We settled our own disagreements

My years at Mt. Olive were great. I played soccer and basketball here and I loved the teacher (Miss Andersen). We moved to the property on the Sudden Lumber Company ranch and I started to school in Navalencia.

The next elementary school I attended was Navalencia elementary school. I remember that I was in the fourth grade when I started here but the years that I remember best were the fourth and fifth grades. In the fourth grade we had competition every day with spelling and math. We did a lot of blackboard work and competed with the problems and other activities that the teacher put on the board. The teacher Miss Griffith would time us and I was the fastest and most accurate most of the time. I enjoyed this competition and excelled in my school work. I received a reading certificate for reading forty books.



Left: Navalencia Elementary School, 4th grade.

I was in the fourth grade in Navalencia and was promoted to the fifth grade in one year. I believe I was promoted to the fifth grade because you had to be in the fifth grade to compete in track with other elementary schools in the Reedley area. and I was the fastest one in the fourth and fifth grade. (I really don't think this was the real reason but at the time I did). I ran the fifty-yard dash, low hurdles and was on the relay team. We competed in the regional meet and I ran the fifty yard dash, hurdles and anchored the relay team. Our team went into Reedley for the big meet and I received a second place in the fifty-yard dash and hurdles.

Later we moved to the Whatoke Grammar school attendance area. We had the 6th, 7th and 8th grade in one room with one teacher. Mrs. Kanawyer was the teacher and I really liked her. I was very active in school activities, read the most books in the 7th and 8th grades and graduated as the Valedictorian. The next year I entered Reedley High School

(A report given in 2009 Merced College class)

Grammar School Years MY GRAMMAR SCHOOL YEARS

I started school in Ione Arkansas. We lived in the hills quite a distance from the grammar school that was located in Ione. I vaguely remember walking to school with a group of other students and my two older sisters, Hazel and Anna Mae.

The school was a two room school and I don't remember anything about what was taught, or what we did, except we carried our lunch and a drinking cup. We got water from a well on the campus and used our own cups. I don't remember any recess or play

time but there was a playground on the campus. The brick school house still stands but it is used as a community center.

My dad sold his livestock and rented his property in the early 30's (about 33 or 34) and we migrated to California. This was a lengthy process, as we stopped for some time at my grandmother's place (my mother's mother) in Oklahoma and then again in Texas. I don't remember why we stopped in Texas but we camped out for several weeks. We did not go to school during this time.

Just before we left for California, my dad tied a gas can to one of our mules and sent Hazel and I to Ione to get some gas. The mule got scared and Hazel and I fell off. Hazel had to have stitches and I had a big hole in my head. It took several years to heal. It was a wonder that we were not killed.

Traveling to California was a lengthy process as we stopped for some time at my Grandmother Tyler's place in Oklahoma and again in Texas where my uncle Shade was living at that time. We did not attend school during this time when we were traveling to California.

On the way to California with my uncle Shade, we camped on the side of the road at night, cooked our meals, ate and slept in the open or in the car. We usually had to gather brush, wood and chips to build the cook fire. This was the job of the children.

Hazel says that it took a long time to get to California as we had to camp out at night. Those in our car were dad, mom, Hazel, Anna May, Sam, Virgie Bell, George, me, Grandma Cox and Jewell Scantling.

When we arrived in the Reedley California area, we lived in the country by a stream and did not go to school. I can remember some of this experience as we played with Dee's children and I remember that we enjoyed ourselves and explored the surrounding areas. We did not go to school during the time that we lived in this area.

We later moved into town and started school at Reedley Elementary school. I can remember some of this experience. I did take part in recess and remember playing softball but I am unable to recall the other activities that we participated in. In the classroom, we had milk for the morning break and sometimes they gave us chocolate milk. I remember this as a real treat. In class, the teacher tried to teach us music and she gave two drum sticks for me to use. I hated this activity.

This period in my grammar school education was not very productive for me and I remember very little of the activities, school work and whether we took our lunch or ate from a cafeteria. I am sure that we must have taken a sack lunch because we were very poor. I do not remember what the teacher or anyone else in the school looked like. I do remember that the teacher was a female. It just seems like I blanked out during my attendance at Reedley Elementary School.

My next recollection of elementary school was in Mr. Olive Elementary school. We had moved to the country and I remember going to Mr. Olive. I really adored the teacher, Miss Andersen. She worked with us on penmanship and used an ink pen and ink. You had to be very careful not to spill the ink. We also worked on math, reading and other regular school work. I hated the penmanship activity because it was repetitive and she was very strict on us making the letters correctly.

There were three grades in this classroom. We lived about four miles from the school and walked. Usually with some other kids and we usually fought almost every day verbally and sometimes physically. I took bologna sandwiches for lunch and sometimes I would trade a bologna sandwich for a rice ball with a Japanese student. This was a good break from the bologna sandwich and we both enjoyed the break from the routine.

We had an organized physical activity during the recess and lunch periods. Soccer and basketball were the sports that I participated in. We were usually instructed in the rules of the games but after that we enforced the rules ourselves. We did not have very much interference from the teacher as she was supervising all of the activities and had no time for close supervision. We settled our own differences.

The next elementary school that I can remember attending was Navalencia Elementary School. I was in the fourth grade when I entered Navalencia Elementary school. I enjoyed the fourth grade the best. We had competition every day in spelling and math. We did a lot of blackboard work and competed with math problems, spelling and other activities that the teacher put on the board. The teacher would time us and I was the fastest and most accurate most of the time. I really enjoyed this competition and looked forward to doing it every day as I excelled in math and reading. I received a reading certificate for reading forty books.

About the second part of the year I was promoted to the fifth grade. I thought at the time it was because I was the fastest runner in the school and you had to be in the fifth grade to compete with other elementary schools in the Reedley area. Later I realized that this was not the reason.

That year, we competed in the regional meet in Reedley and I ran the fifty yard dash, hurdles, and anchored the relay team. I won a 2nd place in the 50 yard dash and hurdles.

I had a hard time catching up to the fifth grade class academically but by the end of the year I was doing well and was promoted to the 6th grade.

My dad worked for the Sudden Lumber Company when we were attending the Navalencia grammar school. I helped him irrigate the orange orchards and I helped oil the pumps that were used for irrigation. I really hated to go down to the pump that was about thirty feet below the ground. The pumps had to have oil put in the little holders every day.

Putting in the pipes for irrigating was really hard work as the ground was all clay and it was really hard to work with. We had metal irrigation pipes and we had to put them in and remove them every time that we changed the water. The pipes were very heavy for me. We had to watch very closely because the clay would wash out around the pipes and we would have to put them back in or we would have water all over the orchard.

Later we moved to the Wahtoke Grammar school attendance area when I was in the 6th grade (I think). I don't remember much about the 6th grade. We had the 6th 7th and 8th grades in one room with one teacher. Mrs. Kanawyer was the teacher and I really loved her. I was very active in school activities, sports and read the most books in the 7th and 8th grades and graduated as the Valedictorian in June 1940. In September 1940 I entered Reedley High School.

Mr. Brown was my dad's boss when he worked for the Sudden Lumber Company. While living in the house on the Sudden Lumber Company property, my dad took part in several jackrabbit hunts. On a particular day a large group of men would get together with their shotguns and they would line up and make a sweep of the fields, shooting every jack rabbit that they could. This was done to keep the jackrabbit population down but we took home, cooked and ate the ones that dad shot.



Left: Sam, Jimmie Brown, George, Joe



Wahtoke Grammar School: April 14, 1939—6th, 7th and 8th grades.
Bottom Row 2nd from left Joe Cox



Left: Wahtoke Grammar School-6, 7 and 8th
Bottom Row –Left 1st student Joe 1940

While in this area, my mother bought me a bicycle. It was my first and it was a really fancy one. My mother paid a small amount down and a few dollars each month. She bought it from Western Auto. Our cousins and I really roamed the area and we went all over the area without any supervision.

I entered Reedley High School in September of that year and Anna Mae and I rode the bus into town and attended Reedley High School.



Beatrice Stark (Happy) me and a friend I met on a trip to Arkansas in 1940. This picture was taken when we made a trip to Arkansas to visit our relatives and my dad's sister and Uncle Johnnie. We also visited my mother's sisters, Etter and Emaline.

Below is a photo of Uncle Johnnie—he loved to fish and he always had dogs around him. On this trip he took me with him to fish in the pond on our place and to trap rabbits in a trap that he had made. We checked all of his traps but found no rabbits. We did catch a fish and put him on a string and left him in the water while we did something else. When we got back a water moccasin had eaten our fish. We also looked for poke salet along the streambeds. Our place and our Uncle Johnnie's and uncle Shade's were all inherited



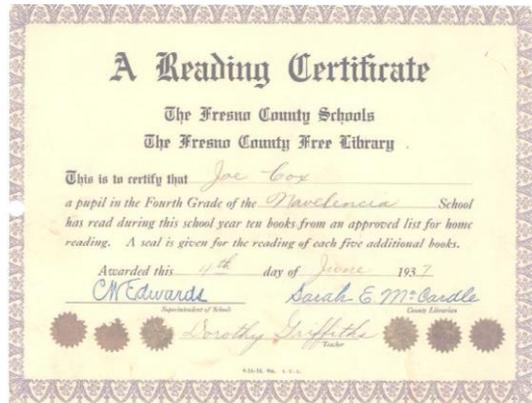
from my grandfather Cox. It included several acres and we had hills, pine trees, a spring, a stream, and a natural meadow. My uncle Johnnie lived in a house on a hill overlooking the meadow. It was a great view.

Betty Cox, Grandma Cox, Ruth Cox
 These were Uncle Shade's and Aunt Rosie's daughters.

Just before we left Arkansas, we moved into this house and it was really great. We moved from a very small house on a corner of the property where we had a well and there was a natural spring nearby. Hazel and I had malaria and we were sick when we lived in this small house. We drew our water from a well by the house. I remember the fall butchering of hogs, A group from the area came over, large pots of water were heated and the hogs killed and the hair removed by pouring hot water on them and scrapping the hair off. The bladder was saved and we dried it out and used it as a ball. This was an enjoyable time as everyone helped and the meat was saved for the winter months. I don't recall the process that was used to store the meat.



Right: Reading certificate for reading books.



Cox extended family

Back row-George,Eddie (Sam's wife) Herb (Anna Mae's husband)-middle row June (George's wife), Jimmie, Julia, Virgie Bell-bottom row Bob Olive (Virgie Bell's husband), Lucille, Sam and Hazel

HIGH SCHOOL YEARS

I graduated as the valedictorian from Wahtoke Elementary school in June 1940 and entered Reedley High School in September 1940. As we lived several miles out in the country, my sister, Anna Mae, and I rode the bus to school. This was the first time that I had ridden a bus. We had walked to every elementary school. The dress in high school was usually cords or Levi's... The cords had a zippered pocket with a little lock. I don't know the reason they were made with a lock. We took sack lunches and a group of us usually ate by the wall of the science building. Sometimes we would walk down town as it was just a few blocks away.

. One of the things that I remember about the debating was that I was with a person and we competed against a team that had a Cox on it. He was an excellent debater, lived in Squaw Valley and rode the bus down from the hills. The one thing that stands out in my mind was that I used a quote from General Pershing in one of our debates. "Give me an athletic and I will make a solder out of him in short order".

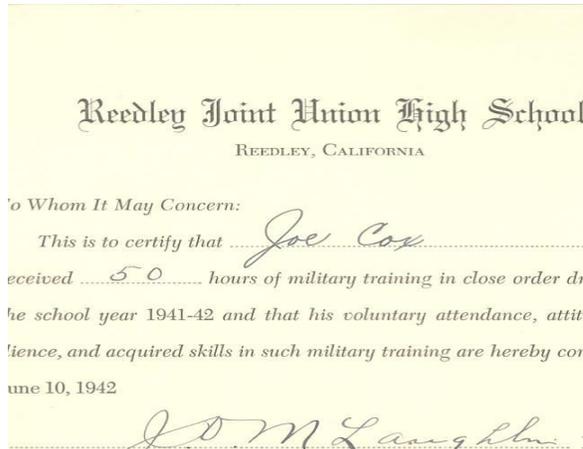
When I entered Reedley High School, I was put in the upper level classes because of my grades in elementary school. For some reason, I was entered into the college prep program. I struggled because all of the area elementary school graduates and Reedley graduates were now in one school.

Reedley had many students of German and Japanese ancestry and they were excellent students. A few years later the German community built a private high school for their students. As neither of my parents had completed elementary school and I had no relatives that had gone to college, I find this to be a little strange but I did take the college prep classes. I had no study area at home and no one at home could help me with my home work. In my freshman year, I took English 1, Algebra 1, Social Studies, Latin 1 and P.E.

Reedley high school had an activity advisor that was very good in debating and speech and I was lucky enough to be a part of this debate program. We debated as two person teams and did extermous speaking on a regular basis. I really enjoyed this activity. I don't remember if we won or lost that debate but I have always remembered it. We had many lively debates and the speeches required a lot of library work.

In P.E. Classes we had intramural boxing. We had boxing matches during the lunch period. I thought I was pretty good until I advanced to the championship round.

I was elected the president of a new car club. This was a new experience for it was my first elective office. This was a very interesting club as we looked at all kinds of driving situations even though we could not qualify for a driving license... The advisor was very good and helped us understand the rules of the road. This was a new club and we had no money for a spot in the annual.



In my sophomore year I took English II, Geometry, World History, Latin II and P.E. and I participated in a voluntary military class and put in fifty hours of military drill. Company C.

In 1941 we started school in September and on December 8, 1941 when we arrived at school; the entire school was called into the auditorium. The auditorium could seat the entire student body. In the auditorium seating was by class and we had an assigned area. Each student was assigned a specific seat and roll was taken. As we did not have television and most of us did not listen to the radio most of us did not keep up on current events. Communication was not what it is today. We were told that Japan had bombed Pearl Harbor and now we were at war with Japan. Before the beginning of the war, we had many Japanese students in our classes. Soon after the war started the Japanese students disappeared.

In October, 1942 we moved to Parlier and I continued my junior year at Parlier High School. In my junior year I took Physics, Algebra II & Trigonometry, Typing I, Vocational Agriculture II and P.E.

Parlier entered a team in the West Coast Relays and I was the third runner on the team. The relay consisted of 440, 880, 1320 and mile distances. We came in last but it was really exciting and something special to participate in. The Relays were held at the Fresno State University stadium.

My grades improved and as the student body was a lot smaller and we lived in walking distance of the school, I got involved in school activities. I was a guard and captain on the Basketball B team, Quarterback for the football team and ran the 100 yard dash and the 1320 distance event in track. I won second place in the 1320 yard run "Class B" in the Sequoia League C.I.F. Central Section track meet at Selma High School on May 14, 1943

My dad bought a house in Reedley at 100 Hope Avenue and moved back to Reedley. I stayed in Parlier and lived with my grandmother, my senior year at Parlier High School. I took U.S. History/Civics, Chemistry, Algebra II, Vocational Agriculture and P.E.

I became a real part of the student body. I took part in the Christmas Pageant, the senior play "Parents & Pigtales" The Future Farmers of America Vice president, Hi-Y, Vice president, Block P Secretary Treasurer, Arrow Senior staff and different clubs. I also

participated as the captain on the B team in basketball, Co-captain and Quarterback of the football team, and track.

In the Agriculture classes, we spent most of our time collecting scrap and we collected the biggest pile of scrap that you could imagine. I graduated from Parlier high school mid term and went into the navy.

"Note from Coach Jarnagin"
In our 1944 high school year book

Dear Joe:

I'm grabbing this page and may monopolize on it for a very good, reason. Through its title, "Sports", I made one of the most treasured acquaintances that I ever expect to have—namely, that of Joseph Cox. I need not repeat (but I shall) that you were the hardest working and most conscientious fellow I have known for some time. There are quite a few who may equal you Joe, but there are very few that can surpass you and the good work that you have done.

I was very impressed with your demeanor and attitude both in athletics and in school work. You were the "Spark" plug of all teams on which you played and in that way you are the most valuable asset that a coach could have. Too, you were the top student in History, the only class in which I was your teacher. But that is really a tough course. and you went through it with flying colors and the "Top" grade.

Well Joe, one final tribute to an all around good fellow and one whom I hope I can always call a friend. Keep writing! "Best of luck always"

Coach Jarnagin.



Radio School—Farragut Idaho

Presentation made to Los Banos High School History classes on Jan 30, 2008

WORLD WAR II

Caveats: One person's observation—Each of us can only relate to what we have seen or experienced. We did not have privy to the whole picture.

I ENTERED REEDLEY HIGH SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 1940. IN MY SOPHOMORE YEAR ON SUNDAY MORNING DECEMBER 7, 1941 JAPAN BOMBED PEARL HARBOR. ON MONDAY MORNING THE ENTIRE SCHOOL WAS ASSEMBLED IN THE AUDITORIUM AND TOLD ABOUT THE BOMBING. WE DID NOT HAVE TELEVISION AND MOST OF US DID NOT LISTEN TO THE RADIO ALTHOUGH WE HAD ONE.

MY FAMILY LIVED IN THE NAVALENCIA AREA JUST A FEW MILES OUTSIDE OF REEDLEY. THIS WAS A FARMING AREA. FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS THINGS DID CHANGE BUT MOST OF US IN SCHOOL DID NOT NOTICE THE CHANGES TAKING PLACE. I TOOK A MILITARY TRAINING CLASS AND LEARNED TO MARCH AND DO SIMPLE MANUEVERS. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WAS NOTICEABLE WAS THAT ALL OF THE JAPANESE WERE MOVED INTO CAMPS AND REEDLEY THAT HAD A LARGE JAPANESE POPULATION ALL OF A SUDDEN HAD NONE. THEY WERE SENT OFF TO CAMPS THAT WERE ESTABLISHED FOR THEM.

AFTER MY SOPHOMORE YEAR, WE MOVED TO PARLIER AND I FINISHED MY HIGH SCHOOL YEARS AT PARLIER HIGH SCHOOL IN DECEMBER 1943 AND JOINED THE NAVY.

IN PARLIER HIGH SCHOOL I JOINED THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA CHAPTER AND TOOK VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE CLASSES. IT SEEMS LIKE ONE OF OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES WAS COLLECTING SCRAP METAL. WE HAD A PILE AS BIG AS A HOUSE. THE STUDENT BODY HAD SOME ACTIVITIES BUT ALL SPORTS WERE LIMITED AND WE HAD TO FURNISH OUR OWN TRANSPORTATION TO EVENTS. GASOLINE AND TIRES WERE RATIONED. WE SOLD WAR BONDS THROUGHOUT THE YEARS.

WORLD WAR II WAS THE DEFINING MOMENT OF THE 20TH CENTURY. AMERICANS CAME TOGETHER AS NEVER BEFORE (OR IN MY OPINION SINCE)

16 MILLION WERE IN UNIFORM PLUS THE MILLIONS MORE ON THE HOME FRONT. THOSE AT HOME WERE CALLED UPON TO SUPPORT OUR TROOPS AND THEY DID. THEY PLANTED VICTORY GARDENS, CONSERVED AND RECYCLED MATERIALS AND PARTICIPATED IN CIVIL DEFENSE ACTIVITIES. WOMEN AND THOSE LEFT BEHIND WENT TO WORK IN LARGE NUMBERS. WOMEN ENTERED THE LABOR FORCE IN LARGE NUMBERS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

SACRIFICIES: MANY ORDINARY ITEMS WERE RATIONED OR WERE NOT AVAILABLE I.E. GASOLINE, TIRES, NYLONS, CHOCOLATE, BUTTER, SUGAR, CANNED VEGETABLES, CARS ETC.

AS MEN WENT TO WAR MILLIONS OF WOMEN TOOK THEIR PLACES IN FACTORIES FOR THE FIRST TIME. 20 MILLION AMERICANS PLANTED GARDENS THAT PRODUCED ALMOST 40% OF THE FOOD CONSUMED

ORDINARY AMERICANS WERE CALLED UPON TO MEET AN EXTRAORDINARY CHALLENGE.

PEARL HARBOR

ATTACK LASTED APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS, 2,400 NAVY PERSONNEL WERE KILLED AND OVER 700 MORE WERE WOUNDED. NO SUBMARINE SAILOR WAS KILLED ALTHOUGH ONE WAS WOUNDED.

ALL OF THE NAVY CAPITAL SHIPS EXCEPT THE BATTLE SHIP PENNSYLVANIA WERE LOST OR OUT OF COMMISSION. FORTUNATELY THE CARRIERS WERE AT SEA.

THE SUBMARINE BASE, FUEL DEPOT AND AMMUNITION DUMP WERE NOT TOUCHED.

THE SUBMARINE FORCE WAS TOTALLY UNPREPARED FOR THE NEW TYPE OF WAR THAT THEY WERE CALLED UPON TO WAGE. SUBMARINES WERE ORIGINALLY LOOKED UPON TO SERVE AS SCOUTS AND SCREENS FOR THE NAVY'S CAPITAL SHIPS. AFTER PEARL HARBOR ADMIRAL STARK ISSUED THE ORDER "UNRESTRICTED" WARFARE AGAINST ANY THING JAPANESE. A FEW DAYS LATER PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT ISSUED A PROCLAMATION "UNRESTRICTED WARFARE" UP TO THIS TIME SUBMARINES WERE RESTRICTED BY THE LONDON NAVAL TREATY OF 1930

WORLD WAR II WAS THE LARGEST WAR OF ALL TIME. OF THE 16,535,000 SERVICE MEMBERS OVER 400,000 WERE KILLED AND MANY MORE WOUNDED.

WORLD WAR II WAS UNUSUAL IN THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MODERN HISTORY (500 YEARS) CIVILIANS WERE KILLED IN GREATER NUMBERS THAN THOSE IN THE SERVICE.

WORLD WAR II WAS THE BLOODEST "SOLDIERS" WAR IN ALL HISTORY. NO WOMEN SERVED IN COMBAT ROLES. WACS WERE THE FIRST WOMEN TO SERVE IN OUR ARMED FORCES OTHER THAN NURSES.

MY ENTRY INTO THE NAVY CAME IN DECEMBER 1943. IN JANUARY OF 1944, I LEFT FRESNO ON A TROOP TRAIN FOR BOOT CAMP IN FARRAGUT IDAHO.

AS A FARM BOY FROM A VERY SMALL TOWN AND SCHOOL, THIS WAS A REAL CULTURE SHOCK FOR ME AND IT WOULD CHANGE ME FOREVER.

IT TOOK TWO DAYS TO GET TO FARRAGUT. WE SAW A LOT OF SNOW ON THE TRIP AND WHEN WE ARRIVED WE WERE LOADED INTO CATTLE TRAILERS AND TAKEN TO OUR BARRACKS THAT WOULD BE OUR HOME FOR THE NEXT SIX WEEKS. THE GROUND WAS COVERED WITH SNOW AND IT WAS VERY COLD. SAILORS LINED UP ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD AS WE WERE TRANSPORTED TO OUR BARRACKS ALL SHOUTING, "YOU'LL BE SORRY".

DURING OUR BOOT CAMP EXPERIENCE WE WERE INDUCTED INTO A NEW LIFE. WE UNDERWENT ALL OF THE USUAL THINGS, HAIR CUT, SHOTS, DENTAL WORK, PHYSICAL CHECKUPS, STANDING IN LINE FOR EVERYTHING, MARCHING, SWIMMING, DOING OUR OWN LAUNDRY, STANDING GUARD AT THE OUTSIDE REGULAR GUARD POSTS IN THE SNOW AND SCHEDULED WATCHES FOR THE FURNACES THAT HEATED OUR BARRACKS.

AT NIGHT YOU COULD HEAR CRYING AND SOBBING THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT. ALL OF US WERE YOUNG AND FOR THE MOST OF US THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT WE HAD BEEN REALLY SEPERATED FROM OUR PARENTS.

AFTER BOOT CAMP, I WAS ASSIGNED TO RADIO SCHOOL AND THE ENTIRE COMPANY WAS GIVEN TWO WEEKS LEAVE. THIS IS WHEN I REALLY LEARNED ABOUT HUMAN NATURE. (LOST WALLETS ETC)

BEFORE COMPLETING RADIO SCHOOL, WE WERE ASKED IF ANYONE WAS INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR SUBMARINE DUTY. OVER 100 OF US VOLUNTEERED. ONLY FIVE WERE SELECTED. THIS WAS AFTER MANY HOURS OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL EXAMIMATIONS. THE FIRST TEST WAS THAT YOU HAD TO HOLD YOUR BREATH FOR ONE FULL MINUTE.

DURING SUBMARINE SCHOOL, WE SPENT A WEEK ON A REAL SUBMARINE. WE HAD TO LEARN ABOUT THE OPERATION OF THE SUBMARINE AND YOU WERE TOLD NOT TO TOUCH ANYTHING IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT YOU WERE DOING. GOING TO THE BATHROOM AND SHOWERING WERE UNIQUE EXPERIENCES ON THE "S" BOATS.

MY DUTIES ON THE SUBMARINE WERE RADIOMAN, RADAR, SONAR AND PERISCOPE DEPENDING IF WE WERE ON THE SURFACE OR SUBMERGED.



Left: Shore Liberty in Hawaii-WWII

SUBMARINE LOSES

FIFTY TWO SUBMARINES AND 3505 MEN WERE LOST (20%). THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE LOSS OF ANY OF THE ARMED FORCES.

SUBMARINES LOST.

46 DUE TO ENEMY ACTION
6 ACCIDENTS AND STRANDING
37 WENT DOWN WITH ALL HANDS
SOME WERE LOST FROM FRIENDLY FIRE AND/OR OWN TORPODES.

GERMANY LOST 781 U-BOATS
JAPAN 130 SUBMARINES
ITALIANS 86 SUBMARINES

BRITISH

74 SUBMARINES

OUR SUBMARINES MADE 1682 WAR PATROLS and 1050 WERE SUCCESSFUL
(62%)

273 BOATS MADE PATROLS

THE YOUNGEST MAN IN THE NAVY WAS CALVIN GRAHAM, USN 12 YEARS
OLD.

THE GERMAN SUBMARINE U-120 WAS SUNK BY A MALFUNCTIONING TOILET.

VJ DAY—SEPTEMBER 2, 1945 “GREATEST WAR IN HUMAN HISTORY”

AUGUST 15, 1945 EMPEROR HIROHITO ANNOUNCED JAPAN’S SURRENDER.

Lineage added by Les Sutton 030512

Joseph Albert Cox, PHD

Melvin Virgil “Bert” Cox and Emmer Viola Tyler

Jehu Tillman “Tede” Cox and Sarah Ann Scroggins

Joseph King Cox and Carolyn Elam

Nathan Cox and Dorcas King

Thomas Isaac Cox and Rachel Carr

**Joe Cox
Military
Record**



**Joe Cox
Military
Record**

Enlisted: December 1943

Entered Service January 1944

Discharged May 5 1952

A total of 8 years, 3 months and 14 days of active and reserve duty

Training and Duty Stations

Boot camp — Farragut Idaho — Camp Scott

Radio School — Farragut Idaho

Submarine School — San Diego California

Sonar School — San Diego

Temporary Duty — Communications — Mare Island, Submarine Division

Subron 45

Subdiv162

Fleet Radar School — Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

U.S.S. Bluefish — Assigned for Sea Duty purposes

U.S.S. Orion (A.S. 18) — Submarine Replacement, division

U.S.S. Batfish (SS310)

SubAD—Mare Island, California

U.S.S. McDermut (DD677)

Awards and Medals

Asiatic Pacific Medal — One star

American Campaign — Medal

World War II Victory Medal

Submarine Combat Pin

Republic of Korea War Service Medal

National Defense Service Medal

Korean Service Medal — Three Stars

United Nations Service Medal

Imperial Domain of the Golden Dragon

Presidential Unit Citation-Republic of Korea

Combat Action Ribbon