

THORS to 1989



BETTY LEWIS: More local vignettes in "Watsonville Memories That Linger, Vol. 2."

Debut for new book on Tuesday

"Sometimes I feel as though it's not really me doing all this; it is still a thrill," commented local historian Betty Lewis last week when a preliminary copy of her new book, "Watsonville Memories That Linger, Vol. 2" came from the press.

The fact that Volume One went into two printings and that the 6,500 copies all are spoken for, and that her historical adventures have expanded to include radio programs, newspaper articles and public talks, is all very rewarding for Watsonville's own historian.

Her new book, which was two years in the writing, will be available to the public for the first time on Tuesday, during an autograph party at Watsonville Public Library. From 4 to 6 p.m., Mrs. Lewis will meet the public at a party sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Pajaro

Valley Historical Association, of which she is president.

She shared her feelings about her work, which involves probably the most comprehensive historical surveys done yet on the Pajaro Valley and environs. "Local history is really a minor thing in the overall scale of things," she observed. "Actually, a limited number of books is printed, and people buy them for special reasons. A few go to universities . . . people buy them because of their local ties . . . and newcomers to town like to read about their new surroundings. You don't do it to make money, but because you love it."

Many hours are spent alone on research, reading microfilm at the library. Mrs. Lewis also enjoys interviewing "old timers" and she receives many calls, from far and near.

"I love to hear their stories — I don't care if they repeat!"

For the new volume, help came from various people on specific subjects. Dorothy Erickson helped on the El Pajaro Springs section; George Menasco and Mitchie Miyamoto, on Ford's Department Store; Tim Arano on early day schools; Rose Jefson on Carrie Clausen; Dennis Daly on the Daly Brothers store; Elmer Skillicorn and Eddie Skillicorn of Sacramento on the Skillicorn baseball team; also Jean Rouse and Carl Bronson on various topics.

The author admits that this is not a complete history, but " . . . a series of stories on topics that interest me."

She has included sections on "houses and moving day," the fruit packing houses, horseless carriages, businesses, bicycling, and even gets a bit racy with "Shady Ladies in Sin City."

Her favorite chapter, however, is on "Jim Broadis, Runaway Slave." A street in Watsonville still carries the name Broadis, after the man from Missouri who belonged to three masters before running away to freedom during the California Gold Rush. He arrived in the Pajaro Valley around 1850, after traveling with a band of Indians to San Juan. He was a teamster for a while, then ran a delivery service. In 1870 he married a woman from Nova Scotia, named Maria, and three of their seven children lived to maturity. Broadis owned over 26 acres of land in what is now the High Street area of town, and his farm land extended down to what now is Callaghan Park.

The new book sells for \$11.95. Copies can be ordered from the Historical Association at 261 E. Beach St., Watsonville, and there is a \$1.11 charge for mailing.