

A STORY OF RAYMOND LIONEL UHALDE,
HIS PARENTS AND ANCESTORS

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Cover Photo: The Uhalde family in France, (l to r) Ernest, Albert, Elvira, Aitachi, Amatchi,
John, Jr., Rosie, Raymond and Emily.

*For my children
Kevin, René, and Yvette,
and my grandsons
Oscar, Whalen and Jackson,
as an introduction to the family you have not known.*

“We inherit from our ancestor’s gifts so often taken for granted. Each of us contains within us this inheritance of soul. We are links between the ages, containing past and present expectations, sacred memories and future promise.” Edward Sellner

“Men can know more than their ancestors did if they start with a knowledge of what their ancestors had already learned....That is why a society can be progressive only if it conserves its traditions.”
Walter Lippmann

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1

In the Beginning

In Nevada's Carson Valley,¹ the month of January 1916 was bitterly cold and marked by extraordinarily heavy snow. Residents experienced the lowest temperature, at 21 degrees below zero, and the greatest total snowfall, at 52 inches, for any January ever recorded.² Indeed, Monday January 17 set a record that still stands 100 years later when 22.5 inches of snow fell in a twelve-hour period.³



Figure 1: The Carson Valley, Carson River, and Sierra Nevada Mountains today.

Two days later my father Raymond Lionel was born in the valley town of Gardnerville. He had brown hair and brown eyes. Raymond was the fourth child born to John Uhalde, Sr., then age 37, and Marie Borda Uhalde, age 28, known locally as Mary. Older sisters Emily and Elvira were five and two years old respectively when Raymond was born, and his older brother John, Jr. had just turned three the month before. Another brother, Albert, was born the following year, and little sister Rose Marie arrived in 1919. Emily was born in Reno while the other children were born in Gardnerville. When my father was four years old, my Aitachi (grandfather) Uhalde relocated the family to the French Basque Country, or Iparralde (meaning “the northern side” of the Pyrenees Mountains).

2

Aitachi, Amatchi, and Ancestors

John Uhalde, Sr. and Mary Borda were married in Reno in 1910. Each had emigrated from France. John was born on July 2, 1878 to Michel Uhalde (b.1834) and Marie Falxa (b.1833) in Urepele,⁴ the youngest of seven children.⁵ He was named Jean.⁶ His siblings were Pierre (b.1862), Leonie (b.1865), Sauveur (1867-1874), Marianne (1869-1892), Bertrand (b.1872), and Jean or Joanes (1875-1937). His paternal grandparents were Pierre Uhalde

Mariquita Borda, a Woman of Three Continents

My Amatchi zaharra, Marie Mariquita Etchepare Borda, was born in Paraguay, South America. Her mother Marie Etcheveras died in Asuncion, Paraguay in 1862, one month after giving birth to Mariquita. Her father Pierre remarried and had two sons by his second wife.

When Mariquita was eleven years old, she sailed to France with her family, escaping a very horrible post-war situation in Paraguay (see note 10). Jean Borda emigrated from neighboring Uruguay sometime after the war's end in 1870, journeying to France as well. They married in France in 1880 when Mariquita was just 18 and he was 33 years old. Jean died in Bidarray at age 55. Marie would emigrate again in 1936, this time to the U.S., thus becoming a resident of three continents.

Ancestors' Homeplaces

My Aitachi zaharra (meaning "old") or great-grandfather Michel Uhalde was born in 1834 in the house of Golko in Banka, about 6 miles from Urepele, as were his siblings Jean (b.1824), Agnes (b.1826), and Jeanne (b.1828). Golko was the inherited house of Yoana Jeanne Indiano Uhalde, my great-great-grandmother. After her marriage to my great-great grandfather Pierre Uhalde in 1826, they raised their family at Golko until 1862. Pierre's family home was Haira or Hayra, also in Banka.

(1798-1874)⁷ and Yoana Jeanne Indiano (1806-1878).⁸ His maternal grandparents were Gratian Falxa (1797-1875) and Marie Eliçalecu (1805-1879). (The ancestors are displayed in the appendix, pages ii and iii.)

Mary Borda was born Jeanne Marie on September 7, 1888 in Bidarray to Jean Borda (1847-1902) and Marie Mariquita

Etchepare (1862-1946), the third of nine children. Her paternal grandparents, Pierre Borda and Dominique Borthagarray (d.1902), were both from Bidarray, France.⁹ Her maternal grandparents, Pierre Etchepare and Marie Etcheveras (d.1862) were immigrants to South America.^{10 11} (See appendix, pages ii and iii.)

John, Sr. grew up on a farm near the village of Urepele, then a municipality of 815 residents situated in the Baigorri Valley and bordered by Spain on three sides.¹² The narrow valley runs north-to-south, never wider than 4 miles, with lush open pastures surrounded by the foothills of the Pyrenees Mountains. Nearby communities include Aldude, Banka, and St. Etienne de Baigorri.

Xalbador of Urepele

Though a very small community, Urepele is somewhat well known in contemporary Euskal Herria (Basque Country), in both Iparralde and Hegoalde (the southern side). One reason is that Urepele was the home of Fernando Aire, alias Xalbador, a famous champion bertsolaria or improvisational poet and author, who lived and worked there as a shepherd.¹³ Xalbador (1920-1976) was considered a humble man despite his renown as the greatest bertsolari of his time. He never accepted being a Frenchman for there was for him only one Basque Country - Euskadi. He never recognized the border, likely because his valley also did not respect the border, and he sang often of Urepele as well as Euskadi, family, religion, love, and death.¹⁴



Figure 2: Xalbador performing in 1960 tournament.

The name of the Uhalde family's farmhouse or *etxalde* is Ttamburinea.¹⁵ As a typical valley farm, Ttamburinea probably comprised about 22 acres that, along with the common pastures shared by neighboring valley farmers, could support around 150-200 sheep.¹⁶ The family would graze the sheep in mountain pastures from May-October, while growing hay in the private fields on the farm proper. Then the herd would return to the farm for lambing and milk-cheese production during the rest of the year.¹⁷ The farm likely also supported a few cows, pigs and chickens for the family's needs. A stream, the Imilizteguiko Erreka, bisects the length of the property on its way to Spain.



Figure 3: The Uhalde farm, Ttamburinea, today.



Figure 4: Sheep grazing at Ttamburinea



Figure 5: The original house or etxe, Ttamburinea, acquired in 1862 by Pierre Uhalde and Yoana Indiano.



Figure 6: The village of Urepele in 2010



Figure 7: The house of Haira.

Pierre and Yoana Jeanne Uhalde raised their children and lived for 36 years at the house of Golko near Banka, about 6 miles from Urepele.¹⁸ Golko was the house of Yoana Jeanne's family that she inherited after her father's death when she was 16 years old.¹⁹ Her mother had died when she was a youngster. Pierre was born at the nearby house of Haira, shown at left.²⁰

But in 1862, this stability was upended. My Aitachi zaharra Michel married Marie Falxa in February. Then in December, their first child Pierre was born. Most importantly, these events may have led Pierre and Yoana to acquire Ttamburinea and the extended family to relocate to Urepele.

Why would the family move after all those years? Maybe because they needed more living space as a result of Michel's new family. Maybe Ttamburinea offered a larger farm and access to valuable common pastureland. What we do know is that it is most unusual for farms in the Baigorri Valley, as in most of Euskal Herria to be bought and sold, rather than inherited following the principles of 'primogeniture'. Under primogeniture the *etxe* (house) or *baserri* (farmstead) is transferred *indivisibly* to either the male or female first-born child, including all property rights, furnishings, livestock, and farm equipment.²¹ The new master of the house or *etxejaun* becomes responsible for the preservation of the *etxe* and its subsequent transmission to the next generation heir.

The house at Ttamburinea, which dates from the 18th century, is a large structure built of rubble limestone and sandstone covered with plaster, and with a tiled roof. The ground floor was originally used as a stable and barn to house animals, both sheep and cattle. The home was on the second floor and the attic served as the hayloft.²² My Aitachi zaharra Michel and Amatchi zaharra Marie lived there with his parents and raised seven children, the youngest being my

Aitachi Jean (John), born in 1878. One child, Saveur, died at the age of seven in the same year that his Aitachi Pierre died (1874) at the age of 76. Yoana Jeanne died four years later at the age of 72, in the year of my Aitachi John's birth, so he never knew his grandparents.

Sometime in the early 1890s, my Aitachi John's older sister Marianne married Gratian Uhalde, from another Uhalde family in the valley. They built a new home on the Ttamburinea farm shown below in this 2010 photo. Tragically, Marianne died in 1892 at the young age of 22. Her husband married again to Katherine Esponda. Their granddaughter Jeanne Uhalde Elgart and her son Jean Baptiste currently own and reside at Ttamburinea.²³ The original house was converted into a barn sometime after the turn of the century.



Figure 8: The newer (1892) house at Ttamburinea as seen in 2010.

The practice of primogeniture has been very effective in preserving intact the small family farms and culture in Euskal Herria. But this same practice also ensures that those siblings who do not inherit the etxe or baserri are left with no family property of their own. While these younger siblings could remain on the farm and work alongside the etxejaun and other family members, they are unlikely to ever own the family homestead. Consequently, many of the more ambitious non-inheritors left Urepele and Euskal Herria during those years for the Americas. Such was the case for Michel and Marie's youngest

sons, Jean and my Aitachi John, who would each make their first of several voyages across the Atlantic.

In the same year that the new house was completed and his older sister died, my great uncle Jean boarded the Hamburg America Liner S.S. Moravia, a two-masted steamer, at Le Havre on the Normandy coast of France and set off for the United States, landing on December 29, 1892 at the port of New York.²⁴ Jean was only 18 and traveled with one piece of luggage and without any family members, though several other young Basque men traveled aboard the same ship. Their family names were Bidart, Andragno, Etchevere, Ospital, and Erramouspe.²⁵ Presumably Jean, like many Basque immigrants before and since, boarded a train in New York bound for San Francisco and/or Reno to seek his fortune.



Figure 9: Immigrants on the S/S Moravia, New York Harbor 1892. M.J. Burns, Harpers Weekly, September 17, 1892.

Aitachi followed his brother Jean five years later, boarding the French ocean liner La Bretagne on October 30 in Le Havre, and arriving on November 7, 1897 in the Port of New York. Aitachi was 19 years old at the time and he appears to have traveled with one other farmer from Urepele, Louis Goyaneche who was 21 years old

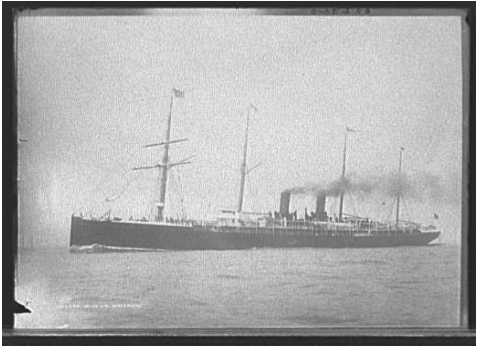


Figure 10: La Bretagne, 1897.

and headed to Los Angeles. Aitachi, however, was bound for San Francisco to meet his “aunt J.F. Yparraguire,” as was recorded on the ship’s passenger manifest.²⁶ In fact, this likely refers to Juan Francisco Yparraguire (1851-1923), the proprietor of the Hotel Vasco in San Francisco. His wife was Marie Etchebarren (1859-1958), who was born in Urepele. She might have been

Aitachi’s aunt.²⁷ Aitachi trained across the United States to San Francisco and debarked at the Hotel Vasco, located near the railroad tracks on Powell Street. At this Basque boarding house, Aitachi was able to lodge with other Euskaldunak, make contact with his brother Jean, and gather information about employment opportunities in both California and Nevada. His life in America had begun! He spent the next six years working in California, possibly for a cousin on the Orradre ranch near Salinas, before moving to Nevada in 1903.²⁸



Figure 11: Hotel Vasco, 1312 Powell Street, San Francisco

Meanwhile in Bidarray, France, my Amatchi Jeanne Marie Borda was growing up with her eight siblings. She was ten years younger than her future husband and more than a decade away from her own emigration adventure. When Marie was 22 years of age, she and her younger sister Anita (or Juanita), aged 20, took a train north and embarked on the French Line steamship S.S. La Lorraine from Le Havre, bound for the United States. They landed in the Port of New York on June 11, 1910²⁹ and may have been met at the docks with the sound of “Euskaldunak emen badira?” meaning, “Are there any Basques here?”³⁰ Basques on board shouted back with joy, “Bai, bai! Ni Euskalduna naiz!” “Yes, yes! I am Basque!” This was Valentin



Figure 12: S.S. La Lorraine

Aguirre or one of his sons, welcoming Basque immigrants to America and rounding them up to stay at his recently opened Santa Lucia Hotel, commonly referred to among later immigrant travelers as Aguirre's Hotel. There, Marie and her sister

would have rested a night or two, then arranged with Aguirre for train travel to Reno, Nevada to meet their brother Pierre. Pierre had emigrated earlier and was staying at the Commercial Hotel on Center Street in Reno, whose proprietor was also a Basque.³¹ So Marie and Anita journeyed across America!

Pierre Borda
(1886-1919)

My Amatchi Marie's older brother Pierre would marry two years later and father four children, the youngest of whom was named Anita, my aunt by marriage to John Etchemendy, Jr., my mother's oldest brother.



Figure 13: Aitachi and Amatchi's wedding picture, Reno, 1910.

Marie Borda and John Uhalde were wed on August 9, 1910 in Reno, less than two months after she reached Ellis Island in New York Harbor.³² Had they known each other in France? That is not likely because Marie was nine years old when John emigrated, and Bidarray is 25 miles from Urepele. It is more likely that theirs was simply a whirlwind romance. He was a tall handsome man of medium build, with dark hair and a dignified demeanor. She was petite, with brown hair and a beautiful smile. Their first

child Emily was born a year later in Reno, but the new family made their home in Gardnerville where Aitachi was a self-employed sheep owner. So too was his bachelor brother Jean, who was also described as a tall man of medium build.³³

A year after they married, Aitachi and Amatchi were naturalized as U.S. citizens.³⁴ In September 1918, Aitachi and his brother Jean³⁵ registered together for the First World War draft, though each was in his forties and unlikely to be called to duty. The Armistice was signed in November 1918, ending WWI and Germany's occupation of France. Soon, however, the Uhalde family would occupy their own small portion of southern France.

France, 1920-1936

In 1920, with Amatchi Mary pregnant, or soon to be, with her seventh and last child, the Uhalde family left the United States and moved to Iparralde, the French Basque Country. Aitachi purchased some acreage for their farm about one mile east of St. Jean Pied de Port on the road to St. Jean le Vieux, near the chapel of Sainte

Fishing the Irati River

Three years after Otto (uncle, and pronounced 'Otio") Ernest's birth in Spain, another Ernest (Hemingway) vacationed at an inn in the same village and spent considerable time trout fishing in the nearby Irati River. Then in his first novel, The Sun Also Rises, Hemmingway wrote a fictionalized account about a similar five-day fishing trip that his characters Jake and Bill enjoyed in Burguete.

Madeleine. In 1921, Mary gave birth to her fourth son Ernest in Burguete, Navarre, Spain, near Roncesvalles, on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, possibly because construction on their new home had not yet been completed.

On their property, Aitachi built a large three-level etxe in the Basque tradition, with a large barn attached to the home. The construction is of stone with white plaster-covered walls and a red tiled roof. The exterior windows and upstairs exterior

doors have functional heavy wooden shutters. Those doors open to small balconies. The entrance hall shows white plaster walls with dark wood wainscoting and a beautiful dark wood stairway on the right leading to the bedrooms. Entrance to the kitchen is off the entrance hall to the right. The home has two fireplaces. They named the house Peotenia.



Figure 14: Hostel Burguete, Spain today, where Hemmingway stayed in 1924.

The Uhalde family made their home at Peotenia for the next fifteen years. Amatchi zaharra Borda lived with the family at Peotenia. She had been a widow since 1902, living in Bidarray. Aitachi's brother Jean also returned from America sometime during this period to also live in St. Jean le Vieux, though it is unclear whether he lived at Peotenia. The children attended school and helped work the farm.



Figure 15: Albert, Ernie (on the horse), and Michel.

1993) joined the Uhaldes at Peotenia as a farm hand, became a dear family friend, and worked for us seven decades.

The children likely attended elementary school in St. Jean le Vieux, while the only secondary school was in St. Jean Pied de Port.³⁶ Tanta (aunt, pronounced

The Cheese Heist

Otto Ernie told me a story about a time when, as teenagers, he and Otto Albert were confronted by some gypsy men as they were bringing wheels of cheese home by burro from a cave where it had been stored to ripen and age. Albert, the eldest, was ready to lead the fight to defend their cheese, but the gypsies moved on. Likely a smart decision on their part as Albert would later participate in several landings in the Pacific as a tough Marine, and Ernie would fight in Europe during WWII and later box in the Golden Gloves.

They grew and cut hay, and tended about 150-200 ewe sheep, some cows, and a horse and burro. Sheep were raised for their meat, wool, and milk. The milk was used to make cheese. As a teenager, Michel Ibargaray (1908-



Figure 16: Peotenia today.

'Tantia') Emily was about 10 when the first school year in France began, while my father was 5 years old. School was compulsory between the ages of 6 and 16, and all instruction was in French. Speaking Basque in school was not permitted. The children may have worn *tabliers* or smocks over their clothes, as did most French school children during those years, carried briefcases to classes called *cartables*, and written their lessons in *cahiers* or notebooks. Elementary education focused on French, reading and writing, mathematics, and social sciences. *Gymnastique* was mandatory, but football (soccer) was the most popular recreation among both boys and girls.³⁷

Raymond completed his schooling at the age of 15 with the equivalent of three years of high school. He excelled in mathematics. I remember as a schoolboy my father showing me differences in the way the French and Americans wrote some numbers: the French number 1 'wears a long hat bill' and their number 7 is crossed through. (As an adult, he adopted the American number style.) Also, decimal points in France are shown as commas. He was most struck, however, by our different approach to long division. In France, he learned to place the divisor on the right of a vertical line separating the dividend on the left. The subtractions were performed mentally and only the subsequent remainders were recorded on the left under the dividend. He recorded the quotient on the right under the

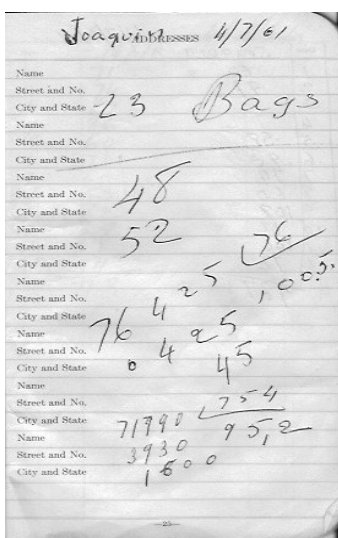


Figure 17: Dad's long division method.

divisor. His approach is shown in two examples on the left, in notes he made in 1961 about his herder Joaquin's sheep band. My father enjoyed math and his skill would serve him well in the military, allowing him to advance in rank as a survey and instrument man.

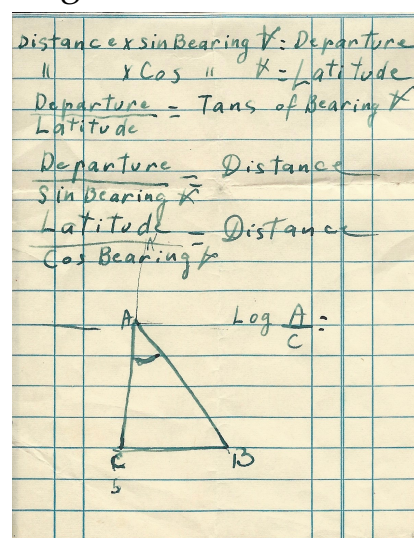


Figure 18: Dad's survey notes.

That military occupation required him, among other things, to measure angles from instrument readings, calculate distances and elevations, and compute azimuth and grid coordinates by hand and with a slide rule.³⁸ A sample of his handwritten survey notes is shown in Figure 18.

The family was Roman Catholic, as are nearly all Basques, and the children likely attended church regularly because Amatchi was devout. The nearest church was the



Figure 19: Chapel of St. Madeleine.

chapel of Sainte Madeleine, just a five-minute walk from Peotenia. My father likely took his first communion, though, at the 14th century red schist Gothic church, Notre Dame-du-Bout-du-Pont, in St. Jean Pied de Port.



Figure 20: Raymond's first communion.

In 1930, Aitachi took an ocean voyage back to the United States, arriving in New York aboard the Ile de France on June 3. He was 51 years old and travelled alone, returning to Gardnerville on very important business. While in Nevada, he loaned Mike Indiano (a native of Banka and possibly related to Aitachi's grandmother Yoana Indiano) and John Saroiberry \$24,000 at seven percent annual interest that was secured by a promissory note and chattel mortgage dated December 18, 1930. As security, the borrowers mortgaged two

Depressed Wool

A story is told that in 1929 Utah, two men were dickering with a wool buyer after the peak of the shearing season. Not content with a dollar per pound, a record price set that month of May, they were trying for more. But during the bargaining a telegram arrived for the wool buyer who promptly refused to buy at any price and left. This was the start of the slump and soon wool was fetching as little as five cents a pound, irrespective of quality.

“Sheep Fueled 1920s Economy”,
Miriam B. Murphy, History Blazer,
July 1996

thousand head of sheep (including any increase and progeny), all their wool, all farm machinery, equipment and wagons on their ranches.³⁹ Aitachi executed this loan a little more than a year following the start of the 10-year Great Depression, during which time unemployment rose to 25 percent of the U.S. labor force, over one million families lost their farms, more than 32,000 businesses went bankrupt, and at least 5,000 banks failed. It was a bold but risky move. Nonetheless, it turned out ‘better a lender than a borrower be,’ to modify a Shakespearian phrase.

Exactly one year later, Mike Indiano and his partner needed to

Aitachi Etchemendy Remembers

My maternal Aitachi, John Etchemendy, Sr., recorded a number of interviews with my mother in 1978-1980. During one such interview when he was 93, Mom asked how John Uhalde, Sr. acquired his ranch from Indiano. In his own words, with minor edits, he responded that, “Black Pete, he kill himself in a car accident; he was going out from French Hotel to the ranch and at the first bridge he missed the bridge and went into the creek and get drowned.” ... “Then Uhalde come over from Europe; he had \$25,000 mortgage with Indiano and another partner.” ... “I guess they couldn’t make it; 1936 business wasn’t too good.” ... “John Uhalde came over in 1936 and took over Black Pete’s ranch; at that time it was Indiano and his partner was running it around ten years, I guess, or six-seven years.” That is a most impressive memory.

sign another mortgage with Aitachi. This “indenture” or “conveyance” was intended to again secure their 1930 promissory note for \$24,000, this time by selling all their ranches, water rights, tenements, machinery, and equipment to John Uhalde. The ranches included over 3,000 acres in Ormsby and Douglas Counties, Nevada and Alpine County, California, “particularly the lands acquired from the estate of Peter Iribarne, deceased,” who died in in 1930.⁴⁰ Surely this was the ‘Black Pete’ recollected by John Etchemendy (see the sidebar). Mike Indiano and his partner eventually defaulted on the mortgages and Aitachi acquired the sheep and property on April 15, 1936.⁴¹

As a result of the default on the mortgages, Aitachi and Amatchi decided to leave St. Jean Pied de Port. They sold Peotenia to the Saldubehere's, whose daughter Odette still lives there with her husband Nicholas Etchebarren and their son. Their daughter lives nearby. As civil war was erupting just across the border in Spain, the Uhaldes made their plans to depart France for America. Not everyone, however, would travel at the same time.



Figure 21: St. Jean Pied de Port, 1936.

4

Pre-War Nevada, 1936-1940

The Uhaldes' journey to America came in waves. The first to travel was Otto John, Jr., the eldest son. He returned to America earlier, in 1933, as a 21 year old aboard the Ile de France. I am not



Figure 22: Raymond before sailing for America.

clear whom he worked for until the rest of the family returned from France, but he likely herded sheep in the Sierras of California⁴². My father was the next to depart. Accompanied by his Otto Jean, he sailed in January 1936, just shy of his twentieth birthday, from Le Havre aboard the steamship Ile de France, the same liner his older brother had sailed three years earlier. In America, he would herd sheep for his Otto Jean in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of Alpine County, California until the rest of the family arrived. And that would not be until November 1936

when the family sailed aboard the SS Lafayette to America. On board were Aitachi and Amatchi, Amatchi zaharra Borda, Emily, Elvira, Albert, Rosie, and Ernie. Emily was 25 at the time and Ernie, the youngest, was 15. From New York City they took a train to Reno. The last to leave France was Michel, the family farmhand. He arrived in America in March 1937, listed on the ship's manifest as a 29 year-old 'shepherd'. Traveling with him were several other Basque shepherds and farmers about his age surnamed Iriart, Arambel and Borderre.

The family moved onto their 1300-acre ranch in Diamond Valley and Long Valley along either side of Indian Creek. Indian Creek is a tributary of the East Fork

Great Uncle Jean

Soon after Aitachi's brother had accompanied my father to America, he returned to Urepele and the family farm at Ttamburinea. There he suffered the agonies of stomach cancer and died in 1937. This is according to Dominic Arrambide who was a young boy at the time and lived on the neighboring farm.



Figure 23: Uhalde Ranch meadow, my photo, 1981

of the Carson River. The ranch was situated in both Douglas County, Nevada and Alpine County, California, with most of the acreage in California. It was commonly known as the Long Valley Ranch, though locals came to know it as the Uhalde Ranch. The ranch was located on Diamond Valley Road about 13 miles south of Gardnerville and 8 miles northeast of Markleeville, the county seat of Alpine County. It rested at an elevation of about 5,500 feet.

The ranch house was a two-story log structure, built on a stone foundation, and covered with vertical board-and-batten wood plank siding, painted white. There was no electricity originally, so oil lanterns and candles were used. Amatchi cooked on a large, black wood-burning stove, on which she also heated her irons. There was a cellar built into the side of the hill just beneath the bunkhouse where Michel and hired help slept. A breezeway connected the cellar and the house. Ham was hung in the cellar to cure.⁴³



Figure 24: Walt Monroe landscape painting, 1938.

Walt Monroe (1881-1945)

Walt Monroe was a local Alpine County artist who painted many landscapes depicting scenes in the Sierra Nevada. In 1938, he painted the landscape with Jeffrey pine shown at left, and gave it to the Uhalde family in exchange for access to their ranch. Monroe never married and travelled the High Sierras on his motorcycle and sidecar filled with easels and paint. Many of his paintings are permanently exhibited at the Alpine County Museum in Markleeville.

The ranch house was located on the valley floor in a meadow. Jeffrey and pinyon pine trees, sagebrush, bitterbrush, and grasses covered the surrounding hillsides. The Jeffrey pine grows to a height of 80 to 130 feet, and are similar in appearance to the better-known ponderosa pine. The pinyon pine is a much shorter tree and the source of pine nuts, a staple of the native Washo Indians. Wildlife in the area included deer, black bears, coyotes, squirrels, and chipmunks. Birds of several varieties were numerous including eagles, hawks and owls. Summers were generally warm and dry with daytime temperatures occasionally reaching 90 degrees Fahrenheit, while evenings were cool and comfortable. Winter brought heavy snow at times, and temperatures could drop well below freezing.

After Otto John, Jr. and my father reunited with brothers Albert and Ernest in Nevada, they helped their father operate the ranch. The brothers cultivated 80 acres in crops on the valley floor, and had access to 4000 acres of Sierra grazing land. They plowed, planted, cultivated, and harvested wheat, hay, and alfalfa. They ran 100 beef cattle and 4000 head of sheep on the grazing land.⁴⁴ Michel joined the brothers in 1937, herding sheep and doing farm work.

One year after her return to the United States, Tanta Emily wed Peter Berro (Chiramberro) in 1937 in Carson City. Cousin



Figure 25: Uhalde family at Emily's wedding, 1937.

Mayie was born the next year, the first of Aitachi and Amatchi's twenty-three grandchildren. A second child, Rosie, was born in 1940. Tragically, Peter died in 1942, just 44 years old. A relative remembers him as "a nice man, and a great fisherman."

While the ranch contained 1300 acres, Aitachi's livestock had access to another 2700 acres because of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934. The new law, which was only in its second year of implementation, allowed grazing

The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934

The law had been sponsored by Edward Taylor, a Colorado rancher and congressman, and signed by President Franklin Roosevelt. Fully implemented in 1935, the Act was intended as a land conservation measure to regulate livestock grazing on public lands and was administered by the predecessor to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Under the Act, grazing districts were established, and preference for grazing permits and leases were given to landowners in or adjacent to these grazing districts. Grazing fees were charged based on acreage or number of livestock, and permits were issued for 10 years, and renewable. The Act was superseded with a new law in 1976.

for a fee on public lands or the “commons,” much as was the tradition at Ttamburinea in Urepele.

By 1940, only brothers John Jr., Raymond and Ernest remained on the ranch with Aitachi and Amatchi. Michel worked as the family’s shepherd. Charles Hunt was hired as a laborer to work on the ranch. The nearest neighbors were the adjoining Lloyd Springmeyer and Bill Hellwinkle ranches.⁴⁵

Amatchi zaharra Borda had moved to Gardnerville where she would live until

she passed away in Reno in 1946. My cousin Mayie remembers seeing her sitting behind the wood burning stove crocheting. She always wore black like the old people did in France. She loved lemon drop candies and kept them in her room. My cousin Mayie remembers ‘stealing’ one, now and then. Emily and her young family would move to Fresno.



Figure 26: The brothers and Michel at the Uhalde ranch, 1940s.



Figure 27: Amatchi zaharra Borda and Amatchi Uhalde with Emily holding Mayie at the ranch house, 1938.

Elvira, Albert, and Rosie lived in San Francisco, where Rosie obtained her cosmetology license after graduating from Douglas High School. John, Jr. married Mary Jane Elgart in San Francisco in 1942. Albert and Leonie Sario wed in Reno five months later. Elvira married Martin Iturbe (Iturburua) in San Francisco in 1945. But my dad was not available to attend his siblings' weddings.

5

The World War II Years

By late 1940, the Spanish Civil War had been over nearly two years, with general and dictator Francisco Franco ruling the country with an iron fist, including repressing Basque language and culture. Germany occupied all of France and much of Europe. Italy and Japan joined Germany by signing a pact formalizing their Axis partnership. The Battle of Britain was raging. And the United States began the first peacetime draft in its history.

Raymond, who sister Rosie would later characterize as a “peacemaker,” traveled to Sacramento, California and was inducted on September 11, 1941 into the U.S. Army, the first of three brothers to serve in the military. He stood five foot seven inches tall and weighed 158 pounds, a fit 25 year old. Albert would be inducted into the Marines in October 1942 in San Francisco, and Ernest would enlist in the Army in December 1943 in Sacramento. Otto John, Jr., the eldest son, would remain home with Aitachi and Amatchi and work the ranch with Michel for the duration of the war.

My father was sent to Camp Roberts, California, near Paso Robles, for basic training in field artillery. He completed his training on December 6th,⁴⁶ the day before Japan bombed Pearl Harbor! He was shipped to Fort Lewis, Washington to serve with the 218th Field Artillery Battalion of the 41st U.S. Infantry Division – the ‘Sunset Division’ – throughout the war.⁴⁷

The core of the 41st Infantry Division consisted of National Guard units from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. The intensity and urgency of their training had escalated since the Division was called to active service in 1940. By December 7, 1941, the 41st Division was ready with a force of 18,500 personnel, including 7,000 draftees during the last year. It would become the first U.S. division to deploy to the South Pacific, the first sent overseas after Pearl Harbor, and the first trained in jungle warfare. It would spend 45 months overseas, longer than any other U.S.

Division, and earn the title of “Jungleers.”⁴⁸ Major General Horace A. Fuller commanded the 41st, followed in 1944 by Major General Jens A. Doe.

In February 1942, several units of the 41st departed Fort Lewis for Australia, with a second group moving out in March. The final group, including my father’s 218th Field Artillery battalion, entrained from Fort Lewis for San Francisco. They boarded the SS Argentina, SS Matsonia, and some Liberty ships on April 22 to convoy across the Pacific for Australia, arriving in Sydney on May 13. From there, the units entrained to Seymour, about 60 miles inland from Melbourne. With the entire Division together it commenced intensive training at Camp Seymour and later trained in jungle and amphibious warfare at Rockhampton, Queensland, farther north along the Pacific coast.

The first elements of the 41st entered combat in January 1943 in New Guinea, the world’s second largest island. The Japanese had captured much of New Guinea, less than 100 miles north of the mainland, and seemed poised for an invasion of Australia after bombing Darwin a year earlier. On February 8, my father departed Townsville, Australia to participate in the first of his **four**

amphibious landings, this at **Salamaua** on the north coast of New Guinea. The 1st Battalion of the 162d Infantry Regiment, supported by the 218th Field Artillery Battalion and other units, fought as the MacKechnie Force alongside Aussie troops across the tops of steep ridges heavily wooded and covered with dense jungle. As one Australian officer remembers New Guinea’s jungle, “it rains every day for nine months, and then the rainy season begins.” Wet boots had to be walked dry; otherwise the leather would shrink, making them unwearable. Fleas, leeches, sand flies and mosquitoes bit every inch of exposed skin.⁴⁹

Battalion Survey Sergeant

Raymond was promoted in May 1942 to the rank of staff sergeant and was assigned to the Headquarters Battery of the 218th Field Artillery Battalion. As the Battalion’s survey sergeant, he supervised the survey sections of three batteries; and he plotted in advance the general area for placement of guns following amphibious landings.

On June 29-30 the MacKechnie Force landed at Nassau Bay by PT boats and landing crafts, but everything went wrong because of confusion, congestion and rough seas. Raymond's artillery battalion was equipped with 75mm mountain howitzers, but could not get them into position since the road ran only a half-mile inland from the beach. And the bulldozer and tractors were buried in mud. Engineers and artillerymen worked side-by-side and after four days had moved inland five miles to support the attack on Bitoi Ridge and Mount Tambu, the main objectives. On August 19, the 1st Battalion took Mount Tambu and shortly thereafter the MacKechnie Force rejoined the rest of the 162nd Regiment. Afterwards, enemy positions



Figure 28: Raymond in New Guinea, 1943

were found on Mount Tambu to be ten feet underground with a complete system of tunnels and connecting trenches. A full Japanese battalion had occupied the underground positions and resisted weeks of field artillery and mortar pounding and three direct assaults. After the forces were combined, the artillery battalions were concentrated at Tambu Bay, about six miles from Salamaua. Salamaua was finally captured on September 12 after heavy artillery shelling. From the landing at Nassau Bay to the capture of Salamaua, the 162nd Infantry (with the support of the 218th Artillery Battalion) engaged in seventy-six consecutive days of combat with the Japanese enemy, finally securing all of their objectives. Then they loaded on landing crafts and returned to Australia to rejoin the rest of the Division at Rockhampton. The Division remained in Australia recuperating and training over the next six months.

Malaria was a constant threat to the men of the 41st Division in New Guinea. As a result of the long campaigns in the island jungle, a large percentage of all units were hospitalized from fevers. For every

two men who were battle casualties, five were out of action because of fever. While GIs were vaccinated for smallpox, typhoid, yellow fever, cholera, and typhus, there remains no vaccine to prevent malaria. It is caused by a mosquito bite. Symptoms include high fever, night sweats, fatigue, vomiting and headaches. The usual treatment for malaria was Quinine. My father contracted malaria while in the South Pacific, suffering the usual symptoms of fever and sweats for several years. As a result, he was awarded a disability pension of \$11.50 monthly after he was discharged. My Tannta Rosie felt that malaria weakened my father's heart and hastened his premature death.

My father loved Australia. I remember him speaking fondly of the country and the people. I'm sure he took advantage of his rest and recuperation (R&R) to see the countryside, especially when they were granted a seven-day furlough, plus travel time. It was the Yanks first extended leave since the autumn of 1941. The furlough enabled some to travel to Melbourne and Sydney. And the small, tree-lined town of Bundaberg became a favorite stop for those pining for a return to country towns back home. Unfortunately, I don't know where my father travelled.

But all R&Rs must end. By early spring of 1944, the next real battles of the Pacific were shaping up. Guam, Saipan, and the Philippines would have to be taken on the march to Tokyo. The 41st would play its part in this advance in such places as Aitape, Wakde, Hollandia and Biak before reaching the Philippine Islands. How and where General Douglas MacArthur, Commander in

Christmas Dinner 1943

The 41st spent their second Christmas in Rockhampton and its third away from home since my father joined the Army. The Headquarters Battery of the 218th Field Artillery celebrated the season by holding a Christmas dinner, hosted by Battery Commander Captain Walter Smith. Staff Sergeant Uhalde attended along with 130 other battery personnel. The menu, saved by my father, included chicken broth, Southern fried chicken, French fries, corn on the cob, salad, rolls, and fruit. Dessert was a choice of banana cream pie or ice cream. Certainly, a good time was had by all!

Chief in the Pacific, would deploy the 41st Division was unknown to the troops, and to the Japanese. The enemy expected their next attack to be at Wewak, a base of tremendous importance on New Guinea. But MacArthur bypassed Wewak and the Japanese forces concentrated there were isolated and left to starve. Rather, the next target was Hollandia.

Hollandia (now Jayapura, Indonesia) lies on the north coast of New Guinea, about 500 miles northeast of Nassau Bay – the site of Raymond’s first amphibious landing. The 41st was divided into two task forces, named Persecution and Reckless. Dad’s 218th Field Artillery Battalion was part of the Reckless Task Force. The two task forces were to be part of a 50,000 man 6th Army force commanded by Lt. General R.L. Eichelberger. The task forces loaded on landing craft on April 16 and departed four days later with a Navy escort for protection. The 41st was about to participate in its first large-scale amphibious assault with other American forces, and land under naval and air bombardment. H-hour for the Reckless Task Force was scheduled for 0700 on April 22 at Humboldt Bay.

After a half-hour of heavy naval bombardment, the 41st Division landed at Humboldt Bay with modest resistance. The assault had achieved nearly complete surprise, and though the beaches were defended after the naval bombardment, the Japanese troops had uncharacteristically abandoned their positions and fled inland. There was some opposition as they pressed forward, but by 26 April they had taken Hollandia Town and secured the two eastern airfields or airdromes. During the action, the 218th Field Artillery Battalion furnished general artillery support to all forces. General MacArthur directed and observed the landings from the deck of a Navy cruiser and later went ashore to inspect the beach after victory was secured.

The next campaign was not far in the future. On May 17, Naval forces bombarded **Wakde Island** and the airdrome on the coast of Maffin Bay. Allied forces, including my father’s artillery battalion, went ashore the next day facing the toughest resistance yet encountered along the New Guinea shore. Troops were pinned

down on the beach by heavy machine gun fire from concrete blockhouses, a trench system, bombproof bunkers, and a series of caves. Nonetheless, in forty-eight hours of intense and continuous action, the American forces conquered the island and mainland area, and they secured the airdrome for future use by allied aircraft. This brief battle marked my father's last amphibious assault in New Guinea, and he looks to have enjoyed the moment in this photo taken at Maffin Bay. The Wakde forces were held out of the next assault at Biak, characterized as a "bloody" affair that concluded with victory achieved in June. After fifteen months of fighting in the jungles of New Guinea, the 41st Division was ready to advance to the Philippines.



Figure 29: Raymond at Maffin Bay, May 1944

General MacArthur had pledged, "I shall return" to the peoples of the Philippines. He launched the liberation of the Philippines by throwing a powerful force ashore on Leyte on October 20, 1944. This assault was followed by strikes at Subic Bay, near Manila and Luzon. The 41st Division's **Mindanao** campaign began with the invasion of Zamboanga Peninsula. Mindanao is the largest island in the Philippine Islands.

The landing forces, including my father's unit, left Leyte on March 8, 1945 and two days later stormed the beaches after intensive naval and air bombardments. Thus began a period of forty days of combat during which the various units of the 41st conquered six islands: Palawan, Zamboanga, Basilan, Tawi Tawi, Jolo and Bosanga. During these operations, the 218th Field Artillery Battalion supported the 186th Combat Team. Though considerable mopping up remained to be done, the Southern Philippines had been liberated from Japanese control.

My father's tour of duty was also winding down. The War Department had recently introduced a point system to determine who would rotate home for discharge. Raymond qualified almost immediately based on his time in service and time overseas in combat areas. He departed the Philippines on May 16 and arrived by ship in San Francisco Bay on June 7. He entrained to Ft. Douglas, Utah and was discharged June 14, 1945. Soon after, the 41st Division was deactivated in Japan and the entire force returned to the states.

Raymond served in the military three years and nine months, with all but seven months in the South Pacific. He earned a Good Conduct Medal, American Service Defense Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Theater Medal, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Bronze Star. He had lost 5 percent of his body weight during his tour of duty. He collected his \$290.27 in mustering out and travel pay, and set out for home.⁵⁰ "Frenchy," as some of his wartime friends called him, never spoke to me of his wartime experiences.

6

Post-War Nevada

When Raymond returned to the ranch, he saw his mother and father for the first time in nearly four years. His sister Tanta Rosie recounted that my father cried when he saw his mother's hair had turned white during that span, a time when she had three sons serving in harm's way. Otto Albert would return home from the 2nd Marine Division, having participated in landings at Saipan, Timien, and Okinawa. He and Leonie Sario, whom he had married in 1942, would move to the Bay Area, raise a family of four boys, and become a successful custom homebuilder for 30 years. Otto Ernie



Figure 30: Dad's homecoming, June 1945

from his Army combat tour in Europe with the 94th Infantry Division, fighting in Northern France, Rhineland, and the Ardennes-Alsace. He would later move to Bakersfield, marry Helen



Figure 32: Wedding photo of Josephine and Raymond, 1946

Saldubehere, and then operate a well-respected sheep business for decades in Madera.



Figure 31: Brother Sergeants Raymond, Albert, and Ernest.

My dad resumed working on Aitachi's ranch, teaming with his older brother John and Michel to operate the sheep, cattle, and farming operations. Pigs, goats, chickens, horses and mules were raised as well. Otto John and Tanta Mary Jane lived on the ranch with their

infant daughters Louise and Nancy. One year after returning from the war, Raymond married Josephine Etchemendy of nearby Gardnerville. He was 30 years old; she was 23. Their wedding was at St. Galls Catholic Church with Ernest serving as best man and Helen “Chickie” Borda as bridesmaid. Mom’s parents, John and Jeanne (Trounday) Etchemendy were well-known owners and operators of the Overland Hotel. Mom’s older brothers – John, Leon, and William – were graduates of the University of Nevada, WWII veterans, and would each go on to enjoy distinguished careers as military officers. My mother’s younger sister Mayie later married John Uhalde, who was unrelated to our family. Mom graduated from Reno Business College, roomed with Leonie and Chickie during the war, and worked as a secretary in Reno before returning to help her ailing mother operate the Overland. The newlyweds honeymooned on the California coast in Santa Cruz, returning to take up residence on the ranch along with Otto John’s family. Aitachi and Amatchi moved to a home on Plumas Street in Reno.



Figure 33: Proud fathers Raymond and John, 1947.

By August 1947, both brothers were proud fathers of boys born three days apart – Raymond John and John Bernard, shown at left. Shortly after, the entire family gathered to celebrate the baptisms of ‘Little Ray’ and Johnny. Soon I was put to work painting the house, tending camp, and herding sheep, as these pictures evidence.



Figure 34: Painting the ranch house with Dad.

Twenty months later, my sister Patricia Rae was born at Saint Mary’s Hospital in Reno, as I had been. Patty is shown with Dad and I in Markleeville in this 1949 photo below. But big changes were on the horizon for the Uhalde families that year.



Figure 35: Little Ray tending camp.

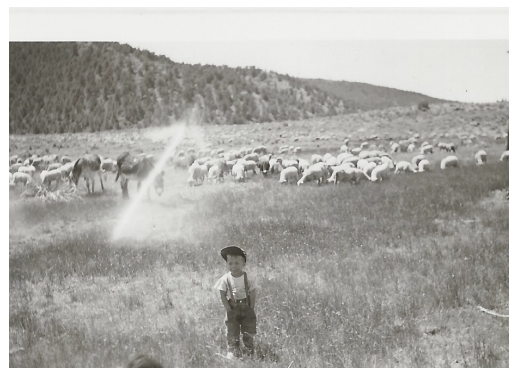


Figure 36: Little Ray herding sheep.



Figure 37: Little Ray and Patty with Dad in Markleeville.

Cousin Mayie Remembers

Mayie, the eldest grandchild, remembers enjoying many years visiting the Uhalde Ranch. Aitachi once gave her a makila (walking stick) to move a band of sheep to another pasture. She remembers being kept away from the sheep pens because Otto John and Raymond were castrating lambs. She did, however, see her uncles with blood all over the front of their shirts. She wasn't allowed to play with the Border collie sheep dog because he was a working dog, not a pet. At the break of day, Aitachi would eat a bowl of warm milk and crumbled bread. Later in the morning he would have a full breakfast with wine. He taught Mayie to respect alcohol, giving her a glass of wine and water, mixing in less water as Mayie grew older.

California In the Fifties

On December 15, 1950, Aitachi and Amatchi sold the Uhalde Ranch to their neighbors, George and Sallie Springmeyer⁵¹ for \$38,500. Included in the sale, along with the 1310 acres, were all the Taylor Grazing rights on the BLM and adjoining lands, water rights, a tractor, plow, bulldozer, road grader, hay rake, baler and loader, manure spreader, wagons, and various equipment and tools.⁵² Otto John's family had moved to Madera, California the year before, where Elizabeth was born in November, so this sale had clearly been in the works for some time. Why would Aitachi sell the ranch and move to California? The answer lies in the implementation of the Taylor Grazing Act.

The Act allows the BLM to increase or decrease the use of a grazing area in response to changing ecological conditions. Permits are subject to review at least every 10 years, with incumbent holders having preferential rights to renew. The initial leases were issued in the Carson grazing district in 1936 or 1937 by the BLM's predecessor agency.⁵³ In 1946 or '47, the newly created BLM decreased Aitachi's grazing allotment, I was told, when he renewed his 10-year permit. As a result, fewer of the family's sheep and cattle could be run on the public lands. And they expected, correctly as it turned out, grazing would be further restricted in future years.⁵⁴ The reduced grazing allotment on public lands was not

George and Sallie Springmeyer

George and Sallie were married in 1931. He was a Stanford educated attorney who was born on a Carson Valley ranch, served as an Army captain in WWI, and became U.S. Attorney in the Prohibition twenties. She was born and raised in New York City, but travelled to Reno for a divorce. After marrying the lawyer who handled her case (George), she went to law school and became an attorney and public service activist focused on public health, crippled children, and prison parole. George inherited the Indian Creek Ranch about 1937 and they developed it over time while living in Reno. After George died at age 84 in 1966, Sallie moved to Indian Creek Ranch. She sold it to engineer and entrepreneur Don Bently in 1997, but lived on the ranch till she died in 2007 at the age of 104.

thought to be enough to support the growing extended family, necessitating another dramatic move, the third for the Uhalde family.

Otto John moved to Madera before my father did and he was therefore likely the one who identified the former Hammond Ranch as the base of operations for the business partnership they would form, Uhalde Brothers. They bought the 40-acre ranch, located in Berenda about 10 miles north of Madera, for \$13,500 and invested another \$3,500 to level the land.⁵⁵ Michel lived at the ranch and was camp tender for the other herders. The rams were kept at the ranch when not with the ewes, as were the water truck, trailers/cookhouses, corral panels and fencing, and other equipment. Hay was grown, bailed, and stacked on the ranch.



Figure 38: Three brothers in Madera, Raymond, Ernest, and John.

The families lived in Madera, which had a population of 11,000 at the time. Aitachi and Amatchi bought a home in town. After Otto Ernie and Tanta Helen met in Bakersfield and married in Reno in 1951, they lived with Aitachi and Amatchi for a time. Then they moved to their own home on Jennings Street. Ernest started his own successful sheep business. Amatchi, whom I remember as a sweet woman who spoiled me with ice cream, passed away in 1953 at the age of 64. Otto John's large family of five girls and one boy lived on West 5th Street. Tanta Emily and her two daughters lived on Fairview Avenue. The three brothers lived within blocks of their parents, sister Emily, and each other.

We lived at 407 South I Street, a dead end road at the time, ideal for riding bikes and playing in the street. The stucco house had two bedrooms, one bathroom, and a sunken living room with a fireplace. Next to our house we owned an empty lot that would become the neighborhood baseball diamond. Our home was located about a half a mile from our elementary school and church, Saint Joachim, and roughly the same distance from Madera Union High School. I can count at least ten kids who lived within two blocks of our house,

eight of them boys: the Zimmermans, Irelands, Luchesis, and Mackeys. Ball games were easy to start and there was always someone with whom to play, that is until Mom called us home with her loud, sharp whistle. My father worked every day, but often came home for lunch and a short nap. On Saturdays he would come home when he could to watch the Game of the Week with me on television, often the Yankees with Yogi Berra and Mickey Mantle. Dizzy Dean and Pee Wee Reese would be the TV announcers. I remember once playing catch with him in the front yard before one of my Little League games. I was a catcher, like Yogi! He was able to attend only a few of my games. Patty was a skilled diver and competed in diving meets throughout the San Joaquin Valley through high school. Dad was very protective of Patty, once scolding me for launching her from my feet as I lay on my back. Mom had her dog Penny, a copper colored cocker spaniel. We could not understand why Penny couldn't go to the sheep camp with Daddy, because we were sure she would be helpful. All the Uhaldes drove Buicks and bought their pickups at Shebelut Chevrolet. It was the idyllic 1950's community within which to grow up.

8

The Sheep Business

Contrary to what you may have heard, the sheep business is probably the oldest profession. I have it on good authority, Genesis 4:2, that Adam's son Abel was "a keeper of flocks" and started the sheep business. The Uhalde Brothers were descendants of this ancient vocation, running about 2000 ewes in four bands year around in the San Joaquin Valley, each with a herder and two sheep dogs. Michel was their camp tender, visiting each camp daily. During the busiest season, extra herders might be hired. Tanta Mary Jane kept the books for the business. Mom bought groceries for the herders at Grand Central Market and their wine at Nonini Winery.

Other than the ranch, Uhalde Brothers did not own the land on which their sheep grazed. They rented alfalfa pasture and grain stubble fields of barley and other grains from area farmers July through about February, trailing bands of sheep from one farm to the next along country roads. When the weather was favorable for an early growth of native grasses, trucks were hired to move the sheep to the Barnetche range they leased in the Panoche Hills west of Firebaugh. Of course, the lease on the west side of the Valley had to be executed each year well before it was known if and when native grasses would be adequate. If not, additional and more costly alfalfa



Figure 39: Our herder Gerardo with his sheepdogs in the Panoche Hills.

pasture had to be rented and/or hay provided until the west side hills were green. Each year, the largest single business expense was pasturage, about \$28,000. A complex operation of this size requires hard work as well as experience and expertise, great attention to detail, and skillful management. Brothers John and Raymond were all of this and more!

There was a cycle to the sheep business in the Valley that focused on getting the first lambs to market in April, in order to earn a premium price. Prices tended to be lower for Valley lambs brought to market later than June. The cycle started in late spring and summer, when the rams were trucked from the ranch and placed with the bands of ewes for breeding. About a month before lambing, the ewes were “tagged” or sheared between their back legs for cleanliness, to make nursing easier, and to help prevent flystrike. Lambing commenced in late September and ran through January.

Lambing is an intense season. Herders are expected to identify the “heavies” – those ewes expected to drop their lambs soon – and group them together. They are watched all day and periodically through the night. Strong lambs can stand and nurse within 30 minutes. Weak lambs and sometimes twins may need help to breath, stand, or nurse. At times, the ewe needs help delivering and the lamb has to be turned by hand and pulled out. A ewe with a dead lamb needs to be coaxed to adopt a motherless or “bummer” lamb by dressing the bummer in the skin of the dead lamb. All this attention is vital because lambing is harvest time for the sheepman.

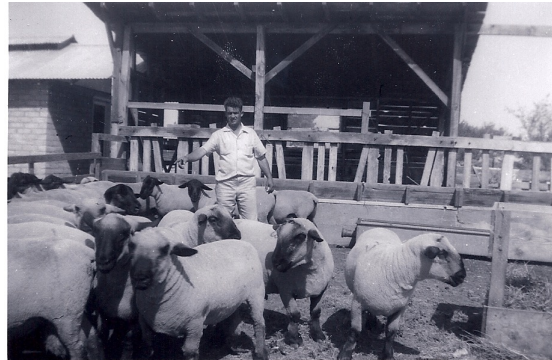


Figure 40: Raymond with the rams at the Berenda ranch.

Before the lambs were two months old, they had to have their tails cut off or “docked”, and the males were castrated. This was a time for Johnny and I to help by lifting and holding the lambs, along with Michel, while the brothers docked and castrated the lambs, and another branded and put medicine on the lambs. Lambs were usually ready for market as “springers” about late March, when they had been weaned from their mother’s milk and weighed between ninety and one hundred pounds (hence the term “milk-fed” lambs). Packing companies and marketing associations sent their buyers to the field. They contracted for lambs in advance of delivery dates. During the years Uhalde Brothers operated, average prices for

California lambs per 100 pounds ranged from a high in 1950 of \$25.30 to a low of \$16.60 in 1961. In 1962, my father's last full year operating Uhalde Brothers, the average California lamb price was \$18.50⁵⁶ and his revenue from selling lambs was \$65,000.⁵⁷

April was shearing time for Uhalde Brothers. It was also the time for the families to join the men at the shearing camp in the west side hills. Mom would cook a large lunch and bring it to the cookhouse for everyone to enjoy. We children would mostly play "king of the mountain" on the large wool sacks. We hired professional shearing crews (for \$2,400 in 1962) who furnished their own tools and generator power. The shearers erected a large tent over the shearing area, laid a wooden shearing floor, and put up a stand to sack the wool. The brothers built the corrals and pens for the sheep. Herders kept the pens full of ewes so the shearers could easily reach the next one. A shearing crew included five to ten men. One



Figure 41: Gerardo and Michel at shearing time.

man loaded the fleeces into the wool sack and tamped it down by standing in the sack. When full, it was laid on its side, marked and branded, and stacked (for us kids to play on, we thought). Shearing time was quite a fiesta for the herders and the Uhalde families. It also meant an important payday. Wool buyers would come to the shearing camps to grade the wool and make offers. In 1962, Uhalde Brothers sold its wool for \$24,000.

Shipping time wraps up the season. The lambs are weighed, loaded and shipped by truck to the packing sheds. Sheepmen are paid, usually on site, by bank check. For some herders, shipping marked their last work for the family. They would be driven to the Santa Fe Hotel in Fresno, either to return to the Basque country or wait to be hired by another sheepman. Another cycle comes to a close as the ewes are moved down to the Valley floor for the summer.

In early May, Otto John and my father would travel to Sacramento to buy rams at auction at the California Ram Sale, held at the State Fair Grounds. In 1955, they bought two black-face Hampshire yearling range rams for \$135 per head and nine black-face Suffolk yearling range rams for \$150 each. In 1956, they bought 30 black-face Hampshire yearling range rams at an average price of \$80 per head.⁵⁸ The sellers were from Idaho and Oregon. These were herd replacement rams that would be crossed with whiteface ewes to produce fast growing, vigorous lambs with good meat conformation, that were highly desirable for the meat market.

How was this complex business financed? In October, the brothers would sign a demand note for about \$130,000 with the bank to borrow their business working capital plus a draw to support living expenses for both families during the season. The loan was to be paid off at 6 percent by May and was secured by a chattel mortgage on their business.⁵⁹ As the lambs and wool were sold, the brothers would make payments on the loan until the note was paid off and released around April. Each family shared equally in the draw and any net income that might have been realized at the end of the season.



Figure 42: Raymond, Aitachi, Otto John, and Johnny at Dixon ram sales.

9

The Uhalde Family At Play

When Patty and I would ask Mom why Daddy had to go out to the sheep camp and work every day, she would say it was because the sheep never take a day off; and so it was, I'm sure, for most sheepmen of that era. But we did find time to have fun as a family.

I clearly remember the family going to movies at the Madera Theater on Yosemite Avenue and the El Rio Drive-In Theater at the north edge of town. I particularly recall three movies that we saw together. When I was six years old we watched The House of Wax, a horror flick with Vincent Price. The movie so scared me that I crawled under the theater seat to hide. What were they thinking? Maybe we went because it was the first 3-D color feature released in America. In 1959 we saw Thunder In the Sun with Susan Hayward, Jeff Chandler, and Jacques Bergerac about a family of French Basque immigrants carrying their ancestral grape vines (!) on a wagon train as they moved west. The film included silly scenes of Basque men jumping from boulder to boulder shouting an irrintzina as if talking to one another. I have forced my children to watch the movie and we laughed out loud! Then in 1960 we went to the theater to watch The Sundowners with Robert Mitchum and Deborah Kerr. This Technicolor film was about a nomadic Australian family that spent their days herding a large band of sheep across the outback through dust storms and bush fires. The most memorable scene was a shearing contest between Mitchum and a rival shearer that took place on a huge sheep station with fifty thousand head of sheep. For obvious reasons, my father really liked this movie.

The parents went to Fresno on New Years Eve to dance and enjoy themselves at the Hacienda Hotel on Highway 99. Louise and Nancy usually were assigned babysitting duties for the rest of us children, though I am sure Johnny and I didn't feel we needed their oversight. I recall one New Years when the roads were so fog bound that my father later said he had to drive the highway looking out the window to see the white line.

Visits from our out of town cousins were always special occasions for Patty and I. For us boys these get togethers meant a chance to play baseball or football with each other. The most memorable times were the family picnics held at Roeding Park in Fresno.



Figure 43: The baseball cousins (L_R) - Rene', Tommy, Arnie, Johnny, Raymond, me, and Marty.

Aitachi and Amatchi would welcome the families of Albert, Elvira, and Rosie to town and, together with Emily, John, Raymond and



Figure 44: Uhalde family picnic gathering, 1950s.

Ernest's families, we gathered together over several summers. At one such picnic, both my Aitachi Etchemendy and Uhalde were in attendance and they posed for the sweet picture shown below.



Figure 45: John Etchemendy, Sr. and John Uhalde, Sr.

I only recall two vacations that we took as a family, though I am sure we enjoyed others. In the mid-1950s, we took a trailer house to Camp Ducey on Dinkey Creek. This was a High Sierra campground near Shaver Lake that offered my dad great trout fishing, I'm sure. He used a fly rod with live worms he carried in a bait holder on his belt. Mom, Patty and I stayed at the campground and played in Dinkey Creek, sliding down the water-smoothed boulders. A grocery store was on site, and at night we watched a movie while we sat on benches in the open-air campground. I know you

will find this hard to believe, but little Patty wandered off and got lost in the woods one evening; she was soon found safe and unharmed. Nonetheless, we thoroughly enjoyed that vacation. The other vacation I remember was a visit to Otto Albert's family in Mountain View, about 40 miles south of San Francisco, probably

around 1960. I always enjoyed my time with cousins Robert, Paul, Leon and Albert, but what was most memorable about this visit was that we went to a Giants baseball game -- my first major league game! We sat in right center field and watched Willie Mays, Willie McCovey, Orlando Cepeda, the Alou brothers, Juan Marichal, and Johnny Antonelli. What a roster and what an experience! As we returned to Madera, my father, as he often did in the car, sang Basque songs while he drove our Buick Roadmaster back down Highway 99.

10

The Passing of Uhalde Brothers

In 1956, Aitachi Uhalde died in Bakersfield while visiting his youngest daughter, Rosie Anchordoquy and her family. He was 78



Figure 46: My last photo of Aitachi Uhalde, in Madera ca. 1956.

years old, Amatchi having preceded him in death three years earlier. He was a self-made man -- a poor immigrant who became a successful sheepman and rancher and, as we have seen, a very savvy businessman. He was the beloved patriarch of a large, close-knit and proud Basque family. Then in March 1959, his eldest son Otto John passed away after a long battle with cancer at the young age of 46. His death left his widow Tanta Mary Jane with six children to support.

Louise was the eldest at 15 years old, and Joanne was the youngest, just three years of age.

As I went to bed that March night, I remember seeing my father sitting at the dining room table; he was weeping, with my mother bending over him offering comfort. I had never seen my father cry before. My dad had lost his business partner, older brother, and best friend. He greatly admired and loved his brother John. This was evidenced, in part, in the way he carried on the Uhalde Brothers sheep business over the next four years. He involved Tanta Mary Jane as a full partner; she did the banking, paid the bills, and kept the books for the business, all the while raising her children to adulthood. He shouldered the burdens that both brothers once shared, including the physical workload and mental pressures arising from supporting two families. The records indicate that both families shared equally in the income of the business, such as it was.

Times were tough for sheepmen in the early sixties, with California lamb prices sinking in 1961 to their lowest level since 1946

- a depressed level not experienced again to this day.⁶⁰ My Mom later told me that during those lean times, my father worried about what he might do if he had to abandon the sheep business. One notion she said he considered was surveying, falling back on his military training and experience. But that eventuality never arose as lamb prices rose marginally in 1962. I am sure the tough times were among the reasons my parents sold our home on I Street in 1960,



Figure 47: Dad's last picture, with Mom in front of their Merced Street home in Madera, 1962.

briefly rented, and then moved across town to 1206 Merced Street. This was not my dad's first choice. He wanted us to live on a ranch and sell the ranch in Berenda. We looked at some ranches, but none were a good fit I suppose. I remember driving by one property and he told us, "The land was as unlevel as my ipurdia (buttocks)."

On the evening of January 31, 1963, the rains in Madera County were heavy and unrelenting, producing lowland flooding in valley areas and trouble on roads and bridges in the mountains. The Madera Tribune reported in its headline article the next day that the entrance to Yosemite National Park,

sixty miles east, was closed after 18 inches had fallen in the Sierras during the storm. Closer to home, the Averill Ranch and adjacent areas west of town were flooded, and the Fresno River crested at three-fourths capacity. The Tribune's front-page article also attributed one death to the storm: "Forty-seven year old Raymond Uhalde of Madera succumbed to a heart attack Thursday afternoon as he attempted to herd sheep out of a flooded pasture."⁶¹ My father had received a phone call late in the afternoon from a west side rancher on whose land our sheep were pasturing. He said the fields were flooding and the sheep were in danger. My father wrote down the address and said he had to go. I asked if I could come with him

but he said no, I had school the next day and he might be late. He arrived at the sheep camp, lifted one or more rain-soaked ewes into his pickup bed, walked up the steps into the cookhouse, and collapsed dead. The herder rushed to the ranch house and asked the owner to call the family. Otto Ernie later told me that going out to the sheep camp and finding my father was the hardest thing he had ever done. That night, my mother woke Patty and I to tell us of our father's death, and Tanttta Mary Jane came over with her children to comfort us. I was fifteen years old at the time and Patty was thirteen. Mom had become a widow at thirty-nine years of age.

My father was a good man and well respected by everyone he did business with. He was kind, honest, modest, handsome, and very hard working. Patty and I remember well both his strong, loving embrace as well as his raised forehead that signaled he was upset about something. He gave all he had for his family. I hope he knew how much we loved him. I regret that he never knew my wife, children and grandsons.

Otto Ernie took over Uhalde Brothers until the lambs and wool were sold that summer. He and Mom asked Johnny and I if we wanted to take over the business after high school - if so, Otto would run the business, along with his own, until we were ready. Neither Johnny nor I wanted to be sheepmen; we both declined the generous offer. So the business' assets were sold and the bank loan was paid off. Uhalde Brothers was no more.

Mom and Mary Jane took full-time jobs and raised their children. Mom was an attendance secretary for Madera High School, which meant I couldn't ever skip school! Tanttta Mary Jane worked as a medical secretary for Madera County's welfare office. In my eyes, these women were real heroes.

Summing Up: Our Ancestors and Their Descendants

A Basque-English dictionary defines the word *uhalde* to mean “bank of a river.” Because the surname Uhalde is common throughout much of the French Basque provinces, it is not possible to identify a specific river or region that is the source of our surname. However, a nineteenth century travel guide book mentions that “At Suhescun, 28.5 m. from Bayonne, the road crosses the Uhalde and then passes through Lacarre 5 m., and St. Jean le Vieux 2.5 m. from St. Jean Pied de Port, pop. 1800.”⁶² While I cannot find the referenced Uhalde river or stream on any map, it may have existed in the 1800s near St. Jean le Vieux, not far from Aitachi’s Peotenia!

The Uhalde ancestors dating back over 300 years are depicted in *The Uhalde Ancestors* chart on page ii of the appendix. The chart begins with Jean Uhalde (d.1738), my fifth great grandfather, who was likely born in the late 1600s in Banka, France. He lived for some years in the town of Irouloguy (in the heart of what is now the French Basque wine region) in the house of Iraborcheta with his wife Catherine Irigoyen. Their son Martin (d.1822) was born at Iraborcheta and married Marie Erramouspe (b.1738) in Banka in the year 1762. She inherited the house of Hayra (pictured in the chart) from her family and it remained with the Uhalde family until my second great grandfather Pierre moved the family to Ttamburinea.⁶³ The children and most immediate ancestors of my Aitachi and Amatchi are displayed in *The Uhalde-Borda Family* chart on page iii of the appendix. Lastly, the twenty-three grandchildren (and my cousins) of Aitachi and Amatchi are listed on page iv of the appendix.

If you have found this story interesting and would like to examine the family’s genealogy further you are welcome to look at the larger family tree I have built on Geni.com. It contains about 300 people. Please visit the site at <https://www.geni.com/share?t=6000000044339204930> for a limited read-only view of the Uhalde-Etchemendy tree. You cannot edit the information and certain information is not shown. If you would like

more complete access just send an email to me at the address below and I will give you authorization. You can then help me fill out the tree and correct errors, omissions, and out of date information.

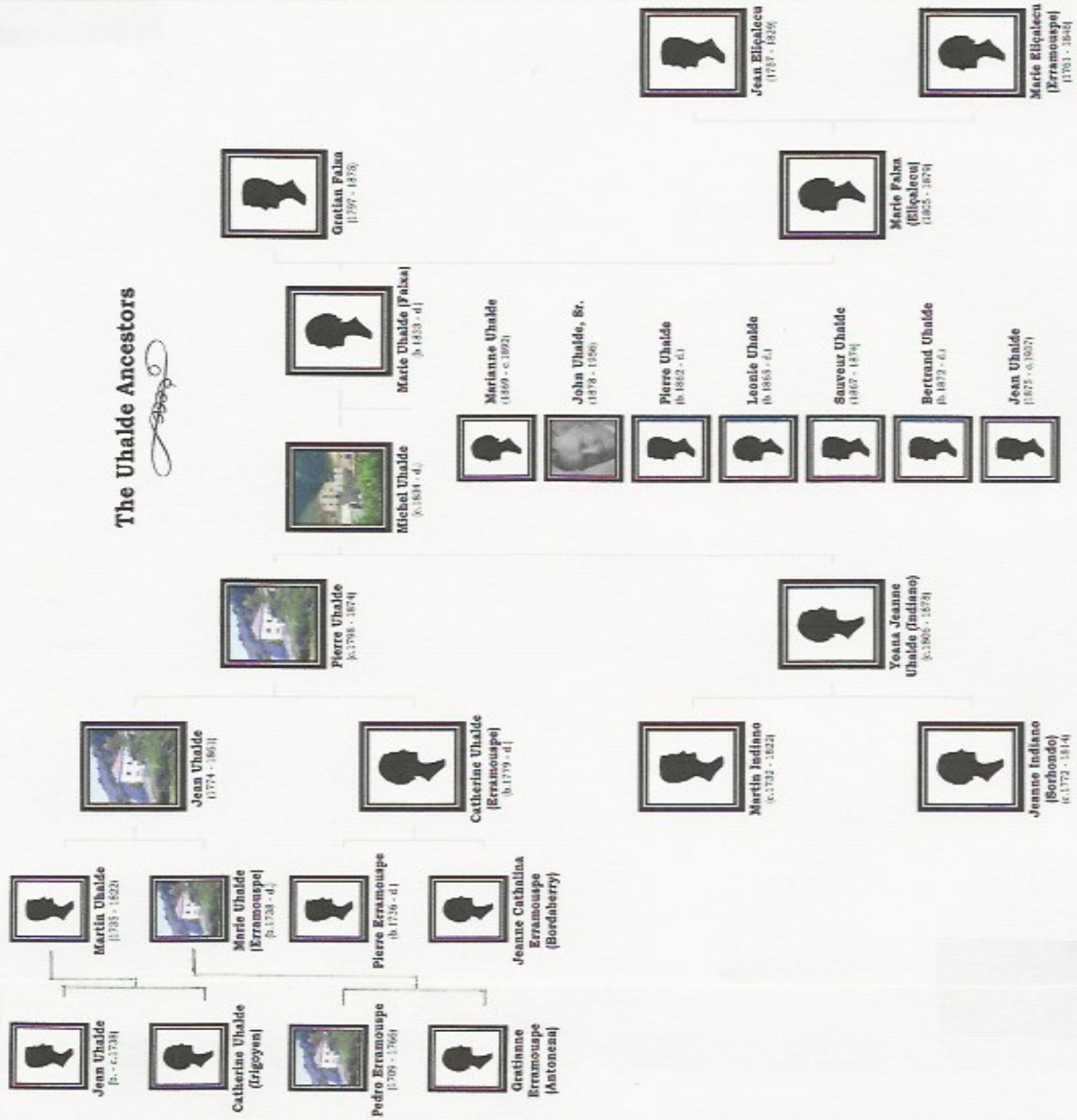
As for this story, I have tried to be as accurate as possible, but I am sure I have made mistakes and left out vital and relevant information. Feel free to email corrections or additions to me at the address shown below.

Aitaren eta Semearen eta Izpiritu Saiduaren izenean. Halabedi.
Ikusi artio!

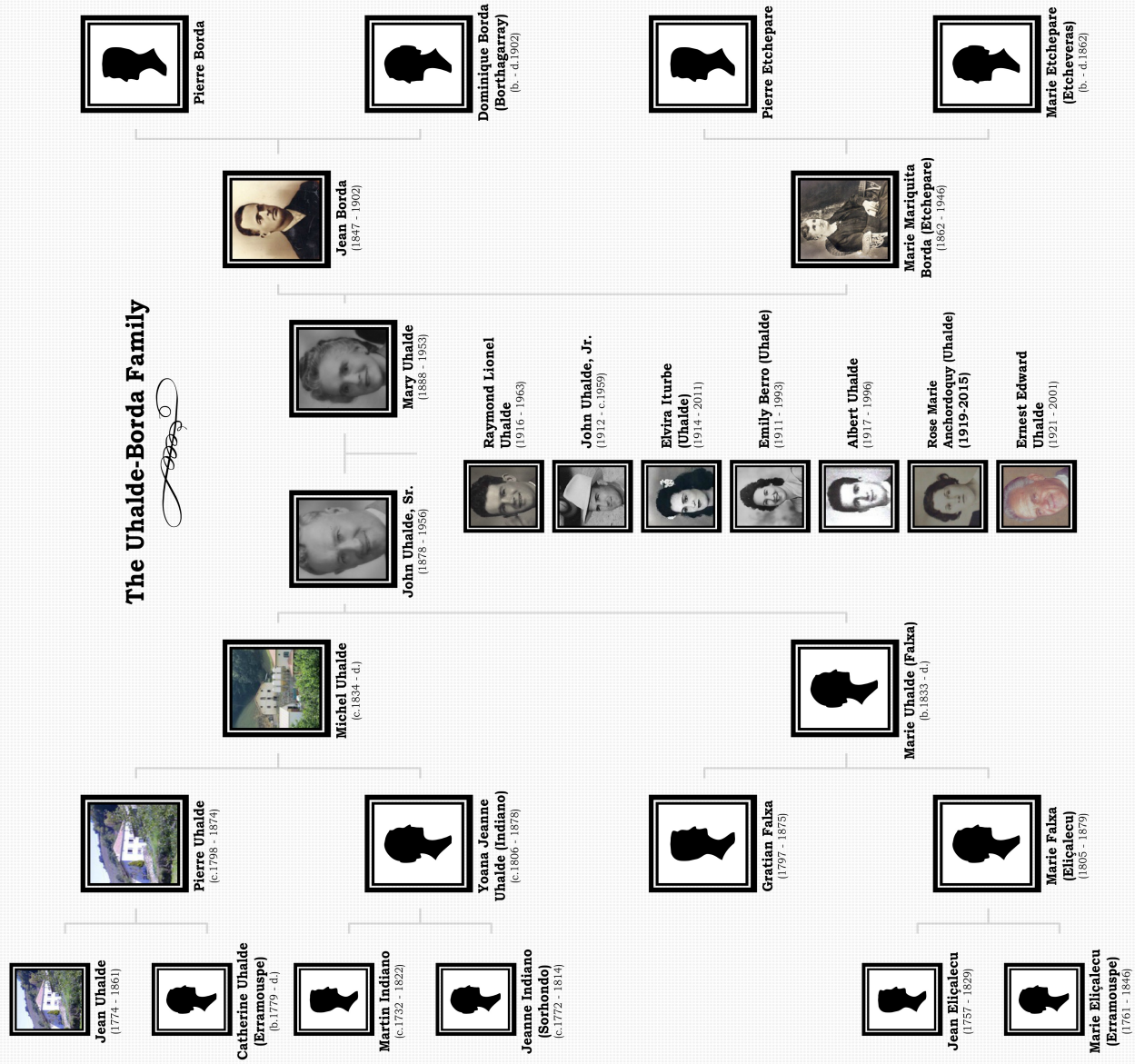
Ray Uhalde
aitachi.uhalde@gmail.com

APPENDIX

The Uhalde Ancestors



The Uhalde-Borda Family



***CHILDREN, SPOUSES, AND GRANDCHILDREN OF
JOHN, SR. AND MARY (BORDA) UHALDE***

PETER & EMILY BERRO

Mayie Rhodes
Rose Berro

JOHN, JR. & MARY JANE (ELGART) UHALDE

Louise DaSilva
Nancy Mendiburu
John Uhalde
Elizabeth McTeer
Irene Brusa
Joanne Deaver

MARTIN & ELVIRA ITURBE

René Iturbe
Raymond Iturbe
Martin Iturbe

RAYMOND & JOSEPHINE (ETCHEMENDY) UHALDE

Raymond Uhalde
Patricia Ashburner

ALBERT & LEONIE (SARIO) UHALDE

Robert Uhalde
Paul Uhalde
Leon Uhalde
Albert Uhalde

THOMAS & ROSE ANCHORDOQUY

Thomas Anchordoquy
Arnold Anchordoquy
Vivien Ferguson

ERNEST & HELEN (SALDUBEHERE) UHALDE

Suzanne Etchegaray
Pauline Dedekian
Elvira Griffith

ENDNOTES

¹ The Carson Valley is a level plain eighteen miles wide lying along a thirty-mile stretch of the Carson River in west central Nevada. It is bounded on the east by the Pine Nut Range and on the west by the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

² Downloaded from http://weather-warehouse.com/WeatherHistory/PastWeatherData_Minden_CarsonCity_NV_January.html

³ Downloaded from <http://www.rgj.com/story/news/2015/11/11/renos-top-10-snow-days/75616198/>

⁴ I use the Basque spelling for Urepele, Aldude, and Banka rather than the more common French spelling (Urepel, Aldudes, and Banca).

⁵ The source for much of the genealogical data in this story can be found at Pyrenees Atlantiques Departmental Archives Records (<http://earchives.cg64.fr/>). The Uhalde family data can be found at <http://www.geneoweb.org/-Urepel->. Included are records on 600 births and baptisms, 24 marriages, and 438 deaths for the years 1862-1890. Data for earlier years can be found for the communes of Banka, Aldude, and Saint Etienne de Baigorry.

⁶ Aitachi's next older sibling was named Jean as well, though he was also called Joanes, the Basque form of the French name Jean. Domingo Arrambide of the neighboring farm Maison Bordaluzea told me this during a 2010 visit to Urepele. Manex is yet another Basque form of the French name Jean. I choose to call my great-uncle Jean because this is the name he listed on all ship manifests and draft registrations I found.

⁷ Pierre's parents were Jean Uhalde (1774-1861) and Catherine Erramouspe (b.1779); his grandparents were Martin Uhalde (d.1822) and Marie Erramouspe (b.1738); and his great-grandparents were Jean Uhalde (d.1738) and Catherine Irigoyen. Identifying these Uhalde ancestors relied importantly on the house name "Haira or Hayra." Yoana Jeanne's parents were Martin Indiano (1732-1822) and Jeanne Sorhondo (1772-1814). Their house name was "Golko."

⁸ Or Yndiano as is inscribed on the stone lintel over the home place in Urepele, as shown below:



⁹ Taken from Marie Borda Swanson's handwritten genealogy for the Borda family.

¹⁰ Paraguay initiated a war in 1864 against the Triple Alliance of Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay that ended as one of the worst military defeats ever suffered by a modern nation state. According to a 2012 article in The Economist magazine, as much as 60% of the population and 90% of Paraguayan men died from combat or, more often, from disease and starvation. At the end of the war in 1870, "just 29,000 males over the age of 15 were left in Paraguay. One observer called the survivors "living skeletons...shockingly mutilated with bullet and sabre wounds"."

Downloaded from <http://www.economist.com/news/christmas/21568594-how-terrible-little-known-conflict-continues-shape-and-blight-nation>.

¹¹ Her return to France at age 11 is found in "Mariquita Borda Dies in Hospital", The Nevada State Journal, Reno, Nevada, page six, March 12, 1946.

¹² <https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urepele>. Urepele had a population of 316 in 2012.

¹³ Sarah Line, an English woman and Basque interpreter travelling with a Basque delegation to the U.S. in 2014, first alerted me to Xalbador. She emailed sheet music to me along with this note: "I am not even Basque and have to admit this (song) is so beautiful it makes me want to cry and refers to the true story of a "bertsolari" from your grandfather's town of Urepele, who won an improvised singing contest after having been ridiculed by other contestants for his strange accent and manner of speech/verse (French Basque). I am sure the full story is also available on-line. I think he actually died either just before or just after he was proclaimed winner." For a music video of the song she refers to, "Xalbadorren Heriotzean", see

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HnIpcAoEUQ>. For a 1967 tournament performance by Xalbador see

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qss6RQpfEdE>. For a brief description of bertsolaritza see: <https://inside-english.blogs.unr.edu/files/2008/03/bertsolaritza.pdf>.

¹⁴ Gorka Aulestia, *Improvisational Poetry From the Basque Country*, chapter 11, University of Nevada Press, Reno, 1995.

¹⁵ The house name of the Uhalde home place has various other spellings in local records including Tambourinea, Tambourine, Tambourinena, Thambourinena, and Tanburin. I am using the name currently over the lintel of the newer (1892) house shown below.



¹⁶ Other regions of the world also enjoy “common” land for the pasturing of sheep. For example, the mountainous northwest corner of England known as the Lake District is said to be the greatest concentration of common land in Western Europe, where multiple farmers possess ancient grazing rights on the common for a certain number of sheep. James Redbanks, *The Shepherd’s Life: Modern Dispatches from an Ancient Landscape*, Flatiron Books, New York, New York, 2015, p. 21-24.

¹⁷ This description of a typical Urepele farm and farming practices is taken from David Seth Murray, *Contested Commons: The Historical Ecology of Continuity and Change in Basque Agro-Pastoralism in the Baigorri Valley*, dissertation, Department of Anthropology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2008, p. 4-5. Our friend Dominique Arrambide is quoted several times in this publication.

¹⁸ The year 1862 was also the same year that Urepele was administratively separated from Aldude and recognized by the French government as a commune (or municipality).

¹⁹ Though her brother Antoine was seven years older, Yoana Jeanne apparently inherited Golko because Antoine lived in his wife’s family house “Betricina”.

²⁰ The houses of Golko and Haira (Hayra) are shown today on a topographical map as being in the rugged hill country south of Banka about 1 mile apart, as the crow flies. See Carte de Randonnee, 1346OT, St. Jean Pied de Port, Institut Geographique National (IGN).

²¹ David Seth Murray, *op. cit.*, p. 83-90.

²² This description is taken from an inventory of properties conducted by Nelly Labat, General Inventory of Cultural Heritage, Tambourinea, Reference Number IA64000402, General Council of Pyrénées-Atlantiques, 3307, Bordeaux, 2000.

²³ The genealogical information in this paragraph comes from conversations with Jeanne Elgart and Dominique Arrambide during a visit to Tambourinea in 2010.

²⁴ Just three months earlier, the S/S Moravia had sailed directly from Hamburg to New York and was quarantined for three weeks after approaching New York due to an outbreak of cholera aboard ship and in their departure city Hamburg. Twenty-two of 358 passengers died at sea. Passengers were taken from the ship to Hoffman Island in New York Bay, bathed and their clothes fumigated. The ship was cleansed. Passengers remained on the island until the quarantine was lifted. <http://forgottennewengland.com/2012/03/03/the-immigrant-experience-in-1892-new-yorks-cholera-scare-and-its-effect-on-boston/>.

²⁵ Year: 1892; Arrival: New York, New York; Microfilm Serial: M237, 1820-1897; Microfilm Roll: Roll 601; Line: 16; Ancestry.com. New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1957 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

²⁶ Year: 1897; Arrival: New York, New York; Microfilm Serial: T715, 1897-1957; Microfilm Roll: Roll 0009; Line:16; Page Number: 109; Ancestry.com. New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1957 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

²⁷ The Yparaguirre Family downloaded from <http://person.ancestry.com/tree/5694465/person/-1413809739/facts>. Juan Miguel Aguirre, who first built it in 1866, originally owned the Basque boardinghouse Hotel Vasco. It was the first boarding house built in San Francisco. Later in 1888 it was leased by Juan Francisco & Marie Yparraguirre. He was born in Etxalar, Navarre, Spain; she in Urepele, France – a distance of 40 miles.

²⁸ My cousin Mayie Rhodes remembered in an e-mail dated September 30, 2016 that Aitachi worked for his cousin, a farmer, in Salinas. She recalled the name Orradre. An Internet search shows the Orradre ranch is a longstanding cattle and farming operation in Monterey County, started about 1870 by Miguel Orradre of Spain and his wife Marianne Etcheverry of France. She may be a cousin of Aitachi.

²⁹ Downloaded from www.libertyellisfoundation.org.

²⁹ “Valentin Aguirre was one of the first Basque pioneers to reach New York City. He arrived from Bizkaia in 1895 and eventually became one of the most significant Basques in the United States. He and his wife, Benita Orbe, had eight children, and together they established (in 1910) the Basque boarding house

known as the Santa Lucia Hotel and (later) the Jai-Alai Restaurant. The Santa Lucia was first named the Casa Vizcaina (though many Basques knew it simply as the 'Aguirre Hotel'). Though the exact records that Aguirre meticulously kept were unfortunately later thrown away carelessly, it is estimated that several thousand Basque immigrants stayed at the hotel and benefited from the Aguirres' care and assistance in continuing on their journey to Nevada, California, Idaho, and Oregon. Valentin, or one of his sons, would go out to the docks of the city and meet the passenger ships that brought the new immigrants into the city from Ellis Island once they had passed all of their inspections and paperwork.... The Aguirre's hotel served as a travel agency as well, and Valentin Aguirre made arrangements to get Basque immigrants their train tickets to their final destinations in the West." Downloaded from <http://www.euskonews.com/0206zkb/kosmo20601en.html>.

³⁰ Downloaded from

http://tokencatalog.com/token_record_forms.php?action=DisplayTokenRecord&td_id=70606&inventory_id=259904&attribution_id=398848.

³¹ Anita (or Juanita) was married on December 28, 1911 to Fred Antchagno in Reno.

³² Douglas County, Nevada, Roll 1711534, Ancestry.com. U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2005.

³³ From the "List or Manifest of Alien Passengers for the United States. The S.S. Lafayette; passengers sailing from Le Havre, France, November 11, 1936." Jean Uhalde, and family members, were shown with American passports and the notation "District Court of Washoe Co. of Nevada, July 1, 1911 | ." Wife Marie was recorded as "By marriage in Reno, NV, July 12, 1911."

³⁴ Aitachi registered as 'John' while my great-uncle or Otto zaharra registered as 'Jean'. Douglas County, Nevada, Roll 1711534, Ancestry.com. U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2005.

³⁶ I say this because the family listed St. Jean le Vieux as their residence on official documents like their 1936 ship manifests.

³⁷ From the description for schooling in St. Jean Pied de Port in 1965-1966 in The Deep Blue Memory, Monique (Laxalt) Urza, University of Nevada Press, Reno, Nevada, 1993, pages 36-40.

³⁸ Military Occupational Classification of Enlisted Personnel, TM 12-427, War Department Technical Manual, July 12, 1944, page 46.

³⁹ Copy of Chattel Mortgage, recorded on February 5, 1931 in Volume A, page 518 of the official records of Alpine County, CA.

⁴⁰ Copy of Real Mortgage, Mike Indiano and John Saroiberry to John Uhalde, recorded on February 12, 1932 in Book A, Pages 569 to 571, of the official records of Alpine County, CA,

⁴¹ Copies of Release of Chattel Mortgage and Release of Real Mortgage, recorded April 25, 1936 in Book C, Pages 37 and 38 of the official records of Alpine County, CA.

⁴² According to the Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Population Schedule, Otto John reported that he lived in 'Rural California' in 1935.

⁴³ E-mails from Mayie Rhodes dated September 27 and 28, 2016.

⁴⁴ "Army Qualification, Separation Record" for Raymond L. Uhalde, June 14, 1945.

⁴⁵ Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Population Schedule.

⁴⁶ "Certificate of Completion of Basic Training," approved/signed December 6, 1941.

⁴⁷ Unless otherwise noted, the information regarding the 41st Division relies on McCartney, William F., The Jungleers: A History of the 41st Division, Nashville, TN, reprinted by The Battery Press, 1988 (originally published in 1948 by the Infantry Journal Press).

⁴⁸ Downloaded from <http://www.41stdivision.com/division/>.

⁴⁹ Downloaded from <http://www.historynet.com/world-war-ii-buna-mission.htm>.

⁵⁰ "Enlisted Record and Report Of Separation: Honorable Discharge", Form 53-55, June 14, 1945.

⁵¹ The information for the sidebar about George and Sallie Springmeyer was downloaded from www.unr.edu/nwhp/bios/women/ruperti_springmeyer.htm.

⁵² Copy of Agreement of Purchase and Sale, recorded January 4, 1951 in Book F, Page 177, official records of Alpine County, California.

⁵³ Downloaded from

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/prog/grazing/grazing_districts.print.html.

⁵⁴ From the early 1950s to 2014, grazing use on public lands declined by over 50 percent. See Fact Sheet On BLM's Management of Livestock Grazing at:

<http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/grazing.html>.

⁵⁵ Uhalde Brothers Balance Sheet, December 31, 1953.

⁵⁶ California Historic Commodity Data, "California Sheep and Lambs, 1924-2012", USDA, NASS, California Field Office, revised February 2014.

⁵⁷ The 1962 financial data are from Uhalde Brothers Balance Sheet, prepared by W.E. Holt, C.P.A., December 31, 1962.

⁵⁸ The information on ram purchases are from my father's hand-annotated notebooks written for each year: California Ram Sale, State Fair Grounds, Sacramento, CA, May 2-3, 1955 and April 30-May 1, 1956.

⁵⁹ Demand Note, Bank of America, Madera, CA, October 6, 1955.

⁶⁰ California Historic Commodity Data, "California Sheep and Lambs, 1924-2012", USDA, NASS, California Field Office, revised February 2014.

⁶¹ "New Sierra Torrents Feed Madera Streams", Madera Daily Tribune, Madera, CA, Friday, February 1, 1963, page 1.

⁶² South-France or France Beyond the Loire, C.B. Black, Edinburgh, Adam and

Charles Black, 1885, page 500.

⁶³ The photo of the house of Hayra and the identification of my fourth and fifth great grandparents are the result of research by Jose Luis Erramuzpe at <http://gw.geneanet.org/jerramuzpe?lang=en&pz=pedro&nz=erramuzpe&ocz=0&m=A&p=jean&n=uhalde&oc=6&siblings=on¬es=on&t=T&v=6&image=on&marriage=on&full=on>. Mr. Erramuzpe has, in turn, used some of my research to augment his family history.