

DISCLAIMER

This biography is a rough draft and a work-in-progress.
The research has not been completed, so there may be errors and omissions.

This document lacks 1950 census data.
Please return to Tuscania1918.org in the future to see if a revised and
finalized version is available.

Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

F: = Find A Grave (www.findagrave.org)

NOK = next-of-kin

TUSCANIA

**Leiva, Joseph J.
1895 CA – 1991 CA**



Joseph J. Leiva – Find A Grave 13699839



Jack (Armand), Joe & Theodore Leiva at the gas station, ca. 1940 -

https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/101043283/person/190077145571/media/611deedb-cbbc-4994-b357-1c991a859695?_phsrc=hFB26492&_phstart=successSource



Joe Levia with Elizabeth McNeil Nadler Aug 1989 - https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/101043283/person/190077145571/media/acbed28f-c9c2-4990-857b-74199c78b508?_phsrc=hFB26492&_phstart=successSource

Wartime:



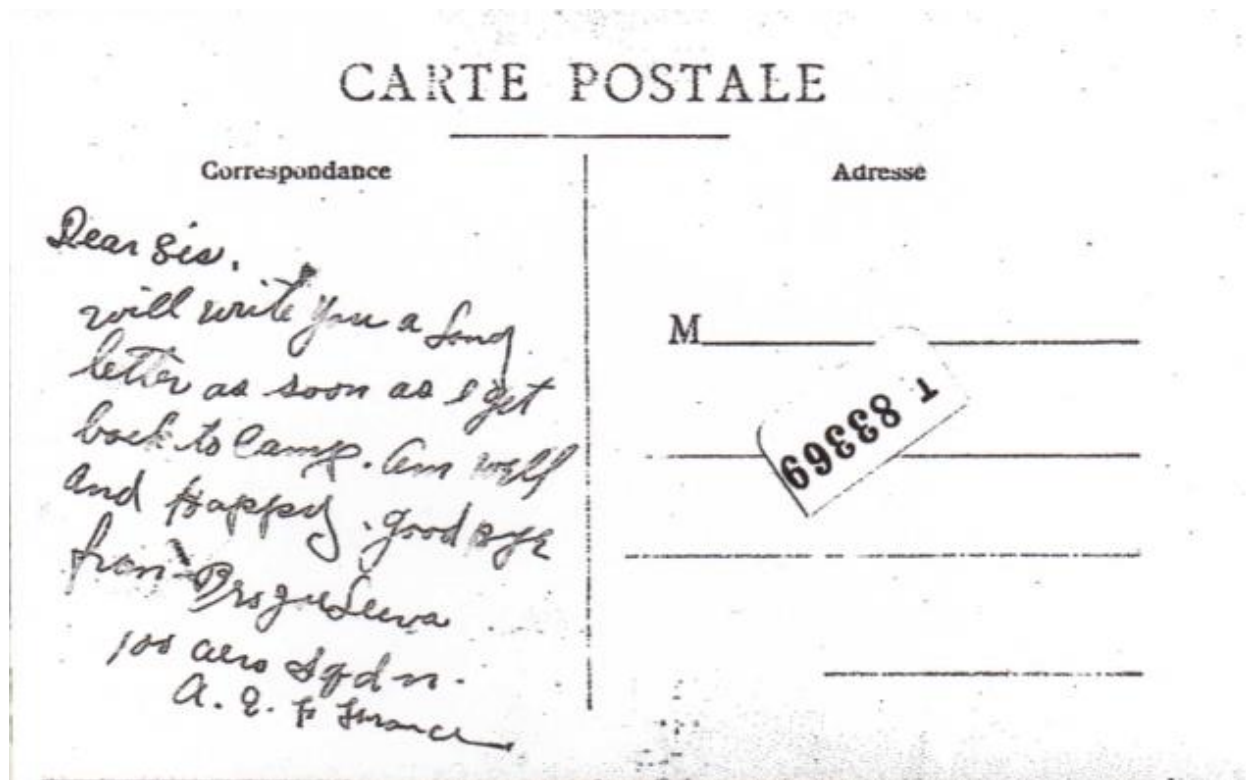


Photo postcard sent to his sister Clara Leiva McNeil - https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/101043283/person/190077145571/media/306f36cc-391a-4950-be1e-d05ac1451243?_phsrc=hFB26492&_phstart=successSource

Wartime:



The 100th Aero Squadron – photo hangs in Kelcy's Restaurant, Tehachapi CA - https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/101043283/person/190077145571/media/da91ca8a-c8cf-4f19-973e-2ef3f3499dee?_phsrc=hFB26492&_phstart=successSource

LEIVA JOSEPH J		C	1552946
Chauf 100 Aero Sq		K	
Tehachapi Calif		A	3 363 348
No	249 890	Died	T 1 344 976 F
Born	3/2/95	R	
Enl	8/1/17	Dte	3/13/19
		Cl	2 245 813
		I	

U. S. VETERANS BUREAU
MAIL AND RECORDS
Form 7202—Rev. Sept., 1925

INDEX CARD

2-1000 915

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS1T-L9VC-L?cc=2968245&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3A7Y2X-NC2M>

J. J. Leiva, who was one of the survivors of the Tuscania disaster, has written to his sister, Mrs. J. Yorba at Tehachapi, giving a vivid description of his struggle when the ship went down.

"Bakersfield (CA) Morning Echo" Tuesday 19 Mar 1918 p 5

J. J. Leiva and Mr. A. F. Leiva, just returned from overseas, have been visiting the Thornburgs at Southfork.

Northfork news – "Fresno (CA) Morning Republican" Monday 6 Oct 1919 p 7

ONE OXNARD MAN PERHAPS IN SINKING

That a former Oxnard man may have been aboard the Tuscania is the belief of persons here who knew him. The list of survivors contains the name Joseph F. Leiva. The Oxnard man's name is Joseph F. Leyva and he has gone East with the troops. The easy confusion of the letters "l" and "y" in Spanish may explain the discrepancy in spelling.

No, he's not Joseph F. Leyva of Oxnard CA – "Oxnard (CA) Courier" Friday 15 Feb 1918 p 3

Family history:

JANUARY 1992

1

Fence Post Coun

MORE OF THE LEIVAS OF TEHACHAPI

Part 2, by Mary Farrell

In 1903, two or three years after their mother, Piedad, died, Ernestine Leiva, the oldest daughter of Antonio, established a home in Tehachapi for her sisters, Clara and Rowena, and her youngest brother, Joe. Brothers Rockie, Jack and Doro spent most of their time with Antonio, working on the Tejon Ranch. Joe recalled that the boys always "came home for Christmas and times like that," and in about 1915, when a job planting trees for the Tehachapi Fruit and Land Company came up, they stayed with Ernie until they found a house to rent.

Joe Decided to join the Army at the time the United States entered WWI. He was part of the Army Air Force — as a mechanic, "making little parts for airplanes and stuff like that." In February of 1918, Joe was one of 2,179 American soldiers aboard HMS Tuscania, a British troopship, bound for France. The ship was torpedoed within sight of the Irish Coast and it was noted that the sinking of the Tuscania was the first WWI sinking of a troopship carrying Americans overseas. Joe was dumped into the freezing water and was "going down for the 3rd time" when somebody grabbed his hair and pulled him into a lifeboat. The survivors were picked up by a destroyer and put ashore somewhere in Ireland.

When Jack heard about Joe nearly losing his life, he immediately signed up for Army service. He had been farming in Arvin, in partnership with J.M. Jamison, but he just gave all of that up, "went in the Army to help my brother," and soon was also on his way to Europe, as an enlisted man in the Engineer Corps. The brothers were given training and worked as machinists as well as mechanics and they continued using that experience during the rest of their working lives.

Though they weren't in the same "outfit," Jack and Joe did manage to meet for a visit in Europe. Joe recalled that "Jack had been given a bunch of Germans to build a building of some kind. They got it done way ahead of time, and the officers told Jack he could go anyplace in Europe he wanted to go, all expenses paid. He told them that I was up at the head of France someplace, so they got him a ticket." Several days later, Jack surprised Joe. "In the afternoon, sometimes I would go to the YMCA and get coffee. I was sitting there drinking and somebody hit me in the back. I looked back, and by God — it was him."

This article appeared in Fence Post - https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/101043283/person/190077145571/media/cbaa3c26-ce91-4b55-925a-51d48af2af94?_phsrc=hFB26492&_phstart=successSource

Source: Judy Barras, 1976, *The Long Road to Tehachapi*, (Bakersfield: Sierra Printers, p. 82-83.

The Antonio Leiva Family

Antonio first appears on the census lists in 1880 with his eighteen-year old Spanish wife Piedad, and their two children: Roque, the eldest son, and Mersaid who died young. For a while they lived near the Chanac Ranch, but his inability to "prove" the land because it was a railroad section, forced him to look elsewhere. In an unnamed defile going southward into the Tehachapi Mountains, west of tree-shrouded, cloud-capped Cummings peak, Leiva located his homestead and built a sturdy cabin. By this time another son, Jack, was born, and soon Doro and Joe joined the boys, and Ernie, Rowena, and Clara joined their brothers. Others were born: they died too soon, in a fatal epidemic about 1900 which also took their mother.

Soon after settling in the mountains, Antonio earned his place in history with General Edward Fitzgerald Beale, owner of the monumental Tejon Ranch. Beginning as a cowhand, his knowledge and prowess soon proved his abilities as a vaquero. For thirty years Leiva was the cattle boss on Beale's ranch. Only every three or four months did he return to provide his children with the funds necessary to sustain their lives. Then back to Tejon he rode, ever faithful to his job.

As his sons became teen-agers, they joined their father at Tejon, and in later years other ranches in the Tehachapis employed one of them, or all at once, as vaqueros. Roque rode at Tejon first. In his later years he worked for the Tehachapi Cattle Company, moving with the outfit to Pacheco Pass, but returning to the Tehachapi Valley in 1947 when he was too old to continue as a vaquero.

Jack was at Tejon for a while. Mrs. Beale lived in Los Angeles, but periodically, with a lady friend or two, she went to the ranch for a few weeks of country living. "Old man Lopez," according to Joe Leiva, the only son still living, "would send Jack with them on saddle horses because he knew the country so well."

As the years passed, Antonio slowed down. He remained at Tejon, however, until one day in 1922, in his eighty-fourth year, he became ill. He boarded a train at Bakersfield and arrived in Tehachapi; within a week the vaquero was dead.

In that same year Jack Leiva left the range to open a gasoline station which he owned for fifty years. In September 1972 Bartlett's Richfield Station was sold, the oldest Richfield station in California. Doro, who had also ridden at Tejon, worked at the station most of the time and Joe continued in the cattle business, also working at Monolith. "It's interesting how we got the name for the gas station," Mr. Leiva told me. "No one knew what to call it. At that time lots of Bartlett pears were being planted by the Tehachapi Fruit and Land Company and someone suggested we use that name."

Although the family left the forty-acre homestead with its cool spring in

1903 so the children would "benefit" from a town upbringing, almost one hundred years later the homestead is still owned by Antonio's heirs. In the 1930's the original house, which had fallen down, was replaced by a cabin, which still stands, as does the history of the vaqueros, some of whom were the Leiva boys.

https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/7543510/person/645040902/media/d30f7ea2-607c-4c1a-b182-420e3a576285?_phsrc=hFB26567&_phstart=successSource



Father Antonio Maria Leiva – 1914 – appeared in the Fence Post article -
https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/101043283/person/190007050377/media/07d41bdd-f0c9-48ba-97ef-f0f56644031c?_phsrc=hFB26556&_phstart=successSource

But Wildermuth's roots in the area go back even farther — her

great grandfather, renowned vaquero Don Antonio Leiva, worked cattle and horses for General Beale (Beale's Cut) on the vast Tejon Ranch for more than 30 years. Leiva passed through the Newhall area often to visit friends and relatives in San Fernando and Pasadena.

A fourth generation Californian, Wildermuth is proud

of her ancestry and is pleased that its influence finds its way into her almost photo-realistic work. The old vaqueros with their affection and respect for the horse, as well as their appreciation of fine tack and accessories, has become Wildermuth's inspiration for her close attention and detail present in her work.

Morgan horses:

≈ HISTORY LESSON ≈

Roland Hill

DEAN OF MORGAN HORSE BREEDERS

Few early Morgan breeders have been as widely recognized and respected as California rancher Roland G. Hill. Picking up almost seamlessly where Richard Sellman left off, he became the largest breeder of Morgans in the world, as well as a strong and influential leader.

By Brenda L. Tippin





Heritage League); Jack Leiva of Kern County Rangers with his champion Morgan stallion Smookey, circa 1943 (© Helen Lantz, direct descendant of Antonio Leiva).

THE ANTONIO LEIVA FAMILY

Antonio Maria Leiva was born in 1846 at Santa Barbara Mission to Francisco Antonio Leiva and Vincente Cordero and traced to Mexican and Native American ancestry. The family came to be known with the spelling of "Leiva," though like many names, numerous variations in spelling occur in the old records including Leyva, Leyba, and Liva. His great-grandfather Agustin Leiva was one of the *soldados de cuera* who arrived in the 4th expedition to Alta California with Captain Fernando Rivera. He left home at a young age and sought work as a vaquero in Marin County, California, near Olema. He was married about 1865, but his wife died. Antonio later came to the San Fernando area, where on November 29, 1876, he married 15-year-old Piedad Inocencia de Leon with the consent of her father, Jose Leon, who was from Spain. Piedad's mother was Petra Lopez, a daughter José Francisco Mauricio "Chico" Lopez, who was present and a witness for Antonio and Piedad's wedding. Piedad's grandfather, Chico Lopez, was another well-known vaquero and cattleman who had ranched in the area. He was an uncle of J. J. Lopez of the Tejon Ranch, being a brother of J. J.'s father, and Piedad's mother was J. J.'s first cousin.

Antonio had recently driven a herd of horses through the Tehachapis to deliver to the US Army, and the area impressed him. He and Piedad came to Kern County soon after their marriage, and settled initially near the Chanac Ranch, but found it was a railroad section. Antonio then chose a 40-acre site in the hills northwest of Cummings Mountain with plenty of water, where he built a cabin and found work for different ranches. When Ross Hill settled in Cummings Valley, the Leivas were neighbors, and Antonio rode a few years for the Hills, and eventually for the Tejon Ranch where he became cattle boss, a position he held for more than 30 years. Of the Leiva children, four sons and three daughters survived. All the Leiva boys rode for the Tejon ranch, as well as for the Hills at times. Roque, or "Rockie," the oldest, was born in 1878. Armand, known as "Jack," was born in 1888 and was two years younger than Roland. Theodore, or "Doro" was born in 1889, and Joe, the youngest, born in 1894 was two years younger than Russell. J. J. Lopez was Joe's godfather. The Leiva brothers and the Hill brothers were well-known and recognized as being among the top vaqueros in the county.

UNSETTLING CHANGES

Meanwhile, Roland's grandfather Joseph also purchased 160 acres in the mountains north of Water Canyon in Kern County in 1892, which added to the cattle range for the Hills. In 1898, Lottie's father,

Daniel Gridley, suffered a series of strokes and died. Joseph Hill then died of a cerebral hemorrhage in 1899. The next year, 1900, Piedad, the wife of Antonio Leiva suddenly became ill and died, leaving several of the younger children at home. Lottie stepped in, helping Ernestine, known as "Ernie," the oldest daughter who was trying to care for her young siblings. In October 1904, Ross Hill died suddenly, at just 42 years of age, leaving Roland to take over management of the ranch.

Joe Leiva recalled those difficult years. He was barely six years old when his mother died, but remembered how Mrs. Hill "saved our lives," as he put it, stepping in to take care of the younger children until Ernie was able to do it. He and his younger sisters Rowena and Clara would catch the burro to ride to school if they could or walk down to the Hill's land, as they had a cart and white horse and would always give them a ride. Ernie kept the younger children at the Leiva homestead for about three years after her mother died, and they moved into town about 1903. Rockie, Jack, and Doro worked at the Tejon ranch with their dad.

Jack Leiva continued to win many prizes with his beautiful black, champion Morgan stallion Smookey, which he bred from Hill stock, including many Champion Stallion titles at the Kern County Fair. Jack was also a member of the Kern County Rangers of the state forestry division and, in 1943, organized a grueling three-day endurance ride in the Tehachapi Mountains to test the abilities of horses and riders in resolving scouting problems in the timber company. Jack and Smookey led the ride which 41 rangers took part in. All the Leiva brothers were involved with the Morgans, and Joe Leiva, the youngest brother, who passed away in 1991 just a month short of his 96th birthday, told many stories about them to his family members.

Meanwhile, Roland had maintained close connections with his friends, the Leiva family. Antonio Leiva died in 1922, just about the time Roland was getting started with Morgans, but the Leiva brothers were definitely interested. Jack and his brother Doro started a Richfield filling station in Tehachapi that year, which they operated for more than 50 years, and it became the longest continuously operating gas station in the state of California at the time. All four brothers bought ranches in the same area, and Jack Leiva bought the mare Adalina Allen (Pat Allen x Angelina by Texas Allen) from Roland in 1928 and began to raise Morgans.

Joe & Jack (Armand) Leiva, WWI -

[https://www.morganhorse.com/upload/photos/904TMH_AprilMay2018_HISTORICAL_RolandHill.p
df](https://www.morganhorse.com/upload/photos/904TMH_AprilMay2018_HISTORICAL_RolandHill.pdf)



Branding at the Tejon Ranch in 1896 – one of the men is Joe Leiva's 24-year-old brother Roque Leiva
- <http://www.vaqueroheritage.org/losvaqueros/descendientes.html>



Antonio Leiva first saw Cummings Valley while driving a herd of horses from California to Utah. In 1880, he returned with a wife and their firstborn. He quickly found work with the Cummings, Hill, and Tejon ranches and later became cattle boss for the Tejon, a position he held for 30 years. He died at age 84 in his home in Tehachapi after being ill for just one week. (Courtesy Tehachapi Heritage League.)



Many a **vaquero** from the Three Valleys unrolled his bedroll inside this bunkhouse at the nearby Tejon Ranch. Out of Antonio Leiva's seven children, four of his sons would also work here—Roque (Rocky) rode until retiring in 1947, Armano (Jack) left in 1922 to open a gas station, Theodoro (Doro), and Jose (Joe) continued in the cattle business. (Courtesy Tejon Ranch Company.)

“The Three Valleys of the Tehachapia: Bear, Brite, and Cummings” by Gloria Hine Gossard, page 84

-
<https://books.google.com/books?id=DyO5UfHOpKoC&pg=PA84&lpg=PA84&dq=vaquero+%22antonio+leiva%22&source=bl&ots=DwCqD6OVD&sig=ACfU3U083ayZ79Vip82dtgmfSUVJ8tQRow&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj0jtWatbXyAhWBQc0KHdPdAssQ6AF6BAgMEAM#v=onepage&q=vaquero%20%22antonio%20leiva%22&f=false>

Wife:



Idonna Norman Leiva, ca. 1944 - https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/101043283/person/192046839896/media/2aebaeb4-5c3b-4133-bbf3-e9ad65d8666e?_phsrc=hFB26508&_phstart=successSource

ROBERT S. NORMAN

Robert S. Norman, of 1995 San Gabriel St., San Bernardino, died Wednesday at his home. A native of Springfield, Mo., he had lived in San Bernardino 17 years.

Mr. Norman was a retired railroad conductor with 42 years service with the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway. He was a member of the Order of Railway Conductors and Brakemen and Masonic Lodge No. 76 of Afton, Okla.

Survivors include the widow, Mae L.; a son, R. L. Norman of Anchorage, Alaska; a sister, Mrs. **Joseph Leiva** of Tehachapi; and a granddaughter.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Grove Colonial Mortuary. Cremation will follow at Mt. View Cemetery.

Obituary of his wife Idonna Norman Leitz's brother Robert S. Norman - "San Bernardino (CA) County Sun" Thursday 25 Mar 1965 p 41

Father:



"Bakersfield (CA) Morning Echo" Wednesday 31 Dec 1913 p 6



Father Antonio Maria Leiva - https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/101043283/person/190007050377/media/7016a534-6d29-4586-b221-2d65a308943f?_phsrc=hFB26547&_phstart=successSource



Tejon Ranch vaqueros – Roque Leiva 2nd from left, father Antonio 5th from left -
https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/101043283/person/190007050377/media/6b6c4abd-86d0-4a1b-9f64-551aff02b703?_phsrc=hFB26547&_phstart=successSource

Siblings:



Brother Robert Roque (Rockie) Leiva - <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/101043283/person/190006923301/media/9bf4ccc8-003f-4fda-b8da-437bbe4ab330>



Armand (Jack) Leiva & Theodore (Ted) Leiva - "Los Angeles Times" Tuesday 9 Mar 1971 p 23

Tehachapi Couple Wed.

Theodore Leiva and Miss Josephine Laffargue were united by the bonds of matrimony Saturday evening, Justice of the Peace Heath officiating. Only immediate relatives of the contracting parties witnessed the ceremony, which was performed at the home of Mrs. J. Yorba, a sister of the young benedict, and later a wedding supper was served by her. The newly married young people left for Los Angeles to spend a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Leiva are both natives of Tehachapi and have a host of friends in this vicinity to wish them an abundance of happiness and prosperity in their life partnership. —Tehachapi Tomahawk.

Marriage of brother Theodore Leiva to Josephine LaFargue – “Bakersfield (CA) Morning Echo”
Thursday 3 Nov 1910 p 5

Ernestine Yorba Services Planned for Wednesday

Funeral services will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the St. Malachys Church in Tehachapi for Ernestine Yorba who died Sunday in the home of her granddaughter, Mrs. Kelcy Owens, 203 Brentwood St., following a short illness.

Mrs. Yorba was a native of Tehachapi, born Dec. 25, 1880. Her husband, John preceeded her in death in 1939.

Officiating at the services will be Rev. Harry L. Eggert of St. Malachys Church. Graveside services will follow in Union Cemetery, Bakersfield, at 11 a.m.

Mrs. Yorba is survived by three daughters: Mrs. Bernard Redin of Tehachapi; Mrs. Martin Rothscheil of Long Beach and Mrs. John Forgues of Bakersfield; three brothers: Jack, Theodore and Joe Leiva, all of Tehachapi; two sisters: Mrs. Otto Everhardt of Los Angeles and Mrs. John McNeil of Glendale.

Pallbearers are Clyde Brite, Al Bailey, Charles Powell, Sherman Chitwood Vic Phillips and Herbert Force.

Stickel Mortuary in Tehachapi is in charge of arrangements.



Armand Frank ("Jack") Leiva – Find A Grave 63749840

Eberhardt rites held in Whittier

Services were held May 15 at Rose Hills Mortuary by Mallory-Mitten Funeral Home for Mrs. Rowena Eberhardt, who died May 10 at the age of 81 at York Convalescent Hospital.

Mrs. Eberhardt was a native of Los Angeles, and had resided in the local area 65 years. She was a housewife, and a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

She is survived by a son, Leroy Eberhardt, a daughter, Virginia Kazakevicious, a brother and a sister.

Obituary of sister Rowena Leiva Eberhardt – “Highland Park News-Herald & Journal” (Los Angeles CA) Thursday 23 May 1974 p 6

Tehachapi Girl Weds.

Miss Clara Leiva, of Tehachapi, was married Friday at the Catholic church in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles, to Mr. John McNeil, who is an employee of the government with headquarters in the southern city. Mrs. McNeil was attended by Mrs. Ben Bowen, Mr. Bowen acting as best man. Mrs. J. Yorba, sister of the bride, and her children, of Tehachapi, were present at the wedding. After the ceremony Mrs. Eberhardt, another sister of the bride, served a wedding breakfast to the bridal party. Mr. and Mrs. McNeil enjoyed a short honeymoon trip in San Diego and will make their home in Los Angeles. Mrs. McNeil has many friends in Kern county who will wish her all happiness.

Marriage of sister Clara Leiva to John Thomas McNeil – "Bakersfield (CA) Morning Echo" Tuesday 29 Jan 1918 p 3

Joe Leiva is suffering from a severe attack of blood poison in his left jaw, contracted from defective pulling of an ulcerated tooth.

“Bakersfield (CA) Morning Echo” Tuesday 13 Jul 1915 p 3

Name: Joseph J. Leiva / Joe Leiva

Name variations: Levia & Leiva on passenger list – first name likely Jose originally

Military:

On Tuscania: 100th Aero Squadron, 11th Squad - private

Serial number: 249,890

Entered service from: Tehachapi, Kern CA

Sailed on “Tuscania” as: name spelled differently on different passenger lists: Joseph J. Levia (Fold3, p. 423) & Joseph J. Leiva (p. 574)

Next-of-kin on “Tuscania”: sister Erna Yorva, Tehachapi CA

Returned from war on: "Louisville" May 1919

Sailed on return ship as: Joseph J. Leiva

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: sister Mrs. Ernie Yorba, Tehachapi CA (chauffeur, 100th Aero Sq)

World War I draft registration (1917): as Joe Leiva - b. 2 Mar 1894 Tehachapi CA; res: Tehachapi CA.

Single. Gasoline engineer, Tehachapi Fruit & Land Co., Tehachapi CA. Short in height, medium build.

National Tuscania Survivors Association (1939 roster): Tebachapi [sic] CA

World War II draft registration (1942): as Joseph Leiva (middle name: none) - b. 2 Mar 1895

Cummings Valley, Kern CA; res: Brites Valley, Tehachapi, Kern CA. NOK Jack Leiva, Tehachapi CA.

Employed at Monolith Portland Cement Co., Kern CA. Height: 5'6" – weight: 170 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted 1 Aug 1917

Discharged 13 Jun 1919

Address: Tehachapi CA

Rank/unit: chauffeur, 100th Aero Squadron

Birth & death:

Born: 3 Mar 1895 Tehachapi, Kern CA (WWII & Veterans Administration Master Index: 2 Mar 1895 - II & VAMI) (WWI draft: 2 Mar 1894)

Died: 3 Feb 1991 Tehachapi, Kern CA

Find A Grave record: 13699839 – photo – presence on Tuscania indicated in flower

Burial location: Bakersfield, Kern CA

Cemetery: Hillcrest Memorial Park

Tombstone:

Father: Antonio Maria Leiva, 1846 San Gabriel, Los Angeles CA – 24 Mar 1922 Tehachapi, Kern CA. Son of Jose Santiago Leyva & Maria de Jesus Villa (a Native American of the Gabriel Mission). Was a vaquero (horse-mounted livestock herder, a tradition born in Spain, transferred to Mexico, brought to the Southwest & gave rise to the cowboy). He was caporal (ranch overseer) of the Tejon Ranch for three decades. The Tejon Ranch was formed from 4 Mexican land grants in the 1850s & 1860s to General Edward Fitzgerald Beale, was incorporated in 1936 & is 1 of the largest private landowners in CA as of 2021. Buried in Tehachapi Cove Cemetery, Tehachapi, Kern CA.

Find A Grave: 130962795

Mother: Piedad Inocencia de Leon Leiva, 22 Dec 1861 Los Angeles, Los Angeles CA – 1900 Tehachapi, Kern CA. Daughter of Jose Manuel (Maria) Ponce de Leon & Maria Petranilla Lopez. According to the family story, died in a fatal epidemic that also took the life of her child/children. She was alive in the 1900 census, conducted 2 Jun 1900. Buried in Tehachapi Cove Cemetery, Tehachapi, Kern CA.

Find A Grave: 130963095

Parents' marriage: 29 Nov 1876 Los Angeles Co. CA - found at https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/101043283/person/190007050377/media/c594a53e-4fbf-464a-a8d6-f9aba693bef2?_phsrc=hFB26547&_phstart=successSource

Spouse: Idonna B. Norman Leiva, 28 Dec 1895 MO – 2 Apr 1979 Tehachapi, Kern CA. SSN 564-21-0606. Her early life is not obvious. Her father's surname was Norman, her mother's maiden surname was Holcomb, her brother was Robert S. Norman (d. 24 Mar 1965 San Bernardino CA), F: 137177655. Could this be correct? - children of George W. & Mary J. [presumably Holcomb] Norman? They reside in the 1900 census in Polk, Christian MO. George W. Norman (41 TN, Jun 1858, parents b. NC, married 21 years) – wife Mary J. (37 TN, Jun 1862, father b. NC, mother b. SC, gave birth to 5 children, 3 are living) – son Robert S. (18 MO, Nov 1881) – daughter Martha A. (15 MO, Jul 1884) & Ida B. (12 MO, Dec 1887) – although birth year is way off.

Buried in Hillcrest Memorial Park, Bakersfield, Kern CA.

Spouse Find A Grave: 13699846

Marriage: ca. 1929 – Joe, age 35, reported his 1st marriage occurred at age 34 (1930 census). Idonna (age 33) reported she was 1st married at age 29 (ca. 1926).

Children:

Siblings: Joe was born after Rowena.

- Robert Roque (Rocky) Leiva, 27 Jul 1878 CA – 3 Aug 1957 Kern Co. CA. Married to Maria (Mary) Elena Martinez (1883-1907). Married to Gerda Alvina Swenson (1878-1961). Buried in Union Cemetery, Bakersfield, Kern CA. F: 202539428
- Mersaid Leiva, ca. 1879 CA (8 months old on 8 Jun 1880) – died after the 1880 census.
- Ernestine ("Ernie") Leiva Yorba, 28 Dec 1880 Tehachapi, Kern CA – 9 Sep 1962 Kern Co. CA. Wife of John Jacques C. Yorba (1873-1939) whom she married ca. 1904. Buried in Union Cemetery, Bakersfield, Kern CA. F: 96745655
- Matilda M. Leiva, Nov 1885 or 1886 CA – 1900 Tehachapi, Kern CA. Was alive at the time of the 1900 census, conducted 2 Jun 1900.
- Armand Frank ("Jack"/"Mandie") Leiva, 2 Jan 1888 Tehachapi, Kern CA – 24 Sep 1973 Tehachapi, Kern CA. Husband of Margaret Maude Stroud (1912-1996). Breeder of Morgan horses. Buried in Tehachapi Westside Cemetery, Tehachapi, Kern CA. F: 63749840
- Theodore Augustine ("Doro") Leiva, 22 Feb 1890 Tehachapi, Kern CA – 5 Feb 1972 Tehachapi, Kern CA. SSN 566-01-5545. Husband of Josephine LaFargue (1893-1984) by whom he had son Arthur (1911-1976) & daughter Madelyn May (1912-1990). Married 27 Sep 1962 in Clark Co. NV to Victoria Campas (1908-2008). Buried in Tehachapi Westside Cemetery, Tehachapi, Kern CA. F: 36692002
- Rowena Rosalie Leiva Eberhardt, 11 Jul 1891 or 1892 Tehachapi, Kern CA – 10 May 1974 Los Angeles Co. CA. Wife of Otto Eberhardt (1886 MO – 1967 CA, F: 111960224). In the 1940 census, resident of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co. CA: Otto Eberhardt (53 MO), Rowena (45

CA) & son LeRoy F. (17 CA). Otto was a glass beveler for W. & R. Glass Co., while LeRoy was an apprentice glass beveler. Buried in Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, Los Angeles CA. F: 111960271

- Clara Bertha Leiva McNeil, 7 Feb 1897 CA – 3 Jan 1978 Los Angeles Co. CA. SSN 548-23-4427. Wife of John Thomas McNeil (1883-1967) whom she married 29 Jan 1918 in Bakersfield, Kern CA.
- Baby boy Leiva, b. & d. 1900. Family history said this child (and others) died in a fatal epidemic which also took the life of their mother Piedad.

Notes: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/101043283/person/190077145571/facts>

The Antonio Leiva Family of Tehachapia, California – https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/7543510/person/645040902/media/d30f7ea2-607c-4c1a-b182-420e3a576285?_phsrc=hFB26567&_phstart=successSource

The 1880 census records Antonio, wife Piedad & their children Roque & Mersaid, living in Tehachapi, Kern CA. For a while they lived near the Chanac Ranch, but he was unable to “prove” his land because it was a railroad section. Antonio then located his homestead west of Cummins Peak & built a cabin. Additional children were born – son Armand (Jack), Theodore (Doro) & Joe and daughters Ernestine (Ernie), Rowena & Clara. Other children – and Piedad – died in a 1900 epidemic.

Antonio began as a cowhand at the huge Tejon Ranch of General Edward Fitzgerald Beale & for 30 years Antonio was the cattle boss on the ranch. Every 3 or 4 months, he would return to his children & bring money, then would return to the Tejon Ranch. In 1903, he had relocated his family to town so they could benefit from the experience.

As his sons grew, they joined their father at Tejon & at other ranches in the Tehachapi area, working as vaqueros. Son Roque worked first at Tejon, then at the Tehachapi Cattle Co., but returning to the Tehachapi Valley in 1947 when he was too old to continue as a vaquero.

Son Armand (Jack) worked at Tejon for a while. Joe is quoted as saying about his brother Jack & Mrs. Beale, the owner’s wife, and her friends who came to visit Tejon: “Old man Lopez would send Jack with them on saddle horses because he knew the country so well.”

Father Antonio stayed at Tejon until in 1922, at age 84, he became ill & took a train at Bakersfield CA to Tehachapi; he died within a week. In 1922, Armand (Jack) left the cowboy life to open a gasoline station, which he named Bartlett’s Richfield Station, which he owned for 50 years. Theodore (Doro), who had also ridden at Tejon, worked at the station most of the time. Joe continued in the cattle business & also worked at Monolith Portland Cement Co. The station was named for the Bartlett pears that the Tehachapi Fruit & Land Co. was planting in abundance.

Pre-war:

Several articles on Newspapers.com about his playing baseball:

“Bakersfield (CA) Morning Echo” Saturday 12 Feb 1910 p 1 – baseball game in the amateur athletic league between Kern & Tehachapi. Joe Leiva is pitcher & captain of the Tehachapi team.

“Bakersfield (CA) Morning Echo” Sunday 6 Mar 1910 p 3 – Delano won the Kern County grammar school championship 8-7 against Tehachapi in 12 innings at Kern. Joe Nunez of Delano outpitched Joe Leiva of Tehachapi.

Wartime:

“Bakersfield (CA) Morning Echo” Tuesday 31 Jul 1917 p 8 – Joseph J. Leiva, age 23, Tehachapi, enlisted yesterday in the aviation section of the signal corps.

“Bakersfield (CA) Morning Echo” Thursday 2 Aug 1917 p 4 – Kern District 1 men summoned for the draft, includes #2719 Joe Leiva of Tehachapi

“Bakersfield (CA) Morning Echo” Tuesday 14 Oct 1919 p 8 – “Honor Tehachapi District Soldiers” at the Opera House, among them J.J. Leiva & A.F. Leiva of Tehachapi, who served in the Army.

Post-war:

“Fresno (CA) Morning Republican” Sunday 21 Mar 1920 p 36 – the Federal Board of Vocational Education is funding training for 40 disabled veterans of the Great War from the San Joaquin Valley, among them Joseph A. Leiva of Bakersfield CA, Kern Co.

“Bakersfield (CA) Morning Echo” Tuesday 23 Mar 1920 p 2 – Joseph A. Leiva of Bakersfield is attending Brownsberger School as part of the training program for disabled veterans.

Obituary:

Social Security number: 559-07-1184

Censuses:

1880 Tehachapi, Kern CA – conducted 8 Jun 1880
 Antonio Leiva, 30 CA, parents b. CA, vacaro [vaquero]
 Piedad, 18 CA, parents b. CA, keeping [house]
 Robert, 2 CA
 Mersaid, 8 months CA
 Francisca, 13 CA [Antonio's sister]

1900 West Greenwich, Kern CA – conducted 2 Jun 1900
 Piedad Leiva, 37 CA, Dec 1862, father b. Spain, mother b. CA, married 23 years, gave birth to 12 children, 8 are living
 Ernie E., 19 CA, Dec 1880 [daughter Ernestine]
 Matilda M., 14 CA, Nov 1885, at school
 Mandie F., 12 CA, Jan 1888, at school [son Armand “Jack”]
 Theodore A., 10 CA, Nov 1889, at school
 Rowina R., 8 CA, Jul 1891

Joe C., 6 CA, Jan 1894

Clara B., 3 CA, Feb 1897

1910 Township 2, Kern Co. CA

Jos. Leiva, 17 CA, parents b. CA, hired man, laborer in livery barn

Living with:

William F. Wiggins, 30 CA, in 1st marriage, married zero years

Nancy J. Wiggins, 30 CA, in 2nd marriage, gave birth to 1 child, 1 is living [wife]

Roy Wiggins, 23 CA [William's brother]

& hired man Morris C. Mehrevine, 20 PA

1920 Yucaipa, San Bernardino Co. CA

Charles H. Biggin, 41 OH

Lizzie Biggin, 61 OH [mother]

Jane Biggin, 39 OH [sister]

Joe Leiva, 26 CA, single, father b. CA, mother b. Spain, laborer, hired man

Telesforo Mariscal, 62 Cuba, hired man

1930 Tehachapi, Kern CA

Joseph J. Leiva, 35 CA, parents b. CA, age 34 at 1st marriage, automobile mechanic, garage, WWI veteran

Idonna, 33 MO, father b. MO, mother b. France, age 29 at 1st marriage

1940 Judicial Township 8, Kern Co. CA – same place in 1935

Joe J. Leiva, 43 CA, repairman, cement mill

Idonna, 42 MO