

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.
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

Risley, William Walter
1889 CA – 1983 CA



William Walter Risley – Left: “San Francisco Examiner” 8 Feb 1918 p 2 – Right: “San Francisco Examiner” 5 Mar 1918 p 3

50 Years Ago—a Black Day

By LLOYD BOLES

It was dusk off the north coast of Ireland 50 years ago today and Capt. Wilhelm Meyer, skipper of the German submarine U-77, shrugged in disgust.

His submarine with its 34-man crew had been cruising off Ireland several weeks and had not spotted an enemy craft worthy of sinking.

He took one last squint in the eyepiece of the periscope and his shoulders stiffened. The time was 5:50 p.m. Feb. 5, 1918.

"With great surprise," he was to tell a reunion of the survivors of the American troopship Tuscania 15 years later, "I spotted an enormous cloud of black smoke on the western horizon."

He turned the U-77 toward the smoke and found the Tus-

cania in the center of a convoy, flanked by destroyers and gunboats.

"My hands trembled as I moved the sighting apparatus, because I knew if we stayed much longer the submarine would be rammed and sunk," Meyer recalled.

"Suddenly, a vague, ghostly shadow crept across the sighting mirror. Then atop this shadow appeared the outline of a smokestack. I recognized this shadow as the largest transport.

"I immediately ordered two torpedoes fired. It was then 7:40 p.m. The crew listened in suspense for several minutes. Then a terrific detonation told us we had hit our target."

There were 2,200 Americans on the ship bound for England. More than 100 were from California, a score from

**Oakland
Tribune**

A RESPONSIBLE METROPOLITAN NEWSPAPER

Mon., Feb. 5, 1968 ★ 15

the Bay Area with the 20th Engineers. The crew was British. Two hundred twenty five persons died.

The Tuscania, a 14,000-ton Cunard liner lent to America by the British, was the first U.S. troopship to be torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine.

The reaction in America, although at war with Germany 10 months, was one of stunned disbelief.

While the U-boats had been ravaging Allied shipping for four years with devastating results, no one, it appeared, believed it could happen to an American troopship.

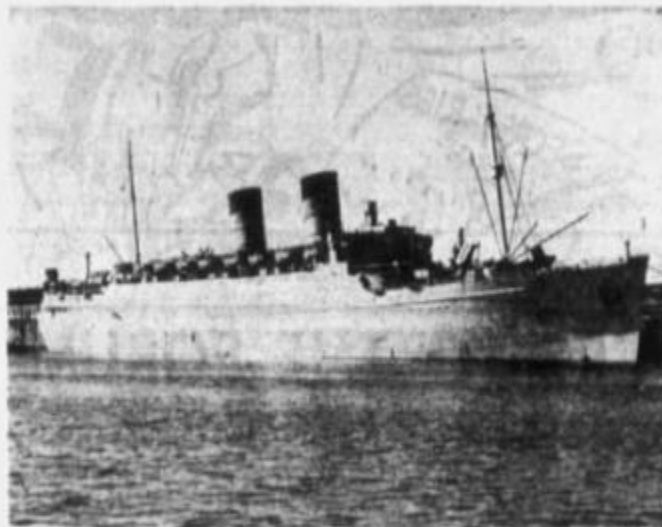
There were wild rumors that the British crew shirked its duty and abandoned ship, leaving the Americans to fend for themselves. This was disproved.

For the remainder of the war and for another 15 years there were hot accusations in Washington that the Tuscania was sunk as the result of an elaborate spy plot which guided the U-77 to the precise spot of contact on that chill winter day.

It wasn't until the U-boat's skipper, who was invited to the reunion, disclosed to the world that his spotting the



W. WALTER RISLEY
Peruses old album



S.S. TUSCANIA RESEMBLED THIS OTHER CUNARD LINER
America lost its first troop ship 50 years ago today

convoy containing the Tuscania was "sheer good luck," that the spy plot charges were refuted.

Attrition has taken its toll of Tuscania survivors over a half century. Perhaps a handful still live. One of them is W. Walter Risley, 78, of 2110 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda.

At the precise time that Meyer squinted into his periscope that fateful night, young Risley, a member of the 20th Engineers, was one of 15 men standing "diver lookout."

"We called subs 'divers' in those days because, well, that's what they were," recalled Risley, a retired Oakland Housing Authority official who still plays golf three days a week.

"I was just going down to the mess hall to eat when the torpedo struck. The ship lurched.

"I rushed to a hatch leading to the engine room. I saw water running in, and everybody started topside.

"The lights went out, and I made my way to my lifeboat station where I had charge of a lifeboat. There were supposed to be only 12 in it, but at least 36 men were jammed in.

"It's a wonder the rope didn't break. A buddy of mine helped me lower the boat into the water and then we shinned down the ropes into it.

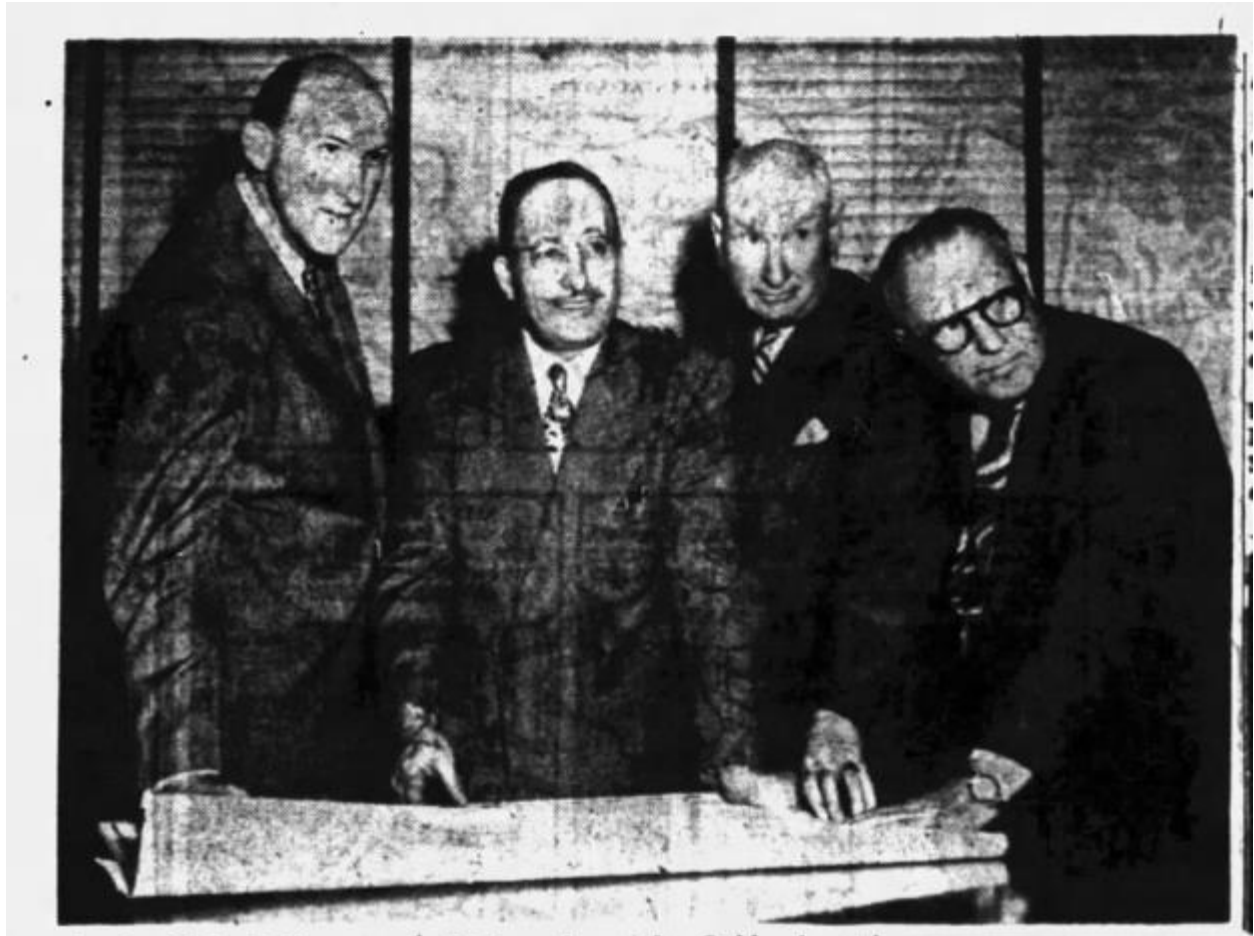
"Four hours later we were picked up by a British trawler and taken to the little village of Larne, on the north coast of Ireland, where the people welcomed us with open hearts."

Risley said he communicated by mail for 35 years with men he knew on the ship.

"There was Harry and Joe and Jimmy and Whitey and Swede and others. Then about 15 years ago the last of them died, and I haven't heard from any of my Tuscania friends since," he said.

"Funny thing," mused Risley, "I got to thinking about how fired up I was when I enlisted. All the tough training in this country. Almost losing my life on the Tuscania. I finally got to France—and ended up never firing a shot."

There were more than a handful of survivors alive - "Oakland (CA) Tribune" Monday 5 Feb 1968 p 15
[https://www.newspapers.com/image/legacy/477728604/?terms=%22walter%20risley%22&match](https://www.newspapers.com/image/legacy/477728604/?terms=%22walter%20risley%22&match=1)



Lin Lueddeke (left), assistant chief warden of the Oakland Civil Defense Council, examines map with these managers of Oakland Housing Authority projects (left to right) James A. DePaoli, Eugene L. McGraw and Walter W. Risley, who have recruited 737 block wardens.

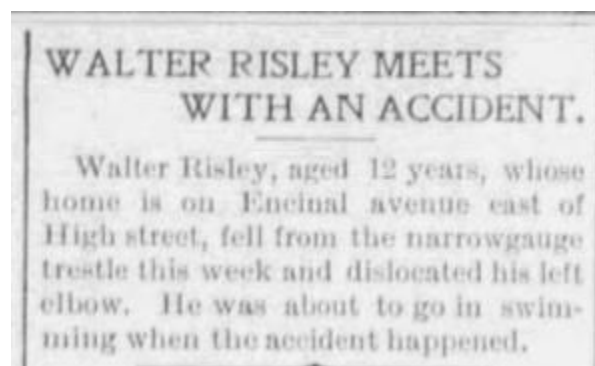
Believe this is him - William Walter Risley at far right – "Oakland (CA) Tribune" Thursday 12 Apr 1951
p 27

RISLEY WILLIAM WALTER		C
RISLEY WALTER		
Wag 17th Co 20th Engrs		K
1304 Pearl St Alameda Calif		A 1 549 307
No	250 632	Idad T 447 669
Date	9/29/89	R
Est	12/6/17	Ida 6/12/19 Cl 169 934
		I

U. S. VETERANS BUREAU
Mail and Records
Form 1000 - Rev. Sept., 1915

INDEX CARD *** 2-11200

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:WQGJ-X2ZM>



"Alameda (CA) Daily Times" Saturday 26 Jul 1902 p 3

MAY BE SKULL OF LOST WOMAN

Boys Find Part of a Human Skeleton While They Are at Play.

ALAMEDA, July 31.—Willie Anderson, Walter Risley and other boys who were in bathing at the East End, in digging away the bank on the bay shore at the eastern end of Central avenue this afternoon, uncovered a human skull. They made a plaything of it, using it as a football.

The Anderson boy, who is about 12 years old, is a son of Patrolman Anderson of the local police force, and told his father of the boys' discovery. He was told to notify Deputy Coroner Fowler, and when he did so the latter advised him to get a newspaper reporter to investigate the uncovering of the human remains. It was not until this evening that the news of the discovery of young Risley and Anderson leaked out. To-morrow the spot will be visited to try to recover the rest of the skeleton.

the discovery of which may reveal a murder.

The boys say the skull was that of a woman, and base their belief on the appearance of the teeth, some of which, they say, had silver fillings. The boys did not seek to discover more bones, which may be reposing in the bank of earth.

The spot where the skull was found is not far from the house of Patrick Keefe, whose wife disappeared from her home one morning about two years ago under suspicious circumstances, after having a quarrel with her husband. Keefe was suspected of having made way with the woman. While the beach was nearer his house than the spot where the skull was found, it is not impossible that further investigation may bring to light the remains of Mrs. Keefe. The mystery was never cleared up, and after being interrogated and having his children placed in the charge of Mrs. Prescott of the Humane Society, Keefe disappeared from Alameda and has never since been seen.

"San Francisco Chronicle" Friday 1 Aug 1902 p 7

WILSON SCHOOL TEAM LOOKING FOR GAMES.

A Light Eleven Which Has Been
Drilled Into a Formidable
Aggregation.

The Wilson School has a second team of which it is proud, and the team is anxious for games. It has vanquished other aggregations in its class in this vicinity, and now matches with any team from the bay cities averaging 118.

The team played a nothing to nothing game with the team of the Garfield school of Oakland, this school claiming to have the champion 120-pound team in Alameda count. The Wilson team has also played several games with the Longfellow school and won each time by good scores.

The effective playing of the young team is largely due to the coaching of Prof. Osborn, of the Wilson school, who has played in many inter-collegiate games, and is a football enthusiast.

The team line up as follows: Right guard, Bernard O'Brien; left guard, Osborn Webster; right tackle, Roden McMarra; left tackle, Ralph Freede; right end, Milton French; left end, Frank Marx; quarter, Spencer Brush; right halfback, Walter Risley; left halfback, Le Roy Bolt; fullback, Erick Pollard.



"Alameda (CA) Daily Argus" Friday 11 Nov 1904 p 1

Roy Bolp, a member of the same team as young French, said that the latter's hard playing, and the fact that he, being the best player, was called on most frequently to execute the plays, was exposed the most, accounted for his injury.

"Milton French was the best player we had," he said, "and we sent him in the oftenest when it was necessary to make gains. He was laid out several times during the game, before the time when he received the injury from which he is now suffering. Twice he had to take the count. He has always been a hard player, fearless, and never thinking of his own safety. I do not think there was any spite work on the part of any of the players."

Playing on the same team as Milton French were: Earl Risley, Walter Risley, Harry Wilbur, Henry Rheinhold, Herbert Postel, Fred Knule, Roy Bolp, Walter Cleves, Frank Cleves, Charles Rheinhold. Opposing him were: Lorne Hendry, Wilfred Kues, Russell Searle, Joseph Bruzzzone, Spencer Brush, Elmo Culvert, Ed Duncan, Frank McNutt, Edmund McCauley, Albert Wilbur, Ira Rader.

Baseball injury on the team of brothers Earl & Walter Risley – "San Francisco Examiner" Saturday 2 Dec 1905 p 3

HIGH STREETS WIN FROM ACADEMY TEAM

The High Street ball team, an aggregation of hard-playing baseballists, opened the season last week with a game with Hitchcock Academy nine and found the Hitchcock team easy prey, winning by a score of 26 to 6. In the seventh inning the High Streets got their batting eye on the ball and gathered in 16 runs.

The line-up of the High Streets was as follows: Pitcher, Leslie Jordan; catcher, T. Kent; first base, Clarence Gale; second base, Eugene Cleaves; short stop, Walter Risley; third base, Will Kent; left field, Edgar Kennedy; center field, Asa French; right field, John Slater.

Leslie Johnson, manager of the team, is looking for other games. His address is 1302 High street.

"Alameda (CA) Daily Argus" Tuesday 24 Mar 1908 p 8

YACHT CLUB HOUSE DESTROYED BY FIRE

Aeolians Lose Their Building
and Furniture Through
Explosion of Torch

Chief Krauth and Three Ala-
meda Firemen Are Hurt
by Falling Walls

Excerpt:

Chandler and a few other persons who happened to be near rushed into the burning structure and dragged out 10 small boats, while Walter Risley turned in an alarm.

"San Francisco Call" Friday 6 Nov 1908 p 5

BASEBALL LUCK DEFEATS MODELS

LASH'S BITTERS GET AWAY WITH
2-0 GAME AT LINCOLN
PARK SUNDAY.

Excerpt:

In the eighth Walter Risley, who did good work on third for the Lash's Bitters and incidentally enjoyed helping wax the opposition captained by his brother, Earl Risley, picked out a nice one of Sparks' benders and sent it over second for a safe passage to first. He made second on an error and romped home on a costly overthrow to first.

"Alameda (CA) Evening Times-Star & Alameda Daily Argus" Monday 29 Aug 1910 p 6

WALTER RISLEY IS AT FRESNO

Walter Risley has gone to Fresno on a visit and if his plans carry out he will probably become a member of the Fresno Republican baseball team and play during the winter in the raison city. He played with the Lash's Bitters team the past season. In several of the games he played against the Models, captained by his brother, Earl Risley.

"Alameda (CA) Evening Times-Star & Alameda Daily Argus" Thursday 3 Nov 1910 p 8

Devine, Sperry, Croll and Walter Risley walked off with the Model batting honors. Risley's two bagger netted a couple of runs early in the game and put the Models in the lead. The other two-bag swatters went into action later in the game when runs were not so vital but they brought them in in pairs until a half dozen new runs were made.

Score:	R.	H.	E.
Models	11	13	2
Krieg & Haltons.....	5	6	2

Batteries--Pierce and McDonough; Polard, P. Mackie and J. Mackie.

"Oakland (CA) Tribune" Wednesday 19 Jun 1912 p 15

CALIFORNIA MEN WERE ON THE TUSCANIA

Excerpt:

The Alamedans are: Walter S. Risley, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Risley, 1304 Pearl street, Alameda.
Charles C. Manley, brother of George Manley, 1301 High street, Alameda.
Second Lieutenant Frank L. Maker of Oakland, with the engineer reserves, is reported in the official list as first of the survivors landed.

"Santa Cruz (CA) Evening News" Saturday 9 Feb 1918 p 8

ALAMEDAN IS HERO ON TUSCANIA

Because he had lived in a town on San Francisco bay and therefore knew more or less of small boats, Walter S. Risley of Alameda was placed in charge of one of the small boats of the Tuscania when the great troopship went to her doom after being dived.

With 51 men standing in the boat Risley and a pal superintended the lowering of the small boat from the top deck, fifty feet above the water. Twelve men are supposed to be all that should be in a boat when it is lowered. There was a brisk sea running but the boat went to the water in safety.

Risley took charge and for four hours the small boat drifted in a heavy sea till picked up by a trawler.

After all but one of the men were taken on board the trawler with difficulty, owing to the heavy sea, Risley returned to the small boat and reeved a rope around the last man who was too far gone to climb on board by his own efforts and who had to be hauled on board by the rope.

The letter from Risley was received this morning by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Risley, 1204 Pearl street, Alameda. The same mail which brought the letter also brought a letter to Risley's brother, Earl Risley, calling the latter into the naval reserve.

WRITES FROM IRELAND.

Risley wrote from "somewhere in Ireland." He was on diver lookout duty when the crash came. The ship was plunged in darkness for the torpedo went into the engine room and wrecked the engines but the crew calmly started an auxiliary gas engine and furnished electric lights for the 2,000 and more troops and sailors to leave the vessel by. The letter reads in part:

"I don't know whether or not you received my cable and line three days ago. I do know if you will receive this letter, for it may be censored, but I hope you got the cable and will get this letter. After we left America we were joined by other boats. Some of them were slow, so we had to poke along to keep in company with them. Last Tuesday night everybody was in good spirits, for we were within a few hours of Ireland after an uncomfortable trip, when the awful crash came.

DARKNESS REIGNS.

Everything was in darkness, for the shot entered the engine room, but in about ten minutes we had lights; for the engine crew started a gas engine provided for just such emergency, and we had lights. Everybody had previous instructions to assemble in the lifeboats, but with death staring everyone in the face there was a good deal of excitement. Some of the boats were tipped over and broken. The boat I was to take charge of was on the top deck, fifty feet above the water. I was doing diver lookout duty when the crash came. By the time I got to the boat I found 51 men standing in the boat waiting for someone to shove the davits out and lower the boat. With a pal of mine I got the davits out and we lowered the boat, later sliding down the rope.

SEA IS ROUGH.

"We drifted for four hours in a rough sea, being finally picked up by a trawler. That was the hardest job of all, getting aboard the trawler without losing lives or smashing the boat.

"If they don't make better time outfitting this time than they did the first time the war will be over before we get our clothes. I am feeling fine and none the worse for my experience. All of my friends but four are here. If the boys at home knew what they were in for in the trenches they certainly would enlist so they would have choice of service."

"Oakland (CA) Tribune" Monday 4 Mar 1918 p 9

WAS ABROAD TUSCANIA.

Walter Risley Survived the Recent Sinking of Transport.

Some of the readers of the Star will remember Summers Risley who resided in St. Helena many years ago, but who, with his family has made his home in Alameda for over thirty years. Mr. Risley's two sons, Walter and Earl are in the service of Uncle Sam, the former in the army and the latter in the navy. Walter was on board the Tuscania, the transport that was recently sunk by a German submarine. His name was first published among those drowned, but later the parents were overjoyed upon receiving a cablegram that he was in Ireland safe. Later they received a letter from "somewhere in Ireland," dated February 9th, and it was published in the San Francisco Examiner Tuesday. Walter Risley is a cousin of Everett Risley, of St. Helena, who is also in the service of Uncle Sam. The letter follows:

Somewhere in Ireland
February 9.

Dear Mother:

I don't know if you have received my cablegram and the line I dropped you about three days ago, but hope this will reach you. I don't really know how to write, everything is censored, but will leave it to the board.

After we left the States we joined a number of other boats and as some of these were slow we had to poke along at a tiresome rate, and you know a troop ship is not the most comfortable to travel in.

Last Tuesday evening everybody was in good spirits because our journey's end was a matter of hours. Then the awful crash came, and will never be forgotten; everything was in darkness because the shot hit our engine room, but in about ten minutes we had lights, operated by a gas engine for that purpose.

We had all been previously assigned to life boats, but you can imagine everybody with death staring them in the face, and the result was that the boats were tipped over and broken.

On Lookout Duty.

The boat I had been assigned to, and also to take charge of, was on the top deck, fifty feet above the water. At the time of the crash I was doing diver lookout duty, and by the time I made my way to my lifeboat, it contained about 51 men and all standing; they were waiting for somebody to swing the davits over and lower it. Well, with the help of a pal of mine, who also knew a little about boats, we lowered safely to the water and then slid down the rope and cast off. You can see what work we had as only 12 men are supposed to be lowered in one of those life boats, and the others slid down—so God must have been with us to make those ropes hold.

We drifted around for four hours in a rough sea, but finally were picked up by a trawler, and that was the hardest job of all; to try and get aboard her in such a rough sea without smashing our boats and losing our lives. Of course, lucky me, was first aboard the trawler; but after all the rest but one was out, and being in charge, I was elected to back in again and tie a rope around a fellow who was about dead, so he could be hauled out.

About six hours' ride in the trawler brought us to a little town in Ireland and the people were all up and waiting on us hand and foot. You cannot praise the Irish people enough, as every hour of the day during our stay in the town they were having lunches and socials for us.

Irish Hospitality.

If you would be walking along the street alone, they would grab you and take you to their homes to fill you up. This being the first American troopship to be divered, it seems to be great honor to them to care for us. A great many of the boys were thinly-clad and were rigged out in all kinds of styles.

About three days of this hospitality, then they moved us down the coast about forty miles to a convalescent camp, where the Scotch boys came to rest up and heal their wounds. Here we were joined by the rest of our boys who were saved. The Scotch lads are a great bunch, and will give the shirts off their backs and are always ready to treat. By some of the experiences and stories they tell, our boys going into the trenches are in for a busy time. Some of the Scotch fellows have been wounded five to eight times. They are a great sight to see as they all wear kilties.

I think tomorrow we will move over to England and then be outfitted again. If they don't make better time giving us clothes this time, the war will be over before we get outfitted. I am feeling fine and no worse for my experiences. All of my friends but four are here. I feel I'm pretty lucky.

"HARDSHIPS" IN ARMY NOT SO BAD

ALAMEDA, June 29. — A big crop of war letters from France for California relatives of Americans "over there" arrived yesterday and today, evidently being brought across the Atlantic in a huge mass. The "Mitchell Girls" Walter Risley, a soldier god-son of a young Alameda maid who declines the use of her name for print, and many others report letters from France. The Alameda maid's god-son writes:

"I think a few particulars of our daily life here will give you an idea of what we are up against. We are at present quartered in one of the most beautiful parts of France, in fact, we have been in this district ever since we came to this country. We have always had what we wanted to eat up to the present time. If we want we can buy choice eats, such as omelettes made of chicken or anything that the world famous French peasant women cooks know how to prepare. We also have our choice of white or red wines of France to drink with all our meals that we buy outside of camp. The French host never thinks of anybody ever drinking anything but wine.

"Another great hardship here is promenading on beautiful summer evenings with the French mademoiselles. It is not terrible to be a soldier of Uncle Sam in France. I have been in construction camps in the U. S. where conditions have been ten times worse.

"At any time now we may move right into the thick of the fight, but I think that it is highly improrable."

"Oakland (CA) Tribune" Sunday 30 Jun 1918 p 31

Walter Kiskey writes from France of trips he is making from time to time during spare time from his work with an engineering regiment working in the French forests. He had just received news of the death of his father several weeks ago when he wrote to his mother.

"Oakland (CA) Tribune" Tuesday 16 Jul 1918 p 6

French Weep as U.S. Boys Parade

Risley Tells of Paris Celebration

TRIBUNE BUREAU
1434 PARK ST.

ALAMEDA, Nov. 16. — A letter received from Walter Risley of the 26th engineers tells of the parade which he witnessed in Paris of the Allied nations in the celebration of the Fourth Liberty Bond drive.

Young Risley was one of the first Alameda lads to enter the service of his country after the declaration of war. He was on the *Tuscania* when she was torpedoed off the Irish coast last spring. He suffered no ill effects from the exposure, and was sent to the front as soon as he landed in France. He has seen and been in many tight places since then, as he has driven a motor truck up to the front line trenches for several months.

TRIP TO PARIS.

Of his trip to Paris he says:

"October 22, 1918.

"Dear Mother—I have been here two days, so have not had much time to write as I have done some running around. This traveling on French railroads is not very pleasant as they have no sleepers or dining cars, and as the whole French population seems to be on the go it's very crowded—all traveling, sleeping and eating like a bunch of Gypsies. Also the trains are from one to five hours late in a day's run, so you can't tell if you will arrive at any certain place this week or next.

"I was lucky enough to have permission to travel alone, thus avoiding the discomforts of riding with a large crowd

eyes as the French people were crying and others throwing their hats into the air, all praying for the end to come.

"Even the wounded who were able to parade were there, and then the French tanks gave an exhibition of control as they waltzed around the streets like humans. Had a good view of all from the top of the subway staircase but had my hands full holding three mademoiselles up.

"They certainly have a wonderful subway system and also surface cars. More automobiles here than I thought were in the world.

LIFE ON BOULEVARD.

"The gay life on the boulevard de la Italian is an impressive sight. Cafes and places of amusement for miles and all large and grand. This is where you get an idea of the pleasure-loving Parisians. Everybody dressed in beautiful gowns laughing and drinking, and even the air of these surroundings makes one forget about the war. But all this stopped at 9 o'clock and the theaters at 11:30.

"Of course, Paris is dimly lighted on previous precaution of air raids. At present all the damage done by air raids is repaired, but the statuary is still covered. Monday I was off again for the place I am writing from now.

"I will be here for a week so will have many interesting things to write about. This place is an English watering place and reminds me very much of Santa Cruz, but, of course, far more elaborate."

of soldiers, as traveling in large numbers is a fright.

"At one big change point I took the notion that I wanted to see Paris and as the Paris express was about to pull out I jumped on. It's a funny thing here, nobody ever looks at a soldier's ticket, so that suited me. A night and half a day's ride saw me in Paris.

JUST LIKE AMERICA.

"Gee, it was like arriving in America. Such a fine class of French; so much different than I had seen before and a great per cent of these Parisians talk English.

"Saturday night I had the pleasure of taking a lady to dinner, and how interesting it was, as she was highly educated in English and showed me many interesting things in Paris.

"An amusing thing, which is a custom with the French and afforded me much pleasure, occurred here. It seems that the French people certainly want good service. Well, first she made the waiter clean off all the knives, forks and spoons and glasses (of course, water glasses) and then the big argument about the quality of food on the bill of fare came. But when the addition came (the French word for check) I had a good laugh. A paper about two feet long and everything listed like a lumber bill, but leave it to her, she looked it over and saved me about five francs. The place where we ate reminded me more of a theater as it had a large main floor and two galleries. Seated, I should judge, about 1500 people.

HAS WONDERFUL TREAT.

"Sunday, with the knowledge of my lady friend, I visited many interesting things. Also as Sunday was a celebration for the Fourth Liberty Loan and the evacuation of Lille, I was in for a wonderful treat. A parade of all Allied nations in the war was held. What a number of fighting men I will never see again and how our boys impressed the people! So young compared to the other soldiers, and, believe me, they had the snap in them as they marched. They also had about 500 cannon of all sizes and about 20 aeroplanes captured from the boche at the Lille drive. This impressive sight, especially the parade, brought the tears to my

2 Alameda Fighting Men Return Home

ALAMEDA, June 14.—Walter Risley, one of the heroes of the Tuscania torpedoing, and the son of Mrs. Jane Risley of 1304 Pearl street, who arrived from overseas a few days ago, was down today meeting old friends after tow years' absence. He was a member of the Twentieth Engineers.

Donald Henderson, another Alameda man who also was on the Tuscania, is home. When the big vessel was sunk it was feared that Henderson was lost as no word came from him for several days. He was a member of the 100th Aero Squadron.

"Oakland (CA) Tribune" Saturday 14 Jun 1919 p 3

William Walter Risley, who has managed the RKO Temple here for three years, will succeed Mr. Golden as manager of the RKO Palace Saturday. He has a varied career in the theater business. His home was in Oakland, Calif., and he entered the employ of the Golden State Theatrical Corporation's maintenance and construction department in San Francisco. Then Mr. Risley became identified with the management of the Palace and the Riverside theaters in Milwaukee, and from there he went to the management of the Palace in Rockford, Ill. He came to the Temple here from the management of the Orpheum in Springfield, Ill.

Succeeding Mr. Risley at the RKO Temple as manager will be Charles Freeman, who has served as assistant manager at the RKO Palace for seven years. A native Syracusan, he was assistant manager of the RKO Keith there for two years. Mr. Freeman gained previous experience in other Syracuse houses.

With the opening of the new Astaire-Rogers picture on the RKO Palace screen Friday, Feb. 28, vaudeville will be omitted from the program of that house.

"Rochester (NY) Democrat & Chronicle" Thursday 20 Feb 1936 p 19

CARTER ENDORSED

Headquarters for Congressman Albert E. Carter announce the organization of two neighborhood clubs to assist in the re-election campaign.

Jack Vanderkar heads the club in the Fruitvale and Foothill Boulevard section. Other officers are William W. Risley, W. J. McConaughy, James Stanfield, Herbert Henkel and Henry Sweet.

"Oakland (CA) Tribune" Tuesday 8 Feb 1940 p 14

Wife:

William Walter Risley	
in the California, U.S., Marriage Records from Select Counties, 1850-1941	
Name:	William Walter Risley
Gender:	Male
Birth Year:	abt 1890
Birth Place:	California
Race:	White
Marriage Age:	39
Residence Place:	1304 Pearl St, Alameda
Marriage Date:	22 Sep 1929
Marriage Place:	Alameda, California, USA
Father:	William S Risley
Mother:	Jane Plankerton
Spouse:	Mona Muelholland
Spouse Gender:	Female
Spouse Race:	White
Spouse Marriage Age:	30
Spouse Birth Place:	Illinois
Spouse Residence Place:	Burlingame
Spouse Father:	Peter Goodyear
Spouse Mother:	Annabelle Hoefling

Marriage License

395

County of Alameda,

State of California

This license authorizes, within the County of Alameda, State of California, the marriage

of William Walter Risley, color or raceWhite, a native of California, aged 39 years, a resident of AlamedaCounty of Alameda, State of California andMona Mulholland, color or raceWhite, a native of Illinois, aged 30 years, a resident of BurlingameCounty of San Mateo, State of California

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Superior Court of the State of California,

in and for the County of Alameda, this 19th day of September 1929.

(SEAL)

Geo. E. Gross
COUNTY CLERK OF THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA AND EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA.By A. M. Clements Deputy

Marriage Certificate

State of California, } ss.
County of AlamedaI HEREBY CERTIFY that I am A Minister of the Gospel

and that

William W. Risley and Mona Mulholland
were joined in marriage by me on the 22nd day of September 1929, at AlamedaCounty of Alameda, State of California, and that Edward M. Marquis, a resident ofBerkeley, County of Alameda, State of California, andLila K. Johnston, a resident of OaklandCounty of Alameda, State of California, were present as witnesses of said ceremony.

Filed for Record at request of

E. H. Smith
this 27 day of Sept, A. D. 1929at 9 min. past 11 o'clock A. M.W. Bacon County Recorder.By 52044 Deputy Recorder.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this

22nd day of September, 1929.E. H. Smith

SIGNATURE OF PARTY PERFORMING CEREMONY.

TITLE OF PARTY PERFORMING CEREMONY.

GROOM		BRIDE	
FULL NAME	William Walter Risley	FULL NAME	Mona Mulholland
RESIDENCE	1304 Pearl St. Alameda	RESIDENCE	Burlingame
COLOR OR RACE	White	COLOR OR RACE	White
AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY	29 Years	AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY	30 Years
SINGLE WIDOWED OR DIVORCED	Single	SINGLE WIDOWED OR DIVORCED	Divorced
NUMBER OF MARRIAGE	First	NUMBER OF MARRIAGE	Second
BIRTHPLACE	California (State or Country)	BIRTHPLACE	Illinois (State or Country)
OCCUPATION	Salesman	OCCUPATION	at home
(a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work	Real Estate	(a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work	
(b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer)		(b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer)	
NAME OF FATHER	William S. Risley	NAME OF FATHER	Peter Goodyear
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER	Kentucky (State or Country)	BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER	Kentucky (State or Country)
MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER	Jane Plankerton	MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER	Annabelle Gofling
BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER	Virginia (State or Country)	BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER	France (State or Country)
Maiden Name of the Bride, if She Was Previously Married			
WE, the groom and bride named in this certificate, hereby certify that the information given therein is correct, to the best of our knowledge and belief. William Walter Risley Groom. Mona Mulholland Bride.			
CERTIFICATE OF PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY			
I HEREBY CERTIFY that William W. Risley and Mona Mulholland were joined in marriage by me in accordance with the laws of the State of California, at Alameda this 22nd day of September 1929.			
Signature of Witness to the Marriage		Signature of Person performing the Ceremony	
Edward M. Montgomery		E. L. Smith	
Residence 2527 Russell St. Berkeley		Official Position 2525 Santa Clara Ave.	
Filed Sep 27 1929 G. H. Bacon Registrar (County Recorder)		Residence Alameda Calif	

Marriage of William Walter Risley on 22 Sep 1929 in Alameda Co. CA to Mona Lillian Goodyear – Mulholland, indicating her birth was ca. 1899 - <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/92522:8797?tid=38051045&pid=29349668503&queryId=a76f8706f87605741ff6b0bd21d5e8d7&phsrc=hFB49634&phstart=successSource>

Lillian E. Goodyear

in the Cook County, Illinois, U.S., Marriages Index, 1871-1920

Name:	Lillian E. Goodyear
Age:	22
Gender:	Female
Birth Year:	abt 1892
Marriage Type:	Marriage
Marriage Date:	30 Nov 1914
Marriage Place:	Oak Forest, Cook, Illinois
Spouse Name:	James A. Mulholland
Spouse Age:	24
Spouse Gender:	Male
FHL Film Number:	1030586

https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1653767:2556?tid=&pid=&queryId=ed32aefab0f7f1517b02b8a8208972a2&_phsrc=hFB49644&_phstart=successSource

Lilly Goodyear	
in the Cook County, Illinois, U.S., Birth Certificates Index, 1871-1922	
Name:	Lilly Goodyear
Birth Date:	13 Mar 1892
Birth Place:	Chicago, Cook, Illinois
Ethnicity:	American
Gender:	Female
Race:	White
Father:	Peter Goodyear
Mother:	Annie Hofling
FHL Film Number:	1287737

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/2140000:2545>

GOODYEAR—Anna Goodyear, beloved wife of Peter, loving mother of Fred, Edward, Mrs. Lillian Mulholland, Peter, and Hazel, in Los Angeles, Cal., Oct. 11. Funeral Wednesday, 10 a. m., from the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Lillian Mulholland, 341 W. 63d-st., to St. Peter's church, where solemn requiem high mass will be celebrated. Autos to Mount Olivet.

Death of Mona Lillian Goodyear Mulholland's mother Anna – "Chicago Tribune" Tuesday 17 Oct 1922 p 25

JAMES MULHOLLAND

Rosary was recited Monday evening in McCormick Mortuary for James Albert Mulholland, 70, of 16024 S. Western Ave. Requiem Mass was celebrated Tuesday morning in St. Anthony of Padua Church, and graveside service was conducted by Gardena Elks Lodge 1919 at Green Hills Memorial Park.

A pressman at the Los Angeles Examiner for 43 years, Mulholland worked at his trade until shortly before he entered the hospital last December. He died January 20, leaving a brother, John A. Mulholland of Chicago.

Obituary of Mona Lillian Goodyear's 1st husband, James Albert Mulholland – "Gardena (CA) Valley News & Gardena Tribune" Sunday 29 Jan 1961 p 10

BURLINGAME GIRL TO WED

ALAMEDA, Sept. 14—The engagement of Mona Mulholland of Burlingame, formerly of Chicago, and William Walter Risley of Alameda, is announced.

The wedding will take place the latter part of September and will be followed by a honeymoon trip to Chicago, where the couple will make their home this winter and perhaps permanently.

The bride-elect has numerous friends in the bay cities. Risley is a World war veteran, the son of Mrs. Jane Risley, 1304 Pearl street, Alameda. He is a brother of Earl Risley, Eastbay union labor leader. He was aboard the United States transport Tuscania, en route to France when the transport was torpedoed off the Irish coast. He served with an engineering outfit.

Ready to Wed

MONA MULHOLLAND of Burlingame and William Walter Risley, Alameda, have announced their engagement. They will be married this month.



"Oakland (CA) Tribune" Sunday 15 Sep 1920 p 13

RISLEY—In Oakland, June 26, 1955.
Mona Lillian, beloved wife of William
Walter Risley; sister of Hazel Ander-
son of San Leandro, Edward and Peter
Goodyear of Florida and Fred Good-
year of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. A
native of Chicago, Illinois.
Private funeral services were held
Tuesday, June 28th at 1:30 p.m. at the
Fruitvale Chapel of the Clarence N.
Cooper Mortuaries, 1580 Fruitvale Ave-
nue. (Phone KE llog 3-4114.)

Obituary of Mona Lillian Thompson Mulholland Risley – "Oakland (CA) Tribune" Wednesday 29 Jun 1955 p 51

Mother:

Funeral Set for Alameda Woman

ALAMEDA, Nov. 17.—Last rites for Mrs. Jane Risley, 85, resident of Alameda since 1888, were held today at the Smiley-Gallagher chapel, 1415 Oak Street.

Mrs. Risley died Sunday at the home of her son, Earl, at 1304 Pearl Street. A native of West Virginia, she was the widow of the late William S. Risley, prominent building contractor here.

Surviving are another son, Walter; a daughter, Mona Risley, both of Alameda; a sister, Della Kelty of Newbourg, Ore.; and a grandson, Clayton Earl Risley Jr., Navy Pre-Flight cadet at St. Mary's College.

Obituary of mother Jane Risley – instead of “daughter,” Mona Risley is her daughter-in-law (William’s wife) - “Oakland (CA) Tribune” Wednesday 17 Nov 1943 p 31 - <https://www.newspapers.com/image/legacy/147817228/?terms=risley%20mona%20william&match=1>

Siblings:

Louis Risley, the nine year-old son of W. S. Risley, of Calistoga, died at that place on Sunday last. The little fellow had been suffering from disease for some time past and about ten days ago it took the form of brain fever which terminated fatally. He was buried in the cemetery here on Monday.

Obituary of brother **Louis R. Risley (1879-1886)** – “Napa (CA) Weekly Journal” Thursday 21 Oct 1886 p 3

DIED.

SACRAMENTO, October 13—Mrs. Bridget, the beloved wife of Peter Hockwell, a native of Donegal, Ireland, 62 years, 4 months and 11 days.

[Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, which will take place from her late residence, Sixth street, between D and E, Sunday afternoon, October 17th, at 2 o'clock; thence to St. Rose Church, where funeral services will be held.] *

Nevada City, October 13—Martha May Pascoe, 6 years, 7 months and 19 days.

Calistoga, October 10—Louis R. Risley, 7 years, 2 months and 17 days.

Truckee, Nevada county, October 10—Charles Wright, 65 years.

Rocklin, October 6—James Agler, 6 years.

Near New England Mills, October 7—Chandler P. Abbott, 55 years.

This article says Louis died at age 7 years, 2 months, 17 days - "Sacramento (CA) Record-Union" Saturday 16 Oct 1886 p 8



Oakland Councilman James H. Quinn (center), president of the Alameda County Building and Construction Trades Council, confers with Sam Donohue (left), business representative of the Plumber and Gasfitters Union, and Clayton Earl Risley, business representative of Carpenters Local No. 36, leaders in the union drive for War Chest funds.

Brother Clayton Earl Risley (1887-1967) at right – "Oakland (CA) Tribune" Thursday 22 Oct 1942 p

RISLEY, Clayton E., in Oakland, October 17, 1967, father of Clayton E. Risley Jr. of Sunnyvale, Mrs. Dorothy Sullivan of Pleasant Hill and John Russell of Oakland; brother of Walter Risley of Alameda; grandfather of Deanna Risley. A member of the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge No. 324, American Legion Post No. 9, and member and business agent of the Carpenters Union Local No. 36 of Oakland. A native of Pasadena; aged 80 years.

Friends are invited to attend services Friday, October 20 at 3 p.m. in the Chapel of **ALBERT BROWN MORTUARY**, 3476 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland. Memorials to American Cancer Society preferred.

Obituary of brother Clayton Earl Risley – "Oakland (CA) Tribune" Thursday 19 Oct 1967 p 22

332

County of Alameda, } This license authorizes, within the County of Alameda, State of California, the marriage
State of California }

of Clayton E. Risley, color or race
Caucasian, a native of California, aged 33 years, a resident of Alameda
County of Alameda, State of California and
County of Alameda, State of California
of Marguerite J. Russell, color or race
Caucasian, a native of California, aged 27 years, a resident of Alameda
County of Alameda, State of California

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Alameda, this 20th day of September, 1920.

(SEAL) Earl E. Cross
COUNTY CLERK OF THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA AND EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA.
By S. T. Kennell Deputy

State of California, } ss.
County of Alameda }

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am Pastor 1st M.E. Church Alameda and that
Clayton Earl Risley and Marguerite J. Russell
were joined in marriage by me on the 12th day of September, 1920, at Alameda
County of Alameda, State of California, and that W. W. Risley, a resident of
Alameda, County of Alameda, State of California, and
Souma Nalsh, a resident of Oakland
County of Alameda, State of California, were present as witnesses of said ceremony.

Filed for Record at request of
E. R. Dille
this 25 day of Sept., A. D. 1920
at 17 min. past 10 o'clock A. M.
E. W. Bacon County Recorder.
By S. T. Kennell Deputy Recorder.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this
21st day of September, 1920
Albert R. Dille
SIGNATURE OF PARTY PERFORMING CEREMONY.
TITLE OF PARTY PERFORMING CEREMONY.

PLACE OF MARRIAGE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA.		California State Board of Health BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS		STATE INDEX NO. _____	
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		LOCAL REGISTERED NO. <u>3114</u>			
GROOM			BRIDE		
FULL NAME <u>Clayton E. Risley</u>			FULL NAME <u>Marguerite J. Russell</u>		
RESIDENCE <u>Alameda</u>			RESIDENCE <u>Alameda</u>		
COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <u>33</u> Years	COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <u>27</u> Years		
SINGLE, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED <u>Single</u>	NUMBER OF MARRIAGE <u>First</u>	SINGLE, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED <u>Divorced</u>	NUMBER OF MARRIAGE <u>Second</u>		
BIRTHPLACE <u>California</u> (State or Country)			BIRTHPLACE <u>California</u> (State or Country)		
OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work. <u>Carpenter</u> (b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer) <u>House</u>			OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work. <u>Dress Maker</u> (b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer) <u>x</u>		
NAME OF FATHER <u>W. F. Risley</u>			NAME OF FATHER <u>C. Thompson</u>		
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER <u>Kentucky</u> (State or Country)			BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER <u>Sweden</u> (State or Country)		
MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Jane Plantington</u>			MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Mary Tierney</u>		
BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER <u>West Virginia</u> (State or Country)			BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER <u>California</u> (State or Country)		
Maiden Name of the Bride, if She Was Previously Married _____					
WE, the groom and bride named in this certificate, hereby certify that the information given therein is correct, to the best of our knowledge and belief. <u>Clayton E. Risley</u> Groom. <u>Marguerite J. Russell</u> Bride.					
CERTIFICATE OF PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY					
I HEREBY CERTIFY that <u>Clayton E. Risley</u> and <u>Marguerite J. Russell</u> were joined in marriage by me in accordance with the laws of the State of California, at <u>Alameda</u> this <u>21st</u> day of <u>September</u> 192 <u>0</u> .					
Signature of Witness to the Marriage } <u>W. F. Risley</u>			Signature of Person performing the Ceremony } <u>Albert R. Dille</u>		
Residence <u>Alameda</u>			Official Position <u>Clergyman</u>		
Filed <u>Sep 25</u> 192 <u>0</u> <u>L. V. Bacon</u> Registrar (County Recorder)			Residence <u>Alameda</u>		

Marriage of Clayton Earl Risley to Marguerite Thompson Russell on 21 Sep 1920 in Alameda Co. CA
 - https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8797/images/42292_1020601537_1324-00333?pid=2103602

* * * *

The wedding of Mrs. Marguerite Josephine Russell and Earl Clayton Risley took place this week at the home of the bride on Buena Vista avenue and about twenty relatives of the couple were present. Rev. Dr. E. R. Dille, pastor of the First Methodist Church here, performed the ceremony, which was followed by a reception and supper. Mrs. C. J. Walsh attended as matron of honor at the wedding. The bride wore a gown of flesh colored silk and georgette and carried an armful of enchantress carnations. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thompson of this city. After a honeymoon trip the couple will return here to make their home.

Marriage of Clayton Earl Risley & Marguerite Josephine Thompson Russell – "San Francisco Chronicle" Sunday 26 Sep 1920 p 3

Accident Spoils Theater Party

Twins Miss Seeing 'Snow White' When Automobiles Collide

Joanne and "Jo-Jo" Edward, 3-year-old twins of Mrs. Marguerite Edward, of 3516 Mirasol Avenue, didn't mind their cuts and bruises today half as much as they did the fact that they were cheated out of seeing "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" by an automobile accident.

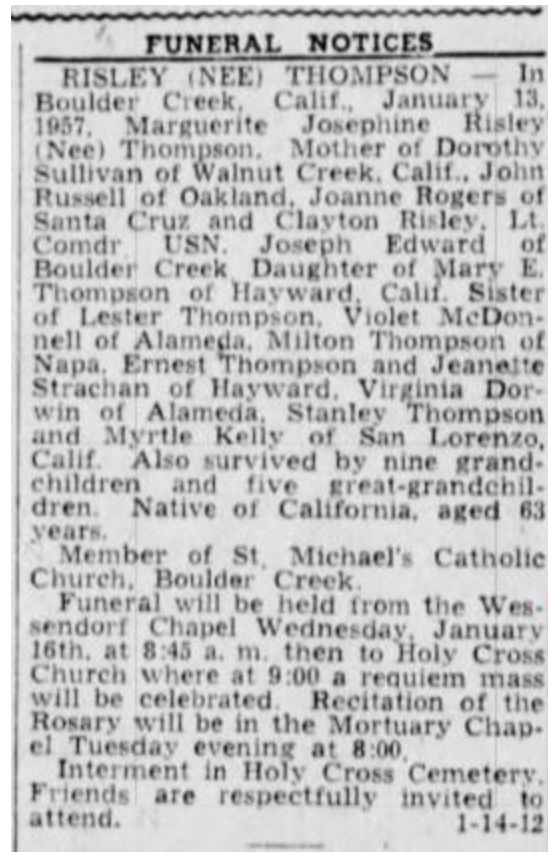
With their uncles, Clayton E. Risley, and Milton Thompson, they were on their way to Alameda to see the fairy tale picture, when the accident occurred.

At East Fourteenth Street and 22nd Avenue, Risley's machine collided with one driven by Mrs. Lillian M. Tanner, 33, of 646 Geneva Avenue, San Francisco, police reported.

The twins, instead of going to a movie, were taken to the Alameda County Hospital, where they were treated for cuts and bruises and then taken home to be put to bed.

Now they're trying hard to get well quickly so that they may still get to see the long-awaited picture.

Clayton Earl Risley was not the uncle of twins Joanne & Joseph Edwards, but the ex-husband of their mother Marguerite Edward – "Oakland (CA) Tribune" Tuesday 10 May 1938 p 17



Obituary of Marguerite Thompson, whose obituary uses the surname of Risley – “Santa Cruz (CA) Sentinel” Tuesday 15 Jan 1957 p 14

Name: William Walter Risley

Name variations: Walter Risley (likely because he & his father shared the same 1st name, William)

Military:

On Tuscania: 20th Eng. 17th/Co. E - private

Serial number: 250,632

Entered service from: Alameda, Alameda CA

Sailed on “Tuscania” as: William W. Risley

Next-of-kin on “Tuscania”: mother Mrs. Jane Risley, 1304 Pearl St., Alameda CA

Returned from war on: "Santa Paula" May 1919

Sailed on return ship as: Walter W. Risley

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: mother Mrs. Jane Risley, 1304 Pearl St., Alameda CA (wagoner, 17th Co., 20th Engrs, Forestry)

World War I draft registration (1917): as William Walter Risley - b. 29 Sep 1888 Alameda

CA; res: 1304 Pearl St., Alameda, Alameda CA. Response to question if married or single:

“no” – pressman for the “Examiner” at 3rd & Market St., San Francisco CA. Medium height & build.

World War II draft registration (1942): as William Walter Risley -0 b.29 Sep 1889 Alameda CA; res: 2716 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, Alameda CA. NOK Mrs. Jane Risley, 1304 Pearl St., Alameda CA [his mother]. Employed at US Naval Hospital, Oak Knoll, Mountain Blvd., Oakland CA. Height: 5'8" – 180 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted: 6 Dec 1917

Discharged: 12 Jun 1919

Address: 1304 Pearl St., Alameda CA

Rank/unit: wagoner, 17th Co., 20th Engineers

Birth & death:

Born: 29 Sep 1889 Alameda, Alameda CA

Died: 13 Sep 1983 Sunnyvale, Santa Clara Co. CA

Find A Grave record: 243354627 (created 8 Sep 2022) – presence on Tuscania indicated in text

Burial location: unknown

Cemetery:

Tombstone:

Father: William Somers Risley, Apr 1851 Campbell Co. KY – 19 May 1918 Alameda Co. CA. Son of Hezediah Risley & Mary E. Rust. Died while William was at war. Buried in Chapel of Memories Columbarium, Oakland, Alameda CA.

Find A Grave: 176676043

Mother: Jane ("Jennie") Plankinton (Plankinton/Plankerton) Risley, 25 Oct 1859 WV – 14 Nov 1943 Alameda Co. CA. Daughter of Eli Plankinton (1815-1889, F: 35667342) & Catherine Culp (1830-1893, F: 35667189). Survived by sons Earl (at whose home she died) & Walter (Alameda CA) & daughter [sic/daughter-in-law] Mona (Alameda CA). Obituary in "Oakland (CA) Tribune" 17 Nov 1943 p 31. Buried in Chapel of Memories Columbarium, Oakland, Alameda CA.

Find A Grave: 176676102

Parents' marriage: 17 Sep 1878 Napa Co. CA. William Somers Risley was age 27 & Jennie Plankinton was age 18.

Spouse: Mona Lillian Goodyear Mulholland Risley, 3 Mar 1892 Chicago, Cook IL – 26 Jun 1955 Alameda Co. CA. Daughter of Peter J. Goodyear (1860-1925) & Annabelle Marie Hoefling (1860-1922). She is born as Lilly Goodyear in Chicago, Cook IL on 3 Mar 1892 (Chicago IL birth record). Her age in the 1900 Chicago, Cook IL census is age 8, born Mar 1892. In the 1910 census, she is age 18. – As Lillian E. Goodyear, age 22 (again indicating a birth year ca. 1892), she marries James A. Mulholland on 30 Nov 1914 in Oak Forest, Cook IL. James Alfred Mulholland, SSN 563-10-1279, b. 7 Feb 1890 IL, d. 20 Jan 1961 Los Angeles Co. CA, was the son of Bernard & May A. Mulholland. He reported on his 1917 WWI draft registration that he was a pressman for the "Chicago Examiner" & had a dependent wife. In

the 1920 census, James Mulholland (29) & wife Lillian (26) also have his mother & sister living with them on Sangamon in Chicago, Cook IL. James is buried in Green Hills Memorial Park, Rancho Palos Verdes, Los Angeles CA, F: 71421158. - When she comes to CA, she has become Mona & indicates a birth year of 1899 on her marriage license with William Risley. - Her CA death record reports a birth date of 3 Mar 1895.

Spouse Find A Grave:

Marriage: 22 Sep 1929 in Alameda Co. CA. Mona Mulholland, age 30, b. IL

Children:

Siblings: his mother reported in the 1900 census that she had given birth to 3 children, 2 of whom were living. Clayton Earl & William Walter were listed.

- Louis R. ("Lou") Risley, 23 Jul 1879 CA – 10 Oct 1886 Calistoga, Napa CA. Listed as 11 months old, b. Jul 1879 CA, in the 1880 census for St. Helena, Napa CA. Died at age 7 years, 2 months, 17 days of brain fever. Buried in St. Helena Cemetery, St. Helena, Napa CA. F: 48253100
- Clayton Earl Risley, 7 Feb 1887 Pasadena, Los Angeles CA – 17 Oct 1967 Alameda Co. CA. He frequently used the name Earl Risley earlier in his life. In 1917, when he registered for the WWI draft, he was a carpenter for the Claremont Hotel – Married 21 Sep 1920 in Alameda Co. CA to Marguerite Josephine Thompson Russell, the daughter of Charles Emil Thompson & Mary E. Tierney. By her 1st marriage to William Jack Russell (1879-1963), she had 2 children: Dorothy (1913) & John (1915). She was divorced at the time of her marriage to Risley. Clayton & Marguerite had 1 child: Clayton Earle Risley Jr. (1922 CA – 2002 CA). After her marriage to Clayton, Marguerite married a man named Edwards & had 2 children, twins Joanne & Joseph Edwards, b. 1 Jan 1935 Alameda Co. CA. Her 4th marriage was to a Clifford. Her 5th marriage was to her step-cousin Bertram M. Mohr (1907-1970). She is buried as Marguerite Josephine Thompson (1893 CA – 1957 CA, F: 105780027) in Holy Cross Cemetery, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz CA. Clayton & Marguerite divorce by 1930. – Clayton's burial location is unknown. F: 211706441

Notes:

Pre-war:

Wartime:

"Oakland (CA) Tribune" 8 Feb 1918 p 2 - resident of Alameda CA. First went to Ft. McDowell, then to Washington DC. On his way across the country, a bridge collapsed just after his train crossed, then there was a big military fire a short distance away, then torpedoed on Tuscania. Originally a carpenter, for the past several years he was a pressman on a San Francisco newspaper & an auto mechanic. He took up auto work after he registered for the draft. His brother Earl is in the US Navy reserve & not yet called up.

"San Francisco Examiner" 8 Feb 1918 p 2 – photo

"San Francisco Examiner" 5 Mar 1918 p 3 - letter to parents Mr. & Mrs. W.S. Risley, 1302 Pearl St., dated 9 Feb 1918. Had cabled & sent letter 6 Feb 1918. Story about returning to boat to tie ropes for lifting to almost-dead soldier

Post-war:

Obituary:

Social Security number: 104-09-7786

Censuses:

1880 St. Helena, Napa CA – some of the data is obscured by tape, which has turned black
W. Somers Risley, 29 KY, father b. PA, mother b. OH, carpenter [indexed as Louis W. but misread]

Jannie, 20 WV, father b. DE, mother b. PA, housekeeper

Louis R., 11 months CA, b. July

1900 Township 5, Tuolumne CA

William S. Risley, 49 KY, Apr 1851, father b. NJ, mother b. OH, married 21 years, builder & contractor

Jane, 40 WV, Oct 1859, parents b. PA, gave birth to 3 children, 2 are living

Clayton Earl, 13 CA, Feb 1887, at school

William W., 10 CA, Sep 1889, at school

1910 Alameda, Alameda CA – 1304 Pearl St.

William S. Risley, 58 KY, father b. NJ, mother b. OH, in 1st marriage, married 32 years, contractor & builder, house

Jane, 50 WV, father b. DE, mother b. PA, in 1st marriage, gave birth to 3 children, 2 are living

Clayton E., 23 CA, single, carpenter

William W., 20 CA, single, carpenter

1920 Alameda, Alameda CA – 1304 Pearl St.

Jane Risley, 60 WV, widow, father b. DE, mother b. PA

Clayton E., 32 CA, single, father b. KY, mother b. WV, carpenter, house

William W., 30 CA, single, father b. KY, mother b. WV, pattern maker, ship yard

1930 Rockford, Winnebago IL – 328 N. Church St. Apt. 115

Walter Risley, 40 CA, age 39 at 1st marriage, manager assistant, theater, WWI veteran

Mona, 32 IL, father b. KY, mother b. Germany

1940 Oakland, Alameda CA – 2716 Fruitvale Ave. – in 1935 in Rochester NY

Walter Risley, 50 CA, salesman, realty company

Mona, 41 IL

1950 Oakland, Alameda CA. – 2716 Fruitvale Ave.

Walter W. Risley, 60 CA, housing project manager, city housing project

Mona L., 55 IL