

# **THE HISTORY OF THE CHADDERDON FAMILY IN MICHIGAN AND HOW THEY MADE THEIR WAY FROM ENGLAND TO PARCHMENT MICHIGAN**

By: Dave Chadderdon

In September 2022, a friend told me he had discovered a road in Emmet County Michigan named "Chadderdon Road". At that time my wife Chris and I were bike riding in Emmet County so we took a drive and found the road. It's a narrow dirt (not gravel) two-track that is not well maintained. In the winter it's a snowmobile trail. Not having four wheel drive, we decided not to drive on it. Chadderdon Road runs north and south for about 5 miles northeast of Harbor Springs between East Hathaway Road and Brutus Road. It passes close on the east side of Nub's Knob ski area. I was curious how the road was named. I knew my grandfather, Ray Emmet Chadderdon was born in Harbor Springs in 1895. I learned that his grandfather, my great-great grandfather, Sanford Chadderdon moved his family to Emmet County in 1880. Since then, his decedents have had connections to the area. My father's uncle, Earl Chadderdon, and his descendants have owned 120 acres and a cabin in Emmet County since 1946. That property is about 10 miles northwest of Chadderdon Road near Cross Village. I have not been able to learn how Chadderdon Road got its name or where Sanford's family lived while in the area. I was told by county officials that many of the roads in that area were named after families who lived near them.

What follows is what I've learned about how the Chadderdon family came to Michigan and how my immediate family ended up living in Parchment Michigan for 4 generations.

## **ANCESTORS PRIOR TO THOSE LIVING IN MICHIGAN**

The first known ancestor is Michael Chatterdon who was born in England in 1605. The family name was spelled with double "t" in the middle until some time in the middle 18th century. The name is still spelled with "t's" or "d's" to this day but my ancestors have used "d's" for about 200 years. The first ancestor known to be born in North America was Cornelius Chatterdon who was born in Yonkers, New York probably in the early 18th century. There is a branch of the New York Chadderdots who also have reunions and they say that 3 Chatterdon brothers immigrated from England and that the king had given them some land. When the revolutionary war started, some Chatterdots supported the king and refused to fight. Some of them even fled to Canada to avoid imprisonment and land forfeiture.

Four generations later, Michael Chadderdon married Poly Ann Sanford in October 1830 according to a Buffalo New York newspaper. They migrated with their family from New York State to Lenawee County Michigan some time between 1837 and 1839. Their son Sanford and two daughters came with them. It appears that they were following Polly

Ann's mother and her siblings who came to Michigan after Poly Ann's father died. Three of her brothers also made the move to Michigan. The 1850 census lists Bates, Seely and Sylvester Sanford. Michael moved to Barry County in 1850 and died two years later.

## SANFORD CHADDERDON

Sanford, the son of Michael, was born in 1833 in New York State, possibly in Erie or maybe Allegan County. After his father's death, Sanford tried to gain control of the family land. He didn't prevail and the court gave everything to Poly Ann. After that, little is known about him until at the age of 26 he married 15 year old Caroline Bratt in Cass County on 2/17/1859. They lived in Cass County and had 3 daughters before moving to Hope Township in Barry County. He and Caroline had 11 children; Alla, Maryann, Catherine, Ira, Eli, Ai, Emery and Otto survived to adulthood. Their youngest 3 children died as infants. It is said that Sanford worked very hard during Spring, Summer and Fall so that he could spend his Winters reading. He apparently also had a good sense of humor. His son Eli told a story about a visit from a traveling Protestant preacher. Sanford didn't like him but they got in a discussion about various kinds of meats including "woodchuck" (it might have been porcupine). The preacher said he had never tried it and never would. That night, Caroline invited the preacher to dinner. Sanford instructed Caroline to cook a woodchuck they had stored in their cold pantry. She made a delicious meal and the preacher really enjoyed it until Sanford told him he'd just eaten woodchuck. The story goes that he ran out the back door and threw up in the yard while Sanford roared with laughter. It's been said that Caroline was an excellent cook and no matter what was brought home, she could make it into a delicious meal.

In 1880 Sanford's family moved to Harbor Springs Michigan. Why is not clear. There is a picture of his sons Ira, Eli and Emory in a lumber yard and Ira is reported to have worked in lumber camps when he was a young man. Maybe they were involved in harvesting, processing or shipping lumber. Vera Russell, the oldest surviving member of the Parchment Chadderdon's says she was told they were in the lumber business. Sanford died on 10/10/1896 and was buried in Lakeside Cemetery in Harbor Springs. Soon, Caroline remarried and moved to Battle Creek. Her children did not approve of her second marriage. When she died in 1908, her children brought her body back to Harbor Springs, where she was buried in Lakeside Cemetery next to Sanford. Her grave marker identifies her as "Caroline wife of Sanford Chadderdon".

## IRA CHADDERDON

Ira was born on 8/12/1867 in Barry County Michigan. He was 13 when the family moved to Harbor Springs. As a young man he worked in lumber camps. He met his

wife Mary Frantz when she was a housekeeper for a family he was boarding with. The story goes, Mary's mother had sent her to a convent to be a nun. She escaped and was working for her room and board. They were married on 6/28/1892. Their children were Earl, Nathaniel, May, George, Jennie, Ethel and Earnest. At some point after his father's death, Ira moved to southwest Michigan to help care for his mother who was ill. She had moved there with her second husband. By 1912 he was settled in Battle Creek Michigan. He is reported to have had two farms with horses and pigs. He loved to fish. He was described as strict and religious. At times he filled in when their minister was unavailable. Ira was extremely close with his brother Emery. Annual Chadderdon family reunions involving Ira and Emery and their siblings began in about 1920. The Ira and Emery lines have continued annual reunions to this day with the exception of 5 years (three during World War Two and twice during the Covid epidemic). Their children were together so much they were like brothers and sisters to each other. Mary died in 1924. Ira died of a massive heart attack on 2/9/39. They were both buried in Harbor Springs, suggesting that there was still a significant connection to that area.

#### ELI CHADDERDON

Eli was the second son of Sanford and Caroline. He was born in 1869 in Barry county and came of age in Emmet County. Eli became one of the main hunters providing meat for the family, bringing in whatever he could shoot, likely including the woodchuck in the story of Sanford and the preacher. There is evidence he worked in lumbering as a young man. He married Minnie Ann Mead in 1900 in Hastings Michigan. Their first child died as an infant in 1901 in Harbor Springs. In 1905, their daughter Ruth was born in Harbor Springs. They had no other children. The family moved to southwest Michigan sometime after Ruth's birth. He was said to be very close with his brothers Ira and Emory. Eli was a cabinet maker but he also built a large, beautiful home in Battle Creek. During his life he lived Michigan, Dakota, Cuba (possibly Cuba, New York?) and Massachusetts. He died in 1952 in Manchester, Massachusetts.

#### AI CHADDERDON

Ai was born on 2/29/1872 in Barry County Michigan. Birth records list his name as Aidexuis, but should read Ai Elexis. He preferred to be called Ai. At age 9, while the family was still living in Barry County, he got angry with someone in the family, most likely his parents. He went to a neighbor and asked if he could live with them. They said he could if his parents agreed. Ai went home and told his parents. Sanford helped him pack and sent him on his way. It's not clear how long he lived with the other family. Ai always told his parents he would make a lot of money and be a rich man. He married Myrtle Bartlett in 1893 and they had one child, Byron. He eventually settled in Oil City, Pennsylvania and was said to have become quite wealthy from business dealings in oil and/or insurance. The 1920 census listed him living in Oil City and

employed as an insurance agent. A grandson named Bud said that Ai worked as a builder, contractor, and lumber yard worker, and that he built several houses in Oil City. After he retired, he continued to hold valuable mineral rights to land in Pennsylvania but lived in Florida.

#### EMERY ROYAL CHADDERDON

Emery was born in Barry County's Hope Township on 7/7/1874, the third son of Sanford and Caroline. He grew up in Harbor Springs. On 10/10/1894 he married Hattie Burchett in Prairieville Michigan. Their first child, Ray Emmet was born a year later in Harbor Springs. By 1900 they had moved to southwest Michigan and lived in Prairieville and Allegan before settling on a farm near Richland in northern Kalamazoo County. His primary employment was as a section boss (maintenance Forman) for the CK&S Railroad. He was responsible for the maintenance of 40 miles of track and other infrastructure. He was described as a big, strong, easygoing man. He was said to be able to lift things that his crew members couldn't move. In addition to his work on the railroad, he farmed 120 acres in the Richland area. Emery and Hattie had 6 children; Ray, Carl, Elsie, Wren, Viola and Royal. Hattie was a serious person and known for keeping an immaculate home. Emery retired in 1950 and he and Hattie became snowbirds, spending their winters in Florida. Their daughter Viola and her husband Lee Russell took over the farm. During warmer months Emery and Hattie lived in a house in Kalamazoo that belonged to Lee and Viola. Hattie passed away in June, 1950 and after her death Emery stopped going to Florida. Emery passed away in September, 1953. Emery and Hattie are buried in Riverside cemetery in Kalamazoo, just over the fence from Borgess Hospital's Outpatient Pickup Door, near the hospital's parking ramp. Their son Wren is buried next to them.

#### OTTO CHADDERDON

Otto was born on 9/28/1876 in Barry County and grew up in Harbor Springs. As a young man he moved to Genessee county Michigan where he married Maude Marvin in Fenton in 1901. They had a son named Sanford and a daughter, Frances. He worked as a brick mason and died in 1933.

#### EARL CHADDERDON

Ira's son Earl was born on 3/26/1895 in Pleasantview Michigan, which is about 10 miles northeast of Harbor Springs. He married Gladys Covert in 1922 in Battle Creek Michigan. They had three children; Dorothy (Madson), Lewis and John. Earl and Gladys were Methodists and quite religious. Earl worked as an electrical contractor. In 1946,

Earl and his brothers Earnest and George bought 120 acres with a cabin in Emmet County north of Pleasantview, not far from Cross Village. I remember a trip with my grandparents and three cousins that involved a visit to that cabin. We also saw the Mackinac Bridge while it was still under construction. That land and the cabin has been passed down and is now owned by John's children. So the Chadderons still have a connection to Emmet County. Earl and Gladys had a home on Clear Lake northeast of Battle Creek which was the site of annual Chadderon Family Reunions when I was a child. Earl died in 1975. Lewis and John continued to attend family reunions into the second decade of the 21st century. Earl and his sons were Free Masons.

## RAY EMMET CHADDERDON

Ray was born on 10/11/1895 in Harbor Springs Michigan, the first child of Emery and Hattie. He grew up in Richland. As the oldest he had a lot of responsibility with the younger children and the farm because his father worked for the railroad in addition to running a farm. His formal education was in a one room school house which still stands North of Richland Michigan on M43. His schooling ended after the 8th grade. His son Joe remembered Ray attended reunions of his school class into the 1950s. According to Earl Chadderon's son John, Ray came to live with Earl's family at some point after a conflict with his parents. When and for how long is unknown. Most likely it was after eighth grade. Ray's daughter, Vera Russell, doubts the conflict originated with Emery who was easygoing. She thinks Hattie was the source of the difficulty.

Ray married Bernice Dhaenens on 11/15/1917 at St. Augustine Church in Kalamazoo. Bernice was a devout Catholic. Because Ray was not Catholic, the priest would not marry them in the church so they were married in the priest's office. The wedding was further complicated because Emery and Hattie were very unhappy that he was marrying a Catholic. Ray never did become a Catholic but he attended Sunday Mass with the family when he wasn't working. Possibly he was hurt over not being welcome in the church for his wedding. Many church teachings didn't make sense to him. He once said he would join the church when they started speaking English rather than Latin. According to his daughter Janet, he was ahead of his times and if he didn't believe something (for example the sacrament of confession) he wouldn't go along with it. His family had been either non religious or Protestant. Ray and Bernice would have eight children; Joe, Harold, Jim, Vera, Lucille, Margret, Grace and Janet.

Ray was known as a righteous man who never swore. He was usually easygoing like his father and seldom got angry. He believed a person could do most anything if they set their mind to it. For example he built his family home in Parchment, doing most of the work himself. During World War One he was called for an army physical along with a number of other men from the area but Ray was not one of the area men drafted to serve in World War One, possibly because he was married. Ray started his work life as the station manager at Richland Junction for the Chicago, Kalamazoo and Saginaw (CK&S) railroad, the same company his father worked for. After a few years he decided there wasn't a future for him in railroading. In 1926 he went to work in the paper

industry at the Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Company (KVP). He started at the bottom but worked his way up to the top position of Machine Tender. He was known for keeping his paper machine running smoothly and being better than most at diagnosing and fixing production problems. It was said that he could feel the pulp solution with his hand and tell if it was right or what to do to fix it. He retired from KVP about 1960. In his early days in the mill, men worked barefoot because of the wet conditions. He often went barefoot at home too. He had very strong toes and could pinch you with his toes. It really hurt.

Bernice was a serious hardworking woman but she had rheumatic heart disease as a child that effected her strength all her life. The children were raised to pitch in and contribute to the work of maintaining a house and family. She was a fun competitive person. The family especially enjoyed the card game called Pedro. Bernice was fierce when playing cards and a number of her children took after her in that respect. Bernice was a devout Catholic. Her sister Mary was raised by another family and became a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph until she died of appendicitis at age 33. Her other siblings were Emma and Pete. Bernice ensured that all of her children were raised in the Catholic faith. To her credit, they all remained Catholic throughout their lives. Her youngest, Janet, has been a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph for over 60 years. When her two oldest sons were away serving in World War Two, she led the family at home praying the rosary every night, praying for their safe return. They made it back safely. Bernice was a good, but not fancy, cook. Like Caroline, she would cook whatever came their way. Harold's son Bob remembers a time when he and his brother Bill were fishing with Ray and Harold. Harold caught a huge snapping turtle. With difficulty and ingenuity, they got it in the boat upside down. Harold kept his foot on it and they got it to land and brought it to Bernice to cook. Bob says she made a delicious turtle stew. There were always homemade donuts when you visited grandma. Ray and Bernice made them together. Her pies were special. Bernice worked in a paper mill in Otsego Michigan before she married Ray. There's no evidence she ever worked outside the home after they started a family.

Ray's family always had large gardens, one at home and another on Emery's farm. They grew much of their food. They shared in the meat that was butchered on Emery's farm. They were able to weather the depression well because of their self-sufficiency and because Ray had steady work at KVP. Jacob Kindleburger, the man who started the company, had a strong commitment to the city of Parchment and the people who worked for him.

Both Ray and Bernice loved to fish. Their freezer was always stocked with frozen fish, especially bluegills. When they retired, they kept a trailer on Crooked Lake in Delton. During the summer they would have one or two of their grandchildren at a time spend a few days at the trailer during summer vacation from school. I remember that a typical day would involve fishing early in the morning, cleaning fish, having lunch, fishing in the afternoon, cleaning fish, having supper (fresh fish) and fishing in the evening with more fish cleaning before bed. I have a favorite memory from one of those fishing vacations. I was out with grandpa Ray and the fish weren't biting. Suddenly grandpa got a huge

strike on his cane pole. After a lengthy battle with the fish, grandpa landed a 24 inch dogfish. No fancy fishing tackle, just a big cane pole bent almost double. He hated dogfish because they eat bluegills. Once it was in the boat flopping around he beat it to death with an oar. After that we caught more fish. When we got back to the trailer, he buried the dogfish in his garden (yes there was one at the trailer too), He told me it was good fertilizer. Janet Chadderdon said she was only allowed to go swimming after she went out fishing with them first.

Ray was a good woodworker and made furniture. He made a beautiful Ambo for St. Ambrose Church and a lectern for his daughter Janet when she was teaching 6th grade early in her career.

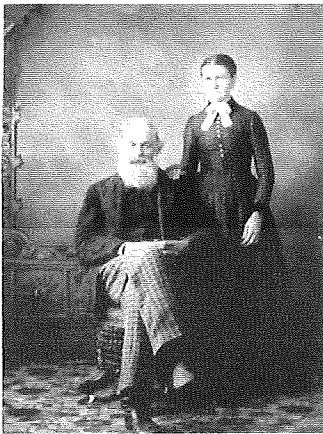
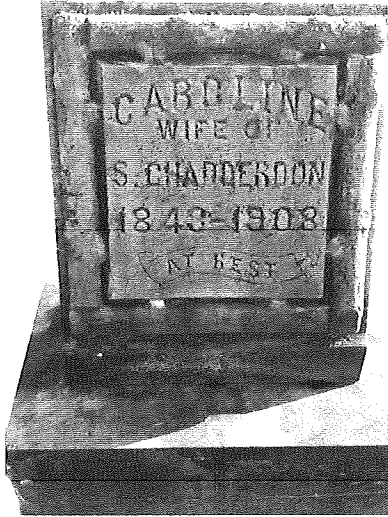
## REUNION TIME

As mentioned above, annual Chadderdon family reunions have been a tradition since at least the 1920s. The annual reunions probably started around 1920 with the extended family gathering to celebrate the birthday of Emery's sister Allie (Alla). The first recorded reunion was at the home of Allie and William Burchett in Plainwell Michigan on Thanksgiving Day 1924. Families represented included those of Alla, Ira, Eli, Emery and Otto. The next reunion was held at Humphrey's Landing on Gull Lake. The reunions became an annual event with records kept of births, deaths, marriages and other important events.

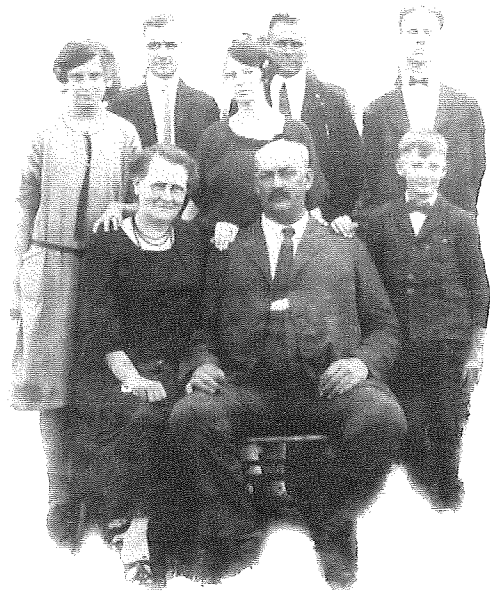
Ray and his cousin Earl Chadderdon continued the reunion tradition. Locations since 1948 have included Milham Park in Kalamazoo, Earl's home on Clear Lake near Battle Creek, Jim Chadderdon's cottage on Wall Lake in Delton, Coldbrook Park in Kalamazoo County and more recently Ramona Park in Portage. The only exceptions to the annual gathering were during World War Two (1943-1945) and the Covid epidemic years (2020 and 2021). After World War Two, the family decided the date would always be the third Sunday in July so that everyone could plan accordingly. Often 70 to 100 people would attend. It's always been a potluck feast. In my childhood, I remember there were dozens of homemade deserts, especially pies. The trick was to eat fast so you got the best selection of pies because they went fast.

More about the Ray Chadderdon family in Parchment can be found in [The Autobiography of Joe Chadderdon](https://www.parchmentlibrary.org/local-history/documents/), which can be found at this link: <https://www.parchmentlibrary.org/local-history/documents/>

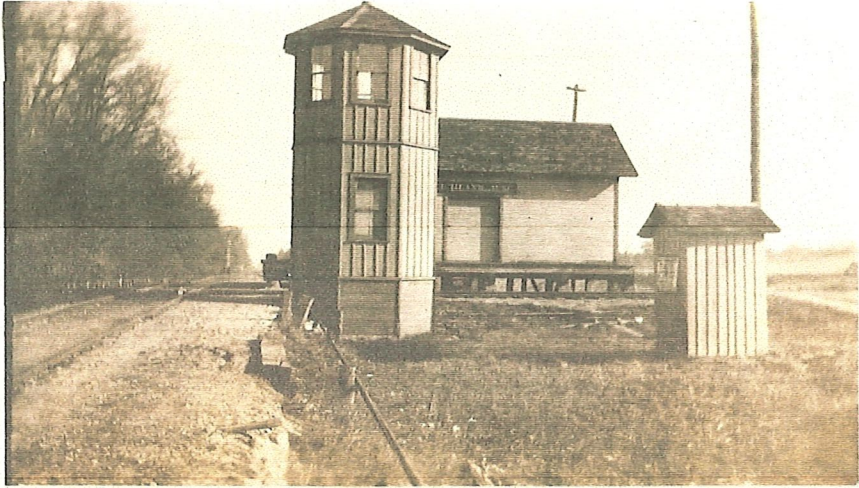
I am thankful to Lee Ann Chadderdon for extensive genealogy research which provided much of the information compiled here.



**SANFORD AND  
CAROLYN**



Viola, Carl, Elsie, Ray, Wren,  
Hattie, Emery, Royal



**EMERY AND HATTIE**



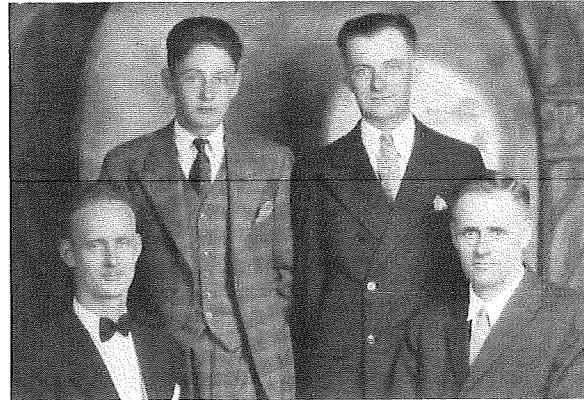
**JOE & HAROLD (FRONT) WITH GRANDPA, DAD, AUNTS AND UNCLAS, COUSINS. PROBABLY 1924 REUNION**



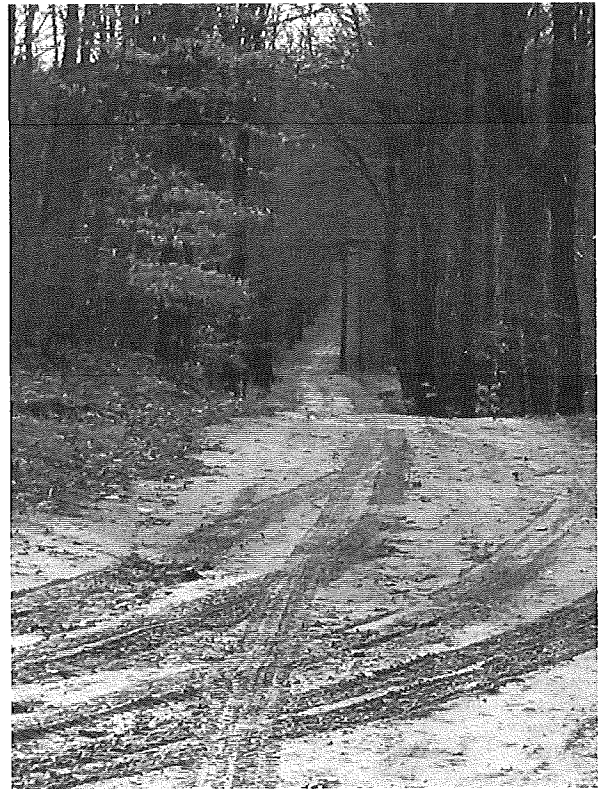
**Bill, Harold, Ray, Emery  
1948 reunion**



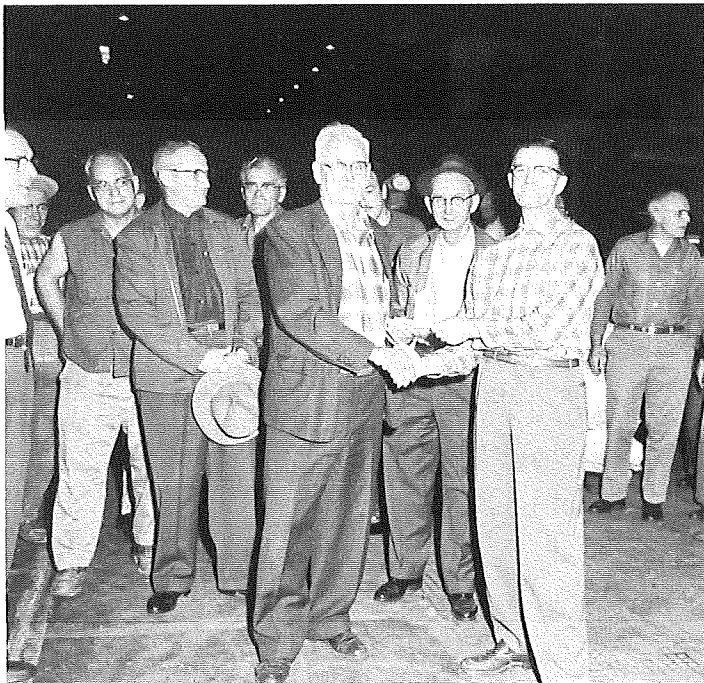
**WW2 Home Front  
(Ray barefooted)**



**WREN, ROYAL, CARL AND RAY  
CHADDERDON**



**Chadderdon Road**



**Ray Chadderdon Retires from KVP**



**JOE AND BETTY CHADDERDON WITH THEIR 6 CHILDREN AT THE 2016 CHADDERDON FAMILY REUNION**