

From John R. Blalock
about the Chopard Family -
Letter to Tamara Hulburt

Typed by NVMS Student Nick G. in 2002ish

Dear Tamara,

Your letter arrived several days ago, and I find it very interesting that you are a granddaughter of the little Florence Chopard that I knew so many years ago. I am sending you a copy of "Hazel Bend" that you say was printed in the paper and also another article I wrote in which the Chopards are mentioned.

We lived there on the Nestucca and across the river from your great grandparents, Bus and Grace, until I was in the 7th grade. Then we moved to Idaho. I had a picture in an album of the whole Chopard family, Gus and Grace with Norman, Geneva, Eugene, Leah, Rachel, Florence and Marion. I believe I have them all from the oldest down. A few years ago Leah wrote me to borrow that picture to make a copy. I sent it to her, and she returned it to me, but lately I have not been able to find it. I should have put it back in the album, but I didn't.

Eugene and I were almost the same age. His birthday was just ten days after mine, November 13th, so I always remember it. Of course he was always "Genie" to us.

In the spring of 1924 we were moving to Idaho in our Model T Ford. We had sold all the things in our house at a sale, so the last night before leaving we spent the night with the Chopards. I think I bunked with Genie. Then we moved to Idaho, and I never saw him again. In 1935 I stopped to visit the Chopard home. Gus was there alone that day, and we sat and talked a long time. That was the last time I saw him.

I've just turned 86 years old, so I can remember things a long time ago. I had an older brother, Miles, about Norman's age, but he died almost two years ago. My older sister, Ella, was about Geneva's age, but she passed away about 1982.

We all went to Brown School, but the Chopards had a problem. They wanted their children to go to Brown School, but their house was in Boulder Creek school district. The most of their land was on the north side of the river and in Brown School district, but they lived on the south side of the river and were going to be forced to send the children to Boulder Creek. So Gus built a small house over on the north side of the river where he already had a shed for milking the cows. Before school started they would move across the river and live there for the first 3 months of the school year so the children could continue going to Brown School that year.

Hope this helps you with the information you need.

Sincerely yours,
John R. Blalock