

## **FROM EAST TO WEST**

By Enon Maddux

27 June 1989

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After the death of my father, Lemuel Maddux in 1919, my uncle Robert and Ada Holleman insisted that my mother Lassie Maddux and brother Aldon come to their place in Artesia California. As we would have a much better opportunity for the future. Finally, after about three years my uncle said that he would guarantee me \$1,000 after all expenses for the first year in California. So, in 1923 we decided to make the move to California.

When the crops were harvested, we started to sell our hay, corn, cattle, hogs, mules, and sheep, but, we were unable to sell my horse. We then auctioned all of our house hold goods and farm equipment.

My mother and Aldon took the train to her brothers place in Murfreesboro, Tennessee and stayed a few days to visit. I rode my horse to the Nichols place to stay the night and visit with the Nichols family for the last time before my trip to California. The next morning, at 5:00 a.m., I mounted my horse and started to my uncle Calvin McDonalds place in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, 70 miles away. I would leave my horse, for my uncle to sell and from there I would start my trip to California. I rode over creeks, rivers, and dirt roads until about noon when I came to a little country store. I bought some oats for my horse and had a lunch of chipped beef, cheese, a can of peaches, and a coke. After a good rest for my horse and I, I took off and rode until 10:00 p.m. that night, arriving at my uncle's home good and hungry.

After resting a couple of days, my mother, Aldon, and I caught a train to California. We traveled through St. Louis, Kansas City, Denver, Salt Lake City, and ended up at the old Santa Fe Railroad station. We were met at the train station by Cecil Holleman and Walker Thomas and went to the Walker's home to spend the night. The next day we went to Artesia, to my uncle Robert Holleman's home and rested a few days.

I got a job with Young's Market Company in Los Angeles. I took a street car to and from work every day. In the meantime, I started to look for a lot to build on. I finally found a good lot close to a school, hospital, church, and markets. I bought the lot and made an arrangement with a carpenter to build the house. I worked on the house in my spare time and was able to do the house painting, build the garage, and make the driveway and walks.

After Verna finished teaching, for the year, she came out to California and we were married on December 22, 1923. By this time, I had quit working at Young's Market and was working to help build an oil refinery at Hynes, which was close to Artesia. I worked there until the refinery was finished. Our new home in Artesia was completed by this time and we moved in.

In 1925, I went to work for the Standard Oil Company in the Marine shipping at San Pedro.

In 1927 Aldon passed away, due to injuries in an automobile accident. David was born January 27, 1933 at the Artesia hospital.

My uncle Robert had built an Ice Plant, some dairies and commercial buildings on acreage he, Cecil, and Walker owned in north Artesia. Uncle Robert asked me to come work for him in the ice place and in 1933 I started to work at the Ice Plant. My uncle had a contract with the Southern Counties Ice Company to buy all the ice he could make, which was about 25 tons per day until 1941.

In 1934 I bought 10 acres of rich land on Studebaker road. I had a 10 inch well drilled, converted a 25 H. P. gasoline engine into a diesel engine, and installed a deep well pump. I had all the water I needed to irrigate my 10 acres of land. After building a fence around the property, I leased it to John Harrada, a Japanese man who wanted to grow vegetables. In 1935, I bought the library building next door and

converted it into a nice home. Then I built a garage and made a concrete driveway and walks to go with the house. I moved into this home in 1936 and rented out my first home.

In 1936 my uncle had a stroke and was disabled. The family wanted me to take over and manage the estate, which consisted of the ice plant, four dairies, a gas station, a garage, and two feed mills, a business building, apartments and some dwellings that went with the dairies. Their financial situation was not good and the buildings were not in very good condition. The property was owned by my uncle, his son Cecil, and son-in-law Walker Thomas. I told them if they would give me complete control as manager, I thought I could eliminate the debt, restore the properties into good shape, and operate the business on a sound basis. They agreed to this. They had signed a poor contract with the ice company, as they were to give the ice company 80% of the business when the contract ran out. I did not feel they would renew the contract.

I told them that we would only take enough money out of the business to live on until we were able to buy trucks and be able to get our own ice business. We made good progress and everyone was satisfied.

In 1937 I added a 50 x 50 addition in one of the feed mills and leased to Krum Feed Company, which meant more income. In 1938 I put fixtures in a vacant room and converted it into a beauty parlor. I leased it to Edna Carrol which brought in additional income.

In 1939 Cecil, Walker, and I as partners, built a 50 x 50 store building. We leased one half of it to the Stansbury Dairy Supply, and the other half to Guy Appleberry for a tire shop. I drew up the plans and built the building with our own employees.

In 1940 I took a 50 x 50 vacant ice storage building that was constructed with brick that we did not use anymore and built the first real modern frozen food locker plant in Southern California. It had four hundred and ten white enamel lockers. We had a quick freeze room that stayed 20 below zero, and an aging room as well as a modern butchers shop. We rented all lockers and had a waiting list of prospective renters.

Oscar Zwinge was our butcher and was with us sixteen years.

In 1940 I rebuilt a dairy in connection with the ranch barn, and also built a two bedroom house to go with the dairy. We leased this to John Renema.

In December 1940 I sold my 10 acre ranch to Wallace Piesch and took a first trust deed which took him ten years to pay it off. This land is now covered with houses.

In 1941, Holleman, Thomas and Maddux bought four houses and lots on the big seventh st. produce market in L.A. and sold the houses to be moved and built a packing house for processing fruits and vegetables. The house was 180 feet long and had 13 big doors. We finished building the house in 1942. We could load 13 big interstate refrigerated trucks at once. We had 12 offices up-stairs rented to out of state buyers. They would buy produce and have it processed by us and loaded on the trucks and iced. These trucks would then ship the produce all over the United States and Canada. We had an ice storage in the house and furnished all of the ice for the produce processing.

As our ice contract had expired in 1941 and Southern Countries Ice Co. wasn't interested in a renewal as they owned 80% of the business. We could not operate the plant so I leased it and all of the other property and conducted the business under my own trade name of Artesia Ice Service. Since the new packing house was located in the best location for the ice business, we were able to make a deal with Bowlin and Son, one of the largest shippers. Bowlin and Son leased the packing house and moved in at once. It wasn't long till we were selling all of the ice we could make. It was quite a problem building the packing house as it was during the war, you had to have a high priority. Since we were processing food I had an "A" priority. I drew up the plans myself and paid a civil engineer \$150 to OK them. I had to go to Washington D. C. to get approval. My employees and I completed all of the work with the exception of the brick work and plumbing.

In 1941 I bought 2 ¾ acres with a home and barn on Pioneer Blvd. in Artesia. The place was originally a dairy. I rebuilt the home completely and added a room and porch. I re-arranged the barn so that I could feed steers and have horses. I built a fence and corrals and planted permanent pasture. It made a very nice place to live and we moved in 1943. I shipped a lot of cattle from the ranch down to my barn. I fattened them, had them butchered, and sold them through the locker plant.

In 1943 I sold my library home to Ralph Heimstra and took a first trust deed until it was paid for.

In 1943 I rebuilt a condemned dairy on the back stretch of the property, raised the roof 2 feet made concrete walls and mangers. I also plastered the milk house with concrete then made new corals and stauncions. I made everything up to code and leased the dairy to John Weinstra.

In 1944, I made a deal with Kenny Awalt in Maywood who had some ice routes for him to buy a lot, and I would build him an ice house on the lot, and I would finance the building, and take a first trust deed on the property. He was to pay monthly payments and give me his ice business.

I also made the same kind of deal with Carter Ice Co. in Compton. These deals gave me good interest on my money as well as getting their ice business.

In 1945, I converted an apartment building on Pioneer Blvd. to a hardware store and Tin ship by remodeling all of the inside and leased to Prescott Hardware.

In 1945, I converted a building that had been an automobile agency to a feed mill by adding a 50 x 50 additional and leased to George Verhaven Feed Co. George finally bought the building and is still in business.

In 1945, I enlarged the ice plant from 25 ton/day to 50 ton/day as our ice business was growing.

In 1946, I built Stansbury Dairy Supply another building for their shop and storage as their business kept increasing.

In 1947, I rebuilt the Kibler Dairy by raising the roof 2 feet, installing concrete walls, new corals, and concrete managers. I plastered the inside walls with cement and did everything necessary to bring the diary up to state code and leased it to Ira Runsberger.

In 1947, I did a job for Cecil on a 40 x 80 garage on Pioneer Blvd., took 40 feet off the west end of the building and was able to locate a gasoline station on the corner of Pioneer Blvd. and Artesia Blvd. It made two good rentals for Cecil. He leased the property to the Mansfield family.



In 1959 I bought the 1,600 acre Stonyford ranch from Al Tyce, and leased the ranch back to Tyce. Tyce proved to be dishonest so I got rid of him. I bought a herd of cows and calves and leased the ranch and cattle to Roy Ferrel. He did not prove out very good so I leased to Bill Bonnon he was OK but his wife could not come to live with him.

(Picture: Enon Maddux wrote: My ranch Stony Ford, CA, 2,600 acres. This tree is an oak and supposed to be the largest oak in CA. L to R: Mrs. Klippert holding Timothy, Mr. Klippert, Tomas Klippert, John Klippert and Michelle Klippert).

On February 15, 1954 Verna passed away.

In 1955, I leased to Julian McDonald, he was there for three years, then he decided to go back east and get married. Then I leased to Harry Rosecrans, who rented the ranch for 18 years till 1976. In the meantime, I had acquired considerable more property.

In 1954, I purchased 766 acres of land on the west side of the ranch from the U. S. Dept. of Interior and fenced it on to the ranch.

In 1957, Emma J. Clark, who owned property next to me, as well as myself wanted to get the zone changed on our properties. We also were concerned about the freeway taking our properties, so we worked together and had the zone changed. This led to a personal relationship and we were married October 26, 1959.

In 1966 I bought 160 acres of land on the east side of the ranch from the Dept. of Interior, this was added to the ranch.

In 1970, I acquired the school house with two acres of land, this was added to the ranch.

In 1957 I bought 80 acres on the east side of the ranch, with 40 acres across the road from the ranch. I sold the 40 acres across the road to Earl Kerns as it adjoined his ranch.

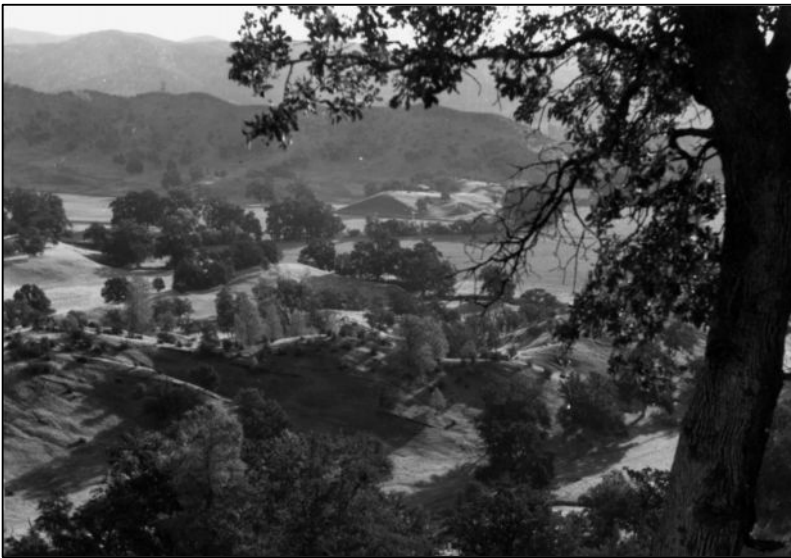
In 1962 I bought 102.03 acres at Williams from the Hancock family, this was irrigated land and had water rights.

In 1973 I bought the Horse Shoe Ranch of 920 acres from Linsey Montgomery, close to the town of sites.

In 1964 I bought 77.35 acres from the Hancock family next to the 102.03 acres. This made 180 acres at Williams. The Williams ranch is a real valuable piece of property.

Before Harry left he was operating the three ranches as a cattle and hog operation with all of the Williams ranch in permanent pasture.

Since acquiring the ranches, I have made many improvements, built three barns, four lakes, rebuilt the houses, many miles of fencing and built two large grain tanks. As well as various other improvements at



(Picture: Enon states: NX ranches: Looking down on one of the pastures shows the big oak trees and a hay barn on the ridge).

ford by running a 10 inch pipe 750 feet out in East park Reservoir and down the valley about a mile and a half. With a 25 foot fall I can siphon 1,500 gallons per minute, enough to run 200 sprinklers at once. I have a water right to irrigate 220 acres of land.

At the Horseshoe Ranch, I put in 3 small lakes for cattle water and put in a new fence on the west side of the property.

(Picture: Enon states: NX ranches: Looking down on one of the pastures shows the big

I built a hay barn and did a lot of fencing at the Williams place and put in a large drainage ditch for surplus water.

After Harry decided to leave I decided to go out of the cattle business, as we had built the herd to over 270 head of cows plus all the calves and bulls. So I decided on an auction, it took us several days to gather over 500 head and take them to auction.

I leased the Stonyford Ranch and Horseshoe Ranch to John Growney for his cattle and rodeo stock. And leased the Williams Ranch to Bilol Dirk to grow alfalfa. Growney kept the ranch 3 years till 1981. Jack Philips leased the ranch 3 years till 1984. In 1984 Ed Gill leased the ranch and is still there.

Dirk stayed on the Williams Ranch for 10 years till 1986. Jim Person was on the Williams Ranch till 1988, then I leased to Dwight Plank and he now has the ranch.

As I have brought the ranches up to date I want to go back to Artesia. In 1950 I built a second addition to the ice plant, enlarging it to 75 tons a day, and also built another garage for an extra truck. As it was war time and Garden Grove was a center for growing vegetables and the armed forces in the Pacific had to have food, I took a job icing car lots of vegetable to be loaded on ships for the Pacific. I installed ice crushing equipment in the old Garden Grove Depot and iced hundreds of cars of vegetables to be shipped out. I also drew up a 2 year contract with the Long Beach Ice Company for 20 tons per day for 2 years.

In 1958, Cecil Walker and I built another 50 x 50 building for Jack Stonsbury Dairy supply his business continue to grow. As the ice business and good will belonged to me as I had built it up from scratch. I made a deal with the Royden Ice Co. in 1960 the company would make a down payment, and pay the rest over a period of 10 years. I then sold the most undesirable pieces of property all sales were made by me and no real estate commission was paid. I wanted to keep the property I was in partnership with, so we made a deal for Emma and I would buy the other heirs out and we would own the property on a 50-50 basis. This property included the L. A. packing house and commercial buildings in Artesia.

The above is a case where the principals had made out wills which is time consuming and very expensive. The court has to approve each transaction. If it had been a good trust it could be wound up much quicker and much less expensive. After about 2 ½ years I had divided the property among the heirs, some satisfied and some not satisfied.

After finding out the state was going to build a freeway through Artsia and would take our home and acreage, we decided to find a place to build, after much looking we found ¾ of an acre in Garden Grove so we purchased it in 1961. We fenced the place and set many trees and started to buy material for the house and stored in our big barn in Artesia. I pre cut the roof rafters, studs and anything to help when I started building. I also painted the first coat of paint on the siding. In 1963, I started building and finished up in May 1964 and we moved in. The state took possession of the Artesia home in 1964 also.

In 1982 we sold the packing house to Coast Citrus distributor with a down payment and monthly payments.

In 1975 we sold stucco building in Artesia to Terry C. Newman with down payment and monthly payments. In 1985 we sold metal building in Artesia to Terry C. Neman with down payment and monthly payments.

In 1988 I bough Emma's ½ interest in our Garden Grove home.

My present property consists of the three ranches and my Garden Grove home

Since making the Awalt loan on his ice house property I have made 38 other loans on real estate and took 1<sup>st</sup> trust deeds as security, I only had one foreclosure.

In August 1983 Emma's brother said he was unable to conduct his business, and was not satisfied with his will. As Emma was not well I told him I would help him. He ad a room full of papers so it took me some time to check and sort. I found checks that were out of date, stocks he didn't know he had and many things out of order.

After reading his will I told him we better go to an attorney that specialized in estate planning, so the trust was drawn up. I got his stocks and back accounts and everything in order. I took care of his estate till his death in July 1985.

After Fred's death I closed out the estate by dividing up the assets according to his trust. The estate amounted to over 700,000 dollars.

After a long illness, my wife Emma passed away on May 5, 1989. She appointed me as her trustee, so I will be taking care of her estate for the benefit of her family.

\*See George Henry Maddux Family Sheet and Maddux files at:

<http://www.ajalmbert.com>

**Robert Lemuel "Lem" Maddux**, b. 11 July 1873, Putnam Co., TN – d. 5 January 1919, Putnam Co., TN, md 15<sup>th</sup> of January 1899 to **Lassie McDonald**, b. 1875 – d. 1969, CA, d/o **John McDonald & Martha W. Glover**. Robert Lemuel "Lem" Maddux is buried in Smellage Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. Lassie (McDonald) Maddux moved to CA after the death of her husband Robert Lemuel Maddux. (John McDonald, b. 15 February 1837, TN - d. 19 January 1926 & his wife Martha W. (Glover) McDonald, b. 25 December 1839, TN - d. 3 December 1911, both buried in the McDonald Cemetery, Granville Hwy., Chestnut Mound, Smith Co., TN). Robert Lemuel "Lem" Maddux, s/o **George Henry Maddux & Elizabeth J. Brown** of Putnam Co., TN.

Children of Robert Lemuel "Lem" Maddux & Lassie McDonald are:

1. Enon Maddux, b. 31 March 1902 - d. April/May 1992, md 1st on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 1923 to Verna Alice Kinnaird, b. 1900 - d. 15 February 1954, CA. Enon Maddux md 2nd the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 1959 to Emma J. Clark, b. 1908 - d. 12 May 1989, CA, she was a teacher. Child of Enon & Verna: David A. Maddux, b. 1933 md in 1959 to Georgiana Sutton, b. 1935, d/o Wilbur & Margarite Sutton. They had 3 children: Merritt E. Maddux, b. 1962 md Carol Hankins; Mitchell A. Maddux, b. 1961 & Michelle Maddux, b. 1964 md Kyle Klippert, s/o Clayton & Geraldine Klippert. \*See the story 'East To West' by Enon Maddux.
2. Alden Maddux, b. 1909 - d. 1927, buried at Rose Hill, CA.
3. Donald Maddux, b. 1900 - d. 1902, Putnam Co., TN.
4. Lynda M. Maddux, b. 1904 - d. 1905, Putnam Co., TN.

**Source:** DC: #312, 11th Dist. Putnam Co., TN: Robert Lemuel Maddux, b. 11 July 1873, Putnam Co., TN – d. 5 January 1919, Putnam Co., TN: Cause of Death: Influenza, duration 15 days. Attended by: Samuel Denton, M. D., Buffalo Valley, TN. True: Mrs. Lassie Maddux, Silver Point, TN. Registrar: W. R. Medley. Undertaker: Grady Maddux, Buffalo Valley, TN.



David A. Maddux,  
s/o Enon Maddux & Verna Alice Kinnaird



Enon Maddux & his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife Emma J. Clark

**Source:** Family letter written by Enon Maddux on 3 November 1989 to Miriam (Shanks) Gwaltney. It has not been a good year for me as my wife passed away May 12<sup>th</sup>. We had a wonderful life together, she was a super person. As to the pictures I do not have any group pictures since the kids have grown up. I am sending some copies of pictures I have, but they are not very good.

Michelle is married to Kyle Klippert and they have a little boy named Thomas. Kyle is a computer programmer. Merritt is in Hong Kong for the Hanover Bank, he speaks Chinese and has a Masters in international relations. Mitchell is in law enforcement and David is co-owner of one of the large law firms in Los Angeles with approximately 130 lawyers.

In regard to Catherine Maxwell (*Cinderella R. "Sinda" Maxwell*) she married my Uncle Bob Maddux (*Robert Fagan Maddux*) and they lived west of Baxter on one of those ridges all of their lives. Their children were Ella, Dora, Alfred, Milton and Ernest.

Yours truly, Enon Maddux

**Source:** Family letter written by Enon Maddux on 9 November 1991 to Miriam (Shanks) Gwaltney. I am sending you the information you requested with the exception of my father's picture. I only have on picture of him and it is in a large frame and too large to get a copy. I am also sending you information on the other three Maddux children, and am sending a picture of my big oak tree and some of the family.

Our old home lasted about 90 years and it was built about 1906 by my father and Uncle Hickman. The last time I was by there it was used to store tobacco. I would like to come back to Tennessee and visit with people I know, but I think it would be too much for me at my age. It keeps me busy taking care of my business and my wife's estate as I am the trustee and agreed to manage it as long as I feel like doing the job.

I live here by myself but my family and my wife's family come when they can, but my two grandsons have a long way to come to see me.

Merritt has a masters in international relations and speaks fluent Chinese and has been in Hong Kong for over two years for the Hanover Bank of New York and just got married last June, he and wife will be with me for X-mas. Mitchell is in New York attending Columbia University and will be with me X-mas. Michelle lives close by and her job is taking care of two little boys and Davis is co-owner of one of the largest law firms in Los Angeles and is busy all the time. They have about 320 attorneys in their firm.

I often think of the neighbors I had in Tennessee, such good people. Your grandfather Boyd was up in years and I was a young boy but we had good relations. I put in a lot of time at our old log barn by the creek and liked to be around the live stock and Mr. Boyd would come over often and we would sit on the rail fence and talk about when it would come harvest time. We would swap work. Mr. Boyd was a fine old man, and your mother was the solid one in the Boyd family. She was energetic and kept on the ball and had good judgment.

Hope you and your family are enjoying life and have good health.

Sincerely, Enon Maddux



\*See George Henry Maddux Family Sheet & Maddux files at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>



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(Picture: L to R: Tenny Kinnaird McCulley & Verna Alice Kinnaird Maddux.