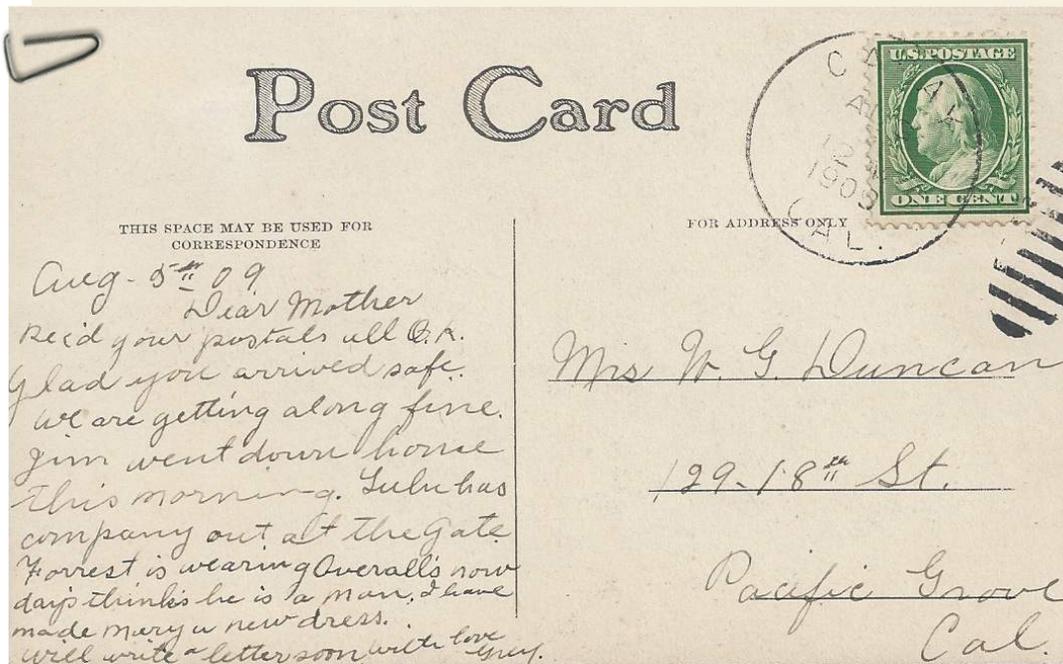




A New Sheriff is Elected in Yolo County, 1938: carrying on after his father, James William Monroe, retired in 1938, Forrest Duncan Monroe served continuously for the next 32 years: 1939-1971

In 1938, after 28 years as Yolo county Sheriff, James William Monroe would retire and his eldest son and Undersheriff Forrest Duncan Monroe would run to replace him--serving for 32 years from 1939 to 1971 when he retired. NOTE: His father, "Sunny Jim," died in 1939 in an auto accident between Winters and Woodland--not far from his birthplace in Buckeye.



In the vintage post card above, Forrest's mother Grey--Elvira Grey (Duncan) Monroe--writes her mother, Mary Elizabeth (Franklin) Duncan, [addressing her formally as *Mrs W.G. Duncan*, as she was the wife of Wyatt Godfrey Duncan, both of whom still lived on the Duncan Ranch in Hungry Hollow in 1909, but were visiting friends in Pacific Grove.] She says her husband, Jim [at this time Yolo County Supervisor and future Sheriff, James Monroe] "*went down home,*" referring to the family ranch, and that "*Forrest is wearing overalls now days, thinks he is a man...*" At this point, Forrest would have just turned 3 in July 1909.

When Forrest D. Monroe took office as Yolo County Sheriff on January 1, 1939, he was 32 years old, the youngest sheriff in California. In 1971, he retired as the oldest sheriff in the state at 65 years old. During that tenure, he was known "for his patience, understanding, for never mistreating an inmate or losing his temper," according to Don Wyly, a Woodland city councilman who had served as undersheriff in 1939 and knew Forrest well. Larry Germeshausen, a long-time family friend and head of the civil department of the sheriff's office during Forrest's time as sheriff presented him with a 20-gauge, super-imposed Browning shotgun on behalf of the sheriff's staff at his retirement--so he could go out to the Monroe Ranch in Hungry Hollow, where he was born in July 18, 1906, and enjoy his later years.

Michael N. Canlis, sheriff-coroner of San Joaquin county and president of the National Sheriff's association in 1971, gave a speech at Forrest's retirement party at the Woodland Elks lodge. He recounted an era of "*crude communications--before squad car, radio, FBI and phone booth--during which America's most flamboyant crimes flourished and when everyone agreed who the good and bad guys were...Forrest grew up courageously. He was there this entire period. The posse used to invoke posse law...*" He pointed out that when someone called for the sheriff, he went--he did not want to face that one farmer he had not responded to if



Forrest D. Monroe, undersheriff and "chip off the ol' block" and now a candidate to succeed his father in office.

he was the only one who arrived when you called for a posse! He noted how times and crimes changed over the 60 years: "*...we're a few who've seen all elements of crime...in the old days we would go after guys dynamiting safes--now they're bombing us!*" 1911-1971--interesting times in law enforcement!

Read all about it in the upcoming book: *Monroe for Sheriff, 60 Consecutive Years Serving Yolo County, 1911-1971*, due out 2014-15.



Photo at left: The home of Forrest D. and Rose (Balestra) Monroe at 712 Second Street, Woodland, as it appears today. The oak in front is a registered heritage oak over 300 years old. The registered heritage Greek Revival house was built for the Merritt family in 1929. Rose and Forrest would buy it and raise their two children, Forrest D. Jr. and Carol E. Loverne, there and live just 2 blocks from his parents' home at 740 College Street until his death in December 1974.

Early in Forrest D's career with the Yolo County Sheriff's Department, he would make several marijuana busts--times have not changed much: Yolo county sheriffs arrested two young men in Winters on July 17, 2013, for 2,700 illegal plants hidden on the banks of Putah Creek by dense foliage. In the photo below from his father's memoirs, Undersheriff Forrest with one such crop, having been hidden by Indian corn on a farm near Broderick. At another time, an even larger crop was raided in 1934 by Forrest who *"located a field of Indian hemp, from which the drug is made. This two-acre patch yielded 10,000 pounds of hemp...cleverly screened...by several rows of corn...on the old Carrie Montgomery ranch southeast of Davis...subleased to Pena and Soldi. The narcotic peddlers were speedily sentenced to San Quentin."*



Undersheriff Forrest D. Monroe and Eddie Cox, the latter of Sacramento, discovered this rich cache of narcotic weed. The crop was big enough to make seven million marijuana cigarettes.

About this same time, Undersheriff Forrest D. was the arresting officer in the "White Hibiscus" case--Yolo County's "most dramatic and sensational murder trial in its history," per his father's memoirs. Judson Doke shot a young poet in the belly on a Dunnigan ranch for writing love-letters to his wife...but that is one of several stories to appear in the next volume--don't miss it!

NOTE: Ad below is for Linda Pillard, selling Capay Valley Real Estate through Bella Vie, a company co-owned by a great niece of Forrest Monroe, Sherri Monroe Cunningham: she is the granddaughter of his brother James William Monroe II, who acted as ranch manager on the Monroe half of the Duncan family ranch from 1936 until the ranch was sold. Linda was the agent for the sale of the remaining Duncan portion years later to John Scully of Winters...it's a small world in the greater Capay Valley.

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