



# *Rosa's Photo Album*

*1908*

*Thank you to the Marvel Family*

## Rosa's Photo Album 1908

by  
Beth Miller

In 1908 Rosa Camarillo did what was very trendy. It's still extremely popular today. She took numerous photographs. She wasn't Mrs. Alfred Petit yet. Rosa was a teenager at Notre Dame College with her sister Ave.

Her photos captured her youth. They are personal and casual. She photographed her parents, siblings, friends, dogs, horses and cars. We can see her family in the moment. We are able to peek into the house and see just how it was decorated. Rosa takes us around the Camarillo Ranch and we see barns and even a steed noted as "my horse."

It's a personal view of her world. She documented her life at school, on vacation and at home. One hundred twelve years later, Rosa helps us to see and connect with her past.

It's unknown just what type of camera Rosa used. But, it may have been the popular Brownie, a simple inexpensive box camera. Brownies were marketed for children, but soldiers took them to war. The easy-to-pack and use handheld camera was sold for \$1.

**EASTMAN KODAK CO'S**  
**BROWNIE**  
**CAMERA \$1**

**The Brownie Camera**  
makes pictures 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 inches. Loads in daylight with our new exposure film cartridges, and is so simple that it can be easily operated by any School Boy or Girl.

Fitted with five Meniscus lenses and our improved rotary shutter for snap shots or time exposures. Heavy metal, covered with rubber leather, has suction fittings and produces the best results.

Four-language booklet giving full directions for operating the camera, together with chapters on "Snap Shots," "Time Exposures," "Flash Light," "Overexposure" and "Printing," free with every instrument.

**Accessories:**  
Brownie Cartridge, for 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 pictures . . . . . \$1.00  
Transparent-Film Cartridge, 6 exposures, 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 . . . . . .10  
Paper-Film Cartridge, 6 exposures, 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 . . . . . .10  
Brownie Developing and Printing Outfit . . . . . .75



**THE BROWNIE CAMERA CLUB OF AMERICA**  
EVERY boy and girl under sixteen years of age should join the Brownie Camera Club of America. Fifty dollars, valued at one dollar, will be given to members of the club as prizes for the best pictures made with the Brownie Camera, and every member of the club will be given a copy of our Photo-Graphic Art Booklet. No initiation fee or dues if you own a Brownie. Ask your dealer or write us for a Brownie Camera Club Constitution.

Keep a dollar in your hand better than for a Brownie Camera. If there is no dealer in your town send us a letter and we will give the camera to you.

**Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester, N.Y.**

Any school-boy or girl can make good pictures with one of the **Eastman Kodak Co.'s Brownie Cameras**

**\$1.00**



**\$1.00**

Brownies load in daylight with film cartridges for 6 exposures, have fine meniscus lenses, the Eastman Rotary Shutters for snap shots or time exposures and make pictures 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 inches.

Brownie Camera, for 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 pictures, . . . . .	\$1.00
Transparent-Film Cartridge, 6 exposures, 2 1/4 x 2 1/4, . . . . .	.10
Paper-Film Cartridge, 6 exposures, 2 1/4 x 2 1/4, . . . . .	.10
Brownie Developing and Printing Outfit, . . . . .	.75
Brownie Removable Finder, . . . . .	.25

**Take a Brownie Home for Christmas.**

**EASTMAN KODAK CO.**  
Rochester, New York.

Brownie circulars and Kodak catalogues free at the dealers or by mail.

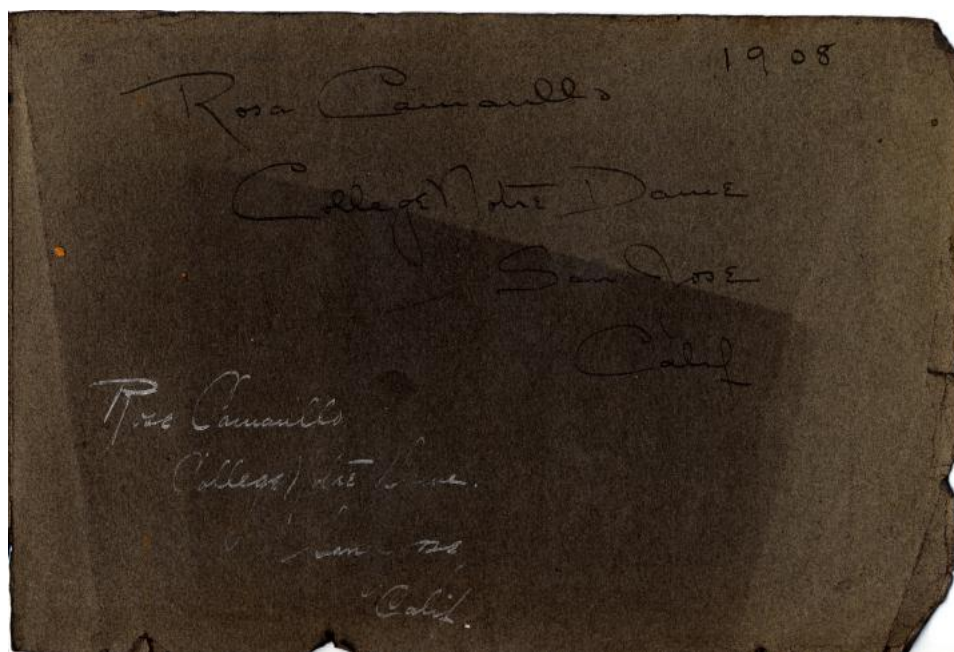
When you write, please mention "The Cosmopolitan."

Women were also the focus of the Kodak ads . They featured women on the go. Rosa was well on her way to becoming the modern woman. Rosa’s photographs bridge that past and future. She and her siblings ride horses and then we see photos of them packed into Adolfo’s latest automobile.

It is unknown how or why Rosa acquired the camera. Was she following her Tio Juan’s example? Adolfo’s brother, Juan E, took his camera on his many travels and filled countless pages in his photo albums.

His diary gives a little insight into his avocation. In June 1910, Juan noted that he “sent a roll of my Kodak to Los Angeles.” There was no instant photography. Early hobbyist had to acquire patience before they saw the printed images.

That could explain why Rosa’s photos sometimes seem out of sequence. She may be filling empty pages of her album with photos that had been taken at a later date. In this chapter of Rosa’s photo album, we will see her world as a student at Notre Dame.



**“Rosa Camarillo College of Notre Dame San Jose, Calif. 1908”**

Inside cover of Rosa’s photo album

## *College of Notre Dame*

Rosa was joined by her sister Ave and together they attended the College of Notre Dame in San Jose. From the photos it appeared they shared friends and good times with their classmates.

The college was founded in 1851 in San Jose, California by the sisters of Norte Dame de Numar. It was the sister school to the all-men's Santa Clara College. Located just two miles away, the men's Jesuit college was also established in 1851.

Female students had been largely prevented from pursuing higher education until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The College of Notre Dame was founded in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. At the time many people believed that it was unnecessary to educate women because they believed a woman's place was in the home.

In 1923, the college moved to the Ralston estate in Belmont, California. Today it is known as Notre Dame de Namur University. The high school is still located in San Jose. This private school is the third oldest college in California. In 1868, it was the first in the state to authorize and grant baccalaureate degrees to women. In 1900 the Conservatory of Music was built. It became a four-year college in 1953 and co-educational in 1967.

Rosa and Ave were Notre Dame students when a demonstration of 300 women marched for the right to vote in Oakland, California in 1908. American women gained the right to vote in 1920, but Californian women won that right in 1911. California was the sixth state to pass women's right to vote. About that time, women's clubs grew in membership as they undertook such issues as public schools and public health. Californian women were leaders in the temperance movement, conservation, public schools, recreation and other issues.

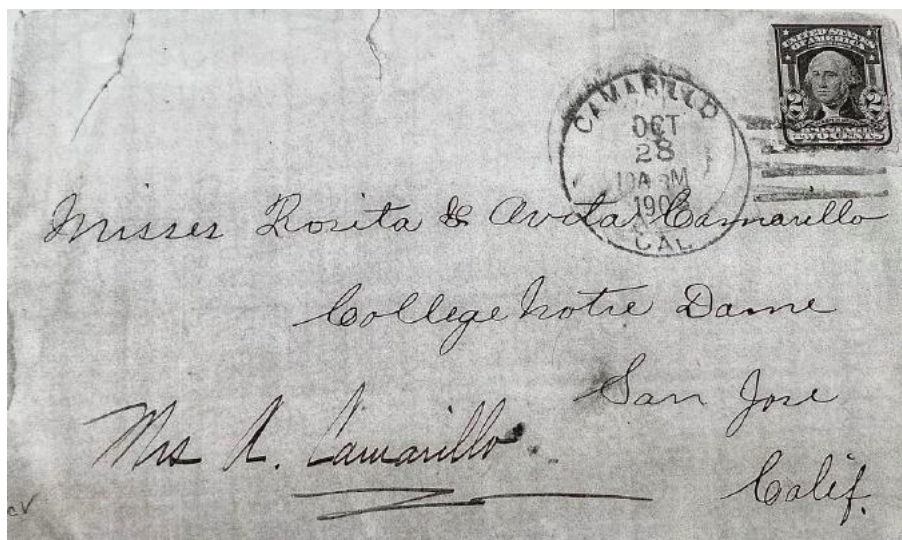
Rosa's daughter, Rosita Petit Marvel, also attended the College of Notre Dame. Ave's formal music education started at the Conservatory of Music at Notre Dame. A few years later Rosa and Ave's brother, Pancho, would study law at nearby Santa Clara. Ave's granddaughter, Martina Nicholson, graduated from Santa Clara University.

## **COLLEGE OF NOTRE DAME**

No institution in California has a higher moral tone than the College of Notre Dame at San Jose. While this school has both boarding and day pupils, the three scholarships offered through The Call are in the day school, but include musical courses as well. Young women who win these scholarships, each of which is valued at \$110, may start or finish any branch of education for which they are fitted and no better instruction can be gained anywhere than through the sisters of the Notre Dame.

**From the San Francisco Call June 1, 1908**

**\$110.00 in 1908 is worth \$3,082.36 today.**



Letter from Isabel Camarillo to her daughters Rosa and Ava  
October 27, 1908

Camarillo Oct. 27-1908

My Dearest Rosita and Avita,

Received both your letters today, it breaks my heart to hear of Aves sickness, I thought she was well by this time, if Ave dont get better I will come up before Thanksgiving if she is like she was at the Springs she must be had, Has she had a doctor? I am very sorry she is not well, any way I will see you girls next month I did not want to tell you I was going to surprise you as Ave is sick she will feel better to know I am coming to see her soon, I could not wait till Thursday to write, I will write again the last part of the week, write me a postal soon I am anxious to hear from Ave hope she will get well soon she must brace up I want to see how well she is doing at school and singing, I hope Rosa had a good time

## Letters

Isabel Camarillo wrote a four page letter filled with news from home to her daughters Rosa and Ave who were at Notre Dame. Here are a few excerpts:

Camarillo Oct. 27-1908

“Dearest Rosita and Avita” (*endearments for Rosa and Ave*),

“Received both your letters today. It breaks my heart to hear of Ave’s sickness. I thought she was well by this time. Has she had a Doctor? I am very sorry she is not well. Anyway I will see you girls next month. I did not want to tell you I was going to surprise you as Ave is sick she will feel better to know I am coming to see her soon. Write me a postal soon.”

“I came home from Los (*family name for Los Angeles*) last evening. I was going to stay a week. We went on the train. I took Nunie (*endearment for Isabella*).

“...Nunie went out to Aunt Susie’s (*Isabel’s sister Susana*) to see the children...”

“Aunt Lena is here visiting for a few days.” (*Tranquilina Lorenzana, half sister of Isabel*)

“Carmelita (*endearment for Carmen*) is very happy with her family (*of pets*). Rosa you better write to Papa soon and tell him about your room and Ave can do the same for they are working now.”

“Tio Pancho’s (*Isabel’s brother Frank Menchaca*) room is on the side of the big room upstairs. The big room will be cut into small rooms so Pancho will have his nice little room all to himself. “

*(Frank Menchaca, a well-known horseman, had been hospitalized in January 1908. A newspaper reported his “precarious condition with slight hope of recovery, He remained in a state of coma all day yesterday, under close attention by a physician and nurses.” In February 1908 it was reported “he has a slight chance for recovery.” He died in April 1912.”*

“I am forgetting to tell you the news. Papa order the Pierce Arrow when he was in Los Angeles. It will come sometime In the later part of November so it will be alright

when you come home for Christmas. I only hope the east wind won't be blowing like it is now."

"Please let me know how my dear Ave is getting along. With much love and kisses from all at home."

"A thousand kisses from your loving Mother, I."

Lifelong friendships with classmates and staff flourished at Notre Dame. Rosa included a photo of two Notre Dame nuns in her photo album. Her daughter, Rosita Petit Marvel also graduated from Notre Dame.

Here are some excerpts from a letter Rosita received from Sister A\_\_\_\_Marie in 1951.

College of Notre Dame  
Belmont, California  
May 31, 1951

"Dear Rosita.

It was so sweet and thoughtful of you to share with me the great news of little Michael's arrival. *(third child of Rosita and Tom Marvel)* Congratulations to the proud parents and loving welcome to the baby."

"I do hope that on your next visit to California you come to Belmont and show us your lovely children."

"I think of you very often as I show my album to the students, it has so many pictures of you and Leah and your classmates." *(Leah was Rosita's classmate who had introduced Rosita to her future husband, Tom Marvel.)*

"When you do come you will hardly recognize the \_\_\_\_\_, although old \_\_\_\_\_ Hall is pretty much the same, except some furniture and drapes."

"Kiss all the children for me and tell them Sister prays for them."

"Affectionately in the \_\_\_\_\_  
Sister A\_\_\_\_Marie, SND





**Rosa Camarillo**  
**"Taken at N.D. Thanksgiving-'09"**



*Science Hall, N.C.*



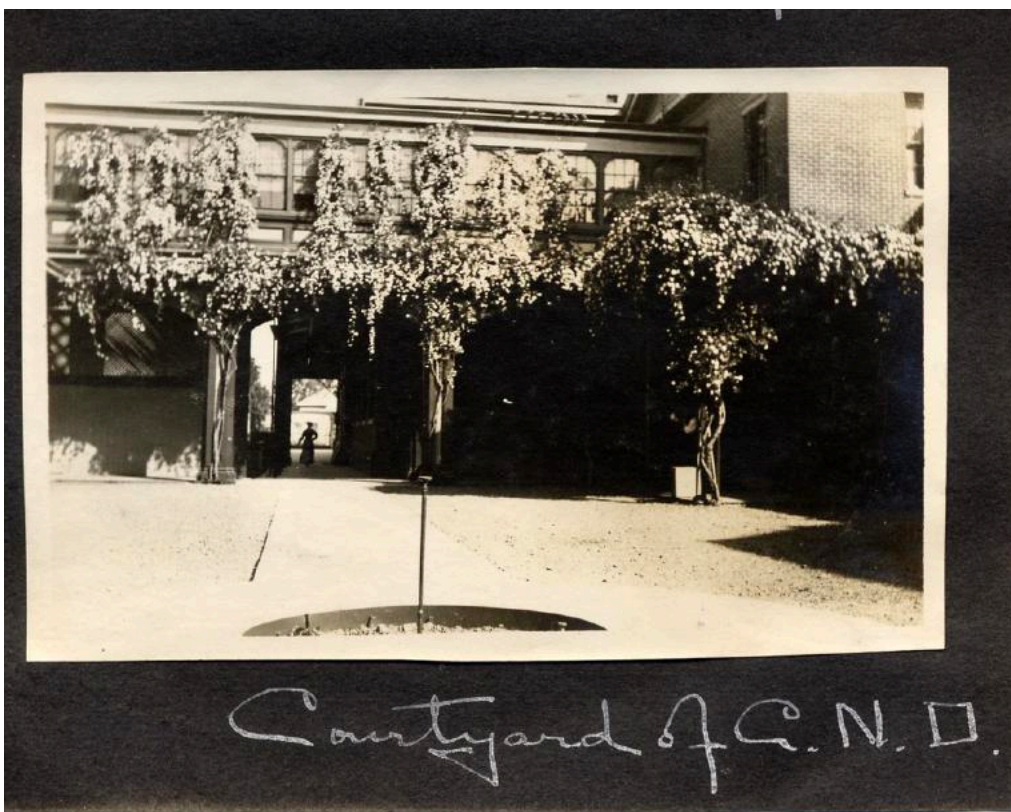
*Conservatory*

**Around Campus**



"Sr. L & R."

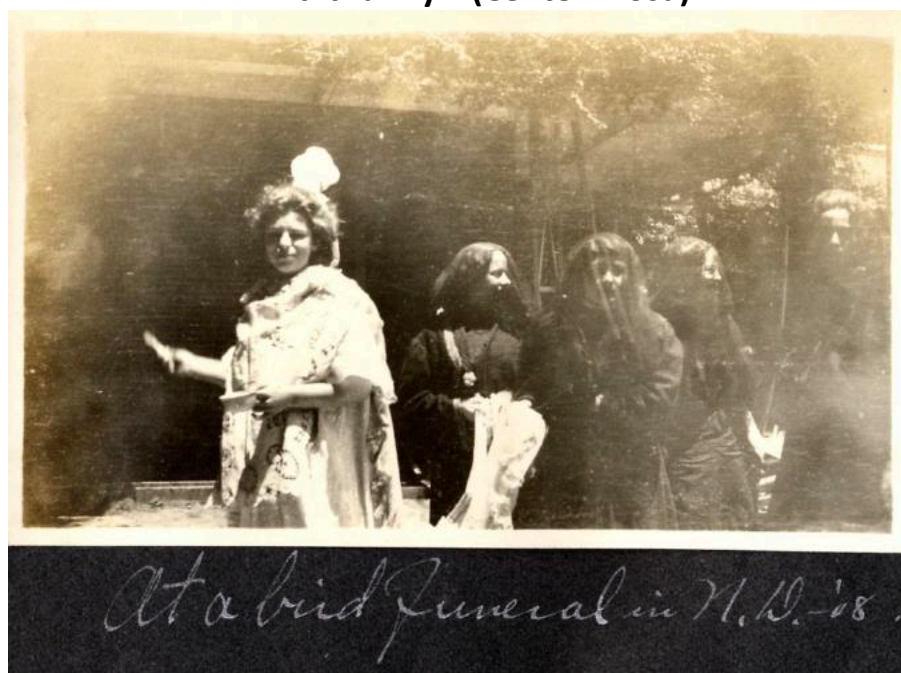
"Sr. Rosaria"



"Courtyard of C.N.D."



**"Aint it funny" (Center: Rosa)**



**"At a bird funeral in N.D.-'08"**



The girls often appear playful in the photos perhaps giving rise to the term that Geraldine FitzGerald, daughter of Ave, said that the Notre Dame students were called the "Naughty Dames."

**Ave Camarillo is wearing a white sweater.**



Ave is on the left



"Ave's Alcove"



Ave second left. Rosa with feather in her hat  
Possibly Rosa's friend, Phoebe, second right.





**“At College Notre Dame, taken immediately after exhibition. June 24-09”**

**Left to Right:**

**Ernest Orestes “Meche” Jones (*Lena Jones’ brother. He was married to Onorinda Jones, principal of Pleasant Valley School*)**

**Pancho, Isabel, Adolfo and Ave**

The book History of Santa Clara County, California published in 1922, contained a brief explanation of an early “Exhibition Day.”

“Exhibition or Commencement exercises lasted a week, and from all over California, as well as Oregon and Nevada, and even further, guests came by wagon, requiring the erection of a court-yard tent.”

It was also noted: “The musical department is complete and every advantage is afforded to those desirous of giving special attention to its culture.”



**Driver: Tio Juan, Woman in hat, Isabel.  
Left of Isabel, Lena Jones. Young girl: Nunie  
"Just before starting for L.A. 4/19-09"**

Adolfo's road trips were often announced in the newspaper. In April 1909 "Supervisor A. Camarillo with his family has been touring Southern California in his monster 7 passenger, 6 cylinder Pierce-Arrow." He returned in time to attend the Board of Supervisors meeting.

In June 1909, they drove the Pierce Arrow to Northern California with Pancho to pick up Rosa and Ave from Notre Dame and visit San Francisco before returning home.

The Pierce Arrow was mentioned in the letter that Isabel sent to Rosa and Ave while at Notre Dame.

Oxnard Courier  
dated Friday,  
December 20, 1907

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### **Camarillo Items.**

**Miss Rosa Camarillo has returned from Notre Dame, San Jose, where she has passed her first term's work. She will be with her parents at the Camarillo home for two weeks.**

Oxnard Courier  
dated Friday,  
June 26, 1908

**Mr. and Mrs. A. Camarillo are at San Jose this week attending the closing exercises of the Notre Dame School, where their daughter, Rosa, has been this year.**

Oxnard Courier  
dated Friday,  
June 18, 1909

Part 1 of 2

**Mr. and Mrs. Adolfo Camarillo, son Frank and Mr. E. O. Jones leave next Tuesday in their Pierce Arrow, for San Jose to attend the closing exercises of the Notre Dame school. From**

Oxnard Courier, Friday, June 18, 1909

Part 2 of 2

there Rosa and Ave Camarillo will accompany them to San Francisco before returning home.

**Oxnard Courier, Friday, September 4, 1908**

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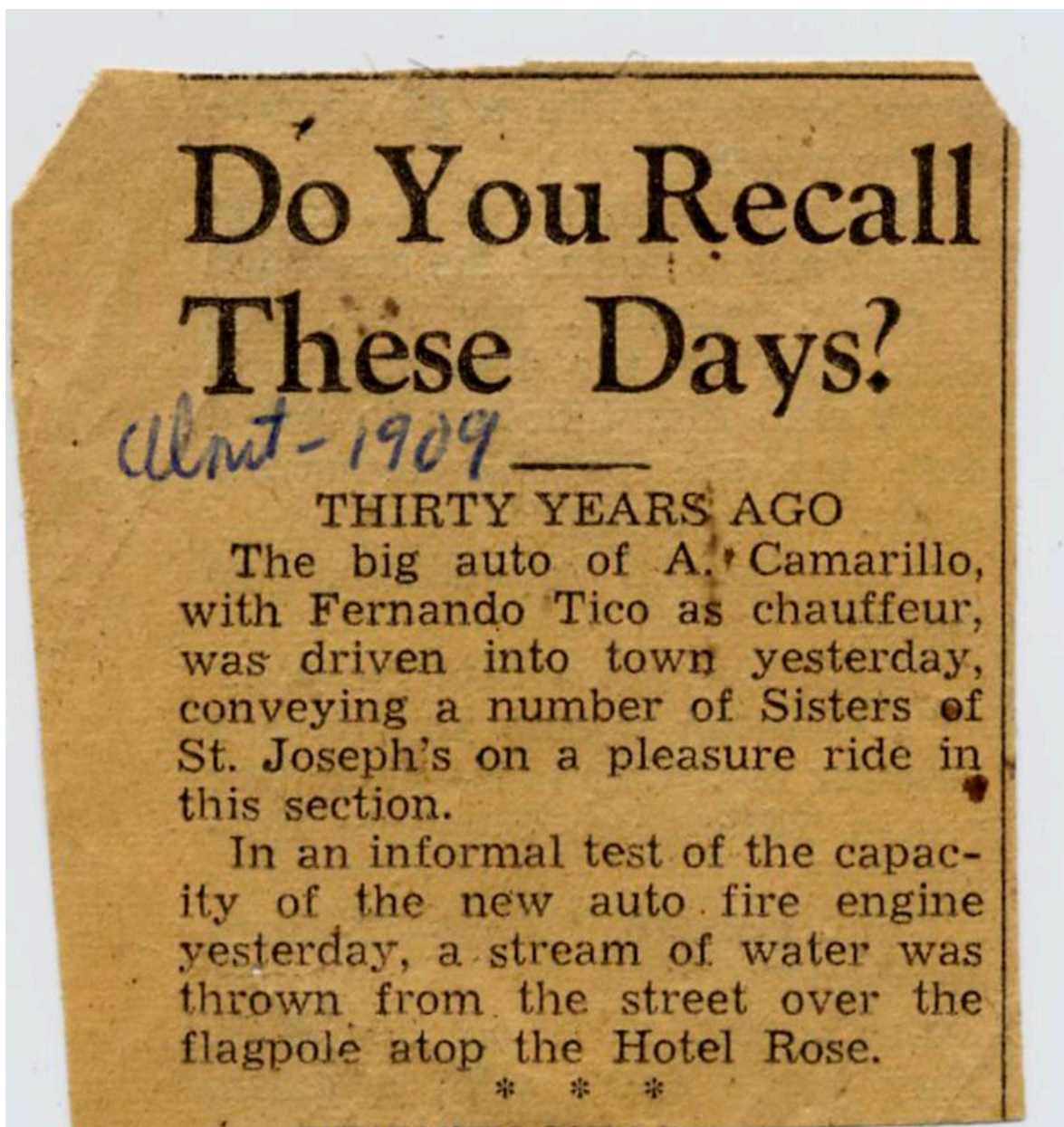
**Camarillo Items.**

Misses Rose and Ave Camarillo have departed for Notre Dame to resume their studies.

Misses Rose and Ave Camarillo have departed for Notre Dame to resume their studies.

Oxnard Courier  
dated Friday,  
January 13, 1910

Mrs. A. Camarillo went to Los Angeles the first of the week. Miss Ave Camarillo returned from the St. Joseph's school in that city and will resume her studies at Notre Dame, joining Miss Rosa Camarillo at that place.



**Newspaper clipping found in Rosa's 1908 photo album**

**A future report with Rosa's photo album will include information about Adolfo's automobiles.**

**Another report will highlight her photos of the Camarillo Ranch and home.**