

Women in the New Llano Colony

Museum of the New Llano Colony

211 Stanton St, New Llano, LA

Thursday-Friday 10am-4pm

www.NewLlanoColony.com

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The New Llano Colony (1914-1937)

was a co-operative colony, set up as a corporation. The goal was to produce everything their members needed, which would then be shared equally. To join, you purchased stock in the company and became an equal owner – inspiring their by-line “*Home of the Self-Employed*”.

Job Harriman, founder of the colony, along with many of those who joined, was also a member of the Socialist Party, which was quite popular at the time. Two newspapers, printed in the colony, spread the word about the successes of the colony and promoted better working conditions for all people throughout the world.

The colony gave everyone, especially women who were single for one reason or another, the chance to be

independent and care for their families on their own. Members were assured of having a job and given an equal opportunity for whatever type work they preferred.

Far ahead of the times, the colony offered free daycare for young children and generous maternity leave following childbirth.

In addition, members were provided a home, food, clothing, education, medical care, and a variety of member-driven entertainments throughout the week, including a dance every Saturday night. When necessary, even burials were provided by the colony, at no expense to the individual, but tailored as much as possible to suit their wishes.



New Llano Colony Board of Directors, 1925

L-R: Septer Baldwin, Sid Merrel, Ole Synoground, Dad Gleeser, Louise Gaddis, George Pickett, Bill Burton, Peter Kemp, Dan Cryer

As full members of the New Llano Colony, women were expected to vote on major decisions within the colony, although women's suffrage in the United States wasn't widely accepted until 1920. In some cases, they were selected for positions of authority.

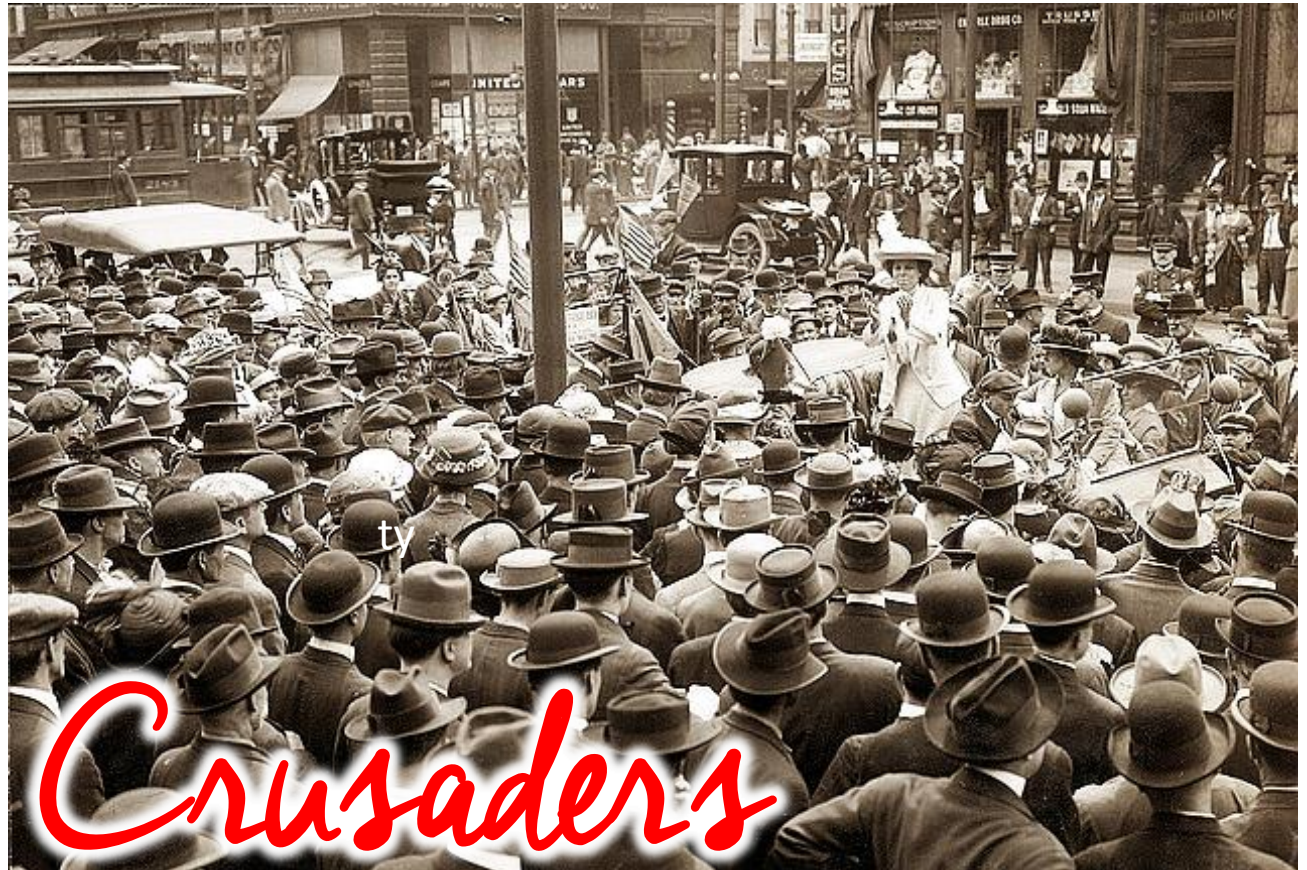
Kate Richards O'Hare once lived here . . .

Kate O'Hare attracted international attention as a crusader for woman suffrage, child welfare, the labor movement, prison reform and other Socialist causes.

Known around the world as "Red Kate", O'Hare was the first woman to run for U.S. Senate. In 1910, she was also seriously considered as a running mate for Eugene Debs on the Presidential ticket for the Socialist Party.

In 1923, she came to New Llano to help establish the short-lived Commonwealth College.

Here she speaks to a crowd at St. Louis in 1914.



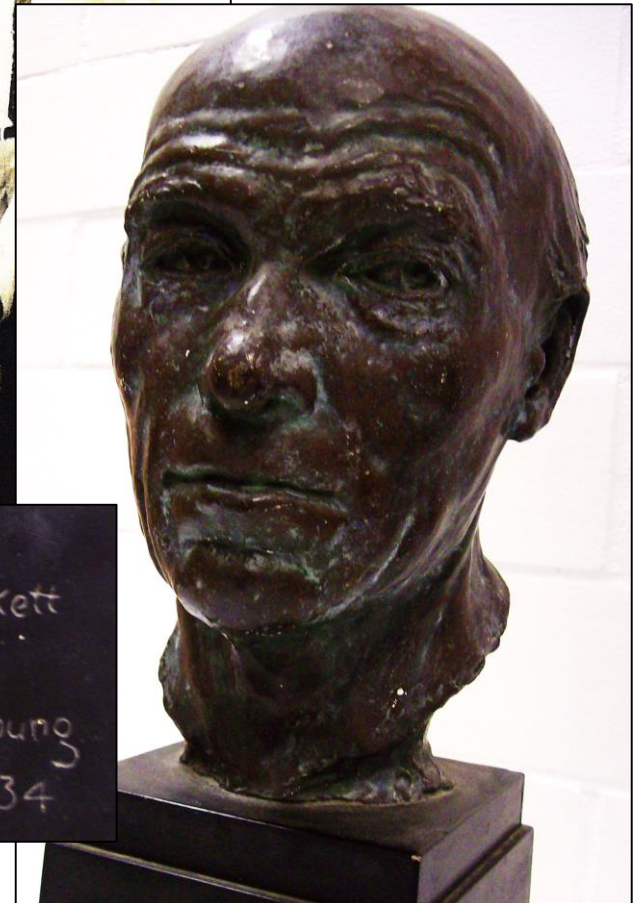
Artists



Above: Wedding photo of Ivy Young, artist who came with her family from England to live in the colony.

Right: Bust of George Pickett, President and General Manager of the colony from 1924-1935, created by Ivy Young.

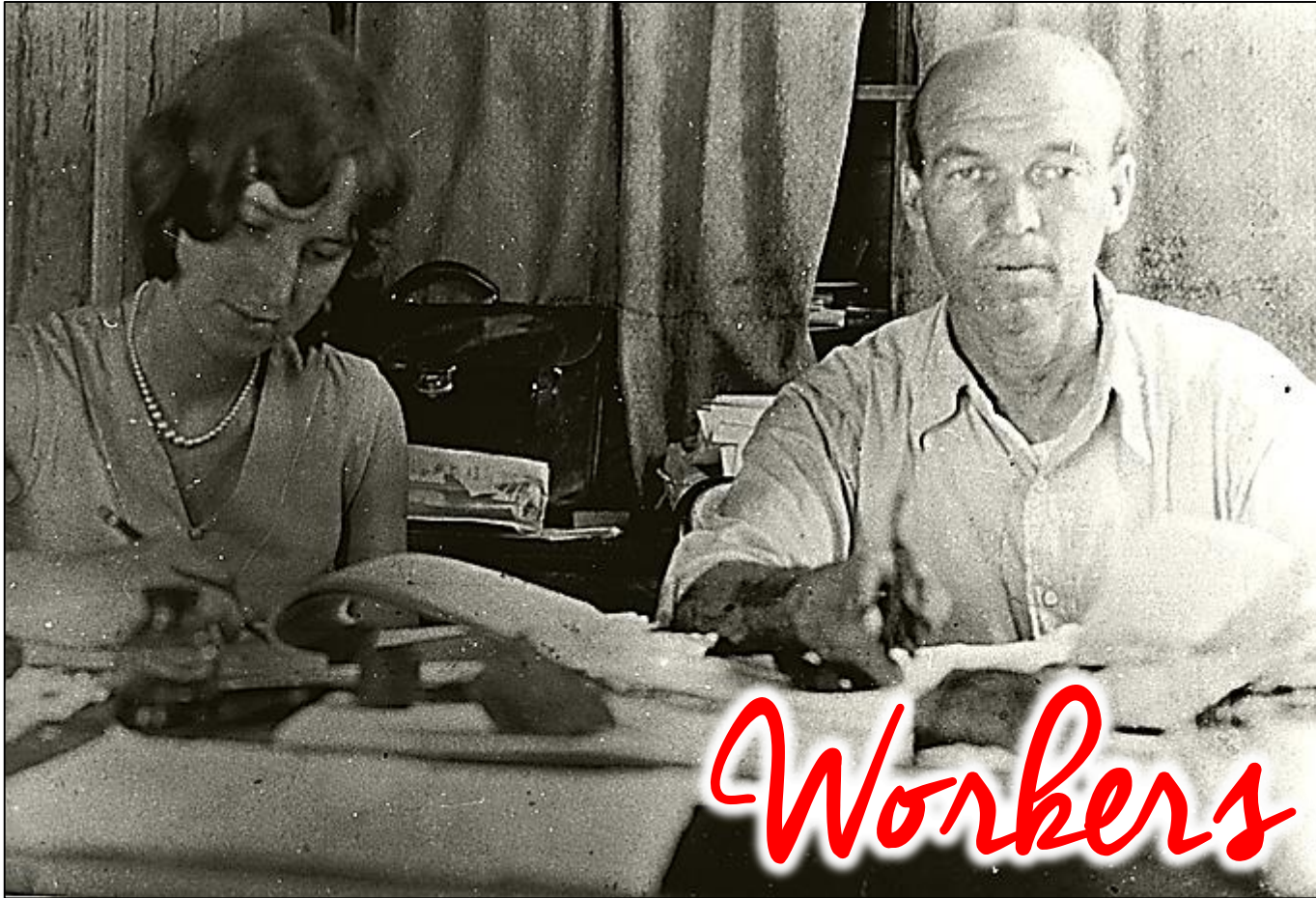
Portrait of
Geo. T. Pickett
by
Ivy R. Young
1934





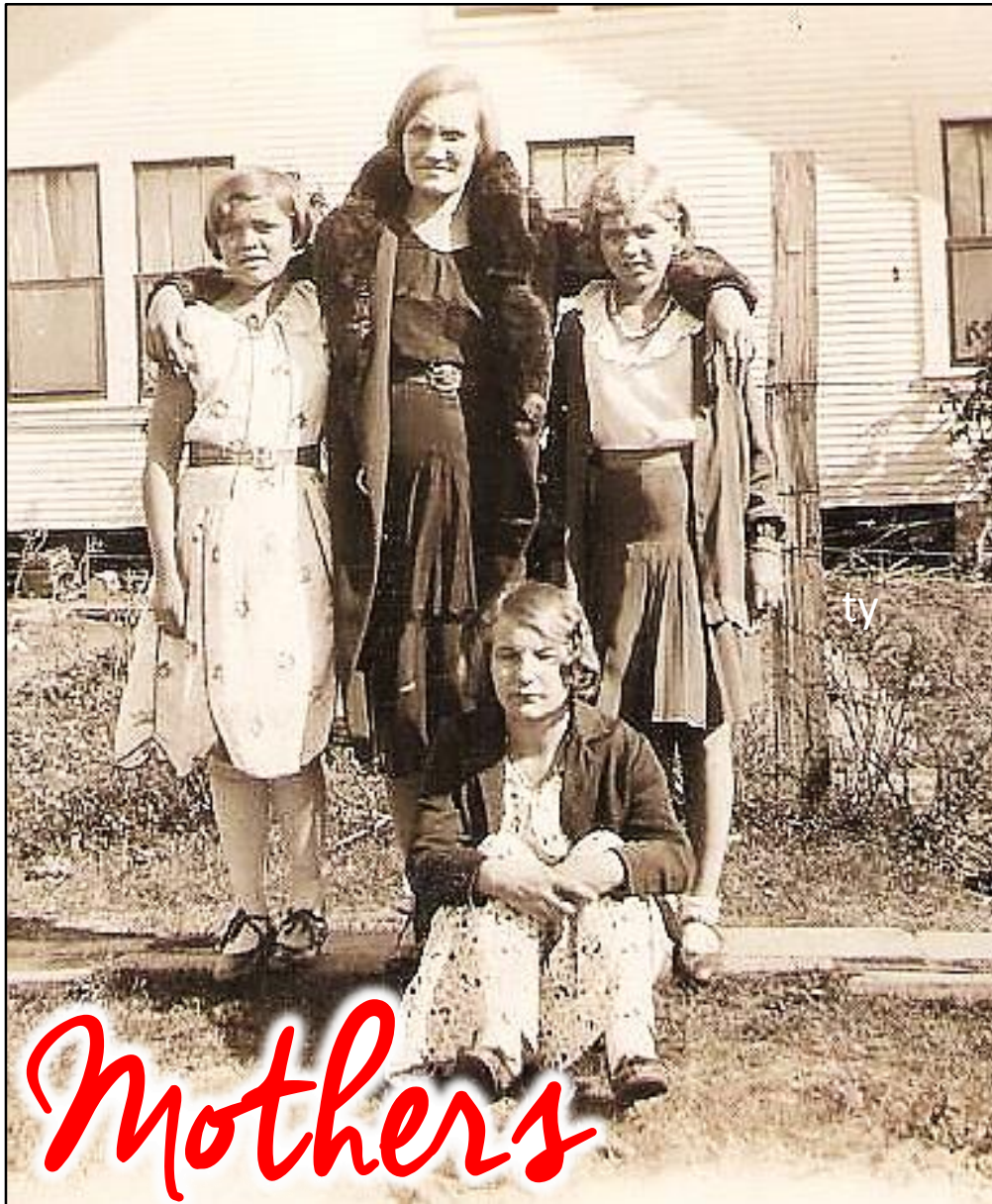
Professionals

A. Constance Austin designed plans for the hoped-for town of Llano, California. The city was to have included a civic center, schools, stores, hotels, clubhouses, industrial buildings, garages, and a five room home for each family. She is shown here with a model of the proposed homes.



Hope Shoemaker and George Pickett in the New Llano Colony office

Women were treated as equals in the New Llano Colony. Each was expected to work a full day. Whenever possible, colonists were given whatever job they preferred, and this extended to women as well. Though most stayed with traditionally female type work, some preferred to be outdoors and worked in the sawmill, the print shop, or out in the gardens.



Mary Christina Maki was born in Finland, but at some point moved to Minnesota, married and started a family. After her husband died, she found herself alone with six children to care for.

She moved to the New Llano Colony in 1928 and was given a job at the hotel, working in the kitchen where a communal meal was prepared to feed all the colonists three times each day.

Shown left: Mrs. Maki (standing center) with her daughter Irene on the right, daughter Myrtle sitting, and their friend Rachel on the left.

Videos

by Irene Maki Harper
Former New Llano Colonist

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[Moving In](#)

[After School Jobs](#)

[Working at the Hotel,
Saturday Night Dances,
and Laundry](#)

[Money,
Medical Treatment
and the Rust Brothers](#)



Irene Maki Harper, 2013
(on right in previous slide)

Democrat Circulation Manager Is Member of Colony from Childhood

Myrtle Bradshaw Came to Vernon Parish with Original California Group of Colonists.

Myrtle Bradshaw, circulation manager for the Industrial Democrat, is a Llano pioneer. Myrtle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kemp, was a child in the colony at Llano, Calif. With her parents she came to Stables (now Newllano), Louisiana, in 1917.

Here she grew up and married Carl Bradshaw, who died about three years ago. Except for a few years in the late '20's, she has spent her life in the Colony.

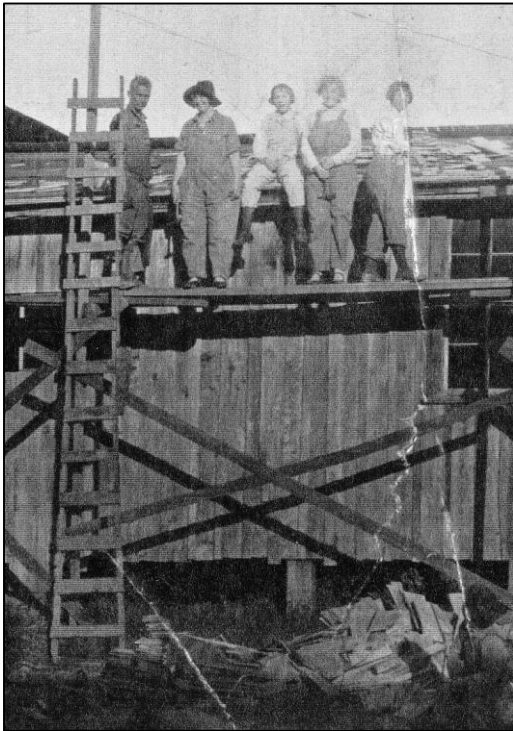
About three months ago she joined the staff at the printery, and is now handling the circulation work of the Democrat along with other duties. She will be glad to meet all Democrat readers who wish to visit the plant at Newllano, and extends an invitation to every subscriber.



Photograph by E. C. Ranft

Besides being a busy colony worker, she is also a busy mother. Her little girl, Carolyn, is one of the favorite children of the Colony.

Women workers in the New Llano Colony



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For more information, please contact
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