

The excerpt below is from an online article, published by the City of Brisbane (circa 1998), which includes an interview with my Dad, **Jess Salmon**. www.ci.Brisbane.ca.us/htm/about/history.asp

Chapter 3 -- "War and Development"



LOOKING OUT OVER BRISBANE AT A FLEET IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY

As the American economy emerged from the doldrums of the Depression and geared up for the war effort, Brisbane enjoyed a renaissance of sorts. By 1940, the town had grown to nearly 2,500 inhabitants.

A SECOND WAVE - HOME FROM THE WARS

If the Great Depression brought a small group of pioneers to Brisbane, a second wave of immigrants came to the city following World War II. These were the men who had won the war and were now trying to build something out of the peace that followed. In the stories of such men as Jim Williams, Jess Salmon, Vince Marsili, and Frank Davis, one can see how this influx of new people into the area shaped the city's future course.

Jess Salmon came out of the service looking for a better life. "My father came to the Bay Area to work in the defense industry," he recalls. "So we came to Brisbane. I lived down here on Monterey Street in a chicken coop. I'm serious, it was a chicken coop - - a little chicken coop in the back yard. Finally, my family found a home in South San Francisco on Grand Avenue. "I then got a job working for the Swift & Company meat packing plant. I was going to quit high school and work. I wanted that money, man. The money was good.

The boss found out though that I hadn't finished high school and he fired me so I'd go back to school. He said, 'You're fired. But if you go back to school, I'll give you a night job.' So he gave me a nighttime job and I worked nights and I made \$39 a week. That was good money in 1942. Then, the last semester of high school, I went half a day to school and worked from 1:00 P.M. to midnight, every night.

"After high school, I went into the service. I came back in 1946. My parents were still living in the same house in South San Francisco. But they soon got an eviction notice because the owner wanted the building for something else. "My parents had no place to go. So I gave them my GI loan and my father bought a house.

I still didn't have a bedroom. I never had a bedroom all my life until I got married. I got married in August of 1946. My mother-in-law gave me a vacant lot in Brisbane as a wedding present. I built my home on it from my crap-shooting money that I made while I was in the Army. I used to win at craps and then lose my shirt at poker.

I built my house and I raised four kids in Brisbane. I put all four kids and my wife and myself through college while working full time. I put it all together and even ended up getting elected to City Council. So that kind of established me here and I just stayed. In 1967, I thought about moving to Marin County. But my wife said she'd divorce me before she'd move."