



**Meagor's Garage in Ross**  
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In the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, William and Isabella Meagor's Ross Garage was a cornerstone of the downtown Ross business district. It was also a symbol of the changing times as motorized vehicles were beginning to replace horse-drawn conveyances. In December 1911, the Meagors purchased the Jones Stables in Ross and converted it into a garage to serve the fast-growing automobile industry. The photograph above has written on the back, "With Love, Will and Isabella."

William emigrated from England in 1894 at the age of fourteen and married Isabella Parsons, also an immigrant from England, in 1911. The young couple opened the garage the next year establishing themselves as leading citizens of the recently incorporated Town of Ross. Later that year, the garage became the polling place for Ross residents to vote in County and State elections and would continue to do so over the next three decades.

Business was booming for the Meagors when tragedy struck in July of 1914. An early morning fire started in the line of buildings that included the garage, a shoemaker's shop, Fred Croker's grocery store and the Dale Livery Stables. Newspaper articles from the time differ as to exactly where the fire started, but all agree that the entire line of buildings burned to the ground and the residents were forced to flee for their lives. William Meagor is described, heroically, as carrying Isabella through the smoke and flames from their apartment in the rear of the garage out to the street. Stable owner, Edgar Dale rushed to his disabled daughter's bedside and also carried her to safety. Edgar's son, Walter, managed to free the 24 horses at the stable but suffered burns about the hands and face. Within weeks, a benefit consisting of a dinner and dance was given to assist the Meagor's in rebuilding their business by the Golden Star Rebekah Lodge, a women's auxiliary group associated with the Odd Fellows fraternal organization. The following year William and Isabella rebuilt what was called, "a fireproof building" with living quarters on the second floor above the garage, which still stands today.

Isabella's brother, John Parsons, came to live and work at the garage and was eventually joined by his wife Rosine and young son Denis, who was a long-time resident in Ross. Denis, interviewed by the Ross Historical Society, recalled living above the garage with his family during the 1920s and 30s while his father worked as a mechanic and drove a taxi operated by the garage. William added an electrical supply business to his garage, became an engineer for the Ross Fire Department and was elected to the Ross City Council. By 1940, the Meagors had sold the garage to Ernest Ford while William continued his work in the electrical supplies business. Eventually, the couple moved to Bayside Acres in San Rafael and built their house out of redwood timber taken from the demolition of the original North Pacific Coast RR station in Ross. William died in 1957 and Isabella in 1972. Both are buried together at San Rafael's Mt. Tamalpais cemetery.

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