



Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, Trabuco Canyon  
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**ADKINSON, Ray** (1893-1982)

O.H. 50

Interviewer: William H. Lofstrom

Date: May 27, 1968

Status: Final typed, 12 pp.

Tape length: 60 min./closed

Early life in Trabuco Canyon area of southern California, experiences as an educator, and county superintendent of schools for Orange County, California.

**AGUIRRE, Gilbert**

O.H. 2910

Interviewer: Michael Woods

Date: April 13, 2001

Status: not transcribed

The Chief of Agriculture Activities at Rancho Mission Viejo for the past thirty years reflects on the development of Rancho Mission Viejo from a working ranch to a real estate development. Discusses the cattle and agricultural industries and their traditions as well as land ownership.

**BAERG, Sherry**

O.H. 2926

Interviewer: Ryan Morris

Date: November 5, 2000

Status: not transcribed

Discusses how special Trabuco Canyon is to her family and to other residents – Trabuco is “different” from Rancho Santa Margarita – discusses problems with incorporation and why she is against it – losing a sense of identity with incorporation.

**BAUMGARTNER, John J., Jr.** (1901— )

O.H. 1657

Interviewer: Shirley E. Stephenson

Date: August 21, 1977; March 18, 1978

Status: Completed 1982, 193 pp. index, photos, appendixes

Tape length: 5 hrs. 30 min.

A cattle rancher and scion of the Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores, a large Mexican land grant formerly owned by the last Mexican governor Pio Pico, then by Juan Forster, reflects about life at the rancho during the days when Richard O’Neill, Sr., his grandfather, and James Flood jointly owned the land. The ranch often referred to as the O’Neill Ranch is located in southern Orange County and northern San Diego County of

southern California. The Flood portion of Rancho Santa Margarita has been Camp Pendleton since World War II. Baumgartner resides in San Juan Bautista and is well known in the California livestock industry having served in an official capacity in several organizations including president of the California Cattlemen's Association. Bound copy includes a copy of the original "Abstract of Title" of the Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores and other historical documents.

**BLAIS, Neil**

O.H. 2906

Interviewer: Michael Woods

Date: November 20, 2000

Status: not transcribed

One of the founders of the city of Rancho Santa Margarita and an original city council member, Blais discusses his involvement in the incorporation process of Rancho Santa Margarita. He discusses the education of the community as to the benefits of incorporation and the goals for the new city. He speaks about the city boundaries, the community center, the Bandares Bridge, the RSM business community, and the city's stand on the proposed El Toro Airport as well as what the new city does for its residents.

**CLARK, Robert S.** (1944— )

O.H. 521

Interviewer: Beverly Gallagher

Date: May 14, 1971

Status: Not transcribed

Tape length: 60 min.

Manager of Rancho Mission Viejo in San Juan Capistrano, California discusses the impact of the bracero program in the area as compared with the green card carrying Mexican laborers employed in the area.

**CRAYCRAFT, William**

O.H. 2921

Interviewer: Suzanne Walter

Date: November 14, 2000

Status: not transcribed

Discusses his involvement with Mission Viejo before incorporation and his role as a Mission Viejo city council member since its inception. Discusses community services, the super city, decision to incorporate, conflicts among council members and the challenges of a second term as mayor. Includes thoughts of Mission Viejo as a model for other south Orange County communities, regionalism, and the future of Orange County.

**DULMAGE, Steve**

O.H. 2925

Interviewer: Ryan Morris

Date: November 20, 2000

Status: not transcribed

Discusses the history of Trabuco Canyon -- describes the community and what might change if Trabuco were incorporated – the impact of money on the community – materialism in Rancho Santa Margarita - nature in Trabuco – his family in Rancho Santa Margarita – differences in housing between Trabuco and RSM – discusses how a change in economics could change Trabuco – community aspect of Trabuco Canyon.

**FORSTER, Elizabeth** (1908— )

O.H. 1026

Interviewer: Suzanne Jansen

Date: July 26, 1971

Status: Completed 1976, 19 pp., index

Tape length: 60 min.

History of Forster ranches and lands, oil, old Mission Viejo, and San Juan Capistrano, California area.

**FRATES, Steven**

O.H. 2923

Interviewer: Suzanne Walter

Date: November 4, 2000

Status: not transcribed

An ex-manager of Fullerton, Frates discusses the advantages and disadvantage of incorporation, city structures, spheres of influence, revenue neutrality, proposed El Toro Airport and development versus preservation. Knowledgeable in all areas of local government, he comments on urban sprawl, draw of Orange County schools, traffic, and the future of Orange County.

**HAYES, (Right Reverend) Eugene**

O.H. 2924

Interviewer: Ernesto Castro

Date: November 20, 2000

Status: not transcribed

As abbot of Saint Michael's Abbey in south Orange County, he discusses his duties, the history of the Norbertine order and St. Michael's Abbey. Included are his remembrances of south Orange County during the 1960s and 1970s, especially Mission Viejo, Dana Point, Lake Forest, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Hills, Laguna Woods, and Rancho Santa Margarita. Discusses the incorporation process and the seven cities involved. Comments on the demographics, agriculture, and ranching around the abbey and the changes he has seen during the last thirty years.

**HURST, Judy**

O.H. 2919

Interviewer: Ryan Morris

Date: November 26, 2000

Status: not transcribed

A third generation resident of Trabuco Canyon, Hurst discusses her family history in Trabuco Canyon and the changes she has seen in her life time, including the impact of development, mail service, and the importance of animals in the area. Also discusses the sense of family and community in the canyon, the changes in home prices and why she is opposed to incorporation.

**LANGE, Robert H. (1932— )**

O.H. 1150

Interviewer: Patricia Petring

Date: May 24, 1972

Status: Not transcribed

Tape length: 60 min.

A young Lutheran pastor and property owner in the Mission Viejo area of southern California describes the planning and building of the first church in the planned, newly developed community of the original Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores. Comments on residents of the area.

**LEWIS, Debra**

O.H. 2904

Interviewer: Michael Woods

Date: May 22, 2001

Status: not transcribed

Moved to Rancho Santa Margarita area in 1988 – discusses becoming president of Chamber of Commerce and moving law offices to RSM – the vision of cityhood – residents unaware of incorporation – economic viability, revenue neutrality as a city – remarks about possible airport – problems with Orange County's opposition of O'Neill

Ranch – law enforcement services increased with incorporation – election process and election as mayor – integration of RSM and Trabuco as one city – reasons for incorporation – pro airport versus anti-airport issues.

**MOISO, Anthony R.** (1939— )

O.H. 1149a

Interviewer: Patricia Petrung

Date: April 20, 1972

Status: Transcribed, 19 pp.

Tape length: 60 min.

An O’Neill family heir and vice—president of the Mission Viejo Company, relates colorful history of the O’Neill ranch and the Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores. Comments on agriculture, prominent people, and banking in this area of southern California.

**MOISO, Anthony R.** (1939 - )

O.H. 1149b

Interviewer: Michael Woods

Date: December 13, 2000

Status: not transcribed

Discusses the development of Rancho Santa Margarita - financing the vision, the birth of transportation corridors, housing, schools, and balancing urban areas with open space and incorporation. Challenges of development include managing people, 1990s recession, services, and environmentalists. Other issues include the discussion of “urban villages,” land for high school and San Francisco Solano Catholic Church, planting citrus, Swallow’s Inn and El Adobe Restaurant.

**NGUYEN, Phata**

O.H. 2930

Interviewer: Thuong Le

Date: December 16, 2000

Status: not transcribed

Discusses the decision to move away from a large Vietnamese community in central Orange County to Rancho Santa Margarita - concerns with living in the city – personal involvement in the city – safety issues – property tax – issues of cultural isolation – involvement in church activities – schools in Rancho Santa Margarita.

**NIEDZWIECKI, Narges**

O.H. 2931

Interviewer: Thuong Le

Date: November 9, 2000

Status: not transcribed

Discusses reasons for moving to Rancho Santa Margarita – opinions about the city as a place to live and raise a family – her experience as a candidate for city council of Rancho Santa Margarita – opinions of the city incorporation and changes since incorporation – demographics of city – suggestions of how to improve the city.

**OSTERMAN, Mary Lillian (1884—1973)**

O.H. 49

Interviewer: William H. Lofstrom

Date: May 24, 1968

Status: Final typed, 31 pp.

Tape length: 60 min.

Early life in Orange County, California including recollections of history of the Trabuco Canyon and El Toro area and some of the early residents.

**REESE, Richard**

O.H. 2905

Interviewer: Michael Woods

Date: December 1, 2000

Status: not transcribed

Master developer for Rancho Santa Margarita, Reese speaks about his past experiences with the Irvine Company and Rancho Mission Viejo. He explains the Master concept for Rancho Santa Margarita as a “life style community” which was designed for all types of people at all stages of life. RSM was created as a village where people could live and work while enjoying the California lifestyle.

**RILEY, Christy**

O.H. 2908

Interviewer: Michael Woods

Date: May 8, 2001

Status: not transcribed

Riley speaks about how she was selected for city council – the issue of revenue neutrality and how it affected her appointment – the city’s incorporation process and her involvement – reasons for incorporation – “City with a heart” – issues with the police force – shared vision with other council members – Rancho Santa Margarita as an “urban

village” – the proposed El Toro airport – economic and commercial factors – lack of high schools – cost of housing – crime free, drug free area – “leaving the footprint.”

**SAFRANSKI, Michael**

O.H. 2920

Interviewer: Suzanne Walter

Date: November 14, 2000

Status: not transcribed

An original candidate for Rancho Santa Margarita city council, he discusses the “super city” concept, boundaries of RSM and the history of RSM incorporation. Also discussed were the efforts to include other outlying communities, presentation to LAFCO, the city council and the “gang of five,” the election campaign, and RSM since incorporation.

**SCHRANK, Steve**

O.H. 2911

Interviewer: Michael Woods

Date: April 5, 2001

Status: not transcribed

Chronicles the development of Rancho Santa Margarita, Mission Viejo and Ladera Ranch and his role RSM as a village community. Discusses the use of Rancho Mission Viejo’s land and the incorporation of the land’s legacy.

**SHREWSBURY, Richard Lynn (1892—1982)**

O.H. 1460

Interviewer: Karen W. Turnbull

Date: July 11, 1975

Status: Completed 1976, 18 pp., index, photos

Tape length: 45 min.

Father came to southern California in the 1850s and settled in Silverado Canyon on property which was later sold to Madame Modjeska. Recalls old Clubfoot, the last grizzly bear killed in Silverado Canyon which is now at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D. C.; the mining camp at Silverado; homesteading, and mining at Cochise, Arizona; farming on the O’Neill ranch; and old—timers in the area.

**TALLEY, William O.**

O.H. 2922

Interviewer: Suzanne Walter

Date: November 6, 2000

Status: not transcribed



Recounts his several years of experience in southern Orange County as city manager of Dana Point, Mission Viejo, and Rancho Santa Margarita. Discusses the history of incorporation of Dana Point, Mission Viejo, and Rancho Santa Margarita – the challenges, issues, similarities, and differences among them. Discusses Mission Viejo as a model for other communities, land use, and some of the issues involving development versus amenities, county services to newly incorporated cities versus contracting out services. Comments on his vision of the future of Orange County.

**THOMPSON, Gary**

O.H. 2907

Interviewer: Michael Woods

Date: November 8, 2000

Status: not transcribed

A founder of Rancho Santa Margarita and original city council member, Thompson speaks about the decision to incorporate Rancho Santa Margarita and his involvement in the process. Discussed is the developer's view and residence plans for the community and what motivated the residents to incorporate. Included are the reasons for incorporation and the process, boundaries of the city, and the election of 1999. He also reflects on the first anniversary of cityhood.

**WILSON, Warren (1922— )**

O.H. 1151

Interviewer: Patricia Petring

Date: March 29, 1972

Status: Transcribed, 35 pp.

Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

A Crocker Bank officer in charge of the O'Neill Trust and vice president in charge of finance for the O'Neill properties discusses land conservation, agriculture, mineral extraction, the O'Neill family, and the Mission Viejo Company.