

ORANGE COUNTY PIONEER COUNCIL  
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
FINDING AID

May 2012



OH 3504

**Albert, Peggy Muckenthaler**

“An Oral History with Peggy Muckenthaler Albert”

Interviewed by Clay Spencer

Dates: March 16, 23, 2006

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 47 pp.

**Abstract:** Daughter of Shirley Zoeter Muckenthaler and Harold Walter Muckenthaler; granddaughter of Nora Muckenthaler who lived at what is now the Muckenthaler Cultural Center describes early childhood in Fullerton including making snowman in 1949.

Fire destroyed Hawaiian Punch plant in Fullerton and another destroyed a 3-story building; children marched in city parades with decorated wagons and pets; trips to library and soda fountain; describes St. Mary's 4-room school with 8 grades. Childhood games hunting bugs, riding horses. Father cared for grandfather's orange groves, had to smudge against frost, installed wind machines. As housing encroached on groves, people stole the oranges and avocados so family tore out orange trees and leased land to strawberry farmers. Provides current landmarks to locate the land. Remembers her dad cutting weeds with tractor. Names maternal great-grandparents, Angelina Yorba and Samuel Kraemer, who lived in Placentia and gave Peggy's grandmother a piano that she still owns. Kraemer land in Placentia was left as one unit that is jointly managed by the family descendants. Peggy's father farmed her grandmother's section. He also hunted in Wyoming and taught his daughters to handle guns and shoot doves. Details Kraemer family genealogy back to Mexican land grant and grandfather Walter Muckenthaler's family history to 1850s. Muckenthalers bought land and operated a dairy near the orphanage that later became St. Catherine Military Academy in Anaheim. Grandfather and father were both in US Navy and trained in same North Island Naval Air Station in San Diego. Explains later land development and property management handled by family, including East Lake Village in Yorba Linda and areas in Las Vegas and Palm Springs. Gives history of Daniel Kraemer and relation to Yorba family; Daniel's wife was independently able to live with daughters in Anaheim after divorcing Daniel. Peggy's life was more directly involved with Kraemer ancestors and she recalls spending holidays with them. Mentions changing styles of dress, construction of Muckenthaler Cultural Center; weekends with grandparents; child drowning in water reservoir; Japanese gardener during World War II; vacations on ranch in Idaho and at Wyoming dude ranch; attended school in California and Switzerland; summer experiences at the beach; civil rights and hippie movement, feminism and Vietnam war in 1960s. Tells about raising her own children and grandmother experiences, changes in local environment. Describes programs offered at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center, volunteering there, and her role on the board of trustees; recalls family members working at Knott's Berry Farm, going to Disneyland, and TV shows she watched as a child.

In the second interview discussion focuses on Cold War, anti-communism, Cuban missile crisis, and family roles in local politics. Comments on presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Bush and Nixon. Businesses in Fullerton, like the Fox Theater and Fullerton Hardware among others, night life in town, and homes of ranchers are described briefly. Short comments on ethnic mix in Fullerton population.

OH 126

**Arroues, Jean Pierre**

**Arroues, Leonie**

“An oral history with Jean Pierre and Leonie Arroues”

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: May 25, 1966

Language: English

Ephemera: genealogy survey

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 80 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 3

**Abstract:** Jean and Leonie Arroues give their family backgrounds, including siblings and descendants, and how they came from France to California. Jean recalls dry farming on land leased from W. J. Hole, then raising oranges. Gives detailed description of raising sheep, including shearing, herding, breeding, and camp life. Recalls learning Spanish and attending Bastanchury parties. Recalls first residences in area, rustic lifestyle, methods of obtaining water, land prices, and prominent families.

OH 2356

**Ball, Dexter Taber**

“An oral history with Dexter Ball”

Interviewed by William Gulley

Date: April 12, 1984

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, genealogy charts, newspaper clips

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 15 pp.

**Abstract:** Narrator’s family came to Orange County in 1887. Paternal grandfather, Charles Dexter “C. D.” Ball, was a founding member of the Orange County Medical Association and of the Orange County Historical Society; his book *Orange County Medical History* (1920) describes diseases and treatments from diphtheria to snake bites. Father, uncles and sons have all been in the medical field and narrator outlines family history through his own children.

OH 2248

**Barnes, Robert Samuel**

“An oral history with Sam Barnes”

Interviewed by Karen Hervey Reese

Date: July 9 and 10, 1992

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, documents

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 45 pp.

**Abstract:** Narrator’s grandfather, George Edgar, helped determine the county seat of the new Orange County, ran a grocery/china store, and was on city council when Chinatown burned in Santa Ana. Barnes compares Santa Ana with Anaheim, Newport with Corona del Mar, Anaheim Landing with Balboa; relates mother’s fox hunting in Orange County Park, and family traditions at Christmas. Describes 1930s run on an Anaheim bank quelled by a deposit of Sam Kraemer of Placentia; recalls military experience during WWII, witnessing Overell murder trial, establishing his law practice in Santa Ana in late 1940s, and courting his wife. Gives assessment of changes in the legal profession and brief genealogical notes on Vanderlip, Barnes, Edgar, and Horton families.

OH 123

**Bauer, Lewis**

“An oral history with Lewis Bauer”

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: September 28, 1965

Language: English

Ephemera: none

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 44 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 2

**Abstract:** Bauer discusses his work for Standard Oil back East, which led to a transfer to Whittier. Describes working for various oil companies, the Bastanchury lawsuit, wages, getting water, and lodgings. Recalls Murphy Oil being bought out. Describes process of building and drilling first well. Explains where oil was taken after it was pumped and dealing with water that sometimes came up with oil. Discusses Plott

and Bacon, two prominent figures in Murphy Oil Company. Recalls local wildlife. Discusses Murphy's concern about his connections to Standard Oil. Gives his family's background.

OH 149

**Baxter, Gavin H.**

"An oral history with Gavin Baxter"

Interviewed by Jim Sleeper

Date: March 20, 1970

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, floor plan

Project: Irvine/El Toro Community, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 40 pp.

**Abstract:** Baxter, carpenter for the Irvine ranch from 1916 to 1957, describes the furnishings and design of the main house while walking through it after a fire and points out changes made by successive generations of Irvine brides. Gives brief glimpses into the lives of Irvine family members and employees on the ranch.

OH 142

**Beck, Ethel and Edward**

"An oral history with Ethel and Edward Beck"

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: November 1, 1965

Language: English

Ephemera: photo, genealogy survey

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 72 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 5

**Abstract:** Son and daughter of George Beck, pioneer grower of avocados, discuss the avocado industry in La Habra, origins and life cycles of several varieties of avocados, methods of picking and marketing the fruit in Los Angeles and to wider markets, various virus and fungus that attack the plants, wind machines, and water shares needed for early groves. Recall their childhood jobs picking nuts, early residential development in La Habra Heights, and various other tropical crops grown by their father. Includes history of the Calavo Growers association and the California Avocado Advisory Board.

OH60

**Bishop, Frank Drake**

"An oral history with Frank Bishop"

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: March 8, 1963

Language: English

Ephemera: photo, news clipping, and produce labels

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 17 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 1

**Abstract:** Narrator explains how family came to California. Describes their experiences in Kaweah, then La Habra. Recalls lack of doctors, local schools, and transportation. Discusses his involvement in the tomato and avocado industries, development of avocado varieties, conditions of Mexican laborers, and challenges of harvesting. Describes Farmers' Club and Woman's Improvement Club, local events, and recreation. Recalls first stores and tract homes in La Habra. Discusses origin of Brea, the Reynolds ranch, reasons for La Habra's growth, and property prices through the years. Lists affiliations

\*OH 2160

**Blower, Margaret Finley**

"An oral history with Margaret Blower"

Interviewed by Bonnie Pendleton

Date: November 13, 1990

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 24 pp.

**Abstract:** Includes letters between family members that describe the communities of Tustin, Santa Ana and Olive in the 1880s and 1890s. Margaret recalls antics of her pony; hoboos, and boarders at the family home; family/community traditions for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter; and elocution lessons and recitations. She reads newspaper accounts of her parents' wedding. She also comments on the difficult decision to sell the family homestead.

OH 1868

**Bradley, Richard**

"An oral history with Richard Bradley"

Interviewed by Larry Lincoln

Date: October 17 and November 7, 1986

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, genealogy notes, clippings

Project: Santa Ana Community History, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 60 pp.

**Abstract:** Orange County native relates experiences during his thirty-seven years as a police officer in Santa Ana; discusses crime scene investigations, police equipment, changes in police work over the years; recalls 1933 earthquake and photography work he did afterward, watching over customers at the Pavillion and Rendezvous Ballroom, and characteristics of early communities of Santa Ana, Costa Mesa, Newport, and Irvine.

OH 130

**Brittain, Evelyn**

"An oral history with Evelyn Brittain"

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: February 25, 1964

Language: English

Ephemera: genealogy survey

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 22 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 4

**Abstract:** Describes the environmental features of the valley when she arrived there as a child from Colorado in 1911. Lists various crops raised on the family ranch before settling on citrus, different water sources, and livestock. Gives picture of social activities and businesses in La Habra including informal horse racing, road construction and name changes, early avocado planting and markets, camps for Mexican laborers, and role of the La Habra Citrus Association. Varney and Robinson family histories.

OH 2543

**Brown, Ernest J.**

"An oral history with Ernie Brown"

Interviewed by Maureen Rischard

Date: May 24 and 31, and June 12, 1997

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, church directory, local history manuscripts, eulogy, genealogy, maps

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 30 pp.

**Abstract:** Much of the interview traces Williams and Brown family roots in 1844 Orange County through to grandfather's pool halls and death in 1971; mentions some personal experiences working on fishing boats, in

sugar factory, and for Excelsior Creamery; Korean War activity. Rich appendices with texts on Gospel Swamp and Chiles/Walker Party of 1843.

OH 2769

**Brown, Mildred Rohrs**

“An oral history with Mildred Brown”

Interviewed by Maureen Rischard

Date: April 16, 1999

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, newspaper article, genealogy

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 22 pp.

**Abstract:** Abundant family genealogy for the Rohrs and Lutz families as well as some on the Grobruegge and Stolte families. Describes a close family where many siblings raised their families in the same neighborhood; Rohrs was a family of ranchers who raised grapes, walnuts, and oranges; some information on schools and businesses in Santa Ana; description of 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations near the beach.

OH 2198

**Burrows, Gates Wilson**

“An oral history with Gates Burrows”

Interviewed by Bettie Webber

Date: March 20, 1991

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, certificate

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 12 pp.

**Abstract:** Brief summary of Burrows and Wilson family histories; father worked for oilfields while mother oversaw maintenance of the family grove. In 1913 narrator was a cabin boy and had chance to walk through Panama Canal; trained as architect and lists buildings he designed, including homes and church in Laguna Beach, the Orange County law library, and garden crypts at Fairhaven Cemetery. Humorous account of Prohibition activity on Stanford University campus.

OH 3795

**Carney, Raymond**

“Oral Histories with Ray Carney”

Interviewed by Libby Pankey

Date: January 31, 2005

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 8 pp.

**Abstract:** An oral history with Raymond Carney, a long-time resident of Orange County, California. This interview was conducted for the Orange County Pioneer Council Oral History Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information about life and agriculture in early twentieth-century Orange County. This interview includes discussion about the narrator’s birth in Ohio and his family’s move to Orange County in 1920, when his father started the first auto parts store in Orange, California; remembers his father’s purchase of ten acres of lemon and orange groves in Tustin a few years after this move, and having to sleep in tents on the property while the home was being built; talks about C. E. Utt, a local businessman and owner of Utt’s Juice Factory, offering his father a job on the staff of the Red Hill Water Company; discusses the utilities on his family’s property, including the lack of gas and the old phone and local phone operator; comments extensively on the water pumps for Lemon Heights, especially in relation to the Red Hill Water Company and Santa Ana Valley Irrigation (SAVI), and the mercury mine where

he would play as a child; speaks about Tustin High School, its sports programs, and the positions his wife and daughter have held with the Tustin Unified School District over the years; remembers delivering milk for Raitt's Dairy in Santa Ana; discusses the use of smudge pots to combat freezes in groves and the Golden West Packinghouse in Tustin that would use ice to cool the shipments of citrus; comments on his trip to Baja, Mexico, with C.E. Utt, where he learned about the United State's entry into WWII; talks about taking over his father's position at the Red Hill Water Company after his death and staying until 1942, when he worked as a machinist for the Atlantic Richfield Oil Refinery in Long Beach, and then his enlistment in Navy as a motor machinist at the Lighter-Than-Air Naval Air Station in Santa Ana, California. Bound with OH 3796 and OH 3713.

OH 3796

**Carney, Raymond**

"Oral Histories with Ray Carney"

Interviewed by Kathy Frazee

Date: March 19, 2008 and February 13, 2009

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 26 pp.

**Abstract:** An oral history with Raymond and Carol Carney, long-time residents of Orange County, California. This interview was conducted for the Orange County Pioneer Council Oral History Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was gather further information about the history of Orange County and its agriculture. This interview includes discussion about Tustin High School, its organist, Audrey Pieper Forney, and the busing in of students from San Juan Capistrano, San Clemente, and Laguna Beach in a converted touring car donated by George Macy; speak about George Macy's involvement with the Armour Meat Packing Company in Chicago and the Macy Ranch, which covered about half of Lemon Heights North and required a foreman to handle the groves; discuss in detail the process for accumulating water rights and distributing water, including how Ray and other zanjeros would use the weir boxes to deliver water for drinking and irrigation, and the different water companies in the area; speak about tending groves, and tenting and fumigating trees at night on the San Joaquin Ranch in Irvine for ten cents a tree, and about the animals that would sometimes die as a result of the cyanide gas; remember the use of smudge pots in the grove and a particularly bad freeze at the beginning of 1938 when the Farm Bureau ran out of coke to deliver to farmers who ended up burning rubber tires and creating a thick black smoke, as well as the introduction of wind machines to keep the air moving so it would not freeze; comment on Raitt's dairy as a location for bottling milk and not for raising cows; talk briefly about Ray's membership in the 20-30 Club; speak about C. E. Utt's ownership of the Tustin Water Works and his frequent trips to Mexico, where he restocked fish in the White Mountains; discuss their neighbors, the Rice family, who were related to the Irvines through marriage; briefly discuss Ray's father's struggle with Hodgkin's Disease; comment at length about the Sunkist Grower's Packinghouse in Tustin, how one acquired a position there, and its use of iced cars through ice it purchased at Diamond Ice in Santa Ana; remember meeting one another at Owl Drug Store, dating on-and-off for four years, and marrying in 1950, as well as honeymooning in Cuba and Florida; mention the patent Carol's father obtained for building cement fences; and discuss living in different apartments in Santa Ana until they built their house in Tustin, where they lived for forty-seven years. Bound with OH 3795 and OH 3713.

OH 3713

**Carney, Raymond**

"Oral Histories with Ray Carney"

Interviewed by Janet Tanner

Date: February 26, 2009

Language: English

Ephemera: photos



Project: Orange County Pioneer Council  
Status: Partial transcript, 12 pp.

**Abstract:** An oral history with Raymond Carney, a long-time resident of Orange County, California. This interview was conducted for the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather further information about the Lighter-Than-Air Naval Air Station in Santa Ana, California, and the effect it had on Orange County. This interview includes discussion about his parents' history and moving with his family to Orange County from Ohio in 1920; remembers the building of the LTA Station and how the Santa Ana winds blew it over several times; talks about the different stations at which he served and positions he held, including some time in San Pedro and London; comments on learning that the U.S. entered WWII while on a trip to Baja, Mexico, with C. E. Utt, and enlisting in the navy as a machinist in November of 1942; speaks about not having to go to boot camp or fight, and going to submarine school; remembers having to purchase helium for the navy blimps from Texas and watching ducks skid on the landing pad at LTA because they thought it was a big lake; discusses the use of blimps at LTA to patrol waters for enemy submarines, their fire power and speed, as well as remembers that they were manufactured in Akron, Ohio, and had to be flown out to California; remembers MCAS El Toro being built but did not interact with the marines, even though it was a ten-minute drive from LTA; discusses living in the barracks on LTA, having entertainment such as Kay Kyser, and taking a transport bus to Santa Ana for leave; comments on the community's support for the influx of military men, as this was "good for them;" recalls the end of WWII on the East Coast and celebrations that lasted for days, but does not remember too much about the atomic bomb other than that he was glad the war was finally over; briefly speaks about coming back to Tustin after the war and working at Richfield Oil in Carson; comments on the depletion of farming as the biggest change in Orange County and remembers Mexican Americans working in agriculture, especially on the Irvine Ranch; talks about wanting to keep at least one LTA hangar as a museum and estimates this would be about 100,000 dollars a year for upkeep. Bound with OH 3795 and OH 3796.

OH 25

**Carrillo, Charles C.**

"An oral history with Charles C. Carrillo"

Interviewed by Alan Bailes

Date: April 17-May 23, 1968

Language: English

Ephemera:

Project: Orange County Community History

Status: Complete transcripts, 76 pp.

**Abstract 25.1:** An oral history with Charles C. Carrillo, a life-long resident of Orange County to discuss his family and career. His great-great-grandfather, Raymundo Carrillo, was a member of the Portola Expedition that came from Spain through Mexico to explore California. His grandmother was Vicenta Sepulveda, wife of Thomas Yorba and then Jose Ramon Carrillo, who had four and eight children with her respective husbands. Eventually she controlled land from San Diego to Los Angeles before losing some to gold seekers after 1849. Narrator gives physical description of his grandfather, Don Ramon, and tells of his killing bears and how he was killed by a squatter on his land; relates tales of other infamous county residents Joaquin Murrieta and Three-Fingered Jack; gives his personal history growing up in Santa Ana, selling peanuts at the Temple Theater, later employment at the sugar beet factory, and as entrepreneur selling manure; explains how he started as a court interpreter for the Superior Court of Orange County in the courtroom of Judge J. P. Cox.

**Section 25.2:** Relates aspects of his employment as interpreter for court system beginning in 1917 being paid per case and moving to a salaried position; working with judges Kenneth Morrison and J. P. Cox on famous cases including Overell and Gallum, and the Moses Gibson case; dealing with rum runners on the O'Neil ranch and bootleggers like Katie Measor of Delhi, blind pigs and hidden stills and white meal during Prohibition; being trusted to accept information without revealing the source; handling aftermath of citrus workers strike of 1936 when 168 men were arrested; providing cash to judges who were caught without funds when the banks closed during the Depression and talks about problem with unwilling laborers in the WPA

projects. Judge Cox was known as “the marrying judge” in Santa Ana and recognized widely as the “speeding judge” for his willingness to jail every speeder, even actress Bebe Daniels. Carrillo told of many times when Cox was too drunk to hold court so he would take the judge to Murrieta Hot Springs to dry out. Common criminals that regularly appeared were drunks, wife beaters, fighters, chicken thieves, cattle rustlers, and orange or avocado theft rings. Comments that Japanese were seldom arrested and were generally good farmers in the pre-World War II period; he reported a young German taking photos along the shore in South Laguna.

**Section 25.3:** During World War II the Japanese were rounded up and taken to various camp locations, and Carrillo felt they were not unduly harmed by this because they were able to pick up where they left off when they returned. Postwar influx of soldiers and their families created a population growth that resulted in higher property prices, larger housing and electronics industries where laborers were gradually replaced by machines, and a higher number of criminal acts came through the courts. Television and radio isolated people in their homes instead of having social gatherings as in the past. The Ku Klux Klan was active for a time, but as people learned what it stood for, membership declined. The oil industry in Orange County started with the oilfields of Brea, moved to La Harbra and Atwood through Huntington Beach to Seal Beach. Carrillo and his family had oil investments throughout the country.

**Section 25.4:** Carrillo shares details of his investments in various oil exploration and drilling episodes that took place as early as 1919 in Huntington Beach and Signal Hill, gives the history of the origins of those two drilling areas and explains various factors in oil production such as gas pressure, formation conditions, and viscosity of the oil. He considers Huntington Beach and Murphy’s Hill or Coyote Hill to be the best production in Orange County; notes changes in marketing oil from small producers to large companies and independent dealers. Shifts to share interesting stories about hidden treasures in the county, including the three keys found on a tree near Capistrano that were supposedly placed there by mission priests hiding gold and jewels from pirates; his treasure hunt near Hermosillo, Mexico, where gold coins were reportedly hidden by a Spanish count named Juan de Majalaca in the 1880s; and his trip based on the story of an Indian named Chicas Patas who had seen a room of golden treasure with a jeweled crown which all turned out to be a bunko scheme.

OH 832b

**Chapman, Irvin C.**

“An oral history with Irvin C. Chapman”

Interviewed by Ann L. Spencer

Date: October 31 and November 29, 1984

Language: English

Ephemera: none

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 28 pp.

**Abstract:** Youngest son of C. C. Chapman, pioneer citrus rancher in north Orange County, describes the large family home, family trips, different family automobiles, and daily routines of his parents on their citrus ranch. Comments on frequent house guests, family reunions, childhood activities, businesses in Fullerton, and city holiday parades.

OH 2589

**Clapp, Jack**

“An Oral History with Jack Clapp”

Interviewed by Arrissa Owen

Dates: October 23, 1996

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Huntington Beach Community History Project

Status: Complete transcript, 54 pp.

**Abstract:** An oral history with Jack Clapp, a long-time resident of Huntington Beach, California. This interview was conducted for the Huntington Beach Community History Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the developments in Huntington Beach from the 1930s to the present, especially concerning local business and the beach. This interview includes discussion about oil wells around the city and how his wife's family moved to the area for this reason; speaks about his father opening a concession stand on the beach during the Depression; remembers how WWII shortages encouraged his father to sell spaghetti and meatballs instead of hotdogs and hamburgers, and how business declined during this period due to gasoline shortages; also discusses the expansion of Huntington Beach around WWII, when the city started to incorporate cheap farmland for housing; comments on how celebrations such as Fourth of July brought many people to town and have continued to be good business days at the concession stands on the beach; speaks about different storms that have damaged the pier, including one in 1988 that took four years and \$12 million to rebuild; recalls local entertainment as consisting mainly of visits to the beach to swim, bellyboard and fish, as well as activities through the high school and churches, the Surf Theater movie house, and trips to Laguna Beach, Santa Ana, and Hollywood; briefly mentions the beginnings of television sets and watching them through store windows; speaks about differences in beach etiquette and how groups from different schools or cities would sit separate from one another on the beach; comments on changes in surfing such as the advent of wetsuits and shorter, lighter boards that have made the sport more popular; discusses the city's capitalization on its surf image and how there are surfing events nearly every weekend; explains that residents did not welcome surfers at first because they had bad reputations, as well as conflicts between fishermen and surfers that died down once the city set time limits for both in the sixties; recalls that fishing off the pier used to be plentiful but that pollution and overfishing have changed this; remembers local dancehalls, like the Pavalon on the pier and how these closed due to changes in music styles; discusses the changes in downtown businesses, including the introduction of more surf shops, that encouraged people to shop elsewhere for the basics; comments on how many young people have moved into the downtown area and how this makes people uncomfortable to go there on the weekends, as the crowds can be rowdy; discusses riots in downtown and on the beach over the years, especially one during a surfing contest in the eighties where rioters accosted police officers and destroyed property; mentions that there is still some gang activity and rowdiness on the beach but thinks that curfews and a no-alcohol policy have helped this problem; comments on the difference between the close-knit community of his youth and the present.

OH 3785

**Clapp, Jack**

"An Oral History with Jack Clapp"

Interviewed by James (Jim) Kettler

Dates: February 4, 2008

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Huntington Beach Community History Project

Status: Complete transcript, 33 pp.

**Abstract:** An oral history with Jack Clapp, a long-time resident of Huntington Beach, California. This interview was conducted for the Orange County Pioneer Council Oral History Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the city of Huntington Beach and the changes it has experienced since the 1930s, especially concerning beach activity. This interview includes discussion about living in Huntington Beach since his youth, as well as attending local schools; speaks about briefly leaving town to attend college at Claremont McKenna for a degree in business administration and staying close to the city due to his marriage; recalls the community of his youth as a small oil and beach town with nearby agriculture, and how kids would make "caves" out of sump holes on abandoned lots, as well as fishing off the pier; speaks about lots of military movement in Orange County during World War II and how rationing of "luxuries" like sugar forced his father to buy fruit juice from Knott's Berry Farm to sell at his concession stand on the beach; talks about his high school experiences, including busing in kids from Seal Beach, Westminster, and Talbert (now Fountain Valley) for a school of

about 800, and playing for the golf team and at the course with oil wells across from the school; discusses working in his father's beach concession stand after college; speaks briefly about his immediate family and hobbies, including local history; briefly comments on his involvement with the School Board for twelve years and a facility named in his honor; remembers that his grandfather, Walter Clapp, sold oil lots in the city and talks about the Bolsa Chica gusher that produced as much as ten barrels of oil a day, as well as oil well fires that were hard to put out; recalls a large earthquake that destroyed homes and the elementary school; comments on Fourth of July celebrations on the beach with rides and other activities; briefly mentions the volunteer fire department that would put out oil fires in the area, as well as the different piers the city has built, starting with a wooden one in the early 1900s and a concrete one in 1914 for which there was a celebration his mother attended; recalls a saltwater plunge on the beach and a bandstand that are no longer there; remembers property Encyclopedia Britannica owned and gave away along with encyclopedias, making some people rich; discusses beach activities during his teenage years, including jumping off the pier and bellyboarding; mentions his cousin, Leroy Harris, a local surfing icon; comments on how the city began developing the beach in the Depression and how this opened opportunities for his father to start Dwight's Beach Concessions in 1932, where he sold food and rented beach equipment; discusses his first business venture of a grocery store near the trailer park on the beach, the different foods he sold, including cheese strips, and his involvement in beach equipment rentals; recalls two major riots on the beach, one where high school kids chased lifeguards down Main Street to a meat locker in the Standard market, and one where a surf competition got rowdy, destroyed property, set fire to police cars and the military came to stop it; remembers a drive-in his father ran from 1948 to 1955 that was the only drive-in in the city; briefly talks about the Talbert Racetrack on Beach Boulevard that would bring non-locals into the area, his mother's employment as a bookkeeper at the Holly Sugar Beet Company, and McCallen's gasoline refinery; thinks change to the city and the beach has occurred slowly over the years.

OH 2162

**Coffman, Ethel and Mary**

"An oral history with Ethel and Mary Coffman"

Interviewed by Patricia Rankin Bothamley

Date: October 19, 1989

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 28 pp.

**Abstract:** Two sisters recall their early education in Santa Ana schools, including the curricular offering of "commercial course"; ice cream, vegetable and tamale vendors; travel on red cars and the "dummy"; pitting apricots. Ethel remarks on her employment in Rankin Department Store (owned by interviewer's father) and reaction of local merchants to the all-inclusive merchandise format, the pneumatic tube system for paying bills, fashion shows, employee parties and picnics, customer service policy, and effects of 1933 earthquake on the building. Comments on clothes styles and early nylon stockings.

OH 2672

**Collins, Mildred Spicer**

"An oral history with Mildred Collins"

Interviewed by Barbara Oldewage

Date: May 5, 1998

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, cards, certificates, letter, newspaper articles

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 47 pp.

**Abstract:** Descriptively detailed accounts of businesses in Santa Ana, especially the successful Spicer department store; of various homes she lived in and schools she attended; of trips she took including to Alaska in 1924 and to Europe in 1931. Parents helped found the Santa Ana Country Club and mother was

active in the Ebell Society. Includes accounts of the grand opening of the Bowers Museum, her wedding, medical treatment for her brother, her son's schooling and employment. Genealogy of Talbott and Spicer families.

OH 3539

**Cook, Bill**

"Memories of Bill Cook"

Given by Virginia Cook McMillan and William Gulley

Dates: January 30, 2007

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 8 pp.

**Abstract:** Life and coaching achievements of Bill Cook are recalled by his daughter, Virginia McMillan, and one of his players, William F. Gulley. Gulley played under Cook's supervision at the Santa Ana Junior College where Cook was head football coach from 1927-1952. His National Champion teams are recalled as is the Santa Ana Bowl where special games were played every Thanksgiving, and the long-standing rivalry between Fullerton and Santa Ana junior colleges. Cook introduced night football to junior colleges, took players on fishing trip to Mexico, and helped students get into universities. He was inducted into the Orange County Sports Hall of Fame and California Coaches Hall of Fame. Cook played early baseball and was inducted into the Angels' Hall of Fame; after his baseball career, he became a judge in Laguna Beach and served there as the last justice of the peace in Orange County.

OH 2852

**Cook, Leroy Glen**

"An oral history with Leroy Cook"

Interviewed by Eileen De Cair

Date: March 14, 30 and April 18, 2000

Language: English

Ephemera: newspaper articles, pedigree chart

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 54 pp.

**Abstract:** Early resident of the San Juan Capistrano area whose Congdon and Cook ancestors extensively planted walnut trees in the area and interacted with the Irvine and O'Neill ranches recalls the restoration of the San Juan Capistrano mission buildings, San Juan hot springs, silent movies being made in the town, rumrunner episodes and other Prohibition antics. Details his employment as fireman for the Santa Fe railroad, in shipyards, for the flood control district, with the division of state highways, and as a vegetable farmer. Briefly comments on Basque sheepherders in San Juan Capistrano and on the Moulton and Irvine ranches. Reports on accomplishments of his wife and children and their descendants.

OH 127

**Corona, Manuel**

**Corona, Adelaide**

"An oral history with Manuel and Adelaide Corona"

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: May 25, 1966

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 74 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 3

**Abstract:** Manuel gives family background, including names and birthplaces. Describes past jobs baling hay, installing cement irrigation pipes, fumigating trees, managing the Bastanchurys' citrus irrigation, and picking

avocados. Discusses current job as an avocado buyer. Mexican ancestors played significant roles in California history, his uncle led the sheep shearing operation that serviced the Bastanchury ranch, and his grandfather fought in the Civil War. Discusses arrival of Mexican citrus workers and the camps and housing tracts they lived in; his father worked as an interpreter selling lots there. Explains method of paying sheep shearers. Recalls exploring as a child, finding Native American artifacts, local wildlife, and local plants. Describes baseball, car races, and other old-time recreation. Discusses Mexicans' relationship with non-Mexicans in the community. Adelaide gives her family background.

OH 131

**Cramer, George Washington**

"An oral history with George Cramer"

Interviewed by Esther Cramer (daughter-in-law)

Date: May 26, 1963

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, death notice, genealogy survey

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 12 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 4

**Abstract:** A worker in the oil fields near in the Puente Hills and Brea Canyon describes living conditions on the oil leases, sources for groceries, and some jobs done on the wells. Worked for Puente Oil Company, Columbia, and Standard. Brief description of the valley in 1906.

OH 3996

**Cramer, Esther**

"A History of Esther Cramer"

A personal memoir of Esther Cramer, a long-time resident of La Habra, California. This memoir was written by Esther Cramer and her daughters for the Orange County Pioneer Council Oral History Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this memoir was to record the agricultural and cultural developments of Orange County through the personal history of a member of a pioneering La Habra family. This memoir includes discussion about her birth in 1927 and her childhood in La Habra on a citrus ranch during the Great Depression; talks about her parents, Claude and Ida, who came from Oklahoma and a Swiss community of dairy farmers in Illinois, respectively; speaks in detail about irrigation, harvesting and fumigation, as well as her father's position as deputy assessor for Orange County and activity with the Farm Bureau; remembers camping with friends and relatives, and being close to cousins and her brother's friends, as her home was far away from those of other children; discusses the death of her sixteen-year-old brother, Clarence, in a car crash; recalls going to the Methodist Church, Sunday school, and her grandparent's home in Glendale every Sunday; speaks about many neighbors and community members, such as the Launers, Johnsons, and Leutwilers, as well as businesses such as Cone Chevrolet; fondly recalls her many pets, mostly cats, that she kept as a child and an adult; speaks extensively about her school days, especially being salutatorian in eighth grade and her many sports and social activities in high school, including song leading, tennis, swimming and hockey; discusses Bal Week, when she stayed at Balboa Beach with her friends during spring break; recalls WWII and her how this changed her life through rationing, as well as how some friends went to war and others to internment camps; also remembers her years at Pomona College as a Biology Major and Physical Education Minor, as well as an active social life; remembers her first jobs as an office temp and as a worker in the Sunkist Orange Packinghouse, where she could make up to ten dollars a day; discusses writing to Stan Cramer while he was away at war and becoming serious when he returned and enrolled at USC to study and play football; speaks extensively about her wedding day and all her preparations, including dying and sewing the bridesmaids dresses, her dress, and making her own trousseau; recalls her wedding night at a motor lodge in Santa Anita, as well as her honeymoon, when she camped all over California; speaks about living in a home on her parent's land and working as a Physical Education teacher while Stan attended graduate school on the G.I. Bill; talks about her years as a homemaker and raising three daughters, Cynthia, Melinda and Janet, as well as substitute teaching in the Whittier School District where Stan worked; remembers the 1959 fire that burned her second home and forced the family to find a new one

in a La Habra subdivision; comments on learning to sew at a young age and making many of her own clothes, as well as some for her daughters; discusses various family vacations across the country, especially camping trips and visits to Hawaii with her parents; speaks about her daughters' achievements and families; discusses returning to school at Orange County State College in Fullerton to get another degree so she could continue to teach, and working with Drs. DeGraaf and Earick on local history projects that turned into oral history interviews about La Habra and its founding families, as well as turning her research into a book; speaks about how her first book led her to be more involved in local history boards and projects, including the Center for Oral and Public History and Special Collections at CSU Fullerton, and writing books for Orange County's Centennial celebration; also discusses being called to write a history of the Alpha Beta grocery chain in 1971 and later being hired on as Consumer Affairs Director and Vice President, which made her quite successful.

## **OH 51**

**Dunlap, John "Sky"** (b.1912)

"An oral history with John 'Sky' Dunlap"

Interviewed by Annette Moon

Date: May 29, 1968

Language: English

Ephemera: none

Project: Community History; Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Completed; 25 pages

This oral history spans 1912-1968. Bulk dates: 1930s-1960s.

**Abstract 51.1:** An oral history of John "Sky" Dunlap, longtime resident of Orange County, California. This interview was conducted as part of the Community History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Dunlap's experiences as a journalist in Orange County, California, as well as throughout the country. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Santa Ana, California, and taking a journalism position with the *Santa Ana Register* during the Depression; speaks about moving into management positions in Fresno and Sacramento, California; talks about returning to Santa Ana in 1946 to open a competing newspaper called the *Globe*, closing after having difficulty finding advertisers; explains that he and his wife worked for the *Los Angeles Times* for several years, giving up the position due to long commutes in Southern California traffic; discusses his wife's creation of a newspaper clipping service, working for the Irvine Ranch and the University of California, Irvine; speaks about developing a community service program at Santa Ana College for ten years in order to expand the student population; talks about local newspaper celebrities, such as Colonel Berry of the *Santa Ana Independent*, a gossip publication; comments on local newspaper politics, including the Klu Klux Klan's support of the *Plain Dealer*; speaks about the effects of World War II on the newspaper industry, discussing difficulty in acquiring supplies and traveling, as well as restrictions for journalists; recalls discrimination and unrest during World War II, discussing Japanese American internment, Jamaican and Mexican nationals working on the Irvine Ranch, as well as Zoot Suit Riots; talks about his work as a political journalist for United Press, attending conventions to cover California politicians; remembers Glenn Martin, local aviation pioneer, speaking about his flights to Santa Catalina Island; comments on school segregation in Orange County, speaking about the location of Mexican American communities; talks about the development of California State University, Fullerton, recalling its origins as Orange State College.

**Section 51.2:** An oral history of John "Sky" Dunlap, longtime resident of Orange County, California. This interview was conducted as part of the Community History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Dunlap's experiences as a journalist in Orange County, California, as well as his knowledge of local newspapers. This interview includes discussion about declining citrus crops in mid-century Orange County, difficulties in growing and shipping crops, as well as the rise of Sunkist Orange Growers' Association; tells about his wife's uncle, Amos Dewitt Bishop, an early local citrus rancher whose home was demolished in order to build the Garden Grove Freeway; speculates on the future of Orange County's agriculture; speaks about the water supply for Orange County, saying it has become more expensive

and harder to acquire as more people move to the area; comments on the Kuchel family of Anaheim, California, as well as the development of the *Los Angeles Times* and the separation of Orange County from Los Angeles County, speaking about the politics involved; discusses the preservation of newspapers chronicling early Orange County, speaking about the Kuchel family and the *Anaheim Gazette*.

OH 1880

**Dowling, Robert and Marquita**

“An oral history with Robert and Marquita Dowling”

Interviewed by Susan Spurgeon

August 2, 1984

Language: English

Ephemera: photo

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 44 pp.

**Abstract:** Marquita’s Norwegian grandparents arrived in California from Wisconsin in 1887; her father, Sigvald Salvesson, started first grocery store/bank in Brea that served the oilfield workers. Robert’s family came in 1909 in a camp wagon from Pasadena. His father was a minister in Fullerton but the family lived in Placentia area and had walnuts and citrus grove. Robert talks of family water supply and mother’s daily tasks as a homemaker. Both share recollections of family gatherings, childhood toys, Christmas and other holidays, church activities, typical meals like gravy on waffles, and making ice cream on the running board. Several references as to the high safety level children enjoyed. Marquita recalls grandparents’ experiences in Civil War and repercussions on the Dyer ranch, the funeral of C. C. Chapman, and the rebellious marriage of his daughter Ethel. Discuss modes of transportation. Robert’s brother started Fullerton Airport about 1926, earned living as professional pilot; soundtrack for early talking movie, *Hell’s Angels*, was made at Fullerton Airport. About 1919, Bebe Daniels and Will Rogers came to help sell Victory Bonds for WWI. Home gardens were plentiful during the war. Recalls early radios and gramophones. Lists stores in Fullerton, and describes large Stern and Goodman general store which at one time had 57 clerks; Mr. Starbuck owned the telephone exchange. Describes schools and libraries and their activities in Placentia, Brea, and Fullerton. Students were invited to perform prologue to silent movies at the early Fox Fullerton (Chapman Alician Court Theater). Compares the house and outbuildings on the Dowling ranch in Placentia and Marquita’s childhood home in town. The advent of electricity to the farm was costly because of the miles of wires needed; town homes always had electricity. Summer vacations at Newport Beach were popular.

OH 4943

**Durón, Paul P.**

“An oral history with Paul P. Durón”

Interviewed by Luis Fernando Fernandez and Amanda Tewes

January 20, 2012 and March 7, 2012

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 52 pp.

**Abstract 4943.1:** Son of Mexican immigrants, narrator was born in Santa Ana, California, and grew up in the Logan barrio; touches on early family history of working in citrus industry and talks about his own work delivering tortillas, in a grocery store, and cleaning a drug store during early teens. At a home mini-lab during a chemistry experiment an ignition tube exploded and injured his eye. This prevented him from flying airplanes, so he turned his aeronautical interests toward design. Attended the segregated Logan Grammar School, then went on to Willard Jr. High and Santa Ana High school before entering the ASTP or Army Specialized Training Program. This program was short-lived so he was in the U.S. Infantry during World War II and tells of some of his experiences at Utah Beach on D-Day and in the Ardennes Offensive or Battle of the Bulge. After the war he continued his education to earn a degree in aeronautical engineering. Following examples of hard work and self-discipline from his parents and neighbors in the barrio, Durón established



Paul Chemicals which evolved into Airco Cryogenics, Cryostar, and Cryomec, the latter having international bases; these companies designed and manufactured cryogenic industrial pumps and systems. Some of his equipment was used in the Titan missiles and at the Kennedy Space Center. He continues work on U. S. patents despite frustration with diminished vision. Brief comments on Orange County Grand Jury service.

**Abstract 4943.2:** Narrator recalls growing up in the Logan barrio near the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe railroads, a woolen mill, and citrus and walnut groves with open fields interspersed where he used to play. Expands on the guiding principles he followed during his successful business career and shares his philosophy of diligence, cooperation and hard work. Daughter shares some brief memories of him during her childhood.

OH 1945

**Easterly, Helen G.**

“An oral history with Helen G. Easterly”

Interviewed by Eileen De Cair (daughter)

October 16, 1987

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 32 pp.

**Abstract:** Narrator was born in Santa Ana, California, on May 3, 1918. Her parents, Reuel and Esther Gillespie, owned an orange orchard in Tustin, where she spent her childhood and attended school. She married Melvin Watson Easterly in 1937, and they moved to Santa Ana until 1957, when they returned to Tustin to operate the orange orchard. In 1971 they retired to Joshua Tree, California. Her Swedish grandfather, Peter Lindgren, lived on the ranch with her family. She reminisces about the people that she and her family knew at that time and describes some of the local landmarks which are no longer extant. Describes experiences during Prohibition, the Depression, the war years, and some highlights of her family life. Husband worked several jobs including at lima bean house operated by Irvine Company and later for the telephone company. They rented a spare room to wives of men training at Army Air Base during the war. The ranch was sold to city of Tustin for the civic center; prior to that, *bruceros* and some Jamaicans picked the oranges for them. Grandfather Lindgren had changed his last name from Nojd; other genealogy notes included.

OH 1881

**Edwards, Elsa Wilson**

“An oral history with Elsa Wilson Edwards”

Interviewed by Annabel McFadden Rasmussen

Date: May 1, 1985

Language: English

Ephemera: manuscript draft

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 23 pp.

**Abstract:** Elsa's grandparents came to the county in 1868 by wagon; her father farmed at San Onofre; her husband worked in a service station in Santa Ana. Elsa was employed outside the home and still raised 3 children. Mentions various family pastimes before television and recalls peculiar family behavior. Recounts her childhood activities at her grandmother's ranch, where oranges, walnuts and apricots were grown; traveled in various horse-drawn vehicles. Mentions different businesses in Santa Ana, including Chinese vegetable vendors, holiday celebrations, and picnics. Elsa attended various schools. Recounts tale of her uncles and a horse thief and Sam Hill's refusal to pay for paving in front of his store.—Addendum of manuscript draft includes detailed information on the San Onofre ranch, Chinese smuggled into the country, and tramps.

OH 2491

**Elliott, Onnolee Bonnye**

“An oral history with Onnolee Elliott”

Interviewed by Maureen McClintock Rischard

May 7 and 10, 1996

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, genealogy charts, newspaper articles

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 39 pp.

**Abstract:** Onnolee’s ancestors came to California during the rancho days of the late nineteenth century, dealt with Yorbas and Sepulvedas, and left their name on locations throughout Los Angeles-Orange County area, like Wintersburg and Mt. Wilson. Onnolee attended local schools and eventually got advanced degrees in science and history; she helped establish labs at St. Jude and Hoag hospitals and wrote a book on the state’s history. During World War II mother was in Coast Guard and Onnolee was in Aircraft Warning Service. Onnolee discusses crops she still raises including subtropical fruits, particularly macadamia nuts, and greenhouse orchids. Second interview has brief discussion of Native Daughters of the Golden West lodge.

OH 1896

**Enderle, Harriet Owens**

“An oral history with Harriet O. Enderle”

Interviewed by Ann L. Spencer

Date: August 18, 1988

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 37 pp.

**Abstract:** Comments are largely restricted to the period of her life when she lived in Santa Ana, California. She was one of eight children; father sold wholesale produce while mother raised the family. Mother had formal musical training in Chicago Conservatory of Music so she promoted the arts in her children. Recalls attending Santa Ana High School and activities there including festival of lights, “ditch day,” and house parties at Balboa, as well as her classmates like football star George Baker. Describes some businesses and churches in Santa Ana, the influenza epidemic of 1918, circus visits, and Chinatown. Recalls meeting William H. Spurgeon, reading many books for entertainment, learning to drive, the Stutz Bearcat of Myford Irvine, and locations of various plunges at the beach. Tells of soldiers camped at Santa Ana High School grounds and inviting them to their home for dinner during World War II. Gives a brief history of her husband’s family, Enderle, who came to Santa Ana in 1893 and opened the foundry.

OH 2671

**Fairbairn, Jean Hart**

“An oral history with Jean Hart Fairbairn”

Interviewed by Barbara Oldewage

Date: May 1, 1998

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, newspaper articles

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 16 pp.

**Abstract:** Daughter of William O. Hart, co-owner of Orange *Daily News*, describes growing up in Orange, California, and lists landmark ranches and businesses; tells of attending local schools and the restrictions on social activities that were imposed there; names some teachers and classmates. Mentions a Chinese community on the Gardner ranch and other ethnic minorities in town. Gives family reaction to both the Long Beach earthquake of 1933 and the flood of 1938. Recalls her father’s political activity; the deaths of her father and brother within days of each other; the business partner, Justus Craemer, who settled the affairs

amicably with the family; and her husband's subsequent role in the newspaper. Briefly tells of her children and their families.

OH 2670

**Fairbairn, Ranald**

"An oral history with Ranald Fairbairn"

Interviewed by Barbara Oldewage

Date: May 1, 1998

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, newspaper article

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 12 pp.

**Abstract:** Brief interview focuses on the community of Olive, California, where Ranald grew up, with its flour mill, brickyard, and three orange packinghouses: Olive Heights Citrus Association, Mutual Orange Distributors, and Peppers. Fairbairn found employment during the Depression through contacts of his father-in-law, newspaper owner William O. Hart; served as publisher of his newspaper after Hart's untimely death; later Ranald was real estate broker and handled deals to develop shopping centers and parks. He tells about his children and descendants. An appendix includes articles on the closure of the Olive elementary school and a life summary of Ranald.

OH 2262

**Farwell, Catherine Swales**

"An oral history with Catherine Farwell"

Interviewed by Bettie Webber

Date: September 21, 1992

Language: English

Ephemera: photos and genealogy chart

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 22 pp.

**Abstract:** Recollections of life in Harper, California, (Costa Mesa) including grammar school, planting apples, advent of electricity, and a trip to the dump. Catherine learned to swim at the plunge in Los Angeles on visits to her grandmother, and her family had musical evenings to entertain themselves. Comments on the early days of the Newport Harbor Yacht Club, bank holiday during the Depression, and her bridge club during Prohibition. Active in sailing all her life, she participated in three Trans Pacific races.

OH 2361

**Farnsworth, R. Cecil**

"An oral history with Cecil Farnsworth"

Interviewed by Maureen McClintock Rischard

Date: March 31 and June 10, 1994

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, genealogy, memoirs of Claude Martin

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 24 pp.

**Abstract:** Discussion of farming; father and uncle had Mexican compound on their farm in late 1880s; maternal grandfather was shot in a water rights dispute; Cecil and his brother took over the farm during the Depression, eventually raised chili peppers, tomatoes, and lima beans; rich soil and burning peat bogs. Recalls his childhood in Beaumont, California, and compares life there to life in Tustin, California. Mentions neighbors including Gislars, Bushards, and Heils, among others and briefly talks of 1938 flood. Tells of meeting and courting his wife Barbara and gives life summaries of their children. Mentions camping at Big Bear Lake and buying farmland in Imperial Valley.

OH 2362

**Farnsworth, Elmer Winn**

**Farnsworth, Josephine Martin**

“An oral history with Elmer and Josephine Farnsworth”

Interviewed by Maureen McClintock Rischard

Date: March 31 and June 10, 1994

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, genealogy, memoirs of Claude Martin

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 29 pp.

**Abstract:** Elmer is Cecil Farnsworth's brother and has listened to his interview. He proceeds to add details to the information on their childhood in Beaumont and Hemet, California. Mentions the different water issues encountered by his father when he tried to grow walnuts and other crops, including use of reclaimed sewer water, chlorination, and salt buildup in the soil. Elmer details the 1933 earthquake that broke irrigation lines, the effects of the 1938 flood on his ranch, and the demise of farming due to high taxes and costs. He comments on his work with the Greenville Bean Growers Association, the Talbert Water District, and the development and funding for Hoag Memorial Hospital. State Senator John Murdy assisted with some of these projects. Josephine gives history of her parents, Claude Martin and Rose Ebel, and other ancestors; recalls going to the packinghouse as a child with her mother who packed oranges; tells of cooking with her sister-in-law for the harvesting crew. Mentions the Griset and Petty families.

OH 143

**Frantz, Raymond F. and Alma W.**

“An oral history with Raymond and Alma Frantz”

Interviewer: Esther Cramer

Date: February 6, 1964

Language: English

Ephemera: photo, genealogy survey

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 25 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 5

**Abstract:** Explains early citrus marketing through La Habra Citrus Association and California Fruit Growers Exchange and the help growers received from these organizations; employment opportunities for Mexican workers in citrus and oil fields; Calavo influence on market price of avocados. Narrator was active in Orange County Farm Bureau, Kiwanis club, local banking board, school board, and Republican Party. Lists water companies in the valley including La Habra Heights Water Company and California Domestic Water.

OH 3063

**Freeman, Forbes Snow**

“An oral history with Forbes Freeman”

Interviewed by Fabie Combs

Date: April 3, 2003

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 37 pp.

**Abstract:** Interview begins with 92-year-old Freeman reporting his birth as patient of Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle; his ancestors settled in El Toro (Lake Forest) area and knew Moulton and Hoyle families; Freeman genealogy listed. Details his life from early education in Santa Ana school system and the Urban Military Academy in Los Angeles, employment in sales and services, to marriage to a descendant of Levi Fickas who came to Santa Ana in 1870. Was deferred in World War II by United States, so joined Royal Canadian Air Force then transferred into the U.S. Army Air Corps; after war served in U.S. Air Force for 25 years, retired and worked for Northrop Corporation. Comments on businesses in Santa Ana, including self-service grocery

of the Gerrard family (Alpha Beta), Holly Sugar Factory, Bank of Italy, the ice plant, and city's hesitancy toward Woolworth's. Central Lemon Association was big business as was the Paxton Box Nailing business, the forerunner of the American Food Machinery Corporation. Transportation included Pacific Electric red cars, a trolley, autos, and railroads. Segerstrom family success in lima beans and construction of South Coast Plaza; oil industry in the county; growth of Greenville area into Fountain Valley. Increase of Spanish population in Santa Ana and the development of the Irvine ranch property; dances at the Rendezvous Ballroom and the Pavilion, changes in swimwear design, first outboard motor on Balboa Bay. Development of the Back Bay or Newport Dunes area as well as construction of Lido Isle and Santa Ana Golf Course.

OH 1590b

**Frost, Bernice Newland.**

"An oral history with Bernice Newland Frost"

Interviewed by Karen H. Reese

Date: January 26, 1990

Language: English

Ephemera: photos and newspaper article

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 30 pp.; bound with Helen Newland Tarbox

**Abstract:** The youngest of ten children of William T. and Mary J. Newland recalls ranch life near Pacific City which became Huntington Beach after the railroad came through. Describes ranch outbuildings and gives room by room details of the family home; transportation from the home to Santa Ana, Huntington Beach or Los Angeles by buggy or train. Gives account of her health issues: appendectomy and removal of a kidney. Recalls special events like home weddings and holidays, regular schooling and college experience, toys and games, and clothing. Parents were active in school boards; father was on traffic commission; family all involved in ranch work; individual roles of parents and children were clear. Mother cooked for up to 50 ranch hands and had household helpers; her collection of Indian baskets went to the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana. Discusses effects of oil industry on Huntington Beach area.

OH 3064

**Gardner, Robert**

"An oral history with Robert Gardner"

Interviewed by Nancy Gardner (daughter)

Date: April 12, 2003

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, newspaper articles, military award, journal article, campaign material, death notice

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcripts, 18 pp.

**Abstract:** Gardner gives a brief account of witnessing a lynching as a child and then his solo trip to California where he came to live with his older sister in Balboa; recalls mudflats and questionable water quality, his first job chipping ice and later employment at the Rendezvous Ballroom; rode surfboard with Duke Kahanamoka. Abandoned his goal to be forest ranger when his uncle paid for his education at University of Southern California if he became a lawyer; went on to be a judge on superior and appellate courts and served as Chief Justice of the High Court in American Samoa; was well-respected for his written opinions. In retirement wrote a column for the local newspaper.

OH 2485

**Gerrard, Jack Campbell**

"An oral history with Jack Gerrard"

Interviewed by William Gulley

Date: April 16, 1996

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, handwritten poem

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 12 pp.

**Abstract:** Brother of Phyllis Gerrard Onstott gives Gerrard family history with anecdotes about teachers in Santa Ana who worked with his mother, about his parents' courtship and marriage, and about the Campbell ancestor who started the frontier nondenominational Disciples of Christ church that later became The Christian Church. Lists Sunday school classmates; talks about siblings and their nicknames; describes his own business adventures. Provides additional detail on the origins, expansion, and incorporation of the Alpha Beta Company; father knew A. P. Giannini, founder of Bank of America, and helped him by turning around failing stores during the Depression. The Alpha Beta Company supported a mission in the Belgian Congo.

OH 3981

**Goddard, Marjorie**

“Oral History with Marjorie Goddard”

Interviewed by Joyce Jausch

Date: February 13 and March 5, 2008

Language: English

Ephemera: photos; genealogy chart

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 61 pp.

**Abstract:** An oral history with Marjorie Blauer Goddard, a long-time resident of Orange County, California. This interview was conducted for the Orange County Pioneer Council Oral History Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information about life in early twentieth-century Orange County. This interview discusses moving to Santa Ana from Des Moines, Iowa, in the first years of the century and how her father became involved in a grocery enterprise with her mother's first cousin, Hugh Hill; talks about her father's business expansion to a campground near the Santiago River and how he began to sell china in addition to items such as candy and vinegar; comments on the importance of the Methodist Church to her life and the social life of the community, as it was through Church that she played her violin and her father met her stepmother; discusses at length how she cared for her little stepbrothers after her stepmother died of cancer and how this depleted her father's money, causing her to work as a secretary after high school instead of continuing on to college; speaks about meeting her husband through mutual friends and moving back into her father's house after they were married in order to care for her brothers; remembers moving to Camp Ro-Ki-Li with her family to become caretakers of a Boy Scout campground; very briefly discusses Orange County residents such as the Spurgeons and James Irvine; talks about her father's career change to a nursery caretaker during the Great Depression and how her stepbrothers aided him in this business; describes her family home on Spurgeon Street, remembering details such as an upright piano and a sleeping porch for when the weather got too warm; and remembers aspects of daily life such as wanting to swim at a community pool and having to wash pads and diapers before they became disposable.

OH 2927

**Gregory, Jean Wilson**

“An oral history with Jean Gregory”

Interviewed by Eunice Launer Harris

Date: November 10, 2000

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, funeral eulogy, extensive genealogy chart

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 14 pp.

**Abstract:** Ancestors of Jean's husband participated in the California Gold Rush and in the early grape-planting era in Anaheim. Her husband was delivered by Dr. George Crook Clark whose home was relocated onto the Fullerton Arboretum at Cal State Fullerton. Jean and Merrill Gregory married during the Depression; she recalls social activity and employment opportunities at that time. Merrill was involved in

banking and played a major role in the history of the Fullerton Community Bank. Jean names her children and grandchildren and gives brief updates on their education and achievements. Also notes changes in the Balboa beach community where a family residence has been maintained through three generations.

OH 2482

**Grijalva, Edward “Eddie” Trinidad**

“An oral history with Eddie Grijalva”

Interviewed by Maureen Rischard

Date: February 23 and March 30, 1996

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, newspaper articles, genealogy, map, manuscripts, award

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 33 pp.

**Abstract:** Born in El Toro (Lake Forest), has both Spanish and native American ancestry. Reports on research at Bureau of Indian Affairs and Santa Barbara Mission archive for documentation of his ancestors; ancestors were Gabrielino Indians.—Located “Grijalva map” during further research when he also linked his family to explorer Cortez; Grijalva ancestor traveled with De Anza expedition and was responsible for construction of Mission San Luis Rey; this ancestor built three adobes in Orange County and held property through a concession; this land was later given to his son-in-law, Antonio Yorba; steps taken to install historic site plaque. Recalls childhood experiences with food, living conditions, and segregated schools, movies, and pools; early employment. Discusses his wives and children; tells of receiving a Community Service Award.

OH 2306

**Griset, Francis Eugene and Griset, Elizabeth Drysdale**

“An oral history with Francis and Elizabeth Griset”

Interview by Maureen McClintock Rischard

Date: January 26, 29 and February 5, 1993

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, newspaper articles, manuscript

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 75 pp.

**Abstract:** Francis gives family genealogy and history dating back to 1600s. Recalls childhood toys and amusements, school transportation and classmates, customers on his paper route. Describes farming activity including various sites of family property; equipment ranging from mule power to extraordinarily deep plow that could turn six-foot deep furrows; his inventions to reduce hand labor in harvesting crops; artesian wells; Pacific Electric as a means of shipping produce; record crop for Holly Sugar Company; business operations of Stephen Griset and Sons as well as Griset Brothers; Sierra Frozen Foods co-op as start of frozen food packaging; magnitude of farming in the county and its impact on the national balance of trade. Early settlements are referenced, including Greenville, Wintersburg, Ocean View, Harper, and Paularino. Many pioneer ranchers are named, including Segerstrom, McGee, Graser, and Borchard families and his friend Lambert McFaddin. Elizabeth describes her family’s relocations from Nova Scotia, her own education in multiple schools and her first home after her marriage to Francis that was a remodeled bunkhouse. Recalls her activity in Ebell Club, PTA, Scouts, and 4-H groups, and fellow church member Ralph Smedly who started Toastmasters. Francis outlines the establishment of and funding for Hoag Hospital.

OH 3027

**Gruber, Ruthmarie Launer**

“An oral history with Ruthmarie Launer Gruber”

Interviewed by Christine M. Greve (daughter)

Date: August 24, 2002

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 18 pp.

**Abstract:** Daughter of Nelson Launer and sister of Eunice Harris, Ruthmarie recalls her early childhood and gives an account of meeting her husband, Charles Gruber, whose father was a foreman for C. C. Chapman in Fullerton. The elder Gruber worked in the oilfields of Huntington Beach, on the atomic bomb in Washington state, for Fender instruments in Fullerton, and eventually sold popcorn from a pushcart. Charles was a dentist who served in the navy during World War II. Ruthmarie recalls support among military wives, V-mail, rationing, and blackouts. Images of early Huntington Beach including Jane Mansfield at 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and the Glo Candle Company. Gives accounts of her children and grandchildren.

OH 2201

**Gulley, LaVerne**

“An oral history with LaVerne Gulley

Interviewed by William Gulley (son)

Date: March 22, 1991

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, newspaper articles

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 16 pp.

**Abstract:** Born in Santa Ana in 1901, LaVerne and his siblings were patients of Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle; gives poignant account of attempts to save mother from consumption; raised by his aunt and uncle, George Ford, who owned some 400 acres and developed the Ford soft shelled English walnut. LaVerne worked on ranches in Imperial Valley and near Greenville (Huntington Beach) where artesian wells abounded; recalls early automobiles and hunting locations. Images of early Santa Ana including schools, old courthouse and jail, racetrack and apricot pitting camps. List families whose names are still familiar in the city: Z. B. West, Josiah Ross, Eddie Martin among others.

OH 3977

**Gulley, William Franklin**

“An Oral History with William F. Gulley”

Interviewed by Ward Gulley

Date: January 24, 2009

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 10 pp. plus 6 pp. autobiography

**Abstract:** An oral history with William “Bill” Gulley, a long-time resident of Orange County, California. This interview was conducted for the Orange County Pioneer Council Oral History Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the narrator’s athletic, naval, and professional careers, his upbringing in Santa Ana, California, as well as his early relatives’ influence on Orange County. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Santa Ana and attending Santa Ana Junior College for three semesters, then transferring to Stanford University for one semester on a football scholarship; speaks about joining the Naval College Training Program (V-12), being sent to Cal Tech in Pasadena, where he graduated in 1945 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, later going to Columbia University for his midshipmen’s school, and entering the navy as an ensign in July of 1945; comments on the character and influence of his father, his friends, his first boss and his coach at Santa Ana Junior College, Bill Cook; speaks about his love of sports, especially running and football and describes the various honors he has received over the years, including recognition in the Santa Ana Sports Hall of Fame and winning bronze at CIF Championships his Senior year in high school; discusses the football teams on which he has played, including Santa Ana High School and a navy team at Cal Tech, as well as meeting with a recruiter for the San Francisco Forty-Niners; speaks about working in several large companies and building homes in Twin Lakes that he plans to deed to his children; comments on wanting to play for Stanford again



in 1946 but being denied due to a technicality; discusses in detail the social activities of his youth, such as dances and diving for abalone in Corona Del Mar with tire irons, tire tubes, and gunny sacks; remembers picking lima beans in Orange County with other football players to develop muscles, and working long days in the fields as a contest; briefly comments on his immediate family; describes in detail the migrations and business ventures of his grandparents and great-aunt and uncle, including their ownership of the Orange County Fairgrounds and creation of a locally-planted Ford Improved English walnut.

OH 2066

**Hamaker, Hazel Goetz**

“An oral history with Hazel Hamaker”

Interviewed by Maureen Rischard (niece)

Date: May 31, June 14 and 29, 1990

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, genealogy records, map, newspaper articles

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 45 pp.

**Abstract:** Hazel arrived in Orange County when her father leased a ranch in Yorba Linda; she attended school in Olinda and later Placentia; names early families of Placentia; soon moved to Anaheim and lists several other locations where the family had residences. Witnessed lima bean harvesting on Irvine ranch; marvels at geographic changes that have occurred in the county. Recounts Hamaker and Goetz family histories with some stories of meeting Amelia Earhart, teaching in Santa Ana schools, selling land to Mexican farmers in Placentia, flying over site of the failed St. Francis dam, and seeing damage in San Francisco 8 years after the 1906 earthquake.

OH 2064

**Hankey, Adele**

“An oral history with Adele Hankey”

Interviewed by Maureen Rischard

Date: May 18, 1989

Language: English

Ephemera: photo

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete trans., 17 pp., bound w. interview of daughters, Eleanor Widolf and Lorna Ross

**Abstract:** Adele’s parents were pioneers in the Sunset Beach area; no neighbors, children were home schooled through fourth grade and Sunday school was done at home. Describes brilliantine swimsuits and reaction to first knit suits; loved to fish and caught many for family meals; saw Olympic events in Long Beach lagoon and the Rose parade. Comments on coping mechanism of her own children and spouse during the Depression. Hints at raising many foster children. (Daughters elaborate in their later interview.)

OH 2355

**Hanson, Louise Moulton**

“An oral history with Louise Moulton Hanson”

Interviewed by Bettie Webber

Date: March 16, 1994

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 16 pp. with index and illustrations.

**Abstract:** Louise Hanson is the daughter of Lewis Fenno Moulton, a cattle rancher in the early 1900s, and Nellie Gail. Hanson discusses her early childhood working with cattle and interacting with various employees on a daily basis. Hanson describes experiences with mule packing, cattle herding, and farming. She discusses various experiences including dealing with Japanese immigrants, traveling circus sideshows, education at

Pomona College. Hanson earned degree in animal husbandry and agriculture and applied her education to operating the ranch.

OH 2901

**Harris, Earl Lee and Eunice Launer**

“An oral history with Earl and Eunice Harris”

Interviewed by Janet Tonkovich (daughter)

Date: September 14, 15, 28, 2000

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 47 pp.

**Abstract:** Eunice, daughter of Nelson and Ruth Launer, recalls a large, close family with many aunts, uncles, and cousins in Fullerton; growing up on the citrus ranch, including homemade amusements and groups she joined; clothing styles like the high school uniform in Fullerton; and a miniature golf course her father and uncle built just before the Depression. Earl gives his family background and lists various laundries where his father was employed before developing his own Blu-White Cleaners in Fullerton. Both recall their early married years during the Second World War with housing issues being the most critical. They fostered “family nights” with extended family, lived in several locations in La Habra and Fullerton, and shared association with USC (University of Southern California) among many family members. Describe retirement activities as well.

OH 23a

**Hellis, W. Bradford**

“An oral history with Brad Hellis”

Interviewed by Barbara Metz

Date: May 20, 1968

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, manuscript

Project: Irvine/El Toro Community, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 13 pp.

**Abstract:** Hellis discusses his long involvement with the Irvine ranch, beginning with a summer job as handyman and eventually retiring as vice-president and general manager some fifty years later. Describes dealing with squatters, field workers, and tenant farmers. Manuscript includes information on Hellis’s earlier years, including surviving the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, and more detail on activities on the Irvine ranch.

OH 23b

**Hellis, W. Bradford**

“An oral history with Brad Hellis”

Interviewed by Stephen Gould

Date: April 24 and 30, 1970

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, manuscript

Project: Irvine/El Toro Community, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 34 pp.

**Abstract:** First session includes comments on Irvine’s efforts to secure water for the ranch and formation of the Municipal Water District; development of Newport Harbor, Orange County Airport, and areas of urban growth on the ranch land; Irvine connections to Mdme. Modjeska, C. E. Utt, and Glenn Martin; various gun clubs in the area. Narrator gives some personal background information as well. Second session focuses on Arthur J. McFadden and the Irvine Valencia Growers Association, freeway alignment on the ranch land, and location of two military bases on the Irvine property. Manuscript includes information on Hellis’s earlier

years, including surviving the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, and more detail on activities on the Irvine ranch.

OH 2393

**Hilligass, Elizabeth Hewitt**

“An oral history with Elizabeth Hewitt Hilligass”

Interviewed by Barbara Oldewage

Date: March 23, 1995

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, newspaper articles, recipes, letter, certificate

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 19 pp.

**Abstract:** Discusses Palmer, Hewitt, Gulich, Duggan and Clyde ancestors; grandparents witnessed burning of Chinatown in Santa Ana; mother had a book business in 1929 and narrator lists titles of favorite books. Recalls summers in Laguna Beach, six-week train trip through U.S., holiday celebrations. Lists members of Sigma Theta and Sigma Tau Pi sororities and gives brief history of Ebell Society. Describes Grand Central Market in Santa Ana and other businesses; early family cars; schoolmates, activities, and teachers. Worked at Daniger’s Tea Room during World War II and survived a bomb scare in Wilmington, California.

OH 128

**Hodson, Ross**

**Hodson, Della**

“An oral history with Ross and Della Hodson”

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: February 16, 1963

Language: English

Ephemera: genealogy survey

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 19 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 3

**Abstract:** Ross and Della discuss coming to La Habra with their families and recall the families who lived in La Habra when they arrived. Ross describes farming, getting water, early days of citrus, and growing avocados. They discuss education, their jobs as teachers, and impact of Farm Bureau. Recall community events, road improvement, and places they shopped. Explain role of W. J. Hole in selling land, and reasons for La Habra’s growth. Discuss their community involvement, growth of local Methodist Church, Depression’s impact on La Habra’s growth, and fluctuation of property values.

OH58a

**Huntley, William Martin**

“An oral history with William Huntley”

Interviewed by Stephen Gould

Date: May 21, 1968

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, newspaper articles

Project: Tustin; Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 56 pp.; bound with OH58b

**Abstract:** Recollections of the early citrus industry, including first local planting, Chinese packers at the Red Packinghouse and his nail invention for building boxes. Recalls early volunteer fire fighters and equipment, first policeman in town, and methods of discipline in local schools; city incorporation and opposition to that; dispute over Prohibition and its repeal. Describes water supply for the city of Tustin and local farmers, including SAVI Company; crops included peanuts, loquats and oranges. Huntley served as mayor and was on city council 12 years, drove bus for intercity travel between Tustin, Irvine, and Laguna Beach, and was a member of Knights of Pytheas. Discussed various businesses in town, their locations, predecessors and

successors including bicycle shop, blacksmith, drugstore, and general store; comments on game market, real estate development, and the path of El Camino Real through town.

OH58b

**Huntley, William Martin**

“An oral history with William Huntley”

Interviewed by Jim Sleeper

Date: July 22, 1968

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, newspaper articles

Project: Tustin, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 24 pp.; bound with OH58a

**Abstract:** The purpose of interviews in this project is to record memories of family life in Orange County in the early decades of the twentieth century. Historian Jim Sleeper shows photos to Huntley who identifies locations and people. Some brief stories on Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, local newspapers, early citrus plantings and peanut growing, inventors and their creations, and Red Hill Mine. Also comments on reasons Tustin didn’t grow quickly, competition with Santa Ana for Southern Pacific railroad line, and various early residents.

OH 150

**Irwin, F. F. “Fay”**

“An oral history with Fay Irwin”

Interviewed by Jim Sleeper

Date: May 19, 1967

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, news clipping, brochure

Project: Irvine/El Toro Community, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 26 pp.

**Abstract:** Former superintendent of Orange County Park who had lived in the park since 1919 when his father was the official caretaker gives the history of Irvine Park from its beginning as a local picnic area through development as Orange County Park, including water sources, types of plants, buildings, and exotic animals in it. Mentions the health camp, Boy Scouts, army, and movie-makers who used the park. Describes park buildings and the involvement of James Irvine II who donated the land for the park despite displeasure with public behavior in it. Narrator’s wife comments on park concessions.

OH 2206

**Jasper, Helen Hervey**

“An oral history with Helen Hervey Jasper”

Interviewed by Karen Hervey Reese (daughter)

Date: June 12, 1991

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, family genealogy charts

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 62 pp.

**Abstract:** Hervey ancestors came to Orange County as early as 1860s and owned property in Santa Ana as well as other locations in southern California; description of Angel Swamp (Gospel Swamp-Greenville-Fountain Valley) area. Laguna Beach was an artist colony with no electricity; detailed description of childhood Santa Ana home; recalls Santa Ana schools and businesses; playmates died in flu epidemic of 1918; spent summers in Balboa and lived there after her father’s death in 1917; recalls neighbors including Jahraus, Hill, Anderson, and Huff families; mentions Irvine ranch and Segerstrom family; tells episodes that took place while riding in various family automobiles; father was a dentist and mother maintained household. Interview is rich in references to the odors of buildings, plants, and foods.

OH 2390

**Kennedy, Donald Parker**

“An oral history with Donald Kennedy”

Interviewed by Karen Hervey Reese

Date: March 20, 21, 1995

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 86 pp.

**Abstract:** Chairman of the First American Financial Corporation, discusses changes in the title insurance industry as experienced by the Orange County Title Company that was established by his grandfather, C. E. Parker. Explains the company's growth into an international business, First American Title Insurance Company; family involvement in the company; and major projects undertaken by the company. Recalls early ancestral personalities and gives highlights of his own wife and children. Was a successful golfer and served in the navy in World War II. Mentions some local Santa Ana personalities.

OH 1936

**Kennedy, Elsie P.**

“An oral history with Elsie Kennedy”

Interviewed by Liz Kennedy (granddaughter)

Date: June 1985

Language: English

Ephemera: photo

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 22 pp.

**Abstract:** Mother of Donald Kennedy recalls her childhood, riding horseback to Laguna, milk delivery at home, family meals and activities. She talks of precautions taken during the 1918 flu epidemic, attitudes in Santa Ana toward the Chinese community, and the local harvest parade. She went fox hunting with her father and the Pleasant family in Modjeska Canyon.

OH 3515

**Kettler, James Lawrence**

“An Oral History with James Lawrence Kettler”

Interviewed by Jack R. Kettler

Date: June 29, 2006

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 35 pp.

**Abstract:** Describes growing up in the Smeltzer/Wintersburg area of Huntington Beach, California, during the 1930s and 1940s including childhood chores, 4-H projects, high school teachers, Bal Week in Balboa, the Rendezvous Ballroom, the Meadowlark Golf Course and the Huntington Beach Golf Course. Gives names of area residents including the Murdy, Crane, Plavin and Collins families and two Japanese families, Kitajimas and Wadas, whose farms were productively maintained by neighbors when they were sent to relocation camps during World War II. Recalls first hearing about Pearl Harbor and tells of his aunt who was a navy nurse there during the attack in 1941 and limits on fuel and food supplies on home front during the war. Worked with his father in citrus groves and describes damage there caused by the 1938 flood of the Santa Ana River; his father died when he was eight years old. Explains the soil composition in the area, some so heavy with peat that farm machinery would get mired in the fields; mentions the Post Brothers' six-foot plow used to turn the flood sediment into the fields and gives list of crops routinely grown in the area, from sugar beets to lima beans to celery to Anaheim chili peppers to tomatoes. Explains how manpower shortage during

World War II affected crop harvests and caused the evolution of larger and more complex machinery, especially various types of moving threshers. Remembers a plane from the Los Alamitos Naval Air Station crashing into the bean field. Water wells were dug for domestic use after artesian wells dried up. After getting an agricultural degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Kettler was drafted into the navy during the Korean War, worked with the Edison Company, and then became one of the first firemen in Huntington Beach. He briefly discusses the Newport-Inglewood Fault and how it determined oil production in the area and mentions the oil fires and blow outs that were common in the wells drilled in the back yards of many homes. He recalls his wife and children and then describes life as a widower and later introduces his second wife who grew up in the same area of Huntington Beach.

OH 3516

**Kettler, Jack Raymond**

“An Oral History with Jack Raymond Kettler”

Interviewed by James L. Kettler

Date: June 29, 2006

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 33 pp.

**Abstract:** Gives Kettler family history to 13<sup>th</sup> century ancestors in Oldenburg, Germany; descends from crusaders in Latvia; and says his grandfather won the Iron Cross for efforts in Franco-Prussian war. Grandmother was of the Rueff that became Ruoff family in San Francisco. The family began farming in Torrance in 1880s and passed up chance to purchase property on Signal Hill; eventually farmed around Meadowlark Golf Course on property that is now Disneyland; Shoemaker Avenue in Cerritos is named after his cousin. Maternal family heritage includes Connors and Gavin families; lists variety of jobs held by his grandfather; mother’s brother was killed when a commercial pilot invited him along and then crashed; notes that farm houses were built on poor land, but his mother eventually got a kitchen garden to grow near their home. Narrator had pneumonia when he was three years old and suffered with crossed eyes, recalls outdoor toilets and solar water heater, lists his five school classmates and describes activities helping his father and hunting at night. Relates tales of trips to visit family in Lake Arrowhead as a reward when hoeing beans was done, working on the cabins owned by his family there. Recalls in Huntington Beach high school inviting Nat King Cole and his group to play music for the student body at lunch and describes extensive testing that he passed before entering Cal Tech in 1941. As an engineering student he was exempt from the wartime draft, but after graduating early, he was drafted but missed going to the Battle of the Bulge; shortly dismissed from army due to health. Continued education after war and with master degree in mechanical engineering, earned ten cents per hour more. Describes his work on the DC-6, on gas turbine engine, air force projects including the space shuttle fuel cell, and navy satellites while employed for various aircraft companies like AiResearch, Aerospace Corporation, and Hughes Aircraft. Some of his projects are in the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D. C. Gives images of Huntington Beach as an oil town, the 1938 flood, and building model airplanes as a child. Father grew lima beans for seed so it was especially important to keep weeds out of the field, particularly nightshade plants and white Malva. Though thinning beets was a job for immigrants, he did help with stacking the cut beans. Tells about his family: wife Pat died of cancer, they had five children; he remarried in 2000. His wife’s family had a construction company that built the Santa Ana freeway and other roads. Nine Kettler families celebrated holidays together and he was the only brother to live outside Orange County. The addendum supplies recollections of wartime shortages, precautions taken with Japanese farmers, and his own school career being cut short by the draft when he was sworn into the army at the age of twenty-one. Gives details about the racial divisions in the army, his training for the infantry, and how his health eventually allowed him to be discharged without ever being in a battle.

OH 3517

**Kettler, William “Bill” Edward**

“An Oral History with William Kettler”

Interviewed by Jack R. Kettler

Date: June 29, 2006

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 24 pp.

**Abstract:** Gives brief summary of family history and describes early homesteads of the family. William's father worked for his brother but owned four acres of his own that were planted with fruit trees and grapes. He avoided high electricity bill by developing solar powered water heating system; roadways were only oiled or dirt and muddy when it rained. Describes his childhood funding sources and expenses; recalls traveling produce truck that brought vegetables to his mother. Gives origins of street names and succeeding names that followed; describes the bean harvest and taking sacks to be weighed. Mentions multi-ethnic student population at the Springdale Elementary School and recalls that in high school the football coach was also the typing instructor. Kettler played football; many classmates went on to higher education. Met his wife when she was a sophomore and he was a senior in high school. Her family had several grocery stores and eventually a mortuary. Describes his education at UCLA and later USC to become an engineer. Recalls his pet dog's death, the theft of their Brunswick radio, and eventually discusses the 1933 Long Beach earthquake that happened on his birthday, the damage it caused, and the days following. Remembers vacations to Lake Arrowhead and a trip to the World's Fair in San Francisco in 1938. As the oldest son, he left school when his father died and worked for his Uncle John with the understanding of one day combining John's acreage with that of his father. Describes process of piling beans. Later enlisted in the air force and was sent to Boca Raton, Florida, then to Connecticut and Yale University. Injured in training, then home to marry Marjorie and back to air force headquarters in Florida and then to Tallahassee Air Force Base where he was the base Aircraft Maintenance Officer. After the war he joined family mortuary business; worked on the school board and Huntington Beach planning commission, and continued in financial planning field until retirement. Presents his children and grandchildren before recalling Indian artifacts he found in Huntington Beach. Admits to shooting the family cow with his beebie gun and being punished by his father; later hunted pheasant on the chili pepper farms. Lists countries he has visited and in closing comments on changes in Huntington Beach community.

OH 157

**Knowlton, Cecil and Ruth**

"An oral history with Cecil and Ruth Knowlton"

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: June 16, 1970

Language: English

Ephemera: none

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 67 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 5

**Abstract:** Cecil and his father had a walnut nursery; Cecil later received formal training in avocado and citrus production. Then he was superintendent for Edwin G. Hart's La Habra Heights Company from 1930-1942 during land development in the Heights. Ruth was Hart's stepdaughter. Both give much information on the development of housing in the area including roadway construction, right of way, zoning variances, environmental concerns that influenced development, volunteer fire department, and water sources for domestic and commercial use. Explains development and patent of various varieties of avocados, including Elsie, Fuerte, and Hass; methods of shipping and marketing avocados, pest control and plant maintenance; and lists other contemporary nursery men. Describes oil pools that return regular royalties for property owners, and details processing and marketing of citron.

OH 2606

**Kobayashi, James**

"An oral history with James Kobayashi"

Interviewed by William Gulley

Date: December 8, 1997

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 17 pp.; bound with OH 1325

**Abstract:** Nissei recalls his parents' struggle ranching and his lack of interest to learn the Japanese language; World War II internment experiences and later military service in the intelligence division; athletic achievements during school years; and 35-year employment in aerospace industry.

OH 1325

**Kobayashi, Roy**

"An oral history with Roy Kobayashi"

Interviewed by Don Niemeyer

Date: August 13, 1976

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Japanese American, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 19 pp.; bound with OH 2606

**Abstract:** Older brother of James Kobayashi discusses internment during World War II and how farming was a means to leave the camps; attitudes on East Coast vs. those on West Coast toward Japanese. Lists crops raised in Orange County and tells of chick sexing on poultry ranches.

OH 1882

**Kolkhorst, Dorothy Lutz**

"An oral history with Dorothy Kolkhorst"

Interviewed by Molly Harvey

Date: April 1985

Language: English

Ephemera: Knee cookie recipe

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 18 pp.

**Abstract:** Daughter of German and Swiss immigrants recalls relatives who lived nearby, family outings, special holiday traditions, daily chores, and her doll made with mother's hair. Recalls circus, businesses, and church services in Santa Ana; played the violin for the Orange County Symphony Orchestra and local groups.

OH 122a

**Launer, Albert and Lulu Convis Launer**

"An oral history with Albert and Lulu Launer"

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: May 4, 1963

Language: English

Ephemera: photo

Projects: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 44p. Bound with OH 122b, OH 122c, and OH 122d

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of a local history project supported by the Patrons of the Library of California State University, Fullerton. Both narrators provide their personal background and later community activities, he as a lawyer and she as a teacher and homemaker. History of transportation, including reaction to the early automobiles in the area and needed road improvements; early farming and water sources that developed; grocery suppliers to the oil fields, including Zachary Coy and the Glazier brothers; school experiences both as student and teacher, and the outside entertainers that performed at the



schools; topographic descriptions and memories of childhood outings to local mountains; shopping in nearby cities; growth factors affecting La Habra, California.

OH 122b

**Launer, Albert**

“An oral history with Albert Launer”

Interviewed by David Williams and Richard Curtis

Date: December 11, 1964 and January 6, 1965

Language: English

Ephemera: none

Projects: Library oral documentation; Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 54 pp. Bound with OH 122a, OH 122c, and 122d

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of a local history project supported by the Patrons of the Library of California State University, Fullerton. Recaps background information, especially noting his father’s various farming attempts and struggle to secure adequate water for crops, a buckboard trip to Yosemite, his college education, and events that shaped his political philosophy; describes early La Habra social and recreational life, the streets, businesses, and residents including Walking Elliott who was jailed for killing in a dispute over purchase of Liberty Bonds in World War I. Comments on bombing of the *LA Times* building in 1911 and subsequent trial of McNamara brothers run by Clarence Darrow and Earl Rogers, the Progressive Movement, Hiram Johnson, and the United Nations. Explains incorporation of Brea.

OH 122c

**Launer, Albert**

“An oral history with Albert Launer”

Interviewed by Keith Richard

Date: May 7, 1968

Language: English

Ephemera: none

Projects: Fullerton Community History, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 22 pp. Bound with OH 122a, OH 122b, and OH 122d

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of a local history project supported by the Patrons of the Library of California State University, Fullerton. Discussion of the gentleman’s agreement that elected state assembly members during the 1920s; Orange County legal system including the roles of Ike Craig, Charles Kuchel and Judge Cox and grand jury investigations; Bebe Daniels incarceration; municipal and school bond issues; racial discrimination. Names R. C. Hoile’s Freedom Press newspapers in local communities and compares their philosophy with the *L.A. Times* owned by Harrison Otis and Otis Chandler. Names businesses in downtown Fullerton and nearby buildings.

OH 122d

**Launer, Lulu Convis**

“An oral history with Lulu Launer”

Interviewed by Kay Heil

Date: September 29, 1970

Language: English

Ephemera: newspaper articles

Projects: Fullerton Community History, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Completed transcript, 41 pp. Bound with OH 122a, OH 122b, and OH 122c

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of a local history project supported by the Patrons of the Library of California State University, Fullerton. Wife of Albert Launer discusses conservatism in Orange County and its opposition to the United Nations, her involvement in the local United Nations Association chapter, and planning events for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN. Gives some personal background and information on her children and spouse, recalling how she integrated her involvement in club work with the

family's life. She was also active in PTA (Parent Teacher Association), Federation of Woman's Clubs, and local Red Cross. Gives history of the Ebell Club and Kate Rea's convalescent home for crippled children, Casa Colima. Discussion of parenting methods, levels of club involvement, and reaction to ritual changes in the Catholic Church. Named Woman of the Year in 1967 by the Fullerton Chamber of Commerce.

OH 124

**Launer, Nelson and Ruth Dallman**

"An oral history with Nelson and Ruth Launer"

Interviewer: Esther Cramer

Date: February 23, 1963

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, genealogy survey

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 20 pp.

**Abstract:** Son of the first mayor of La Habra, California, discusses his citrus ranching and involvement in local water supply, his childhood trips to Los Angeles and the beach, community picnics, and oil industry in the hills. Ruth gives detailed list of native local flora and comments on her activity in the schools and library.

OH 145

**Lindauer, Magdalena Sansinena**

"An oral history with Magdalena Lindauer"

Interviewer: Esther Cramer

Date: September 18 and 23, 1963

Language: English

Ephemera: genealogy survey

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 25 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 5

**Abstract:** Daughter of Jose Sansenina, whose 30,000 sheep were a familiar sight on hills around La Habra, gives some family history and shares memories of school mates and activities at the 2-room Washington School, home medical remedies, and sources for home supplies. Linguistic skill of her mother was extensive and narrator spoke several languages to communicate with shepherds and shearers; gives some details on care and marketing of sheep. Stepfather was Ysidoro Eserverri; husband Gus Lindauer had a sand and gravel business.

OH 1883a

**Lockett, Lucy**

"An oral history with Lucy Lockett"

Interviewed by Annabel McFadden Rasmussen

Date: October 31, 1984

Language: English

Ephemera: none

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Completed transcript, 16 pp.

**Abstract:** The Hill family arrived in the county in 1886. Lucy recalls in her childhood the Santa Ana Laundry, groceries being delivered, dressing like her sister. Summers were spent in Newport at house grandfather built; father commuted by train to Santa Ana to run hardware store. Explains connections between the Hill, Smith, Birch and Axelson families. Details Christmas activities, toys, local parades, and early family automobiles. Recalls trips to the Carnegie Library, construction of county courthouse and the rivalry to be county seat, school children riding "Dummy" public steam car to school, and the burning of Chinatown in Santa Ana.

OH 1883b

**Lockett, Lucy**

“An oral history with Lucy Lockett”

Interviewed by Suzanne Wood

Date: February 22, 1984

Language: English

Ephemera: none

Project: Santa Ana Public Library, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Completed transcript, 27 pp.

**Abstract:** Recalls childhood schooling, summers at Newport, concerts and silent movies; describes McFadden landing and its railway that took lumber from the north to inland cities for building houses; various transportation, telephone systems, roads, and businesses in Santa Ana; rationing in World War I. Attended normal school and then taught in rural canyon schools. Lists mother’s activities with Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) and national Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Comments on religious ties of leading families in Santa Ana and attitudes toward higher education for women.

OH 2530

**Long, Lois Lamb Winter**

“An oral history with Lois Long”

Interviewed by Maureen Rischard

Date: March 19 and 26, 1997

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, genealogy, manuscript, map

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Completed transcript, 21 pp.

**Abstract:** Personal recollections of childhood in Talbert and Santa Ana including schools, churches, and chautauquas; summers at San Juan Capistrano hot springs; performing in musical trio with sister and mother; and details of her wedding. Father was born in Gospel Swamp and farmed sugar beets, lima beans, and alfalfa; her first husband worked on the farm with him. Lamb and Stockton family histories.

OH69

**Luehm, Edgar Logan**

“An oral history with Edgar Luehm”

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: March 17, 1963

Language: English

Ephemera: photos and a news clipping

Project: La Habra Valley

Status: Complete transcript, 13 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 1

**Abstract:** The La Habra Valley was studied in a series of thirty interviews conducted in 1964. The interviews lay dormant until 1999 when the Pioneer Council provided funds to process them. They are collected in five volumes; the last was completed in 2005.

Explains how family came to La Habra. Describes farming, processing produce, and obtaining water. Discusses his schooling, raising citrus, and obtaining mail, groceries, and clothes. Recalls picnic spots and other recreation. Discusses sources of fuel, factors in La Habra growth, parents’ community activities, and families from old Swiss community in Illinois who followed his parents’ example in coming to La Habra.

OH 156

**McBride, Tom**

“An oral history with Tom McBride”

Interviewed by Jim Sleeper

Date: October 26, 1967

Language: English

Ephemera: photo

Project: Irvine/El Toro Community, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 11 pp.

**Abstract:** Narrator began working in the Irvine ranch office as bookkeeper in 1929 and gives brief description of the operations of the Irvine ranch: use of time clocks on the ranch, land management policies, pest control, and drilling water wells. Comments on the personality and habits of James Irvine II.

OH 154a

**McFadden, Arthur J.**

“An oral history with Arthur J. McFadden”

Interviewed by Jim Sleeper

Date: July 6, November 1, 1967; May 23, 1968

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, newspaper clippings

Project: Newport Beach Community History, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 46 pp.

**Abstract:** Native Californian who grew up in the Santa Ana and Newport Beach, California areas discusses the development of Newport Beach, McFadden’s Landing, and early residents; shipping and fishing at Newport pier; and his family’s lumber company. Comments on old hotels built in Santa Ana and Tustin, California; dealings with James Irvine on the Irvine ranch.

OH 154b

**McFadden, Arthur J.**

“An oral history with Arthur J. McFadden”

Interviewed by Stephen Gould

Date: May 6, 14, 29 and June 4, 6, 17, 1970

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, newspaper clippings

Project: Santa Ana Community History, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 171 pp.

**Abstract:** McFadden describes the early Orange County area; his family’s activities in politics, including influencing the break from Los Angeles County; the lumber business; his friendship with James Irvine II, and operations on the Irvine ranch. Narrator served on the State Board of Agriculture, the University of California Board of Regents, and Southern California Edison Company, among others.

OH 129a

**McGill, Charles L., V. Douglas, and Katharine Brown**

“An oral history with Charles, Douglas and Katharine McGill”

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: January 21, 1965

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 43 pp., bound with OH 129b

**Abstract:** Brown and Dauser Lumber Yard, having 5 locations, was one of the largest businesses in Orange County at the turn of the twentieth century. Charles worked there, met and married the boss’s daughter, Katharine, who worked in the office. The company had a teaming service that took lumber, tanks and blocks to the oil fields; provided special spacers for construction of the Santa Fe Railway lines; and made troughs for local livestock. Discussion of the “orchard service” for his citrus grove, various street routes between La Habra and Fullerton, and water supply for the area. Their son V. Douglas recalls working in the lumber yard, runaway horses, hauling vehicles, and his own wife and children.

OH 129b

**McGill, V. Douglas and Leota Hains**

“An oral history with Douglas and Leota McGill”

Interviewed by Eunice Harris

Date: April 15 and 20, 1999

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, manuscript, documents

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 19 pp.

**Abstract:** Douglas recalls driving the school bus from La Habra to Fullerton High School, living in a tent after the 1933 earthquake, and playing in a musical group with his wife and friends at various campgrounds and assemblies. Gives brief history of Brown and Dauser Lumber Company, describes jobs of family members who worked there, and interchange of stock between lumber yards. Explains road control in San Bernardino mountains. Leota came from a musical family and gives some personal background.

OH 119

**McMasters, Matilda Smith and Smith, Guy and Maryellen**

“An oral history with Matilda McMasters and Guy and Maryellen Smith”

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: March 31, 1963

Language: English

Ephemera: none

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 26 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 2

**Abstract:** Children of Emma and Steven Smith who owned over 100 acres centered at what came to be known as “Smith’s Corners” on the jitney route discuss the beginning of the walnut crop and other truck crops grown by “Dry Farmer” Smith and the eventual demise of the walnut industry after irrigation was brought in; mention ostrich farm other early businesses and road conditions. Steven Smith was one of the first directors of the Walnut Packinghouse in La Habra. Guy Smith also gives an account of the first oil at Coyote Wells and the oil company’s attempt to swindle the Bastanchury family.

OH 1858

**Marks, Cecil J.**

“An oral history with Cecil Marks”

Interviewed by Dennis Swift

Date: October 14, 1986

Language: English

Ephemera: photos and news article

Project: Orange County history, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 16 pp.

**Abstract:** This interview is included in the Orange County Pioneer Council collection because he was the husband of Claire Sharpless Marks, a narrator for the Council’s project. Cecil Marks was manager/executive secretary for thirty-five years of the Orange County Farm Bureau and editor/advertising manager of the *Farm Bureau News*. Outlines the organizational structure and functions of the American Farm Bureau from national level through local centers, the changing range of agricultural activity in the county, and potential for great personal gain for farmers who sold land for development. Comments on the 1936 citrus strike, including working conditions prior to it and nature of the farm bureau’s response. Describes grove removal after “quick decline” infestations.

OH 1884

**Marks, Claire Sharpless**

“An oral history with Claire Marks”

Interviewed by Ann L. Spencer  
Date: July 31 and November 20, 1984  
Language: English  
Ephemera: none  
Project: Orange County Pioneer Council  
Status: Complete transcript, 38 pp.

**Abstract:** Claire Sharpless, born in a tent in Long Beach, recalls her childhood toys, dolls, and games; Christmas and family traditions; family camping at the beach and in the mountains, and playing in irrigation ditches. Describes family home and daily routines, as well as grove maintenance with smudge pots and fumigation, and treatment for victims of 1918 flu. Witnessed Halley's comet, the departure of Company L for World War I, circus with Bill Cody. Comments on modes of transportation and saloons in Anaheim.

OH 1889a

**Martin, Eddie**

"An oral history with Eddie Martin"

Interviewed by Suzanne Wood

Date: June 16, 1983

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, newspaper articles, pamphlet

Project: Santa Ana Library project

Status: Complete transcript, 32 pp., bound with OH 1889b

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of a local history project supported by the Santa Ana Public Library. It was bound with a later interview of Eddie Martin that was completed with funding from the Pioneer Council. The aviation pioneer recalls the early days of farming in the county and aviation's growth in popularity; his employment with Western Air Express, Macmillan Oil Company, American Airlines and operating, with his younger brother, Martin Aviation; interaction with daredevil pilot Clarence Prest and Rear Admiral William Moffet. Brief comments on controversy of renaming Orange County Airport to John Wayne Airport.

OH 1889b

**Martin, Eddie**

"An oral history with Eddie Martin"

Interviewed by Lucia Barker

Date: April 24, 1985

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, newspaper articles, pamphlet

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 31 pp., bound with OH 1889a

**Abstract:** Recollections of his father's ranch and growing up in Newhope, including floods that destroyed the crops, seeing Halley's comet in 1910, and selling or trading apples, peaches and plums from their trees at the local general store. Gives account of boating in Balboa Bay before it was dredged, riding a train for the first time, and coastal net fishing with teams of horses. Describes how aviation provided him a livelihood through Martin Aviation until 1938 and various other companies that employed him including Fokker Aircraft and Lockheed corporation.

OH 2205

**Mathis, Charlotte Moulton**

"An oral history with Charlotte Mathis"

Interviewed by Bettie Webber

Date: May 28, 1991

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, letter, manuscript

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 18 pp.

**Abstract:** Daughter of Lewis Fenno Moulton and Nellie Gail outlines acquisition of land and partnerships of her father and his interaction with employees on the 21,000 acre ranch, her education and family traditions, and her own line of descendents. Recalls effects of flu epidemic in 1918; division of the property in 1951; and Leisure World, first major development on the property.

OH 1885

**Mitchell, Nellie Munger**

“An oral history with Nellie Mitchell”

Interviewed by Ann L. Spencer

Date: May 8, 1985

Language: English

Ephemera: Photo

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 18 pp.

**Abstract:** Reticent narrator gives glimpse of early life in El Toro, it's one-room school with eight grades, the recess games and school picnic. Mentions the grain house in El Toro and father's work on O'Neill ranch.

OH517

**Mitchell, Ralph John**

“An oral history with Ralph Mitchell”

Interviewed by Stephen Gould

Date: April 24 and 29, 1970

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, newspaper articles

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 31 pp.

**Abstract:** Mitchell's father leased land on the Irvine ranch, became manager of the alfalfa ranch for the Irvine Company, and later was ranch superintendent. Ralph gives personal observations of James Irvine II and his children, Jimmy, Kathryn, and Myford; lists other tenant farmers on the ranch; discusses various crops, details operations, and describes labor supply for the ranch. Worked with A. J. McFadden on raising citrus and Shosuke Nitta on pro-rating tomatoes.

OH 2039

**Moore, Ethel Huff**

“An oral history with Ethel Moore”

Interviewed by Bettie Webber

Date: May 18, 1988

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, diploma

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 28 pp.; bound with OH 2037 and OH 2038

**Abstract:** Granddaughter of Dr. Willella Howe Waffle, first woman doctor in Santa Ana, tells of days spent with her grandmother visiting patients, reading books, feeding the pet macaw, and having a picnic with avocado ice cream. Describes grandmother's home, her treatment for small pox, her involvement in the local church, and her generous nature toward her patients. Ethel recalls toys made by her own mother and hearing about her father trading a large diamond for the first car in Santa Ana.

OH 140

**Morlan, William E. and Lucille**

“An oral history with William and Lucille Morlan”

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: January 20, 1964

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, genealogy survey

Project: La Habra Valley

Status: Complete transcript, 38 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 4

**Abstract:** Married in 1914, this couple recalls coming to La Habra Valley with their respective families as early as 1895. William discusses road alignments and his work on California Highway Commission and later in the nearby oil fields, dry farming in the valley and his father's ability as a water witch, and his own early childhood enterprise catching tarantulas that his mother sold in Los Angeles to supplement the family income. He names many early families in La Habra and relates accidents they suffered. Lucille provides her own family background, discusses her children and her involvement in the Woman's Relief Corps, an auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic.

OH 2264

**Nalle, Florence Brownridge**

"An oral history with Florence Nalle"

Interviewed by Alexander Nalle

Date: December 6, 1992

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, genealogy, certificate

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 20 pp.

**Abstract:** Narrator shares Mullinix and Brownridge family histories, lists names of her parents' friends as well as her of own schoolmates, and recalls businesses in Santa Ana, including Rankin's department store. Recalls fatality in earthquake of 1933, streetcars and rail lines used to go shopping, and her husband's military career in World War II.

OH 2302

**Nisson, C. Arthur, Jr. and Nisson, James Mathias**

"An oral history with Arthur and James Nisson"

Interviewed by Barbara Oldewage

Date: April 27, 1993

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 15 pp.

**Abstract:** Brothers recall childhood events after 1933 flood and 1938 earthquake, school, family trips on the red car to Los Angeles and in wagon to Big Bear, vacations at the beach where fish were caught in nets drawn by horses, and their own early employment. Give description of Halloween pranks and father's practical jokes; list of businesses in Tustin and Santa Ana as well as vendors who came to their home. Nisson and Montgomery family histories.

OH 2673

**Noutary, Marguerite**

"An oral history with Marguerite Noutary"

Interviewed by Tracy Smith

Date: May 17, 1998

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, maps, manuscript

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 21 pp.



**Abstract:** Marguerite's mother came from France through Ellis Island and later worked as maid for Bastanchury family; gives brief description of Mexican camp life on the ranch. Her father did dry farming on leased land in Fullerton. Marguerite attended Orange County School of Nursing and served in the China-India-Burma arena during World War II. She stayed in the military reserves and worked in a California state hospital until retirement in 1978, then took up travel and painting.

OH 742

**O'Hanlon, Margaret Cottam**

"An oral history with Margaret Cottam O'Hanlon"

Interviewed by Anne Riley

Date: August 13 and 20, 1971

Language: English

Ephemera: photos and letter

Project: Fullerton Community History Project

Status: Complete transcript, 56 pp.

This oral history spans 1880 to 1971; bulk dates 1920-1940

**Abstract 742:** Narrator's family came from England in 1880, purchased farmland in Nebraska where the narrator and two siblings were born. Family went back to England only to return to Nebraska in 1908. Since Margaret was then in college, she remained behind in England with her older sister Winifred. To satisfy state requirements, Margaret had to teach two years in the shipbuilding town of Wallsend-on-Tyne in Northumberland where she met Dan O'Hanlon and married in 1915. In World War I he was a member of the Northumberland Fieseliers in the Battle of Somme. Their first two children were born in England; they came to Nebraska after the war. Winifred had married an Englishman, Tom Eadington, and they lived in Fullerton, California, where Tom eventually operated the Eadington Fruit Company. Dan was not a farmer, so soon he relocated his family to Fullerton and operated a real estate and insurance business, Fullerton Improvement Company. Mentions heavy stamps that she gave to the Fullerton College library that were used by the company on its stockholder certificates. Margaret describes Fullerton as "four blocks east and four blocks west" of the Spadra (Harbor Blvd) and Commonwealth intersection; roads were unpaved and orange and walnut groves surrounded the town. Many local residents could pay their property tax from the sale of walnuts that remained. Margaret recalls Mexican community was south of the train depot and list owners of the citrus and walnut packinghouses. Discussion of various structures in early Fullerton including hotels, Bank of America, drugstore, and a miniature golf course owned by Dr. William Wickett, Jr. Comments that Muckenthaler was influential in getting a bridge built across the barranca near their later residence north of town. The St. Mary Church building, originally constructed by Maria Bastanchury, was moved west of Spadra by truck in 1923. The church organist was Winifred Semans. (See O.H. 1861) Margaret recalls the activities and schooling of her seven children: Peggy, Dan, Eileen, Tom, Kathleen, Marjorie, and Larry. Her eldest son was a Jesuit priest and two daughters were nuns in the Sisters of St. Joseph. Special mention is made of a KKK event where Catholics were denounced and husband Dan defended them; he was arrested for his own protection when the crowd turned ugly. Newspaper article included with details of this event and tributes to his character.

**Section 742.2:** More detail of various locations where the family lived and how Margaret asked Dan to meet the oldest daughter every day to help her cross the street, prompting the move to the west side of town. Recalls Dan crashing through garage wall in their car, how streets became nearly impassible mud when it rained, the funerals of Atwood residents killed in the flood of 1938 and becoming aware of the Mexican cuisine. Mentions various businesses in town and a WPA project during the Depression; recalls the original Armistice Day in Europe when she watched American soldiers pass; and reports how the family reacted to the Long Beach earthquake of 1933.

OH 2484

**Onstott, Phyliss Gerrard**

"An oral history with Phyliss Onstott"

Interviewed by William Gulley

Date: April 8, 1996

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, handwritten poem

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 17 pp.

**Abstract:** Narrator provides a detailed history of the Gerrard family beginning in Scotland until their settling in California; mother's family came to California from Ohio; the large family gave theatrical presentations for neighbors during Depression. Remembers her wedding to Jake Onstott, their life in the military service and a trip in Japan that was basis of movie, *The Bridge at Toko-Ri*. Family was deeply involved with the Christian Church in Santa Ana, and in 1959 Phyliss's husband and father went on a mission trip to the Belgian Congo; memoirs of this trip are read into the text. Gerrard family, uncles of narrator, founded the Alpha Beta market chain, the first one-stop, self-service market in southern California. It was family owned and operated. Briefly reviews achievements of siblings, their spouses, and her daughters. Has hobbies collecting period clothes and making dolls.

OH 2158

**Osterman, George Dewey**

"An oral history with George Osterman"

Interviewed by Betty W. Pinkston

Date: October 12, December 18, 1990

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 33 pp.

**Abstract:** Born in Trabuco Canyon, narrator attended school there for three years then moved into El Toro, sold watermelons to sheep shearers on Moulton ranch, opened a general store in El Toro, and served as mailman for 25 years. Describes shivarees, family holiday traditions, post retirement activities, and early fire fighter equipment. Names children and descendants.

OH 144

**Oxarart, Joseph Bertrand**

"An oral history with Joseph Oxarart"

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: October 22, 1964

Language: English

Ephemera: none

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 38 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 5

**Abstract:** Taciturn narrator was nephew to one of the Bastanchury women and comments on the Bastanchury ranch, the Discovery Well episode with Murphy Oil Company, and the eventual loss of the ranch during the Depression. Comments on Basque, Japanese, and Mexican workers on various ranches; sheep shearing process; Basque barbeques held on Bastanchury ranch; water reservoir on his ranch; La Habra Citrus Association; dry farming and trading crops for supplies. Hualde, Bastanchury, and Berrocochea family connections explained.

OH 2207

**Pankey, Edgar and Elizabeth**

"An oral history with Edgar and Elizabeth Pankey"

Interviewed by Bonnie Pendleton

Date: March 22, 1991

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 36 pp.

**Abstract:** Edgar relates frontier experiences of his grandfather, Henry Sterling Pankey, who came to California in a wagon train, survived mistreatment of a cruel stepfather, worked at the Butterfield stage station in the Anaheim area, eventually purchased land and ran an apiary in Temescal. Henry Pankey's exploits in dealing with bears who stole his honey, a horse thief, and working with Nicholas Earp are recounted. Ed's father was a sharecropper on the Irvine ranch but he later owned farmland in Tustin. Ed recalls his own childhood, community barbecues and picnics, smudging citrus groves, party line telephone and witnessing a shivaree. Discusses his land holdings, damaged cabbage crop, his affiliations and family.

OH 2342

**Pannier, Roger**

"An oral history with Roger Pannier"

Interviewed by Barbara Mauerhan Pannier

Date: September 23, 1993

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, newspaper articles

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 13 pp.

**Abstract:** The challenge to make a living by growing citrus is outlined by the narrator. Using both his father and grandfather as models, he discusses the labor involved in successful citriculture. Born on a farm in Anaheim, narrator recalls his jobs in agriculture, his interest in sports, and the local social life that centered on the Evangelical United Brethren church that his grandfather helped construct. Narrator eventually owned and managed four groves but worked at other jobs to make ends meet for his family.

OH 2037

**Parke, Elaine**

"An oral history with Elaine Parke"

Interviewed by Bettie Webber

Date: July 27, 1988

Language: English

Ephemera: None

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 2 pp.; bound with OH 2038 and OH 2039

**Abstract:** Very brief genealogy of Helen Parke and Ethel Moore, granddaughters of Dr. Willella Howe Waffle, first woman doctor in the area. Narrator is daughter-in-law of Helen Parke.

OH 2038

**Parke, Helen Huff**

"An oral history with Helen Parke"

Interviewed by Bettie Webber

Date: April 12, 1988

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, diploma

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 15 pp.; bound with OH 2037 and OH 2039

**Abstract:** Granddaughter of Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle recalls time spent with her grandmother visiting patients and in her back yard hot house and aviary learning names of plants and birds. Helen stayed in a tent with her sister at grandmother's home when they had small pox. Recalls trip to San Francisco with her father after 1906 earthquake.

OH 2305

**Parslow, Dorothy Dinkler**

“An oral history with Dorothy Parslow”

Interviewed by Barbara Oldewage

Date: January 26, 1993

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, certificates

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 23 pp.

**Abstract:** Resident of early Anaheim shares recollections of the community’s holiday parades and dances, numerous businesses, local floods in 1916 and 1938, earthquakes in 1922 and 1933, Santa Ana winds, reaction to Aimee Semple McPherson, announcement of Armistice in 1918, influenza precautions, and response to Ku-Klux Klan. Remembers radio announcement about Pearl Harbor, seeing Connie Mack’s team winter in Anaheim, and Herbert Hoover at the train depot. Lists schools she attended and recalls Japanese and Mexican classmates; mother was afraid of Chinese laundry business because of opium use. Gives genealogy of Danker and Dinkle families, anecdotes about parents’ philosophy and social involvements, and description of her residences.

OH 2344

**Plavan, Lloyd Richard**

“An oral history with Lloyd Plavan”

Interviewed by William Gulley

Date: February 15, 1994

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, newspaper article, biographical manuscripts

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 18 pp.

**Abstract:** Grandson of Frank and Katherine Plavan explains the connection between Plavan, Planchon, and Newell families; grandfather helped reroute Santa Ana river to control flooding; uncle and father developed large plow to improve land for farming and invented several other pieces of farming equipment. Narrator was a navy pilot in World War II and had a career as an airline pilot. Tells of his car stalling at the single automatic light in Santa Ana and gives some family genealogy.

OH 2767

**Porter, Elsie Eckhoff**

“An oral history with Elsie Porter”

Interviewed by Barbara Oldewage, assisted by Tom Porter, Elsie’s son

Date: April 14, 1999

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, documents, newspaper articles

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 44 pp.

**Abstract:** Describes childhood home near Orange including the installation of utilities and threat of flooding, family cars replacing the buggy. Recalls first Armistice day, flu quarantine, family trips to the beach, tonsillectomy without anesthesia, and getting driver’s license at age 14. Mother had been live-in seamstress, Elsie attended college and majored in home economics and later directed the state’s WPA sewing program where she was awarded equal pay for equal work. Married and lived in Berkeley for a while and then returned to Orange to live on orange grove property; dealt with smudge pots, wind machines, and KFI radio weather reports. Eventually obtained real estate license to handle building and rental issues on land as the groves diminished. Tom tells of the Sunkist Exchange Building that he owns and operates as an art gallery.

OH 2481

**Proud, Wilber**

“An oral history with Wilber Proud”

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: January 13, 1995

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, genealogy, newspaper article

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 54 pp.

**Abstract:** In his account of the Proud family history, Wilber names all uncles and aunts and gives brief life reviews of each. His father was Orange County District Road Superintendent, responsible for the construction of many early roads in north county. The numerous Proud descendants populated Fullerton High School from 1910 to 1952, though Wilber did not finish high school but went to work to assist the family finances. He recalls many residences he occupied as a child and those he had with his own family, blankets school children knitted for World War I soldiers, odd jobs he held during the Depression, and expresses some embarrassment with the National Recovery Act. Worked many years as machinist for Globe Oil Tool company before retirement. Shares school and Halloween pranks and information of family's affliction with Ehlers-Danlos disease.

OH 117

**Randall, Homer**

“An oral history with Homer Randall”

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: April 20, 1963

Language: English

Ephemera: none

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 19 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 1

**Abstract:** Gives his background and explains how he came to live in Whittier. Discusses raising citrus in his nursery business, how he learned to raise fruit trees, and why he chose to raise them in La Habra. Explains Citrus Association's regulations to keep fruit from spoiling during shipping. Recalls gum tree groves, and names members of his family. Discusses reasons for La Habra's growth, and his community involvement, including helping found the local Kiwanis club. Describes an excavation for Indian relics, and helping start the Bastanchury citrus grove.

OH 1887

**Rasmussen, Annabel McFadden**

“An oral history with Annabel Rasmussen”

Interviewed by Ann Spencer

Date: July 16, 1985

Language: English

Ephemera: none

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 25 pp.

**Abstract:** Granddaughter of Robert McFadden and cousin of Flora Worden recalls living on a ranch in Irvine before moving into grandmother's house in Santa Ana. Father raised walnuts on the ranch; mother had an Indian girl from Riverside to help her during the summers. Discusses clothing, childhood games, going to school on horseback, family celebrations and trips to the mountains, church picnic and circus acts, stores in Santa Ana that delivered, and compares grandfather's funeral with that of grandmother's. Remembers smashing a penny under wheels of “Liberty Train,” watching city fires from the rooftop of their home, and hunting, killing and eating rattlesnakes.

OH 124 a, b, c

**Rawlings, Walter**

“An Oral History with Walter Rawlings”

Interviewed by Stephen Gould, Jim Sleeper, and Paul Clark

Dates: May 30, 1968; April 4, 1970; June 20, 1979

Language: English

Ephemera: none

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 63 pp.

**Abstract:** Gould’s interview: Rawlings family landholdings in both Tustin and Anaheim are sited using modern landmarks; Walter is stepson of C. E. Utt, owner of Utt Juice Co. and father of Congressman James B. Utt. He remembers that fires destroyed Utt’s peanut and chili pepper drying house in 1910, the Southern Pacific Depot, and damaged homes in 1960s; describes blacksmiths shooting the anvil, picnics and church socials, days spent digging Pismo clams, and house rental business of Matt Traun; names local men who fought in WWI. Sherman Stevens, James Irvine, and C. E. Utt developed San Joaquin Fruit Company. Water was brought to the area in 1911 to support local farming and then homes; Cowan Heights reservoir was an open reservoir. Rawlings was in charge of the Tustin Waterworks from 1923-79; explains growth of waterworks, operations and equipment. Talks about Tustin expansion and Irvine Co., Utt, and Stevens development of Lemon Heights.

Sleeper’s interview: Includes discussion of Sam Tustin, Rice entertainers, Andrew Joplin’s bear kill, and Emil Markeburg’s fall from hot air balloon, early flights by Glenn Martin, Madame Modjeska’s home, Chinese settlement on Glassell Street in Orange, and Tomato Springs bandit. Mexican family made beef jerky on railroad fencing; Indian camp and artifacts found while digging trenches for water lines; only police officer in Tustin was John Stanton who dealt with two bank robberies; and Orange Dummy electric train that ran between Orange and Santa Ana are recalled.

Clark interview: Centers on water works in Orange County, including Red Hill Water Co., Lemon Heights Water Co., Tustin Waterworks, and the Cowan Heights water Co.—all started by C. E. Utt. Describes evolution of pipes and says Tustin Cement Pipe Co. supplied pipes for these companies. Describes role of the SAVI, Santa Ana Valley Irrigation.

OH 99

**Redfern, Delpha Ridgeway Allen**

**Thuet, Lila Keeler**

“An oral history with Lila Thuet and Delpha Redfern”

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

March 24, 1963

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 25 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 1

**Abstract:** Thuet discusses her parents’ choice to move to La Habra and their farm there. Describes hauling water in barrels, her education, division of father’s property, and marriage to William Thuet. Redfern explains how her family came to La Habra. Discusses her family. Thuet and Redfern recall early mail system, stores in La Habra, transportation and roads, railroad excursions, local clubs, and growth of a local church. Describe fuel sources, sharing food and labor with neighbors, old landmarks, recreation, groceries, and peddlers. Discuss several women who were active in the community.

OH 125a,b

**Ridgway, Claude and Ida.**

“An oral history with Claude and Ida Ridgway”

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Dates: February 15, 1963, January 19, 1965

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, documents

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 123 pp.

**Abstract:** Discussion of life in La Habra since the early 1900s. Claude held a variety of occupations including road worker, Orange County tree appraiser, and fruit picker in the citrus industry. He became affiliated with Farm Bureau activity which guided farmers in irrigation and fertilization. He discusses the avocado and citrus industry in detail, particularly the maintenance, fertilization, and growing season associated with the citrus farms. From 1930-1933 Mr. Ridgway served on the La Habra School Board. He served as co-founder of the Storm Water Protection District with William Espolt and A. J. Sweeney and the La Habra Citrus Association. Ida discusses her experience in the La Habra Kiwanis Club and Velada Club. She recalls an early childhood accident while working as a fruit picker. She was also an active member of the Ladies Aid Society.

OH 2539

**Rischar, Maureen McClintock**

“An oral history with Maureen McClintock Rischar”

Interviewed by Gail Gutierrez

May 21, May 28, and June 4, 1997

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, documents

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Transcript, 121 pp.

**Abstract:** Discusses growth and development of the city of Santa Ana since the early 1920s. Family owned the Villa La Costa, a shopping center founded in 1957. Rischar, a graduate of the University of Southern California, discusses work history including a position with Kay Finch Ceramics. Formerly an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and President of the Ebell Association, Rischar lists other members of the groups and their contributions. Rischar's literary accomplishments include the compendium, *McClintock Ancestors and Descendants*, and *Centennial History of Tustin*.

OH 2087b

**Robertson, Grace**

“An oral history with Grace Robertson”

Interviewed by Phyllis Schildmeyer

Date: February 6, 1991

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, documents

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 24 pp.

**Abstract:** Discusses early childhood in Santa Ana, corner drug stores (Penny's, Kelly's, Edgar's), and pony and wagon as the primary method of transportation. Recalls the flu epidemic of 1918 and flooding in the Orange County area in the late 1930s. She discusses religion, daily social functions, and her experience living near army camps at the start of the First World War.

OH 2065

**Ross, Lorna.** See **Widolf, Eleanor** and **Lorna Ross**

OH 2399

**Ross, Raymond Jr. M.D.**

“An oral history with Raymond Ross Jr. M.D.”

Interviewed by Barbara Oldewage

Date: August 10, 1995

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, documents, genealogy

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 58 pp.

**Abstract:** Discusses family migration from Illinois to Santa Ana, California. Grandfather Uriah Jacob dealt with land grant of Castroville, a settlement of land grants on Bolsa Nueva and Moro Cojo that belonged to Simeon Castro. He discusses rancho history and development of business in the Santa Ana area. Ross Street was named for his ancestors and was located on family property. Dr. Ross explains his family's medical background and education. Dr. Ross ran his own medical practice in Santa Ana from 1957 until his retirement in 1992.

OH 2041

**Rowland, Ruth Lillian**

"An oral history with Ruth Lillian Rowland"

Interviewed by Bettie Webber

Date: October 9, 1990

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, documents

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 22 pp.

**Abstract:** Mrs. Rowland discusses her childhood and urban development in the city of Tustin. She recalls early life before the advent of running water, plumbing, and electricity. She served a brief stint as a medical aide. When her mother died, she took over as head of the household. She discusses traveling abroad, economics, and the effect of radio in Tustin.

OH 141

**Salveson, Sigvald A.**

"An oral history with Sigvald Salveson"

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: October 21, 1964

Language: English

Ephemera: photo, genealogy survey

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 44 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 4

**Abstract:** Salveson's family lived in Fullerton and he worked for the Stern and Goodman company that supplied groceries and much more to area residents and oil field workers. Gives a clear idea of the business operations, delivery methods and routes, and personalities of the owners. Some amusing incidents during his work, e.g. the horse that was literally scared to death by an ostrich. Bastanchury, Sansenina, and Esevenri family information. Road alignment, various oil companies, rough oil town of Brea are discussed as well as a listing of valley residents and a description of his own grocery business in La Habra that later competed with Fullerton's Stern and Goodman.

OH 2313

**Schildmeyer, Robert and Phyllis Luther**

"An oral history with Robert and Phyllis Schildmeyer"

Interviewed by Maureen McClintock Rischar

Date: September 9, 19, 1993

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 51 pp.



**Abstract:** Son of a German immigrant who came to Orange County in 1893 recalls service in World War II as a marine pilot flying PV2s to intercept German submarines in the Atlantic Channel and his experiences during the Depression in the chicken ranching and orange grove business. Phyllis recalls her working conditions in the packinghouses of the citrus industry during the Depression. Discusses the 1933 earthquake and the 1938 flood that severely damaged Santa Ana.

OH 1888

**Schmid, Walter R.**

“An oral history with Walter R. Schmid”

Interviewed by Molly Harvey

Date: 1984

Language: English

Ephemera: none

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 15 pp.

**Abstract:** Son of a German immigrant who came to Garden Grove in the early 1900s discusses family’s venture in the sugar beet and citrus industries. When Schmid was sixteen years old he quit school altogether to take over the family business. He recalls anti-German sentiments involving his father’s citizenship hearings in 1917. Schmid concludes with a brief discussion of his childhood and travels from the Midwest via the Southern Pacific Railroad.

OH 1886

**Schwartzbach, Lillie Dunlap**

“An oral history with Lillie Dunlap Schwartzbach”

Interviewed by Anne L. Spencer

Date: July 18, 1985

Language: English

Ephemera: none

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 25 pp.

**Abstract:** Recalls early childhood living in the Anaheim area. Discusses her role in the household, education, and social activities. Reminisces about early transportation from the horse and buggy to the advent of the Pacific Electric railcars. She also recalls her experiences working at the La Paz Ranch hauling food and assisting the cattle hands.

OH67a

**Schuepbach, Esther Aldrich**

“An oral history with Esther Schuepbach”

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: March 9, 1963

Language: English

Ephemera: genealogy survey

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 10 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 5

**Abstract:** Brief comments on childhood and ancestors, water in the valley, social community activities, and her own spouse and employment. Some description of the Pacific Electric promotional ride to Huntington Beach circa 1907.

OH67b

**Schuepbach, Chester and Esther Aldrich**

“An oral history with Chester and Esther Schuepbach”

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: 1963

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, manuscript

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 24 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 5

**Abstract:** Discussion of the life of Frederick Randolph Aldrich, Esther's father, including his extensive land holdings in the La Habra Valley and later development of this property, his hobby of collecting that focused on historical documents, Native American artifacts, seashells, and finally gemstones. Seashell collection filled the family Bay Island home before being given to Bowers Museum in Santa Ana. Lists later owners of town property and early settlers in the valley. Recalls swimming in the San Gabriel River and seaside tent houses.

OH 158

**Scott, Edith Waterman**

"An oral history with Edith Waterman Scott"

Interviewed by Jim Sleeper

Date: July 24, 1968

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, documents

Project: Irvine/El Toro Community, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 37 pp.

**Abstract:** Recalls irrigation and landscaping development in the city of Tustin. Discusses daily social life, education, and her participation in the El Toro Woman's Club. Edith worked at an apricot farm pitting and boxing at ten to fifteen cents per fifty pound box and ran the El Toro depot from 1932 to 1936. She also discusses the lack of city government and crime in early Tustin particularly the exploits of the Tomato Springs Bandit.

OH 116

**Scott, Otis Laird**

**Scott, Alta May Walker**

"An oral history with Otis and Alta May Scott"

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: March 25, 1963

Language: English

Ephemera: genealogical survey

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 32 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 1

**Abstract:** Otis Scott discusses family's arrival in California, obtaining water for their farm, local schools, and his employment with his father and later with Standard Oil. Notes relatives' involvement in community, and gives family names. Alta Scott gives her family background. Discusses how they came to California, father's farming, and various places they lived in the area. Recalls local doctors, education, grocery delivery, and stores. Both discuss local oil development, and conditions for Mexican citrus workers. Describe recreation, well-known hotels, transportation, church involvement, and where early residents lived.

OH 3065

**Segerstrom, Henry Thomas**

"An oral history with Henry Thomas Segerstrom"

Interviewed by Karen Harvey Reese

Date: September 16, 17, and November 11, 2003

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 75 pp.

**Abstract:** Traces family history from the arrival in New York from Sweden to their eventual settlement in Santa Ana, California. Discusses establishment and development of agricultural land. Segerstrom vividly describes his service in the 103<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division in Germany during World War II. He received numerous medals for his participation including the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. During the '40s and '50s C. J. Segerstrom and Sons became the largest producer of lima beans in the nation. This success led to the leasing and zoning of property in what became known as the Segerstrom Industrial District in Santa Ana. C. J. Segerstrom and Sons leased property used in the development of South Coast Plaza and the Segerstrom Hall in Costa Mesa. Segerstrom discusses the family's business ventures in detail.

**OH 4702**

**Shaver, Shirley Johnson**

“An oral history with Shirley Johnson Shaver”

Interviewed by Amanda Tewes

Dates: November 10 and December 16, 2010

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: complete transcript, 52 pp.

**Abstract 4702.1:** Lifelong Orange County resident remembers living in Buena Park, Huntington Beach, and Fullerton, California. Her maternal grandparents (Loughboro) moved to the county in 1890 and owned a ranch across the street from where Walter Knott later located Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park; they rented acreage to him for his blackberry, strawberry and boysenberry crops; narrator recalls working in the popular restaurant operated by Cordelia Knott, its menu items, and the pay scale used there. Paternal grandparents (Johnson) retired from Wisconsin to Huntington Beach circa 1918 and, caught up in the first local oil boom, relocated their house to drill unsuccessfully for oil on their property; population in the city varied with the oilfield boom and bust cycle. Mosquitos, grunion runs, and fishing off the pier are childhood memories, as well as playing on abandoned oil derricks en route to or from school, fireworks on the Fourth of July, and tar from the beach getting on her shoes. Huntington Beach was nicknamed “Standard Oil City” and that company supported special programs and teachers for the local schools and during the Depression provided food and clothes for the children at school; narrator worked for more than thirty-five years as a teacher in the Huntington Beach School District and recalls the noise of the oil drilling “was dreadful”; oilfield jobs survived the Depression well. Father worked for Standard Oil but wanted to own a cattle ranch; mother was a teacher who worked in segregated school in La Jolla. Earthquake in 1933 damaged her elementary school and narrator recalls a temporary classroom was assembled over the gym's pool; rode the bus with other rancher children from Buena Park to Fullerton for high school; served as editor for high school yearbook and lost much staff to the war effort; remembers playing the organ at the Fox Theater in Fullerton; worked for R. C. Hoyle at the *Register*. Tells about her first husband and their daughter Jan and the gold mine he left for Jan, her Norwegian ancestors, and changing her last name to Shaver; discusses political climate in Orange County, the *bracero* program and other recent immigrants, and the growth and variety in the county population.

**Section 4702.2:** Further discussion of her mother's teaching at La Jolla school and in Centralia, events at Fullerton High School, father's ranch, riding the school bus to high school and playing the oboe. Compares the early communities of her lifetime and appreciates their history enough to try to raise interest in preserving local history. Notes changes in environment of Huntington Beach, recalls again the Red Car that went from the beach to Los Angeles and various headlines from World War II, and concludes with list of her memberships and achievements. The appendix has descriptions of all the residences Shaver lived in.

OH 2669

**Shaw, Harvey**

“An oral history with Harvey Shaw”

Interviewed by Eileen DeCair

Date: April 13, 1998

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, manuscripts

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 32 pp.

**Abstract:** Shaw and Alsbach families arrived in late 1800s; father was born in Trabuco Canyon and mother was born in Silverado Canyon. Describes activities of early canyon residents, how they earned a living and dealt with local wild life. Family raised bees and to protect hives uncle trapped the last marauding bear in the Santa Ana mountains. Family farmed on the Trabuco mesa, raising lima beans, walnuts, and eventually citrus. Gives detailed description of harvesting beans on the mesa and origins of Jack Cook's pub that became famous as Cook's Corner, mentions construction of Pacific Coast Highway. Attended school in Laguna Beach, flew with Eddie Martin at the age of 8, then went on to military career in the air force. Recounts hitching plane rides between camps during the war and developing nose art for the planes. Recalls courting his wife and later family outings on the mountain property that belonged to his grandfather.

OH 2853

**Shaw, Robert "Bob" Arthur**

"An oral history with Robert Shaw"

Interviewed by Maureen McClintock Richard

Dates: March 21, April 6, 11, 21, 2000

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, documents

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 93 pp.

**Abstract:** The son of German immigrants discusses his early childhood including active participation in youth camps, social life, and his family's extensive educational background. He served as a sea scout aboard the *Stranger*, a merchant ship that was used as part of an expedition to the South Seas in 1934 to search for new specimens and horticulture for the San Diego Zoo and San Francisco Aquarium. Mr. Shaw describes his duties, interaction with natives and crew, and the geography of the Caribbean. He also discusses his hobby as a Pigeon Racer and the opening of Disneyland in 1956 where he used the pigeons for the inaugural ceremony. Includes letters that give account of 1906 earthquake in San Francisco.

OH 119

**Smith, Guy**

**Smith, Maryellen**

**McMaster, Matilda Smith**

"An oral history with Guy and Maryellen Smith and Matilda McMaster"

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: March 31, 1963

Language: English

Ephemera: none

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 26 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 2

**Abstract:** The Smiths relate their family background and how their families came to live in La Habra. Guy describes his father's walnut farm. They discuss education, recreation, local wildlife, and shopping. Recall early neighbors including the Sansinenas. Discuss early roads, fuel sources, and start of oil industry.

OH 2495

**Spurgeon IV, William Henry**

"An oral history with William Henry Spurgeon IV"

Interviewed by Bill Gulley

Date: August 27, 1996

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, documents, illustrations

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 24 pp.

**Abstract:** History of the Spurgeon family as told by his great-grandson, William Henry Spurgeon IV. Discusses the founding and development of Santa Ana in 1869. Spurgeon explains his great-grandfather's wealth in the California Gold Rush in 1852, death of his wife, the purchase and layout of land in Santa Ana, and the introduction of the Southern Pacific Railroad and stagecoach into the city. Recounts his father's career as a Navy Lieutenant in World War II, politician, educator, and as vice-president of the Irvine Company. Spurgeon IV recalls his childhood, upbringing, experience in the U.S. Navy mapping the sea floor for submarines, career as an educator, as well as details of Boy Scout Jamboree in 1953.

OH 118a

**Sutton, Ada Ware**

"An oral history with Ada Sutton"

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: April 22, 1963

Language: English

Ephemera: genealogy survey

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 18 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 1

**Abstract:** Relates family background, why they came to California, and family's connection to local Quakers and Milhous relatives. Discusses her education, early married life, her children, and husband's involvement with citrus. Gives husband's family background. Describes La Habra's early terrain, eucalyptus groves, growth, early residents, shopping, utilities, and land values. Describes church activities and organizations, and her husband's community involvement.

OH 1590b

**Tarbox, Helen Newland.**

"An oral history with Helen Newland Tarbox"

Interviewed by Karen H. Reese

Date: January 25, 1990

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, newspaper article

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 28 pp.

**Abstract:** Older sister of Bernice Newland Frost outlines chores of their mother in feeding ranch hands, canning food, dealing with butcher's wagon, and having a seamstress come to their home; her father was active with the field hands where lima beans and chili peppers were raised; siblings all had specific chores. Recalls special events like grandfather's funeral, sister's wedding, Christmas celebrations, and family picnics. Childhood pets included a pig and peacocks. Adds information on parents' background and their early work to clear the swamp land and emphasis on education for their children; mother's hobby of seeking Indian artifacts in the ground after rainy periods; and the Barnum and Bailey circus that came to Santa Ana. Witnessed the first oil well that came in in Huntington Beach; experienced 1933 earthquake.

OH 1890

**Taylor, Jo Sawdey**

"An oral history with Jo Sawdey Taylor"

Interviewed by Molly Harvey

Date: April 1985

Language: English

Ephemera: none

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 43 pp.

**Abstract:** Jo Sawdey Taylor recalls her family history and childhood from the 1920s to the late 1980s; family settled in Santa Ana in 1914. Discusses father's various occupations including his patent and invention that led to the development of the cherry picker and picking ladder used in crop harvesting. Taylor recalls the flu epidemic during the First World War that swept through the Orange County area. Describes the changing social and economic society in Santa Ana, her work in apricot harvesting, and her mother's struggle with tumor disease.

OH 4512

**Terry, Robert "Bob"**

"An oral history with Robert Terry"

Interviewed by James Kettler

Date: December 18 and 30, 2009

Language: English

Ephemera: map and photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 51 pp.

This oral history spans 1867 to 2009; bulk dates 1930-1970

**Abstract 4512.1:** Family ancestors lived in Tennessee from as early as the Civil War and came to California post World War II; father was mechanic for Buick dealer Jack Whitfield and then opened his own garage where he eventually sold Buicks. Narrator lists all car dealerships in Huntington Beach, California, in the 1930s. "Terrytown" was an area in Huntington Beach where narrator's father and uncles all had businesses including drugstore, coffee shop, and auto dealership. Many of the Terry family members were active in city government and local organizations. Narrator describes the adaptive reuse of buildings on the dealership lot where he worked for his father from the age of seven cleaning and polishing vehicles, especially after gushing oil wells splattered the cars with crude oil; in 1955 a well was drilled under his father's car dealership, the proceeds from which helped pay for college tuition for two years; oil rights were generally not held by homeowners who had no recourse when drilling began on the property. Recalls early teachers including one who encouraged narrator to pursue a baseball career, which his father discouraged, surfers injured by barnacles on the pier, and Dwight Clapp's beach concession stand that was endangered by ocean waves. There is some discussion about anticipated Japanese attack during WWII, anti-aircraft gun emplacements in Bolsa Chica, wartime rationing and its effects on his father's ability to sell cars; Buick built Hellcat tanks instead of cars during the war.

**Section 2512.2:** Narrator's uncle J.P. Terry worked at Holly Oil Co. that originally was the Holly Sugar refinery; cousin Vic Terry was on city council; uncle Sam Terry managed the Surf Theater and ran the Greyhound bus station, then his son-in-law Cliff Loftis took over the bus station when Sam died. Collins Terry, narrator's father, came to Huntington Beach in 1925 and had the first Pontiac franchise, a Union Oil gas station, and then in 1933 the Buick franchise. After his death in 1967, narrator at age 29 was the youngest official Buick dealer in the U. S.; he attended the GM dealer training in Flint, Michigan, and sold cars for 30 years. Describes the "top of the pier plan" that was aimed at making Huntington Beach a resort city and the opposition of local business owners to that project; narrator founded the Downtown Merchants Guild to help improve downtown through annual street fair; formed the Huntington Savings and Loan in 1981 and spent full time working there 1985-90 while his wife ran the car business until all four independent savings and loans in the community were shut down within thirty days of each other: Mercury Savings was the major one closed. Gives detailed list of businesses that were downtown, near the pier, and on the beach. Finally, recounts experiences riding a '51 Chevrolet with deflated tires on the railroad tracks, once as far north as Los Angeles but usually just to Anaheim.

OH43

**Thomas, Gene**

“An oral history with Gene Thomas”

Interviewed by Barbara Metz

Date: May 2, 1968

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, news clippings, and additional comments by daughter

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 21 pp.

**Abstract:** Gives family background. Discusses beginning of citrus cultivation and other crops in Orange and irrigation for them. Describes education, recreation, ranch chores, and impact of World War I. Explains how he became a mechanic, then a blacksmith on Irvine ranch; how job and farming have changed; and how Irvine Company softened impact of Depression on leasers. Discusses growth of Irvine, impact of El Toro Marine base, and Irvine family’s relationship with employees, neighbors and Mexican and Japanese laborers. Recalls flood of 1938. Describes being deputy sheriff, and his interest in horses and shooting competitions.

OH 1439

**Thompson, Lena Mae**

“An oral history with Lena Mae Thompson”

Interviewed by Phil Brigandi

Date: March 17, 1978

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange Community history, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 69 pp.

**Abstract:** Narrator relates family background and how they came to live in Orange, California. Describes life on their farm, including recreation, family diet, housekeeping, and how to butcher a pig. Recalls poor and uneducated inhabitants of Angel’s Swamp (Fountain Valley). Discusses socializing in the Plaza of Orange, the grand Palmyra Hotel, education with all grades in one room, and explains street names connected with old families. Compares her high school socializing with the culture of youths who didn’t attend high school; describes schoolmate and Olympian Fred Kelley, circus and family trips, childhood games, and Memorial Day observance. Recalls formation of Placentia. Discusses trouble fitting in as a young widow; life in Carpinteria, impact of World War I, flu epidemic, and Depression. Recalls Knott’s Berry Farm in early days, inviting many soldiers to dinner during World War II, and population boom after war. Comments on how she is coping with old age.

OH 2304

**Tournat, Leigh Hunter**

“An oral history with Leigh Tournat”

Interviewed by Barbara Oldewage

Date: June 7, 1993

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 12 pp.

**Abstract:** Discusses family migration from Texas to Orange County in the early 1900s and the move to Garden Grove. Remembers local residents, childhood games and toys, bank robbery in town, and local fear of Pancho Villa. Brother served in navy in World War I and Leigh served in the National Guard. Tells of farming and raising oranges.

OH 2303

**Tournat, Lucile May Reid**

“An oral history with Lucile Tournat”

Interviewed by Barbara Oldewage

Date: June 7, 1993

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 25 pp.

**Abstract:** Reminisces about education, everyday activities, and working with orange crops in her early childhood. Lucile discusses childhood in Garden Grove, including widowed mother's employment, relationship with extended family, and education. Describes Garden Grove stores, utilities, local churches, and clothing style. Recalls Mexican and Japanese schoolmates. Notes crops grown in area. Describes operating orange farm with husband, and helping eradicate white flies. Discusses 1916 flood, 1938 flood, and 1933 earthquake. Describes close-knit nature of Garden Grove as a small town. Recalls Ware family.

OH 2159

**Travis, Amos**

“An oral history with Amos Travis”

Interviewed by Annabel Rasmussen

Date: November 14, 1990

Language: English

Ephemera: Biography of José Antonio Yorba, Orange County's first ranchero during the Spanish settlement of Alta California, by Arnold O. Dominguez. 11 pp., illus.

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 15 pps., with two page index.

**Abstract:** Explains family background in Orange County from the early 1900s to the present. Travis discusses in detail the family history, working in orange orchards, and shifting geographic locations throughout the county. Discusses his college education at U.C. Berkeley and that of his siblings in the late 1920s. Describes the operation of orange crop harvesting and how he applied his skills to a position in biological control.

OH 132

**Tresslar, Grace Vivian**

“An oral history with Grace Tresslar”

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: January 17, 1964

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, genealogy survey

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 36 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 4

**Abstract:** One of the first residents in La Habra Heights tells of difficulty in getting roads built and having utilities installed; function of road assessment districts. La Habra Heights Improvement Association arranged for revenue to homeowners for oil drilled from under their land. Spouse ran the Fullerton *News*; made buggy trips to collect stories from La Habra, used large press in Santa Ana to print the paper. Some environmental description of the valley; some history of the Little family.

OH 2933

**Trotter, Maxine Murdy**

“An oral history with Maxine Murdy Trotter”

Interviewed by Maureen McClintock Richard

Date: August 28 and 29, 2001



Language: English

Ephemera: photos, newspaper clippings, documents

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 66 pp.

**Abstract:** Trotter relates family background, history, activities, and tradition. Explains how lima beans were harvested. Discusses crops father farmed, and impact of World War II. Describes her childhood during the Depression, Japanese friends, and high school friends she has kept in contact with. Explains how her father became a state senator, his accomplishments while in office, social club for legislators' wives, and father's activities after his service. Describes her father's awards and his struggle with Parkinson's disease. Discusses the politician John Schmitz, her brother Jack's assistance with the farm while father was at the capitol and his own later service on state committees. Recalls 1933 earthquake and the land development corporation father formed. Discusses opposition and eventual passage of Prado Dam measure. Discusses courtship with future husband, George, who was a military pilot and relates his World War II experiences, including information about the atomic bombs. Describes her college experience at Whittier and Monmouth, including later service on boards of trustees. Discusses her husband's work as a coach and teacher, her experiences as a mother, and her children's accomplishments. Relates her involvement with American Field Service, and hosting students from Costa Rican, Uruguay, Sweden.

OH 3076

**Turton, Thomas Rutherford and Mary Frances Flood**

"An oral history with Thomas and Mary Frances Turton"

Interviewed by Christine Greve and Vickie Hawkins

Date: June 21, 2003

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, year book pp., newspaper clippings, and a pedigree chart

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 36 pp.

**Abstract:** Thomas gives family background and how relatives came from England to California. Describes his education, recreation, and sense of community in Anaheim. Recalls getting in trouble often during high school, joining navy during World War II, and working as a meat cutter after the war. Discusses working at his dad's car lot as a teenager and wild courtship with his future wife. Frances gives her family background and difficulties during the Depression. Gives her version of courtship with Thomas, and names their children and three generations beyond them. Recalls her work as a seamstress. They discuss how Orange County has changed, including traffic and recreation. Frances recalls participating in a walking contest, a Roller Derby, and trick skating. Thomas describes old method of selling cars door-to-door and other ways car buying has changed. Compares current prices with past ones. They recall routes between cities before freeways were built. Describe recreation before and after World War II.

OH 2284

**Twist, Basil R. "Bill."**

"An oral history with Basil Twist."

Interviewed by Lurline Twist

Date: March 16, 1993

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, illustrations

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 29 pp.

**Abstract:** Discusses history of the Twist family from the 1920s to mid 1990s. Recalls his experiences as part of an expedition in the South Pacific and Central America acquiring mammals and rare specimens for the San Diego Zoo and Steinhart Aquarium in San Francisco, California. Basil Twist was present during the 1933 California earthquake and discusses its effect, particularly during the Great Depression. Twist earned a degree in engineering at Stanford College and worked at Poulsen and Hardon manufacturing aircraft parts

during World War II. After the war Twist was employed at Towner Manufacturing Company, a supplier of farm equipment and manufactured goods for the army and navy, and served as president of Towner until its sale in 1986.

OH 2263

**Twist, Gerald F. "Pete".**

"An oral history with Gerald F. Twist

Interviewed by Basil R. "Bill" Twist

Date: November 18, 1992

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, illustrations

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 18 pp.

**Abstract:** Chronology of Twist family from the late 1800s to the present day. Explains migration from England to Santa Ana, California. Discusses his father's venture in the orange grove industry and the foundation of the Santa Ana Country Club in the 1920s. Narrator recalls his family's accomplishments and influence in the city of Santa Ana. As a graduate from Pomona College, he assisted in the conversion from gasoline to butane engines for the Southern Pacific Railroad.

OH 2398

**Viebeck, Beryl Wilson**

"An oral history with Beryl Viebeck"

Interviewed by Eileen DeCair

Dates: June 13 and July 21, 1995

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, documents maps, newspaper clippings, and a family tree

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 45 pp.

**Abstract:** Viebeck relates her family history, including how four generations came to Westminster at once. Discusses homesteading in Laguna Beach, and gives names of early homesteaders. Explains Spanish and Mexican history of the area, including fate of the Avila rancho. Describes uncle George Rogers's large homestead in present-day Laguna Beach and his subdivision of land due to growth of the city; Uncle Elmer Robbins printed Laguna's first newspaper, and Uncle Oscar Warling ran a stagecoach. Relates a story about bootlegged rum and gives history of Edwards and Brenot families. Describes grandfather Abe Johnson's work as first police chief of Laguna Beach, and impact of World War II on community. Discusses Wilson relatives' history, including raising lima beans for James Irvine. Viebeck describes childhood memories in Santa Ana, husband George's World War II service as a baker, and her wartime work at the telephone company. Relates husband's family history. Discusses working with her husband in the bakery business.

OH 120

**Warne, Pansy Blossom Remington**

"An oral history with Pansy Warne"

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: April 4, 1963

Language: English

Ephemera: none

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 8 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 2

**Abstract:** Gives her background, and discusses husband's family's contributions to early La Habra, and husband's involvement with citrus industry. Relates her own activities in the community.

OH 121

**Warne, Tom**

**Warne, Lida**

“An oral history with Tom and Lida Warne”

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: May 5, 1963

Language: English

Ephemera: none

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 40 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 2

**Abstract:** Tom explains how his family came to live in La Habra. Discusses education and getting water. Lida relates how her family came to La Habra. Discusses becoming acquainted with the Holes, her education, her marriage, and impact of a fire on her family. Recalls sources of water and fuel. They mention local wildlife. Lida discusses her music teaching and performance in church. Tom recalls various jobs. They describe old-time recreation, dating, and special events including Christmas. Discuss shopping, early roads and neighbors, and arrival of automobiles and their impact on horses.

OH 2341

**Webber, Bettie**

“An oral history with Bettie Webber”

Interviewed by Karen Reese

Date: January 12, 1994

Language: English

Ephemera: photos, manuscripts, news articles, a military discharge from 1864, letters, and a pedigree chart

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 53 pp.; also

**Abstract:** Webber discusses beginning of Pioneer Council, its first social function, other activities and donations, leadership, and purpose. Gives history of her Grandpa Briggs, a colorful saloon keeper and businessman well-known in Orange County who loved hunting and entertaining and describes his large home in Santa Ana. He bought land on behalf of several Japanese people. Relates history of grandmother's family, including involvement with mining towns and acting as sheriff. Discusses her own birth, childhood, and her involvement with horseback riding competitions. Recalls several money-making ventures, sources for different foods, memories of some Japanese acquaintances, and family history of her friend Katie Lillard Wheeler, granddaughter of James Irvine. Explains housekeeper's role in her family. Discusses her education, travels, and socializing; the Rendezvous Ballroom in Balboa; her schoolteachers, a fiesta parade. Describes courtship with her future husband, Art, and early married life, including building a home with black market supplies during World War II. Recalls trauma of daughter getting polio. Discusses children's achievements, life following husband's retirement.

OH 146

**Welch, Mabel**

“An oral history with Mabel Welch”

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: May 6, 1964

Language: English

Ephemera: Genealogy survey

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 36 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 5

**Abstract:** Elder daughter of Ide Stone lived with her family on the Puente oil lease, owned by William Rowland, a pioneer in La Habra Valley; moved to La Habra when Puente Oil Company fired all the married men and only employed single men. She attended a one-room school on the lease and later a two-story school in town; recalls school activities and community socials, schoolmates, and curriculum. Health issues,

environmental description of the valley and wildlife, street routes to Brea and Fullerton, and real estate prices are discussed. Collected ostrich feathers and sold trap door spiders as a child. Hypothesizes on local influences on real estate prices.

OH 2065

**Widolf, Eleanor and Ross, Lorna**

“An oral history with Eleanor Widolf and Lorna Ross”

Interviewed by Maureen Rischard

Date: June 15, 1989

Language: English

Ephemera: photo

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 16 pp. Bound with interview of Adele Hankey

**Abstract:** Daughters of Adele and Carl Hankey recall how their parents freely provided housing to numerous people in need of temporary shelter as well as housing some 55 international students through VISA (Visiting International Students Association). Both women were industrious children and earned money during the Depression working on neighbors' farms. Describes family weddings and Fourth of July celebrations; social centers were the school and the Community Presbyterian church in San Juan Capistrano.

OH 1419

**Wiggins, Wallace S.**

“An oral history with Wallace Wiggins”

Interviewed by Dianne Richland

Date: April 20, 1974

Language: English

Ephemera: one photo

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 22 pp.

**Abstract:** Wiggins discusses progress of radio technology when he was young, how he became involved it, and his various radio-related jobs. Describes growth of a station he partly owned and types of programs they ran, as well as station's role in getting relief to Long Beach after 1933 earthquake. Discusses involvement with army broadcasts during World War II. Describes precautions following Pearl Harbor, internment of Japanese Americans, and confronting someone he thought was a Japanese saboteur. Explains his decision to invest in the station during the Depression, what was involved in the transaction, soliciting advertisements, and network connections. Recalls broadcasting a notorious murder trial, as well as college and high school games. Mentions people he worked with who later became very successful. Explains why his station did not get into television, how technology has advanced, and how radio changed as television became popular. Discusses effective advertising, compares recorded versus live drama, explains his leaving the station and jobs he held afterward and son's air force service. Describes involvement in college radio program contest.

D-0015

**Windolph, Mildred**

“An autobiography by Mildred Windolph”

Date: July 31, 1992

Language: English

Ephemera: two photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: 19 pp.

**Abstract:** In this autobiography, Windolph relates family history and memories of her childhood on the Irvine ranch, including mother's death in flu epidemic of 1918. Discusses education, father's remarriage, and farming lifestyle. Recalls courtship with future husband, college years, and finding work during the Depression. Discusses early married life, her battle with skin cancer, her husband's involvement with

numerous businesses, and her participation in a grand jury and a school board. Describes her family's global travels, reasons (medical and political) they chose to move to various cities in Orange County, and her husband's death from leukemia.

OH68

**Woodman, Orpha Leutwiler**

"An oral history with Orpha Woodman"

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: March 16, 1963

Language: English

Ephemera: photos

Project: La Habra Valley, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 8 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers*, vol. 1

**Abstract:** Gives family background, and describes conditions on their La Habra farm. Discusses recreation, father's involvement in real estate, parents' participation in clubs, and husband's employment with Edison Company. Explains why her mother gave Ocean Avenue its name.

OH 1891

**Worden, Flora McFadden**

"An oral history with Flora Worden"

Interviewed by Annabel Rasmussen

Date: July 24, 1985

Language: English

Ephemera: none

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript, 19 pp.

**Abstract:** Worden explains how family came to California. Describes memories of childhood in early Orange County, family life, and helping a seamstress make family clothes. Discusses church attendance, garden, kitchen, house layout, and father's death. Recalls family weddings, childhood games, activities forbidden by her pious parents, and modes of transportation. Discusses her education, holidays, reading, and local stores.

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