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OH1590b

**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 .

OH1890

**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.

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 serving as 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.

OH2304

**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.

OH2303

**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 when it was a small town. Recalls Ware family.

OH2159

**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 rancho 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.

OH132

**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 .

OH2933

**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.

OH3076

**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.

OH2284

**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.

OH2263

**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.