

ONTARIO ALL STATES PICNIC
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Descriptive Summary

Title

Ontario All States Picnic

Date

2015

Creator

Alma Ochoa

Extent

Six (6) oral histories

Repository

Center for Oral and Public History
California State University, Fullerton

Project Abstract

OH 5532

Narrator: Barbara Martin Nadeau

Interviewer: Alma Ochoa

Date: May 9, 2015; 11:50 a.m.

Length: 2 hours 8 minutes

Abstract: An oral history with Barbara Martin Nadeau, daughter of Evelyn Schneider and former Miss Jasper Princess. The interview was conducted as part of the All States Picnic Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of the interview is to gather information on Mrs. Schneider's involvement with All States Picnic, Inc., and insight on Mrs. Nadeau's experience as the daughter of an All States Picnic board member. Specifically, the interview details family background; moving to Ontario, California from New York with her parents and her sister in 1954; her family and community life in Ontario (1954-1973); the different consumer products her parents owned; her and her father's favorite music; the family's favorite television shows when she was growing-up; her family's recreational activities; the level of community spirit in Ontario's (1954-1973); Ontario's population demographics and race relations; her experience as Miss Jasper Princess in 1965; Mrs. Schneider's personality and involvement with All State Picnic, Inc.; Mrs. Wilda Denham's (All States Picnic, Inc. board member, 1948-1966) personality; Richard "Patches the Clown" Holder's (All States Picnic, Inc. president, 1971-1980) and his personality; her parent's close relationship with Richard and Molly Holder; Ontario's contemporary community condition; Euclid Avenue's deteriorating aesthetic appeal; her perspective on the All States Picnic and the cause of its collapse; and her contributions to community events in her home town of Blyth, California.

OH 5573

Narrator: Darlene L. Blocker

Interviewer: Alma Ochoa

Date: March 19, 2015; 1:00 p.m.

Length: 1 hour 45 minutes

Abstract: An oral history with Darlene Blocker, a lifelong resident of Ontario, California, and All States Picnic participant. The interview was conducted as part of the All States Picnic Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Ms. Blocker's experience living in Ontario. Specifically, the interview details Ms. Blocker's grandparent's migration with their four children to California from Iowa in 1922; her childhood in Ontario during the 1940s and 50s; experience living with mother and brother in a single-parent household; different recreational activities in Ontario during her childhood and teenage years; family-owned consumer products; the foods she grew-up eating; family's favorite music and television shows; her experience with the All States Picnic participation during a three decade span (1950s-70s); her grandmother, Amanda Rouk's picnic experience at the Iowa table; Euclid Avenue social and physical transformational composition (1950s-70s); the different consumer stores that existed on Euclid Avenue when she was growing up; the changes in Ontario's population demographics; race relations in Ontario;

marrying and moving to South Ontario in the 1970s; level of neighbor interaction in the 1970s; her brother, “Big Jim” and his involvement with different community activities; witnessing changes that occurred at the All States Picnic beginning in the mid-1960s; her perspective on the decline and demise of the All States Picnic; Euclid Avenue’s deteriorating aesthetic appeal; and thoughts on contemporary Ontario community life.

OH 5574

Narrator: Sandi J. Willis

Interviewer: Alma Ochoa

Date: April 3, 2015; 10 a.m.

Length: 2 hours 35 minutes

Abstract: An oral interview with Sandi Willis, a resident of Ontario, California, and a participant of the All States Picnic. The interview was conducted as part of the All States Picnic Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Ms. Willis’ family’s experience living in Ontario and participation in the All States Picnic. Specifically, the interview details Sandi’s brief early childhood life in Iowa in the early-1960s; father and mother’s European backgrounds; moving to Ontario, California with her parents and two siblings in 1965 with; road trip experience to California; father purchasing first home in Ontario in 1965; family-owned consumer products; family’s favorite music and television shows; foods she grew-up eating; maternal family’s German, beer-drinking heritage; parent’s political and religious backgrounds; Ontario’s level of community spirit during the 1960s; witnessing the population boom in her immediate community (transformation from dairies to track home) in the early-1970s; her experience as a band member during the 1973 All States Parade; family experience sitting at the Iowa picnic table (1967-1976); importance of the All States Picnic to her family and to Ontario’s community; the deteriorating community spirit beginning in the 1970s; witnessing the changes that began to occur at the All States Picnic in the 1970s; the racial riot at Chaffey High School between polo team and a group of Mexicans in 1974; the ethnic explosion that occurred in Ontario in the 1970s; the reasons for the collapse of the All States Picnic in 1979; her self-identification as a Californian; and community life in contemporary Ontario.

OH 5575

Narrator: Luella Bradley and Ramona Robbins

Interviewer: Alma Ochoa

Date: April 4, 2015: 10:25 a.m.

Length: 1 hour 24 minutes

Abstract: An oral interview with Luella Bradley and Ramona Robbins, daughters of Marian Barkley (All State Picnic, Inc. board member) and former All States South Dakota Queens. The interview was conducted as part of the All States Picnic Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton.

The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Mrs. Bradley and Mrs. Barkley's involvements with the All States Picnic, Inc. Specifically, the interview details their brief childhoods in South Dakota in the 1940s; the two sisters move to Pomona, California in 1951 with their parents and three siblings; experiencing bus and train trip from South Dakota to California; childhood life in Chino, California; family-owned consumer products; foods they grew-up eating; family's favorite music and television shows; their family's experience at the South Dakota table (early 1960s-early 1970s); Luella's description of Richard "Patches the Clown" Holder's personality; Luella's experience working as a "Mandy" the clown with "Patches"; Mrs. Bradley and Mrs. Robbins' experiences as South Dakota State Queens (early 1960s); Mrs. Barkley's involvement with the All States Picnic, Inc. (recording secretary); setting at an All States Picnic meeting; bickering between Mr. Holder (All States Picnic Inc., president) and his wife, Molly Holder (All States Picnic Inc., way and means director) at the meetings; describes Mrs. Holder's personality; Luella experience conducting the All States Picnic Parade; Wilda Denham's personality (served on All States Picnic Inc., 1948-66); and Mr. Holder's presidency approaches; the All States Queen Parade and the car decorating contest; Mrs. Bradley's views on the All States Picnic and the reasons for its collapse; and views on contemporary Euclid Avenue's deteriorating aesthetic appeal.

OH 5579

Narrator: Mila Cahill

Interviewer: Alma Ochoa

Date: June 8, 2015; 2:04 p.m.

Length: 2 hours 29 minutes

Abstract: An oral history with Mila Cahill, an Ontario, California resident and former All States Picnic, Inc. board member. The interview was conducted as part of the All States Picnic Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Mrs. Cahill's long family history in Ontario and her experience as the All States Picnic International Queen Director board member. Specifically, the interview details Mrs. Cahill's parents' backgrounds; moving to California with her parents and two brothers from Arkansas in 1935; her early childhood years at the Hofer Ranch in Ontario; United States Air Force station at the Ontario Airport during World War II; the Japanese from Hofer Ranch that were taken to internment camp at the Pomona Fair Grounds during World War II; her brother's experience in the Philippines during the Pacific War; Euclid Avenue's commercial shops; the different types on consumer products her parents owned at the ranch during the 1940s; family's diet; attending old town Knott's Berry Farm when she was as a young girl; attending an All States Picnic in Anaheim, California; the 1949 All States Forty-Niners Picnic; her parent's political and religious views; the affect of some consumer products on her mother's domestic lifestyle; attending the All States Picnic with her parents; level of community spirit in Ontario and at the All States Picnics during prior to the 1970s; Mrs. Cahill's experience as a Ontario Mountette; Euclid Avenue and the All State Picnic social deterioration beginning in the 1970s; her experience as International Queens Director for the All States Picnic Board in 1971; the selection of International Queens for the All States Picnic Parade; the ineffectiveness of All State Picnic, Inc. board member selection process; the collapse of the All States Picnic in the 1970s; and contemporary Ontario and Euclid Avenue's aesthetic decline.

OH 5580

Narrator: Marseen Landon

Interviewer: Alma Ochoa

Date: June 3, 2015; 10:30 a.m.

Length: 2 hours 13 minutes

Abstract: An oral history with Marseen Landon, a former Ontario, California resident and former All States Picnic, Inc. board member. The interview was conducted as part of the All States Picnic Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Mrs. Landon's family life in Ontario and her experience as the All States Picnic State Queen Director board member. Specifically, the interview details Mrs. Landon's grandparent and parents' backgrounds; growing-up in a single parent home with her mother in Los Angeles during the 1930s and 40s; her Jewish grandfather's economic hardship during the Great Depression in Los Angeles; growing up with an alcoholic mother; meeting Richard Gayle Holder (All States Picnic, Inc. president) in the 1940s; meeting her husband, Bob Landon during World War II; moving to Ontario with her husband and three children in 1955; Ontario's community spirit level during the decades (1950-1970s); Euclid Avenue and the different consumer shops; experience working at Coffee John's in the late 1950s; Ford Lunch and its owner, Frank Holbart; race relations in Ontario during the 1950s-1970s; experience as an All States picnicker at the California table beginning in the early 1950s; the deteriorating condition of Ontario and the All States Picnic in the 1970s; experience as an All States Picnic, Inc. board member beginning in the early 1970s; the discrepancies in the All States Queen selection process; Wilda Denham's personality; All States Picnic, Inc. fragile organizational structure; Gayle and Molly Holder's leadership dynamic; "Patches the Clown" personality trait; the collapse of the All States Picnic in the 1970s; her fondest memory about the All States Picnic; balancing her domestic and work life during the 1970s and 1980s; Marseen's relocation to Portland, Oregon; and contemporary Ontario and Euclid Avenue's aesthetic decline.

