

San Juan Capistrano Community History

ARBISO, Paul Anacleto (1895—)
 O.H. 1464
 Interviewer: Karen W. Tunbull
 Date: December 30, 1975
 Status: Completed 1976, 27 pp., index, photos
 Tape length: 60 min.

A third generation resident is the caretaker for the San Juan Capistrano Mission and the official bell ringer, who rings the bells when the swallows return each March and other special, historical events; discusses ghosts, treasures, and other legends of the area, including personal encounters with apparitions.

BAUMGARTNER, John J., Jr. (1901—)
 O.H. 1657
 Interviewer: Shirley E. Stephenson
 Date: August 21, 1977; March 18, 1978
 Status: Completed 1982, 193 pp. index, photos, appendixes
 Tape length: 5 hrs. 30 min.

Discusses a section of the Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores, a large Mexican land grant formerly owned by the last Mexican governor Pio Pico, then Juan Forster; reflects about life at the rancho during the days when Richard O'Neill, Sr., his grandfather, and James Flood jointly owned the land; the ranch often referred to as the "O'Neill Ranch" (now Rancho Mission Viejo) is located in southern Orange County and northern San Diego County of southern California; the Flood portion of Rancho Santa Margarita has been Camp Pendleton since World War II; Baumgartner resides in San Juan Bautista and is well known in the California livestock industry having served in an official capacity in several organizations, including president of the California Cattlemen's Association.

Bound copy of this transcript includes a copy of the original "Abstract of Title" of the Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores and other historical documents.

CLARK, Robert S. (1944—)
 O.H. 521
 Interviewer: Beverly Gallagher
 Date: May 14, 1971
 Status: Not transcribed
 Tape length: 60 min.

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

COOK, C. Russell (1894—1978)

O.H. 1027

Interviewer: Suzanne Jansen

Date: June 15, 1971

Status: Completed 1978, 25 pp., index

Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

History of San Juan Capistrano, California from the 1920s; social and agricultural background, floods, residents, and churches.

CRODDY, William F. (1906—)

O.H. 655

Interviewer: Beverly Gallagher

Date: May 20, 1971

Status: Transcribed, 30 pp.

Tape length: 60 min.

A large ranch owner in the Southern California, San Juan Capistrano area and former head of the Orange County Farmers Incorporated; discusses the bracero program in southern California, including reasons for ending the program, socialistic ideas of the program, and mechanization.

FORSTER, Elizabeth (1908—)

O.H. 1026

Interviewer: Suzanne Jansen

Date: July 26, 1971

Status: Completed 1976, 19 pp., index

Tape length: 60 min.

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

HALLAN, Pamela (1944—)

O.H. 1696

Interviewer: Paul F. Clark

Date: December 2, 1977

Status: Edited, 30 pp.

Tape length: 1 hr. 50 min.

Administrative aide for the Cultural Heritage Commission in San Juan Capistrano, California; explains the historic preservation movement in that city; events that prompted community support; and federal and state measures from which it can benefit financially.

HANKEY, Carl H. (1896—1982)

O.H. 712

Interviewer: Suzanne Jansen

Date: August 10, 1975

Status: Completed 1976, 32 pp., index, photos

Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

Recollections of the life and work of a citrus rancher in San Juan Capistrano, including general comments on the history of Orange County, California.

HOLLHOUSE, Theodore W. (1898—)

O.H. 518

Interviewer: Beverly Gallagher

Date: May 18, 1971

Status: Not transcribed

Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

A former rancher and manager of field labor for D.W.D. Produce Company in Mission Viejo, California; discusses bracero program with Filipino farm workers; compares Mexican labor in Mexico with Mexican labor in the United States; operated a bracero camp during World War II in Hollister, California.

ISCH, Lucana Forster (ca. 1900—)

O.H. 1462

Interviewer: Karen W. Tunbull

Date: August 20, 1975

Status: Completed 1976, 20 pp., index, photos

Tape length: 30 min.

The great-granddaughter of the first non-Spaniard to settle in San Juan Capistrano and great-niece of Pio Pico, the last Mexican governor of California; discusses life in the Capistrano area.

LANDELL, Gladys (1908—)

O.H. 1461

Interviewer: Karen W. Tunbull

Date: July 28, 1975

Status: Completed 1976, 30 pp., index, photos

Tape length: 2 hrs. 10 min.

The great-granddaughter of Juan Avila, owner of Rancho Niguel; discusses the Avila, Yorba, and Landell families; the murder of Pablo Pryor; bruias; Chola Martina; and an account of California history.

LANGE, Robert H. (1932—)
 O.H. 1150
 Interviewer: Patricia Petrung
 Date: May 24, 1972
 Status: Not transcribed
 Tape length: 60 min.

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

MOISO, Anthony R. (1939—)
 O.H. 1149
 Interviewer: Patricia Petrung
 Date: April 20, 1972
 Status: Transcribed, 19 pp.
 Tape length: 60 min.

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

OLIVARES, Delfina (1884—1976)
 O.H. 711
 Interviewer: Suzanne Jansen
 Date: August 3, 1971
 Status: Completed 1976, 24 pp., index
 Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

Life in old San Juan Capistrano, including many anecdotes about the war, the Depression, schools and community affairs, such as fiestas, dances, and weddings.

PEASE, Ethel Rosenbaum (1892—)
 O.H. 646a
 Interviewer: Beverly Gallagher
 Date: May 5, 1971
 Status: Completed 1978, 10 pp., index
 Tape length: 20 min.
 Bound as one volume, 0 • H. 646a and O.H. 646b, 36 pp.

A member of the Rosenbaum family discusses briefly the family ranch and the bracero labor, including comments about Cesar Chavez; ranch was up for sale at the time of the interview.

PEASE, Ethel Rosenbaum (1892—)

O.H. 646b

Interviewer: Suzanne Jansen

Date: August 3, 1971

Status: Completed 1974, 26 pp., index

Tape length: 60 min.

Bound as one volume, O.H. 646a and O.H. 646b, 36 pp.

Portrayal of ranch life at the turn of the century in San Juan Capistrano and southern Orange County, California; recollections of childhood games, dances, church activities, Father O'Sullivan; and the first public school built in Orange County which operated spasmodically, only when they had money to pay teachers.

REID, William (1925—)

O.H. 645

Interviewer: Beverly Gallagher

Date: May 6, 1971

Status: Not transcribed

Tape length: 25 min.

A farmer in San Juan Capistrano, California who leases farmland discusses his experiences with Mexican and Negro farmhands.

REMMERS, H. Lester (1906—)

O.H. 713a

Interviewer: Beverly Gallagher

Date: May 18 and 19, 1971

Status: Not transcribed

Tape length: 2 hrs.

A longtime rancher and the third largest farm labor employer in San Juan Capistrano, California area; discusses the influence of Eleanor Roosevelt on the bracero program; an in-depth interview concerning cost, training, and mechanization of the program.

REMMERS, H. Lester (1906—)

O.H. 713b

Interviewer: Suzanne Jansen

Date: August 3, 1971

Status: Completed 1976, 29 pp., index
Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

General discussion of agriculture in Capistrano Valley including the use of pesticides, the role of Mexican national labor, and flood control.

ROSENBAUM, Ed (1895—)
O.H. 647
Interviewer: Beverly Gallagher
Date: May 7, 1971
Status: Not transcribed
Tape length: 60 min.

Owner and manager of Rosenbaum ranch in the San Juan Capistrano, California area; provides information on the bracero program, its effect on local workers; and treatment of Mexican American workers by their supervisors.

ROSENBAUM, Melvin E. (1905—)
O.H. 520
Interviewer: Beverly Gallagher
Date: May 14, 1971
Status: Not transcribed
Tape length: 60 min.

Manager of Rosenbaum ranch in San Juan Capistrano, California and former manager of American Fruit Growers Camp; compares Puerto Rican laborers with the Mexican workers of the bracero program.

SHREWSBURY, Richard Lynn (1892—1982)
O.H. 1460
Interviewer: Karen W. Tunbull
Date: July 11, 1975
Status: Completed 1976, 18 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 45 min.

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

WILSON, Warren (1922—)

O.H. 1151

Interviewer: Patricia Petring

Date: March 29, 1972

Status: Transcribed, 35 pp.

Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

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

WINTERBOURNE, Daisy Yorba (ca. 1900—)

O.H. 1463

Interviewer: Karen W. Turnbull

Date: July 24, 1975

Status: Completed 1976, 19 pp., index, photos

Tape length: 60 min.

Great-granddaughter of Nathaniel Pryor, a Yankee silversmith who arrived in California without permission with Sylvester Pattie; descendant of the well-known Yorba family; recalls pioneer families, church and mission activities; Father O'Sullivan, and family anecdotes, such as the selling of the now famous El Adobe to satisfy a \$50 grocery debt; husband was editor of the first newspaper in San Juan Capistrano, California.

YORBA, Joseph (ca. 1900—)

O.H. 1465

Interviewer: Paul F. Clark

Date: January 9, 1976

Status: Completed 1976, 26 pp., index, photos

Tape length: 2 hrs.

Descendant of two pioneer families of southern California: the Yorbas and the Rioses; discusses his families, childhood experiences, and general history of the San Juan Capistrano area.

RELATED MATERIALS

Thesis:

TURNBULL, Karen Wilson. "The History and Folklore of San Juan Capistrano: An Oral Approach." Master's thesis, California State University, Fullerton, 1979.

Thesis includes the following oral history interviews: Paul Anacleto Arbiso; Gladys Landetl; Daisy Yorba Winterbounne; Lucana Forster Isch; Richard Lynn Shrewsbury; Joseph Yorba; Ethel Rosenbaum Pease; Delphuna Olivares; Carl Hankey; H. L. Remmers; Elizabeth Forster; C. Russell Cook. Interviews are bound separately and housed in the California State University, Fullerton, Oral History Program Archives.