

Orange County Project Abstracts

OH 21b

Narrator: Key, George Silman (1896-1989)
Interviewer: Dennis A. Swift
Title:
Date: December 8, 1986
Language: English
Location:
Project: Orange County
Status: Not transcribed

Abstract:

A longtime Orange County reside discusses parental ancestors, early settlers and development in north Orange County, changes in agriculture production, water problems, labor sources, packinghouse organizations, disease and decline of citrus production, droughts and floods, and naming of Placentia.

OH 25

Narrator: Carrillo, Charles C. (1897-)
Interviewer: Allen Bailes
Date: April 17, May 5, 20 and 23, 1968
Language: English
Location:
Project: Orange County
Status: Edited, 127 pp.

Abstract:

A general discussion of the history of Orange County, California; the effects of World War II on the area; oil development in southern California; and treasure hunting in Mexico. Includes experiences as a court interpreter and description of many courtroom events.

OH34

Narrator: Osterman, Elmer (1913-1972)
Interviewer: William H. Lofstrom
Title: "California Division of Forestry Development - Orange County"
Date: May 20, 1968
Language: English
Location: Orange County CDF headquarters
Project: Orange County
Status: Completed, 18 pages
Dates: 1930s-60s

Abstract:

An oral history with Elmer Osterman (1913-1972) concerning fire protection services in Orange County past and present. Born in El Toro in 1913, his father was involved with the Orange County Forest Protective Association, organized by local residents in the 1920s. Mr. Osterman joined the California Division of Forestry (CDF) in 1934 and served as Forest Ranger for Orange County from 1963-1972. He discusses co-ordination between state and local agencies and the

development of local fire stations. He describes changing methods of fire prevention and control, including the fire lookouts on local peaks, fire trucks and other equipment, training for firefighting crews, and the increasing use of aircraft in firefighting. He discusses several major fires from the past, especially the Paseo Grande fire in 1967, along with brief references to the Hathaway Fire of 1926, and the Green River Fire of 1948. Orange County's increasing population, he says, has created new challenges for firefighters, but he is glad to see developers, cities, and the county taking more steps to make new communities fire safe.

OH 51.2

Narrator: Dunlap, John "Sky" (b.1912)
Interviewer: Annette Moon
Title: "An Oral History with John Dunlap"
Date: June 3, 1968
Language: English
Location: Orange County, California
Project: Community History
Status: Completed; 9 pages

This oral history spans 1800s-1968. Bulk dates: 1880s-1900s, 1950s-1960s.

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*.

OH62

Narrator: Schoepfle, Irene Loose (1900-1978)
Interviewer: Joseph Landon
Title: Music in the Schools
Date: January 31, 1969
Language: English
Location: Quaker Gardens, Stanton, CA
Project: Orange County
Status: edited transcript, 35 pages
Dates: 1910s – 1960s

Abstract:

An oral history with Irene Loose Schoepfle concerning musical education, beginning with her own experience in the public schools of Thurman, Iowa, and Grinnell School of Music, and continuing through her work in Orange County from the 1920s to the 1960s. Mrs. Schoepfle served as Musical Supervisor for the County Superintendent of Schools office (later known as the Consultant in Music Education) from 1926-33, and again from 1940 until her retirement in 1961. She discusses what Orange County and its schools were like when she first arrived, and how she secured her job as Musical Supervisor. She describes her work in the classroom, training other teachers, and her own continuing education. Her work included the development of a Fifth Grade music program for Orange County schools, youth concert performances, the development of a Listening Center for students, and how Orange County students have changed over the years. She describes the founding of the Orange County Music Educators Association and the teachers' guide she wrote, *Handful of Music*.

OH 0066.1

Narrator: MEADOWS, DON
Interviewer: Curtiss, Richard
Date: 12/2/1969
Length: 02:43:44
Format: digital
Transcript: edited; 48 pp

Abstract:

An oral history with Don Meadows, a longtime resident of Orange County, California, the first of three interviews conducted by Richard Curtiss. Topics include Meadows' father's occupation as a newspaper man; his recollections of President McKinley's assassination; Harold Bell Wright and his book *That Printer of Udell's*; his family's migration to California in 1903; settling in Orange County, where his father printed *The Orange Post*; Sam Armer, who wrote *History of Orange County*; attending kindergarten in a one-room school; his father's early work in newspapers; the start of Boy Scouts in Orange County; attending Orange High School; his acceptance into Pomona College, as a biology major; joining the Navy in 1918 (but returning to college in 1919); his early interest in California mission history; his observations of early 1900s agricultural Orange County, as well as local topography; his siting of Madame Modjeska; his involvement with the Bernardi Yorba house; the 1916 flood and the overflow into Santiago Canyon, as well as comparisons to the 1938 flood; and finally, talks about his dad's brief newspaper work in Los Angeles.

OH 0066.2

Narrator: MEADOWS, DON
Interviewer: Curtiss, Richard
Date: 12/3/1969
Length: 00:47:06
Format: digital
Transcript: verbatim; 17 pp

Abstract:

An oral history with Don Meadows, a longtime resident of Orange County, California, the second of three interviews conducted by Richard Curtiss. Topics include Meadows' initial jobs

out of college, working in print shops and as a journalist, mainly in Long Beach, California; teaching printing at Edison Junior High School in Long Beach; his observations of the Klu Klux Klan in Pomona, California; teaching biology on Catalina Island, Jordan High School, and Poly High School; his memories of Avalon and Catalina Island during the late 1920s and early 1930s; gathering biological specimens off Channel Islands, during his summers off; feeling the earthquake of 1933, while on Catalina, and seeing the damage in Long beach; his memories of the 1938 flood; and finally, purchasing land in Orange County in 1945.

OH 0066.3

Narrator: MEADOWS, DON
Interviewer: Curtiss, Richard
Date: 12/17/1969
Length: 01:17:36
Format: digital
Transcript: verbatim & edited; 29 pp

Abstract:

An oral history with Don Meadows, a longtime resident of Orange County, California, the third of three interviews conducted by Richard Curtiss. Topics include his memories of the 1933 earthquake and the 1938 flood; supervising a program that collected biological specimens off the Channel Islands for the Los Angeles County Museum (1938-1940); working as a park naturalist for the Division of Beaches and Parks, during his summers; the independence that his teaching profession gave him; his memories of the Paseo Grande Fire (1967); being selected for Reagan's California Bicentennial Community; and finally, reflects on the satisfaction of his life.

OH 76

Narrator: Galbraith, Harold F.
Interviewer: Richard Clover
Date: November 13, 1968
Language: English
Location:
Project: Orange County
Status: Not Transcribed

Abstract:

A medical doctor gives an account of the development of Orange County, California as an example of what is wrong with American society. Emphasis is on the decline of privacy for the individual.

OH 184

Narrator: Mills, Herbert E. (1881-)
Interviewer: William H. Lofstrom
Date: March 17, 1971
Language: English
Location:
Project: Orange County
Status: Transcribed

Abstract:

A resident of Orange County, California for eighty-seven years gives information on the county, especially the Fountain Valley-Huntington Beach area known at one time as Gospel Swamp. Comments on the development of transportation, agriculture, occurrence of flood, and other history.

OH 1128

Narrator: Graham, George A.

Interviewer: Donna Barasch

Date: March 27, 1972

Language: English

Location:

Project: Orange County

Status: Edited, 18 pp.

Abstract:

Discussion of the citrus industry in Orange County, California; prisoners of war working as pickers in the local citrus groves, and other citrus laborers. Prisoner of war camp was located in Garden Grove, California.

OH 1648

Narrator: Young, Leo

Interviewer: Mark Padin

Date: December 7, 1977

Language: English

Location:

Project: Orange County

Status: Not Transcribed

Abstract:

Longtime resident in California's Orange County comments on several county landmarks, particularly the sugar beet mills where he worked as an engineer, and social conditions in Orange County in the 1930s and 1940s.

OH 1857

Narrator: Dean, Alma Pixley (1888-1990)

Interviewer: Jane Mueller

Date: March 26, 1986

Language: English

Location:

Project: Orange County

Status: Completed 1988, 25 pp., index, photos

Abstract:

A longtime resident of Orange County, California, comments on her experiences with the Chinese community in Orange County during the 1910s.

OH 1858

Narrator: Marks, Cecil J. (1899-1990)

Interviewer: Dennis A. Swift

Date: October 14,1986
Language: English
Location:
Project: Orange County
Status: Completed 1986, 26 pp., index, photos

Abstract:

Former Midwesterner who served as manager/ executive secretary of the Orange County Farm Bureau for nearly thirty-five years recalls experiences with and activities of the Farm Bureau members and Orange County farmers; decline of agriculture in Orange County; and primary interests of the Farm bureau, such as migrant labor, fruit patrol in the 1930s, water, and taxes.

OH 1951

Narrator: Payan, Dora Clara Kaelin (1900-)
Interviewer: Esther E. Barry
Date: November 30, 1987 and January 23, 1988
Language: English
Location:
Project: Orange County
Status: Completed 1986, 41 pp., index, photos

Abstract:

Formerly from Pennsylvania, longtime resident recalls personal memories of life in Orange County, California, during the period 1902-1988, including the flood of 1938, the New York World's Fair, her many trailering trips, and owning and operating a service station in Anaheim, California.

OH 2065

Narrator: Widolf, Eleanor (1923-)
Interviewer: Maureen Rischard
Date: June 15, 1989
Language: English
Location:
Project: Orange County
Status: Completed 1990, 17 pp., index

Abstract:

Longtime Orange County residents recall early childhood and family activities including recreation, music, daily events, schooling, types of transportation, holidays, and types and styles of clothing.

OH 2161

Narrator: Rowland, Ruth Lillian
Interviewer: Bettie Webber
Date: October 9,1990
Language: English
Location:
Project: Orange County
Status: Completed 1991, 24pp., index

Abstract:

An early Orange County, California, resident briefly recalls her civil defense and nurse's aid work during World War II, especially her volunteer hours at the Santa Ana Western Medical Center, her days as a home economics teacher, and family activities in the early days in Orange County.

OH2326

Narrator: Carpenter, Virginia (1905-1995)

Interviewer: Nancy J. Hunsaker

Date: June 11, 1974

Language: English

Location:

Project: Orange County

Status: edited transcript, 63 pages

Dates: 1900s-1940s

Abstract:

An oral history with Virginia Carpenter (1905-1995), a longtime Placentia librarian, author, and local historian. She begins by describing her childhood in Riverside, Long Beach, Los Angeles, and Pasadena. She describes Pasadena and she knew it in the 'teens and her participation in the 1917 Tournament of Roses Parade. She then moves to her ranch life in Chino with her mother in the 1920s, and their vacations on Balboa Island. She describes a little of the impact of the Depression of the 1930s, and how she found work in a pottery factory. Later went into the pottery and metalwork business with her mother, and she describes the process of manufacturing and firing the ceramics. Their home and workshop was along the Imperial Highway in East Los Angeles, which led to her involvement with the Imperial Highway Association. In 1946 the Carpenters moved to Yorba Linda, and she describes the community at the time. Finally she discusses how she came to work as a librarian in Yorba Linda and Placentia.

OH3092

Narrator: Booth, Louise (1916-)

Interviewer: David R. Booth

Date: November 18, 2002

Language: English

Location: Villa Park, CA

Project: Orange County Oral History Project

Status: unedited transcript, 12 pages

Dates: 1940s-1970s

Abstract:

An oral history with Helen Louise Booth (1916-), interviewed by her son. She discusses her arrival in California in 1947 and her move to Anaheim two years later, where she began teaching at Anaheim High School. She describes the community as she first knew it, including some of the local businesses. She outlines the curriculum at Anaheim High School, school athletics, and some of her notable students. She recalls producing plays at Knott's Berry Farm during the summer of 1951. She discusses the impact that Disneyland, Cal State Fullerton, and the California Angels had on the area. She comments on the changing demographics in Anaheim

OH 5342

Narrator: Meadows, Don C. (1897-1994)
Interviewer: Paul F. Clark
Title: An Oral History with Don C. Meadows
Date: July 20, 1978
Language: English
Location: Quinta de los Prados, Orange County, CA
Project: Orange County
Status: verbatim transcript, 50 pages
Dates: 1840s – 1970s

Abstract:

An oral history with Orange County historian Don C. Meadows. He begins by discussing the various eras in Southern California history, including the Gold Rush, and the real estate “boom” of the 1880s. He stresses the need for accuracy in local history, especially when written by amateurs, and the role that local historical societies, colleges and universities, and government agencies can play in preserving our past. He gives his opinion on some of the books written about Orange County, including *Saddleback Ancestors*. He discusses his involvement with the E. Clampus Vitus and the Los Angeles Corral of The Westerners. He discusses the changing focus in historical research and writing over the years, and stresses the need to document modern events (such as the rapid development of Orange County after 1950) through primary sources, especially ephemera material. He tells how he came to build Quinta de los Prados, his adobe home on Panorama Heights. He offers his recollections of his field trips on the California desert, including a Pomona College trip to the Mojave Desert in 1920, and his biological research in the desert and on the Channel Islands.