ALEXANDER, Vi (ca. 1904- )
O.H. 1718
Interviewer: Cathie Lou Porrelli
Date: April 15 and May 22, 1982
Status: Completed 1984, 51 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 2 hrs. 15 min.

A native of Nebraska who moved to Brea, California in 1922 discusses her former duties as bookkeeper for Dr. C. Glenn Curtis and as secretary to California Assembly Speaker Edward “Ted” Craig. The Alexanders owned and operated Alexander’s Market in Brea from the 1940s to 1963. She recalls rationing, coupons, and supply shortages during World War II, as well as the effects of the war on the community of Brea.

BARNES, Ralph (1902- )
O.H. 1733*
Interviewer: Lawrence B. de Graaf
Date: September 10 and 23, 1982
Status: Completed 1983, 60 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 2 hrs. 30 min.

Brea resident since 1925 and co-founder of the Oilfields National Bank in 1926, Mr. Barnes details the history of this bank and the effects of the bank holiday of 1933. Discussion includes the Ralph “Barney” Barnes orchestra, local golf courses, Brea Chamber of Commerce, and other service clubs in town, particularly the Lions Club.

BENNETT, Dyer (1908- )
O.H. 1700
Interviewer: Jean Howlett
Date: October 20, November 17, 1981; April 12, 1982
Status: Completed 1983, 89 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 5 hrs.

A longtime resident of Brea who emigrated from Arkansas in 1926 describes his experiences of working in the oil fields and oil drilling procedures of Shell and Union Oil companies. In these interviews he recalls the effects of the Great Depression on the citizens of Brea during 1929-1941 and the uniqueness of the co-op commissary which provided food in exchange for hours of work donated by the unemployed.

BENNIE, Emma Johnson (1905- )
O.H. 1667
Interviewer: Ken Weed
Date: July 7, 1979  
Status: Completed 1979, 10 pp., index, photos  
Tape length: 2 hrs.  


A longtime resident of the former Olinda, California community details her personal recollections of life on the Stearns oil lease of Union Oil Company; management-employee relations during the depth of the Great Depression; recreation, amusement, and holiday celebrations of oil field families. Profiles prominent personalities of the Olinda School including Walter Johnson and Frank Martin.

BERGMAN, Walter (1906- )  
O.H. 1719  
Interviewer: Phillip Brigandi  
Date: Not recorded  
Tape length: 2 hrs.  

Early Brea, California businessman who was employed by Chiksan Tool Company for thirty years discusses the company’s origins, growth, and its industrial contributions of the swivel joint and rotary bit; discussion of Santa Ana River flood of 1938; the Brea co-op commissary founded during the Great Depression; and growth of housing in Brea.

BURKE, Pearl A. (1909- )  
O.H. 1701  
Interviewer: Rhoda Levinson  
Date: November 11, 1981  
Tape length: 45 min.  

A former resident of southern Illinois who moved to California to be near her daughters reminisces about the growth of businesses and the general atmosphere of the community of Brea, California.

CHANSLER, Perry (n.d.)  
O.H. 1728  
Interviewer: Gail Norman-Bilby  
Date: May 18, 1982  
Tape length: 1 hr. 45 min.  

An employee of the Union Oil Company discusses his duties as a roustabout and lists other jobs he held during his forty years in the oil industry; briefly recalls the advent of safety regulations,
living on an oil lease, and machinery used in early days of oil drilling. Interviewee’s wife comments on raising their family in Brea, California.

COLLINS, Katherine (ca. 1914- )
O.H. 1702
Interviewer: Mori Higa
Date: October 26, 1981
Tape length: 15 min.

A longtime employee of the Brea-Olinda school system briefly discusses her duties and the system.

ESTRADA, Mary (1906- )
O.H. 1703
Interviewer: Jackie Malone
Date: July 22 and 29, 1981
Status: Completed 1984, 53 pp., index
Tape length: 3 hrs.

An early Brea, California resident of Spanish descent discusses the many changes that have taken place in the community, the problems of the [Great] Depression years, the educational system, her work with the senior citizens, and the Catholic church.

FANNING, Karl H. (1915- )
O.H. 1704a
Interviewer: Jackie Malone
Date: August 20, 1981
Status: Transcribed, 39 pp.
Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

A former high school science teacher whose father was superintendent of Brea-Olinda elementary schools comments on innovative changes which took place in the teaching of science during his thirty-eight years before retirement. Includes involvement in Trained Residents Extending Educational Services [TREES]; as scoutmaster for a Boy Scout troop; and changes that have occurred in Brea, California following World War II.

FANNING, Karl H. (1915- )
O.H. 1704b
Interviewer: T. J. Stiller
Date: May 13, 1982
Traces early family lineage and background; changes in Brea during the 1920s and 1930s; experiences of teaching and living in both Placerville and Brea, California.

**FANNING, Karl (1915- ) and MILLEN, Dean (1908- )**

O.H. 1705

Interviewer: Jackie Malone

Date: July 16, 1981

Status: Transcribed, 40 pp.

Tape length: 2 hrs. 30 min.

An overview interview with two longtime residents of Brea, California. Discussion concerns the early days of the community during the 1920s and 1930s, including the 1926 Union Oil company fire, the 1933 earthquake, the 1938 flood; schools, churches, social organizations, businesses, and minorities. Millen recalls some early days in Santa Ana including the flu and typhoid fever epidemics of both communities. Both interviewees comment on family and personal experiences.

**FORKUS, Don (1944- )**

O.H. 1735

Interviewer: Lawrence B. de Graaf

Date: October 8, 1982

Status: Completed 1984, 43 pp., index, photos

Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

Member of the Brea Police Department (began 1967) who became chief of police (1976) details the technical, functional, and behavioral changes noted in the department during his tenure. Benefits and responsibilities of contractual agreement with the city of Yorba Linda, California are briefly noted; and the effects of Brea’s growth on the professionalism of the police department.

**FRANCESCONI, Richard (1930- ) and McDOWELL, Jerry (1936- )**

O.H. 1734

Interviewer: Lawrence B. de Graaf

Date: October 29, 1982

Status: Completed 1984, 38 pp., index, photos

Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

Joint fire chiefs detail the history of the Brea Fire Department including staffing, public education, and changes in inspection programs, training, and technology from 1923 to time of interview.
GAULDIN, Richard R. “Jack” (1897- )
O.H. 1664
Interviewer: Jackie Malone
Date: July 6, 1979
Status: Completed 1979, 21 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

Resident of onetime Olinda, California from 1920 to 1924 who worked in the oil fields for over thirty-six years gives a brief history of Olinda, an explanation of drilling techniques and derrick construction; description of bunkhouses, boardinghouses, and family houses; and briefly relates practical jokes and shivaree customs.

GOODWIN, Gladys (1903- )
O.H. 1706
Interviewer: Rhoda Levinson
Date: October 29, 1981
Tape length: 45 min.

A former schoolteacher from Pennsylvania who immigrated to Brea, California in 1932 briefly discusses the Woman’s Club and church work in Brea. Husband was a dentist in Brea.

GRIFFITH, Warren E. (1891- )
O.H. 31*
Interviewer: Beverly E. Schmidt
Date: April 5, 25, and May 2, 1968
Status: Completed 1984, 79 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 3 hrs. 45 min.

A Union Oil Company employee of thirty-five years explains integrated oil companies, history of the oil industry and phases of oil production; details events of Brea oil field fire of 1926; and the Brea Golden Jubilee held in 1967. Mrs. Griffith comments on early Brea and family activities including their son Bill’s entry in and winning of the Southern California Soap Box Derby in 1939 plus the cross-country trip to Akron, Ohio for the derby finals.

HALE, Merle Van Ness (1896-1983)
O.H. 1666
Interviewer: Jackie Malone
Date: July 7 and 8, 1979
Status: Completed 1979, 21 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.
A former Olinda, California resident recalls life on the Columbia Oil Company lease; some technical history of the oil industry; businesses involved in Olinda; Christmas trees; comparison of Olinda school with schools in Pennsylvania; and riding a flatbed truck to Fullerton High School.

HALL, Frank (ca. 1910- )
O.H. 1707
Interviewer: Cathie Lou Porrelli
Date: October 29 and November 14, 1981
Status: Completed 1984, 35 pp., index, photo
Tape length: 1 hr. 15 min.

Publisher of the Brea, California weekly paper Brea Progress, from 1947 to 1956 comments on friendly rivalry between himself and the editor of the Fullerton Daily News Tribune, obtaining advertisers for his paper, and his experiences as publisher of the official county paper, Hill City Times, in Kansas. Comments on the antics of Dr. C. Glenn Curtis and his political involvements as a leading Republican in Brea.

HENDERSON, Thelma (1905- )
O.H. 1828
Interviewer: Bruce Rockwell
Date: March 16, 1984
Status: Completed 1987, 95 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 4 hrs.

The eldest child of the Charles C. Kinsler family discusses growing up on oil lease land in the California communities of La Puente, Olinda, and Brea; childhood, family, and community activities; well-known personalities, neighbors, and landmarks of early Brea.

HOLLY, Frank (1908- )
O.H. 1730
Interviewer: Cathie Lou Porrelli
Date: July 3, 1982
Status: Completed 1984, 21 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 60 min.

Owner of Brea Electrical Company relates the history of his business, some family history, and his involvement with Ralph “Barney” Barnes orchestra which later became known as the Brea Junior Chamber of Commerce orchestra. Briefly describes his reaction to the growth and physical changes that have occurred in Brea, California.
ISBELL, Jessie (1890- )
O.H. 1663
Interviewer: Pat English
Date: July 5, 1979
Status: Completed 1979, 15 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 60 min.

A teacher, born in Illinois, and later moved to Olinda, California as a bride in 1921, describes the scenery, her home on the Olinda oil lease, teaching sewing and cooking classes in the Olinda school, and various recreations of oil lease dwellers, including visits to La Vida Hot Springs. She moved to Brea in 1964.

JASTER, Vincent (1907-1985)
O.H. 1720
Interviewer: Cynthia Churney
Date: April 10, 15, and 24, 1982
Status: Final typed, 90 pp.
Tape length: 6 hrs.

A native of North Dakota, Jaster came to California to become a school principal in 1929, a position he held for twelve years. Discusses duties and responsibilities of the superintendent of the Brea, California school district after holding that position from 1942 to 1968. Interviewee recalls Ku-Klux Klan activities in Brea, and explains ramifications of the unification of the Brea and Olinda school districts.

KINSLER, Leland (1920- )
O.H. 1829
Interviewer: Bruce Rockwell
Date: February 15, 1985
Status: Completed 1987, 21 pp., index
Tape length: 2 hrs.

A native son of Brea, California, whose mother, Olivia Winchel, died two days after his birth, was adopted at six months old by the well-known Charles Kinsler family. Narrator discusses both his adopted father and his biological father, early childhood activities, early Brea, the oil fields, and the Kinsler Hotel.

MC BRIDE, Don (ca. 1930- )
O.H. 1721
Interviewer: Sonja Ann Manasian
Date: April 14, 1982
A realtor of Brea, California discusses the local residential and industrial development which relied on the release of oil company landholdings, the construction of the 57 Freeway, and the building of the Brea mall. The impact of this development on the community, changing land use, and annexation policy of Brea are considered.

MC FADDEN, Roswell C. (ca. 1905- )
O.H. 1715
Interviewer: Charles L. Beaman
Date: February 2, 1982
Status: Completed 1984, 31 pp., index, photo
Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

The retired minister of the First Baptist Church of Brea, California discusses the programs, committees and congregation during his pastorate, 1951-1980. Serves as chaplain for the Brea Retirement for Abundant Living, referred to as BREAL.

MAGGIO, Richard (ca. 1950- )
O.H. 1732
Interviewer: Sonja Ann Manasian
Date: August 19, 1982
Tape length: 1 hr. 10 min.

Director of the Brea, California Planning and Development Services Department (began 1974) discusses general steps taken in development projects, reasons for and proponents of annexation policy of the city, land use patterns, and factors that influence city planning; outlines the history of the Brea mall and its affects on the community.

MESTRE, Henry (1903- )
O.H. 1717
Interviewer: Adolph G. Flores
Date: March 30, 1982
Status: Completed 1984, 42 pp., index, photo
Tape length: 2 hrs. 30 min.

A native of Cuba and resident of Brea, California since 1941 discusses the Latino communities in Brea and Fullerton and his work in the bracero program from 1944-1973. As a leader in the Latino community, Mr. Mestre helped start the Sociedad Cultural Hispana in 1975 and the Club Latino of Brea.
MILLEN, Dean (1908- )
O.H. 1708
Interviewer: Jackie Malone
Date: August 19, 1981
Status: Transcribed, 32 pp.
Tape length: 2 hrs. 30 min.

Longtime Brea, California resident discusses the slow growth of the city from 1920 to 1950 and the more rapid but well-planned growth from the late 1940s to the 1960s.

MILLEN, Dean (1908- )
O.H. 1708b
Interviewer: Dennis A. Swift
Date: November 5, 1986
Status: Completed 1988, 19 pp., index
Tape length: 60 mm.
Bound as one volume with O.H. 1708a and O.H. 1705.

Citrus grower reminisces about the decline of agriculture in California’s Orange County with special emphasis on orange and lemon growing. Comments on the Irvine ranch, citrus growers in Villa Park and Brea, and the California Fruit Growers Exchange commonly known as Sunkist.

NORMAN, Ruth Blakemore (1904- )
O.H. 1722
Interviewer: Gail Norman-Bilby
Date: April 6, 1982
Status: Final typed, 20 pp.
Tape length: 60 min.

Early Brea, California resident shares brief recollections of life in Brea, activities of the women, and the influence of the oil industry on the town. Comments on cooperative commissary formed during the Depression.

NORMAN, W. S. (1902- )
O.H. 1723
Interviewer: Gail Norman-Bilby
Date: May 2, 1982
Status: Final typed, 19 pp.
Tape length: 1 hr. 15 min.

An oil field truck driver from the age of fifteen, Mr. Norman discusses wages and union benefits, roughnecks, minorities, and the lack of safety regulations in the oil industry; recalls Brea’s oil
field fire of 1926 and its cleanup; Ku-Klux Klan activities in Brea.

OXANDABOURE, Benoit (1898-1982) and OXANDABOURE, Frank (1925-)
O.H. 1710
Interviewer: Andrea R. Thies Interpreter: Frank Oxandaboure
Date: November 18, 1981
Tape length: 1 hr. 20 min.

A foreman on the Bastanchury ranch and his son give a detailed explanation of the citrus industry as it operated on the ranch with its steps from planting to harvest to shipping; brief description of the Basque community in Brea, California. Interviewee is a native of Hasparren, France in the Pyrenees Mountains.

OXANDABOURE, Frank (1925-)
O.H. 1709
Interviewer: Andrea R. Thies
Date: October 22, 1981
Status: Edited, 36 pp.
Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

A brief history of the two thousand acre Bastanchury ranch originally located between Brea and Fullerton, California; a discussion of life on the ranch with special emphasis on the Basque culture that developed on the ranch.

PIANTONI, Leo E. (1923-)
O.H. 1711
Interviewer: Bruce Rockwell
Date: October 22, November 9 and 23, 1981
Status: Completed 1984, 76 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 3 hrs. 45 min.

A native son of Brea, California recalls aspects of his early life on the Birch Oil Company lease; the effects on Brea of the Long Beach earthquake in 1933; the Great Depression; Brea’s response in World War II; school district unification; service groups and civic activities.

POST, Ella Armstrong (1912-)
O.H. 1668
Interviewer: Jackie Malone
Date: July 9, 1979
Status: Completed 1979, 18 pp., index, photo
Reminiscences of childhood activities on the Santa Fe Lease in Placentia and later in Olinda, California; the former town of Olinda; the Olinda Grammar School; domestic chores. Interviewee’s brother was Major Jack Armstrong, an Army Air Corps pilot.

RUSSELL, Charles (1918- )
O.H. 1738
Interviewer: Pat Reeder
Date: October 28 and December 13, 1983
Status: Completed 1984, 33 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 2 hrs.

Retired from the Chiksan Company of Brea, California, Russell recalls his experiences and upward mobility with Chiksan which began as he completed college and lasted nearly thirty years. Second interview recounts his political association with the city of Brea, serving as a councilman and mayor.

SANDMAN, Esther (1902- )
O.H. 1731
Interviewer: Steven M. Jones
Date: August 18, 1982
Status: Completed 1984, 44 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 2 hrs.

The daughter of William D. Shaffer details her involvement in the Eastern Star; the history of the Shaffer Tool Works established in 1924 which holds patents on the flow bean, Shaffer gate, and various “fishing” tools. Briefly comments on the service clubs in Brea, the oil fire of 1926, and the pipe organ in the Brea Congregational Church.

SCHWEITZER, Frank (1911- )
O.H. 1558
Interviewer: Mike Korpi
Date: October 3, 1977
Status: Completed 1977, 43 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 2 hrs.
A native son and former city council member of Brea, California discusses the town’s history from an oil boomtown to a farming community, current expansion, and the Union oil field fire of 1926.

SEILER, Catherine (1915- )  
O.H. 1724  
Interviewer: Jean Howlett  
Date: May 15, 1982  
Status: Completed 1983, 51 pp., index, photos  
Tape length: 2 hrs. 50 min.  

Longtime resident recalls her childhood in Brea, California; the Union oil field fire of 1926; effects of the oil industry in Brea; the Long Beach earthquake of 1933; employment opportunities for women in the Brea area; effects of the Depression; and postwar housing tract development.

SERNA, Charlotte (1953- )  
O.H. 1725  
Interviewer: Adolph G. Flores  
Date: May 4, 1982  
Status: Completed 1984, 23 pp., index  
Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.  

A co-founder of the Sociedad Cultural Hispana discusses the club's activities, the Latino community spirit, and minority problems beginning in the 1970; briefly relates some personal family history.

SHAFFER, Donald (1909- )  
O.H. 1736  
Interviewer: Steven M. Jones  
Date: October 21, 1982  
Status: Edited/approved, 35 pp.  
Tape length: 1 hr. 15 min.  

Son of W. D. Shaffer gives biographical data on his father and a brief history of Shaffer Tool Works, including the products the company has developed and its influence on the Brea community. Discusses the control of the Union Oil Company on the growth of Brea, and personal activities on the elementary school board.
SIEBENTHAL, Voloney C. (1906- )
O.H. 1712a
Interviewer: Ann Towner
Date: November 6 and 13, 1981
Tape length: 2 hrs.
Bound as one volume, O.H. 1712a and O.H. 1712b, 44 pp., index, photos

Description of early life on the Columbia Oil Company lease in Olinda, California including medical treatment, schools, and early oil drilling equipment; recalls service with the Brea Fire Department from 1929-1966, and early fire equipment.

SIEBENTHAL, Voloney C. (1906- )
O.H. 1712b
Interviewer: John S. Weaver
Date: April 21, 1982
Status: Completed 1984, 14 pp.
Tape length: 60 min.
Bound as one volume, O.H. 1712a and O.H. 1712b, 44 pp., index, photos

A longtime Brea, California resident discusses his personal involvement as an Army fireman in Europe during World War II, with special emphasis on work on the Red Ball Highway.

SMITH, Lois Muzzall (1905—1983)
O.H. 1665
Interviewer: Chris Sandstrom
Date: July 6, 1979
Status: Completed 1979, 22 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 60 min.

A resident on the West Coast Lease notes various leases that composed the Olinda, California area; describes lease houses, medical treatment, schools, employment in packinghouses, and shopping opportunities. Brief discussion of La Vida Hot Springs.

STAFFORD, James L. (1926- )
O.H. 1713
Interviewer: Mori Higa
Date: November 18 and 30, 1981
Status: Completed 1985, 43 pp., index, photo
Tape length: 2 hrs.
Superintendent of Brea-Olinda Unified School District discusses personal background; his teaching role; duties and problems as a business manager, and experiences as superintendent.

THOMPSON, Alice J. (1909- )
O.H. 1726
Interviewer: Ann Towner
Date: April 17, 1982
Status: Edited, 57 pp.
Tape length: 2 hrs.
A resident of Brea, California since 1913 and daughter of the first police chief shares childhood recollections of the evening curfew, red car line, businesses in town, the influenza epidemic, and the effects of the [Great] Depression on Brea. Briefly notes Ku-Klux Klan activities, the Brea mall, and the effect of community expansion on senior citizens of Brea.

VAN PATTEN, Harold (1923- )
O.H. 1662
Interviewer: Chris Sandstrom
Date: July 6, 1979
Status: Completed 1979, 21 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.
Grandson of early landowners in Placentia and Yorba Linda, California and son of an oil field worker recalls the role of the Olinda Grammar School in the social life of the area, pranks and games of his classmates at the school, the [Great] Depression years, the nine o’clock curfew signal, medical care, fire protection on the oil company leases, and the Santa Ann River flood of 1938.

WARNER, Myrtle (1899-1979)
O.H. 1140
Interviewer: Annette Frye
Date: April 13, 1972
Status: Completed 1978, 19 pp., index
Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.
Brea-Olinda, California area history including the Brea schoolhouse; the Stewart Lease oil fire and Olinda oil fields; town’s name change from Randolph to Brea. Comments on the well-known, hometown baseball player, Walter Johnson.

WEDIN, Wayne (1939- )
O.H. 1727
Interviewer: Sonja Ann Manasian
The city administrator for Brea, California, who came to Brea in 1954 as a youngster, lists the physical, commercial, and social changes he has observed; discusses the annexation policy of the city; the planning and construction of the 57 Freeway, the Brea mall, the Brea Plaza, and the effects of both on the city.

WIGGINS, Marie (n. d.)
O.H. 601
Interviewer: Carol Dobrikin
Date: June 23, 1971
Status: Not transcribed
Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

General description, growth, and history of Carbon Canyon area called “Sleepy Hollow” including first families, first citrus groves, and first businesses.

WINCHEL, Harry N. (1911- )
O.H. 1714
Interviewer: Ann Towner
Date: October 23, 1981
Status: Completed 1984, 19 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 1 hr. 20 min.

Son of the first city marshal of Brea, California recalls his father’s duties and events in early Brea. Mrs. Winchel comments briefly on local agriculture.

WINDER, G. Richard (1903- )
O.H. 1737
Interviewer: Pat Reeder
Date: October 27, 1983
Status: Completed 1984, 31 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

A former vice-president and general manager of Chiksan Company in Brea, California recalls his association with the company during its rapid expansion and merger with Food Machinery Corporation, traditionally known as FMC.
Two brothers of Basque heritage relate information about their grandparents who came to Orange County in 1885 and other Basque landowners including Bastanchury and Hualde. Discussion includes events in early Brea, California and changes in the economic base of the city.

RELATED MATERIALS

Publications:


The following interviews pertaining to the former community of Olinda, California are included in the above publication: Merle Van Ness Hale; Lois Muzzall Smith; Emma Johnson Bennie; Richard R. Gauldin; Jessie Isbell; Harold Van Patten; Ella Armstrong Post.

Thesis: