

RICHARD M. NIXON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

COPH OHP_029



Center for Oral and Public History
California State University, Fullerton

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Introduction

The Richard Nixon Oral History Project at California State University, Fullerton's Center for Oral and Public History documents through oral histories the memories of those who knew Richard Nixon in, largely, his pre-political and, to some degree, his political and post-presidential years. The overwhelming majority of the interviews were done by California State University, Fullerton students in oral history courses under the supervision of Dr. Harry P. Jeffrey in the 1969, 1970, and 1971 academic years.

The transcribed interviews and the original taped interviews in this collection are available for use by researchers. Accordingly, the abstracts available online summarize each oral history to better facilitate researchers' assessment of their needs and topical interests.

Historical Note

This Richard Nixon Oral History Project began in 1969 under the leadership of Dr. Harry P. Jeffrey. It remains an ongoing collection, as some interviews have been conducted as recently as February, 2003. This collection, entitled the *Richard Nixon Oral History Project*, contains 214 interviews mainly with individuals who either observed the lives of Richard and/or Pat Nixon, his involvement with the Quaker church, or grew up with one or both of them in the same communities. Taken collectively, these interviews contain a broad foundation for research on the former President.

The origins of the Oral History Program at California State University, Fullerton date back to the early 1960s. However, it was not until the recruitment of Professor Gary L. Shumway in 1967 that the program began to take shape.¹ Under the direction of Shumway, the program's founding director, students who enrolled in his 1968 spring semester oral history class were taught the modus operandi of taped interviewing—how to conduct an interview utilizing oral history methods. It was largely due to the success of this initial class, followed by others, that eventually led to the recruitment of Professor Harry P. Jeffrey and along with him, the implementation of the Richard Nixon Oral History Project.

It was after the successful presidential campaign of Richard Milhous Nixon in 1968 that the root of an idea from the History Department, including Professors Gary Shumway, Larry de Graaf, and Jackson Putnam, culminated with the desire of then CSUF President William B. Langsdorf and Vice President L. Donald Shields that CSUF could potentially house the Nixon Presidential Library.² Hired by the History Department in the fall of 1969, Professor Jeffrey, it was believed, could see this project to its fruition. The goal of the project initially was to “focus on Nixon's childhood in Orange County and young adulthood in neighboring Whittier, covering the period from his birth in Yorba Linda in 1913 up to his first congressional campaign in 1946” and then branch out to other segments of his career and life.³ Jeffrey, enthused by the potential of the project, wasted no time getting started and his zeal was transmitted to his students, evidenced by the completion of 165 interviews in the first year alone. In the second year after its inception, students completed more than thirty additional interviews as part of the project. However, with all of its initial success, after the 1970-1971 academic years the Nixon Project would encounter one problem which it could not overcome: funding.

To complete any large project there must be a source of funding, and the Richard Nixon Oral History Project was no exception. For a time, the project was funded by the History Department, University Library, state and federal grants, as well as private

¹ Albert R. Vogeler and Arthur A. Hansen, *Very Special Collections: Essays on Library Holdings at California State University, Fullerton*. (Fullerton: Patrons of the Library, 1992), 100, 104.

² Harry Jeffrey, interview recorded by Arthur A. Hansen, Renee Schulte, and Mike Korpi, August 1976, transcript, Nixon Project, O.H. 938a, p.1-2, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton, Pollak Library, Fullerton, California.

³ Vogeler and Hansen, 107-108.

donations. This arrangement was supposedly only temporary until the project was underway, at which time the White House, it was hoped, would approve the project, both verbally and financially. An attempt was made by Jeffrey and Shumway to meet with the President at the White House in the fall of 1969. While they did not meet with Nixon directly, they discussed the matter with top aides, including H.R. Haldeman and Edward L. Morgan, in an attempt to garner funding and support.⁴ It was therefore a disappointment to the program when, in 1970, President Nixon gave official recognition for a Nixon Oral History Program to Whittier College, his alma mater. And just a few years later in 1973, Jeffrey also made a marked decision that led him away from the project when he accepted a position in the Nixon administration as an oral historian of the Cost of Living Council.

Jeffrey had been instrumental in getting the project started. He had been recruited because of his experience as director of Columbia University's Robert A. Taft Oral History Project. Using this knowledge, Jeffrey set the framework for the Nixon Project by teaching oral history classes focused on Nixon's early life. The focus of the project was centered on Nixon's pre-political years (before 1946), and was ultimately divided into a number of areas of concentration: his life in Yorba Linda and Whittier; his education; the Quaker influence; Nixon the athlete; and Nixon the debater; and the life of Thelma "Patricia" Ryan.⁵ An initial list of potential narrators (interviewees) was gathered from many sources, including yearbooks and school records. Then, depending on which students were in the same grade, class, and/or participated in the same extra-curricular activities with Richard or Pat, the list was narrowed. And during the first round of interviews, many other names were then suggested by the narrators themselves.

Although the Nixon Project remained fairly dormant for a number of years because of a lack of financial support, it received a renewed optimism under project director Annette Baca (1974-1975). While the project was not funded, it did receive some sustenance from state and federal governments and through private financial donations, which resulted in the technical processing of the initial interviews. One such donation, in the amount of \$2,000, was provided by the Microfilm Corporation of America in 1974.⁶ This donation, in particular, was used to help transcribe, edit, and convert the interviews into individually bound documents as well as into microform. For one hopeful period, some fifty individuals were hired through the Comprehensive Employee Training Act (CETA), a federal government program designed to help people gain employment, including future director of the Nixon program, Renee Schulte. In 1975, after taking over the project from director Annette Baca, the technical processing of project documents was completed under Renee Schulte. Schulte also put together excerpts of some of the interviews into an edited book entitled *The Young Nixon*.

In 1975, after nine years of hard work and commitment, Shumway resigned his position as Director of the Oral History Program and handed the reigns over to Dr. Arthur

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Jeffrey, O.H. 938a, 5. Mrs. Nixon was given the name Thelma (Ryan) at birth. Later, after high school, she substituted Pat (Patricia) for Thelma.

⁶ Ibid, 11-12.

A. Hansen (1975-1979 and 1991-present). More recently, Hansen has made it his goal to see the Nixon Project completed in its entirety, including a finding aid, and has the project headed in a new direction: Nixon the Politician. This post-presidential focus has taken new direction with the video taped interviews of Monica Crowley, Carl Karcher, and Dan Lundgren.

While the project itself can be considered successful, it also has its shortcomings and limitations. According to Jeffrey, the initial intent of the Nixon Project was to focus on Richard Nixon's early childhood and up to his election to Congress in 1946. It was hoped that this would be merely a starting point from which to branch out into other aspects of Nixon's life, including his career in politics. At the time of the meeting with Nixon aides, Jeffrey went so far as to suggest interviewing top officials surrounding the President as part of a "living oral history" to be included in the project.⁷ However, with funds in high demand and short supply and without the blessing from the White House, the task was too daunting.

As California State University, Fullerton, resides in the center of "Nixon Country" and because many of the narrators were either friends or relatives interviewed before the Watergate scandal broke in 1972, the interviews have a favorable bias toward the man people remember today as the President who resigned from office. However, taken in the context of the time and place, it is easy to see why the narrators felt the euphoric way they did: proud of a local boy who had fulfilled his potential as the holder of the highest office in the land.

Yet another incomplete aspiration of the Nixon Project was to interview many Nixon relatives. Had more support from Nixon for the project been forthcoming, perhaps more than just fifteen or so family members might have been willing to participate in the interview process. The goal for the student interviewers was to learn proper interviewing techniques, practice them, and acquire more insight into Nixon by interviewing friends and acquaintances first before asking for interviews with family members. By the time this happened, many of the potential interviewees had already granted interviews to representatives of Whittier College.

Upon receiving the official blessing from Nixon himself to begin an oral history program, the President's alma mater plunged into doing an oral history project. Whittier College completed over 400 interviews, by professors and non-students. However, their project was taken from them when, after Nixon's resignation, Congress passed the Presidential Recordings and Materials Preservation Act of 1974. It allowed the government to confiscate all Nixon presidential materials that were not identified as "personal-private" or "personal-political," and secure them in a location inaccessible to researchers until the processing by the National Archives and Records Administration was complete.⁸ As a result, CSUF had the only comprehensive oral history project on the President's early life available for research as well as public use.

⁷ Jeffrey, O.H. 938a, 8.

⁸ *About the Nixon Presidential Materials: Our Legal Responsibility*. National Archives and Records Administration. July 2005 <<http://www.nixon.archives.gov>>.

Over the years, Nixon scholars and authors alike have utilized the Nixon Project at CSUF including: Jonathan Aitken (*Nixon: A Life*, 1993), Stephen E. Ambrose (*Nixon: The Education of a Politician, 1913-1962*, 1987; *Nixon: The Triumph of a Politician, 1962-1972*, 1989; and *Nixon: Ruin and Recovery, 1973-1990*, 1991), Fawn M. Brodie (*Richard Nixon: The Shaping of His Character*, 1981), Monica Crowley (*Nixon Off the Record*, 1996, and *Nixon In Winter*, 1998), Julie Nixon Eisenhower (*Pat Nixon: The Untold Story*, 1986), Irwin Gellman (*The Contender*, 1999), David Halberstam (*The Fifties*, 1993), Bruce Mazlish (*In Search of Nixon: A Psychohistorical Inquiry*, 1972), Herbert Parmet (*Richard Nixon and His America*, 1990), and Tom Wicker (*One of Us: Richard Nixon and the American Dream*, 1991).

Under the initial leadership of Dr. Shumway and Dr. Jeffrey, with their combined oral history skills, the Nixon Oral History Project and, overall, the Oral History Program at CSUF flourished and succeeded in spite of seemingly overwhelming odds. So much so that other schools modeled their own oral history programs after CSUF's. As the Nixon Oral History Project was one of the first major undertakings in the program, its success helped other oral history projects that followed to thrive.

Scope and Content

The Richard Nixon Oral History Project is just one of many tools available for researchers at the Center for Oral and Public History at California State University, Fullerton. Currently, the Nixon Project is comprised of 214 interviews with individuals who lived in the same Orange County and Los Angeles cities as Richard and Patricia Nixon; most of whom knew either Richard or Patricia Nixon personally. Four of the interviews in the collection were conducted with founding project director Harry P. Jeffrey. The collection is arranged by oral history numbers, with the transcribed files and tapes having corresponding numbers, and consists of the original recorded interviews, transcripts (some in final edited form, others in original transcribed and first edit form), and related material (signed release forms, ephemera, and biographical sketches). The majority of the interviews were recorded on reel-to-reel magnetic tapes, which have been transferred to compact disc format for the purpose of preservation, along with a few more recent interviews recorded on cassette and video tapes. There are also collateral materials that have been collected or donated, which are arranged alphabetically. Funding for technical processing of materials for the Nixon Project was obtained via grants, donations, and volunteers.

Interviewers

Glenn Barnett
Charles Beaman
Greg Brolin
Terri Burton
Janet S. Cramer
Richard D. Curtiss
Robert Davis
Wayne Dawson
John Donnelly
Erick Dorothy
Richard Gibbs
Steven Guttman
Mitch Haddad
Arthur A. Hansen
Sharone Hencey
Bill Holstein
Nancy Hunsaker
Harry P. Jeffrey
Jeff Jones
Mike Jones
Mike Korpi
Shenandoah Lynd
Thomas Maxwell-Long
Milan Pavlovich
Steve Prantalos
Renee Schulte
Mary Suzanne Simon
Simone Strauss

Narrators

Muriel Taylor Adams
Marcelina Arroues
Linda K. Baker
Charles Ball
Dolores Ball
Kenneth Ball
Maxine Ball
Marietta Malcolmson Baron
Myra Ware Barton
William H. Barton
Mildred Beard
Dorothy Beeson
Jane Milhous Beeson
Sheldon Beeson
Hortense Behrens
L. Wallace Black
Myrtle Raine Borden
Richard W. Borst
William T. Boyce
Rowe Boyer
Joyce Parsonson Brakensick
Agnes Brannon
Alta Brannon
Edith M. Brannon
Herman Brannon
J. Douglas Brannon
Raymond Burbank
Jasper W. Burch
Bruce Burchell
Ollie O. Burdg
Dean Burney
Ralph Burnight
Blanche Burum
Martha Cato
John Chapin
Earl Chapman
Irvin Chapman
George Chisler
Elizabeth A. Cloes
Ellen C. Cochran
Eugene Coffin
Marian Scheifele Conde
Hoyt Corbit

Charlotte Otis Craig
Virginia Critchfield
David W. Cromwell
Beatrice Curtin
Joanne Dale
Vincent Dauser
John Dinkeispiel
Guy Dixon
Helen Dryer
William Duncan
E. Ezra Ellis
Joyce Ford Ernstberger
Donald E. Fantz
Robert Farnham
Doug Ferguson
Lois Talbott Findley
Herman Fink
Howard Frampton
Wilma Funk
Ella Furnas
Charles Gallaher
Mary Bell Gardiner
Grant M. Garman
Joe Gaudio
Gladys Gauldin
Richard Gauldin
Irwin Gellman
Nathaniel George
Robert Gibbs
Elizabeth R. Glover
Wood Glover
Janet Goeske
George Gortikov
Robert Gray
James Grieves
Carmen DeRemer Griffin
Louise Gwinn
Albert Haendiges
Robert Halliday
Bert Harris
C. Richard Harris
Richard Heffern
Hugh Hewitt
Eloise Hilberg
Marian Wilson Hodge
Heber Holloway

Blanche Potter Holmes
Ira C. Holmes
Edith Holt
William H.D. Hornaday
Emmett Ingrum
Mrs. Emmett Ingrum
Yoneko Dobashi Iwatsuru
Sheldon G. Jackson
Harry P. Jeffrey
George Jenkins
Fred Johnson
Mrs. Fred Johnson
Joseph Johnson
Robert Johnson
Louis T. Jones
George Kellogg
Glen Kelly
Muriel Kelly
Regina Dunkin Kemp
Charles Kendle
Gerald Kepple
Marjorie Hildreth Knighton
I. N. Kraushaar
William Krueger
Helen S. Letts
E.V. Lindstrom
Patricia Lindstrom
Wayne Long
Judith Wingert Loubet
Hadley Marshburn
Olive Marshburn
Oscar Marshburn
Theodore F. Marshburn
Barbara Mashburn
Murle Mashburn
Harold A. McCabe
Blanche McClure
C. Robert McCormick
Gordon McHatton
Iona DeRemer McHatton
Mildred Sullivan Mendenhall
Charles Milhous
Dorothy Z. Milhous
William A. Milhous
Vivian Cox Montgomery
Morton Morehouse

Mable Myers
Leona Stine Myler
Ralph Navarro
Byron Netzley
Wallace Newman
A.C. Newsom
Alice Newsom
Mattie F. Newsom
John C. Neyer
Marion Nichols
Ray Nichols
Lyle Otterman
Elizabeth Timberlake Paldanius
Ralph E. Palmer
Lucille Parsons
Hubert Perry
Regina Phelan
Tom Phelan
Richard Philippi
Saragrace Frampton Philippi
Cecil E. Pickering
William Price
Arlene Randall
Forrest Randall
C. Arthur Remley
Mary Elizabeth Rez
Nellamena Roach
Bill Roberts
Nancy Roberts
Newt Robinson
Charles Rothaermal
Howard L. Rupard
Paul Ryan
Edwin A. Sanders
Manville Saxton
Harry A. Schuyler
William Seale
H. Glenn Shaffer
Gerald Shaw
George Shoals
Ralph C. Shook Sr.
Carl Siegmund
Robert Sullivan
Mrs. Robert Sullivan
Pearl Ellis Simpson
Mary Skidmore

Paul S. Smith
William Soeberg
Edward Sowers
Harold Space
Richard Spaulding
Frances Stanley
Felix Stein
Alberta Stone
Harold Stone
Osmyn Stout
Geri Studebaker
Phil Studebaker
Albert Stuekle
Myrtle Stuekle
Ada Sutton
Lyll Sutton
Setsuko Tani
Madeline Thomas
Richard Thomson
Edith Milhous Timberlake
Frances Timberlake
Philip H. Timberlake
Catherine Travaglia
Jewel Triggs
Dean Triggs
G. Ellis (Sandy) Triggs
Ralph Veady
Ellen Holt Waer
Lura Applebury Waldrip
Harold Walker
Kathleen Hurley Wallis
Edward Warner
Herb Warren
Samuel G. Warren
Merle West
Bessie Townsend Wickersham
Floyd Wildermuth
H. Esther Williams
Winifred Winget
Keith Wood
Marcia Elliott Wray
Merton Wray
Marygene Marshburn Wright
Edwin Wunder
Harriet Nixon Yates

Select Bibliography

These works have been selected out of the voluminous amount of material available on Richard Nixon due to the authors' use of the Nixon Project at California State University, Fullerton. Also included are other works by those same authors that are relevant to the Nixon Project.

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Restricted Interviews

883

O.H. # 18b.....Richard W. Borst

O.H. # 823a.....Jasper W. Burch (Tape ended abruptly and interviewer never signed off on the final edit. Narrator gave a second interview for a community history project-see O.H. # 823b.)

O.H. #881.....Edith Holt

O.H. # 888.....Joseph Johnson

O.H. # 918.....Wallace "Chief" Newman

O.H. # 940.....Charles Rothaermal

O.H. # 949.....Carl Siegmund

O.H. # 951.....Pearl Ellis Simpson

O.H. # 966.....Richard Thompson

O.H. # 977.....Kathleen Hurley Wallis

O.H. # 986.....Keith Wood

O.H. # 998.....Osmyn Stout

O.H.# 74b

NARRATOR: George Kellogg
INTERVIEWER: Terri Burton
DATE: November 10, 1971
LOCATION: Yorba Linda, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 20 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with George Kellogg: Pioneer Life in Orange County

ABSTRACT: George Kellogg's family moved from North Dakota to California in 1897 and owned farms in Southern California. Kellogg relates many details about life in California from the early 1900's and discusses his memories of Frank Nixon. Between 1902 and 1906, Kellogg attended school with Fletcher Bowron, who would later become mayor of Los Angeles. He talks about his work experience after high school, including working for the city of Los Angeles and for contractors who helped to build the first good roads from Los Angeles County into Orange County; describes his twelve year participation in the National Guard; and recalls the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco, where he went with the National Guard to help distribute food. Kellogg purchased a ranch in Yorba Linda in 1914, worked with Frank Nixon for almost one year at the Union Oil Company, was a member of the Yorba Linda Farm Bureau, helped form the Orange County Chamber of Commerce, served as secretary of the Imperial Highway Association, and was a member of the American Legion. When Richard Nixon was running for vice president of the United States, Kellogg was secretary of the Chamber of Commerce in Yorba Linda and invited him to come and speak. Kellogg reveals how John R. Wheaton introduced the fuerte ("hardy") avocado to Yorba Linda.

O.H.# 118b

NARRATOR: Ada Sutton
INTERVIEWER: Glenn Barnett
DATE: January 21, 1970
LOCATION: La Habra, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 7 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Ada Sutton: Hannah Nixon

ABSTRACT: Ada Sutton was a long-time resident of the East Whittier and La Habra communities and first cousin of Hannah Nixon, whose mother moved to East Whittier in 1905 to be closer to her brother, Frank Milhous, Richard Nixon's grandfather. Sutton shares memories of growing up with her good friend and cousin, Hannah, who lived just three miles away; describes Hannah as a good student while they attended Whittier College together; and also explains that Hannah was a good mother to her boys, in spite of being busy with the family store.

O.H.#: 800
NARRATOR: Muriel Taylor Adams
INTERVIEWER: Nancy Hunsaker
DATE: April 14, 1970
LOCATION: Lakewood, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 7 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Muriel Taylor Adams: School Days at Excelsior High School in Norwalk, California

ABSTRACT: Muriel Taylor Adams moved to Artesia, California, in 1923, started school in the seventh grade with Thelma Ryan. Adams remembers that at Excelsior High school both she and Thelma were in the Filibusters, a debating club, and that Thelma was a very good debater; notes that Thelma was also interested in drama and good at acting; and recalls that Thelma served on the student body council.

O.H.#: 801
NARRATOR: Marcelina Arroues
INTERVIEWER: Steve Guttman
DATE: June 29, 1970
LOCATION: Fullerton, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 27 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Marcelina Arroues: Background on Fullerton and Orange County

ABSTRACT: Marcelina Arroues, who attended Fullerton High School from 1924 until 1928, talks about the different activities available to students; indicates the different minorities in the school; explains how the youth spent their free time; and comments on the popularity of the arts.

O.H.#: 802
NARRATOR: Maxine Ball and Charles Ball
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: January 11, 1971
LOCATION: Azusa, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 27 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Maxine Ball and Charles Ball:
Richard Nixon's Family; Whittier and East Whittier;
the Friends Church

ABSTRACT: Maxine and Charles Ball developed a relationship with Hannah Nixon through East Whittier Friends Church, between 1958 and 1964. Mrs. Ball asserts that Hannah Nixon preferred a less prominent role in the church; describes a typical day for Hannah, including attendance at political meetings; explains Hannah's involvement in the church and at women's meetings; shares that Hannah felt overwhelmed when trying to answer all of the mail that she received during the presidential campaign in 1960 (and how Hannah allowed her to type some reply letters on her behalf); talks about her activities as a volunteer in the Republican headquarters during the 1960 campaign; notes Hannah's reaction after the 1960 presidential election was over; indicates that Hannah did not want Richard to run for governor of California in 1962; and depicts how sad Hannah seemed when Richard decided to move his family to New York; and relates Hannah's influence on Richard and his brothers Donald and Edward. Charles Ball, who was teaching in the religion department at Azusa Pacific University at the time of this interview, shares a memory of Richard Nixon attending church service at East Whittier Friends Church with his mother, Hannah, at a time when he was giving the sermon; tells how he went to the Republican National Convention for the nomination of Richard Nixon for President in Chicago in 1960 and gave the invocation; talks about the Quaker emphasis on education; remembers visiting with Hannah as her pastor and praying with her for her family; discloses what he shared at Hannah's funeral and what her former pastor, George Jenkins shared, and Billy Graham's involvement as well; and recalls his participation in the pre-inaugural prayer service for president-elect Nixon.

O.H.#: 803
NARRATOR: Reverend Charles Ball
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: December 22, 1969
LOCATION: Garden Grove, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 21 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Reverend Charles Ball: Richard Nixon and Quakerism

ABSTRACT: Reverend Charles Ball was a pastor at East Whittier Friends Church from 1958 until 1964. Reverend Ball recalls that when he was President of Penn College he met Richard Nixon for the first time in the office of the Vice President in Washington, D.C. Reverend Ball knew Hannah Nixon very well through East Whittier Friends Church because of her service on the Ministry and Council and describes her as “one of the finest persons I have ever known.” (Ball, 2) He remembers Richard attending Christian Endeavor and evening services and outlines what his training through the church might have been. Reverend Ball also talks about the history of the Friends church, including the Quaker migration out of the South (because they did not believe in slavery) and the movement of Quakers from the East Coast to the West Coast; notes the differences between liberal and evangelical Quakers; emphasizes the distancing of the Friends Church from the American Friends Service Committee; explains Quaker beliefs, including pacifism; describes Whittier as a Quaker community; and testifies to the religiosity of President Nixon, including his reasons for having services held in the White House.

O.H.#: 804
NARRATOR: Kenneth Ball
INTERVIEWER: John Donnelly
DATE: January 16, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 25 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Kenneth Ball: Richard M. Nixon at Whittier College

ABSTRACT: Kenneth Ball, who became well acquainted with Richard Nixon through school activities, was on the debating team with Richard Nixon in high school, but got to know him better during their freshman year in 1930 at Whittier College, where both were history majors. Ball mentions that Frank Nixon would drive them to high school debates; recalls Richard being elected president of the freshman class at Whittier College; remembers that Richard and he won the debating contest in college as freshmen, defeating all the other classes; describes Richard as a progressive thinker and an extemporaneous speaker, who was very competitive; gives his opinion of the differences between the Franklins and Orthogonians, two college societies; indicates that he was one of the original supporters in Richard Nixon's 1946 campaign against Jerry Voorhis; notes how he follows the political career of Richard Nixon closely and conveys his opinion of it; talks about why Richard may have entered the war effort; and briefly mentions Hannah and Frank Nixon's influence.

O.H.#: 805
NARRATOR: Marietta Malcolmson Baron
INTERVIEWER: Nancy Hunsaker
DATE: June 5, 1970
LOCATION: Yorba Linda, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 19 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Marietta Malcolmson Baron: Pat Nixon and Excelsior High School

ABSTRACT: Marietta Malcolmson Baron first met Thelma Ryan at Excelsior High School during their freshman year and quickly became friends because of their similar interests, including drama and public speaking. Baron recalls Thelma keeping house and only having limited time to participate in activities while at school; describes the high school as a strict school, where uniforms were required and demerits were given; comments on how Thelma, during her senior year, became distant from her friends; remembers the names of some of Thelma's high school acquaintances; and states that she did not have much contact with her after graduation.

O.H.#: 806
NARRATOR: Myra Barton
INTERVIEWER: Terri Burton
DATE: June 3, 1971
LOCATION: Stanton, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 13 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Myra Barton: Early Days of the Milhous Family

ABSTRACT: Myra Barton moved from Indiana to Whittier, California with her family in 1910 and their home in East Whittier was across the street from the Nixons. Barton's family had attended the same Quaker church as the Milhouses when they both resided in Indiana and Barton reminisces about them, specifically Elizabeth, Richard Nixon's great-grandmother, who was a minister; mentions Frank Milhous and why he moved his family to California; talks about the Whittier community; mentions working in the Nixon's grocery store; and describes her relation to the Milhous family.

O.H.#: 807
NARRATOR: William H. Barton
INTERVIEWER: Richard D. Curtiss
DATE: February 10, 1970
LOCATION: Yorba Linda, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 14 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with William H. Barton: Early Years of Richard Nixon in Yorba Linda: 1913-1922

ABSTRACT: William H. Barton is a distant relative of Richard Nixon who moved with his family to Whittier, California from Texas in 1907. After coming to California, Barton stayed at the home of Frank Milhous for a short time. Barton talks about property owned by Frank Milhous; describes Frank as an energetic person who loved his family; explains that he knew Frank and Hannah Nixon well because he would often work on their cars; testifies to the personalities and relationship of Nixon family members; comments on some of the people that might have influenced Richard Nixon including Frank and Hannah Nixon and Mable Paine, a school principal and teacher; speaks about the Quaker influence in the community and in the life of Richard Nixon; shares stories that he knew of or heard about Richard Nixon; discloses how the Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce wrote to Richard Nixon in 1959 to get permission to acquire his birthplace and make it into a museum (Barton was the chairman of the Nixon Birthplace Foundation and is mentioned in the oral history done with Hoyt Corbit. See O.H. #838, page 28).

O.H.#: 808
NARRATOR: Jane Milhous Beeson
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: March 28, 1970
LOCATION: Lindsay, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 23 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Jane Milhous Beeson: Family Ties
Among the Nixon Family

ABSTRACT: Jane Milhous Beeson, the younger sister of Hannah Nixon, was born in Indiana and was a birthright Quaker who moved with her family to California when she was just seven years old, where she then lived for most of her life and taught music. Beeson recalls some of her early childhood memories; expresses the Quaker influence in her life; remembers her parents reaction when Hannah wanted to get married; states her own feelings about Frank Nixon; recounts the circumstances that led to Richard staying with them in Lindsay, California; talks about giving piano lessons to Richard and her oldest son, Joseph, and the type of student that Richard was; analyzes some of her family members personalities, including the Nixon children; reveals how Hannah encouraged her to accept the Lord; remembers going to Washington, D.C. for the 1969 presidential inauguration; and speaks about the correspondence that she and her husband, Harold, had with Richard over the years.

O.H.#: 809
NARRATOR: Sheldon Beeson
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: April 23, 1970
LOCATION: Long Beach, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 30 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Sheldon Beeson: Richard Nixon's Early Life and Family Ties

ABSTRACT: Sheldon Beeson was a first cousin of Richard Nixon who spent a lot of time with him when his aunt, Hannah Nixon, sent Richard to live with his family in Lindsay, California, for a year so that his mother, Jane Beeson, could teach him how to play the piano. Beeson summarizes the time that he, himself, spent living with the Nixon's working in the family store and his fond memories of the family; testifies to the Christmas celebrations at his grandmother Almira Milhous' home and how Richard spent much of his time talking to her and seemed like her favorite grandchild; portrays Richard as a sensitive, serious boy who had a desire to win, never wasted time, and had an exceptional memory, even from an early age; describes each of the Nixon family members and their personalities; explains some advice given to him by Richard; mentions Richard's relationship to Pat and gives a brief example of Pat's devotion to her husband; notes how life revolved around the church; remembers the memorable trip with the family to Washington, D.C.; and explains how his own mother became a like a second mother to Richard after Hannah Nixon's passing.

O.H.#: 810
NARRATOR: Dorothy Beeson
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: November 21, 1970
LOCATION: Long Beach, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 24 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Dorothy Beeson: The Family and Relatives of Richard Nixon

ABSTRACT: Dorothy Beeson is the wife of Sheldon Beeson, a cousin of Richard Nixon's, who attended family events. Beeson talks about the Milhous family and relatives; discusses her husband's relationship with the Nixon family; reminisces on the many family reunions; mentions that she and her husband manage Quaker Meadow Camp; remembers details of Lawrence's (Donald Nixon's daughter) wedding; remarks on the closeness of Richard and Pat's relationship; and recalls fond memories of going with the family to the 1969 presidential inauguration.

O.H.#: 811
NARRATOR: Hortense Behrens
INTERVIEWER: Mary Suzanne Simon
DATE: May 27, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 13 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Hortense Behrens: Richard and Pat Nixon in Community Theater

ABSTRACT: Hortense Behrens participated in the local community theater in Whittier, California with Richard and Pat Nixon. Behrens recounts her experiences in the community theater, including the play *Dark Towers*, where Richard met Pat; talks about Richard always playing the part of a lawyer or politician in the plays; describes Pat as stubborn and states that “she did very well, but she was not a terrific actress.” (Behrens, 2) Behrens indicates that Elizabeth Cloes introduced Pat and Richard; recalls what a good speaker Richard was and describes him as “the most sincere man I have ever known.” (Behrens, 7) She discusses her work with the Republican Party and remembers a discussion she had with Pat about the hardships of campaigning.

O.H.#: 812
NARRATOR: Wallace Black
INTERVIEWER: Steven Guttman
DATE: July 6, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 22 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Wallace Black: Richard Nixon and Politics

ABSTRACT: Wallace Black moved to Whittier, California in 1933 with the intent of opening a law firm with Arthur G. Wray; however, Wray passed away before they could start their practice and few years later Black opened a firm with Arthur Wray's son, Merton. Eventually they went separate ways and Black then rented an office in the firm of Miller and Kepple, during which time he met Richard Nixon who had started working for the law firm of Wingert and Bewley. Black discusses the 20-30 Club and his and Nixon's membership and participation in it; shares that they both belonged to the Young Republicans Club; relates that Nixon always expressed an interest in politics, even recalls Nixon saying that he would someday become President of the United States; remembers his experience in the Navy and that Nixon was in the training class following his at Quonset Point, Rhode Island; mentions that Nixon met Harold Stassen while serving overseas and that Nixon told Stassen of his political ambitions; explains his participation in the Whittier Community Players and how he indirectly caused Richard and Pat to meet; comments on Nixon's political career and testifies to the fact that Nixon asked him to be his campaign manager in 1946; recalls how the Committee of 100 was brought together by Herman Perry; and describes Nixon as a liberal and a good debater.

O.H.#: 813
NARRATOR: Myrtle Raine Borden
INTERVIEWER: Sharone Hency
DATE: April 21, 1970
LOCATION: Cerritos, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 21 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Myrtle Raine Borden: Pat Nixon

ABSTRACT: Myrtle Raine Borden was a close childhood friend of Thelma Ryan who lived next door to the Ryan family. Borden gives details about the Ryan home, including the fact that there was no electricity; remembers Thelma's parents; talks about Thelma's relationship with her parents; recollects how she and Thelma would spend their time; notes that occasionally Thelma would come with their family to the Methodist church; comments that both their mothers passed away about the same time; recalls Thelma going to work for a department store after high school; and testifies to Thelma's character, describing her gracious, hard-working, and a good student.

O.H.#: 814
NARRATOR: Paul S. Smith
INTERVIEWER: Janet S. Cramer
DATE: February 9, 1977
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 28 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Paul S. Smith: The Life and Times of Richard Milhous Nixon

ABSTRACT: Dr. Paul S. Smith, former president of Whittier College was born in Indiana, a birthright Quaker. He earned a degree from Earlham College and then graduated with a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1927. Smith taught social science courses at Whittier College beginning in 1922 and some of his most notable pupils included Richard Nixon, author Jessamyn West, and lawyer Tom Bewley. He remembers some of the books and assignments that he gave to Nixon as a student and how Nixon seemed to be influenced by his classes at Whittier College more than the Quaker Church; portrays Nixon as “an analytical student, rather than a philosophical student,” which he believes is a characteristic that continued throughout his political career as well (Smith, 2); recalls Nixon involving himself in many extra-curricular activities including: debating, singing, and serving as the student body president; details some of Nixon’s experiences and family history, including what he describes as a liberal atmosphere; talks about the Leffingwell and Murphy ranches and the effect he believed they had on Nixon; discusses how he, while President of Whittier College, brought the city and the college in agreement to purchase property in hopes of turning it into a presidential library for Richard Nixon; and summarizes a sermon he gave at the Nixon White House; shares a memorable moment in life when he met with former President of the United States, Herbert Hoover, and reveals the connection that Mrs. Lou Henry Hoover had to Whittier College.

O.H.#: 815
NARRATOR: William T. Boyce
INTERVIEWER: Suzanne Simon
DATE: April 27, 1970
LOCATION: Claremont, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 16 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with William T. Boyce: The Development of Fullerton Junior College

ABSTRACT: William T. Boyce, who was born in North Carolina, was Dean of Fullerton Junior College where Pat Nixon was a student. Mr. Boyce describes how he came to California through an invitation from Whittier College to become their dean of political science and economics; mentions that just a few years later, in 1915, he began a thirty-four year career at Fullerton Junior College; discusses the growing junior college movement; testifies to his role in organizing the first inter-junior college debating society; remembers a conference held to decide whether credit should be given for correspondence classes taken by those serving in World War II; reveals how he came up with the title “community college”; and recalls that Pat Nixon was in the drama club, was modest, and was working her way through school.

O.H.#: 816
NARRATOR: Rowe Boyer
INTERVIEWER: Steven Guttman
DATE: April 29, 1970
LOCATION: Fullerton, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 14 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Rowe Boyer: Memories of Fullerton, Fullerton High School, and Richard Nixon

ABSTRACT: Rowe Boyer, who attended Fullerton Union High School with Richard Nixon, was born in Missouri in 1911 and moved with his family to Fullerton, California in 1918. Boyer describes Fullerton in 1918 as a small ranching community; remembers as a youth how he spent his free time, including going to ball games and vaudeville; states that he was an electrician by vocation, after taking over the family business from his father. Boyer became acquainted with Richard Nixon at Fullerton High School when both played the violin in the orchestra and had a general science class together.

O.H.#: 817
NARRATOR: Joyce Parsonson Brakensiek
INTERVIEWER: Nancy Hunsaker
DATE: April 30, 1970
LOCATION: Bellflower, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 7 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Joyce Parsonson Brakensiek:
Patricia Ryan

ABSTRACT: Joyce Parsonson Brakensiek worked as a secretary at Excelsior High School from 1926 and became acquainted with Thelma Ryan and her two brothers there. Brakensiek's brother, Robert Parsonson, also knew the Ryan children, graduating with Thelma, Tom, and Bill in June 1929, and so was acquainted with them in this way as well. Brakensiek observed the Ryan family as being close-knit and Thelma taking over a motherly role after her mother's passing; details Thelma's activities during this time, noting that she took a participatory role in school activities, including interschool debating; and describes Thelma as charming, gracious, and a friend to everyone. Brakensiek was not closely associated with Thelma after her high school days, but does recall one incident at a reception in Artesia to honor the Nixons where Mrs. Nixon went out of her way to greet her.

O.H.#: 818
NARRATOR: Herman and Agnes Brannon
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: April 15, 1970
LOCATION: Fallbrook, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 36 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Herman and Agnes Brannon: The Early Years of Richard Nixon

ABSTRACT: Herman and Agnes Brannon knew the Nixon family in the Whittier community and also attended the Quaker Church. Mrs. Brannon was born and raised in Whittier, California and attended Lowell School, Fullerton High School, Fullerton Junior College, and the University of California Los Angeles. Mrs. Brannon remembers seeing the Nixons regularly at church on Sunday's and points out that her family had a long-standing relationship with the Milhouses as well. Mr. Brannon was born in Arkansas in 1914 and came to California in 1928. He and his family lived close to the Nixons, on the Leffingwell Ranch, and is how the two families became acquainted, as well as both families attending East Whittier Friends Church. Mr. Brannon recalls his family going to the Nixon's store to shop for groceries on many occasions; shares that his Sunday School classes were taught by Richard Nixon; discloses that he and Harold Nixon dated Alice and Lydia Hudspeth, respectively, and went on some double dates together; discusses his close relationship to Donald Nixon, including being Donald's best man at his wedding; remembers Richard as very serious and always studying at the kitchen table, even late at night; mentions how the Nixon family interacted with each other, including that of Almira Milhous with Richard. Both Mr. and Mrs. Brannon talk about people that they believed to be an influence on Richard Nixon including: Pastor Harley Moore, Almira Milhous, Hannah Nixon, Robert Sillivan, and Alva West, all of whom were guided by the principles of Quaker living.

O.H.#: 819
NARRATOR: J. Douglas Brannon
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: April 14, 1970
LOCATION: La Habra, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 22 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with J. Douglas Brannon: Life in the Community of East Whittier

ABSTRACT: J. Douglas Brannon was born and raised in Arkansas and moved to Whittier, California with his parents in 1926 where the Nixon family was one of the first families that they became acquainted with. Brannon developed a close relationship with the Nixons, especially since he attended the same church, East Whittier Friends, and lived close to the Nixon family store. Brannon went to high school with Richard Nixon and Donald Nixon and describes Richard as a serious student who preferred studying to sports, was always busy, and who was admired for his speaking ability; recalls Sundays at East Whittier Friends Church where he would attend Sunday school, followed by church service, and in the afternoon would go to a Christian Endeavor rally; believes that religious training and growing up during the Depression are what contributed to many Whittier residents conservative political beliefs, including Richard Nixon's; recalls the Nixon family store was the old East Whittier Friends Church building; points out the influence of both Frank and Hannah Nixon on Richard; talks about Quaker beliefs and also mentions that there were not too many conscientious objectors to World War II, and that some members even served in the armed forces; testifies to the change of Whittier from a rural community to a bustling city; tells how he started working for the Leffingwell Chemical Company in 1930 and was still employed there at the time of this interview, after forty years; and goes into some detail about the history of Leffingwell Ranch Company.

O.H.#: 820
NARRATOR: Edith M. Brannon
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: April 8, 1970
LOCATION: La Habra, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 26 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Edith M. Brannon: Early Days in East Whittier, California

ABSTRACT: Edith M. Brannon was born in La Habra, California and attended East Whittier Friends Church with the Nixon family. Brannon reminisces on her time at East Whittier Friends, from Sunday school classes that started when she was eight to high school groups which would meet to discuss and memorize scripture. She describes church goers at East Whittier Friends as evangelical Quakers. Brannon indicates that Hannah Nixon was her Sunday School teacher for a few years and shares memories of her, recalling what a busy person she was as well as a devoted wife and mother; describes her relationship with Harold Nixon over a four year period—that they were seeing each other, but that they did not have what would be considered a normal dating relationship because of his illness; and points out the stark contrasts between Richard and his brother Harold: Harold was “sociable, fun-loving, and not the student that Dick was.” (Brannon, 4) Brannon mentions her involvement in the Republican Women’s Club and their political support for Richard Nixon. She describes the “blue laws” or town laws of Whittier, and how they were set in place to keep residents from participating in certain activities, such as drinking.

O.H.#: 821
NARRATOR: Alta Brannon
INTERVIEWER: John Donnelly
DATE: April 7, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 6 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Alta Brannon: Mexican American Integration of Schools

ABSTRACT: Alta Brannon taught history at Whittier High School from 1924 until 1954. Brannon shares her recollection of Whittier as a Quaker and agricultural community, and talks about Whittier High School including: Quaker influences; the earthquake of 1933 which necessitated the tearing down and rebuilding of damaged structures; and the effect of segregated elementary schools on the high school's social structure.

O.H.#: 822
NARRATOR: Raymond Burbank
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: January 16, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 24 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Raymond Burbank: Elementary and High School Group--Quaker Missionary Group

ABSTRACT: Raymond Burbank went to church with the Nixon boys and knew them well from elementary school age through high school. Burbank later became a pastor and talks about the Quaker faith, detailing its beliefs; recalls being in Sunday School with the Nixon boys and considers himself good friends with Donald and Richard; describes Richard as someone who knew what he wanted from an early age and had conservative Quaker beliefs; and talks about Richard's memory and ability to recollect details, his studying rather than playing games or spending time with others, being on the debate team, and as an officer in World War II. Burbank outlines his own history: the church doctrine he learned growing up in the Friends Church as evangelical Quakers, going to Asbury College and Theological Seminary, his first pastorate at Yorba Linda Friends Church, his illness which caused him to resign as Pastor of Yorba Linda Friends Church, and time spent as a missionary in Honduras. Burbank did not have much contact with Richard after high school, but remembers one incident where Richard visited the church as Vice President and it creating a disturbance which eventually led to a more secluded worship in the White House. Some details of Richard Nixon's life were provided to Burbank by way of his good friend and first cousin of Richard's, Sheldon Beeson. (See interview #809)

O.H.#: 823a
NARRATOR: J. W. Burch
INTERVIEWER: Steve Prantalos
DATE: March 11, 1970
LOCATION: La Habra, California
STATUS: Transcribed
LENGTH: 5 pages (interview tape ends abruptly)
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with J. W. Burch: Personal Glimpses of Richard Nixon in La Habra, 1938-1942

ABSTRACT: J. W. Burch purchased a Ford dealership in La Habra, California in 1939 and became acquainted with Richard Nixon when he opened his law office about a block away. Burch states that when he was president of the Chamber of Commerce, Nixon was a director; indicates that Nixon was a member of the Kiwanis Club; describes Nixon as serious and industrious; and recalls other instances of his seeing Nixon, including during his vice presidency when he dedicated a wing of the White Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles, California.

O.H.#: 824
NARRATOR: Bruce Burchell
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: February 4, 1970
LOCATION: Merced, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 16 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Bruce Burchell: Nixon at Whittier College

ABSTRACT: Bruce Burchell attended Whittier College from 1931 to 1935 and first met Richard Nixon there in the fall of 1931. Burchell remembers Nixon being on the student body council, the debate team, and in the Glee Club. While a freshman, Burchell recalls Nixon helping him get a paying job at the bookstore, which allowed him to pay for and finish his education at Whittier College; remembers joining the Orthogonian Society, which Nixon had helped form two years earlier; describes Nixon as likable, serious, and interested in sports; and talks about living in the Whittier, California community.

O.H.#: 825
NARRATOR: Ollie O. Burdg
INTERVIEWER: Richard Curtiss
DATE: February 16, 1970
LOCATION: Orange, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 15 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Ollie O. Burdg: Richard Nixon in Yorba Linda

ABSTRACT: Ollie O. Burdg is a relative of Richard Nixon who worked for Frank Nixon in Yorba Linda for two years beginning in 1914. Burdg conveys his feelings about Frank; describes the type of work he did on the Nixon's property; mentions the family reunions held while his father's sister, Almira Milhous, was alive; and briefly talks about Richard's relationship with his father, Frank.

O.H.#: 826
NARRATOR: Dean Burney
INTERVIEWER: Greg Brolin
DATE: April 21, 1970
LOCATION: Corona del Mar, California
STATUS: Transcribed
LENGTH: 7 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Dean Burney: Richard Nixon and Fullerton High School

ABSTRACT: Dean Burney was a junior at Fullerton High School when he became acquainted with Richard Nixon, who was a freshman. Burney recalls that Nixon was a serious student who was involved on the debate team; comments on the religious environment; remembers extracurricular activities young people would participate in; and describes the school and the Fullerton, California community in 1927 and 1928.

O.H.#: 827
NARRATOR: Ralph Burnight
INTERVIEWER: Nancy Hunsaker
DATE: April 30, 1970
LOCATION: Norwalk, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 9 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Ralph Burnight: Pat Ryan Nixon as Student at Excelsior High School

ABSTRACT: Dr. Ralph Burnight was a teacher at Excelsior High School beginning in 1924 and later became vice principal, principal, and superintendent. Thelma Ryan and her brother, Tom, were in Burnight's United States history class. Burnight recalls that when Thelma's mother died, she was able to maintain her academics and participate in student affairs while keeping up with the chores at home; describes the area surrounding Excelsior High School; discusses a few of the extracurricular courses offered; remembers some of the student clubs; and mentions the names of teachers and students who might remember Thelma.

O.H.#: 828
NARRATOR: Blanche Burum
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: May 29, 1970
LOCATION: Dinuba, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 18 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Blanche Burum: Richard Nixon in Elementary School

ABSTRACT: Blanche Burum, a teacher at East Whittier Grammar School from 1918 to 1944, had Richard Nixon as a student and was acquainted with the Nixon family. Burum describes Richard in her fifth grade history class as a quiet student, not wanting to waste any time and says that Richard was interested in history and geography; discusses her relationship with Olive Marshburn whom she knew well after having taught three of her children; talks about Richard's grandmother coming to help Howard Marshburn with a school project; and recalls a more recent memory of visiting with Richard Nixon after he became President of the United States and how delighted she was that he remembered her.

O.H.#: 829
NARRATOR: Martha Cato and Wilma Funk
INTERVIEWER: Terri Burton
DATE: March 27, 1971
LOCATION: Indio, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 23 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Martha Cato and Wilma Funk:
Nixon Family and Relations

ABSTRACT: Wilma Funk and Martha Cato were relatives of Richard Nixon who knew the family well. Cato talks about living close to the Nixon family grocery store and helping her Aunt Hannah when she was not in school; describes the Nixon family home, calling it comfortable and plain; indicates what each family member did in the grocery store; and depicts the Nixons church activities. Funk gives some background on the Milhous family, mentioning names of relatives including Franklin Milhous and Elizabeth Milhous; shares her memories of Hannah Nixon and characterizes the rest of the Nixon family, including Richard and his brothers; remembers the time she spent working in the Nixon's grocery store; expresses a fond memory of Richard, while on leave from the Navy, bringing red roses and spending time talking to her mother after her mother suffered a heart attack.

O.H.#: 830
NARRATOR: John Chapin
INTERVIEWER: Glenn Barnett
DATE: April 29, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 19 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with John Chapin: Richard Nixon at Whittier College

ABSTRACT: John Chapin was a student athlete at Whittier College and was also involved in the Orthogonian Society with Richard Nixon. Chapin reminisces about his time at Whittier College, including how he followed Chief Newman from Covina High School to play football for him, on being roommates with Gail Jobe for four years, and his freshman year association with Richard Nixon through the Orthogonian Society; gives details of Nixon as president of the Orthogonians, as a football player, and as a student; and notes that Nixon had a remarkable ability to recall facts and details.

O.H.#: 831
NARRATOR: Earl Chapman
INTERVIEWER: Glenn Barnett
DATE: August 5, 1970
LOCATION: San Francisco, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 14 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Earl Chapman: Whittier High School

ABSTRACT: Earl Chapman was a colonel in the Army who served from 1918 to 1956, and also taught classes at Whittier High School where Richard Nixon was his pupil. Chapman talks about his two tours of duty in which he spent time in China, Korea, and Japan; indicates his impression of Nixon after having him as a student in a Spanish class, saying that he was studious, but not a loner; gives some insight as to why Nixon might have lost the election for student body president his junior year, explaining that it was customary for a junior and senior to run for class president and for the junior to lose, but to get elected as president the following year; mentions meeting Pat Nixon later on when they both taught at Whittier High School and states that everyone liked her. Later, both Chapman and the Nixons resided in Washington, D.C. during the same period and Chapman details his meetings with them, including one in which Nixon's service in the Navy was discussed.

O.H.#: 832
NARRATOR: Irvin Chapman
INTERVIEWER: Greg Brolin
DATE: January 8, 1971
LOCATION: Fullerton, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 22 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Irvin Chapman: Richard Nixon: In Fullerton and Afterwards

ABSTRACT: Irvin Chapman was born and raised in Fullerton, California where he met Richard Nixon while both were students at Fullerton High School. He talks about his educational experience, service to the community, and meetings with Richard Nixon while he was in office. In addition to being mayor of Fullerton, Chapman relates that he chaired the first Fullerton Planning Commission, was an active member of Kiwanis, and served on the Southern California Regional Church Board. Chapman expresses how Fullerton changed over the years, from a citrus community opposed to industrialization, to the development of the rail system and, since 1950, the steady influx of people. Chapman remembers meeting Richard Nixon while attending Fullerton High School and debating against him in college, and describes Nixon as a serious student with a reputation for being prepared.

O.H.#: 833
NARRATOR: George Chisler
INTERVIEWER: Richard Gibbs
DATE: June 8, 1970
LOCATION: Sunset Beach, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 11 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with George Chisler: Richard Nixon at Whittier College

ABSTRACT: George Chisler was a student at Whittier College, one year behind Richard Nixon. During the Great Depression, Chisler's family had lost their ranch in East Whittier and he states that he only attended college because he was offered a basketball scholarship; offers a comparison of basketball today versus when he played in college; characterizes the Orthogonian Society to which he belonged; recalls his responsibilities while student body president in 1935; remembers the types of activities that Richard Nixon was involved in; and describes the learning environment at Whittier College as well as some of its teachers.

O.H.#: 834
NARRATOR: Elizabeth A. Cloes
INTERVIEWER: Mary Suzanne Simon
DATE: May 29, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 8 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Elizabeth A. Cloes: Whittier, Pat and Dick Nixon, and the Whittier Community Players

ABSTRACT: Elizabeth A. Cloes, a teacher at Lowell Joint Elementary School from 1932 until 1939, had Edward Nixon in her class and was also involved in the Whittier Community Players. Cloes recalls that she and another teacher would stop by the Nixon's grocery store on the way to school and buy a pie to take with them; mentions that she was the lead in a play called *The Dark Tower*; recalls that the production called for a pretty girl for a small part, and she thought her teacher, Pat Ryan, would be perfect for this role; indicates that Richard Nixon had a role in the same play and remembers how smitten Nixon seemed to be with Pat, but explains that at the time Pat did not reciprocate those feelings; relates how Nixon told Pat that he would marry her one day even though Pat refused to go on a date with him then; summarizes a trip to Washington, D.C. when she spent an afternoon with Pat; mentions that she was in the Navy and knew Senator Strom Thurmond from the Reserve Officers Association; and discusses a brief conversation she had with Richard when he was Vice President of the United States.

O.H.#: 835
NARRATOR: Ellen C. Cochran
INTERVIEWER: Milan Pavlovich
DATE: April 17, 1970
LOCATION: Yorba Linda, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 8 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Ellen C. Cochran: Richard Nixon as a Schoolchild

ABSTRACT: Ellen C. Cochran came to California in the early 1920's after being offered a position at Yorba Linda Grammar School where she later had Richard Nixon as a student. Cochran gives a description of the school, her classroom, and some of the classes that were taught; and states that Richard was interested in schoolwork and seemed to be ahead in learning, which was the reason that she skipped him from second to third grade.

O.H.#: 836
NARRATOR: Eugene Coffin
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: March 5, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 20 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Eugene Coffin: The Evangelistic Aspects of the Society of Friends

ABSTRACT: Eugene Coffin was a birthright Quaker who was raised in India due to his parents' missionary work there and later became the pastor of East Whittier Friends Church, where he met Richard Nixon. Coffin recalls that when he was about sixteen years old his family moved to Oregon, where his father was pastor of First Friends Church; explains that he continued in his father's footsteps, becoming a pastor himself; indicates the academic degrees he received from George Fox College, the University of Southern California, and also an honorary doctorate from Azusa Pacific; reminisces about being pastor of East Whittier Friends Church and his relationship with Richard Nixon; alludes to the history of the Friends Church; discusses Quaker theology, with an emphasis upon evangelical beliefs; and comments on how he believes the church influenced Nixon, permitting Nixon to reconcile beliefs with actions.

O.H.#: 837
NARRATOR: Marian Scheifele Conde
INTERVIEWER: Glenn Barnett
DATE: August 4, 1970
LOCATION: Berkeley, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 13 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Marian Scheifele Conde: Pat Nixon in Artesia: High School Days

ABSTRACT: Marian Scheifele Conde lived in Artesia, California where she met Thelma Ryan while both attended Artesia Grammar School. Conde recalls Thelma's activities in high school: that she was a member of the inter-school debate team, participated in school plays, was a leader on campus, and a very good student as well. In a diary that she kept, Conde noted that Thelma's mother passed away when they were freshmen. The community, as Conde remembers it, admired the Ryan children for their ability to keep the farm going after such a great loss.

O.H.#: 838
NARRATOR: Hoyt Corbit (Mrs. Hoyt Corbit also present)
INTERVIEWER: Milan Pavlovich
DATE: May 15, 1970
LOCATION: Yorba Linda, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 30 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Hoyt Corbit: Richard Nixon: Early Years in Yorba Linda

ABSTRACT: Hoyt Corbit moved with his mother and father to Yorba Linda, California, in 1910 and they were the second family to establish their residence there. Corbit recalls the “railroad war” in 1910 which involved Santa Fe Railroad refusing to allow Pacific Electric to build through to Yorba Linda. At the time, Santa Fe had hoped to corner the future freight of the citrus business, which was a growing enterprise. Corbit also talks about the discovery of oil in and around the Yorba Linda area and suggests how Yorba Linda might have received its name; remembers working for Frank Nixon to help plant lemon groves; indicates Frank’s excitement over the birth of his son, Richard; recalls that Frank was a carpenter who helped build the first church in Yorba Linda, which belonged to Quakers; relays that the Nixons were a modest family and describes them, including Richard and his interests; and indicates that he is a member of the Nixon Birthplace Foundation which he says was created in an attempt to preserve the Nixon home and original Friends Church in Yorba Linda. Mrs. Corbit comments on Frank Nixon as her Sunday school teacher; notes that church missions meetings were held every so often at the Nixon’s home; and testifies to Hannah Nixon’s talent for making delicious pies.

O.H.#: 839
NARRATOR: Charlotte Otis Craig
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: April 28, 1970
LOCATION: La Habra, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 17 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Charlotte Otis Craig: Richard Nixon's Family and Church Associations

ABSTRACT: Charlotte Otis Craig, a birthright Quaker, active church member, and a long-time resident of East Whittier met the Nixon family after they opened the grocery store. Craig believes that Richard Nixon embodies traits from both his mother and father, saying that he has his father's strength of character and his mother's inner calm. Even though Craig was a senior when Richard was a freshman at Whittier College, she remembers Richard being an excellent student and a good debater. Craig also mentions that she met Pat Nixon when Pat took over her position in the American Association of University Women. Craig describes East Whittier Friends Church as evangelical and testifies to the changes that have taken place within it over the years.

O.H.#: 840
NARRATOR: Virginia Shaw Critchfield
INTERVIEWER: Jeff Jones
DATE: May 2, 1970 and May 9, 1970
LOCATION: Newhall, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 53 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Virginia Shaw Critchfield: Richard Nixon's Early Years

ABSTRACT: Virginia Shaw Critchfield talks about moving with her family to Yorba Linda, California when she was seven years old and shares memories of her neighbors, the Nixon family. Critchfield gives details of the time she spent playing as a child with the Nixon children; vividly recalls Richard Nixon's kindergarten teacher commenting on how smart he was; reveals the influence that Hannah Nixon had on her; mentions Frank Nixon's temper as well as acts of kindness toward her family; and testifies to just how personal the Nixon's faith was to them. Critchfield recalls the names of some important families living in the area, including the Marshburn's and the West's; describes life in Yorba Linda and Fullerton and leisure activities; and testifies to the role and importance of the Quaker Church in the community.

O.H.#: 841
NARRATOR: David W. Cromwell
INTERVIEWER: Milan Pavlovich
DATE: May 25, 1970
LOCATION: Yorba Linda, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 18 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with David W. Cromwell: A History of Yorba Linda

ABSTRACT: In 1922, when he was just five years old, David Cromwell moved with his family from Mississippi to Yorba Linda, California. Cromwell describes that community, mentioning churches, small businesses, and important people; discusses the citrus industry, as his father worked for a local packinghouse; and indicates the influence of the oil industry and how it offended some local farmers; and talks about his duties while working for the post office and how they led to his appointment as postmaster.

O.H.#: 842
NARRATOR: Beatrice Williams Mossman Curtain
INTERVIEWER: Dorothy Erick
DATE: May 4, 1970
LOCATION: Colton, California
STATUS: Transcribed
LENGTH: 8 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Beatrice Williams Mossman Curtain

ABSTRACT: Beatrice Williams Mossman Curtain was a relative of Richard Nixon's whose mother was a second cousin and good friend of Hannah Nixon's. Curtain indicates that Nixon's actions while President, particularly concerning the war in Vietnam, seemed to be stray from his Quaker upbringing; states her own objections to war; and traces the Burdg family genealogy. 881

O.H.#: 843
NARRATOR: Joanne Brown Dale
INTERVIEWER: Jeff Jones
DATE: unknown
LOCATION: unknown
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 27 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Joanne Brown Dale: Mrs. Dale's
Life and Contacts with Richard Nixon

ABSTRACT: Born in January 1913, Joanne Brown Dale became acquainted with Richard Nixon while a student at Whittier College in 1930. Dale describes her college experience: attending on a scholarship, majoring in English, and memories of Richard Nixon, with whom she had a few classes. She remembers Nixon as a good debater and serious student, who always dedicated his time to work rather than play. Dale mentions encounters she had with Hannah Nixon and Richard Nixon after college and how she kept in touch with them both by mail.

O.H.#: 844
NARRATOR: Vincent Dauser
INTERVIEWER: Steven Guttman
DATE: June 4, 1970
LOCATION: Anaheim, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 20 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Vincent Dauser: Fullerton High School, 1925-1928

ABSTRACT: Vincent Dauser was born and educated in Fullerton, California. Dauser talks about different athletic programs at Fullerton High School that he participated in, such as football, in which Richard Nixon was a teammate. Dauser also describes his involvement in the high school's politics, including being freshman class president.

O.H.#: 845
NARRATOR: Guy N. Dixon
INTERVIEWER: Steve Prantalos
DATE: June 12, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 34 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Guy N. Dixon: The Development of Whittier

ABSTRACT: Guy N. Dixon came to Los Angeles, California from Ohio with his mother in July 1906, after his father's death, and then a year later moved to an East Whittier ranch. Dixon describes the growth of the Whittier community and notes various crops that were planted in the area; mentions his responsibilities while working for the city under the chief of police and then being elected city clerk in 1936 and later as treasurer, before retiring in 1960; reveals that as city clerk he swore into office elected officials, one of whom was Richard Nixon who in 1938 became Tom Bewley's assistant city attorney; gives his opinion of Nixon as a politician and discusses his campaigns against Jerry Voorhis and Helen Gahagan Douglas.

O.H.#: 846
NARRATOR: William Duncan
INTERVIEWER: Greg Brolin
DATE: June 9, 1970
LOCATION: Escondido, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 11 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with William Duncan: Richard Nixon at Whittier College: Orthogonian and Athlete

ABSTRACT: William Duncan met Richard Nixon while both were attending Whittier College. Duncan was a member of the Orthogonian Society and recalls why it was formed and that Nixon was selected as its first president; mentions that Nixon and he belonged to a service organization on campus called the Knights; remembers Nixon was good at debating; and relates that many of their peers thought Nixon would probably be a lawyer someday.

O.H.#: 847
NARRATOR: Helen Dryer
INTERVIEWER: Steven Guttman
DATE: April 25, 1970
LOCATION: Hollywood, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 14 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Helen Dryer: Richard Nixon's Early Years

ABSTRACT: Helen Dryer began her twenty-eight year teaching career as an English teacher at Fullerton High School in 1925. She recalls having Richard Nixon as a student and remembers him achieving good grades. She also describes the Fullerton community, mentioning the orange groves, churches, and stores.

O.H.#: 848
NARRATOR: E. Ezra Ellis
INTERVIEWER: Richard Gibbs
DATE: February 2, 1971
LOCATION: unknown
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 17 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with E. Ezra Ellis: Whittier College and
Contacts with Richard Nixon

ABSTRACT: E. Ezra Ellis moved to Whittier, California, from Iowa to attend Whittier College where he majored in history and religion and graduated in 1928. He talks about the strict but intimate nature of the school and how his teachers, including Dr. Paul Smith, would invite students into their homes for discussions; mentions being a cheerleader and a member of the Franklin Society; describes Whittier as a college town with a strong Quaker heritage; recalls that football was a strong focus of the community and that he met Richard Nixon at a college football game, even though Nixon was not in college at the time; explains how, after college, he got into the ministry and maintained contact with Nixon, even having the Vice President speak at the church where he ministered.

O.H.#: 849
NARRATOR: Joyce Ford Ernstberger
INTERVIEWER: Mary Suzanne Simon
DATE: April 17, 1970
LOCATION: Fullerton, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 5 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Joyce Ford Ernstberger: Pat Nixon:
High School Teacher

ABSTRACT: Joyce Ford Ernstberger moved to Whittier, California, with her family in 1928 and talks about the different schools she attended, from elementary school through high school; recalls taking a typing and shorthand class taught by Pat Nixon in the 1939 and 1940 school years; and describes her teacher as reserved but well organized.

O.H.#: 850
NARRATOR: Donald E. Fantz
INTERVIEWER: Steve Prantalos
DATE: June 17, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 24 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Donald E. Fantz: High School and the 20-30 Club

ABSTRACT: Donald E. Fantz moved to Whittier, California, with his family in 1927 and received the last two years of his high school education at Whittier High. Although a school year ahead of Richard Nixon, Fantz remembers him being a good student and debater; reminisces about working for the gas company in sales during the Great Depression and later selling Frank and Hannah Nixon an automatic refrigerator; details the activities of the 20-30 Club and affirms that Richard Nixon was its president either in the late thirties or early forties; recalls his surprise when Herman Perry invited him to a banquet and asked if he would talk about Richard Nixon (a possible prelude to the Committee of 100); and comments about the Office of Price Administration, for which both he and Nixon worked.

O.H.#: 851
NARRATOR: Robert Farnham
INTERVIEWER: Steven Guttman
DATE: June 20, 1970
LOCATION: Long Beach, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 28 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Robert Farnham: Richard Nixon at Whittier College

ABSTRACT: Robert Farnham was a student at Whittier College for two years and met Richard Nixon while on campus. Farnham recalls being a member of the Orthogonian Society; singing in the Glee Club; explains how the college became connected with the YMCA; and mentions his presidency of the student YMCA at Whittier College and tells of how an exchange program was introduced, with Nixon chairing the finance campaign to raise money for it.

O.H.#: 852
NARRATOR: Douglas Ferguson
INTERVIEWER: Glenn Barnett
DATE: June 12, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 19 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Douglas Ferguson: Whittier High School and 20-30 Club

ABSTRACT: Douglas Ferguson recounts his formative education, including attending Whittier High School, where he first met Richard Nixon. Ferguson also describes the school district, the approximate number of students that attended the high school, extracurricular student activities, and mentions the names of some peers who later achieved great success. Ferguson's most vivid memories of Nixon are of their common 20-30 Club involvement, which he describes in considerable detail. He briefly talks about his acquaintance with Donald Nixon and the differences he saw between the two Nixon brothers.

O.H.#: 853
NARRATOR: Lois Talbott Findley
INTERVIEWER: Nancy Hunsaker
DATE: April 28, 1970
LOCATION: Bellflower, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 8 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Lois Talbott Findley: Thelma Ryan [Nixon] in Artesia

ABSTRACT: Lois Talbott Findley, a former neighbor and classmate of Thelma Ryan, shares her memories of their attending Excelsior High School; briefly mentions some school activities Thelma was involved in such as drama and debate; and describes Thelma as one who would encourage people with a smile, but was also very studious.

O.H.#: 854
NARRATOR: Herman Fink
INTERVIEWER: John Donnelly
DATE: June 29, 1970
LOCATION: Balboa Island, Newport Beach, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 20 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Herman Fink: Football and Whittier College

ABSTRACT: Herman Fink was a classmate of Richard Nixon's at Whittier College, where he played on the football team and was in the Orthogonian Society. Fink describes the initiation process for being accepted into the society and testifies to the kind of football player Nixon was.

O.H.#: 855
NARRATOR: Howard Frampton
INTERVIEWER: Greg Brolin
DATE: January 14, 1971
LOCATION: Artesia, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 13 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Howard Frampton: History of
Artesia, California

ABSTRACT: Howard Frampton was born in 1912 in Artesia, California, where his grandfather settled in 1855, and his father founded the First National Bank of Artesia. Frampton discusses in detail the education he received at Artesia Grammar School and Excelsior High School, noting the names of faculty and describing the popular games, sports, buildings, and his overall experience; indicates that Artesia was mostly a dairy and farming community; mentions the Pacific Electric Railway Company whose line ran from Santa Ana to Los Angeles and which would pick up the crops along the route; describes his relationship with the Ryan family, whom he knew well from spending time with them on their ranch and when Thelma was employed at his father's bank.

O.H.#: 856
NARRATOR: Ella Furnas and Blanche McClure
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: February 5, 1971
LOCATION: Lodi, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 11 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Ella Furnas and Blanche McClure:
Birth and Family of Richard Nixon

ABSTRACT: Ella Furnas and Blanche McClure were neighbors of the Nixon family when they lived in Yorba Linda, California. Furnas remembers living with the Truebloods and recalls the Nixon's moving in just across the Anaheim ditch; expresses how nervous she was holding Richard just after he was born; and comments that both Frank and Hannah were good people. McClure reminisces about meeting the Nixon's while living in Yorba Linda and mentions working in their home and helping to care for Richard Nixon when he was six months old. At the time Richard was in the military service, McClure lived in Whittier, California, and recalls Frank and Hannah moving in next door to her. She describes Frank as quick-spoken, but likable and Hannah as a soft-spoken, gentle person who would never say anything bad about anyone.

O.H.#: 857
NARRATOR: Charles Gallaher
INTERVIEWER: Sharone Hincey
DATE: June 23, 1970
LOCATION: Huntington Beach, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 16 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Charles Gallaher: Pat Ryan as a
Childhood Neighbor

ABSTRACT: Charles Gallaher attended Artesia Grammar School and Excelsior High School and resided on the same street as Thelma Ryan. Gallaher explains how he thought Thelma changed after starting high school; describes extracurricular activities they participated in together; mentions Thelma being in drama and in the scholarship society; and comments on the Methodist Church, in which both he and the Ryan children were active.

O.H.#: 858
NARRATOR: Mary Gardiner
INTERVIEWER: Nancy Hunsaker
DATE: June 1, 1970
LOCATION: Hermosa Beach, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 16 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Mary Gardiner: Pat Ryan at Fullerton Junior College

ABSTRACT: Mary Gardiner met Pat Ryan in a history class while both were enrolled at Fullerton Junior College in 1932. Gardiner talks about trying out for a play and rehearsing together, explaining that Pat would often stay at her house a few nights a week; recalls meeting Pat's brothers: Bill, whom she describes as shy and good-looking and Tom, whom she states was charming and outgoing, and like Pat, whom she discloses was personable and charming as well.

O.H.#: 859
NARRATOR: Grant M. Garman
INTERVIEWER: Mary Suzanne Simon
DATE: June 1, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 10 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Grant M. Garman: Whittier Theater:
Richard Nixon and Pat Ryan Roles

ABSTRACT: Grant M. Garman was involved in the Whittier Community Theater and introduced Richard and Pat to each other. Garman explains that there were five or six shows each year and teachers like Pat received credit for their participation in the plays; details how the plays were put on; and recalls particulars about “The Dark Tower,” a play that both Richard and Pat were in and where they met.

O.H.#: 860
NARRATOR: Joe Gaudio
INTERVIEWER: Greg Brolin
DATE: April 22, 1970
LOCATION: Long Beach, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 29 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Joe Gaudio: Whittier College Days

ABSTRACT: Joe Gaudio was a freshman at Whittier College in 1931 when he met Richard Nixon. Gaudio details his experience as a player on the football team and being involved in organizations with Nixon, such as the Orthogonians, the Knights, and the Glee Club, and the goals and activities of each; describes Nixon as a good organizer, a person with an influential personality, and someone who never gave up; and reveals how, with Nixon's influence, he was chosen for the Fulbright program after college graduation.

O.H.#: 861
NARRATOR: Richard and Gladys Gauldin
INTERVIEWER: Milan Pavlovich
DATE: May 8, 1970
LOCATION: La Habra, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 27 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Richard and Gladys Gauldin: Early Yorba Linda

ABSTRACT: Richard Gauldin met the Nixon family when he moved to Yorba Linda, California, in 1912, when he was sixteen years old. Gauldin reminisces about delivering groceries and allowing young children, including the Nixon boys, to ride on his truck; talks about the town of Olinda, before Yorba Linda existed, and the oil found on that land; and recalls how Frank Nixon tried to talk him into going to church regularly. Gladys Gauldin lived next door to the Nixon's in Yorba Linda and was just slightly older than the Nixon boys, whom she often helped Hannah Nixon care for. She explains how the Wests, who were related to the Milhous family, convinced her mother and father to move to California from Indiana and how Eldo West, who was the superintendent of the Yorba Linda Water Company, gave her father a job in California.

O.H.#: 862
NARRATOR: Nathaniel George
INTERVIEWER: Greg Brolin
DATE: July 2, 1970
LOCATION: Los Angeles, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 18 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Nathaniel George: Nixon at Whittier College

ABSTRACT: Nathaniel George was a student at Whittier College and in his junior year he met Richard Nixon, who was a freshman. George recalls details of their football team and comments that Nixon's determination was something that stood out to him, noting that Richard was one of the first to arrive at practice and the last to leave; comments on Hannah Nixon, Quakerism, and Chief Newman and their influence on Richard; remembers Paul Smith describe Nixon as one of his best students; recollects different social activities college students would participate in; and explains how he defended Richard when there were claims of the President being "anti-Negro" (George, 15).

O.H.#: 863
NARRATOR: Wood Glover Jr.
INTERVIEWER: Richard Gibbs
DATE: April 20, 1970
LOCATION: San Clemente, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 9 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Wood Glover Jr.: Richard Nixon at Whittier College

ABSTRACT: Wood Glover met Richard Nixon at Whittier College while both played on the freshman football team. Glover talks about the influence that Chief Newman had on his players; discusses his membership in the Orthogonian Society; and recalls how Nixon, as student body president during his senior year, argued in favor of having dances on campus even though he was not particularly interested in them himself.

O.H.#: 864
NARRATOR: Elizabeth R. Glover
INTERVIEWER: Richard Gibbs
DATE: July 1, 1970
LOCATION: San Clemente, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 12 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Elizabeth R. Glover: Richard Nixon in Elementary School, High School, and College

ABSTRACT: Elizabeth R. Glover lived in East Whittier, California from the time she was five years old, receiving her education through college there as well. She had classes with Richard Nixon from the fifth grade on. Glover lived with her family on a ranch and remembers shopping at the Nixon's grocery store many times; talks about the different sports programs she participated in; and discusses Nixon's involvement in getting school dances approved on campus.

O.H.#: 865
NARRATOR: Janet Goeske
INTERVIEWER: Dorothy Erick
DATE: May 20, 1970
LOCATION: Riverside, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 48 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Janet Goeske: Hannah Nixon

ABSTRACT: Janet Goeske was in charge of the headquarters, in Riverside, California, for the presidential campaign of 1952 for Dwight Eisenhower and Richard Nixon. She worked at the headquarters during Nixon's presidential campaign in 1960 as well. Goeske recalls the correspondence she had with Nixon while she was stationed in Germany and he was on the House Committee on Un-American Activities; describes the close relationship that she developed with Hannah Nixon over the years, campaigning together for Richard and noting that Hannah was kind and loving, living her Quaker beliefs; shares many personal stories of the Nixon family and states that Hannah and Pat Nixon were alike in many ways, that Hannah was always very fond of Pat, and that Hannah was close to Julie and Tricia because of the time they spent together; comments on Hannah's reaction to Richard's political campaigns, including the fact that she did not want him to run for governor of California in 1962; and refers to a note found after Hannah's death saying how proud she was of her son.

O.H.#: 866
NARRATOR: George Gortikov
INTERVIEWER: Terri Burton
DATE: May 12, 1971
LOCATION: Glendale, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 11 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with George Gortikov: Pat Nixon's Days at Excelsior High School

ABSTRACT: George Gortikov became friends with Thelma Ryan while in their junior year at Excelsior Union High School. Gortikov relates how they became good friends during their senior year of high school when he was student body president and Thelma was secretary; describes Thelma as someone who was quiet and had a strong character; and remembers Thelma having a keen interest in drama and participating in many plays during their last two years of high school.

O.H.#: 867
NARRATOR: Robert Gray
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: December 16, 1970
LOCATION: Pasadena, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 19 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Robert Gray: American Friends Service Committee

ABSTRACT: Robert Gray was involved with the American Friends Service Committee because of his status as a conscientious objector during World War II. Gray talks about why the American Friends Service Committee was started in 1917, amplifies the American Friends Service Committee's theme centered on the belief that "there is that of God in every man," explains how the organization received funding, mentions a few of the sixty or so programs developed, and notes the services provided included camps set up during World War II specifically for conscientious objectors (Gray, 2). Gray also talks about the different sects of Quakerism, particularly the difference between evangelical Quakers and the group to which he belongs to, describing them as social action Friends.

O.H.#: 868
NARRATOR: James Grieves
INTERVIEWER: Jeff Jones
DATE: May 13, 1970
LOCATION: Loma Linda, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 30 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with James Grieves: Going to Fullerton High School with Dick Nixon

ABSTRACT: James Grieves was born in Nevada in 1910 and moved with his family to Fullerton, California, in 1913. Grieves attended Fullerton High School and in his junior year met Richard Nixon, then a freshman. Grieves recalls his first impression of Nixon; remembers from their public speaking classes together that Nixon was a good debater; describes Nixon as “persistent” when it came to football, saying “He doesn’t know the meaning, as I gather it, of give up or defeat.” (Grieves, 4)

O.H.#: 869
NARRATOR: Carmen DeRemer Griffin
INTERVIEWER: Sharone Hency
DATE: June 3, 1970
LOCATION: Borrego Springs, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 13 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Carmen DeRemer Griffin: Pat Ryan
as a Student at Excelsior High School

ABSTRACT: Carmen DeRemer Griffin met Thelma Ryan when she moved with her family to Artesia, California, and started school in sixth grade. Griffin talks about the competition for scholastic achievement amongst four friends: Thelma Ryan, Marian Schiefele, Marcia Elliot, and herself; reminisces about the time she spent with the Ryan family on their farm; talks about drama and other high school activities involving Thelma; and describes Thelma as being very ambitious.

O.H.#: 870
NARRATOR: Louise Raine Gwinn
INTERVIEWER: Sharone Hency
DATE: June 3, 1970
LOCATION: Murietta, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 23 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Louise Raine Gwinn: Pat Nixon:
Childhood in Artesia

ABSTRACT: Louise Raine Gwinn moved to Artesia, California, with her family in 1919 and lived next door to the Ryan family. Gwinn explains the role Thelma took on after her mother died and how she helped her father; talks about different activities she and Thelma would do for fun; recalls that Thelma was a good student; remembers the car accident that Thelma had while driving and how frightened everyone in the car was; relates that Thelma wanted to own a cattle ranch when she grew up; indicates the type of jobs Thelma had; reveals that Thelma's mother was involved in the Christian Science movement and that her father was Catholic; and describes the layout of the Ryan's home.

O.H.#: 871
NARRATOR: Albert Haendiges
INTERVIEWER: John Donnelly
DATE: April 8, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 30 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Albert Haendiges: Whittier,
California: Past and Present

ABSTRACT: Albert Haendiges was a student at Whittier High School and Whittier College with Richard Nixon. He describes Nixon as a loner in school and not much of a “ladies man,” but states that Nixon did well in a crowd of people; talks about how the Constitution Oratorical Contest came about and notes that Nixon won first place; indicates that Nixon worked hard to earn his grades; and speaks about Nixon’s success in the political arena and says that he was not at all surprised by it.

O.H.#: 872
NARRATOR: Robert Halliday (Marie Phelan Halliday and Regina Phelan were also present)
INTERVIEWER: Richard Gibbs
DATE: April 27, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 18 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Robert Halliday: Richard Nixon at Whittier College

ABSTRACT: Robert Halliday went to Whittier College at about the same time as Richard Nixon and was a founding member of the Orthogonian Society. Halliday explains why he chose to attend Whittier College; describes the football coach, Chief Newman; clarifies why he chose not to participate in the Orthogonian Society during his senior year; and mentions being vice-president of the junior class. (Also present for part of the interview were Marie Phelan Halliday and Regina Phelan, who discuss what they know or have heard about Richard Nixon, including commenting on the Nixons grocery store, why people did not know Richard Nixon very well, and how the money that Pat Nixon saved to buy a house went to Richard's first political campaign.)

O.H.#: 873
NARRATOR: Bert Harris
INTERVIEWER: Glenn Barnett
DATE: January 13, 1970
LOCATION: Fullerton, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 11 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Bert Harris: Richard Nixon at Fullerton Union High School

ABSTRACT: Bert Harris was in fifth grade when he moved with his family to Fullerton, California in 1922, and was one year ahead of Richard Nixon when he was a student at Fullerton High School. Harris explains that Nixon stayed with relatives, the Wildermuths, who lived just three houses down from his own house and recalls how Nixon, as Vice President of the United States, helped a sick relative get treatment from one of the best doctors.

O.H.#: 874
NARRATOR: C. Richard Harris
INTERVIEWER: Glenn Barnett
DATE: March 5, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 19 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with C. Richard Harris: Richard Nixon at Whittier College

ABSTRACT: C. Richard Harris lived in Whittier, California from the time he was six years old and attended Whittier schools through college. It was at Whittier High School that he met Richard Nixon and recalls Nixon's involvement in school activities, including a run for president of the student body in his senior year. Harris talks about being a part of the Franklin society at Whittier College; describes Nixon as an opportunist; and reveals why he drew a political caricature of Nixon in the school paper. Harris also shares his feelings about Nixon's run for political office and the negative campaigns he believes Nixon waged.

O.H.#: 875
NARRATOR: Richard Heffern
INTERVIEWER: Greg Brolin
DATE: May 26, 1970
LOCATION: Anaheim, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 12 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Richard Heffern: Richard Nixon at Fullerton High School

ABSTRACT: Richard Heffern first became acquainted with Richard Nixon in 1926 while both were freshman at Fullerton High School. Heffern talks about playing the violin in the orchestra with Nixon and also having the same classes together; recalls Nixon saying that he wanted to go into politics or law; affirms that Nixon was a good student who was always prepared; and mentions calling Nixon about helping with a bill that had been tied up in Congress for five years and then finding out the bill had been approved an hour and a half later.

O.H.#: 876
NARRATOR: Eloise Hilberg
INTERVIEWER: Mary Suzanne Simon
DATE: May 11, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 5 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Eloise Hilberg: Patricia Nixon and Whittier High School

ABSTRACT: Eloise Hilberg grew up in Whittier, California, where she attended Whittier High School and had Patricia Ryan as a teacher. She describes Ryan as being a good teacher who related to students, but who also believed in discipline.

O.H.#: 877
NARRATOR: Marian Wilson Hodge
INTERVIEWER: Mary Suzanne Simon
DATE: May 15, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 11 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Marian Wilson Hodge: Patricia Nixon: Ninth Grade through Marriage as Told by a Former High School Vice-Principal

ABSTRACT: Marian Wilson Hodge was a teacher at Excelsior High School when Thelma Ryan started the ninth grade in 1925. Hodge describes the school at that time as modern with approximately 500 students, including eighty in Thelma's class; asserts that Thelma was a good student in her English class; and talks about the Filibuster Club and Scholarship Society to which Thelma belonged. Hodge relates that she did not have any further contact with Thelma until 1937 when she reviewed an application from her for a teaching position at Whittier High School and recalls Thelma's previous jobs listed on the application and reason for applying at that high school.

O.H.#: 878
NARRATOR: Heber Holloway
INTERVIEWER: Greg Brolin
DATE: January 7, 1971
LOCATION: Newport Beach, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 9 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Heber Holloway: Personal Relationships with Pat and Richard Nixon

ABSTRACT: Heber Holloway was a student at Fullerton High School about the same time as Richard Nixon and later taught with Pat Ryan at Whittier High School. Holloway describes Fullerton, California, as a lively community with the economic focus on the citrus industry and talks about Whittier's rapid growth that resulted in the opening of several new schools within just a short period.

O.H.#: 879
NARRATOR: Blanche Potter Holmes
INTERVIEWER: Sharone Hincey
DATE: June 12, 1970
LOCATION: Norwalk, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 17 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Blanche Potter Holmes: Pat Nixon:
High School and Bank Work and the Artesia Area

ABSTRACT: Blanche Potter Holmes met Thelma Ryan while both were students at Excelsior High School, even though she was two years ahead of Ryan. Holmes remembers her sister Frances working with Ryan at a bank and discusses how both would come home together during their lunch hour when the bank was closed; also recalls hearing about a bank robbery that occurred while both were working one day; and discusses typical teenage activities, the number of students in her graduating class, and Norwalk during the 1920's.

O.H.#: 880
NARRATOR: Ira C. Holmes
INTERVIEWER: Nancy Hunsaker
DATE: May 19, 1970
LOCATION: Artesia, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 51 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Ira C. Holmes: Excelsior High School

ABSTRACT: Ira C. Holmes was one year ahead of Thelma Ryan at Excelsior High School and became acquainted with her through the Filibuster Club. Holmes explains that Artesia was basically a farming community and notes that the students in high school who came from that community were not wealthy; claims that the students were aware that Thelma lacked free time because her mother had passed away and left her with extra responsibilities; indicates that there was a close fellowship between teachers and students; describes Miss Thomas who was a teacher as well as the Filibuster's coach; provides the names of other people with whom Thelma associated; and mentions a conversation that he had with Tom Ryan in which he revealed that Richard Nixon was someone who always did what he thought was right.

O.H.#: 882
NARRATOR: William H. D. Hornaday
INTERVIEWER: Richard Gibbs
DATE: January 28, 1971 and February 17, 1971
LOCATION: unknown
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 35 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with William H. D. Hornaday: Whittier College with Richard Nixon

ABSTRACT: William H. D. Hornaday knew Richard Nixon while both were Whittier College students involved in debating and the Orthogonian Society. Hornaday recalls how Nixon was instrumental in getting dances allowed on campus and the difficulties he encountered in so doing; talks about the influence of different teachers, including Dr. Paul Smith, and the close student-teacher relationship enjoyed at Whittier College; states that Nixon was always well prepared when debating a topic; indicates the kind of reputation Whittier students had in the community; testifies to the community's religious atmosphere; explains how his college experience inspired him as a minister; explains how Quaker beliefs guided Nixon; elaborates on the difference between the Franklins and Orthogonians; reveals that he believed Nixon would become a Quaker minister; and relates the reason some Whittier College graduates attended Duke University School of Law.

O.H.#: 887

NARRATOR: Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Ingram
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: May 28, 1970
LOCATION: Camp Nelson, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 27 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Ingram:
Richard Nixon as Athlete and Scholar

ABSTRACT: Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Ingram both attended Whittier High School with Richard Nixon, and Mr. Ingram was also a student with Nixon at Whittier College. Mrs. Ingram asserts that in high school Nixon prioritized his studies over his social life. Mr. Ingram, a high school and college athlete, talks about how student athletes were not typically involved in extracurricular activities, such as debate and drama, like Nixon was; discusses his association with Nixon in college: on the debating team and football teams, as an Orthogonian, and as a fellow student; conveys the atmosphere at Whittier College and in the Whittier, California community; describes some of the college's teachers and coaches; and comments on how the influence of the Quakers in Whittier lessened over the years.

O.H.#: 884
NARRATOR: Yoneko Dobashi Iwatsuru
INTERVIEWER: Milan Pavlovich
DATE: April 30, 1970
LOCATION: Yorba Linda, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 9 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Yoneko Dobashi Iwatsuru: Early School Days in Yorba Linda, California

ABSTRACT: Yoneko Dobashi Iwatsuru was born in Yorba Linda, California, in 1912, and was a classmate of Richard Nixon's at the Yorba Linda Elementary School. Iwatsuru remembers that Nixon was moved from second to third grade in the middle of the semester and recalls that he always had a lot to say when given the opportunity to talk.

O.H.#: 885
NARRATOR: Sheldon G. Jackson
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: April 9, 1970
LOCATION: Azusa, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 18 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Sheldon G. Jackson: Richard Nixon and Quakerism

ABSTRACT: Sheldon G. Jackson, a birthright Quaker born in 1918, knew about the history of Quakerism and its influence. Jackson discloses the titles of scholarly writings on Quakerism pertaining to Richard Nixon and his Quaker heritage; distinguishes the different types of Quakers; indicates why Nixon's Quaker beliefs did not contradict his actions when he joined the military; explains how the migration of Quakers in the late 1800's from the Midwest led to a more conservative outlook; and describes quietism and its current role within the Quaker Church.

O.H.#: 886
NARRATOR: George Jenkins
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: March 4, 1971
LOCATION: Alhambra, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 12 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with George Jenkins: Personal Associations with the Nixon Family

ABSTRACT: George Jenkins served as pastor of the East Whittier Friends Church for two years during which time he became acquainted with the Nixon family. Jenkins mentions being close to Frank Nixon, often visiting with him before his passing, and characterizes him as one of his strongest supporters in the church; states that he was invited to give the invocation for Richard Nixon on more than one occasion; talks about attending Whittier College between 1938 and 1940; avows that it was a privilege to know Hannah Nixon; and explains why he thought that there was no contradiction between Richard Nixon as a politician and Richard Nixon as a Quaker.

O.H.#: 887
NARRATOR: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Johnson and Robert Johnson
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: May 8, 1970
LOCATION: Yorba Linda, California
STATUS: Transcribed
LENGTH: 26 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Johnson and Robert Johnson: The Nixon Family in Yorba Linda

ABSTRACT: Fred Johnson knew the Nixon family in Indiana before moving to Yorba Linda, California, in 1912, where he met Frank and Hannah Nixon in the Quaker Church. Mrs. Johnson went to school with and was a friend of Hannah Nixon's, and the Johnson's son, Robert, observed the Nixon family in later years. Fred Johnson recalls that there were fifty-seven charter members of the Yorba Linda church when it first started, including Frank and Hannah; discloses that the land in Yorba Linda was purchased by residents from the Janss Investment Company; relates what kind of business he and Frank went into together; and notes how the land in Yorba Linda was divided. Mrs. Johnson states that Hannah recalled her being the one who introduced her to Frank, and indicates that Frank and Hannah started their grocery store in an old church building in Whittier, California. Robert Johnson remembers that Richard Nixon would seek advice from Hannah; reveals that his father was a pall-bearer at Frank Nixon's funeral; explains which traits Richard inherited from his parents; and gives a brief summary of Quaker beliefs.

O.H.#: 889
NARRATOR: Louis T. Jones
INTERVIEWER: Glenn Barnett
DATE: December 11, 1969
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 12 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Louis T. Jones: Richard M. Nixon as Student, as Member of the Friends Church and as President

ABSTRACT: Louis T. Jones, Richard Nixon's European history professor at Whittier College in 1930-1931, was acquainted with the Nixon family in the Whittier community and attended East Whittier Friends Church. Jones describes Nixon as a student, emphasizing that he was always well prepared and explains that East Whittier Friends Church, which Richard attended, was a progressive branch of the Friends Church.

O.H.#: 890
NARRATOR: Glen Kelly
INTERVIEWER: Steve Prantalos
DATE: January 16, 1970
LOCATION: Monte Vista, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 8 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Glen Kelly: Richard Nixon at Whittier College

ABSTRACT: Glen Kelly grew up in the Whittier community and attended Whittier High School and Whittier College. Kelly, an active participant in athletics throughout his high school and college years, eventually ended up coaching at Whittier High School for fifteen years. Kelly focuses on the Orthogonian Society to which he belonged while at Whittier College, and which Richard Nixon helped found; mentions his encounters with Richard Nixon: while participating in the Orthogonian initiation, while at an Orthogonian alumni meeting, and while coaching a successful Whittier basketball team; recalls that he had significant contact with Richard and most of the Nixon family from 1940 to 1941 because his future wife (whom he was dating at the time) lived with the Nixons.

O.H.#: 891
NARRATOR: Muriel Kelly
INTERVIEWER: Steve Prantalos
DATE: May 15, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 18 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Muriel Kelly: Richard Nixon's Family Life

ABSTRACT: Muriel Kelly was born in China, the daughter of missionaries, and came to the United States in 1941. She attended Whittier College and worked for the Nixon family to earn her room and board. Kelly shares that the Nixons took in other college students as well and describes the family home; reminisces about Sunday dinners where Hannah Nixon would cook a large meal and have the family over, including Richard and Pat Nixon occasionally; and comments on Richard Nixon's exceptional memory.

O.H.#: 892
NARRATOR: Regina Dunkin Kemp
INTERVIEWER: Greg Brolin
DATE: February 4, 1971
LOCATION: unknown
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 16 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Regina Dunkin Kemp: Richard Nixon at Whittier College

ABSTRACT: Regina Dunkin Kemp went to Fullerton High School and attended Whittier College during her junior and senior years. In college, Kemp recalls Richard Nixon speaking often at chapel; describes Nixon as a sincere individual with good speaking abilities; briefly mentions the Quaker influence at Whittier College, including required chapel attendance; and reminisces about class reunions, including one held in Washington, D.C.

O.H.#: 893
NARRATOR: Charles Kendle
INTERVIEWER: Richard Gibbs
DATE: April 17, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 11 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Charles Kendle: Richard Nixon as College Athlete

ABSTRACT: Charles Kendle attended Whittier College at the same time as Richard Nixon and was involved in many of the same activities. Kendle talks about why he chose to go to Whittier College; explains that he and Nixon often sat on the bench together during football games and recalls how Nixon would not only stay motivated despite not receiving significant playing time, but also constantly encouraged others; describes Nixon as having great analytical ability, stating that he would have been a good coach; insists that Nixon's image on campus was one of reliability and unquestionable integrity; avows that Nixon was not an opportunist, but rather did jobs without seeking recognition from anyone; mentions his impression of the Orthogonian Society, of which he was a member; and discusses the leadership of Coach Newman.

O.H.#: 894
NARRATOR: Marjorie Hildreth Knighton
INTERVIEWER: Terri Burton
DATE: May 21, 1971
LOCATION: Los Angeles, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 27 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Marjorie Hildreth Knighton: Whittier College and Whittier in the 1930's

ABSTRACT: Marjorie Hildreth Knighton was a student at Whittier High School and Whittier College and knew Richard Nixon, even attending a junior-senior banquet with him while in college. Knighton mentions why she decided to go to Whittier College; talks about chapel and her involvement in the programming; describes some of her professors, including Albert Upton and Paul Smith; and details her participation in the drama department and indicates that Richard Nixon was involved as well.

O.H.#: 895
NARRATOR: William Krueger
INTERVIEWER: Steven Guttman
DATE: June 8, 1970
LOCATION: Vernon, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 20 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with William Krueger: Richard Nixon as Athlete and Politician

ABSTRACT: William Krueger attended Whittier College from 1929 to 1933 and was a football teammate of Richard Nixon's. Krueger explains that Chief Newman recruited him to play on the football team during his sophomore year even though he had never played. Krueger also talks about his involvement in the Orthogonian Society, revealing why it was formed and how Nixon was voted its first president.

O.H.#: 896
NARRATOR: Helen S. Letts
INTERVIEWER: Terri Burton
DATE: March 31, 1971
LOCATION: Alhambra, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 30 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Helen S. Letts: Nixon Family and Relatives

ABSTRACT: Helen S. Letts' grandfather was the brother of Franklin Milhous, Richard Nixon's grandfather. He saw Richard Nixon at family gatherings, at the East Whittier Friends Church, and at Fullerton High School, where they were both students. Letts recalls that when she would see Nixon at Christian Endeavor meetings, he would usually be arguing with someone; states that English was one of his best subjects in high school; describes Nixon's father Frank as effusive and someone who liked to argue; characterizes his mother Hannah as hard working and dedicated, and shared advice she received from her; explains Quakerism as an individual religion and comments on conscientious objectors; discusses the differences between Richard Nixon and his brother Donald; and indicates the change she noticed in Frank Nixon after the death of two of his sons, Arthur (1925) and Harold (1933).

O.H.#: 897
NARRATOR: E.V. and Patricia Lindstrom
INTERVIEWER: Greg Brolin
DATE: January 8, 1971
LOCATION: Del Mar, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 15 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with E.V. and Patricia Lindstrom:
Whittier and Richard Nixon

ABSTRACT: E.V. Lindstrom attended Whittier College with Richard Nixon. E.V. talks about being a member of the Orthogonian Society and their rivalry with the Franklin Society; recalls that as a freshman he met Richard Nixon, then a senior, at Whittier College; indicates that he became better acquainted with Nixon after Nixon finished law school and during his first congressional campaign; and mentions other occasions where he saw and met with Nixon. Patricia Lindstrom states that she was a student in Pat Nixon's typing class at Whittier High School; describes Pat Nixon as lovely and charming; mentions that she was one of the first song leaders at Whittier College; and explains what was and was not allowed on the Whittier College campus.

O.H.#: 898
NARRATOR: Mildred Beard
INTERVIEWER: Terri Burton
DATE: December 6, 1971
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 14 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Mildred Beard: Whittier High School and College

ABSTRACT: Mildred Beard moved with her family from Indiana to Whittier, California in 1915, and attended Whittier High School and Whittier College at the same time as Richard Nixon. Beard describes Nixon as a good student and debater. Beard later became an elementary school teacher and reminisces over having Donald and Clara Jane Nixon's daughter in her class; mentions a Whittier College reunion; and describes how amazed she was with the exceptional memory of Richard Nixon.

O.H.#: 899
NARRATOR: Wayne Long
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: April 5, 1971
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 13 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Wayne Long: Richard Nixon as a High School Debater

ABSTRACT: Wayne Long was a year ahead of Richard Nixon at Whittier High School, but knew him because both were involved the same societies, including debate and composition. Long shares his impression of the Whittier community; indicates that Nixon was a good debater and won first place in a competition on constitutional debate; and states that Nixon did better in a debate when he had time to research and prepare rather than speaking extemporaneously.

O.H.#: 900
NARRATOR: Judith Wingert Loubet
INTERVIEWER: Harry P. Jeffrey
DATE: June 1, 1970
LOCATION: Newport Beach, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 40 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Judith Wingert Loubet: Whittier;
Nixon the Lawyer; Whittier College

ABSTRACT: Judith Wingert Loubet first met Richard Nixon while he was working for her father, Jeff Wingert, at the law firm of Wingert, Bewley, and Nixon. Loubet gives details of her father's career and discusses many of the different positions he held: lawyer, judge, bank president, and co-owner of a coal mine. She explains that her father was one of the first to consider setting aside land for parks in Whittier; discusses how and why Nixon was chosen by her father and Tom Bewley to work in their firm; reveals her belief that Nixon sided too often with companies when he was congressman; describes Whittier as a residential community that discouraged new businesses from opening and where gossip was prevalent; and indicates that Nixon, as a politician, seemed very conscious of being recorded.

O.H.#: 901
NARRATOR: Barbara Mashburn
INTERVIEWER: John Donnelly
DATE: June 10, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 28 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Barbara Mashburn: Whittier and Whittier College

ABSTRACT: Barbara Mashburn grew up in Whittier, California, was a birthright Quaker, and attended Whittier High School and Whittier College which was where she became associated with Richard Nixon. Mashburn states that her high school peers believed that Nixon would someday be president of the United States; remembers Nixon as a dynamic speaker who won his debates; talks about Nixon being involved in drama in high school; mentions her impression of the Orthogonians; and speaks about the upcoming class reunion.

O.H.#: 902
NARRATOR: Olive and Oscar Marshburn
INTERVIEWER: John Donnelly
DATE: January 22, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 24 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Olive and Oscar Marshburn: Richard Nixon: Early Life

ABSTRACT: Olive and Oscar Marshburn, an aunt and uncle of Richard Nixon, recall the family history and share opinions of Nixon's political career. The Marshburns remember that Frank Nixon spoke often about politics; talk about the growth of the Nixon's store; suggest that one of the qualities that made Nixon a good debater was his ability to think and respond quickly; mention that Nixon invited his fellow Orthogonians over to their house for a meal; summarize a conversation between Hannah and Richard Nixon about the Alger Hiss case; and comments on Nixon's thoughtfulness. Oscar shares recollections about his involvement in World War I, and how Nixon might have felt a responsibility, despite his Quaker upbringing, to join the war effort in World War II; describes Nixon as a forceful speaker; and answers criticism that Nixon's campaigns involved name-calling.

O.H.#: 903
NARRATOR: Theodore F. Marshburn
INTERVIEWER: John Donnelly
DATE: December 31, 1969
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 11 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Theodore F. Marshburn: The
Upbringing and Background of Richard Nixon

ABSTRACT: Theodore F. Marshburn, a relative of Richard Nixon, reflects on Nixon's career and upbringing. Marshburn notes how Nixon's comments and ideas, with regard to public speaking, have evolved through the course of his career; remembers how unlikely it seemed that Nixon would become President of the United States after his defeat for governor of California, and recalls that some family members even discouraged him from running again; states that Nixon changed after his defeat for governor; and indicates how Nixon's Quaker beliefs did not conflict with his military service.

O.H.#: 904
NARRATOR: Hadley Marshburn
INTERVIEWER: Glenn Barnett
DATE: August 5, 1970
LOCATION: Oakland, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 11 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Hadley Marshburn: The Nixon Family in Whittier, California

ABSTRACT: Hadley Marshburn, a cousin of Richard Nixon's, had contact with the Nixon's at family gatherings and through the grocery store. Marshburn states that Frank Nixon was very outspoken and kept a gun under the cash register in the grocery store; recalls living with his grandmother, Almira Milhous, and the family gatherings they had in their home; describes his duties while working in the Nixon's grocery store; remembers Hannah Nixon's reaction when Richard placed second in an oratorical contest in high school; reveals that he did not believe that Richard would be victorious in his first congressional election campaign; indicates that he attended 1969 inaugural events in Washington, D.C.; and explains that his daughter made a special trip to the White House which was arranged by President Nixon.

O.H.#: 905
NARRATOR: Murle Mashburn
INTERVIEWER: Steven Guttman
DATE: June 2, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 26 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Murle Mashburn: Athletics at Whittier College

ABSTRACT: Murle Mashburn graduated from Whittier College in 1934 and met Richard Nixon there while both were students, football teammates, and Orthogonian Society charter members. Mashburn talks about coming to Whittier College on a football scholarship with Vern Landreth's help; reminisces about his different jobs while working his way through school; how the Orthogonian Society was formed; and indicates that Nixon's resiliency earned him the respect of teammates on the football team.

O.H.#: 906
NARRATOR: Gordon McHatton
INTERVIEWER: Sharone Hencey
DATE: April 15, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 12 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Gordon McHatton: Pat Nixon: High School Days

ABSTRACT: Gordon McHatton was a student at Excelsior High School and was involved in the drama department with Thelma Ryan. McHatton mentions that both he and Thelma had lead roles in the plays *The Romantic Age* and *Seventeen*; describes Thelma, Tom, and Bill as quiet; and states that Thelma was a good actress who always knew her lines and also had his memorized as well.

O.H.#: 907
NARRATOR: Iona DeRemer McHatton
INTERVIEWER: Sharone Hencey
DATE: April 15, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 9 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Iona DeRemer McHatton: Pat Nixon: Grade School and High School

ABSTRACT: Iona DeRemer McHatton was a childhood friend of Thelma Ryan and they concurrently attended the same grammar school. McHatton recalls that Thelma's mother died when Thelma was young and that thereafter she took care of the household chores; she describes Thelma as a quiet person with a few close friends.

O.H.#: 908
NARRATOR: C. Robert McCormick
INTERVIEWER: Mary Suzanne Simon
DATE: May 23, 1970
LOCATION: Fullerton, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 8 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with C. Robert McCormick: Life at Fullerton Junior College

ABSTRACT: C. Robert McCormick was on the football team with Richard Nixon at Fullerton High School. He was a member of the Nightwalkers Club, a group consisting of drama students, at Fullerton Junior College with Pat Ryan. McCormick describes Nixon as friendly, but serious; states that Richard Nixon remembered his name many years later, even though they had not had any contact since high school; and indicates that he took Pat Ryan to a school dance.

O.H.#: 909
NARRATOR: Mildred Sullivan Mendenhall
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: March 3, 1971
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 19 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Mildred Sullivan Mendenhall:
Memories of the Nixon Family in Whittier

ABSTRACT: Mildred Sullivan Mendenhall, a long-time resident of Whittier, California, attended the East Whittier Friends Church, worked at the Nixon's grocery store, and went to grammar school with Donald Nixon. Mendenhall relates what it was like to work part-time in the grocery store with Richard Nixon; talks about Richard teaching a college-age Sunday school class; describes Frank Nixon as quick-tempered but kind, and Hannah Nixon as quiet, considerate, and soft-spoken; points out Richard and Donald's differing interests; notes that Richard was an excellent debater; remembers Hannah's generosity to customers in the store, revealing that many had overdue accounts; and indicates that Hannah was the major spiritual influence in the lives of her children.

O.H.#: 910
NARRATOR: Mabel Myers
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: May 12, 1971
LOCATION: Anaheim, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 20 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Mabel Myers: A Teacher's View of Pat Ryan as a College Student

ABSTRACT: Mabel Myers had Pat Ryan as a student at Fullerton Junior College. Myers describes Pat as personable, busy, and a good student; talks about the general atmosphere of the school at the time Pat was a student there, including the small student body and class size; and reminisces about her teaching experience.

O.H.#: 911
NARRATOR: Dorothy Z. Milhous
INTERVIEWER: Dorothy Erick
DATE: June 3, 1970
LOCATION: El Monte, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 22 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Dorothy Z. Milhous: Richard Nixon:
Family Genealogy

ABSTRACT: Dorothy Z. Milhous, an amateur genealogist, married Donald Milhous, a sixth cousin removed from Richard Nixon. Milhous explains how she traced Nixon's lineage with help from other family members, including Martha Gibbons, Olive Marshburn, and Hannah Nixon. Milhous testifies to the genealogy, which she has traced back to Ireland, to the Milhausen family in the 1600's.

O.H.#: 912
NARRATOR: William A. Milhous
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: June 25, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 21 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with William A. Milhous: Richard Nixon:
His Family Background

ABSTRACT: William A. Milhous was born in 1922, a second cousin to Richard Nixon, and lived in East Whittier most of his life. Milhous recalls going to the Nixon's grocery store to trade citrus; describes Hannah Nixon as someone who was respected and admired, and Frank Nixon as someone who liked to argue; talks about working for Donald Nixon from 1946 to 1957; and mentions that he was a lieutenant in the Navy during World War II.

O.H.#: 913
NARRATOR: Vivian Cox Montgomery
INTERVIEWER: Steve Guttman
DATE: July 3, 1970
LOCATION: Hollywood, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 14 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Vivian Cox Montgomery:
Reminiscences of Pat Nixon's High School Typing Teacher

ABSTRACT: Vivian Cox Montgomery taught at Excelsior High School for twenty years, during which time she had Thelma Ryan as a student in her typing class. Montgomery describes Excelsior as a small high school with less than 500 students, with about eighty-five in Thelma's 1929 graduating class, and fifteen in her typing class; explains that Thelma was a good, dependable student; conveys that there was a great deal of respect between teachers and students; mentions that Thelma was in the scholarship and drama societies, but did not have time for too much else because of her responsibilities at home; and talks about why they had a dress code at the high school.

O.H.#: 914
NARRATOR: Morton Morehouse
INTERVIEWER: Nancy Hunsaker
DATE: May 28, 1970
LOCATION: Newport Beach, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 27 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Morton Morehouse: Thelma Ryan
Nixon: Childhood in Artesia

ABSTRACT: Morton Morehouse lived in Artesia, California from about 1912 through 1928 where he attended grammar and high school with Thelma Ryan and her two brothers, Tom and Bill. Morehouse remembers visiting the Ryan home and describes the children as being hard workers and very close, especially after the death of their parents; describes Thelma in high school as kind and considerate, although very quiet; recalls the names of some of Thelma's high school friends; and mentions living with Tom during his freshman year at the University of Southern California.

O.H.#: 915
NARRATOR: Leona Stine Myler
INTERVIEWER: Nancy Hunsaker
DATE: May 13, 1970
LOCATION: Artesia, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 16 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Leona Stine Myler: Pat Nixon:
Grade School and High School

ABSTRACT: Leona Stine Myler was born and raised in Artesia, California and went to Excelsior High School with Thelma, Tom, and Bill Ryan. Myler describes Thelma as sophisticated; mentions that Thelma supported Alfred Smith, the Democratic presidential candidate in 1928; indicates that Thelma was involved in the drama department; states that it was a small high school where everyone knew each other and teachers had a close relationship with their students; recalls the names of other individuals who knew of Thelma in school; and talks about the school dress requirements.

O.H.#: 916
NARRATOR: Ralph Navarro
INTERVIEWER: Milan Pavlovich
DATE: June 4, 1970
LOCATION: Yorba Linda, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 20 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Ralph Navarro: Early History of Yorba Linda, California

ABSTRACT: Ralph Navarro lived and worked in Yorba Linda, California, where he was born in 1897 and still lived at the time of the interview. Navarro reveals that his father was a zanjero for the Anaheim Union Water Company and that he later worked for that company with his son; talks about the Yorba Linda land that people leased from Janss Investment Company; recalls the names of other Yorba Linda residents and businesses from the early 1900's; and indicates that he would often pass by the Nixon house and chase Richard out of the irrigation ditch.

O.H.#: 917
NARRATOR: Byron Netzley
INTERVIEWER: Greg Brolin
DATE: June 9, 1970
LOCATION: Lemon Grove, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 14 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Byron Netzley: Richard Nixon at Whittier College

ABSTRACT: Byron Netzley attended Whittier College from 1929 to 1933, one year ahead of Richard Nixon's class. Netzley talks about Nixon's leadership qualities as being the reason he was selected as the Orthogonians' first president; mentions that he and Nixon were in Paul Smith's history class together and that Nixon was an extremely intelligent individual; indicates that he came to Whittier College because of Coach Newman; and allows that although Nixon did not get much playing time on the football team he had a lot of enthusiasm and worked hard anyway, and likely could have been a successful coach.

O.H.#: 919
NARRATOR: A. C. Newsom
INTERVIEWER: Steve Prantalos
DATE: May 5, 1970
LOCATION: Fullerton, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 18 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with A.C. Newsom: Richard Nixon: His Early Political Years, Whittier, and the Nixon Family

ABSTRACT: A. C. Newsom, a distant relative of Richard Nixon's, recalls that his parents moved to Whittier, California, because of Frank Nixon; mentions that he opened the first shoe store in Whittier in 1947, was elected to the city council in 1952 and then became mayor in 1956, and discusses the disapproval of some of his constituents on different matters involving a community change; remembers why Donald Nixon's restaurants went out of business; describes Nixon as a loner and an independent thinker; and comments on the criticism Nixon received while campaigning for Vice President of the United States.

O.H.#: 920
NARRATOR: Mattie F. Newsom
INTERVIEWER: Steve Prantalos
DATE: July 1, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 12 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Mattie F. Newsom: Relatives of Richard Nixon

ABSTRACT: Mattie F. Newsom was born in 1884 in Indiana and Richard Nixon's grandfather on his mother's side of the family was her husband's uncle. Newsom explains the family history and relation from that side of the family and mentions some of their career choices as well.

O.H.#: 921
NARRATOR: John C. Neyer
INTERVIEWER: Mary Suzanne Simon
DATE: May 28, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 9 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with John C. Neyer: Whittier
Community Theater

ABSTRACT: John C. Neyer met the granddaughter of the owner of the Murphy Ranch and got a job working there and also became involved in the Whittier Community Theater. Neyer talks about the history of that community theater and the people involved with it; explains that his jobs were to help build sets for plays, stage manager, and serve on the board of directors; recalls the criteria by which plays and actors were selected; describes the director, Louise Baldwin, and relates what she shared with him about Pat Ryan and Richard Nixon first coming to the theater. Neyer also briefly mentions that he knew Don Nixon through the restaurant business and indicates how much Hannah Nixon lost when it fell through.

O.H.#: 922
NARRATOR: Ray Nichols
INTERVIEWER: John Donnelly
DATE: March 20, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 24 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Ray Nichols: Richard Nixon as Public Speaker

ABSTRACT: Ray Nichols taught speech in college and discusses how content and style of debate have changed from the time that Richard Nixon was in school. Nichols describes how debating might have helped Nixon in other areas; indicates the type of preparation that went into making a speech; comments on what was involved in oratory, interpretation, and extemporaneous speaking; suggests that Nixon's style of speaking is audience-oriented with underlying assumptions and logically based presentations; and stresses that Nixon was always well-prepared on the topic on which he was speaking.

O.H.#: 923
NARRATOR: Marion Nichols
INTERVIEWER: John Donnelly
DATE: January 13, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 26 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Marion Nichols: Richard and Pat Nixon: Whittier High School Days

ABSTRACT: Marion Nichols met Richard Nixon while he was a junior at Whittier High School and she was a bookkeeper there; she also met Pat Ryan when she came to teach at Whittier High School. Nichols comments on Nixon's speaking ability; recalls the names of professors who might have influenced Nixon as well as the names of many peers; talks about the local drama group, Whittier Players, in which Pat and Richard participated; and mentions that Pat was a member of the American Association of University Women.

O.H.#: 925
NARRATOR: Lyle Otterman
INTERVIEWER: John Donnelly
DATE: June 5, 1970
LOCATION: Huntington Beach, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 38 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Lyle Otterman: Whittier: Economy and Politics

ABSTRACT: Lyle Otterman who lived in Whittier, California from the time he was one year old in 1913, was a student with Richard Nixon at Whittier High School and Whittier College. Otterman indicates that Whittier was a religious community, with restrictions on certain activities; explains why he was impressed by Nixon's speaking ability in high school; talks about attending Whittier College and the formation of the William Penn Society, his participation on the debate team, why some students did not like Nixon, and Dr. Paul Smith's teaching; and recalls the conversation he had with Herman Perry about Nixon as a possible political candidate.

O.H.#: 926
NARRATOR: Elizabeth Timberlake Paldanius
INTERVIEWER: Dorothy Erick
DATE: April 13, 1970 and April 25, 1970
LOCATION: Riverside, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 65 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Elizabeth Timberlake Paldanius:
Richard Nixon's Genealogy

ABSTRACT: Elizabeth Timberlake Paldanius was a first cousin of Richard Nixon's who saw the Nixons often at family gatherings. Paldanius describes President Nixon's first inauguration where over two hundred relatives were present; talks about Christmastime at the home of her grandmother, Almira Milhous, in Whittier, California; mentions attending Whittier College from 1937 to 1941 while receiving financial assistance from a few scholarships, including the Milhous family scholarship; remembers the time she spent in Lindsay, California, at her Aunt Martha Gibbons' house; explains how she would have to memorize Bible verses and have daily devotions when staying with members of the family, including Almira Milhous, the Beesons, and the Nixons; tells where many of the relatives in the Milhous family live and their occupations, including the Beeson, Marshburn, Gibbons, and Harrison families; expresses the excitement felt by the relatives of Richard Nixon after learning that he had been elected the nation's president.

O.H.#: 927
NARRATOR: Ralph E. Palmer
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: May 20, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 27 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Ralph E. Palmer: Richard Nixon:
The Quaker Heritage

ABSTRACT: Ralph E. Palmer, two years the senior of Richard Nixon, grew up in Whittier, California and knew the Nixon family well, having shopped in their grocery store and attended East Whittier Friends Church. Palmer discusses Quaker beliefs, including World War II conscientious objectors; talks about his friendship with Harold Nixon; and describes Richard Nixon as a sincere individual who “is probably more of a Milhous than he is a Nixon.” (Palmer, 14)

O.H.#: 928
NARRATOR: Lucille Parsons
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: January 3, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 24 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Lucille Parsons: Richard Nixon's Family Life

ABSTRACT: Lucille Parsons was born and raised in Whittier, California, and her mother was Hannah Nixon's sister, Elizabeth. Parsons remembers how Hannah cared for her younger brother just after he was born because of her mother's illness; relays her grandmother's strong influence on the family, which resulted in them spending holidays together; talks about working in the Nixon's grocery store and how Richard Nixon did not like to wait on customers; gives her impression of Frank Nixon and indicates that he did not like most of the customers who came into his store; testifies to Hannah's influence over her children; mentions the inauguration she attended with Frank and Hannah at Richard's first election to Vice President of the United States; recalls that Richard was hesitant to work in a law office after graduating from Duke University School of Law; maintains that the biggest change in Richard was during the war when he served in the Navy; explains the Quaker beliefs and instruction they received in the Friends church; and reveals how her beliefs and Richard's are not as strict as their respective parents.

O.H.#: 929
NARRATOR: Hubert Perry
INTERVIEWER: Robert Davis
DATE: "The interview takes place in one of the first months of 1970."-stated in text
LOCATION: unknown
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 39 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Hubert Perry: Richard M. Nixon

ABSTRACT: Hubert Perry knew Richard Nixon because both attended East Whittier Friends Church while they were students at Whittier High School and Whittier College, and also through his father, Herman Perry. Perry discusses the Great Depression's effect on his peers; indicates why Nixon did not socialize with others while in college; mentions being a member of the Franklin Society; talks about how Hubert Perry became acquainted with Nixon and eventually asked him to consider running for Congress; recounts his experiences on the football team and in the glee club with Nixon; emphasizes Nixon's leadership qualities, debating skills, ability to remember details, and see things from others' point of view; indicates that he is a member of the Nixon Foundation, which was deciding at the time of the interview where the presidential library might be constructed; relates how the public image of Nixon as president differs from his personal knowledge of the him; and shares the basic philosophy of the Quaker faith and how it might have influenced Nixon.

O.H.#: 930
NARRATOR: Tom Phelan
INTERVIEWER: Glenn Barnett
DATE: January 19, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 9 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Tom Phelan: Athletics at Whittier High School

ABSTRACT: Tom Phelan was an athletic coach at Whittier High School when Richard Nixon was a senior there. Phelan talks about Nixon's duties as general manager of the student body; mentions that he was a water boy for Whittier College when Nixon played on the team; and relates that his wife taught in the same department as Pat Nixon at Whittier High School.

O.H.#: 931
NARRATOR: Richard Philippi
INTERVIEWER: Sharone Hencey
DATE: June 16, 1970
LOCATION: Downey, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 17 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Richard Philippi: Richard Nixon

ABSTRACT: Richard Philippi knew Thelma Ryan at Excelsior High School and Richard Nixon at Whittier College. Philippi describes the high school drama teacher, Madeline Thomas, saying that she was a positive influence on her students. He perceived the Ryan children as being a shy, but close-knit family. Philippi recalls Richard Nixon in college as a hard-working individual, becoming freshman class president and a member of the debate team.

O.H.#: 932
NARRATOR: Saragrace Frampton Philippi
INTERVIEWER: Sharone Hencey
DATE: June 16, 1970
LOCATION: Downey, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 14 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Saragrace Frampton Philippi: Early Days in Artesia

ABSTRACT: Saragrace Frampton Philippi grew up in Artesia, California, just down the street from the Ryan family. Phillippi talks about living in a rural area and what kids there would do for amusement; mentions her father's farming business and notes that he and Thelma Ryan's father were good friends; recalls the names of Thelma's school friends; and indicates that she went on a few dates with Tom Ryan and describes him as a person.

O.H.#: 933
NARRATOR: Cecil E. Pickering
INTERVIEWER: Steven Guttman
DATE: June 30, 1970
LOCATION: Fountain Valley, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 32 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Cecil E. Pickering: Richard Nixon:
Yorba Linda Childhood

ABSTRACT: Cecil E. Pickering moved with her husband from Whittier, California, to Yorba Linda, California, in 1910 and lived next door to the Nixon family. Pickering explains how she would help Hannah Nixon with housework; describes Yorba Linda while the Nixon's lived there as a poor community; mentions that Arthur Nixon was pampered because of his illness; and indicates why the Nixon's left Yorba Linda.

O.H.#: 934
NARRATOR: Forrest Randall
INTERVIEWER: John Donnelly
DATE: April 12, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 32 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Forrest Randall: The Community of Whittier, California

ABSTRACT: Forrest Randall was born in 1912 and went to Whittier High School with Richard Nixon. Randall describes the Whittier community as middle-class and mentions some of the larger establishments; briefly recalls the Nixon family grocery store; and conveys that Nixon did not leave a lasting impression on him.

O.H.#: 935
NARRATOR: Arlene Randall
INTERVIEWER: John Donnelly
DATE: June 30, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 27 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Arlene Randall: Recollections of the East Whittier Area and of Richard Nixon

ABSTRACT: Arlene Randall went to Whittier High School with Richard Nixon and had contact with the Nixon family through their grocery store. Randall describes the Nixon's grocery store and the jobs of each Nixon family member; talks about the dress requirements, school spirit, and changes at Whittier High School; relates that Whittier was an anti-industry, citrus community; also mentions attending Whittier College later on, beginning in 1941, and having Dr. Paul Smith as her history professor.

O.H.#: 936
NARRATOR: Mary Elizabeth Rez
INTERVIEWER: Milan Pavlovich
DATE: April 21, 1970
LOCATION: Westminster, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 17 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Mary Elizabeth Rez: Richard Nixon

ABSTRACT: Mary Elizabeth Rez was recommended by her pastor to help Hannah Nixon with the family home's upkeep, which she started doing in 1916 or 1917. Rez describes Hannah as a gentle, quiet-spoken woman and Frank Nixon as an explosive, genuine, and a industrious man; reminisces about a typical day in the Nixon home; reveals that some thought Hannah was too lenient with her children; and states that Richard had characteristics of both parents and was quieter and more introspective than his brothers.

O.H.#: 937
NARRATOR: Mrs. Benjamin Roberts and Bill Roberts
INTERVIEWER: Steve Prantalos
DATE: January 19, 1970
LOCATION: La Habra, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 21 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Mrs. Benjamin Roberts and Bill Roberts: Richard Nixon as a Lawyer in La Habra

ABSTRACT: The Roberts family lived in La Habra, California, from 1922 and knew Richard Nixon when he practiced law and rented office space in the building they owned. Mrs. Roberts describes that building and other businesses in the area; recollects La Habra in 1939 as a small community consisting of residents who worked in the oil and citrus industries; and indicates that Nixon, while an attorney, helped a friend of hers with a probate matter. Bill Roberts talks about a desk that Nixon made and sat in as a student, explaining that his family kept it for a number of years and eventually gave it to him. Roberts also references letters that his father received from Nixon while in the Navy.

O.H.#: 938a
NARRATOR: Harry P. Jeffrey
INTERVIEWER: Arthur A. Hansen, Renée Schulte, and Mike Korpi
DATE: August 1, 1976
LOCATION: Fullerton, California
STATUS: Transcribed
LENGTH: 13 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Harry P. Jeffrey: Origins of the Richard Nixon Project

ABSTRACT: Harry P. Jeffrey, a history professor at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), was recruited because of his experience to direct the Richard Nixon Oral History Project on its campus. Jeffrey indicates that, at one point, there was a movement to establish the Nixon Presidential Library at CSUF; states that his experience as an oral historian included a stint as director of the Senator Robert A. Taft Oral History Project at Columbia University; explains that a class was started in September 1969 whereby students received academic credit for the Nixon Project interviews they did; shares which aspects of Nixon's life students focused on; recalls the weaknesses of the project; remembers visiting top Nixon officials to try and obtain official White House endorsement and financial support for the project; conveys that the Nixon Oral History Project at CSUF was never really adequately funded; mentions the differences between the Nixon Projects at CSUF and Whittier College; and talks about how a list of potential narrators for the CSUF Nixon Project was compiled.

O.H.#: 938b
NARRATOR: Harry P. Jeffrey
INTERVIEWER: Charles Beaman and Mike Jones
DATE: June 30, 1978
LOCATION: Fullerton, California
STATUS: Transcribed
LENGTH: 55 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Harry P. Jeffrey: Congressional Campaign: Orange County Politics

ABSTRACT: Harry P. Jeffrey came to California State University, Fullerton, in 1969 to teach and to direct the Richard Nixon Oral History Project. Jeffrey discusses the campaigns he ran for the Ohio State Legislature and for the 40th District Congressional seat; indicates that in 1973, during the Nixon Administration, he went to Washington, D.C. to head the Cost of Living Council's oral history project and also work as a researcher for the Economic Stabilization Program; shares that his father, a former United States Representative from Ohio, helped run Nixon's 1960 presidential campaign in Ohio and founded the Young Republicans, among other achievements; and talks about the differences between California and Ohio politics.

O.H.#: 938c
NARRATOR: Harry P. Jeffrey
INTERVIEWER: Bill Holstein
DATE: August 5, 1999
LOCATION: Fullerton, California
STATUS: Transcribed
LENGTH: 32 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Harry P. Jeffrey: The Richard Nixon Oral History Project

ABSTRACT: Harry P. Jeffrey began his teaching career at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) as a history professor and was charged with directing the Richard Nixon Oral History Project in fall 1969. Jeffrey talks about the Nixon Project: its foci, the students involved in it, and its narrators; discusses the project's limitations; recalls how he, along with Dr. Gary Shumway, went to Washington, D.C. and spoke with top Nixon aides in an attempt to secure funding for the project; indicates that it was the desire of then CSUF President William Langsdorf and then Vice President (subsequent President) Donald Shields to have close ties to the Nixon Presidential Library or possibly house the Library on the CSUF campus; speaks about the post-presidential Nixon project at CSUF; reminisces about his teaching career at CSUF; gives details of his encounters with past presidents of the United States; speaks about his work in Washington, D.C. for the Nixon administration as an archivist and historian on the Cost of Living Council and his later attempt to gain a Congressional seat representing the 40th District.

O.H.#: 4539
NARRATOR: Harry P. Jeffrey
INTERVIEWER: Shenandoah Lynd
DATE: November 16, 2000
LOCATION: Orange, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 37 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Harry P. Jeffrey: National Politics

ABSTRACT: Harry P. Jeffrey was appointed a professor of History at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), in 1969 (remaining there until his retirement in 2005). He talks about the election of his father, Harry Palmer Jeffrey Sr., to the Seventy-Eighth Congress (serving January 1943 through January 1945), the events surrounding it, as well as his own involvement in politics, including working for the Nixon administration on the Cost of Living Council, and his political aspirations. Jeffrey mentions that his father was co-author of the G.I. Bill of Rights; recalls that many of the New Deal agencies were done away with by Congress in 1943 and 1944; discusses why the Republicans went from the majority to the minority party under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and how it affected Richard Nixon; indicates that Nixon had political ambition before he joined the Navy; emphasizes the factors in American politics that allowed Nixon to unseat Jerry Voorhis and later to enjoy success against Helen Gahagan Douglas; notes the important political issues of the 1940's that gave Republicans continued success; and describes Nixon within the Republican Party as being more of a moderate.

O.H.#: 939
NARRATOR: Newt Robinson
INTERVIEWER: John Donnelly
DATE: June 18, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed
LENGTH: 16 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Newt Robinson: Richard Nixon at Whittier College

ABSTRACT: Newt Robinson was a freshman at Whittier College in 1933 and became acquainted on campus with Richard Nixon. Robinson indicates why he chose to attend Whittier College; comments on extracurricular activities for students there; recalls taking history classes taught by Dr. Paul Smith, whom he reflects was well-prepared and articulate; shares information about the college's athletic programs based on personal participation, including football, basketball, and track; describes Nixon as serious-minded and a good student; talks about being a member of the Orthogonian Society and discusses what occurred at their meetings; remembers hearing Nixon debate; and relates what the Whittier, California community was like and how it has changed.

O.H.#: 941
NARRATOR: Paul Ryan
INTERVIEWER: Milan Pavlovich
DATE: May 5, 1970
LOCATION: Yorba Linda, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 18 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Paul Ryan: Richard Nixon as a Neighbor

ABSTRACT: Paul Ryan, a long-time resident of Yorba Linda, California, moved with his family from Indiana in 1914, and lived next door to and played with the Nixon boys. Ryan talks about his father who worked as a “zanjero” for Eldo West at the Yorba Linda Water Company; describes Yorba Linda as he remembers it when he first moved there, noting the success of the oil and citrus industries and later on the avocado industry, where the popular “fuerte” avocado got its start; and mentions working on the Blattner Ranch, which was owned by the two men who started the Richfield Oil Company, Mr. Symington and Mr. Kellogg.

O.H.#: 942
NARRATOR: Edwin A. Sanders
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: December 16, 1970
LOCATION: Pasadena, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 12 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Edwin A. Sanders: The Society of Friends

ABSTRACT: Edwin A. Sanders was the clerk for the Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends and an executive secretary of the American Friends Service Committee. Sanders talks about the issues addressed at the monthly meetings in the Friends Church; indicates the differences between the Pacific Yearly Meeting and the California Yearly Meeting; mentions the role of Hicksite Quakers; explains the issue of quietism in the Friends Church; and relays how a person could become a member of the church.

O.H.#: 943
NARRATOR: Manville Saxton
INTERVIEWER: Glenn Barnett
DATE: March 9, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 14 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Manville Saxton: Richard Nixon in College

ABSTRACT: Manville Saxton attended Whittier College from 1931 to 1934 and was a classmate of Richard Nixon, as well as a member of the Glee Club and Orthogonian Society. Saxton states that Nixon was serious and did not have much interest in social activities; talks about traveling as a member of the Glee Club and reveals an incident involving other members that Nixon helped resolve; mentions that Nixon told him of his interest in going into politics; and recalls feeling honored by a request from Nixon to sing at his father's funeral.

O.H.#: 944
NARRATOR: William Seale
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: February 24, 1971
LOCATION: unknown
STATUS: Transcribed
LENGTH: 16 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with William Seale

ABSTRACT: William Seale, a long-time resident of La Habra, California was born there in 1917 and knew the Nixon family from their grocery store and also through the East Whittier Friends Church. Seale indicates that he was well acquainted with Donald Nixon and comments on Donald Nixon's business that closed; describes the Nixon's as a hard-working family; describes the differences between Richard, Donald, and Edward Nixon; and shares memories of attending Whittier College, including the social, academic, and religious environment.

O.H.#: 945
NARRATOR: H. Glen Shaffer
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: December 16, 1969
LOCATION: Yorba Linda, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 19 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with H. Glen Shaffer: Yorba Linda Friends Church

ABSTRACT: H. Glen Shaffer, a Quaker pastor at Yorba Linda Friends Church in 1969, provided insight into Quaker beliefs and the church. Shaffer talks about how he came to a personal belief in Jesus Christ; recalls his impression of Hannah Nixon, based upon meeting her once at a Youth for Christ rally; conveys that Richard Nixon's beliefs were rooted in the Evangelical Gospel; shares how and when the Yorba Linda Friends Church was established; distinguishes differing aspects of Quaker theology; conveys how someone would come to a personal faith in Christ; indicates that Whittier College has become more liberal in their religious philosophy and so now advises students not to go there; and explains what activities were involved in Christian Endeavor during the time Nixon might have attended.

O.H.#: 946
NARRATOR: Gerald Shaw
INTERVIEWER: Jeff Jones
DATE: June 3, 1970
LOCATION: Inglewood, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 62 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Gerald Shaw: Life in Early Yorba Linda and Fullerton, California

ABSTRACT: Gerald Shaw moved with his family from Illinois to Yorba Linda, California, when he was five years old and lived down the street from the Nixon family. He later moved to Fullerton, California, where he went to Fullerton High School with Richard Nixon. Shaw relates what it was like to grow up in the Yorba Linda and Fullerton communities; explains that he and Nixon, along with the latter's cousin, Floyd Wildermuth, used to spend hours playing together; refers to an instance where Richard stated that he would someday be the nation's Vice President; indicates that he and Richard liked to read and would go to the library and check out books; talks about the packinghouses that his father managed; remembers Richard winning all of the debates in high school; and recalls details of the high school football team that he and Richard were both on.

O.H.#: 947
NARRATOR: George Shoals
INTERVIEWER: Greg Brolin
DATE: January 13, 1971
LOCATION: Downey, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 8 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with George Shoals: Thelma Ryan in
Excelsior High School

ABSTRACT: George Shoals lived in Bellflower, California, at the time he was a student at Excelsior High School with Thelma, Bill, and Tom Ryan. Shoals was involved in athletics and recalls that Bill and Tom Ryan were two of the best athletes; describes the Bellflower community; and remembers Thelma as a good student who was close to her brothers and involved in drama.

O.H.#: 948
NARRATOR: Ralph C. Shook, Sr.
INTERVIEWER: Richard Curtiss
DATE: February 10, 1970
LOCATION: Yorba Linda, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 19 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Ralph C. Shook, Sr.: Richard M. Nixon: As Sunday School Student and Neighbor

ABSTRACT: Ralph C. Shook, Sr. moved to Whittier, California in 1910, and was involved in the citrus industry in Yorba Linda for over forty years, during which time he became associated with the Nixon family. Shook recalls meeting the Nixons at the Friends church in Yorba Linda; describes Hannah Nixon as a gracious lady and Frank as being industrious and interested in debating any issue; indicates that Frank had to supplement his income because the lemon trees that he planted did not produce; and talks about the fictional writings of Jessamyn West and how they were based on true stories.

O.H.#: 950
NARRATOR: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sullivan
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: March 3, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 31 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sullivan:
Richard Nixon: East Whittier Friends Church Member

ABSTRACT: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sullivan lived in Whittier, California, from the early 1920's, and their association with Richard Nixon came through the East Whittier Friends Church where Mr. Sullivan taught Sunday School. Mrs. Sullivan states that she helped in the Nixon home after the birth of Edward Nixon; describes Hannah Nixon as a wonderful mother and Frank Nixon as a good father, but strict; explains important aspects of the Friends Church; and indicates Hannah's concern for Richard when he lost elections and her hope that he would not run again. Mr. Sullivan remembers Richard as a great scholar and a leader; recalls the names of the pastors that served in the church when Richard was growing up and Richard's classmates in the Sunday School group; and talks about the basic beliefs of the Friends Church.

O.H.#: 952
NARRATOR: Mary Skidmore
INTERVIEWER: Greg Brolin
DATE: unknown
LOCATION: unknown
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 12 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Mary Skidmore: Richard Nixon's School Days

ABSTRACT: In 1919 Mary Skidmore was in her second year of teaching in Yorba Linda, California when she had Richard Nixon as a student in her first grade class. Skidmore describes Nixon as quiet, studious, and a quick learner; states that she gave Nixon books to read that were at the second grade level and later recommended that he skip second grade; discloses what the community of Yorba Linda was like when the Nixon family lived there and how the strict Quaker philosophy affected teachers; and mentions the names of some of Nixon's classmates with whom he kept in contact.

O.H.#: 953
NARRATOR: William Soeberg
INTERVIEWER: Richard Gibbs
DATE: April 29, 1970
LOCATION: San Clemente, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 16 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with William Soeberg: A Fellow Student of Richard Nixon's

ABSTRACT: William Soeberg was a fellow student and athlete of Richard Nixon's at Whittier College. Soeberg talks about playing football for Chief Newman; explains the influence Newman had on his players and why he admired his coach; recalls how they trained during football practice; describes Nixon as a player who worked hard and had a lot of enthusiasm; delineates the different types of students who comprised the Orthogonian Society; describes a prank on a rival school; and indicates that Nixon was involved in many activities that helped to make him into a good leader.

O.H.#: 954
NARRATOR: Edward Sowers
INTERVIEWER: Richard Gibbs
DATE: June 5, 1970
LOCATION: Newport Beach, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 16 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Edward Sowers: Football at Whittier College

ABSTRACT: Edward Sowers met Richard Nixon in 1932 when both were students and football teammates at Whittier College. Sowers explains why he went to Whittier College and talks about the scholarship program he was involved in; states that even though Nixon was a reserve player on the football team, he was well liked and respected by the other players; describes Coach Newman and the kind of practices and line-ups he organized; indicates that he was a member of the Orthogonians and their president during his senior year and mentions their activities, including dances and a trip to Catalina and also their rivalry with the Franklins; and remembers being impressed with Nixon as a leader in the Orthogonian Society.

O.H.#: 955
NARRATOR: Harold Space
INTERVIEWER: Steve Guttman
DATE: May 18, 1970
LOCATION: Laguna Hills, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 12 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Harold Space: Richard Nixon at Whittier College

ABSTRACT: Harold Space attended Whittier College from 1929 to 1933 and was involved in track and the Orthogonian Society. Space indicates that he was the first pledge of the Orthogonian Society; proclaims that Nixon was an excellent leader and a good student; and recalls thinking that Nixon would someday be President of the United States.

O.H.#: 956
NARRATOR: Richard Spaulding
INTERVIEWER: Glenn Barnett
DATE: January 15, 1970 and January 21, 1970
LOCATION: Buena Park, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 10 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Richard Spaulding: Richard Nixon at Whittier College

ABSTRACT: Richard Spaulding attended Whittier College and was a member of the Orthogonian Society as well as being a teammate of Richard Nixon's on the college football team for four years. Spaulding explains that, although Nixon was not a talented football player, he was nonetheless enthusiastic; emphasizes that Nixon had an excellent memory; indicates that Nixon was a campus leader, serving as student body president during his senior year, and highly respected; states that Whittier College was ahead of its time in being free of prejudice; and describes having contact with Nixon at two big events after graduation.

O.H.#: 957
NARRATOR: Frances Stanley
INTERVIEWER: Greg Brolin
DATE: April 23, 1970
LOCATION: Fullerton, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 9 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Frances Stanley: Fullerton Junior College

ABSTRACT: Frances Stanley attended Fullerton Junior College from 1933 to 1934, just one year after Pat Nixon, and first became acquainted with Richard Nixon on a blind date set up by Nixon's cousin Merle West. Stanley indicates that the college was located next to the Fullerton High School campus; alludes to faculty members; describes the Fullerton, California community and discusses how students spent their spare time; and remembers that Nixon was courteous, a good conversationalist, and made her feel comfortable on their blind date.

O.H.#: 958
NARRATOR: Felix Stein
INTERVIEWER: Greg Brolin
DATE: October 13, 1970
LOCATION: unknown
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 14 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Felix Stein: Early Days in Yorba Linda

ABSTRACT: Felix Stein was a clerk for the Stern and Goodman firm in the early 1900's before buying its Orange County branch stores in Brea, Olinda, Placentia, and Yorba Linda, and watching its success grow along with these communities. Stein recollects Orange County land development by the Janss Investment Company, Stern Realty Company, and Newmark and Company; recalls why many people moved from Whittier, California to Yorba Linda, California; states that the area's economy was based entirely on citrus; comments on different modes of transportation and explains how goods to his stores were delivered; describes different businesses in the Yorba Linda community; testifies to the increase in land and property value in the early 1920's; and notes why the citrus industry is no longer successful.

O.H.#: 959
NARRATOR: Alberta and Harold Stone
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: March 23, 1971
LOCATION: La Habra, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 25 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Alberta and Harold Stone: Richard Nixon as Lawyer and Beginning Politician

ABSTRACT: Alberta Stone was born and raised in Whittier, California, and knew the Nixon family through their grocery store and the contact her father had with Nixon via in the Committee of 100. Harold Stone knew Nixon at Whittier High School where both were students, as members in the 20-30 Club, and as his dentist. Harold indicates that his father-in-law was the first finance chairman for Nixon in 1946 when he ran for Congress; talks about the contact he had when Nixon was an attorney in Whittier; recalls why a friend of Nixon's from Whittier, Howard Church, was appointed to a government agency after Nixon was elected United States Vice President; and recalls hearing an uncle of Nixon's who owned potato farms offer Nixon the opportunity to manage the farms and one day run them, which would have made Nixon independently wealthy.

O.H.#: 960
NARRATOR: Phil and Geri Studebaker
INTERVIEWER: Mary Suzanne Simon
DATE: May 11, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 13 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Phil and Geri Studebaker: Whittier High School in 1940's Told by Former Students of Pat Nixon

ABSTRACT: Phil and Geri Studebaker were both students at Whittier High School while Pat Ryan was teaching there (1937-1941). Phil relates that he was the yell leader on the pep committee and that Pat Ryan was its faculty advisor; describes the Whittier, California community and what students would do for fun; and conveys that Pat Ryan was friendly and someone the students turned to for help with their problems. Geri indicates that she knew the Nixon family from their attendance at East Whittier Friends Church and because their family rented a house from Frank Nixon and shopped at the grocery store owned by the Nixons; and she also recalls that Pat Ryan, along with another teacher, advised the Girls' League at Whittier High School.

O.H.#: 961
NARRATOR: Albert and Myrtle Stuelke
INTERVIEWER: Greg Brolin
DATE: April 9, 1970
LOCATION: Fullerton, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 23 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Albert and Myrtle Stuelke: High School and College Days in Fullerton

ABSTRACT: Albert and Myrtle Stuelke were both teachers and lived in the Fullerton, California community where Myrtle taught English and later became the dean of women at Fullerton Junior College and Albert was in the music department. The Stuelke's recall an influx of people to the Fullerton area just after they built their home in 1917 and talk about the changes they have witnessed and the causes for them.

O.H.#: 962
NARRATOR: Harold A. McCabe
INTERVIEWER: Steve Prantalos
DATE: April 10, 1970
LOCATION: Fullerton, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 20 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Harold A. McCabe: Nixon the Lawyer

ABSTRACT: Harold A. McCabe was city attorney for La Habra, California from 1931 to 1963, during which time he observed Richard Nixon as a practicing attorney. McCabe describes Nixon as intelligent, dedicated, and intense; indicates that Nixon would have liked to become La Habra's city attorney; and relates his knowledge of Donald Nixon within the restaurant business.

O.H.#: 963
NARRATOR: Lyall Sutton
INTERVIEWER: Glenn Barnett
DATE: April 2, 1970
LOCATION: La Habra, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 13 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Lyall Sutton: Richard Nixon at Fullerton High School

ABSTRACT: Lyall Sutton, a relative of the Milhous family, was at Fullerton High School at the same time as Richard Nixon. Sutton talks about the friendly rivalry while playing sports with Harold Nixon and a local group of friends when they were young; describes the Nixons grocery store and recalls Nixon delivering groceries; affirms that Nixon had a good memory; and mentions the activities he was involved in at high school.

O.H.#: 964
NARRATOR: Setsuko Tani
INTERVIEWER: Greg Brolin
DATE: January 1, 1971
LOCATION: unknown
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 11 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Setsuko Tani: Richard Nixon and the Whittier College Class of 1934

ABSTRACT: Setsuko Tani met Richard Nixon during her freshman year at Whittier College in 1930 and later took part in organizing the thirty-fifth class reunion and the trip to Washington, D.C. Tani talks about the different organizations on campus to which she belonged; states that Nixon was well known around campus for his speaking ability; recalls Nixon saying that he wanted to go into politics; indicates how the idea for the trip to Washington, D.C. came about; and gives details about the Washington, D.C. excursion.

O.H.#: 965
NARRATOR: Madeline Thomas
INTERVIEWER: Sharone Hencey
DATE: April 27, 1970
LOCATION: Norwalk, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 8 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Madeline Thomas: Pat Ryan Junior High School Dramatics

ABSTRACT: Madeline Thomas was a drama teacher at Excelsior High School while Thelma Ryan was a student. Thomas describes Thelma as being very studious as well as a good actress; recalls the plot for the play *The Rise of Silas Lapham*, in which Thelma had a lead part; and notes that Thelma was well liked by all the teachers.

O.H.#: 967
NARRATOR: Frances Timberlake
INTERVIEWER: Dorothy Erick
DATE: June 5, 1970
LOCATION: Newport Beach, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 15 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Frances Timberlake: Richard Nixon Family

ABSTRACT: Frances Timberlake, wife of Hannah Nixon's nephew, Philip Timberlake, shares her memories of being around the Nixon family; recalls the time that she and her husband went to the home of Frank and Hannah Nixon because Frank was dying; talks about the letter that Richard Nixon sent to them after their son passed away; and briefly mentions that Pat Ryan was her typing teacher at Whittier High School.

O.H.#: 968
NARRATOR: Philip H. Timberlake
INTERVIEWER: Dorothy Erick
DATE: April 18, 1970
LOCATION: Riverside, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 21 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Philip H. Timberlake: Richard Nixon: His Relatives and Inauguration

ABSTRACT: Philip H. Timberlake, born in 1883 and married to Edith Milhous, a sister of Hannah Nixon, recalls family gatherings; shares his impression of Harold Nixon; and talks about attending Richard Nixon's presidential inauguration.

O.H.#: 969
NARRATOR: Edith Milhous Timberlake
INTERVIEWER: Dorothy Erick
DATE: April 30, 1970, May 24, 1970, June 6, 1970, June 20, 1970,
June 25, 1970, and June 26, 1970
LOCATION: Riverside, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 63 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Edith Milhous Timberlake: Richard
Nixon and His Relatives

ABSTRACT: Edith Milhous Timberlake was the sister of Hannah Nixon and reminisces about her family and life in Indiana and California. Timberlake talks about the move her family made from Indiana to Whittier, California, in 1897 and explains why they decided to do so; recalls the times she spent with her grandparents; conveys how she felt when Hannah dropped out of college and decided to get married to Frank Nixon; describes Frank and Hannah Nixon's wedding at the Mission Inn in Riverside, California; and comments on Harold Nixon and how he was like his father and also what she knew of his illness and treatment.

O.H.#: 970
NARRATOR: Catherine Travaglia
INTERVIEWER: Milan Pavlovich
DATE: May 21, 1970
LOCATION: Yorba Linda, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 24 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Catherine Travaglia: Yorba Linda History and Basque Settlers

ABSTRACT: Catherine Travaglia was born in 1914 in Yorba Linda, California and had members of her family in the Yorba Linda Grammar School every year for forty-four years. Travaglia recalls her father working as a farmer for Samuel Kraemer and then leasing the land from him; talks about her Basque heritage and growing up in Yorba Linda; reminisces about school, the community, and her family.

O.H.#: 971
NARRATOR: Dean and Jewel Triggs and Robert Gibbs
INTERVIEWER: Steven Guttman
DATE: June 13, 1970 and June 29, 1970
LOCATION: Ventura, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 108 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Dean and Jewel Triggs and Robert Gibbs: Nixon's College Political Days

ABSTRACT: Robert Gibbs and Dean and Jewel Triggs were all classmates of Richard Nixon's at Whittier College. Gibbs and Triggs recount memories of their college experience, including details of how and why the Orthogonian Society began and the sixteen charter members, the involvement of Dr. Albert Upton, Nixon's service as its first president, and the meaning of the organization's name and symbol. Gibbs and Triggs share memories of their football coach, Chief Newman, recalling that he was respected by the team and had an excellent memory. All three narrators remember Nixon as their class president and his participation in debate and many other school activities.

O.H.#: 972
NARRATOR: G. Ellis (Sandy) Triggs
INTERVIEWER: John Donnelly
DATE: June 30, 1970
LOCATION: Pico Rivera, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 22 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with G. Ellis (Sandy) Triggs: High School and Whittier College Days

ABSTRACT: Sandy Triggs attended Whittier High School at the same time as Richard Nixon. Triggs recalls memories of Nixon as a classmate in high school including how Richard stood up to a teacher and when Nixon first noticed Ola Florence Welch. Triggs also attended Whittier College and talks about attending chapel; briefly mentions playing on the football team; and gives details about being a member of the Orthogonian Society, which his brother, Dean Triggs and Richard Nixon established. Triggs reveals the changes in the community that he noticed, specifically how the decline in the citrus industry due to diseased crops led to a population growth in and around Placentia, and how the towns of Pico and Rivera joined together to form the city of Pico Rivera.

O.H.#: 973
NARRATOR: Ralph Veady
INTERVIEWER: Greg Brolin
DATE: May 4, 1970
LOCATION: Bellflower, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 12 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Ralph Veady: Nixon as Freshman
Class President at Whittier College

ABSTRACT: Ralph Veady met Richard Nixon while both attended Whittier College. Veady talks about their interaction as freshmen while he was class treasurer and Nixon was class president; and describes Nixon as being a serious individual, but also having a sense of humor.

O.H.#: 974
NARRATOR: Ellen Holt Waer
INTERVIEWER: Nancy Hunsaker
DATE: June 18, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 24 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Ellen Holt Waer: Reminiscence of a Former Student of Pat Nixon's

ABSTRACT: Ellen Holt Waer was born and raised in Whittier, California, and was a student in a 1937 secretarial training course Patricia Ryan taught at Whittier High School. Waer describes Pat as a young-looking and attractive but firm teacher. She also comments that Pat was known for her active involvement in the drama department. Waer recalls many of the names of other teachers and students during Pat's tenure as a Whittier High School teacher.

O.H.#: 975
NARRATOR: Lura Applebury Waldrip
INTERVIEWER: Nancy Hunsaker
DATE: June 11, 1970
LOCATION: Fullerton, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 21 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Lura Applebury Waldrip: Pat Ryan
Nixon as High School Teacher and High School Student

ABSTRACT: Lura Applebury Waldrip graduated from Excelsior High School in 1926 and then worked as a secretary there from 1926 to 1930. Waldrip was a senior in high school when Pat was a freshman. She states that she knew Pat because she worked in the office and knew most of the students; recalls Pat's participation in drama and plays; notes some of the typical activities in which high school students would participate, including sports and dances, and comments on the uniforms students were required to wear; reminisces about her job as the superintendent's secretary and describes what qualities the school administrators looked for when hiring a teacher, such as Pat in 1937.

O.H.#: 976
NARRATOR: Harold Walker
INTERVIEWER: Mitch Haddad
DATE: May 29, 1970
LOCATION: Fresno State College
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 11 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Harold Walker: Nixon's Religious Background

ABSTRACT: Harold Walker was a minister at East Whittier Friends Church from 1941 to 1947 and knew the Nixon family during that time. Walker comments on the personal struggles encountered by his congregation during World War II, especially those who enlisted and those who declared "conscientious objector" status; relates his own opinion on the war and explains his church's position; describes his close contact with the Nixons, including shopping at the Nixon family store, performing Don Nixon's wedding ceremony, observing Richard's dedication to the church, and noting the faithful attendance of Frank and Hannah Nixon at church on Sundays.

O.H.#: 978
NARRATOR: Edward Warner
INTERVIEWER: Jeff Jones
DATE: April 16, 1970
LOCATION: Balboa, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 23 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Edward Warner: Richard Nixon:
High School and College Days

ABSTRACT: Edward Warner, a longtime resident of Whittier, California, details his educational and extracurricular experiences at Whittier High and Whittier College. Warner also describes his relationship to Richard Nixon whom he met during his second year of high school and played with on the football team. Warner talks about being a member of the Orthogonian Society, how it got started, and their activities. He recalls taking English and history classes with Nixon and testifies that Nixon stood out as both a student and a leader.

O.H.#: 979
NARRATOR: Herb Warren
INTERVIEWER: Greg Brolin
DATE: October 1, 1970
LOCATION: unknown
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 17 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Herb Warren: The People of Early Yorba Linda

ABSTRACT: Herb Warren, a resident of Yorba Linda, California since 1923, vividly describes the community in which he was raised and recalls acquaintances of Richard Nixon. Warren observes that the Methodist and Friends Churches were the most influential, that there were very few ethnic families living in the immediate Yorba Linda area for a long time, and that there was a sizeable population increase after World War II.

O.H.#: 980
NARRATOR: Samuel G. Warren
INTERVIEWER: Nancy Hunsaker
DATE: June 17, 1970
LOCATION: Santa Fe Springs, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 19 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Samuel G. Warren: Pat Ryan as High School Advisor

ABSTRACT: Samuel G. Warren recalls his teaching career at Whittier High School starting in the 1936-1937 academic year. Warren recounts the addition of Pat Ryan to the relatively small staff of teachers the year following his arrival. He discusses her involvement in student activities and remembers that she was always popular with students. Warren divulges the names of other teachers and students who were at the school during the same years as Ryan.

O.H.#: 981
NARRATOR: Merle West
INTERVIEWER: Professor Robert Davis and his Whittier College class
DATE: No date given (sometime during Nixon's presidency)
LOCATION: unknown
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 38 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Merle West: Richard Nixon as a Relative

ABSTRACT: Merle West, a relative of Richard Nixon, whose grandfather's were brothers on Nixon's mother's side of the family and whose sister is Jessamyn West. West shares his memories of Nixon working in the family store; recalls taking Nixon to buy a car; reveals that his father, who taught Sunday School at East Whittier Friends Church, predicted that Nixon might be president of the United States some day; describes Hannah Nixon as a gentle-mannered, hard-working wife and mother and depicts Frank Nixon as a loud, honest man, with a good sense of humor; talks about life during the Great Depression; mentions the Leffingwell and Murphy ranches; reminisces on his more recent encounters with Richard; remembers how hard life was for Harold Nixon and his sister, Jessamyn, while living with tuberculosis; states that Richard was serious and studious; and discusses his rug cleaning business.

O.H.#: 982
NARRATOR: Bessie Townsend Wickersham
INTERVIEWER: Terri Burton
DATE: June 2, 1971
LOCATION: Pasadena, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 11 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Bessie Townsend Wickersham:
Personal Contacts with the Nixon Family

ABSTRACT: Bessie Townsend Wickersham discusses her connection to Whittier, California. Wickersham describes encounters with members of the Nixon family, particularly Hannah Nixon; participation in the Republican Party; and mentions her husband's association with the Quaker Church.

O.H.#: 983
NARRATOR: Floyd Wildermuth
INTERVIEWER: Glenn Barnett
DATE: May 6, 1970
LOCATION: Fullerton, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 32 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Floyd Wildermuth: Richard Nixon as a Cousin in Whittier

ABSTRACT: Floyd Wildermuth, a first cousin of Richard Nixon, moved with his mother and brother to California from Ohio when he was nine years old. His father had passed away and Frank Nixon, his mother's brother, insisted that the family come to California and live with them. Wildermuth shares memories of the year that he and his family lived with the Nixons: how he and Harold Nixon shared a room, how they got Richard to do things for them, and how they played in the lemon and orange groves; talks about graduating from Fullerton High School in 1927, going to work for the Santa Fe Railroad in Arizona, and working in the Nixon family grocery store; mentions that Richard was always reading; comments on Harold's interest in electronics; discusses Frank's acumen as a businessman; shares that Hannah Nixon always seemed calm; reveals how he tried to coax Harold into going back to Arizona to get healthy; comments on Donald Nixon taking over the Nixon family store from his father, but eventually selling it and going into the restaurant business; reminisces on his visit to the White House and how open Vice President Nixon was with him; and describes the character of the cities in Orange County.

O.H.#: 984
NARRATOR: H. Esther Williams
INTERVIEWER: Sharone Hencey
DATE: June 15, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 12 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with H. Esther Williams: Richard Nixon
As Seen by His Sixth and Seventh Grade Teacher

ABSTRACT: H. Esther Williams taught at East Whittier Grammar School from 1922 until she retired in 1962 and had Richard Nixon as a student. Williams depicts the school as rural, surrounded by orange groves, with about 500 students enrolled; indicates that Nixon was a student in her sixth and seventh grade classes (1924-1925) and she recalls that one year he had perfect attendance; discusses different classes taught at the school and the growth in the number of children attending; talks about the two main ranches in Whittier, California: the Leffingwell Ranch and the Murphy Ranch; and describes the community of Whittier, from the different stores to what people did for entertainment.

O.H.#: 985
NARRATOR: Winifred Winget
INTERVIEWER: Glenn Barnett
DATE: January 21, 1970
LOCATION: La Habra, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 12 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Winifred Winget: Richard Nixon in High School, Politics, and at Family Reunions

ABSTRACT: Winifred Winget, a second cousin of Richard Nixon's, attended two years of school with him at Fullerton High School. Winget suggests that the reason Richard changed high schools after two years was because of the transportation that became available to Whittier High School and the fact that it was closer to his home. In her senior year at Fullerton High School, Winget recalls writing a speech on the Constitution for a national contest and winning. At the same time, Richard Nixon also entered the same contest and won at Whittier High School. She remembers how he came to her high school to listen to the speeches being given. Winget talks about Richard having a good speech coach and the fact that he might have influenced Richard during his time at Fullerton High School; and she comments on Richard's good memory. She also summarizes her recollections of the family reunion held in 1954.

O.H.#: 987
NARRATOR: Merton Wray
INTERVIEWER: Steve Prantalos
DATE: January 18, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited

LENGTH: 19 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Merton Wray: Nixon as a Lawyer and Politician

ABSTRACT: Merton Wray was a judge of the Municipal Court in Whittier, California and whose father, Judge Arthur G. Wray, represented Nebraska on the platform committee of the 1912 Bull Moose convention. Merton Wray was born in Nebraska in 1911 and then moved to Whittier, California in 1923 with his family after his father was offered the opportunity to help on a case that was to be heard before the Supreme Court of California where he subsequently met Richard Nixon. Wray indicates that he met Nixon at Whittier High School in 1929 after Nixon transferred from Fullerton High School; recalls that both he and Nixon entered the oratorical contest sponsored by the *Los Angeles Times*, with Nixon emerging as the victor; and depicts Nixon as someone who could sense an opportunity and take advantage of it and “a person who people would either intensely dislike or intensely like” (Wray, 12); talks about the influence of his history professor at Whittier College, Dr. Paul S. Smith, and the founding of the Orthogonian Society; recounts one case where he was the defense attorney and Nixon was the prosecutor; describes how he was a conscientious objector of World War II until Pearl Harbor changed his mind; he decided to join, was captured by the Germans, and spent nine months as a prisoner of war. In examining the role of the president of the United States, Mr. Wray highlights the ambiguous approach of Nixon the Quaker versus Nixon the politician.

O.H.#: 988
NARRATOR: Marcia Elliott Wray
INTERVIEWER: Nancy Hunsaker
DATE: June 10, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 24 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Marcia Elliott Wray: Thelma Ryan at Excelsior High School as Told by a Former Classmate

ABSTRACT: Marcia Elliott Wray first became acquainted with the Ryans in the third grade when Thelma and Tom were in her class and later met Bill Ryan when she was in fifth grade because he was held back a year. Wray indicates that Tom and Bill went to work for her father on a farm; talks about having different interests from Thelma while in school, but recollects that Thelma was part of the drama club, Spanish club, and the debating club; remembers that when they were freshman in high school Thelma's mother, Kate Ryan, passed away and the funeral service that followed; reveals that Thelma's mother was a member of the Christian Scientists and does not recall a doctor coming to check up on her, even though she had been sick for a long time; mentions that Thelma's father, William Ryan Sr., did not seem well and thought she remembered the Ryan boys doing most of the work on the farm, while Thelma did all of the household chores; states that the Ryan boys were especially active in the youth group at the Methodist Church; says that even though times were hard and the Ryans did not have much in the way of material possessions she never heard Thelma complain; gives details about Excelsior High School: the number of children, memories of different teachers, school uniforms, and activities that took place on the campus; she recalls the damage to the school caused by an earthquake in 1933.

O.H.#: 989
NARRATOR: Marygene Marshburn Wright
INTERVIEWER: Dorothy Erick
DATE: May 25, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 21 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Marygene Marshburn Wright:
Reminiscences of Richard Nixon's Cousin

ABSTRACT: Marygene Marshburn Wright, daughter of Olive Milhous Marshburn, describes her grandmother, Almira Burdg Milhous, and how she liked to garden; describes the family home where everyone would gather on holidays; and recalls her interaction with the Nixon family.

O.H.#: 990
NARRATOR: Edwin Wunder
INTERVIEWER: Greg Brolin
DATE: May 6, 1970
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 15 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Edwin Wunder: Richard Nixon at Whittier College, as told by a Former Classmate

ABSTRACT: Edwin Wunder was a student at Whittier College with Richard Nixon and participated in: football, debate, drama, track, the College Knights (a service organization), as well as classes with Nixon. Wunder states that during his four years at Whittier College he became more and more involved in activities and became better acquainted with Nixon; remembers everyone calling Richard “Dick” then and describes him as considerate, someone who kept his promises, a leader with a great speaking ability who did not have too much of a social life; and recalls taking a class with Nixon, taught by Dr. Paul Smith: “I remember Dr. Smith said several times that it frustrated him a great deal because Dick Nixon could constantly answer a question with very few words and yet answer it completely.” (Wunder, 3) Wunder also indicates that Richard would still go out for football even though he was not very good; briefly mentions Richard’s relationship to Chief Newman; and describes the football coach at Whittier College as one of the greatest men he has ever met.

O.H.#: 991
NARRATOR: Harriet Nixon Yates
INTERVIEWER: Terri Burton
DATE: April 7, 1971
LOCATION: Corona, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 17 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Harriet Nixon Yates: Richard Nixon and His Family

ABSTRACT: Harriet Nixon Yates, a distant relative of Richard Nixon, moved with her family from New York to Fullerton, California, when she was in five years old. Yates gives a brief background of her life, moving from city to city because of her husband's job, but points out that she has lived in Whittier since 1957; details her family's lineage, going back to her great-grandfather who came from Ireland; recalls meeting Nixon while at Fullerton Junior College, specifically because they had the same last name and had a class together; describes Nixon as a "square," noting that he always seemed to be studying and was not interested in social activities like games and rallies; remembers supporting Nixon in his political career, including a time when she wrote a newspaper article defending him against the accusation that he had purchased a \$35,000 home for his parents in Whittier.

O.H.#: 992
NARRATOR: Gerald Kepple
INTERVIEWER: Greg Brolin
DATE: January 7, 1971
LOCATION: Laguna Hills, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 19 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Gerald Kepple: Nixon's Entry into National Politics

ABSTRACT: Gerald Kepple was a birthright Quaker who was born and raised in Whittier, California, where he resided for over fifty years. He knew the Milhous and Nixon families. Kepple states that he worked as an attorney in Whittier before being appointed to the bench in 1952; comments on Nixon's enlistment in the Navy in light of his Quaker ideals; indicates that he was a part of the Committee of 100 and that it was Herman Perry who first suggested Richard Nixon as a candidate; explains why Nixon was selected to run against Jerry Voorhis; and talks about his reaction when Nixon wanted to run for the United States Senate.

O.H.#: 993
NARRATOR: Nellamena Roach
INTERVIEWER: Nancy Hunsaker
DATE: April 30, 1970
LOCATION: Bellflower, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 6 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Nellamena Roach: Patricia Nixon

ABSTRACT: Nellamena Roach was employed as a substitute teacher at Excelsior High School beginning in 1928. Roach recalls taking over a senior class for a teacher whose father had passed away and having Thelma Ryan as one of her students; details Ryan's school activities, including her involvement in the Filibusters, a debating club, and the Les Marionettes, a drama club; and also mentions the names of some of Ryan's friends and acquaintances.

O.H.#: 994
NARRATOR: I. N. Kraushaar
INTERVIEWER: Terri Burton
DATE: January 28, 1972
LOCATION: La Habra, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 11 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with I. N. Kraushaar: The Nixon Family as Seen by Their Family Doctor

ABSTRACT: I. N. Kraushaar first came into contact with the Nixon family as a grocery store patron and later as their family doctor. Kraushaar notes the great need in the Orange County area for doctors when he opened his practice in 1937; recalls that about the time when Richard Nixon was running for the vice presidency, his father, Frank Nixon experienced serious health issues and eventually passed away; remembers how Richard handled a reporter's accusation that his father was not as sick as he claimed; describes Hannah Nixon's character, indicating that he never heard her make an unkind remark; comments on the presidential inaugurations to which he was invited; conveys the reasons for Donald Nixon's business failures; and describes Edward Nixon as intelligent, well-educated, dedicated, quiet, and unassuming.

O.H.#: 995
NARRATOR: Charles Milhous
INTERVIEWER: Terri Burton
DATE: January 18, 1972
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 10 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Charles Milhous: The Milhous Family and the Nixon Store

ABSTRACT: Charles Milhous was a second cousin of Richard Nixon and a long-time resident of East Whittier, California. Milhous talks about the twelve years he spent working for Donald Nixon; mentions the names of other relatives who worked for Donald; recalls activities he participated in as a member of East Whittier Friends Church; relates why he chose to attend Fullerton High School instead of Whittier High School; and briefly recollects being invited to the White House, along with other members of the family, for Richard Nixon's 1969 presidential inauguration.

O.H.#: 996
NARRATOR: Howard L. Rupard
INTERVIEWER: Terri Burton
DATE: February 2, 1972
LOCATION: Montebello, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 14 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Howard L. Rupard: Richard Nixon as a College Student

ABSTRACT: Howard L. Rupard attended Excelsior High School and was a freshman when Thelma Ryan was a senior and then went to Whittier College where he was two years behind Richard Nixon. Rupard remembers Thelma as an outstanding high school student and mentions that Thelma and her two brothers, Tom and Bill, seemed like a close-knit family. Rupard was a member of the football team at Whittier College and talks about Richard Nixon's enthusiasm and desire to win, even though he was not afforded much playing time. Rupard describes Nixon as sincere, a competitor, and "one of the most interesting persons to listen to as the student body president or as a speaker in our chapel services." (Rupard, 5) Rupard talks about belonging to the Franklin Society and notes that Nixon helped organize the Orthogonians.

O.H.#: 997
NARRATOR: Harry A. Schuyler
INTERVIEWER: Terri Burton
DATE: January 31, 1972
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 16 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Harry A. Schuyler: The Early Years of Whittier

ABSTRACT: Born in 1888, in Michigan, Harry A. Schuyler moved to Whittier, California, in 1916 and began working on the Leffingwell Ranch, during which time he became acquainted with the Nixon family. Schuyler recalls the twenty-eight years he spent working on the 500-acre ranch; talks about his involvement in various activities and organizations within the community; shares personal memories of living across from the Nixons and describes Frank and Hannah Nixon, as well as other relatives of the family including the Milhouses and Marshburns; and discloses how Nixon, with the urging of Herman Perry, decided to become a candidate for Congress.

O.H.#: 999
NARRATOR: C. Arthur Remley
INTERVIEWER: Terri Burton
DATE: December 23, 1971
LOCATION: Newport Beach, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 18 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with C. Arthur Remley: Whittier High School and the 20-30 Club

ABSTRACT: C. Arthur Remley knew Donald Nixon and was also acquainted with Richard Nixon from Whittier High School and from their mutual membership in the 20-30 Club. Remley details the activities and goals of the 20-30 Club and his participation in it; reminisces about belonging to the Friends church and talks about the Yearly Meeting and Christian Endeavor; and describes the Nixon grocery store in East Whittier, California.

O.H.#: 2626
NARRATOR: Linda K. Baker
INTERVIEWER: Shenandoah Lynd
DATE: October 1, 1997
LOCATION: Irvine, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 33 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Linda K. Baker: Richard M. Nixon's
Congressional Years: The 1946 Election

ABSTRACT: Linda K. Baker, daughter of Richard Nixon's first campaign manager, Roy O. Day, recalls her father's involvement in Nixon's first election to Congress. Baker tells of how her father bought Nixon a suit for his interview in front of the Committee of 100, which he had also helped organize; talks about her own political involvement due to her father's influence; credits her father for mentoring Nixon; states that the qualities that her father liked best in Nixon was that he was honest, had integrity, was brilliant, had a law degree, and loved his family; explains that her father was the one to research other candidates and find their weaknesses; and describes Nixon as a survivor, rather than a fighter, and as a compassionate man who continually quested knowledge.

O.H.#: 2627
NARRATOR: John W. Dinkelspiel
INTERVIEWER: Shenandoah Lynd
DATE: October 23, 1997
LOCATION: Portola Valley, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 14 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with John W. Dinkelspiel: Richard M. Nixon's Congressional Years: the 1950 Election

ABSTRACT: John W. Dinkelspiel was practicing law in 1949 when he was contacted to help with Richard Nixon's upcoming United States Senate election. Dinkelspiel indicates that he was impressed by Nixon at their first meeting; talks about his involvement as chairman of the northern California chapter of the Congressman Nixon for United States Senator Committee in acquiring publicity for the campaign; mentions the positive support for Nixon from some of the larger newspapers at the time; and comments on accusations that Nixon was anti-Semitic.

O.H.#: 2628
NARRATOR: William Price
INTERVIEWER: Shenandoah Lynd
DATE: October 9, 1997 and October 15, 1997
LOCATION: Newport Beach, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 51 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with William Price: Richard M. Nixon's
Congressional Years: The 1948 Election

ABSTRACT: William Price was a student at the University of Southern California and a member of the campus Young Republicans when he met Congressman Richard Nixon. Nixon had come to the campus to give a speech and invited a group of students to come to where he was staying to discuss politics. Price discusses his involvement in and the names of members of the Young Republicans; reminisces about the trip he went on with Nixon in 1949 to survey Californians about Nixon's chances of running for the United States Senate; mentions working for Pat Hillings, including his congressional campaign; discusses his role starting in 1952 as an "advance man," working to set up meetings for Nixon who was a vice presidential candidate at that time; describes Nixon as an intellectual and one of the most well-disciplined individuals he had ever known; indicates his involvement in Nixon's 1962 campaign for governor; and explains his job as "field coordinator" for the state of Michigan in Nixon's 1968 presidential campaign.

O.H.#: 2878
NARRATOR: Irwin F. Gellman
INTERVIEWER: Shenandoah Lynd
DATE: April 29, 2000
LOCATION: Newport Beach, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 55 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Irwin F. Gellman: Congressman Nixon

ABSTRACT: Irwin F. Gellman wrote *The Contender: Richard Nixon, the Congress Years, 1946-1952* (1999), and expands on his research and writing about Nixon's life and career during those years, while also sharing his personal opinions. Gellman describes Nixon as "loyal to an extreme" (Gellman, 373), a brilliant speaker, and someone who made the most of an opportunity; states that Nixon was a good candidate who drew on loyalty from his supporters; stresses the importance of Nixon's background; elaborates on the reasons for Nixon's political success; describes Patricia Nixon as being as smart as Richard and possibly even more so; makes a comparison of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and President Nixon; comments on the accuracy of works written by other authors about Nixon; clarifies why Nixon defeated Jerry Voorhis and Helen Gahagan Douglas so easily; and responds to claims that Nixon was anti-Semitic.

O.H.#: 2879
NARRATOR: Regina Phelan
INTERVIEWER: Shenandoah Lynd
DATE: October 1, 2000
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 19 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Regina Phelan: Richard M. Nixon's
Congressional Years: The Twelfth District

ABSTRACT: Regina Phelan grew up in Whittier, California, and received her education through college there. Phelan talks about her family history; mentions different family members' connections to the Nixons; and recalls prominent families in Whittier who supported Nixon.

O.H.#: 3060
NARRATOR: Dolores Ball
INTERVIEWER: Simone Strauss
DATE: March 26, 2003
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 24 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Dolores Ball: Richard Nixon and the Whittier College Class of 1934

ABSTRACT: Dolores Ball, a long-time resident of Whittier, California, graduated one year ahead of Richard Nixon at both Whittier High School and Whittier College. She was acquainted with Patricia Nixon through the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Ball indicates that during her second year of college she met her future husband, Kenneth Ball, who graduated with Nixon in the class of 1934; reminisces about the Whittier College class reunion she attended with her husband in Washington, D.C.; talks about Quaker Maid Dairy, the family business in Whittier; recalls how the Whittier community has changed; describes Nixon as serious, meticulous, and a good debater; states that her husband was a member of the Franklin Society and that the rivalry between the Franklins and the Orthogonians was not that serious; conveys that her opinion of Nixon did not change after he resigned from office; and remembers a call her husband received at home from President Nixon while her husband was recovering from open-heart surgery.

O.H.#: 3061
NARRATOR: Alice Newsom
INTERVIEWER: Simone Strauss
DATE: March 28, 2003
LOCATION: Whittier, California
STATUS: Transcribed and edited
LENGTH: 28 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Alice Newsom: Richard Nixon:
Whittier High School and Whittier College

ABSTRACT: Alice Newsom started her junior year at Whittier High School, where she met and later married the future dean and president of Whittier College, Roy Newsom, and where she also became acquainted with Richard Nixon, then a senior. Newsom states that her parents, along with her aunt and uncle, started the Quaker church in Lindsay, California; talks about the different jobs she held while her husband earned his degrees, explaining that she earned more as a secretary than her husband who had his Ph.D., and was working as a teacher at Whittier College; indicates that she was a birthright Quaker and the influence of the church on the Whittier, California community; relates that in 1952 the Women's Republican Club in Whittier was started and that she was its president for two years; gives her impression after hearing the "Checkers" speech and the presidential debate between John F. Kennedy and Nixon; and reminisces about the Whittier College class reunions, including one attended by President Nixon held in their home.

O.H.#: 3501
NARRATOR: Hugh Hewitt
INTERVIEWER: Simone Strauss
DATE: February 9, 2004
LOCATION: Irvine, California
STATUS: Transcribed
LENGTH: 6 pages
LANGUAGE: English
TITLE: An Oral History with Hugh Hewitt: First Director of the Nixon Library

ABSTRACT: Hugh Hewitt met Richard Nixon in August 1978 and was the first director of the Nixon Library and second executive director of the Nixon Foundation. Hewitt names the many influential people for whom he worked and the positions he held, including Richard Nixon's editorial assistant to from January 1979 until August 1980; indicates that from January 1989 through September 1990, at the request of Nixon, he moved to California to oversee the Nixon Library's construction; recalls his impression of Nixon after meeting him for the first time; talks about his responsibilities while director of the Nixon Library and details who was involved in the decision-making process; states the difference between the Nixon Library and other presidential libraries; and remembers the names of individuals with whom he worked during the construction of the Nixon Library.