

Title

Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Date

1988

Extent

25 interviews

Repository

Center for Oral and Public History
California State University, Fullerton

Project Abstract

Regularly addressed topics include: small town life in Iowa, reasons for coming out to California, serving in the military during World War II, differences in community and pace of life between Iowa and California, generational differences as seen in youth culture, indifference for the Iowa Society picnics in California, the Cold War and fears of Soviet espionage; the Civil Rights Movement and desegregation, political elections from Truman to Reagan, and television programming.

Restrictions

None

Literary Rights and Quotations

The manuscripts are made available for research purposes only. No part of the manuscripts may be quoted for publication without the written permission of the Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton.

Requests for permission to quote from completed publications should be addressed to:

Center for Oral and Public History
California State University, Fullerton
P.O. Box 6846
Fullerton, CA 92834

The request should include identification of the specific passages and identification of the user.

OH# 4397

Narrator: Achek, Lynn and Pille, Margaret
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with Lynn Achek and Margaret Pille"
Date: October 22, 1988
Language: English
Location: Lake Forest, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim; Edited (86 pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Lynn Achek and her mother Margaret Pille, residents of Lake Forest, California and Azusa, California respectively. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mrs. Achek and Mrs. Pille discuss growing up in Iowa, their immigration to California at various points in time, and differences among the people and places they inhabited. Topics discussed include life in the small, farming town of Dow City; community socializing; the orange groves of Southern California; differences between Iowa and California including education, transportation, and seasonal conditions; racial issues; political views and voting trends from a conservative standpoint; and the fear of the Soviets during the Cold War.

OH# 4398

Narrator: Violin, Beverly
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with Beverly Violin"
Date: October 22, 1988
Language: English
Location: Culver City, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim; Edited (54 pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Beverly Violin, resident of Culver City, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mrs. Violin discusses her upbringing in Iowa and her movement to California. Mrs. Violin specifically discusses the Jewish community in Des Moines, the freedom she experienced as child in Des Moines; the smaller class sizes in Des Moines versus California; the loosening of social structures in California versus Iowa, especially seen in her parents loosening of restrictions on her; identity with Reform Judaism; changes in the pace of California life over time, as affected by increased migration; the growth of shopping centers; political and voting trends from a liberal perspective; the Civil Rights Movement; the Watt's Riots; and fondness for television.

OH# 4399

Narrator: Allison, Robert
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with Robert Allison"
Date: October 17, 1988
Language: English
Location: Redondo Beach, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim; Edited (74 pages)

Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Robert Allison, a Navy Veteran residing in Redondo Beach, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mr. Allison discusses the closeness of neighbors in Des Moines; the stability of primary education during his generation; being money conscious; meeting his wife while being stationed at Los Alamitos; going through Navy Pilot training; his experience in the Pacific during World War II; the priority of affluence in Des Moines versus equal opportunities in California; the turnout of class reunions; the benefits of retirement; his thoughts on contemporary education; his dislike for politicians; his opinions on the Cold War; and his thoughts on the expansion of civil rights and issues since the Watt's Riots.

OH# 4400

Narrator: Anderson, Audrey
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with Audrey Anderson"
Date: September 24, 1988
Language: English
Location: Burbank, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim; Edited (53 pages)

Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Audrey Anderson, a resident of Burbank, California who left Iowa in 1953 for Hollywood. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mrs. Anderson discusses her parent's roots in Gilmore City, Iowa; her job at Peterson Publishing Company, publisher of "Motor Trend" among many other magazines; living in Hollywood during the 1950s; her political thoughts and views on hypocrisy, her view on communism and the Soviet Union; her thoughts on the expansion of civil rights; and political candidates like Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan.

OH# 4401

Narrator: Bauermeister, Kenneth
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with Kenneth Bauermeister"
Date: October 6, 1988
Language: English
Location: Newport Beach, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim; Edited (87 pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Kenneth Bauermeister, a teacher in Newport Beach, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mr. Bauermeister discusses growing up in Ocheyedon, Iowa, a small town near borders of Nebraska and Minnesota; attitudes about education, community, and religion; his coaching days in Iowa and Nebraska; enlisting during World War II; moving out to California in 1962; differences in the value of money and pace of life between the Midwest and California; social and political views on helping the financially less fortunate; the effects of affluence on people; political campaigns in Iowa and Southern California; how one goes about informing oneself on political issues; his opinions on politicians including Richard Nixon, JFK, Lyndon Johnson, Barry Goldwater, and Thomas Dewey; Cold War policies; and the Civil Rights Movement.

OH# 4402

Narrator: Braucht, Ira
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with Ira Braucht"
Date: September 30, 1988
Language: English
Location: Fullerton, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim; Edited (67 pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Ira Braucht, a resident of Fullerton, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mr. Braucht discusses growing up on a farm during the Great Depression; joining the Army following Pearl Harbor; his relationship with his family; his journey out to California; his transition from working insurance for Allstate to working in real estate; being involved in the community; the politics of the United Methodist Church; his political beliefs as a conservative; the Cold War; awareness of racism; and his views on Presidential candidates, from Harry Truman to Barry Goldwater.

OH# 4403

Narrator: Bruning, Jean
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with Jean Bruning"
Date: October 5, 1988
Language: English
Location: Duarte, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim; Edited (61 pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Jean Bruning, a resident of Duarte, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mrs. Bruning worked as nurse for most of her life. Mrs. Bruning discusses her family history; her decision to go to college; her experiences in Arizona and Hawaii; Lake Okoboji; working on the family farm in Iowa; racial segregation and tensions in Pasadena; her views on government; liberal politics; McCarthyism; the John Birch Society; racial prejudice; the future of medical care; and television.

OH# 4404

Narrator: Cameron, Don
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with Don Cameron"
Date: September 27, 1988
Language: English
Location: Anaheim, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim; Edited (80 pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Don Cameron, a resident of Anaheim, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mr. Cameron worked in the food industry, both in Iowa and in California. Mr. Cameron discusses the difficulties of farming in Iowa during the 1920s; being drafted at the age of 31; differences in climate between Iowa and California; driving in Orange County; his community; his conservative political ideals; the Farmer's Holiday during the Great Depression; the Bay of Pigs incident; the Watts Riots; Ronald Reagan; and work ethic.

OH# 4405

Narrator: Celmer, Martha Ann
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with Martha Ann Celmer"
Date: November 14, 1988
Language: English
Location: Rancho Palos Verdes, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim; Edited (84 pages)

Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Martha Ann Celmer, a resident of Rancho Palos Verdes, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mrs. Celmer discusses her desire for freedom from her parents; her marriages; new beginnings in California; contrasting lifestyles between California and the Midwest; being a mother; experiencing fear during the Watts Riots; personal relationships; her political leanings; economic and geographic mobility; trust in the government; and the Civil Rights Movement.

OH# 4406

Narrator: Conway Sr., Joesph
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with Joseph Conway Sr."
Date: December 5, 1988
Language: English
Location: Tustin, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Edited (75 pages)

Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Joseph Conway Sr., a resident of Tustin, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mr. Conway discusses life in Cylinder, Iowa; joining the Air Force over the Army; the California climate; the effects of military service on his religious faith; working in Chicago; the political spectrum; the increased rate of divorce in the country; the importance of being a role model; his thoughts on the freedom of the press; and the Civil Rights Movement.

OH# 4407

Narrator: Eckhart Priscilla
Interviewer: Denise Spooner

Title: "An Oral History with Priscilla Eckhart"
Date: September 29, 1988
Language: English
Location: Irvine, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim; Edited (42 pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Priscilla Eckhart, a resident of Irvine, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mrs. Eckhart discusses social awareness while growing up; ties between Midwest values and close-knit family ties; being involved in the church; being frightened by dangerous newspaper headlines about California; the hectic pace of life in California; commuting to work and the time that consumes; ; family versus career decisions; her political regarding education and health care; and racial integration in Iowa.

OH# 4408

Narrator: Fromknecht, Don
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with Don Fromknecht"
Date: October 20, 1988
Language: English
Location: Fullerton, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim; Edited (65 pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Don Fromknecht, a resident of Fullerton, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mr. Fromknecht discusses Depression conditions in Sioux City; coming out to Los Angeles, California to take part in the jazz scene; joining the Gene Krupa Orchestra in Boston; his thoughts on the lowering of standards in America, from education to business; commuting in Southern California; misconceptions about meeting neighbors in California; his family's fiscal conservative values; the Kennedy assassination; being critical about the "Communist threat"; distrust of the government; Barry Goldwater; and the state of education in Iowa.

OH# 4409

Narrator: Headrick, Doris
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with Doris Headrick"
Date: October 20, 1988

Language: English
Location: La Habra, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim; Edited (62 pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Doris Headrick, a resident of La Habra, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mrs. Headrick discusses starting a family; preconceptions about California; Freemasonry; her family's interest in music; being a parent; prejudice against Catholics; the death penalty and the judicial system; and worries about children getting involved with drugs.

OH# 4410

Narrator: Littschwager, Robert
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with Robert Littschwager"
Date: September 23, 1988
Language: English
Location: Newport Beach, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim; Edited (40 pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Robert Littschwager, a resident of Newport Beach, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mr. Littschwager discusses small-town life in Alden, Iowa; the mood of the desert; differences in education between Iowa and California; enrollment in the Navy, and eventually Stanford; "fencing-in" of backyards in Southern California; being a politically active Conservative; and political events of the 1960s.

OH# 4411

Narrator: McLellan, Mary
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with Mary McLellan"
Date: September 26, 1988
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim; Edited (73 pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Mary McLellan, a resident of Santa Ana, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mrs. McLellan discusses her family history; gas versus kerosene lamps; being isolated due to illness and fear of contagion; teaching in a country school; her decision to pursue higher education at the University of Minnesota; her husband's education in civil engineering; moving out to California for higher wages; changes in education, specifically course requirements; the social constraints of life in Iowa; her political views on housing, unions, and education; the idea of self-reliance; why more liberal-minded individuals might come out to California; her views on communism during the Cold War; and desegregation.

OH# 4412

Narrator: Maguire, Robert
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with Robert Maguire"
Date: October 3, 1988
Language: English
Location: Los Angeles, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim; Edited (40 pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Robert Maguire, an Army Veteran residing in Los Angeles, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mr. Maguire discusses shifts from manual labor to professionalization; the dryness of Texas; frustrations with life in the service; generational shifts in teenage independence; his maturation through the service and his travels; busy California life and its effect on socializing with neighbors; Southern California congestion; his political views as a conservative; distrust of the government; his thoughts on the Civil Rights Movement; and the 1964 Johnson v. Goldwater Presidential election.

OH# 4413

Narrator: Malloy, Irene
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with Irene Malloy"
Date: September 12, 1988
Language: English
Location: California State University, Los Angeles, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim (59 pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Irene Malloy, an educator at California State University, Los Angeles. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mrs. Malloy discusses discrimination as a “farm kid”; her education in nursing in Omaha, Nebraska and at the University of Minnesota; her various living situations based on her husband’s job-transfers at Hughes Aircraft; prejudice against Catholics in Iowa; inheriting political beliefs from one’s parents; Hubert Humphreys and socialized medicine; Christianity and politics; racial prejudice; and the materialistic lifestyle of Southern California.

OH# 4414

Narrator: Mick, Kenneth
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: “An Oral History with Kenneth Mick”
Date: September 15, 1988
Language: English
Location: Westminster, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim (82 pages)

Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Kenneth Mick, a Marine veteran and former law enforcement officer residing in Westminster, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mr. Mick discusses schooling in Iowa; enlistment into the Marine Corps and experience in the Pacific during World War II; his views on combat; his conversion to Catholicism; his spiritual and intellectual philosophies; his longing to return to Iowa; law enforcement in Southern California; community closeness in California versus Iowa; Richard Nixon; the threat of Communism; the John Birch Society; the Watts Riots; and Barry Goldwater.

OH# 4415

Narrator: Mongar, Richard
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: “An Oral History with Richard Mongar”
Date: October 19, 1988
Language: English
Location: Seal Beach, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim; Edited (42 pages)

Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Richard Mongar, a resident of Seal Beach, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mr. Mongar discusses growing up Des Moines; Iowan work ethic; working for North American Aviation, McCulloch Motors Company, and later Fairchild Aircraft Company; his impressions of George Bush and Dan Quayle; immigration policies; and his view that today's elected officials are politicians, not statesmen.

OH# 4416

Narrator: Perez, Helen
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with Helen Perez"
Date: October 11, 1988
Language: English
Location: Burbank, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim; Edited (50 pages)

Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Helen Perez, a resident of Burbank, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mrs. Perez discusses growing up in Dexter, Iowa; Bonnie and Clyde; the candy kitchen in Dexter; memories of the Farm Bureau; working in a factory making bullets during World War II; her surprise at markets being open in California on Sundays; drug use in schools; and suspicion of government.

OH# 4417

Narrator: Powell, William
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with William Powell"
Date: October 10, 1988
Language: English
Location: Anaheim, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim; Edited (50 pages)

Other:

Abstract: An oral history with William Powell, a resident of Anaheim, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences

of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mr. Powell discusses his father's steady work through the Depression; the "new, shiny, and bright" landscape of 1940s California; being stationed in Germany following World War II; people's lack of roots in California; the effect of large metropolitan areas versus small metropolitan areas on social interaction; becoming a Democrat; his ideas on the Soviet threat in retrospect; lessons from the Korean War; and memories of the Watts Riots;

OH# 4418

Narrator: Roe, Collins
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with Collins Roe"
Date: September 22, 1988
Language: English
Location: Garden Grove, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim; Edited (53 pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Collins Roe, a resident of Garden Grove, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of Iowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mr. Roe discusses his father's farming experiences; coming out to California in 1950 in anticipation of a depression; school environments in Iowa and Southern California; observing the landscape during the drive out to California; changes in automobiles; working in the plastics industry; his family's conservative background; working for the Young Republicans; his naiveté regarding politics during his college years; and his thoughts on the Civil Rights Movement. He also reminisces and shares a large number of personal stories along the way, including glimpses at his adolescent years, his return to Iowa, and how he came to have an increased interest in politics.

OH# 4419

Narrator: Rutherford, Nancy
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with Nancy Rutherford"
Date: September 21, 1988
Language: English
Location: Carlsbad, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim; Edited (52 pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Nancy Rutherford, a resident of Carlsbad, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of lowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mrs. Rutherford discusses the religious dynamic of her family's history; her mother as the matriarch of the family; the culture shock of attending Arizona State; moving around during her husband's time in the Air Force; her love of the warm, Western weather; the process of buying a home; her parents' political leanings; first encountering racial segregation in Florida and New Orleans; and the fear of communist threats during the Cold War.

OH# 4420

Narrator: Shaw, Dee Ann
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with Dee Ann Shaw"
Date: December 10, 1988
Language: English
Location: Laguna Beach, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Edited (43 pages)

Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Dee Ann Shaw, a resident of Laguna Beach, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of lowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have to their political actions and identities. Mrs. Shaw discusses Callender, Iowa; her decision to leave Iowa; the flexibility of living in California; the urban sprawl of Southern California; her moderate Conservative viewpoint; Protestant and Catholic divisions in Iowa; voting for John F. Kennedy; and her support of the Civil Rights Movement.

OH# 4421

Narrator: Smith, Lois
Interviewer: Denise Spooner
Title: "An Oral History with Lois Smith"
Date: September 10, 1988
Language: English
Location: Lakewood, California
Project: Iowa Migrants and Conservatism

Format: Audio; Verbatim; Edited (64 pages)

Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Lois Smith, a resident of Lakewood, California. The interview is part of the Iowa Migrants and Conservatism Project. The purpose of this interview is to explore the experiences of lowan migrants in California, as well as the connections that those experiences and their values have

to their political actions and identities. Mrs. Smith discusses financial struggles in Iowa and Nebraska; changes in agriculture in Iowan society; images of California as a secure, easy going place; people being able to come together; regional social norms (aka the difference between having neighbors “drop in” in Iowa and needing to invite over guests in California); images of California as desert and California as suburb; changes in consumption between generations; her thoughts on unions; the earning of civil rights.