

FULLERTON COMMUNITY HISTORY

AMES, Elma (1890-1979)

O.H. 1237

Retired reference librarian from Fullerton Public Library details information about the library and local history including earthquakes and the flood of 1938.

Interviewer: Shirley E. Stephenson
Date: May 22, 1972
Status: Completed 1976, 24 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 1 hr. 45 min.

AMES, Elvin A. (1898-1976)

O.H. 53

Various teaching assignments and problems with his position as a principal and school superintendent in early Fullerton High School District; impressions of the Depression and World War II.

Interviewer: Karol Keith Richard
Date: May 16, 1968
Status: Completed 1976, 24 pp., index
Tape length: 1 hr. 40 min.

ARNOLD, Florence Millner (1900-)

O.H. 1777

A noted artist, teacher, and community leader in Fullerton, California, describes childhood experiences in Reno, Nevada; her college education at Mills College and University of Southern California; and her years as a teacher in the Orange County communities of Placentia, Fullerton, and Brea. Comments on her second career as an artist, membership in several local civic associations promoting the arts in Orange County, and her association with California State University, Fullerton.

Interviewer: Gloria G. Schlaepfer
Date: October 2, 1984, August 6 and September 4, 1985, July 17, 1986
Status: Completed, 1987, 190 pp., index, photos, documents
Tape length: 8 hrs.

BACON, James (1909-)

O.H. 1872

A longtime agricultural grower, and resident of Fullerton, California, explains his development of the hearty Bacon avocado, and experiments with other varieties of avocados in varying climates, temperatures, and soil conditions. Comments on various scales, fungi, and other diseases which attack some of the two hundred varieties of avocados; and major labor sources.

Interviewer: Dennis A. Swift
Date: December 10, 1986
Status: Not transcribed
Tape length: 60 min.

BLACKMORE, Robert (1894 – 1989)

O.H. 2323

Arriving from the East in 1905 at the age of 10, the narrator recounts day-to-day life experiences; the development of Fullerton through the years relative to agriculture, commerce, geography, and modes of transportation.

Interviewer: Kathleen Heil
Date: March 27, 1973
Status: Final Transcript, 63 pp., photo
Tape Length: 2 hrs.

BORST, Richard W. (1885-1978)

O.H. 18

History of Fullerton Union High School and Fullerton Junior College from 1921-1952 as related by a retired teacher and novelist.

Interviewer: Annette Moon
Date: April 10 and 17, 1968
Status: Edited/approved, 37 pp.
Tape Length: 1 hr. 45 min.

BOWEN, Helen (1887-1985)

O.H. 2325

An oral history with Helen Gilman Bowen (1887-1985), the daughter of Richard Hall Gilman, a pioneer citrus grower who first came to the Placentia area in 1872. She describes her father's trip to California by sea in the 1860s, his involvement with bringing irrigation water to the area and the introduction of the Valencia orange here. Later he also grew persimmons. She recalls the Chinese workers on their ranch. She discusses her father investing in mines in Mexico with A.S. Bradford. She tells how her grandfather, Amos Wright, crossed the desert to California by wagon in 1869. She speaks of some of the other pioneer families in the Placentia area, including the McFaddens, the Crowthers, and the Tuffrees. She recalls her family's brief move to Northern California in the 1890s. She shares some memories of early Fullerton, and the St. George Hotel there. Mrs. Bowen's daughter, Peg Bowen, also joins in the conversation and shares some of her memories.

Interviewer: Kay Heil
Date: October 28, 1973
Status: Unedited transcript, 54 pp.
Tape Length: Unavailable

CAMPBELL, Mary Laura (1896-1981)

O.H. 1240

The first children's librarian of Fullerton Public Library provides information on the various activities developed to interest children in using the library during her career spanning forty-four years.

Interviewer: Shirley E. Stephenson
Date: May 16, 1972
Status: Completed 1974, 17 pp., index, photos
Tape Length: 60 min.

CARLSON, Elsie W. (ca. 1900-1977)

O.H. 47

Reminiscences of a retired schoolteacher, including history of the Bastanchury ranch school which was located on the Bastanchury ranch from 1927-1933. This school was established for the children of Mexican employees of the ranch.

Interviewer: Beverly E. Schmidt
Date: May 15, 1968
Status: Final typed, 24 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 60 min.

CARMICHAEL, Nancy-Lee (ca. 1903 -)

O.H. 741

A retired librarian discusses the growth of the city of Fullerton, California and Fullerton Junior College.

Interviewer: Ann M. Riley
Date: July 26, 1971
Status: Not transcribed
Tape length: 60 min.

CHAPMAN, C. Stanley (1889-1984)

O.H. 52b

Discussion of Fullerton, California from 1890-1970; Anaheim and Fullerton industries; Placentia Orchard Company, the introduction of the Valencia orange and comments on narrator's personal experiences.

Interviewer: Nita J. Busby
Date: October 16 and November 18, 1975
Status: Completed 1976, 39 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 2 hrs.
See also C. Stanley Chapman, O.H. 52a, Community History (Orange)

CLARK, Robert L. (ca. 1915-1973)

O.H. 161

Industrial development of the city of Fullerton, California; Orange County Water District; annexation and subdivision problems with Anaheim, California during the 1950s.

Interviewer: Beverly E. Schmidt
Date: August 5, 1970; January 13, 1971
Status: Edited, 125 pp.
Tape Length: 5 hrs.

CLARKE, Charles (1891-1981)

O.H. 1025

Former Fullerton, California postmaster discusses history of the Fullerton area, Fullerton Fire Department, effects of World War I, and selling Liberty Bonds.

Interviewer: Anne M. Riley
Date: August 16 and 23, 1971
Status: Not transcribed
Tape length: 2 hrs.

COFFMAN, Hanny (n.d.)

O.H. 1647

A local high school civics teacher remembers his move from Oklahoma to Southern California in the late 1930s, various jobs with General Motors, Douglas Aircraft, and the U.S. Air Force through the 1960s. Comments on social pressures faced by Fullerton teenagers during World War II because of troops stationed nearby. He compares present-day high school students in Orange County to those of the past in the county.

Interviewer: Peggy Staggs
Date: November 14, 1985
Status: Not transcribed
Tape length: 60 min.

CROOKE, Howard W. (1905-1977)

O.H. 1451

Describes management of a prisoner of war camp in Orange County in 1945. History of water resources and water development in Orange County, California.

Interviewer: Ellis Delameter
Date: October 27 and November 15, 1975
Status: Completed 1976, 46 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 3 hrs. 15 min.

DES GRANGES, Paul (1891-1977) and Julia (n.d.)

O.H. 15a

History and location of various original ranch homes and families in the Fullerton, California area.

Interviewer: Beverly E. Schmidt
Date: April 2, 1968
Status: Edited, 45 pp.
Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

DES GRANGES, Paul (1891-1977)

O.H. 15b

Longtime resident describes life in early Fullerton, California and on the Bixby ranch.

Interviewer: Anne M. Riley
Date: August 4 and 11, 1971
Status: Transcribed, 57 pp.
Tape length: 2 hrs.

EASTON, W. Ray (1898-1979)

O.H. 1318

A native of Southern California who began working in the citrus industry as early as 1913, and a manager of packinghouse operations for the Bastanchury ranch and Bradfords of Placentia, describes the operation of the packinghouses, the growth and development of the citrus area, and some of the major problems involved.

Interviewer: Vivian Allen
Date: October 27, 1974
Status: Edited/approved, 26 pp., photos
Tape length: 60 min.

ECHETO, Catherine Arambel (n.d.)

O.H. 1110

Memories of life on the Bastanchury ranch as recalled by a Basque cook and wife of the leader of the Basque laborers.

Interviewer: Sonja Eagle Diaz
Date: November 4, 1971
Status: Transcribed, 31 pp. *Missing from files*
Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min. *Missing from files*

FERRARIS, Juanita (ca 1905-)

O.H. 20

A member of the Bastanchury family retells the stories of her grandparents coming to America from France in the 1800s; discusses history of the Bastanchurys and other Basque and Orange County pioneers; sheep raising industry, introduction of citrus, and early oil exploration in the area.

Interviewer: William H. Lofstrom
Date: April 24, May 6, 1968
Status: Transcribed, 45 pp.
Tape length: 2 hrs.

FERRARIS, Vera (1910-)

O.H. 511

Biographical recollections of a retired schoolteacher, including the history of Fullerton Union High School.

Interviewer: David L. Miller
Date: June 4, 1970
Status: Not transcribed
Tape length: 60 min.

FERRY, Hubert C. (ca. 1895-1983)

O.H. 1453

A lawyer and past national director of the American Association of Engineers discusses his involvement with Union Oil Company beginning in 1918; the Santa Barbara, California oil spill; energy and the oil industry; the Metropolitan Water District; Civic involvement in the city of Fullerton, and Orange County, California.

Interviewer: Jane Mueller
Date: May 20, 1976
Status: Completed 1976, 31 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 2 hrs.

GOWEN, Constance (1921 - 2010)

O.H. 2315

A Fullerton resident provides insight on the city from the early 1940s agrarian-based economy to that of 1991; describes development of the Raymond Hills section of the city; prominent businesses; educational institutions, especially California State University, Fullerton and Fullerton College.

Interviewer: Geraldine Buckley
Date: December 14, 1991
Status: Verbatim Transcript, 46 pp.
Tape length: 1hr. 43 min.

HARNER, Ruth Knowlton (1894-)

O.H. 38

Experiences as a teacher in the United States and overseas as an exchange teacher. Includes discussion of citrus and other agricultural industries in Southern California.

Interviewer: Beverly E. Schmidt
Date: April 30, May 6 and 13, 1968
Status: Edited, 100 pp.
Tape length: 4 hrs.

HAWKINS, Juanita I. (1912-)

O.H. 1319

Resident of Fullerton, California since 1920 recalls her childhood games, schooling, and farming chores; early Fullerton residents; commercial center of town; compares the growth of Fullerton with that of neighboring cities; effects of the 1932 earthquake, and flood of 1938.

Interviewer: Kamillia Hardy
Date: May 1, 1973
Status: Transcribed, 37 pp.
Tape length: 2 hrs.

HETEBRINK, Albert (1900-2001)

O.H. 2779

Born in 1900, the son of a Norwegian immigrant and San Francisco talks about his life spent in Fullerton. The family initially grew tomatoes and later orange groves on their two ranches. Albert Hetebrink discusses problems and conditions of farming through many decades, eventually selling off the land as its value for real estate development outpaced agriculture usage. Interview includes family history in the 20th century; a description of the unique house the family constructed in 1914; wildlife hunting in the area.

Interviewer: Tracy Smith
Date: August 7 and 13, 1999
Language: English
Status: Edited, 53pp

HILTSCHER, Herman (1901-1973)

O.H. 37

A retired Fullerton, California city administrator describes early Fullerton, its development, and the beginning of his career with the city including industrial development and land use in the area.

Interviewer: Beverly E. Schmidt
Date: May 15, 1968; March 12, April 16, November 5, 12, 19 and 25, 1969
Status: Final typed, 288 pp., index
Tape length: 6 hrs.

HOLT, Raymond (1921-)

O.H. 471

A public library administrator describes his career as a librarian and the problems of trying to interest the public in the use of their libraries. Emphasis on Pomona Public Library from 1950-1970.

Interviewer: Richard D. Curtiss
Date: November 27, 1970
Status: Edited, 47 pp.
Tape length: 2 hrs.

HUGHES, Reuben Paul (ca. 1910-)

O.H. 81

Development of the Pacific Hawaiian Products, known as Hawaiian Punch, in Fullerton from 1936-1968; growth of the company from a garage operation to its national position.

Interviewer: Mrs. D. Commons and Gary L. Shumway

Date: December 4, 1968
Status: Transcribed, 26 pp.
Tape length: 1 hr. 20 min.

JENCKS, Orla H. (1885-1979)

O.H. 743

A member of the first graduating class at Fullerton Junior College in Fullerton, California discusses his college days and what friends from that time are doing.

Interviewer: Anne M. Riley
Date: July 6, 1971
Status: Edited/approved, 26 pp.
Tape length: 60 min.

KAMMERER, Archer William (1897-)

O.H. 1449

A longtime resident of the area reminisces about Fullerton and Orange County, California; World War I; Pancho Villa; and the oil industry in Olinda, California. Narrator is an inventor of oil drilling equipment.

Interviewer: Dixie C. Hicks
Date: October 15 and November 19, 1976
Status: Completed 1976, 58 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 2 hrs. 15 min.

KELLY, Arletta I. (1896-)

O.H. 48a

A former resident of Michigan arrived in California in 1910 in time to begin her high school days in San Pedro and then Fullerton. After graduating from Stanford she taught at Fullerton High School from 1920-1954. Interview includes experience in teaching English at the Bastanchury ranch school to children who were dependents of the braceros working on the ranch; teaching night school to men who were Basque, French, and Japanese; and classes for women that were held in the homes. Includes biographical data.

Interviewer: Beverly E. Schmidt
Date: May 22, 1968
Status: Edited, 44 pp.
Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

LEACH, Lola n.d.

O.H. 2221

Migrating from Missouri to Orange, California at the age of four, a Fullerton resident recollects childhood memories in the region; raising and educating her children in Fullerton; her first home in the city, uniquely constructed by the Fullerton Lions Club of Philippine mahogany.

Interviewer: Dale Swartout

Date: December 14, 1991
Status: Not transcribed.
Tape length: 1 hr. 4 min.

MONTOYA, Jessie Corona de (ca. 1900-)

O.H. 1469

A descendant of the Bernardo Yorba family discusses early life in Fullerton, California; family experiences; problems in Mexican communities; and pioneer families.

Interviewer: Esther Katz
Date: October 27, 1975; February 25, 1976
Status: Completed 1976, 47 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 2 hrs. 30 min.

MYERS, Larry (ca 1910-)

O.H. 512

Details his career as a teacher from the mid 1930s and some of the problems involved; history of Fullerton Union High School, Fullerton, California.

Interviewer: David L. Miller
Date: June 2, 1970
Status: Not transcribed
Tape length: 2 hrs.

NAUTORY, Marguerite (ca 1905- 2011)

O.H. 2217

A Fullerton native describes her childhood through late adult years in the city, as well as, her career as a World War II military nurse.

Interviewer: Dale Swartout
Date: November 18, 1991
Status: Not transcribed
Tape length: 58 min.

NEWTON, Dorothy Z. (ca. 1910-1975)

O.H. 183

A schoolteacher gives a history of Fullerton Union High School, Fullerton, California during the 1930s and 1940s.

Interviewer: David L. Miller
Date: May 21, 1970
Status: Final typed, 9 pp.

Tape length: 45 min.

O'HANLON, Margaret A. (1884-1972)

O.H. 742

Historical information on Fullerton, California in the 1920s and 1930s including the Ku Klux Klan in the town in 1923, and the flood of 1938. Discusses O'Hanlon family members who have long been in real estate sales in the area.

Interviewer: Anne M. Riley
Date: August 13 and 20, 1971
Status: Not transcribed
Tape length: 60 min.

ODOM, Dona (ca. 1900-1976)

O.H. 172

Information about the Saint George Hotel in Fullerton, California later called the Shay, which was owned by the Amerige brothers and operated by her mother. It was torn down in 1918.

Interviewer: Kathleen Heil
Date: May 19, 1970
Status: Transcribed, 30 pp.
Tape length: 60 min.

ONDARO, Anthony (1897-1978)

O.H. 1111

Former foreman on the Bastanchury ranch recalls his own family history and Basque customs; describes working on the Bastanchury ranch, a lawsuit with Standard Oil Company; and personal views of the Bastanchury family. Second interview includes personal recollections of Basque dairy farms in Hollywood, California; turkey farming in Mecca, California; Indians living in Coachella Valley, California; and family members who lived in Basque provinces of France.

Interviewer: Sonia Eagle Diaz
Date: October 14, 1971; May 29, 1973
Status: Transcribed, 105 pp.
Tape length: 4 hrs. 30 min.

PLEGAL, Ed (1943-)

O.H. 3879

Retired farmer provides an East Fullerton agricultural history encompassing the mid to late twentieth century; growth of farming and variety of crops over time and eventual decline of the industry; the business practices of the Santa Fe Railroad in the acquisition and divestiture of rail-access property; Japanese growers and their significant contributions to agriculture.

Interviewer: Sharon Pellegrino

Date: October 19, 2006
Status: Not transcribed
Tape Length: 1 hr. 31 min.

PLUMMER, Lorain R. (ca. 1900-)

O.H. 61

A businesswoman and the wife of a former superintendent of the Fullerton High School and Fullerton Junior College provides history and observations on the growth of Fullerton, California.

Interviewer: Karol Keith Richard
Date: June 12, 1968
Status: Transcribed, 23 pp.
Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

PORTER, R. Stanley (1917-)

O.H. 1873

A native son, artist, and businessman of Fullerton, California, recalls early family history dating from the 1870s, the rural community setting where walnuts and oranges dominated agriculture, businesses in the small town including the theaters and hardware store, and the arrival of electric lighting in the area. Includes comments on his childhood, education, profession, Works Progress Administration project in Fullerton, early property owners, and changes brought about by World War II.

Interviewer: Delores Larson
Date: December 11, 1986
Status: Edited/approved, 45 pp.
Tape length: 1 hr. 20 min.

REASONER ARNS, Eldona (ca. 1931-)

O.H. 2826

A charter member of the Fullerton Recreation Riders discusses the establishment of Fullerton horse/bike/hike trails; the Juanita Cooke Greenbelt, a trail in a former Pacific Electric right-of-way; Arabian horse breeding; rural Fullerton; horse culture. Timeframe addressed: 1950's – 1970's.

Interviewer: Timothy Young
Date: November 29, 1999
Status: Not transcribed
Tape length: 1 hr. 44 min.

REYES, Jennie (ca. 1915-)

O.H. 1468

Memories of the family enterprise, the La Perla Restaurant, which was the town's oldest restaurant before being torn down in 1975; problems of Mexican community in Fullerton, California, and Mexican customs and traditions.

Interviewer: LaVonne Virbila
Date: October 27 and December 15, 1975
Status: Completed 1976, 56 pp., index, photos

Tape length: 2 hrs.

SEMANS, Winifred (ca. 1900-1991)

O.H. 1861

A longtime Fullerton, California, resident recalls her family's operation of the Rialto Theater in the 1920's, Armistice Day celebrations, her teaching experiences in Marin County of northern California, and later in Fullerton, the 1933 earthquake, the 1938 flood, and landmarks of the downtown area of Fullerton. Semans comments on the prominent Chapman family including her sister's marriage to C. Stanley Chapman.

Interviewer: Delores Larson
Date: November 10, 1986
Status: Not transcribed
Tape length: 1 hr. 15 min.

SLOCUM, Roger (ca. 1900-)

O.H. 513

A science teacher who introduced geology to the Fullerton Union High School District in 1954 details the history of the campus. Biographical information of a teacher who was a coach, a principal, a superintendent, and a dean who also served as a director for the American Red Cross during World War II.

Interviewer: David L. Miller
Date: May 20, 1970
Status: Not transcribed
Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

SNYDER, Charlotte Polly G. (ca. 1903-

O.H. 2218

An early resident of Fullerton reads from her book, Fullerton History and Landmarks, and tells of her family's involvement in the Fullerton Presbyterian Church. Personal recollection of her family life and background; career working for the city through the mid-twentieth century; memories of early Basque settlers.

Interviewer: Dale Swartout
Date: December 10, 1991
Status: Not transcribed
Tape length: 1 hr. 12 min.

STRANGE, Robert G. (1910-)

O.H. 514

Experiences as a teacher at Fullerton Union High School, Fullerton, California.

Interviewer: David L. Miller
Date: June 1, 1970
Status: Not transcribed
Tape length: 60 min.

STRAUSS, Fred (1888-1981)

O.H. 1485

Brief history of the Stern and Goodman store, city politics, and family experiences.

Interviewer: Esther Katz
Date: June 10 and 14, 1976
Status: Completed 1976, 36 pp., index, photos
Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

THOMPSON, Raymond R. (1905-1985)

O.H. 33a

Comments on his general law practice and the types of cases being handled, as a city attorney, and then as a California Superior Court judge appointed by Governor Earl Warren in 1944. Recalls prohibition days and bootlegging in Orange County; problems on the Bastanchury ranch with Murphy Oil Company; Ku Klux Klan activities in the 1920s; effects of the 1933 earthquake and raising sheep on the Bastanchury and Irvine ranches.

Interviewer: Gerald M. Welt
Date: May 23, 1968
Status: Completed 1976, 21 pp.
Tape length: 60 min.
Bound as one volume, O.H. 33a and O.H. 33b, 37 pp., index.

THOMPSON, Raymond R. (1905-1985)

O.H. 33b

Recollections of family activities in the early 1900s; school days in Fullerton; memories of early Fullerton, California; the Stein and Strauss store; and his philosophy of the Ku Klux Klan.

Interviewer: Paul Archipley
Date: October 14, 1975
Status: Completed 1976, 14 pp.
Tape length: 50 min.
Bound as one volume, O.H. 33a and O.H. 33b, 37 pp., index.

WELTON, Edna (1891-)

O.H. 1467

A secretary of the Placentia Orange Growers Association recalls life in early Fullerton, California and the Mexican-American community.

Interviewer: Marcia Bastian
Date: November 16, 1975
Status: Completed 1976, 23 pp., index
Tape length: 1 hr. 40 min.

History of Fullerton Junior College, Fullerton, California and her teaching career in the field of health education.

Interviewer: Anne M. Riley
Date: June 14, 1971
Status: Not transcribed
Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

RELATED MATERIAL

Publications:

TERRY, Keith C. Walter M. Muckenthaler. Fullerton: California State University, Oral History Program, 1974, 115 pp., photos.

A biography of Walter M. Muckenthaler including family histories of both Walter and his wife Adella Kraemer; descriptions of the early California cities of Anaheim, Fullerton, and Placentia; details of the construction and décor of the Muckenthaler home in Fullerton and the development of their citrus farm; accounts of Muckenthaler's public life, particularly his service on the Fullerton City Council beginning in 1936. Includes profiles on persons who contributed to this volume.

