

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 40.1**

“An oral history with Mildred Yorba MacArthur”

Narrator: MacArthur, Mildred Yorba (b. 1903)  
Interviewer: Kathleen Heil  
Date: May 22, 1968  
Location: Pollak Library on the campus of Cal State University, Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History (Special Collections)

Format(s): Open reel; digital (02:59:35) with OH 40.2  
Transcript: Final (69 pages) with OH 40.2  
Other: None

**Abstract:** The great-great-granddaughter of Jose Antonio Yorba recalls childhood memories of walking to the Placentia Grammar School on Chapman Avenue from the ranch where she lived, games played along the way, and of learning to respect the teachers. She realized that school was a special privilege and when the school was relocated to Bradford Avenue, she remembers marching to the new site with all the other school children and having blisters on her feet because her shoes were too tight. She went swimming in the irrigation ditch of the Anaheim Union Water Company; picked flowers on Gilman Hill and the George Key ranch; and was frightened by the stories told by the Indian harness maker who had silver spurs from the notorious Joaquin Murietta. Describes trips to the Puente Valley to visit her grandparents and taking food to Basque shepherds along the way to trade for their sourdough bread, and explains how the family tree developed to include Carolina Tuffree. Tells about native Americans who came from Pala, San Jacinto, and Warner’s Ranch to pick walnuts on her family’s ranch. Touches on her attempt to study law at the University of Virginia.

**Subject headings:** Pioneers; Education, Indians—America—History; Placentia, California

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**OH 40.2**

“An oral history with Mildred Yorba MacArthur”

Narrator: MacArthur, Mildred Yorba (b. 1903)  
Interviewer: Kathleen Heil  
Date: July 11, 1968  
Location: Pollak Library on the campus of Cal State University, Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History (Special Collections)

Format(s): Open reel; digital (02:59:35) with OH 40.1  
Transcript: Final (69 pages) with OH 40.1  
Other: None

**Abstract:** The second interview covers her decision not to continue in law school and how she went one summer to be an extra on a movie set of Pathe Studios where her cousin knew the director. There she caught the eye of producer Arthur MacArthur; they were married four months later; he did not want her to work outside the home so she became an avid golfer. Interacted with Bing Crosby, Bob and Delores Hope, W. C. Fields, and Rita Hayworth , among others. After her husband died in 1948, she worked for Jackie Cochran Odlum, the aviatrix, in her cosmetic business. Later she began to write magazine stories and personality pieces for different magazines, then wrote feature articles on Orange County women for the *Los Angeles Times* and wrote several historical books, the first of which was *California Spanish Proverbs*. She was aware of the efforts of historic preservation in the Old Town area of San Diego. She mentions the changing water table in Orange County and the end of open range grazing brought on by James Irvine. She married Horatio Serrano whom she met while researching a story on the bracero workers; defends Mexicans against the charge of improvidence and recognizes their culturally developed respect for family. Adds that she sees improved educational opportunity in Mexico as well as better public health programs. Concludes by sharing her personal philosophy to use what Fate hands you.

**Subject headings:** Pioneers; Hollywood, California; Indians—America—History; Author biographies; Artesian wells; Career choice

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**OH 44**

“An oral history with Marcelo Canania”

Narrator: Canania, Marcelo (b. 1877)  
Interviewer: Allen Bailes  
Date: March 20, 1968  
Location: Home of narrator in El Monte, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (01:40:27)  
Transcript: Final (31 pages)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Native of the Philippines born in 1877 tells of nearly constant unrest and war in his country during the Spanish colonial period. Fought Spanish dominance when he was 18 and speaks proudly of Jose Rizal, complains of economic advantages of the Spanish and mestizo businesses and condemns the sexual exploitation of Filipina women by both soldiers and clerics, feels betrayed by Emilio Aguinaldo when US paid Spain for the Philippines, and describes the last holdout of the Moros in Mindanao and the dangers they posed for local population. Tried various occupations where he hoped to learn English, including houseboy for the American army’s pay master who rewarded his honesty with the medal of honor, and eventually came to the States and worked in a saloon. After that he traveled with an American family as their cook and companion, came to California and cooked for Clare Trevor, and was chauffeur for Tony Martin. His first wife and young daughter died, he remarried and had four sons who fought in World War II. Because he was too old to join the army, he went to work for Douglas Aircraft Company and built bombers faster than others in the plant. Comments that the Filipinos are not kind to each other and are untrustworthy because there are so many races enfolded there, frequently each with its own language.

**Subject headings:** Muslims; Philippines—History—Revolution, 1896-1898; Hollywood, California; Tagalog language

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**OH 45**

“An oral history with Leonard Klikunas”

Narrator: Klikunas, Leonard  
Interviewer: Gary Shumway  
Date: May 5, 1968  
Location: Not recorded  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel  
Transcript: Edited (31 pp.)  
Other: Photo

**Abstract:** College graduate and former high school teacher describes experiences he’s had in the new hippie movement of the early 1960s including a dangerous confrontation with two gay men outside of Modesto, California; using acid and grass but drawing the line at heroin; explaining his views of God, Buddha, love, charity, and the difference between force and violence. Refers to the science fiction work by Robert Heinlein, *Stranger in a Strange Land*, and his disdain for things of the material world. Revealed his intention to “drop out” in front of his high school class and then went to Cave Junction, Oregon, to live in a communal residence. Underlying tension in the interview between the Christian establishment and the hippie culture.

**Subject headings:** Hippies, Counterculture, Drug abuse, LSD

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**O.H. 63**

“An oral history with Arthur Shields”

Narrator: Shields, Arthur (b. 1896)

Interviewer: unknown

Date: unknown

Location: Narrator’s library, maybe in Santa Barbara, Calif.

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (01:52:05)

Transcript: Not transcribed

Other: Received from CSUF Special Collections

**Abstract:** Screen actor and brother of Barry Fitzgerald (William Joseph Shields), narrator was familiar with participants in Ireland’s Easter Rebellion, James Connolly, Maud Gunn, and Mary Walker; writers William Butler Yeats, Sean O’Casey, and author of the Irish National Anthem. During the interview the narrator directs others to exact spots in his library where they could find first editions and dedicated volumes. As a performer at the Abbey Theater founded by Yeats, he was familiar with Yeats and his children and often joined him for tea; he knew set designer E. G. Craig and used his staging screens. Recalls seeing G. K. Chesterton debate Thomas Johnson with George Bernard Shaw among the onlookers. Comments on interviewer’s analysis of *Ulysses* for non-Catholics and on the work of Arland Ussher in relation to Joyce. Recalls the Irish Civil War incident when fans departing the heavyweight championship fight were ambushed by British troops and all fell to the ground on O’Connell Street except for Lady Gregory who stood tall and condemned the attack. Briefly discusses being a prisoner of war after the rebellion, the best methods to drink Guinness stout, number of pubs in Dublin, and role of Catholic Church in Ireland.

**Subject headings:** Irish history and culture; Theatrical paraphernalia; Authors, Irish

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**OH 79**

An oral history with Oscar Bauman”

Narrator: Bauman, Oscar (ca. 1929)  
Interviewer: John Sprout  
Date: Nov. 24, 1968  
Location: Home of the narrator in Orange, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; Digital (01:01:58)  
Transcript: Verbatim (24 pages)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** German American discusses nationality bias he experienced during the Second World War. Though his father had his citizenship papers and the narrator and his sister were born here, the mother was still an alien because she had been ill and unable to complete the citizenship courses in Wisconsin before they came to California in 1937. The FBI searched their entire home for high powered radio equipment and confiscated four cameras because they *could* belong to the mother. Despite the fact that his father promised to take full responsibility for his mother, the FBI took the cameras and returned to recheck every six months. The bitter resentment that the narrator felt at that time has never passed. Narrator also recalls seeing his parents frightened and crying, afraid that any slip of the tongue by the children might have them rounded up and removed to concentration camps like their Japanese friends and neighbors. Other neighbors were “dumbfounded” that the FBI would act that way. Narrator accepts his father’s philosophy that there will always be terrible and unjust things in life that will just have to be accepted and sees creation of the 442<sup>nd</sup> infantry regiment from internees at relocation centers as a testimony to the greatness of the country. Recalls scathing propaganda against both Germans and Japanese and compares that to Cold War headlines that war with Russia was imminent. The narrator was drafted to fight in the Korean War and his father died while he was away.

**Subject heading:** Homefront, World War II, Immigrants—United States, curfews

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**OH 84**

“An oral history with Dieter Nenn”

Narrator: Nenn, Dieter (b. 1937)  
Interviewer: Charmaine Tichenor  
Date: January 6 and 9, 1969  
Location: Library of Cal State University, Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel  
Transcript: Verbatim (77 pages)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Native of Berlin born in 1937, narrator was just 8 years old at the end of World War II. Comments here on his limited access to formal education both during and immediately after the war and the curriculum of schools under Hitler and then the Communists. Started to work when he was 15 and joined the East German union *Freier Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund* and trained for three years to be a butcher and eventually after five years' experience he was recognized as a master butcher. As a young man he served on two fishing trawlers as a cook's assistant before transferring to a medical ship that accompanied the fishing fleet where he was in charge of the meat department and handled ordering and preparation of all meats. Describes life at sea in both types of ships, including daily routine and responsibilities and explains difference in the size and make up of crews. The fishing was done in the Bering Sea where his East German combined fleet of privately owned boats competed with West Germans and the Russian manufacturing ships where fish were caught and canned; his ship stored the catch in ice and returned to its home port after three weeks. Names one boat that was excluded from area ports because it had been caught observing a NATO installation in Norway.

The second interview session gives the differences he observed between population of Norway, Russia, and East Germany; an explanation of the fishermen's pay scale; details of his departure from Berlin in 1957 and life in the West including time in Canada and the US pursuing a formal education and multiple language skills.

**Subject headings:** Commercial fishing industry, Reconstruction (1939-1951), Education, Trades

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**OH 87**

“An oral history with Ronald Kasper”

Narrator: Kasper, Ronald C. (b. ca. 1941)

Interviewer: John Sprout

Date: December 26, 1968

Location: Home of the narrator in Garden Grove, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (01:00:28)

Transcript: Verbatim (28 pages)

Other: Field notes

**Abstract:** Conducted as the first in a sociological survey asking why people move to California. Narrator arrived in 1962 having grown up in the steel town of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, worked in housing construction for his uncle, and later attended Florida State University at Tallahassee for four semesters to escape the cold winters. Remarkd on the segregation and racial discrimination on the college campus and in areas around the campus that made him uncomfortable. Did not do well at school so travelled with friends across the country to “look for a new way of life and a job”. Thick smog and heavy freeway traffic seen from the top of the Cajon Pass was a negative first impression of California; proceeded with friends to locate housing and work; jobs were generally easy to find and he continued in construction work while attending classes at the Fullerton Junior College. With a better grade point average, he was accepted at Cal State University, Fullerton, where he earned a degree in marketing. Positive traits he found in California included broader opportunities for employment, entertainment, sporting events, and education; weekends are always active; communities are formed with broader geographic borders. Discusses the advantages of living in the East where families are closer, there is greater privacy possible, land is less crowded, and children play closer to nature and not in the streets. Recognized Orange County as politically conservative and not inclined to provide education to those who could not pay for it. Suggested that anyone coming to California have enough money to live for two months without work and come as younger adults who would more easily adjust to the faster pace of life.

**Subject headings:** Ethnic Groups, Career Advancement, Cultural awareness—California, Race Discrimination

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**OH 88**

“An oral history with J. Edward Coker”

Narrator: Coker, J. Edward (b. 1940)  
Interviewer: John Sprout  
Date: December 28, 1968  
Location: Business office in Orange, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel  
Transcript: Edited (20 pages)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Conducted as the second in a sociological survey asking why people move to California. Narrator came from Willoby Hills, a small town outside Cleveland, Ohio, in 1964 with two other friends; all were anxious to escape the cold weather of the Midwest and narrator was looking to continue his college education that he had begun in Youngstown, Ohio. He had been alternately working and attending school and hoped that lower costs and higher paying jobs would enable him to earn a degree; also felt California schools were recognized as more advanced in chemistry. He quickly got a job pumping gas, then as a gardener, and eventually at Autonetics, Anaheim Division. Feels his own political attitudes have shifted to a more conservative position and understands why Midwesterners felt “all Californians were crazy”; disagreed with conservative Senator John Schmitz and says teachers are overworked and very willing to meet with students who make the effort to arrange such conferences. He had been advised against coming to California because of smog, and generally opposed stance of pro-development Irvine Company. Says religion does not play as prominent a role in California as it does in the Midwest and he struggled to find an organized religion with which he could identify. Has been married just about a year and feels no desire for children and would rather travel in Europe. Advises new arrivals to the state to have a trade and be sure there is a market for that trade before moving to California.

**Subject headings:** Education, Economy and society, Occupations, Financial planning—personal.

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**OH 89**

“An oral history with James Wight”

“An oral history with Betty Wight”

Narrator: Wight, James (b. 1929)  
Wight, Betty (b. 1935)

Interviewer: John Sprout

Date: December 29, 1968

Location: Home of the narrators in Garden Grove, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (01:07:21)

Transcript: Verbatim (29 pages)

Other: None

**Abstract:** Husband and wife were interviewed together as another part of a sociological survey asking why people move to California. Weather was not as much a factor as the opportunity to better themselves and provide a better life for their two children, particularly in the California school system. The salaries were double and the costs of clothing and furnishings were about half; housing was the only item that did not follow this pattern. Coming from Ontario, Canada, and leaving family behind, they used the move as chance to make their own mistakes and learn from them without pressure from parents, especially with freedom of choice in religious practice in the Roman Catholic Church. They felt religion did not play a major role in life in California and generally “people don’t hold marriage sacred”. Betty felt women had lost their feminism by taking on male roles like taking out the trash, mowing the lawn, and shoveling snow. They found it difficult to make friends but James comments that real friends only develop over time and believed if they had to return to Canada, their children would be at a loss since they had grown up here and had lifelong friends. Betty commented that neighborhoods were different but in most, neighbors did not visit each other in their homes, they went out together. In Canada such outings included the children; in California, the children stayed home. Narrators shared the parenting philosophy they used to keep their teenagers away from drugs including open discussion and attentive listening. Two examples of the faster life in California were the freeways and the wider availability to purchase liquor. When asked about advice for future immigrants, they said it was important to make the move earlier rather than later in life and to be sure to have a trade that you could fall back on for income.

**Subject headings:** Family, Parenting, Immigration and society, Cultural awareness—Canada, Cultural awareness—United States

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**OH 90**

“An oral history with Frederick Delisio”

Narrator: Delisio, Frederick (b. ca. 1940)  
Interviewer: John Sprout  
Date: January 4, 1968  
Location: Home of the narrator in Santa Ana, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History  
  
Format(s): Open reel; digital (00:50:42)  
Transcript: Verbatim (13 pages)  
Other: correspondence

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as part of a sociological survey asking why people move to California. Narrator’s main reasons were multiple job opportunities and the allure of California as portrayed in the movies. Upon arrival narrator discovered many jobs listed in newspapers where applicants were taken at face value and unlike in the east did not face ethnic prejudice or cronyism in hiring. First impressions of the desert, grey stucco buildings, and discolored smog did not match the movie image; however after returning to visit his home town of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, and seeing anew the industrial pollution, the narrator came to appreciate the natural beauty of Southern California’s ocean and mountains nearby. Multiple levels of education were easily accessible including junior colleges, colleges, trade schools, law school, and night courses and the narrator was impressed with how many people take advantage of these systems. He describes the different ways of thinking about community and family support between eastern regions and California and notes a person is not tied to a residential community here because no one hesitates to live in one town and work thirty miles away in another. He finds no “rigid social sanctions” on premarital sex, sees a certain indifference to the lack of regular religious practice, and is unaware of racial strife even though he suspects there must be some racial housing restrictions since so few blacks live in Orange County. However, narrator maintains children can grow without being delinquents just as easily in California as back east if the parents are involved in their upbringing. The density of population in California provides a wide variety of social events; sports, museums, concerts, and races all seem to have enough attendees to make successful events. Smaller communities of the eastern coast cannot offer this to residents. Finally, he advises that people who cannot live on their own without constant support from a close community and/or family would be well-advised to not come to California.

**Subject headings:** Parenting, Immigration and society, Education, Cultural awareness—United States

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**OH 91**

“An oral history with Richard Chill”

Narrator: Chill, Richard (b. 1941)  
Interviewer: John Sprout  
Date: January 5, 1969  
Location: Home of the narrator in Yorba Linda, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (00:47:00)  
Transcript: Edited (21 pages)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as part of a sociological survey asking why people move to California. Narrator from Newcastle, Pennsylvania, has only positive opinions of California and intends to live in this state indefinitely. He came to escape the local steel mills of Youngstown, Ohio, and take advantage of wide variety of job opportunities; discovered the free education system that has enabled him to advance his career and personal development. He laments the growing congestion and sees heavy reliance on the automobile as a cause of smog; notes people are too busy trying to make a living so they don't have time to meet their neighbors and enjoy a sense of community. He considers pros and cons of living without many family members close by, seeing his cousins still reliant on family for work, education, and recreation and knowing he enjoys a much greater sense of achievement in his life. He married a woman from California and together they have done many things, such as beach parties, ski trips, and tours of movie studios that would not be possible back East. They have stayed somewhat active in their religion, though only going to church on Sundays with the church playing a lesser role here during the week than it would in Pennsylvania. His children are enrolled in Catholic schools, but he does not worry about their religious belief if they decide to attend the public school system. Children seem to mature faster here and have less opportunity to explore Nature.

**Subject headings:** Education, Economy and society, Occupations, Parenting, Cultural awareness—United States, Career advancement

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OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 101**

“An oral history with Richard Succo”

Narrator: Succo, Richard (b. ca. 1940)

Interviewer: John Sprout

Date: January 12, 1969

Location: Home of the narrator on Balboa Island, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (01:07:18)

Transcript: Edited (17 pages)

Other: None

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as part of a sociological survey asking why people move to California. Narrator’s primary reason to move to California was to escape the cold weather of his native community Neenah Manasha, Wisconsin, but arrived during a week of record rain and got off to a bad start with local residents. Though construction jobs paid better here than back east, the cost of living was higher; worked and went to school as much as possible and found that job opportunities expanded with his education. As a single adult male, he compares attitudes in California with those in Midwest on credit card purchases, political involvement in local government, sense of community, and parenting techniques. Advice he’d offer to anyone thinking of coming west: prepare to work hard and independently, and before coming, do research on climate and economy of northern and southern California to decide what part of the state appealed the most.

**Subject headings:** Education, Economy and society, Parenting, Financial planning—personal

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 102**

“An oral history with Ardella Warner”

Narrator: Warner, Ardella (b. ca. 1923)  
Interviewer: John Sprout  
Date: January 11, 1969  
Location: Business office of the narrator in Orange, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (00:59:31)  
Transcript: Final (15 pages)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as part of a sociological survey asking why people move to California. Narrator first came to California for a short vacation, liked what she saw so well that she and her family returned to Superior, Wisconsin, sold all their belongings and rode the train to California. Lived for six months on their savings and then her husband gave up plans to earn a Ph.D. and resumed a successful career selling automobiles. Does not credit California with any changes in outlook that she's had but attribute that to her own personal growth and maturing; as a child freely chose a religious practice and just as solidly chose to reduce religious activity; believes community spirit is better here because more people get involved and there are no longtime families in control of the town or government; is confident that her children will be able to make good decisions regarding the temptations and challenges of life here from drugs and social pressures because they are much like her and her husband. Feels the public schools here are not geared to help the student who has more difficulty learning and/or less interest in school, based on the experiences of her own three children. Has been a lifelong Republican but likes to challenge Democrats and try to persuade them to change affiliations; is sure conservatives are not unique in this state. Believes there are limitless job opportunities here unlike the economic ebb and flow according to the weather in the Midwest. Feels Californians have a zest for life and open minds to new ideas. Advises that newcomers have adequate financial standing before coming and thinks her Midwestern upbringing helps her relish the variety of opportunity she has open to her.

**Subject headings:** Parenting, Elementary education, Economy and society, Cultural awareness—United States, Career advancement

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OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 106**

“An oral history with Gene Sullivan”

Narrator: Sullivan, Gene (b. 1934)  
Interviewer: John Sprout  
Date: January 22, 1969  
Location: Home of the narrator in California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History  
  
Format(s): Open reel; digital (00:45:31)  
Transcript: Edited (21 pages)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as part of a sociological survey asking why people move to California. Narrator’s primary reasons for coming to California were improved job opportunity and escape the cold weather of the East Coast. He left the Irish ghetto of the South End in Boston with mixed feelings because he grew up there, had many friends and family to associate with, and could easily get around the area; explains advantages of ethnic groups consolidating into ghettos for economic, language, and social support; comments that children in the city have many things to explore and watch while suburban children don’t have anything exciting to do unless the parents make extra efforts to take the places and do things with them. Shares the difficulty he had in getting a job washing dishes after the aerospace industry drastically reduced its workforce and tells of discrimination against him as a short person. He points out how in the future he would encourage his children to take advantage of the educational opportunities here so they would not have to work at low-paying and difficult jobs like he does. Notes that residents here don’t walk very much so they don’t have the chance to meet people on the street and this tends to prevent the development of any sense of community; wonders about routinely driving forty miles to work daily; sees that time spent in commuting is time not spent with one’s children. Comments that his mother may have loved her children, but she didn’t like to have them around because they made her nervous. Extensively discusses what he plans to do as a parent, to teach by example and to interact closely with his children. Encourages immigration to California to have the friendly environment of warm weather.

**Subject headings:** Parenting, Economy and society, Cultural awareness—United States, Ethnic minorities, Career advancement

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**OH 107**

“An oral history with Ronald Lloyd”

Narrator: Lloyd, Ronald (b. 1940)

Interviewer: John Sprout

Date: March 27, 1970

Location: Home of the narrator in Garden Grove, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (00:28:33)

Transcript: Edited (8 pages)

Other: None

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as part of a sociological survey asking why people move to California. Narrator had made the trip from Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, with the interviewer and another friend and feels that all of them just wanted to be independent of their families and able to stand on their own as well as escape cold weather and find more varied employment opportunities. His first impressions were negative: smog, fast freeways, and many automobiles. Recounts his job advancement and is positive about continued employment because he feels sure his hard work and loyalty will be valued by employers. Knows the education system is another path he can follow for advancement; had not considered advanced education before since he didn't want to burden his father with the costs. Notes that life is faster and more aggressive here, especially on the dating scene; felt no sense of community living in apartment complex with all young adults around the same age; feels people don't want to “take the time to be good friends” and are happy with superficial greetings to neighbors. The birth of his child the day before the interview causes the narrator to express real concern on raising children in California where he feels they are pressured early into doing things like drugs and pills and other adult-like behavior, especially in wardrobe. Would lower his standard of living and move to Arizona if his wife could then stay at home with their child/children and raise them safely and well. Advises others not to build up California as some sort of Utopia, keep realistic expectations for advancement, and get used to not knowing everyone in town.

**Subject headings:** Parenting, Career choice, Education, Financial planning—personal

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**OH 475.1**

“An oral history with Howard Baldwin”

Narrator: Baldwin, Howard (b.1893)  
Interviewer: Phyllis Lewis  
Date: March 19, 1971  
Location: Home of narrator in Westminster, California w. wife present  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel  
Transcript: Edited (38)  
Other: photos

**Abstract:** The narrator was asked for information about his experiences as a culinary steward in federal penitentiaries including Leavenworth and Alcatraz. His father had worked in zinc smelter plant in Kansas, suffered blue powder poisoning, and regained his health by working on farm in Illinois. Narrator left home at age 19 and learned to cook while working as a migrant farm worker. Fought in World War I and volunteered to fight in the second war due to sense of patriotism. He worked for the Fred Harvey hotels and railroad eating houses for fourteen years before being invited to assume leadership of the culinary department at Leavenworth penitentiary after the inmates rioted over poor quality meals. He worked in the federal prison system from 1929 to 1957. Realized the humanity of the inmates was often not considered as part of the rehabilitation process so he developed the concept of “standard ration” for the prisons that would provide adequate calories and variety of food groups. He worked in various federal penitentiary kitchens as part of the general personnel rotation resulting in a very transient life for his wife and children; states his opinions on what makes an inmate and how inmates should be treated; and expresses concern that released prisoners are not adequately helped to renew their lives. Lists famous prisoners he knew including Frank Nitti, Machine Gun Kelley, Red Barker, and Robert Stroud.

**Subject headings:** Imprisonment—California, Prisons--Design and construction--United States, Food portions

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**OH 475.2**

“An oral history with Howard Baldwin”

Narrator: Baldwin, Howard (b.1893)

Interviewer: Phyllis Lewis

Date: April 5, 1971

Location: Home of narrator in Westminster, California w. wife present

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (01:15:03)

Transcript: Edited (25 pages)

Other: photos

**Abstract:** This second session includes description of the physical facility at Leavenworth penitentiary and discussion on activities to keep inmates busy, on success or failure in rehabilitation of prisoners, hanging as method of capital punishment in 1930 and the “hot” atmosphere created when the gallows was constructed, capital punishment and repeat offenders, failed and successful escape attempts, and facilities for criminally insane.

**Subject headings:** Imprisonment—California, Prisons--Design and construction--United States, Food portions

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**O.H. 525**

“An oral history with Rita Maisch”

Narrator: Maisch, Rita (b. 1920)  
Interviewer: George Maisch  
Date: March 21, 1971  
Location: Home in Anaheim, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History  
  
Format(s): Open reel, digital (00:34:16)  
Transcript: Edited (18 pages)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Narrator evaluates and compares the three areas in the United States where she has lived, beginning with her childhood in New York City, after marriage a move to the small community of Sea Cliff on Long Island where her husband found war work, and finally a move to Anaheim, California, when her husband’s company relocated and moved twenty families to West Coast. She considers preferred methods of transportation, nature of involvement with neighbors, parents’ role in their children’s education and learning opportunities, and the role of environment in the social scene. Favors the informal lifestyle of California and attributes that to the early Mexican influence, would have liked to see more Spanish influence in post-war architecture, and recognizes the beauty of the desert and barren hills in the southwest United States to the point that she feels East Coast tree-covered mountains now seem cluttered to her and in need of thinning.

**Subject headings:** Cultural awareness—California, Education, Parenting, Immigration and society

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**O.H. 586**

“An oral history with Emil Sandmeier”

Narrator: Sandmeier, Emil (b. 1900)  
Interviewer: John F. McFarlane  
Date: May 10 and 12, 1971  
Location: Ranch house at Will Rogers State Park  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel, digital (03:52:20)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: Description of furnishings and ranch history from May 1971 (18 pages)

**Abstract:** Interviews were conducted as part of the Department of Parks and Recreation project. Narrator was a native of Switzerland who secured employment as caretaker of the Will Rogers' family weekend home or ranch in 1929, an “awkward time to get a job.” Gives brief personal history of his experience working in high class European hotels before coming to work in Altadena, California area. A friend was employed by the Rogers and tipped him off that they were looking for someone to be at their ranch while they were traveling. Sandmeier convinced the family he and his wife could be assets to the ranch, and built their own home nearby in 1930 by saving \$2,000 and borrowing an equal amount that was repaid in two years. Rogers refurbished several buildings and constructed new ones on the ranch during the 1930s in order to keep people employed; also created trails over the 76-acre ranch. Discusses a photo of the barn on which Rogers wrote: “This is the barn that jokes built.” Narrator recalls many famous people visited the Rogers and brought gifts of their own creation, so for example, they have quite a collection of Charles Russell works. Will Rogers and his wife would frequently offer the use of their home to individuals needing a quiet place to rest, like Fred Stone, Elizabeth Morrow Morgan and her sister Anne Morrow Lindberg and her husband Charles. Recalls working with Mrs. Rogers after her husband's death to itemize and move the contents of the main living room to Fort Worth, Texas, to be displayed in an exhibit there. Later did similar work to send the extensive Will Rogers saddle collection to the memorial near his birthplace in Oklahoma. Worked briefly for Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. and then Fairbanks, Jr. until the latter went to war and Mrs. Rogers invited him to return to their ranch and assist with inventories needed prior to giving the ranch to the parks system. Recalls Rogers as a compassionate man, always ready to assist financially or meet material needs of people who asked him; he loved animals and suffered when pets died or were killed; he went out of his way to keep neighbors and guests safe. His home was used by non-profit organizations, like the Red Cross, before it was given to the state. Narrator tells that Mrs. Rogers asked only that five items be removed from the home prior to the governor taking possession so that she could keep or give them to the children. Narrator mentions that he was told there had been a fourth child named Ernest; Sandmeier takes comfort in knowing that Rogers visited him in the hospital just before leaving on his fateful trip.

**Subject headings:** cowboys, Will Rogers State Historic Park, humorists, Entertainers--California, Southern

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**O.H. 591.1**

“An oral history with Arthur T. Lewis:

Narrator: Lewis, Arthur (b. 1891)  
Interviewer: Phyllis I. Lewis  
Date: March 28, 1971  
Location: Home of the narrator in Garden Grove, California; Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reels, digital (08:54:27) with OH 591.2  
Transcript: Edited (130 pages)  
Other: Photos, genealogy chart, biography of Arthur H. Lewis

**Abstract:** Narrator describes original street grid of Salt Lake City and changes that evolved as the city grew, locates the irrigation ditch that went through the city, and describes how the streets were maintained as late as 1921, noting the many locations he lived with his family as a child. Attended three different elementary schools in the city and the one local high school; earned money during summer vacations beginning when he was 13 years old in various jobs including rug weaving, janitor’s assistant, delivering magazines, working in a bakery, an assayer’s office, and as office boy at the local power and light company. Describes his parents and some siblings, recalls measles quarantine, streetcar rides, parade to mark 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Salt Lake City, and work at a school for deaf students where he hoped to earn enough money to attend college. Eventually had funds to attend two years of college where he studied writing and advertising; summer job in Yellowstone Park did not produce needed funds, so he went to Chicago and there was able to land a fulltime job in advertising that lasted 40 years. Selected place for retirement based on the weather and came to Garden Grove, California.

**Subject headings:** Parenting, Economy and society, Financial planning—personal, Career advancement, Education

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 591.2**

“An oral history with Arthur T. Lewis:

Narrator: Lewis, Arthur (b. 1891)  
Interviewer: Phyllis I. Lewis  
Date: August 16 and 25-26, 28, 31, 1980  
Location: Home of the narrator in Garden Grove, California; Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reels, digital (08:54:27) with OH 591.1  
Transcript: Edited (130 pages) with OH 591.1  
Other: Photos, genealogy chart, biography of Arthur H. Lewis

**Abstract:** A second series of recording sessions was conducted to correct or complete information garnered in the first session. Here narrator provides names of employers, company mergers, and length of employment throughout his working career, including his final employer, the St. Charles Manufacturing Company; details effects of Great Depression on his career, such as bartering his work for canned foods, and explains other income sources he developed during that time; explains his affiliations with the Christian Science Church where he was highly active. Interview morphs into an autobiographical monologue where narrator discusses his two sons and the adopted daughter conducting the interview, adds more information on his own mother’s background in the Shaffer and Robinett families, describes his early efforts in photography using a Kodak camera and eventually switching to a German-made Exacta camera, his paintings, his affiliation with the Rotary Club of St. Charles, travels to locate a suitable retirement location, and his efforts to form the Fifty-Plus Club for seniors in Garden Grove. Gives much detail to the declining health of his wife Irene and how costs were managed for her convalescent home as well as for his own living conditions which he shares with his daughter. Mentions grandchildren with pride and concludes with list of dogs, cats, and canaries the family had as pets.

**Subject headings:** Parenting, Economy and society, Financial planning—personal, Career advancement, Education

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**O.H. 596**

“An oral history with James O. McDougal”

Narrator: McDougal, James O. (b. 1917)  
Interviewer: Connie Perkins and Kay Knepp  
Date: October 10, 1970  
Location: Narrator’s home in Hawthorne, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (01:36:49)  
Transcript: Final (45 pages)  
Other: Extensive footnotes

**Abstract:** Narrator is interviewed by his two daughters about his experiences during the Great Depression; interview is conducted as a class assignment for Connie Perkins. As a champion high school wrestler, the narrator had hoped to attend Kansas State College with financial assistance from the athletic department, but this proved impossible due to the financial times. Gives account of many jobs he worked in order to earn tuition or rent money ranging from bus boy to bartender, laundryman, coal miner, agricultural laborer, to typewriter salesman. He explains dangers and advantages of hobo jungles and racial discrimination in the train yards, difficulties in sneaking rides on freight trains, perils of hitchhiking, and hazards of competing for limited jobs. Comments on National Youth Association’s efforts to help people find work, the Works Progress Administration’s make-work projects, and the achievements of the Civilian Conservation Corps in his hometown of Atwood, Kansas. Indicates a common philosophy of the time was to just worry about today and have fun while looking for work and claims 90 percent of hobos were looking for work.

**Subject headings:** Depression—1930 to 1940, Hitchhiking in the 1930s, Education, Employment, cigarettes.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**O.H. 599**

“An oral history with Charles Craig”

Narrator: Craig, Charles (b. 1900)  
Interviewer: Eugene Craig  
Date: November 3 and 9, 1970  
Location: Not recorded  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel, digital (02:41:38)  
Transcript: None  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Narrator is interviewed by his son about his experiences as a hobo or bum from 1919 to 1923. Indicates he went on the bum for adventure and because there was little opportunity to earn money at home. Traveled on “side door Pullmans” (railroad box cars), sometimes stayed in “hobo jungles” or camps where he slept in “shebangs” (windbreaks made of boxes, cardboard, or tin) to find employment on farms, building roads, in the oil fields, or following the harvest. The “grapevine” was a means of exchanging information on where work might be found or what railroad yards should be avoided; some railroad workers would let him ride inside where it was warm while others would assault him with clubs. Recognizes how use of machines reduced the number of men needed to perform any particular job creating a job shortage. Rode with organizers from the IWW or Industrial Workers of the World for a brief two-day stint then avoided that group as much as possible. Felt a certain respect or envy from the general population who could not share the freedom to travel that he enjoyed, and recalls a time when his trust in someone was well founded and a valise was returned to him intact. Avoided being put on a chain gang to construct roads near Las Vegas, Nevada, by displaying the Oddfellows distress sign to the jail guard.

**Subject headings:** Industrialization, Employment—1910-1930, Economy and society, Depressions—1923—United States.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**O.H. 1024**

“An oral history with Murray N. Lefkowitz

Narrator: Lefkowitz, Murray N. (b. 1922)  
Interviewer: Clare Engle  
Date: 1970  
Location: Not recorded  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel, digital (00:42:12)  
Transcript: None  
Other: None

**Abstract:** President of Duro Press Garment Finishing Company of Anaheim, California, discusses the chemical basis and development of wash-and-wear and permanent-press fabric finishes. This native of Poland came to New York at the age of five and eventually earned advanced degrees in the field of chemistry in the early 1950s. While working at Alamac Knitting Mills in Massachusetts he was involved with initial experimental work to develop a wash and wear formula; at the same time on the West Coast Joe Wernock (sp?) developed a practical formula but without funds to implement the process he sold the patent rights to Joe Koret (Koret of California) who realized a \$5 million profit the first year. Koret's company did not make anything, just licensed companies to use the formula. Lefkowitz established a permanent press plant in Costa Mesa, California, for Kayser-Roth that locally was known as Catalina; saw great potential so left that company to start his own business. Details the production process from the molecular beginning to the final press and curing of the fabric.

**Subject headings:** Cotton finishing, clothing trade, Leisure—United States, Chemistry—Technical Research—United States, Textile research

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**O.H. 1041**

“An oral history with Fraser Buck”

Narrator: Buck, Fraser (b. ca. 1893)  
Interviewer: Ron Nichols  
Date: August 7, 1971  
Location: Narrator’s home in Park City,  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History  
  
Format(s): Open reel, digital (00:55:15)  
Transcript: None  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Lifetime resident of Park City, Utah, discusses the history of the town, the mines that made its economy viable and individuals who owned them. Narrator felt the most important time for the mines was between 1910 and 1930 when there was a big payroll and much mining activity. He had wanted to be a mining engineer but took over his father’s store after he died and operated it. Mentions that water is a problem in the deep mines and had to be pumped out using a Cornish design pump; notable characters in town included the Silver Queen, John J. Daly, Thomas Kearns and David Keith. Describes the main street of town including the area for prostitutes and notes that Chinese would raise vegetables and sell them in the town; dairy and cattle and extensive farming were found down in the valley; and recalls population was very international with Irish, Italian, Swedish, English and Scotts. Details the likely causes of the Daly West mine explosion that killed 34 miners and the town’s reaction to the incident.

**Subject headings:** Hard rock mines and mining--West (U.S.)—History; mining accidents; Chinatown, Park City UT; immigrants, 1890-1900.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**O.H. 1065**

“An oral history with Nellie Daly”

Narrator: Daly, Nellie (b. 1890)  
Interviewer: Anne Banas  
Date: June 10, 1971  
Location: Narrator’s home in Leisure World, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (00:37:42)  
Transcript: Partial, only 5.2 pages  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as part of the Utah Oral History Project. Narrator was born in Salin, Kansas, and when the Indian Territory was opened for occupation by white farmers, she went as a child with her family to the town of Lawton, Oklahoma, near Fort Sill; her father was an undertaker with hopes of establishing a business in the new town. She describes Lawton as a tent city with a few buildings and boardwalks in front of them along muddy roads; explains the lottery used to parcel the land out to settlers, especially noting that Mattie Beale drew number one, the best plot; mentions the requirement to “prove up” the land before buying it; recalls seeing the Apache Geronimo and the Comanche Quanah Parker in town and felt the Indians were rightfully being displaced because they were not using the land for farming but recognized that white men cheated the Indians by getting them drunk or giving them alcohol before sales transactions. Calling them “blanket Indians” she described the mistrust of shop owners when the Indians came, the segregated school for the children, and the local disdain for white women who married Indian men. Later she married, moved to California for her husband’s health, and raised their family in Huntington Park.

**Subject headings:** Indians—America—History; race discrimination; Oklahoma--History--Land Rush, 1893; agriculture

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**O.H. 1112**

“An oral history with Theodore J. Boselli

Narrator: Boselli, Theodore J. (b. 1915)  
Interviewer: Harris N. Done  
Date: April 27, 1971  
Location: Not recorded  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (01:54:56)  
Transcript: Final (35 pages)  
Other: News article

**Abstract:** The navigator of US presidential airplanes, Sacred Cow and Independence, recalls his training, missions, and general experience in this position from 1944 to 1948 after which he served in the Strategic Air Command (SAC) for eighteen years. Describes modifications to the C-54 to make the plane suitable for Franklin D. Roosevelt, including an elevator, interior ramps and railings, and a bullet-proof window; flew four presidents: Roosevelt, Truman, Hoover, and Eisenhower; lists many passengers of note who were flown on these planes including presidents of South American countries, Madame Chiang kai-shek, King Ibn Saud, Carmen Miranda, Gary Cooper, Gen. George Marshall, Gen. George E. Stratemeyer, and describes gifts the crew received from such passengers. He explains crew living arrangements, plane maintenance efforts, celestial navigation, flying conditions over the desert of northern Africa, and social events with Eleanor Roosevelt and Truman family members. Served in the Pacific theater during part of World War II, was sent into the Korean War despite his training with atomic weapons, and survived instrument failure after electrical surge in a storm.

**Subject headings:** Presidents—travel, aeronautics, navigation, World War II veteran histories

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**O.H. 1113**

“An oral history with G. C. Beale”

Narrator: Beale, G. C. (b. 1914)  
Interviewer: Harris N. Done  
Date: April 15, 1971  
Location: Narrator’s office  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History  
  
Format(s): Open reel; digital (00:53:52)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Native of Texas, narrator tells about his experiences in the US Army Air Corps in the Pacific during World War II beginning with his arrival at Hickam Air Force Base near Pearl Harbor the morning of December 7, 1941; analyzes the two-stage system used by the raiding Japanese pilots and provides a possible explanation of why the Japanese planes were not spotted before they got to the harbor; he believes there was no artificial delay in US response. He had signed up for military service so that he could select which branch he would join, the navy or the army air corps and lists all the places he was stationed during his training. Lacking the skill needed to be a pilot, he trained as a bombardier and recorded missions in India, China and Japan such as flying “over the hump” to bring in military supplies, landing without proper lighting on the field after night bombing in China, and working with another bombardier to use mathematics to create greater accuracy at target sites. He was declared as surplus troops after the war, but he did not want to be discharged until he had had an operation on his damaged knee; jobs were hard to find so he secured a teaching credential after leaving the air force in 1947. Comments that he feels American soldiers were not given enough information before combat about the ability and strength of the Japanese armed forces.

**Subject headings:** World War II veteran histories, World War II, Bombardiers, Military education

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**O.H. 1114**

“An oral history with Elmer J. Harris”

Narrator: Harris, Elmer J. (b. not recorded)  
Interviewer: Harris N. Done  
Date: April 6, 1971  
Location: Not recorded  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (01:02:45)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: None

**Abstract:** The Mormon narrator provides a life review for his grandson, the interviewer, and recalls details of property transactions, cattle sales, and his insurance business. The grandmother is also present and comments when asked about raising six children with a seventh on the way. As a young man the narrator did seasonal work and when he went to claim his wages, his father had already taken them to use for his brother's college education. Nothing was ever said, but when narrator was ready to buy a farm, his father provided equipment and supplies valued much more than his early salary. Narrator was the chief of police for Boise, Idaho, and in that capacity married over three hundred couples. Much of the interview includes discussion of a six-week trip the grandparents had taken by train when they went across the North American continent and saw the World's Fair in New York City. Later also saw the fair in San Francisco. Comments on “proving up” land in Canada, an explosion when frozen pipes were blocked, and another eight-day trip to Hawaii.

**Subject headings:** Family, Parenting, Life insurance, Property Economic aspects.

**OH 1241**

“An oral history with Bud Fassel”

Narrator: Fassel, Bud (ca. 1920)

Interviewer: Charles Suslavage

Date: March 25, 1972

Language: English

Location: Home of Bud Fassel, Anaheim, California

Project: Community Oral History Project

Format: Open reel: digital (00:47:00)

Transcript: Verbatim (21 pages)

Other:

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project for the Oral History Program at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the narrator’s experience during World War II. Specifically, this interview details Fassel’s service as a member of the United States National Guard. Fassel discusses his reasons for joining the National Guard and draft procedures; personal thoughts about Pearl Harbor and the Axis powers; National Guard training procedures; service in Hawaii, including training for jungle warfare; discusses his isolation from friends and family; depiction of life at sea; wartime experience in the Philippines; personal memories of Douglas MacArthur and John F. Kennedy; sorrow felt for losing friends in battle; interactions with Filipinos, including their help and hindrance in fighting the Japanese; also discusses weight loss during war and other health related issues.

**Subject headings:** World War II, Military education, National Guard Association of the United States; war casualties

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1242**

“An oral history with Buster Kidder”

Narrator: Kidder, Buster (b. 1924)  
Interviewer: Charles Suslavage  
Date: April 8, 1972  
Location: Home of the narrator in Anaheim, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (01:42:13)

Transcript: Verbatim (33 pages)

Other:

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project for the Oral History Program at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to collect information about the narrator’s experience serving in the United States National Guard during World War II. At age 16, Kidder lied about his age so that he could enlist in the service. He noted that after football season ended, he was bored with school and wanted to do something that was exciting. Specifically, Kidder discusses being called for active duty, including basic training practices, learning how to handle a rifle, preparing for combat, and extensive infantry training at Camp San Luis Obispo, California; shares his personal reaction to Pearl Harbor; details the rugged training he endured while stationed in Hawaii; describes the invasion of the Philippines, including how he fought against the Japanese Imperial Marines; notes the reception from Filipinos during the war and his overall experience in Luzon; personal feelings about Douglas MacArthur; learning how to accept casualties as a part of war; differences between the National Guard then and now; readjusting to civilian life after the war; and recounts how his friend fired tracer bullets into the ocean causing a major panic.

**Subject headings:** World War, 1939-1945; Military education; National Guard Association of the United States; war casualties

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1243**

“An oral history with Fred Woodroof”

Narrator: Woodroof, Fred (b.1921)  
Interviewer: Charles Suslavage  
Date: May 24, 1972  
Location: Home of Fred Woodroof, Newport Beach, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (01:24:31)  
Transcript: Transcribed (50 pages)  
Other: None

**Abstract**

This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project of the Oral History Program at California State University, Fullerton. This interview’s purpose was to gather information about experiences during World War II. Specifically, this interview details Woodruff’s service in the National Guard. Woodruff describes how he joined the National Guard; the training exercises in the National Guard; how the National Guard was inducted into the United States military; combat techniques, including details on machinery; combat during World War II, including time spent in Hawaii and the Philippines; daily life in the Philippines, including dealing with theft from the local Filipinos and thoughts on Japanese occupation there; relief efforts for the Marines; differences between actual combat and the portrayal of combat in motion pictures; receiving letters and news while overseas; comparison between the start and the conclusion of World War II; personal reaction to Pearl Harbor; lack of preparedness of the United States after Pearl Harbor; his discharge from the National Guard; and how he settled down in Anaheim and started a cleaning business in Newport Beach.

**Subject headings:** World War, 1939-1945; Military education; National Guard Association of the United States; motion pictures; Career choice

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1245**

“An oral history with Raymond King”

Narrator: King, Raymond (b. 1898)  
Interviewer: Jennifer Torres  
Date: April 11, 1972  
Location: Home of narrator in Lucerne, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel  
Transcript: Transcribed (15 pages)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project for the Oral History Program at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about experiences as a highway patrol officer. Specifically, this interview details his early childhood growing up in a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; moving to Los Angeles, including attending Riverside Poly High School; enlisting in the army, including his experience while stationed in England; job experience as a ship worker, including his work on the Steamship *American Trader*; he also details how he began his career in law enforcement, including his work on the force in both Riverside and later Banning; extensive details on the early formation of the California Highway Patrol, including information on motorcycles used; patrol during labor strikes; later became a pilot and tested planes and helicopters; also includes information about disputes between growers and migrant workers that led to strikes throughout California’s central coast.

**Subject headings:** Law enforcement, Career choice, Labor disputes, Agricultural laborers

**OH 1255**

“An oral history with Harold Key”

Narrator: Key, Harold (b. 1919)  
Interviewer: Tim Cady  
Date: June 16, 1972  
Location: Home of the narrator in Lakewood, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel  
Transcript: Transcribed (48 pages)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project for the Oral History Program at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about experiences serving in the National Guard during World War II. Specifically, this interview details Key’s childhood memories, including time spent in the Boy Scouts; attending a small Baptist school; starting a school newspaper, including gossip stories about his classmates; the odd jobs he held including time spent at a filling station; experience as a pre-law student at the University of Texas; personal memories about Pearl Harbor; details his experience in the National Guard, including basic training, and later being sent to Officer Candidacy School; learning how to drive a tank; how he became a missionary; missionary trips through Latin America, including Mexico and Bolivia; experience as a missionary director in Bolivia; and how he returned to the University of Texas to earn a Ph.D. and become a faculty member in Anthropology Department at California State University, Long Beach.

**Subject headings:** Education; World War, 1939-1945; Missionaries, National Guard Association of the United States

**OH 1268**

“An oral history with Nelson Rupp”

Narrator: Rupp, Nelson (ca. 1900)

Interviewer: Margaret Linton

Date: April 2, 1973

Location: Home of Nelson Rupp, Laguna Hills, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (00:55:27)

Transcript: Transcribed (33 pages)

Other:

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project for the Oral History Program at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about service during World War I. Specifically this interview details Rupp’s experience in Archangel, Russia. Rupp was born in Michigan. He held odd jobs such as working in a restaurant, selling tickets at a movie theater, and selling tea. He felt it would have been a disgrace to get drafted, so he volunteered for the Army. Rupp discusses his experiences in England and later in Archangel, Russia, including dealing with freezing temperature and “frozen feet”, thoughts on Russian housing and customs, daily activities and sightseeing there; he discusses his time serving in a medical unit, including dealing with a flu epidemic, being in charge of an operating room, hospital conditions, and shares stories of those who were killed in combat; he also discuss the low morale of the soldiers; disagreements between United States and English officers; state of affairs in Russia, including the divisions between the Bolsheviks and the White Russians; fianlly details his return home from war and the celebrations that were held to honor veterans.

**Subject headings:** World War, 1914-1918; Medicine, Military; Influenza; War casualties

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1308**

“An oral history with Edith Mathews”

Narrator: Mathews, Edith (b. 1917)  
Interviewer: Sharon Anderson  
Date: January 23, 1973  
Location: Home of the narrator in Gardena, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (01:37:42)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Native of Missouri who eventually moved to California in 1934 describes various natural disasters she survived including a tornado when she was two years old, an earthquake at four, then a flood, and eventually when she was an adult economic losses caused by a drought. Living on a farm most of her life she tells of the regular chores she had and then the additional ones she took on after the death of her mother and as a married woman. Describes a four-day drive from the farm they lost in Missouri to California with travel tips on roadside picnics and finding gasoline stations between the sparse cities. Her husband had also lost his mother during his youth so they both knew the value of hard work; he picked tomatoes and beans in fields where he later in 1941 worked as a carpenter to build homes. She explained their lives as sharecroppers in California and efforts to gather free black walnuts, drying, cleaning, and selling them to supplement their income. Remembers wartime rationing, military maneuvers, local blackouts, and relocation of many familiar Japanese farmers. Homeowners in post-war Gardena would appropriate the neighboring open lots, plow them up, raise produce, and sell it to industry plant workers; narrator joined in this activity.

**Subject headings:** Depression—1930 to 1940, World War II, Economy and society, Family farm

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1309**

“An oral history with Sally Siapin”

Narrator: Siapin, Sally (b. ca. 1912)  
Interviewer: Suzanne Shelton  
Date: April 17 and May 1, 1978  
Location: Home of the narrator in Maywood, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History  
  
Format(s): Open reel; digital (02:16:26)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: None

**Abstracts:** Narrator is interviewed by her granddaughter and shares stories about her own childhood on a farm in Arizona and coming to California by horse and buggy when the farm failed including chores tending cows and chickens before and after school, long walks into town on Sundays to buy nickel’s worth of candy or to watch a movie until her head ached, and playing baseball with her siblings; portrays her terror at crossing the Colorado River on a barge and her delight in finding her best friend from school in the same California neighborhood several years later; discusses homefront activities during World War II and her involvement with the local USO events; gives aspects and importance of the Russian schismatic Molokan church that was a strong influence in her life. She describes some of the church traditions, especially detailing wedding customs and opposition to war and killing as conscientious objectors; she recalls the support given to families with members in the military and voices a deep concern about interfaith marriages in her family. Summarizes by naming all her descendants, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

**Subject headings:** Molokans--Prayers and devotions, Family, World War II, Cultural awareness—United States

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1311**

“An oral history with Margaret Pohl”

Narrator: Pohl, Margaret (b. ca. 1927)  
Interviewer: Eileen Pohl  
Date: May 8, 1978  
Location: Not recorded  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (00:26:34)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Narrator shares with her daughter highlights of her life including stories that her grandmother hid Irish soldiers in her basement during the 1915 uprising in Ireland, strict upbringing by her parents enable her and her siblings to stay out of trouble after her mother died and they lived in Hollywood with her father who worked all week and some weekends, when her sister broke her arm and needed an operation, getting their first bike that the neighbor had ridden to work all during the Second World War rationing, getting jelly donuts from the bakery ladies on their way home from school, birthday money used for butterscotch Sundays every year, her Catholic school regulations and uniform and the nuns' warnings to avoid the new Jane Russell movie, *The Outlaw*, that would surely land them in hell. Remembers the start of Korean War, death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Truman's recall of General McArthur; describes the first television she saw as a large radio with a screen. She appreciated the sound effects of radio programs that made one use his/her own imagination to fill in details.

**Subject headings:** Parenting, Alternative medicine, Motion pictures, Sensationalism in motion pictures, Catholic Church--Education

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1316**

“An oral history with Caple Mayberry”

Narrator: Mayberry, Caple  
Interviewer: Patricia Gillis  
Date: June 28, 1972  
Location: Sherman Oaks, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History  
  
Format(s): Open reel; digital (00:56:52)  
Transcript: Verbatim (37 pp.)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Narrator is a farmer from Iowa who eventually made a living buying and selling farm equipment; interviewer is the granddaughter of his sister. Recalls childhood highlights like riding calves, surviving a tornado, helping neighbors skin cattle that had been struck by lightning, watching the circus when it came to the area, attending the county fair, seeing his father provide hay in exchange for shoes, coal or food, and topping the market in Chicago stockyards by selling cattle at the highest price for the day. Discusses cooperation in 1912 among the farmers as a group to accomplish the larger tasks of farming, like harvesting and thrashing; sold his first car in 1916 and his first tractor in 1918 and realized he didn't need to depend solely on farming for income. Rationalizes his commercial activity when he bought and sold farm equipment above the ceiling price established by government regulations. Saw that machines would replace horses and men as agriculture grew after World War II. Tells of his experience with the Farmers Holiday Association that operated from 1932-1934 to help farmers save their farms from foreclosure.

**Subject headings:** Farm life, Depressions—1929—United States, Stockyards, Farm equipment

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1320**

“An oral history with Elena Tumas”

Narrator: Tumas, Elena (b. 1923)

Interviewer: Deborah Fellbaum

Date: October 23, November 5, and November 13, 1973

Location: Offices in the Humanities Building at California State University, Fullerton

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (01:57:46)

Transcript: Partial transcript

Other: Brief interview summaries

**Abstract:** Professor of comparative literature at California State University, Fullerton, shares memories of her early life in Lithuania as the daughter of the local magistrate with a line of pure Lithuanian ancestors dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. She describes her grandparents as “a proud and erect woman, and grandpa wore a cape.” She recalls fine homes, servants, accelerated education as a gifted student, and participation in Lithuanian Catholic Youth Organization; provides detailed descriptions of her town, Silale, the church, gardens, river, orchards, and hospital there. When Soviet Communists arrived, her father was ousted from office; he moved into the Lithuanian agricultural ministry and held a second job in a bank. They lived for a time with her grandparents until their homes could be built, one being large enough to eventually be used as a high school that ultimately was bombed during World War II. Recalls many details of the furnishings in their homes. Her father had been a prisoner of war in World War I, but this was not spoken of in the family. Comments on impracticality of canned milk being sent from American after World War I since local farmers didn’t trust it and fed it to the pigs. She had been a successful student but was forced to change her academic major when the German army closed the English department, and she studied medicine in Lithuania and Germany. She was teaching in high school when World War II started and found herself working as a medical aide in a forced labor camp in Berlin. She escaped when the Russians arrived, took the last train out to West Germany where she and her husbands were listed as displaced persons, and then emigrated to the United States six months after the war ended. Here she continued her education, eventually earning her doctorate at University of Southern California. Her husband had been a lawyer in Lithuania but became a factory worker when he arrived here. She taught part-time at three schools before securing her position at Fullerton. Also discusses Baltic mythology as a source of names in Lithuania.

**Subject headings:** Education—Europe, 1930-1945; World War I; World War II; Lithuania

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1374**

“An oral history with William G. Hayden

Narrator: Hayden, William G.  
Interviewer: Betty Mitson  
Date: January 30, 1974  
Location: Sunny Hills High School in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History  
  
Format(s): Open reel; digital (03:12:01)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: None

**Abstract:** United States Naval Reserve officer working in the space program and teaching in the Fullerton Adult Education Program reminisces about the regimented life in a boys' home where he lived after the death of his father and the foundation it provided for his career in the navy and about studying at University of California, Los Angeles on football scholarship where he entered the Reserved Officers Training Corps for the navy in 1942; his college commencement, naval commissioning ceremony, and his wedding all took place on the same day in 1945. His military training prepared him to work with radar and led to his deployment to Pearl Harbor and then onto aircraft carriers *Missouri* and *New Jersey* during the Korean War. Shares anecdotes of working with radar; explains the launch technique from aircraft carriers and challenges to playing volleyball on the moving deck; describes tidal wave displacement of seventeen to eighteen feet in the harbor on Hawaii; served as staff to Vice-admiral Arthur D. Struble, commander of the 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet and describes his travel through Japan to meet the admiral's ship including having a floating mine alongside the ship. He participated in the evacuation and destruction of the city of Hungnam and describes what it was like on the *Missouri* when the sixteen-inch guns were fired, especially if all on one side were fired simultaneously. Recounts meetings with various well-known individuals and gives personal descriptions of them including Commander Lloyd M. Bucher of the *USS Pueblo*, General Douglas MacArthur, first president of South Korea Syngman Rhee and his Austrian wife, Admiral Arleigh "31-Knot" Burke, James Cardinal McIntyre, and astronaut Walt Cunningham. Briefly recounts some horrors of military service like seeing his best friend's plane spin off the carrier and into the ocean and shooting an unknown man sailing in a sampan near their ship. Includes accounts of employment at Union Harbor and Metal Co. until it was liquidated, at North American Aviation, Autonetics, and Rockwell and of projects he was on in the space program including the Apollo XIII mission and the speaker's circuit to clarify the value of the space program to the general public. Finally explains his work in centralized purchasing at the San Juan Capistrano School District and concludes by giving names of his various family members.

**Subject headings:** Space programs--1960-1970; Korean War, 1950-1953; Radar; Adult education.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1380**

“An oral history with Mabel Wood Kelly”

Narrator: Kelly, Mabel Wood (b. 1895)  
Interviewer: Linda Joe Thamer  
Date: May 9, 1974  
Location: Home of interviewer’s parents in Carlsbad, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History  
  
Format(s): Open reel; digital (01:33:16)  
Transcript: Final typed (37 pages)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Narrator tells her granddaughter about living in mining towns in Arizona as a young bride and mother. She moved from Redondo Beach in 1916 to the gold mining town of Kingman where her husband had a well-paying job as operation engineer; she took her seven-year-old sister along for company. Describes the small town with two grocery stores, tent houses, Harvey House railway station, no churches, and a little theater where she sat among Hualapai Indians and miners. She returned to Los Angeles for the birth of her son, then had groceries shipped from Ralphs to Kingman. Few wives lived there, so they were a very close group helping each other deal with meager diets, scarce housing, influenza in 1917, and child mortality due to heat or poor methods of food storage. Because of health issues, they left Kingman, returned to Redondo Beach where she recalls the buying frenzy that went on before Prohibition started in 1919. Soon opted to move to Miami, Arizona, for another mining job and this time her family was able to live with the managers up on Moonshine Hill instead of in the sunless canyons with the miners. Mentions the excitement caused by refrigerator railway cars that made fresh fruit possible in their diet. She augmented the family income by sewing and catering for card parties held by the chief engineer’s wife; social life for the town began after miners’ shift ended at four o’clock; sister and brother-in-law joined them for a while and she recalls one picnic with them that came to an abrupt conclusion with the appearance of spiders. Even though a small school was available for the children in Miami, they decided to return to El Monte when their son was seven so he could have a better education. Eventually lived on the same street with many “congenial” relatives who were “charming.”

**Subject headings:** Family medicine, Hualapai Indians—Arizona, Mines and mineral resources, refrigerator cars

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1406**

“An oral history with Ruth Forbes Sherry”

Narrator: Sherry, Ruth Forbes  
Interviewer: Virginia Bratfiisch  
Date: October 24, 1970  
Location: Not recorded  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History  
  
Format(s): Open reel; digital (01:47:52)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: Brief article and short resume

**Abstract:** Author of eight books and a recognized poet reminisces about her education at Vassar and Stanford, her family, and her father's death that was credited to shock at the news of the death of President McKinley. She is suffering from cobalt treatment and distracted during much of the interview. Describes her involvement in the women's suffrage movement as an attempt to help other women since her own family had always been very supportive. She met Carrie Chapman Catt and Susan B. Anthony; knew the Wrigley family who purchased Catalina Island near the California coast.

**Subject headings:** William McKinley, suffrage movement, poets

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1409.1**

“An oral history with Clarence Jiles”

Narrator: Jiles, Clarence (b. 1898)  
Interviewer: Pamela Gray  
Date: April 5 and June 3, 1973  
Location: Huntington Beach, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History  
  
Format(s): Open reel; digital (01:18:41)  
Transcript: Verbatim (30 pp.)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** First interview session gives general overview of narrator’s background and work experience as a Border Patrol officer along the US border with Mexico; second includes detail on his various work locations and types of activity he witnessed. After a brief visit to Huntington Beach for his mother’s health, narrator’s family moved to California in 1908. He was an accomplished muleskinner by the age of 16 and recalls mud shoes that were put on the animals when planting crops in soggy reclaimed land, briefly worked for tenant farmer on the Irvine ranch in 1916, and enlisted in the navy in 1918 where he was stationed in San Pedro to serve in a construction detail. After leaving the navy, he worked with his father in construction in Orange County and built many structures for the San Joaquin Fruit Company among other things.

**Subject headings:** Immigration enforcement, Bracero program, Farm life, Depression—1930—United States, agriculture

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1409.2**

“An oral history with Clarence Jiles”

Narrator: Jiles, Clarence (b. 1898)  
Interviewer: Pamela Gray  
Date: June 3, 1973  
Location: Huntington Beach, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (01:10:44) with  
Transcript: Verbatim (30 pp.)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Narrator was sworn into the Immigration Border Patrol in April 1930 in El Paso, Texas; first worked in a remote border area with little activity but was later transferred to more active locations; describes watching for immigrants, explains the voluntary departure offered to them and the more severe prosecution used against smugglers who were making a profit on the immigrants. Worked in various patrol locations where he checked trails and “cut signs” to estimate the level of illegal immigrant traffic and became the supervisor for construction of offices at many of these locations. Eventually was sent to Mexico to select participants in the bracero program during the Second World War; early applicants from Mexico City were not able to do the farm work very well, so the recruitment offices were shifted to more rural areas in Mexico and the program became successful. Narrator sees the bracero program as one of the causes of illegal immigration because it made workers aware of free transportation, good living conditions, and set wages that were then sought by others after the program ended. During his service in the border patrol, the narrator knew only honest men who accepted no graft or payoff, but he saw such behavior begin after his retirement when the patrol expanded and had more officers. Gives some reaction of citizens living near the border to the patrol and immigrants, describes his feelings and how they changed from the start of his employment until retirement, and admits to having directed immigrants through the paperwork needed for legal entry into the country.

**Subject headings:** Immigration enforcement, Bracero program, Farm life, Depression—1930—United States

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1410**

“An oral history with Edmund Mueller”

Narrator: Mueller, Edmund (b. 1895)  
Interviewer: Albert P. Mueller  
Date: March 31, 1973  
Location: Narrator’s home in Costa Mesa, California  
Language: Polish  
Project: Personal and Family History  
  
Format(s): Open reel; digital (02:59:29)  
Transcript: Final in English (39 pp.)  
Other: Preface by interviewer

**Abstract:** Narrator shares with his son reminiscences about his life in Imperial Russia, the outbreak of the revolution, and the Russian Civil War. Because the narrator’s father had moved from Germany to near Warsaw to manage a large textile factory, the narrator has first-hand knowledge of the segregation between Germans and Poles in Zyrardow: families of managers lived in small palaces and the children had special schools where they learned both German and Russian while families of workers lived more modestly and spoke Polish; narrator later noted similar economic and social divisions in St. Petersburg. Narrator was with Col. Galczinski when the Bolsheviks attacked and killed him at the start of the revolution; this sort of revolution was not what the narrator favored so he went with the White Russian army in Chita and became a stage commander in addition to assuming responsibility for securing meat from Chinese smugglers for these troops. Recounts meeting with indigenous Buryats in Siberia to secure other supplies. Describes deceptive escape from a Bolshevik prison; being interrogated later and having Lenin commute his death sentence to ten years in a Siberian labor camp; surviving the camp’s high mortality rate after six years as part of a prisoner exchange arranged by the Polish consul Gintoff Dziewaltoski. Returned to his family in Warsaw and owned the largest firm in the city before World War II but had to relinquish use of it to the German occupation, though he was able to support some local Polish population with meager proceeds during World War II despite having been separated from them earlier in his childhood. He was a member of the Slavic League that fought the Bolsheviks with the assistance of Japanese troops and mentions Bolshevik atrocities and no prisoner taken policy. Comments that Russia had been a very wealthy and successful state both in commerce and agriculture but now was in need of outside assistance.

**Subject headings:** Soviet Union--History--Revolution, 1917-1921; Communism—Soviet Union; Civil war--Soviet Union—History; Prisoner of war, Labor camps--Soviet Union--History

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1417**

“An oral history with Mary Chamberlain”

Narrator: Chamberlain, Mary (b. 1879)  
Interviewer: Virginia Eskew  
Date: January 12, 1973  
Location: Home of narrator’s daughter in Newport Beach, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (1:00:04)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Native of the Owens Valley who was born on Black Rock Ranch recalls her childhood on the isolated ranch between Bishop and Independence, Paiute playmates, and the death of her mother when she was only six. Paiute camps were adjacent to her father’s land and the adult Indians worked for the area’s white ranchers either in the fields or in the homes. She recalls while playing with the children being able to watch the families cut moccasins from deer skin, make other clothes, and weave baskets; squaws sometimes brought their new babies to her home to show, and she describes the music and excitement of a “fandango” or pow-wow. Narrator recalls them as congenial neighbors and affirmed many times, “We loved them and they loved us.” Mother died in childbirth, bearing twin sons, and narrator describes the death scene details where her mother repeated, “Oh, William, be good to my babies. Oh, William, be good to my babies.” Her family and a visiting uncle stayed on the big ranch for a while, but then they moved to a smaller ranch near the school in Big Pine which she could then attend. Tells of seeing the railroad come through the valley and running with her sisters to meet it and receiving candy and gifts from the conductor. Father died sometime after that and narrator went to live with an uncle on his cattle ranch. Enjoyed riding with him to round up cattle and became quite a horsewoman. Does not recall details of the water dispute with the city of Los Angeles but feels the “people fell back a little bit”; her family’s ranch got water from the mountains and not from the Owens River. Married an “awfully good man from an awfully good family” in Bishop; each spring they moved to Mammoth where he built homes and in the winter returned to Bishop where he also did carpentry. Poignant comments twenty-four years after his death: “I sure hated to give him up . . . I surely am lonely without him . . . I have to live ‘til I die.”

**Subject headings:** Paiute Indians, Owens Valley, Los Angeles Aqueduct, Parents—Death, widow

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1436**

“An oral history with Anthony Membrila”

Narrator: Membrila, Anthony (b. 1914)  
Interviewer: Douglas Daniels  
Date: April 24, 1978  
Location: Not recorded  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (07:15:45)  
Transcript: Final (43 pp.)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Interview focuses on the first 21 years of the narrator’s life and is conducted by his grandson. Abandoned by his father when he was fourteen, narrator went to work in Texas railroad towns to support his mother and siblings. He describes conditions when he worked with the Civil Conservation Corps in Texas and Nevada and the Works Progress Administration during the Depression, his employment in Clifton/Morenci area of Arizona during World War II as a smelter in the Phelps Dodge Corporation copper mines, the second largest open pit copper mine in the country at the time.

**Subject headings:** Depressions—1929—United States, railroad trains, Mines and mineral resources

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1443**

“An oral history with Al Hurtz”

Narrator: Hurtz, Al (b.1893)  
Interviewer: Claudia Harris  
Date: February 18, 1974  
Location: Home of the narrator in Dolan Springs, Arizona  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (03:07:55)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: None

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project for the Oral History Program at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to amass relevant data about personal experiences in the years both before and after World War I as a native of New York. Specifically, this interview details his experience selling watches on streets of New York city; thoughts on the 1912 and 1916 elections of Woodrow Wilson; and reflections upon World War I; he also discusses his gambling problems; the stock market crash of 1929, including a detailed view of stock market practices, savings practices, earning a commission, and how he used the stock market to fund his retirement; living through the Great Depression; thoughts on importing watches, as well as his remembrance of the first wrist watches.

**Subject headings:** Elections United States 1912; Elections--United States—1916; World War, 1914-1918; Stock Market Crash, 1929; Financial planning, personal; Clocks and watches

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1553**

“An oral history with William Brum ”

Narrator: Brum, William (b. 1907)  
Interviewer: Robert Phillips  
Date: March 21, April 14, May 4, 1978  
Location: Not recorded  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History  
  
Format(s): Open reel, digital (03:12:38)  
Transcript: None  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Recollections of ancestors, one of whom served in the American Civil War; childhood in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and his family’s Victorian-style house and furnishings; the vacations and fishing trips; boyhood amusements, pranks, and winter sports; influenza epidemic of 1917-1918; employment ranging from salesman to migrant farm worker to postal employment; early education, college experiences, marriage, and honeymoon trip in 1936. Includes comments on Minnesota climate, effects of the Depression, and the world wars on his life.

**Subject headings:** Career choice, Family, Health services administration, Marriage

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1557**

“An oral history with Zulema Mirkin”

Narrator: Mirkin, Zulema (n.a.)  
Interviewer: Gary Shumway  
Date: March 3, 1973  
Location: California State University, Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (00:35:24)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other:

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project for the Oral History Program at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the narrator’s experience growing up in Argentina. Specifically, this interview details Mirkin’s childhood in Buenos Aires; dealing with the loss of her parents at a young age; family background, including information about father’s migration from Spain; she details the psychic ability in her family, including information on how her mother could predict future events; then discusses her own psychic powers, as well as her daughter’s healing power; she also details her career as a writer, including her experience as a songwriter, writing a film script, and writing poems; she also details the song writing process and the unique task of fitting lyrics to composed music; the business of publishing songs; and talks about the well-known songs she has written.

**Subject headings:** Argentines, Psychic power; Songs; Orphans

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1591**

“An oral history with Milton Nelson”

Narrator: Nelson, Milton (b. 1897)  
Interviewer: Belinda Contopulos  
Date: August 15, 1978  
Location: Narrator's home in Covina, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History  
  
Format(s): Open reel; digital (01:29:18)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Retired Los Angeles police officer recounts history of Falling Springs Lodge in the Angeles Crest National forest and its different visitors, owners, and particularly Frank Headlee who served as manager; describes the early settlement by the Laws family of Coldbrook Camp and the development of the government trail in San Gabriel Canyon. Recalls natural disasters in the area in particular the rain and damage of the flood of 1938, gives opinion of law enforcement in the canyon, and shares comments on real estate that is for sale.

**Subject headings:** Local history, Business, Flood of 1938

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1640**

“An oral history with Vera Taylor Jones”

Narrator: Jones, Vera Taylor (n. d.)  
Interviewer: Ralph G. Whitney  
Date: December 23, 1971  
Location: Not recorded  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (02:31:31)  
Transcript: None  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Lone Pine, California, resident comments on her familial ties to William Penn, involvement in a Christian Utopian community in Arkansas and Georgia, and her membership in the Theosophical Society after moving to California.

**Subject headings:** Ancestors, Economy and Society, Culture and society

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1646**

“An oral history with Joseph Szilagyi”

Narrator: Szilagyi, Joseph (n. d.)  
Interviewer: Rick Bingham  
Date: December 12, 1976  
Location: Not recorded  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History  
  
Format(s): Open reel; digital (02:09:07)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Hungarian resistance fighter in the 1956 revolution discusses the causes of the Hungarian uprising, his role as a guerilla fighter and subsequent escape to the United States. Includes comments on his personal life and experiences.

**Subject headings:** Hungary—History—1945-1989; Revolutions; Resistance

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1771**

“An oral history with George Willis”

Narrator: Willis, George (b.1927)  
Interviewer: Margaret Parratt  
Date: November 23, 1982  
Location: Not recorded  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s):

Transcript: Edited (19 pp.)

Other: None

**Abstract:** Veteran race car driver from the Midwest discusses early experiences hot-rodding, occasions where he raced motorcycles and different automobiles, and the organization and history of motor racing in Pomona, California. Explains his decision to stop racing motorcycles after suffering a serious accident and tells about his involvement with and support of his son’s racing career. Describes various regional races and issues they have with the Bureau of Land Management, comments on different types of racing like desert, Grand Prix, and Speedway and how the riders must adapt.

**Subject headings:** Sports, Race car driver—biography

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1772**

“An oral history with Robert Pfetzing”

Narrator: Pfetzing, Robert (b. 1959)

Interviewer: Margaret Parratt

Date: March 31, July 18, August 4, November 15, 1983 and January 25, 1984

Location: Placentia, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (03:11:43)

Transcript: Final (80 pp.)

Other:

**Abstract:** A two-year rookie Speedway motorcycle rider shares his enjoyment and thrill of racing as well as his aspirations to ride in European races. In this series of five short interviews he explains his relation to sponsors, both commercial and family; the costs involved in racing, how the size of the race purse is determined, and tax benefits during the first three years; the equipment, especially tires and motors and maintenance of his bikes; the safety equipment used and common injuries suffered by riders, especially broken collarbones; and the design pros and cons of four primary tracks in Auburn, Ventura, San Bernardino, Costa Mesa, California . As a young rider, he admires the experienced riders and comments on many of them, their styles and reputations, including Rick Miller, Guy and Sam Ermalenko, Shawn and Kelly Moran, Bruce Penhall, Lance King, Dennis Sigalos, Gene Woods, Mike Bast and John Cook. Narrator maintains one cannot practice for a race, since the track size and surface, number of racers, weather, and plain old luck are strong factors in the success of any rider. He served as the rider representative on the Speedway Control Board.

**Subject headings:** Speedway motorcycle racing; advertising; safety.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1778**

“An oral history with Margaret Emrick Straub”

Narrator: Straub, Margaret Emrick (b. 1900)

Interviewer: Lynn Finger

Date: October 14, 1984

Location: Home of Margaret Emrick Straub, Altadena, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (01:01:43)

Transcript: Transcribed, 15 pages

Other:

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project for the Oral History Program at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the narrator’s early living experience in Pennsylvania. Specifically, this interview details Straub’s family history, including information on both the Straub and Emrick families; growing up on a farm, including farm duties and daily activities; attending country schools, comparisons between country schools and city schools; marriage and raising a family; work history, including employment at B.F. Goodrich and various positions held at that company; and experiences of living through World War I and the Great Depression.

**Subject headings:** Family, Farm life, Schools, Career advancement, Occupations

**OH 1779**

“An oral history with Camille Hayes”

Narrator: Hayes, Camille (b.1928)  
Interviewer: Lynn Finger  
Date: November 8, 1984  
Location: Home of Camille Hayes, Altadena, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (01:05:16)  
Transcript: Transcribed (20 pages)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Narrator is a professional musician and music instructor. This interview was conducted as part of the Community History Project for the Oral History Program at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about her pursuit of music as both a student and later an instructor of piano and voice. Specifically, this interview details Hayes pursuit of music study; her musical influences and inspirations; musical opportunities in southern California; her decision to forgo a career in performance and a college degree in music in order to pursue private training; her entry into private teaching, first teaching voice and piano, then later, dedicating all her teaching to piano; her philosophy of teaching, including optimizing her teaching schedule, importance of student-teacher relationships; her private study under music teacher Anne Eachus, including details of Eachus’ own teaching accomplishments and teaching philosophy; balancing virtuoso technique with a spiritual, passionate feeling for music.

**Subject headings:** Musical education—United States; Music--instruction and study; Women singers; Career choice

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1792**

“An oral history with Nadia Bouez”

Narrator: Bouez, Nadia (n. d.)  
Interviewer: Nancy Aweimmne  
Date: October 9, 1984  
Location: Not recorded  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s):  
Transcript: Final (28 pp.)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** A native of Lebanon who grew up in Iraq discusses her experiences in war-torn Beirut from 1980 to 1984 and her earlier life and employment in Iraq. She provides a different insight into the attacks based on personal experiences and considers Lebanon “a center of education and hospitalization in the Middle East” because of four universities and its good hospitals. Comments on Lebanese ability to recover quickly and details the impossible position for people during the war as far as obtaining food, water, and shelter and keeping track of family members.

**Subject headings:** Middle East, revolution

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1793**

“An oral history with Margaret Whitmer”

Narrator: Whitmer, Margaret (n. d.)  
Interviewer: Mary Burns  
Date: October 12, November 8, December 12, 1984  
Location: Not given  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History  
  
Format(s): Open reel (3 hrs.)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Mother recounts for her daughter her parents move to Spring Valley, Illinois, from Great Britain; the flu epidemics of the 1910s and 1920s; effects of the Depression upon her family; and memories of World War II. Comments on differences between Los Angeles and Orange County in the postwar years.

**Subject headings:** Ancestors, Influenza, Depressions—1929—United States

**OH 1823**

“An oral history with Jack Rennie”

Narrator: Rennie, Jack (n.a.)  
Interviewer: Sharon Perry  
Date: April 10, 1974  
Location: Home of Jack Rennie, Santa Monica, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (00:49:06)  
Transcript: Transcribed (15 pages)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community History Project for the Oral History Program at California State University, Fullerton. The intent of this interview was to generate information pertaining to the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society with particular attention given to the RSCDS's activities in southern California. Jack Rennie, a high school teacher, participated in all of the RSCDS's activities. The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society was formed in the mid-1960s to preserve cultural dances and traditions for future generations. In this interview, Rennie discusses the formation of the RSCDS, their club activities, annual dances, celebrations, the learning and teaching of dances, the different level of interest between men and women with regard to the RSCDS; importance of lodge activities; Scottish migration to the United States; economic situation in Scotland; cultural identification; holding activities to cater towards the youth; preserving culture and heritage through the RSCDS. Rennie also discusses his personal experience with the RSCDS; his own experience of playing in a traditional Scottish band; and teaching dance throughout Santa Monica, California.

**Subject headings:** Country dancing, Scotland, Folk dancing

**OH 1824**

“An oral history with Koggee Thomas”

Narrator: Thomas, Koggee (n.a.)  
Interviewer: Nita J. Busby  
Date: September 19, 1977  
Location: Administration Building at University of California, Irvine  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel  
Transcript: Transcribed (45 pages)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Women in Orange County Oral History Project for the Oral History Program at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to acquire information about the narrator’s life experience as a Native American who became an administrator at the Office of Schools and Colleges/Equal Opportunity Program at University of California, Irvine. Koggee Thomas was born in Oklahoma to Native American parents from the Creek and Seminole tribes. Her parents attended a Bureau of Indian Affairs sponsored school and did not grow up on a reservation. Koggee talks about being raised in a strict household and the adjustments that her family had made when they relocated from Oklahoma to Long Beach, California. She speaks about her own experience in attending public schools, including discrimination in high school; cultural identity; family relationships; personal education, including graduation from University of California, Irvine and obtaining a graduate degree from University of California, Los Angeles; work experience at UCLA, including working with minority students; work experience at UC Irvine, including her involvement with schools’ Native American program, attempts to increase Native America population on college campuses; poor education system in Oklahoma; forced assimilation of Native Americans; and her travels to Israel.

**Subject headings:** Race discrimination; Indians of North America; Education, Family, Culture.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1830**

“An oral history with Florence Brigandi”

Narrator: Brigandi, Florence M. (b. 1911)  
Interviewer: Phil Brigandi  
Date: April 17, 1978  
Location: Narrator’s home in Garden Grove, CA  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and family history

Format(s): Open reel; digitized (01:59:39)  
Transcript: not transcribed  
Other: Topic dates 1870s-1950s

**Abstract:** Student conducted this interview with his grandmother with the purpose of gaining details of family history and genealogy. Learns that his grandfather had considerable musical talent but decided on a medical career despite strong pressure from his mother and grandmother, his great-uncle was the fencing champion in the Italian army in 1894, and his father had chronic ear infections for which he received early penicillin injections from his mother every four hours for several days. Narrator explains surviving the Depression while her husband went to medical school thanks to her family’s oil property income in Pennsylvania and his occasional radio performances; recalls living in Hollywood where one could see entertainment personalities on the street and being connected somewhat to the entertainment industry through her brother-in-law’s work as a sound engineer. Narrator discusses her parents and her husband’s parents and felt her mother-in-law was domineering yet unhappy, probably due to her own restricted childhood.

**Subject headings:** Hollywood, Depressions—1929—United States, Family, Entertainment industry, Medicine

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1845**

“An oral history with Bessie Hoover”

Narrator: Hoover, Bessie  
Interviewer: Mick Dye  
Date: October 1987  
Location: Not recorded  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel  
Transcript: Verbatim (35 pp.)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Discusses her family and early life in Baldwin Park, California, in 1906 where her father operated a grocery store and the family lived upstairs with no running water. Gives a narrative history of the area including accounts of monthly community dances, riding the Pacific Electric with the conductor, town's name changed from Vineland, 1913 flood in Baldwin Park, and various religious and literary meetings. Recalls end of World War I, Chinese laborers, unpaved roads and prominent early residents.

**Subject headings:** Baldwin Park, California; local history

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1859**

“An oral history with Helen Neville Wood”

Narrator: Wood, Helen Neville (b. 1915)  
Interviewer: Mary Hirtzel Pridham  
Date: October 15 and November 11, 1986  
Location: Not recorded  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel (3 hrs.)  
Transcript: Final (63pp.)  
Other: genealogy chart, index, photos

**Abstract:**

The interview was conducted to develop the family history of the Hirtzel, Neville, Wood, Denker and Hahn families as they related to each other. Originally planned that the two cousins participating in the interview would share information on the interviewer’s mother, Lucy Hirtzel, but the scope of the interview spread beyond that to Lucy’s father, George Neville, and to all of his children and grandchildren. Instances of concerned family assistance at crisis moments among relatives, farm life as experienced by children, cooking and household cleaning tips are mentioned. Comments on life in southern California during the 1930s and 1940s.

**Subject headings:** Family, Depressions—1929—United States

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1865**

“An oral history with Fred Wise”

Narrator: Wise, Fred (b. 1923)  
Interviewer: Don Alexander  
Date: October 18, 1986  
Location: Narrator’s office in Garden Grove, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): cassettes, digital (02:18:20)  
Transcript: Final (60 pp.)  
Other: Photos

**Abstract:** A United States Army Air Corps pilot during World War II discusses his enlistment, training, and experiences including his fifty-nine missions over France and Germany, then comments on family history and the changes in social mores that he has witnessed. Describes several memories from flying such as landing a heavily damaged plane, malfunctioning plane indicators, near collisions on the runway, and bombing friendly forces. Comments on olfactory memory trigger, the value of the atomic bomb, and meeting with fellow pilots after the war. Recalls leaving for active duty just thirteen days after his wedding, returning to school on the GI Bill, and working as accountant, car dealer, and eventually owner of a paper company. Recalls his experiences during the 1933 Long Beach earthquake and the challenges to raising four children during the 1960s.

**Subject headings:** World War II, Family, Pilots, The Sixties

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1871**

“An oral history with Rosemarie MacQuiddy”

Narrator: MacQuiddy, Rosemarie (n.d.)

Interviewer: Gary Young

Date: May 1, 1978

Location: Not recorded

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel, digital (00:44:04)

Transcript: Not transcribed

Other: None

**Abstract:** Retired psychic counselor recalls for her son the harsh early childhood in the coal mining towns of Pennsylvania, including abuse by her alcoholic father which eventually led to her own battle with alcoholism. She discusses her failed marriages, her recovery through Alcoholics Anonymous and psychotherapy, her interest in parapsychology, and the problems of raising her severely handicapped son.

**Subject headings:** Psychics, Marriage, Children, Self-care (Health), Mines and mineral resources

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1899**

“An oral history with Ann McKenna”

Narrator: McKenna, Ann (b. 1928)  
Interviewer: Jennifer McClanahan King  
Date: October 16 and 31, 1987  
Location: Not recorded  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel (3 hrs.)  
Transcript: Final (56 pp.)  
Other: Photographs, documents

**Abstract:** A housewife recalls her early childhood in the Catskill area of New York state, her paternal grandfather’s influence on her life, nursing school, her early marriage, and the problems of raising fourteen children in Queens, New York, and Whittier, California. Comments on women’s issues and the Roman Catholic Church.

**Subject headings:** Family, Career choice, Child care

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1940**

“An oral history with Hazel Haworth Mann Leak”

Narrator: Leak, Hazel Haworth Mann (n. d.)

Interviewer: Sharon Cherocci

Date: October 17 and November 7, 1987

Location: Not recorded

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel

Transcript: Final (23 pp.)

Other: Photos

**Abstract:** Recollections of the early history and life-style of Baldwin Park, California. Discusses family history at length, and her experiences teaching music.

**Subject headings:** Baldwin Park, California; Music education; Family

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1944**

“An oral history with Daniel J. Webster”

Narrator: Webster, Daniel J. (b. 1897)

Interviewer: Dennis D. Webster

Date: October 16 and 19, 1987

Location: Not recorded

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel (2 hrs.)

Transcript: Final (38 pp.)

Other: Photographs

**Abstract:** A Midwesterner discusses family history for his grandson including early family life, his draft deferment in World War I, varied employment experiences nationwide, particularly the used car business, and philosophizes on business practices.

**Subject headings:** Ancestors, World War I, Career choices, Economy and society

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1987**

“An oral history with Gabrielle Silten”

Narrator: Silten, Gabrielle (n. d.)  
Interviewer: Patricia Tolliver  
Date: November 16, 1984  
Location: Not recorded  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel (3 hrs.)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Childhood survivor of the holocaust recalls her family’s flight from Germany in 1938, their respite in Holland, the presence of anti-Semitism, and the rounding up of Jews in 1940 after the invasion of Holland; discusses life in two concentration camps located in German-occupied Czechoslovakia and forced labor conditions, liberation by Russian forces, and her return to Holland. Comments on the long term social and psychological effects resulting from Hitler’s atrocities.

**Subject headings:** Holocaust, 1939-1945; Jews; Children and War

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 1993**

“An oral history with Marcella Elliott ”

Narrator: Elliott, Marcella (n.d.)  
Interviewer: Wendy Elliott  
Date: October 15 and November 24, 1984  
Location: Not recorded  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History  
  
Format(s): Open reel; digital (01:12:27)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Recollections of early childhood growing up in the Midwest and her move to California in 1942. Narrator’s husband came first looking for work to aid war effort and purchased the last 3-bedroom house in a new tract. She followed later with the three children and recalls escapades on the drive out including donkey rides in Colorado, border inspections, and orange juice stands. Describes wartime precautions in the new neighborhood like machine guns, camouflaged buildings, and barrage balloons and comments on the advantages of California weather over Minnesota seasons.

**Subject headings:** Family, Education, World War II

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 2007**

“An oral history with Lucina Maag Considine”

Narrator: Considine, Lucina Maag (n.a.)

Interviewer: Carrie M. Romoser

Date: March 15, 1989

Location: Home of Lucina Maag Considine, Laguna Hills, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes; digital (01:22:41)

Transcript: Transcribed, 20 pages

Other: Bibliography, photos; *See also* OH 2008

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as a senior project in the Liberal Studies' Thematic Plan Program at California State University, Fullerton. The interview's purpose was to gather information about the home of John Anton Maag that was built sometime between 1895 and 1898 and use the data in the historic restoration of the structure. John Maag was a farmer in the early days of Orange County and a founding member and organizer of several growers associations, including the Santiago Orange Growers Association, the Central Lemon Growers Association at Villa Park, the Olive Heights Growers Association, and the Richland Walnut Growers Association. The home along with several other historic structures compose the Heritage Museum of Orange County located in Santa Ana, California. Lucina Maag Considine is a granddaughter of John A. Maag. In this interview, she discusses her grandparents and their ten children, gives a detailed description of the Maag home; recalls experiences during World War I and memories of growing up on a ranch; explains the evolution of the Sunkist Growers Association; and shares her personal work history, including social work and teaching.

**Subject headings:** Ranch life; Oranges; Architecture, Domestic; World War, 1914-1918

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 2033**

“An oral history with Beatrice Kent”

Narrator: Kent, Beatrice (n.a.)  
Interviewer: Donald E. Skinner  
Date: October 10 and 24, 1988  
Location: Home of Beatrice Kent, San Juan Capistrano, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): cassette; digital (02:45:06)  
Transcript: Transcribed (23 pages)  
Other:

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Personal and Family History Collection of the Oral History Program for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to generate pertinent information about the narrator’s work experience in the Hollywood movie industry. Specifically this interview details Kent’s work at the Paramount Studios, Columbia Studios, Universal Studios, Fox, and MGM. Kent was born in Idaho and came to California following her high school graduation at age seventeen. She discusses the various job duties she held working in the movie industry including accounting, scenic studio work and work as an assistant editor. She also discusses the atmosphere surrounding Hollywood; early filmmaking; working for Howard Hughes; studio special effects to enhance movies; social activities including meetings at the Breakfast Club; community involvement in various clubs and organizations; her award given from the Motion Picture Film Editors Association; editing movies to comply with blue laws; changes in the movie industry; technological advances in editing; changes to Hollywood; movie making during the Depression; relations between movie stars and studio workers; movie industry and workers’ unions; family history, including her grandparents’ association with Brigham Young; early settlement in Utah; early experience living on a farm in Idaho; and meeting President Theodore Roosevelt, at a state fair, when she was four years old.

**Subject headings:** Motion pictures; Hollywood, Calif.; Farm life; Labor relations.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 2160**

“An oral history with Stanley R. Connell ”

Narrator: Connell, Stanley (b. 1928)  
Interviewer: George Sefcik  
Date: August 1 and 8, 1989  
Location: Not recorded  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s):  
Transcript: Final (39 pp.)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** A retired railroad switchman for the Santa Fe Railroad recalls experience working on the railroad and provides a history of the early operations of the old Los Angeles Terminal Division covering the period before and after World War II; discusses equipment used, switching procedures, and yard operations.

**Subject headings:** Railroad trains; World War II; Los Angeles, California;

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 2183**

“An oral history with Manya Schrogin”

Narrator: Schrogin, Manya (b. 1918)  
Interviewer: Donald E. Skinner  
Date: April 13, 1987  
Location: Not recorded  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes (2hrs. 30 min.)  
Transcript: Final type (79 pp.)  
Other: Photographs

**Abstract:** Recollections of early life in Nikolayev, Russia; experiences immigrating to the United States; family life in the Jewish communities of Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles; and her participation in and the importance of music to her life.

**Subject headings:** Immigration, Family, Jews, Music—instruction and study

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 2210**

“An oral history with Denis S. Hegarty”

Narrator: Hegarty, Denis (b. 1935)

Interviewer: Robert Hesselgrave

Date: November 23 and 30, 1991

Location: Not recorded

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; cassettes, approx. 3 hrs

Transcript: Not transcribed

Other: Audio difficulty on side 1; baking improved audio side 2

**Abstract:** During the first interview session, this inactive priest who has taught high school mathematics for thirty years recalls his childhood in wartime Ireland, his life as an ordained member of a religious order, feelings he had while an active priest that led to his decision to leave the religious community, his siblings' feelings toward him after he left, the lack of support from his community and its failure to acknowledge his thirteen years of service, how he met his wife, experiences raising her children, dealing with alcoholism, and finally his own health issues. Comments on respect priests were given for simply being priests as opposed to respect teachers had to earn in the classroom; difficulty moving from a special status as a priest into the anonymous laity; Vatican II; and his decision to not ask for a dispensation.

The second session focuses more on history of Ireland including his father's work as a spy with the IRA and an encounter he had with the Blacks and Tans during the Irish War of Independence, the strong leadership role of the church in Ireland, the various origins and dialects of Gaelic, and the archaeological site at New Grange, as well as social aspects in Ireland like the sheltered status of children where parents “would protect the children from the harsh things of life,” and certain indiscretions like sex outside of marriage and public drunkenness. The narrator describes some unique Irish traits such as answering a question with a question, maintaining the family's honor with one's own behavior, and the idea that universally families had secrets. Concludes with an analysis of the need to integrate all one's life experiences with the early training one receives as well as coping with a changing outlook on life.

**Subject headings:** Catholic ex-priests, parenting, Ireland, religious life.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 2218**

“An oral history with Polly Snyder”

Narrator: Snyder, Polly (b. ca. 1901)  
Interviewer: Dale Swartout  
Date: December 10, 1991  
Location: Retirement Inn in Fullerton, Calif.  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes; digital (01:11:20)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Narrator reads a concise history of the city of Fullerton that she had written four years earlier that explains street names, describes early church leaders, recalls local schools and teachers, and mentions having the opportunity for three summers to spend two weeks in the S. N. Fuller-Ranney cabin at Forest Home which later served as a church conference center. Also responds to interviewer’s questions about her parents, siblings, and their activities: father was a doctor in Wisconsin who also wanted to be a farmer or an engineer so took a chance and moved west to Oregon where the family operated a stage coach route hotel for five years. Friends from Wisconsin encouraged her family to move to Fullerton in 1906; her father stopped in San Francisco to take the test for a California medical license and was there for the famous earthquake. In 1912 the family rode horse and wagon up through the Cajon Pass by crossing the creek seven times to accommodate the incline; they lived in Lucerne Valley near Big Bear. She eventually homesteaded in that area. She remembers the first administrator in Fullerton, Herman Hiltcher, and she served as the deputy city clerk for over thirty years, noting changes in responsibilities and equipment during her career. Recalls the city’s incorporation in 1904 was held in a real estate office and then shares with the interviewer photos of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of incorporation.

**Subject headings:** Fullerton, California; earthquake in San Francisco (1906); local history; pioneers.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 2220**

“An oral history with Cyrus Stafford”

Narrator: Stafford, Cyrus (b. 1891)  
Interviewer: Dale Swartout  
Date: December 11, 1991  
Location: La Habra Villa retirement home in Fullerton, Calif.  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette; digital (00:36:42)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Brief interview with a centenarian from Kansas who comments how lucky he was to have married the perfect wife saying, “If you haven’t got a good wife, you’re not gonna make it.” He grew up in a poor farming family of one girl and five boys; they made their own amusements and toys; he met his wife at a dance and followed her family to Long Beach where they married. He spent money as soon as he had it, so she handled family finances, managing to purchase and operate a dry cleaning business before moving on to invest in second trust deeds. She died about twenty years earlier from cancer and it is obvious he loved her when he said more than once, “I miss that woman.” Narrator struggles to recall specific place names and worries that his statements are not making sense.

**Subject headings:** Marriage, family, farming, dementia, Financial planning (personal)

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 2225**

“An oral history with Gretchen Flemming”

Narrator: Flemming, Gretchen (b. ca. 1900?)  
Interviewer: Sheri Hill  
Date: October 14, 1991  
Location: Residence in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette; digital (01:03:16)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Narrator’s life story was circumscribed by hard work, gender discrimination, and the kindness of strangers. Her father died when she was a child in Kansas and she had to help her mother with cleaning jobs while her younger brother was able to attend school. After her mother died, the siblings parted, she married a miner and moved to Russell Gulch, Colorado; she was widowed after only four years; soon moved to Central City, Colorado, while her brother stayed in Denver. There she took care of children and began to work for a very wealthy family until their baby was three years old; went to visit California but got another job and stayed here. Gives observations on working and living with wealthy families; reveals her strength and confidence by leaving the households where she was expected to do more than care for the children; stayed with her brother and friends when relatives declined to care for them; and even in the retirement situation was longing to be independent and out of a wheelchair.

**Subject headings:** Dementia, sex discrimination, women worker, child care.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 2252**

“An oral history with Ronald Larson”

Narrator: Larson, Ronald (b. ca. 1953)  
Interviewer: Christy Hines  
Date: May 28, 1992  
Location: Narrator’s home in Yorba Linda, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette (60 min.)  
Transcript: Edited (30 pp.)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted with a graduate of Cal State Fullerton who was employed by the Forest History Society as an oral historian. The focus of the discussion is the structure, content and method used in an oral history project centered on the Sequoia National Forest that was put out to bid by the Forest Service. As the contractor for the Forest Service, the narrator was allowed to design the project and create a “social history of the forest.” He outlines how narrators were chosen, how time and resources were allotted, and how the end product changed during the course of the work. Originally planned as a collection of tape recordings, Forest Service staff soon came to expect a written manuscript. Larson explains his idea of creating an index with topics linked “to footage on the tape,” his method of using a pre-interview to develop a list of topics for the actual interview, and his concerns for storage and information retrieval given his limited schedule and budget. Reflects on rapport that developed during the interview process and wondered how the opportunity to give one’s life story in an interview affected the narrators: did it give them permission to die having secured a place in history?

**Subject headings:** Oral History, Mortality, US Forest Service

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 2674. 1**

“An oral history with Butler Perryman”

Narrator: Perryman, Butler (b. 1913)  
Interviewer: Brent Johnson  
Date: June 1, 1998  
Location: Residence of the narrator in Huntington Harbor, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (1:03:07)  
Transcript: Verbatim (13pp)  
Other: Interview summary and details provided by interviewer

**Abstract:** Eighty-five-year-old narrator describes the difficulties in his childhood including poor relation with his mother, father convicted of felons, and great-grandmother tending him until the age of twelve. He married early and tried to support his family, but his long work hours discouraged his wife and she filed for divorce. After she remarried, he was free of financial responsibility to her and their son, so he entered Rice University where he studied during the day and worked at night. Having taught himself to dive by imitating circus clowns as a child, Perryman hitchhiked to Texas A&M to compete in the Southwest Conference diving championship, which he won. After graduation, attended Columbia University in New York where he worked for a time on a recreational management degree. Seeing little opportunity for employment with such a degree, cut his study short and returned to Texas where he became a supervisor of the certified workers in the WPA program during the Depression.

**Subject headings:** Parenting, Depressions—1929, Diving for men, Recreation management, World War II

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 2674. 2**

“An oral history with Butler Perryman”

Narrator: Perryman, Butler (b. 1913)  
Interviewer: Brent Johnson  
Date: July 16, 1998  
Location: Residence of the narrator in Huntington Harbor, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel; digital (00:49:04)  
Transcript: Verbatim (13pp)  
Other: Interview summary and details provided by interviewer

**Abstract:** After working with the WPA, the narrator later was employed by the city of Tyler, Texas, to develop their new theater which was to provide entertainment for 40,000 military personnel from nearby military bases. Was commissioned as an ensign in 1943 for the navy and traveled to Naples, Italy, where he was the head of entertainment for enlisted men. After discharge in 1946 in Long Beach, California, was a successful owner of a business called Loose Leaf Law Reporting. Attributes his success to his ability to imitate and adapt.

**Subject headings:** Parenting, Depressions—1929, Diving for men, Recreation management, World War II

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 2675**

“An oral history with Dr. Milo Tedstrom”

Narrator: Tedstrom, Milo  
Interviewer: Brent Johnson  
Date: Interviews began May 23, 1998  
Location: Narrator’s home in Laguna Hills, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History  
  
Format(s): Digital (07:14:16)  
Transcript: Constructed narrative (109 pp.)  
Other: Photographs

**Abstract:** Well-known Orange County physician who practiced medicine at St. Joseph Hospital in Orange, California, for over fifty years recalls his family, background, medical career, and personal achievements. Arrived in Anaheim, California, in 1928 to work at the Johnston and Wickett clinic; conducted original research in diabetic control, cardiology, and allergy medicine; updated cardiac unit at St. Joseph Hospital and personally owned the second electrocardiograph machine in the county; encouraged doctors to join him to enlist and serve in World War II; was supporter of the Kiwanis for over seventy years with particular involvement with the Anaheim Chapter. Was founding president of Orange County Heart Association and Orange County Diabetic Association, and was president of Orange County Medical Society. Comments on changes in medical treatments and gives brief history of Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach, California.

**Subject headings:** Medicine, Diabetes, Cardiology, Hospitals

**OH 2676**

“An oral history with Wilson Phelps”

Narrator: Phelps, Wilson (b. 1909)

Interviewer: Tracy Smith

Date: June 6, 1998

Location: Home of Wilson Phelps, Fullerton, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): cassettes;

Transcript: Complete (25 pages)

Other:

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project for the Oral History Program at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to accumulate relevant data about the life experiences of Wilson Phelps. Specifically, this interview details his experience living in Los Angeles and later Orange County, California. Wilson Phelps was born in Los Angeles. His father was John Wilson Phelps, a former farmer and banker, who started the California Wholesale Grocery. Phelps discusses growing up in Los Angeles, including time spent in the Westlake Park area; information on his father, including his experience as a farmer and as a banker who founded banks in small towns such as Boyle Heights and Vernon; various differences between Los Angeles and Fullerton; Los Angeles High School education; attending Harvard Law School; practicing law with Joe Brady in Los Angeles; damages and effects of the 1938 flood on Anaheim; Anaheim during the World War II years, including blackouts and army convoys; population boom in Orange County; community activities in Anaheim, including the Chamber of Commerce; departure from the banking business; changes and development in Fullerton and Anaheim; and thoughts about his family and children.

**Subject headings:** Banks and banking; Natural disasters; Farm life; Family; Lawyers

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3023**

“An oral history with Terry Colberg”

Narrator: Colberg, Terry (b. 1927)  
Interviewer: Mindy Liebel  
Date: March 15, 2002  
Location: Narrator’s home in Rancho Santa Margarita, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette; digitized (01:02:58)  
Transcript: None  
Other: Tape log, photos and newspaper articles of earthquake

**Abstract:** Student interviews her great-aunt who grew up in Long Beach, California, about the 1938 earthquake centered in that city, her education, employment, and family memories. Describes where she was and what happened at the moment the earthquake struck, breadlines and tents for the homeless, living for two weeks in her grandfather’s car in a vacant lot near their home while one sister with measles stayed in the house, neighbors cooking outside over bonfires, classes in the rectory and nearby homes, and general recovery in the city. Discusses life as a nun, teacher and principal and explains her decision to leave the order. Compares living in northern California and in Long Beach, attitudes of children when she taught and at the time of the interview, and comments on restrictions that prevented her from being an airline stewardess.

**Subject headings:** Earthquake—1938, Women’s employment, Education

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3066**

“An oral history with Arthur G. Herriford”

Narrator: Herriford, Arthur G. (1922)  
Interviewer: Chad Hoelker  
Date: March 12, 2003  
Location: Narrator’s home in Van Nuys, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family Histories

Format(s): Digital (01:04:06)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: Field notes, interview summary, final class paper

**Abstract:** An eyewitness account of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. Narrator had lived in Cleveland, Oklahoma, where he had to leave school in the tenth grade to augment family income. Aware of training advantages in the navy, he enlisted and after basic training was stationed at Pearl Harbor in 1940, trained on various pieces of equipment and eventually became the main battery rangefinder operator; comments on youth and inexperience of shipmates and how they aged ten years during the attack. Describes the first sounds of the attack, reactions of sailors, images of exploding ships and munitions, specifically looking directly at the battleship *Arizona* when it blew up, and a two-man submarine employed by the Japanese that was captured in the harbor. Explains his role after the attack checking for Japanese troops on the island, being escort for dead and wounded back to San Francisco, and in a convoy to bring 21 new ships to Hawaii. Briefly describes his military career after the war, his work in research and development in the space program after leaving the military, and his activity in the Pearl Harbor Survivors Organization.

**Subject headings:** Pearl Harbor, attack on—1941; World War II; Battleships--American--1940-1950; submarine combat; space race

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3094**

“An oral history with Barbara Talento”

Narrator: Talento, Barbara (b.1928)  
Interviewer: Susan Brewer  
Date: October 21, 2003  
Location: Ruby Gerontology Center in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes, approx. 90 minutes  
Transcript: Class project, 18 pp.  
Other: field notes

**Abstract:** Discussion of life as a Jewish child growing up in the US during the 1940s. Narrator mentions changes she felt after moving from large extended family in the city to a small community in upstate New York with no active Jewish community, where even the Catholics were divided ethnically into two different parishes. She found stereotypes to be untrue and discrimination applied to children as well as adults and she recognized the tendency of society to “demonize people of color.” Though not very active at temple, she strongly identified with Jews in Europe during World War II and believes that the US only joined the war effort because of Pearl Harbor, having no intention to help the persecuted Jews in Europe until death camps were discovered. Both her parents worked at the Watervliet Arsenal, her mother in the tool crib and her father on a lathe.

**Subject headings:** Jews, German American Bund, Girl scouts, race discrimination

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3095**

“An oral history with Don Hutchinson”

Narrator: Hutchinson, Don (b.1929)  
Interviewer: Marilyn Carmody  
Date: October 20, 2003  
Location: Ruby Gerontology Center in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes, 45 min.  
Transcript: Class project, 12 pp.  
Other: Interview summary. See also OH 5185

**Abstract:** Recollections of World War II as experienced by a twelve-year-old boy growing up in the Los Angeles school system. Narrator felt a sense of adventure in the wartime need for rationing and black out curtains and was pleased with his victory garden that produced radishes and carrots. News about the war came over the radio KNX station and from newsreels at the Saturday matinees in the Western Avenue Theater. Recalls racially mixed classrooms and playmates with Japanese, Black, and Mexican heritage; tells about regularly watching the Zoot Suit Riots in 1943 as a white non-participant. Had Finnish uncles who fought in the war and his own father worked for the Department of Water and Power but picked up extra work at nearby shipyards out of a sense of patriotism. Interview begins with acknowledgment that the doctor who delivered him eventually went on to found the Ross-Loos Medical Clinic in Los Angeles, a precursor to the HMO system.

**Subject headings:** Zoot Suit Riots, Los Angeles, Calif., 1943; World War II home front; Health system agencies—United States

**OH 3096**

“An oral history with Lorna Funk”

Narrator: Funk, Lorna (b.1919)  
Interviewer: Bill Larson  
Date: October 23, 2003  
Location: Interviewer’s home in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): cassette  
Transcript: Transcribed (14 pp.)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about her thoughts on education as a member of the Continuing Learning Experience (CLE) at California State University, Fullerton. Specifically, this interview details Funk’s early childhood education in country schools; her curriculum and extracurricular experiences at a small, all-girl college in Iowa; after transferring to the University of Iowa, noted differences between the two types of school; became a school teacher in Iowa and discusses the benefits of one-on-one learning, as well as teaching children with special needs. Reveals family experiences in World War II; details the importance of religion and ministry in her life; shares her thoughts about the importance of education and how she could remember very few classmates who pursued professional careers; and she shares her experience of continuing her education once her children had left her house.

**Subject headings:** Women—education, Teaching—Practice—United States; War casualties, Career choice.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3097**

“An oral history with Estelle Waslosky”

Narrator: Waslosky, Estelle (b. 1930)  
Interviewer: Patricia Connelly  
Date: October 15, 2003  
Location: Narrator’s home in Brea, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes, approx.. 90 min.  
Transcript: Class report  
Other: Tape log, interview summary, photo

**Abstract:** A discussion on being widowed before the age of fifty and how grieving happens. Both the narrator and the interviewer were widowed in their forties. The narrator’s husband died suddenly; they had three children, two were in their teens. She mentions that her job distracted her, her children’s needs occupied her, co-workers provided support. She describes the children’s reaction to the sudden death of their father: older daughter attended the funeral despite wanting to avoid them in general, the son was struggling with drug addiction, the younger daughter had been away on a trip that her father did not want her to take, so there were many problems to deal with. She never actively looked for a replacement for her husband of twenty-seven years. Couples who had been longtime friends continued to invite her out for the first year then these invitations faded away; new friends were found in work and support groups. At the time of the interview, narrator is questioning whether she is only then just permitting herself time to grieve the loss of her husband. Also mentions lost sharing opportunities, dealing with loneliness at happy occasions as well as serious, “secondary losses” like no one to take out the garbage and hire repairmen. Advantages she had: strong personal identity that was supported by her spouse, a good capacity for friendship.

**Subject headings:** Death and remembrance, consolation, grief, widows, parents—death.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3098**

“An oral history with David H. Armstrong”

Narrator: Armstrong, David H. (b. ca.1932)

Interviewer: Preeya Mukund

Date: October 14, 2003

Location: Ruby Gerontology Center in Fullerton, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes, approx. 90 min.; approx. 90 min.

Transcript: Class project, 12 pp.

Other: Tape log, interview summary, letter; *See also* OH 5186

**Abstract:** A retired physician in the fields of obstetrics and gynecology uses his career training during the 1950s as benchmarks to note the timing of specific scientific advances in medical history, including pediatric open heart surgery, neonatology, hemoglobin studies, development of the pap smear, ionizing radiation for cervical and uterine cancer, development of ultrasound from World War II navy research, pain management, assisted reproductive technology. Considers the awareness of the value of preventative care to be the major medical achievement in treating the patient as a whole person.

**Subject headings:** George Papanicolaou; fetal blood; biotechnology; Pauling, Linus, 1901-1994; menopause—hormone therapy; health services administration

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3099**

“An oral history with Thurl Ravenscroft”

Narrator: Ravenscroft, Thurl (b. 1914)

Interviewer: Patricia Connelly

Date: October 13, 2003

Location: Fullerton, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family

Format(s): Cassettes, 60 min.

Transcript: Class report, 14 pp.

Other: Tape log, interview summary, photo, news clippings

**Abstract:** Though narrator is recognized in advertising as the voice of Tony the Tiger, the interviewer tried to focus more on his experiences as a navigator in World War II. He tells about Winston Churchill's behavior while flying to a conference in Algiers and about the dangers of flying unidentified into Washington, D.C. with George Marshall as his passenger. He also transported Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and other entertainers during the war. Narrator was eager to talk about his career advancing from studio singer to being in different groups and finally being called on by Walt Disney to provide a barbershop quartet for the movie *Lady and the Tramp*. He was regularly involved in soundtracks for movies and on rides at Disneyland. Describes the recording studio and pay scale before the war. His career was interrupted by the war but quickly resumed afterward. He is a native of Norfolk, Nebraska, and left there at the suggestion of his father who recognized that he would have a better chance to make a living as a singer if he came to California where he could live with his grandmother and aunt. Briefly comments on his father's experience in 1929 Depression, his adoption of two children with his wife, and tells how he won the advertising position with the Leo Burnett agency in Chicago.

**Subject headings:** Walt Disney Productions; World War II; Broadcast advertising; Churchill, Winston

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3100**

“An oral history with J. Robert Funk”

Narrator: Funk, Robert “Bob” (b. 1918)

Interviewer: Marcia Williams

Date: October 18, 2003

Location: Ruby Gerontology Center, Fullerton, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): cassette, 60 min.

Transcript: Class report, 10 pp.

Other: Tape log, interview summary, photos, map. See also OH 3351, 4316, 4373, 5187.1, 5187.2 and 5188

**Abstract:** Narrator provides a life review recalling early time spent in Iowa, attending Pratt Institute in Brooklyn with the intention of becoming an engineer, and eventually returning to University of Iowa and securing a degree. Used trolleys and subways to get to classes and gives details of the routes and scenery along the way. Mother had been a teacher and librarian and supported him during the Depression after the death of his father, and she always encouraged him to get a degree. He describes campus life including living in co-op dorms, special dances with well-known swing bands, boxing competitions, and classes involved in the development of television. Comments on current CLE (Continuing Learning Experience) activities and programs in which he is involved.

**Subject headings:** post-secondary education, clothing and dress, commuting, local transit

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3101**

“An oral history with Wallace A. Craig”

Narrator: Craig, Wallace A. (b.1927)  
Interviewer: Keith Mulvaney  
Date: December 4, 2002  
Location: Campus of California State University, Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette, 45 min.  
Transcript: Class paper, 7 pp.  
Other: Interview summary, tape log

**Abstract:** Interviewer aims to find support for his thesis that the social interaction of the sixties and seventies has been reduced in current society. Narrator begins by stating the importance of having a hobby during one’s active years to fall back on in retirement. The hobby also provides opportunity for interaction with others, a factor the narrator sees as having been reduced with the advent of the computer. Craig collects stamps and belongs to three stamp clubs and he values the clubs as an opportunity to be out of the house, give his wife alone time, and to live a longer and happier life. He compares radio and television and preferred radio which allowed for other simultaneous family activities, like model building. Besides the stamp clubs, he has been active with his family in the Scottish Clans in Orange County.

**Subject headings:** health expectancy, girls—societies and clubs, hobbies, social change

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3102.1**

“An oral history with Malcolm MacAulay”

Narrator: MacAulay, Malcolm (b. 1924)

Interviewer: Thanh-Huong (Theresa) Khong

Date: October 4, 2003

Location: Ruby Gerontology Center in Fullerton, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette, 60 min.

Transcript: Class report, 14 pp.

Other: Interview summary and tape log; *See also* OH 3102.2, OH 3350, OH 5189

**Abstract:** Retired engineer recalls highlights of his career and famous people with whom he crossed paths, such as helping develop the Naval Tactical Data System (NTDS) with computer pioneer Seymour Cray; meeting Grace Murray Hopper, author of COBOL programming; and his brief visit with Gen. Leslie Groves who was associated with The Manhattan Project. Gives some corporate history of Remington Rand Univac, Control Data Corporation, and Data Display. Served on the US Senate Small Business Advisory Committee and interacted with senators Eugene McCarthy and Hubert Humphrey. After leaving Data Display, MacAulay taught computer science in Sydney, Australia, where he unsuccessfully tried to start another company, Information Electronics. Returned to the States and worked in research and development for Hughes Aircraft, during which time he and his wife were sent to Egypt. Retired from Hughes at age sixty-nine.

**Subject headings:** Programming languages, career advancement, employment—1970-1990, cultural awareness—Egypt

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3102.2**

“An oral history with Malcolm MacAulay”

Narrator: MacAulay, Malcolm (b. 1924)

Interviewer: Thanh-Huong (Theresa) Khong

Date: October 11, 2003

Location: Ruby Gerontology Center in Fullerton, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette, 60 min.

Transcript: Class report, 14 pp.

Other: Interview summary and tape log; *See also* OH 3102.1, OH 3350, OH 5189

**Abstract:** This second interview session with the retired engineer focuses on the narrator’s experiences while working in Egypt for Hughes Aircraft and then working in Saudi Arabia after coming out of retirement. Narrator comments on advantages of overseas positions including tax free income, additional vacation time, and furnished car and home; acclimating to the system of bribes and payoffs to get everyday things like good meat and a driver’s license; law code in Egypt; and well-known tourist sights. During his second trip to Egypt he purchased a door made from walnut to specifically fit his Fullerton home. In Saudi Arabia he worked on a television station for the military environment and comments on types of programs shown. Discusses touring at Madain Saleh and gives a little-known account of the relation between Franklin D. Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and the King of Saudi Arabia and how it affected the oil concessions with the US.

**Subject headings:** Saudi Arabia, oil industries—Saudi Arabia, cultural awareness—Egypt, Muslims, career advancement

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3103**

“An oral history with Howard Wilson”

Narrator: Wilson, Howard (b. 1924)  
Interviewer: Jane Cunningham  
Date: October 30, 2003  
Location: Narrator’s home in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family

Format(s): Cassettes, 90 minutes  
Transcript: Class report, 19 pp.  
Other: Interview summary, photos

**Abstract:** Interviewer talks with her father about his military experience as a pilot during World War II and his courtship of her mother. Narrator was seventeen years old when Pearl Harbor was attacked and thought the war would end before he reached enlistment age since he was aware of nineteen-year-olds in military service. Details his training and advance through the ranks in the air force on his way to becoming a pilot including various screening tests, trips to classification centers, and training as a “multi-engine student,” learning acrobatics, short landings, and short field take offs in the Mitchell bomber. Served as flight instructor at Moody Field in Georgia and Lowry Field in Colorado, mustered out at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

**Subject headings:** United States. Air Force, World War II, Bomber pilots—training of—United States, culture and society, homefront.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3163**

“An oral history with Peter T. Limon”

Narrator: Limon, Peter T. (b. 1924)  
Interviewer: Sheryl Denton  
Date: May 8, 2002  
Location: Narrator’s home in San Clemente, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes (90 min.)  
Transcript: Partial final (24 pp.)  
Other: Articles, correspondence, photo, map

**Abstract:** Survivor of Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and native of East Los Angeles, California, considered himself lucky in 1941 to be able to join the navy at the age of 17 since this secured him a job and regular meals during the end of the Depression. Trained in radio communication, he was assigned to a ship with the location being his choice. Since he had never known anyone except the wealthy who could travel to Hawaii, he opted to go on the USS *Swan* in Pearl Harbor. Was about to begin his 4-hr shift when the enemy planes flew over the *Swan* as it sat in dry dock. Confusion reigned because two-thirds of the crew was onshore, guns jammed, ammunition was locked, and radio protocol broke down completely. Witnessed the attack on the USS *Nevada* where he saw “white uniforms flying,” joined whale boats circulating to pick up the wounded from the oily water, and took part in an attempt to extinguish fires on the USS *California*. Wonders at some steps taken by US high command and considers racist attitudes as a cause for lack of readiness. Rejects the notion that no carriers were in the harbor because of a warning but sees that only as good luck. Comments that the torpedoes passed under shallow ships like the USS *Vestal* and USS *Ogallala* to hit the battleships USS *Arizona* and USS *Helena*. Feels Japanese could have taken further steps to destroy the entire fleet. Remembers sailors’ various reactions to the attack.

**Subject headings:** Pearl Harbor, attack on—1941; World War II; Battleships--American--1940-1950; Depression—1929

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3164.1**

“An oral history with Hannah Browning”

Narrator: Browning, Hannah (b. ca. 1921)  
Interviewer: John Stahler  
Date: October 12, 2002  
Location: Ruby Gerontology Center, Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes (60 min.)  
Transcript: Final transcript, class project  
Other: Interview summary, tape index

**Abstract:** Narrator was randomly selected from participants in history class at the gerontology center and gives details of her childhood, education, and family activities in Des Moines, Iowa. During the Depression, she and her brothers spent much time with mother while her father worked in a glove factory. When she was fourteen she and her mother answered an ad in the newspaper for someone to share a ride to California. The weather convinced her mother to stay here, requiring Father to sell his grocery store and bring the boys west. Women at that time only anticipated a job in teaching, nursing, or secretarial positions, so she geared her high school curriculum accordingly. However, her older brother convinced her to attend college and she went to Santa Barbara Teacher College where she met her future husband on a blind date. Returned to Los Angeles area to be near family during the war, and enrolled at UCLA. Left school to marry her husband and became an army wife. Together they had four children, lived in various places in the United States and spent three years in occupied Japan after the war and experienced the culture there. Interview concludes with her recollections of a return visit to Iowa where she felt very sophisticated among her country friends there.

**Subject headings:** Parenting, culture and society, women—education, Families of military personnel

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3164.2**

“An oral history with Hannah Browning”

Narrator: Browning, Hannah (b. ca. 1921)  
Interviewer: John Stahler  
Date: October 15, 2002  
Location: Ruby Gerontology Center, Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes (30 min.)  
Transcript: Final transcript, class project  
Other: Interview summary, tape index

**Abstract:** Narrator was randomly selected from participants in history class at the gerontology center and comments that neither her brothers nor her husband experienced combat duty during the Second World War though all were in active duty in the army. She provides more details on her husband’s assignments in the Army Signal Corps and how the family moved regularly to various locations stateside and in Japan. Notes the effect of the American soldiers’ presence on the Japanese culture during the occupation. She enjoyed a happy life until the Korean War when her husband was sent to combat and she and the children stayed in the States. When he returned he had become addicted to gambling and alcohol; they divorced after twenty-four years of marriage. She was able to secure a position with Beckman Instruments in Fullerton, California, and alludes to successful careers of her children.

**Subject headings:** Divorce, parenting, Addiction in America, Compulsive gambling

**OH 3165**

“An oral history with Elvis White”

Narrator: White, Elvis (b.1940)  
Interviewer: Tiffany Tolder  
Date: November 2, 2002  
Location: Moreno Valley  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes  
Transcript: Transcribed (22 pp.)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project for the Oral History Program at California State University, Fullerton. The interview’s purpose was to develop information about the narrator’s living experience in both his native Tennessee and Michigan during the 1950s. Specifically, this interview details White’s experience confronting racism in both states, offering comparisons and differences of the two areas. White grew up in Tennessee in a large family of nine sisters and six brothers. In 1957 his family moved to Michigan. White discusses public discrimination including bus riding and drinking fountains, and recounts stories on lynching and visits to former slave auction sites; ghetto conditions in Michigan; parental discipline; relationships with family, especially his parents; childhood activities and games; importance of an education; recounts a personal near death experience; family heritage including information on his grandparents; ideas on parenting.

**Subject headings:** Race discrimination, Southern States, Family, Parenting; Death—anecdotes

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3166**

“An oral history with Helen Beykich”

Narrator: Beykich, Helen (b. 1925)  
Interviewer: Tiffany Tolder  
Date: November 2, 2002  
Location: Narrator’s home in La Mirada, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette (90 min.)  
Transcript: Final class project  
Other: See also OH 5192

**Abstract:** A member of the “Greatest Generation” gives her life review and describes how she faced the career options that were open to her: nurse, secretary, teacher, or wife. Briefly mentions being aware of her parents’ financial anxiety during the Depression, but does not recall any hardships because of it. Explains the interruptions to her college education, in particular grade discrimination at Southern Illinois University, and her determination to complete her degree after hearing a commuter’s comment en route to her workplace in Los Angeles. Describes travel disruption in Europe in 1950 when US appropriated commercial planes to take troops to the Korean Conflict and her eventual employment through the Pentagon and work in Weisbaden, Germany, with the US Air Force. Relates how she travelled then in Europe, met and married her husband, started a family, and eventually had interesting travel in the states. Narrator has lived in her home for over forty years and shares some memories of the early dirt roads, traffic increase, and local commercial development in the area.

**Subject headings:** women—education, travel, Korean War—1950-1953, Depression—1929—United States

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3167**

“An oral history with Beverly ‘Dena’ Ports”

Narrator: Ports, Beverly “Dena” (b. 1936)  
Interviewer: Dawn Worland  
Date: October 19, 2002  
Location: Narrator’s home in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette (60 min.)  
Transcript: Final, class assignment (8 pp.)  
Other: Interview summary, tape index; See OH 5193

**Abstract:** As part of a class activity, the narrator shares memories of her childhood and life, including her father’s steady job with Safeway grocery store that seemed to give them stability and regular income, her aunt and cousin who lived with her parents and brother in a small two-bedroom home during the war, and the novelty of a shower in her aunt’s apartment when she remarried and moved. Her parents were involved in séances and ouija boards in their home and in church, so when they moved on to embrace the tenants of Norman Vincent Peale she was glad to move to “religion in the daylight.” Her parents enjoyed occasional night club outings in Hollywood and would take her maternal grandparents along when they visited from Washington. Has a strong belief in the power of thought, having been told by her mother that “thoughts are things” and gives example of her seeing a visitor to Knott’s Berry Farm enter the gate and willing that person to come into the studio where she worked to have her do a portrait. States that a person can bring about their own healing by concentration on and involvement in their treatment.

**Subject headings:** Parenting, families, genealogy, post war United States, 1945-1970.

**OH 3168**

“An oral history with Donna Wolffe: Personal History”

Narrator: Wolffe, Donna (b.1940)

Interviewer: Donald King

Date: October 21, 2002

Location: Gerontology Center at California State University, Fullerton

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): cassettes

Transcript: Transcribed (12 pages)

Other:

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project for the Oral History Program at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the narrator’s experiences in the 1950s. Specifically, this interview details Wolffe’s social, educational, and work activities in the post-World War II period, including attending Los Angeles area schools, graduating from John Marshall High School; attending Whittier College; memories of World War II through radio, rationing; thoughts on 1950’s era radio and television programming; rock and roll music of the 1950s including *American Bandstand* and *Your Hit Parade* television shows and artists such as Elvis Presley and Jack Hailey; social activities, movies, plays, concerts, cars and driving; friendships; thoughts on the Cold War, drop drills, nuclear weapons scare, fear of Soviet attack, fallout shelters, McCarthy hearings, the Eisenhower Presidency; southern California beach culture; influential books and literature; marriage and family life; minority relations in high school.

**Subject headings:** Education; World War, 1939-1945; McCarthy, Joseph; McCarthyism—1950-1960; Music; Popular culture and literature.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3169**

“An oral history with Thelma R. Haislip”

Narrator: Haislip, Thelma (b. 1925)  
Interviewer: Michael Chavez  
Date: November 1, 2002  
Location: Narrator’s home in Anaheim, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette (60 min.)  
Transcript: Class report (20 pp.)  
Other: Interview summary, tape index

**Abstract:** The interview was conducted as part of a class assignment. Narrator participated in the Cadet Nurse Corps created by the Bolton Act of 1943 to assure adequate supply of nurses during World War II. She graduated from Redlands High School in 1943, entered the training program at the San Bernardino Valley College of Nursing and graduated in 1947 with an A.A. degree. Her length of time in the program was expanded because of her illnesses. She tells how the students practiced on themselves prior to inserting nasal gastric tubes or giving injections to patients, witnessed parents losing young children, viewed an autopsy of a patient she had cared for, learned of penicillin during her second year, describes sterilization methods prior to disposable surgery equipment, and recalls dealing with infections caused by self-induced abortions. She gained important tips in dealing with children through affiliations with Los Angeles Children’s Hospital and Los Angeles Methodist Hospital of Obstetrics. The intense training allowed little time off and women usually visited their families when they did take a break. Haislip recalls the exact moment when she “grew up” and made the full commitment to stay in the program when others were leaving. She did marry during the program and her husband was shipped to Japan three days later. After the war, while her husband trained to be a CPA, she helped support their family of three sons as a private nurse to patients at the Cedars of Lebanon hospital in Los Angeles.

**Subject headings:** Nursing--Government policy, nursing—United States, women in medicine, health

**OH 3170**

“An oral history with Robert Reed”

Narrator: Reed, Robert (b. 1945)  
Interviewer: Jason Townsend  
Date: November 10, 2002  
Location: Embassy Suites, Brea, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes  
Transcript: Transcribed (11 pp.)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about narrator’s service in the Vietnam War. Robert Reed was born in south Wales but grew up in London during the aftermath of World War II. As child he and his friends often played through the bombed rubble and it was not uncommon for them to find human bones and soldiers’ helmets. Seeking adventure in June 1965, narrator headed to the United States. Discusses his culture shock in both New York and Las Vegas and his expectations of living in the US. As a permanent resident of the US, Reed was drafted to serve during the Vietnam War. Describes his basic training and the overall experience of his military stay in Vietnam, including secret missions through Cambodia not publicized in the media, and his job logging casualties as a radio operator. Notes inaccuracies between the number of deaths he recorded and those that were reported publicly; the differences between post World War II US and England; the anti-war movement; and how the Vietnam War led to the distrust of government.

**Subject headings:** Vietnam War, 1961-1975; Immigrants—United States; Cultural awareness; War casualties; Military education; Military missions—Cambodia; War—public opinion—United States; Peace Movement

**OH 3171**

“An oral history with LaVonne Verbella”

Narrator: Verbella, LaVonne (b.1923)

Interviewer: Sultan Haque

Date: October 19, 2002

Location: Ruby Gerontology Center at California State University, Fullerton

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): cassettes

Transcript: Transcribed (17 pp.)

Other:

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton, with a member of the Continuing Learning Experience (CLE) at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about her personal experience during World War II. Specifically, this interview details Verbella’s early childhood experience growing up on a farm in Nebraska, including her education, meals, chores, and prohibition from working in the fields due to her gender. Narrator discusses social activities and family functions and notes her mother had played music for silent movies. Recalls Prohibition and farmers’ homemade beer; the Great Depression, including living off the barter system and building a close community; marriage, children, moving to California, and having a daughter become a hippie at UC Berkeley; memories of President Herbert Hoover; rural versus urban life; and life as a widow.

**Subject headings:** Farm life; Family; Music; Prohibition—Nebraska; Financial planning, personal

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**OH 3172**

“An oral history with Lucile Toole”

Narrator: Toole, Lucile (b. 1912)  
Interviewer: Sultan Haque  
Date: October 28, 2002  
Location: Home of narrator's daughter in Anaheim Hills, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette (60 min.)  
Transcript: Class report (15 pp.)  
Other: Interview summary, tape index

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as a class assignment. Narrator was the daughter of a country doctor living in Cynthiana, Indiana, who enjoyed accompanying her father to visit patients. Her early childhood centered on her parents' library that included medical information as well as works of Shakespeare, a Victrola that she played on the porch of their home, and on plants that her father gathered from around the world and grew. Father and uncle provided a tennis court for the small community; Mother was active in church activities and Sunday school. Learned of her father's sudden death when she was at school at the age of twelve. Comments that she practiced medicine for over fifty years without a license after spending hours alone in the attic library reading. An older brother brought her to California where she eventually worked as a personal secretary for George Burns and Gracie Allen, radio/television personalities in Hollywood; helped organize the Academy of Motion Pictures award during World War II; Includes details on her marriages, daughter, and later education.

**Subject headings:** grief, parenting, families, small cities

**OH 3173**

“An oral history with Gladys Donohue”

Narrator: Donohue, Gladys (b.1924)  
Interviewer: Courtney Carillo  
Date: April 3, 2002  
Location: Private residence Garden Grove, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): cassettes  
Transcript: Transcribed (24 pp.)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about experience as a machinist during World War II. Specifically, this interview details Donohue’s personal reaction to the bombing of Pearl Harbor; describes her employment at a military plant including her work as a machinist, mail clerk, and record clerk and her later work in a post office; recalls social activities such as the recreation hall dances, skating rink outings and life in a dorm while working at the plant; victory gardens, rations during the war, and how World War II changed her life. Details the recruitment effort aimed at women during the war to work at military plants.

**Subject headings:** World War, 1939-1945; Occupations; Women workers

**OH 3174**

“An oral history with Marilyn Evans”

Narrator: Evans, Marilyn (b.1924)  
Interviewer: Courtney Carillo  
Date: June 9, 2002  
Location: Home of Marilyn Evans, Arizona  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette  
Transcript: Transcribed (19 pp.)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information on narrator’s experiences during World War II. Specifically, this interview details her work in a military plant during World War II. Born in Colorado, Iowa, narrator gives her experiences growing up in a small town; moved to Detroit, Michigan, where she worked at Briggs installing bomb bay doors for B-29s. Describes the work conditions, learning how to read and use blueprints, work at different phases of construction, and rigors of factory jobs. Discusses street car transportation; importance of education; entry into teaching, restrictions placed on women teachers through contracts; rationing during World War II; effects of the Great Depression; marriage and raising a family; retirement; travels to Africa; relocation from Iowa to Arizona; thoughts on being included in the “Greatest Generation”, patriotism, responding to call of duty.  
**Subject headings:** World War, 1939-1945; Occupations; Women workers; B-29 (Bomber); Education; Labor unions

**OH 3175**

“An oral history with Louise Frasher”

Narrator: Frasher, Louise (not given)  
Interviewer: Courtney Carrillo  
Date: June 8, 2002  
Location: Narrator’s home in Sun City, Arizona  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): cassettes  
Transcript: Transcribed (21 pp.)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about living experiences in World War II. Specifically, this interview details Frasher’s work experience in the shipyard during World War II. Frasher initially started filling work orders but later was trained as a welder and worked on all parts of the ship. She explains her work experiences including training, equipment used, work environment, seven-day work week; social activities including dancing, developing close friendships, dating; minority relations in the ship yards; memories of Pearl Harbor and the news of President Franklin Roosevelt’s death; college experience; discussing personal feelings on patriotism and being included in the “Greatest Generation”; family changes caused by World War II; military recruitment posters; family life; relocation from California to Arizona; woman empowerment movement; President Truman.

**Subject headings:** Women’s employment, Welders (Persons), Recruiting and Enlistment, Feminism, World War, 1939-1945; Occupations; Women workers

**OH 3244**

“An oral history with Lee Culp”

Narrator: Culp, Lee (b. 1928)  
Interviewer: Bill Larson  
Date: November 12, 2003  
Location: Home of Bill Larson, Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): cassettes  
Transcript: Transcribed (38 pp.)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about narrator’s military experiences during World War II and the Korean War. Culp recounts his early childhood in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and being sent to an orphanage after his father’s death; his decision to enlist in the military at 14; serving in the Army Specialized Training Reserve Program and later the army, including specialized training, hand-to-hand combat, mountain climbing, jump school, exploring mines; experience overseas during World War II in England and France; enlistment as a reserve after the end of the war; experience serving in the army during the Korean War, including injuries from an exploding landmine; a confrontation in which he was stabbed and shot; and discusses his experience visiting Egypt.

**Subject headings:** World War, 1939-1945; Military education; Korean War, 1950-1953; Orphans; War wounds.

**OH 3245**

“An oral history with Barbara Christiansen”

Narrator: Christiansen, Barbara (b.1935)

Interviewer: Constance Scalzo

Date: October 25 and November 11, 2003

Location: Anaheim Public Library, Anaheim, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette

Transcript: Edited (19 pp.)

Other: None

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the personal life experiences of this native of Massachusetts. Specifically, this interview details her reunion with long-lost family members, how she traced her family roots back to France using the internet to find relatives, the similarities she shares with her estranged siblings, the painful memories of her father’s departure from their family, culture shock and adjusting to city life including the poor conditions of Los Angeles area public schools. She explains how not everyone in her family is excited about a family reunion and how secrecy played a large role in keeping her apart from her siblings. Recalls personal memories of Pearl Harbor, including singing patriotic songs in school and how her mother worked in a defense plant.

**Subject headings:** Brothers and sisters, Family reunions, Parenting, Women’s employment

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**OH 3246**

“An oral history with Beverly Kunkel”

Narrator: Kunkel, Beverly (b.1914)  
Interviewer: Constance Scalzo  
Date: November 23, 2003  
Location: Narrator’s home in Laguna Niguel, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes (90 min.)  
Transcript: Class report (11 pp.)  
Other: Interview summary, tape index

**Abstract:** Narrator recalls incidents from her long life where the family had food but no new clothes and how she would improvise outfits so that she would fit into her social world. Talks about the family moving to follow her dad’s employment and having many Catholic acquaintances in Oxnard where she enjoyed dining with the large families since she only had one brother at the time. She managed to get meat during the Depression by flirting with the butcher. Her first husband was with a company that made nails and wire mesh for air strips during World War II and she describes the riches they enjoyed as a result of his business; she outlived her second husband whom she married at the age of sixty-nine and who was the love of her life; her third husband, who had been one of her employees, died only ten months after their marriage. At one point realizing a void in her life, she benefited from the Gurdjieff Teaching that was started in Los Angeles by the adherent John Pentland.

**Subject headings:** materialism, World War II—profiteer, G. I. Gurdjieff, marriage, widow

**OH 3247**

“An oral history with Mike Mukand”

Narrator: Mukand, Mike (b. 1946)  
Interviewer: Preeya Mukand  
Date: November 27, 2003  
Location: Narrator’s home in Laguna Hills, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette  
Transcript: Transcribed (13 pp.)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** The purpose of this interview was to gather information pertaining to immigration from India into the United States. Born in western India, narrator excelled in school and became an engineer but poor work prospects forced him to seek employment in the US. Discusses his decision to leave India; the process of obtaining a visa and financing his trip; initial impressions of New York including job outlook and climate; difficulties of being in a foreign country; differences between working in the US and India; attending graduate school in Brooklyn; thoughts on arranged marriage and marriage of choice; relocating to California to work for Rockwell; differences between raising a family in southern California and India; moving back to India, including the difficulty that his children had living in India; and finally his return to Laguna Hills, California.

**Subject headings:** Immigrants—United States, Immigration and society, Families, Financial planning—personal, Employment—1960-1970, Culture and society.

**OH 3248**

“An oral history with Noree O’Brien: Personal History”

Narrator: O’Brien, Noree (b.1957)

Interviewer: Ricki MacBarren

Date: November 7, 2003

Location: Home of Noree O’Brien, Fullerton, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette

Transcript: Transcribed (21 pp.)

Other: None

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about her experiences caring for her ill mother, Dorothy, during her long battle with dementia. In this interview the narrator discusses growing up in Fullerton; background information on her mother, including her work for the Fullerton School District’s Central Kitchen; her mother’s painful decision to divorce her husband who was suffering from Huntington’s disease; her difficulty dealing with retirement; sharing a home with her mother; her mother’s decline in health and battle against dementia; acceptance and coming to terms with her mother’s illness; decision to place her mother in a care facility for those inflicted with dementia.

**Subject headings:** Mental health services, Dementia, Women Caregivers, Health care for the aging

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OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3249**

“An oral history with Hester Fields”

Narrator: Fields, Hester (b. 1904)  
Interviewer: Marcia Williams  
Date: November 8, 2003  
Location: Home of Hester Fields, Covina, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette  
Transcript: Transcribed (18 pp.)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about her experience living in California. Hester Fields lived in Missouri and Arkansas where her father was a farmer and murdered when she 10 years old. She took the Great Western Train to California and eventually attended business school. Discusses early street car transportation in Los Angeles; social activities like going to the beach and mountains; work experience at the telephone company; dating and marriage; living through the Great Depression; and her husbands' work on the Apollo and Saturn spacecraft for North American Rockwell. Describes her fondest memories of living in California and her friendship with the spouse of J. Paul Getty.

**Subject headings:** Families, Women—education, Employment—1920-1930, space race, Culture and society.

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OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3250.1**

“An oral history with David Mustante”

Narrator: Mustante, David (b. ca. 1930)  
Interviewer: Simone Strauss  
Date: October 16, 2003  
Location: Ruby Gerontology Center, Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes (01:040:00)  
Transcript: Class report, 28 pp.  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as a class project by a graduate student in political science. Narrator served in local politics for twenty-seven years as a councilman, county commissioner, and eventually mayor of Northampton, Massachusetts. Discusses his background, military training, education, and work on the unsuccessful Lark guided missile project. During his twelve years as mayor a major issue was the discharge of mental patients and the closing of Northampton State Hospital that played a longtime role in the city's economic stability. Narrator describes size of state hospital administration and staff, programs for the patients, and his personal observation of electric shock treatments. Discusses the extreme swing in attitudes toward mental health, local opposition to halfway houses, and strong action taken by the state governor to monitor de-institutionalization of the mentally ill and aged. Used his influence as a mayor to facilitate and finance the project. Comments on his friendship and support for one-time presidential candidate Michael Dukakis as well as his interaction with Boston mayor Ray Flynn and US representative Silvio Conte.

**Subject headings:** mental health; presidents—election 1988; missiles, guided; state-local relations

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3250.2**

“An oral history with David Mustante”

Narrator: Mustante, David (b. ca. 1930)  
Interviewer: Simone Strauss  
Date: October 17, 2003  
Location: Ruby Gerontology Center, Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes approx.. (03:045:00)  
Transcript: None  
Other: None

**Abstract:** A follow up interview to OH 3250.1 to obtain more details on Mustante’s political career in Massachusetts including negotiations for city redevelopment, skill in formulating public opinion, wise use of political capital on unpopular but necessary jobs, his leadership in devising workable yet lean city budgets, grants from public sources via George Dukakis and Silvio Conte, and his campaign methods and principles and the toll the campaigns took on his family. Gives information on his work in Russia and Kyrgystan with the US Peace Corps, the International Executive Service Corps, and the United States Agency for International Development where he acted as a consultant to incorporate western economic and democratic systems into countries from the newly dissolved Soviet Union. Wrote Russia’s first city charter for Nizhny Novgorod and worked with the city mayor to shift from a planned economy to free enterprise. Comments on the value of the National League of Cities and the United States Conference of Mayors as useful sources of information, compares East and West government units and operations, suggests improvements for state governments in this country.

**Subject headings:** Soviet Union, municipal government, local-state relations, Peace Corps, USAID

**OH 3251**

“An oral history with Joan Furtsch”

Narrator: Furtsch, Joan (b. 1928)  
Interviewer: Nancy Stangle  
Date: December 4, 2003  
Location: Huntington Beach, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette  
Transcript: Transcribed (18 pp.)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Community Oral History Project for California State University Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about living through World War II. Narrator discusses her earliest memories of Pearl Harbor; hearing news about the war and speeches by Franklin D. Roosevelt on the radio; fear that Japanese could drop deadly gas from planes; the internment of Americans of Japanese descent, especially the Endo family; military draft and poor use of individuals' special skills; education at Lakewood Elementary; community involvement on the home front during World War II, including how women helped organize the USO, the War Nursery, dealing with blackouts, gas rations, patriotic sense of duty, and volunteering at St. Mary Hospital. Sees differences in the receptions that World War II and Vietnam veterans received; recounts the horror of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima and her experiences living in Long Beach and later Lakewood Village.

**Subject headings:** World War, 1939-1945; Concentration camps—United States; Japanese Americans--Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945; War—Public Opinion—United States; Draft—American—1940.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3252**

“An oral history with June Smith”

Narrator: Smith, June (b. 1924)  
Interviewer: Brian Robbins  
Date: December 10, 2003  
Location: Home of June Smith, Placentia, California  
Language: English  
Project: Placentia Community History

Format(s): Cassette  
Transcript: Transcribed (8 pp.)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as part of the Placentia Community History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about her experience living in Placentia. Specifically, this interview has Smith’s account of the earliest settlers in Placentia; stories concerning Placentia’s founding fathers; post World War II development, including housing tracts, business districts, shopping centers and restaurants; involvement in community organizations, including the Placentia Round Table; the development of city parks, churches, libraries and schools; population growth.

**Subject headings:** City Planning—20<sup>th</sup> century, Development and Change, Pioneers—California, Culture and Society.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3297**

“An oral history with Irene Green”

Narrator: Green, Irene (b. 1888)  
Interviewer: Nancy Hunsaker  
Date: November 1, 1977  
Location: Not recorded  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel  
Transcript: Edited, 27 pp.  
Other: Poem mentioned in transcript

**Abstract:** Memories of early Los Angeles, California, shared by one who was born in the city, lived in Altadena, on Echo Mountain, various spots around Los Angeles and finally in Boyle Heights. Her father worked for the Mt. Lowe railroad and the family lived for two years in the first hotel built on the mountain called the Chalet. Recalls Professor Thaddeus Lowe and his wife Leontine who lived in Pasadena, Prof. Lewis Swift, as well as J. S. Torrance who operated the later larger hotel and has the town of Torrance as his namesake. She and Johnny Torrance would ride the cable car down the mountain every day to attend school in Pasadena and return on the evening car. Recalls the big searchlight shined down from the mountain onto homes in Altadena and Pasadena and describes as a child playing in the light when she lived in Altadena; indicates the ease of travel via the streetcar and rail system from Sierra Madre to Santa Anita where Lucky Baldwin persuaded the railway to build a proper depot. Took singing lessons from Ellen Beach-Yaw, an American operatic soprano known as Lark Ellen, and performed at several concerts with her. Comments on the Los Angeles High School built in a cemetery, Boyle Heights and Hollenbeck Park, the Lark Ellen Boys Home and a flu epidemic, Rosetta Duncan and her sister, and the Rose Parade in Pasadena.

**Subject headings:** Mt. Lowe Observatory, transportation, local transit, Tournament of Roses, opera singers

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3309**

“An oral history with Raymond Thompson”

Narrator: Thompson, Raymond (b.1905)

Interviewer: Cathy Freeman

Date: December 11, 1974

Location: Narrator's office at Pepperdine University Law School in Malibu, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel (75 min.)

Transcript: None

Other: News clipping

**Abstract:** The interview focuses on the old and new Orange County courthouses and the experiences of the narrator as an attorney, judge, chairman of the Conference of California Judges, and local Fullerton resident. Recalls his office briefly on the ground floor of the old courthouse relocating to sixth floor in new building; comments on how the design of the new structure helps with security; recalls escape from his courtroom that caused upgrade to the security plan; as presiding judge from 1963-65 he installed changes to speed up the court calendar and stream line the system; was highly involved with defining statewide courtroom etiquette to assist new lawyers and to establish a relaxed and unemotional setting where justice is possible. Comments on juvenile law, working as the first Fullerton City Attorney, growth of judicial system in keeping pace with population expansion, brief history of Jose Ramon Carrillo and various cases in Orange County; some review of role of agriculture and other changes in the area

**Subject headings:** Courts, judiciary, dress codes, juvenile law

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3349**

“An oral history with Barbara Shoho”

Narrator: Shoho, Barbara (b. 1929)  
Interviewer: Tram L. Do  
Date: October 30, 2003  
Location: Narrator’s home in Placentia, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette (90 min.)  
Transcript: Class report, (18 pp.)  
Other: Tape index, photos, ephemera

**Abstract:** Member of a Japanese family living in Hawaii before and during World War II recalls her childhood outings; segregated schools, labor opportunity, and housing in Manoa, Hawaii; and family being interrogated by military intelligence after Pearl Harbor. Tells how taxes for the community school were paid during the war and racial discrimination in employment continued after the war. Describes seeing charcoal powered taxis, her employment with the US Army in Hawaii and in Washington, DC., and moving to California to face housing discrimination with her husband in Beverly Hills and Fullerton. Comments on the inhumanity of the atomic bomb; the loss of face and cultural breakdown among Japanese Americans caused by internment camps on the West Coast of the mainland; and how a white man in Hawaii, Miles Carey, made the local high school the first in the US to produce a daily student paper. Very brief comment on grandparents caring for children of working parents.

**Subject headings:** race discrimination, World War II, interpersonal relations and culture, Japan, employment—1940-1950.

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**OH 3350**

“An oral history with Malcolm Macaulay”

Narrator: Macaulay, Malcolm (b. 1924)  
Interviewer: Chris Carlino  
Date: November 15, 2003  
Location: Campus of California State University, Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette (90 min.)  
Transcript: First draft, class report (15 pp.)  
Other: *See also* OH 3102.1, OH 3102.2, OH 5189

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as a class project and narrator was assigned arbitrarily. Macaulay recalls a time as a child when he jumped from a boxcar on a moving train while his friend stayed on. Narrator was just turning eighteen years old as the US entered World War II, so he tried to enlist in the navy but was turned down because of being color blind. A doctor falsely gave him a clean bill of health so he could join the merchant marines, but when his sight problem was discovered, he had to face prison or sign on for cooking and baking classes, which he did. Eventually served as a galley man on a Panamanian freighter operated by Scandinavians, then worked on oil tankers, in particular the *Pennsylvania Sun*, the third largest oil tanker in the world at that time. Recalls his other assignments including following a convoy in a faulty ship that billowed smoke for all to see for miles around and discusses advantages of the merchant marine and its logistical relation to the military.

**Subject headings:** merchant ships, color blindness, railroad trains, tankers

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3351**

“An oral history with J. Robert Funk”

Narrator: Funk, J. Robert (b. 1918)  
Interviewer: Garrett Long  
Date: November 4, 2003  
Location: California State University, Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette (90 min)  
Transcript: Class report (15 pp.)  
Other: Tape log

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as a class assignment. Narrator who worked as electrical engineer for Eagle Signal Corporation making industrial timing devices was originally deferred from military service but took the Eddy Test that enabled him to attend the navy’s electronics training program after being drafted. Much of his training on sonar, radar, and radio equipment was in Chicago, Illinois, at the Navy Pier. Described using public transportation which was free to men in uniform. With the war nearly over when he completed his training, he was invited to become a navy instructor and taught about servo mechanisms and motors. Comments on the general disbelief that Japan could actually attack Pearl Harbor and on the anti-Japanese media reports that encouraged popular acceptance of using the atomic bomb. As a science-fiction fan he knew of the possibility of such a bomb and had seen scientific journals that openly published articles on the atomic bomb.

**Subject headings:** war casualties—public opinion; atomic bomb; propaganda—American, 1940-1950; radar; urban transportation.

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OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3394**

“An oral history with Vera Tanner”

Narrator: Tanner, Vera (b. 1920)  
Interviewer: Jane Mueller  
Date: February 18, 1978  
Location: Narrator’s home in Laguna Beach, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel  
Transcript: Verbatim (71 pp.)  
Other: Handbill for poetry reading

**Abstract:** Polish Jew discusses her family and personal experiences during the Holocaust. Shares details of her background in Vilna, Poland, and methods she used to find a safe haven where her daughter would avoid the inevitable liquidation of the ghetto. Describes multiple encounters with Gestapo and Nazi soldiers where her determination to survive for her daughter emboldened her take heroic chances and strengthened her to survive torturous marches, harsh beatings, and horrific weather conditions. Explains how during transfers from one camp to another she learned that the group sent to the right survived while the group to the left was doomed and how she was able to use her resourcefulness, youth and beauty to avoid being sent into the doomed group. Tells of her final obstacle to reclaim her daughter after the war when Vilna was then part of Lithuania. Also includes reasons for Holocaust, a brief description of her life in the United States and the hardships she faced there and how she dealt with these challenges by writing poetry.

**Subject headings:** concentration camps, death march survivors, sisters, parenting, women poets

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3400**

“An oral history with Phyllis Seidler”

Narrator: Seidler, Phyllis (b. 1927)

Interviewer: Jeffrey Harris Gomm

Date: October 15, 2004

Location: Home of the narrator in Fullerton, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette, (60 min.)

Transcript: Verbatim, 19 pp.

Other: Field notes, tape log, class report; See also OH 4333

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as a class project. Narrator shares memories of her childhood with a large extended family in Davenport, Iowa, how she was encouraged by an elementary teacher to write, early employment as a waitress, marrying her husband in 1954, and their trek on foot to their teaching jobs through a snowstorm in Iowa that convinced them to move to California. Her own teaching career was interrupted when her two children were born; very briefly talks of losing her son at the age of eight days and how this affected her desire to stay at home instead of teach. She comments on her opportunities to travel in Europe while she and her husband were both healthy and the advantages of travel in developing a deeper understanding and sense of human commonality. Regrets that freedom and ease of travel she enjoyed will not be shared by her family in the new terrorist-shaped world. Gives an account of the wedding ceremonies of their only daughter Gail, a Catholic one in Ireland and a Lutheran one in Fullerton, and how Gail handled the religious training of her three children in California.

**Subject headings:** Parenting, Career choice, Weather, Cultural awareness—United States

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OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3472**

“An oral history with Beverly Chandler Walter”

Narrator: Walter, Beverly Chandler (b. 1932)  
Interviewer: Jane Mueller  
Date: July 19, 1978  
Location: Narrator’s home on Moulton Ranch in Laguna Hills, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Open reel  
Transcript: Verbatim (74 pp.)  
Other: photographs, clippings

**Abstract:** Narrator is a well-respected cowhand able to do many facets of cattle ranching including breaking colts, herding, roping, cutting and branding cattle, and shares accounts of doing all of them. She wanted to be a cowboy from the age of five, survived a crippling illness thought to be polio with strong fraternal support and was able to realize her dream. She managed gender discrimination on the job thanks to growing up with five brothers where she learned to prove her abilities and take a joke well; comments on the need for team players among cowhands and well-trained quarter horses with multiple skills. Describes treating injured animals, riding in horse shows with Monty Montana, and making her first parachute jump. Worked on various ranches in Orange County belonging to the Irvine, Bryant, Moulton, and O’Neil families to help support her family. Describes how her mother’s court battle to win settlement for improper land transactions is recognized in the California Code of Civil Procedures. Lists her major life goals and credits her Christian practices for peace in her life.

**Subject headings:** Family, Cowboys, Caregivers, Gender equality

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3736**

“An oral history with J. William Fulbright”

Narrator: Fulbright, William (b. 1905)  
Interviewer: Harry Jeffrey  
Date: August 28, 1984  
Location: Narrator’s office in Washington, D.C.  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette (90 min.)  
Transcript: Verbatim (43 pp.)  
Other: Published article by the interviewer

**Abstract:** Senator Fulbright gives the background to the formation of the Fulbright Scholarship Program and the social forces that influenced it including the national isolationists in leadership roles, Roosevelt’s Lend-Lease Program, the exchange of scientific information on the A-bomb, and the evolution of the United Nations. Emphasizes the preparatory work he did as a freshman congressman to secure support among the established hierarchy in place in Washington, D.C. before putting his proposal on the unanimous consent calendar. Recognized that education was not a priority in the federal Congress but felt lack of cultural understanding between Russia and the U.S. could only lead to war and that elimination of the mutual paranoia would allow serious discussion to begin. Saw an exchange of scholars as a means to this end. Mentions groups and individuals who helped administer the program including the Board of Foreign Scholarships, USIA (United States Information Agency), Mildred Marcy and Ralph Vogel and comments on programs and changes that came later like the Reagan Youth Exchange, the Fulbright-Hayes Act of 1961, and alumni organizations who raised funds to continue the program, especially in Japan.

**Subject headings:** Isolationism; Culture and society; Integration, racial; Education; Communism

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3926**

“An oral history with Virginia Fiorello Naspo”

Narrator: Naspo, Ginny (b.1922)

Interviewer: Aleta Fiorello

Date: 1995-1997

Location: Not recorded

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Constructed narrative

Transcript: Master copy for printing (91 pp.)

Other: Images and photo

**Abstract:** Based on a series of interviews between the narrator and her granddaughter, this life review includes information on the birth of the narrator in Palermo, Italy; stories of her childhood and the relation she shared with her siblings and parents; accounts of her education and early employment in Cleveland, Ohio; memories of World War II when her future husband was away in the war and communication was sporadic between them; their marriage and starting a family; including close calls with her children's antics; her husband's diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis and how this affected the lives of her, their children, and their parents when she was forced to become the family provider by taking an office job at a sweater factory. Description of family concern and support, instances of serious parenting decisions, coping with loss, and brief account of narrator's decision to remarry.

**Subject headings:** Family, parenting, World War II, women's employment, financial planning (personal), widows

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 3974**

“An oral history with Harold Larson”

Narrator: Larson, Harold (b. 1924)  
Interviewer: Ronald Larson  
Date: August 31, 1991  
Location: Home of the narrator  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes (80 min.)  
Transcript: None  
Other: *See also* OH 3875 in World War II Homefront

**Abstract:** Native of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, narrator is interviewed by his son about his experiences from 1943 to 1945 in World War II. He worked in a defense plant immediately after high school, then was drafted into the Army Air Corps despite being color blind, a factor that had earlier precluded him from flight training. Details training as an airplane mechanic and volunteering for gunnery school as the only way he could get on a flying crew. Names members of his bombing crew, gives their home state, and comments on their young ages. After training in Texas and driving across the King Ranch for three days en route to California, he recalls time spent in Hollywood, California, including visits to the Palladium and seeing well-known personalities perform. His airplane mechanics group was billeted in the Stevens Hotel in Chicago while learning how to take engines apart at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Airport, now the Midway Airport in Chicago. Describes the various steps involved in gunnery training, various equipment he learned to handle, and how free time was mostly spent alone because he had a girlfriend back home. Mentions seeing the first jets arrive at Edwards Air Force Base and his departure from San Francisco, California, for overseas service.

**Subject headings:** World War II; Bomber crews; Hollywood, California; military training

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4197**

“An oral history with Rasheed Richardson”

Narrator: Richardson, Rasheed (b. not given)  
Interviewer: Jimmy Wallace  
Date: May 14, 2005  
Location: Narrator’s home in Riverside, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette (90 min.)  
Transcript: None  
Other: Field notes and tape log

**Abstract:** An oral history of an ex-marine cheerleading coach from Riverside, California. The purpose of the interview is to look at the many aspects that an individual goes through when he or she goes into the military, specifically the U. S. Marine Corps. This interview is part of an oral history project for Mrs. Irwin’s AMAS 308 class. Some of the major topics discussed are narrator’s nervous excitement at beginning boot camp, shock at harsh tactics used by trainers, steps through the stages of his four-year enlistment. Deployments to Okinawa, Hong Kong and Korea and return to finish duty at 29 Palms in California. Describes uncertainty and stress he faced upon leaving the military and satisfaction in his academic training that has followed. Comments on working relationship of the marines and navy.

**Subject headings:** career choice, military training, culture and society, military life.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4298**

“An oral history with Betty Robertson”

Narrator: Robertson, Elizabeth (b. 1923)  
Interviewer: Amanda Sanchez  
Date: October 16, 2004  
Location: Narrator’s home in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes (90 min.)  
Transcript: Final (16 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log, photos; *see also* OH 4334

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as a class project. Narrator was a key player in establishing the Continuing Learning Experience, adult education program at California State University, Fullerton. Specifically this interview deals with narrator’s early education as a root for her love and support of classical music, early high school years, the impact her parents had on her continuing education; her experiences and feelings being in college during World War II; her year after college when she attended the Tobé-Coburn School for Fashion Careers in New York City; her first career and the career opportunities there were for her and other women after World War II ended.

**Subject headings:** Employment—1940-1950; War, peace and social change; women’s employment; stores, retail

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4299**

“An oral history with Margaret Lagerquist Verdugo”

Narrator: Verdugo, Margaret Lagerquist (b. 1928)  
Interviewer: Sheila Verdugo VanAllen  
Date: October 17, 2004  
Location: Narrator’s home in Fresno, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette (60 min.)  
Transcript: Final class report (15 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log, photos

**Abstract:** Interview conducted as part of a class assignment. Narrator shares with her daughter memories of her early life on a farm on Oak Creek near Sedona, Arizona, including a physical description of the farm, the small community of Cornville where they received their mail, and shopping in Cottonwood for supplies. Details the interior furnishings of their home, bedroom arrangements, and utilities; tells of playing with matches with her cousins and being disciplined for it; recalls her mother driving children to a two-room school house and some of her own experiences at school; gives accounts of the family’s hard work during the Depression, adequate food supply from garden and farm animals, and how unemployed men would help chop wood for a meal; explains the events leading to her family leaving their farm on Oak Creek, specifically her father becoming critically ill and dying. Narrator, her sister and her mother moved to Prescott, Arizona, where her mother could resume administrative work in the local veterans’ hospital.

**Subject headings:** Parenting, family, family medicine, tuberculosis, food

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4300**

“An oral history with Al Verdugo”

Narrator: Verdugo, Al (b. 1927)  
Interviewer: Sheila Verdugo VanAllen  
Date: October 16, 2004  
Location: Narrator’s home in Fresno, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes (90 min.)  
Transcript: Final class report (18 pp.) Verbatim transcript.  
Other: Field notes, tape log, photos

**Abstract:** Interview conducted by narrator’s daughter as part of class assignment. With three older brothers drafted into the army, narrator went with six friends to enlist in the navy before finishing high school; after graduation went to basic training where he learned to swim; received training as gunner’s mate and went for various temporary assignments before reaching his final assignment on Guam. En route to this post received word of the Japanese surrender, but isolated Japanese soldiers on the island still posed threats and in fact killed one soldier as he wrote a letter home. The navy’s job was to provide refueling for ships and support for sailors in the discharge process. Talks about living in Quonset hut, the monuments on the island honoring Magellan and one as tribute to the US Marines, the Japanese prisoners who helped rebuild the island, and a life endangering fight between two cleaver-wielding cooks. Describes details of his discharge on Terminal Island which included GI life insurance and a pitch to re-enlist, reconnecting with his family, and changes in his life caused by the war.

**Subject headings:** World War II, family, military training, Pacific theater.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4301**

“An oral history with Eric Solberg”

Narrator: Solberg, Eric (b. 1941)

Interviewer: Jeffrey Gomm

Date: October 30, 2004

Location: Available office on campus of Cal State Fullerton

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes (90 min.)

Transcript: Final class report (15 pp.)

Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as a class assignment. The purpose of this interview was to understand what the experiences of the Cold War might have on a child growing up during the 1950s, particularly the threat of a nuclear disaster and the danger of communism. Includes a comparison of communism and fascism. Narrator does not have a vivid image of the Cold War of the 1950s but does recall a neighbor digging a bomb shelter in the back yard; recalls more clearly the Kennedy assassination and the national mourning, the Cuban missile crisis, and draft dodgers in the Vietnam War. Comments on different steps his brothers took as far as serving the country and admits he was deferred because of attending college. As an economist trained in labor markets, he feels world conflict boils down to economic explanations and motivation.

**Subject headings:** Cold War, Sputnik Satellites, missiles, economics, Vietnam, War—Public Opinion—United States

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4302**

“An oral history with Barbara Talento”

Narrator: Talento, Barbara (b. 1928)  
Interviewer: Tessie McAfee  
Date: October 19, 2004  
Location: Ruby Gerontology Center at Cal State Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes (90 min.)  
Transcript: Final class report (10 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as a class assignment; topic was the attack at the World Trade Center (WTC) in New York City on September 11, 2001. As a native of New York City, the narrator felt connected to the city but more importantly her son worked on Wall Street and his daily commute took him in the subway that went under the WTC. Describes her emotions upon hearing of the attack, upon receiving a reassuring call from her son, and when she listened to him describe the collapse of the tower onto the neighboring hotel as it happened. Comments that the immediacy she felt because of the television reporting was much stronger than anything she felt upon hearing of the attack on Pearl Harbor when she was eleven years old. Comments on the Patriot Act; on the war on Iraq against Saddam Hussein, the search for Osama bin Ladin, and the cost of these military events and how it relates to the infrastructure of America; on the mainstream patriotism that rose across the nation; and on different levels of her own emotional response to the three different crash sights. Expresses sorrow for families of the victims, especially for the single parent families that were created that day.

**Subject headings:** New York, terrorism, international relations and terrorism, Vietnam, Patriotism—America, family.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4303**

“An oral history with Ken Boteler”

Narrator: Boteler, Ken (b. 1931)  
Interviewer: Sethea Heng  
Date: October 19, 2004  
Location: Narrator’s home in La Habra, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes (2.5 hrs.)  
Transcript: Final class report (27 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as a class assignment. Narrator briefly describes limited living conditions in Buena Park, California, in 1941 and then goes on to discuss his own education and teaching experiences. He enlisted in the air force in 1952 during the Korean War and after his basic training was assigned to the Air Training Command to teach bombing, navigation, and stabilization systems. During this time he encountered racial discrimination on the part of another teacher but never reported it, used various subtle methods of classroom discipline, and adhered strictly to the base security. After leaving the service, worked for a short time for North American Aviation as a junior research engineer on missiles. Used the GI bill to get his master’s degree in social sciences, and armed with the electronic and math training he’d received in the military, taught twenty years in La Habra High School, eight years in Sunny Hills High, and then substituted for thirteen years before retiring. Enjoyed teaching and recalls various classroom incidents of note. Also shares pleasure of meeting past students and getting feedback from them.

**Subject headings:** Teaching, classroom management, race discrimination, military training

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4304**

“An oral history with Marion McClatchy”

Narrator: McClatchy, Marion (b. 1930)  
Interviewer: Ray Solorzano  
Date: October 22, 2004  
Location: Narrator’s home in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes (90 min.)  
Transcript: Final class report (11 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log; *See also* OH 4311, OH 4394.1

**Abstract:** This interview was conducted as a class assignment; interview was to focus on the narrator’s father as a member of the British Foreign Ministry. The narrator shares the background of her parents’ meeting in Colombia when her father was a member of the British Legation in Bogotá; in 1939 the legation became a full embassy and he became the press attaché. On a trip back to London his ship was sunk by a German submarine, people survived in life boats and eventually he made his way to New York from where he flew to London. Held several post-war positions in Brazil, Turkey, and again Colombia before coming to Los Angeles after retiring to be close to his daughter. Narrator comments that her ability to learn languages helped as she and the family moved with her father to all the locations he was stationed, gives an account of Churchill’s order for the pontoon bridge at the Normandy invasion, and comments on the ethnocentric attitude of British citizens. Recounts how she met her husband, married, had four children, and lived with him in the United States until his death the night before their 44<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Subject headings:** Family, Great Britain—Foreign Office, World War II, Submarines--Germany--History--20th century, widow

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4305**

“An oral history with Burt Seidler”

Narrator: Seidler, Burt (b. 1922)  
Interviewer: Don Chavis  
Date: October 27, 2004  
Location: Narrator’s home in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes (90 min.)  
Transcript: Final class report (13 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** The interview was conducted as a class assignment to record narrator’s memories as a coach for championship wrestling teams in Iowa in the fifties and to determine what attributes contribute to being a great wrestling coach. Narrator recalls working with student wrestlers, being aware of individual personalities and how to inspire the best from each one; dealing with race discrimination and noting changes in the sport; the transferable benefits between swimming and wrestling. Gives examples of winning coaches and lists their qualifications: desire to win, innovation, and confidence in the athletes. Sees Title IX as the main cause for decline in number of school wrestling programs, mentions his three years in the army and how they affected his coaching style and opportunity in 1946, shares personal philosophy of coaching.

**Subject headings:** Wrestling, race discrimination, student activities—finance, coaches—athletics

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4306**

“An oral history with Barbara Talento”

Narrator: Talento, Barbara (b. 1928)  
Interviewer: Dean Stinson  
Date: October 27, 2003  
Location: Narrator’s home in Brea, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette  
Transcript: Final class report (15 pp.)  
Other: Interview summary, tape log, journal

**Abstract:** This interview is a second attempt for a class assignment; audio malfunction affected first recording. Narrator shares her immediate reaction to the assassination of John F. Kennedy and the subsequent killing of Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby on live television news broadcast, compares the radio and newsreel reports of Pearl Harbor and World War II with the daily television reports from Vietnam. Comments on the Kennedy/Johnson civil rights program, saying she felt Lyndon Johnson pushed the reforms through as a legacy for Kennedy. Comments on the appropriateness of communism as a form of government for some countries, the unfairness of the military draft, the factors involved in the drastically different welcome for soldiers coming home after World War II and those returning from Vietnam, and on political leanings of her husband and children. Gives brief review of her educational progress, from being excluded from college by the GI bill to obtaining her doctorate while preparing for the weddings of two of her children.

**Subject headings:** War—public opinion—United States; Civil rights movement—United States; Patriotism—American; media and society; education

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4307**

“An oral history with Estelle Waskosky”

Narrator: Waskosky, Estelle (b. ca. 1940)  
Interviewer: Arut Kadyan  
Date: October 17, 2004  
Location: Narrator's home in Brea, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette  
Transcript: Edited version (27 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** This interview was done as a class assignment. Narrator is a retired middle school/high school teacher who gives an account of experiences over her twenty-five year career including her own training and career choice while having a family, and her participation in struggle to have collective bargaining for improved compensation; comments on teaching being a woman-dominated career and changes brought about by increased male participation at the lower grade levels; notes changes in the schools: fewer drugs brought to campus for fear of theft, expansion of club teams, elimination of vocational classes; sees No Child Left Behind as damaging to both student achievement and teacher effectiveness; comments that high school students should not have cars, no individual should be given special extra credit tasks, and parents who demand grade inflation are a growing problem. Explains how her health problem that affected her voice, spasmodic dysphonia, was handled by school administrators and accepted by students.

**Subject headings:** Education, Pay Equity, Labor Unions, Medicine, Parenting

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4308**

“An oral history with Marcia Taylor”

Narrator: Taylor, Marcia (b. ca. 1936)  
Interviewer: Monty Starks  
Date: October 30, 2004  
Location: Ruby Gerontology Center, Cal State Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassete  
Transcript: Edited class report (29 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log, photographs

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as a class assignment. The purpose of the interview was to gain insight into the changing role of women during the three decades after the second world war. Narrator shares her experiences as a young military wife in Paris where women in her situation were not allowed to have jobs and how she wore Levi pants despite the fact all the other women, both military and local, wore skirts; expands on her sense of proper clothing, particularly undergarments. Contrasts air travel with relaxed security with the post 9/11 restrictions, and comments on the changing Disneyland expectations. Describes homes in Watts, Gardena, and Huntington Beach where she lived while raising her children; comments on popular entertainers of the time. Tells how she struggled as a single parent after her divorce, and how her choice of study was based on how quickly she could earn a living. Admits some guilt on leaving her daughters alone so much while she got a degree, was not active in political or civil rights movement, but is aware of the broader opportunities now available to women despite the glass ceiling restrictions.

**Subject headings:** Women—education, women’s employment, Cold War, feminism, Housing; Parenting

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4309**

“An oral history with Burt Seidler”

Narrator: Seidler, Burt (b. 1922)  
Interviewer: Jorges Morales  
Date: October 16, 2004  
Location: Narrator’s home in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes  
Transcript: Final class report (15 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log *See also* OH 4336, OH 4305

**Abstract:** This interview was done as a class assignment; purpose was to gather information about the narrator’s military service during World War II. Native of Chicago, Illinois, who had three brothers tells how his college career was interrupted by World War II, briefly describes his basic training and early military role as drill instructor, eventually going to war in Europe where his division helped the 94<sup>th</sup> Division contain German troops. Narrator recounts his first experience under fire with another man and describes their hysteria in a foxhole after near death incident; lists other chances of war that he survived, especially the sinking of a troop ship by German submarine and thinks of families who were never told how their son died when the troop ship went down. Compares German and American weaponry. Lists souvenir items he brought home, activities of the army during occupation of post-war France, especially the swim meets, and shares that his greatest treasure is the combat infantry badge he was given for being under enemy fire. Fifty years later enjoyed a reunion with French farmer where he had been stationed and visited other locations he remembered from during the war.

**Subject headings:** Military decorations; World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--France--Normandy; aquatic sports

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4310**

“An oral history with Eric Solberg”

Narrator: Solberg, Eric (b.1941)  
Interviewer: Sheila Verdugo VanAllen  
Date: October 23, 2004  
Location: Ruby Gerontology Center, campus of Cal State Fullerton, Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette  
Transcript: Final Class Report  
Other: Fieldwork journal, tape log, photo, brochures, program

**Abstract:** Interview was done as a class assignment; focus is the creation of the Gerontology Master Degree Program at Cal State Fullerton. A retired professor of economics and the graduate program advisor for the Gerontology Department describes his connection to Cal State Fullerton as an undergraduate and his later progress through the doctoral program in economics at Claremont Graduate School. Explains the general process of new program development at the university and specifically discusses the history of the Gerontology Master’s Program. He outlines the association between the Ruby Gerontology Center, and the gerontology programs such as Continued Learning Experience (CLE), as well as other academic programs on campus. Finally, he discusses his involvement with university programs in retirement that began June 2004.

**Subject headings:** Education, Well-being—age factors, retirement, Gerontology

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4311**

“An oral history with Marion McClatchy”

Narrator: McClatchy, Marion (b. 1930)

Interviewer: Diane A. Patterson

Date: October 23, 2004

Location: Narrator's home in Fullerton, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette (60 min.)

Transcript: Edited copy of class report (24 pp.)

Other: Field notes. *See also* OH 4304, OH 4394.1 and OH 4394.2

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as a class assignment; purpose was to record a life review for her children to have when they needed to create an obituary after her death. As a widow, she had struggled to compile an obituary for her deceased husband. Discusses her ability to speak six languages and how she learned them as she needed them following her father to various posts for the British consulate in Brazil, Spain, Turkey, and Los Angeles. Recalls various language classes she gave and amusing incidents that happened. Tells about her education and how a class in journalism at University of California, Los Angeles, coupled with her earlier experiences enabled her to join the Hollywood Foreign Press Association and attend the first two Golden Globe Award ceremonies. Comments on her husband, his book collection, and her children; explains that her grandmother was her admired role model.

**Subject headings:** Language and Communication, Parenting, Education, Movies

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4312**

“An oral history with Robert Parker”

Narrator: Parker, Robert (b. 1923)  
Interviewer: Sheryl Denton  
Date: April 16, 2002  
Location: Narrator's home in Palos Verdes, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette (60 min.)  
Transcript: Verbatim (27 pp.)  
Other: Journal notes, photographs

**Abstract:** Narrator was stationed on Ford Island at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The interview includes his accounts of returning from a shore leave and attempting to reach planes he was responsible for as a member of the beach crew of Patrol Squadron 22. Tells of first reactions on the island, bullets all around, fear of invasion, going three days without food while working to recover from the attack, and efforts to safely remove military families from the island. He expresses some concern that there had been some foreknowledge of the attack. After the attack, he drove the tractor to clear ramps of damaged planes, set up a machine gun in the corner of his hangar in case of a second attack, found a Japanese pilot's wallet with American money in it and contacted the Naval Intelligence about that. Discusses events at various other locations in the Pacific arena where he was sent after his squadron was decommissioned and gives names of other squadron members who went on to higher ranks in the navy.

**Subject headings:** World War II; Military aircraft, Spies, War Casualties

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4313**

“An oral history with Marilynn J. Bates”

Narrator: Bates, Marilynn J. (b.1936)  
Interviewer: Margaret Rothenbeck  
Date: October 7, 2005  
Location: Narrator's home in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History  
  
Format(s): Cassettes (90 min.)  
Transcript: Final class report (29 pp.)  
Other: Photo

**Abstract:** Interview was done as a class assignment; focus is life events of a medical technician including her family background, education, work experience, marriage and family during the 1970s. Native of Cleveland, Ohio, with German heritage, the narrator recalls her eagerness to attend school, her father's personality as a spontaneous rebel and her mother as a traditional housewife and herself as an only child. As a trained and licensed medical technician narrator was able to move around a lot, working in diverse locations like Alaska and Southern California. Married in her late twenties, followed her husband's job to live several years in Italy where her second daughter was born. Recalls the lingering effects from World War II in England in the early 1960s as housing and some household items were difficult to secure and costly, compares the education curriculum between Europe and the US and deplors the lack of regular foreign language classes for young children, comments on acting as caregivers for her husband's and her parents. Enjoys travel and healthy retirement.

**Subject headings:** language, education, parenting, health behavior, women's employment

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4314**

“An oral history with John McKercher”

Narrator: McKercher, John (b. 1913)  
Interviewer: John Kane  
Date: September 29, 2005  
Location: Narrator’s home in Norwalk, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette (90 min.)  
Transcript: Verbatim (27 pp.)  
Other: Field notes

**Abstract:** Student interview that focuses on the Great Depression and Dust Bowl as experienced by the 92-year-old narrator. Explains how his family lost the property that had been farmed by three generations because of the bank failure in 1929, recalls personal experience with political corruption and labor unions in Chicago and the radio talks by Fr. Charles Coughlin that served as model for fireside chats of US President Franklin Roosevelt. Describes the permeation of dust throughout the farmhouse during the winds in late 1920s, difficulty driving horses in the wind, his experiences traveling by railroad to find work on farms in neighboring states, and gives the distinction between hobo and bindlestiff. Comments on new innovations like steam driven tractors and butane furnace, influence of one’s religious affiliation in society, new government programs like farm/hog program for farmers, social security, and unemployment insurance. Recalls simple amusements like roller skating, barn dances, and movies, and basic tasks women performed to feed the family like canning peaches.

**Subject headings:** Depressions—1929—United States, Farm life, Labor unions, Railroad trains, Media and Society, Food.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4315**

“An oral history with Jim Tarbell”

Narrator: Tarbell, Jim (b.1930)  
Interviewer: Adam Nakatani  
Date: October 11, 2005  
Location: Library conference room, Cal State Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette (90 min.)  
Transcript: Edited (14 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log, photo and map

**Abstract:** Interview was done as a class assignment; purpose of the interview was to learn about narrator’s experiences living on the home front during World War II. Narrator’s two best friends didn’t like each other, but they had interesting back yards to play in; explains games they played in the streets and train yard and his hobbies. Mentions going to picket lines when his father was on strike, being able to eat fish caught in Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River (before it caught on fire from pollutants), attending various movies and concerts and a local amusement parks, and working in warehouse before the Korean War counting ammunition. Comments on news propaganda after Pearl Harbor as a major influence in forming his opinion about Germans and Japanese; Movietone News newsreels; German relatives and how they deferred anti-German feelings from World War I to anti-Nazi feelings in WWII. Recalls rations, victory garden, and various armaments developed by the German scientists. Compares reaction to Pearl Harbor with his feelings about 9/11, considers ending of the war, his involvement in Korean War, and the measures needed to safely store grains in large quantity that he learned when working at the Quaker Oats Company.

**Subject headings:** Children and War, Cultural Awareness—United States, Communism, Media and society

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4316**

“An oral history with Bob Funk”

Narrator: Funk, Robert (b.1918)  
Interviewer: John Kane  
Date: October 5, 2005  
Location: Narrator’s home in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): cassette (75 min.)  
Transcript: Verbatim (16 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log; *See also* OH 3100, 3351, 4344, 4373, 5187.1, 5187.2, 5188

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as part of a class assignment; purpose of the interview was to collect information on the Great Depression as experienced by the narrator. Widowed mother was a teacher and became a librarian, supported them and lived in boardinghouses. Recalls the importance of radio broadcasts for news and entertainment including sermons by Fr. Charles Coughlin and Billy Sunday and fireside chats by President Franklin Roosevelt, the missed prediction of Hoover’s election by the Literary Digest and how subscriptions were cancelled in great number, WPA acting troupe performed for his scout fundraiser so the boys could go to summer camp. Attended his final year of college at University of Iowa, Iowa City, where the student population financially kept the city alive; washed dishes by hand in local restaurant summer after junior year and after graduation he became a design engineer for Eagle Seigel Corporation in Moline, Illinois, earning \$90 per month. Entertained by movies and watched Fox Movietone News to learn about sit-down strikes in Detroit and other issues of discontent. Used local subway system to get around in New York for a variety of entertainment including Prospect Park, Coney Island, Bronx Zoo, and Central Park; used city pool instead of swimming in the ocean due to contamination from garbage dumped by the city.

**Subject headings:** New York, N.Y.; Depressions—1929—United States; Boy Scouts; movies; Media and Society

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4317**

“An oral history with Marilyn Bates”

Narrator: Bates, Marilyn (b. 1936)  
Interviewer: Daniel Granado  
Date: October 22, 2005  
Location: Narrator’s home in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and FamilyHistory

Format(s): Cassette (60 min.)  
Transcript: Final class report (12 pp.)  
Other: Journal, photos

**Abstract:** Interview conducted as class assignment; focus is on communication and media in various forms and how she remembers them. Narrator recalls Movietone News reports of World War II that made her aware of the horrors of war. Recalls the multiple messages of posters--Uncle Sam wants you, conserve and collect rags, buy savings bonds—as direct influences on both men and women. Discusses the issue of stay at home moms and whether that situation is for everyone, need for outside stimulation, advertising techniques that made one hate the product so it would stay in the consumer’s consciousness. As an only child, she felt she had to be a daughter to her mother and a son for her father; her parents didn’t read to her but gave her sets of books that inspired her imagination; faults her education and says she learned more talking to people around the world than she did in classes; suggests that dialect was a safety mechanism for early humans to detect who was a stranger in the clan; and proposes that universal sign language could be a solution to tourist difficulties in foreign countries.

**Subject headings:** Language and communication, parenting, education

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4318**

“An oral history with Gene E. Powell”

Narrator: Powell, Gene (b. 1928)

Interviewer: Doang Ba Nguyen

Date: December 8, 2005

Location: Interviewer's home in Fountain Valley, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette (45 min.)

Transcript: Verbatim (4 pp.)

Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Done as a class assignment between friends, the interview focus is on changes witnessed by the narrator over his forty years living in Orange County, particularly on the different immigrant populations. Narrator was born in Santa Barbara, California, moved to Beverly Hills at the age of ten, and first visited Orange County on a trip to Knott's Berry Farm which even then in 1938 was famous for fried chicken and berry pies. Mentions visitors from inland cities to Laguna Beach and the flood of 1938 when Santa Ana River broke its banks. Attended school at University of Southern California in 1953 and learned of the construction of Disneyland; moved to Garden Grove in Orange County in 1959 and noted influx of Koreans to the area; commuted from Garden Grove to Downey where he worked for the McDonnell Douglas aerospace company until retirement. Notes changes in population that include Germans in Anaheim, Mexicans in Santa Ana, Japanese farmers in Garden Grove, and more recently a greater density of Koreans and Vietnamese; town borders that run into each other; and wider streets.

**Subject headings:** Ethnic diversity, Immigration and society, development and change, Immigrants.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4319**

“An oral history with Karl Schlaepfer”

Narrator: Schlaepfer, Karl (b. 1927)  
Interviewer: Andrew Wilson  
Date: October 15, 2005  
Location: Room 21 of Ruby Gerontology Center, Cal State Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette (60 min.)  
Transcript: Edited (11 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Interview conducted as a class assignment; focus is a life review of a retired urologist. Narrator recalls three family road trips he took as a child to Florida, New York World’s Fair in 1939, and to Yellowstone National Park. Lists childhood activities like Boy Scout camping, snow play, and Saturday afternoons at the movies; described Atwater Beach near Milwaukee that was built under the WPA program; comments schools had no organized sports in his elementary years but did have sports for boys in high school. Recalls wartime rationing, recycling, and saving for war stamps; decreased traffic due to gas shortages; signed up for the navy and served nine months from 1945 to ’46, enough to earn coverage by the GI bill for his tuition and costs of education. Recalls how his father had to give him 57 penicillin shots every four hours for bi-lateral pneumonia and pleurisy he contracted in boot camp. His training in the navy helped his college scores and his entry into Temple Medical School; opted for urology as specialty because he could deal with both genders and all ages of patients; entire medical training lasted nine years beyond college. Met his wife on a blind date, had four children, retired after 43 years practicing as a board certified doctor.

**Subject headings:** Medicine, education, GI bill, Depressions—1929—United States; World War II

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4331**

“An oral history with Gloria Alexander”

Narrator: Alexander, Gloria (b. 1926)  
Interviewer: Interviewed by Diane Alexander Patterson  
Date: December 4, 2004  
Location: Home of narrator in Southern California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (25 pp.)  
Other: Field notes

**Abstract:** Narrator is interviewed by her daughter and recalls images from her early childhood living in Los Angeles, California, and moving to Long Beach, notes the difference in classroom etiquette between Catholic and public schools, remembers consciously working for a reputation as a “tough” girl and using this image to safeguard her younger brother and smaller classmates from bullies. Narrator recalls Long Beach during the Second World War where her father was the block warden and checked the neighbors for black outs and practiced air raid response and where her family spent one evening in their own air raid shelter beneath the stairs with food, blankets, and a radio. Gives highlights of her college career at the University of Oregon including her back injury and long recovery, hope chests, social activities, and being first family member to graduate. Traveled to Europe during the Holy Year of 1950 and spoke briefly with Pope Pius XII. Tells about her attempt to work in the insurance field before meeting her husband, Richard Clarke Alexander, who had been an only child and wanted twelve children while she had only one brother. They produced six living children, and when all of them married, they ended up with the longed-for dozen.

**Subject headings:** World War II, Air raid alerts, Women--education, Employment--1950-1960

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4332**

“An oral history with Michael Seaver”

Narrator: Seaver, Michael (b. 1943)  
Interviewer: Anne Marie Addicott  
Date: November 6, 2004  
Location: Home of the narrator in Duarte, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Verbatim (17 pp.)  
Other: Tape log

**Abstract:** Narrator served in the US Air Force in 1961-63 and was part of the 6<sup>th</sup> Weather Mobile Squadron where he plotted the winds and climatic factors. Mentions his first encounter of racial prejudice in the South, explains the balloon runs or methods of tracking weather and wind, describes the cloud formations that develop into tornados, reveals the benefit of shorter work days and extra privileges that his group enjoyed, and explains his role in testing Agent Orange in Florida. He comments on problems in the sixties like the Bay of Pigs, the John Kennedy assassination, Robert Kennedy shooting, the Chicago Seven and riots at National Democratic Convention, and Richard Nixon’s legacy both as a villain and as a clever politician in his meetings with China. Describes being a veteran during the Vietnam war protests, even though he never went to that war.

**Subject headings:** Winds, Vietnam, Cold War, Civil Rights—America, Weather

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4333**

“An oral history with Phyllis Seidler”

Narrator: Seidler, Phyllis (b. 1927)  
Interviewer: Anne Marie Addicott  
Date: October 18, 2004  
Location: Home of narrator in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Verbatim, 17 pp.  
Other: None; *See also* OH 3400

**Abstract:** A senior resident of Fullerton, California, shares memories of growing up in Davenport, Iowa, where she enjoyed a rich family interaction, especially at Christmas; compares weather and transportation issues between Davenport and Fullerton; describes her academic achievements and extracurricular involvement in elementary school through college. As one of three girls she had to overcome her father’s prejudice against college for women who would “get married anyway.” Her older sister paved the way by earning funds to pay college expenses; she earned money as a newspaper proof reader; her younger sister had more support from the father by the time she went to college. The narrator talks about dating in high school, serving as a junior USO hostess for boys training for military service at St. Ambrose University and the custom of inviting the boys home for a Sunday dinner. Because she was academically successful, active in tennis, newspaper, and choral singing in high school, transition to competitive college life did not go well when she attended Iowa State Teachers College. Describes the training she got during summer jobs in Wisconsin resort as a waitress from beginning at the hot dog stand all the way up to the main dining room. Briefly mentions the role of radio in broadcasting Franklin Roosevelt’s fireside chats and keeping Eleanor Roosevelt’s activities before the public. Finally, mentions her own homesickness when she first came to Fullerton.

**Subject headings:** Middle West, Employment—1950-1960, Local History, Ancestors, Media and Society

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4334**

“An oral history with Betty Robertson”

Narrator: Robertson, Betty (b. 1923)  
Interviewer: Roberta Forem  
Date: October 22, 2004  
Location: Home of narrator in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Final (26 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Narrator speaks as *ex officio* co-founder along with Leo Shapiro and Russell Ball of the Continuing Learning Experience (CLE) housed in the Ruby Gerontology Center at Cal State University, Fullerton. Interview was conducted as part of a guided autobiography class through the gerontology program. After a brief discussion of her childhood in Seattle and love of libraries, her training and experience in the fashion industry, and her decision to return to college for a master’s degree after raising four children, the narrator discusses the origins, early support, and fundamental goals of CLE. Using a model from UC San Diego and with the support of President Don Shields and his successor Dr. Jewel Plummer-Cobb, as a member of the board of trustees for CLE the narrator was actively involved in fundraising and program development to encourage senior learning among retired professionals and the community at large. Portrays the resolution of a confrontation with Florence Arnold over the name of the group and describes various features of the building and how they accommodate different kinds of activities.

**Subject headings:** Women--Education, Marketing, California State University Fullerton, Retirement, Adult Education

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4335**

“An oral history with Barbara Talento”

Narrator: Talento, Barbara (b. 1928)  
Interviewer: Emily Otis  
Date: October 20, 2004  
Location: Conference room on campus of Cal State University, Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Final (12 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log; *See also* OH 3094, OH 5183, OH 5184

**Abstract:** After delaying her college education, working, being married and having a family, the narrator fulfilled her life’s dream to become a licensed nurse. As a young widow she decided nursing hours wouldn’t allow her to continue raising a young daughter. Describes steps she took to earn advanced degrees in psychiatric nursing and education. Used her mother’s example of active living as a subject to explore with her doctoral research which found that “learning is a key factor in life satisfaction.” Also tells how as a returning 40-year-old student interacting with young people helped her own relation with her daughter. Recalls four professors who had profound impact on her own teaching style. Shares observations on socializing with couples as a young widow and their response to her new standing: women are fearful of competitor and men realize their own mortality. Lists variety of classes offered through CLE and explains her reason for choosing certain classes to take in retirement.

**Subject headings:** Adult Education, Career choice, Family, Women—Education, Widows

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4336**

“An oral history with Burt Seidler”

Narrator: Seidler, Burt (b. 1922)  
Interviewer: Mark Munoz  
Date: October 18, 2004  
Location: Home of narrator in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Verbatim (25 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, Tape log; *See also* OH 4305, OH 4309

**Abstract:** Native of Chicago, Illinois, tells how his college career was interrupted by World War II, beginning with his summer job making shell casings for rifles after Pearl Harbor. Explains the military hierarchy and difference between enlisted men and draftees. Describes his basic training and early military role as drill instructor, eventually going to war in Europe where his division helped the 94<sup>th</sup> Division contain German troops. He was stationed on a French farm and became friends with the owner; enjoyed a reunion with him and his family fifty years later. Narrator recounts his first experience under fire with another man in a foxhole when they realized they could have died minutes before. Comments how one can talk about this experience but one cannot really understand it without having personally lived through it and expresses strong anti-war sentiments. Feels the attitude toward surrender is very distinct among different ethnic groups and compares Japanese, German and American prisoners of war. After the war spent several months participating in many athletic competitions among the different military units until he had sufficient points to go home. Notes increased use of cigarettes among educated soldiers, men he had known before the war whom he met at swim meets. Sees Vietnam veteran Bob Wieland as a real hero.

**Subject headings:** War—public opinion—United States, Ethnic and racial studies, Passive smoking, France, Vietnam

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4337**

“An oral history with Dorothy Green”

Narrator: Green, Dorothy (b. ca. 1924)  
Interviewer: LeeAnn Christian  
Date: October 17, 2005  
Location: Home of narrator in Garden Grove, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette; digital  
Transcript: Edited (26 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log, photos

**Abstract:** Granddaughter of Russian and Polish immigrants through Ellis Island and daughter of parents who both earned medical degrees, the narrator discusses the importance of education for women. Her father was a practicing physician but mother chose to stay home and raise three children. Because the family moved around in San Francisco in the 1930s, narrator attended a different school nearly every year. Father wanted her to have MD but he had no financial support for her so encouraged her to learn shorthand so she could work her way through college. He tried to arrange a scholarship to University of Pennsylvania, but narrator was not eager to finish the degree. She eventually got a BA after being widowed at the age of forty. There was financial support from her father for formal training for her brother who was ten years younger. Recalls growing up in San Francisco and watching as the Golden Gate Bridge was built; in 1937, she walked across it when it opened as the longest span bridge in the world. Describes her relation with her older sister and younger brother, their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Subject headings:** Women--Education, Depression—1929—United States, Adult Education, Family

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4338**

“An oral history with Bette Henning”

Narrator: Henning, Bette (b. 1924)  
Interviewer: LeeAnn Christian  
Date: October 16, 2005  
Location: Home of narrator in Brea, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (23 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log, photographs

**Abstract:** Eighty-one-year-old narrator gives a brief description of small Jewish community in Salt Lake City during the 1930s based on her information about her grandparents and her childhood memories. Her own encounter with Jewish traditions comes from interaction with her grandmother; felt prejudice during her school career, calling them “typically gentile-in-Utah experiences,” though she has lifelong friends from school. Identifies “strong women and weak men” in her family. Mother won numerous prizes writing jingles for radio and magazine contests while Dad worked at his two men’s clothing stores 12 hours a day. Narrator regrets the sarcasm she learned from her mother and passed to her own children. The death of her older brother during World War II was a breaking point in the family; parents only stayed together because divorce would bring shame to the family; she stayed with the grieving parents for four years before finally moving out on her own. Does not recall a memorial service for her brother, but she has a photo of his cenotaph. After college she began work on newspaper in Salt Lake and interviewed child star Shirley Temple. In California she did various jobs at the new television station KTTV and wrote some articles for the *Pasadena Star News* while her children were young.

**Subject headings:** Family, Funerals, Career advancement, Media and society

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4339**

“An oral history with Joyce Wenger”

Narrator: Wenger, Joyce (b. ca. 1924 )  
Interviewer: Mark Wenger  
Date: October 7, 2005  
Location: Home of narrator in Irvine, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (21 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Interview is conducted by the son of the narrator and covers Mrs. Wenger’s college years in Chicago during the Second World War. She moved on her own from Rockford, Illinois, to Chicago; attended Northwestern University; held positions with several news organizations including the *Chicago Sun* and United Press where she experienced the war front through the photos she received from the wire services and distributed them to newspapers throughout the Midwest. Narrator explains the importance of the *Chicago Tribune* and power of Col. Robert R. McCormick, the *Tribune*’s owner, over the Associated Press board; McCormick was highly critical of FDR. She did not feel his isolationist attitude to be very strong in the region.— She recalls rationing, not knowing where Pearl Harbor was, the fear of Japanese and Germans living in this country, celebrities traveling through Chicago to do war bond drives, and the jubilant celebrations following the end of each war front. Narrator states her marriage in 1949 was the “end of my business career” and she is proud of America’s postwar assistance to enemy nations.

**Subject headings:** Career choice, Newspapers, United Press International, World War II

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4340**

“An oral history with Stan Pfischner”

Narrator: Pfischner, J. Stanley (b. ca. 1925)  
Interviewer: Mark Wenger  
Date: October 8, 2005  
Location: Home of narrator in Newport Beach, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (35 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log, photographs

**Abstract:** The purpose of this interview is to gain a perspective of his experiences during World War II. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Wendy Elliott-Scheinberg’s History 413 Oral History course. Specifically, this interview covers Mr. Pfischner’s high school years just before WWII; his recollections upon hearing of the bombing of Pearl Harbor; his effort to enlist in the military, participation in the ASTP (Army Specialized Training Program), and his training in the Tank Corps; he recounts his experiences in combat including the Battle of the Bulge as a tank driver assigned to General George S. Patton’s Third Army, Eleventh Armored Division; he recalls the German surrender and the news of the bombing of Japan; after his discharge from the Army he was a successful building contractor in post-war Orange County.

**Subject headings:** Armies—History—20<sup>th</sup> century, World War II--Germany, Housing—1950-1960, Pilots, Development and growth

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4341**

“An oral history with John Greenwood”

Narrator: Greenwood, John (b. ca. 1930)  
Interviewer: Natalie Yamashiro  
Date: October 15, 2005  
Location: Conference room on campus of Cal State University, Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Verbatim (21 pp.)  
Other: Field notes; *See also* OH 4346, OH 4389

**Abstract:** As the son of an international businessman, the narrator visited Japan right after Korean War; returned as a marine in 1954 and eventually spent 3 years there as a Bank of America employee. He makes observations on Japanese discrimination against Koreans, attitudes of foreigners and their ability to adapt to the local culture, especially in the ability to learn the language or not. Saw a high school classmate become very successful marine conservationist in Japan but then commit suicide because he lost faith in the support of Japanese government for environmental protection. Narrator and his wife were successfully employed during two visits to Japan and he lists the activities and travels that they enjoyed since they had not suffered from “cultural arrogance.”

**Subject headings:** International trade, Business, Ethnic diversity within nations, Culture and society

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4342**

“An oral history with Gloria Schlaepfer”

Narrator: Schlaepfer, Gloria (b. 1931)  
Interviewer: Rosa Cuellar  
Date: October 13, 2005  
Location: Library at campus of Cal State University, Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Verbatim (18 pp.)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Narrator recalls her childhood activities, games, Christmas gifts, and schools; lists radio programs and performers she remembers; comments on role of imagination in her life. Due to lack of funds she could not attend college right after high school, so received on-the-job training as X-ray technician and eventually worked and earned her BA in zoology and bacteriology. Met husband via blind date, married, raised four children as was the conventional social model of the day before returning to school in 1960s for MA in Environmental Studies. Celebrated 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Partnered with Mary Lou Samuelson to create children’s books; has seven published, both text books and fiction. Enjoys writing non-fiction because it demands that she learn about the topic. Schlaepfer lists her children and grandchildren and their life role/job and says the interview was a way to get reacquainted with her past.

**Subject headings:** Depression—1929—United States, Women--Education, Career choice, Author biographies, Adult Education, oral history

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4343**

“An oral history with Arnold Miller”

Narrator: Miller, Arnold (b. ca. 1925)  
Interviewer: Stephen Christensen  
Date: October 19, 2005  
Location: Home of narrator in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Verbatim (18 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Narrator describes experiences in Jackson, Mississippi, in post-civil rights movement of 1990s. Though he found no overt discrimination signage, he still felt rampant prejudice in items found in bookstores and tourist shops that flaunted the Confederate flag. In the bed-and-breakfast where he stayed he found extensive records of the white citizens' council and its role in school desegregation and white flight from public to private schools among both students and faculty. Narrator investigated cause of disappearance of Jewish community: City records he consulted showed Jews were 5 per cent of the total population, but they owned 25 percent of the businesses in the community yet their synagogue from 1890 could not be maintained; he suspected their anti-segregations stand was the reason. Mentioned property in Fullerton, California, that had once been part of the Bastanchury ranch that had deed restriction to exclude Semitic people from purchasing property there. Sees similar rules of property restriction in Mexico where Anglos cannot own beach property outright and in the government sale of property owned by Japanese Americans who were interned during World War II. Finally recounts experience in Elder Hostel class where he learned that the seven southern students who accepted James Meredith as a colleague at Old Miss had left the university the next semester and suspects that they were ostracized by their peers.

**Subject headings:** Race discrimination; Integration, racial; Discrimination in housing--California; Southern States

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4344**

“An oral history with Robert James Funk”

Narrator: Funk, Robert James (b. 1918)  
Interviewer: Miguel Gutierrez  
Date: October 29, 2005  
Location: Ruby Gerontology Center on campus of Cal State University, Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Verbatim (13 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log; *See also* OH 3351, 4316, 5187.1, 5187.2, 5188

**Abstract:** Narrator was born during the 1918 flu epidemic; both parents were sick, but his mother survived. She was a teacher in Iowa for 8 years and quit over a salary dispute. They moved to Philadelphia where she attended one-year training to become librarian. Narrator recalls his childhood during Prohibition including camping with scouts in LaTourrette Park in Brooklyn. Lived there until after his second year in college when he transferred to University of Iowa to complete his engineering degree. Married and was employed in various companies but served eighteen months in U. S. Navy at the close of World War II. Explains a victory garden, recalls when he heard about Pearl Harbor and the general attitude toward Japanese prior to that event, brief discussion of use of atomic bomb and support for the war. Comments on famous gangsters and bootleggers.

**Subject headings:** Employment and social affairs, Education, Homefront, New York

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4345**

“An oral history with Dorothy Lathrop”

Narrator: Lathrop, Dorothy (b. ca. 1930)  
Interviewer: Michelle Deschamp  
Date: October 20, 2005  
Location: Pollak Library on campus of Cal State University, Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Final (20 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Description of a wonderful balanced life. Narrator tells of living on a farm near Steuben, Wisconsin, where tobacco was the main crop and gives details of tobacco farming from planting to packing for sale; describes living in a large farmhouse with a divided upstairs so the hired men could sleep on one side with her brothers while the daughters slept on the other side with her parents; gives bucolic description of the farmland. Her mother was concerned about education for her children and spent much time reading to them; the narrator carried this tradition on with her own offspring. Before she married, she took a year to work and learn to handle finances so she felt confident she could do a good job with family matters. After her children were in school, she studied at Cal State College, Fullerton, to get a degree in finance and taught at a local high school for a short time, then managed an optometry office. She used income to finance college for her own children. Her mother came to live in California after her father died and the grandchildren benefited from this close relation. Is proud of her husband and his career achievements and enjoys her own children and their families and says, “These times, they are special, but nothing lasts forever.”

**Subject headings:** Farm Life, Elementary Education, Adult Education, Women--Education, Family

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4346**

“An oral history with John Greenwood”

Narrator: Greenwood, John (b. ca. 1930)

Interviewer: Doang Ba Nguyen

Date: October 15, 2005

Location: Ruby Gerontology Center on campus of Cal State University, Fullerton

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette

Transcript: Verbatim (8 pp.)

Other: Field notes; *See also* OH 4341, OH 4389

**Abstract:** Very brief interview that tells narrator’s experience of WWII as a child, of Korean War as a member of a reserve marine unit, and of Vietnam War as homeland observer and gives dominant homeland attitudes in each case. Provides one humorous WWII incident where the large H sign in a window was interpreted by the FBI as indicating a German agent lived there when it actually was the sign to have the Good Humor ice cream truck stop at the house.

**Subject headings:** World War II, Homefront, Spies, Germans

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4347**

“An oral history with Holley Watts”

Narrator: Watts, Holley (b.1944)  
Interviewer: Janet Tanner  
Date: November 21, 2006  
Location: Phone call between Fullerton, California, and Harrisonburg, Virginia  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: Master project

**Abstract:** Former Red Cross volunteer who served one year as a Donut Dolly in Vietnam 1966-67 recalls her background, decision to volunteer, experiences while in Vietnam, soldiers she encountered, morale and rules of conduct, return to the States, her family and the idea of telling them about the war. Eager to travel and distinguish herself from her sister, narrator trained for two weeks in Washington, DC, learning the history of the Red Cross before going to Vietnam for on-the-job training. Admits her jealousy of Philippine nurses; describes activities organized for the soldiers and her close calls with disaster; limits on her comments and conduct; reactions of the soldiers, especially her own cousin, to the war and to the volunteers; her own sexual innocence and issues of other women interacting with soldiers; reads from her diary her impressions upon arrival “in country.” After her return comments on unpopularity of the war, being uncomfortable with the women’s movement, awareness of title IX and inequality for women, and restrictions her role as a fundraiser for various non-profit groups had on her own political activity. Recalls the death of a soldier that served as impetus for her to write a book about her time in Vietnam

**Subject headings:** War casualties, American Red Cross, Voluntarism, War—Public Opinion--United States, Author, Sex discrimination

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4348**

“An oral history with Sylvia Paoli”

Narrator: Paoli, Sylvia (b. ca. 1937)  
Interviewer: Shelley Alongi  
Date: November 2, 2006  
Location: Interviewer's home in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes (2 hrs.)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Narrator is a practicing lawyer, professional musician, and trained pilot who shares information about her family and education, her activities with the Fullerton Airport, and her involvement with the Fullerton Chapter of The Ninety-nines, the women pilots international association. Did her pilot training with Jim Gelders; after the death of airport manager Brian Douglas she served on the Airport Users' Task Force to settle noise and safety complaints from the community; mentions a documentary based on these efforts that is used nationally by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association as a model to establish community support for local airports. Discusses methods used to hire airport managers, airport funding sources, safety precautions and pilot training, causes of crashes and type of tenants at the Fullerton Airport, status of the airport as the second busiest general aviation airport in the country during the late sixties and early seventies, and events during Fullerton Airport Days. Gives extensive comments on activities of The Ninety-Nines chapter in Fullerton including seminars, demonstrations, competitive racing, and financial support for projects, clubs, and scholarships.

**Subject headings:** Airplane pilots, Airports, Aeronautics, Music education, Women's education

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4349**

“An oral history with Tom Hernandez”

Narrator: Hernandez, Tom (b. 1935)  
Interviewer: Horacio Leyva  
Date: November 18, 2005  
Location: Home of narrator in Garden Grove, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Verbatim (10 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Director of the Golden West Symphonic Band from its inception in 1967 until his semi-retirement in 2003, Hernandez talks about the strong influence of music and the trumpet in his life from as early as age 5 and describes an emotional scene when he was 13 with his father who wanted very badly that he become a great musician. All his siblings also played instruments. Says he experienced extensive prejudice from a college teacher as a Latino student of conducting but feels this helped him build his character. In 1970s he studied with Maurice André and Rafael Méndez in an effort to improve his teaching for Golden West Students. Says he grew by listening and practice. In 1980s traveled with his band to Europe and played for President Ronald Reagan; in 1990s played for local yacht clubs and gave the earnings to a scholarship fund for students to study in Europe; in 2001 was invited to play trumpet for Pope John Paul. Explains his philosophy: “to study music, that’s a dedication beyond your imagination.”

**Subject headings:** Music—instruction and study, Family, Hispanic music, Concerts, Career choice, Golden West College

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4350**

“An oral history with Bincins Celis Garcia”

Narrator: Garcia, Bincins Celis (b. ca. 1978)  
Interviewer: Sarah Kingston  
Date: November 23, 2005  
Location: Teacher’s lounge at El Dorado High School, Placentia, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (18 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Placentia high school teacher discusses his musical career as teacher and as a performer in three different style bands: mariachi, norteno, and rock’n’roll and describes the authentic instrumentation of each genre. Sees that cultural transfer in music happens in both directions between US and Mexico as immigrant families travel back and forth; changes are promoted by second and third generations while shunned by more conservative first generations. Says traditions should stay but changes will keep the youth involved; knows of albums with Japanese singing Spanish songs; sees cultural diversity among performers in a single group as an obvious way to increase exposure of various types of music and this can happen without any problem in Southern California’s blended communities. Describes the traditional mariachi suit and notes changes in mariachi music that include reading standard music so others can join in and emcees speaking in English.

**Subject Headings:** Music—Instruction & study, Adaptation (Music), Ethnic Music, Culture and education, Ethnic diversity

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4351**

“An oral history with Enrique Reyes”

Narrator: Reyes, Enrique (n.a.)

Interviewer: Arturo Hernandez

Date: December 1, 2005

Location: Pollak Library on the campus of Cal State University, Fullerton

Language: Spanish

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette

Transcript: Verbatim (8 pp.)

Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** An undocumented Mexican agricultural worker who came to the United States in 1969 to improve the quality of life for his family very briefly tells about the hardships, low wages, and danger of deportation he experienced; compares salary and living costs between when he first arrived and the time of the interview; describes his migratory route for work, and thanks God for the opportunity to work here.

**Subject headings:** Illegal Immigrants, Farm Workers, Migrant agricultural laborers, United States. Immigration and Naturalization Service

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4352**

“An oral history with Emilio Espinoza, Sr.”

Narrator: Espinoza, Emilio, Sr. (b. 1950)  
Interviewer: Emilio Espinoza  
Date: November 28, 2005  
Location: Home of the narrator in Southern California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (11 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Narrator’s father was part of the *bracero* program and became a US resident. Narrator came with him on a visa to work at the age of 16 and eventually his sisters and mother moved here. Describes his work experience in Orange County, Corona and Stockton, California, as he progressed from berry picker to foreman of the Irvine ranch with 25 men under his direction. Explains the different attitude among migrants from Mexico and those from Central America as far as willingness to work in agriculture. Recalls that families used to return yearly to Mexico in November for fiestas and stay 3 months. Regrets not having taken opportunities to learn English and decided to stay in the States because his children could go to school and learn English. Comments on increased entertainment opportunity on radio and television and values conveniences he has acquired, however feels he has not personally changed a great deal during the 38 years he’s lived in this country.

**Subject headings:** Immigration and society, Food, Media and society, Labor camps--California

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4353**

“An oral history with Tibor Rubin”

Narrator: Rubin, Tibor (b. 1929)  
Interviewer: Bradley Cooper  
Date: November 23, 2005  
Location: Home of the interviewer in La Palma, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Verbatim (17 pp.)  
Other: Tape log

**Abstract:** A Hungarian Jew born in 1929 in Pasto, Hungary, recalls life before the war when he attended school with Gentiles without conflict. His father was a decorated Hungarian soldier who passed up a chance to flee the Germans when his family could not accompany him. Wonders why the larger group of Catholics was not persecuted instead of the relatively smaller group of Jews. Recalls the SS troops coming in and forcing the villagers to march to the concentration camp where they stayed for two years. Describes the conditions under which they were living when the US troops came to liberate the camp in 1945. He then went at age 16 to the children’s camp and recovered there over the next two years and left to eventually immigrate to the United States from Bremerhaven through Ellis Island. Describes the welcome assistance the refugees received from the Jewish Federation.

**Subject headings:** Nazis; World War II; Holocaust, 1939-1945; Gestapo; Immigrants—United States

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4354**

“An oral history with Sister Mary Drew”

Narrator: Drew, Sister Mary (b. 1925)  
Interviewer: Leo Catahan  
Date: October 14, 2005  
Location: St. Joseph College, Second Floor, Classroom 3, Orange, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (21 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log, photographs

**Abstract:** Literally the luck of the draw brought the narrator into religious life in 1948 at the age of twenty-one when she wanted to work with the poor. While teaching in missions for Chinese and Portuguese speaking Americans, she came to realize learning a foreign language was not the same as knowing the foreign culture, and she determined that this would be her life mission. She established a Cultural Awareness Center with the permission of the order of Sisters of St. Joseph and the help of her parents. The Rotary Club sponsored her exhibits to all levels of the Orange Unified School District where the basics of pride, respect, and dignity gave the program a universal appeal. Wants children to grow tolerant of others and embrace cultural diversity. Her materials and artifacts are being dispersed among other groups to continue this work as she retires. Details her own blended background having an American father and Mexican mother whose sisters married German, French and Mexican men that provided numerous cousins.

**Subject headings:** Ethnic diversity within nations, Cultural awareness--California, Immigrants—United States, Elementary Education, Language and Communication

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4355**

“An oral history with Tony Hilly”

Narrator: Hilly, Tony (b. 1948)  
Interviewer: Keith Collins  
Date: December 2, 2005  
Location: Pollak Library on campus of Cal State University, Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (10 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Native of upstate New York came with his family at the age of ten to California where his father sought employment in the aerospace industry. Father was an engineer for North American until he left aerospace due to poor pension practices that the narrator describes; worked as city engineer in several cities in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Eventually the family settled in Orange where narrator attended junior high school. He recalls the citrus groves that separated cities from each other and gardens and trees that were sacrificed for housing development in the sixties and seventies. Comments on freeway construction and poor design that quickly proved to be inadequate; gives observations on death of Myford Irvine, planning commission in Orange, traits and disappearance of the Olive community, and the role of Boy Scouts in his life. Reveals that the only time his father specifically restricted his activity was when he had been invited to attend a Young Bircher meeting (John Birch Society)

**Subject headings:** Development and change, Aerospace planes—United States—design and construction, Environment and development issues, Boy scouts—California—History

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4356**

“An oral history with Teresa Gonzales”

Narrator: Gonzales, Teresa (b. ca. 1952)  
Interviewer: Erick Espinoza  
Date: November 23, 2005  
Location: Home of the narrator in Orange County, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Verbatim (17 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** A seventh generation Californian who worked in the 1980s and 1990s as a biologist for the California Department of Transportation, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the California Regional Water Control describes her role in preserving local biota during and after the construction of freeways, bridges, and other parts of infrastructure. Her role was to identify endangered species, negotiate with the resource agencies, and mitigate the design of the project. Narrator is proud of the recognition she has in the professional community for the integrity of her reports. She has worked on every freeway in Orange County and comments that current regulations would have prevented construction of the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH). Discussed the water pollution issues in the Newport Bay caused by runoff and long-term use of agricultural pesticides; presents the role of wetlands in water quality preservation. She comments that the dense development of the fifties and sixties is not as restrictive as modern growth patterns and prefers the areas where more individualism can be expressed. She sees development as a result of contractors doing their jobs.

**Subject headings:** Freeway mitigation, Bolsa Chica lowlands, Environmental protection, Wetlands

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4357**

“An oral history with Nhung Nguyen”

Narrator: Nguyen, Nhung (b. 1953)  
Interviewer: Marc Padua  
Date: October 20, 2005  
Location: Meeting room in narrator’s workplace, San Juan Capistrano, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Final (16 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** A Vietnamese refugee to the US in 1980 recalls traveling alone with her infant daughter because her husband and son had left earlier on the first boat out. The young son was washed overboard and lost, and after reconnecting with her husband in a refugee camp the narrator suffered an unsuccessful pregnancy. Together they had operated a pharmacy in South Vietnam and practiced the Catholic religion. After becoming US citizens, she found employment as a factory assembler and her husband ran a pharmacy again. There was an arranged marriage in Vietnam and she comments on that process for her and for her children. Education for the children, especially in the sciences, is encouraged so they would have good future job prospects. The daughter has become a dentist. Talks about returning to Vietnam and being disappointed with the changes so has no desire to return again. Says the Amerasian children, byproducts of American involvement in the Vietnam War, are very much looked down on.

**Subject headings:** Orphans--Vietnam, Education, Women’s Rights, Career change, Southeast Asia

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4358**

“An oral history with Ross Newhan”

Narrator: Newhan, Ross (b. ca. 1939)  
Interviewer: Kyle Burleson  
Date: November 23, 2005  
Location: Home of the narrator in Corona, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (12 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** A longtime writer for the *Los Angeles Times* and author of the book, *The Anaheim Angels: A Complete History* shares his insight on the buying and selling of the Angels baseball franchise; the financial growth in baseball that bypassed small family team owners; the marketing shortfalls of the early owners, Gene Autry and his wife Jackie; the likelihood of two major league teams in the same stadium lasting very long; and the role Walt Disney had both in bringing the Angels to Orange County and in having the stadium refurbished for them. Disney felt that with his amusement park and the Anaheim Pond already built that having the major league baseball in the immediate area could only improve the general appeal to a wider audience. Arte Moreno was aware of the need for this wide appeal when he changed the team name to the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

**Subject headings:** Baseball; Sports Team Owners; Athletics—America; Sport, commerce and culture; marketing

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4359**

“An oral history with Zoe Ann Nicholson”

Narrator: Nicholson, Zoe Ann (b. 1948)

Interviewer: Brian Parrot

Date: October 24, 2005

Location: Home of the narrator in Newport Beach, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette

Transcript: Final, (40 pp.)

Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Women’s equal rights activist recalls her youth where she attended Catholic boarding schools and lived in a convent but was rejected as a novice at another convent because she was overweight; tells how she selected a theology major to avoid science courses; and explains her understanding of the Vatican II encyclical *Humanae Vitae* and how it defined the role of women in the Catholic church. Describes her experiences participating in protest movements, unsuccessfully operating a small book store, and fasting for 37 days in support of passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. She feels the US lags in the advancement of feminism which is moving forward in other countries and critiques the story of Alice Paul as presented in *Iron Jawed Angels*. She describes her motivation to get rid of her personal history via photos, journals, and poetry and outlines her activities with NOW, National Organization for Women, and as a practicing Buddhist. Comments on the divide between the second and third wave of feminists where the achievements of the second are taken for granted by the third that has the benefits but no idea of the struggle. Narrator discusses semantics of feminism and her unwillingness to relinquish basic words for the sake of making an argument.

**Subject headings:** Steinem, Gloria; Language and communication, Feminism

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4360**

“An oral history with Mr. Renee Ortiz”

Narrator: Ortiz, Renee (b. 1945)  
Interviewer: Heidi Sherman  
Date: November 13, 2005  
Location: Home of the narrator in Brea, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Final (9 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** American of Mexican descent who grew up in the city of Pico Rivera gives reasons for moving his own family out of Los Angeles County into the north Orange County community of Brea. He recognized the Hispanic “mini-culture” that developed in his childhood neighborhood but never wanted to be a part of it. After serving in the navy he planned to return to his job as a grocery clerk, but his brother-in-law convinced him to become a firefighter in the Brea community. Reader gains insight to narrator’s cultural awareness through various statements on his “man” role in deciding without discussion with his wife where they would live, on his noting the Pico Rivera neighborhood “heading south” before they moved to Brea, and his awareness that if public schools were not good, he had the option to send his children to the Catholic school. Describes the young community of Brea with tract homes in the 1950s, its pre-mall atmosphere, and rural setting where he took an active role supporting the local athletic programs in which his children participated.

**Subject headings:** Culture and society, Ethnic diversity within nations, Family, Mexican American women

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4361**

“An oral history with Robert Pedroza”

Narrator: Pedroza, Robert (b. 1937)  
Interviewer: Corey Mayne  
Date: December 5, 2005  
Location: Narrator’s home in Orange, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette  
Transcript: Edited (6 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as a class assignment; focus was the agricultural activity and racial discrimination in Orange County in the early twentieth century. Narrator describes his blended family that came together after the 1938 flood of the Santa Ana River; his father had five children and his mother had six when their spouses died. They married to survive as one family. Describes seasonal harvesting in northern California that lasted from June until the rains began in October. Eventually oldest sons served during World War II in Germany and Japan; the family survived on the small support their wages would provide. Though the narrator was born in Orange County he was considered Mexican because of his skin color and the Spanish language spoken at home. Describes personal experiences where he suffered from ethnic discrimination, particularly how the educational facilities were labeled the white school and the brown school reflecting the skin color of the students in each. Students were punished for speaking Spanish on the school grounds; brown students were not guaranteed transportation to school or home again on the bus; they were however assured a ride to the groves to pick oranges once they were sixteen years old. Narrator concludes with experiences playing baseball on a mixed team and the advantages he learned there.

**Subject headings:** Atwood; Placentia, California; segregation; education; agriculture; baseball

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4362**

“An oral history with Steve Jax”

Narrator: Jax, Steve (b. 1959)  
Interviewer: Patricia Newton  
Date: November 25, 2005  
Location: Interviewer’s home in La Mirada, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes (60 min.)  
Transcript: Edited (7 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, bibliography, photo

**Abstract:** Interview done as a class assignment; focus on cultural and physical changes in Orange County after 1969. Narrator came from Texas at the age of four with his family because his father, an engineer, wanted to work in the aerospace industry. The area was citrus groves and bean fields; narrator witnessed construction of the Orange Mall on an old chicken ranch at Canal Street, expansion of movies from single to multiple screens, and formation of freeways. Saw economic base shift from agriculture and military contributions to tourism, population shifted as Vietnamese and Mexican immigrants arrived, recognized Disneyland as a major employer and economic force in the area, and the weather plays a large role in attracting people to Orange County. While narrator sees the blending of cultures among new arrivals to the county as a benefit and opportunity to overcome prejudice, does accept that some resistance to certain ethnic groups is real and understandable.

**Subject headings:** Ethnic diversity, Disneyland (Calif.), Economy and Society, immigration, development and change

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4363**

“An oral history with Rick Gilliland”

Narrator: Gilliland, Rick (b. 1952)  
Interviewer: Laura Stein  
Date: October 19, 2005  
Location: Home of the narrator in Brea, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (15 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Longtime visitor and employee of Disneyland discusses the park’s role and the power of television in shaping community interests especially through Frontierland’s idealized concept of the American West that was supported by Disney television productions. He recognized Disneyland as a powerful educational tool. As a child the narrator felt the elements of Frontierland, which he lists here, were much larger than he sees them as an adult and park landscaping was young and small. Notes the homogenous crowd of his youth has been replaced by an international list of visitors; steamboat ride was uneventful; fort had a “secret” tunnel; the penny arcade really accepted pennies, and few to none automated characters. Design of the buildings at a smaller scale was deliberate to make the visitor feel larger and attracted to the area. Names television shows produced by Disney and recalls some of the actors who appeared in them.

**Subject headings:** Entertainment events—United States--Marketing, Programs on Television, Stereotypes, Mouseketeers

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4364**

“An oral history with Megan Miller”

Narrator: Miller, Megan (b. 1985)  
Interviewer: Liviu Alin Vanciu  
Date: November 29, 2005  
Location: Pollak Library on campus of Cal State University, Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Verbatim (10 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Analysis of the design and purpose of Disneyland amusement park as seen by a local Orange County resident who regularly uses an annual pass to frequent the park. The profit-driven multi-faceted Disney Corporation is necessary so that the retreat and excitement found in the park are possible, therefore she does not see a conflict with using movie characters to attract visitors to the park. She sees it as a place to escape her shy existence and feels accepted by the park's cast; she recognizes it as a prime opportunity for children to use their imagination and learn simple moral lessons. Comments on original motivation of Walt Disney and how that has translated to the current management.

**Subject headings:** Stereotypes, *Beauty and the Beast* (Tale) in motion pictures, Princess, Entertainments, Disneyland (Calif.)

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4365**

“An oral history with Mark Patterson”

Narrator: Patterson, Mark (b. ca. 1965)  
Interviewer: Joy Wilson  
Date: October 27, 2005  
Location: Home of the narrator in Hacienda Heights, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (12 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log, bibliography

**Abstract:** Narrator discusses his eighteen-year employment at Disneyland amusement park where he is responsible for a maintenance budget as high as \$80 million a year that covered Disneyland, Disney California Adventure, Downtown Disney and three hotels. He reveals the concept of forced perspective used to make the space across the park seem farther than it really was and the tromp l'oeil effects in the Main Street buildings. Recalls his work on a team to develop part of the park and the bonding that resulted so that all team members went together to earn their Master engineering degrees. He also participated as a trainer for a year in the park's Leaders Pathway program for employees. He explains Walt Disney's early concept for Disneyland: it was to be like a theater and the employees were cast members interacting with the visitors on the stage. Costume and grooming standards were all part of this wholesome image and to maintain this outdoor theater setting, Disney worked with the Anaheim city council to establish a no-fly zone over the park for large airplanes. Comparisons are made between the original Anaheim Disneyland and the Disney World in Florida. Security and maintenance issues are shared among all the park locations in Tokyo, Paris, and Hong Kong as well. Mentions first owner of Disneyland Hotel, Wrather Corporation.

**Subject headings:** Entertainments, Disneyland (Calif.), Corporate Purposes

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4366**

“An oral history with Karl J. Zappa, Jr”

Narrator: Zappa, Karl J, Jr. (b. 1959)  
Interviewer: Joseph Zappa  
Date: November 5, 2005  
Location: Home of the narrator in Brea, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Transcribed/edited (18 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** A mortgage banker born in 1959 moved with his family to Brea in 1968; he bought his childhood home from his parents in 1984 and has lived in the same building nearly all his life. Interviewer is his son and presents an interesting juxtaposition of the father’s achievements and his own perceived goals, including home ownership and choice of livelihood. Both participants give ideas on how Orange County plays the hometown role for many. Narrator describes his social opportunities as a youth in Brea in the 1970s; running up Pork Chop Hill that was named for the Korean battleground; and changes he has seen in the roadways in the area, especially noting how freeways affected the city. Comments how population in the area has nearly tripled and acknowledges the value of the Brea Mall. Shows little compassion for homeowners located below the dump which has become a substantial landfill. Describes redevelopment in downtown where he feels administrators don’t appreciate the west side of town; feels his current neighborhood is close to its peak and that land available for housing is still all on the east side. Narrator describes his attachment to his home when asked about the possibility of selling it, confides that the appreciation value of his house is his retirement fund and hopes it will allow him to retire to horse ranch in Kentucky.

**Subject headings:** Financial planning (personal), Development and Change, City Planning—20<sup>th</sup> century, Housing, Economy & Society

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4367**

“An oral history with Peter L. Fischl”

Narrator: Fischl, Peter L. (b. 1930)  
Interviewer: Steven Lyon  
Date: November 4, 2005  
Location: Home of the interviewer in Chino Hills, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Verbatim (42 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Hungarian poet born in 1930 recalls his comfortable childhood where his very successful father could afford servants, summer visits to a mountain resort, and international vacations. He recalls being ill as a child and refusing to let a doctor who wore the Nazi Party symbol treat him. Recalls at the age of fourteen witnessing the start of the holocaust when German troops took Jewish citizens to the Danube River and killed them. His family divided up and hid in three different parts of the city; eventually fled together as German oppression increased; notes close escapes from different houses and eventual arrival in Austria where he found his nanny, Anna Zofar. His discussion on how and where he began to write poetry is lost due to tape malfunction, but does relate significance of his work titled, “To the Little Polish Boy Standing with his Arms Up.” Gives accounts of the death of Atila Petchaver, the Hungarian fencing champion; describes Albert Gyorgy, Jurgen Stroop, Ilsa Koch, Albert Speers, and comments on Joseph Goebbels and Herman Goering. As a fugitive from the Hungarian Uprising in 1956 narrator came to the United States where he works to eliminate prejudice and gives speeches against nationalism including one at Cal State Fullerton. Comments on different attitudes toward those people who survived the concentration camps and those who avoided them by successfully hiding themselves during the war. Gives account of his sister’s activities, his children and grandchildren.

**Subject headings:** Resistance, Executions (1930-1940), KGB, Gestapo, Refugees; Holocaust

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4368**

“An oral history with Gerald R. Molen”

Narrator: Molen, Gerald R. (b. ca. 1935)  
Interviewer: Kenneth McMullen  
Date: October 29, 2005  
Location: Home of the narrator in Las Vegas, Nevada  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Final (21 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Oscar winning movie producer recalls his first job in the movie industry as a driver in the transportation office at Republic Studios moving furniture between sets and storage; served as utility driver and moved horses to the set for Westerns in the Hollywood hills and eventually became head of transportation; left the studios in 1967, but soon returned and worked for Disney as an independent transportation coordinator. Narrator became a member of the Directors Guild of America with support letters from Ron Schwary and Charles Mulvehill when he was a unit production manager and eventually assumed full responsibilities as a producer. Enjoyed working with Steven Spielberg, Sidney Pollack and Barry Levinson; knew Tony Scott, Jack Weatherwax whose family trained dogs for Lassie, Stanley Kramer, Mark Rydell, and George Stevens. Drove the car to shoot a scene in *Psycho* with Alfred Hitchcock seated next to him. Began research for *Schindler's List* while still working on *Jurassic Park* with Spielberg and tells of how weather changed abruptly as Spielberg needed snow or clear streets to film the World War II movie. Discusses new method of filmmaking including the computer graphic imaging that replaced the stop motion photography and animatronics. Comments on new movies that seem inappropriate for his grandchildren to see, feels the movie rating system has become less restrictive.

**Subject headings:** Academy Awards (Motion pictures), Motion picture producers and directors, Motion Pictures, Amblin Entertainment (Firm)

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4369**

“An oral history with Joe Rován”

Narrator: Rován, Joe (b. 1935)  
Interviewer: Bethanie Easterday  
Date: November 27, 2005  
Location: Home of the narrator in Costa Mesa, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Final (14 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, in 1935, narrator provides a physical description of the city, describes the multi-ethnic neighborhood in which he grew up, and recalls how World War II affected his family and friends. Slovenian, Polish, English, Ukrainian and Serbian neighbors used religion to stratify the community. Claims life was bleak because they had no bicycles, but recalls trading comic books with his friends. Wartime memories include hearing H. V. Kaltenborn announce attack at Pearl Harbor, seeing blue star flags exchanged for gold stars, rationed goods on the black market, rumors of Japanese incendiary balloons, recycling metal and selling it for pennies to the Bone Man. Telephone calls were limited to three minutes during the war, kids had rotten teeth, and common hygiene practice was one bath per week with nightly touch ups at the sink. Recalls seeing an autogiro, hunting with his brother, watching the Shenandoah dirigible fly over the city, and hearing that the *Sharnhorst* had been destroyed. After the war ended, he took advantage of army surplus stores to acquire low-cost radio equipment and camping gear.

**Subject headings:** Germans, World War II, War Casualties, Homefront; Ethnic Diversity within nations

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4370**

“An oral history with Richard Gunter”

Narrator: Gunter, Richard (b. 1925)  
Interviewer: Beverly Gunter  
Date: November 23, 2005  
Location: Home of the narrator in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (26 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log, bibliography

**Abstract:** Narrator was sixteen-year-old student at Tech High in Atlanta, Georgia, when US entered World War II. Schools in the area allowed students to accelerate their curriculum and graduate early so they could go to war. Narrator had wanted to be a doctor, but during navy boot camp he was given radio technician training, so he continued in that line of study and became Radio Technician, Second Class on the auxiliary passenger attack (APA) ship, *President Jackson*, flagship for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Amphibious Assault Division. Improvisation and initiative had to make up for lack of experience among the young sailors on the ship; they were sent to New Caledonia. They had a mechanical problem en route and missed connecting with a ship that had a new radar system for their ship. With minimal experience and training narrator used the manual to install the system. Learned of “cumshaw” or barter system to get help and materials he needed and soon provided radio speakers throughout the ship in exchange for favors from welders, laundrymen and others onboard. Mentions the captain was dismissed for drunkenness and crew bonded well over poker games. After the war, narrator thought he had lost too much time to spend seven years in medical school, so went back to become electrical engineer. Still holds desire to study medicine.

**Subject headings:** Military Education; World War II; GI bill; United States, Army, Signal Corps; Career choice

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4371**

“An oral history with Connie Glienke”

Narrator: Glienke, Connie (b. ca. 1923)  
Interviewer: Eric Felix  
Date: November 21, 2005  
Location: Home of the narrator in Yorba Linda, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (8 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** English by birth, the narrator came to the United States as a war bride in 1946. She had met her husband at a dance on the local air base near her home in Bolton and he continued his career in the military. She lists the states where they were stationed and the various countries where they lived during their long marriage and named the outstanding one to be Langley Field where she met the astronauts who were training there. She felt she could adapt easily to the migratory military life since her childhood did not have a normal routine; she grew up during the war with rationing, black outs, bomb shelters and air raids. Briefly discusses the changing role of women from before the war, during the war, and after and then gives some insight into how formal education changed its purpose.

**Subject headings:** World War II, Space Race, Women--Education, Military Life

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4372**

“An oral history with Kenneth Swank”

Narrator: Swank, Kenneth (b. ca. 1920)  
Interviewer: Traci Swank  
Date: October 29, 2005  
Location: Home of the narrator in La Verne, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Final (17 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log, photos

**Abstract:** Narrator is interviewed by his granddaughter about his role on the homefront during World War II since he had poliomyelitis as a child, was ranked 4F, and unable to join any military branch. To assist the war effort he worked as an expediter at Boeing aircraft plant in the state of Washington moving materials from warehouse to the industrial department where they could be processed and using this access throughout the plant to sell war bonds to other employees. He also volunteered as a plane spotter. Met his wife at Boeing and moved to Southern California in 1944 to be near his sick father. Recalls many women working at Boeing and performing as well as any male employee. Talked about social venues that were open during the war like company picnics, skating, boat rides and the movies, as long as they could be accessed by bus. Movies at first offered escape from the war but soon John Wayne and Robert Mitchum brought war action to the screen. As a child in a Republican family during the Depression, he did not think much of Franklin Roosevelt; later he recognized the value of some of his projects in stimulating the economy. Food rationing during the war did not cause him as much trouble as did gasoline and tire limits. Recognized the “hard decision” Truman made to drop the atomic bomb and discusses post-war celebration and housing shortages, growth in production of planes and automobiles.

**Subject headings:** Aerospace planes—United States—Design and Construction--Cost, Employment—1940-1950, Pay Equity, World War II, Culture and society

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4373**

“An oral history with Bob Funk”

Narrator: Funk, Bob (b. ca. 1917)

Interviewer: Eric Trimm

Date: November 17, 2005

Location: Home of the narrator in Fullerton, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette

Transcript: Final (10 pp.)

Other: Field notes, tape log, bibliography; *See also* OH 3351, 4316, 4373, 5187.1, 5187.2, 5188

**Abstract:** Narrator’s father died during the influenza epidemic of 1918, shortly after the narrator’s birth. His mother was a teacher in Iowa until 1928 when she went for training as librarian. In 1929 she was hired at St. John’s Prep High School in New York; her job was funded and they did not suffer too much from the Depression. Does recall seeing apple sellers in New York and later WPA workers removing snow from the streets. He married in 1942, completed his college education, and worked as an electromechanical designer for five years for Eagle Signal Corporation in Moline, Illinois, before being drafted in 1944. He went to boot camp at Great Lakes and progressed through a nine-month training course on radio, sonar and radar. He was returning to Chicago after being on leave when the war ended in 1945; had to teach at the Navy Pier in Chicago until he mustered out in February 1946. Continued working in electronics for Globe American Division of Maytag and later for Delco Radio Division of General Motors. Sees his military experience and training as a plus on his resume.

**Subject headings:** Military Education, World War II, Homefront, Depressions—1929—United States

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4374**

“An oral history with Elvin Lucas”

Narrator: Lucas, Elvin (b. ca. 1933)  
Interviewer: Bethanie Easterday  
Date: November 27, 2005  
Location: Home of a neighbor in Costa Mesa, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Final (10 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Memories of World War II as experienced by an 8-year-old boy in rural Michigan near Battle Creek. The issue of war was never presented to him in school, so his imagination filled in: losing the war meant becoming slaves, planes heard overhead were Japanese, American soldiers left by convoys at a nearby roadway intersection could turn their guns on the local residents. Captured vessels were transported around the country to encourage war bond sales and he recalls a German submarine on the back of a truck. The nearby town put up an Honor Board listing all who went to war and those who never returned. Recalls picking bushels of milkweed to be used in life preservers, collecting junk and tin cans for recycling, and seeing “lead pennies” that were made to conserve copper. Living in this rather remote setting, he still played cowboy and Indian games instead of soldier games. News of the war’s end reached them by radio and he describes the horns and bells locally that responded to this information, and he observes that rationing officially ended after the war but products were not readily available. Prior to the war he lived in a log cabin, ate dandelion greens, and attended a one-room country school.

**Subject headings:** Depressions—1929—United States; Homefront; Children and War; Propaganda—American, 1940-1950

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4375**

“An oral history with Lorraine Burris”

Narrator: Burris, [Edith] Lorraine “Susie” Meyer [Molen] (1918-2014 )  
Interviewer: Kenneth McMullen  
Date: August 29, 2005  
Location: Home of the narrator  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Final (17 pp.)  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Narrator tells how she was the first woman to join the caterer’s union and provide meals for various television western series. She arrived in Los Angeles from Montana with her six children and came to help her first husband, Jim Molen, run a short order restaurant, the Blue Onion, across the street from the main gate of Republic Studios. Cowboy actors like Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, Gene Autry, Ward Bond, John Wayne and Robert Mitchum as well as directors like John Ford and Earl Bellamy were regular customers. Burris eventually had the chance to work with Rolly Harper Catering and soon was driving one of his trucks to catering jobs sometimes on unionized sets. After she was accepted into the teamsters union, several other female caterers were able to secure membership. Discusses meal penalties, objections of union leaders Ralph Clare and Ben Loveless, benefits of union membership, and some interaction with actors on the sets.

**Subject headings:** Hollywood, California; Motion Pictures; Television; Labor Unions; Sex discrimination against women

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4376**

“An oral history with Florence Smith”

Narrator: Smith, Florence (b. 1916)  
Interviewer: Kristin Beekman  
Date: November 20, 2005  
Location: Home of the narrator in Chico, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Final (16 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log, photos, bibliography

**Abstract:** In 1930 as an adventurous girl of 14, the narrator signed on with the Fanchon and Marco Company to do shows in the Pantages Theater in Los Angeles and go on 9-month tours around the country. After completing high school, she married at age 17; divorced in 4 years with one daughter. When the war started she got a job at the shipyards near San Francisco in the tool room where she distributed tools using a chit system; a short time later she was moved onto a lathe in the main yard. Comments on being one of only two women in that workspace. Felt they were given respect and good treatment by their male counterparts. Notes proudly that both she and her mother worked in the shipyards and her mother accumulated enough money to purchase land in the Chico area. Eventually Florence married her boss from the graveyard shift. Notes that not only war-related shops were controlled by unions, there was even a union for waitresses; unions negotiated wages for northern California that were nearly 100 percent higher than wages in southern California. Notes that Henry J. Kaiser of Kaiser Construction Company and Kaiser Permanente arranged for medical facilities to be available to all employees and their dependents. Kaiser revolutionized ship building and constructed the S. S. *Robert E. Peary* in a record four and a half days. Narrator also discusses housing and entertainment issues during and after the war.

**Subject headings:** Homefront; World War II; War, peace and social change; Employee Fringe Benefits; Labor Unions

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4377**

“An oral history with Robert Wada”

Narrator: Wada, Robert M. (b. 1930)  
Interviewer: Derek Stephens  
Date: October 18, 2005  
Location: Business office of the narrator in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Final (16 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log, photos

**Abstract:** Being only eleven years old when Pearl Harbor was bombed, the narrator recalls his fear and lack of understanding of the Japanese American wartime experience. His family had lived in Redlands, California, amid a thriving Japanese community and both parents had successful businesses. There was segregation in the schools and most of his classmates were Mexican. Recalls changes to his home after Pearl Harbor when the image of Emperor Hirohito was replaced with one of President Roosevelt and tells of watching his father burn other ethnically important artifacts like his mother’s doll collection. Wonders about the feelings of the guards who rode with them on the buses to the Poston War Relocation Center, reflects on his own feeling of lost humanity when he was tagged and numbered before going to the camp, and recalls the two main questions he wondered about: Where were they going? and How long would they be there? Says poor jobs and poor housing were all that was available when the Japanese Americans returned from the camps, but he was proud of the achievements of the 442<sup>nd</sup> in fighting the enemy as well as prejudice. Concedes that experiences of older internees would be different from his own.

**Subject headings:** Concentration camps, California; Children and War; Bully; GI bill

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4378**

“An oral history with Marcia Taylor”

Narrator: Taylor, Marcia (b. ca. 1936)  
Interviewer: Maura McAnnany  
Date: April 20, 2008  
Location: Pollak Library on campus of Cal State University, Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Final (22 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** A life review given by a self-motivated, high-achieving, hard-working woman who married at age 17, raised two daughters, divorced, returned to school, remarried, sought more challenging positions during her working career, enjoyed travel with her second husband, and saw him through years of illness due to a heart condition. Details her decisions on how and where to buy homes, how she struggled to maintain a balance in her life of work, study, nurturing, and healthy survival.

**Subject headings:** Career Choice, Gender Equity, Marriage, Feminism

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4379**

“An oral history with Patricia Silvestri.”

Narrator: Silvestri, Patricia (b. 1941)  
Interviewer: Caesar Cavaricci  
Date: April 17, 2008  
Location: Pollak Library on campus of Cal State University, Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (27 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log; *See also* OH 4393

**Abstract:** Born in 1941, narrator has no first-hand recollection of Joseph McCarthy but does recall growing up with a fear of communists “coming to get us”, air raid practice at school, and news headlines about the trial and execution of the Rosenbergs. Explains her insular life in an Italian-Irish-Polish neighborhood in New York City where she attended Catholic schools through college. Only when she went for her master degree did she go to City University. In elementary school, she was forbidden to wear the babushka (it was seen as communist) and participated in parades to honor God and country; in high school she was reprimanded for smoking; in college watched to see who got the largest engagement ring. As a young wife she devoted herself to child rearing and was not traumatized by the Cuban Missile Crisis; did substitute teaching to be able to afford a house. Eventually moved to California where she instructed in adult education classes and became an administrator of the ROP, Regional Occupation Program. Recalls a brief period when her family lived in Florida and she and her sister witnessed a civil rights confrontation on the bus and saw racially separated drinking fountains; remembers when government housing or “projects” first came to her neighborhood in New York; describes taking a photo of Jackie Kennedy while narrator was on her honeymoon.

**Subject headings:** Feminism, Cigarettes, Blacks--Segregation, McCarthyism—1950-1960

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4380**

“An oral history with Marcia Taylor”

Narrator: Taylor, Marcia (b. ca. 1936)  
Interviewer: Michelle Fox  
Date: April 16, 2008  
Location: Narrator’s home in Chino Hills, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes (2 hr.)  
Transcript: Edited (21 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log; *See also* OH 4308, 4378, 4387

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as a class assignment; focus was on period of adjustment after a divorce. Narrator gives account of her early marriage at the age of sixteen, years as a wife and mother, and circumstances in which her divorce took place. As a single parent needed an education or training that would allow her to quickly enter the working world and support her daughters. Explains efforts she made to meet a new partner, including attending a weekend camp in the San Bernardino Mountains at deBenneville Pines, the role of her Jewish background and the adopted Unitarian way of life, the shifting social acceptability of the 1960s and 70s for women to have a career outside the home. Discusses in detail the differences between her two daughters, one a conservative the other a liberal, and both successful women, married and with children.

**Subject headings:** Family, Women’s employment, Divorced people, Jews, Parenting

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4381**

“An oral history with Larry Newberry”

Narrator: Newberry, Larry (b. ca. 1944)  
Interviewer: Edwardo Barrios  
Date: April 18, 2008  
Location: Home of the narrator in southern California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (11 pp.)  
Other: Tape log

**Abstract:** Classmates developed this interview with the younger student asking the older student about the 1950s, the Cold War, missile crisis, space race, and Berlin wall. Narrator recalls living in a homogenous Pennsylvania neighborhood where everyone had arrived about the same time for the homes being built for returning GIs after World War II. His father died when the narrator was only nine, so he studied diligently because he knew he would need to win scholarships. During his childhood he recalls air raid drills at school, fallout shelters and debates on the morality of having one, and learning different air raid siren signals. He comments on the futility of such measures in the real event of nuclear war. Briefly discusses racial segregation, the atom bomb, Dwight Eisenhower, Sputnik, Nikita Khrushchev, Berlin Wall, John Kennedy, and Frances Gary Powers.

**Subject headings:** Cold War, Labor Unions, Air Raid Shelters, GI bill, Missiles, Communism

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4382**

“An oral history with Carmine Casucci”

Narrator: Casucci, Carmine A. (b. ca. 1937)  
Interviewer: Jason Biolos  
Date: April 16, 2008  
Location: Home of the narrator in Anaheim, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (23 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Several aspects of the Cold War are discussed: installation and removal of the Berlin Wall, nuclear arms buildup and race for space, the industrial military complex, demeanor of presidents involved at this time from Eisenhower to Ronald Reagan, the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1989, and narrator’s personal reaction to these issues at the time. Suggests the economic failure of East Berlin was significant and the removal of the wall was “a peaceful end to a combustible situation”; number of nuclear war heads was an “unthinking, unchecked development that is astounding”; military contracts included waste and were awarded on a preferential basis; distinct personality of individual presidents varied but restraint was a common trait; felt his work designing a plane for North American that was never produced was a wasted effort so turned to the Peace Corps and teaching construction skills in Jamaica.

**Subject headings:** Sputnik Satellites; Military aircraft; Gorbachev, Mikhail; Vietnam

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4383**

“An oral history with Ray Clay ”

Narrator: Clay, Ray C. (b. 1920)  
Interviewer: Jerod Marino  
Date: March 5, 2008  
Location: Home of the narrator in Long Beach, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (13 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Narrator born in 1920 joined the US Army Air Corps during World War II; his training began in the Aviation Cadet Program in Santa Ana, California, and proceeded until he graduated in 1943 as a Second Lieutenant. Trained to fly different planes at bases around the country and eventually went to the European front in the 92<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group called Fames Favored Few; he was a command pilot and saw that planes were in the correct formation before heading out in a bomber stream. Explains the preflight plans in a bombing mission; the primary, secondary and last resort targets; and the de-briefing after the flight. Seems to accept the danger of flack that originated from guns trained to shoot planes out of the sky: “We did not like being shot at but then we were bombing people that didn’t like us or what we were doing to them.” Railroad yards in Cologne were frequent last resort targets and he went to visit the area in 1954 after the war ended. After flying 30 missions he returned to the states; is recipient of DFC, Distinguished Flying Cross in 1944. Flew in the Korean War and then was part of the Hurricane Squadron, 53<sup>rd</sup> weather recognizance squadron in Bermuda and flew in the eye of Hurricane Charley in 1953 for six hours.

**Subject headings:** Bomber Crews, Military aircraft, Weather, B-17 bombers

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4384**

“An oral history with Tim Harvey”

Narrator: Harvey, Tim (b. ca. 1948)  
Interviewer: Kara Sanchez  
Date: April 15, 2008  
Location: Home of the narrator in Brea, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (12 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Brief life review of a teacher who grew up in North Dakota, attended schools there and was active in athletics. Received an athletic scholarship to a teacher’s college, so earned a teaching degree and came to California where the rest of his family had moved because of his father’s poor health. Taught in junior high in the Orange Unified School District and then became a principal at an elementary school, then a district superintendent, and eventually taught courses at Cal State Fullerton in school administration. His wife was also a teacher, and when she left the classroom to have and raise their two sons, he took on extra side jobs to make up the difference in their family budget, including selling silver jewelry from Mexico, renting trailers, and selling solar panels. Lists major events that influenced his life, like the space race, the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy, and the missile silos in North Dakota. Was named National Educator of the Year in 1980.

**Subject headings:** Education, Marriage, Employment—1970-1980, Retirement, Career change

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4385**

“An oral history with Marianne Dazzo”

Narrator: Dazzo, Marianne (b. 1935)  
Interviewer: Nancy Saucedo  
Date: April 22, 2008  
Location: Home of the narrator in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (21 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Narrator describes an idyllic childhood rich with extended family members living close-by in the same neighborhood. This all ended when she was 7 years old in 1942 and the Germans claimed Amsterdam and began moving Jews to Sobibor in Russia or to Auschwitz in Poland. Her father was sent to Auschwitz and survived there because he could speak and teach English. Joop Woortman was responsible for saving many Jewish children by finding hiding places for them. Narrator's mother and sister were taken to different safe homes than the narrator; none knew where the others were during World War II. It was rather unique after the war that all four members of her immediate family were reunited to live in their old neighbor, but it was haunted with the ghosts of their deceased relatives. After four years waiting, they could emigrate to the United States where her mother's sister lived. After 12 years of counseling, the narrator has worked through the abandonment and anger she felt toward her mother but she still harbors much hate for the Germans who killed her family. She struggles with guilt of not wanting to be a Jew because “to be a Jew was to die” while at the same time feeling proud to be Jewish and enjoy its rich traditions. Feels a strong sense of belonging when she attends conferences for the Hidden Children who survived; considers arguments about reality of the holocaust as simply “Jew baiting”. Realizes the good choice she made at age 19 when she married her husband; they're married over fifty years.

**Subject headings:** World War II; Children and War; Jews; Refugees; Holocaust, 1939-1945

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4386**

“An oral history with Leonard Leventhal”

Narrator: Leventhal, Leonard (b. )

Interviewer: Neal Lynch

Date: April 12, 2008

Location: Ruby Gerontology Center on campus of California State University, Fullerton

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette

Transcript: Edited (10 pp.)

Other: Field notes, tape log, bibliography

**Abstract:** A brief employment review for the narrator. He majored in economics and minored in math, and his first job was as a statistician for the US Army. His work in the aerospace industry included stints at both Northrop Corporation and North American Aviation. In the latter position he was responsible to set up reliability apportionments for the component parts of the Saturn S-II stage system and then develop a test program to demonstrate these reliability goals. Explains various terms like GSE (ground support equipment), reliability testing, and MTBF or mean time between failures. Enjoyed more intellectual freedom at NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) on this Saturn project because they were very concerned how any sort of failure as seen by the public would reduce the possibility for funding. Everyone in his team was excited about helping to put a man on the moon, since most engineers are science fiction readers. He left NASA after 1965 and worked for the navy on the DSRV (Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle), studied the Polaris missile, and finally in 1970 used his math and analytical skills as a financial analyst for the local school district.

**Subject headings:** Space Race, Rockets (aeronautics), Aerospace planes—United States—design and construction--costs, Missiles, Career Choice

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4387**

“An oral history with Marcia Taylor”

Narrator: Taylor, Marcia (b. ca. 1936)  
Interviewer: Ivan Reynoso  
Date: April 24, 2008  
Location: Pollak Library on the campus of Cal State University, Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (10 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log; *See also* OH 4308,4378,4380

**Abstract:** Another life review given by a self-motivated, high-achieving, hard-working woman. She recalls how her daughters reacted when she re-married after divorcing their father. Was generally anxious to take on more challenging positions during her working career, was pleased to put into action the lessons she was concurrently learning in school, and eventually took time off to enjoy travel for eight months in an RV with her second husband. Comments how she felt women were treated as second-class citizens, especially in Texas, and how they were patronized in Albuquerque.

**Subject headings:** Career Choice, Gender Equity, Marriage, Feminism

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4388**

“An oral history with Sharm Luehmann”

Narrator: Luehmann, Sharm (b. 1960)  
Interviewer: Christine Shook  
Date: April 26, 2008  
Location: Office of the narrator in San Clemente, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (23 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** As a young child the narrator travelled extensively with her family because her father worked with the humanitarian organization CARE fighting poverty throughout the world. She discusses how her home schooling due to frequent family relocations in Third World countries affected her social development as a child and early teen, the use of her swimming ability on the Mission Viejo swimming team in 1976 as a failed attempt to make friends, and how an abusive coach and rigorous schedule of training and studying wore her out when she switched to Long Beach. Describes feelings of guilt for not using her God-given athletic skills but welcomed the US boycott of the 1980 Olympics as an excuse to quit. Comments on frustration of other swimmers at their inability to participate in the Olympics. After two years away, when she did swim again she decided it was just for her own pleasure. Her description of her two favorite races gives an idea of how much she would have enjoyed the water and competition.

**Subject headings:** Aquatic sports, Athletics--American, Cultural Awareness—California, Olympics

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4389**

“An oral history with John Greenwood”

Narrator: Greenwood, John (b. ca. 1930)  
Interviewer: Christine Shook  
Date: April 7, 2008  
Location: Ruby Gerontology Center on campus of Cal State University, Fullerton  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Final (24 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log; *See also* OH 4341, OH 4346

**Abstract:** Husband of CSUF faculty member tells about the student unrest on campus in the 1960s when then Governor Ronald Reagan visited campus. Animosity toward the Vietnam War and the draft was directed against university administrators. Led by the narrator’s wife who was president of the Faculty Council, it was largely faculty that contained the crowds and minimized damage and injury. Comments on his role as a banker seeking support for entrepreneurial efforts of minority groups, the effect the draft had on the Vietnam War and the war in Iraq, and what he sees as the true role of the National Guard.

**Subject headings:** Anti-war demonstrations, War—Public Opinion--United States, Korean War, Banco Popular

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4390**

“An oral history with Arnold Miller ”

Narrator: Miller, Arnold (b. ca. 1925)  
Interviewer: Nancy Cross  
Date: April 6, 2008  
Location: Home of narrator in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (11 pp.)  
Other: Tape log, photo,

**Abstract:** Native of New York City moved to California with his parents when he was fourteen years old. Briefly discusses his childhood neighbors and the safety he felt in the city. Trained to be a physical chemist and early in his career he worked at Xerox where his assignment was to develop the first low dose x-ray detection for breast cancer; eventually he headed the worldwide electronics division of that company. At the age of 25 he served as a mediator between two competing groups of scientists who were trying to determine the cause of smog and negotiated an agreement between Cal Tech and Stanford Research Institute that smog is manmade. This discovery resulted in the Clean Air Act of 1970. He started a smog instrument business and worked with Sheila Scott when she discovered smog at the North Pole. Married at 21 and had three daughters. Retired with his wife and maintained a consulting business.

**Subject headings:** Photochemical smog, Antioxidants, Cancer—California, Cancer Treatment

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4391**

“An oral history with Roberta Null-Carson ”

Narrator: Null-Carson, Roberta (b. ca. 1934)  
Interviewer: Diane Hickey  
Date: April 3, 2008  
Location: Home of interviewer's mother in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Final (15 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Narrator holds a Ph.D. in home economics, discusses the misconception that the study of home economics had low intellectual content, and describes the field's role in establishing the social and psychological aspects of the environment. She promotes the concept of Universal Design that doesn't set people apart because of age or disability but designs common areas with accommodation of their situations in mind. Has seen women counseled into non-traditional fields where they were featured while in college but resented when they got into the real work world; they were in fields that they did not enjoy and then frequently abandoned. She personally has enjoyed her career of teaching home economics and comments on the support she received from her instructors and mentors, especially Marjorie Brown.

**Subject headings:** Feminism, Education, Career Choice, Sex discrimination

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4392**

“An oral history with Margaret Ann King ”

Narrator: King, Margaret Ann (b. 1926)  
Interviewer: Diane Hickey  
Date: April 30, 2008  
Location: Home of the narrator in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Final (26 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape long, photos

**Abstract:** Interviewer conducts interview with her mother and gathers family genealogy. Narrator's maternal grandparents were Irish (Sullivan) and her father's family (Walchli) came from Switzerland; her mother was one of six children and her father was one of ten. Narrator grew up in Wellsville, New York, and many of her uncles worked in the oil industry; many of them had no children. Some brief discussion on interaction between family units during the holidays.

**Subject headings:** Ancestors, Children, Weather, Housing

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4393**

“An oral history with Patricia Silvestri ”

Narrator: Silvestri, Patricia (b. 1941)  
Interviewer: Diane Sylvester  
Date: April 12, 2008  
Location: Home of the narrator in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (16 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log; *See also* OH 4379

**Abstract:** Narrator and interviewer are classmates; interviewer has read stories written by the narrator for class and asks questions based on this earlier information. They compare narrator’s childhood in New York with that of her children in California. Narrator was an elementary school teacher because that was the natural step for women when she went to college, would have preferred to be a dentist. Describes some toys, penny candy store, and fashions she wore as a child. Recalls the fear of communists and atomic bombs during the Cold War. After marriage and her move to California, she worked in adult education and eventually became the administrator for the ROP program at community college. Comments on the current generation’s timing of having children compared to when she was young and raising the family. Concludes with descriptions of trips to Jerusalem, Mexico, and Italy including the value of learning the local language and the status of women in different cultures.

**Subject headings:** Sex discrimination against women, Education, New York, Travel, Career Choice, Language and Communication

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4394.1**

“An oral history with Marion McClatchy”

Narrator: McClatchy, Marion (b. ca. 1930)  
Interviewer: Anne Uhlig  
Date: March 13, 2008  
Location: Narrator’s residence in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes (90 min.)  
Transcript: Final (32 pp.)  
Other: Tape log; *See also* OH 4304, 4311, 4394.2

**Abstract:** Interview was conducted as a class project; focus is her recollections of events during the Cold War era. Recalls living in Istanbul when refugees came to that city from behind the Iron Curtain from various countries and how she managed to teach Portuguese to a class of 23 students who spoke 17 different languages; Turkish view of McCarthyism in the US; witnessed Mustafa Kamel Atatürk’s efforts to bring Turkey into the 20<sup>th</sup> century of western world through persuasive instead of coercive measures. While teaching Spanish for the American Institute for Foreign Trade, she met and married her husband, moved to Puerto Rico where they witnessed Cuban refugees fleeing their country after Fidel Castro ousted Fulgencio Batista in 1959; comments that as an employee of 3M Corporation her husband engaged in some CIA activity that affected the Bay of Pigs invasion. Compares native Puerto Rican work ethic with that of the Cuban immigrants; describes her own steps to gaining US citizenship, working for the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, media reports of the assassination of both John and Robert Kennedy, and background to the comment made by Neil Armstrong as he landed on the moon.

**Subject headings:** Refugees, Communism, Space vehicles—Landing—Moon, astronauts, Language and Communication

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4394.2**

“An oral history with Marion McClatchy ”

Narrator: McClatchy, Marion (b. 1930)

Interviewer: Anne Uhlig

Date: April 1, 2008

Location: Home of the narrator in Fullerton, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette

Transcript: Edited (22 pp.)

Other: Field notes, tape log, photos; *See also* OH 4304, OH 4311

**Abstract:** Interviewer listens to narrator’s account of her son’s life, including his divorce, his daughter, and dating. Some family history is shared. Brief discussion of language evolution and the difficulty of accent in understanding the same language in different geographic areas. Of the narrator’s five children, only two speak Spanish.

**Subject headings:** Language and Communication; Pronunciation; Accent, Foreign; Spanish language; Family

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4396**

“An oral history with Marnie Hahn ”

Narrator: Hahn, Marnelle (b. ca. 1933)  
Interviewer: Kenneth Hahn  
Date: April 12, 2008  
Location: Home of the narrator in Fresno, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Edited (13 pp.)  
Other: Field notes, tape log

**Abstract:** Intergenerational discussion between the interviewer and his grandmother. She tells her story of looking to escape the small town environment of Marysville, California, by going to college at Berkeley, but admits the difference was more than she could handle during the era of student protest. Draws parallels with the military situation of the Vietnam War and the war in the Middle East; though her own husband was in the army reserves and stationed in the States, she feels the fear of women whose spouse is overseas in battle and admires their ability to be a strong parent to their children. Some details of the family story are unstated but understood by the interview participants because of their relationship.

**Subject headings:** Education, Cold War, Missiles, Child care

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4573**

“An oral history with E. Morris Cox”

Narrator: Cox, E. Morris (b. 1903)  
Interviewer: Natalie Fousekis  
Date: November 18, 1997  
Location: Not given  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette; digital (00:56:53)  
Transcript: None  
Other: None

**Abstract:** Interview has two sisters interviewing their grandfather about his early life, education, and business achievements. Narrator’s own grandfather had been a commander under Robert E. Lee in the American Civil War, his grandmother would tolerate no mention of Lincoln since her family lost considerable land holdings. Narrator’s father was involved in California statewide education legislation and with the California State Teachers Association. Narrator recalls early horse-and-buggy transportation as well as his first automobiles. Talks about family tradition of attending Stanford University and his father’s counsel that Berkeley was just as good a school and was no cost for California residents. Describes how the death of his father affected his path of study at Harvard and getting his MBA in 1928, his first job with a public utility underwriter in New York and eventual distaste for the unethical in that business. Went on to establish his own company of Dodge and Cox, had whirlwind romance and married his wife of over fifty years, collected art, and served on museum board of trustees with Crocker family members.

**Subject headings:** Family, education, Depressions—1929—United States, Transportation, Reo automobile

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4699**

“An oral history with Jeanette Shammass ”

Narrator: Shammass, Jeanette Hilland (b. 1920)  
Interviewer: Volker Janssen  
Date: July 23, 2010  
Location: Home of the narrator in Irvine Cove, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Digital, 02:12:18  
Transcript: Final (41 pp.)  
Other: Photograph

This oral history spans 1900s-2010. Bulk dates: 1920s-1980s.

**Abstract:** An oral history of Jeanette Hilland Shammass, longtime resident of Southern California, and local businesswoman. This interview was conducted as a Personal History for California State University, Fullerton, and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Shammass’ lengthy experiences in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. This interview includes discussion about her parents’ Swedish heritage; tells about growing up in Chicago, Illinois, and moving to Los Angeles, California, in 1924; shares about Los Angeles in the 1920s and 1930s, remembering her father’s construction business, the movie industry, ethnic diversity, and new arrivals; speaks about meeting and dating her future husband, Nick Shammass; speaks about early employment, including working at See’s Candies, Bank of America, answering fan mail for the actor Leo Gorcey, and acting as an extra in Mickey Rooney film shorts; reflects on national politics during the Depression and the Cold War; shares memories of World War II especially Nick’s business manufacturing parts for weapons, as well as Japanese American internment; very briefly discusses civil unrest in Los Angeles, including the Zoot Suit Riots and the Watts Riots; talks about housing and growth of business and freeway development in postwar Los Angeles; discusses Nick’s car dealerships in Los Angeles, including Felix Chevrolet; tells about moving around Southern California, speaking about homes, neighbors, and schools; talks about her world travels; recalls attending the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy; tells about moving to Orange County, California, in 1967; comments at length on land ownership and development in Orange County since the midcentury; talks about business ventures and charitable interests; speaks about her daughters, Diane and Carole, their careers, education, and life; briefly reflects on Nick’s battle with lung cancer.

**Subject headings:** Real property, Post-war world, Cadillac automobiles, General Motor automobiles

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 4750**

“An oral history with Ben Chavez”

Narrator: Chavez, Ben (b. ca. 1926)  
Interviewer: Blair Woodard  
Date: April 24, 2004  
Location: Home of the narrator's son in Costa Mesa, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Audio cassette  
Transcript: Final (55 pp.)  
Other: Project summary, project documents, correspondence

**Abstract:** Narrator tells of his ancestors from New Mexico and his childhood in Boyle Heights, Calif., describing some of his escapades at school and how the city's name came to be; his military experience as fire control on a cruiser during WWII including bombing Okinawa, avoiding Kamikaze pilots, and entering Nagasaki after the atom bomb dropped; his employment as busboy and truck driver on Catalina Island and his trip to Acapulco; and how he entered the TV and sound industry in Hollywood eventually working on the Dinah Shore television show. He worked at the Coconut Grove with well-known entertainers like Eddie Fisher, Dean Martin, Sammy Lewis, Milton Berle, and Frank Martin; was involved in construction of the Music Center in Los Angeles; and worked at Melodyland and the Hollywood Bowl. He did the sound for *Hair* and for the Oscar ceremonies for many years.

**Subject headings:** Cigarettes, Entertainment Films, Labor Unions, Music Center of Los Angeles County, Atomic bomb

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 5131**

“An oral history with Caroline Torres”

Narrator: Torres, Caroline Luna  
Interviewer: Albert and Isabel Vela  
Date: September 28, 2012  
Location: Home of the narrator in Anaheim, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Digital, 01:47:53  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: Tape log

**Abstract:** Last surviving participant in the Mendez et al. v. Westminster school desegregation court case recalls the judge encouraging her and lauding her poise and intellect when she testified as an elementary school child. She gives information about her family’s interest in education, her grandfather’s two families on either side of the border, the different families that intermarried with her family including the Losano family. She comments on the role of the Catholic religion in the community, identifies various barrios in the area including Delhi in Santa Ana, and gives a description of the setting of the segregated schools on opposite sides of an open field and her task to get supplies from the Anglo Roosevelt School for her Hispanic Lincoln school. Praises her siblings and grandchildren for their intellect and community involvement.

**Subject headings:** LULAC, Women--Education, Mexican American education, Desegregation in Education

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 5183**

“An oral history with Barbara Talento”

Narrator: Talento, Barbara (b. 1928)

Interviewer: Rikki MacBarron

Date: October 27, 2003

Location: Ruby Gerontology Center in Fullerton, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes, approx. 90 min.

Transcript: Class project, 21 pp.

Other: Interview summary, tape log; *See also* OH 3094 and OH 5184

**Abstract:** Narrator is a trained nurse and ethics teacher who discusses factors affecting her role as caregiver for her 95-year-old mother and her mother’s role as the dependent partner, including sense of humor, of independence, of value, and a general willingness to make the effort to overcome health obstacles. Sees that prior to taking any action toward cohabitation, brutally honest discussions between caregiver and patient are needed on such topics as compatibility, when to admit need for professional help, and how to plan costs. Narrator recognizes that she has benefited from her mother living with her as a companion.

**Subject headings:** Caregivers, Health behavior—age factors, Parenting

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 5184**

“An oral history with Barbara Talento”

Narrator: Talento, Barbara (b. 1928)

Interviewer: Barbara Gossett

Date: October 17, 2003

Location: Ruby Gerontology Center in Fullerton, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes, approx. 60 min.

Transcript: Class project, 11 pp.

Other: Interview summary, tape log; *See also* OH 3094 and OH 5183

**Abstract:** Discussion touches on Jewish childhood and wartime experiences, moves on to the plus and minus of mono-gender schools for high-school-age students and the role of widows in society. Narrator recalls being an air warden trained to identify plane silhouettes, resolving the problem of no men around for her senior prom in 1945 by visiting the local USO, and in retrospect appreciates the strong expectation for accomplishment that filled her all-girl high school. Recounts difficulties as a young widow with three small children including where to bury her husband and how the decision affected the children, absence of companionship after work, and having to make decisions and bear parenting responsibilities alone.

**Subject headings:** Widows, Coeducation, Jews, World War II

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 5185**

“An oral history with Don Hutchinson”

Narrator: Hutchinson, Don (b.1929)  
Interviewer: Barbara Gossett  
Date: October 17, 2003  
Location: Ruby Gerontology Center in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette, 45 min.  
Transcript: Class project, 8 pp.  
Other: Interview summary. *See also* OH 3095

**Abstract:** Briefly comments on Trial of the Hollywood Ten, people in the film industry who were accused of being Communists and disloyal to the US government. Narrator was considering a career as a lawyer and did summer job helping lawyers on this case. He gave up idea of law after working with Douglas Aircraft Co., enlisted in the navy and served for two years. While in the navy, he helped build better relations with Greece by organizing basketball games between the ship's crew and the port's team. His ship simultaneously had the charge of spying on the Russians.

**Subject headings:** McCarthyism—1950-1960; World War II—United States Navy

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 5186**

“An oral history with David H. Armstrong”

Narrator: Armstrong, David H. (b. ca.1932)

Interviewer: Nancy Stanko

Date: October 15 and November 4, 2003

Location: Ruby Gerontology Center in Fullerton, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassettes, approx. 90 min.; approx. 90 min.

Transcript: Class project, 12 pp.; edited version, 14 pp.

Other: Tape log, interview summary, letter. See also OH 3098

**Abstract:** This is a second interview by with a retired physician in the fields of obstetrics and gynecology who uses his career training during the 1950s as benchmarks to note the timing of specific scientific advances in medical history, including oral contraceptives, teenage pregnancy, abortion and adoption and the narrator’s personal experiences with each. Discusses Catholic Church directives on birth control and care for unwed mothers, government directives on the use of opiates in pain management, end of life decisions controlled by power of attorney, and insurance company’s power in managed health care systems.

**Subject headings:** health services administration; contraceptives; abortion; reproductive rights

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 5187.1**

“An oral history with J. Robert Funk”

Narrator: Funk, Robert “Bob” (b. 1918)  
Interviewer: Donald King  
Date: October 19, 2002  
Location: Ruby Gerontology Center, Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): cassette, 60 min.  
Transcript: Class report, 19 pp.  
Other: Tape log, interview summary, photos, map.  
*See also* OH 3100, 3351, 4316, 4373, 5187.2 and 5188

**Abstract:** Narrator describes traveling as an eleven-year-old boy alone by train from Iowa to the New York City area and being watched over by the porter. He focuses on details of his adolescence spent in Brooklyn during the Depression where he used trolleys and subways to get to classes and to go on Boy Scout outings. He gives details of the routes and scenery along the way. Mentions meals he had at the Norwegian boardinghouse where he and his mother lived on the third floor. Mother had been a teacher and librarian and supported him during the Depression after the death of his father, and she openly shared with him the limitations of their income, though he never felt he suffered from lack of the necessities of life as much as his family did who lived on Iowa farms.

**Subject headings:** transportation; Depression—1929—United States; cooking, Norwegian; New York, N.Y.; commuting

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 5187.2**

“An oral history with J. Robert Funk”

Narrator: Funk, Robert “Bob” (b. 1918)

Interviewer: Donald King

Date: November 5, 2002

Location: Ruby Gerontology Center, Fullerton, California

Language: English

Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): cassette, 30 min.

Transcript: Class report, 5 pp.

Other: Interview summary. *See also* OH 3100, 3351, 4316, 4373, 5187.1, and 5188

**Abstract:** In this very brief interview the narrator hints at his feeling of isolation from other boys because he did not have a father who did things with him. Lists only one friend from that time period with whom he still had contact, the landlady’s nephew’s son. Comments that his mother stayed in Brooklyn when he returned to the Midwest for college and when he went back to the old neighborhood in 1972, his home, the Flatbush Jewish Temple, some shops, and the Beverly Theater were still there, though a few homes had been replaced by apartments. Closing statement expressed his enjoyment at having seen the Chrysler Building built, the Empire State Building be constructed, and new subways come in. There is a painful lack of follow-up questions on these topics.

**Subject headings:** New York, N.Y.; development and change; cities and towns--growth

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 5188**

“An oral history with J. Robert Funk”

Narrator: Funk, J. Robert (b. 1918)  
Interviewer: Justin Rhoades  
Date: October 23, 2003  
Location: Narrator’s home in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): cassette, 40 min.  
Transcript: Class paper, 7 pp.  
Other: Interview summary, tape log, photo  
*See also* OH 3100, 3351, 4316, 4373, 5187.1, and 5187.2

**Abstract:** Narrator gives his employment history from the time he left the navy after World War II and lived in Kokomo, Indiana, until his retirement in Fullerton, California. Worked with Globe American Corporation after it was bought by Maytag to develop an electric range, and later found a job with Delco Radio Division of General Motors testing materials and writing product specifications until advancement seemed unlikely. Applied for and was offered jobs with three companies: IBM in New York, a company in Seattle, and North American Aviation in Downey, California. He came to California and began working in the aerospace industry on cruise guided missiles, particularly the Minuteman missile. Comments how extreme cost overruns happened and ramifications for the company involved; the narrator moved back and forth through the aerospace companies as contracts were awarded and work was available. His wife and three children lived in Fullerton in a home that he purchased from the builder when it was still surrounded by orange groves; recalls his children coasting wagons through the orange and avocado groves. They enjoyed camping as family vacations; photography is his hobby.

**Subject headings:** Cold War, missile, aerospace, development and growth, employment—1950-1960

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 5189**

“An oral history with Malcolm Macaulay”

Narrator: Macaulay, Malcolm (b. 1924)  
Interviewer: Jane Cunningham  
Date: October 11, 2003  
Location: Ruby Gerontology Center, Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette, 90 min.  
Transcript: Class report, 14 pp.  
Other: Tape log, interview summary; *See also* OH 3102.1, OH 3102.2, OH 3350

**Abstract:** Native of St. Paul, Minnesota, recalls his childhood, family, teachers, and classmates from the Depression era. He did not see it as a major difficulty for his family though his father did take a pay cut at his job with Northern Pacific Railroad. His mother was not employed outside the home, but she did write a newspaper column. Father’s family was Irish immigrants living on a marginal farm in Wisconsin and used a barter system for some of their needs; after summers there narrator would return to Minnesota with a heavy Gaelic accent. Maternal grandparents lived in Illinois and were more affluent, with his grandfather being an active Illinois statesman. Describes first memory he can recall when he was only ten months old, also remembers various radio programs. As the oldest of four children, explains they were not close because he was 15 years older than the youngest sibling. He and two friends each had paper routes for different papers in the same neighborhood, so they pooled their funds and bought a Pierce Arrow to use for their wintertime deliveries. Other topics covered: formula for Black Leaf Forty pesticide, how to grow tobacco, types of automobiles operated by his family, and a boyhood attempt to ride a freight train into Minneapolis.

**Subject headings:** Depressions—1929—United States, autobiographical memory, entertainment, farm life; railroad trains, Language

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 5192**

“An oral history with Helen Beykich”

Narrator: Beykich, Helen (b. 1925)  
Interviewer: Kari Li Hie  
Date: October 27, 2002  
Location: Narrator's home in La Mirada, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette (90 min.)  
Transcript: Final class project  
Other: See also OH 3166

**Abstract:** As an intergenerational class-related exchange, the narrator gives her life review. Briefly mentions life during the Depression, tells of interrupting her college education in chemistry at Southern Illinois University after experiencing grade discrimination. Describes a cross-country bus trip with her younger sister to California in 1946 including seeing Indians for the first time in Arizona. Lived with relatives for a short time in Covina, soon moved to Los Angeles where she worked in city Controller's office with the first black woman hired there. Changed schedule to work evenings in the local police station so she could take daytime classes and complete her German Literature degree at University of Southern California [USC]. Recalls being stranded in Europe at start of the Korean War in 1950. Passed Federal Civil Service Test twice, was hired by the Pentagon, and worked at the headquarters of the US Air Force in Weisbaden, Germany. Recalls travels in Europe and shares details of how she met and married her husband and had her first son; gives description of his experiences as a German youth drafted into the army at age 16 and being a Russian prisoner of war when he was 17 and 18. Also tells how husband's family smuggled much of their belongings from East Berlin to West Berlin when his father's job moved. When she was pregnant with second son, her husband acquired US citizenship and the family returned to the States; recalls amusing hit-and-run incident. Narrator secured a teaching credential that was very important after her husband left. She taught at Bellflower High School and was a counselor at Cerritos College for many years before her retirement.

**Subject headings:** women—education, travel, Ex-prisoners of war--Germany--History--20th century.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 5193**

“An oral history with Beverly ‘Dena’ Ports”

Narrator: Ports, Beverly “Dena”  
Interviewer: Aaron Cross  
Date: November 3, 2002  
Location: Narrator’s home in Fullerton, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Cassette (60 min.)  
Transcript: Class report (14 pp.)  
Other: Interview summary, tape log; *See* OH 3167

**Abstract:** Narrator recalls again her father’s hard work for Safeway grocery and benefits enjoyed by the family from that work including unscheduled mini celebrations for the children at suppertime, special gifts for holidays like Easter and Christmas, and the purchase of a Studebaker automobile after the war that allowed them frequent outings for picnics and visits. Other post-World War II memories include Quonset huts in Griffith Park for servicemen and their families, successful car part business started by her father and later taken over by her brother, profits made in jewelry and metal sales. She recalls holidays with parents’ friends since she didn’t have local family and the betting pool that took place for the Rose Bowl Game on New Year’s Day. Her artwork was encouraged by the fifth grade teacher and she continued to get positive feedback that made her realize she had a gift to draw but needed to practice. Comments on the lives of her children, acknowledges she was first female in her maternal ancestral line to work regularly outside the home, and admits people with limited budgets must choose between experiences and stuff when spending their money.

**Subject headings:** Parenting, families, economy and society, post war United States, 1945-1970.

Personal and Family Histories  
OH 40 to OH 4299

**OH 5377**

“An oral history with Tessa Dick”

Narrator: Dick, Tessa (b. 1954)  
Interviewer: Jon Brusckke  
Date: July 16, 2013  
Location: In a restaurant in Crestline, California  
Language: English  
Project: Personal and Family History

Format(s): Digital (01:15:21)  
Transcript: Not transcribed  
Other: Recording log and field notes

**Abstract:** Narrator is the fifth and final wife of science fiction writer Philip K. Dick who was with him when he experienced a series of visions in February and March of 1974 that came to be referred to as his 2-3-74 experience. Specific topics include: a chronology of events of their life together with residence locations identified, the encounter with the “golden fish” pharmacy delivery, the contact with “firebright” which was a blue light that entered Philip’s head and opened his pineal gland, Philip’s precognition of their son Chris’s undiagnosed and potentially fatal hernia, the name and location of their family doctor at the time, Tessa’s ultimate conclusions about the validity and meaning of Philip’s visions. Tessa is herself an author of seven books, lived in haunted houses as a child, and considers Philip one of the greatest philosophers of the twentieth century.

**Subject headings:** Haunted houses, Science fiction, Visions