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OH3064

Gardner, Robert

"An oral history with Robert Gardner"

Interviewed by Nancy Gardner (daughter)

Date: April 12, 2003

Language: English

Ephemera : photos, newspaper articles, military award, journal article, campaign material, death notice

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcripts, 18 pp.

Abstract : Gardner gives a brief account of witnessing a lynching as a child and then his solo trip to California where he came to live with his older sister in Balboa; recalls mudflats and questionable water quality, his first job chipping ice and later employment at the Rendezvous Ballroom; rode surfboard with Duke Kahanamoka. Abandoned his goal to be forest ranger when his uncle paid for his education at University of Southern California if he became a lawyer; went on to be a judge on superior and appellate courts and served as Chief Justice of the High Court in American Samoa ; was well-respected for his written opinions. In retirement wrote a column for the local newspaper.

OH2485

Gerrard, Jack Campbell

"An oral history with Jack Gerrard"

Interviewed by William Gulley

Date: April 16, 1996

Language: English

Ephemera : photos, handwritten poem

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript , 12 pp.

Abstract : Brother of Phylliss Gerrard Onstott gives Gerrard family history with anecdotes about teachers in Santa Ana who worked with his mother, about his parents' courtship and marriage, and about the Campbell ancestor who started the frontier nondenominational Disciples of Christ church that later became The Christian Church. Lists Sunday school classmates; talks about siblings and their nicknames; describes his own business adventures. Provides additional detail on the origins, expansion, and incorporation of the Alpha Beta Company; father knew A. P. Giannini, founder of Bank of America, and helped him by turning around failing stores during the Depression. The Alpha Beta Company supported a mission in the Belgian Congo .

OH2927

Gregory, Jean Wilson

"An oral history with Jean Gregory"

Interviewed by Eunice Launer Harris

Date: November 10, 2000

Language: English

Ephemera : photos, funeral eulogy, extensive genealogy chart

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript , 14 pp.

Abstract : Ancestors of Jean's husband participated in the California Gold Rush and in the early grape-planting era in Anaheim . Her husband was delivered by Dr. George Crook Clark whose home was relocated onto the Fullerton Arboretum at Cal State Fullerton. Jean and Merrill Gregory married during the Depression; she recalls social activity and employment opportunities at that time. Merrill was involved in banking and played a major role in the history of the Fullerton Community Bank. Jean names her children and grandchildren and gives brief updates on their education and achievements. Also notes changes in the Balboa beach community where a family residence has been maintained through three generations.

OH2482

Grijalva, Edward "Eddie" Trinidad

"An oral history with Eddie Grijalva"

Interviewed by Maureen Rischard

Date: February 23 and March 30, 1996

Language: English

Ephemera : photos, newspaper articles, genealogy, map, manuscripts, award

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript , 33 pp.

Abstract : Born in El Toro (Lake Forest), has both Spanish and native American ancestry. Reports on research at Bureau of Indian Affairs and Santa Barbara Mission archive for documentation of his ancestors; ancestors were Gabrielino Indians.—Located "Grijalva map" during further research when he also linked his family to explorer Cortez; Grijalva ancestor traveled with De Anza expedition and was responsible for construction of Mission San Luis Rey; this ancestor built three adobes in Orange County and held property through a concession; this land was later given to his son-in-law, Antonio Yorba; steps taken to install historic site plaque. Recalls childhood experiences with food, living conditions, and segregated schools, movies, and pools; early employment . Discusses his wives and children; tells of receiving a Community Service Award.

OH2306

Griset, Francis Eugene and Griset, Elizabeth Drysdale

"An oral history with Francis and Elizabeth Griset"

Interview by Maureen McClintock Rischard

Date: January 26, 29 and February 5, 1993

Language: English

Ephemera : photos, newspaper articles, manuscript

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript , 75 pp.

Abstract : Francis gives family genealogy and history dating back to 1600s. Recalls childhood toys and amusements, school transportation and classmates, customers on his paper route. Describes farming activity including various sites of family property; equipment ranging from mule power to extraordinarily deep plow that could turn six-foot deep furrows; his inventions to reduce hand labor in harvesting crops; artesian wells; Pacific Electric as a means of shipping produce; record crop for Holly Sugar Company; business operations of Stephen Griset and Sons as well as Griset Brothers; Sierra Frozen Foods co-op as start of frozen food

packaging; magnitude of farming in the county and its impact on the national balance of trade. Early settlements are referenced, including Greenville , Wintersburg , Ocean View, Harper, and Paularino. Many pioneer ranchers are named, including Segerstrom, McGee, Graser, and Borchard families and his friend Lambert McFaddin. Elizabeth describes her family's relocations from Nova Scotia , her own education in multiple schools and her first home after her marriage to Francis that was a remodeled bunkhouse. Recalls her activity in Ebell Club, PTA, Scouts, and 4-H groups, and fellow church member Ralph Smedly who started Toastmasters. Francis outlines the establishment of and funding for Hoag Hospital .

OH3027

Gruber, Ruthmarie Launer

"An oral history with Ruthmarie Launer Gruber"

Interviewed by Christine M. Greve (daughter)

Date: August 24, 2002

Language: English

Ephemera : photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript , 18 pp.

Abstract : Daughter of Nelson Launer and sister of Eunice Harris, Ruthmarie recalls her early childhood and gives an account of meeting her husband, Charles Gruber, whose father was a foreman for C. C. Chapman in Fullerton . The elder Gruber worked in the oilfields of Huntington Beach , on the atomic bomb in Washington state, for Fender instruments in Fullerton , and eventually sold popcorn from a pushcart. Charles was a dentist who served in the navy during World War II . Ruthmarie recalls support among military wives, V-mail, rationing, and blackouts. Images of early Huntington Beach including Jane Mansfield at 4 th of July parade and the Glo Candle Company. Gives accounts of her children and grandchildren.

OH2201

Gulley, LaVerne

"An oral history with LaVerne Gulley

Interviewed by William Gulley (son)

Date: March 22, 1991

Language: English

Ephemera : photos, newspaper articles

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript , 16 pp.

Abstract : Born in Santa Ana in 1901, LaVerne and his siblings were patients of Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle; gives poignant account of attempts to save mother from consumption; raised by his aunt and uncle, George Ford, who owned some 400 acres and developed the Ford soft shelled English walnut. LaVerne worked on ranches in Imperial Valley and near Greenville (Huntington Beach) where artesian wells abounded; recalls early automobiles and hunting locations. Images of early Santa Ana including schools, old courthouse and jail, racetrack and apricot pitting camps. List families whose names are still familiar in the city: Z. B. West, Josiah Ross, Eddie Martin among others.

OH2066

Hamaker, Hazel Goetz

"An oral history with Hazel Hamaker"

Interviewed by Maureen Rischard (niece)

Date: May 31, June 14 and 29, 1990

Language: English

Ephemera : photos, genealogy records, map, newspaper articles

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript , 45 pp.

Abstract : Hazel arrived in Orange County when her father leased a ranch in Yorba Linda ; she attended school in Olinda and later Placentia ; names early families of Placentia ; soon moved to Anaheim and lists several other locations where the family had residences. Witnessed lima bean harvesting on Irvine ranch ; marvels at geographic changes that have occurred in the county. Recounts Hamaker and Goetz family histories with some stories of meeting Amelia Earhart, teaching in Santa Ana schools, selling land to Mexican farmers in Placentia , flying over site of the failed St. Francis dam, and seeing damage in San Francisco 8 years after the 1906 earthquake.

OH2064

Hankey, Adele

"An oral history with Adele Hankey"

Interviewed by Maureen Rischard

Date: May 18, 1989

Language: English

Ephemera : photo

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript , 17 pp., bound with interview of daughters, Eleanor Widolf and Lorna Ross

Abstract : Adele's parents were pioneers in the Sunset Beach area; no neighbors, children were home schooled through fourth grade and Sunday school was done at home. Describes brilliantine swimsuits and reaction to first knit suits; loved to fish and caught many for family meals; saw Olympic events in Long Beach lagoon and the Rose parade. Comments on coping mechanism of her own children and spouse during the Depression. Hints at raising many foster children. (Daughters elaborate in their later interview.)

OH2355

Hanson, Louise Moulton

"An oral history with Louise Moulton Hanson"

Interviewed by Bettie Webber

Date: March 16, 1994

Language: English

Ephemera : photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript , 16 pp. with index and illustrations.

Abstract : Louise Hanson is the daughter of Lewis Fenno Moulton, a cattle rancher in the early 1900s, and Nellie Gail. Hanson discusses her early childhood working with cattle and interacting with various employees on a daily basis. Hanson describes experiences with mule packing, cattle herding, and farming. She discusses various experiences including dealing with Japanese immigrants, traveling circus sideshows, education at Pomona College . Hanson earned degree in animal husbandry and agriculture and applied her education to operating the ranch.

OH2901

Harris, Earl Lee and Eunice Launer

"An oral history with Earl and Eunice Harris"

Interviewed by Janet Tonkovich (daughter)

Date: September 14, 15, 28, 2000

Language: English

Ephemera : photos

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript , 47 pp.

Abstract : Eunice, daughter of Nelson and Ruth Launer, recalls a large, close family with many aunts, uncles, and cousins in Fullerton ; growing up on the citrus ranch, including homemade amusements and groups she joined; clothing styles like the high school uniform in Fullerton ; and a miniature golf course her father and uncle built just before the Depression. Earl gives his family background and lists various laundries where his father was employed before developing his own Blu-White Cleaners in Fullerton . Both recall their early married years during the second world war with housing issues being the most critical. They fostered "family nights" with extended family, lived in several locations in La Habra and Fullerton , and shared association with USC (University of Southern California) among many family members. Describe retirement activities as well.

OH23a

Hellis, W. Bradford

"An oral history with Brad Hellis"

Interviewed by Barbara Metz

Date: May 20, 1968

Language: English

Ephemera : photos, manuscript

Project: Irvine/EI Toro Community, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript , 13 pp.

Abstract : Hellis discusses his long involvement with the Irvine ranch , beginning with a summer job as handyman and eventually retiring as vice-president and general manager some fifty years later. Describes dealing with squatters, field workers, and tenant farmers. Manuscript includes information on Hellis's earlier years, including surviving the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, and more detail on activities on the Irvine ranch.

OH 23b

Hellis, W. Bradford

"An oral history with Brad Hellis"

Interviewed by Stephen Gould
Date: April 24 and 30, 1970
Language: English
Ephemera : photos, manuscript
Project: Irvine/El Toro Community, Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript , 34 pp.

Abstract : First session includes comments on Irvine 's efforts to secure water for the ranch and formation of the Municipal Water District; development of Newport Harbor , Orange County Airport , and areas of urban growth on the ranch land; Irvine connections to Mdme. Modjeska, C. E. Utt, and Glenn Martin; various gun clubs in the area. Narrator gives some personal background information as well. Second session focuses on Arthur J. McFadden and the Irvine Valencia Growers Association, freeway alignment on the ranch land, and location of two military bases on the Irvine property. Manuscript includes information on Hellis's earlier years, including surviving the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, and more detail on activities on the Irvine ranch .

OH2393

Hilligass, Elizabeth Hewitt

"An oral history with Elizabeth Hewitt Hilligass"

Interviewed by Barbara Oldewage

Date: March 23, 1995

Language: English

Ephemera : photos, newspaper articles, recipes, letter, certificate

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript , 19 pp.

Abstract : Discusses Palmer, Hewitt, Gulich, Duggan and Clyde ancestors; grandparents witnessed burning of Chinatown in Santa Ana ; mother had a book business in 1929 and narrator lists titles of favorite books. Recalls summers in Laguna Beach , six-week train trip through U.S. , holiday celebrations. Lists members of Sigma Theta and Sigma Tau Pi sororities and gives brief history of Ebell Society. Describes Grand Central Market in Santa Ana and other businesses; early family cars; schoolmates, activities , and teachers. Worked at Daniger's Tea Room during World War II and survived a bomb scare in Wilmington , California .

OH128

Hodson, Ross

Hodson, Della

"An oral history with Ross and Della Hodson"

Interviewed by Esther Cramer

Date: February 16, 1963

Language: English

Ephemera : genealogy survey

Project: La Habra Valley , Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript , 19 pp., bound in *La Habra Pioneers* , vol. 3

Abstract : Ross and Della discuss coming to La Habra with their families and recall the families who lived in La Habra when they arrived. Ross describes farming, getting water, early

days of citrus, and growing avocados . They discuss education , their jobs as teachers, and impact of Farm Bureau. Recall community events, road improvement, and places they shopped. Explain role of W. J. Hole in selling land, and reasons for La Habra 's growth. Discuss their community involvement, growth of local Methodist Church , Depression's impact on La Habra 's growth, and fluctuation of property values.

OH58a

Huntley, William Martin

"An oral history with William Huntley"

Interviewed by Stephen Gould

Date: May 21, 1968

Language: English

Ephemera : photos, newspaper articles

Project: Tustin ; Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript , 56 pp.; bound with OH58b

Abstract : Recollections of the early citrus industry, including first local planting, Chinese packers at the Red Packinghouse and his nail invention for building boxes. Recalls early volunteer fire fighters and equipment, first policeman in town, and methods of discipline in local schools; city incorporation and opposition to that; dispute over Prohibition and its repeal. Describes water supply for the city of Tustin and local farmers, including SAVI Company; crops included peanuts, loquats and oranges. Huntley served as mayor and was on city council 12 years, drove bus for intercity travel between Tustin , Irvine , and Laguna Beach , and was a member of Knights of Pytheas. Discussed various businesses in town, their locations, predecessors and successors including bicycle shop, blacksmith, drugstore, and general store; comments on game market, real estate development, and the path of El Camino Real through town.

OH58b

Huntley, William Martin

"An oral history with William Huntley"

Interviewed by Jim Sleeper

Date: July 22, 1968

Language: English

Ephemera : photos, newspaper articles

Project: Tustin , Orange County Pioneer Council

Status: Complete transcript , 24 pp.; bound with OH58a

Abstract : The purpose of interviews in this project is to record memories of family life in Orange County in the early decades of the twentieth century. Historian Jim Sleeper shows photos to Huntley who identifies locations and people. Some brief stories on Woman's Christian Temperance Union, local newspapers, early citrus plantings and peanut growing, inventors and their creations, and Red Hill Mine. Also comments on reasons Tustin didn't grow quickly, competition with Santa Ana for Southern Pacific railroad line, and various early residents.