

Edited Typescript of an Interview with
Charles and Leila Hardy

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START OF TAPE 1, SIDE A

LH They bought the basket and made that so it would fit up as a lamp shade.

MMH Well now, who did that? The Indians?

LH No, we had to do it.

MMH You had to do it. I see. But you would buy the baskets from them...

LH Yea, we bought the baskets from them, and then some of our white folks would know how to kinda cut that thing out, with a little, round hole, and cover it, and that's what they used for the light bulb to go through.

MMH Kind of like with her little raffia. I thought the Indians had done it.

LH No, the Indians didn't. Well, maybe they showed them how to do it. I don't know.

MMH Did you have any like that?

LH No. no.

MMH Well, see, I just thought that it had worn out or

LH No, somebody did that. But look what I've got – I've got an Indian basket for a lampshade. They were characters, they really were. They were part of Lake Tahoe...in the beginning.

MMH They certainly were. Well, when did you first get to know them?

LH We came up here in nineteen hundred and eleven. The Indians were everywhere around here. You saw them out walking on the old roads.

MMH Did you stay at Homewood when you first came up, or did you stay at Moana?

LH Stayed at Homewood. Always we stayed at Homewood.

MMH And that was when Mr. Jost had it?

LH Yes. And the Josts built that outdoor dancehall-swimming pool – whatever you wanted to call it.

MMH Pavilion – or dance hall.

LH Anyway, but on the outside, it was cold, and I remember all we young ones wanted to get out and go dancing and running around and having a good time. The old folks wanted to sit in the hotel, where it was warmer.

MMH I can imagine. Did they have lanterns out around, hanging on that?

LH Yes. Paper ones.

MMH Japanese lanterns?

LH Yea, Japanese lanterns.

CH Do you remember Mrs. Jost's spring dance platform, with springs? I came up here in 1916, to the University of Nevada, and that's the first. And we used to play the Stewart Indian School football...in those days. And then along about the 15th of May, we'd come up here to Mrs. Jost's. We'd come with Malleys – you know they had Malleys – engines – in those days – big engines that we'd take. And we'd take the little narrow-gauge to Tahoe City, and then take the boat to Mrs. Jost's. And we'd dance in the evening with – seemed to me they had Japanese lanterns on the side.

LH They did.

CH We danced on that spring-board platform of hers.

MMH I don't remember the platform so much.

LH Oh, that's where we lived!

MMH Out here?

LH Right out there. And see, Carol. I mean, you've probably seen the pictures of that before.

CVE Yes, I have.

MMH See, that was gone by my time. But they had another place over here – they had another indoor place. Was there a dance hall across the street?

LH I don't remember.

CH Yea. It was right across the street.

LH ...with the Post Office? Was there a dance hall over there?

CH Right by the Post Office, yes.

LH A dance hall?

CH Yea. That dance floor, yes. As I recall it was there.

MMH That's fun. I didn't know for sure. Well, I know that...now where was the pier? The pier was here, then, too? Down here. Just where it always was.

LH Uh-huh. Right out there.

MMH Well, I remember that. And I remember when the Huffs came, and they put the porch out, and then had lunch with the umbrellas. And then everybody headed down there, just like we used to go to the Squirrel's Nest.

LH Uh-huh.

MMH You know, it was really the place to go.

LH Well, it was the only place we had.

MMH Well, you had Prusso's.

LH What's that? I don't even remember that.

CVE The Forest Inn.

MMH Yea, it was Prusso's before that. It was nice.

CH The Indians used to winter over at Gardnerville. That's where they used to go.

MMH That's right. That's what the man told us the other night.

CVE Where did the Indians stay, when they were at Tahoe?

LH They had a place up back of -

CH (Laughs) Indian Village.

LH Yea, in Indian Village, back up in the hills here. It wasn't right on the Lake. But I don't remember just where it was, 'cause we were not allowed to go there.

CH They changed, a lot of times. At Tahoe Pines, and then sometimes they had one right here. And then down at - Chambers always had 'em, because the tourists come down and talked to 'em and see 'em.

MMH Have you got any pictures, Char, of Susie?

CJ Yes, I'm going to get them right now.

MMH Yea. But - tell Carol about Captain Pete and Annie and Susie, when they used to come here.

LH The Indians - I don't know whether it was a habit that they had been born with or not, but they picked out somebody that was theirs. 'I won't touch yours, but don't you touch mine.' And Agnes and Pete decided this home was theirs. And you'd wake up in the morning, no matter what time - what day you got here or when. When you got up in the morning, Pete and Agnes were sitting out on the front porch, waiting for us.

CJ And Susie, too, Mother. She was another one we had. We have a lot of pictures of her with us, so I know.

LH Good. And we would love to come down, 'cause we wanted to see what they had. And they always had pine nuts. You could buy pine nuts from them.

CJ We came up here to buy the house in 1919. So you would have been about...20.

LH Martha, my sister, and I would come down and we'd get Mother to buy the pine nuts, and they'd hand out their baskets they had for us to see. And we always bought at least one from them, if not two or three.

CJ Here's some pictures of them, right here.

MMH They are wonderful pictures. I think they're the best ones I know of, Carol.

CVE They sure are. Uh-huh! Very nice.

CJ I think there's some on the next page, too.

MMH When did - I don't remember Susie so much, but

LH I don't remember Susie so much, either.

CJ We had an awful lot of pictures of her, so she was here quite a bit.

MMH Well, she must have been. With you kids, then, too?

CJ Um-hmm. 'Cause she's right there, with that -

MMH 'Cause I remember Captain Pete and Agnes, and I remember the name Susie, but I don't remember much.

LH I remember that one day - It was before I was married, I'm sure, but I saw Pete coming down the road on this funny old worn-out mule, coming along, and Agnes was walking beside him, leading the mule. And either my dad or Charles said to her, or to Pete, "Why you ride, and Agnes walk?" Oh, "Agnes got no mule."

CVE I guess they have a different way of doing things than we do.

LH They have their ways.

CH The Washoe Indians used to go in this back country. I went and worked for the Union Land & Cattle Company. You remember those people across from Monty's, there - what was their name? They got me a job with the Union Land & Cattle Company at Topaz. Out here at Topaz. You know, south of Gardnerville? What is the name of the - oh, gee, I

MMH Well, it wasn't Getchell, anyway.

CH No. Well anyway, they got me a job with Union Land and Cattle Company. And I got a job in the office – or in the store – and when I wasn't busy, why, I'd lock up the store and take the wagon with all the produce and stuff and take and go out to these camps, where these Indian herders – they were Washoe Indians.

MHH And they were herding sheep out there?

CH And they were herding sheep, yes, back of Yosemite there. And sometimes I wouldn't get back for days. And I'd eat their same grub. They'd cooked their grub, and I'd eat with them. And boy, I could ... took out as a team of horses went up there. And sometimes, lightening like they had the other day, it'd be flashing there. The sheep would get dispersed, and we'd have to try to keep coyotes from getting them. And we'd be out there with lanterns and things like that, trying to corral them into a certain spot. Sometimes it would rain like the devil. And then I recall some of those streams back there, back of Coleville, the stream's about this wide here, and you could go there and put a chickenwire net down, and herd the trout down with your hands – you could shovel them out. They were that thick. Oh, they were little fellas, you know, but you'd shift 'em out and then you'd cook 'em over a fire. That's how the Indians did.

MMH That was pretty good, to share that.

CJ Do you remember – they used to tell us when we were little, and I saw it once or twice myself – how the Indians would go down and wash their hair, and then they'd dry it with the rocks. They had very long hair, and they'd lay it down, and then go down to the beach and then put the hot rocks on top of it, to dry their hair.

LH But it was clean to them. It would get all the grease and everything else out of it. I don't know what. But they would wash some of their clothes down there, and then they'd lay all their clothes out on the rocks – the big rocks by the stream – to dry them.

MMH Well, when they camped over at my grandmother's house, do you remember whether they washed in the Lake – or did they wash in washtubs then?

LH No, they washed in the Lake, as far as I remember.

CJ I think she's right about that.

MMH Well, Mommy said they came and they did laundry, you know. And then they used to hang it out over there. And they camped for two or three days.

CH They went out in the Lake and washed it – no soap or anything else.

MMH I hate to tell you, I remember when we all did it.

LH Yea, no hot water.

CJ We were lucky.

MMH And when we went hiking, Granny used to say "Take the cake of soap and go down to the Lake." And it didn't make any difference whether it was a cold day or a hot day. You went down, and that's where you got your bath. Did your parents tell you about that?

CVE My father still takes a bath in the Lake every morning.

MMH He does? That's great!

CVE ...and we have some movies of my grandmother washing clothes on a rock down at the beach.

MMH Well, we used to take the rugs and all the blankets and Graddy'd say, "Oh, this is the way to get them clean." And we'd go down there and do things, and then lay 'em out on the rocks.

LH And they'd slap 'em around in the water, and then they'd find the biggest rocks they could find, and lay them across.

MMH Well, we didn't have detergent then. We just had soap, so it might have been a better thing, but we certainly did have soap in the Lake.

MMH Do you know which ones are the baskets you bought from them?

CJ I pretty well do, I think. Yea. 'Cause I've got them all labeled. 'Cause ours weren't very refined, compared to some of them. Here's some. Here's some of them, and I've got some more.

MMH She has a wonderful collection. Yea, she really has the best collection.

CJ Well, I didn't collect them. My mother and my aunt and grandmother did. I had nothing to do with it. These are all ones, unless you want to bring them over here.

MMH Yea. Carol, -

CVE Burden baskets. Uh-huh.

JSW Oh, I like those, that you tote 'em on the back of your - yea, I saw those.

CJ And then here's one that she had made for a lampshade, 'cause it has a hole in the middle. And I think this was one of the ones, too, but I can't take it down.

MMH This little cradle board?

CJ Now I'm not sure this is a Washoe one. I kind of question that. That wasn't their M.O., to have the bottle in there, as far as I know.

CVE No, apparently not.

CH When I went to the University of Nevada, I joined a fraternity, _____. And we wanted to go national, so we wanted to petition SAE - Sigma Alpha Epsilon - in _____ City. We sent it down to _____ City, and they denied our petition to SAE, because they said the Indians still wore feathers and war paint - just because we played the Stewart Indian School football. And then next year - next time - we had Senator Key Pittman.

MMH I remember Senator Pittman.

CH He was an SAE from Indiana. And so he went to the next convention. I don't remember where that convention was. But evidently he put the deal over for us.

MMH For heaven sakes. And so then you became part of the SAE house at the University?

CH Yea.

MMH You know Phyllis was related to Key Pittman.

CJ Oh, was she?

MMH Yea, and he was a very nice man – a good Senator.

CH The last one I remember was Oddie. You remember Oddie, don't you?

MMH Yea. Tasker Oddie. We used to go down to the Insane Asylum and have our dances down there with the sorority girls at the Insane Asylum.

MMH You were pretty frisky when you were at the University of Nevada.

LH He didn't let the grass grow under his feet. (all laugh)

MMH I think he had a pretty good time when he was there.

LH Yes, he did. He really did.

MMH I wanted to look at your baskets, compared to mine, 'cause I don't know...

CH Well, I just thought that Indian idea was interesting from a University point.

MMH Well, I do, too. Because I don't think there were too many Indians that were going to the University at the time.

CH No, there wasn't any Indians that we know. But they had a good Indian School – the Stewart Indian School.

MMH You know, the man that talked the other day didn't talk about Stewart at all, you know.

CVE No he didn't.

MMH And when I grew up – and I kind of kept wanting to ask him that, and then I forgot, at the end. But I wonder why he didn't – he maybe doesn't know as much about that. He's been spending so much time with the others.

CVE Yes. Speaking of the Oddie family, I understand they used to have a cruiser here at Tahoe.

LH I remember the name, and the fact of the cruiser. But what it looked like, or where it went, I don't know.

CVE Are there any members of the Oddie family still living in that area?

MMH Well, there's a nephew who lives in San Francisco. I'll think of his first name in a few minutes. But I don't know who would of – I know who bought their house. The Welsleys bought their house.

CVE Oh, uh-huh. I've been trying to track this cruiser down. It was entered in a 1935 regatta, and I've never been able to find out any more about it.

MMH Well, I'll tell you. He had a nephew, Alan Oddie, who lives in San Francisco. He talks about Tasker Oddie all the time. And he's probably 70.

MMH He was telling us that each basket maker had kind of a signature. That looks like one I have – a bigger one that I have at home. You've gotta look at that and see.

LH ...and it's made out of sturdier material than some of the others. Yours are more expensive ones, and these little more flimsy ones – they weren't so expensive.

CVE This is quite heavy – a very close weave.

CJ ...and those would have been more expensive.

CVE Yes, I'm sure.

CJ And then the Indians made that for me, when I was born. That little papoose was for my doll. They gave it to me and my mother.

MMH That's cute.

CJ They always put one basket... - had a big sheet, and they'd throw it over their shoulder. And they'd unwrap it, you know, from the biggest and it kept going down. And of course the pine nuts, too, were there.

MMH I don't remember Granny buying many baskets from them. At that point, she was widowed, and she probably wasn't spending an extra nickel at all.

CJ Well, Pattersons have a beautiful collection.

MMH Do they? Well, which Indians went to the Pattersons?

CJ I think Pete and Agnes went there, too, because he used to dress up Pete all the time in all the clothes he had left over from his haberdashery. Pete always came out in his bright orange shirts. And what they're doing with their baskets is that she's going to have them appraised, and then she's going to give them to the kids and make them pay for the appraisal. And I doubt whether anybody but Joanne or Jimmy will want them.

MMH Oh dear...

CJ Yea, I know it.

MMH Oh dear. Well, would she give them to – will the Museums be interested?

CJ I've already talked to John about that. It didn't seem to do any good. 'Cause they really had a very much better collection than we did. A much finer collection.

MMH He (Mr. Patterson) lived next door here.

CH He sold hats and men's clothing in Sacramento.

LH A lot of people didn't want to wear the coats. The pants were out of style or out of color, and so he'd give it to the Indians, and they were thrilled to death. Oh, they were the fanciest ones, going around the Lake, with all the nice clothes they got from him.

MMH Pete always had bright red shirts and suspenders.

CVE Did Agnes weave baskets here at Homewood, or

LH No, they went up to their village. They came down here to get some food, but mostly to sell their pinenuts and their baskets and get a little food they need, and go back up again.

CH I think they did most of it in Gardnerville, during the winter. And then they'd try to live off the tourists around here. They plied them pretty well, with their trinkets. They'd bring 'em out and want to sell them.

CJ We never really wanted the baskets. It was mainly just to be nice.

MMH Well, you know we gave a lot of baskets to the University of Nevada, and they disappeared.

CJ Oh my gosh. Isn't that a shame!

MMH We had them there to be appraised, and they just disappeared. They know what they were, and they just took 'em. And then Mother died, and then, you know, I never followed it up.

CJ Dat-So-La-Lee?

LH It certainly is. Did you – know – have any pictures of Dat-So-La-Lee?

CVE Yes.

MMH Here is Pearl.

CJ That was their daughter. I don't know whose daughter, but

MMH There's Annie and Pete – and Mary. I can remember Mary.

CJ Yea, and Mary's in there. And here's Mary again. Mary's in some of the other pictures I have, too. It doesn't list who that is, there.

MMH Did you ever hear of Pearl?

CVE No.

MMH Well, there she is.

CVE That would be an unusual name for a Washoe Indian.

LH Yea, it would.

CVE They probably never saw a pearl until the white man arrived.

LH They never did. They didn't have 'em out in the Lake.

CH Paiutes, yea. But these were Washoe Indians here.

MMH And I don't know. It may be that some of the Stewart Indians were Paiutes. You know. That's something else.

CVE I'm not sure.

CH You'd have to ask – maybe Alice could tell you that difference, because that's all her mother had for her Indian help.

LH That's all the help she had, in the house and garden. Most of them are Indians, too.

MMH And here they are in 1938. And here you and

CH Isn't there a big collection over there in Carson City? I know Mr. Cohn – he used to have Dat-So-Lat-See. He was her manager, and she was a squaw who took up a big part of this room, here. And she used to be up there at Tahoe City, there, and people - visitors - used to surround her while she was weaving baskets. She was a _____ - big, heavy, fat. She must've weighed at least three or four hundred pounds. You remember we used to go up there and look at her.

LH Yes, she sat in the tent. She used to sit on the rug in the tent – in the door of the tent, and you couldn't get around her. She just was there, and her baskets were around her.

CVE How did you happen to come to Homewood in the first place? How did you hear of it?

LH Well, it must've been through Mrs. Jost, some way.

CJ I thought you always said a Mrs. Coyle or somebody like that used to come up here with you.

LH Yes, Mrs. Coyle used to. And she had a tent right down here on the edge of the water, with the flaps open, and then she let the sun come in, in the morning, when it would finally wake her up, she get up and go take a swim, and come around and get back in bed again, and get warm, or else she'd get up for the day, but she loved it right down there on the water. That was Nellie Coyle, Charles.

CJ The kids were all into the racing.

MMH Junior Outboards. Yea, they can't do that anymore. It's too bad.

CJ Yea, it is.

MMH And this is when you were changing the house. Who owned this house before you bought it?

CJ A mortician from Sacramento.

LH Yea, a mortician in Sacramento. And it was in the fall of the year, and they'd been up here for a vacation. We had been, too, and we were getting ready to go home, and Mother said, "Oh, let's buy a home here, where we can come when we want to. We don't have to ask." And Dad said, "Oh, that's foolishness. We've got too much to do on the ranch." And then she argued with him, and they saw this place, and they bought it. And a month later they came to Dad and wanted to buy back.

...

CJ But, he bought another place first, or put a down payment on one, and then the man raised the price on him, so he headed down here and bought this one, instead.

CH What was that doctor's name that was up here. She was the only one. She was a chiropractor, was she, or just a G.P.

MMH Doctor Farmer?

LH Yes.

CH Oh, Mrs. Farmer.

LH Good for you, for

MMH Well, she was – she just seemed to me – she lived almost forever, didn't she?

LH Oh she did. She was really old.

MMH You know, I'm trying to think when that man showed us that picture (of the Indians), and he was trying to identify one. But they all had bandanas around their hair.

ALL Yea.

MMH And they all had wrinkles, and

CJ They were all overweight, and they were all, you know – they all looked alike.

LH Wrinkled face. Clumsy clothes and shoes. Big skirts.

MMH They giggled. I remember they giggled.

MH Yea. That's the way they talked.

CJ Right, exactly.

MMH But, I don't remember – Mary I remember, and Annie and Susie and Captain Pete. But Pearl is a new one to me.

CJ Well, I imagine that's correct, because it was written right on there at the time the picture was taken. And I took those out of some albums of mom's and dad's, that they had, and I put that together.

MMH Yea, that's fun. Well, we were trying to kind of get things kind of pulled together, 'cause I told Carol she's got to write the history of Homewood someday.

LH Oh, I hope so. I hope so.

CJ Did you tell her about the TAHOE steamer going by, Mother? And how to tell whether you had mail or not?

LH Oh, yes - on the TAHOE steamer. Every time they came in close here, the Captain of the Steamer knew my mother, and he'd say, "Oh, good morning, Mrs. Hecke. Oh, you better get down there. I've got some mail for you," or "I've got a package for you." And then we'd all scuttle down to the old Post Office.

CH Sam Neff, you mean.

LH Yes.

CH The Express agent.

MMH It was all very friendly.

LH Everybody knew everybody else by their first name, and what they did and what they didn't do.

MMH And everybody came by boat.

LH Yes.

MMH Your guests came by boat. Now what about Ed Cole? Did he really bring the things down? They called him Ed the Porter. Did he bring trunks down?

LH Oh, he brought things from the Valley, for people that wanted it. Something ordered - they bought pieces of furniture or -

CJ He didn't believe in taking a bath, though.

LH Oh no. He didn't take a bath. And he collected everything - even egg cartons. I used to want to burn up our egg cartons, and Mother would say, "No, 'cause Ed wants that."

MMH I used to go in and look at all the McLaughlin sisters sleeping in a tent. They used to see us peeping in at him. That's one of the stories they tell.

CH We were here when Athertons used to come around twice a week - solicit one day for groceries. Solicit groceries, you remember?

LH Yes, they came -

MMH Athertons. Yea. I remember when they used to get delivered. I remember that. And I have a vague feeling that we used to have a laundry man, which would be wonderful. Remember that?

LH I can't remember that we ever did.

CJ I don't think we ever did.

LH I think Dad put the first washtubs right out there on the back porch – just a level platform and two washtubs.

CH When you first came here, he used the ordinary great big tub and the scrub board.

CH Then he got a stationary tub on the back porch there.

LH And for a long time, our 30-gallon washtub – tank – was out there, and we had it wrapped in rugs so that once it got warm, it stayed warm. And the sun shone more there than anyplace else. So we had some hot water to wash dishes and our hair.

CH The woodstove in this corner of the room.

LH Wood stove.

CVE Well, that was before electricity came to the West Shore, too, I guess, wasn't it?

LH Oh, when we had electricity, I can remember this string hanging down in the middle of the room, and we almost worshipped it, we were no thrilled to have that electricity.

CVE Did Arnold Luneman deliver milk to this neighborhood?

CJ Not to my knowledge, or in my memory, maybe.

CJ He probably didn't to us. Maybe he did to other people, but not to us.

MMH Well, I don't remember that either. But now when would he have been – Carol?

CVE Oh, I guess in the early 20's, anyway. Probably up to 1930 or so.

MMH I remember Bill Johnston and his yodeling, out on the lake.

CJ I do remember Bill Johnston.

LH He was kind of long and tall – a slim man.

CH Yodel. You could hear him echo against the rock – what did they call that?

LH Echo Hill.

CH Echo Hill. You could hear him. He get out there on Mrs. Jost's pier and he'd yodel. It was – beautiful.

MMH Yea, I can remember him. I can remember the store. I really just wish some -

CH Can you remember that little cubic – rectangular store? Dark?

CJ Yea, real small.

MMH With the skins hanging down all over the place, and the traps – those horrible traps, you know, that -

(All talking at once – no statement intelligible)

LH You could buy skins of any kind from him.

MMH Yea, I think you could've. And then he had coyotes in a pen.

LH Oh, I'd forgotten about that. He did.

MMH Well, he had coyotes in a pen outside, you know. They'd howl sometimes, when ...

LH Um-hmm. We'd go and look at them, 'cause we hadn't seen a coyote up here at all, strange to say.

LH People who had homes here, they didn't care very much about the yard, or left it alone. They never could get the Indians to work, 'cause you never saw the Indians out working around the house. They didn't want to work.

MMH Well, they must have done some laundry for us, because I can remember Mother telling about that. But not after I came along. It must have been before I was born, and I had the feeling it was like Spring Cleaning – blankets that they had to open up, and whatever. But you know that could have been even before you bought the house, 'cause ours was built in 1906.

LH I don't remember when this one was built. Do you, Charles?

CH No, I don't.

CJ You said about 1914-15, you always said.

LH Something like that.

CJ But it was shortly after it was built.

LH Of course we had an old iron stove. And I don't think we had anything else modern in the house at all, and some homemade beds to sleep in.

CVE Well, I think most people enjoyed more primitive circumstances in those days than they do now.

LH To get away, and get to beautiful Lake Tahoe, and get away from the valley and regular things they had to do, and they loved it getting up here. Even if it did take you two days sometimes to get here.

CH Tell 'em how we used to pack the automobile.

LH Well, you tell that, 'cause you had to do it.

CH Yea. In those days, they had runningboards, you know, you stepped on. A sack of potatoes, and some onions, and I'd have sugar and flour, and all the stuff.

LH A sack of all of it came up.

MMH And you'd leave those on the runningboards when you came up?

LH We tied 'em on.

CH We packed so much to bring up, you know, we just put 'em on the runningboards, you know. It took us about seven or eight hours to come up from the ranch. We used to come through tunnels and around great big boulders the size of – well, the size of this room here, you know. You'd zigzag around through there. You remember that.

MMH Well, see, we – when I was little, we came from Reno, and I don't remember much going, except by train.

CH Up at the snowsheds there, they had an accident up there one time. And I used to get Leila to always get out and look and see if the Malley was coming through. You couldn't see the smoke through the snowshed.

LH And it wasn't straight, it was crooked.

CH It wasn't straight. And then you'd go down that Donner Grade there – zigzag down that grade there. I remember I had a Model T when I went down there, and I used to tie a log behind her, to hit, so it wouldn't burn out my brakes. You remember they had three little pedals? Those Model T's? And I carried this log in back, to kind of hold me back.

MMH (Laughs) I wish I'd had one the other day, when my Mercedes blew up on the way up. Thank God I was going uphill.

CH All you needed was a screwdriver and a monkey wrench. What's this other hill here, back of South Tahoe. Oh, it had a name there.

All Tallac?

CH Back of that mountain – it went down to Placerville.

CJ Mount Tallac.

CH No, no. The Roadway.

CVE Echo Summit?

CH We used to have to take that Model T and back – reverse – up, because the tank was up on top, you know, up on the windshield, and we'd have to reverse up that hill, until we got up the hill, and then where we'd turn around, and then go on. (Laughs).

MMH Was that at Echo Summit, or

CH Echo Summit. That's it. Right where it stops – Meyers Grade.

TAPE FOOT # 504 delete comments directed to JSW, "little lady" to about FOOT #545

CH Wasn't there a big Indian village right where the parking lot is, by where the shopping mall is – that first shopping mall. Where the parking lot is, I think there used to be a Indian village there.

CVE I think you're right. And then there was one, I guess, near Meeks Bay, and one in Carnelian Bay, also.

CH Come to think about it, yes. Gee, you're bringing back old memories.

LH The Indians – this was their lord and master – this was their land. We took it from them. And we did.

CVE Yes, we certainly did. Although I guess in some respects, they had it easier at Tahoe than they had before the white man came, when they had someone to trade with, and someone to earn money by working for. But there's no denying we took their land.

LH Yes. Yea, we took their land, but they made life a lot easier for the white man.

CVE Yes.

? They did?

CVE I understand that the bucks split quite a bit of wood for some of the resorts.

LH I heard. Somebody told me, now, and that reminds me that somebody had said to me, "Where do you get all of that wood?" "Oh, we have the Indians chop that for us." So they got some money for that. They probably didn't get more'n 75 cents or a dollar a day. That was a lot of money for them.

MMH That was a lot of money in those days.

LH Sure it was.

CH Haven't you got a book around here with – that old ancient book about that Tally-Ho. The women used to have the straw hats and the ribbons and the robe, the dust was so thick on the roads. When you'd come up here in a car, you just be in a cloud of dust, churning the dust up terrible.

LH I believe I do remember that, but I'll have to look and see.

LH It was about traveling in the mountains and getting here, and about the Indians and some of the early pictures.

CH Stagecoach, you know. Stagecoaches come through here.

MMH Did you ever come up by train?

CJ No.

MMH I never did either. I always wanted to. I met people at that train, and that always seemed, you know, to come off ... glamorous.

CH It was just about like the one that went to Carson City from Reno.

MMH I remember the V & T, 'cause my grandfather always called that the "Banana Special", and we'd go and watch it, 'cause it was yellow. It was wonderful.

LH I remember why they built the tunnels, and didn't make them right straight through, but they curve around in the mountain.

MMH But the cars didn't drive in the same tunnels as the trains, did they?

LH No, but the railroad train came out of it, and the highway came right over it. Where the tunnel ended, the highway right there began.

MMH I see. So that you really couldn't see a train.

LH No, you couldn't see it until it – you could hear it, but you couldn't see it.

MMH I would think you could hear it, but if – your cars must've made a lot of noise.

LH They did. They made plenty. But, there was lots of trees and lots of birds and lots of animals, and lots of noise around – that kind of noise.

MMH Where did you stop for lunch?

CJ? We took it with us.

CH Sandwiches. Anything you could pick up. Yea, there'd be a sandwich and a cup of coffee, or something – or what you had.

CH We always used to stop at Newcastle and get fruit when we came up during the summertime. There was always the fruit houses there. Used to be packing sheds, but you don't see 'em anymore.

LH No. They packed that early fruit up here.

CH And we'd bring the Indians fruit, things like that.

LH We brought 'em the dried fruit.

CH Yea, we brought 'em prunes and raisins up here.

LH ...and apricots.

MMH Did you grow apricots on your ranch? Or do you grow

LH No, we did. We have only one apricot tree now.

MMH Oh that's lucky. There's nothing like home-made – homegrown – apricots.

CH Changing times, Peggy... (Laughs)

MMH Yea, yea. Lots of changing times.

CVE In 1914, John McKinney was still around, I guess? At McKinney's?

LH Now that you say it, he was around at that time, 'cause of McKinney's down there, named for him.

CVE Do you remember anything about him?

LH Nope. I'd even forgot about him, 'til you brought him back.

CVE Well you know, I've found it to be the case, and it was certainly true in our family, that when we came to Tahoe for the summer, we stayed home. Or we went as far as we could walk.

LH Yea. You weren't allowed anyplace else. Well, there wasn't anything else to do, and your family didn't think you were safe all by your self, any further off (than) that.

CH Well, we used to go up Ward Creek, way up there.

LH Yea, we went there. That was back of McKinney's. And the Indians – once in awhile we'd meet an Indian or two coming down. They saw us coming, and everybody'd go get off the path ... (let us) go through or wherever we were going, they didn't bother us.

CVE Do you think it was because they were frightened, or was it a sign of respect, or

LH I think there was a "Oh, these damned old white men, taking our place up here. Get yourself out of the way so they can get going." That's what they thought. Now I don't know. They never told me.

CH What was that eye trouble they have? You know

CJ Glaucoma.

LH Yea, glaucoma.

CH Oh, Agnes and Pete had that – eye trouble.

MMH I remember Pete having his cataracts, because I remember that time he told Nancy Shurtleff and me he took it off with a safety pin. I mean, as I said, I simply couldn't have made that up, but I can just see it. She had a little Ford, with a – and you know, she may remember, if she were around, but she had a cute convertible Ford, that I thought was wonderful. She probably didn't back me into a post.

CJ No, she probably was nice to you.

MMH No, she wasn't any nicer to me than I was to you, but I used to think she was the Cat's Meow, I'll tell you. She had a blue canoe, and my grandmother used to tell me I couldn't go down and get the mail in that canoe, so I'd come down about just this far, and Nancy'd come in and pick me up.

CJ That's why today my name is not Nancy, because my mother was going to name me Nancy when she was pregnant with me. My grandmother says, "You couldn't possibly name your child after a canoe!" So that's why I'm not Nancy.

MMH Oh dear, well it's funny. Well, I just thought that maybe Mrs. Hardy could add to your knowledge.

LH Now, see, I haven't added one bit. I've been -

CVE Oh yes, you have.

MMH Every little bits of knowledge of people who remember helps, because

CJ Too bad you can't talk to - have you ever talked to Don and Bernice Huff? They're really good about it.

CVE Yes, in fact, they were my very first interview. And they talked at some length, and really gave me an education.

CH They kinda cultivated those Indians.

CH They were real good to 'em.

MMH Well, they did a lot. They were the first ones to really come in and make something of Homewood. They added the class.

LH I'm sorry they sold it.

MMH Oh boy, so am I.

MMH Well, I think hotels are kind of hard to manage.

CJ Yes, they're very passe today.

MMH Yea, they probably would've had an awful lot of headaches, had they kept it, but it was so nice.

MMH They did a wonderful job.

END OF TAPE 1 – SIDE A

START OF TAPE 1 – SIDE B

MMH ...restaurant, and I remember we used to go down there once in awhile and get meat.

LH No, I don't remember that. But I remember there was just this one room, and it smelled so funny, 'cause it had all these carcasses hanging up around the walls.

MMH Well, that could have been it.

CVE Did the Athertons, then, bring you meat, or how did you get meat?

CH We just had that old ... refrigerator out there. You know, the big sack with water.

LH Yes, those old refrigerators. That was our refrigerator, in those days. And we would come up, leave in the morning. Did we make it in one day, Charles?

CH We could make it in one day. We got up real early in the morning, you know?

CH Were you here the year the wasps were so bad, they were stinging everybody around this area? The wasps and the ants, you know. We used to have those big mounds. You remember those big mounds the carpenter ants used to make?

MMH Well, we seem to get them in the house now.

CH We used to have 'em in the yard here.

LH Oh, Charlotte, they bit, they bit. They never stepped out. One died for you. It was right up under the eaves here. Is it a yellowjacket or a wasp?

CVE That one is a wasp.

MMH I think it was a wasp.

CVE But I've noticed we've had yellow-jackets at our house for about the last three days.

MMH Yea, we have, too.

CH Well anyway, people used to be crazy about it. I went and got some canned sardine fish, and I went down to the drugstore and got some arsenic – just a little powder of arsenic. You could buy it down there then. And I sprinkled it in the cans, and I nailed the cans way up high, so the dog wouldn't get it. I got rid of them, alright, around here.

MMH Well you know, it's probably a great idea, because I don't know what kind of poison they put in these trap-things that you buy, but if they get it and take it back to their nest, you can get rid of them, if you get those traps out at the right time.

CH They were stinging the children something terrible.

CJ Oh, it was terrible.

LH I would say, "Charles, I can't take the children outside."

CJ We'd walk down to the beach and we'd get stung – our feet would get stung. They'd be along the beach, 'til if you'd just be sitting down, you'd get stung. It was a terrible year, that one year.

MMH I wonder why we -

CH Have they ever had Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever? You know, the chipmunks are so thick around here. I used to feed 'em by hand. They'd come right up to you.

MMH Well, I think there was a lot of danger of it, and there probably still is, because last year – two years ago – if you found a dead squirrel or found a dead bat, they were kind of asking you to take it in, or call somebody.

CH Well, when you go down the road, they run across the road in front of you, just like squirrels do. But the Forest Department came – about what year was that? – about 19 ... 32, they came through here and poisoned 'em – poison grain they put out, all around here, for the chipmunks.

MMH There was one really very bad period where they did have – where they just called it bubonic plague.

CH Didn't they have a breakout of Rocky Mountain Spotted fever over at – bubonic plague.

MMH Over at Cal-Neva, in Nevada. Um-hmm

CH I forget now, but I remember the forest rangers coming all through here and putting out poison..

MMH I didn't know that that's what they did – putting out poison.

CH Oh yes. They put it out early, before the campers, when the people – tourists – came up here.

MMH With their animals.

LH You told us about – after I had the family, I stayed here for a month, and Charles would come up on weekends. And then he'd always bring food with him, when he came. In those days, it didn't take you all day to get here in a car.

MMH Well, we used to go – remember? – we used to go to Truckee, about once in awhile, to do a big marketing. And then that wonderful place at Tahoe City that burned down – the old Mercantile - Tahoe Merc.

LH That's where we used to get our groceries.

MMH That was as big deal, to go up to Tahoe Merc.

LH That was too bad. That was a big loss around here.

MMH Yea.

CVE I understand they had a soda fountain in the Mercantile?

CJ Oh yes.

MMH They had a soda fountain at Obexer's

CJ Oh they did. They had a soda fountain in the drugstore there.

CVE Now where was the drug store located, in relation to what's there now?

CJ The back of the market was the drugstore.

CVE Oh, back beyond the meat department?

CJ Yes. Uh-huh. And then the Post Office was right there – you know, where you walk down to the water? The Post Office was the first little building there.

MMH It was right there on the side.

CJ Um-hmm. On the side, right - faced the road.

CVE Is that building still standing?

CJ No, they closed that all – it's all been closed up.

MMH It's kinda changed.

CH Don't forget, Charlotte, that place you youngsters used to go down to – that Hut? They used to go up there and dance and sometimes have soft drinks, and sometimes a little better. Yea. They were crowding their age limit. I know my boy was crowding his age limit. ... They were carrying false cards. They weren't 21. I think that's when you couldn't give a kid strong liquor. But I think that they used to go up there, a lot of those families.

MMH Well, the Brandenburgs down here?

CH Brandburgers. That's the name, yea.

MMH But wasn't that Mrs. Stoln's (SP) old house?

CJ Now that I don't know. I just remember when it was Brandenburgs, when I was growing up.

CVE Mrs. Hardy is 81 years older than you are.

CJ She was 90 yesterday.

MMH And you've been coming up here a good part of that time.

LH Every year, I don't think we ever missed a time

CVE What other families owned property along the lakeshore here when you first arrived?

LH The McLaughlins were here. And Peggy – MacMasters. And then Mrs. Callender lived down this way – could be where McConnell's is now. We used to call her The Old Grey Mare. And I sort of lost track about anybody else.

LH Well, Jack Patterson built the house next door.

CJ They built the house in 1930.

MMH Well, let's see. The Holabirds were here. Remember, Mrs. Prentiss first.

LH Yes, I remember Mrs. Prentiss.

MMH And then the Holabirds. And they came from Pasadena. They were next. And that house is still there. And I think the Skinners maybe would have been here. And they're from down in valley somewhere, and which valley I'm not sure. ... because the Wheelers used to rent there, so they may be from Stockton. But the Holabirds. Then there was the Royal Millers.

LH Yes, I remember that name, now that you bring it up.

CJ Of course McConnells.

MMH McConnells. And that was always the original McConnell. That was McConnell Tract. McConnell.

CVE This is all McConnell Tract in here.

MMH And there were the Saunders. When they built that house – the Saunders from Marysville – that was after the Huffs took over the hotel. Because they made a big splash when they came. I remember they came and really fixed the house up so nicely, and put that platform out by the beach, painted it gray and had an awing on it. And the boys used to water-ski a lot, and for young girls, that was a pretty attractive-looking place.

CJ It sure was.

MMH They were too old, and they didn't pay any attention to the likes of me, and probably not to Char, either, at that point.

MMH But I don't know how much older they were than me, but then came World War II, you see, and so I – I don't know what happened after that, with all those young people. But there were an awful lot of people at that party the other night that I had seen as kids up here.

CH When did Jake Obexer arrive here? What's the history of him.

CJ You probably know.

MMH Carol probably knows a lot more than I do, but Thelma Schaumley (SP) always said that – Thelma Shumann (SP) always said that her father talked Jake into coming here.

CJ Now Edna told us the other day – we took her to lunch – that Jake came up because he was a waiter in San Francisco, and he came up to cater a party, and someone from San Francisco talked him into staying. That's what she told us.

MMH And that's where he met her, yea. Well, I know that he must have been a waiter, because he told me that he was a waiter on Long Island, and in a fancy club, and he said, "You've gotta be nice to the kids up here, because they're gonna grow up and own the boats next." And he was telling that to _____, and he was beginning to get on, and Herb, (his son), was taking over, but he said, it's very important that you have to – and he told me about some club, and he had been a waiter, apparently.

CJ He was from Austria, originally.

MMH He would've helped, if something was loose out in the water. He was a lot nicer than Dave Chambers. Dave Chambers used to be – he used to swear at us kids, if we were –

CJ Jake did swearing, too, though. I can remember.

MMH Yea, but not at us.

CVE Do you remember Walter Hobart, who was the man that Obexer bought the property from?

LH I remember the name, but that's all I can remember.

CVE He had a big boat called the ORANGE BLOSSOM.

CJ I'm sure you've talked to Edna

CVE No, I really haven't. I did interview Herb a number of times, but only on tape very briefly. In fact, we had just gotten to the point where I think I had gotten his confidence, and he allowed me to copy his photo collection, and had arranged a little get-together with some of the people he had gone to elementary school with, and there were several at that gathering who were reluctant to be on tape, so we didn't do any taping. But as we all left, he said, "Well, we'll have to do this again, and I'll meanwhile convince these people to let us tape it." And then, less than a month later, he died.

CJ Edna's really very knowledgeable, I think, though, 'cause she heard it all, and the mind is very good.

CVE Oh, I'm sure she is. I've been reluctant to contact her, because I had heard that she was having quite a hard time with Herb gone.

CJ She'd doing very well now.

MMH I think maybe she might be interested.

CJ I think she'd be very happy to do it. I really think she would. Because my husband's her attorney, and she talks to him all the time about different things like that, and seems to really like to, depending upon how she feels that day. But when we took her to lunch, she couldn't have been more delightful. I think this might be a good time.

CVE Oh, well good. I'll pursue that, then. I thought I'd not bother her.

MMH And there may be even more things than what you saw, and she might be willing to..

LH When we go home, Charles and I will go through our photo books, and see if we might have some pictures that might be interesting, and if so, send them up to Peggy

...

digressions starting about 175

CH Peggy, who was that banker up here, and her son went to Stanford, and he use to

MMH The Ehrmans.

CH The banker.

CJ Ehrmans?

MMH You know, Ehrman from San Francisco? Wells Fargo Bank?

CH He had a son on the Stanford team, and I used to see him running up and down here, practicing, getting ready for the football season.

MMH I don't remember that. That may have been before my time.

CH Yea, I think it was.

MMH Fleishhacker?

CH Fleishhacker. Yea, that's the name – Fleishhacker.

MMH That could have been it. Herbert Fleishhacker. Down here.

CVE One more person I didn't think to ask you about is Martin Lowe.

LH Martin Lowe?

CVE He was an old derelict type of person, who used to apparently dive for coins and so forth on the pier?

LH No, never heard of him. Did you remember him, Peggy?

MMH Well, he was mixed up with Bill Johnston in some way, at one time. Well, maybe just buying booze. But Mother said, "Oh, I can remember Martin Lowe!" and then everybody would laugh and giggle about what he did. But he used to – they'd throw things off the TAHOE, and he'd dive for it. And it didn't make any difference what temperature the water, I guess.

LH Or what time of day. He did it.

MMH I don't remember how he died, but it was something to do – rowing someplace, it seems to me?

CVE No, I think he died in the county hospital in Auburn.

...

MMH Oh, maybe he did. ... Well, he was kinda pickled. I think he stayed pickled most of the time.

CVE That's what I understand. He was still – the first summer that my grandparents came here, which was 1920, he was sort of a caretaker at Meeks Bay, and we have a picture of him with my aunt and one of my uncles, standing barefoot, with a long, scraggly beard and an old slouch hat.

MMH He could come back today and look just fine.

MMH Mother – see, my mother would be – this is 1988, so she'd be 99. ... So she was almost ten years older than Mrs. Hardy, and so, you know, she could have remembered some people that would've gone by the time – or moved down to Meeks Bay. But he was here at Homewood.

CH Don't forget Ed Cole.

MMH Ed Cole, yea. I remember Ed Cole.

CJ I do too. You told us, always, to stay away from him. So we'd sort of run by and would go around the house. ...we had many stories about Ed Cole.

CVE Was he here when you first started coming?

LH Yes. Um-hmm.

CH Ed Cole was an old-timer.

MMH He was there when – my mother, too. She said he used to bring their trunks down.

LH Yes, he would. And he'd do things for people.

CJ He never changed his clothes. I remember that, though. And I remember Carl Schmidt, who used to paint for us, and paint at Homewood Resort. And Ed was hitch-hiking. He lived – he had a place in Oakland, or he'd go down to Oakland sometime, in the wintertime. And so Carl picked him up, put him in a car and he got as far as Truckee, and he finally says, "Ed, you smell like a civet cat. When you take a bath, you can go the rest of the way. Get out." He said, "I couldn't stand it." Now that was Carl Schmidt, telling me this story.

LH No, Ed never did, and I don't think he ever had a bed to sleep in. He just slept wherever he found a place to sleep.

MMH Well, I think he slept upstairs,

LH Well, I think he did, for awhile.

MMH ...in what is the garage. And there was a pump there, unfortunately. Unfortunately, it became a commercial piece of property, which is just too darn bad.

MMH But he did have sort of a pump out there. And I don't know. I kind of suspect that – I have a feeling that maybe with the Wheeler boys, I might have peeked in those windows.

MMH I kinda think that maybe we did. We keep saying we weren't too –

CJ Those were all with the neighborhood gang. I mean, I never went by myself. If you thought I was going to peek in there by myself, you're crazy! But when we had enough kids around, we would peek in at Ed Cole and run away fast.

MMH No, but I suspect that John and Short and I had a look in there. We kind of roamed around and looked in pretty much everything. And you used to just come and call, I mean, you know, as kids. We really weren't bad, I don't think, at all. I'd go see Mrs. Voorhees. My grandmother used to get quite upset about that. She didn't like Mrs. Voorhees.

CH Don't forget Old Mantifel across the street here.

MMH I don't remember. What was his name?

CH Mantifel. The people who started the English Village. Mantifel, yea. He was quite a character, believe you me. That's recent years, though.

MMH That was about the time I went away to boarding school, and then the War came, and we weren't here as much. And then did Ben Callender have that for awhile?

CJ I don't think so.

CH We came back and – I forget that real estate man's name. He offered the whole thing (Meeks Bay) for \$40,000.

CVE Fred Kilner, probably. Was it Fred Kilner?

CH I can't remember that realtor's name. Her father and I went down. I didn't have a nickel, at that time. I was lucky to be able to get up here.

CJ Kilner? Was it Fred Kilner?

MMH Kilner. K – I – L – N – E – R.

CH Well, the name I can't remember now. I wasn't interested, because I didn't have anything to invest in those days. But I know her sister wanted to buy this place over there across the street, and your father wouldn't let her do it.

MMH Martha wanted to buy the Swiss Lakewood Lodge, known as the "English Village" at that time.

CVE Do you remember "El Campo"?

CJ Yea, isn't that what this place over here was called, across the street – Bill Johnston's?

CVE Orsi and Johnston were partners in that.

CJ Yea, I remember it was El Campo, and they used to have a dance there, too, I think.

CVE wouldn't know.

MMH I kind of think they did, Char.

CJ But it was kind of a rough place. We kids weren't able to go there.

MMH Oh boy, I wasn't allowed there. Either there or The Hut.

MMH We were not allowed to go to The Hut!

CJ Oh, The Hut was OK in my day. You were much older.

MMH My grandmother had a thing about that Hut. Well, because I guess they used to have so many wild parties that even the Breuners, you know, complained so much.

CJ Oh, they did. The neighbors hated that place.

LH Yes.

MMH And so Granny wouldn't let me go to The Hut. They didn't sell sodas.

CJ No, they didn't sell sodas.

CVE I understand that was a good place to go after a dance.

CH Oh, it was. That was a rendezvous for the young people.

MMH Well, it probably was for you, but by that time, I was out of the nest. Although we came here, we never went anywhere, except we could go to the Tavern.

CJ Oh, yea. We always went to the Tavern to go to the movies and bowling.

LH We had to know where our children went.

MMH Those were the days when you did.

LH I wasn't hard to find out.

CVE Not so many places to go, then, either. And if you went to the wrong place, there was probably someone there who would know you.

MMH My family would never let me go down to south Tahoe, to Bijou.

CJ Mother didn't want me to go there, either. I sneaked a few times.

MMH I was never allowed. But I remember then when the Stephenson (SP) boys came along, who were quite a bit younger than I was, and the Stephensons (SP) were very strict, and they were allowed to go, I thought that was the end of all ends.

CJ Mother and Dad used to always worry about the hairpin turns.

MMH Well, I guess that was one of the worries. They just didn't give me all the reasons. I just couldn't go. That's all there was to it. (Laughs). Too far.

LH Probably didn't miss too much.

MMH It was alright. We had so much to do right here. We used to play Kick-the-Can and whatever. But we did go down to the Tavern a lot, and bowling and to the movies. It could only be on Friday and Saturday, though, I think.

CJ It was, you're right.

MMH Maybe one Wednesday night.

CJ One Wednesday night. I think you're right. I think they did have movies Wednesday. They had movies Wednesday night down at Homewood. It was all outside.

CVE Oh, that was Mr. Ambrose's operation.

CH Was that who it was? It was across the street from the hotel.

CVE Well, you know Mr. Ambrose was still around when I was growing up, and he was still showing movies at Meadow Park. They had an outdoor showing there.

MMH Well, I can remember it was pretty exciting, because I was just sixteen, seventeen. Going down. You'd wear a coat, and go down and sit outside.

CVE Well, this theatre in Homewood was an outdoor affair, also.

CJ Have you talked to Howard Turner, by any chance?

CVE I haven't interviewed him, but I know him fairly well. I do talk to him once in awhile – usually about boats, though.

CJ Yea, right. I was going to say he's probably more into the boats. But he's a good source.

MMH He remembers the same things you do, 'cause he's more your age.

CVE Well, I was lucky enough to interview Alice Matthews a few years ago, on tape.

CJ Oh, good. Oh, that'll be great you got her, because she's a world of information.

CVE Uh-huh. Unfortunately, her recollections in the early days were not so much of Tahoe, but she had some fascinating stories – one about going to visit the Panama Canal when it was under construction, and walking down in the bottom of the canal.

CVE She had visited as a child, but didn't remember anything of real significance. It was interesting, you know. But again, it was the same thing of you know your own little area, but beyond that, you really can't comment.

MMH It was sort of the Sacramento flat thing. I gave Carol's got those photogravure things that I have, and she's going to rephotograph them, and then we have to reframe them. Because they – really, giving the lot prices, I think, is so marvelous – for all of those lots. But the thing I remember – ad I don't know whether you remember this. But my grandmother used to go calling. And she had some friends like the Tuckers. And the Tuckers lived up at Tuck-Haven, at the other end. And so you would go, and that was the day that you went to the Tuckers. And that was arranged, and you went calling. Then there would be a time when the Tuckers would come to see us. And that's your good friend.

CJ Rich Lowe.

MMH Rich Lowe.

CJ His mother was a Tucker.

MMH Oh, and what's Rich's mother's first name?

CJ Alice.

MMH Alice Lowe. Now she was a good friend of my mother's. And so that usually when Mother came up, that would be the day we'd go to the Tuckers. But then there would be another day that you would go to – I remember there was somebody named King, that lived up not too far from the Tavern. I think the people that built the Tavern –

CJ Williamson.

MMH ...bought that house. But it was E.L. King or something. And they had big – they had a big old Chris-Craft – or, GarWood. And that was sure special, because they'd take me for a ride once in awhile. And it's something that nobody seems to know about, but Jane King married one of the Metcalf brothers, and neither one of them – I mean, they sort of – I don't know why, but they're on the outs. They either had fights about money or something, and they live in Los Angeles. But I thought they were both dead, and somebody told me the other day no, not at all. They were very much alive, and they'd been to her wedding. And this was back East. And I was so surprised to hear this. But I remember that the Kings' was a place we'd go. Then you'd go over to Brockway for lunch one day.

CJ I think you were much more social than we were.

MMH Well, Granny had those friends from Pasadena, and they lived somewhere else. "Cause she lived in really, three different places. Then we would go to Glenbrook once And that was sort of a big thing. Then we went down to Reno, and that was always terrible, because it was so hot...and I had to go home. But those were – and then I can remember Granny – she had a cape. And she'd put that cape on – kind of a gray cape. It was like we'd put on a sweater. And she'd sit out on the porch with her hat and, by golly, she'd receive. And the other place we'd go was down to see Mrs. Briggs and Phoebe. And Phoebe always wore black stockings – Phoebe McClatchy. I remember that for sure. She always wore black stockings. Well, Bev has a whole truck full of those things, that Mrs. Bills had. I think she's got Mrs. Bills' bathing suit. And every so often, they get them out. The mice got into our old trunk, that had those old bathing suits. And some of the old capes – there was one that was used to sit around on the lawns, you know, when we had wienie roasts outside, on the beaches. And we had one cape that had a hood lined with red on the inside and camel hair on the outside. We had it for years. And when it got really cold, then Granny'd always get that out. But the squirrels got in one year – it's the only time, knock on wood, we ever had anything, but they got in and really did damage.

CH Peggy, they used to have a lot of wienie bakes along the beach.

MMH We did, and you know, that's too bad kids can't have that anymore.

CJ And we'd swim in the moon path.

MMH Yea, and we'd shiver and shake, roast marshmallow, and

CJ Come back and get warm by the bonfire.

LH Yea, I remember that.

MMH It was fun.

LH I didn't do it, but Charlotte did.

CJ Oh yea, you were there, too.

LH But I mean we didn't go in the water.

CJ Oh yea. No, but I did.

LH I didn't see how she could stand it, but she did.

CJ I did.

MMH You know, sometimes it's almost warmer at night, because there's not that much contrast.

CJ Yes, it is. That's right.

CVE That's right, although if you tried to have a bonfire on the beach now, you'd have the fire Department down here in a matter of

CH Oh yes, you sure would.

...

MMH Do you remember Mrs. Voorhees or Senator Voorhees or any of them? I remember her being tall and thin. And I don't ever remember her much coming down to the beach, but I do remember she cut down a tree in front of our house, and it was a blue spruce, and my grandmother was steaming mad,

LH I don't blame her.

MMH ...because – and she said, you can just look right up, and tell why it was cut, because she wanted the view. ... from Martha McLaughlin's porch. But she was a funny lady. There was no question about it. But I remember going up there and calling on her and talking to her, but I don't think I was supposed to. Well, I was going to tell Carol – and probably off the record – but you know the McLaughlins, I think I told you – had a bakehouse on that small amount of property. And then it went down in the snow. And so Mr. McLaughlin – who had built the Ahwanee and the St. Francis Hotel, built this little, dumpy house on the road. And then his family came up and always stayed in tents.

CJ There was five girls.

MMH It was really something for an only child to go over there in those tents with five girls was really something to see. Stockings hanging, you know, and they'd be dressed up, and they were all ages, 'cause the youngest is our age, or my age – or a year older. So you can imagine what it was like for me. My eyes were just – fantastic! But he would come, and he was very, very Irish. And he had the Last Rites of the Church three times in my grandmother's livingroom, because we had a telephone, and he'd come over and call for the Priest – first – before he called for the doctor. And then afterwards – he was in the meat business, among other things. He dabbled in quite a few things. And so he'd always brought over a box of fancy meat of some

sort, to thank Granny for letting him come over and use the phone. And the phone was crank. It was 6-7-W. I can remember that. The Schwartzes (SP) were on the other line.

CVE Do you remember when it was that your family got a phone?

MMH I don't have any idea when they got it. I can remember almost – I remember the one, you know, was on the wall. That kind first. And then we got the tall black kind later. But the one on the wall was the crank, and then the 6-7-W. And the operator was down at – the operators were down here where the Squirrel's Nest was, I think.

CJ That's right. Where the Squirrel's Nest was.

MMH Well Frank Cavill (SP), in San Francisco with four beautiful daughters, still won't put one in.

CVE My folks have only had one about two years. They just think when they come up here, they don't want to ____, so we used to have to hike down the road. There was one neighbor in the subdivision who had a phone.

...

514-524

MMH Well did you remember Mrs. Saunders, you know, who had the water Company?

LH Oh yes. I knew them, but I didn't have any ... with them.

MMH Well, you know I think they were friends of my grandparents, and they must have lived next door in Sacramento. But I found a letter where my grandmother was writing to complain that Mrs. Saunders had raised the water rates. I think it was going up to \$10 a year, and Granny thought that was very high, and Mrs. Saunders was say – was writing back, and there was no way she was going to lower the rates.

CJ You know, when you talked about visiting – I do remember visiting, 'cause my aunt visited up and down, and I'd go with her. Yea, I do remember now. She used to go down to visit your grandmother, and your mother.

MMH And Mrs. Stephenson.

...

about TAPE FOOT #540, conversation becomes unintelligible –
all talking at once, and not about history

TAPE FOOT # 726 "Well, I think we'd better go."

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS:

CH – Charles Hardy

LH – Leila Hardy

CJ – Charlotte (Hardy) Johnson

MMH – Margaret (MacMasters) Hartshorne

CVE – Carol Van Etten

Edited Typescript of an Interview with
Margaret MacMasters Hartshorne and Richard Hartshorne
July, 1988

Interviewer, Editor & Transcriber: Carol Van Etten

START OF TAPE 1, SIDE A

MMH We can get together, because she has the pictures of Susie – Indian Susie – labeled, and I don't have any labeled. ... I have some of these other original deeds and things in there. But see, there were two or three books like this, and mother had just taken them out of something, you see, and she had not gotten rid of these (referring to old photographs). But I can't decide, myself, whether this is Moana or whether it was Homewood. And I suspect it could be Homewood.

CVE I think the name is over the pier there, and I suspect it's Moana, because I've seen

MMH Well, OK. Then it would have been Moana. And remember those little cottages – well, you wouldn't remember. I do. We used to go down there to a meat market – at Moana. Chambers was there, but by the time I came along and can remember anything, Moana was gone. But Moana was where they stayed before they bought this property. And that deed was 1906, we know. And you see this, I think, is the same place. I think it's Moana.

CVE Yes, I think it is, too. I could compare it with some other photos of Moana that I've seen.

MMH But whether this is or not, I don't know. But I know that this is my grandmother and grandfather, and my mother is in there, and I suspect Mrs. Prentiss is in there. But this may have been the Fanchards, you see. I think that's Mr. and Mrs. Prentiss. Then here – I think this is funny – but then, this does not look like Homewood to me, because you see the Homewood pier would have been out there.

CVE No, I would say that looks more like Tahoe Pines, maybe.

MMH Well, it could have been Tahoe Pines because this would have been, then, the Fanchards. And that's what I remember Mother telling me. And there's my grandmother, and my grandfather was always the short one. And there's my mother. So that I know for sure. And then this is – now this is not here – but this is the way they (Washoe women) used to look when I'd wake up as a little girl. And I was so excited because see – the original house – that little house I showed you – with the bedrooms over there, and then this was in between. Then that bedroom was built. And then in 1929, my grandmother built this room and the kitchen and added bathrooms, and we had a day bed on this thing, and I slept there, and granny slept in there. So when I got up in the morning, I'd walk out, and there they'd be sitting, right there on that little path. And they'd wait until everybody came out, and we'd always look at the baskets. And we have a few. I've got some I'll show you in the other room. But Granny didn't buy as many. Mrs. Hardy bought a lot, and they have a really lovely collection. But this, I think, would be more – see those little houses? I'm almost sure. And I think that's what you look at when you look at that pier. But where this was, I don't know. And I don't remember a little one, so that would definitely be on it. This is my mother and my grandmother, and again I would think Moana.

CVE That picture doesn't really show enough to identify it.

MMH No, but I would think – but then on the other hand, this could be here. This could definitely be here, because the Saunders had a boat called the THELMA, which was out there, on a piling. And Mother said that this was down at the Fanchards. This. But where this was, I don't remember. And that one,

particularly, I'm sure, was Mrs. Prentiss and Evelyn, and Mr. Fanchard and my grandmother and grandfather. Now maybe she will be able to identify those, but I don't think there was too much closeness between my grandmother and Miss Prentiss as the years went on. I remember Mrs. Prentiss, and she and Grammy were always friends. I don't have any idea who those people are. But in this thing were some more things like that. Or there was another one. And that's what I can't find, and I can't believe that it won't show up somewhere, because I put it someplace carefully.

CVE That's always when I can't find something, is when I have been most careful about finding a safe place for it. It doesn't turn up for ages after that.

MMH Mother said when they bought this property in 1906, it had been lumbered, and the cedars were here, and she said there was something smoldering out there, and Poppy did something – I have to take – alright, this is what I wanted to do, to get – see, there's the boat that belonged to the Saunders. And that's not the Saunders on the Lake. That's the Saunders back here that have the water company. And now Dick Baldry lives there. But their house burned down. But that was called the THELMA, and I'm sure they'd have pictures of that.

CVE Yes, in fact Dick located several.

MMH When his mother moved, she said all her albums disappeared. Well, I had a sneaking suspicion he probably got them. She couldn't remember. Let's see now. Some of these involve Breuners. But it is kind of fun, 'cause it shows the little house as it was, you know. And it was cute, because it had a little pergola thing, like that. And then Poppy hand-dug a lagoon up through here, and that's been a bone of contention for me ever since, because every time the TRPA comes here to give me a permit to do something for ten feet, they say, "But you're in a Stream Environment Zone," and I have to tell them it's not a stream - that it was a log chute and then a thing. But when we go through and finally, three years later, they'll believe me, and you know, by then it's almost too late. Now that's definitely Homewood. And see, that was the old Voorhees' pier. And we had one here, but – we've got the stumps that are still down there. This is Mother and Daddy on the Holabird's porch, before they were married. And that – these are funny pictures, but these are all just personal, which I don't think are things that the Historical Society needs – except for some of these cars. Now I can't tell if that is at the Tavern – the old Tavern – or if it could have been down at Homewood or Pomin's.

CVE Well, it does look like a station house, rather than a residence.

MMH Well, it sort of does. Well, it isn't a residence, but you know, across the street here, on the highway, there was Bill Johnston's store. Does anybody have any pictures of that?

CVE Not of his store. I have one picture of him, but it's from an old *Tahoe Tattler*. It's a newspaper photo.

MMH It was incredible. I mean, it was like what you'd think of if you were going into the wilds someplace. And you know there were traps, there were coyotes. He always had coyotes, and as a kid, I was fascinated. I had a little English setter named Muggs. Muggs went everywhere with me, and Muggs lifted his leg on the onions one day, and I remember I ran home as fast as I could, and I never knew who got the onions. (Laughs) But anyway, Pomin's – the Pomin's down here, you know, whatever it's called. What do they call it now? Condominiums.

CVE Water's Edge?

MMH Water's Edge, or whatever it is. That was a pretty hotel, and it did look like that, but it was rougher. But then, the Tavern laundry looked like that, you know.

CVE Well, I think I'm seeing like a second story here on this side, and by seeing that, it makes me think that the architecture looks a little bit like the Homewood Hotel.

MMH Well, it may have been. It could have been down at Homewood. Because I know that this is Mrs. Linnard's car. But wait a minute. When you look at this in the background here, that's either – it could be the Tavern. I don't think you're going to find that's Homewood. You see, Mrs. Linnard would never have stayed there. Mr. Linnard was the –

CVE Oh, she would have been at the Tavern.

MMH Yea, they would have been at the Tavern - or Pomin's. Because the Pomins – some part of them came from Pasadena, and they did stay there occasionally. Because the Linnards had the hotels down in Pasadena – the Coronado, and then coming up to Pasadena, the Vista and the Huntington and on up. ... Mother must have put these in an album not thinking either how things went at one time, thinking they'll be better in an album, and I'll write under every name – and then of course didn't, like we all have gone through.

OK, now this is kind of fun, because this is Mrs. Breuner – this is Beth Grebitus's mother. And I swear that's the hat that Beth wore. She said her mother wore a hat just like that. It had a red cross, and that she gave things to the soldiers in World War I. And she wore it to that Tahoe Forest Hospital thing. (telephone rings) ... But this is obviously the roads coming up, and fancy cars. One of them's a Stutz, but I don't know which one.

(Foot marker ~125-173 – DELETE IN EDITED TAPE)

Somewhere, I keep thinking, somebody might be able to tell you about Bill Johnston's store. It was such a classic kind of thing. You know, there were skins, and it was just a hunter's paradise. And I'm not even sure there wasn't kind of a bar in there. I mean, as I think back, but I can't remember, you know. There was a counter, and he had things. **Marion Percy** might be able to remember, and she's still, you know, got her marbles.

CVE That's a name I'm not familiar with.

MMH Well, she was one of the McLaughlins on this side. Not the Sacramento McLaughlins. The lot next door to us was owned by a man named James McLaughlin. M - C. And he built the Awanee (SP), and he had a contracting business. He was an Irishman with five daughters. And when he bought the property, it had a big house on it, and it went down in the snow. So he sent a crew up and built this little shack back on the road. That's been their favorite spot in all of Tahoe ever since. They call it Humble Abode. But the girls came up with two tents, and as a little girl, I used to think that was absolutely heaven – stockings going all over. An only child going over and looking at what five girls could do to two tents. He had a partner, and he and his partner agreed to disagree, and they took all the property in California and the partner took everything in Oregon and Nevada. And in it was a 25-foot lot, next-door here, with a house on it.

CVE That would have been an odd size for this subdivision, wouldn't it?

MMH That's it. It's a real funny kind of thing. And the house was there. I don't know whose house it was. Now Miriam may know that, 'cause I don't know. But anyway, there were just a couple. I mean, if I look at this, Ill be able to tell you. (Reading) Observation point. Well, it certainly had to be coming u here on the summit somewhere.

RH Well, you think it's on the 80 side, or you think it's 50 side. When highway 40 went in,

MMH Well, mother is here in a hat, and they obviously had a car at this stand.

RH We would have gotten up, don't you think, Carol, on the 50 side first from Sacramento? Because south Tahoe preceded this.

MMH No, Dick, they didn't. They came to the Tavern, and took the train. They took the boat down here.

RH Oh. Just came to Truckee. Yea.

MMH Yea, so this was after the road was in, obviously.

CVE The route of 50 is older than 40.

RH That's what I thought. Yea.

MMH But that wasn't the way my family came. I know that. Because they came via the TAHOE Steamer. And they had the porter down here, Ed Cole, used to carry their trunks down. That I remember, because he was large. I remember him.

CVE I didn't realize he had been here that long.

MMH You could just barely see the little bridge. See the little Japanese bridge that went over there. And then there was a little teahouse thing. And you know, there are just no pictures of that. They didn't have cameras. And that was before the fireplace went on, so you can tell that was – sometime. And then we did have cats, which were out here, and that's where the help lived. And we've got that table. But OK, that hasn't anything to do with the historical Society, either.

CVE You say you came down here on the Steamer. Was there –

MMH Well, I didn't.

CVE Oh, by the time you remember coming up here, there was a road.

MMH Sure. I don't remember. That's what they told me. (Looking through a box of pictures):

FOOT #231 SIDE A

MMH Here it is. This is the one I was looking for. See, that's the lagoon my grandfather dug, and we don't even mention that now. And here's the road near Chambers without the car on it. And that was the new road, and isn't there a date on that picture?

CVE 1914, wasn't it?

RH '12.

CVE '12, OK.

MMH So that's when, I suppose, roads began coming in.

CVE Yea. In fact, I understand that the road around emerald Bay was finished in 1914, and they worked their way down from Tahoe City, so I guess it took them several seasons to get down here.

MMH This is the way this part of the house looked. It had a stone terrace underneath it, and once a man came and took the wrong tree down, and so we put the redwood deck on afterwards. And this – I'm betwixt and between glasses, I can tell. This, to me, well, this is it. "Mr. Fanchard's Tahoe house. Idlewild. Fred Kohl." It is. OK. I knew that there was one other important one. And this is the way it looked out here. There was nothing. There probably must have been so much willow here that Poppy just made fun things with willow.

I did put them in any kind of a book just to keep them from being loose and lost, which is what happened with those others – which is too bad, because there were just a few more – not many that would have been of general interest to people, I don't think.

CVE Yea, usually if it has some identifiable – if you can tell where the picture was taken.

MMH But this was one of the oldest houses in Homewood, and it really was darling. A nice little cottage thing. I remember it looking like that.

CVE So you had very few neighbors at that time, I guess.

MMH Well, Mother said when they were young, the Saunders lived up there, and of course they could wave from their porch to here, 'cause the trees weren't big. And Mrs. Voorhees came in, and I don't know when, 'cause of course she was all well ensconced by the time I came along and can remember.

RH And that Saunders is not related to the Marysville Saunders, or are they?

MMH No. Is their line busy?

RH Yea. I've been trying to get them. ...

MMH Well, anyway, those were some that were kind of fun, and the rest, as I said, are pretty much – but there were just a few older ones, and I didn't know whether they fit in any gaps that, you know, you needed to fill in anyplace. I just cut things out. Hmmm. (Reading): Harry Pomin or Sally Brochini took these pictures. Ernie Pomin used to shovel the roof, but we've only seen it like that once. We called the dog, and he went over the roof to get to the back. And we did have to trample. This was here, and I was ... so from then on, I have some memories, but the other things were the things I felt were sort of fairly important for the Historical Society.

CVE Yea. Well, there were a few scattered through these that would also be of interest. I'm sure the picture of the Kohls, there. And, well, the "new" Chambers road.

MMH Yea, well I think that those are kind of fun, and so I thought I'd let you look. And you know we're going away for two weeks. It seemed a good period. But I don't remember the Best's house down here, which is such a pretty house. I don't remember it being built, so that the Shurtleffs must have built it when I was very little or before I was born. But I do remember where the Rainey's are now- Captain Mumford, when he had that house. Somebody should have had the pictures of that, 'cause you know, he had two big posts going up, and then a ship going across, and it was called Snug Harbor. And when the TAHOE went by, they always tooted, you know, and somebody came out from his pier. And he always had water Chesapeake, and they'd leap off the pier for the passengers on the TAHOE. And then all the rest of us

would tear down and catch the waves, ' cause there weren't any other boats, and those were the only waves you could get all day!

CVE Were they still holding dances at the Homewood Hotel?

MMH I remember that. Yea. I remember that when it was Cole's – just more the fact that my family used to go. And there were lanterns. And I remember getting the mail at Homewood, even before Mrs. O-Herb's mother, then – had the mail.

CVE Was it in the main grocery store, down at – at that time?

MMH No. In Homewood, you got the mail, you went across the street to a place back there. And then the Obexers took it over. And then as you come up now, up the road from the pier, just in to the left, Mrs. Obexer had a little room, and she'd get the mail, and the sack would come off the TAHOE, and then shed sort it and you'd pick it up. And that's it. And she was tough as nails. She didn't much like kids. Jake did, but she didn't. She'd swear like a trooper. We were quite well-behaved, considering. And then later on – that's where it was, though. You went, you know, in on the side, on that little road. And I can't even see where it could have been now, where they may have added on some portion. You know, then they had the drugstore down there for awhile.

CVE That's right, I guess Lloynd's had a location down there.

MMH Yea. Well, that Jay Shontz was young, and he worked there. And he used to take me to a dance once in awhile. And he worked there, but he wasn't the owner. I don't know who owned it.

CVE Well, I think the Lloynds chain is a Truckee family.

MMH Maybe. I don't remember that. But they might have some pictures, and maybe Edna does, for all I know. Has she ever given you any pictures?

CVE No, I haven't talked to her about pictures. Several years ago, I started working on Herb to try to get some information about Jake, because I was working on my boat history, and he brought a big box of pictures down to the office and said copy what you'd like to. They were mostly either of Jake or of a boat. There were very few on any other subject.

MM Well, Thelma Saunders says that her family had something to do with getting Jake to come here. Now whether they would admit that or not, I don't know. But that's what she said, at one time. So I haven't any idea.

CVE Well, maybe it's true.

MMH It was always one of those things. This was their house in Sacramento, and I thought I ought to give that to her. I came across that.

RH Well, you might tell her about Mr. McCarran in San Anselmo, since it was so coincidental.

MMH No, well, it doesn't... You tell her.

RH Well, we bought a house in San Anselmo from a gentleman who, when he retired from Standard Oil – and it was Standard then, not Chevron – was the manager of the marine Department. And of course

talking with him, he said, "Oh, you have a place at Tahoe. Oh, that's fine. I know all about Tahoe," he said. "I sold the first Standard franchise up there to Jake Obexer." And we said, yea, we knew Jake. He said, "Well, he's visited me right here in this house." And he told us the details of, like, he got - the first contract said he got - a cent a gallon from any other Standard that was sold anyplace in the area, he got a cent a gallon for it, as long as they were at Tahoe.

CVE I've heard that, uh-huh. I never got up the nerve to ask Herb about that, but...

MMH But I think that was true. Mr. McCarran told us. And then Herb ... He died, and then there was nobody left in that family. They didn't have any family. That was the Voorhees pier. And you know I guess this was sort of the end of our pier, before it was all gone. That's the only thing I have ... But then they added on to that, eventually, and it went out quite a bit. They must have added on two other things, but this is long before my time. I don't remember that at all. Those are just pictures of the house, and as I said, our - my - Tahoe things I was trying to get in order. But the only old things that I had, other than this and this and the Indian one. But now Char (Johnson) has some good ones, with the Indian's mark, and their names on, and I know she'd be happy to see that you get them. And so maybe when you bring these back to me, we'll make a date and then get her to come. "Cause I'd love for you to talk to her mother, and Marion Percy, too. Because - well, I've started to tell you, Mr. McLaughlin had these five girls, and one died - Frances died - and then the other four girls all kept coming here, and they took turns. They rotated, through the years, and one of them finally said she didn't like Tahoe. She didn't like this Humble Abode. She preferred more luxurious quarters. And so **KATER (SP)** sold out her interest. So the place was still owned by three sisters. And it's really hysterical. They fight over it - they still do. And then one of the sisters - the property adjoining became available, and they bought that. So it's owned by the same family, although they're quite separate in how they use it. And they bought the house that Mr. - I think it was a man named Murphy built it, as I recall, next to the Johnsons. And I don't know if Char can tell you about when her parents bought that house. Her grandfather bought that house. 'Cause it was built and standing, and I think it was - you know, it was 1912, or something like that.

And the Pattersons - when they came, I'm not sure. But Marilyn's about to sell that house and about to leave, so, it would be good, maybe, to find out.

And then, I don't remember, as a child - there were two other houses, of course, on the Patterson lot. That house wasn't there. And I have no recollection of what was there. You know, where that big fancy A-frame (is). I don't know what was there before they tore it down. There were a couple of houses in there, that I think are still there, but I think it was mostly vacant lot.

CVE Was Martin Lowe still in the neighborhood when...

MMH Well now Mother knew all about him, you see. She definitely knew about him, and remembered him, but I didn't. I mean, that doesn't mean any - but he was a character. Everybody knew him.

FOOT #420 -427 delete in edited tape - aside re phone.

But I do think those are fascinating - the prices of the Tavern lots. But they're pretty pictures on the back. But I have to have that H.G. MacMasters framed - front side. We had that thing blown for Mother for a joke one time, and an old friend of hers from Sacramento was in San Francisco, and so we did it. And again, like that there were some more pictures that were like that, with early cars up here. I cannot believe that I could've.

CVE I started to say I've seen a picture that this picture reminds me of, but it's quite different in the sense that it's a different car - same vintage - and different folks behind the wheel. But it was taken about at the entrance to Fleur du Lac, I would say, looking at Eagle Rock, although I can't conclusively say that's where it was taken. That was pretty rare to travel by automobile up here in those days.

MMH Well, we always had a car, apparently, and that's something I kind of remember. And I think that's why there are so many pictures of cars. They must have been interested in them.

CVE I find a lot of car photos in my dad's family's collection, because my dad and his three brothers were car nuts. And every time they talk about history, I'll say well, you remember when such-and-such happened? "Let's see, we had the such-and-such in those days." And they can date it by what car they had.

MMH Well, Short Wheeler just said, "Now that's when we had the Packard." And I mean it was really true, and I could just see that Packard, as it came along. I remember when Short and John and I were kids, we'd out here on the fence – or a fence – usually down by Holabird's, and every time a car would go by, we'd yell and wave at 'em and everything else. But, you know, they didn't go by but maybe once every hour – any maybe not then. It was just something to do, to wait for your parents. And you could sit out – you could walk in the middle of the road.

RH You could hear 'em coming, too, in those days.

MMH And you could also tell whose oats were coming, by the difference sounds of the boats, you see. You know, you'd know who that was, or whatever. But it was funny – when the phone rang once – we were talking about, the same people, I think, still live here. The Breuners, of course, did not live here. They moved in after Dick and I were married, so – I think they built the house while we were living back East. That was 40-some odd years ago. But that was the Voorhees boathouse, and they raised it. And then old Mr. – Captain Mumford next door – and he had the two lots, which the
But as long as I can remember, the other house was – the pretty house – was the Shurtleffs'. And then, the Breuners built that house – the original Breuner family. And don't know whether Mr. And Mrs. Lewis were involved in that or not. Beth certainly would know. And then it was only just a few years ago that they said good-bye to that and Bill built on his half. But gradually, different brothers went off and built their own houses elsewhere. But in the very beginning, they just shared it two weeks at a time, you know, and revolved it, like people did.

And then there was a house that's been torn down. It belonged to a very dear lady named Mrs. Holland, and it was a cute little house. It was kind of like this – a little cottage, totally impractical for the snow. My grandfather was a good architect. I can't understand how he could have built this house that he built. But they just never thought, you know – it was to keep them out of the rain – that's all.

CVE Uh-huh. Well, I have found that 'primitive' really predominated here in the early days. I've been, as I can, getting to the City and visiting Elizabeth Schmiedell Fennelly, whose father was apparently William Kent's close friend, and they bought property ...

MMH Yea. Sure.

CVE ...and her father was taking photos back in the 1880s. Every year he'd have them bound in a leather-bound volume and so that way preserved all of them. They were carefully labeled, where they were taken, and it was easy to date them because they were all in bound volumes. So I'm slowly going through and taking pictures of her pictures. She has a collection, and she.

MMH Well, they were always very wise – the things that the Kent family did. They always were very sort of ecologically-minded, and very smart that way. I think the Kendricks are all so sick about Sunnyside. I don't know if they had pictures. I suppose they'd give them to the Historical Society. But they don't even want to talk about the house.

CVE Well, it's hard to see something that you have happy memories of so different, even though it is so nice.

MMH Well, I think they did a nice job, when they redid this now, and I think they can be pleased with it. But you know I remember, for instance old Pomin's Hotel. You know, it was really a lovely hotel. And the service, the dining rooms, were nice. The food was good. And it was so neat for young people to have so many places to work, you know, in the summer. A lot of school teachers had summer waitress jobs, and things, But it was a very pleasant hotel. And Homewood Hotel was darling. And it was, too. Nice family hotel. The Tavern, of course, was just the epitome of everything, to me. Oh, it was the most wonderful place to go. It was grand, and you know it was really dressy-up when you went to dinner, and that kind of thing. But for us – for kids – you know, we went bowling. And you got a little bit older and you had a date for the movie. And then you got a little bit older and you had a date for the movie and dancing. And that was really special. So then there was always something to do, plus, you know, the movies. And it was the thing to do.

CVE I can still remember some of those - I'm just old enough to remember bowling and going to the show.

MMH Yea. And the Casino, you know, and the way it was. I can remember when Shirley Temple had just made her first movies, and they used to come up to the Tavern and Phyllis and I – the one who just called from Reno – we'd go down and watch her feeding the squirrels (Laughs) – big movie star our age – gosh. But in Scott's book, they have a picture – I'll show this to you, 'cause I don't know how many people have identified it.

CVE Oh, the one with the man with the girl on his shoulder?

MMH No, there's D.M. Linnard who is in this.

CVE There's one who reminds me of Charles Laughton, that's not identified. He's standing there with the Tavern in the background.

MMH He's got a few things that aren't right, in a few spots. Now I think this is n volume 1 in the Tavern. Now I don't know how it worked, except that hotel men of the world knew each other. But Mr. Linnard was kind of the Hilton of his day. He started the Ritz chain across America, and whether he had..
(sound of kids playing outside: "Go! Come on! Let's go!")

MMH The kids have been so good. I bet they're fed up with those dogs.

CVE They're having a great time. Oh, I doubt it. They want a dog so badly, but we're just never home, and I feel like there are so many dogs who run loose in the neighborhood or are locked in the house all day, it just wouldn't be fair. So we've got three kitties instead. They don't seem to mind our absence.

MMH They don't mind being left, particularly if you've got three of them. Well, there's a picture of a group. Here's Homewood. Now I remember this, and the dance casino. And then it was gone. And did it burn down or what? I can't remember. But I do remember – and I'm not at all sure that we didn't see movies in it, at one time. I think Miriam said – the other night we went down there for dinner. And she said she remembered being inside at the movies. I remembered movies outside, when the Huffs were there.

CVE Oh, that was Mr. Ambrose (SP) who showed those movies. I interviewed Don and Bernice – that was my very first interview I ever did. And it inspired me to go on, because they had recollections going so far back.

MMH Obviously, this was before my time, but I remember when this was extant. But when it went, or whatever, I can't tell you. And I remember that there was, you know, the buildings for the help across the way and stuff. But somehow – you know, there's not really a very good picture – let me see...no, it would be under...the Indian store – do you remember that, that was down there in the Casino?

CVE No, I don't.

MMH Oh, that was – I used to just – couldn't ever understand why my grandparents wouldn't buy everything that was in that thing. That just seemed horrid.

CVE They had a store right in the Casino building?

MH Yea. We have a picture here – they say my father, but I know it's not my father. He never wore a hat like that in his life. But then, that's what's Mrs. – what's her name? Prentiss – said – Evie or whatever her name is – said down there. She said – he never wore a hat. But Norm Biltz is there, and Daddy was just as tall as Norm. I think that was somebody else.

CVE I think Norman Biltz was a fairly tall person.

MMH He was. Very tall, yea. And his partner – and they say that was a picture of him. But this is Norm. But that was not – I'm sure that's not Daddy. But maybe he just borrowed a hat. But there is a picture in here, and they don't have the man identified. Well, if I don't find it now, I'll find it. Tahoe Park and Sunnyside. Here we are. Here's the Tavern. ... When I remember it particularly, the chairs were those wonderful big fan-back chairs. I'm sure other people have talked about those. Those Chinese chairs, you know, with the big peacocky chairs. That was, you know, in the early times, and it must be in the first book, 'cause it isn't in this. I'll have to find it in the first book. Maybe I can

CVE I'll look through this one while you're looking through that one. I spend a lot of time looking in this book.

MMH I don't mean to – there are just a few things that aren't right, that's all. And maybe other people – but how could he, you know. He couldn't...

CVE There are so many facts in here...

MMH Oh, the dance – it was such fun! Dick and I ... You know, the other thing that was such fun were the boat – the races. Partly at the Tavern, and then at Chambers.

CVE Well, the chapter in this volume on the Tavern is very short and there are no... one of some – that looks like the railroad crew, though. Are there any individuals that you

MMH No, no. That's the thing. I can't figure out why – must be – maybe you're better at it than I am. You look. It's a picture of all the men. Mr. Green – is that Matt Green? Yea. And Matt Green – now look. "Letters in yellow-green moss. M-O-A-N-A." See, that would have been Moana in those other pictures. 'Cause there's the little house, and there's the thing back there.

CVE Yea. Well, good. It's nice to isolate that one.

MMH That solves something. And I remember Chambers looking like it did, but you've got a lot of pictures of that, I would think.

CVE Well, there are many pictures of the pier, in all different years.

MMH With all the little yellow houses on the hill there?

CVE I have seen them. I know Chambers has a little collection of their own that includes one that shows that. This is the picture I was thinking of, but it's probably not the picture you were thinking of.

MMH No, no. I'm not. I'm thinking of one that they're all a group, and maybe they're standing – that's the thing. I can't figure. A group of men, you know. And D.M. Linnard is there in a white linen suit – very prominent-looking – every bit like Mark Twain. And not identified. And I'll have to go through every blasted book to find it.

Exit the Carpenters, enter the Kohls.

Which do you think is the oldest house. There's some talk that it might have been where Georgeanne Krauss is?

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE A

START OF TAPE 1 – SIDE B

CVE (The consensus of) the group down there was that it was probably the Krauss house which was the older.

MMH Yea. I think there's been some talk. But we were commenting that the two houses that we knew of that were so old – you know, where Mrs. Conley lives now, has a screen porch, and so does Georgeanne's. And you know the rest of us didn't. And my families outhouse did not have a house over it. It was just a two-seater in the woods, which we had. When I went East and told my family that on Lake Winnebeseaukee, they thought that was pretty rugged, 'cause they still had an outhouse – they still do.

CVE Yea, we had one 'til. Let's see – we got indoor plumbing in 1952.

MMH This bathroom? I know that you look at the livingroom from the bathroom, because they were so thrilled they had the bathroom, I swear. And it's the same thing. The bathroom went where the kitchen was. But they used commodes. And they had the tents out there. The maid was out there in the tent. And Mrs. Linnard always came up with a chauffeur. Robert lived out – they had two tents in the back. And platforms. Carol, this is silly to be showing you this. Here's this Susie and Nettie. Does this look like Susie in my picture? Now there's a good picture of Susie.

CVE Let's see. That would be right in here. Looks like her same scarf, possibly.

MMH I know Susie came, and Mother used to like Susie a lot, but Annie and Captain Pete are the ones I remember the most. And as I said, Nancy Shurtleff and I gave him a ride, and he told us that he took his cataract off with a safety pin. And I tell you, I couldn't have made that up. But that's all I can remember about it. She probably wouldn't remember at all.

CVE I understand that a lot of the Indians worked at the resorts.

MMH Well, that may have been, before my time. Mother said they used to do laundry for us, when they camped on the other side, on that other lot. And then when she was little, they came and did a lot of work

for them during the summer. And they came, I suppose, maybe to clean paths, and did all kinds of things. I just don't know. This is so funny that I can't find these pictures. ... Did you do the thing on The Hut? I didn't see it. Mark McLaughlin has a copy of it.

CVE I wrote a – yea, I wrote a history of The Hut. It appeared about oh, maybe three years ago? – in North Tahoe Week. I wrote a regular column for them for four years. I may have some extra copies, though, and if I find one, I'll send it.

MMH I'd love to have one. Well, you know The Hut – it was a big bone of contention, because it was a pretty wild place. When you had a maid, that was where she could go, because there wasn't anyplace else for her to go. And we had a maid named Mildred for years, and Mildred did like The Hut. I can remember there was a lot of talk about that. Of course the Breuners hated it, 'cause they could hear the noise. But then didn't what's-his-name – Callender – have it?

CVE Yes.

MMH Well then, when Dick and I were married, he had the Swiss Lakewood Lodge. And we were in there and he said, "Your grandmother kept me from getting a liquor license!" He wasn't nice at all, and he didn't want to serve us. (Laughs)

CVE I didn't realize that he was ever connected with Swiss Lakewood.

MMH Well, I thought that when it was the whatever-it-is, when it had that Dutch windmill.

CVE It was the English Villa for awhile.

MMH Yea, yea. I think that's when he was connected with it. But I could be wrong. But whoever was in there said that my grandmother - I thought it was Chambers – I mean, not Chambers. Callender. I thought that's who it was that was furious and not very nice to us, because my grandmother kept him from getting a liquor license. And this is kind of fun, 'cause this is from Ernie Pomin. And some of the things – oh, there was one letter I've got to show you. (Reading☺ "Thank you very much for the check. We had quite a bit of snow this winter, but not quite as bad as '51 and '52. There's three to five foot of snow now. Everything is fine at the house. My best regards to you, Ernie Pomin" And I just felt so sentimental, I had to keep it. But there's one here about the plumber, Mr. Urch?

CVE Yes, who had what later was the Squirrel's Nest?

MMH Yea. I had – wait a minute. I think it's in here – It's a letter that I just loved. "Repairs to bursted parts on dishwasher frozen." (Laughs) I just love it. But there were some other kind of fun ones, and I have - the little notes to my grandmother from Ernie Pomin that I kept. But they're not here. They're in letter things. And maybe those pictures will show up in that. That's the only thing I can hope – that because I was trying to put and save letters and things, that, you know, it would...

CVE I noticed the name Mueller here.

MMH That's Mueller. That's my...

CVE That's how it's properly pronounced?

MMH We pronounced it Mueller, 'cause my grandparents were Swiss, and spelled it M-U-E, like the skier. And in the last Olympics they called him Mueller, and in this one, they call him Mueller.

CVE It probably depends on what sportscaster is speaking.

MMH Yea, that's it. Well, we laughed, 'cause

CVE But this is not relation to the Adolph Mueller?

MMH No.

CVE Were you familiar with – he's someone that I've been trying to track down. Apparently he was fairly elderly when he came to this area. But he did spend his summers in Homewood.

MMH Yes, and no relation. 'Cause you see, it was the MacMasters part of the family that owned this, and my mother married John Mueller. And then it became their house. But where did he live? 'Cause I kinda vaguely remember that. Did he call it...

CVE I'm not sure, but I think it was down at the other end of town. And I think his name was pronounced Mew-ler.

MMH Well, it very well possibly could have been. If it was - well, see, the E and the umlaut, you know. If you left the umlaut, they would have said "muller", but if it had an E over it, it would have been "mew-ler". I mean, with the umlaut and, it would have been "muller" and m-u-double l-e-r. But in Switzerland, they'd have a little slight different pronunciation, and the M-U-E was "muller" (Whispers) ...and Dick says it's "mew-ler". I said, it would have been German if it was in Switzerland. And it really isn't in Switzerland, 'cause I went back and checked. I can't find that, but I'll look for it, Carol, and when I do find it, I'll mark it for you, so that I can show you. Somebody should know this – who it is. I showed it to Eddie Wallis before he died, 'cause it was his uncle. Anyway, I did think of you. We'll be happy to – you know, I'll be happy to pay for whatever you have to do..

CVE Well, I started to tell you. I've had quite a success using a camera mounted on a tripod, and just taking still pictures

MMH Oh, wonderful.

CVE ...of this kind of stuff. This collection of Mrs. Fennelly's – well, I'm up to 1922 now, in going through the books and making copies. And most of the pictures of their own residence here are very amusing, because they did live in such a primitive way. They had the sleeping tents and they had – well, they did have a cookhouse and diningroom. But really, that was the only improvement on the property, other than the boathouse.

MMH Well, of course you know that's what they all did, when they went over to Secret Harbor, too. You know, they kind of kept it like that. And it's like my husband's family's island in New Hampshire. I mean, they still keep it as primitive as they possibly can. And coming from New York, I think I understand it more. Now that we live here lots more of the year, it's, you know – and that island they can only use for a couple of months, 'cause it's too cold. Three months, at the very most, really. Even early in June, the black flies are so hideous back East, that, you know, it's no fun without some kind of amenities. And then, September gets very, very cold on an island sometimes. It can be just beautiful, but it can also be bitterly cold, and when there's no running water, and no ice, it's not the place you'd want to stay too long.

CVE That would take some of the fun out of it, I think

MMH Well, I've never been on it in the winter. They say that the wind howls around there, but, you know, you can land an airplane on the ice on Lake Winnebeseaukee, so you know it's solid ice – it's been cold for a long time.

CVE That's quite a boating community back there. I know a lot of the wooden boats which come to Tahoe are from that lake.

MMH Well, you know they had some beauties. Of course where Dick's family is, there are a lot of big, big rocks around us, so we didn't get too many motor boats. We had a lot of sailboats, with centerboards. And the Hartshornes were sailors, so they didn't approve of, you know, the woodies. But of course I just used to look longingly at the old GarWoods. And there were a couple down – but boy, they stayed way out, because the water was, you know – lots of hidden big rocks. Lots of islands, as you know – hundreds of islands on the lake. It's a pretty place. But you know, we can enjoy this – oh, well, we could live here all year. I wouldn't want to be here very long in the winter on this side. Do your parents stay all winter?

CVE No. They live in The Villages outside of San Jose. They spend probably seven months there and five here. They usually come some time in June and stay until the snow flies.

MMH Yea. Well, I like it – that's what I kind of like to do. I really love May if, you know, there isn't too much snow out, 'cause it's just heavenly up here then. Nobody's here. It's like Old Tahoe. There's still a lot of cars. A lot of people work here. Tahoma.

CVE Yea, that's true. Well, this was a good May – a pretty good May. March was excellent.

MMH We weren't here in March. We were here in February. I must say, it was pretty icy in February this year.

CVE March was very nice. April was terrible. We had rain – cold, cold rain – or just barely snow, and just a lot of unpleasant days. But you just never know. March can be the worst month of the year. Not this year.

MMH I remember one year we had, April we walked on the roof here. We got an Easter snow when we came up, and sure enough. That's right. Everybody – even Sally with her canes – got up on the roof.

CVE Well, you can never tell from year to year, although this greenhouse effect that they talk about seems to be in force here, the last couple of years. We just haven't had any kind of real snow. But, it happens every ten years or so, so I guess no one should be surprised. But the fact that so many people who live here year-round now haven't been here long enough to remember the last drought...

MMH No, that surprises me. And the other thing is, you know, I can remember as a child a beach like this lots of times. Of course the lake – you know, the other thing is, I'm not aware of when in my life the Fanny Bridge thing occurred – you know – the dam. But I can remember playing the game with my parents when we came up the Truckee River, and we'd play "I See, I See – Who can see first?", you know, and everybody would be peeking, and when you'd come around the corner there, you would see the Lake, you know. That was the big thing. And all of us, including the dog, were eagerly looking for the Lake. And then now, gosh, you have to get past the Catholic Church before you see the Lake, really.

CVE That's about right, isn't it? I had never thought of that.

MMH Yea, you really don't, you know. And then there were places you could see it. And then the other thing to do was to always "Oh please, let's go by the Tavern!" There was always the hope that you could stop at that little gift shop. And they had little Indian dollies in little baskets. You know, little crappy things, really, when you think about it. Well, I guess that's what my parents thought about them. I wanted them in the world's worst way. (Laughs) But we'd go on that Tavern Route thing, and then, you know, that was just a little detour, when you got here or when you went home.

CVE Well we always – from the day we left – we looked forward to the day we were going to come back. And took water home in a jar, and little pretty rocks, yep.

MMH Yea, that's the way I've always felt about it. It's always been just "home". I mean, my grandmother came, you know, until... She came from Pasadena, and she came Memorial Day weekend, and she stayed until Labor Day weekend. And she'd stop in Reno either way, to see her daughter. But when she got elderly, and was living in Reno and had nurses – because she had Parkinson's – they came up here with her. And even the year she died – she was 85 – she was up here, with those two nurses.

CVE Um-hmm. Well, I think people who saw Tahoe in its earlier days all had that same feeling about it.

MMH Well, and Mrs. Conley, I know, said a couple years ago, "If they'd just let me go up my creek and die, everything would be fine." She said, "Somebody would probably come after me." She must have some wonderful pictures. Have you ever gotten her to talk to you?

CVE No, I haven't listened to her.

MMH You really should. It would be wonderful if you could get – if she would – I'm sure she would, and if something hasn't happened to her – I'm sure somebody would have told me. You would have read it in the *Bee*. He husband – first husband – and my father were in World War I together, and were close friends. And then of course Mrs. Briggs and my grandmother were close friends. And that's the other thing that's kind of fun, I think, is the way people lived. Because they called. Do you remember that? I mean, the grandparents actually paid visits, and they received. It was – and Granny used to put on the hat that I've got in her bedroom, and a kind of a cape, and she'd simply go out here, and on the days when she wasn't going somewhere, they were coming here. It was wonderful. And it's not our style at all, but it was slower – nice. Played a lot of rummy.

CVE Well, I think people entertained themselves in that kind of way much more at that time than they do now. There are so many electronic diversions, and...

MMH Well, there weren't as many places to go. You know, you did go out for dinner. It was a big excursion. You went over to Brockway, and that was a big excursion. And I guess my mom and dad went out at night, and I remember they got dressed up to go out – really dressed up. I don't think Dick and I have ever done anything black tie up here, but I can remember my mother and father doing it. And I can remember my grandmother getting a long dress to go down to the Tavern. We got dressy short clothes, but after the War, that just sort of all ended.

CVE I think that did change people's ideas of what was acceptable, and what was dressy enough.

MMH Well, I think Mrs. Miller and a few others have done things, and, you know, some people still continue, but I don't – where you went out, it was not necessary.

CVE I guess a tie is about the only criteria anymore.

MMH Yea. Do they have that anyplace?

CVE ...a sport jacket and a tie. I've seen several places where a tie is required.

MMH Swiss Lakewood now says they can't come in shorts, (gasps) but they don't seem to ask for a tie.

CVE Well, that doesn't seem unreasonable.

MMH (Laughs) Well now, tell me. You're working up here, just doing the writing and trying to gather the historic.

CVE Well, that actually has to take kind of a back seat to making a living. But right now I'm researching my second book for my marine history series, and I'm working in a restoration shop at Sierra Boat Company, learning the things about boats that I never paid any attention to before, like how they're put together and how they're finished, and what hardware is appropriate to what boat. So I don't imagine I'll be there more than – I've been there about eight or nine months now, and I think probably about that much longer and I'll know everything I care to know about wooden boats.

MMH I guess you will.

CVE But I felt that when I started my next volume, I should have a little better grounding in some of the aspects of it that I really could speak to at all before, when I wrote the first one. So most of my knowledge at the time I wrote the first one was just statistical information.

MMH I love it. I keep my hard-bound copy at home. I keep the paperback up here, so that everybody can look at it and play with it and not ruin it.

CVE Well, good. I think it's turned out, at least according to people whose knowledge of boats I hold in high esteem, that it's fairly accurate. There are a few errors in it.

MMH Maybe you can help me with something. We've got an absolute mental block. What's Ted Bacon's wife's name.

RH I still kinda wanted to say Jean or June.

CVE I want to say Barbara, but I don't know that that's right.

MMH That's not right either. It's an unusual name, a little bit. But I can't think of it, and I can think of her sister-in-law's name, but I just cannot, for the life of me, think of her name I thought of Ann McWilliams' name.

RH Yea, we wanted that the other night.

MMH Yea, so now I've got this trouble, that I can't think of her name. And it's not Dulcie. So there you go.

CVE I'm pretty sure I have that at home.

MMH Well, it's not keeping me awake, but nevertheless, I did want to know. Oh, gosh.

CVE Well, you say you'll be back in several weeks?

MMH Yea, about the 10th.

CVE Oh, right in the middle of Wooden Boat Week.

RH Yea, right, right. Not having a wooden boat, why, it doesn't effect us too much.

MMH You can to take the pictures 'til the end of Wooden Boat Week, OK?

CVE Alright. It'll just take me one session to sit down with...

MMH Well, will you hang onto them, because this is a good time, you know. Because I really felt if the house burned down or anything, there wouldn't be any of that little bit recorded, and it's just – I have never seen it anyplace else up here.

CVE No, No, I haven't either. And those are of great interest – certainly to me, and I think to the rest of society.

MMH I can remember some of the places along the Tavern – I guess Poppy must have sold some of those lots. Because the King's – where the Williams live now – were good friends. And to go there was always a treat, because they had a beautiful boat. And I don't know – again – there's another question: Jane King was supposed to have still been alive a short few years ago. She married the other Metcalf boy. Did you know that?

CVE No, I didn't.

MMH No. Well, and nobody talks about that. Something happened, and they either became alcoholics, drug addicts or something, because they have just been scratched off the earth. She was a lovely girl. She was just a wonderful girl, and she was so darling to me. Of course I remember, and her parents were just darling. And they were good friends of my grandmother's. And I kind of had the feeling that they came from Pasadena, but I'm not sure. I have no idea. I think Beau's got his tennis racquet.

RH He's had his supper.

MMH Well, he's certainly had enough exercise.

RH Yea, I think so. I don't want to get him too pooped.

CVE I guess Brockway Metcalf – the father of Larry and John – owned a lot in this subdivision at one time. The DeLaVeaga's house?

MMH Yea. But I think he may have bought it from my grandfather. I suspect that might be the case. I'm not sure. But I – because, well, I can remember certain people coming to call, and I know Larry and Sue, because we were neighbors in San Francisco, and Sue and I were in school together, so – but I've never had the nerve to ask them about their third brother. I don't dare. Nobody just brings it up.

CVE I don't hear anything at all about him.

MMH And I wondered if his name was – you know, if he had been a Brock-

CVE Well, John's middle name is Brockway.

MMH Oh, is it? The now John. Well then, the other brother has another name. And I asked Jack Johanson one time, and he said, "I'll find out. Katherine Jane will tell me everything." And then he forgot to tell me. (Laughs)

CVE Well, I guess he's enjoying his retirement.

MMH He's having fun. He's doing very well, I think. You know, he's got his own little studio, and he's got a little gallery in Sutter Creek that's showing his things. Have you seen it?

CVE No, but my friend, Nancy Williamson, who managed there – she's

MMH Oh yea. I know Nancy. Yea.

CVE She's been down to visit him recently.

MMH Yea. Well, I wish I had the pictures. I took some marvelous pictures. But he's got a neat deal, and I guess he's sold quite a bit. He's come down and had diner with us two or three times.

CVE I think he had quite a following of his own.

MMH Oh, he does! Believe me, I'd follow him around the world. I think he's got – I just – I'll show you what he did for me. I think his imagination is absolutely – see, now this was between the houses here, and that was just a corner window, and this was outdoors ... (fades out) ...and I just absolutely love it. **TAPE FOOT# ABOUT 315 TO ABOUT 355 – DELETE FROM EDITED TAPE**

I just was hoping that you were going to be doing – you said something about doing something Nate Topol wanted you to do?

CVE He was looking for – well, in trying to establish prior use of the Homewood Hotel property, he was having me look for old photos that showed Homewood with a crowd there. And I did find a few, and I've found a few since. In fact, when I last saw him at the Invitational boat show a couple of weeks ago, he was asking me if I would please get in touch with Larry Hoffman and bring him up to date on what I've found most recently. I gather he's planning to pursue this...

MMH It'd be nice if you did.

CVE Well, everything I've ever seen him do always seems to turn out very nicely done. Certainly his own house is a good example of that.

MMH Well, I just met him the other day. Everybody kept saying, "You don't know Nate?" And I said, "No, we don't know Nate." But we met him, and he couldn't have been nicer, and I think he's done a good job with Homewood.

CVE I think so, too. Well, I'm confident that we'll see nice things over there.

MMH I hope so. I hope he doesn't put condominiums, that's all.

CVE Uh, no. I don't think that's his plan at all.

MMH I wouldn't mind if he put a little hotel. That wouldn't bother me, because I think it would be nice for all of us. Because lots of times you've got guests you don't want here.

CVE (Laughs) That's right.

MMH Or, you know, so many people from the East – say “Where can we stay?” Well, where do you recommend anymore? Sunnyside in the off-season, but not on Saturday night.

CVE No, that's right. Well, there really isn't anywhere that's really nice.

MMH And you know, a lot of Easterners, I think, would love to – or Midwesterners, when they're touring around the Lake, would love a place to stop that isn't right in the middle of Harrah's, or that kind of thing.

CVE Yes. I'm teaching an Elderhostel Program this summer over at Olympic Valley School – I don't know if you're familiar with that.

MMH Well, I've heard about this.

CVE It's an international program.

MMH The Elderhostels? Did you read about that, Dick?

RH Yea, I know about that.

CVE Well, the people who attend them think they're just wonderful. It's a great chance to see different part of the world and get – immediately – information about the area that you might have to spend quite awhile digging for otherwise. I'm teaching a history course. Well, last week I taught a kind of a general history course, and this week I'm teaching a course on Movies Made at Tahoe, and then in a few weeks, I'll teach one on Marine History of Tahoe. Let's see – what caused me to start talking about that?

MMH Well, we were talking about places to stay, and not having too many.

CVE Right.; I had occasion, on taking the group [p last week on tour around the Lake, to go to South Shore, where I haven't been for about two years and would have preferred not to go.

MMH Oh, you didn't want to go, did you?

CVE No, I certainly didn't.

MMH No, it shouldn't be. Shouldn't have been there.

RH Taylor Creek is a little help.

MMH It's very nice. You can go that far. You can go to Bijou.

CVE Yea, and the Tallac Site is also very nice.

MMH And then that – what’s – I always want to call it – what’s the Tahoe Meadows. That’s kind of a little enclave that

RH Yea, but you can’t take a tour in through there. But I was disgusted to see that it was even worse than I had remembered it to be down there.

MMH Oh, it’s terrible. And well, it’s worse in the summer, too. ‘Cause it’s hot then, and it’s dusty.

CVE That’s right. And more people are inclined to go in summer. Yea, it was bumper-to-bumper all the way from Zephyr Cove all the way to just north of the Wye. I was glad I wasn’t driving, first of all, because I could kind of avoid noticing what I was driving past, in conversation with other people in the van.

MMH Did they all want to stop at the – and put nickels in the slots?

CVE No, it’s really not really that type of a group at all.

JSW Are we going to Elderhostel tonight?

CVE No, we’re not, and thank goodness for that. But it’s mostly - this group is quite heavily engineers. There are a lot of retired teachers, and people who have an interest in their surroundings.

MMH Well, where are they staying?

CVE They stay at Olympic Valley School, in the dormitories that are used by the regular students during the school year. And it works out very nicely. They ran three sessions last year.

MMH Maybe that’s where Nancy and Frank – maybe that’s how they got in those places in Sweden – in the college dorms.

RH Well, it wasn’t an Elderhostel, but they open up the university dormitories and stuff over there for hostel purposes during the summer, anyway. In other words, anybody can stay there. You have to take the conditions they give you, that’s all.

CVE ...but not necessarily connected with a program...

RH No, no., It could be.

MMH This is connected with a program?

CVE Oh, yes. The way it usually works, the people arrive on Sunday afternoon, kinda get their bearings, have dinner, meet each other and their instructors. And Monday morning is lectures – they offer three courses at a time. And then, this afternoon they have to themselves, to kind of get them acclimated, maybe go on a little tour of their own. And then Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday are tour days. We send tomorrow going around the Lake again, with stops that are appropriate to the courses we’re teaching. We’ll be stopping to see some of the movie locations.

MMH Oh, well, you’ll go to – yea – Meeks Bay and – we rented “Rose Marie” this year – early this spring – a couple of gals and I, and I just loved it.

CVE I had the most wonderfully-timed introduction to a man at the Boat Show a week ago yesterday, who has bought the cabin that sits across the highway from where the entrance to Moana Villa used to be.

MMH I read this. There was an ad, and they said this is the cabin that was used in “Rose Marie”.

RH You mean that log one there, on McKinney Road.

MMH You know, it’s been there all these years, just sitting there. And that was put in to do the movie, I suppose.

CVE Yes, and I understand that the reason that it stayed boarded up so long was because the family couldn’t decide how to – some wanted to sell it, and some wanted to hang onto it., and they just couldn’t ever get a majority to say one thing or the other. In any event, he bought this about two years ago, and he, at the time he bought it, it apparently still had a dirt floor and didn’t actually have glass in the windows. It was just shuttered. And he has gone through there and picked out just the right interior decoration, and put in a nice floor – built a stairway to the upstairs, and cut a hole in what was at one time a solid wall, so there’s a balcony, and it’s really opened it up, and it’s just the most interesting little place you can imagine. And he is

MMH What fun! And it’s really far enough off the road, if they fenced, they could probably – or plant.

CVE You don’t hear any of the highway at all – I guess because the logs –

RH The logs absorb it, I think.

CVE It’s amazing that you don’t hear the highway. But it’s for rent. He was the one who organized the Renaissance Pleasure Faire in the City.

MMH For heaven sakes.

CVE ...and so his taste in interior decoration is quite excellent, I think, and it’s a fascinating little spot. There’s a place to send somebody that you don’t know where to send them. It’s only \$150 a night, and it sleeps eight. So – I think there’s a two-day minimum (three-day holidays a three-day minimum), and then during the peak of the season I think it’s a week minimum. It’s just a delightful spot, and it’s so unique, it would be really interesting for house guests.

RH What can you see at any other sites? Or what other sites do we have for movies?

CVE At this point, not too many.

MMH I never saw “The Godfather”, ‘cause it’s not my kind of movie, so...

CVE I never did either.

MMH ...but I want to read it.

RH I never saw the gazebo blow up, I know that. Because – that wasn’t the first “Godfather”, was it – or was it? But we had friends here who lent their boat, and this kind of thing, so all along here we knew about it, and I knew about the gazebo being blown up, but...

TAPE FOOT #517 to 588 - DELETE FROM EDITED TAPE

MMH But if there's anything in here – any of these – that you were interested in, Carol, you're welcome to them, 'cause I know you'll take good care of them. I know that there's very little, boatwise, in here. Anything that you want...

CVE Well, anything that identifies or shows a building – especially in the public buildings – that's especially interesting.

RH Yea, I'm afraid we don't have much of those.

MMH No. ...I just put things as it sort of intrigues me for one reason or another sometimes, and keep thinking I'll do the right thing with them.

CVE Well, the World had some good features running for awhile, about

MMH For awhile they did good things.

CVE ...about 15 years ago, when they did all the individual communities.

MMH They did a terrible one on Homewood, though. I felt the way they did that on Homewood was so bad, because they didn't – I really wanted to write C.K. and say "What are you thinking about?" They simply ignored everybody on the water. And I agree what's happened behind there is pretty grim. But the same people...I don't know.

CVE Well, a lot of times, it's whoever the interviewer talks to,

MMH That's right.

CVE ...and that sort of sways the gist of the story. I thought the one they did on Meeks Bay was very good. It seemed to be quite accurate. I spent a lot of summers there working as – well, in their food concessions, primarily. But the last summer I was there, which was about two summers after the Kehlets sold, I was the breakfast cook.

MMH (Laughs) Well, I guess Nancy did work

CVE Nancy worked there. In fact, that's when I first met Nancy. Her parents' place is just, oh, maybe a quarter of a mile down the road from my parents' place, so we knew each other in high school and college.

MMH I was so intrigued with that calendar that you did. I just loved that.

CVE Oh, thank you. That was my introduction to not only Tahoe history, but the operation of the printing business.

RH Yea, how you get it published.

CVE I worked for that little Zippity-Do-Da Printing Company in Tahoe Park, that was there for I guess maybe three seasons, altogether. I worked there about six months, and tried to get the idea of how I could – I knew I wanted to write about local history, but I didn't quite know how I was going to manage to do that, and get it in print.

CVE Well, there is a little Homewood Locals, because so many people are four and five generations, that I think makes it kind of fun. But beyond that, we're kind of quiet.

CVE I'd say it was – it is one of the most intact communities, still.

MMH I think it is, too. Yea. And fortunately, you know, people seem to still care. There are a few things that are sort of awry behind - on the other side of the road. I could never understand how the P.U.D got to put a truck yard back there. I don't to this day understand. I have a few questions about Bill Layton, so that's all I can say.

CVE Well, I'm happy to hear you say that, because I have heard a lot of things about Bill Layton which would lead me to think that maybe he shouldn't have a park named after him.

MMH I'm positive of it.

RH Well, I think it's nice that people's memories aren't very long, because you recall, even the world, if you look up and go to the morgue, in the *World*, you'll find just a ton of stuff before, you know, right up until he didn't have the job any more. And then there's a little gap until he had the airplane crash. And that wasn't very many years, actually. Right up before there, why, I don't even know. Did they ever settle that whole business? 'Cause he was trying to sue TCPUD to get salary, and all this kind of stuff.

CVE I'm not aware that it was ever settled.

RH I'm not aware how it was ever done. But I guess you've got to give him some...He was in Princeton with me, class behind me, in Engineering, so I did know him a little bit. And he's from back East. He wasn't from out here.

MMH Carol, we had never had events here, ever. All the plants and the paths were native, just exactly the way they had been, as they had grown up. And we even kenneled our dogs some years, to keep 'em that way – wildflowers and everything else. And they asked for an easement here, and mother granted them the easement without charging them, 'cause we felt the sewer was important. And the contractors came in here and they bulldozed. All that in the back has been bulldozed out. Totally bulldozed out, and it was absolutely unbelievable. That thing isn't on now, is it?

RH Yea.

CVE Yes, but we can certainly turn it off.

END OF recorded portion of TAPE 1, SIDE B
TAPE FOOT #710

END OF INTERVIEW

Edited Typescript of an Interview with
Jessie Grimshaw Saner
September 18, 1987
Interviewer, Editor & Transcriber: Carol Van Etten

START OF TAPE 1, SIDE A

CVE Your cabin reminds me quite a bit of my grandparents' cabin. It must have been built about the same time.

JGS '33. For a long while we had what we called campouts here. My father had special tents made. It was on a framework. (It had) a kitchen-dining-livingroom area, and a sleep tent. And like I say, he had this framework made, and a special tent in the cooking part, like a cap. And then the sides were in big, long sections with heavy snaps on them, and you could snap them on the top, so you could have all open-air or – it used to storm here so much in the summertime. You needed something that could be closed up.

We did that for years, and when you'd leave in the fall, you'd have to tear it all apart, and oh, that was a job! And we had a building up there by the road that we'd store it in for the winter. And so that's the way we lived _____ until 1933.

My father's brother was a carpenter. In fact, he helped build Tahoe Tavern. So my father and a couple of our friends and my uncle and a supervisor built this. But you see in those days you didn't have fancy furniture – just odds and ends from home you didn't want you brought up here, because in the mountains, you were "roughing it", you know. That poor old table there – in years gone by, everybody had a table in the middle of the room, and that was down home.

And I can remember, my mother would sit at the table in the evening, and you know a drawer's always a catch-all. My brother was five years younger, and he just loved to get in that drawer, and so to entertain him, until it was bedtime, you might say, she'd sit at that table and take all this stuff out, put it on top of the table. In the meantime, I was crawling through underneath and bumping my head. And I can remember it would hurt like crazy and she'd say, "Well, stay out of there!" And I wouldn't do it. (Laughs) So everything here is pretty much of a relic.

CVE Well, as you say, that was the common way to furnish your mountain cabin. So when did your family first start coming to Lake Tahoe. When did they hear of it?

JGS Well, My father probably heard of it a long time ago. We came here – he bought the property - in the summer of 1913. My grandmother's health wasn't very good, and we were staying over at Tahoe City for the summer, and he was looking for a place here, because he realized that this was such a gem, that there would be a day when you wouldn't be able to buy anywhere near the lake. And in the valleys way back when, there was a lot of malaria, and things like that, and he was a great believer in having a change of climate for kids.

So while he was over at Tahoe City that summer, why, he was looking around. And those people couldn't get together at all. He almost bought a lot down at Sunnyside, but he liked this particular area here, because from Tahoe City around to Emerald Bay, there's the nicest timber. Well, there's more moisture, the way the summit is in the background – that's wonderful. So Mr. Jost was the owner of the hotel at that time, and my father never did like Tahoe City, because it's dry and dusty and whatnot. And there was a storeman over there by the name of Mr. Atherton, and he would deliver twice a week to Emerald Bay. So to get out of town, my father got to know him – why, my father would come over here, on the route to Emerald Bay, and then he'd have him pick him up on the way back.

And somehow or other he always admired this immediate area. In fact, it was right on this very spot that he used to sit on the lakeshore and read. He was an avid reader. And so one day he was here, and Mr. Jost happened to come along, and he said something about "How are you and the real estate people getting along?" and my father said, "We're not." He said, "I'm giving it up. I'm just gonna - I'll just wait and look next year." So Mr. Jost said, "Well, I have a friend who wants to sell a lot, and if you have some time, I'd be glad to show it to you, if you're interested." Would you believe he brought my father to this very lot, that my father had been admiring all this time. I belonged to some people in Elk Grove, near Sacramento. And so my father went down and closed the deal, and been coming here ever since.

CVE I know a lot of people from the Homewood area are Sacramento people. Was your family from Sacramento?

JGS Well, we were about 18 miles out - on the Consumnes River - it's toward Jackson - Amador County, there on the Consumnes River. In fact, my grandmother and her sister were the first two white women on the river there, between and , years and years ago. And we just stayed right there all the time. Well, I really consider Sacramento my home town. I've lived in Sacramento at different times - during the War. And then I worked in Sacramento - _____ to Sacramento, so that's really my home town. Right now I live in Amador County - Ione, near Jackson.

CVE When your father first bought this property, was all this part of a subdivision, or ...?

JGS Yes, there was Lakeside Tract, and a Mr. McConnell from Elk Grove subdivided it. And I had the papers on it as to when it was subdivided, and I forget now. I think it was early in the 1900s.

CVE Had many of the lots been sold at the time that...?

JGS As far back as I can remember, all of the lots along the tract were sold.

CVE So this was fairly well inhabited by people living in tents?

JGS Not really. Some people from Reno owned it, and they never developed it, or anything, and then the lot on the other side - I think they lived in Reno, also. My father knew who they were, and he used to watch out for it, because in those days, a lot of people would camp and, you know, come in without asking or anything. And the first thing they'd do is give some kid a hatchet, and he had to start chopping and whacking, you know. And so my father, you know, knew these people, and he said, "Well, since we're here every summer, why, you know, we'll kind of keep an eye on things, to be sure that nothing is destroyed."

CVE I guess there was a kind of a formal camp just about across the street - El Campo? Is that where that was located?

JGS That was right across from - just the other side of the Clubhouse there, and just about across from where the apartment - or the motel - that Ben Callender had. Bill Johnston and his mother - I can remember her so well. And his sister used to come from Sacramento - Mrs. Fischer (SP). She was an Opera singer. I don't know if you can say Opera, but she sang in a group in Sacramento and she was a performer in San Francisco. And Bill was quite a character.

CVE I guess he ran a mercantile-type operation?

JGS Yes, yes. Yes. His mother – I think it was a two-story building, as I recall – or they lived in the back. His mother – they were Swiss people, so I was told, and his mother was just a little, tiny thing. And then Bill was there a good part of the time. And then his sister, really, is the one that, you know, took care of things.

Bill was still doing a lot of fishing at that time. He'd go out at daybreak, and you'd hear him yodel, and on the water, it just sounded beautiful. And he had these big, deep wrinkles on his face, and my mother always called them "sun grins". Now where she got that expression – but being on the water, I guess, you know, and getting that reflection – he probably didn't know about ____.

And I know one time – usually I think he fished early in the morning, but this one afternoon he was out quite a ways in front of Homewood here, and a trick storm came up, and the waves came up, and we happened to be out on the beach, watching the waves, and we could see that he was rowing and rowing and didn't seem to get very far. So I could tell from the way he dipped his oars – he had a special way of rowing, more like the Indians – just barely give it a little quick kind of a jerk and so at any rate, my father was just about ready to go – well, Jake Obexer had the GarWood agency up there, and he was just about ready to get in the car and go up and ask - tell Obexer that Bill was in trouble. And about that time, why, we heard a boat start up, and Obexer had seen him. He went in and brought him back, and Bill said he was really glad to see him coming. He said as hard as he could row, he still wasn't making any headway – the storm was, you know, progressing - the waves getting higher and higher. Yea, he was a real tall, slender man, but very generous and he had oodles of friends. He'd give you the shirt of his back, if he thought you needed it.

CVE I understand he did some trapping, also.

JGS I think in the wintertime, he might have stayed in here. I'm not sure about that. But I know he was here all during the summertime – early in the summer until late in the fall. And he possibly did stay in. And you know we used to have so many more storms – heavy storms – in the wintertime, yet people had to watch out for their buildings, and do a lot of snow shoveling. And I think he kind of acted as a caretaker for, you know, some of his friends and whatnot – or watched to be sure everything was OK.

CVE The two-story building you described – do you have any idea what happened to that? Maybe it was lost in a storm or burned down or –?

JGS I just don't remember. I remember so vividly, and yet, it just seemed like we came one spring, and it was gone, and I really don't know what happened to it. My brother's coming this afternoon from Woodland. I can ask him. He's five years younger than I, but he might have remembered, because we were fairly good-sized kids, you know, when Bill was there. So if you give me your telephone number, I could ask him if he remembers, and I could let you know.

CVE Alright. That would be great. You mentioned the Indians. I guess they were still coming here every summer?

JGS In fact, right up in front of this second house here, right next to the airplane, there used to be a big grove of – well, some people call them willows, some call them alders – there was a (goes to a shelf to retrieve a basket) there was an old Indian lady would come every year and sit there in those willows and make baskets, and this one she made, and I bought it from her years ago.

CVE Ahh, uh-huh...a typical example of the Washoe-type weaving.

JGS Umm-hmm. Yes. Well, most of the Indians were over at – then there was McKinney's – you know, Chambers Landing. They used to do their own butchering – I mean the establishment there – would

do their own butchering. And I guess they would give a lot of the probably – well, I'll call it offal – but part of the meat, when they'd slaughter, why, they would give to the Indians. And a lot of them worked around there in various ways – gardening, and kind of caretaking and whatnot.

And this old Indian lady – she said her name was Daisy. I don't know if she picked that up somewhere, or just what, but she told me they came from Minden, Nevada, and they came every year. And then later on, I don't know whether the younger generation got work or other things to do, but the Indian population seemed to dwindle. There used to be – I believe they called him Captain Pete. But at any rate, he would stalk along the road here with about four or five Indian squaws behind him – you know, Army-style. And I think they were going to gather roots somewhere for baskets and whatnot. But the squaws would, you know, have a big kind of a shawl-thing on their back, full of something – I don't know what it was. Of course Captain Pete never – he had a walking stick, and he was so many paces ahead of them. And I've never seen him carrying anything. I guess that was typical Indian-style, probably.

CVE Uh-huh. When they arrived here in the spring, did they come on foot, or were they brought by boat?

JGS I haven't the slightest idea. All of a sudden, when we'd come here, as soon as school was out, why, you'd see them around, and I haven't any idea. I think they came by car, rather than – I don't think they came by water, but I really haven't any idea. But they did have an encampment, so my mother told me. Well, it was there on the creek – on McKinney Creek – right near where the tennis courts are now.

CVE That used to be a fish pond.

JGS Yes, umm-hmm. Willie Arnhold had the fish pond there. He used to look out for our place. He'd be here in the wintertime, and he'd shovel snow and so on. And he was quite a character.

CVE Yes, he was one of the first people I interviewed, and I really enjoyed listening to him. I had a little bit of trouble understanding him.

JGS Yes. He was Swiss also, I understand.

225 CVE When your family would come for the summer, would you father commute back and forth, or ?

JGS He would come and set up camp for us. He had a French prune orchard that he had to, you know, irrigate and all that type of thing. So he would maybe spend two or three weeks with us, during the summer – maybe ten days at a time or something. And usually he'd make at least one trip down. And then when he'd break up camp, then he would, you know, plan on staying a few days before we had to break camp and go home. So my mother and my brother and my sister and myself would be here all summer.

CVE And you cooked over the campfire or did you have a stove?

JGS No, we had a regular, you know, old-fashioned wood stove. In fact, we had a little, pot-bellied heater in our sleeping quarters, and apart from a wood stove in the kitchen that was the only heat that we had. And years ago, my mother learned to put – she had a favorite big rock that she'd put in the oven in the evening and get it nice and warm, and she'd wrap it in newspaper. And it can get pretty chilly here at night, and so she'd take that to bed with her. And ooh, it would still be slightly warm by morning. But that was her Lifesaver, she always said.

And we kids just lived in the Lake. And sometimes our teeth would chatter, and then we'd come in and change our clothes and crawl into bed and get warm. And then, ten minutes afterward, we were back out in the Lake again. I don't know how we survived, but I guess we were accustomed to it.

CVE I don't imagine you had electricity until – well, I guess it must have been on the west shore by the time this house was built.

JGS Yes. But when we first came here, though, we didn't – we had lamps.

CVE And you say as far as groceries, Mr. Atherton came down this way from Tahoe City?

JGS Well, I don't remember if it was delivered. He was still coming this way after we were here. Well, I guess he must have delivered to us, because I don't think my mother – no, Mom didn't have a car here, other than when my father was here, and so he must have delivered. Although well, I guess it was while he was here – I can remember the Tahoe Mercantile that was down on the Commons there – out the wharf. That used to intrigue me, to hear that water slapping up underneath the building. So apparently – well, there was the Farmers – Dr. Farmer and her husband had what is Obexer's Store now, too. And then when my mother was here and when my father was here, and we had transportation (telephone rings)...there's a little building...

(Speaking to party on the phone): "...*El Campo? What happened to that? Did the snow take it down or what happened? Do you remember? - - -Well, didn't they – (was it) part of the Homewood property, with the Clubhouse and whatnot – was that part of it, I wonder? - - - umm-hmm - - -Yes, the Clubhouse. Yes. Yes. Well, you know that motel thing – that fireside or something there, with those cottages, right across from the big marina there? Well, isn't that - it seems like the place was sold or something, and they tore it down and put those in instead, but I don't think that was that far up, was it? - - - Yea, across the street. The same...oh, I see. Yea, yea. Well, then that'd be about where that motel is, then. Oh, that's right. That's right. Yea. Umm-hmm. ---*

Yea. From Ben Callender's motel? Yea, I thought so. --- Yea, I know, 'cause it was on the road then. --- Yea, and it didn't have a roof on it, did it? Yea, that's the way I remember it, too." (concludes call and returns to conversation):

He thinks that the building was torn down, and it was right across the street from where Ben Callender was. And like he said, they didn't have as wide a highway then, and if the building was there now, it would be right practically on the edge of the road, or right close to the road, anyway. And it was a two-story building, as I recall. I didn't ask him, but I'm sure it was. And it had – I call it – a sun porch. You know – the big cedar posts with rafters across – and had flowers out in front and whatnot. And those made it look real attractive.

CVE I don't think I've ever seen a photo of it.

JGS I don't think we have one either anywhere, but it was rather a long building, and then, as I recall, it had like a lean-to on the back that was like living quarters. I think his mother passed away, and, as I recall, the property was sold. And I think whoever bought it tore it down.

CVE It seems to me that I saw something in – I've got a collection of *Tahoe Tattler* from the 30s, and one of the – there was an interview with him in one of the *Tattlers*, and it said something to the effect that he had supported his mother for many years, and that he had promised that he wouldn't marry until after she had gone.

JGS I don't know, but it very well, you know, could be true, because he was very devoted to his mother. And I don't know where she would go in the wintertime. She might even stay there. But it seems like her daughter would have her come to Sacramento and take her down, and have her stay in a warmer climate, but I really couldn't swear to that.

CVE I guess they don't have any living relatives that still come to Tahoe?

JGS I don't think so. I don't remember if the sister ever mentioned anything about having a family. There were just the three of them – the sister and the mother and Bill. And I don't know where he came from or – He was just, like, part of Tahoe, you know. He was just here for ever and ever. So I really don't know anything more about them really.

CVE I guess if your family first came here in 1913, the Hobarts still owned property here?

JGS That name is familiar, but were they up around Obexers?

CVE Yes, in fact I think Obexers bought some property from Hobart.

JGS Well, I know the name is familiar, but it doesn't mean anything, other than, you know – is that the same family from Hobart Mills? No, as I say, the name is familiar, but Mr. Obexer first started out with the boats. And then Dr. Farmer and Mrs. Farmer had the store there. And as far as I know, the Obexers bought them out. I'm not sure, but I don't remember, you know, anyone being there in between-times. And then the Post Office, you know, used to be here where the Clubhouse was. And then later they took part of the building up there and had the Post Office in the store. I mean, it was a separate entrance, but it was in the same building.

CVE Some of the other families that lived along here: I understand a Dr. Fussel, who was a dentist, had one of these homes.

JGS Yes. Dr. – they pronounced it Fu –sell'. He had the house right next door here – he built that.

CVE Oh – the one that the Huffs have now?

JGS Umm-hmm. Yea, he had it first, and then he sold to a Mrs. Elliott, and she planned on making this her permanent home, and the winters were too cold for her. _____. She had her big ranch down near Salinas, I believe it was, and she had three boys, and none of them were interested in ranching. So her husband passed away – this was before we knew her, but this is what she told us – her husband passed away, and the boys weren't interested, and so she sold the ranch and she bought this from Dr. Fussel, who was getting along in years. They - the Fussels - had friends over by Kings Beach, and so he bought some property over there. Or maybe he just rented – I don't know. But they were there for maybe four or five years or something after he sold here.

And then Mrs. Elliott – she was quite elderly and she traveled a lot. She had a brother in New York, and in the wintertime, why, it was nothing for her to take a trip around the world or something, and be here in time to enjoy the summer at Tahoe. And she became ill, I think, and passed away.

I think there were several summers – maybe a couple, that she didn't come here, you know, while she was kind of in poor health, and she'd rent an apartment in Hillsborough. And then she had these three boys, and some of their families would come here. And then one of the boys was killed in a tragic accident in Los Angeles. And one of the boys was some sort of a salesman – I don't know just what. But he wasn't interested in the Lake at all, from what I was told. And the one brother that loved it here, couldn't afford to buy the other two out, and so that's when they sold. Now this what I'm saying is what was told to me. I've never actually seen it in black and white, but ...her family, and whatnot, you know, talked to us – her brother and whatnot.

There's the three of us here, so we each spend a month here, and that beginning with the 15th of June, and then prior to the 15th of June and after the 15th of September, why then, it's just up for grabs. And then each year we rotate, so that way, it makes it kinda even. I'm retired and my brother's retired, and before that, there wasn't such a demand for it, in the summertimes, because we

were working and couldn't arrange to get a vacation during that time. But as times change, why, you have to adjust things accordingly.

My father built close to the Lake with the thought that sometime later, one of might want to build on the back portion of the lot. We had a full lot here. Those two lots over there are just half lots. But at any rate, then with different ordinances that are being passed and whatnot – we don't have the footage there, so we couldn't build. All we can do is be there or add on or something. But it worked out really well for us. ... I usually come back in October and stay until ... Three years ago, I went out in a snowstorm, and I knew it was going to be of short duration – I was safe – but me and my little friend over there were the only ones here, and when I saw those big flakes coming down, I thought, boy, this is no place for an old lady and a dog, so I hurriedly packed up and scooted home.

...

CVE The building across the street, which is now – I guess it's a rental shop?

JGS Well, they have – they call it Tahoe Gear. They have bicycle sales, bicycle rentals. They have T-shirts and all the bicycle clothing and whatnot. And I see a note on the door that they're closing 'til November 1. I was talking to them not too long ago, and they're going to go into ski things for the winter now. Whether or not _____, I don't know. Probably. Well, I guess you can rent skis up here, can't you?

CVE Oh sure.

JGS Yea. Maybe that's what he had in mind. He just said, as winter came on, I better go into the ski equipment, I guess, is the way he explained it.

CVE Well, that's a good location for that. I guess Ed Cole was the former tenant there. The Huffs told me a little about Mr. Cole.

JGS Yes, he was quite a character, and he lived here as long as anyone that I can remember. He used to work for...he was the Boilerman and Mrs. Jost's helper. Now, I refer to Mr. Jost as talking my father into owning this lot. Now I don't know when he passed on, but as long as I can remember, his wife ran the hotel. They had a small building, about where the Clubhouse is there now, and the front part of it was the Post Office, and the back portion was the boiler room and laundry. You know, just for the hotel. And he was the Boilerman.

And I know when the TAHOE steamer docked – you know, in those days, they carried all the mail and freight and everything, and they had one of those little two-wheeled – I call 'em railroad carts, you know. And Ed Cole would take the cart and go out and meet the Steamer, and bring in the mail, and it would be sorted there. Of course, there was so few people, in those days, that got mail, it probably wouldn't take 'em more than twenty minutes or half-an-hour to sort the mail, and everyone would stand around and talk. And so they got their mail, and then everyone would kinda disperse. And that was a daily event – the coming of the Steamer. There's a piece outside here that's set aside as the walkway – about ten feet – and people can – well, it's all grown up now – but people from half-a-mile down – they wouldn't get their cars out or anything. They'd walk up this walkway.

CVE Was it a natural board walk?

JGS No, no, no. It was just set aside in the tract as a public thoroughfare. In fact, I think they call it "Tahoe Avenue". I did some checking here about a year ago. I went down to the Assessor's Office in Auburn, because there's so much contradiction about "This is mine!", you know. "Stay out!" and "This is my beach! Stay out!" and whatnot. And I don't know for sure just how far down that

walkway went, but it went down here below _____, and it was set aside as a public thoroughfare so people, you know, could use it and enjoy the Lake, and that type of thing. According to the Assessor's Office, as I mentioned, Mr. McConnell was the subdivider. This was his sheep range, in the early days. And here the Assessor's Office has determined that that public walkway still belongs to the heirs of Mr. McConnell. There are about four or five names listed, I think, in the records down there.

I don't know why Ed Cole left up there and came here. It might have been – I'm just guessing now – It might have been when Mr. Huff took over. He built that garage, and I guess he was a pretty good mechanic. And he lived upstairs. He seemed busy all the time. Now whether he was tinkering or whether he had a lot of business, I just don't know. But he was a very strange person, and I don't think he had very many friends. I know my mother and father used to feel sorry for him. I guess my father had known him for a long, long while. And they would have him come over and have dinner with them occasionally or something. And he seemed to, you know, enjoy it so much to be asked – you know, to join someone.

He always wore black clothes – black shirt, black pants. I guess the black kind of gave him a greasy appearance, because his hands were always kind of grimy looking because of working, you know, with oil and whatnot.

But you could eat off of that floor. There wasn't a speck of dirt, there wasn't a speck of anything. He was just meticulous. And to look at him, you'd think, you know, he could care less about what kind of a place he lived in. I don't know how he kept the upstairs, but the downstairs was...

He had a - I think it was – a Pierce Arrow car. My folks said that he worked in a hotel washing dishes in Auburn in the wintertime. And then he'd come up here early in the spring, and he would jack the car up – I guess in those days to save the tires and whatnot. It would sit there all summer, and I don't think he ever went anyplace. And then when _____ it'd be time to go to Auburn, he'd get his car out and go. But he was in one sense, a part of Homewood, just like Bill Johnston was.

On a Sunday, there wasn't very much to do around here, and we'd drive over to Meeks Bay, if my father was here, and we'd go swimming and whatnot. And it would be fun to watch the crowd. And they had a store there, and ice cream. And you know how ice cream and kids go together! The owners at Meeks Bay - Kehlet? They had several children. They were all towheads, and peeling noses, you know, because they were so blonde. Of course in later years they grew up, I guess, and ran the Resort. But that really was a nice place, with a sandy beach and they managed it well, and it was known all over. And I don't know what the Forest Service did with it, but as far as I'm concerned, they just murdered it. Mrs. Bush missed the boat. She was the sweetest person. They lived on the second – Sans Souci Street was the next street over, and they were between Sans Souci and the next street. You know, they were just back up the hill. And as long as I can remember, they had their home there. They lived in Oakland, and had their two daughters. One of the daughters – her husband - she lived in Los Angeles, and her husband was in the construction business. And they built a home right next to her.

But as soon as Mr. and Mrs. Bush could come in in the spring, they would come on the boat. You know, come on the train and come up in the boat. And they were quite elderly. As long as I can remember, she had snow-white hair. In fact, both of them did. And she was just the sweetest person you ever wanted to know. And she knew – I don't know when they first began coming here, but, you know, different families came and whatnot. Everyone knew Mrs. Bush. She would always come and welcome a new spring, you know, and she knew all the children. And you know, it sounds like she was nosey or something. She was just like a grandmother - she had to keep track of all her family or something.

Their house had a long slope to it – in fact, their house is still over there. I don't know who lives in it right now. But the porch was long enough that she could have a big sun porch for herself wind chimes. She had the grounds looking so nice. She had a bird bath. She'd feed the birds. They'd come and bathe there. And then she would bring sacks of nuts and whatnot, and the squirrels from far and near came. And some of 'em would even come and eat out of her hand. And that was really a treat,

to go see Mrs. Bush. And I don't know how many years they were there, and then both of them became elderly and passed on.

I found out afterwards that – there's a town in Amador County called Plymouth. It's on Highway 49. And I found later that she used to run a hotel in Plymouth, and her husband drove stage between Plymouth and Jackson. But we didn't know them at that time. It would have been, you know, 30 years.

And I can remember – isn't it funny how kids will remember some little thing that's so insignificant? But when we would be breaking up camp here – we'd try to get away by around noontime, or shortly afterwards – and I know she told my mother – I can hear her so well - “Now don't you bother about a lunch, because I'll fix a lunch for you.” And she made chopped egg sandwiches, and she put some

END OF TAPE 1 – SIDE A (728 feet)

START OF TAPE 1 – SIDE B

JGS ...She put some pickled beets in it, and it made it the prettiest pink color, you know, and I can remember that as long as I can remember anything. And of course that pink color was really appealing. But it really kind of changed the favor and made it delicious. But she was always the thoughtful one, bringing some cookies or something. And her favorite expression was – you know, maybe like “omigosh!” or something like that – was “Ye Gads!”

Then she had one grandson – Fred Walker. He was the same age as my brother that I was just talking with. And then there was Bob Callender, that used to live next door – that was Ben Callender's nephew.

CVE Uh-huh. I've met Bob.

JGS You have met Bob. Well, my sister didn't have very good health. She had a congenital heart condition and she couldn't get out and go these place that Morse (my brother) and Bob and I – we would roam these hills like a bunch of coyotes or something or other, and we used to have some good times.

CVE Was there a lot of socializing – going visiting to someone's house?

JGS Not really. Well, Bob's mother lived next door. Because Bob's mother – I say next door. There was a vacant lot where Mrs. Best is now, and then there was two half-lots. The Callenders had a half-lot, and then there was some people by the name of Jennings from Palo Alto. He was a professional person of some sort. I think he was a teacher, but I'm not sure. He had the prettiest wife, and she was the sweetest person.

And then there were the Pattersons. Our folks didn't really visit with the Pattersons very much. I think my father did, because he knew Mr. Patterson. They had the haberdashery in Sacramento. In fact, I think it's still there on 9th and K. But at any rate, my father knew him. But there were the two Patterson boys and then Jane, the girl. She was the oldest. And we used to get together. And then there was the Heckes, that lived next door to them, and then the Mull family. And we had known the Mull family for years and years, and they had a daughter just a little older than I – Eleanor. And my mother used to visit with them a lot. But I don't know. Everyone was kinda pretty much to themselves, I mean as far as the adults were concerned.

CVE Was there socializing of a more organized sort? Were the dances still going on here?

JGS Yes. They had the Clubhouse going. Dick Jurgens used to play up there when he was in college. And just for entertainment, a lot of times in those days people would just go and take their kids and sit and listen to the music and watch the dancers. We used to do that.

CVE Yea, that what my grandmother was telling me about the dances at Meeks Bay in those days. She said the whole family went.

JGS Yea. I think it was only once we went over to Meeks Bay to a dance. But that was after I was older, I think, and – it was kind of past the family stage, you might say. Oh, they had a beautiful floor there. And a lot of their dances were their “Snowfall Dances”. You probably heard about them.

CVE No, no.

JGS Well, of course the whole hall would be decorated with Christmas trees and that type of thing. And then, before the evening was over, they’d take cloth and it would be like a sling, you might say. If you were to take a bedsheet, for instance, and put wires on one side and wires on the other – and they would have several of those. The Clubhouse was built with kind of a big dance floor, and then at each end was like a mezzanine. And they would fill the sheets or something similar to that with confetti, and then they would swing that back and forth and it looked just like a snowstorm. And people would come from all over the Lake, and it would just be packed.

CVE Was this an annual event?

JGS Oh yes. An annual event for this particular storm, but they had dances there every Saturday night. It was so pretty, and of course it made a lot of excitement (?), and I guess they must have swept it up at an intermission. I don’t remember. But I know it looked like snow coming down, and then they had colored lights on it – a way to really make it look nice. But I was really sad when I heard that snow had crushed the building down, because it really wasn’t a very old building. I haven’t any idea. I doubt it was ten years old – more or less an new building. And it wasn’t connected with the Homewood Resort or Mrs. Jost. ...We came one year and I think it was completely taken away already, and cleared, and I was just sick, because I’ve always enjoyed music and his band (Dick Jurgens) really impressed me. ... He was a Sacramento boy, you know. He still lives in Sacramento. I went to business college with his cousin, I think it was.

CVE Oh, I didn’t know he was still living.

JGS Well, as far as I know, he’s still alive, because I have friends who are very close friends of his, and as far as I know, he’s still alive. I think he was in Chicago for a long while, _____, but I understand he’s come back to Sacramento. But they were Junior College boys that comprised the band. And in fact his piano player, Ronnie Kemper, I saw in the paper here about three or four years ago – I think he’s retired now – used to play out in the North Area at – can’t remember the place right now, but it was a restaurant. I don’t think you’d call it a night club – I’m not sure.

CVE Were there any dances still being held at Moana Villa, or

JGS I remember the name, and I remember driving through there, but it didn’t seem to prosper like – or, as far as I know, it wasn’t well known like McKinney’s or Meeks Bay or Tahoma. Yea, Tahoma. No, Pomin’s was the resort.

CVE Well, there was also the Hotel Tahoma or Tahoma Hotel.

JGS Well, I wasn't too well-acquainted up that way, but as far as I know, that must have come along later. Because as I remember, there was the McKinney's, Moana Villa and Pomin's – or at least those were the only ones that I heard of. And I remember years and years ago, they had a terrible fire – I mean a forest fire –and they didn't think that they were going to control it. And they brought in barges and took all the furniture out of that Pomin's Resort and had it on barges on the Lake. And the wind changed, and they got the fire under control. So it wasn't a necessity, but it was just so completely out of hand, that that was the precaution that they took.

CVE I wonder – what period of time that would have been? Do you have any idea?

JGS No. Probably around – I'm just taking a wild guess. Maybe around 1923, '22? '24, maybe? But everyone, you know, far and near came to fight the fire, and they called all the residents here. I understand they even stopped traffic on the road and asked them to come and help, because it was so disastrous.

CVE They didn't have ways to get firefighters from one place to another in those days.

JGS Right. And that's I guess the way they did in olden days, was to – you know – ask everyone to come and help us, you know. Because everyone, as far as I know, was very obliging, you know. It was part of their duty to Help Thy Neighbor or something

CVE It's too bad that isn't still more the case.

JGS Yes, I know what you're saying.

CVE I have down here that you mentioned a little bit earlier that Chambers – or McKinney's – he had meat. Did this butcher shop actually sell meat to the general public?

JGS Well, at that time, you know it wasn't as thickly populated as it is now, and I don't know how my mother got an in, but it was my understanding that if you knew the meat was there and whatnot, then he'd sell it to the general public. It was just a small building where the entrance goes in, there by the creek. Well, there was a little building almost in back of the kitchen there, that was their butcher shop, and my mom would go there and get the meat.

CVE And as for fires, I guess Dave Chambers was the fire department down at this end of the Lake.

JGS Yes, that's what I heard in later years. Now I didn't know very much about him, except that he evidently was quite a mover in this community. Everyone knew Dave Chambers, you know. I guess I've seen the man, but to me, he didn't stand out in my memory, because I didn't know him that well. And I don't know who was running McKinney's when it was still called McKinney's. I think it was someone – let me put it this way: I think in later years, he ran McKinney's, and of course that's when it was called Chambers Lodge. But I just don't know who was in charge of it when it was still known as McKinney's.

CVE Do you remember – did your family make it a regular habit to go to the boat races when they were held at Chambers?

JGS Not particularly. It seems like I can remember once of going, but it doesn't stand out in my mind very clearly. We used to watch – I think it was from down this way. We used to watch them from the beach

here. But it seems just once I think I recall standing out on the pier, there near the Clubhouse. But there would be so many people around, and you could probably get just as good a view from here.

CVE Did you have a - did your family have a rowboat, or some other little means of getting around in the water?

JGS No, we never did. My mother was - she didn't swim. She was raised on the bank of a creek, you might say, and she was the only member of her family that didn't swim, and she was scared to death of water. And my father wanted to get some sort of a small boat. You know, like - other than a rowboat - some kind of a mechanized boat. And she just didn't want it. She said she was on pins and needles all the time any of us were in it - including him - and so, no, we didn't even have a rowboat. Bob Callender had boats over there, and we used to, you know, have access to a boat, and we'd putter along the edge here. But as far as owning a boat - no, we never did.

CVE Was your pier - I see this pier's fairly new, 'cause it's got the metal pilings.

JGS Well, originally, it was the wooden pilings, and then they changed it to metal. No, that pier belongs to the people next door. We never had a pier. We never had any use for one.

...

CVE Well, when you came to Tahoe, did you come in the early days by car?

JGS Yes. My father had a Hudson car, and we'd come by Placerville. That was the main road. Well, that was the closest one. (Interstate) 80 was unheard of, I guess, in those days. And occasionally we would come across the Auburn - and come up I-80. But nine times out of ten, we'd come by Placerville. And I can remember so well. I still get motion sickness, and the road, you know, would just wind out on this point and go - and even in an open car, with all the fresh air, why...we had the Hudson touring car, and we'd put the top down, and oh, I used to get so sick, I'd just hate to think about coming, and I'd hate to think about going. I'd really be sick for a day or two afterwards.

CVE I guess in those days Auburn Ravine was just as bad as Emerald Bay.

JGS Well, really not so bad. I think that road has always been - even if it was a winding road. No, I don't remember that. I've never cared for the Auburn road, because to me, you're out on those ridges, and out in the boiling sun all the time. Placerville is much more appealing. But my mother always held her breath until she got around Emerald Bay, because it used to be so narrow and everything.

CVE I guess it must have been most of a day's trip up here?

JGS Oh, it was a full day's trip, you might say, from where we were. Because we had to cut across - well, to Placerville. And then of course the road wasn't the same as it is now. But this is kinda "Grimshawville", because my father's oldest brother, Will Grimshaw, had the house right next to Obexer's Marina there. In fact, I think some of the Obexers - didn't the boy that was killed - I think he was living there at the time. And then my uncle that built this built that house. And then where the Kirks are now - that was also another Grimshaw house. And then, across the street - I think included the property there was a rock wall in there. It was an old dilapidated square, two-story building. It was just like a pigeon coop back there. And that belonged to some relatives of ours. In fact, I think that's maybe how - of course, my father was familiar with the area. But the other two brothers - that might have been why they settled there. That belonged to Robert Mahoney (SP), and he used to come and spend the whole summer there. And then he was down at Sloughouse in the wintertime. And then he passed on, and it was left to a niece and so on. I don't know - apparently

they sold it, but I don't remember when. But some of his relatives used to come. I know there were some from Santa Rosa. And one of those ladies – well, she was quite a bit older than me. But she had a little girl, and she just loved to hike. And so we'd go back in the Rubicon and, you know, comb these hills. That's how we happened to find an old log chute over here, that they used to send the trees down the log chute into the Lake.

CVE You say “up here” – just in the _____ of Homewood?

JGS It was in the Madden Creek Canyon somewhere, and I don't know just where. I imagine some of it would still be there, if you knew where to look. Because they'd take a big fir tree and cut it in half. And then they'd pour oil on it – or tallow or something – and grease it. And that wood – it would get so hot from those logs and whatnot – or so I was told – that it preserved the logs. Of course, I was just a kid when the outside of the logs, you know, were beginning to show time. But the harder logs, where the tallow had practically been burning – it almost looked like petrified rock.

The trail to Mt. Ellis used to go up this way, and then it swung around. Of course, it's all overgrown now. And I've often thought if I could go up there and kind of explore and see if I could still find the remains of it. Bob Callender probably would know, because I think he's the one that first told us about it. You know, go find it or something. We even conned my mother into going and spending overnight in the Rubicon – my brother and Bob and I – at Rubicon Springs. And then we hiked all over that country, over there.

His parents had one of those old Dodges that had that real low gear. And at that time, the stage went back and forth from Rubicon Springs out to Chambers Lodge, and they kept the road up. And so with that low gear, why, we went over and set up camp one night and hiked all over. I think we spent two nights, and then we came back the next day. That was quite an experience.

...

You know, before the timber grew up, I used to stand there at the kitchen sink, and you could see the top of that peak through the timber. But of course that's long gone now. The trees have grown.

CVE It's amazing how a generation can really change the landscape. We have some photos of my grandparents' property when they just bought it, and the trees are all little seedlings, and now...

JGS Well, this grove here – we used to have friends come and stay, and they had a little girl, about three or four years old, and those trees were just, you know – they used to be tiny cedars about like that (indicating), and now they're sky-high. That used to be a favorite camping spot. They'd be close to us, and a lot of people, you know, just like to have their own camp. There were a couple of school teachers. One lady belonged to the Sierra Club and, you know, went a lot of places and whatnot. And she'd come and stay oh, maybe a month. And she'd have an early dinner every night so she could be on the beach and watch the different colors on the Lake, you know, as the sun reflected on the clouds. And she thought that was really something to behold.

CVE Well, it is. We've lost a lot of the – well, so many come here now for so many things other than to enjoy the view, I think it's been a detriment to the Lake.

JGS Oh, it definitely has. When I think of the casinos over at the end of the Lake, I just... I head the story, and I guess it's true. Someone was up to gamble or something, and someone would say something about the Lake. “Well, what Lake? We didn't see any Lake.” You know. They see the inside of a building.

CVE That's probably a true story. ... Yea, I think had it not been for the gambling, the state of the Lake would be much different than it is now.

JGS I'm sure it would. I'm sure it would. Yea, put it out in the Carson Valley. 'Cause I can remember, years ago, Stateline was just a couple of little buildings, and probably three or four slot machines, and that was it.

CVE Uh-huh. I feel lucky. I always wish I had been in the generation before mine – I would have seen more of the Lake before it was like it is now. But I also feel lucky that I got to see it when I did.

JGS Well, where Tahoe Keys is now – that was a big mistake, as far as I'm concerned. There used to be beautiful meadows, and the people from our area down there used to have dairies there. I had a cousin in high school who used to have her milk route and deliver. Well, one family would deliver as far as Emerald Bay – you know, on a daily basis. That was her main job, was going on a milk truck, and running to the individual homes, and they'd put it right on the doorstep. And then they'd go over Echo Summit and over in the Phillips area. And I can remember seeing these big ponds with lily pads, and beautiful meadows and cowboys, and it was a pleasant memory.

CVE Was Mr. Luneman delivering milk along the west shore when you...

JGS Yes. Wasn't he just in that meadow this side of Brooks Park?

CVE I think so.

JGS He used to, because I know one time his cattle got into ... you know, there's some kind of a wild onion that has a bulb to it, and somehow, the cattle got into that, and for about, oh, three or four days, he had to buy milk elsewhere and deliver it himself – all that time. I have forgotten the name. Well, years ago, when my brother – well, he was born in '18. And I guess there wasn't fresh milk around or something, because I know – I don't know what – probably Bordens Dairy out of Sacramento – had to send up several – I guess you'd call it cases – of milk. It was a wire square, about like this, with wires in between, so you could set a bottle of milk down in it. And they would send that up, and – I know it would come to the Post Office. And we had a standing order, 'cause my brother – he was born with a hernia, and they didn't know it, and my mother had a terrible time with him. But at any rate, I know we'd get milk there at the Post Office, so it must not have been available – I guess they didn't have a route – during those days. In fact, I think that this Mr. Luneman was the only one that did have a route here until they began, you know, selling it in stores. He's the only one that I can remember ever delivering.

CVE Would your family ever bring groceries up to the Lake?

JGS Oh yes. probably Yes. In those days, they were quite expensive, you know, because they had to truck them in or something. Yes. And well, we relied a lot on canned goods. And then, it was hard to get fresh meat, so I know my father would always bring a ham and a bacon. And then, you know, you've got your canned salmon and different things like that.

CVE Did you eat very much fish?

JGS No. None of us were fish eaters. And my father never fished. Even to this day, none of us are fish eaters.

CVE I know so many families relied a lot on them. Mine did. All my uncles are avid fishermen.

JGS Well, you know, if someone would...I guess maybe once in awhile Bill Johnston would give us one, or something like that. I don't remember that, but that wasn't the main...that would be just very, very occasionally. Has anyone talked to you about the McConnell family?

CVE Not very much.

JGS They still have, you know, their home up here, not far from Obexers. The one with the shingles. I guess George McConnell, who used to live there, was the son of the person who put in this Lakeside Tract, or subdivided it. And when we were talking about meat and ham – we didn't have any refrigeration in those days, and that was a vacant lot. So in that clump of trees, we had a – I think we called it a "safe". What it was was a box about so square, with screen on all sides, and a door in it, and you'd keep ham and bacon and butter and things like that in there. And George McConnell was a big man, and he always wore one of these – like a safari hat, only he had the brim turned up. And he always had this big Airedale dog on a leash. I think he was an Airedale – a big dog. I remember this one particular time, a storm on the Lake, and my friends came up to visit their friends. Not to visit them on the premises, but, you know, to just stop in. And they took them inside, and their dining area was right out – you know, right near the Lake. And Frances said that these friends said that the water just poured in there – I guess – beautiful Persian rugs and whatnot, just all... I guess they salvaged them, but it must have been quite an episode.

CVE Well, I understand that when the engineer – or the architect – did the designing of the buildings for the (Kaiser) estate, he didn't take into account that the Lake was at one of its lower levels, and so when the thing was completed, in a high water year, the Lake came up, and there was very little headroom in the building.

JGS Well, even at best, they had to put in all kinds of walls there. I guess retainer walls, or whatever you want to call them. Well, even the best of them can make mistakes.

CVE That's right. Oh, one thing I forgot to ask you: Your maiden name is not Saner, is it

JGS Saner.

CVE I believe I have seen that name on some of the older subdivision maps.

JGS Maybe, because, you know, we've been here all these years. I think you asked me about how we happened to come to Tahoe, and I mentioned about, you know, other people. Well, my father came to Tahoe City and then branched out from there. But he almost died of diphtheria when he was three years old. And the doctors said that as soon as he was a little older, he should spend as much time in the dry air up in high altitude as possible. So we had neighbors down there who had a dairy in Hope Valley, and so I guess when he was about nine years old, he used to come to the mountains with them every year, and act as choreboy. They had to bring the cows in, you know, from the meadows, and wash milk buckets. They would drive hogs from the Sacramento area up to Hope Valley. In fact, that's where Pickett Junction got its name, 'cause over here on 89 and 88 – because that was the main family – Pickett. Well, first it was – I don't know if it was the same ranch. It was in the same immediate vicinity over there. It was people by the name of Sieger. And that's when he first came up. And then later, he came with the Picketts. And I'm not sure whether maybe they sold out to Pickett or just bought. My father always wondered what was on the other side of the mountain. I guess that's where I get that wanderlust, too. But at any rate, well, ever since then, he's been here in the Sierra Nevada, and he's climbed every peak from Roundtop to way up in Sierra County somewhere. But he really loved the mountains.

CVE When I first came to Tahoe City, do you remember him ever saying where he stayed?

JGS No, I don't, other than they rented a house for the summer. It was right in Tahoe City, but I don't know just where. There was a Mr. Dunlap that used to run – I think he ran the train from – was there both a passenger train and a freight train or something in the Tahoe City area?

CVE ...as I understand. Uh-huh. And I've heard that name mentioned, too. John Dunlap?

JGS John Dunlap. Right. Well, they weren't neighbors of ours, but they were within 20 miles of us, and my father knew them. And that might have been a link that brought them to Tahoe city – I don't know. Of course in those days, there weren't a lot of places around here, so I just don't know. Then the Dunlaps, in later years, had a dairy over in Tahoe Valley.

CVE I was going to say, I think I have also read – I've never followed up on this, but since I heard the Dunlap name mentioned in conjunction with Tahoe City, it occurs to me that in one of the old *Tahoe Tattlers*, there's an interview with Mr. Dunlap during the time that he lived at the south end of the Lake.

JGS Um-hmm. In fact, there's a – as you leave Camp Richardson and come, you know, north – there's an area up there where they'd have an annual 4-H Camp. And I know my daughter was attending camp there, and I went to pick her up, and I was so surprised, because here was Roger Street, Gloria Street, Eloise Street – and those were all members – names - of the Dunlap family. And it was part of – I guess they subdivided or, you know, bought the property or something. In fact Gloria, one of the girls, married one of the Young Brothers at Bijou.

CVE I was going to say, I think that was the connection that I remember.

JGS And she's still alive, as far as I know. Most of the other family members have passed on.

CVE This would be Mr. Dunlap's daughter?

JGS Right.

CVE Gloria or?

JGS Gloria – wait a minute. Glorene. Glorene. I think it was G-L-O-R-E-N-E

CVE Well, I think everyone who came to Tahoe in the early days, and remembers what it was like before the Olympics and before gambling, really – it's in the blood, I guess, is all I can say.

JGS Yea, since then, it's really been commercialized. And like you say, before then, it was more or less the love of Tahoe that brought them back year after year.

CVE Yea, I find that most of the summer residents here rarely went anywhere else, in the summer.

JGS Well, a lot of people – I've never been to Yosemite.

CVE (Laughs) Neither have I.

JGS People gasp when I say that. Well, we had this property here as soon as school was out, we'd go. Well, one season – I think it was before we came to Tahoe, maybe. My grandmother's health wasn't very good, and we went to Pacific Grove. And other than that, well, what more would you want? I mean, a nice place to go – a nice cool place. We kids had the same friends. "See you next year!" you know. My mother and father went to Yosemite. I remember one year when we'd had a real wet winter, because my uncle used to go there a lot, and he said water is what makes Yosemite – you know, the falls, and the beauty and whatnot. And so I know it was before school was out, and a neighbor lady came and stayed with the children for about a week while my parents went – and enjoyed it tremendously. But then we just didn't have any occasion to go. We'd just come here every summer.

CVE We thought about it all winter, and how long it was until we got to go back.

JGS Right, right. When you would leave the mountains, as a child, what town were you in – Southern California?

CVE I grew up in Palo Alto, and Sunnyvale.

JGS Oh, Palo Alto.

CVE So we didn't have too far to come, especially, but

JGS Well, it's quite a bit farther than Sacramento.

CVE That's true. Well, I've certainly enjoyed hearing your recollections. My children are going to be getting home from school shortly, though, so I have to be there when the bus drops them off.

JGS Well, I've just kind of rambled on here at random, you might say. I don't know what you can – how much historical value you can get from all this. But maybe, like you say – what - thoughts I've had added to something else?

CVE Well, you've really been quite enlightening.

JGS Really? Well, if I've helped a little bit, I'm glad. I've enjoyed meeting you, and hope I'll see you again sometime.

**607 FEET INTO TAPE 1, SIDE B
END OF EDITED INTERVIEW**