

Mill Valley Oral History Program
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Marilyn Bagshaw and Patty Bagshaw Simmons

**An Oral History Interview
Conducted by Stella Perone in 2014**

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INTERVIEWER: Stella Perone
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Sisters Marilyn Bagshaw and Patty Bagshaw Simmons were born at Ross Hospital in Kentfield in 1940 and 1942, respectively. The Bagshaws were raised in Mill Valley and attended Old Mill School, Tamalpais High, and College of Marin. Over the years, Marilyn worked for Pacific Telephone and Telegraph, the human resources department of Blue Shield of California, and was a school secretary. At the time her oral history was recorded, Patty had worked for over three decades as a business and office manager for Happy Feet Dance School in Mill Valley. Both sisters have two children each.

In this oral history, Marilyn and Patty recount their childhood memories of growing up in Mill Valley. Through their extensive recollections they draw a detailed picture of the various establishments that comprised downtown Mill Valley – from Mosher’s Shoe Store and Old Mill Market to La Ginestra and Dowd’s Fashion Stables. Marilyn and Patty also talk about many local residents who were well known in the community, from U.S. Senator Samuel Ichie Hayakawa to the founder of Happy Feet Dance School, Cece Boden Bechelli.

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Oral History of Marilyn Bagshaw and Patty Bagshaw Simmons
November 25, 2014

Please note: The transcript below differs in some ways from the oral history recording. The interviewees made changes to clarify information they shared during the oral history.

Stella Perone: This is Stella Perone sitting here with Patty Bagshaw Simmons and Marilyn Bagshaw on November 25th, 2014.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: Hi, this is Patty Bagshaw Simmons.

Marilyn Bagshaw: And I'm Marilyn Bagshaw.

Stella Perone: Why don't you start out, tell us where you were born, when and where and who you were born to.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: I'm Patty, and our parents were Marie Vetter Bagshaw and Sam Bagshaw who came to Mill Valley in 1902. I was born April 5th, 1942, at Ross Hospital in Kentfield. I was born and raised in Mill Valley and have never lived anywhere else.

Marilyn Bagshaw: And I am Marilyn Bagshaw and I was born also at Ross Hospital in 1940 and I lived in Mill Valley, born and raised, until I was an adult.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: We lived at the home our parents built at 200 Eldridge. They built it in 1937 on a beautiful hillside lot and that is where I live today and where I raised my children and where our grandchildren visit.

Marilyn Bagshaw: Both of us went to Old Mill School and walked to school, there were no buses out Blithedale Canyon as far as Marguerite Avenue. I was among the first to go to Alto School. We were bused out to Alto for the eighth grade only. We both went to Tamalpais High School.

Stella Perone: Alto in those days was a middle school, a seventh and eighth grade school?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: Yes, just seventh and eighth. We were some of the first to go there and we were also mortified to leave our little neighborhood, cozy Old Mill School. We had oak trees in the schoolyard that we could climb all over and I am sure there were some broken arms. Girls had to wear skirts or dresses, couldn't wear pants to school until our mother got Marilyn an exception because she had too many colds and she got to wear little wool slack outfits to school. We had a full cafeteria with a hot lunch every day, everything from roast beef and green beans and mashed potatoes. We never ate there except on hot dog day.

Marilyn Bagshaw: And remembering Old Mill School, during the war [World War II] we would have air raids, air raid drills, and we would do a drop and cover. We did continue to have air raid drills at Old Mill School even years after World War II ended.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: We had real air raids when Marilyn and I were too young to go to school, it was right around Pearl Harbor and the war years after. Our dad went out to the coast and would sit in the concrete bunkers: Fort Cronkite, Baker, Barry, and watch for the enemy. Mom and Marilyn and I would lay on the sofa at home in the dark with our radio on, listening to see if we were going to be attacked. We had to shut all the blinds and even put a cover over our radio so the little light in the radio didn't shine through.

Stella Perone: Well, you were like 3 and 5 years old, right?

Marilyn Bagshaw: Right. We still had the Cold War, though. We also had earthquake drills when we went to school. Drop and cover in the cafeteria, where we went underneath the tables or under our desks in the classrooms.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: During the Cold War people built bunkers and air raid shelters, so we were still vigilant.

Stella Perone: I know we aren't talking about your dad, but when he went out to look for the enemy, was that his job?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: No, he worked for the telephone company in San Francisco during the day. He was a volunteer to do the nighttime "lookout" work. He was too old to be in the service, so that was his part. And we had rationing, we had to save our tin cans because there was very little metal. We had red tokens, because we were small children, we got extra tokens so we could have meat.

Marilyn Bagshaw: We lined up on East Blithedale at Lenci's Meat Market.

Stella Perone: Where was Lenci's Meat Market?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: It's where there is a home furnishings store by Pharmaca, where Lawson and Dyer Pharmacy used to be.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: Yes, behind there, Lenci's Meats, and Mr. Andino had the vegetables. So those were kind of the war years. Oh, I remember our Christmas tree. We had glass ball ornaments but you couldn't have a metal hanger because there was no metal. The hangers were little cardboard circles that fit into the glass ornament. Our car didn't have a solid metal roof; it had sort of an oil-tarp, paper-type roof because that way it was less metal.

Marilyn Bagshaw: The headliner was really soft. It was a '39 Plymouth and the mice got in there and made nests, so we had mice in the roof of the car and then down the posts. You could hear the mice falling down the posts when they were scampering around in there.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: It scared our mother to death.

Marilyn Bagshaw: Because there was gasoline rationing, we'd pick our dad up at the bus. He'd commute to San Francisco, and my mom would coast the car all the way down Eldridge Avenue, Cottage Avenue, West Blithedale, and never started the car. She coasted down to what was the Green Frog Market, which is now the Mill Valley Market, and park in front of what is

now the bank. She never started the engine. She never had a driver's license until we were born, and to get her driver's license she just went to the police station and I think it was Captain Canet or McGowan who gave her the driving test. He took her out from the downtown, out West Blithedale to the end, and she never got out of second gear, and he gave her a driver's license. That was it, no written test.

Stella Perone: Wow. No DMV in those days.

Marilyn Bagshaw: Oh no, no driver's ed, no written test, no rules of the road. Few people drove. Everybody who had a car, only had one car. You didn't have multiple cars in one family.

Stella Perone: Were there many kids in the Eldridge neighborhood that you remember growing up with?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: Oh, yes. Oh, we had more fun.

Stella Perone: Who were some of your friends, and do they still live here?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: Well, Scotty Mills and his brother Russ Mills, they lived at 160 Eldridge, with parents Katie and Russ Mills. Scotty later lived on La Goma with his wife Debbie Hildreth Mills. He went to college but loved gardening, so Scotty was the gardener around town and he just passed away a year or so ago. We played with Scotty and Russ, whom we called "Roo." One of the city managers was Mr. Almcrantz and they lived two doors up, so we played with Linda Almcrantz. Most of them have moved away. Well, of course, George Cagwin was around, but we didn't play with him as he lived on Tamalpais, but we had so many friends in the neighborhood.

Marilyn Bagshaw: My best friend was Joanne Ronning on West Blithedale, and she passed away a couple years ago. Her married name is Joanne Long, and her husband and I just spoke the other day. Their house was at 167 West Blithedale. In the late afternoons we had a radio so we could listen to *Bobby Benson and the B-Bar-B Riders* or *The Green Hornet* – the 5 o'clock radio shows.

But we were never in the house. If it wasn't a school day, we left in the morning; our parents never worried about us, we would just leave. We would play that we were in the cavalry; we would play that we were the Indians. My friend Holly Ring, who lived up off of West Blithedale, had a dog named Butch, a Chesapeake, and we would dress him up like an Indian paint pony and we would put finger paint on him and we would – this is when we were quite young – put finger paint all over our bodies and we would walk downtown like that pretending we were Indians. We were the Miwoks, or a Native American species of Indian. That was our whole day. Our parents never worried about us, they were never concerned. They figured, well, we'll see you for lunch or when it gets dark. It was an easy time.

Stella Perone: You used to go up on Blithedale Ridge for the day? How did you get up there, did you follow certain trails, fire roads?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: We would go on Cushing Avenue, which is the next street on the right past our home on Eldridge. Before the Riders built the big house and closed the fire road to the ridge, we would just go up that way.

Stella Perone: Was the fire road always there before the Riders put in the house?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: Yes, we'd go up there and have a picnic on the Blithedale Ridge open space.

Marilyn Bagshaw: When we could not get up there after the Riders closed the road, we'd go on the old railroad bed, Lee Street, at the end of West Blithedale, and then make a right, a sharp hairpin turn.

Stella Perone: So you remember when the Riders built the house?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: Yes, we were kind of sad that they wouldn't allow any access for 150 feet. Right there was our fire road path to the ridge, and they closed it.

Stella Perone: So they didn't let the neighbors hike on it?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: No, they were pretty adamant and they had German Shepherds and it was patrolled by dogs and this and that. A few of our neighbors just lately told me that they would walk through and sort of defy them and the Riders got very angry with them. But that's one of the ways we used to go. We'd take our lunch and be up on the ridge all day. Or we would go to the Sequoia Theater every Saturday. What was it, 20 cents and 20 cartoons and a serial, and maybe, *Francis the Talking Mule* movie? Saturday nights Jerry Montizambert, the manager of Sequoia, would give out dishes.

Stella Perone: Did you know his son, Eric?

Marilyn Bagshaw: Eric, he could have been younger than we are.

Stella Perone: Probably so.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: I think everybody is younger than we are, Marilyn [laughs]. One thing we won at the Sequoia, and I wish I knew where it was, was a blue Shirley Temple glass. It was blue with Shirley Temple etched on it. Those, I think, are valuable now.

Marilyn Bagshaw: We never heard the news. There was no instant news as there is today. We would go to the movie theater with our parents and then in black and white, it would be movie tone news, so maybe a week or two later, you'd hear the news about World War II and the years after.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: There were loges at the Sequoia. We would go in and it was just one theater, of course, down in front. The loges were up in back. There would be a center aisle that would go across the theater. Regular seats were down below; loges were upstairs in back. You could sort of tilt the seats a little and smoking was allowed in the loges. You had to pay extra to sit up in the loges.

Marilyn Bagshaw: Even the men could smoke cigars. On the Greyhound buses after the trains stopped running and the buses took over from the railway, you could smoke on the bus in the

back. So in the rear seats on the bus, you'd have cigarette smoke and cigar smoke, theoretically not in front.

Stella Perone: So what are some of the highlights you remember about your high school years? Teachers, friends, special events –

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: Oh, it was wonderful! I graduated in 1959 from Tam. Marilyn and I both had Vera Stump, who was our Spanish teacher. Vera Stump was about 5 feet tall, quite a character. I took four years of Spanish from her. Oh, and we'd have our Spanish club dinners at the El Paseo. At the time, it was a Mexican restaurant, so we can say we've been to the El Paseo.

Marilyn Bagshaw: She had a horse named Boy up in Fairfax at the Meadow Club and she invited us to ride with her as we loved horses.

Stella Perone: The Meadow Club – you kept horses at the Meadow Club?

Marilyn Bagshaw: There was a stable, you could rent them.

Stella Perone: Okay, was the golf course there then?

Marilyn Bagshaw: Yes, and the stable was across the road from the clubhouse, on the right side going west. So we rode with Miss Stump. We rented horses; she rode her horse. She lived to be over 100.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: She was a character. Half the time we'd do Spanish and the other half the time, we'd go out and work in the gardens of the high school. She was a gardener. We'd go in and see a potted camellia by her desk and some shovels. She'd say, "Okay, today we are going to go dig a hole and plant this camellia in memory of a teacher who passed away." And we'd say, "Yay, no Spanish today!"

Marilyn Bagshaw: At Alto School, I had Don Pryor for the eighth grade when I was bused out there, and we had to go out on the hill because the school had just been built, and put ice plant in to hold the hill back.

Stella Perone: Hey, let's talk about Alto for a minute. You went to the Alto School, not Edna Maguire.

Marilyn Bagshaw: It wasn't built yet.

Stella Perone: Okay. So Alto when they first built it was seventh and eighth grade, and then it turned into K through five.

Marilyn Bagshaw: For us it was seventh and eighth. There were cattle, Holstein cattle, on the hill, which is Horse Hill now. I remember one day it was big doings because unfortunately, one of the cows died right over the fence from school and we of course had to watch the whole process of removing it. We felt like we were out in the country here. Some people had horses down on Patricia Lane. We had friends with horses down there.

Stella Perone: Who did you know that lived there?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: Oh, he was a veterinarian. This was obviously a long time ago, and Enchanted Knolls, what do they call that? Shelter Ridge, that was all cattle. There was a white wooden bridge over – it was the garbage dump where Mill Valley Middle School is now, or the Community Center. That was a huge garbage dump. The garbage man would come up to your house; you didn't have to put your cans on the street. [There was] no recycling. You could burn your garbage or you could have the garbage company come and get it in gunny sacks. They'd put it in the back of a dump truck and take it down and dump it into the bay and the marsh down in what's called the Goheen Tract – like Nelson Avenue, Ryan Avenue – that was all water. And then I guess in about mid-'40s, those houses were built, about '46.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: We had Mr. Raggio and Mr. Biggio as our garbage men. Little men, they'd climb up our hill, lay out the little gunny sack, put our garbage in it, carry it over their shoulders, and then dump it into a truck. Then they would go to the dump with seagulls all over the place!

Just to jump ahead a little bit, when we would go out to a fancy dinner, we would go to the Marvel Mar, which is on highway 101 by Goodman's. And then, as I'm sure all the historians know, they barged the building over and made that our first Mill Valley Community Center. Marvel Mar used to be our favorite restaurant. The seagulls are gone now, but my daughters, Megan and Bridget, went to Mill Valley Middle School, and they were always having to duck, I guess I'd say, when the seagulls went over. Sometimes they would come home and their sweaters would need to go into the wash. It was still seagull haven even after the school was built. They were still thinking there was garbage under there.

Stella Perone: Okay. You had chickens growing up.

Marilyn Bagshaw: Yes. I think we never didn't have chickens; we always had chickens.

Stella Perone: Did you have those for the eggs?

Marilyn Bagshaw: Mostly as pets. I'd say we didn't buy them for the eggs.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: Mill Valley was very rural down in Tam Valley and there were ranches down there, so we went down there to get our chickens. Our friend Lola Bergman had rabbits and chickens, so we would just go get chickens from her, or go to the T&M Hatchery down on Shoreline.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: It is now Martin Brothers, gravel and feed. There was a hatchery called the T&M Hatchery. They would hatch chickens. We would buy them there along with the chicken food.

Stella Perone: That is the same family as Martin Brothers?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: I think it is the Martin, I forgot who the "T" was, but "M" was Martin.

Stella Perone: Interesting.

Marilyn Bagshaw: We always had chickens, and they were mainly pets. You know, we ate eggs, we didn't buy eggs. Our chickens imprinted on us, so they would follow us around in the yard and we'd take them to bed with us, especially if we were home from school sick. But not in the bed overnight!

We'd have those yellow rain slickers, so if it was raining – we went outside every day, even if it was raining – we would look for “storm damage,” which there was hardly any because there wasn't much excavation in the community. So we would put our chickens inside of our raincoats so they wouldn't get wet and they'd have their little beaks peeking out and they would just hang on inside and we would walk all over the Blithedale Canyon and up on the ridge with our chickens, taking the chickens for a walk. And then we'd pick up a neighborhood dog along the way. There was a dog named Bunky and we brought him home often. Our mom and dad didn't want us to have a dog because it might bark and disturb the neighbors and our hillside was too big to fence, so Bunky came home with us often. We were sitting on our front porch and my mom had a ham on the sideboard in the front kitchen and Bunky calmly walked past us and down the front steps with a ham in his mouth. So my dad called the dog's owner who lived up on Cushing.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: Bob Brown, that's an old Mill Valley family.

Marilyn Bagshaw: Bob Brown, he's still living. And my dad just said, “Your dog has our ham.” I don't know if he wanted it back or what.

Stella Perone: Was your dad mad, or just – ?

Marilyn Bagshaw: No, very calm about everything.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: I think he was laughing, probably, inside.

Marilyn Bagshaw: Our dad had such a sense of humor, you were almost afraid to bring a friend home.

Stella Perone: When did your parents die? I'm not sure if that is in their oral history.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: Dad died around 1982 and mom died – she was 73, so she would have been born in 1906 – so 1979.

Stella Perone: Wait, getting back to your dad, how old was he when he died?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: He was born in 1901 and he died, I am thinking, 1982 or 1983, right before his 81st or 82nd birthday.

Stella Perone: Did they die in the house?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: Mom died at Ross Hospital and Dad died at the Redwoods¹.

Stella Perone: Okay, they had moved into the Redwoods?

¹ The Redwoods is a senior community located at Camino Alto and Miller Avenue in Mill Valley.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: No they hadn't, actually. Dad needed assistance; mom died first, so he moved to the Mill Valley rest home on Miller for a while, independent living, and volunteered at the History Room in the [Mill Valley Public] Library. He became ill and was at Marin General and the Redwoods because dad was a pioneer of Mill Valley but not a Redwoods resident. They said, "We will make an exception. You come in to our convalescent care." And he lived there maybe a week or so and passed away, so he could pass away in Mill Valley. They made a nice exception for dad to let him live out his life in Mill Valley.

Marilyn Bagshaw: Our mom lived on Eldridge Avenue before becoming ill. Mom had an amputated leg and a partially amputated foot, so she was in a wheelchair. The home is up a steep hill, about 200 feet up some steps and a winding pathway, and so our dad would just call the Mill Valley Fire Department and a couple of firemen would come up to help our mom down to the car. Dad would say, "My wife has a dental date." Or, "She needs to have her hair cut." And they would come to the house and carry her down this long trail and put her in the car, and then my dad would call when he needed help going back up. Our dad said, "What can I give you?" and they said, "Nothing." So he would make a small contribution to what he called the "coffee fund" for the firehouse. Mom would make a cake or something for them.

Stella Perone: What stage of your mom's life did the wheelchair happen?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: Oh, the last year or so. She had circulation problems, so if she would get a sore, it wouldn't heal, things like that. She was very stoic.

Marilyn Bagshaw: My dad said, "They are going to carry me out of this house I built, feet first." And he almost made good that promise. You know, until he couldn't take care of himself any longer and we had to take over, he was funny until the end. He was really witty, very witty. He'd always say things like, "Well, we are going to go by shank's mare." And I am still looking for that definition on Google. It meant: "we are going to go on foot," as opposed to "in the car." "We will go by shank's mare." It must have to do with somebody in history named Shank, where you would ride by horseback, because a mare would be a horse. He'd always just say, "We will take our time. We have no place to go and all day to get there." That was the mode of operation; life was so calm. And nobody was as stressed out at all as some are today.

Marilyn Bagshaw: Remembering back, our elementary school was Old Mill School. There was a Christmas tree in every classroom and at the time, since it was still either during or the aftermath of World War II, we didn't have metal to spare and other resources, so the Christmas bulbs that we put on the tree came with little cardboard hangers rather than metal. There was a live Christmas tree in every room, and instead of tinsel and those sort of decorations, we made paper chains out of construction paper. We cut them and glued them onto themselves and made an actual chain. We would have a program in the auditorium where we sang "Silent Night" and "O, Come All Ye Faithful" and all the traditional Christmas songs, the religious Christmas songs as well as "Jingle Bells" and "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town."

I think one of our regrets was that during my class, the last year I would have gone to Old Mill in the eighth grade, we were bused out to Alto, so we lost the consistency of going to school with our neighborhood friendships. On nice days at Old Mill School, we would take nature walks with our class out to Cascade Canyon and pick miner's lettuce and then we would study how the Native Americans ate when they were first on the land that we were now occupying, such as the

Miwok Indians. We would eat the miner's lettuce, and then we would also walk to the library, which is now a home. It is the old brick building at the top of Madrona.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: Carnegie.

Marilyn Bagshaw: It was the Carnegie Library. We spent our summers walking to the Mill Valley Tennis Club. In those days, it was not considered prestigious to join the tennis club. It was the only public pool in Mill Valley, so we joined the swimming pool part of it and we'd walk there from home. I think I played tennis once or twice with some friends from Tam, but we mainly sat out in the sun and played canasta on the lawn and got terribly sunburned. There was no such thing as sunscreen. I know one of the lifeguards, Tim O'Donahue – that name just came to me – he was all of 25 and we all were heart-throbbing over him. I know I had the nerve one day to ask him how old he was and he said he was 25 and we were all just aghast that he was that old because we were still at Tam. There was a snack bar at the tennis club, so we'd eat there. So it was pretty much our life during the summer. There was no summer school. We just rode our bikes down West Blithedale Canyon. At first when Patty and I got a bike, we had to share a bike. It was given to us by our uncle. As mentioned many times before, there was a metal shortage because of the war, so we had a used bike that our father's younger brother had brought from Illinois and his children had outgrown, so he gave it to Patty and me so we could share a bike. We also would pick up our dad outside the bus depot in Mill Valley and drive up to Bootjack Camp, where we would have a picnic dinner and watch the sun go down from up on the mountain. So those were good times, especially on a hot night.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: I remember – I believe it was one Thanksgiving – our uncle, Fred Bagshaw, who at one time was the mayor of Mill Valley, he was the mayor when they built the City Hall, and then he became chairman of the Marin County Board of Supervisors and then he worked in Sacramento, Public Works Department. So on Thanksgiving, we went up just to say, "Hi," and Marilyn and I were being our silly selves and went in the living room and I always remember, our Uncle Fred went, "Shh." We were being silly, and there were a bunch of important looking men sitting around in suits. Afterwards, our dad said to us, "You know, that man sitting there was Earl Warren."

Stella Perone: Was he governor then?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: I believe he was governor then, and then went on to be Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. So our Uncle Fred was quite the politician. Fred's wife was Alena Huntoon. The Huntoon family owned all the property where the Catholic church is now² and the Mount Carmel School.

Stella Perone: What is the last name?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: Huntoon.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: A beautiful brown shingle house with a palm tree, and they sold it to the Catholic church. There was a little tiny Catholic church on the corner of the property, and they expanded and used the Huntoon property for the school.

² Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church, located on Oakdale Avenue in Mill Valley.

Stella Perone: Wait, the Huntoons owned from where Mount Carmel is now up to the top of the hillside?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: No, no, just to the next street. That would be Oakdale.

Stella Perone: Okay. And then they had the house up in Hillside too?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: It was Alena Huntoon who married our uncle, Fred Bagshaw. They lived their entire married lives at 315 and 317 Hillside and they had a couple of little cottages on the property, where their married daughter Barbara Bagshaw Spangler lived. Beautiful view of the mountain, we always enjoyed going to Uncle Fred's house. Another interesting neighbor we had at our home on 200 Eldridge was Senator – well, at the time, we called him Dr. Hayakawa. At the time, he was about to become the President of San Francisco State, and it was in the '50s, I believe, and the people who owned the house, I think their name was the Marshes, had to go door to door and ask all of us – our parents, I would say – if we were comfortable having Japanese people in the neighborhood. I believe the Outdoor Art Club at the time did not accept Dr. Hayakawa's wife, Margedant, into the Outdoor Art Club. One lady, I remember this, stood up and said, "My brother was killed in World War II and I will not accept any Japanese people, especially in the Outdoor Art Club."

Our family, and I guess all the neighbors, had no problem, and Dr. Hayakawa – they called him Sam – and his wife, Margedant, moved into, oh, let's see, about 225 Eldridge and our family home is at 200. He then became President of San Francisco State and he was noted for when there were protests, he climbed up on top of a van that had a loud speaker on it and ripped out all the cords. He was a feisty little man. I always remember, we wrote him a letter saying, "Good for you!" I don't even know what the protest was over. We were kind of excited. He thanked us, and he would always walk around with a little Irish tam-o-shanter on his head, usually a little suit, and a little walking stick. Very proper, not a big man. His wife Margedant's brother, the last name was Peters, worked for Frank Lloyd Wright, and then her brother, this Mr. Peters, the architect, married Stalin's daughter. I do remember that once the neighborhood was all aghast and excited because Stalin's daughter came to visit right across the street from us. And then of course Dr. Hayakawa became Senator Sam; just the nicest man. He lived there until he passed away. It was kind of fun, every so often, there would be limos coming up when he was senator. And there would be politicians and dignitaries and valets, and so we, of course, were hanging out the windows watching.

Oh, another favorite of ours is Dr. Rodney Hartman. He and his wife, Zaida, lived on Bigelow Avenue. One daughter, Harriet Hartman, is now a member of the Outdoor Art Club, Harriet Hartman Kostic, and the Hartman's had a son Nick Hartman. Dr. Hartman was our family doctor. He had his office upstairs on the Keystone block of downtown Mill Valley. He would make house calls.

Stella Perone: Wait, what is the Keystone block?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: That's where Peet's is now, and there are stairs that go up. Dr. Hartman's office was on the left, no handicapped access, the doctor was upstairs. He would come to the house, even if dad had the flu. I remember Dr. Hartman would come in with his little physician's bag. He was nice. He delivered Marilyn and me at Ross Hospital and was our family doctor his entire life. And then Zaida, his wife, was a member of the Outdoor Art Club. Their home was lovely, on Bigelow Avenue. Actually, one time, at our Uncle Fred's house on Hillside,

I was laying in a hammock, flipped over, and hit my head on a rock, so down to Dr. Hartman's we went and he stitched up the back of my head. I think I was about 8. All I remember him saying is, "I think after 5 o'clock at night, all children should be put in a cage." So that's my recollection of Dr. Hartman.

Marilyn Bagshaw: One time I was on a swing on an oak tree at home on Eldridge and also I was rushed to Dr. Hartman because my dad would have me jump off the swing, which swung out over Eldridge Avenue and then back onto the property again. So I would jump and when I jumped, my mom called my dad from the porch up above and my dad turned around and missed, so I fell on my mouth and put my upper teeth through my lower lip where I still have a scar. My dad, I think, was just home from work and had a white shirt on, carried me down with blood dripping down the back of his shirt to Dr. Hartman's office. In the waiting room, everybody said "Oh, go right ahead. She is a lot worse off than we are." Dad felt terrible.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: Speaking of the Outdoor Art Club again, Marilyn and I took ballet lessons in the library section of the Outdoor Art Club. Mr. and Mrs. Tamaroff. They were very strict too and we were not very good ballet students. [Patty and Marilyn laugh]

Marilyn Bagshaw: This is why we aren't ballerinas today.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: And then, in probably the late '40s or '50s, our mother worked at the Well Baby Clinic, also held in the library of the Outdoor Art Club. I am not sure if it was for low-income people or anybody, but mainly they would weigh and measure, and I believe there was a nurse there, plus the volunteer women from the Outdoor Art Club.

Marilyn Bagshaw: Our mom's main interest in the club was putting on luncheons and playing canasta. She would be found in the kitchen on the morning on the luncheon date and the canasta session, cutting the crusts off bread and making little tiny tea sandwiches for the ladies. They had a show, they had a stage production, *South Pacific*. It was the men of the club. Our dad was dressed as a Polynesian woman with coconut shells, long hair, the whole thing. I was at College of Marin as a student. I was leaving to go to school and there is my dad, laid out on the sofa in the living room the next morning, recovering, I guess you'd call it, from being a Polynesian woman at the Outdoor Art Club the night before.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: And there was a lot of rum in Polynesia, let's just say! [Patty and Marilyn laugh]

Marilyn Bagshaw: Some of the stores Patty and I remember of downtown Mill Valley, pretty much the same configuration, but centered on Throckmorton, Corte Madera, and I would say Blithedale.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: And Miller.

Marilyn Bagshaw: And Miller Avenue. Noteworthy were El Marin Florist. It was owned and operated by Norman Black and his aunt, Mrs. Horn, we called her. It was the only florist in Mill Valley; it is where we went to get our cut flowers. They did lovely floral arrangements and did all weddings. I'm sure they did your wedding, Patty, at the Community Church in Mill Valley and at the Outdoor Art Club for the reception. Lovely Christmas arrangements made for our

family. Other favorite stores were the Thran market³. The Thran market was on the corner of Old Mill and Throckmorton across from Old Mill School. It was a mom and pop store. Patty went to school with Erna Thran. There were what, about four Thran children, I think? We hated to see it go. It is on a corner where there are several condominiums, or townhouses, I guess they are called. We were not allowed to go off-campus at Old Mill School, but after school, we could go and get a popsicle or something. We had Dimitroff's Frame Shop. That is where the Mill Valley Beerworks is now. That was Dimitroff's Frame Shop. Patty went to school with Pancho Dimitroff. And that was an icon for Mill Valley.

And there was a pet shop. Mary Ellen and Jack Green owned the pet shop on this block of Throckmorton. Huge floor-to-ceiling aviary with birds. When there was Wilton's Pet Shop over on Lytton Square in what is called the Keystone block, it was Wilton's Pet Shop – Patty and I raised guinea pigs also, besides chickens. We would breed guinea pigs and sell the babies to the pet shop for 25 cents each to make some money. We had a pregnant guinea pig named Lily and we were going to go camping with our family to Sequoia National Park and we had to take Lily with us because she was about to give birth. It wasn't allowed to have a guinea pig in a state park, but we smuggled her in and we had to kind of muffle her when she was making her squeaking sounds, so that was another adventure.

Then the yarn shop was on Throckmorton. We talked about the Nimble Thimble earlier, up on East Blithedale near what was the Post Office, and Dowd's Fashion Livery Stables, where our dad worked when he was in eighth grade. They would take a horse and buggy out in the morning and our dad's parents, Tom and Jane Bagshaw, owned the first grocery store, the Sunset Grocery, in Lytton Square in the Keystone block. He would deliver groceries before he went to school in the morning. He got through the eighth grade at Summit School and went to Tam, but during World War I, they trained students to be in the war. You did not need a high school graduation diploma to get a job, so he was never graduated from high school. I remembered one day, he said he was delivering groceries before he went to school and he fell off the seat between the horses and the wagon ran over him, over his chest. Oh, and his dad's shop, I guess he was cutting meat and the knife slipped and went into his knee. So from then on after, he had this huge bump on the bone on one knee and he would show everybody every Christmas and every holiday. We had to see the bump on the knee and hear the story again. Oh, and then there was the time on Halloween that they took the wagon apart and put it up on the roof of the building and put it back together again as a trick for Dowd's Livery Stable. And Dowd's then went out of business and then a used furniture store went in there. Let's see, the Palette Restaurant turned into La Veranda, which later burned down.

Stella Perone: Where exactly was that?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: By the Mill Valley Inn, right there in that area.

Marilyn Bagshaw: On that side where La Ginestra is now. And La Ginestra has been there at least since 1960 because –

Stella Perone: They just had their 50-year anniversary.

Marilyn Bagshaw: Great! Because I took the order for telephone service from the owners, the original, Sal, when they first came from Italy to open it. I worked at the phone company across the street as a service rep and took their order for service. Let's see, Mrs. Roth's Redwood Book

³ The market owned by the Thran family was called Old Mill Market.

Shop was on Throckmorton and that was when it was our only bookstore. And Esposti's Fountain – that's where La Ginestra is now. It had a blue mirror with Mt. Tam etched on it. You could get a meal, sodas and ice cream there. I believe the mirror is now displayed at La Ginestra.

Marilyn Bagshaw: Esposti's had a counter. It was like a soda fountain. And on the right, which is now part of La Ginestra, was Bell's Clock Shop. I think you, Patty, went to school with one of the Bell daughters, as I recall. La Ginestra was also the location of Max Daly's Sonapa Farms, which moved over to where Champagne Bakery was. But before that, when we were little, it was Suey Kee's; it was a Chinese grocery store in the '40s. Let's see, downtown some more was Albert's department store, where there is now Equator Coffee. Albert's was a multiple-story department store. In the basement was yardage and home wares, and then there was the main floor with men's and lady's clothing, and the upstairs had children's shoes. It was a three-story department store. You never had to leave Mill Valley to shop for clothes or yardage.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: And it had an elevator.

Marilyn Bagshaw: It was one of the two elevators in Mill Valley. The other elevator was a small cage affair in the building that housed the yarn shop and a barber shop at 142 Throckmorton. Oh, and as far as children's shoes, which they also sold, there was Mosher's Shoe Store, which was over where Peet's is now. When you went in to get shoes, you would put on the shoes you wanted and stand with your feet in a big brown machine which x-rayed your feet to see where your toes were and if the shoe was the correct fit. You would stand under this scanner and see your foot bones and the outline of the shoe. They then could measure what size shoes you needed. And then when you bought shoes, which were US Keds usually – it's pretty much all we wore – and Spaulding buck shoes, white buck shoes, and saddle shoes that we shined with real polish, you would get a prize. The prize, noteworthy that I remember, was a piece of cardboard in the shape of a bumblebee about 5 inches, about as big as your hand, and there was a rubber band around it and a string, so when you twirled it above your head it made the sound of a bee. And that was for going in to buy shoes. Dr. Hoag's Optometry is still an optometry office. He was there for many, many years. Upstairs was Dr. Sealy Bennetts, whom Patty worked for as a dental assistant, and the Bennetts own that whole building.

Marilyn Bagshaw: The Canepas now still own the Mill Valley Market. Before that was the Green Frog Market and the icon was a neon sign with a huge frog, maybe 6 to 8 feet, perpendicular to the front door on the roof jutting out, and he would tip his hat, so as the light went on and off, the frog had a top hat on that he tipped. The R&M Style Shop was on Lytton Square at the corner where there is now a clothing store.

Stella Perone: Famous For Our Look.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: Rogers and Murphy were the "R&M".

Marilyn Bagshaw: The Murphys lived out on West Blithedale. That was kind of a high-end dress store. That was, I think, nicer than probably Albert's. The Outdoor Art Club always met on Thursdays and had teas, which we mentioned before. After tea, many of the Outdoor Art Club matrons would stroll over to the R&M Style Shop.

Jackson Sauers owned Jackson's Beauty Salon on Lytton Square, kind of where Wilton's Pet Shop was, which was near where Strawbridge's used to be. Jackson was a hair stylist. He and

his wife lived down on Nelson Avenue and he lived to be 95 years old. My husband and I happened to be trustees for his trust because he had no family outside of his wife, who is deceased, and he was noteworthy for his taking his antique phone collection to the Marin City flea market and selling down there. He drove an old telephone truck with the outboard fenders that were black and then the body of the truck was that dark olive green. That was the old telephone truck look and he owned one of those.

Manny Gomez had his jewelry store on the square. Hamilton, Cagwin, and Seymour Real Estate office was there. Rutherford's Pharmacy was there where The Store now is. Right next door between Rutherford's and the bank, there was a single, wide switchboard where the telephone operator sat. We all had party lines for the phone, so when you picked up your phone, you got an operator who said, "Operator." Then she or he would plug you into a trunk line and then plug you into another line and you would just ask for the number. Our number at home was 1378J and our grandmother's number was 211J. There was no such thing as making long-distance calls out of Mill Valley.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: Nothing to dial, you always talked to the operator and it was fun to listen in to others on your party line.

Marilyn Bagshaw: During a telephone strike, our dad by then was working in San Francisco. He had been a line man and worked in an office, so when the telephone operators went on strike, our dad would fill in as a telephone operator. So Patty and I would go down and could observe him. Next door, where Bank of America is, that was called the Mill Valley Bank. That was owned also by our uncle's wife's family, the Huntoons. So the Huntoons owned the bank property, and then it became Bank of America.

The Greyhound bus depot was just a bus depot. It wasn't a restaurant or bookstore as it is now, and the buses took over from the trains. The trains served Mill Valley and went to Sausalito. Before the Golden Gate Bridge was built, my dad and mom would commute to San Francisco by train to Sausalito, then by boat into San Francisco, then take a streetcar up to where they worked at the phone company, where they met, at 140 New Montgomery, which at the time was the tallest building in San Francisco, with 26 floors. The house where our grandparents lived, and then our parents lived with them in the basement, is at 12 Sunnyside and that house is still standing. It is right on the creek behind where Baskin Robbins used to be. Stevenson's Restaurant was next door to the bus depot. And there was a Purity market where Tyler Florence's store is now. Before that it was the site of Banana Republic.

And let's see, we already talked about Wilton's. There was always a parrot at Wilton's Pet Shop that we could go and talk to. There was always a butcher counter where you got fresh horse meat to feed your dog. We didn't have canned dog food. You fed your dog what you procured. And dogs seemed to live forever in spite of it. And the White Mill Fountain, as you look at the Mill Valley Market today, on the right where is now their deli and their wine department, and then as you turn around the corner where the creek is, that was the White Mill, and that was another ice cream soda fountain.

The Masonic Lodge, which is still there today, with the Sweetwater in the downstairs now. Our dad was the Master of the Lodge in 1938. And I was a reluctant Job's Daughter because that meant I had to be inside and being inside was not my forte, especially on a pretty day when all my friends were out playing. I became the "outer guard" for the Job's Daughters during their meetings, and in the outside area of the second floor, there is a pool table, so I taught myself how to play billiards and pool because I would be guarding the door during their meetings and I got bored. Oh, and our dad played the organ. It was a pedal organ, a pump organ.

It wasn't electric, up in the organ loft, which still exists today. My husband is a Mason of that lodge and they still have an organist and it is still up in the loft.

The upstairs of the lodge is almost the same as it used to be, but now that they are leasing the downstairs to Sweetwater, they don't have their kitchen facilities, and any food they serve is catered because that downstairs area now is all Sweetwater. They needed to lease that or give up the building since the Masonic Lodge is not financially as well off. As our culture has changed, a men's lodge is not as attractive anymore to the younger generations. So the City of Mill Valley wanted to buy the Masonic Lodge from the Masons, and I think they offered all of something like \$800,000 for that beautiful two-story building. And the Masons got together and decided if they leased the downstairs, which they were able to do, and then the Sweetwater Saloon moved in. The Sweetwater was Jeannie Patterson's. She sold the name – one of the Grateful Dead members bought the Sweetwater name. So it is working out now; it is a nice relationship so the Masons could keep their building.

Do you want to talk, Patty, about the others?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: I think everyone knows Tony's Shoe Shop and we knew the original Tony, Tony Bardia; so glad that is still there. Across the street where there is a garden art shop⁴ now, was a Richfield gas station. There is an office building now on the corner of Lovell and Corte Madera Avenue and that was called R&R Motors, Randolph and Rilla. That's where we bought our green 1949 Plymouth. So we had a car dealership right up in Mill Valley. And then there's the City Hall, and there was a little building where the City Hall parking area is now, just like a little old house. It was the water district [office]. I always remember we would go in there and pay our bill to Millie, who was the only lady in there, and out front there was a green water fountain running constantly. You didn't turn it on or off, it was always running. In our days of our droughts, that's a no-no. And as Marilyn said, there was the Purity where Tyler Florence's is now, and next to that, there was Varney's Hardware store, which we sadly miss. And next to that was the El Cerrito Beauty Salon. I believe that is a lady's dress store or jewelry store now. And then there was George Larson's radio and phonograph store and that's where you would buy radios and, in later years I guess, tiny, tiny little black and white TVs. Next to Larson's was Suey Kee's market, and that was a regular grocery store but the whole Suey Kee family worked in there. I always remember in the back they had a kitchen and had rice cooking, and old Suey Kee was in there. There are pictures in the History Room of him carrying his vegetables up Blithedale Canyon with the baskets over his shoulder. We knew his daughter, Jenny, I think it was.

And then as I said, the El Paseo restaurant has been the site of many different restaurants. I remember the Mexican food in there. It was very typical, a cute little Mexican restaurant. Oh, and then on Sunnyside and East Blithedale, where there is a bank now, we had a Safeway store. So we had the Purity and a Safeway. Next to that, there is a laundromat now and that was Roy Springet's sporting goods store. Gosh, oh, then we had the Ford dealer, down where the unfortunately now-closed Mill Valley Business⁵ was, and that's where we bought our 1955 powder blue Ford. You got to pick out two-tone colors, the color of your exterior, interior, you had a radio for extra charge. Oh, and then down around the other part of town, what's down there now? Margaret O'Leary on Miller Ave – we had the best bakery in the world, Maier's Bakery. Oh, petit fours and sheet cakes, and Minna Linenger worked there for years, and they always wore little white uniforms like a nurse when working behind the counter. Then we had Lockwood's Pharmacy, which unfortunately is also now gone. It had this huge step-on scale.

⁴ Illumigarden, located at 35 Corte Madera Ave.

⁵ Likely referring to Mill Valley Services, a printing and office supplies store.

You could go in and get yourself weighed. Mayer's Men's Store is where D'Angelo's is now, and then everyone probably knows Old Brown's Store. That was the Brown's store; the Brown family lived up on Magee. It was a furniture store, home goods, washers, dryers – two floors, a creaky old wooden building, it was a real department store, or home furnishings store.

And then I think everyone knows the 2 AM Club. Jerry's Market was where Whole Foods is now in the Quonset huts. Then across Miller and up towards town at La Goma and Miller, there's now a beauty shop. It's a big building with a glass front, and that was Max Shapiro's Chevrolet dealership. A food market was where the bicycle store is now on Miller. Ida's Beauty Salon, an office supply store were on the side street. Oh, and we had five gas stations in Mill Valley in addition to three auto dealerships right up in town. I mentioned the Richfield across from City Hall, we had a Flying A at 44 East Blithedale, a Shell station and a Chevron station on the next block, and a last one on the corner of Buena Vista and East Blithedale. So we did not have to leave town for anything, and we didn't – we loved it in Mill Valley.

Marilyn Bagshaw: Just a brief summary of my history after I left Tamalpais High School. It was pretty natural in those days, 1957, that you automatically went to College of Marin. So I drove every day. My dad bought our second car, which was a '54 Ford Customline, and I drove to College of Marin every day for two years and was graduated. By then I had met and was dating a man who was stationed at the Presidio in San Francisco. He was a Nike officer, had been graduated from West Point in 1957, and we were married in 1959 at the chapel in San Francisco at the Presidio. We had a military wedding. And, we bought a house in Mill Valley from George Cagwin.

Stella Perone: Where was that?

Marilyn Bagshaw: Let's see, we first rented a cottage in the 500 block of East Blithedale from Fred Kett. Then we leased our home at 25 Locke Lane. That was a lease option, and then I was pregnant with my first child after five years of marriage.

Stella Perone: Year?

Marilyn Bagshaw: Let's see, that was '64, my first child. Our second child was born in 1967. Okay, 1967. George Cagwin sold us a house –

Stella Perone: This is George Cagwin, Jr., or was this his dad?

Marilyn Bagshaw: This is George Cagwin who graduated from Tam the year before I did. So he sold us a house at 296 Lovell, where I had my second son. Before that, I worked for Pacific Telephone and Telegraph in the business office, both in San Rafael at 1800 2nd Street, and in Mill Valley at 128 Throckmorton, across from La Ginestra. I was married for 13 years. Their dad and I parted and I moved to the Bon Air Apartments in Greenbrae. I looked for the best school district at the time. The Mill Valley School District was going through quite an upheaval of non-grading, children writing their own contracts, and children just following their own paths. Feeling that I wanted our children to go to college, they needed to be more on-track, so I found the Kentfield School District that had already gone through that transformation and had come back to a more traditional teaching style, and I was able to get a job with the school psychologist in the district office. Then I got a job as the school secretary at what was Wolfe Grade School

and became Bacich Elementary School, and then was transferred over to Kent Middle School when it went from a junior high to a middle school.

When my children were graduated from the Kentfield District and then Redwood High School and they both went off to UC [University of California] campuses, I then went to work in San Francisco and worked for human resources for Blue Shield of California for another 10 years. By then, I'd moved back to Mill Valley at 94 Lovell. When our parents died, Patty and Ron, her husband, had lived there, and I moved into their house and they moved into our parents' house, so that was the family plan and it all worked out. Oh, and then I remarried 10 years ago to Richard Carbine, who is also a native Marin resident. He was born in San Rafael and that's where we now live. His family came in 1875 from Ireland right to San Rafael. His father was in the Highway Patrol and was one of the patrolmen who opened the Golden Gate Bridge. He is in the picture on one of the motorcycles opening the Golden Gate Bridge, and my husband, born in 1936, was a baby in a car right behind the motorcade that opened the Golden Gate Bridge. I retired and now my avocation is photography.

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: After graduating from Tam in 1959, I too went to College of Marin. We called it Marin JC then, Marin Junior College, and I graduated from there. I met my future husband there, Ron Simmons. He had attended San Rafael High School and I went to Tam, and of course we were rivals because that was the big game at Tam, Tam and San Rafael. So we kidded about that. We became engaged and he wanted to go onto college, so I went to work as a dental assistant for Dr. Sealy Bennetts in Mill Valley, and the office was at 160 Throckmorton. It is the building on the corner of Madrona and Throckmorton. His office was upstairs and I was his dental assistant for seven or eight years. In the meantime, Ron and I got married in 1963 and I put him through college at San Francisco State and he became a school teacher and taught for 37 years in the Ross Valley School District. He is now retired. So I worked as a dental assistant and then we bought our home at 94 Lovell and had our two daughters who also went to Old Mill School and then Mill Valley Middle School, and they graduated from Tam High. So their great-grandfather and their mother all went to Tam. So we have all been part of the Old Mill School, Tam High School, and College of Marin alumni.

Stella Perone: How old are your daughters? What years were they born?

Patty Bagshaw Simmons: Megan is 43 and Bridget is 40. So then we have four lovely grandchildren, who we adore and are part of our lives. Thankfully they live close. So after mom and dad died, Ron and I and the girls moved back to the family home at 200 Eldridge, which our mom and dad built in 1937, and Ron and I still live there today. I just never want to leave our hillside. We have almost three quarters of an acre, and just this morning, I looked out the window and there was a beautiful buck with a rack of antlers, grazing just about 20 feet outside my kitchen window on the hillside where my chickens live in their coop. I can't think of a better place to be than on that hillside – that's home. When we moved back in, Marilyn's and my tree houses were still there up in the oak trees. Sadly they have fallen down now.

When my daughters were 5 and 7, they took tap dancing lessons at the old Mill Valley Community Center. A lovely 18-year-old girl, named Cece Boden Bechelli, was the teacher and the girls danced with her. Cece's reputation grew and we moved along with her. She had lessons upstairs in what we called the Port. It was Lyla's Chocolates downstairs and we were upstairs. That is the building on Miller Avenue in front of the Marin Theatre Company. Then the business grew and she rented a couple of rooms at the old Alto School and eventually bought 15 Montford, which was the old Malugani Tire and Brake building. She had it remodeled, put in a

beautiful wooden dance floor that has springs under it, two studios. I have been with Cece for many years – with the girls as students and Marilyn and I danced there. I have worked for Cece for 36 years as the office manager and business manager of Happy Feet Dance School. And I am still doing that as of today and I don't consider her my employer, I consider her my best friend. I babysat her children; they are my second family. So that is what I do now, still with Happy Feet Dance School, and life is good in Mill Valley.

I forgot a very Mill Valley moment. My husband Ron and I were married at the Mill Valley Community Church on August 4th, 1963, and that's where Marilyn and I were christened and went to Sunday School. So we were married there and, of course, as almost everyone in those days whose mother was a member of the Outdoor Art Club, we had our reception at the Mill Valley Outdoor Art Club. So we have lots of roots in the Community Church and the Outdoor Art Club.

Marilyn Bagshaw: A little bit about 27 Shell Road in Mill Valley. That building was a volunteer firehouse. Hyde Roberts, who is now deceased, was also an amateur radio operator and that's how I met him, along with my husband, Rich Carbine. The volunteer firemen were looking to give the building and their bank account, which was \$8,000, and the antique fire truck, to a non-profit agency. So along with a couple of others, my husband I spoke on behalf of the Marin Amateur Radio Club. At the time I was on the board, it was incorporated and we were meeting and operating out of Hamilton Air Force Base up on the hill where the red and white checkered tower is. So other entities were speaking on behalf of their non-profits, hoping to be bequeathed the building. It had to be conforming with the community and offer community service, as well as being a non-profit. So we were fortunate enough to be awarded the building. It is now used as an election polling place and it is access for shelter. My husband remodeled the second story and it is rented out and that is where the income comes from to maintain the property. We do not have title to the building in that it is not worth anything to us monetarily. We can only donate it to another entity if it were ever to be available again. It is on a right-of-way, the towers that come off Horse Hill, that is a PG&E right-of-way, and there is an underground sewer line that is also someday going to need to be excavated, which could be quite an expensive process. So right now, it is an amateur radio club. They have renamed it the Marin Amateur Radio – it is MARS – Service. So there is an amateur radio in there for emergencies. It could become a shelter. My husband and I are now involved and on the board of directors for the Radio Amateur Civil Service in Marin, so we operate at the pleasure of the sheriff. We are not as involved down here in Mill Valley as we used to be, but that is a little bit about 27 Shell Road.